



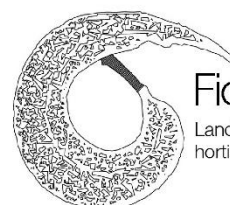
WAVERLEY
COUNCIL



Waverley Council

Inclusive Play Space Study Round 1 Community Consultation Report

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Executive Summary



Introduction

The **Waverley Inclusive Play Space Study** provides strategic direction on how Council's existing play spaces can be developed to provide equitable and inclusive play opportunities to meet the overall community's needs. For the purposes of this Study, "inclusive play" refers to the capacity of people to play throughout their life, irrespective of age, ability or cultural background.

Community consultation is critical to the success of the Study as this process reflects people's interests and needs in the provision of inclusive play spaces in Waverley. This Report summarises the consultation process and outlines community preferences, desires and needs for inclusive play experiences for different user groups that visit, live or work in the Waverley area. The findings have been used to generate recommendations for inclusive play provision in Waverley's play spaces.

Who was Consulted and How?

Consultations were held with varied organisations who work, live with or support people with disabilities, during the period of 1 July – 30 September 2019. Eight (8) consultations were held with 173 people in a range of different settings, ensuring that the Study canvassed a broad cross-section of people interested in inclusive play in the Waverley LGA.

Target Organisation or Group	Type of Consultation	Interest Group/Area	No. of People Consulted
Local Community and Service Providers (to people with a disability)	Online Community Survey	Children, young people, adults and older people with a disability	116 respondents, 60 completed surveys (60% from target groups; 40% from non-target groups)*
Lifestart	Face-to-face meeting	Children and young people with a disability (aged 0-24 years)	1 staff member (who co-ordinates activity groups)
Uniting War Memorial Hospital	Face-to-face meeting	Older People (aged 65+)	2 staff members who co-ordinate activity and rehabilitation programs
Holdsworth Community	Excursion	Teenagers with a disability (aged 13-18 years)	5 support workers and 11 teenagers
Waverley Council Family Day Care	Excursion	Preschool Children (aged 0-4 years)	7 Educators/Family Day Care employees and 14 children
Wairoa Special School	Excursion (and telephone conversation)	Children with a disability	Excursion with 5 teachers and 11 children
			Telephone consultation with Assistant Principal
Local Resident	Telephone conversation	Children and young people with a disability	1 parent
South-Eastern Local Health District	Written submission	Stakeholder	1 Population Project Officer

** Target Group – those with lived experience of disability. Non-target Group – those without lived experience of disability. Refer to Section 2 for further definition.*

Key Outcomes of Community Consultation

The 173 people consulted across eight (8) consultations provided a wealth of information to inform the provision of inclusive play spaces across the Waverley LGA. The consultations provide valuable insights into the interests, needs and wishes of the Waverley community, as well as those of a smaller number of stakeholders based further afield. Consultations also highlight the importance of inclusive play to people who do not generally deal with disability or special needs in their lives or work, suggesting that there is a groundswell of community interest regarding inclusion in public places and play spaces.

The four key outcomes of the consultations regarding inclusive play in the Waverley LGA are as follows.

1. Existing Play Space Provision

Favourite Play Spaces for People with a Disability

The most visited play spaces in the Waverley LGA for people with a disability are Queens Park play space, Bondi Park play space, Bronte Park play space and Waverley Park play space. Nineteen (19) other play spaces in Waverley were also mentioned but were not as popular.

Reasons for selection:

- Proximity to home or school;
- Inclusive equipment and activities;
- Fenced with secure gates;
- Accessible paths and ramps;
- Spaciousness;
- Accessible parking; and
- Playgrounds designed with Inclusive Principles (e.g. areas to have time away from others if needed).

It is of note that the two favourite play spaces in the Waverley LGA for people with a disability are play spaces that have been specifically designed with Inclusive Principles in mind.

Use of Existing Play Spaces by People with a Disability

People with disabilities visit Waverley play spaces on a frequent basis. Many will visit a favourite play space weekly and stay for up to an hour in the play space.

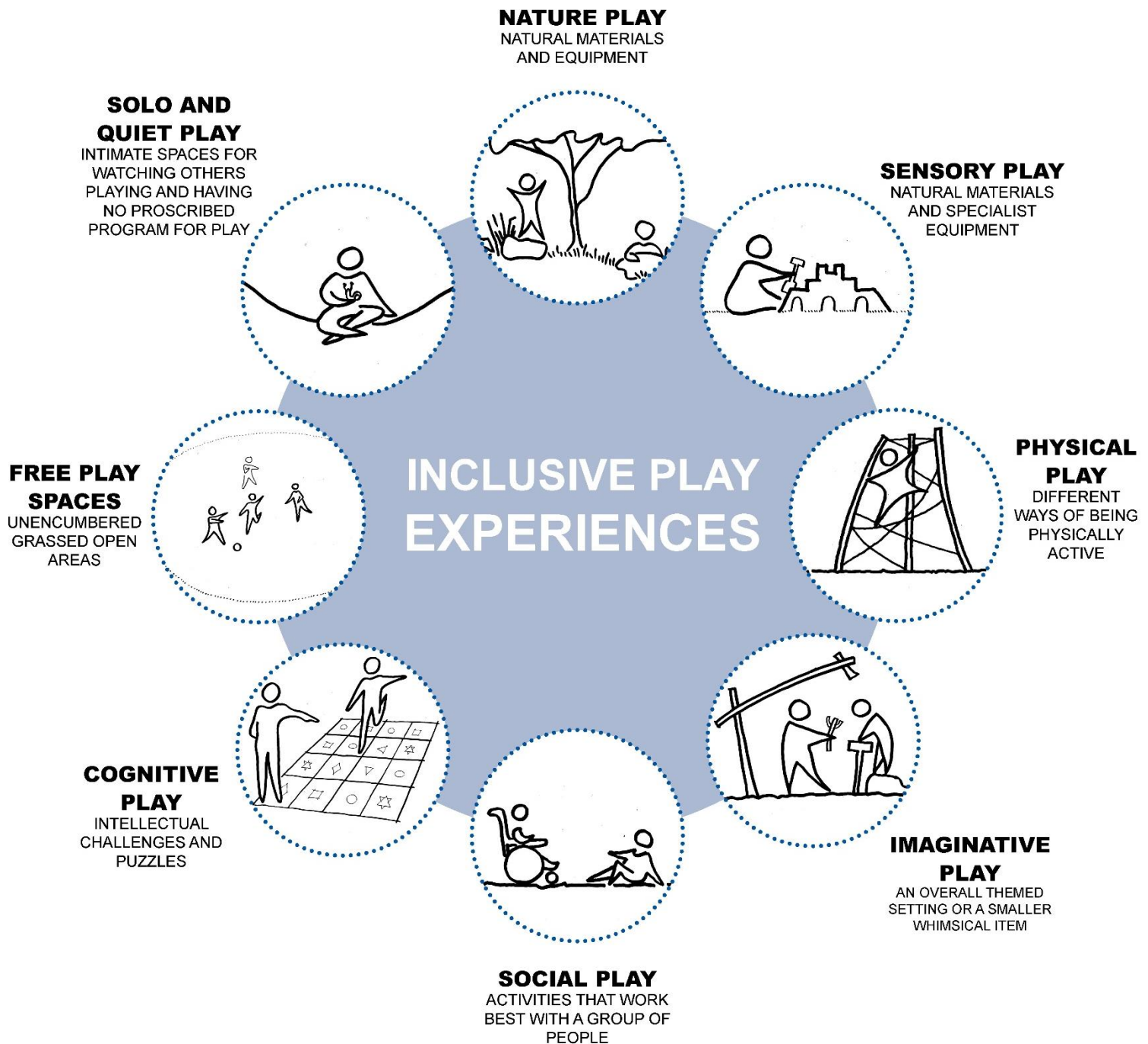
These visitors walk and drive to the play spaces they visit, with a smaller number (mostly teenagers) using public transport.

A great range of people with disabilities visit the Waverley Local Government Area playgrounds, from a variety of organisations: schools, childcare settings, disability organisations/services.

2. Catering for Inclusive Play

Inclusive Play Experiences

Consultations with various groups provided clear guidance about types of play experiences people would like in an inclusive play space as follows:

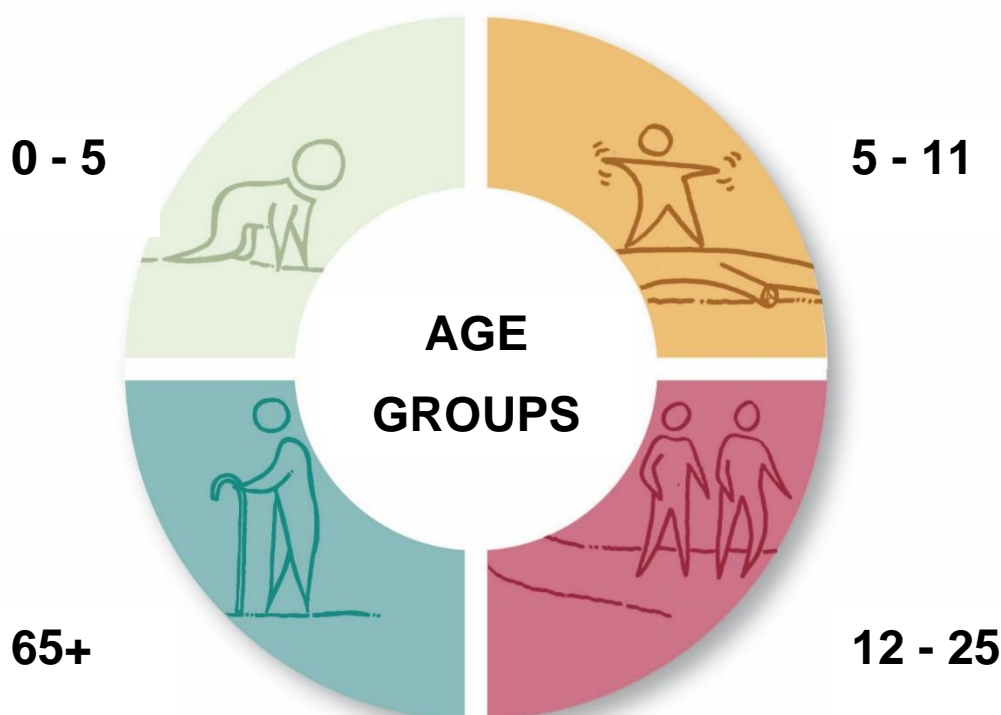


Inclusive Supportive Elements

In order for a play space to support a visit by people with disabilities, accessible supportive features should include shade, fencing of play space, nearby parking, nearby toilets, picnic tables, accessible paths, drinking water and group seating.

3. Catering for Different Age Groups

Consultations with different groups and organisations yielded clear results about provision of inclusive play spaces to cater for all age groups as follows:



Babies, toddlers and preschool children (0-5 years): There is a general shortage of play experiences scaled for very young children in Waverley. Small scale equipment at ground level which is easily navigated by children with developing motor skills is highly valued. Carers would like safer access from car parks and roads, and more supportive facilities for parking of strollers, washing hands, changing nappies, as well as flat surfaces for picnics. Children with additional needs would benefit from quiet spaces to withdraw from the noise and activity of a busy play space.

Children (5-11 years): Current play spaces in the LGA are generally geared for able-bodied children, hence the focus of this Study is on providing for children with a disability. Responses from the community about accessible and inclusive play for this age group show a demand for inclusive play experiences for all abilities, more accessible parking and pathways and supportive amenities such as accessible toilets, fencing and group seating.

Young People (12-25 years): Teenagers and young people require equipment scaled to their size and needs. Teenagers with a disability are guided to use group seating and group play equipment (such as swings, hammocks and group see-saws) to facilitate social interaction, an important aspect of any young person's development.

Older People (65+ years): Older people value being in play spaces to accompany grandchildren, being active themselves, or watching children at play. Play also forms an important role in keeping them active in their community. Additionally, there is great interest and benefit in provision of outdoor equipment for older people to maintain and boost both physical and mental wellbeing, and hence provide a role in preventive health and rehabilitation activities.

4. Building Social Capital Through Inclusive Play

The consultation survey and sessions provided feedback from the communities regarding the value of play spaces as places where Council can invest in building social capital:

- **All People are Interested in Inclusive Play:** A high proportion of responses (40%) to the online survey were from people who do not live or work with disability, which along with the disability sector responses is indicative of community-wide interest in inclusive play.
- **Enthusiasm for Intergenerational Play:** There is growing awareness and demand for opportunities for older people to participate in outdoor play, as well as the pleasure of intergenerational play between parents, grandparents and children.
- **Communication and Education Regarding Inclusive Play:** A clear outcome from consultation is the need for online and on-site communication about Waverley's inclusive play spaces. This includes communication about Universal Design where one design solution suits all users.
- **More Inclusive Play Spaces Can Provide More Facilities for More People:** Respondents indicated that an increase in the number of inclusive play spaces across the Local Government Area would be appreciated. With more inclusive play spaces, and diligent attention to design; inclusive play spaces appeal to and serve the needs of a greater percentage of the population.

Recommendations

The following recommendations will inform future provision of inclusive play spaces in the Waverley LGA.

1. **Community Information:** The community will benefit from Council providing education and information on:
 - What inclusive play is, what it looks like, and what it is not;
 - The location of accessible and inclusive play spaces in the Waverley LGA, and to what degree they are accessible and inclusive; and
 - Managing community expectations: there are varied clusters of play spaces across Waverley that between them cater for everybody, and that while an individual inclusive play space can't provide every experience for everybody it should provide something that everyone can access and enjoy.
2. **Inclusive Play Recommendations:** Design principles for inclusive play provision have been derived directly from community requests and were common to all consultations:
 - Design principles for inclusive play;
 - Suitable types of accessible and inclusive play experiences; and
 - Accessible amenities and supportive elements.
3. **Sets of Recommendations to Cater for Specific Age Groups:** Four (4) sets of design recommendations are provided across specific age groups as follows:
 - Babies, Toddlers and Preschool Children (0-5 years);
 - Children (5-11 years) with a disability;
 - Young People (12-25 years) with a disability; and
 - Older People (65+ years).
4. **Provision of Intergenerational Play Opportunities:** Design recommendations are provided for intergenerational play provision in inclusive play spaces, which include:
 - Design principles for intergenerational play;
 - Five (5) types of inclusive play experiences; and
 - Supportive amenities and other elements.