

2014/15 Showcase

The Children's Environment and Health Local Government Report Card Project





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Part 1

Introduction

The Public Health Advocacy Institute of WA (PHAIWA) is a driving force in promoting health through advocacy in Western Australia. As an entity of Curtin University with a strong background in public health advocacy, PHAIWA is well placed to influence and inform local public health issues. PHAIWA's priority areas aim to identify and address a variety of issues within the field of public health, including Child Health, Physical Activity, Nutrition, Obesity, Tobacco, Indigenous Health, Injury, Preventive Health and Environment & Health. It also recognises that promoting health and creating healthy opportunities in childhood has a positive impact on the future health of children, as well as their surrounding communities. Through identifying and developing healthy environments, child and adolescent development can be influenced positively. The Children's Environment and Health Report Card Project was developed to illustrate these linkages and the important role local government plays in promoting happy and healthy kids. Piloted in 2011, the report card has

become an annual activity for monitoring and maintaining standards of child and environmental health at a local government level. The aim is to promote positive change and integrate children's environment and health issues within policy and planning in the local government sector, through feedback on progress via a report card.

Since 2011, PHAIWA has seen an increased diversity in the range of projects being implemented, and this annual "Best of WA" Showcase highlights the innovations and achievements across 22 participating local governments. It recognises each of the category award winners by outlining the rationale for their success. PHAIWA hopes that these cases will act as motivations and triggers to encourage local governments to further improve their existing public health plans or policies, and establish new plans or policies which integrate children's environment and health strategies.

About the Report Card Project

Background

The Children's Environment and Health Local Government Report Card Project originated following the Environment and Health Advocacy Forum – an event organised by the PHAIWA in March 2009. The Environment and Health Advocacy Committee was formed following the Forum, with members from across Western Australia. One of the Committee's first duties was to prioritise the advocacy consensus targets developed from the Forum. The area of children's environment and health was allocated the highest priority. Subsequently a range of ideas focusing on how to advocate for improving children's environment and health were canvassed and it was decided that targeting the local government sector would be most suitable given that many of the settings where children congregate come under the jurisdiction of local government. The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) has been a partner in this project since 2012.

Why a report card?

Although report cards have not been used often to assess policy, they have proven to be effective at evaluating program quality, promoting program improvement and informing and advocating for programs in many settings including schools, urban planning and health services. This project uses the report card as an innovative advocacy tool that can act as both an effective evaluation mechanism of local government corporate strategy and an instrument to promote positive change in the local government sector.

Application process

To enable the grading process within the report card, local governments were required to submit an application as well as up to four supporting planning or policy documents or reports. If possible, submitting at least one supporting document that contained a focus on consultation with children was encouraged. The application

forms allowed the submitting Officer to reference the location of the children's environment and health strategies within each document. Each referenced strategy was required to be categorised into one of 16 different sub-issues relating to children's environment and health. These categories are named below.

Aboriginal Child Health

Adventurous Play Spaces/Public Open Spaces

Child Care Centre Design and Placement

Child Friendly Planning Approaches

Child Health and Development

Children's Consultation

Climate Change

Prevention of Disease

Environments Supportive of Physical Activity

Food Safety and Security

Healthy Eating

Injury Prevention

Nature Discovery

Road and Pedestrian Safety

Shade in Public Spaces

Stimulating Learning Environments

Number of submissions

In total, 22 submissions were received from both metropolitan and regional areas.

Local governments included:

City of Armadale

Shire of Augusta - Margaret River

Shire of Chapman Valley

City of Cockburn

Shire of Collie

Shire of Donnybrook - Balingup

Shire of Esperance

City of Fremantle

City of Greater Geraldton

City of Joondalup

Shire of Kalamunda

Shire of Kellerberrin

Shire of Kondinin

City of Kwinana

City of Mandurah

City of Melville

Shire of Merredin

Shire of Plantagenet

Shire of Serpentine - Jarrahdale

City of Stirling

City of Wanneroo

Shire of West Arthur

Evaluation procedure

Using the application forms as a reference guide, the submitted applications were individually reviewed to identify strategies relating to each of the 16 children's environment and health categories. Each category was assessed separately against four criteria and allocated a score between 1 and 3:

1. Has an environment and health strategy targeting the general population been ratified?
2. Has an environment and health strategy **specifically targeting children** been ratified?
3. Has an environment and health strategy **specifically targeting children** been implemented?
4. Is there evidence of community consultation (**especially children's consultation**) during the planning process?

The marking process was cumulative, with information from each submission used to assess each category. The chosen marking format was similar to that used in academic grading.

A+ Score > 11

B+ Score > 7

C+ Score > 2

N/A Score = 0

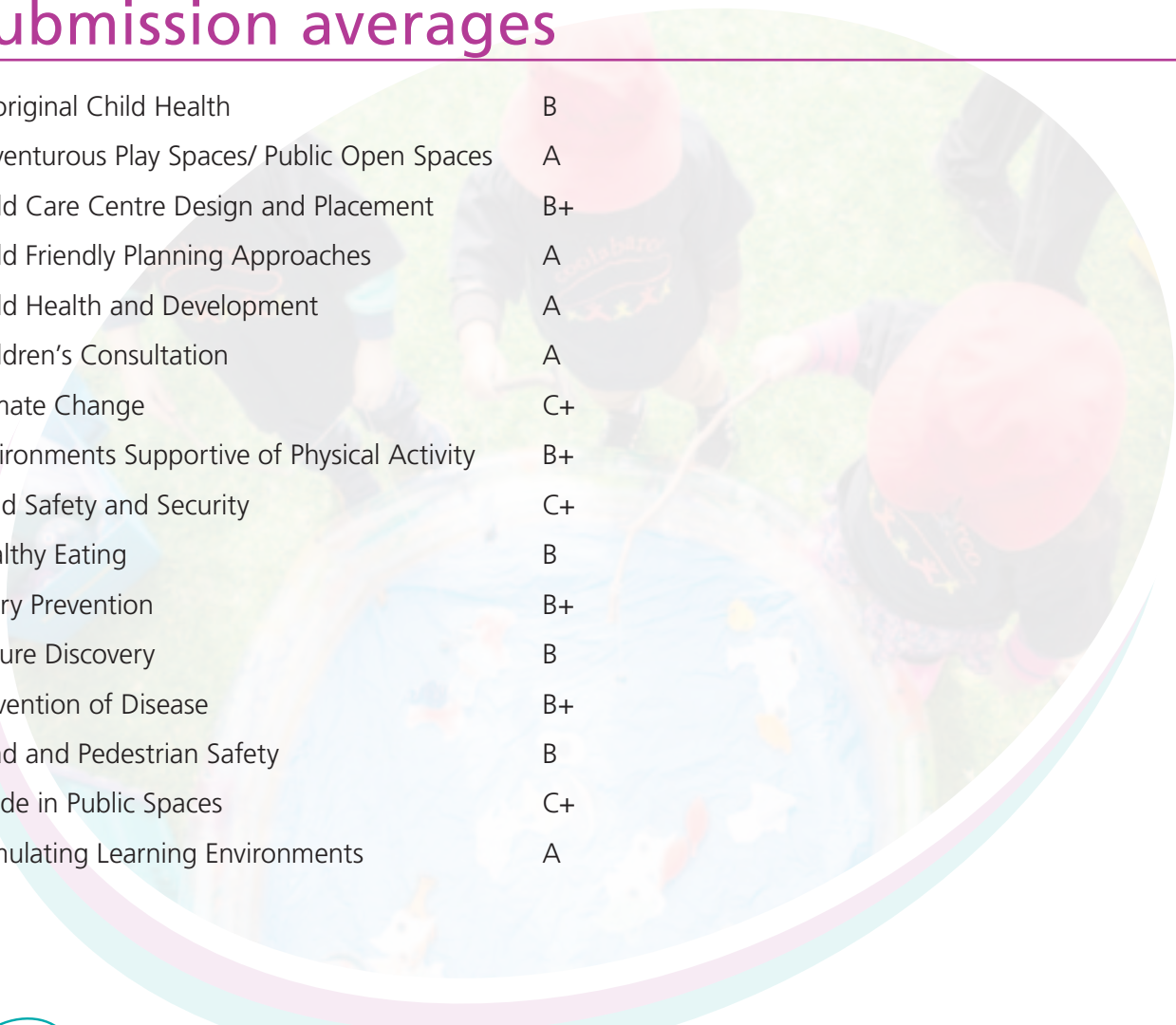
A Score > 9

B Score > 6

C Score > 0

N/E No Evidence submitted

Submission averages



Aboriginal Child Health	B
Adventurous Play Spaces/ Public Open Spaces	A
Child Care Centre Design and Placement	B+
Child Friendly Planning Approaches	A
Child Health and Development	A
Children's Consultation	A
Climate Change	C+
Environments Supportive of Physical Activity	B+
Food Safety and Security	C+
Healthy Eating	B
Injury Prevention	B+
Nature Discovery	B
Prevention of Disease	B+
Road and Pedestrian Safety	B
Shade in Public Spaces	C+
Stimulating Learning Environments	A

Part 2

The Winners' Showcase

Part 2 – The Winners' Showcase provides detail on those local governments who won individual categories, and demonstrates the innovation within their council policies to address the health and wellbeing of children. PHAIWA and WALGA would like to congratulate the following winners.


Best in WA - Metropolitan

City of Wanneroo

Best in WA - Regional

Shire of Merredin

Overall Category Winners



Aboriginal Child Health	City of Armadale
Adventurous Play Spaces/ Public Open Spaces	City of Kwinana
Child Care Centre Design and Placement	City of Cockburn
Child Friendly Planning Approaches	City of Wanneroo
Child Health and Development	City of Mandurah
Children's Consultation	City of Melville
Climate Change	Shire of West Arthur
Environments Supportive of Physical Activity	City of Fremantle
Food Safety and Security	Shire of Merredin
Healthy Eating	City of Wanneroo
Injury Prevention	Shire of Augusta-Margaret River
Nature Discovery	Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
Prevention of Disease	Shire of Esperance
Road and Pedestrian Safety	City of Stirling
Shade in Public Spaces	Shire of Kalamunda
Stimulating Learning Environments	City of Armadale

ABORIGINAL CHILD HEALTH

Winner: City of Armadale

The City of Armadale demonstrated innovative strategies to address the needs of the Indigenous community, as reflected within their 'Community Strategic Plan'. The City of Armadale's Indigenous development team is based at the Champion Centre, a dedicated community facility that is a meeting place for local people. The centre is a culturally appropriate space for the provision of services and programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. For example, service providers include: Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid, The Reconnect Program and One Step Closer.

The Champion Centre coordinates the Waabiny Mia program that facilitates mother's groups and playgroups for Aboriginal families. This service links families with other service providers and facilitates their participation in various activities and events such as National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's day.



Community events in the City of Armadale.

Commendable Strategies: City of Kwinana

Each year, the City of Kwinana holds a range of events celebrating the diverse population within the community. Residents take part, interact and learn, with events providing children with a strong sense of community. The Sunset Fiesta has become an annual event that showcases Kwinana's heritage through cultural entertainment and activities. The 'Yonga Boys' are a local group of boys who perform traditional dance at the Fiesta. The City states in their Business Plan that they endeavour to support access to services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.



The Yonga Boys perform traditional dance at the opening of the City of Kwinana's Sunset Fiesta.



The City of Cockburn's community event "Aboriginal Children's Fun Day".

Commendable Strategies: City of Cockburn

The City of Cockburn's Public Health Plan 2013-2018 lists key priority areas within preventive health tailored towards Indigenous health. Along with the Sustainability Plan, the City promotes the celebration of Indigenous culture, heritage, participation, implementation of the Reconciliation Action Plan and Indigenous community development. The City continues to provide a full time Aboriginal Community Development Officer to work with the local Aboriginal Community. Some of the events and programs the City strongly supports are: Aboriginal Children's Fun Day, Reconciliation Week, Aboriginal parents and grandparents support groups, and creative Indigenous authors and illustrators of children's books during NAIDOC week.

ADVENTUROUS PLAY SPACES/ PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Winner: City of Kwinana

The City of Kwinana recognises that parks and open play spaces have an important role to play in children's development and in creating vibrant and healthy communities. Through an extensive and detailed consultation with the community, the City found that environment and health were considered top priorities. This knowledge was used to assist the City to develop a 'Public Open Space Upgrade Strategy' that entails an extensive designs approach to ensure a high standard of play spaces for children is achieved throughout the City.



Children playing in open spaces in the City of Kwinana.

Commendable Strategies: Shire of Collie

The Shire of Collie's Skate Park was developed as a result of consultation with young people which identified that activities for the youth were limited. Extensive consultation with the young people and the wider community was carried out with the aim to empower young people and the community to take ownership and pride in their public spaces. As a result, the need for a new and upgraded skate park was identified. With the assistance of Royalties for Regions, this fantastic facility was constructed and is a popular place for the young people in Collie to gather.



Children at the Shire of Collie's Skate Park.

Commendable Strategies: City of Fremantle

The City of Fremantle's Youth Plan 2010-2015 shows innovative forward planning, with 'Strategy 2' aiming to:

"Provide spaces in the City of Fremantle that are welcoming and friendly for young people by providing opportunities and collaboration with youth in planning, design and the development of the spaces".

An example of this policy in action is the consultation process that formed the framework for the design of the Fremantle Youth Plaza. The young people in the community were encouraged to take an active role in the design of the plaza during community workshops, meetings, surveys and a forum and became 'guardians' of the space on completion.



The City of Fremantle's Boston Vault at the Youth Plaza.

Commendable Strategies: Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale

The Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale's Skate Park Design Brief and Management Plan shows a clear plan for community consultation, which the skate park was then subsequently developed from. One outcome from this process was the relocation of the park to make it more accessible to the local young people. Future opportunities for the development and implementation of adventurous outdoor play spaces are highlighted in the document, showing the Shire's strong commitment to the community now and into the future. This forward planning looks to incorporate educational opportunities through heritage and environmental intergenerational activities.



Opening day of the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale skate park.

STIMULATING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Winner: City of Armadale

The *We are Champion Children* book was created as part of the Better Beginnings Family Literacy Program 'Creating Books in Communities'. The program aims to engage with local culturally and linguistically diverse families. The kindergarten and pre-primary children from the Aboriginal class at the Challis Early Childhood Education Centre attended the Champion Centre and the Seville Grove Library to participate in stimulating and fun activities, including fitness, reading and craft. The book was based on these experiences and gave the children a sense of ownership, achievement and pride.



We Are Champion Children book created by children in the City of Armadale.



Stimulating learning environments in the City of Armadale at Waabiny Mia Playgroup.

Commendable Strategies: City of Stirling

The City of Stirling provides services to the community through the City's library. Consultations with the community and partnerships with the State Library and Better Beginning programs have assisted in the development of various cultural and arts events. For example, the Kids Wonderland event and the Summerset Arts Festival hosted stimulating activities including children's illustration workshops, summer stories and kerfuffle - a kid's obstacle course. School holiday programs are readily attended by many of the residents, varying from art programs to dancing and story telling time.



Story time in the City of Stirling.

Commendable Strategies: City of Wanneroo

It's All About Play is a concept developed by the City of Wanneroo's Community Capacity Building Unit to provide 'Unique play environments that offer enriching and engaging early learning and development opportunities'. This is achieved through diverse play experiences and assists parents and carers to further their understanding about the importance of play in early childhood development. Free workshops and activity sheets are provided, designed for parents to be able to extend play sessions at home using every day materials. Multiple services provided by the City also support stimulating learning environments, including the Wanneroo Book Cubby, a popular Pop-up children's library that utilises 'discovery stations' designed around a theme to support creativity, experimental learning and problem solving. Museum activities cater for children aged 2-5 introducing children to the City of Wanneroo's history through play and hands-on learning experiences.



It's all about play in the City of Wanneroo.

NATURE DISCOVERY

Winner: Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup

The Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup developed a partnership with Nature Play WA with the aim to promote the benefits of unstructured outdoor activities that allow kids to be creative and participate in active free play. The Shire ordered a *Nature Play Passport to an Amazing Childhood* for every child aged 4-12 years to encourage this type of play in the community. The Nature Play passport is full of activities that encourage children to play outside, and explore local parks, beaches and the bush. The passport also includes a fun list of '15 things to do before you're 12'!



Nature Discovery in the Shire of Donnybrook- Balingup.



Children taking part in the Nature Play initiative.

Commendable Strategies: Shire of Chapman Valley

The Shire of Chapman Valley has implemented a Community Cultural Plan to promote nature discovery in their community. A proactive initiative that came from the Plan included local tree planting. Through this, local school children learn about how to care for their environment and the importance of land care. The children also receive lessons on how to use bush foods from a Wajarri Elder. The Shire has a river trail that highlights the Chapman River's ecological and social significance in the region. The rehabilitation of the Chapman River foreshore encourages easy access for the whole community to the natural environment.

ENVIRONMENTS SUPPORTIVE OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Winner: City of Fremantle

The City of Fremantle's Youth Plaza attracts many different age groups through its promotion of traditional wheeled sports such as skateboarding, BMX and scooter riding. It also includes Western Australia's first outdoor parkour park, inclusive of stage areas, seating and viewing areas. The hard and softscape design elements are integrated into the existing landscape. The consultation undertaken by the City allowed young people to communicate their ideas for the plaza by making plasticine models of features they would like. This demonstrates an innovative strategy to include young people in the design process of a shared public space.



The City of Fremantle's Youth Plaza.



The City of Fremantle's Youth Plaza.

Commendable Strategies: Shire of Kellerberrin

The Shire of Kellerberrin recognises the value in skate parks to promote physical activity within their community. In conjunction with a skate park design company, the Shire surveyed local children to capture their ideas and preferences for a skate park. The Shire's aim was to provide local young people with a designated area to have ownership over, where they can gather socially whilst simultaneously being active and healthy.

Commendable Strategies: Shire of Kondinin

The Shire of Kondinin believes recreation, sport and community activities are an integral part of life. The Shire's 'Sport and Recreation Plan' highlights the benefits of these activities in enhancing quality of life, and assisting in the prevention of mental and physical illness. The construction of the Hyden Path from the town of Kondinin to Wave Rock promotes physical activity in the community and is accessed by community members and visitors. It also incorporates environmental awareness as it travels through bushland. The Shire has future plans to position signage along the path that will allow users to learn about the area and its history.



The Hyden Path is accessed by locals in the Shire of Kondinin.

ROAD AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Winner: City of Stirling

The City of Stirling assists schools in encouraging students to use healthy and active transport by developing a school travel plan. A package of actions is implemented by the school, the parents, and the children themselves with assistance from the City of Stirling.

As well as these school based initiatives, the City implements a Child Seat Restraints Program, community safety initiatives such as the 'Please slow down consider our kids' bin stickers, school road safety programs and 'TravelSmart', a school travel plan package for schools to adopt for major events which encourage families to walk or cycle to school. The City of Stirling is also adopting an 'Integrated Cycling Strategy' with the goal being to double the participation in cycling at all levels, within the next five years.



The City of Stirling's Community Safety Initiative bin sticker.



The City of Stirling's community awareness event.



City of Stirling's Community Safety Initiative bumper sticker.

Commendable Strategies: Shire of Merredin

The Shire of Merredin, in partnership with RAC and Westcycle, hosted a free practical cycling education and safety workshop for children aged 6-12 years old. Children participated in a variety of activities to progress their cycling skills and confidence with control techniques when riding on the road, and basic traffic rules were explained. Riders also learnt about bike maintenance for safety including brakes, lights and wearing appropriate safety equipment. The Shire has been successful in obtaining funding through WA's Bike Network and construction of a new bike path has commenced to assist children to cross town safely on their way to and from school.

CHILDCARE CENTRE DESIGN AND PLACEMENT

Winner: City of Cockburn

The City of Cockburn has a policy to support the provision of child care centres within the City. The policy encourages:

'The location of child care centres adjacent to schools, public open spaces and other spaces for community or recreational use. Outdoor play areas are screened from sources of pollution, such as car parking areas and roads, by appropriate fencing and/or dense vegetation.'



A child friendly event in the City of Cockburn

Commendable Strategies: City of Joondalup

The City of Joondalup's 'Child Care Centres Policy' aims:

'To provide guidelines for the location, siting and design of child care centres in the whole of the City... Outdoor play areas should be located away from adjoining noise-sensitive premises (such as residences), where possible. To assist in minimising noise from these areas, and to screen these areas from sources of pollution (such as vehicular traffic) suitable fencing or landscaping must be considered. A portion of the outdoor play area with play equipment is required to be covered with a shade structure for sun protection.'

HEALTHY EATING

Winner: City of Wanneroo

The City of Wanneroo's Early Childhood Strategy highlights the improvement for access of information regarding nutrition for families as a priority area. The City has also implemented a community garden policy and recognises the positive outcomes of community gardens in:

- Fostering a sense of community and connection;
- Supporting sustainability;
- Providing skill development and learning opportunities; and
- Promoting health and wellbeing.



Healthy food preparation by young people in the City of Wanneroo.

Healthy eating programs in Youth Centres are well established, and a partnership has been developed with Ngala to deliver free early year's nutrition classes 'Eat Play Thrive', targeting parents at a community crèche.

Commendable Strategies: Shire of Merredin

The Shire of Merredin encourages participation in the planning of their community garden to all community members. This includes growing highly nutritious food, establishing water collection and storage systems, and planting and maintaining of fruit and nut trees. This is achieved under the guidance of a local horticulturist. The project provides young people with opportunities to improve their own health and wellbeing through skills developed, while also benefiting the whole community.

Commendable Strategies: City of Cockburn

The City of Cockburn's 'Toddler Tucker Time' program assists Aboriginal parents and carers to develop healthy eating behaviours in children aged 1-3 years. The Lifeskills program (Foodcents) also focuses on healthy eating strategies for people on a low income including single parents, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and those at risk of lifestyle related chronic diseases. In the second year of the Co-Health Healthy Lifestyles Project, the number of participants reached over 900 residents.



The My Time Aboriginal parent and grandparent's group in the City of Cockburn delivering Toddler Tucker Time session.



The Healthy Lifestyles program, a part of the Healthy Communities initiative in the City of Cockburn.

FOOD SAFETY AND SECURITY

Winner: Shire of Merredin

The Shire of Merredin's Community Garden Project consists of a 5 year action plan that aims to create a positive environment for young people who aren't fully engaged in the traditional education system. They achieve this by offering life skills and opportunities to encourage young people to become proud and productive members of the community. Young people have the opportunity to improve their skills surrounding health and wellbeing, with a holistic approach to gaining literacy and numeracy skills through participation in community garden planning.



The Shire of Merredin's Community Garden.



Scarecrows made by children in the Shire of Merredin, for the community garden.

Commendable Strategies: Shire of Plantagenet

The Shire of Plantagenet aims to foster community pride and wellbeing through its *Strategic Community Plan 2013 to 2023*. This document highlights its commitment to promote public and environmental health requirements, including undertaking food safety and public health promotion. The Mount Barker Community Garden Committee has received funding through the State Government and local sources to improve facilities and to coordinate workshops that encourage people to engage in activities that promote positive health and wellbeing. The Shire has been supporting the group since 2012.



The Mount Barker Community Garden's first busy bee.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Winner: Shire of West Arthur

The Shire of West Arthur has implemented multiple initiatives engaging young people to address climate change in their community. A previous winner of the 2012 Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Regional Award for the Great Southern, the Shire is currently undertaking the following projects:

- The community is aiming to return a local creek to its natural flow through a water conservation and re-vegetation project;
- Local school children are involved in planting seedlings and learning about the local environment;
- The Adopt a Spot program involves the School adopting an area as their own to maintain; and
- A strong recycling program with children being involved in various aspects.



The Shire of West Arthur's Kids Central Recycling Grant Resources.



Kindy kids in the Shire of West Arthur address climate change.



Children in the Shire of West Arthur assist in planting trees.

Commendable Strategies: City of Melville

The City of Melville's *Adapting to Climate Change in the City of Melville 2012-2017* document specifically addresses climate change adaptation as a priority and outlines potential outcomes and challenges faced relating to climate change, and how the City plans to adapt to these. It also highlights strategies to minimise the impact through a preventive approach. The City's *Strategic Community Plan* also highlights the need to raise awareness in the local community and educate staff around health impacts from climate change, and improve infrastructure to accommodate for these changes.

PREVENTION OF DISEASE

Winner: Shire of Esperance

The Shire of Esperance implemented a project called 'Clearing the air in Esperance' through funding received from the Local Government Tobacco Control

Grants Scheme administered by PHAIWA and the Department of Health. The project engaged young

people aged 12-18 years old in an art based workshop in collaboration with the Esperance Cannery Art Centre. The workshops were led by two local artists, during which young people designed and painted murals promoting No Smoking, in an effort to raise awareness of smoking regulations at playgrounds and open spaces among youth within the community and to reduce second hand smoking in public spaces. The murals were erected throughout the town, including in a main walkway in the town's centre and at the Greater Sports Ground Esperance. The community was engaged through consultation and workshops which resulted in an overwhelmingly positive response to the community initiative.



Murals designed for the Shire of Esperance's 'Clearing the air in Esperance' project.

Commendable Strategies: City of Greater Geraldton

The City of Greater Geraldton engaged young people to design No Smoking signs which were installed throughout the City, in an effort to reduce smoking in outdoor spaces frequented by children. These signs were funded by PHAIWA and the Department of Health. The young people involved underwent awareness education surrounding the dangers of tobacco, and the signs were designed to complement traditional No Smoking signs and improve their acceptability within the community. Signage is displayed at playgrounds and various clubs, including the Brigades Football Club which has since received an award from the City for their initiative at making their sports ground smoke free.



No Smoking signage designed by the children of Greater Geraldton.

SHADE IN PUBLIC SPACES

Winner: Shire of Kalamunda

The Shire of Kalamunda has implemented policy and planning strategies that promote child friendly outdoor spaces and play areas which have appropriate shade structures. The Shire's *Actions by Strategy* document outlines the design and development of all future neighbourhood level parks in the community. This is part of the Shire's plan to ensure that local parks and facilities are family friendly and relevant to local young people. This has resulted in an infrastructure upgrade at the Bill Shaw Reserve and the Ray Owen Sports Centre with the installation of new shade structures. These actions are supported further by a child specific *Early Life Plan* that is incorporated within the Shire's *Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2016*. The Plan highlights policy relating to the design considerations of play spaces and has been developed and fully endorsed.



Newly constructed shaded areas in the Shire of Kalamunda.

Commendable Strategies: City of Cockburn

The City of Cockburn's Annual Report 2013 highlights the City's *Shade Sail Strategy* that includes the use of natural environments:

"The strategy identifies the criteria for the installation of shade sails in playgrounds and planting of trees around playgrounds."

All community events held at the City's parks and beaches provide adequate shade for attendees. Shade is provided by trees, pergolas, sails or marquees. For example, the outdoor play program Froggy's Fun on the Green runs play sessions twice a week in parks chosen specifically for sun safety and accessibility.

CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Winner: City of Mandurah

The City of Mandurah has a focused and positive approach regarding the health and development of children in their community:

"The City is committed to a whole of community approach to ensure that every child has the best start in life, in order to create a better future for themselves and the Mandurah Community."

'Families and Children Policy', Better Starts Better Future – Early Childhood Strategy 2012-2016

The City's *Early Childhood Strategy* highlights the importance of forming strong policy around children and their families, incorporating community and consultation with children. The City acknowledges the factors affecting children and the role which local government can play to address these issues. The City's *Action Plan* covers a wide range of areas including developing safe public environments. This is demonstrated through initiatives including the Healthy Eat and Play Policy, the Nature Playground policy, improving pre-school programs, focusing on social inclusion by improving participation and building the capacity of parents, families and service providers.



The City of Mandurah's Better Start Better Future Early Childhood Strategy document.



Storytime in the City of Mandurah

Commendable Strategies: Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup

The Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup supports the health of children in their community through various programs targeting young people. The Shire offers a youth holiday program that promotes young people getting involved in their community. Activities that support physical activity such as Zumba and Bootcamps are offered and the program promotes creative development workshops such as puppetry and musical theatre. The Shire's unique Youth Grants program allocates money to support special schemes. For example, the Runaway Bus operates as a hop on hop off service for young people to get around during the school holidays.

The Donnybrook Apple Fun Park provides access to children of all ages and abilities. The Shire engages with local schools and young people to evaluate local facilities and programs designed for their use.



Creative art workshops at school holiday programs in the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup.

CHILD FRIENDLY PLANNING APPROACHES

Winner: City of Wanneroo

The City of Wanneroo's Early Childhood Strategy highlights a child-centric approach to planning within the City, with specific policy outlining that facilities must be designed and/or adapted to make them family friendly and child safe. The City's Early Childhood Strategy states:

The City of Wanneroo's Early Childhood Strategy is a three year plan that provides a common agenda for the healthy development of children in their first eight years of life. The City plays a key role in providing advocacy, advice and facilitation for early childhood services that are universally accessible and provide a targeted approach to engage disadvantaged and hard-to-reach families.



City of Wanneroo – Kingsley Regional Playgrounds.

These strategies are evident in the City's *Opportunity Playspace* that was developed to challenge and excite young children. Features include nature based play and adventure grounds at the Kingsway Regional Playground. For older children and adolescents the YSpeak- Youth Community Project collaborates with young people to address service gaps within the City.

Commendable Strategies: Shire of Kalamunda

The Shire of Kalamunda's comprehensive *Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2016* incorporates policy planning regarding the development and implementation of a Child Friendly City Plan. This is supplemented by their *Actions by Strategy 13/14* report, which highlights child friendly planning related approaches. The Shire's nature based Playspace, Kalamunda Water Park, BMX Clubhouse, Forrestfield Train Station Development, Ray Owens Sports Centre and High Wycombe Community and Recreation Centre all employ child friendly planning approaches.



The Shire of Kalamunda's nature based play spaces.

CHILDREN'S CONSULTATION

Winner: City of Melville

The Robin Hood project integrates the well-known tale of Robin Hood and adapts it to community based projects in a fun manner. It empowers the community to decide on where money should be distributed, thereby fostering a sense of ownership and connecting people. Many successful projects have come about from this consultation, including the Murdoch community garden, a nature based adventure park, a nature based playground and tables in reserves for shared use.

A youth specific consultation was also undertaken as part of the RESET Youth Consultation Project, coordinated by local young people. The aim was to find out what young people within the City of Melville wanted, and how they wanted it delivered. This was conducted through a series of surveys, focus groups, online discussions and strategic conversations. A number of common themes arose from this and culminated in the report *Directions From Young People 2010-2013*.



Children take part in a Travelsmart Walk to School Day, in the City of Melville.



The 'Robin Hood Project' facilitates community projects in the City of Melville

Commendable: Shire of West Arthur

The Shire of West Arthur's Strategic Community Plan 2013-2023 states:

'Community engagement and consultation is highly valued by the Shire of West Arthur and has been part of the planning process for many years.'

A Youth Friendly Community Project was undertaken under this Plan, with a series of youth consultations aiming to determine what they thought about their community. The young people were asked how youth friendly is their town, what could be improved, what their schooling and employment plans are for the future, what their concerns are, and where they think they will live in the future. These findings have been integrated into the Shire's Plan, with the implementation process currently in progress.

The Shire's Youth Advisory Committee worked to organise and run the West Arthur Youth Festival, which is a festival by young people, for young people.

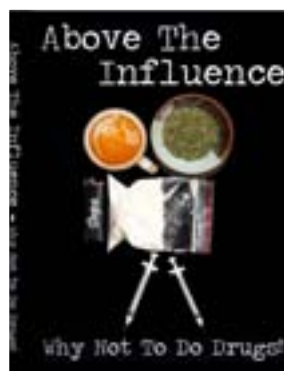


A fun day out at the Shire of West Arthur's Youth Festival.

INJURY PREVENTION

Winner: Shire of Augusta - Margaret River

The Shire of Augusta-Margaret River implements effective strategies within injury prevention through a variety of policies and projects. The *Strengthening Youth Plan & Policy* document focuses on the health and development of young people within the community and addresses challenges they face. The Shire has successfully engaged young people in this area, as evidenced in *Above the Influence*, a film that was developed and produced by young people within the Shire, highlighting the consequences of excessive alcohol consumption and illicit drug use. The film *Skeg Bite* also produced locally by young people and funded by PHAIWA and the Department of Health, was a creative initiative which aimed to address surf safety, and promoted injury prevention in the surf.



Above the Influence, a film highlighting the consequences of excessive alcohol consumption and illicit drug use.



The Drug Aware health promotion stall at the premiere of 'Above the Influence'.



Skeg Bite, a film addressing injury prevention in the surf.

Commendable: City of Melville

The City of Melville employs a variety of injury prevention strategies tailored towards young people throughout their community. The Lifewise educational resource was developed by the City and is aimed at adolescents, as well as schools and parents to assist the local young people in navigating through issues relating to drug or alcohol misuse and risk taking behaviors. There is a focus on improving self-esteem and reducing unhealthy risk taking behaviors. These are complemented by road safety campaigns, workshops, information sessions and suicide prevention measures.



'Go Slow For Us' at Melville Primary School as part of Travelsmart initiatives.

PHAIWA would like to congratulate the 2014/15 overall winners, commendable strategy winners, and valued participants. Awards presented by the President of WALGA, Mayor Troy Pickard, and the Executive Director of Healthway, David Malone.







Would your local government like to contribute to the next edition of the Children's Environment and Health Report Card Project?

If so, contact PHAIWA on; (08) 9266 2489 or email: phaiwa@curtin.edu.au.

For more information on the Report Card Project and to access previous showcase reports, please visit the project website at;

<http://www.phaiwa.org.au/other-projects-mainmenu-146/local-government-report-card-project>

We encourage all Western Australian local governments to participate.

