



CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES CHARTER

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How did the charter come about?

- Partnership between the Victorian CFCC Network and the VLGA
- VLGA is interested in enhancing the practice of local democracy
- CFCC Network is interested in building capacity in local government and communities
- Overarching goal to assist participation of children and young people in planning and decision making

Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter

This Victorian Charter for Child Friendly Cities and Communities has been developed specifically for local governments, organisations and individuals to take action. The Charter is a statement of the principles and actions that underpin the right to be considered *child friendly*.

The Charter is consistent with state, national and international protocols and embraces rights that are embedded in the Convention of the Rights of the Child (1990), the Chiba Declaration for a Child Friendly Asia Pacific (2009), UNICEF's Building Blocks for Developing a Child Friendly City (2004) and the Victorian Human Rights and Responsibilities Charter 2006.

Recognising the need for increased participation by children in decision-making forums and creating child friendly environments, we support the following principles:

- **Freedom for children to experience environments that consider their needs**
- **Respect and dignity for children to express their individual opinions, participate in and contribute to decisions about their communities and their wellbeing**
- **Equitable access to supportive environments and services for children regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion or ability**



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Principle 1

Freedom for children to experience environments that considers their needs

Principle 1 examples



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Principle 2

Respect and dignity for children to express their individual opinions, participate in and contribute to decisions about their communities and their wellbeing

Principle 2 examples

Youngsters booked for their views

THEY are too young to know much about heritage, but toddlers have got plenty to say.

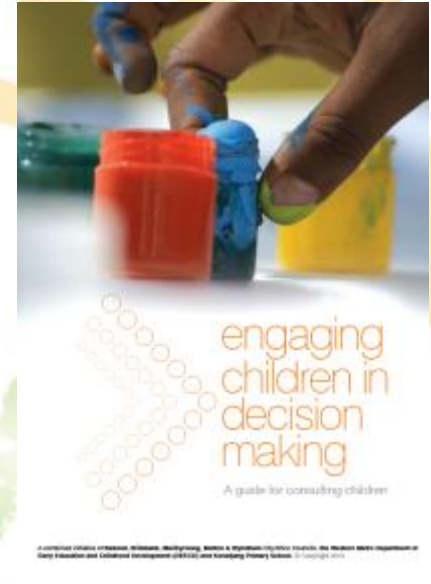
A pre-school consultation session at the Emerald Hill Library allowed children to tell Port Phillip Council exactly what they were in the children's area of the revamped library.

The project will see an expansion and refurbishment of the South Melbourne library to become the Emerald Hill Library and Heritage Centre with more books, a local history focus and better access for community groups.

Mayor Rachel Peering said the council was encouraging feedback from the entire community, including the city's youngest readers.

The plan will be available for community consultation until November 28. More details haveyouanyportphilip.net.au

Emerald Hill Library officer Marisa Delfino with R.L.A. and Isabelle, 3.
Photo: JAMES LAMBERT/STILLWIRE



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Principle 3

Equitable access to supportive environments and services for children regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion or ability

Principle 3



City of Whittlesea

Connect: A municipal plan for children, young people and their families in the City of Whittlesea 2013 to 2018


Shaping Our Future

Prepared by:
City of Whittlesea
Family & Youth Department
February 2013

More information:
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City of Port Phillip
Early Years Plan

Creating a
Child-Friendly
Port Phillip
2012-2015



**THINGS TO DO IN
CITY OF PORT PHILLIP**



What has been achieved

- Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter launched October 2013
- City of Ballarat became the first council to endorse the Charter in December 2013
- Promotions campaign in 2014

What are the challenges

- Getting the message out to local government and community organisations
- Children's right to participate not well understood, its not just consultation!
- Getting the right people to promote the message/involved in the network

What are the next steps?

- Identify leading councils and organisations
- Increase Charter uptake
- Share knowledge and information