

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S STRATEGY 2027-2030

ACTION PLAN

The following Action Plan provides a listing of operational actions that align directly with the strategic actions outlined in the Family and Children's Strategy 2027-2030. Progress against these actions will be reported to Council and made available to the community annually.

STRATEGY PRIORITY AREA



Valued, Loved and Safe

Strategic Action	Operational Actions
Continue to strengthen Child Safe and Child Friendly practices across City of Ballarat activities, spaces and services.	Implement a tiered child safe training program including continuous learning pathways to build and sustain organisational capability. Embed child-friendly considerations into the planning, design and review of City of Ballarat projects, programs and services through Gender Impact Assessment and other decision-making processes. Plan and advocate for child-friendly neighbourhoods that prioritise safe crossings, walkability, accessible green spaces and welcoming community environments. Promote and strengthen awareness of the City of Ballarat's commitment to being a Child Safe Organisation across the community and Council.
Continue to strengthen the safety and wellbeing of children and families through early support, harm prevention, and access to services and information.	Complete Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) and Child Safe Standards audits across City of Ballarat services, and incorporate findings into policies, procedures and practice. Maintain accessible support services, referrals and engagement opportunities through Parent Place, playgroups and Maternal and Child Health programs. Support the delivery of initiatives which support increased gender equality and prevention of family violence. Enhance collaborative referral pathways and information-sharing practices in accordance with the Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS) and Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) to improve coordinated responses that support children's safety and wellbeing.
Engage children and families to connect with the natural environment.	Incorporate opportunities for children and families to connect with nature through City of Ballarat owned parks, playgrounds, open spaces and community facilities. Strengthen partnerships with environmental and community organisations to deliver environmental education initiatives that enhance children's knowledge of, and connection to, the natural environment across City of Ballarat early years services.
Provide leadership, partnership and collaboration across the early years sector to improve outcomes for children and families.	Support and facilitate cross-sector networks to enhance collaboration, shared learning and coordinated responses that improve outcomes for children and families. Maintain and strengthen partnerships with local child and family organisations. Promote, deliver and advocate for professional learning opportunities to strengthen practitioner knowledge across the early years sector.

STRATEGY PRIORITY AREA



Material Basics

Strategic Action	Operational Actions
Plan and advocate for equitable access to the social, health and early years services children and families need, close to where they live.	Deliver and support the delivery of programs for children and families in locations across the municipality, including playgroups, Parent Place and Maternal and Child Health.
	Plan for community infrastructure and early years services to meet the needs of a growing and changing population.
	Advocate for equitable access to the social, health and early years services children and families need.
Enable children and families to access the information and services they need.	Provide accessible online information for families through the City of Ballarat website, Ballarat Community Directory and social media.
	Develop a child-friendly page on the City of Ballarat website that helps children understand and access Council programs, services and opportunities.
	Promote accessible information, including translated information, interpreting services and accessible communication options.
	Provide face-to-face opportunities for families to access information through City of Ballarat services, community facilities and events.

STRATEGY PRIORITY AREA

**Being Healthy**

Strategic Action	Operational Actions
Continue to enable opportunities for children and families to engage in structured and unstructured physical activity.	Support opportunities for children and families to participate in active recreation, outdoor play and community wellbeing programs through partnerships with sporting clubs and community organisations.
	Plan and advocate for recreation opportunities that are accessible, affordable and close to where children and families live.
Support healthy development for children and families through health promotion, early support and access to information and services.	Promote healthy development with evidence-based health promotion initiatives, information and resources for children and families through City of Ballarat services and partnerships.
	Plan and advocate for equitable access to health and developmental services that support children and families.
Provide opportunities for social connection for children and families to support mental health and wellbeing.	Deliver, support and promote opportunities for children and families to build social connections, foster a sense of belonging and reduce isolation, particularly for those experiencing barriers to participation.
	Partner with internal departments and other community-based groups and agencies to promote and/or deliver initiatives, activities and/or events that encourage intergenerational connection within our community.

STRATEGY PRIORITY AREA



Children are Learning

Strategic Action	Operational Actions
Strengthen support for children and families through key transitions.	Strengthen partnerships across early years services, schools and community organisations to support coordinated transitions and continuity of support for children and families.
	Coordinate the implementation of the Family and Children's Strategy, and Youth Strategy to support continuity for children as they transition into adolescence.
Demonstrate leadership in early childhood education and care through partnerships and service delivery.	Continue to improve Early Years Management services across the City of Ballarat to strengthen quality outcomes for children and families.
	Strengthen collaboration and knowledge-sharing with Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services across the municipality to support a more connected local early years sector.
	Promote professional learning and shared practice to strengthen capability across the City of Ballarat's early childhood education and care services.
Deliver opportunities for learning across City of Ballarat programs including Early Years programs, Libraries, Art Galleries and Cultural Venues.	Partner across the City of Ballarat to design and deliver programs that reflect the needs of local community, provide meaningful learning opportunities, supporting children's development, wellbeing and lifelong learning.
	Strengthen coordinated promotion of learning opportunities across City of Ballarat programs to improve awareness and participation.
Plan and advocate for infrastructure for learning	Plan and advocate for infrastructure for learning that reflects the needs of the community, through the Kindergarten Infrastructure Services Plan and the Community Infrastructure Plan.
	Partner with external operators of City-owned learning facilities through effective licence management to provide community access to quality early learning infrastructure.

STRATEGY PRIORITY AREA



Children are Participating

Strategic Action	Operational Actions
Plan and advocate for inclusive information, facilities, amenities and open spaces for children and families.	Embed universal design and accessibility principles into the planning, renewal and delivery of our facilities, amenities and open spaces.
	Improve safe and accessible connections to community facilities, services and public spaces for children and families, particularly in growing communities.
Plan, advocate for and deliver community events that are inclusive of families and children of all ages.	Identify, deliver and promote affordable opportunities for children and families to participate in community events.
	Incorporate community insights on the interests, needs and aspirations for children and families into the planning and delivery of City of Ballarat events and activities.
Provide opportunities for children to participate in decision making about matters that affect them.	Use age-appropriate and inclusive engagement approaches that enable children of different ages, abilities and backgrounds to participate in decision-making, and close the feedback loop by sharing how their ideas have informed decisions.

STRATEGY PRIORITY AREA



Positive sense of culture and identity

Strategic Action	Operational Actions
Celebrate the diversity of children and families through community events, creative and cultural experiences, facilities and early years programs.	Foster inclusive opportunities for children and families to connect, celebrate and feel represented by recognising diverse cultures, identities, family types, traditions and lived experiences across Council programs and activities.
Collaborate with cultural and community organisations to broaden access and improve outcomes for culturally diverse children and families.	Strengthen and expand partnerships with cultural and community organisations to increase awareness of, access to and participation in local programs and services. Work collaboratively with cultural and community organisations to identify and respond to emerging needs within culturally diverse communities.
Strengthen inclusive, culturally safe programs.	Strengthen staff capability to deliver inclusive, culturally safe and responsive services for children and families. Enable self-determination for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander families by offering choice of services and referrals to community organisations and services. Review cultural safety for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander families accessing Maternal and Child Health Centres and services.