



## Children's Forum 2016

Local children have the opportunity to express their opinion about the city they want and their priorities



### The event

- The Children's Forum was held at the Dandenong Civic Centre from 9.30am-1.30pm in May 2016.
- Over 80 students aged 8-12 years from 20 local primary schools participated supported by a teacher from each school.
- Workshops were led by external facilitators and Council staff .

- a) **What matters to me!**
- b) **Public spaces and my neighbourhood**
- c) **Playground design**
- d) **Children's Festival and fun activities**



### Engaging schools

- All Greater Dandenong primary schools were invited to participate in the inaugural Children's Forum.
- Schools were provided with information on the event and an Expression of Interest to participate.
- Schools choose their event workshop preferences.
- Ongoing communication with schools and children was important for the success of engagement and participation in the event.

### Children have their say!

Children took part in several workshops and fun activities to help gather ideas and opinions on things such as child friendly public space, playgrounds, children's activities and what makes Greater Dandenong a great place to live. Children raised the importance of health and wellbeing, facilities, library and learning, playgrounds and public spaces, environmental sustainability, art and music, diversity and social connection.



## Consultation methods

- Postcard writing/drawing to the Mayor
- Group table discussions which were facilitated and scribed
- Music- rap performed by the MC with a summary of key themes from event
- Workshop break-outs
- Site visit (to Palm Plaza as part of public space workshop)
- Vox pop video interviews
- Technology- online survey clickers and polling
- Technology- ipad programs for capturing ideas and discussions
- Ideas mapping and drawing on large paper
- Drawing and the arts
- Interactive activities
- Videos and visual images
- Pre-task- Students were invited to send images of child friendly spaces and places
- Council media (photography and video) consent was sought for children



## Children's voices are heard!

- Feedback from the children was collated, analysed and shared across Council to support the planning and implementation of programs and the design of public places across the City of Greater Dandenong.
- Children reported feeling valued, empowered and heard.
- A short video can be viewed at [greaterdandenong.com](http://greaterdandenong.com) of the children's forum and the innovative ideas of local children



## Follow up with children

Schools were offered a visit from a Council Officer who provided a summary of what children told Council at the Children's Forum, how their voice will make a difference and provided information on the existing Child Friendly opportunities in the City of Greater Dandenong. Schools were also provided with posters with a summary of key themes discussed by children at the event

**The City of Greater Dandenong values and respects the voices of children and listens to their views and ideas when planning for the local community.**



Thank you to the school staff and students who participated in the Children's Forum 2016.

