

Early Years Infrastructure Planning Principles

Principles

The Principles consider the National Quality Framework, Early Years Reform, Council Plan, Children's development, Family wellbeing and support and the service system. The reference group involved in developing the Principles represented the perspectives of children, families, community, staff and other professionals.

The Principles are of equal importance when considering Early Years Infrastructure planning.

Location Principle

The location of Early Years Infrastructure enriches connection to our community, neighbourhood and environment.

New and renovated Early Years infrastructure will incorporate spaces specifically designed to enable a gathering place for children and their families.

The location of facilities will support the co-location and collaboration between other services families' access. This includes the location of Maternal Child Health services, Primary Schools and other health and education services accessed by families with children aged 0 – 8 years.

The location of Early Years Infrastructure will promote walkability both for families accessing the service and for children participating in Early years programs. By being located close to community opportunities they can be incorporated in the education program.

Early Years Infrastructure will be located close to parks and other open spaces to promote outdoor opportunities for families and to enable them to meet up near Early Years services.

The infrastructure location will also consider accessibility including DDA compliance, safe car parking and access to public transport.

Choice - diversity/history Principle

The Early Years Infrastructure will be designed to celebrate our history and foster choice and diversity.

It will offer a diverse range of building stock to reflect the types of Early Years services that families need to access now and in the future.

Infrastructure improvements and future builds will consider the diversity of programs offered and reflect the different communities within Nillumbik.

The unique character and heritage features of the Nillumbik Shire will be reflected in the design of renovated and newly built infrastructure.

And, flexibility to accommodate changing needs and promote choice across the Shire, will be considered in the design of infrastructure.

Functional Spaces Principle

Early Years Infrastructure will provide fit for purpose spaces that are functional and flexible to meet the needs of key stakeholders.

Functional and flexible design will include the building structure, the indoor and outdoor spaces and access to the building, including car parking.

The infrastructure will be designed to maximise utilisation by Early Years services and other groups in the community.

Nillumbik will work to maximise utilisation of Early Years Infrastructure by using what is already within the shire that best meets the needs - considering new fit for purpose infrastructure gaining a mix of infrastructure that meets current and emerging children and family needs.

Facilities are designed to maximise capacity and accessibility to programs.

Where the infrastructure hosts integrated services, facilities will consider universal access design principles that enable people from across the life course to access and utilise the building.

Environmental Principle

Early Years Infrastructure will optimise environmental sustainability and efficiency.

Council's Sustainability plan, along with experience in using natural and eco-friendly materials will be applied to building design.

Building materials, placement of buildings on site, design elements such as solar, water tanks, tinting and acoustics will reflect Council's commitment to the natural environment.

Infrastructure will support social and physical engagement with our natural environment. This is designed to strengthen the opportunity for programming which educates and encourages children to engage in sustainable and environmentally responsible activity.

Centre of Families and Community

Early Years Infrastructure will identify some centres for families and community, which support partnership and integrated services.

Where there is an opportunity identified to create an integrated building, the design will allow all services under one roof to incorporate dedicated and multipurpose spaces to support partnership.

Accessibility for all age groups will be considered, and welcoming common spaces will be included in the infrastructure design to nurture social inclusion and increase social capital.

Designs will consider acoustics and other challenges that an integrated building hosting multi services, to ensure the optimal working and learning environment for all building users.