

Media Release



31 October 2018

Children and families are central to new strategy

A plan of action to support the wellbeing of Camden's youngest residents has been developed in collaboration with the community and industry experts.

Last night, Council adopted the Camden Children and Families Strategy to improve outcomes for children and families over the next four years.

Almost 20 per cent of residents in the Camden LGA is aged 0-11 and the children and families group is the largest demographic.

Mayor Peter Sidgreaves said the new strategy would inform decision making, events and Council goals for several years.

"As a Council we are committed to providing a great community for children and families, and this strategy sets a clear benchmark for what we want to achieve in this area," Cr Sidgreaves said.

"Importantly, this document has not just been developed by Council, but also by our community. It is the result of feedback from children, parents, grandparents, carers and service providers and it is our hope that they see the benefits and continue to feel that they have a voice in our community," he said.

"This strategy will help to develop the community as a place where parents have access to services and facilities, children receive a healthy and happy start to life and families are actively connected to community."

The strategy focuses on six priority areas: Informed and Empowered; Voice; Learning and Development; Connect; Wellbeing and Safe.

Key outcomes to be achieved over the next four years include:

- A revitalised Camden Kids website providing information to children, parents and carers.

Media Contact:

Caitlin Lewis
Media Officer
Camden Council
PO Box 183, CAMDEN NSW 2570
Phone: 4654 7823 Mobile: 0438 062 628
Email: caitlin.lewis@camden.nsw.gov.au



Media Release

- Children empowered to have a voice
- Children have access to learning programs and are read to most days of the week
- Parents experience less social isolation
- More parents and children suffering from mental health issues seek help
- Improved cyber safety education for both children and parents
- Increased awareness of the impact of family violence on children
- More social inclusion and opportunities for neighbourhood play
- Increased sharing of information about family programs, services and activities
- Less road and drowning incidents involving children

To inform the strategy, residents took part in surveys distributed at events in 2017 and 2018 and children were also invited to give feedback.

Responses showed children most enjoyed outdoor play and families most liked Camden for its parks and playgrounds, libraries and community events. Most respondents said the biggest challenge was lack of knowledge about available family services and facilities.

For more information on the Camden Children and Families Strategy, visit Council's website.

ENDS

Media Contact:

Caitlin Lewis
Media Officer
Camden Council
PO Box 183, CAMDEN NSW 2570
Phone: 4654 7823 Mobile: 0438 062 628
Email: caitlin.lewis@camden.nsw.gov.au