



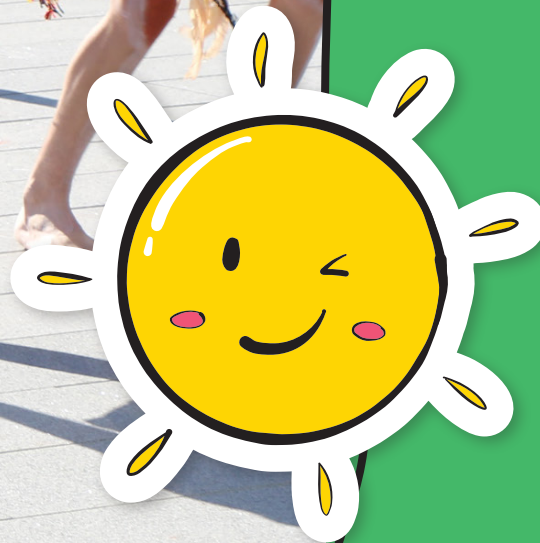
# Camden Council Children and Families Strategy **2023-2027**



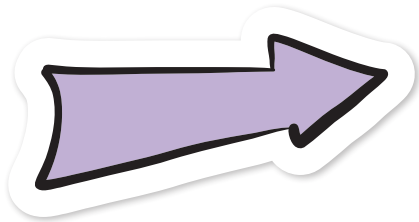


# Acknowledgement of Country

Council acknowledge that the Camden LGA is situated on the sacred Traditional Lands and Waterways of the Dharawal peoples. We also recognise surrounding Dharug and Gundungurra people that may have connections to these lands. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on these lands and celebrate the continuing contribution of the Aboriginal community to the life of the Camden LGA.







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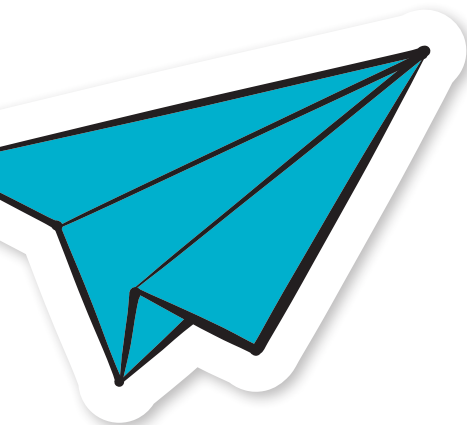
## Message from the Mayor

**I'm pleased to present the Camden Children and Families Strategy 2023-2027, developed in consultation with local families and various organisations in the space.**

As one of the fastest growing local government areas in the country, it's vital Council does its best to understand, support and address the needs of children and families in our community – now and as we grow. We understand childhood development and happy families are inextricably linked to the community, environment and infrastructure which surrounds us. This Strategy aims to identify the needs and shortfalls of these elements and explore solutions to address them.

I look forward to seeing the actions and goals within this Strategy come to life and seeing our community go from strength to strength.

Cr Ashleigh Cagney  
Mayor of Camden







## Executive summary

**The Camden Children and Families Strategy 2023-2027 has been developed in consideration of broader federal, state and local government strategies and frameworks. This Strategy was developed in consultation with parents, carers, grandparents, and children of the Camden area. Extensive consultation and input from a range of government and non-government children and families organisations have informed the key outcomes and actions found within this Strategy.**

Council would like to acknowledge and extend its appreciation to the sector and the Camden community for the expertise provided throughout the consultation process. Many individuals, groups, children, parents and carers and organisations have played a vital role in informing the Strategy and many will assist in the execution of the Strategy. Implementation of the Strategy will be achieved by Council working in partnership internally, and externally with a range of stakeholders.

Council endeavours to support the wellbeing and lives of children and families in the Camden area by reviewing the progress of the Strategy and measuring success of the Strategic Actions through its annual report, to acknowledge and highlight the work being executed and in progress.





# Definitions

## Allied Health

Allied Health professionals are health professionals (not a part of medical, dental or nursing), that are universally qualified with specialised expertise in preventing, diagnosing and treating a range of conditions and illnesses.

## Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)

Nationwide data collection of early childhood development at the time children commence their year or full-time school.

## Child Development

Refer to the sequence of physical, language, emotional and social changes that occur from birth to the beginning of adulthood.

## Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)

Services delivered by approved providers and services of centre-based childcare, pre-school and family day care services.

## Local Government Area (LGA)

Local Government Areas cover legally designated parts of a State or Territory for which incorporated local governing bodies have responsibility.

## Inclusion

Is about valuing all individuals, giving equal access and opportunity to all and removing discrimination and other barriers to involvement.

## South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD)

The health district covering South Western Sydney from Bankstown to Bowral.





# Why a Children and Families Strategy?

**Strategies help guide and inform Council's short and long term goals by identifying needs in the community, and exploring solutions to address those needs. The Camden Council Children and Families Strategy 2023-2027 is aimed at children aged 0-12 years and their families in the Camden LGA.**

The Camden LGA is a fast-growing area, with a large population percentage of residents aged 0-12 years in comparison to greater Sydney. The Camden LGA has seen a significant increase in this age group from 2016 to 2021, with an additional:



**9,600 residents aged 0-12 years currently residing in the Camden area.**

**With 0-4 year olds making up 9.4 per cent of the Camden population.**

These statistics highlight the need for a strategic plan that endeavours to support, understand and address the

needs of children and families in the growing community. Camden Council acknowledges the role community plays in childhood development, the importance of the first five years of a child's life and the benefits of supporting parents/carers.

The Children and Families Strategy 2023-2027 has been developed by researching the current social trends of the Camden Local Government area, reviewing relevant data, policies and frameworks, and through community consultation. Community consultation has taken place with a range of people and key voices, including children, parents and carers, grandparents, and service providers.

The implementation of the strategy will involve Council continuing to work in partnership with sector professionals, service providers and the community to enhance the health, educational, safety and wellbeing needs of children and families.



# Documents informing this Strategy

## United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Children



## Camden Community Strategic Plan 2022-2036



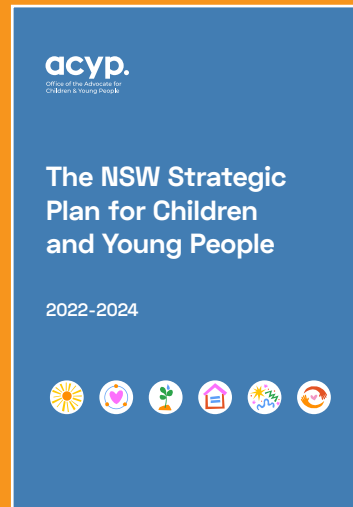
## Camden Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan



## NSW Health First 2000 Days Framework

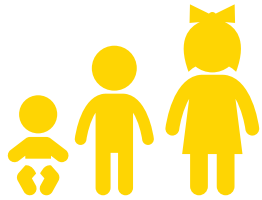


## ACYP Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2022-2024





# A snapshot of the children and families that call Camden home



**Babies, pre-schoolers and primary schoolers** make up 20.8 per cent of the Camden population



Increase of **9,600** in the 0-12 years bracket in the Camden area from 2016 to 2021



**33.4%** of households have young children (0-15 years)

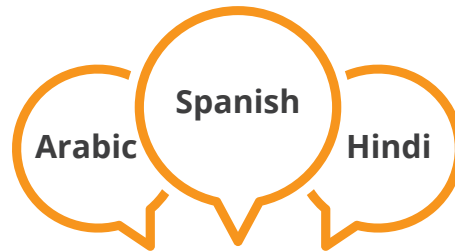


**10.7%** of Camden population attends primary school (State, Catholic or Independent)

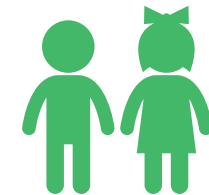


**28%** of people in Camden speak a language other than English at home

## Top 3 languages



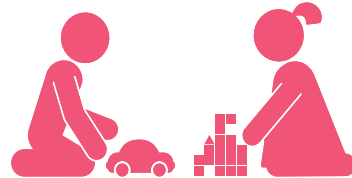
**3.1%** of the population are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander



Suburbs with a higher concentration of babies and toddlers include **Gledswood Hills, Gregory Hills, Spring Farm and Oran Park**



**122** playgrounds



**27+** playgroups



**60+** early childhood education centres



**4731** Junior library members

# The key achievements of Council's Children and Families Strategy 2018-2021

The Children and Families Strategy 2018-2021 had a significant impact on the children and families of the Camden LGA, with 63% of strategic actions achieved and 22% partially achieved. These achievements included;

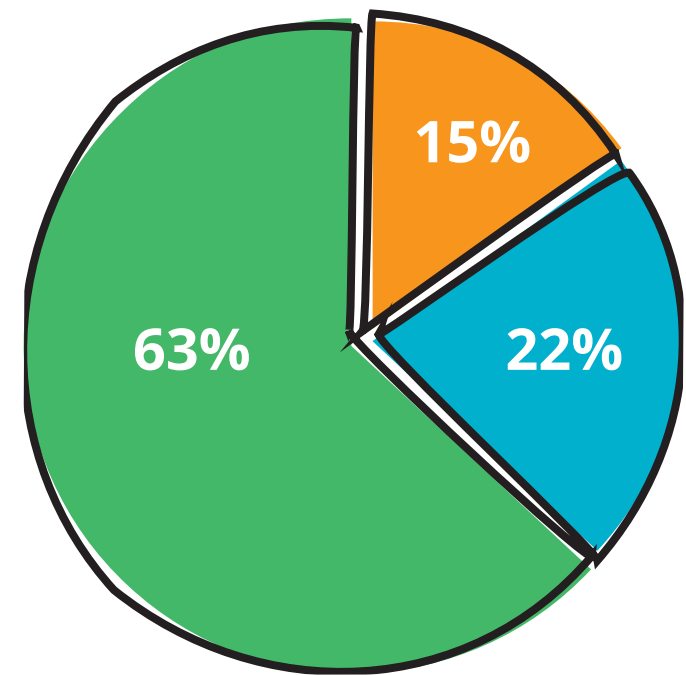
- ★ children engaging in educational programs supporting their development prior to attending primary school;
- ★ library reading activities; and
- ★ the early literacy community program Paint the Town REaD.

In addition, the Strategy saw community connection and wellbeing outcomes achieved:

- ★ through the increase of local playgrounds
- ★ through National Families Week events focusing on health and wellbeing
- ★ through the Camden Kids website and directory supporting families to connect with relevant information.

While COVID-19 significantly impacted service delivery and the day-to-day lives of children and families from 2020-2021, achievements continued via online forums to support connection, and maintain healthy practices and learning.

Strategic Actions

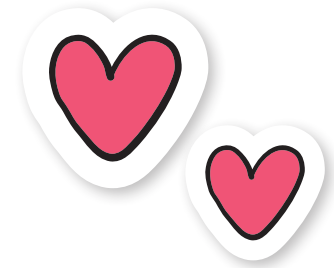


- 63% Achieved
- 22% Partially achieved
- 15% Not achieved





# Consultation summary

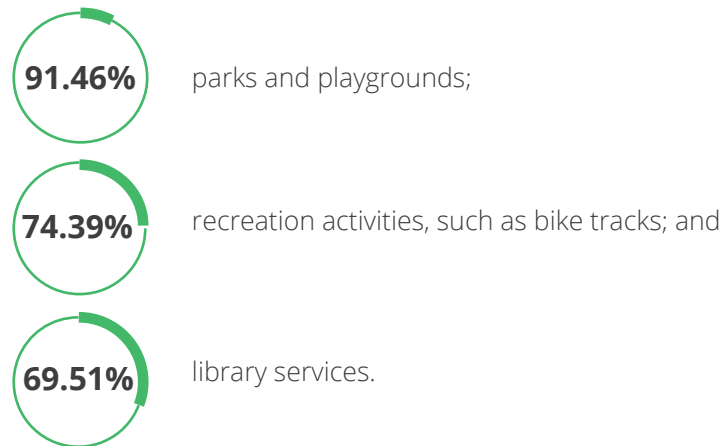


## Parents, carers and family voices

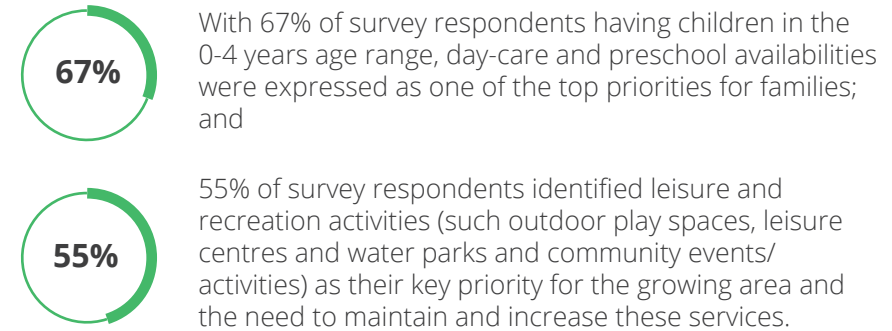
Camden Council encouraged parents, carers, and families within the Camden area to engage in online and in person consultation opportunities. Online surveys were open to the community in August 2022 and 82 responses were received. Further surveys were completed by program participants during 2022-2023, resulting in an additional 74 responses received.

Council also engaged families through its 'Community Consultation Series' at local events and programs (including Child Restraint Fitting Day, local playgroups, Camden Christmas Festival and Parent and Bub Yoga). These community conversations explored thoughts, experiences and opinions on the needs of local children and families. Over 520 parents and carers were consulted throughout the process.

### Survey respondents identified the most utilised services/facilities/activities in the Camden area for their family as:



### Top priorities for families included:



### Key challenges included:

- The requirement for an increase in educational infrastructure to meet the needs of the growing population, such as primary and high schools, hospitals, childcare centres and leisure centres;
- Long waitlists for child allied health services, such as speech therapy and pre-schools, and the impact on children's school readiness; and,
- Knowing how to connect with services and supports, especially for new parents and families who have recently moved to Camden LGA, can be a challenge.



### What you told us:

- Camden overall is a family friendly area, with many open spaces, activities, parks and playgrounds that support families to be active and connected to their community;
- COVID-19 disrupted families' everyday lives and, since restrictions have lifted, families are looking forward to more community events and programs to connect with others. Events that have returned since COVID-19 have been well received;
- Families expressed concern over the long waitlists for early childhood education centres and before and after school care services, making it difficult to access these services;
- Due to the rising cost of living, parents reported valuing free or low-cost activities for their child and family to engage in;
- With many new or expectant parents in the area, low-cost programs aimed at supporting new parents to be connected with their community, and other new parents, are needed; and
- Finding the right information for parents and carers can be challenging, knowing where to go and how to get the information is a barrier to accessing the needed supports.



# Children's voices

Children's voices are pivotal in the development of this strategy as children are empowered through the participation of this process.

Furthermore, children's voices being heard leads to understanding their unique insights and experiences and acknowledges them as meaning-makers within their own childhoods.

Children were given opportunities to have their voices heard throughout the consultation process, including creative competitions at programs such as school holiday activities and at local events and activities. Over 90 children were consulted throughout this process.

Children told us about the following:

## What do children need to be healthy and happy:

- Access to bike tracks and outdoor play equipment;
- Pools to swim in;
- Healthy food and learn to cook; and
- Fun activities outside of school.



## What's important to children in the Camden area:

Parks and playgrounds;



Splash parks and local pools;



Places to ride their BMX bikes;



Caring for our environment and animals; and

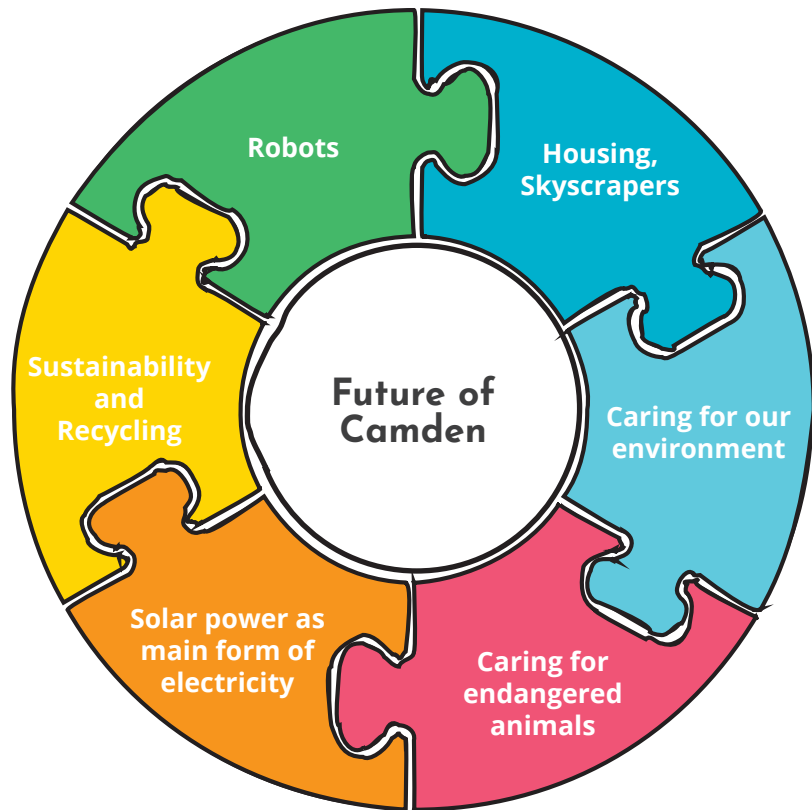


Local activities and events that promote community connection such as Camden Show and Anzac Day celebrations.

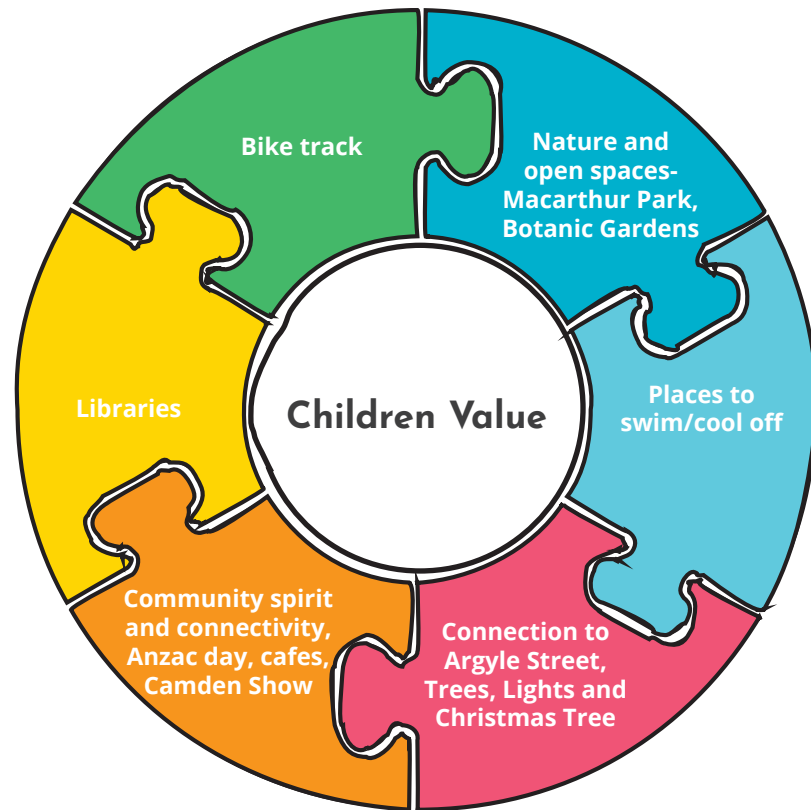




Children envision the following for the future of Camden:



Children value the following for the future of Camden:





## Sector professionals

Camden Council engaged with a range of services and professionals who work in the children and families sector, ranging from community services, not-for-profit organisations, government services, local primary schools, childcare service providers, allied health professionals and charities.

Professionals engaged in preliminary surveys to assist in understanding the key strategic priority areas. From there, sector professionals attended a consultation forum where they engaged in a series of activities to outline needs of children and families within the five strategic priorities.

Over 90 sector professionals have provided input throughout the process, exploring opportunities for collaboration with Council and across the sector.

### What the sector told us:

- Social needs, emotional and psychological support and parenting support were identified as the three most prevalent arising needs for children and families in the Camden community;
- The majority of sector professionals identified COVID-19 disruptions impacting child development, including speech, academic performance, social and emotional skills;
- Need for centralised service directory to support schools and sector professionals, as well as general community to know where to go for the right services and supports;
- Transition to school programs could help reduce children falling behind and bridge the gap; and
- The sector identified a gap in professional learning opportunities in understanding how to engage and respond to children with additional needs in education settings.

**The consultation process has enabled the identification of core strategic priorities, including:**

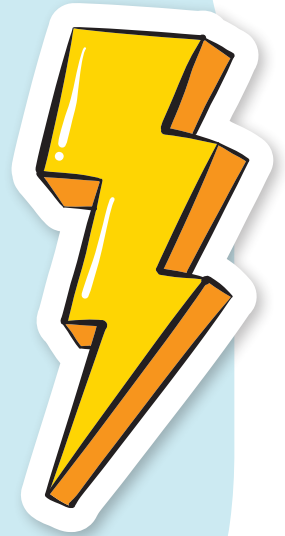
**Safety**

**Education**

**Informed**

**Health and Wellbeing, and**

**Recreation and Leisure.**



Within each strategic priority are strategic actions, in which clear measurements of success and timeframes are outlined to show how these actions are to be achieved.

Each strategic action has assigned roles and responsibilities, which will be considered as either 'lead', 'partner' or 'advocate'. These define Council's role in delivering the strategic action, and key partners who support the achievement of this action. Camden Council endeavours to deliver each strategic priority against clear success measurements and timeframes.



# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: SAFETY

Strategy Priority 1 aims to address key safety concerns for children in the community as identified by parents and carers parents and carers, such as road and cyber safety.

Ensuring relevant legislation and standards are implemented at Council while also providing capacity building opportunities to the children and families sector, families are supported to live safe and happy lives.

## What consultation told us about safety:

- ★ Parents want to engage in infant first aid but often cannot afford it;
- ★ Concerns for road safety around our school zones;
- ★ Cyber safety is a growing challenge and parents are not sure where to get reliable information;
- ★ Sector identified opportunities to improve and building on child protection knowledge as necessary;
- ★ Community currently benefiting from five child restraint fitting days annually, with each day fully booked; and
- ★ Children value spaces to cool off and enjoy a swim in the Camden area during summer.



	Objectives	Strategic Action	Timeframes	Roles and Responsibilities
<b>SAFETY</b>	1.1 Child Protection and Child Safety	a. Camden Council becomes a Child Safe organisation, implementing the 10 Child Safe Standards.	June 2024 and ongoing reviews	Lead
		b. National Child Protection Week campaign delivered internally at Council and externally for community to raise awareness.	Annually - September	Lead
		c. Child Protection Training provided and offered for the sector once a year.	Annually	Partner
	1.2 Improving child safety education for parents and carers (cyber and physical safety)	a. Council to fund child restraint fitting days and explore sector opportunities to meet growing demands of Camden area	Five times a year	Lead
		b. Host parent safety information sessions in partnership with NSW Police and Council Community and Road Safety Officer	Annually – May and October	Partner
		c. Child safety marketing campaign developed and rolled out across the community, available in inclusive and accessible formats	June 2024	Lead
		d. Educational materials and campaigns on safety to be inclusive and in accessible formats	June 2024	Lead
	1.3 Increasing disaster and accidental preparedness for parents and carers, including water safety	a. Infant first aid for parents and carers offered in the Camden area at a subsidised cost	Annually	Lead
		b. Promoting the benefits of swimming lessons and water safety. Information is provided in multiple languages	Ongoing	Partner
	1.4 Relevant supports provided to address Children’s safety in the home including impacts of domestic violence and family circumstances	a. Provide schools with up-to-date DV information and service directory	Annually	Lead
		b. Educate parents on the impact domestic violence has on children’s development through program delivery and online platforms	Ongoing	Lead Partner
		c. Domestic violence resources available in various languages on Camden Kids	Ongoing	Partner



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION

Children have adequate and high-quality education facilities available to them, from early childhood education care centres, preschool, transition to school programs and primary schools. Ensuring children of Camden are given the best chance to thrive by the time they enter full time schooling.

### What consultation told us about education:

- ★ Sector identified gaps in skill sets when it comes to supporting and engaging children with additional needs;
- ★ Childcare and preschool placement availability is impacting family's ability to have children engaged in early childhood education and school readiness, altering a child's development by the time they enter primary school;
- ★ Parents hold concern for state schools being over capacity and a lack of before and after school care; and
- ★ Children value learning about sustainability and recycling practices, and value our natural environment.



	Objectives	Strategic Action	Timeframes	Roles and Responsibilities
<b>EDUCATION</b>	2.1. Support and connect sector initiatives addressing the needs of developmentally vulnerable children	a. In collaboration with local community services and primary schools, implement transition to school programs to improve school readiness	October 2024 Ongoing	Partner
		b. Early literacy program initiative in partnership with stakeholders for children 0-5 years. Delivery of regular activities to engage children in reading and provide information to parents	Committee meet bimonthly Four program deliverables annually Ongoing distribution of resources	Lead Partner
	2.2. Adequate supply of high-quality education and care services	a. Advocate to relevant state and federal government bodies to increase education and care services and pre-schools to meet community needs, as well as state schools' capacity to reflect the population trends of Camden LGA	Ongoing	Advocate
		b. Review all Development Applications for relevant education facilities submitted to Council, ensuring adherence to standards and legalisation	Ongoing	Lead
	2.3. Supporting the sector to be informed on making reasonable adjustments for children with additional needs in learning settings	a. Training opportunities for sector promoted and distributed	Ongoing	Partner
		b. Establish Early Childhood Education and Care Camden Network Meeting to support capacity building in the sector	Established by 2024 Meetings held monthly	Partner
		c. Provide schools with a directory of services to assist referring families to supports d. Establish playgroup interagency network to support capacity building and inclusive practices	Annually	Partner
	2.4. Children and families have opportunities to learn about sustainability and recycling practices and responsible pet ownership	a. Partner with appropriate facilitators to deliver sustainability and recycling workshops that are age appropriate for children	Annually	Partner
		b. Program delivery to support increase community resilience to climate change through collaboration with appropriate internal and external stakeholders.		



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: INFORMED

Parents and carers are informed on the resources, supports and programs available to children and families in the Camden area.

Sector professionals are informed and aware of opportunities and resources available to them for professional develop and capacity building of the sector.

### What consultation told us about being informed:

- ★ Parents expressed a challenge of not always knowing what is going on in the community and what services and supports are available to their family;
- ★ Children appreciate their voices being heard on matters relating to them, such as the types of activities they get to engage in, how they envision the future of our LGA and expressing what they do and don't like; and
- ★ Sector and parents identified parenting programs and supports are essential to assist parents in navigating the key challenges of raising children.



	Objectives	Strategic Action	Timeframes	Roles and Responsibilities
<b>INFORMED</b>	3.1. Support to build capacity and connection for the Camden Children and Families Sector	a. Consultation forum held annually with the sector to review strategic objectives and outcomes, explore arising needs in the community and generate ideas of collaboration.	Annually	Lead
		b. Mailing list of local service providers, community services and schools developed for regular communication and information provision.	Bimonthly	Lead
		c. Offering of training and continuing professional development opportunities	Biannually	Partner
	3.2. Increasing community awareness of available services, supports and activities specific to children and families	a. Newsletter mailing list of ECEC providers and primary schools and quarterly newsletters with relevant information to be shared with families.	Quarterly	Lead
		b. Connecting with businesses such as real estate agents and home developers, to support disseminating relevant information to new residents.	Ongoing	Lead
		c. Maintaining Camden Kids website and monthly e-newsletter with the most up to date information. Supplied to schools and local libraries in electronic and physical copies formats.	Monthly	Lead
	3.3. Children's voices are heard to inform decisions affecting them. Capturing their insights and expertise on 'childhood'	a. Children to be included in community consultation activities across Council programs and initiatives that affect them.	Ongoing	Lead
		b. Creative children's competitions hosted to capture their ideas and values.	Annually	Partner
	3.4. Parenting programs offered to parents in the Camden area	a. Provide opportunities for parents to engage in parenting programs and educational opportunities to enhance parenting skills and address family challenges.	Annually	Partner
		b. Camden Kids to provide information of online workshops and trainings offered for parents and carers, disseminated to local schools and community services.	Ongoing	Lead
		c. Families from multicultural backgrounds to be connected to culturally appropriate support services	Ongoing	Lead



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Families are provided opportunities to participate in activities and programs that benefit their physical and mental health and general wellbeing.

Supporting new and expectant parents to have the resources and tools to ensure the best physical and mental health outcomes for them and their baby.

### What consultation told us about health and wellbeing:

- ★ Children appreciate spaces to ride their bikes and enjoy the outdoors with their family in Camden;
- ★ New and expectant parents identified services and supports for new parents and their babies to engage with for their health and wellbeing, offered at a low cost;
- ★ Sector identified challenge of navigating services allied health and mental health services for families they are supporting; and
- ★ Families reported many health and allied health services are located outside of the Camden LGA, making it challenge to access these vital services.



	Objectives	Strategic Action	Timeframes	Roles and Responsibilities
<b>HEALTH AND WELLBEING</b>	4.1. Improve physical health outcomes for children and families	a. Partner with NSW Health SWSLHD to increase access to physical health programs across Camden LGA.	2025	Partner
		b. Develop promotional campaign of physical activities offered in Camden area that are family friendly.	2025	Lead
		c. Support State Government Health Promotion campaigns to build healthy habits in families, ensuring this information reaches disadvantaged and vulnerable members of the community.	Ongoing	Partner
	4.2. Support mental health of new and expectant parents	a. Connect new and expectant parents to relevant information on services and supports for parents and babies through programs, community stakeholders and local businesses.	Ongoing	Lead
		b. New parent program provided by Council at a low cost, providing an opportunity for parents to connect with other parents and allows a soft entry point to services.	Quarterly	Lead
	4.3. Supporting families needing mental health and allied health services through soft entry programming	a. Disseminating early intervention information to families relating to speech and developmental milestones.	Material developed by 2025 Ongoing	Partner
		b. Service directory and easy access information for families and sector, including: sector agencies, schools and P&C's, playgroups, local services and ECEC providers.	2025	Partner
		c. Utilising Children and Families programming as a soft entry referral pathway.	Ongoing	Lead
	4.4. Improve access to children and family health, social and mental health services	a. Advocating and collaborating with local service providers to expand service delivery in the Camden area. Exploring opportunities for developmental checks clinics with local Speech Pathologist and Occupational Therapist.	Ongoing	Lead
		b. Hosting a children and families service expo style event to connect local families with services and supports needed.  A services conference hosted in conjunction to support sector.	Annually commencing 2025	Lead
		c. Advocating for child and family mental health services to be located and available in the Camden area.		
		d. Collaborating with service providers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse families, to help improve access to necessary supports in the Camden area.		



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5: RECREATION AND LEISURE

Children and families have opportunities and access to free and low-cost recreational activities, supporting their mental and physical health and general wellbeing.

### What consultation told us about recreation and leisure:

- ★ Children value opportunities to engage in creative-based activities after school and during school holidays;
- ★ Parents identified some children do not wish to commit to competitive sport programs and would enjoy engaging in more casual sport opportunities to trial and experience new sporting activities; and
- ★ Sector reflected inclusive spaces at events and programs are important services to ensure all can enjoy events.



	Objectives	Strategic Action	Timeframes	Roles and Responsibilities
<b>RECREATION AND LEISURE</b>	5.1. Provide accessible activities for primary school aged children and ensure they are promoted to the community.	a. 'Camden Swirls' creative program held during school holidays for 10-14 years.	Quarterly	Lead
		b. eNewsletter of school holiday activities run by Council (art gallery, libraries) and businesses, to be provided to schools' wider community.	Quarterly	Lead
		c. Promotional of available in term, after school and weekend creative based programs offered by Council and community stakeholders. Creative-based programs offered by Council and community stakeholders to be available during the school term, after school and weekends.	Ongoing	Partner
	5.2. Promote and provide accessible casual sporting opportunities	a. Collaborating and advocating for casual sporting programs to be available across the LGA.	Ongoing	Partner
	5.3. Calendar of family friendly events and activities	a. Council to host and partner with the sector to provide a program of free and low-cost activities during National Families Week.	Annually	Lead
		b. Camden Kids 'What's On' to have up to date information on events happening in the LGA.	Ongoing	Lead
	5.4. Inclusive play spaces and activities available for all children	a. Advocating for future and updated play spaces that are accessible and inclusive for all abilities to be able to engage in play and recreation.	Ongoing	Advocate
		b. Council events and programs to include inclusive spaces where possible.	Ongoing	Advocate



# How the Children and Families Strategy will support the Camden Community Strategic Plan 2036

The Camden Strategic Plan (CSP) 2036 is the highest-level plan that a Council will prepare. It outlines the communities' main priorities and aspirations for the future, as well as the long-term visions and goals for the community.

The Children and Families Strategy 2023-2027 endeavours to support the CSP by contributing and collaborating on meeting the broader communities' needs, by focusing specifically on families with children 0-12 years.

Detailed below is how the Children and Families Strategic actions will support and work towards achieving CSP key directions, objectives and strategies.



CSP Key Directions	Objectives/Strategies	Children and Families Strategic Objectives
<b>Welcoming</b> - Embrace our vibrant and diverse community	W1.1 Support initiatives that build and foster community cohesion	3.1 Support to build capacity and connection for the Camden Children and Families Sector 3.2 Increasing community awareness of available services, supports and activities specific to families and children 5.3 Calendar of family friendly events and activities
	W1.2 Celebrate creativity and growing diversity	5.1 Free and low-cost activities for primary school aged children 5.4 Inclusive play spaces and activities available for children with additional needs
	W1.3 Promote and facilitate equitable access to services, facilities, and community initiatives	3.2 Increasing community awareness of available services, supports and activities specific to families and children 3.4 Parenting programs offered for parents in the Camden LGA
	W1.4 Provide opportunities for residents and groups to participate in local decision making	3.3 Children's voices informing decisions affecting them. Capturing their expertise on 'childhood'
	W2.1 Promote and facilitate programs and services that support good community health and wellbeing	4.1 Improve physical health outcomes for children and families 4.2 Support mental health of new and expectant parents 4.3 Supporting families to be connected to mental health and allied health services 4.4 Improve access to children and family health, social and mental health services
	W3.1 Implement programs targeting key community safety concerns	1.1 Child protection and Child safety 1.2 Improving child safety education for parents and carers (cyber and physical safety) 1.4 Supporting to address domestic violence in families
	W3.2 Seek active partnerships to address community needs	2.3 Supporting sector to be informed on making reasonable adjustments for children with additional needs in learning settings 3.1 Support to build capacity and connection for the Camden Children and Families Sector 4.4 Improve access to children and family health, social and mental health services

CSP Key Directions	Objectives/Strategies	Children and Families Strategic Objectives
<b>Liveable</b> - Strong and integrated links between our people and our services	LB2.1 Ensure homes, infrastructure and facilities are well planned, delivered and maintained to create high quality urban and rural environments that meet our diverse needs and response to our climate	2.2 Adequate supply of high-quality education and carer services
<b>Prosperous</b> - Advanced local economic opportunities and job creation	P1.1 Creative diverse environments for business and workers to grow and thrive	2.3 Supporting sector to be informed on making reasonable adjustments for children with additional needs in learning settings
<b>Balanced</b> - Providing sustainable and responsible solutions that enhance our heritage	B1.4 Facilitate community education and citizen science programs to foster appreciation and understanding of the natural environment	2.4 Children and families have opportunities to learn about sustainability and recycling practices
<b>Leading</b> - A successful advocate for our people and places	L1.2 Build and strengthen partnerships across Government and Industry	2.2 Adequate supply of high quality education and carer services 3.1 Support to build capacity and connection for the Camden Children and Families Sector 5.4 Inclusive play spaces and activities available for children with additional needs
	L3.2 Community effectively with the community and stakeholders to promote opportunities	3.2 Increasing community awareness of available services, supports and activities specific to families and children 5.1 Free/low cost activities for primary school aged children promoted to the community



# How Council will implement, monitor and review the Strategy

## Implementation

The implementation of each strategic action will be delivered over the next four years, with the identified role and responsibility of Council within the timeframes set. Key stakeholders, such as children and family community service providers, disability service providers, early childhood education and care providers, local primary schools, and allied health professionals, will play a vital role in collaborating and supporting Council to execute the strategy.

For Council to be successful in achieving each strategic action set, financial and staffing resources are allocated from existing staffing and finances. The Children and Families Community Project Officer (CPO) will drive the implementation and monitoring of the Strategy. Proportion of actions set have existing budgets allocated or are funded through existing structures. Additional funding through external grant applications as well as business case to warrant the need for additional funding as part of future Council budgetary cycles.

## Monitor

Council will monitor the Children and Families Strategy 2023-2027 on the achievements or progress for each of the strategic actions, in measurement against timeframes set. The progress and status of the strategy will be reported within the existing Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework set out in the Camden Community Strategic Plan. Progress of the Children and Families Strategy 2023-2027 will be reported in Camden Council's Annual Report, with outcomes communicated to key stakeholders and to the community.

## Review

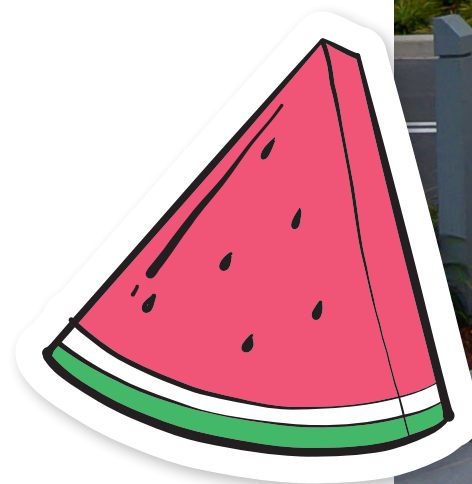
On the completion of the four-year term of the Strategy, an in-depth review and evaluation will be undertaken. This review and report will provide a snapshot of the strategic objectives measured against the strategic actions and the timeframes set. The report's key findings will be communicated to community and the sector with key milestones also reported against Council's broader operational and delivery plan processes. Key milestones will be reported against Council's operational and delivery reporting.





# References

- Advocate for Children and Young People  
[www.acyp.nsw.gov.au/strategic-plan-2022-2024](http://www.acyp.nsw.gov.au/strategic-plan-2022-2024)
- Australian Bureau of Statistics  
[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)
- Australian Early Development Census  
[www.aedc.gov.au](http://www.aedc.gov.au)
- Camden Council Community Strategic Plan 2022-2036  
[www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/Uploads/Community-Strategic-Plan-Documents.PDF](http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/Uploads/Community-Strategic-Plan-Documents.PDF)
- Camden Council Disability Action Plan 2023-2027  
[www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/Uploads/Camden-Council-DIAP-2023-2027-EXTERNAL.PDF](http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/Uploads/Camden-Council-DIAP-2023-2027-EXTERNAL.PDF)
- NSW Health First 2000 Days Framework  
[www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/PD2019\\_008.pdf](http://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/PD2019_008.pdf)
- United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Children  
[www.unicef.org.au/united-nations-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child](http://www.unicef.org.au/united-nations-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child)

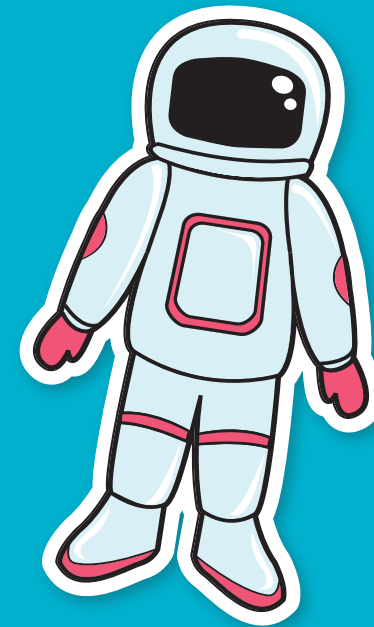






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