Child Friendly by Design (CFbD)

Project and Partnerships:

Bringing children, young people and communities together through Place

Healthy Cities Illawarra
Background to CFbD

- Formulated by Healthy Cities Illawarra
- Inspired by strategies from CABE, Play England, My City Too and recommendations from the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the Built Environment
- Utilises a community development model
- Working closely with the NSW Commission for Children and Young
CFbD Project Team

- Deb Langridge – Project Coordinator
- Nikke Gladwin – CFbD Project Officer and Play Scape Consultant
- Assoc Prof Geoff Woolcock – CFbD Consultant and Child Friendly Communities Researcher
- CFbD Project is conducted by Healthy Cities Illawarra as an activity of Communities for Children Shellharbour, funded by the Australian Government
CFbD Project

Aims of the CFbD Project are to:

- Give children and young people a ‘voice’ regarding places and spaces in their neighbourhood
- Help to plan, design and create more child friendly places in communities
- Provide training and resources which support the creation of child friendly spaces
- Find ways to fund the creation of child friendly spaces
Child Friendly by Design Resource Toolkit

The CFbD Project gratefully acknowledges the NSW Commission for Children and Young People for their sponsorship and production of the CFbD Resource Toolkit.
When you think of a child friendly place…

“I like a place that you want to be in…where you can have fun, play on things for all different ages…investigate…meet other families…where people can see you and you can see them…you can just have fun and be a kid…”

Hannah, aged 9
What has CFbD done that’s different?

- Comprehensive community participation with children, young people, families and key groups in the community
- ‘Hands on’ design process
- Brought kids, planners, architects, community members and agencies to the same table in the design and redesign process
- Turning theory of child friendly design into practice
Heart of CFbD Project - Engagement Strategies

- Working with children, young people, families, community members and schools to find out what they see as making a child friendly space, and encouraging them to put pen to paper and design spaces they would like to be in.

- Working with key partners (Council, developers like Australand, Chambers of Commerce, local business and community agencies) on strategies to influence how decisions are made in the design and planning of spaces.
CFbD Partnerships

- Local government – Councils, agencies and departments
- Community groups and agencies
- Schools and school communities
- Chambers of Commerce and local businesses
- Developers, architects, designers, planners and landscape architects
Children at the heart of CFbD Project…

“…The vast majority of both the creation and adaptation of built environments occurs in the complete absence of children and young people’s voices”

Nordstrom, 2010
Why engage children and the community?

Tim Gill, a UK expert in the field of designing for play, has stated that

“Everyone can imagine a great place to play – but the skill is in turning the image into reality...It is the people who design play spaces that hold the key to this transformation”
The Why of CFbD

CFbD Design Process

CFbD Project has recognised children and young people as key stakeholders

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”

Benjamin Franklin
“To be asked to have a say in what goes in my local park is great. I never thought that I could help design a place that my family and friends would love to come and play in. It was exciting to be listened to by people who make the decisions on what happens in our neighbourhood. I can’t believe my ideas and drawings might get used to design a great place…it really makes us feel important..”

Emily, school student, age 10
What a child friendly place or space looks like…

- Safe and free from danger
- Good visibility
- Good lighting
- Natural play areas
- Can walk, ride or travel to easily and safely
What a child friendly place or space looks like…

✓ People want to go and spend time with others
✓ Has trees, seating and shade
✓ You can run around or just sit
✓ Has clean toilets and running water

See Appendix 1 of the CFbD Resource Toolkit
Why is CFbD work so important?....

- It creates a sense of ‘Place’ within a neighbourhood
- It builds pride and a sense of ‘community’ and belonging
- It gives all people in a community a ‘voice’ on the direction and impact their community spaces can have in the future
- It employs and uses the skills and abilities of people within the community to make it a better place to be
Rising concerns over quality of children and young people’s environments, noise and pollution levels, threats to health and safety

Children’s development is intimately connected to our built, natural and social environments

Changes to these environments are linked to rising rates of obesity, depression and mental illness in children and young people
Why is CFbD work so important?....

- Evidence shows that high quality public spaces enhance people’s health and sense of wellbeing and are valuable assets for the community.

- Our built environment needs public spaces that invite and inspire children and young people
Where have all the Garden’s Gone?
Hall (2007)
CFbD Consultancy

- Can be tailored to suit a particular focus or area of interest
- Workshops and in-service training
- Project planning
- Community Consultation
- Plan development
CFbD Project Contact Details

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