

Executive Summary



Introduction

Waverley Council's Inclusive Play Space Study provides a blueprint to direct the future provision, planning, design and development of public inclusive play spaces across the Waverley Local Government Area (LGA).

The key objectives of the Inclusive Play Space Study are:

- > Provide strategic direction to Waverley Council regarding equitable, inclusive, accessible and engaging play spaces;
- > Develop Inclusive Play Space design principles;
- > Develop inclusive play space evaluation criteria checklists;
- > Provide a supporting document to the adopted Waverley Play Space Strategy 2014-2029; and
- > Align Council Play Space Strategy with the NSW State Governments guidelines 'Everyone Can Play'.

This Study comprises Volume 1 of the Waverley Inclusive Play Space Study, supported by Volume 2: Community Consultation Report, which summarises the community consultation process and findings that have underpinned the main study.

Scope and Methodology

The scope of this Inclusive Play Space Study is to identify how play spaces within the Waverley LGA can be developed to be more inclusive.

It is anticipated that many of the play spaces in the LGA are able to be developed in accordance with the study's inclusive design principles. However, some play spaces will not be able to achieve the goal of inclusive play as they are inherently compromised by site factors such as being too steep for access (see Section 8 for details).

This Study includes inclusive play space principles, and inclusive play space evaluation criteria checklists, which can be used to guide the design of future inclusive play spaces in Waverley LGA.

Fourteen (14) play spaces were identified in this study which were considered suitable for delivering a higher level of inclusion. Action plans were developed for each of these 14 play spaces, to provide an initial short to medium term focus for a higher level of inclusion in Waverley LGA.

Community Consultation

Community consultation is critical to the success of the Inclusive Play Space Study in reflecting the needs of the community in current and future provision of inclusive and accessible play spaces in Waverley LGA. Extensive consultation was undertaken, the results of which can be found in Volume 2: Community Consultation Report. Outcomes from the community engagement were used to generate principles for inclusive play provision in the Waverley LGA.

Waverley Council will continue to undertake community consultation as individual play spaces are redeveloped allowing further community input into the inclusive design outcomes for the play spaces.

Inclusive Play Space Principles

In order to assess and guide the development of Waverley's existing play spaces, a series of design principles were formulated. These were developed using the NSW Government's 'Everyone-Can-Play' Guideline, Waverley Council's Play Space Strategy and the community consultation findings and recommendations.

The 'Everyone-Can-Play' guide sets three well-considered and simple overarching principles. This Study uses these principles and investigates how they can be practically applied through a series of inclusive play space principles under each of the three guiding principles.

The inclusive play space principles identify recommended best practice design parameters for inclusive play spaces (see Section 7 for details).

Play Experiences and Hierarchy

In Australia, play spaces are classified within a hierarchical framework. Waverley Council has adopted the following hierarchy categories:

- > Regional
- > District
- > Neighbourhood
- > Pocket
- > Special Use (i.e. skate park)

The inclusive play principles can be applied to each type of play space in the hierarchy. The scale and complexity of inclusive play is proportional with the play space hierarchy and function – the larger the play space the more inclusive play elements and experiences can be

achieved, whereas the smaller the play space the less elements and experiences can be achieved.

Where Pocket and Neighbourhood play spaces are unique is that they offer a 'mosaic' of play approach in a suburb: a group of smaller play spaces should be seen as offering inclusive play principles which complement each other.

This 'mosaic' approach is supported by the Play Space Strategy and further investigated through community consultation during detailed design.

Targeted Play Spaces

The degree of inclusivity of each play space in Waverley LGA was analysed in the context of its hierarchy, as described in Section 4. Following on from this analysis, Waverley Council identified fourteen (14) play spaces in the LGA which:

- > Display some inclusive play elements and features, such as an accessible path of travel, flatter topography, and existing supportive facilities like carparking;
- > Are capable of meeting the broad objectives of a higher level of inclusion in an inclusive play space;
- > Will support a range of users; and
- > Will provide an even distribution of inclusive play spaces across the LGA.

These fourteen (14) play spaces have been identified as being capable of achieving a higher level of inclusion, providing a network of inclusive play space in the short to medium term.

An evaluation checklist template was developed for each of the play space hierarchies.

Each play space was evaluated using the checklists, and an action plan for improvement of inclusive play was developed.

Action Plan

An Action Plan has been developed to implement the vision and principles of the Inclusive Play Study. The Inclusive Play Action Plan supplements and must be reviewed in conjunction with the Action Plan in the Waverley Play Space Strategy 2014-2029.

Inclusive play can be improved in the Waverley LGA through a combination of:

- > Play space upgrades on a space-by-space basis that include improvements in accessibility and apply inclusive design principles;
- > Small improvements incrementally undertaken to existing play spaces as resources allow (e.g. signage, footpath connections, etc.); and
- > Upgrade identified existing play spaces to create a number of inclusive play spaces across the LGA.

Implementation of the Inclusive Play Action Plan can be more effective by:

- > Further consultation with age and disability stakeholders during detailed design;
- > Analysing play space requirements in relation to the surrounding community (community consultation) and existing play spaces (mosaic of play);
- > Applying the principles and checklists provided in the Inclusive Play Space Study Report;
- > Communication to stakeholders and the community about inclusive play activity in the LGA; and
- > Consistent monitoring and evaluation of inclusive play outcomes to inform ongoing inclusive play practice.

