



# LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Local governments play their part to protect and care for children and young people in their community by providing free family events and facilities that create opportunities for young people to engage in community life.**



**Create opportunities for young people to engage in community** and civic life. The provision of a youth space, as well as genuine participation about issues that affect them, celebrates young people's place in our society and helps business deliver best practice.

**Offering free family events and activities for children and young people** is a valuable means of engaging families and building connections with the community and other families. Community cultural events and opportunities for recreation help build social cohesion and strong communities. Accessibility is increased when events are run free of charge.

**Invite senior community leaders to speak at an event or service.** Hearing about and valuing local culture and wisdom helps families learn and grow together and strengthens community bonds.

**Initiate a local Child Friendly Business Award** for organisations who exceed expectations in meeting the needs of children. Recognising these efforts helps raise the profile of children and their families, and the role that businesses should play in the community.

**Develop child related policies and procedures.** Consider becoming a Child Safe Organisation and have all staff access this training. A child safe policy should promote wellbeing and early intervention practices, as well as be consistent with state/territory mandatory reporting legislation. Ensure that all staff and volunteers hold a valid Working With Children Check.

**A code of conduct for working with children and young people** is a practical tool for promoting clear and consistent roles and behaviour. When implemented and supported consistently, these policies work to protect children, workers and the organisation.

**Help and support parents in continuous improvement of their parenting skills.** Providing family support services and parenting courses help to overcome the challenges of parenting, and creates opportunities for support, skill development and networking with other families.

**Promote and support the local library as an ideal location** to share information, promote quality time between parents and children and build social connections between families.

**Provide opportunities for children to play and have fun:** playgroups, parks, libraries, safe streets, parent-friendly parking and safe bike paths encourage play, exercise and social get-togethers amongst children, parents and families.

**Share a directory of local services in the council's facilities.** By simplifying processes for accessing support, families are assisted in seeking help to raise their children.

**Where possible, seek input about council services from senior community or family members.** Valuing local culture and wisdom may improve your relationships and can help increase knowledge about community needs.