

## 5.12 Services for Children and Families

### Objectives

To provide the community with a safe, caring and supportive environment for children to develop to their full potential.

### Strategy

The Town of Bassendean acknowledges that the first five years are the most important in a Child's life and that children learn through experiences and interactions, which occur during early childhood.

The Town will facilitate children attaining their potential in life through providing services to support parents and families to access quality, affordable services to children whether provided by Council or by other providers.

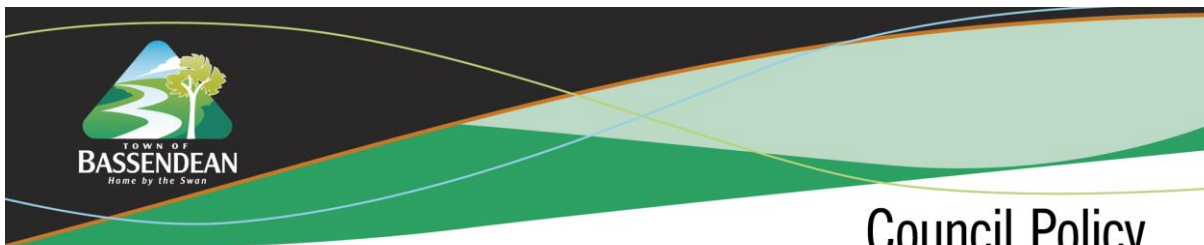
Council will lead by example through ensuring that children services it provides are in line with the Town's objectives for a sustainable future, are affordable and of high quality. The Town of Bassendean will ensure staff will provide up to date, relevant and professional information on services available and will advocate on behalf of children and their needs.

The Town provides the following services that accommodate the needs for children in the community:

- Wind in the Willows Child Care Centres;
- Children's Library Services;
- Public Events that cater for Children,
- Leisure Courses and Activities;
- Community Facilities;
- Playgrounds;
- Sporting Ovals;
- Parklands including family friendly picnic facilities; and
- Crèches for Town of Bassendean activities.

The Town of Bassendean will seek to achieve its objectives by:

- Direct service delivery;
- Advocacy;
- Consultation, Research and Planning.



## Council Policy

The following guiding principles apply:

- The Town will provide safe, caring and nurturing environments for children to develop to their full potential through a variety of well-planned, quality community infrastructure and programs based on the benefits of play and on the encouragement of relationships formed through interactions. The community infrastructure and programs endeavour to accommodate the child’s interests, strengths and abilities, and the values and cultural heritage of the family.
- Children are unique individuals that develop at their own pace through exploration and discovery of their own environment and the people around them. Children need security, love affection and long relationships with their principle and other carers to thrive and develop to their full potential.
- The Town endeavours to work in strong partnership with families to plan for community infrastructure and programs that is based on understanding of each child’s individuality, culture and family values and that encourages their strengths, abilities and overall development.

### Application

- This policy applies to all Council staff who provide services to children and families;
- This Policy is limited by budget constraints;
- This Policy will be reviewed to reflect changes in community expectations, changes in state and federal government legislative, policy and guidelines;
- Responsibility for the implementation of this policy rests with all Councillors, staff, volunteers and contractors of the Town of Bassendean. Sustainability is to be measured and reported upon in the quarterly and annual report. This policy is to be reviewed every 3 years.

<p><b>Policy Type:</b> Council Policy</p> <p><b>Link to Strategic Community Plan:</b> Inclusiveness, Lifelong Learning, Health and Social Wellbeing -</p>	<p><b>Policy Owner:</b> Director Community Development</p> <p><b>Adopted:</b> OCM 8/4/99</p> <p><b>Last Review Date:</b> March 2014</p> <p><b>Version 1</b></p> <p><b>Next Review due by:</b> December 2016</p>
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