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Play Plan



# Hornsby Shire Play Plan

Community Consultation and  
Community Design Brief





**STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS REPORT WERE:**

**Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects (FRLA)**

Fiona Robbé (FRLA)

Matthew Parkinson (FRLA)

Quinn Ritchie (FRLA)

Michelle Robbé (Michelle Robbé Psychology and Consulting)

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# Executive Summary

# Introduction

The **Hornsby Shire Council Inclusive Play Space Study** provides strategic direction on how Council's existing play spaces can be developed to provide equitable and inclusive play opportunities to meet the overall community's needs.

Community consultation is critical to the success of the Study as this process reflects people's interests and needs in the provision of inclusive play spaces in Hornsby Shire. This Report summarises the consultation process and outlines community preferences, desires and needs for inclusive play experiences for different user groups that visit, live or work in the Hornsby Shire area. The findings have been used to generate recommendations for inclusive play provision in Hornsby's play spaces.

## Who Was Consulted?

Broad community consultation was undertaken, with a total 1,011 people (including 156 children and 83 young people) across 16 separate consultations, as outlined in Table 0.1. The outcomes of this broad community engagement informed the development of the Hornsby Shire Council Inclusive Play Space Study.

**Table 0.1 Summary of Community Consultation Activities and Groups**

| Consultation  |  | Date               | People Consulted  | Report  |
|---|--|--------------------|---|---|
| Community Survey  | Have your Say Play Plan Survey             | 6-27 May 2019      | 675 responses<br>508 completed 75%<br>478 completed 100%                        | Separate Community Survey Report                            |
| School Consultation                                       | Cherrybrook Technical High School          | 9 April 2019       | 36 High School Students from Years 7 – 12                                       | Separate Consultation with Children and Young People Report |
|   | Waitara Public School                      | 10 April 2019      | 51 Children from Years 2 – 6  |   |
| Public Events   | Arcadia Public School Play Patrol          | 3 and 8 April 2019 | 21 Children from Year 2 – 6   |   |
|   | Waitara Park Opening                       | 13 April 2019      | 84 Children aged 2 – 12   |   |
|   | Battle of Berowra Skatepark Event          | 13 April 2019      | 47 Young People aged 12 to 24   |   |
| Special Interest Groups - Disability                      | Warrah Special School outing to Fagan Park | 5 April 2019       | 12 Students with Severe Disabilities aged 10 – 17 years and three School Carers | Appendix A  |
|   | Kristie Chambers                           | 20 March 2019      | Mother of an 8-year-old Girl with Severe Cerebral Palsy                         |   |
|   | Warrah Special School Parent questionnaire | March-April 2019   | 2 Parents and 2 Carers/Teachers of Students with Severe Disabilities            |   |
| Special Interest Groups – Pre-School Children and Infants | Beecroft Playgroup                         | 23 May 2019        | 8 Parents/Carers of Children aged 0 – 4 years                                   | Appendix B  |
|   | Galston Playgroup                          | 28 May 2019        | 8 Parents/Carers of Children aged 0 – 4 years                                   |   |
|   | Waitara Park Opening                       | 13 April 2019      | 18 Children aged 2 – 5 years  |   |



|   |                         |               |  |            |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|--|------------|
| Special Interest Groups – Older People      | Probus                  | 12 June 2019  | 35 Retirees mainly aged over 70                                    | Appendix C |
| Special Interest Groups – Aboriginal People | Ku Ring Gai Nation      | 18 April 2019 | 1 Ku Ring Gai Person – Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation | Appendix D |
| Hornsby Council Councillors                 | Hornsby Council Meeting | 3 April 2019  | 7 Hornsby Councillors  | Appendix E |
|   | Janelle McIntosh        | 9 April 2019  | Hornsby Councillor   |            |

## Key Outcomes of Community Consultation


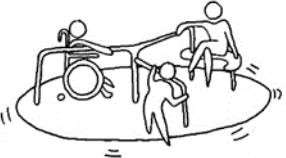
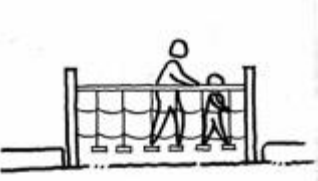
The 1,011 people consulted across 16 consultations provided a wealth of information to inform the provision of inclusive play spaces across the Hornsby LGA. The consultations provide valuable insights into the interests, needs and wishes of the Hornsby Shire community.

The following table summarises the findings of the community consultation process.

**Table 0.2: Consultation Outcomes**

| Current Play Spaces   |   |
|---|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Popular Spaces</b> – Fagan Park, Waitara Park, Asquith Park, and Ruddock Park are the most popular play spaces in the Hornsby Shire – Fagan Park is the clear community favourite which aligns with its status as a regional play space;</li> <li>&gt; <b>Maintenance</b> – Residents are generally satisfied with play space maintenance – areas for improvement include shade provision, fixing damaged equipment, poor amenities (e.g. fences and toilets) and general cleanliness;</li> <li>&gt; <b>Crowding</b> – Residents are generally satisfied with the number of play spaces, however there is some overcrowding of popular play spaces, e.g. Fagan Park. The semi-rural suburbs of Arcadia, Berrilee and Fiddletown do not have any play spaces and residents are dissatisfied with having to pay to use Fagan Park; and</li> <li>&gt; <b>Information</b> – There is a need for improved information about Hornsby's play spaces, particularly which current play spaces are inclusive and future planning for specific play spaces needs to be communicated.</li> </ul> |
| More Challenging and Novel Play Experiences   |   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>We're Up for a Challenge</b> – The community would like play spaces that go beyond the core experiences of traditional play spaces. They would like a variety of play spaces, providing more challenging and sophisticated play types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Adventure play</b> – Adventure play is the standout favourite for future play provision in the Hornsby LGA;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Water play</b> – There is strong community demand for a water park. There are currently no waterplay parks in the LGA and there is frustration about having to drive long distances to find waterplay experiences; and</li> <li>○ <b>Biking</b> – Biking is very popular across all age groups, and there is demand for more cycling opportunities. This includes “learn to ride” tracks for young children, more challenging BMX and mountain bike tracks, and bush-based cycling tracks.</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

| Inclusive Play   |  |
|--|--|
| <br><br> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Something for Everyone</b> – The community places high value on play spaces that cater for the whole family in one outing. However, there were consistent requests for play spaces with separate spaces for very young children and for young people, with equipment and experiences scaled to their size, skills and interests;</li> <li>&gt; <b>Inclusive Play</b> – All ages and interest groups consulted are keen to see more accessible and inclusive play spaces where everyone can play together, regardless of ability or age, with no separate activities or items; and</li> <li>&gt; <b>Intergenerational Play</b> – Older people enjoy visiting play spaces with their grandchildren and to see children play. They value intergenerational play equipment and opportunities to “have a go” themselves on equipment such as flying foxes and swings. Additional support such as handrails and benches with backrests are desirable whilst supervising children. Older people also value engaging experiences within their capabilities and interests, e.g. large chess sets.</li> </ul> |

## Play Space Settings



- > **The Bushland Shire** – Hornsby's natural bush setting is highly valued. The community would like to see this leveraged to provide more nature play opportunities, including accessible nature trails and activities to allow everyone to participate in nature;
- > **Shade and shelter** – Across the community there were concerns about provision of additional shade and shelter, especially in the context of climate change and increasing temperatures. Shade trees are highly valued by the community; and
- > **Safety and Security** – It is important to provide safe play spaces with equipment that is properly maintained, including softfall to prevent injury and lighting to extend play hours safely. Bark chips currently used in some play spaces are sharp and hurt to walk or fall on.

## Age Appropriate Play



- > **Play Spaces for Young People** – Young people and their parents would like more challenging equipment and group interaction (e.g. group swings). They value places where they can hang out with friends, with interesting things to do, and within easy access of school, home and shops; and
- > **Play Spaces for Young Children** – There was a strong message from carers of children aged 0-4 years that there is insufficient play provision scaled for very small children and infants to support development and social interaction.

## Next Steps

The Design Briefs and principles described as a result of community consultation can be used to inform future provision of inclusive play spaces in the Hornsby LGA, in the following ways.

### Development of the Play Plan

The principles will be compared and integrated with the findings from all the consultations held for the development of the Hornsby Shire Council Play Plan. The integrated findings underpin the Play Plan's principles for the ongoing development and maintenance of Hornsby Shire Council's public play facilities and playgrounds.

### Playground Upgrades

The individual and combined recommendations in this report can be used to inform the process of future playground upgrades. For example, if a community centre with a playground for pre-schoolers is being upgraded, the preschool information held in this report could provide valuable information.

## **New Playgrounds or Play Facilities**

The individual and combined recommendations in this report can be used to inform the design process of new playgrounds. The fine-grained information can be applied along with playground-specific public consultations held at the time for the playground. This may give designers further guidance, for example, being certain of age and gender preferences for play (often the consulted groups for a specific playground are a lot smaller than the groups consulted for this report).

## **New Types of Play Provision**

The individual comments and preferences in this study provide invaluable information on all types of play that children and young people enjoy, often beyond traditional playground provision. This gives Hornsby Shire clear evidence of demand and guidance on the new or augmented types of play facilities such as outdoor chess sets, waterplay, bushland play experiences, sand play, nature play etc.

By considering the children's needs and interests in the development of the Hornsby Play Plan, children's rights (as defined in the *United Nations Rights of the Child, Article 12*) are respected and enacted. This report provides thorough feedback from children and young people as regards their needs and interests in outdoor public play facilities in the Hornsby Shire area. It is a valuable resource for the ongoing caring development of public parks and open spaces.

# 1. Introduction and Overview of Consultations



## 1.1. Background

Hornsby Shire Council is conducting a number of studies across themes of Liveability, Sustainability, Productivity and Infrastructure, and Collaboration. The studies are based on an endorsed Accelerated LEP Review project plan which has been adopted by Council to inform the preparation of a draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS).

Local councils are required to prepare an LSPS under the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. The LSPS should provide a 20-year vision to guide land use planning and development, as well as strategies for managing growth and change, by identifying the unique character, identity and values of the place. The LSPS must in turn be consistent with the Greater Sydney Commission North District Plan.

The North District Plan sets out planning priorities and actions for improving the quality of life for residents in the district. In particular, the following Actions are pertinent to Hornsby Shire:

- Deliver social infrastructure that reflects the needs of the community now and in the future;
- Optimise the use of available public land for social infrastructure; and
- Design so that people of all ages and abilities can participate in community life.

Hornsby Council has in turn adopted a series of policies to meet these requirements. The Active Living Hornsby Strategy was adopted in 2016, that recommended the development of a specific Play Plan. The Play Plan provides a practical framework for planning, design and management, and for the future direction of individual parks and public play spaces.

Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects and Urbis were engaged to produce the Hornsby Shire Play Plan as part of the LSPS process, and undertake an assessment of the current and future demands for playgrounds within Hornsby Shire and provide recommendations to meet these demands. The purpose of the Play Plan is to ensure the provision of safe, inclusive and sustainable high-quality playgrounds that equitably improve distribution and play value for all residents. The recommendations of the Play Plan will assist with future design, budget planning and programming for playground enhancements, improvements, replacements and maintenance.

## 1.2. Consultation Methodology

Community consultation is critical to the success of the Play Plan in reflecting the needs of the community in current and future provision of playgrounds in the Hornsby Shire, and with this in mind, extensive consultation was held to gather input from the community to ensure that the Play Plan caters for people and their families in the local area.

### 1.2.1. Objectives of Consultation

The aim of the study was to undertake diverse community and stakeholder engagement. Consultations focused on understanding key issues in current play space provision and exploring opportunities and preferences for future planning.

The key objectives for community and stakeholder engagement in this study were to:

- Obtain feedback from diverse and interested stakeholders and community members;
- Engage with relevant stakeholders in the community about improving opportunities for inclusive play in Hornsby, including carers, very young people and older people;
- Understand necessary supportive elements for different user groups;
- Understand desirable play experiences for different user groups; and
- Develop a Community Design Brief to guide future play provision in the Hornsby Shire.

### 1.2.2. Methods of Consultation

Consultations were held from March – May 2019. The following methods of engagement were used for the consultation:

- Online Community Survey;
- Face-to-face consultations;
- Preference Surveys; and
- Presentations followed by a group discussion.

These consultation methods allow for participation of interested community members from across the Hornsby LGA. The consultation methods chosen involve a combination of special user groups and the general public.

## 1.3. Overview of Consultations

FRLA are specialists in the planning and design of play spaces for people of all ages, cultures and abilities. This includes consultation with children, young people and adults about their needs and desires in play spaces. The following consultations were held in collaboration with Hornsby Shire Council. In total, over 1,011 people were consulted across 16 consultations, as follows:

**Table 1.1: Methods of Consultation**

| Consultation  |  | Date               | People Consulted  | Report  |
|---|--|--------------------|---|---|
| Community Survey  | Have your Say Play Plan Survey             | 6-27 May 2019      | 675 responses<br>508 completed 75%<br>478 completed 100%                        | Separate Community Survey Report                            |
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|                             |                         |              |                       |            |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Aboriginal People           |                         |              |                       |            |
| Hornsby Council Councillors | Hornsby Council Meeting | 3 April 2019 | 7 Hornsby Councillors | Appendix E |
|                             | Janelle McIntosh        | 9 April 2019 | Hornsby Councillor    |            |

This report outlines the findings and outcomes of the consultations. It also outlines community-based guidelines for providing play experiences for different user groups, which will contribute to the development of the overall strategy for play experiences in the Hornsby Shire.

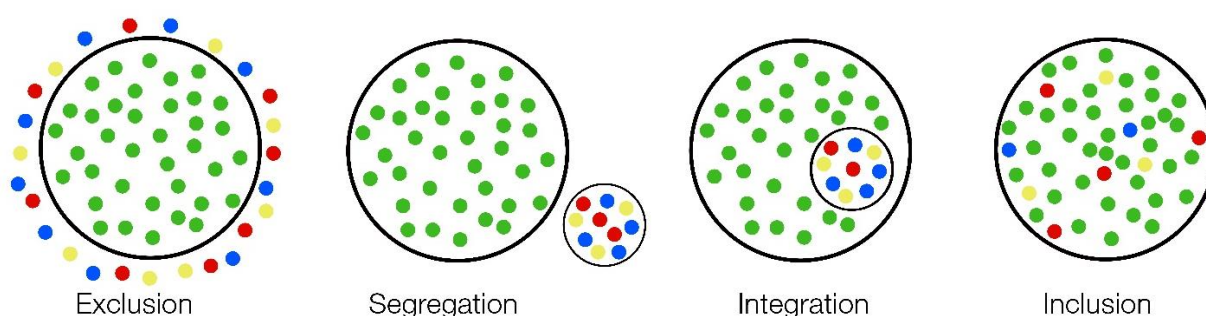
## 1.4. Inclusive Play

An **inclusive play space** offers robust recreational and social opportunities for all people regardless of differences in abilities, age, culture or gender. An inclusive play space accommodates everyone allowing them to be included in the play experience, play socially, choose from a range of activities, and challenge themselves at their own level.

An inclusive play space can't provide every experience for everyone, but should provide something that each person can access and enjoy.

Figure 1.1 offers a graphical representation of the principle of inclusion, as opposed to integration, segregation and exclusion. This diagram represents the various ways that people with disabilities are provided for in play spaces. Traditionally play space design has unintentionally excluded or segregated people with disabilities from play spaces and experiences. The best practice approach to play space design is inclusion.

- > **Exclusion** in a play space occurs when people with disabilities are directly or indirectly denied access and use of the play space;
- > **Segregation** in a play space occurs when people with disabilities are given a separate area designed specifically for them, in isolation from the main play space;
- > **Integration** in a play space occurs when people with disabilities are provided with access to a play space, and are expected to adjust to traditional play space provision, or are provided with a demarcated area or item for their use within the overall space; and
- > **Inclusion** in a play space occurs when the space is designed seamlessly for all possible users.



**Figure 1.1: The Principle of Inclusion**

For the purposes of this Study, “inclusive play” means the need of people to play throughout their life, irrespective of their age, ability or cultural background. **Accessibility** is the ability for users of all capacities to access, use and enjoy play spaces and play equipment as required by the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and relevant Australian Standards and Codes.

## 1.5. User Groups

A range of special user groups were consulted in order to ensure that the Play Plan catered for all aspects of the community and considered several aspects of inclusive play.

**Disability:** Consultations with parents and carers of children with a disability ensured that the special challenges faced by them when visiting playgrounds are considered. It was also seen as an opportunity to better understand what would make Hornsby's playgrounds more accessible and inclusive as well as more appealing to this user group.

**Age:** It is common to focus play planning and provision on early to middle childhood, and overlook opportunities to better include the very young (infants and toddlers) and older people. Consultations were held with two playgroups attended by mothers with infants and toddlers. At the other end of the age spectrum, a consultation with a local Probus group with most attendees over the age of 75, gave valuable insights into being more inclusive of older people in the community.

**Indigenous Culture:** It is important for the HSC Play Plan to consider opportunities to respect and include local Aboriginal culture in the design of playgrounds. Two consultations were held with Aboriginal elders to provide some insight into how this may be achieved in Hornsby's playgrounds.

## 2. Summary of Community Survey



A Community Survey was conducted and is reported in detail in the separate “Hornsby Shire Council Play Plan Community Survey Report”.

The survey was launched on 6th May 2019 through Council’s ‘Have Your Say’ portal with links promoted on social media. The survey was open for 21 days until 27 May 2019.

The survey comprised 22 questions, 18 of which were multiple choice, and 4 of which were open-ended questions. The survey probed questions about current playground use, preferences, satisfaction, and also asked questions about more diverse future play options.

The high response rate to the survey (675 people) reflects the interest in the development of the Play Plan, and in turn, the ongoing provision of play in the Hornsby LGA. The vast majority (at least 80%) of respondents were mothers aged 25 to 49 years and it is very likely that 7-10% of respondents were grandparents.

Survey responses were provided in six categories:

1. Social and Community Activities;
2. Play Equipment;
3. Designed Playground Elements;
4. Natural Setting and Nature Activity;
5. Supportive elements and amenities; and
6. Co-Located Facilities.

## 2.1. Demographics

The greatest number of responses came from residents of Hornsby (82), followed by Mt Colah (67), and Hornsby Heights (63). Some suburbs had no respondents (e.g. Maroota). These results are probably reflective of population density. However, it is notable that some low population suburbs have a high response rate (e.g. Galston - 29).

The survey was mostly completed by women aged 35-49 years of age, and 90% were either parents or grandparents. 95% of parents/grandparents had preschool and primary school aged children.

Whilst parents/grandparents of young people at high school were under-represented, the 88 that did respond are a large enough sample to indicate that playgrounds are of interest to young people.

10% of respondents had a child with a disability.

The survey confirmed that respondents visit small playgrounds weekly or fortnightly, stay for short periods, and often walk to them. Large playgrounds are visited less often, with people staying for longer periods of time, and often driving to get to the playground (having come from further afield).

## 2.2. Findings Regarding Playground Use and Preferences

The most appreciated supportive elements included: toilets, shade shelters, nearby carparking, seating choices, bins, picnic tables and nearby food outlets (Figure 2.1).

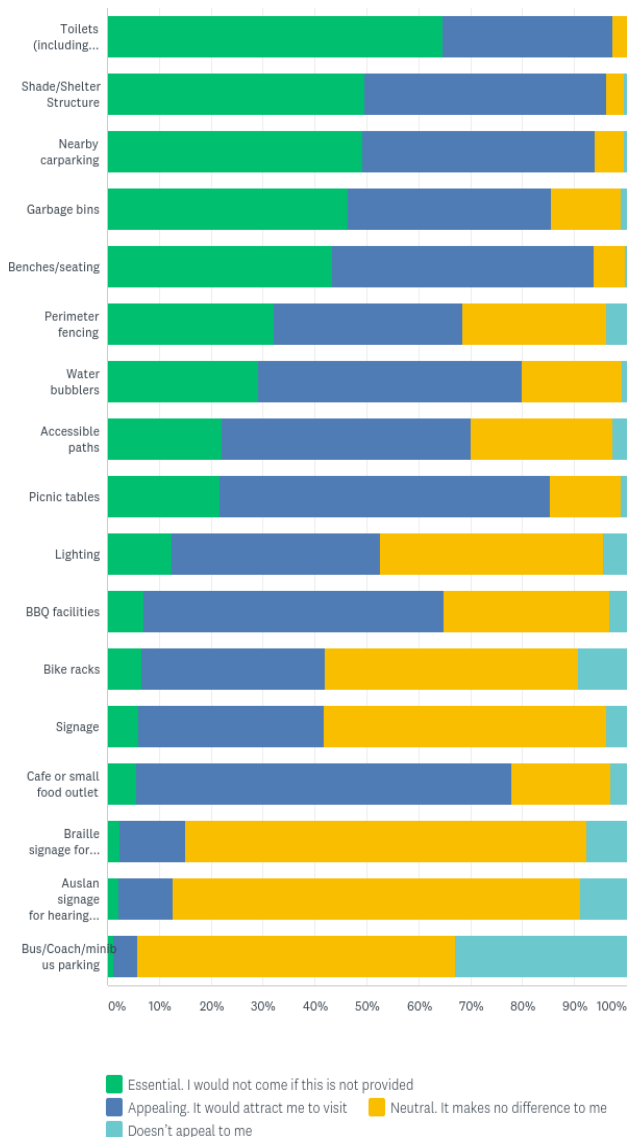
The most popular equipment choices were climbing, swinging, flying foxes, sliding, imaginative equipment, and obstacle courses (Figure 2.2).

The most popular nature-based play elements were discovery trails (in bushland), mown grass areas, evergreen and deciduous trees, boulders (for sitting and playing on), timber decks (for sitting and playing on) (Figure 2.3).

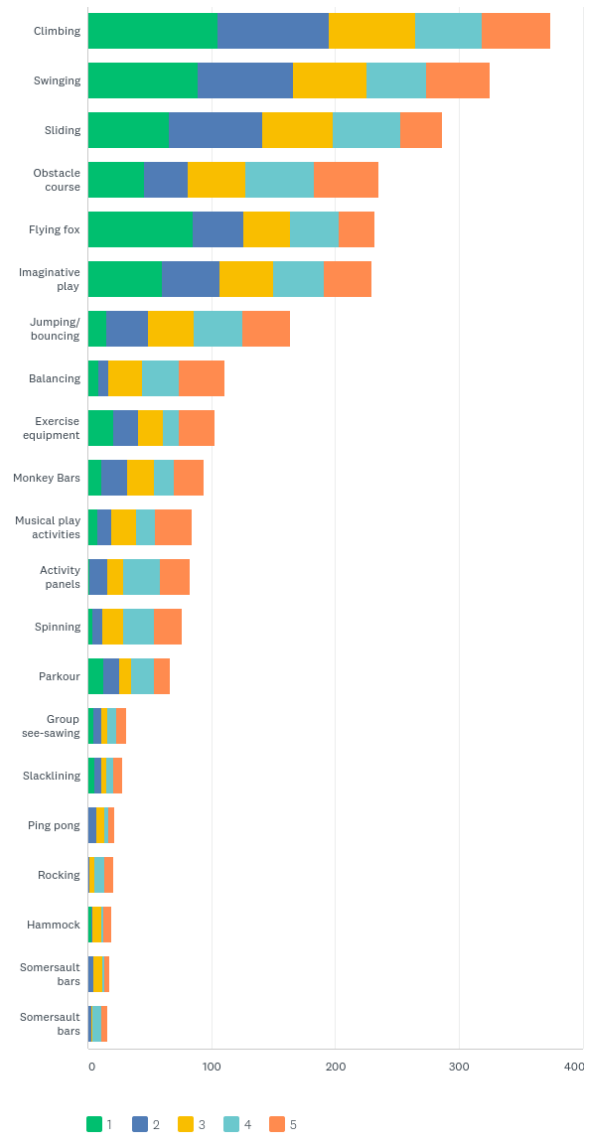
The most popular designed play elements (not equipment) were water play, dedicated bike tracks, nature play experiences, sand play, and games (e.g. mazes, hopscotch) (Figure 2.4).

Note that while the most popular elements were provided in the survey, the data needs careful interpretation and implementation as not all playgrounds in a suburb or district should have the same play elements. The favourite elements/experiences can be shared amongst playgrounds of differing hierarchies in a suburb/district. Also, this data is across all age groups, and further data mining would be recommended to

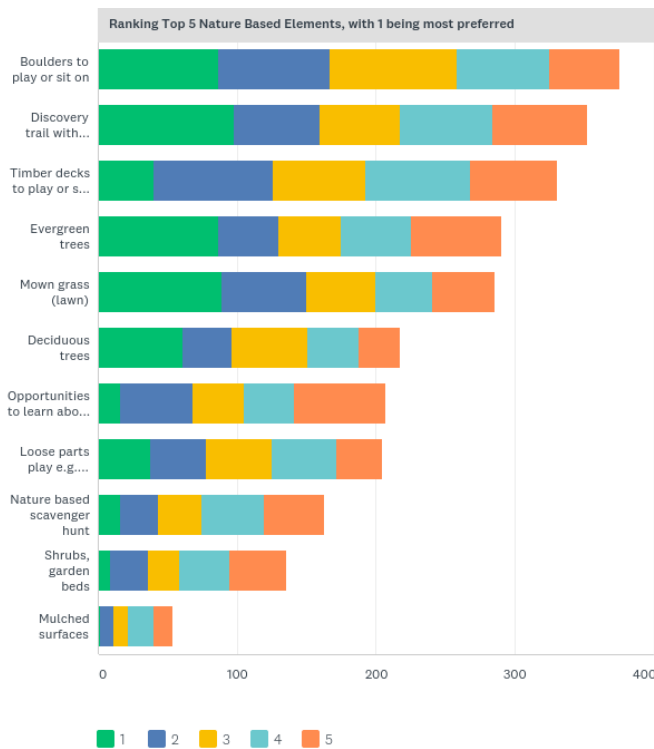
determine the different choice for different age groups e.g. other consultations found that rockers are popular for pre-school.



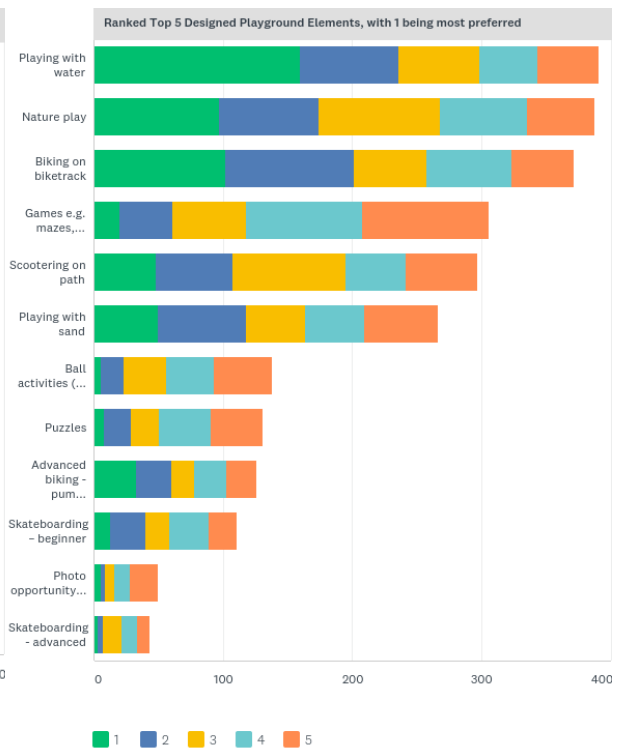
**Figure 2.1: Important Amenities – Community Survey**



**Figure 2.2: Equipment Choices – Community Survey**



**Figure 2.3: Nature Elements – Community Survey**



**Figure 2.4: Designed Elements – Community Survey**

## 2.3. Findings Regarding Playground Satisfaction

Fagan Park, Waitara Park, Asquith Park, and Ruddock Park are the most favoured playgrounds in the Shire; Fagan Park is the most popular with almost 1/3 of the votes (29%). The popularity of Fagan Park is commensurate with its status as a Regional Park.

Only 25% of respondents are dissatisfied with the playground maintenance. Shade provision, damage to playgrounds, lack of equipment variety, poor amenities (e.g. fencing), or general maintenance/cleanliness were common reasons for dissatisfaction.

Only 24% of respondents are dissatisfied with the number of playgrounds. Reasons varied from issues such as crowding, lack of playgrounds with sufficient shade or equipment, to paucity of numbers of playgrounds in certain areas such as the high population suburbs and low population suburbs.

Of note is that the low density semi-rural suburbs of Arcadia, Berrilee and Fiddletown do not have any playgrounds, and object to having to pay to use Fagan Park.

## 2.4. Findings about the Future of Public Play Provision

71% of survey respondents (478) answered this section of the survey, indicating enthusiasm regarding future innovative play provision in the Shire. Of the 9 choices illustrated below, Adventure playgrounds was the top choice (selected by 86% of people) followed by Dedicated bike tracks (78%), Nature based play (73%), Bush kindy (46%), Intergenerational play (35%), Accessible Play (28%), with play programmes lower on the priority scale, as shown in the graph below.



Figure 2.5: New Types of Play Provision

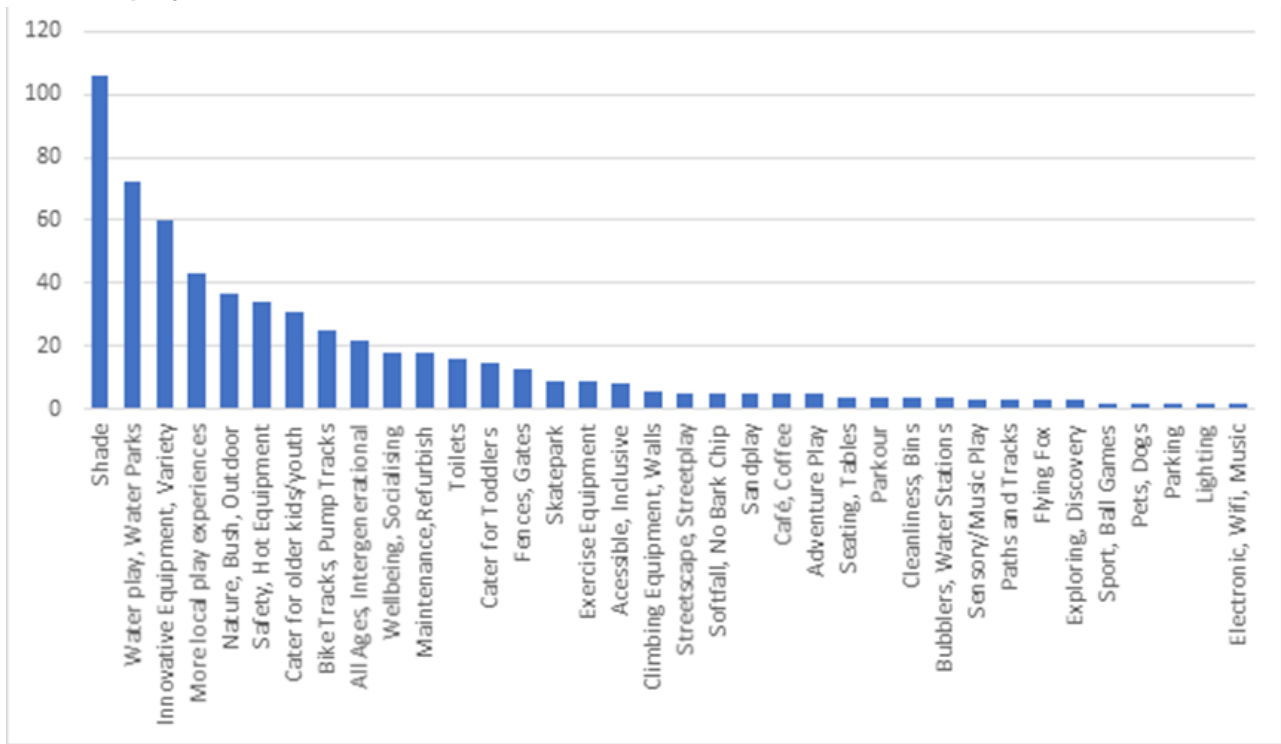
## 2.5. Themes from General Comments about Play Provision

The final question of the survey was a free text question asking for any other comments or ideas about play spaces in HSC or about the future of play. The responses from 296 people indicate that people in the Hornsby Shire area have a lot to say and are keen to contribute. A themed analysis of the comments is shown in Figure 2.6 below.

Provision of more shade structures was the top topic, followed by water play, variety of equipment for all ages and capabilities, good maintenance, and integration of the bushland setting in play areas.

There was consistent commentary on the valuable role of playgrounds in building social capital and their contribution to community wellbeing.

**Q22: Do you have any other comments about play spaces in Hornsby Shire or about the future of play? Answered: 296**



**Figure 2.6: Themes from Additional Comments**

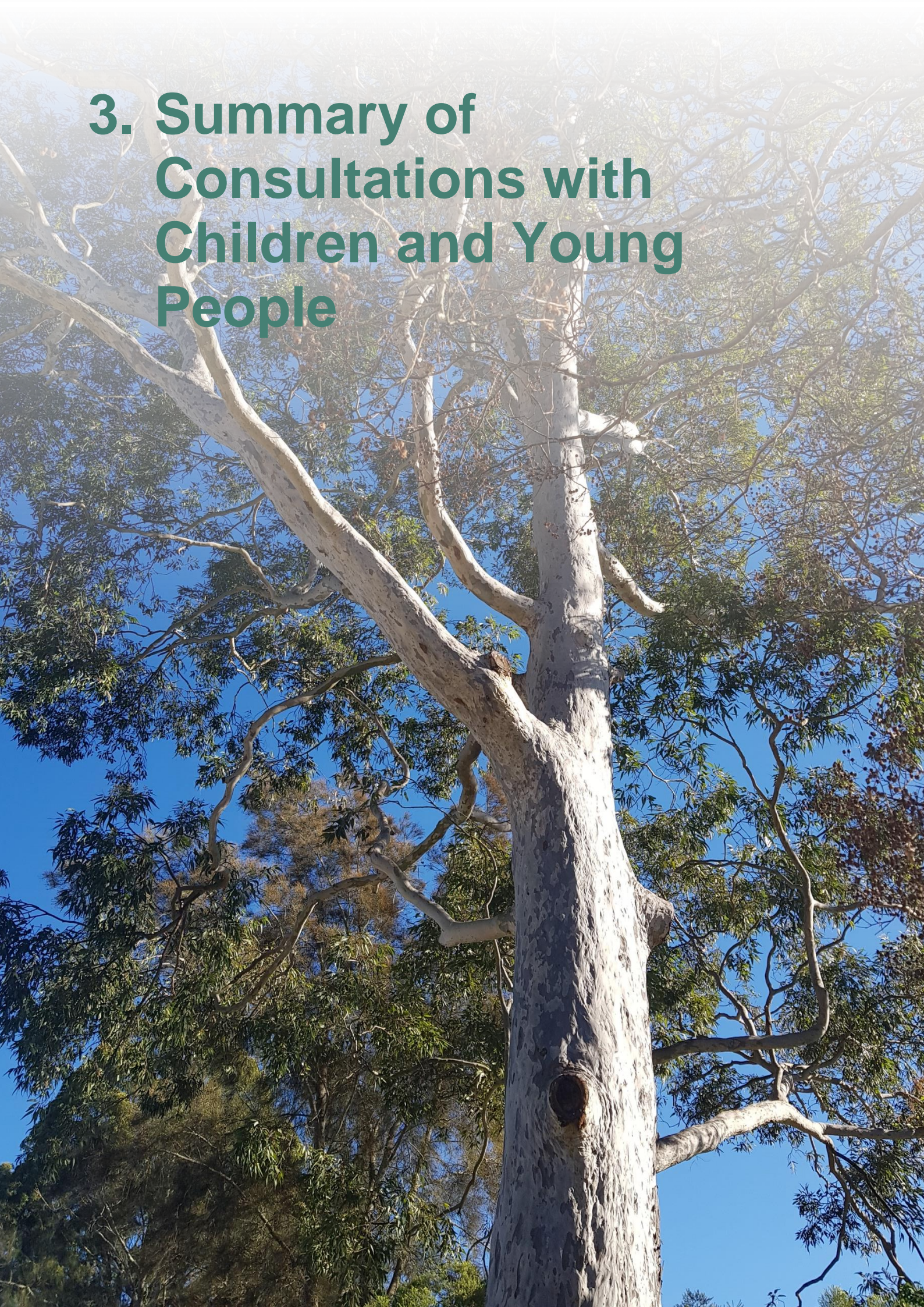
## 2.6. Key Messages from the Survey

The survey results are mainly the views of 675 adults, parents and grandparents from the Hornsby LGA. The respondents clearly visit playgrounds in the Shire, and their experiences are reflected in the survey results.

The key messages are considered in six experience categories below. The community would like:

- **Social and Community Activities:**
  - Provision of more playgrounds where there is “something for everyone” and a venue where the whole family can visit;
  - More accessible and inclusive play spaces to facilitate intergenerational play as well as side-by-side play between people with and without disabilities;
  - More playgrounds in high density urban areas to cater for greater numbers of people;
  - Equitable playground provision for people in semi-rural and lower population areas; and
  - More innovative public play solutions being offered such as Adventure play, Art play, Shared/co-located play options such as schools.
- **Play Equipment:**
  - Selection of equipment for playgrounds should favour the popular choices i.e. climbing, swinging, flying foxes, sliding, imaginative play, jumping/bouncing, obstacle courses;
  - Engaging and innovative play spaces that go beyond swinging, sliding and climbing; and
  - More equipment and experiences to engage children and young people over the age of nine.
- **Designed Playground Elements:**
  - Selection of play experiences not related to equipment in playgrounds should favour the popular choices i.e. water play, nature play, biking/scootering on tracks, games such as mazes and hopscotch, sand play;
  - A water park somewhere in the Shire;
  - More biking tracks and mountain bike opportunities; and
  - Play elements should be diverse such as floor games, informal ball games, scavenger hunts, discovery trails in nature.
- **Natural Setting and Nature Activity:**
  - Selection of nature-based play elements should favour popular choices for natural play options such as boulders to sit/play on, discovery trails, timber decks, trees, grassy areas;
  - Co-location and articulation with Hornsby Shire Council’s bush setting for exploring, nature play and exercise;
  - Playgrounds are favoured in natural areas with lawns, trees, boulders; and
  - More planning for nature play activities.
- **Supportive elements and amenities:**
  - More toilets being available e.g. having toilet blocks unlocked, clean and usable every day;
  - Clean and well-maintained grounds, bins, equipment and amenities;
  - Shade and shelter structures;
  - Large playgrounds should have toilets, shelters, nearby carparking, bins, picnic tables, food outlets, fencing, bubblers, BBQs;
  - Facilities and opportunities for socialising such as picnic and BBQ facilities and seating;
  - Safe and secure environments; and
  - Avoidance of sharp mulches that hurt children’s feet (prefer artificial Softfall surfaces).
- **Co-Located Facilities:**
  - Co-location with other sports facilities to extend play opportunities.

### **3. Summary of Consultations with Children and Young People**



## 3.1. Primary School Children

Four consultations were held with Primary School children aged between 5 and 11 years. Please see the separate Report “Hornsby Play Strategy Children and Young People Consultation” for the details of the face to face consultations.

**Table 3.1: Consultation Methods – Primary School Children**

| Consultation                      | Date               | People Consulted   |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Waitara Public School             | 10 April 2019      | 51 children from year 2 to year 6  |
| Arcadia Public School Play Patrol | 3 and 8 April 2019 | 21 children from year 2 to year 6  |
| Waitara Park Opening              | 13 April 2019      | 84 children aged 2 to 12, of which 66 were primary school age                |
| Hornsby Play Strategy Survey      | 6-23 May 2019      | 343 parents and grandparents who have children aged 5-11 years in their care |

### 3.1.1. Summary of Face to Face Consultations with Primary School Children

The following three consultations were undertaken by Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects to elicit the preferences and ideas of children for the Hornsby Shire Play Plan. Overall, 156 children were consulted:

- Waitara Public School – 51 children completed preference sheets and Gulliver’s Mapping activities assisted by Urbis, HSC and HSC Councillors (9 April 2019);
- Arcadia Public School – 21 children completed preference sheets (1 and 8 April 2019); and
- Waitara Playground Opening Event – 84 children completed preference sheets (13 April).



**Figure 3.1: Presentation to Primary School Students**

Analysis of results has yielded rich data from the enthusiastic responses of the children. The separate “Hornsby Play Strategy Children and Young People Consultation Report” outlines the process and results of consultation with children. Significant age and gender differences emerged, and they are provided in the consultation report. Results incorporate specific play suggestions, as well as supportive facilities for a

successful visit to playgrounds. These have been incorporated into the Community Design Brief later in this report (Section 5).

Overall, the results of these consultations show that children aged 5 to 11 years would like a wide variety of experiences when they visit a playground in the Hornsby Shire area. All children want a wide variety play equipment that is exciting, challenging and age appropriate.

They are primarily seeking fun and enjoyment and social interaction with friends and family. They also seek opportunities to engage with nature and animals, with suitable shade and shelter. They would like to be active, as well as have quiet spaces to relax and engage in learning, reading and games.

Younger children would appreciate cubby houses, monkey bars and bouncing experiences. Older children would strongly prefer challenging climbing equipment, nature-based experiences and biking.

In addition to play equipment, boys would highly appreciate space to run around and play ball games (not organised sport), as well as opportunities to “build stuff”. Girls are keen to have water play experiences and somersault bars and monkey bars.



**Figure 3.2: Primary School Consultations**

### **3.1.2. HSC Play Strategy Community Survey – Parents and Grandparents of Children**

343 respondents (65% of all respondents) indicated that they had a child or grandchild of primary school age. The overall results showed that there were very few differences in the choices made by parents and grandparents of children aged 5 to 11 years compared to what the children themselves chose.

Choices for nature play elements and amenities were universally similar across the survey – refer to Section 2 for details – and hence not commented on separately. Parents of children aged 5 to 11 years highly valued the following equipment and designed elements in Hornsby Shire playgrounds, as shown in the graphs below.

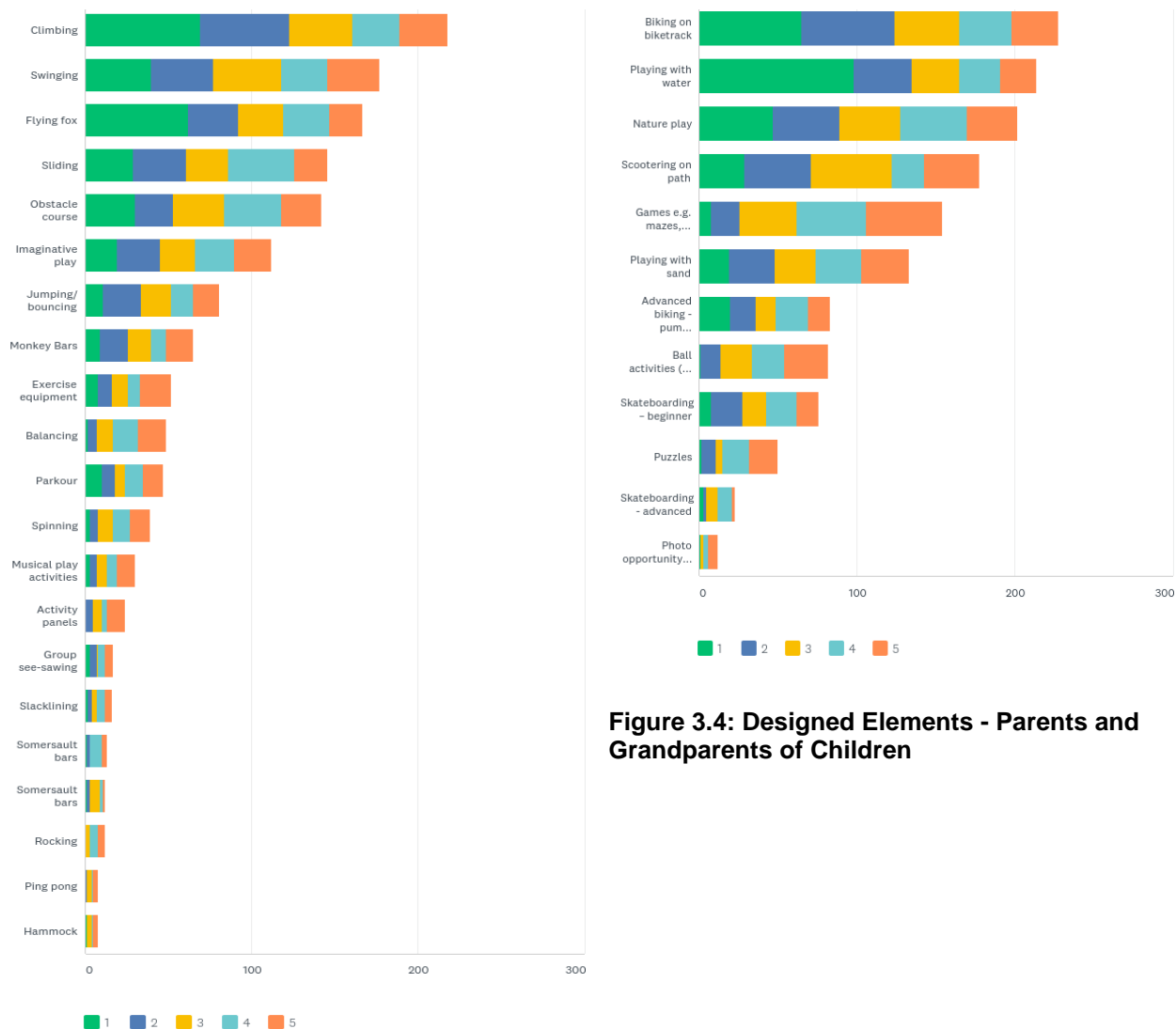
The following lists show the consolidated results for play experiences (i.e. both equipment and designed elements) that are favoured by this demographic.

*Essential play experiences chosen in the top 5 by more than 50% of parents and grandparents of children aged 5 to 11 years:*

- Climbing;
- Swinging;
- Flying fox;
- Biking and scooting tracks;
- Playing with water;
- Obstacle course;
- Sliding;
- Nature play; and
- Games e.g. maze, hopscotch.

*Highly desired play experiences chosen in the top 5 by between 25-50% of parents and grandparents of children aged 5 to 11 years:*

- Imaginative Play;
- Jumping and Bouncing;
- Playing with sand;
- Advanced Biking e.g. pump track;
- Skateboarding – beginner; and
- Ball activities (not sport).



**Figure 3.4: Designed Elements - Parents and Grandparents of Children**

**Figure 3.3: Equipment Choices - Parents and Grandparents of Children**

## 3.2. Young People

Three consultations were held for Young People aged between 12 and 24 years. Please see the separate “Hornsby Play Strategy Children and Young People Consultation” Report for the details of the face to face consultations.

**Table 3.2: Consultation Methods - Young People**

| Consultation                      | Date          | People Consulted   |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Cherrybrook Technical High School | 9 April 2019  | 36 high school students from year 7 to year 12                               |
| Battle of Berowra Skatepark Event | 13 April 2019 | 47 young people aged 12 to 24  |
| Hornsby Play Strategy Survey      | 6-23 May 2019 | 88 parents and grandparents who have children aged 12-17 years in their care |

### 3.2.1. Summary of Face to Face Consultations with Young People

The following consultations were undertaken by Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects to elicit the preferences and ideas of young people for the Hornsby Shire Play Plan. Overall, 83 children were consulted:

- Cherrybrook Technical High School – 36 young people completed preference sheets and Gulliver's Mapping assisted by Urbis, HSC and HSC Councillors (10 April 2019); and
- Berowra Skate Park Competition event – 47 young people completed preference sheets (13 April 2019).



**Figure 3.5: Consultations with Young People**

Analysis of results has yielded rich data from the enthusiastic responses of the young people consulted. The separate “Hornsby Play Strategy Children and Young People Consultation Report” outlines the process and results of consultation with young people. Significant age and gender differences emerged, and they are provided in the consultation report. Results incorporate specific play suggestions, as well as supportive facilities for a successful visit to playgrounds. These have been incorporated into the Community Design Brief later in this report (Section 5).

Young people were consulted across two consultations with two very different cohorts at Cherrybrook Technical High School (more academically inclined) and the Berowra Skate Park (very sporty). Results indicated that young women tended to have fairly similar desires across age groups and cohorts. However, young men differed greatly in their desires depending on their interest in sport and age – hence it is essential that this age group is consulted for the design of each play area as it arises.



**Figure 3.6: Students completing Gulliver's Mapping survey**

Overall, the results of these consultations show that young people are very keen to engage with play and social activities in playgrounds. As young people mature, they become more sensitive to environmental factors such as a natural setting, cleanliness and aesthetics, and take a holistic view to the appeal of play activities and playgrounds.

They request play equipment and experiences suited to their age, as well as variety and innovation in provision of engaging experiences. They also see playgrounds as places to socialise, and are seeking hang out spaces for conversations, and opportunities for social eating (with proximity to shops or food outlets).

Males appear to want to climb, play sport and exercise on parkour, and have ready access to food and places to eat. Females appear to seek comfortable seating or large basket swings to hang out and socialise. All young people value these experiences in a pleasant and relaxing setting with aesthetic appeal.

It is vital to balance equipment and designed play elements with articulation to natural bush settings, appealing garden beds, and possibilities to bring pets or interact with animals.

Young people highly value clean and well-maintained amenities, especially toilets and sources of water. They also seek safety and security in playgrounds and would love opportunities to stay outdoors longer through provision of safety features such as lighting and lockers.

### 3.2.2. HSC Play Strategy Community Survey – Parents & Grandparents of Young People

88 respondents (15% of all respondents) indicated that they had a child or grandchild aged 12 to 17 years.

Choices for nature play elements and amenities were universally similar across the survey – refer to Section 2 for details – and hence not commented on separately. Parents and grandparents of young people aged 12 to 17 years highly valued the following equipment and designed elements in Hornsby Shire playgrounds, as shown in the graphs below.

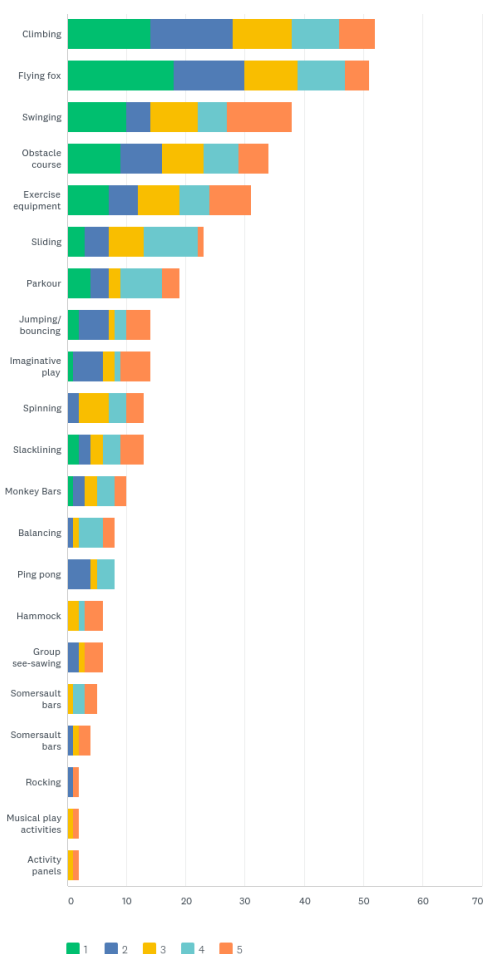
The following lists show the consolidated results for play experiences (i.e. both equipment and designed elements) that are favoured by this demographic.

*Essential play experiences chosen in the top 5 by more than 50% of parents and grandparents of young people aged 12 to 17 years:*

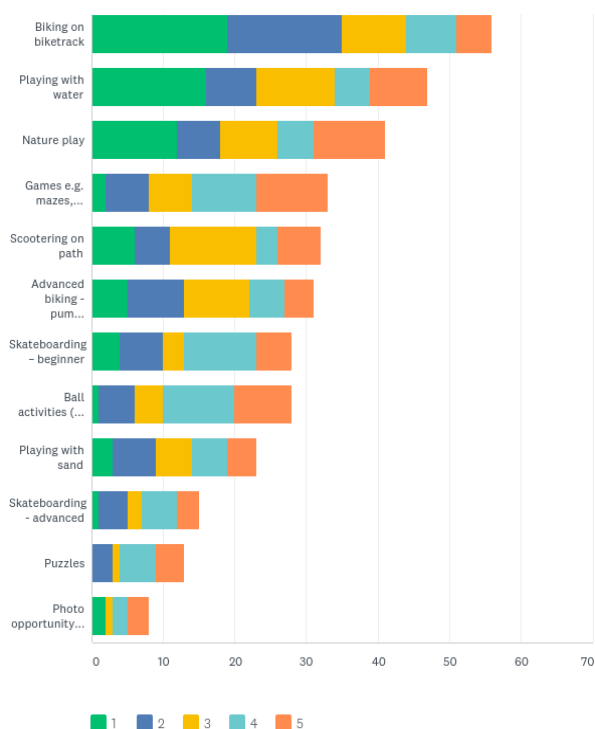
- Climbing;
- Swinging;
- Flying fox;
- Biking on bike track;
- Playing with water; and
- Nature play.

*Highly desired play experiences chosen in the top 5 by between 25-50% of parents and grandparents of young people aged 12 to 17 years:*

- Obstacle course;
- Exercise Equipment;
- Sliding;
- Parkour;
- Games e.g. maze, hopscotch;
- Scootering on path;
- Advanced Biking e.g. pump track;
- Skateboarding – beginner; and
- Ball Games (not sport).



**Figure 3.7: Equipment Choices: Parents and Grandparents of Young People**

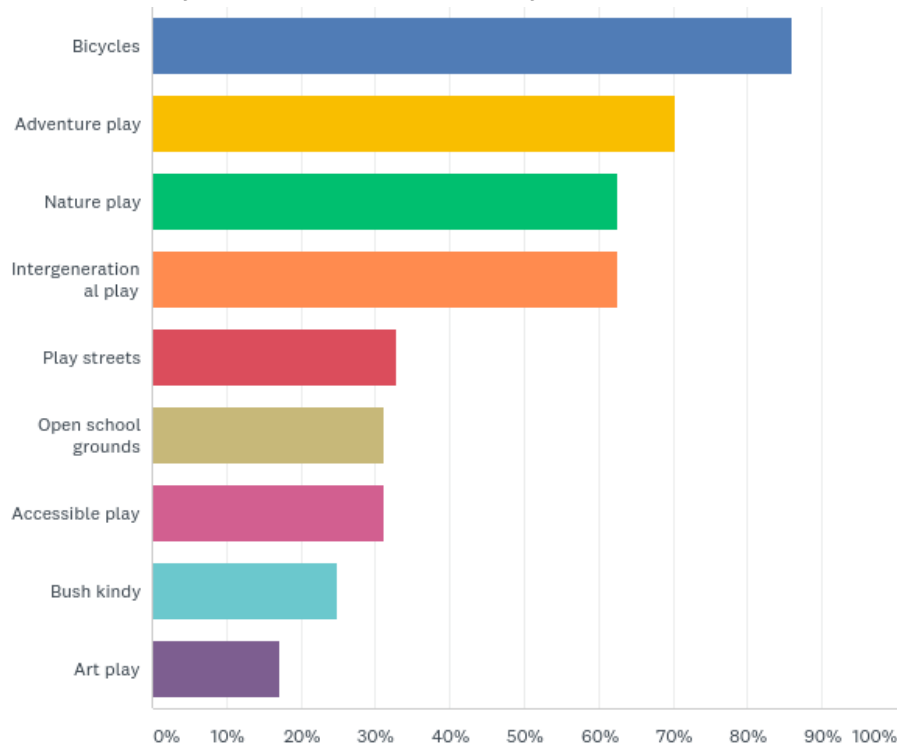


**Figure 3.8: Designed Elements: Parents and Grandparents of Young People**

When asked about new play ideas for young people aged 12 to 17 years that parents and grandparents would like to see in Hornsby Shire (as shown in the graph below), some of their choices have key differences to the overall survey findings. Unlike the other respondents to the survey, the standout favourite is Bicycles with 86% of parents and grandparents of 12-17 year olds selecting this in their five options. Adventure Play was selected by 70% (compared to 86% of overall survey respondents), and Nature Play by 63%.

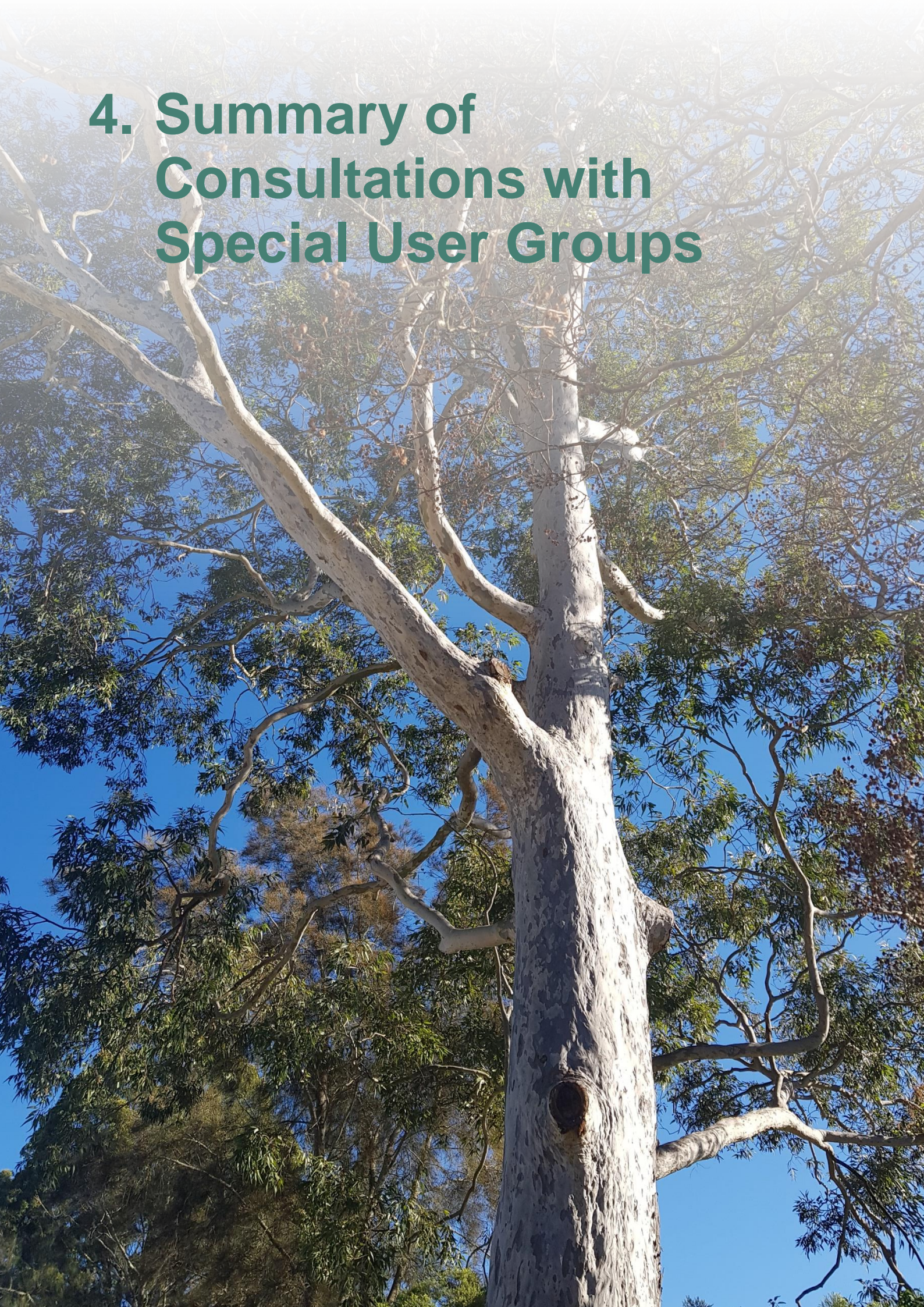
Of special note with this cohort is the high percentage (63%) who selected Intergenerational Play (compared to 38% of overall respondents). Also notable is that Play Streets ranked more highly as it was chosen by one third (compared to 21% of overall respondents). These choices indicate that young people will require different future planning to engage them in outdoor recreational activities.

### What new play ideas would you like to see in Hornsby Shire?



**Figure 3.9: New Play Ideas: Parents and Grandparents of Young People**

## 4. Summary of Consultations with Special User Groups



A range of special user groups were consulted in order to ensure that the Play Plan catered for all aspects of the community and considered several aspects of inclusive play. These special user groups include:

- Children with a disability;
- Infants and pre-school children;
- Older people;
- Adults without children; and
- Aboriginal people.

## 4.1. Children with a Disability

Three consultations were held with parents, carers and teachers of children with a disability, as follows. Please see Appendix A for detailed records of these consultations and the separate “Hornsby Shire Play Plan Community Survey Report” for details of the survey results.

**Table 4.1: Consultation Methods - Children with a Disability**

| Consultation                               | Date             | People Consulted   |
|--|------------------|--|
| Warrah Special School outing to Fagan Park | 5 April 2019     | 12 students with severe disabilities aged 10 to 17 years and three school carers |
| Warrah Special School Parent questionnaire | March-April 2019 | 2 parents and 2 carers/teachers of students with severe disabilities             |
| Kristie Chambers                           | 20 March 2019    | Mother of an 8 year old girl with severe cerebral palsy                          |
| Hornsby Play Strategy Survey               | 6-23 May 2019    | 53 parents and grandparents who have children under 18 with a disability         |

### 4.1.1. Warrah Special School Consultations

Warrah School is attended by 20 students aged 10 to 17 years old with high needs and severe disabilities. Most have autistic spectrum disorder (ASD), are low functioning, medicated and non-verbal. Two students are in wheelchairs. All students require personal care and many require assistance with toileting and some require nappy changing. Many are obese, and whilst most are mobile, some use self-created noise or movement as a self-stimulatory behaviour. Most are in their own world and do not relate to each other. The Warrah School is a Steiner school which offers children an education based on therapeutic learning programs in natural environments. The education of these children values movement-based sensory learning, with an overlay of massage therapy.

The Warrah Special School outing to Fagan Park was observed by Fiona Robbé and Matt Parkinson from Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects. Twelve students went to Fagan Park with carer and teachers in two minibuses. All students on this outing were mobile, as the two students in wheelchairs were absent that day.

The school typically takes students on a playground outing every Friday, regardless of the weather, and this is an important part of their weekly routine. It is an opportunity to learn important life skills of negotiating public spaces, having some physical movement, and encouraging play experiences. Factors such as parking, disembarking from the bus, toileting, play, resting and accessibility were discussed with the attending teachers/carers whilst observing the children on the outing. Appendix A contains the detailed notes taken.



**Figure 4.1: Warrah Special School Consultation – Supanova and Swing**

The Warrah Special School Survey was distributed to all parents of the 20 students at the school on two occasions in March and May. Two parents responded, as well as two carers at the school who were not able to attend the above-mentioned Fagan Park outing consultation. See Appendix A for the survey questionnaire and verbatim comments from respondents.

#### **4.1.2. Consultation with Kristie Chambers**

This was undertaken by Fiona Robbé and Matt Parkinson from Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects at a local community centre to discuss and understand the experience of a parent taking her younger wheelchair-bound child with severe disabilities to playgrounds, and how this may relate to the Hornsby Play Strategy. Kristie is a mother of a child (Avalon) with a form of bilateral cerebral palsy. Avalon is 8 years old, the family live in Galston, and Avalon attends Galston Public School. Kristie articulated a lot of specific information about equipment and facilities to support people like Avalon. Appendix A contains the detailed notes taken.

#### **4.1.3. Key Messages from Parents and Carers**

Consultations with these parents, carers and teachers indicates that they are keen to take children with severe disabilities to playgrounds, and that these outings are an important aspect of bringing meaning to their lives. They are also an important part of building social capital in the community to be inclusive and normalise interaction with people of all abilities. The following themes emerging from the three consultations indicate that these parents, carers and teachers highly value inclusive and accessible playgrounds.

- Play experiences:
  - Accessible equipment is highly regarded and having more items would encourage more outings and social interaction;
  - Age appropriate equipment sized for larger children. e.g. where does a teenaged person with an intellectual age of 4 play?
  - Swinging and spinning is very popular, especially with ASD children, so more large swings and spinners would be appreciated for larger children to keep swinging/spinning for long periods;
  - Wheelchair friendly water play;
  - More options for accessible swinging. Liberty swings are not always useful, create more complexity with the MLAK key, and sometimes create a sense of “exclusion” rather than “inclusion”;
  - Accessible paths to play equipment and easier mounting and dismounting from equipment; and
  - Crowding and waiting in queues for popular equipment like swings and spinners is an issue.
- Supportive elements and amenities:
  - The crucial nature of ample accessible parking that is:
    - Close to the playground so it is not too far to walk;
    - Caters for people in wheelchairs;
    - With enough space and safety to unload;
    - Safely distant from passing traffic; and
    - Has accessible paths to the playground.
  - Accessible toilets are essential and ideally require:

- Change facilities for large children and adults;
    - A hoist for changing large children and adults;
    - Cleanliness and hygiene;
    - Access to clean water; and
    - Gender neutral toilets so opposite gender parent can accompany child to toilet.
  - Accessible paths that are well maintained to avoid trip hazards;
  - Picnic tables/chairs in groups to lie on for sleeps, leave their stuff, as well as for eating and drinking;
  - Shade to rest in;
  - Fenced areas;
  - Lots of space to avoid crowding; and
  - Access to drinking water.
- Fagan Park is the most popular playground for this user group as it has:
    - The angled 'Supanova' spinner is rated as the best play item by Warrah School teachers as it allows students to sit or lie on the doughnut shape. A carer can easily assist, as well as sit with the students. The group setting helps teach tolerance and social interaction;
    - Accessible paths with no trip points;
    - Dedicated safe accessible parking;
    - Family accessible toilets close-by;
    - Ample shade;
    - Natural setting with trees, shrubs and grass;
    - Picnic shelter with ample picnic tables altogether in one grouping, including a platform seat; and
    - Vestibular experiences tightly grouped together: flying fox, 5 swings, spinner and 3D climbing net.
  - Suggested improvements to Fagan Park for children with a disability include:
    - A wheelchair accessible spinner at Carrs Creek;
    - Addressing the challenges of mounting and dismounting the flying fox to the angled ramp with trip points, and a small narrow pomma seat. A bigger and wider pomma would make it easier;
    - More equipment that is accessible would be very appealing;
    - Liberty swing requires the extra step of the MLAK key, what alternatives are there for wheelchair swings?
    - Fencing to entire playground and toilet area;
    - More 'ground level challenges' to interact with; and
    - More sensory play e.g. Water play where water is a controllable option and water stays in a bowl/chute/trough where it can be interacted with (this is not a major request).



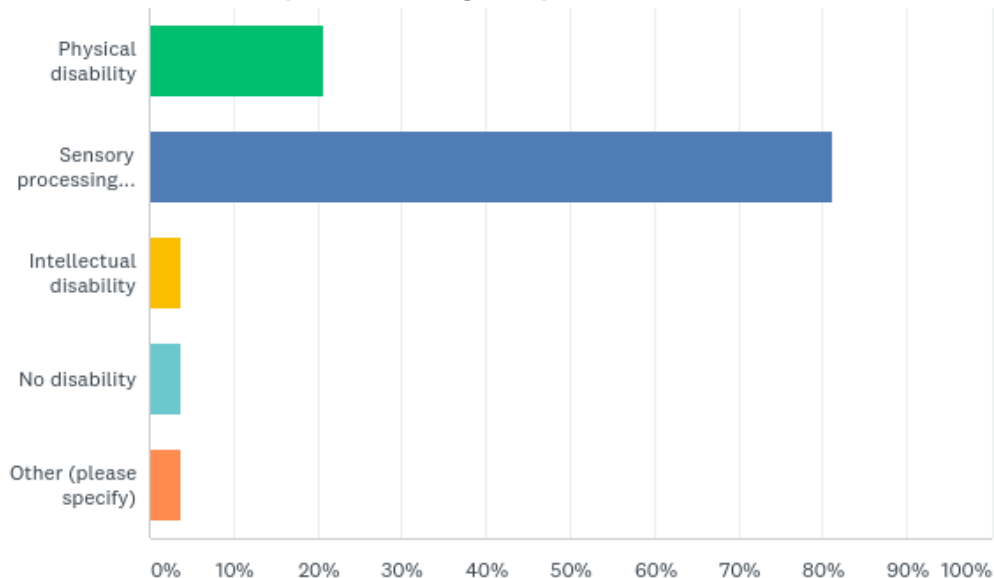
**Figure 4.2: Warrah Special School Consultation – Flying Fox**

#### 4.1.4. HSC Play Strategy Community Survey – Parents & Grandparents of Children with a Disability

53 respondents (9% of all respondents) indicated that they had a child or grandchild with a disability. The graph below shows that the vast majority (81%) have sensory processing disorders such as Autism and ADHD. Only 11 respondents cared for children with a physical disability. This exemplifies the fact that disability encompasses more than just physical disability, and that designers must consider more than wheelchair-users in inclusive designs.

Two respondents indicated that they have other children with no disabilities, hence it is reasonable to assume that this data is representative of the specific wishes of parents and grandparents of children with disabilities.

##### Distribution of disabilities for 53 parents and grandparents of children with a disability:



**Figure 4.3: Disability Types**

The overall results showed that there were very few differences in the choices made by parents and grandparents of children with a disability compared to all survey respondents. This suggests that it is important to give these children access to the same play experiences as everyone else wherever possible – one of the key principles of inclusion.

Choices for nature play elements and amenities were universally similar across the survey, and hence not commented on separately for children with a disability. Parents of children with a disability highly valued the following equipment and designed elements in Hornsby Shire playgrounds, as shown in the graphs below.

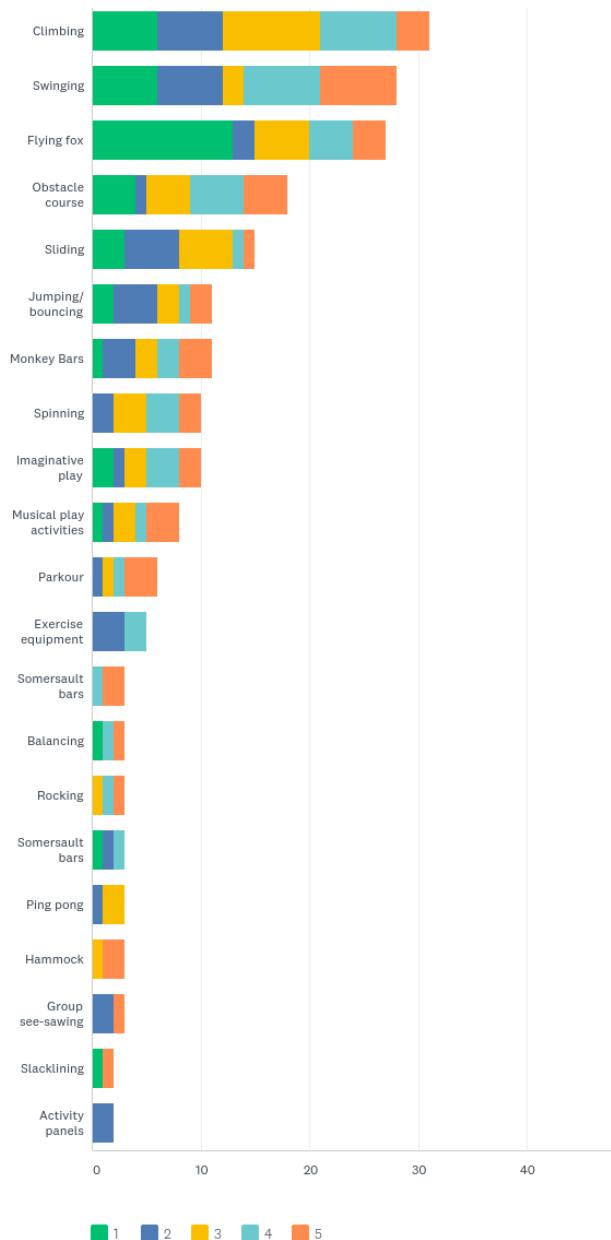
The following lists show the consolidated results for play experiences (i.e. both equipment and designed elements) that are favoured by this demographic.

*Essential play experiences chosen in the top 5 by more than 50% of parents and grandparents of children with a disability:*

- Climbing;
- Swinging;
- Flying fox;
- Biking on bike track; and
- Playing with water.

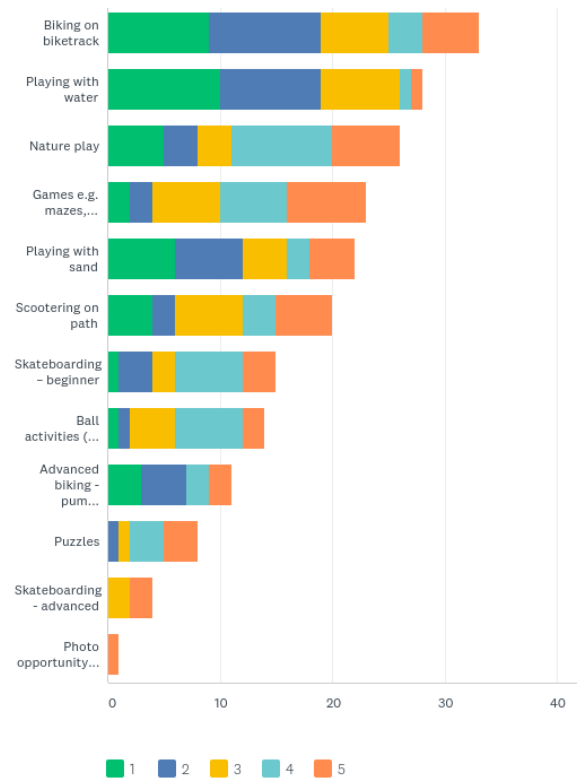
*Highly desired play experiences chosen in the top 5 by between 25-50% of parents and grandparents of children with a disability:*

- Obstacle course;
- Sliding;
- Nature play;
- Games e.g. maze, hopscotch;
- Playing with sand;
- Scootering on paths;
- Skateboarding – beginner; and
- Ball activities (not sport).



**Figure 4.4: Equipment Choices: Parents and Grandparents of Children with a Disability**

When asked about new play ideas these parents and grandparents would like to see in Hornsby Shire, choices are similar to the overall survey findings. The standout favourite is Bicycles with 90% of parents and grandparents of children with a disability selecting this in their five options. Approximately three quarters selected Adventure Play (73%) and two thirds Nature Play (63%). Of special note for this cohort is that a large proportion selected Intergenerational Play (43%) and Accessible Play (40%), indicating a strong desire for inclusiveness in playgrounds for all ages and abilities.



**Figure 4.5: Designed Elements: Parents and Grandparents of Children with a Disability**

What new play ideas would you like to see in Hornsby Shire?

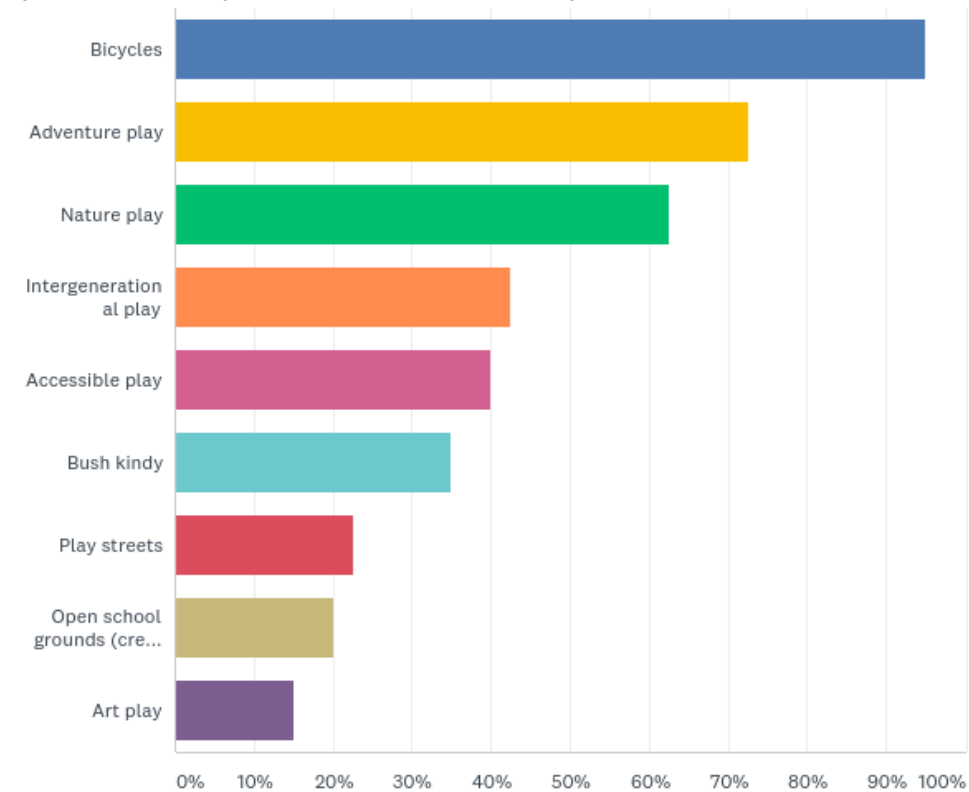


Figure 4.6: New Play Ideas: Parents and Grandparents of Children with a Disability



Figure 4.7: Supanova spinner

#### 4.1.5. Key Messages about Catering for Children with a Disability

The four consultations for children with a disability covered a wide range of disabilities from severe wheelchair bound to physically able and having sensory processing disorders. The key messages are considered in the six experience categories, as follows:

- **Social and Community Activities:**
  - Outings to playgrounds are an important aspect of bringing meaning and building social skills for children with severe disabilities, as well as those with Autism Spectrum Disorder;
  - Including children with a disability in Hornsby's playgrounds is an important part of building social capital in the community to be inclusive and normalise interaction with children with various disabilities;
  - Some parents would like more liberty swings, and other parents/ carers/ teachers feel that they create separation for children in wheelchairs. Consider other options to foster inclusion;
  - Crowding and waiting in queues for popular equipment is an issue for these parents and their children; and
  - Large accessible items e.g. Supanova spinner are valued as the group setting helps teach tolerance and social interaction.
- **Play Equipment:**
  - Accessible equipment is highly regarded and having items that cater for larger children with intellectual disabilities would be highly valued e.g. where does a teenaged person with an intellectual age of 4 play?
  - Vestibular experiences such as swinging, spinning, flying fox and climbing are very popular with children with sensory processing disorders;
  - Parents would like to see more swings and spinners to allow these children to use them for long periods without objections from other children;
  - More options for accessible swinging (other than Liberty Swings) would be more inclusive;
  - Parents would value obstacle courses and slides for these children; and
  - Accessible paths to play equipment with easier mounting and dismounting from equipment would ease the use of play equipment for physically disabled children.
- **Designed Playground Elements:**
  - Biking and scootering are popular choices and parents would like to see more sophisticated options available in the future;
  - Water play experiences, especially wheelchair accessible ones, would be highly valued; and
  - Elements that are designed to facilitate intergenerational and accessible play are highly sought after in current playgrounds, and desired for future playground provisioning.
- **Natural Setting and Nature Activity:**
  - Opportunities for nature play are very attractive;
  - Natural setting with sand, water, trees, shrubs and grass are highly valued; and
  - Discovery trails and boulders to sit or play on are popular choices by parents/carers.
- **Supportive elements and amenities:**
  - Fenced off areas are crucial to ensure safety and ease of supervision for children with sensory processing and behavioural issues;
  - Accessible paths with no trip points that connect parking, toilets, picnic table and play experiences;
  - Dedicated safe accessible parking that is close to the playground and out of the traffic flow;
  - Family accessible toilets close to parking and playground with change facilities and hoist for larger children/people;
  - Ample shade to rest in;
  - Picnic shelter with a few picnic tables grouped together to manage group outings with ease;
  - Access to clean drinking water and water in the change facilities; and
  - Seating with back rests and close to equipment is valued to supervise children.
- **Co-Located Facilities:**
  - There was no mention made of co-located sporting facilities for this cohort.

## 4.2. Infants and Pre-School Children

Four consultations were held with parents and carers of preschool children and infants, as follows. Please see Appendix B for detailed records of these consultations.

**Table 4.2: Consultation Methods - Infants and Pre-School Children**

| Consultation                           | Date          | People Consulted  |
|--|---------------|---|
| Beecroft Playgroup                     | 23 May 2019   | 8 Parents/Carers of children aged 6 weeks to 4years   |
| Galston Playgroup                      | 28 May 2019   | 8 Parents/Carers of children aged 0-4years  |
| Waitara Park Opening                   | 13 April 2019 | 18 Children aged 2 to 4 years, assisted by parent/carer   |
| Hornsby Play Strategy Community Survey | 6-23 May 2019 | 389 parents or grandparents with children aged 0-4 year in their care (49% also with children aged 5- 17 years) |

### 4.2.1. Playgroup Consultations

Playgroup NSW is a not-for-profit membership organisation dedicated to supporting families and strengthening local communities through playgroups for babies, toddlers and pre-school aged children. These are typically weekly informal sessions where mums, dads, grandparents, caregivers, children and babies meet up in a relaxed and friendly environment. Essentially, Playgroup is one of the first and most important social networks for children and families. Held at a variety of community venues in cities as well as regional and remote areas, Playgroup activities may involve craft, indoor and outdoor play and morning tea.

Two Playgroups were visited during a regular meeting. The consultations were facilitated by Fiona Robbé of Fiona Robbe Landscape Architects, supported by Matt Parkinson. The parents and carers attending were asked about their experiences of using playgrounds in the Hornsby Shire and invited to present their views on the appeal and challenges they faced when using playgrounds with their young infants and pre-schoolers. They were also encouraged to give their ideas for the Hornsby Play Plan. See Appendix B for detailed notes of each consultation

**The Beecroft Playgroup** consultation included eight parents/carers with children aged 6 weeks to 4 years. Five Councillors and the Council Landscape Architect also attended the meeting.



**Figure 4.8: Beecroft Playgroup**

**The Galston Playgroup** consultation had eight parents/carers with children aged 0 to 4 years. Five Councillors and the Council Landscape Architect also attended the meeting. The Playgroup venue, although well used, was stated as undermaintained and in need of work. Parents believe some items are unsafe.



**Figure 4.9: Galston Playgroup**

The main messages from the two playgroup consultations are:

- Social and community building:
  - Playgroups play an important part in socialisation, wellbeing and “getting out”;
  - Parents want equity in accessing playgrounds e.g. unfair that locals pay for Fagan Park;
  - These parents would like a website/app that makes it easy to find information about playground facilities, location etc.;
  - The ability to use existing play facilities (like schools) on weekends; and
  - The community are not necessarily asking for new/more playgrounds, but rather small additions to ensure usability is enhanced.
- Play experiences:
  - Parents would like to see more equipment sized for toddlers e.g. toddler swings, small slides, low climbing structures;
  - Learn to ride facilities are inadequate for HSC and would be highly valued; and
  - Mud/sand and water play experiences to allow for creative, social and imaginative play.
- Supportive elements and amenities:
  - Safety of equipment and amenities is crucial, and parents worry about this;
  - A natural bush setting is highly appreciated and could be leveraged more;
  - Parking, road safety and connectivity from the street are crucial with young children and toddlers;
  - Fencing and gates are highly appreciated to aid supervision of young children;
  - Toilets and change facilities are highly sought after;
  - Shade is of high importance and often mentioned as lacking;
  - Lighting for extended use after dark through solar lighting;
  - Co-located dog friendly areas are highly appealing;
  - Coffee shops in the vicinity of a playground were raised as a desirable feature;
  - There were requests for soft ground, lawn, and undulating terrain for non-walkers to explore (mounds, low rocks etc); and
  - Seating in a playground (preferably close to equipment) was highlighted as a very welcome feature in playgrounds.

### 4.2.2. Waitara Park Opening

On Saturday 13 April 2019, a new playground was opened in Waitara Park. At the public opening event the playground was well attended by children and their families. Four members of the Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects consultation team randomly invited children (and accompanying adults) to participate in Council's planning for future playgrounds in the Shire. The children who agreed to participate indicated their top 3 preferences from a predetermined set of 21 preferences on the children's preference sheet (see Appendix B for an example). Of the 84 children consulted, 18 were pre-schoolers aged between 2 and 5 years, who were assisted by an accompanying adult to complete the preference sheet. Figure 4.11 shows the votes cast by the pre-school children and indicates essential and highly desirable play experiences to include in playgrounds for pre-school children and toddlers.



**Figure 4.10: Waitara Park Opening**

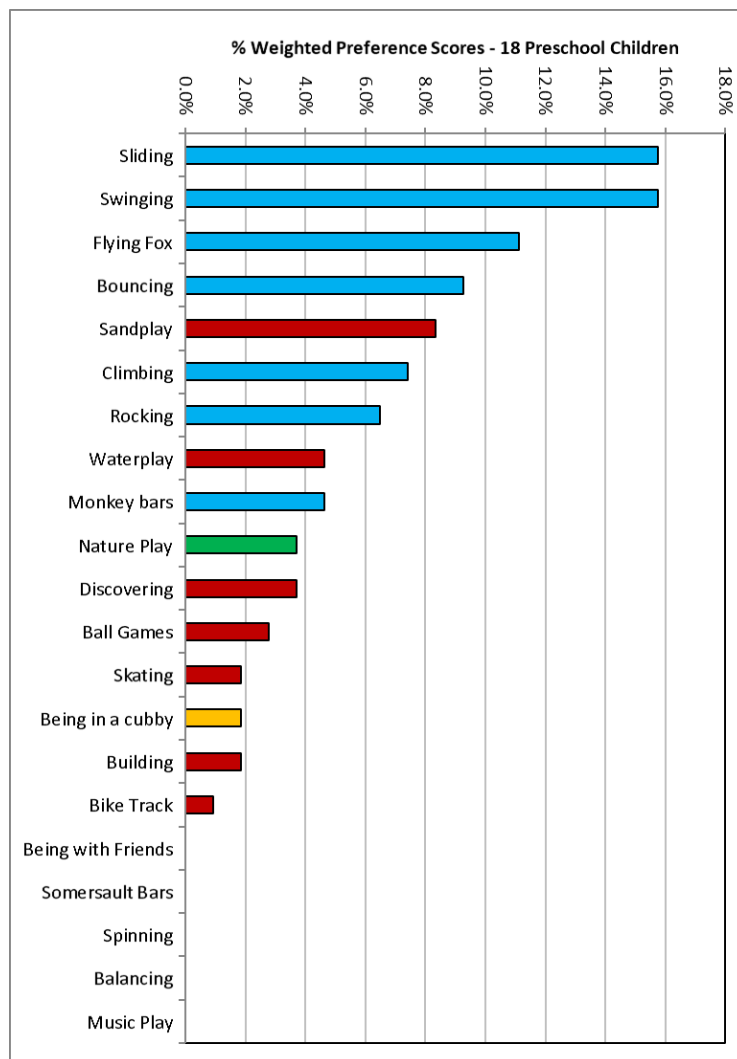
Of note with this consultation is that it gave a voice to the children in this age group, whereas the other consultations and the Community Survey were messages from the parents of this age group. This data suggests that when children in this age group are consulted, they place higher importance on experiences such as flying fox, rocking and sand play than their parents do. Also, whilst their parents placed high priority on experiences like bike tracks, water play and nature play, when children are asked to pick their top 3, these experiences are not in their top 3 preferences.

*Essential play experiences to include in the playground were:*

- Sliding;
- Swinging; and
- Flying Fox.

*Highly desirable play experience for pre-schoolers were:*

- Bouncing;
- Sand play;
- Climbing; and
- Rocking.



**Figure 4.11: Pre-Schooler Preferences for Play Experiences**

### 4.2.3. HSC Play Strategy Community Survey – Parents & Grandparents of 0-4 Year Old Children

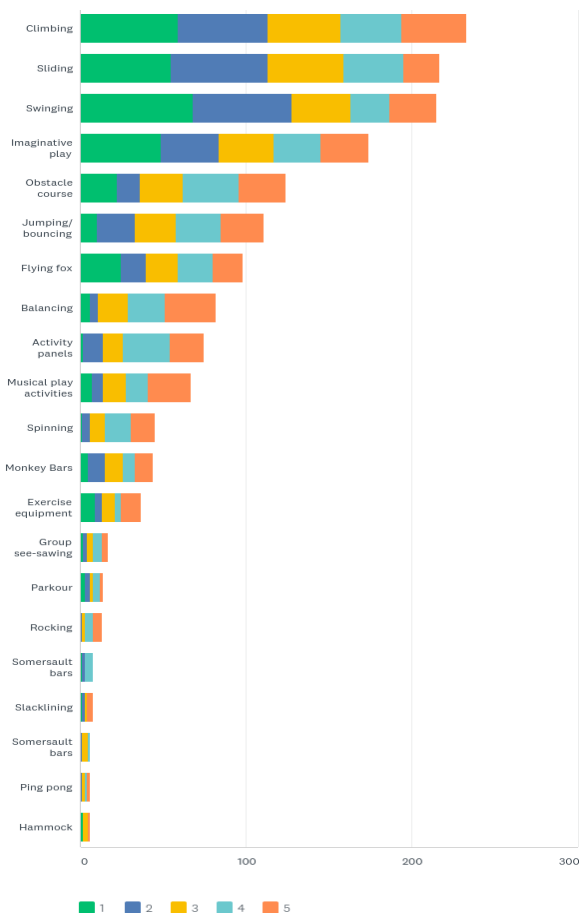
389 respondents indicated that they were parents or grandparents to infants, toddlers and preschool children. Of these, 48% also had older children up to 17 years of age in their care.

The results showed that there were few differences in the choices made by parents of 0-4 year old children compared to all survey respondents. Choices for nature play elements and amenities were universally similar across the survey – refer to Section 2 for details – and hence not commented on separately for infants, toddlers and preschool children. Parents of children aged 0-4 years highly valued the following equipment and designed elements in Hornsby Shire playgrounds, as shown in the graphs below.

The following lists show the consolidated results for play experiences (i.e. both equipment and designed elements) that are favoured by this demographic.

*Essential play experiences chosen in the top 5 by more than 50% of parents and grandparents of children aged 0-4years:*

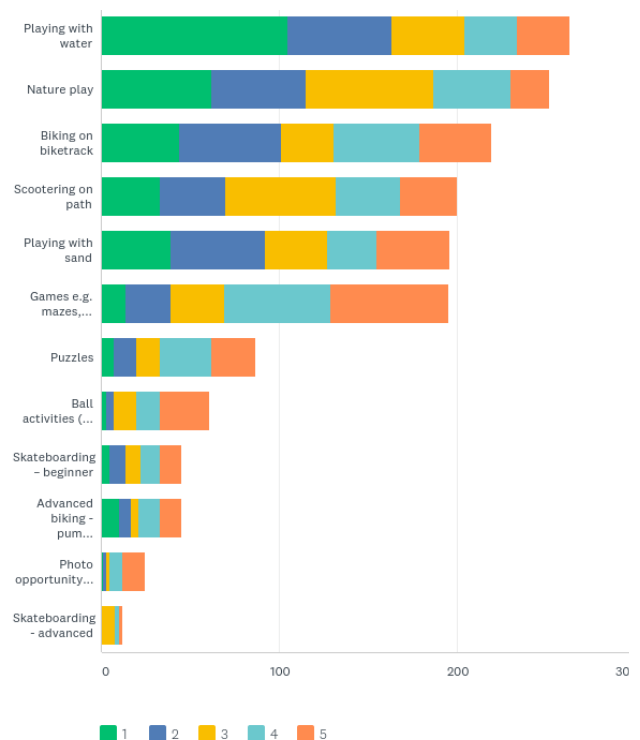
- Climbing;
- Sliding;
- Swinging;
- Playing with water;
- Nature play;
- Playing with sand;
- Biking/scootering on bike track and paths; and
- Games e.g. maze, hopscotch.



**Figure 4.12: Equipment Choices: Parents and Grandparents of 0 – 4 year old Children**

*Highly desired play experiences chosen in the top 5 by between 25-50% of parents and grandparents of children aged 0-4years:*

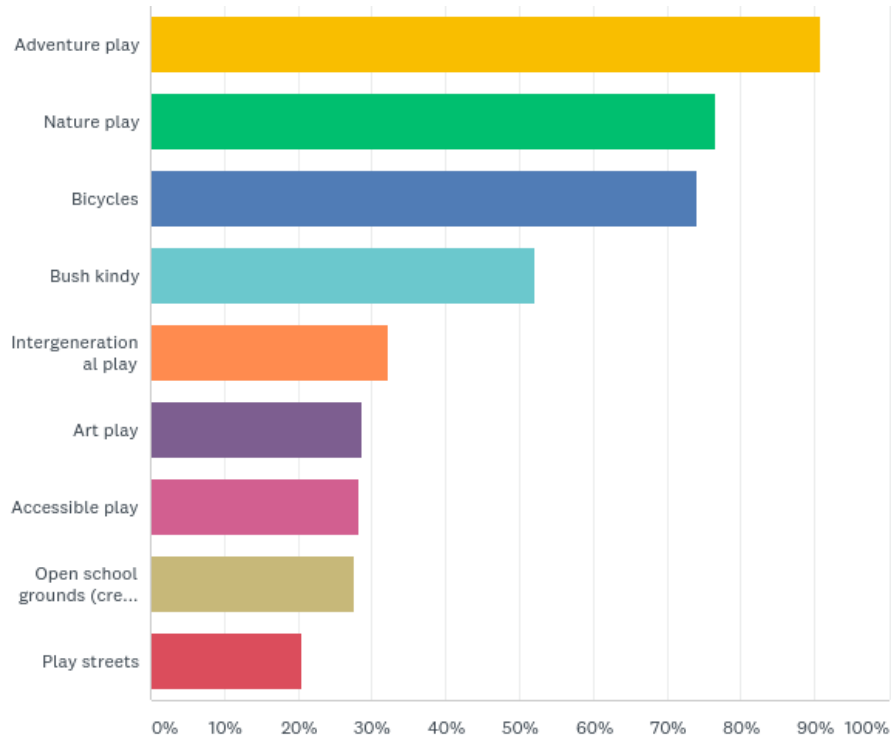
- Obstacle course;
- Jumping/bouncing;
- Flying fox; and
- Puzzles.



**Figure 4.13: Designed Elements: Parents and Grandparents of 0 – 4 year old Children**

When asked about new play ideas these parents and grandparents would like to see in Hornsby Shire, choices were similar to the overall survey findings. The standout favourite was Adventure Play with 90% of parents and grandparents of children aged 0-4 years selecting this in their five options. Three quarters of respondents selected Nature Play (77%) and Bicycles (74%). Of special note for this age group is that more than half (52%) chose Bush Kindy, indicating a strong desire for interactive nature experiences in very young children.

**What new play ideas would you like to see in Hornsby Shire?**



**Figure 4.14: New Play Ideas: Parents and Grandparents of 0 – 4 year old Children**

#### **4.2.4. Key Messages about Catering for Babies, Toddlers and Pre-School Children**

The key messages from the four consultations for babies, toddlers and pre-school children are considered in the six experience categories, as follows:

- **Social and Community Activities:**
  - Playgroups play an important part in socialisation, wellbeing and “getting out”;
  - Parents want equity in accessing playgrounds e.g. unfair that locals pay for Fagan Park;
  - Parents would like a website/app that makes it easy to find information about playground facilities, location etc.; and
  - Access to use existing play facilities (like schools) on weekends would be valued.
- **Play Equipment:**
  - Parents would like to see more equipment sized for toddlers e.g. toddler swings, small slides, low climbing structures;
  - Children in this age group would love vestibular experiences scaled to their size/age for flying fox, rocking, and bouncing, in addition to the key experiences of sliding, swinging and climbing; and
  - Obstacle courses scaled for this age group are a popular choice by parents/carers.
- **Designed Playground Elements:**
  - Facilities and tracks for bikes, scooters and learn to ride are important for this age group;
  - Mud/sand and water play experiences to allow for creative, social and imaginative play;
  - Games such as hopscotch and mazes are popular with the children;
  - Soft ground, lawn, and undulating terrain would be valued for non-walkers to explore; and
  - Parents of this age group would love to have future planning for adventure play, cycling and nature play.
- **Natural Setting and Nature Activity:**
  - Nature play scaled to this age group, with some experiences of going into the bushland setting would be highly valued by parents/carers and children.
- **Supportive elements and amenities:**
  - Safety of equipment and amenities is crucial, and parents worry about this;
  - Parking, road safety and connectivity from the street are crucial with young children and toddlers;
  - Fencing and gates are highly appreciated to aid supervision of young children;
  - Toilets and change facilities are highly sought after;
  - Shade is of high importance and often mentioned as lacking;
  - Lighting for extended use after dark through solar lighting;
  - Access to coffee is an important aspect for parent/carer appeal; and
  - Seating close to equipment is valued to supervise children and relax with other parents.
- **Co-Located Facilities:**
  - There was no mention made of co-located sporting facilities for this age group.

## 4.3. Older People

Two consultations were held with older people, as follows. Please see Appendix C for detailed records of these consultations.

**Table 4.3: Consultation Methods - Older People**

| Consultation                           | Date          | People Consulted   |
|--|---------------|--|
| Probus                                 | 12 June 2019  | 35 Retirees mainly aged over 70  |
| Hornsby Play Strategy Community Survey | 6-23 May 2019 | 46 people aged over 60 years. 80% (37) identified as grandparents of children under 18 |

### 4.3.1. Probus Consultation

Probus is an association of active retirees who join together in Clubs, the basic purpose of which is to provide regular opportunities to keep their minds active, expand their interests and enjoy the fellowship of new friends. The purpose of Probus is to stimulate thought, interest and participation in activities at a time of life when it is easy to become complacent and self-centred. The Hornsby Probus Club consists of both men and women and meets on the second Wednesday of each month. As well as interesting speakers at meetings, the Club has regular outings, tours and luncheons.

Fiona Robbé was the guest speaker at a regular Probus meeting and spoke on the topic of Multigenerational Play Opportunities – Planning & Design with a specific focus on Older People. Fiona was supported by two people from Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects and Isabelle Kikirekov from Urbis. Two councillors (Mick Marr and Joe Nicita) were in attendance. The 35 Probus members at the meeting were all ambulatory, many aged over 85 and some requiring walking sticks to aid walking.

Before and after Fiona's presentation, the consultation team and councillors mingled with the 35 Probus members and gathered anecdotes of some of their experiences at playgrounds. During her presentation, Fiona explained the context of the Hornsby Play strategy. After the presentation Fiona facilitated animated discussion on two questions:

- 1) What sort of playful activities would you like to do in a park or playground?
- 2) What facilities would you like in a park or playground to support your visit?

Detailed notes were taken by the consultation team (See Appendix C).



**Figure 4.15: Probus Club Consultation**

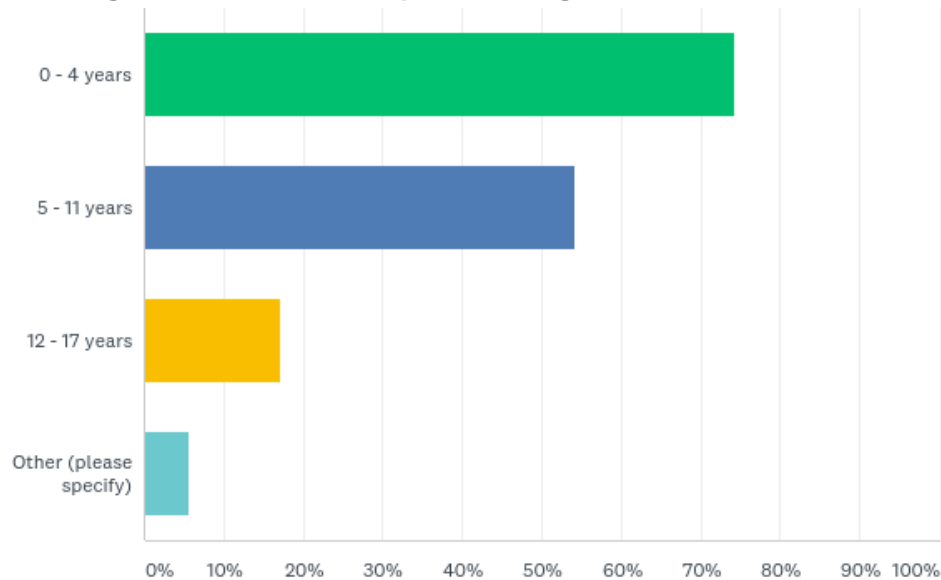
The information from this group gives vital information on the needs and perspectives of active older people who are engaged in community activities including taking grandchildren to playgrounds. Key messages from the Probus consultation were in three broad themes:

- Playful activities and inclusion for older people:
  - Older people enjoy watching children play, and some will simply go to playgrounds to watch children;
  - Grandparents enjoy taking grandchildren to playgrounds;
  - Adults value having things to engage them while they are at a playground with children e.g. Boronia Park playground;
  - Older people would love the invitation to engage with equipment at playgrounds to overcome the perception that play is only for children e.g. signage specifying that people of all ages can play;
  - Intergenerational equipment that focuses on balance, agility, co-ordination etc. received a very enthusiastic response:
    - Facilitating play with grandchildren e.g. “you and me” swing; and
    - Preventative health by building and maintaining agility and muscle strength can help prevent falls in older people.
  - Play experiences appealing to older people include:
    - Informal ball activities such as Boules, ping pong tables;
    - Zip lines;
    - Large outdoor chess sets; and
    - Mazes – accessible, safe, attractive and fun to do with grandchildren.
- Community Building:
  - The audience was keen to see a Play Plan that will strive for playgrounds to be for ‘all ages, all abilities, all cultures’ with equitable distribution across the Shire;
  - Communication to inform and educate residents about inclusive and intergenerational play equipment, programs and infrastructure is vital;
  - Use print formats like newspaper and council notices as well as digital media as not all older people use the internet to find information;
  - Multilingual communication is important as Hornsby is multicultural;
  - Concern about urban density and high-rise buildings with insufficient open public space and play spaces; and
  - Older people are keen to explore fund raising opportunities to provide more inclusive, accessible and intergenerational play experiences in the Hornsby Shire e.g. Variety Club.
- Supportive facilities for older people:
  - There was extensive discussion about how designers could consider people with hemiplegic conditions that only allow the use of one arm or leg. e.g. handrails could be placed on both sides or in the middle of stairs or steep walkways, doors or gateways could be easier to open;
  - Older people need consideration of not being able to walk long distances or stand for long periods of time, and hence require:
    - Parking close to playgrounds;
    - Seating with supportive backrests spaced at regular intervals to allow supervision of children as they move around a playground; and
    - Short walking distances between amenities such as toilets, water, parking etc.
  - Shade is seen as crucial in playgrounds, and concern was raised about the need to plan for this in the future to deal with climate change and global warming.

### 4.3.2. HSC Play Strategy Community Survey – People over 60 years old

46 survey respondents were aged 60 years or older. Nine identified as 70-84 years old, and no-one was over 85. Of the 80% (37) that identified as grandparents of children under 18, most (74%) had very young grandchildren, half (54%) had grandchildren aged 5-11 years, and only six (17%) had teenaged grandchildren. The results are hence likely to be skewed towards choices for accompanying younger children to playgrounds in Hornsby.

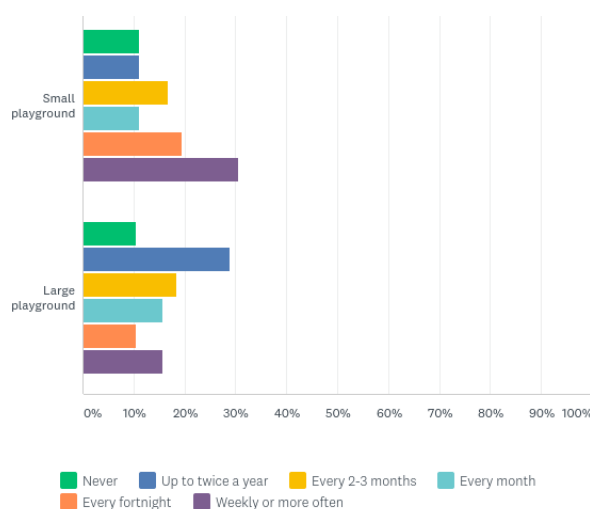
#### Ages of children and grandchildren for respondents aged over 60



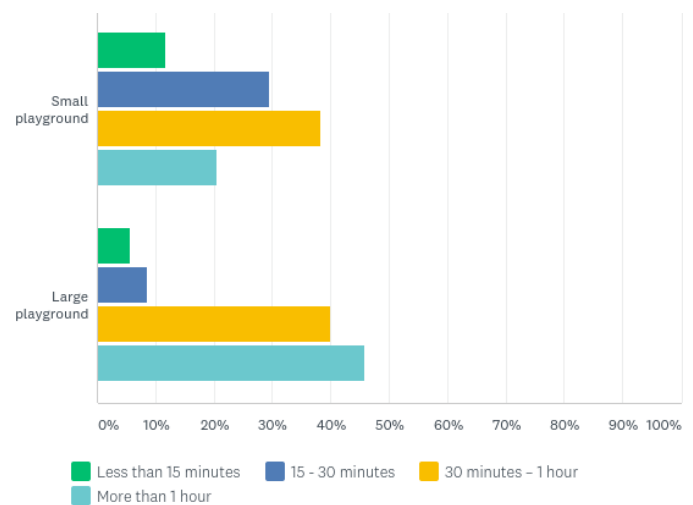
**Figure 4.16: Age Distribution**

Some interesting playground usage patterns emerged for older people as shown in the graphs below. One third of people over 60 visit a playground weekly or more often. Even though this is significantly lower than the overall survey respondents (56% visit weekly or more often), it is nonetheless important to note that a significant proportion of playground visitors are people over 60 and hence should be catered for in playground planning.

Furthermore, whilst nearly half (46%) are likely to spend more than an hour in large playgrounds, this is significantly less than the 70% of overall respondents who typically stay for more than an hour in large playgrounds.



**Figure 4.18: Frequency of Visits**



**Figure 4.17: Time Spent at Playground**

The results showed that there were no significant differences in the choices made by older people for play experiences compared to all survey respondents. Choices for play equipment, designed play elements, and nature play elements were so similar to the overall survey that they are not commented on separately for older people.

Where we see significant differences is in preferences for amenities in playgrounds, as shown in Figure 4.19 below. Older people place much greater importance on amenities than other survey respondents, as indicated by the higher proportions of ratings for “essential – I would not come if this is not provided”. Whilst the top 11 amenities were in similar order of priority for both groups, up to 40% more older people rated these as essential. This suggests that more attention needs to be given to providing supportive amenities for older people in playgrounds.

*Essential amenities indicated as essential for more than 50% of older people (compared to everyone):*

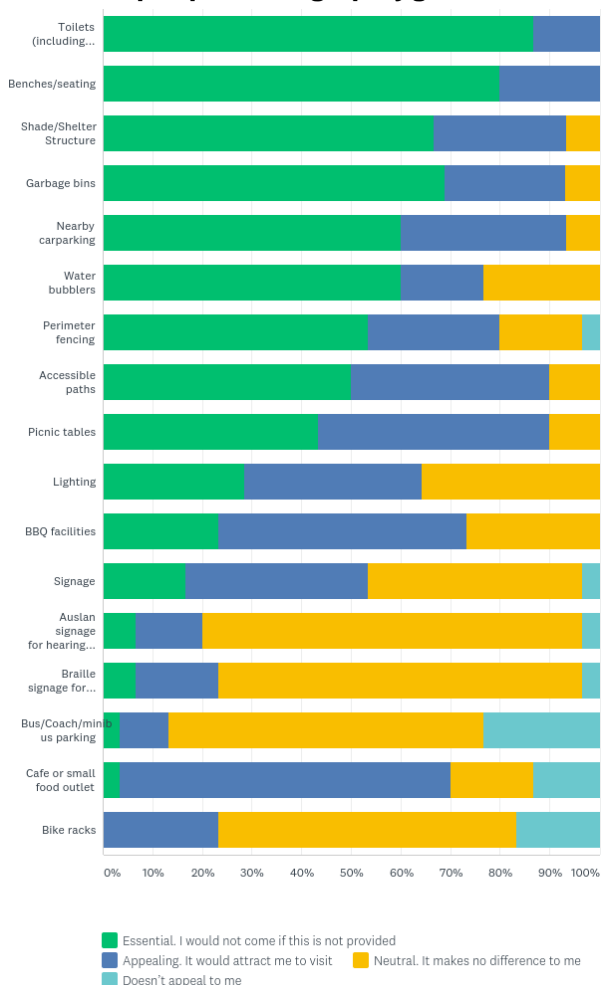
- Toilets (87% vs. 64%\*);
- Benches and seating (80% vs. 43%\*);
- Shade and shelter structures (67% vs. 50%);
- Garbage bins (69% vs. 46%);
- Nearby parking (60% vs. 49%);
- Water bubblers (60% vs. 29%);
- Perimeter fencing (53% vs. 32%); and
- Accessible paths (53% vs. 22%).

*\*(first % is older people, second % is the whole survey cohort)*

*Highly desired amenities indicated as essential for one quarter to half of older people (compared to everyone):*

- Picnic tables (43% vs. 21%);
- Lighting (29% vs. 13%); and
- BBQ Facilities (24% vs. 7%).

### Importance of amenities for older people in large playgrounds



**Figure 4.19: Importance of Amenities for Older People**

When asked about new play ideas older people would like to see in Hornsby Shire (as shown in Figure 4.20 below), some of their choices have key differences to the overall survey findings. Like the other respondents to the survey, the standout favourite is Adventure Play with 89% of older people selecting this in their five options, and Nature Play selected by 70% of older people.

Differences are seen in higher choices for Bush Kindy (67%), Accessible Play (67%) and Intergenerational Play (63%). These suggest that older people put higher value on interaction with nature, as well as inclusive play environments to cater for all ages and abilities.

Another key difference is the lower ranking of Bicycles (59%) compared to other survey respondents (87%), which may reflect lower mobility of older people. Nevertheless, this result still indicated that the majority of older people would value more Bicycle experiences in future play planning.

### New play ideas older people would like to see in Hornsby Shire

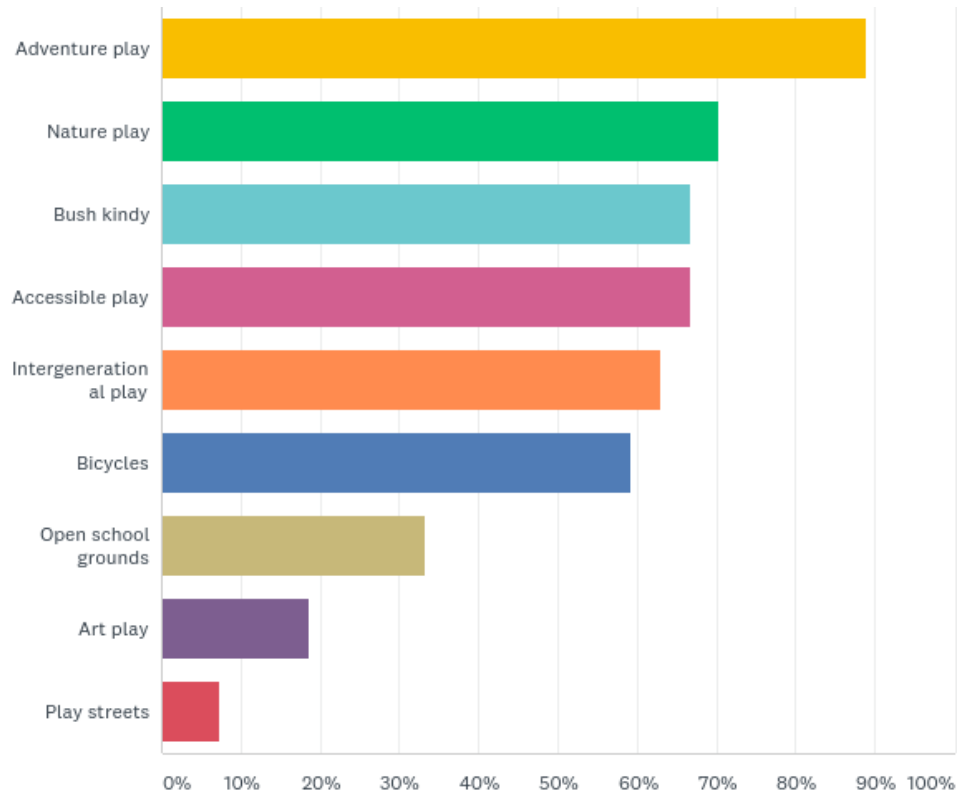


Figure 4.20: New Play Ideas: Older People

### 4.3.3. Key Messages about Catering for Older People

The key messages from the two consultations for older people over the age of 60 are considered in the six experience categories, as follows:

- Social and Community Activities:
  - Older people value being in playgrounds to accompany grandchildren, or simply watch children play;
  - Older people need to be encouraged to participate in play experiences, either on their own on specialised equipment for older people, or interacting with their grandchildren;
  - Older people place a high value on playgrounds being for 'all ages, all abilities, all cultures' with equitable distribution across the Shire; and
  - To be more inclusive of older people, communication needs to be in print forms as well as digital formats.
- Play Equipment:
  - Older people value the same core play experiences as other people and children do i.e. climbing, swinging, sliding, flying fox, obstacle course, and imaginative play;
  - Equipment that focuses on balance, agility, co-ordination etc. is highly valued and could be part of preventative health by building and maintaining agility and muscle strength, which in turn can help prevent falls in older people;
  - Intergenerational equipment such as the "you and me" swing would be valued in fostering play with grandchildren; and
  - Large zip lines in regional parks such as Fagan Park would be highly regarded.
- Designed Playground Elements:
  - Like most respondents, water play, games, scootering, biking and sand play were popular choices for older people;
  - Informal ball activities such as Boules, ping pong tables;
  - Large outdoor chess sets; and
  - Mazes – accessible, safe, attractive and fun to do with grandchildren.
- Natural Setting and Nature Activity:
  - Older people would like to see more opportunities for children to interact with the bush e.g. Bush Kindy; and
  - Nature play is the most popular choice for activity away from equipment for older people.
- Supportive elements and amenities:
  - In general, older people see it as essential to have supportive facilities to make outings to playgrounds easier, more accessible and more comfortable;
  - Toilets, bubblers and bins are very important for older people to visit playgrounds;
  - Parking close to playgrounds is very important;
  - Seating with supportive backrests spaced at regular intervals to allow supervision of children as they move around a playground;
  - Short walking distances on accessible paths between amenities such as toilets, water and parking;
  - Shade is seen as crucial in playgrounds;
  - Perimeter fencing is essential for older people;
  - Picnic tables and BBQ facilities are highly desirable for older people in playgrounds; and
  - Lighting in playgrounds would be valued.
- Co-Located Facilities:
  - There was no mention made of co-located sporting facilities for this age group.

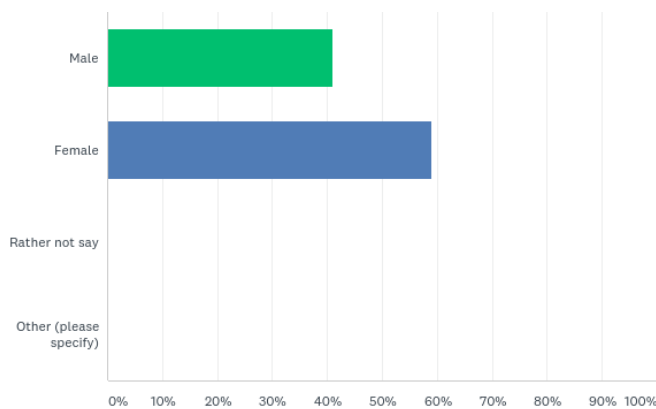


**Figure 4.21: Catering for Older People**

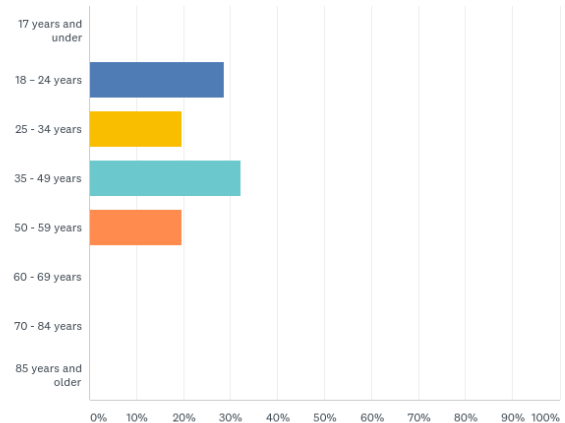
## 4.4. Adults Without Children

There were no specific consultations held with adults about how they may like to use playgrounds (i.e. without children). However, there were 56 Community Survey respondents aged between 18 and 50 years who indicated that they were not parents or grandparents of children under 18. Their responses were examined, and some interesting differences emerged.

In terms of gender mix, this cohort had a much higher representation of males (40%) than the overall respondent group (20% males). Roughly half (46%) were aged 18 to 34 years, and the other half (54%) aged 35-59 years.

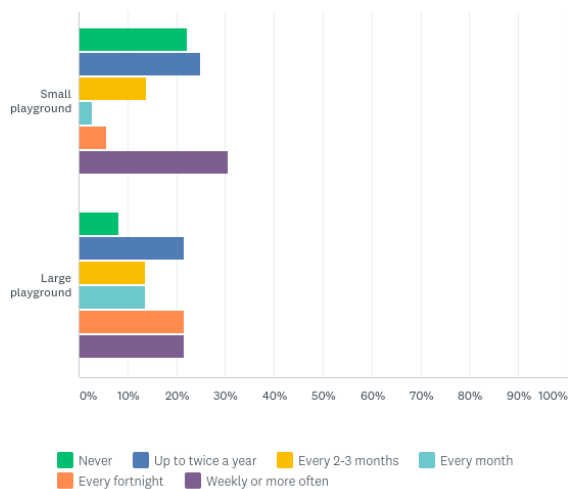


**Figure 4.23: Gender of Respondents**

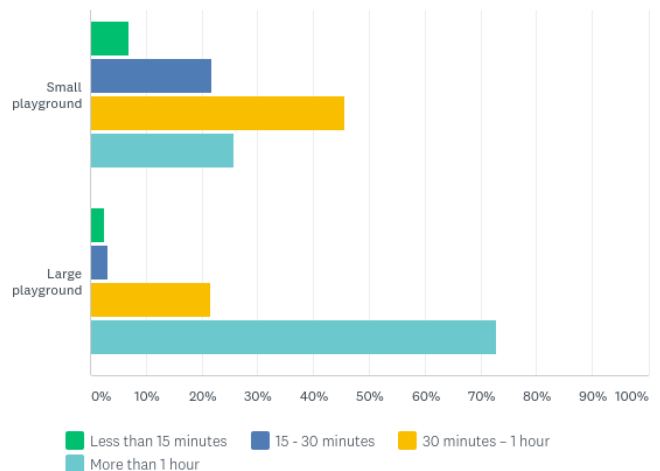


**Figure 4.22: Age Distribution of Respondents**

Playground usage patterns also differed in that they visit playgrounds less often than the other respondents and stay for shorter periods.



**Figure 4.25: Frequency of Visits**



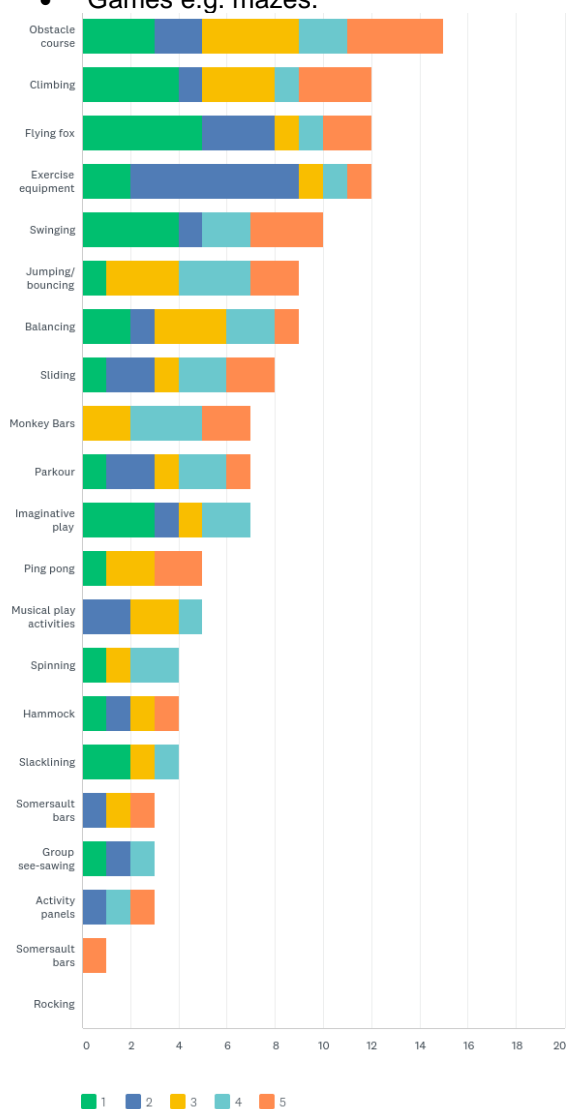
**Figure 4.24: Time Spent at Playground**

There were some significant differences in the choices for playground experiences made by these adults compared to all survey respondents. Choices for nature play elements and amenities were fairly similar across the survey, and hence not commented on separately for adults without children – refer to Section 2 for details. However, adults without children highly valued the following equipment and designed elements in Hornsby Shire playgrounds, as shown in the graphs below. The open-ended responses at the end of the survey also had comments asking for “please diversify and produce playgrounds for older age groups”

The following lists show the consolidated results for play experiences (i.e. both equipment and designed elements) that are favoured by this demographic.

*Essential play experiences chosen in the top 5 by more than 50% of adults without children:*

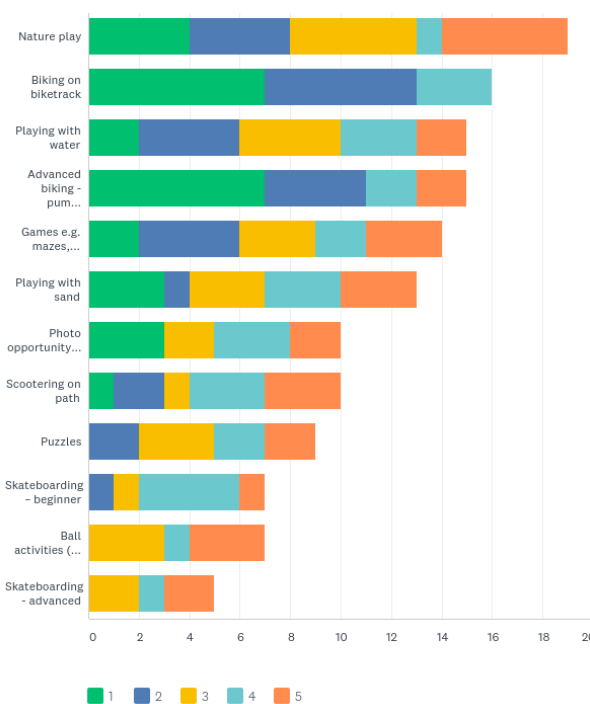
- Obstacle course;
- Nature play;
- Biking on bike track;
- Playing with water;
- Climbing;
- Flying fox;
- Exercise equipment;
- Advanced biking pump tracks; and
- Games e.g. mazes.



**Figure 4.26: Equipment Choices: Adults without Children**

*Highly desired play experiences chosen by between 25-50% of adults without children:*

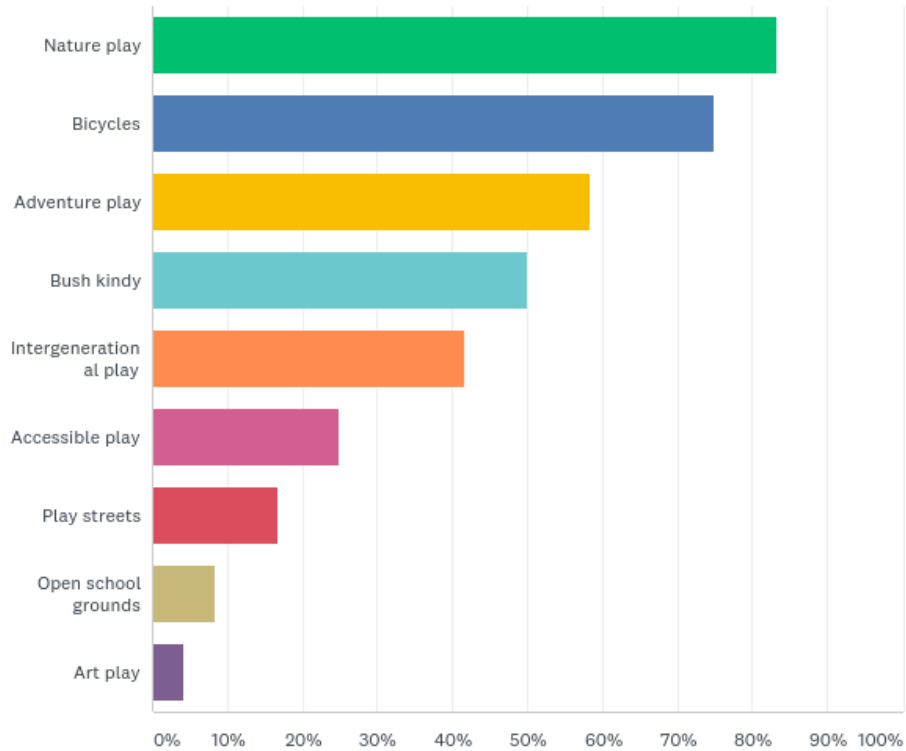
- Swinging;
- Jumping/bouncing;
- Balancing;
- Sliding;
- Sand play;
- Photo opportunity;
- Scootering on paths; and
- Puzzles.



**Figure 4.27: Designed Elements: Adults without Children**

When asked about new play ideas adults without children would like to see in Hornsby Shire (as shown in Figure 4.28 below), some of their choices have key differences to the overall survey findings. Unlike the other respondents to the survey, the standout favourite is Nature Play with 83% of adults without children selecting this in their five options, and Bicycles selected by 75% of adults. Adventure Play was selected by 58% of adults (compared to 86% of overall survey respondents).

#### New play ideas adults without children would like to see in Hornsby Shire



**Figure 4.28: New Play Ideas: Adults without Children**

#### **4.4.1. Key Messages about Catering for Adults Without Children**

The key messages from the Community Survey for people aged between 18 and 59 who do not have children are considered in six experience categories, as follows:

- **Social and Community Activities:**
  - Adults without children enjoy coming to spaces where they can engage in play, exercise and outdoor activities in nature.
- **Play Equipment:**
  - Adults would value equipment aimed at adults;
  - Obstacles courses, climbing and exercise equipment aimed at adults would be highly valued; and
  - Flying foxes and swinging for adults.
- **Designed Playground Elements:**
  - Biking and advanced bike tracks are popular choices for adults;
  - Water play and water parks are highly regarded by adults;
  - Opportunities for games and puzzles; and
  - Photo opportunity activities are of appeal to adults.
- **Natural Setting and Nature Activity:**
  - Nature play is the most popular choice for activity away from equipment for adults;
  - Adults would like to see more leverage of Hornsby's bush setting;
  - Discovery trails for adults would be valued; and
  - Natural settings with trees, grass and bush is highly valued by adults.
- **Supportive elements and amenities:**
  - In general, adults without children have similar preferences for amenities to overall survey results;
  - Adults without children place lower priority on perimeter fencing and shade structures; and
  - Adults place slightly higher priority on picnic tables and BBQ facilities, suggesting a social element to their playground visits.
- **Co-Located Facilities:**
  - There was no mention made of co-located sporting facilities for this age group, albeit that advanced bike tracks were mentioned often.

## 4.5. Aboriginal People

Consultation was held with Aboriginal people, as follows. Please see Appendix D for a detailed record of this consultation.

**Table 4.4: Consultation Methods - Aboriginal People**

| Consultation       | Date          | People Consulted   |
|--------------------|---------------|--|
| Ku Ring Gai Nation | 18 April 2019 | 1 Ku Ring Gai Person – Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation |

### 4.5.1. Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation

On 18 April 2019, FRLA had a phone consultation with a Ku Ring Gai person from Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation on the topic of the Hornsby Play Strategy.

### 4.5.2. Key Messages from Aboriginal People about the Hornsby Play Strategy

The two consultations held with Aboriginal people had wide discussion about the Play Strategy and the more strategic aspects of play provision in the Shire. The Key messages from these consultations are considered in the six experience categories, as follows:

- Social and Community Activities:
  - Circular seating, i.e. yarning circles.
- Play Equipment:
  - Sandstone boulders could be used as play elements;
  - Include grinding grooves in boulders;
- Designed Playground Elements:
  - Solar powered fountain.
- Natural Setting and Nature Activity:
  - Include plant species that children can use for spear making; and
  - Plant a bush tucker garden.
- Supportive elements and amenities:
  - There was no mention of supportive elements and amenities from this group.
- Co-Located Facilities:
  - There was no mention made of co-located sporting facilities from this group.

## 4.6. Hornsby Shire Council and Councillors

Three consultations were held with Hornsby Shire Council staff and councillors, as follows. Please see Appendix E for detailed records of these consultations.

**Table 4.5: Consultation Methods - Hornsby Shire Council and Councillors**

| Consultation            | Date         | People Consulted      |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Hornsby Council Meeting | 3 April 2019 | 7 Hornsby Councillors |
| Janelle McIntosh        | 9 April 2019 | Hornsby Councillor    |

### 4.6.1. Hornsby Councillor Meeting Consultation

On 3 April 2019, Hornsby Shire Councillors had a one-hour slot on the meeting agenda on the topic of the Hornsby Play Strategy. Fiona Robbé gave a presentation of the planned approach and process for developing the strategy, and councillors raised questions and concerns during and after the presentation. Present at the briefing were seven councillors, approximately six council staff, and two consultation support people from Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects and Urbis.

### 4.6.2. Cllr Janelle McIntosh Consultation

On 9 April 2019, Cllr Janelle McIntosh participated in the Cherrybrook High School consultation. After this consultation, she received a briefing on the Hornsby Play Strategy from Fiona Robbé as she was unable to attend the previous Council meeting at which Fiona briefed the other councillors. David Sheils from Council and two consultation support people from Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects were also present.



**Figure 4.29: Consultation with Cllr Janelle McIntosh**

### 4.6.3. Key Messages from Hornsby Councillors about the Hornsby Play Strategy

The two consultations held with Hornsby Councillors had wide discussion about the Play Strategy and the more strategic aspects of play provision in the Shire. The Key messages from these consultations are considered in the six experience categories, as follows:

- Social and Community Activities:
  - There is recognition of the need for policy related to putting playgrounds where the people are. E.g. walking distance from home for local parks, or short drives;
  - It is recognised that the mix of high density, medium density and low density areas across the LGA require a different equation to determining the number and mix of playgrounds beyond the traditional “number of playgrounds per x square kilometres” (compass method);
  - There was strong appetite for identifying barriers to play for people in high density areas having overcrowding of playgrounds such as Willow Park, versus people in the more remote areas such as Wiseman’s Ferry having to drive miles to a playground;
  - Inclusive play is highly valued as a principle of providing equity to all cultures, ages and abilities. Principles of inclusive play were discussed as:
    - Accessibility;
    - Having “something for everyone” regardless of age, culture or ability;
    - Being comfortable and safe; and
    - Being able to stay e.g. having toilets, water, seating etc.
  - Concerns were raised about the inherent tensions in catering for different age groups between having separate play areas for different age groups, and the challenges faced by parents/carers in being split between two play areas when taking toddlers and children on the same outing; and
  - There was some discussion and early recognition of opportunities to extend play opportunities through shared facilities (e.g. school playgrounds on weekends) or extending by-laws to get developers involved in providing play spaces for high rise developments.
- Play Equipment:
  - With an aging population, it is recognised that opportunities for intergenerational play and equipment aimed at older people would be highly valued.
- Designed Playground Elements:
  - The provision of an Adventure Play experience was debated as an opportunity for Hornsby to provide a novel play experience that could become a large and famous destination playground.
- Natural Setting and Nature Activity:
  - Whilst this topic was not discussed at any length, there is clear recognition that Hornsby could leverage its natural bushland environment in its provision of play experiences.
- Supportive elements and amenities:
  - Fenced playgrounds is controversial in that they are recognised as necessary for inclusion of children with behavioural issues, ADHD, Autism, sensory processing disorders, and yet use funds that could be used for provision of other play experiences. It was agreed that the Play Strategy would consider this balance between funding and community needs in the provision of fencing;
  - Shade and shelter is of strong interest to residents who raise concerns about lack of shade structures to councillors. It was agreed that Australian Standards and strategies adopted in other LGAs be considered in resolving this issue in the Play Strategy; and
  - One councillor reported that young children have an interest in playgrounds, and are very aware of the need for providing amenities such as toilets, bins, picnic tables, shade, accessible paths and access to drinks and snacks.
- Co-Located Facilities:
  - The co-location of playgrounds with adjacent sports fields was seen as highly desirable, and an economic way of broadening play experiences and things to do in the Shire.

## 5. Community Design Briefs



The 1,011 people consulted across 16 consultations yielded rich data to consider in planning for the provision of playgrounds and play facilities across the Hornsby Shire. Whilst there are universally desired and required experiences, it is also clear from the data that different age groups and user groups have different needs.

One of the deliverables of the community consultation is a Community Design Brief for each of the user groups consulted. This section collates the findings across all consultations in the six main experience categories that emerged from the consultations. The Overall Community Design Brief will start with articulation of universally desired playground experiences, regardless of ability, age and gender. The universal design brief will then be followed by design briefs to cater for the specific requirements of the different user and age groups.

It is anticipated that designers and planners will skillfully interpret these Community Design Briefs and balance these briefs along with all the other parameters when providing or upgrading a public playground or play facility.

## **5.1. Overall Community Design Brief for Playgrounds in the Hornsby Shire**

The Overall Community Design Brief considers the universally articulated requests from the community across all the consultations. They are considered here in terms of the six experience categories elicited in the consultations. The Overall Design Brief covers the generic design factors to consider for playground prior to considering the specific requirements of age and gender.

### **Play Equipment**

Everyone places high value on play equipment. People expect the basics of slides, swings and climbing equipment. However, the consultations indicate that there is high demand for more novel and innovative equipment providing a variety of engaging experiences. There is also strong demand for equipment appropriately sized for age. Play equipment categories of universal appeal are:

- Flying Fox experiences in more playgrounds;
- Climbing nets, walls and ropes of varying height and challenge (2 and 3 dimensional);
- Swings in various sizes and configurations;
- Slides of varying height;
- Separate play areas for different age groups; and
- A variety of engaging play equipment beyond the basics of climbing, swinging and sliding.

### **Designed Play Elements**

People highly value playgrounds with designed elements to facilitate various activities not related to play equipment. For example, exercise, ball activities, water play, biking. Design elements of universal appeal include:

- Unstructured active play and “running around”;
- Unstructured sports and ball activities;
- Biking (on designated tracks);
- Exercising – walking and/or running as well as fitness equipment; and
- Water play experiences in key playgrounds in the Shire.

### **Natural Settings and Nature Activity**

Playgrounds in a natural setting with trees, plants and grassy areas are highly appealing, especially if there are opportunities to interact with animals and take advantage of the bushland setting. Encouraging people to be outdoors is of increasing importance in today’s “wired” world. Key principles of universal appeal are:

- Trees for climbing and shade;
- Flowers, gardens and plants of aesthetic appeal;

- Open grassy areas - ovals to play and run, grassy picnic areas, free play areas, big spaces for many people to be active, spaces to play sport;
- Facilities to interact with pets, especially dog parks;
- Opportunities to interact with animals, birds, fish;
- Natural water features such as streams, ponds, lakes; and
- Articulation of playgrounds with natural bushland to foster nature play and discovery.

## Amenities

The consultations found that people are sensitive to the provision of supportive amenities in playgrounds. Design and planning considerations need to cater for the following universally desired features in playgrounds:

- Shade and shelter;
- Tables and seating for picnics and eating;
- Seating and benches for supervision of children;
- Tracks and pathways for accessibility, walking, biking and scootering, and contact with nature;
- Cleanliness and maintenance of equipment, grounds and toilets;
- Toilets that are open, clean and well maintained;
- Bubblers and drinking water;
- Softfall to be “soft” and not sharp, painful and uncomfortable “wood chips”;
- Free Wi-Fi and opportunities for electronic interaction;
- Proximity to food outlets, café, food kiosks;
- Enough bins that are regularly emptied;
- Safety is becoming of higher universal concern;
- Equipment safety;
- Fall zone safety – synthetic surfaces for softness;
- Personal security such as lighting, lockers and bike racks; and
- Provision of first aid equipment.

## Social Interaction

Playgrounds are increasingly becoming a vital part of community building and socialisation. It is essential that designers and planners consider the following elements to foster social interaction and enjoyment of playgrounds:

- Appealing and engaging play experiences that make it fun to come to playgrounds;
- Spaces for group events such as parties, family picnics and barbeques;
- Barbeque and picnic facilities;
- Equipment that requires interaction with others, for example group swings;
- Quiet spaces for conversations, games and quiet activities; and
- Aesthetically appealing and colourful play spaces.

## Co-located Facilities- Sport and Exercise

A notable outcome from these consultations is how many people requested co-located facilities next to playgrounds and play facilities. This is a unique strength of what open space in the Hornsby Shire area offers, and while mainly playgrounds fulfill this request already, this is a clear message to play providers about what is valued people. It is highly recommended that designers and planners include articulation with co-located facilities such as:

- Basketball and netball hoops and court;
- Handball court;
- Soccer and “footy” field;
- Cricket pitch;
- Exercise areas;
- Swimming pool; and
- Tennis court (to a minor extent).

## 5.2. Community Design Brief for Primary School Children

The following play experiences are recommended to cater for children aged 5 to 11 years in playgrounds. These are to be considered in addition to the above Overall Community Design Brief:

- Flying foxes or zip lines offering a “fly through the air” experience;
- Equipment that has the thrill of more height and speed;
- Jumping and bouncing – trampolines, parkour to jump over, jumping castle;
- Climbing structures - climbing nets, walls, frames, trees, ladders, high ropes, rock climbing (2 and 3 dimensional);
- Swings - large swings, basket swing, high swings, hammock, tyre swing;
- Slides - water slides, high slides, small slides, spiral slides, tunnel slides;
- Monkey bars and somersault bars;
- Spinners and roundabouts – donut spinner, merry-go-round, roundabout;
- See saws and rockers - see saw, rocker, giant see saw for multiple people;
- Designed play elements (not on equipment);
- Ball activities - handball, table tennis, basketballs, netball, volleyball, cricket with family (not organised sports teams/games);
- Water play and activities - fountains, water slides, water park;
- Discovery - adventurous places, exploring, treasure hunts, bushwalking, canoeing;
- Games, mazes, music play - hiding spaces, maze, big board games, table tennis;
- Biking - biking, bike tracks, BMX biking, creative cycle pathways, bike racks;
- Cubbies, tree-houses and enclosed spaces - cubby, treehouse, tunnel; and
- Tracks and paths - mini roads with traffic lights and signs.

### **Extra Considerations for Younger Children aged Five to Eight (in addition to above lists)**

- Cubbies, tree-houses and enclosed spaces - cubby, treehouse, tunnel; and
- Tracks and paths - mini roads with traffic lights and signs.

### **Extra Considerations for Older Children aged Nine to Eleven**

- Balancing equipment, obstacle course, low ropes, wobbly bridge, nets between platforms;
- Free play and imaginative play;
- Quiet spaces for telescope, reading, board games;
- Wi-Fi access;
- Bushwalking and natural bush setting; and
- Basket/netball sport facilities.

### **Extra Considerations for Primary School Girls**

- Running and exercise;
- Quiet spaces for games, reading and learning;
- Spaces to be with friends; and
- Rocking experiences.

### **Extra Considerations for Primary School Boys**

- Skateboarding and skating;
- Building activities; and
- Higher importance of designed play elements to allow more active interaction such as biking, sports, running around, sports.

## 5.3. Community Design Brief for Young People

Young people are interested in playgrounds and play facilities. They are very keen to have engaging experiences in outdoor settings. Furthermore, as young people mature and develop their own interests, it is found that they have diverging interests in what they would like to see and do in playgrounds. It is hence it is essential that young people are consulted for the design of each play area as it arises. The following play experiences are recommended to cater for young people, in addition to the above Overall Community Design Brief:

- Play equipment scaled to young people and adults:
  - Challenging, age appropriate equipment - more opportunities for young people to play in playgrounds, equipment and experiences with more challenge, larger items for young people and adults;
  - The thrill of equipment providing height and speed;
  - Double flying fox;
  - Equipment for groups e.g. basket swings, group rocker;
  - Climbing challenges (three dimensional);
  - Swings - large swings, basket swing for multiple people, hammock;
  - Balancing, parkour and obstacle course - high ropes, challenging obstacle course, parkour;
  - Slides and water slides - water slides, high slides, long slides; and
  - Jumping and bouncing - large trampolines, large jumping pillow.
- Amenities:
  - Electronic interaction - that works outside, homework on wi-fi, pedal bikes to charge phones, play music, Pokemon Go, electronic dance mats;
  - Safety and security - lockers, well lit, no crime, equipment safety measures, no bark surfaces;
  - Proximity to shops, schools, home - food close by, public transport access, convenience;
  - Maintenance and cleaning - clean toilets, bins, no rubbish, clean equipment; and
  - Lighting - lights for safety, mood lighting.
- Designed play elements (not on equipment):
  - Photo opportunity activities - scenic backdrops for photos, photo areas, bush photos;
  - Water play and activities - splash pad, water slides, pool, water park, water obstacle course;
  - Skating;
  - Ping Pong; and
  - Fitness activities.
- Interaction with Nature:
  - Natural setting - encourage people to be outside, being with nature, natural bush and scenery; and
  - Demonstrated environmental sustainability is important to this group - recycled plastic equipment, solar power, "pedal and charge" items, greenery and trees.
- Social interaction and pleasure:
  - Hang out spaces - circles or groups of comfortable benches/seats;
  - Play experiences with social interaction;
  - Equipment and facilities for group interaction – picnic tables to gather around;
  - Quiet spaces;
  - Relaxation - sleeping, alone time, relax in nature, relax in shade;
  - Aesthetic appreciation and colour - aesthetic locations, scenery, beauty, colour, good photo backgrounds;
  - Foster inclusiveness and diversity - accessible to everyone, include all ages, affordable, multiculturalism; and
  - Art activities and statues - sculptures, murals, kids design, artworks.
- Co-Located Sports Facilities:
  - Multi-sports Court;
  - Skatepark; and
  - Fitness/Gym.

### **Extra Considerations for Younger High School Students (to year 9)**

- Natural seating.

### **Extra Considerations for Older Young People (from year 10 to 24)**

- Spinning;
- Hammock; and
- Group See-saw.

### **Extra Considerations for Young Women**

- A natural setting and interaction with nature is of highest importance to females;
- Basket swings, large group swings;
- Natural seating; and
- Ball games.

### **Extra Considerations for Young Men**

- Action activities away from play equipment are of greater appeal to males;
- The co-location of sporting facilities is of high interest to males for organised sports;
- Scootering;
- Bike tracks;
- Parkour; and
- Hammock.

## 5.4. Community Design Brief for Children with a Disability

Outings to playgrounds are an important aspect of bringing meaning and building social skills for children with disabilities. Furthermore, including children with a disability in Hornsby's playgrounds is an important part of building social capital in the community. The following play experiences are recommended to cater for children with a disability, in addition to the above Overall Community Design Brief

- Social and Community Activities:
  - Crowding and waiting in queues for popular equipment is an issue for these children; and
  - Large accessible items e.g. Supanova spinner to encourage group interaction.
- Play Equipment:
  - Accessible equipment for a range of ages and sizes;
  - Vestibular experiences such as swinging, spinning, flying fox and climbing are very popular with children with sensory processing disorder;
  - More options for accessible swinging (other than Liberty Swings) that is more inclusive;
  - Obstacle courses and slides for these children; and
  - Accessible paths to play equipment with easier mounting and dismounting from equipment.
- Designed Playground Elements:
  - Water play experiences, especially wheelchair accessible ones; and
  - Elements to facilitate intergenerational and accessible play.
- Natural Setting and Nature Activity:
  - Accessible discovery trails.
- Supportive elements and amenities:
  - Fenced off areas are crucial;
  - Accessible paths with no trip points that connect parking, toilets, picnic table and play experiences;
  - Dedicated safe accessible parking that is close to the playground and out of the traffic flow;
  - Family accessible toilets close to parking and playground with change facilities and hoist for larger children/people;
  - Picnic shelter with a few picnic tables grouped together to manage group outings with ease;
  - Access to clean drinking water and water in the change facilities; and
  - Seating with back rests and close to equipment.

## 5.5. Community Design Brief for Infants, Toddlers and Pre-School Children

Playgroups and outings to playgrounds play an important part in socialisation, wellbeing and “getting out” for young children and their families. It is important that play spaces are scaled for these very small children. The following play experiences are recommended to cater for very young children, in addition to the above Overall Community Design Brief:

- Play equipment scaled to this age group:
  - Smaller swings, slides and climbing equipment scaled to small children;
  - Separate play space for young children;
  - Small flying fox equipment (e.g. track ride); and
  - Bouncing and rocking equipment for small children.
- Designed Play Elements:
  - Sand play;
  - Mud/sand and water play experiences to allow for creative, social and imaginative play;
  - Games such as hopscotch and mazes; and
  - Tracks for biking, scootering and learn to ride.
- Natural Setting and Nature Activity:
  - Nature play scaled to this age group, with some experiences of going into the bushland setting.
- Supportive elements and amenities:
  - Parking, road safety and connectivity from the street are crucial with young children and toddlers;
  - Fencing and gates to aid supervision of young children;
  - Access to coffee is an important aspect for parent/carer appeal; and
  - Seating close to equipment to supervise children.

## 5.6. Community Design Brief for Adults

Adults without children enjoy coming to spaces where they can engage in play, exercise and outdoor activities in nature. The following play experiences are recommended to cater for adults, in addition to the above Overall Community Design Brief:

- Play Equipment scaled for adults:
  - Adult sized obstacles courses, climbing and exercise equipment aimed at adults would be highly valued; and
  - Flying foxes and swinging for adults.
- Designed Playground Elements:
  - Biking and advanced bike tracks for adults;
  - Opportunities for games and puzzles; and
  - Photo opportunity activities.
- Natural Setting and Nature Activity;
  - Adults would like to see more leverage of Hornsby’s bush setting; and
  - Discovery trails for adults would be valued.

## 5.7. Community Design Brief for Older People

Older people value being in playgrounds to accompany grandchildren, be active themselves, or simply watch children play. It is vital that playgrounds support their needs to keep them active in the community. The following play experiences are recommended to cater for older people, in addition to the above Overall Community Design Brief:

- Social and Community Activities:
  - Older people need to be encouraged to participate in play experiences, either on their own on specialised equipment for older people, or interacting with their grandchildren.
- Play Equipment:
  - Equipment that focuses on balance, agility and co-ordination as part of preventative health; and
  - Intergenerational equipment such as the “you and me” swing.
- Designed Playground Elements:
  - Informal ball activities such as Boules, ping pong tables; and
  - Large outdoor chess sets.
- Natural Setting and Nature Activity:
  - More opportunities for children to interact with the bush e.g. Bush Kindy.
- Supportive elements and amenities:
  - In general, older people see it as essential to have supportive facilities to make outings to playgrounds easier, more accessible and more comfortable;
  - Parking close to playgrounds is very important;
  - Seating with supportive backrests spaced at regular intervals to allow supervision of children as they move around a playground; and
  - Short walking distances on accessible paths between amenities such as toilets, water, parking.

## 5.8. Community Design Brief for Cultural Diversity

When designing or upgrading playgrounds, it is vital that consultation is undertaken with representatives of local Aboriginal nations, as well as any cultural groups in the community. Consideration can then be given to inclusion of culturally linked elements such as:

- Artworks and sculptures;
- Signs acknowledging local cultural heritage and influences;
- Plants that may be “Bush Tucker”; and
- Colour schemes or themes related to local culture.

## 6. Recommendations



## 6.1. Discussion of Results

The 1,011 people consulted across 16 consultations yielded rich data to consider in planning for the provision of playgrounds and play facilities across the Hornsby Shire. Whilst there are universally desired and required experiences, it was also clear from the data that different age groups and user groups have different needs.

The consultations were used to develop Community Design Briefs – an Overall Brief to describe the universally desired play experiences, and individual Briefs to describe the specific requirements of different user and age groups.

The universally desired play experiences described in the Overall Community Design Brief are as follows:

- **Play equipment:** people expect the basics of slides, swings and climbing equipment. There is also a high demand for novel and innovative equipment, and equipment scaled for different age groups;
- **Designed play elements:** people highly value playgrounds with designed elements to facilitate activities not related to play equipment, including exercise, ball activities, water play and biking;
- **Natural settings and nature activity:** playgrounds in a natural setting are highly appealing, especially playgrounds that provide opportunities to interact with animals and take advantage of the bushland setting;
- **Amenities:** people are sensitive to the provision of supportive amenities in playgrounds;
- **Social interaction:** people consider playgrounds to be a vital part of community building and socialisation; and
- **Co-located facilities (sport and exercise):** many people requested co-located facilities next to playgrounds and play facilities – a unique reflection of what open space in the Hornsby Shire offers and may continue to offer.

Individual Design Briefs were then developed to reflect the specific needs and wishes of different user and age groups, including primary school children, young people, children with a disability, infants, toddlers and pre-school children, adults and older people, as well as considerations in designing for cultural diversity.

It is anticipated that designers and planners will skillfully interpret these Community Design Briefs and balance these briefs along with all the other parameters when providing or upgrading a public playground or play facility.

## 6.2. Recommendations

The results of this consultation show that there is strong enthusiasm for play and playgrounds in the Hornsby Shire. Principles for playground provision have been developed from the consultation with children and young people, which can be used in the following applications:

### 6.2.1. Development of the Play Plan

The Principles will be compared and integrated with the findings from all the consultations held for the development of the Hornsby Shire Council Play Plan. The integrated findings underpin the Play Plan's principles for the ongoing development and maintenance of Hornsby Shire Councils public play facilities and playgrounds.

### 6.2.2. Playground Upgrades

The individual and combined recommendations in this report can be used to inform the process of future playground upgrades. For example, if a community centre with a playground for pre-schoolers is being upgraded, the preschool information held in this report could provide valuable information.

### 6.2.3. New Playgrounds or Play Facilities

The individual and combined recommendations in this report can be used to inform the design process of new playgrounds. The fine-grained information can be applied along with playground-specific public

consultations held at the time for the playground. This may give designers further guidance, for example, being certain of age and gender preferences for play (often the consulted groups for a specific playground are a lot smaller than the groups consulted for this report).

#### **6.2.4. New Types of Play Provision**

The individual comments and preferences in this study provide invaluable information on all types of play that children and young people enjoy, often beyond traditional playground provision. This gives Hornsby Shire clear evidence of demand and guidance on the new or augmented types of play facilities such as outdoor chess sets, waterplay, bushland play experiences, sand play, nature play etc.

The findings of this study will be compared and integrated with the other community consultations held for the development of the Hornsby Shire Play Plan to form an overall design brief.

By considering the children's needs and interests in the development of the Hornsby Play Plan, children's rights (as defined in the United Nations Rights of the Child, Article 12) are respected and enacted. This report provides thorough feedback from children and young people as regards their needs and interests in outdoor public play facilities in the Hornsby Shire area, and is a valuable resource for the ongoing caring development of public parks and open spaces.

## APPENDIX A Disability Groups Consultations

This section contains the detailed data and verbatim comments from three consultations with parents and carers of children with severe disabilities:

|                                      |  |             |  |                             |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Special Interest Groups - Disability | Warrah Special School outing to Fagan Park | 5 April     | 12 students with severe disabilities aged 10 to 17 years and three school carers | Consultation Notes          |
|                                      | Kristie Chambers                           | 20 March    | Mother of an 8 year old girl with severe cerebral palsy                          | Consultation Notes          |
|                                      | Warrah Special School Parent questionnaire | March-April | 2 parents and 2 carers/teachers of students with severe disabilities             | Questionnaire Response Data |

## Hornsby Play Plan

### Face to Face Consultation Summary

Warrah School



| Meeting Details        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Meeting Date:          | Friday 5 April 2019                                    |
| Meeting Venue:         | Fagan Park Top Playground, Galston                     |
| Meeting Topic:         | Hornsby Play Plan – Warrah Special School Consultation |
| Meeting Time:          | 12:30om – 2:15pm                                       |
| Attendees              |  |
| <i>Name:</i>           | <i>Role:</i>   |
| Warrah teachers/staff  | Carers/teachers/staff                                  |
| 12 Warrah students     | Age range from 10-17 years old.                        |
| Fiona Robbé (FR)       | Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects (FRLA)                |
| Matthew Parkinson (MP) | Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects (FRLA)                |

| 1.0 | Student Profile   |
|-----|---|
| 1.1 | Most students are low functioning with a few being high functioning. All have high needs, most are non-verbal. Many are on medications, and are on Autistic spectrum.   |
| 1.2 | Not all are toilet trained.   |
| 1.3 | Most are in their own world, and do not relate to each other.   |
| 1.4 | Many kids are obese.  |
| 1.5 | All students are mobile. (There are two students in wheelchairs who were not present on this day).  |
| 1.6 | Some students use self-created noise or movement as a self-stimulatory behaviour.   |
| 2.0 | Arrival and Parking   |
| 2.1 | The students and teachers arrived in two mini buses which were parked in the accessible bays in the dedicated carpark.  |
| 3.0 | Transition to Playground  |
| 3.1 | Students happily disembarked from the buses and walked up the slope to the playground. They knew the environment, and transitioned easily, as they frequently use the playground.   |
| 4.0 | Steiner Education for Students  |
| 4.1 | The education of these children values sensory learning is movement based, with an overlay of massage therapy. Steiner education offers children an education based on therapeutic learning programs in natural environments. |
| 5.0 | Play Equipment  |
| 5.1 | Swings (5 way)  |

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| 5.1.1  | Provide rhythm and balance, soothing vestibular movement, and students can stay on them for a long time. The 'bigger' students need wide swing seats. Very popular activity. The Carrs Bush swings are also enjoyed.  |
| 5.2    | Liberty Swing   |
| 5.2.1  | The liberty swing is not useful to both students in wheelchairs, so something else is needed for them i.e. more options for play.   |
| 5.2.2  | As a MLAK key is required for the Liberty Swing; this becomes 'an extra step'! Signage is required for where to get the key (a locksmith).  |
| 5.3    | Climbing Net (3D)   |
| 5.3.1  | Kids with high energy love climbing to the top of the net, and are very good climbers. A popular choice with this group.  |
| 5.4    | Flying Fox  |
| 5.4.1  | The flying fox is popular due to its vestibular appeal (body moving through space). The angled ramp is challenging for some; trip points should be avoided through good design. A pomma with a big, wide disc base would be better than the narrow one. Mounting and dismounting is challenging, however, a special seat is not required by this group. |
| 5.5    | Spinning  |
| 5.5.1  | The angled 'Supanova' spinner suits these students well as they can sit or lie on the doughnut shape. A teacher can easily assist, as well as sit with the students. The group setting helps teach the students tolerance and social interaction, and it valued. The Supanova is rated as the best play item by the teachers.                           |
| 5.5.2  | They agreed that wheelchair accessible spinners are very valuable, like the one at Carrs Bush, and if they have a seat – are even better.   |
| 5.6    | Slides  |
| 5.6.1  | Slides are less popular with this group, in fact, are barely used, even though they are available.  |
| 5.7    | Waterplay   |
| 5.7.1  | Only of interest on hot days, so there needs to be a way of easily controlling the on/off button (by teachers). Water needs to be a choice, not always on offer.  |
| 5.7.2  | Carrs Bush waterplay is appreciated, but the water disappears too quickly down the chute and sinks away immediately: Would be better if the chute were at a flatter angle. Pumps are good. Water needs to be experienced, rather than flowing away quickly.   |
| 5.8    | Sand play   |
| 5.8.1  | Sand play is not used much by these students, and is only useful if time alone is required.   |
| 5.9    | Trampolines   |
| 5.9.1  | In-ground trampolines are good, but should not have lips (around edges).  |
| 5.10   | Basketball Hoops  |
| 5.10.1 | Some students have excellent hand/eye co-ordination and basketball hoops (or similar) are well used.  |
| 5.11   | Favourite Activities  |
| 5.11.1 | Favourite activities: Swinging, climbing, spinning and flying fox.  |
| 5.12   | Possible Additions  |

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 5.12.1     | Ground level challenges would be appreciated: 'something to approach and interact with' e.g. musical panels, play panels  |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Supportive Features</b>  |
| 6.1        | Smell from plants   |
| 6.1.1      | This is an important feature in the playground. Mint, Jasmine, Lavender, were given as examples. Plants need to be safe for students to interact with, keeping choking in mind. Also avoid bee attracting, thorny or spikey plants.   |
| 6.2        | Natural Setting   |
| 6.2.1      | An overall natural setting is vital to these students and school outings. Some of the students are nature lovers, and one student circumnavigates garden beds looking for bugs and worms etc.   |
| 6.3        | Toilets   |
| 6.3.1      | The 'family' toilet at Fagan Park is great, and for those students who can toilet, they can use it independently. A 'Changing Places' toilet would be valued for its hoists, as wheelchairs are heavy, and so are the students. Students use pictogram toilet cards to communicate their needs.   |
| 6.4        | Bubblers  |
| 6.4.1      | Bubblers fitted with bottle filling taps are very useful as students have their own drinking bottles.   |
| 6.5        | Picnic Tables   |
| 6.5.1      | The three picnic tables together in one shelter with rain protection (shelter) make trips to Fagan Park possible for this school. On this particular day, it was lightly raining, and students sat around the table during showers. This is valuable socialisation, as many students do not choose to sit closely together but need to learn how to do this. The platform seat under the shelter is particularly appreciated as it allows students to lie down, and even sleep, if needed. Some really need this. The tables and shelter support the regular trips to Fagan Park. |
| 6.6        | Fencing   |
| 6.6.1      | Neither playground in Fagan Park is fenced, and with some students being 'absconders' this is not ideal. The only reason the school can use either playground is because they do so regularly. Even then, there is constant vigilance about where students have gone. Fencing both playgrounds would support their needs much more than remaining unfenced.   |
| 6.7        | Accessible Paths  |
| 6.7.1      | These are valued, and are critical to the two students in wheelchairs. Carrs Bush Playground is difficult to use, due to the lack of an accessible path linking the carpark to the playground.  |
| 6.8        | Shade   |
| 6.8.1      | The 'top' playground is well shaded by trees which is greatly valued (more than shade sails would be). The adjacent picnic shelters make everything work well for school outings (sun and rain). Carrs Bush Playground has little shade, protection from the north, and is problematic, especially for students using wheelchairs.  |
| 6.9        | Trip Points   |
| 6.9.1      | Smooth surfaces are critical for these students, and uneven transitions are a problem (tripping points). Holes in rubber, or splits, or rubber pulling away from edges is all problematic.  |
| 6.10       | Park Use  |
| 6.10.1     | Warrah School visit a park every Friday for up to one and a half hours as part of the curriculum. The teacher to child ratio is 1:3 or 1:2.   |
| 6.10.2     | Familiarity with the park is crucial, with suitable parks being visited regularly.  |

| 7.0 | Summary   |
|-----|---|
| 7.1 | <p>The outstanding features which make Fagan park Top Playground useful to regular school outings:</p> <p>Dedicated safe accessible parking</p> <p>Family toilets close-by</p> <p>Shade (ample)</p> <p>Natural setting (trees, shrubs and grass)</p> <p>Picnic shelter with ample picnic tables altogether in one grouping, including platform seat</p> <p>Vestibular experiences tightly grouped together: flying fox, 5 swings, spinner and 3D climbing net</p> |
| 7.2 | <p>The features that would improve Fagan park playground for Warrah School:</p> <p>Fencing to entire playground and toilet area</p> <p>More 'ground level challenges' to interact with</p> <p>More sensory play e.g. Water play where water is an option(controllable) and water stays in a bowl/chute/trough where it can be interacted with (this is not a major request).</p>  |

## Hornsby Play Plan

### Face to Face Consultation Summary

Kristie Chambers



| Meeting Details   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Meeting Date:     | Thursday 20 March 2019                      |
| Meeting Venue:    | The Local Collective - Galston              |
| Meeting Topic:    | Hornsby Play Plan – Designing for Inclusion |
| Meeting Time:     | 9:30am - 11:00am                            |
| Attendees         |   |
| <i>Name:</i>      | <i>Role:</i>                                |
| Kristie Chambers  | Local mother of a child with cerebral palsy |
| Fiona Robbé       | Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects (FRLA)     |
| Matthew Parkinson | Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects (FRLA)     |

| 1.0 | Family background   |
|-----|---|
| 1.1 | Kristie is a mother of a child (Avalon) with a form of bilateral cerebral palsy. Avalon is 8 years old, the family live in Galston, and Avalon attends Galston Public School.                   |
| 1.2 | Avalon currently uses a wheelchair but will get to walking with a frame given time.   |
| 1.3 | There are many steps prior to leaving home to go on a playground visit e.g. There are often meltdowns before leaving the home – so it is crucial to get the play provision to match the effort. |
| 2.0 | General background  |
| 2.1 | There are many policies regarding inclusion. e.g. Federal Inclusion Policy.   |
| 2.2 | Hornsby Council stated recently in a document that 'every new playground/ playground upgrade to be inclusive/accessible'. KC to identify the document.  |
| 2.3 | Every 18 hours someone in Australia is born with cerebral palsy.  |

## Hornsby Play Plan – Parent & Carer Questionnaire

The Hornsby Shire Council (HSC) is developing a Play Plan which will guide the provision of public play opportunities across the Shire. Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects are the head consultants and are preparing the Plan on behalf of Council. Consultation with the community is fundamental to the success of developing this Plan, and Warrah Special School has been selected to participate in the process. Council is committed to equitable and inclusive playground provision in the Shire, and your contribution as a parent/carer of a child (or children) with a disability will meaningfully inform the plan. Your valuable insights will assist in the provision of equitable play opportunities for everyone.

We would love to hear about your views, needs and experiences when visiting playgrounds in the Hornsby Shire area. We are specifically interested in the needs and play interests of children and young people with a disability (up to the age of 18 years old). Whilst you may have other children in your care that do not have a disability, please answer the following questions about your child/ren with a disability. Your experience as a parent/carer is also of great importance to us - what are your needs? Please answer the questions below and add any additional insights you may have. Feel free to use a separate sheet if you need more space. Handwritten answers are fine. Please complete this questionnaire and return it to the School Office by 12 April 2019.

### QUESTIONS:

1. How many children with a disability do you have in your care? Please tell us more about the child/ren in the table below:

| Child | Age | Gender* | Physical Disability*   | Intellectual Disability* | Other Disability (please specify e.g. sensory, autism) | Personal Care Support Required?# |
|-------|-----|---------|------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 1     |     | M/ F    | Nil/ Mild/ Mod/ Severe | Nil/ Mild/ Mod/ Severe   |  | Yes/No                           |
| 2     |     | M/ F    | Nil/ Mild/ Mod/ Severe | Nil/ Mild/ Mod/ Severe   |  | Yes/No                           |

\* Please circle the best response for each child

#e.g. toileting, change facilities, continence, eating, dressing

2. Which playground/s in the Hornsby Shire do you visit with your child/ren, and how often?

3. Which playground/s are best suited to the needs of your child/ren? Can you tell us how they meet your needs?

4. What are the main barriers or challenges you experience when taking your child/ren on a playground outing?

5. How can the arrival and departure from playgrounds be improved or best supported?

6. What kind of play and social experiences would you like to see in parks and playgrounds in the Hornsby Shire? Please give us specific detail or examples.
7. What kind of supportive elements do you need in playgrounds? For example, fence height and type; path type and width; seating arrangements; shade requirements; accessible surfaces; bubblers; double gating etc.
8. Would you use an amenities block if provided? Yes..... No..... If yes, please identify specific features you require? For example, personal care facilities, access to water, seating for other children in your care etc.
9. Do you have other child/ren in your care without a disability? Yes..... No ..... If yes, what challenges do you face when you take all your children to a playground?
10. What else should be considered when making playgrounds in the Hornsby Shire more accessible and inclusive?

We look forward to your input and ideas and are excited about creating an inclusive Play Plan for everyone in the Hornsby Shire. Thank you for your time and suggestions.



Fiona Robbé

Director

Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects

**Warrah School Parent and Carer Survey – Verbatim comments from 4 respondents**

|   | Question  | Teacher/Carer 1 | Teacher/Carer 2  | Parent 1   | Parent 2   |
|---|---|-----------------|--|--|--|
| 1 | <i>Number of children with a disability in your care</i>  |                 |  | 1  | 1  |
|   | <i>Age</i>  |                 |  | 16   | 10   |
|   | <i>Gender</i>   |                 |  | M  | M  |
|   | <i>Physical Disability</i>  |                 |  | Nil  | Mod  |
|   | <i>Intellectual disability</i>  |                 |  | Severe   | Severe   |
|   | <i>Other disability</i>   |                 |  | Autism   | Autism   |
|   | <i>Personal support required?</i>   |                 |  | Yes  | Yes  |
| 2 | <i>Which playground/s in the Hornsby Shire do you visit with your child/ren?</i>                                    |                 |  |  | Fagan Park and various other parks visited by Warrah School  |
| 3 | <i>Which playground/s are best suited to the needs of your child/ren? Can you tell us how they meet your needs?</i> |                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fenced</li> <li>• well provided toilets and wheelchair accessible</li> <li>• clean drinking water</li> <li>• shade to rest</li> <li>• plenty of undercover eating areas and BBQs</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fagan Park</li> <li>• Bicentennial Park, West Pymble</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lots of space</li> <li>• plenty of greenery and sense of peace</li> <li>• sensory equipment like Timbrell Park in Drummoyne</li> <li>• ample parking</li> <li>• fenced area</li> <li>• away from traffic on busy roads and noise</li> </ul> |

|   | Question  | Teacher/Carer 1   | Teacher/Carer 2  | Parent 1  | Parent 2  |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| 4 | <i>What are the main barriers or challenges you experience when taking your child/ren on a playground outing?</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• paths leading to equipment</li> <li>• accessibility equipment</li> </ul> | ensuring adequate fencing is there to keep the children contained within a space so they can't run off | often too many people in the pay equipment area                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• crowds (not enough space or equipment)</li> <li>• waiting to use equipment spinners, slides, swings which are top favourites for kids with autism</li> <li>• no change facilities that are large and clean</li> <li>• playground is a long walk from the parking area</li> <li>• not enough equipment for bigger kids</li> </ul> |
| 5 | <i>How can the arrival and departure from playgrounds be improved or best supported?</i>                          | Disabled parking spaces should have paths from carpark into playground  |  | parking closer to venues or more parking locations to reduce crowding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ample disabled parking very near the park entrance</li> <li>• change facilities with access to drinking water near the parking and the playground</li> <li>• not too far to walk back to car</li> </ul>  |

|   | Question   | Teacher/Carer 1   | Teacher/Carer 2   | Parent 1   | Parent 2   |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| 6 | <i>What kind of play and social experiences would you like to see in parks and playgrounds in the Hornsby Shire? Please give us specific detail or examples.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accessible swings</li> <li>• hoists to enable wheelchair bound children to safely access various play equipment</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sensory playgrounds</li> <li>• liberty swing</li> <li>• more enticing climbing stations e.g. at top of castle there is a platform with a telescope viewfinder for child to look through</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• larger and more spacious play equipment e.g. climbing walls and nets</li> <li>• more walking tracks and bike/scooter tracks through interesting scenery</li> <li>• more user friendly ramps for bikes and scooters</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bush trails or sensory experiences like garden in Warrah school with textures paths, edible plants, tactile features (ropes, bells, chains, wheels etc) that the kids with low muscle tone can use</li> <li>• equipment for larger kids like rope climbing frames, larger swings (my son will get into a toddler swing if that is all there is)</li> <li>• water features</li> <li>• plenty of greenery e.g. arches with views</li> </ul> |

|   | Question   | Teacher/Carer 1   | Teacher/Carer 2  | Parent 1  | Parent 2  |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| 7 | <i>What kind of supportive elements do you need in playgrounds? For example, fence height and type; path type and width; seating arrangements; shade requirements; accessible surfaces; bubblers; double gating etc.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessible surfaces</li> <li>• Secure fencing to prevent escape</li> <li>• lots of shade</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• yes to all</li> </ul>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wider and less congested pathways and tracks</li> <li>• more seating at quieter and more shaded locations enroute</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• at least 1.8m fence with high enough lock to prevent kids from slipping out of playground</li> <li>• lots of shaded seating areas with backs on seats so that kids with low muscle tone can use</li> <li>• large enough toilets to be able to change bigger kids in private</li> <li>• not too many gates in fences - more likely one will be broken or left open</li> <li>• lots of long slides and swings PLEASE</li> <li>• Water play facilities</li> </ul> |
| 8 | <i>Would you use an amenities block if provided?</i>   | Yes   | yes  | yes   | yes   |
|   | <i>If yes, please identify specific features you require? For example, personal care facilities, access to water, seating for other children in your care etc.</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• change bed</li> <li>• hoist for wheelchair bound students for ease of toileting/ changing</li> </ul> | wheelchair Accessible and keys for school to gain access if locked | easy access to a facility for both male/female attending when toileting required for our son (do not like him entering male only toilets on his own)                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• - large enough space to change kids in private for older kids in nappies as the pokey toilets are always a challenge for us.</li> <li>- hammock type seating</li> </ul>  |
| 9 | <i>Do you have other child/ren without a disability?</i>   |   | yes  | yes   | yes   |

|    | Question  | Teacher/Carer 1   | Teacher/Carer 2  | Parent 1   | Parent 2   |
|----|---|---|--|--|--|
|    | <i>If yes, what challenges do you face when you take all your children to a playground?</i>                       |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>having direct/easy access to playground from parking area, especially for wheelchairs</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>they are left alone at times due to toileting or use of facilities by our son</li> <li>left alone if he has behavioural issues</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keeping them all contained!!!</li> <li>having the playground far from the field/bike areas which other kids may prefer</li> </ul>   |
| 10 | <i>What else should be considered when making playgrounds in the Hornsby Shire more accessible and inclusive?</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>wheelchair friendly water play with waterproof chair and hoist included</li> <li>areas for wheelchair bound students to be out of wheelchairs and move around independently</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>disabled parking bays wide and long enough for vans, especially allowing 3m extensions at rear when loading/unloading wheelchair bound students</li> <li>more liberty swings</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>separate areas of play equipment to reduce crowding</li> <li>separate age appropriate zones of equipment</li> </ul>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise</li> <li>Traffic</li> <li>Enough equipment for one kid to use a swing for a LONG time without bothering other kids</li> </ul> |

## APPENDIX B Pre-School Children and Infants Consultations

This section contains the detailed notes from two consultations with parents and carers of preschool children and infants:

|   |                    |        |  |                    |
|---|--------------------|--------|--|--------------------|
| Special Interest Groups – Pre-School Children and Infants | Beecroft Playgroup | 23 May | 8 Parents/Carers of children aged 0-4years | Consultation Notes |
|   | Galston Playgroup  | 28 May | 8 Parents/Carers of children aged 0-4years | Consultation Notes |

## Hornsby Play Plan

### Face to Face Consultation Summary

Beecroft Playgroup



| Meeting Details   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Meeting Date:     | Thursday 23 May 2019                                       |
| Meeting Venue:    | Beecroft Playgroup   |
| Meeting Topic:    | Hornsby Play Plan  |
| Meeting Time:     | 9:30am – 12:00pm   |
| Attendees         |  |
| <i>Name:</i>      | <i>Role:</i>   |
| Phillip Ruddock   | Hornsby Shire Council Mayor                                |
| Robert Browne     | Hornsby Shire Council Councillor                           |
| Joe Nicita        | Hornsby Shire Council Councillor                           |
| Vince del Gallego | Hornsby Shire Council Councillor                           |
| Emma Heyde        | Hornsby Shire Council Councillor                           |
| Zoe Cooke         | Hornsby Shire Council Landscape Architect/ Project Manager |
| Sharmista         | Beecroft Playgroup Carer                                   |
| Emily Yackous     | Beecroft Playgroup Carer                                   |
| Lijum Suo         | Beecroft Playgroup Carer                                   |
| Shelly Smith      | Beecroft Playgroup Carer                                   |
| Almitra Hill      | Beecroft Playgroup Carer                                   |
| Laura Keily       | Beecroft Playgroup Carer                                   |
| Steven Clare      | Beecroft Playgroup Carer                                   |
| Raine Chosc       | Beecroft Playgroup Carer                                   |
| Fiona Robbé       | Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects (FRLA)                    |
| Matthew Parkinson | Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects (FRLA)                    |

| 1.0 | Family/User Profile   |
|-----|---|
| 1.1 | Children using the Beecroft Playgroup range from 6 weeks through to 4 years of age.   |
| 2.0 | General/Background Comments   |
| 2.1 | It was identified that there is a need to plan for the future in Beecroft. The Beecroft station playground was identified as a missed opportunity. Better connectivity to nearby facilities and services needs to be considered. Upgrade of Beecroft Village Green was identified as an opportunity. Key priorities were parking, connectivity and safety from the main road. |

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 2.2        | Malton Road park playground was identified as needing an upgrade.   |
| 2.3        | Community not necessarily asking for new/more playgrounds, but rather small additions to ensure usability is enhanced.  |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Environment/Sustainability</b>   |
| 3.1        | The location of playgrounds should be considered for a child's health. Pollution (diesel trains for example) should not be near a child's playground.   |
| 3.2        | Greater use of sustainable and recycled materials was considered desirable.   |
| 3.3        | Hornsby Shire Council should capitalise on what they have with regards to adjacent surroundings and facilities (i.e connect to walking trails or bushland). It was discussed how HSC is blessed with bushland areas and that these are very welcome, and education regarding these areas is well received. Play provision should capitalise on bushland, and not just equipment |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Supportive Features</b>  |
| 4.1        | Fencing   |
| 4.1.1      | Gated fenced playgrounds were discussed as highly desirable so that carers can relax (where appropriate).   |
| 4.2        | Toilets   |
| 4.2.1      | Toilets are considered important when visiting playgrounds. Baby change facilities seen as highly desirable. Good examples include Boronia Park, Epping and parents rooms in shopping centres.  |
| 4.3        | Coffee Shop   |
| 4.3.1      | Coffee shops in the vicinity of a playground were raised as a desirable, but not compulsory item  |
| 4.4        | Shade   |
| 4.4.1      | Shade provision was earmarked as a necessity.   |
| 4.4.2      | Natural shade preferred   |
| 4.5        | Website   |
| 4.5.1      | Council's website needs to be updated to provide better information about the Shire's parks and playgrounds and facilities available.   |
| 4.5.2      | The website should have filters that allow users to search for specific features.   |
| 4.5.3      | It was noted that Council is currently undertaking a review of the parks page on the website and an upgrade is underway.  |
| 4.5.4      | It was suggested Council collaborate with mums groups i.e. Hills District Mums.   |
| 4.6        | Solar Lighting  |
| 4.6.1      | It was stated that the plan should consider solar lighting opportunities in urban parks to allow for after dark play  |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Play Equipment/ Play Elements</b>  |
| 5.1        | Play opportunities for multi ages is crucial. Not all playgrounds to be for toddler/ primary etc. Age specific playground equipment selection is important.   |
| 5.2        | Equipment should be selected to improve cognitive development etc.  |
| 5.3        | Mud/ Sand   |

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 5.3.1      | Mud and sand were suggested as good play elements for toddlers. These materials allow for creative, social and imaginative play.  |
| 5.4        | Water Taps  |
| 5.4.1      | Water taps were stated as a play item that is missing in Hornsby (or at least in the Beecroft region). Waterplay should be considered a priority in the play plan.  |
| 5.5        | Soft Ground/ Lawn/ Undulating terrain   |
| 5.5.1      | There were requests for soft ground, lawn, and undulating terrain for non walkers to explore (mounds, low rocks etc).   |
| 5.6        | Bike Riding   |
| 5.6.1      | It was noted that there are no adequate learn-to-ride areas in Hornsby (or at least the Beecroft area). It was stated that there is a lot of flat area around Beecroft and that it should be considered.  |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Children and Dogs</b>  |
| 6.1        | The opportunity for children and dogs to play together was discussed.   |
| 6.2        | Families often need to exercise dogs and entertain their children and these two things are generally incompatible.  |
| 6.3        | Consider having dog off leash areas close to fenced playgrounds and the provision of shelters and picnic tables in the dog park areas   |
| 6.4        | Also consider dog tie-up posts with water bowls 10m away from playgrounds.  |
| 6.5        | Examples of parks that do this well included Waverton Park, Lyne Road (Hornsby Shire) and Macquarie Park (City of Ryde?).   |
| <b>7.0</b> | <b>Shared Facilities</b>  |
| 7.1        | The group were enthusiastic about sharing facilities such as school playgrounds and ovals.  |
| <b>8.0</b> | <b>Denser Living</b>  |
| 8.1        | The group discussed the need for consideration of new play provision in medium and high density areas, i.e. less provision in backyards for play means more playgrounds are necessary   |
| <b>9.0</b> | <b>Summary</b>  |
| 9.1        | <p>Parents and toddlers would greatly benefit from the following items being included in Hornsby Shire Council's Playgrounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fencing</li> <li>Toilets with baby change facilities</li> <li>Coffee shop nearby</li> <li>Shade provision (preferably natural)</li> <li>An updated website with filters and current information about playgrounds.</li> <li>Lighting for extended use</li> <li>Mud/sand and water play experiences</li> <li>Bike riding/ learn to ride area</li> <li>Co-located dog friendly areas</li> <li>The ability to use existing play facilities (like schools) on weekends.</li> </ul> |

## Hornsby Play Plan

### Face to Face Consultation Summary

#### Galston Playgroup



| Meeting Details        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Meeting Date:          | Thursday 28 May 2019                    |
| Meeting Venue:         | Galston Playgroup                       |
| Meeting Topic:         | Hornsby Play Plan                       |
| Meeting Time:          | 9:30am – 11:15am                        |
| Attendees              |   |
| <i>Name:</i>           | <i>Position:</i>                        |
| Sophie                 | Galston Playgroup                       |
| Natalie                | Galston Playgroup                       |
| 6 Parents/ Carers      | Galston Playgroup                       |
| Fiona Robbé (FR)       | Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects (FRLA) |
| Matthew Parkinson (MP) | Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects (FRLA) |

| 1.0   | Background  |
|-------|---|
| 1.1   | The playgroup is valued by families as great environment for socialisation, for both carers and children  |
| 1.2   | The playgroup venue, although well used, was stated as undermaintained and in need of work. Parents believe some items are unsafe.  |
| 1.3   | Many parents thought there was a lack of playgrounds in the Galston area. Most did not know of nearby Nancy Place Playground; those that did stated it was unused and had a 'dodgy' feeling.  |
| 1.4   | The carers largely agreed that Glenorie (mainly Hills Shire Council playgrounds) are good playgrounds, that cater for their and their child's needs (appropriate equipment and supportive elements).  |
| 1.5   | The carers largely stated that having to pay to use their local playground (Fagan Park) is unacceptable. They understand the need for payment, but do not believe people of Galston/ Arcadia should need to pay, and should be provided with a season pass (possibly only usable on weekdays). Note that the current pass has to be purchased. This is not equitable compared with other Shire playgrounds. |
| 2.0   | Supportive features required in Public Playgrounds  |
| 2.1   | Shade   |
| 2.1.1 | Shade was mentioned numerous times as a key feature in playgrounds. Both natural and artificial shade are valued  |
| 2.2   | Carparking  |
| 2.2.1 | Close, safe car parking was a stated a crucial feature in playgrounds. Parents arrive with prams, and young kids. Safe disembarking from the car is required.   |
| 2.3   | Seating   |
| 2.3.1 | Seating in a playground (preferably close to equipment) was highlighted as a very welcome feature in playgrounds.   |

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 2.4        | Fencing   |
| 2.4.1      | Fencing was seen to be essential by a majority of carers.   |
| 2.4.2      | Fencing was also mentioned when parents were requesting a 'safe' setting for children.  |
| 2.5        | Bins  |
| 2.5.1      | Bins in playgrounds were itemised as a necessity.   |
| 2.6        | Toilets   |
| 2.6.1      | Toilets were noted as a feature carers look for. Toilets extend the stay of a playground visit.   |
| 2.7        | Setting   |
| 2.7.1      | Parents requested a natural, safe setting that is clean.  |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Play equipment/ Play opportunities</b>   |
| 3.1        | In general, carers requested to have age-appropriate equipment and setting for toddlers and babies.   |
| 3.2        | Slides  |
| 3.2.1      | Slides were a feature requested by a few carers. Must be age appropriate sizes, with different length slides for different ages.  |
| 3.3        | Sandpit   |
| 3.3.1      | Sand play was largely requested as a type of play that works for younger children.  |
| 3.3.2      | Sandpit quality/ cleanliness is crucial. Sandpit covers are valued by all.  |
| 3.4        | Bike Area   |
| 3.4.1      | Bike play or a learn to bike area was stated as a good play opportunity for younger children.   |
| 3.5        | Nature Play / Natural Setting   |
| 3.5.1      | A natural setting in a playground was hugely appreciated by carers. Including the opportunity to see birds, walk through nature, feed ducks, balance on logs etc.       |
| 3.6        | Kick Around Space   |
| 3.6.1      | Kick around space/ Grassed area was welcomed by carers.   |
| 3.7        | Swings  |
| 3.7.1      | Age appropriate swings were requested for younger children – toddler seats and lower swing sets.  |
| 3.8        | Climbing  |
| 3.8.1      | Age appropriate climbing pieces were a favoured play opportunity.   |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Playgrounds that meet preschool Children's needs</b>   |
| 4.1        | Willow Park Playground – many things to do, seating excellent, maintenance is good, good off-street parking   |
| 4.2        | Les Shore Oval Playground (new) – has a cubby and small slides, tramp and scooter track. Good car parking and quiet (no cars). No bark (mulch) is good – stays cleaner. |

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 4.3 | <p>Fagan park (top playground) – Lots of activities, can sit down and watch, good spots for adults, lovely trees and nature, BBQ facilities, Coffee and ice cream (when it's there, appreciated), Nature walks.</p> <p>'This spot has everything' – like the veggie patch, walking in bushland, exploring and has a good sandpit.</p> |
| 4.4 | <p>Carrs Bush Playground (Fagan Park) – 1 hour entertainment here compared to top playground. Opportunity to use imagination. Waterplay is very good.</p> <p>Love the swings and love the natural setting. It is appreciated that a lot of children go here for social play.</p>  |
| 4.5 | <p>Phillip Ruddock Playground Westleigh and Edward Bennet Park, Cherrybrook– Bike/imaginative play is good</p>  |
| 4.6 | <p>2 x Glenorie playgrounds. The quiet setting and age appropriate equipment are enjoyed</p>  |

## APPENDIX C Older People Consultation

This section contains the detailed notes from one consultation with older people.

|  |        |         |                                 |                    |
|--|--------|---------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Special Interest Groups – Older People | Probus | 12 June | 35 Retirees mainly aged over 70 | Consultation Notes |
|--|--------|---------|---------------------------------|--------------------|

## Hornsby Play Plan

### Face to Face Consultation Summary

Hornsby Probus



| Meeting Details     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Meeting Date:       | Wednesday 12 June 2019                     |
| Meeting Venue:      | Hornsby Uniting Church                     |
| Meeting Topic:      | Hornsby Play Plan – Intergenerational Play |
| Meeting Time:       | 10:30am – 12:00pm                          |
| Attendees           |  |
| <i>Name:</i>        | <i>Position:</i>                           |
| Vandra Mellis       | Hornsby Probus                             |
| Cr Mick Marr        | Hornsby Shire Council Councillor           |
| Cr Joe Nicita       | Hornsby Shire Council Councillor           |
| 34 Probus attendees | Hornsby Probus                             |
| Fiona Robbé         | Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects (FRLA)    |
| Michelle Robbé      | Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects (FRLA)    |
| Matthew Parkinson   | Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects (FRLA)    |
| Isabelle Kikirekov  | Urbis                                      |

Demographic of audience – 35 people, retirees who have been in business before. Most are over 70. Many over 80. No-one with walkers or wheelchairs. Special needs mentioned: mild cerebral palsy

The consultation commenced at 10:30am. Tea, coffee and biscuits were served while informal conversations were taking place.

Fiona Robbé gave a presentation at 11:00am on the topic: 'Multigenerational Play Opportunities – Planning & Design with specific focus on Older Australians'.

The key points were:

- Homo Ludens: The spirit of playing stays with us our whole life
- Statistics/ snapshot of health issues of older Australians (65+)
- Overlooked groups in the design of public parks: the elderly, the disable and children
- Characteristics/ demographics of Hornsby Shire
- Use of public domains by older people
- Examples of intergenerational play equipment
- Play equipment for all
- Exercise for older Australians and being active
- Social ball game provision
- Play with grandchildren
- Play programs e.g. Getting Old and Living Dangerously (Brisbane City Council)
- Support infrastructure for older Australians in playgrounds

Following the presentation, Probus Club were asked the following questions, which led to animated discussions.

- 3) What sort of playful activities would you like to do in a park or playground?

4) What facilities would you like in a park or playground to support your visit?

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Support infrastructure for both left and right sided dominate people</b>   |
| 1.1        | A comment was made by a person with Cerebral Palsy to one side of their body (Spastic hemiplegia/hemiparesis). It was mentioned that areas are not always designed for people with one arm or leg. Handrails on both the left and the right or middle were mentioned as priorities for stairs and steep walkways. |
| 1.2        | It was mentioned that doors are often heavy and difficult to use with one usable hand, and often means a coffee or similar is placed on the ground to allow for the door to be opened.  |
| 1.3        | Fiona mentioned that universal design is a 'mantra' of inclusive design philosophy  |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Local Playgrounds</b>  |
| 2.1        | Wahroonga Park Playground was mentioned as a playground 'designed for children', it was noted that it is 'thrilling' to see other children happy. Wahroonga Park is good because of the variety of swings for various ages and abilities.   |
| 2.2        | Reddy Park was mentioned as a playground often visited with grandchildren as it has a beautiful bush setting and the flying fox is enjoyed. Some Probus members are interested in giving flying foxes a go; some worried about injury   |
| 2.3        | Willow Park Playground and Waitara Park Playground were mentioned as very popular playgrounds for grandparents to visit with grandchildren.   |
| 2.4        | Boronia Park (Parramatta City Council) was mentioned as a good playground with lots of things to do for adults  |
| 2.5        | There was a question in the audience of where a particular showcased inclusive playground was (Corrigans Reserve, All Abilities Playground, Batemans Bay), and if there are any similar in Hornsby.   |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Education Program</b>  |
| 3.1        | An education program was suggested (as part of the Hornsby Play Plan) as members of the public do not think older people are welcome to use the equipment, and that they should 'grow up'.  |
| 3.2        | It was suggested the term 'playground' could be substituted with another word as it has a connotation that it is only for children.   |
| 3.3        | 'I want a sign at the playground to say...I'm welcome here, and a valid user. This is for me'   |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Communication</b>  |
| 4.1        | Communication to inform residents of available inclusive infrastructure/ programs for older people was mentioned as vital.  |
| 4.2        | Advertisements/ communication was suggested as being across many formats: newspapers, websites, emails etc.   |
| 4.3        | Communication was also recommended to be multilingual.  |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>High Density</b>   |
| 5.1        | The concern was raised about the high rise buildings popping up in the Shire, with insufficient play/ open space or public domain.  |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Play Equipment</b>   |
| 6.1        | Intergenerational Equipment   |

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 6.1.1       | Intergenerational equipment that focuses on balance, agility, co-ordination etc. received a very enthusiastic response.  |
| 6.1.2       | The intergenerational equipment was valued as something that can be done with grandchildren.   |
| 6.1.3       | It was stated that falls are a big issue for older Australians. Preventative health is crucial, and being more active regularly would be beneficial to this group.   |
| 6.1.4       | A 'fitness plan' directed at older Australians was suggested for Hornsby Shire Council.  |
| 6.2         | You + Me Swing   |
| 6.2.1       | The 'you and me swing', allowing for face-to-face swinging with a grandchild was supported as something that would be very welcome in the Hornsby Shire.   |
| 6.3         | Boules / Informal Ball Sports  |
| 6.3.1       | A dedicated Boules area was endorsed by this group.  |
| 6.3.2       | Ping Pong tables or other ball sports where an umpire or similar is not required also received positive reaction.  |
| 6.4         | Zip Line   |
| 6.4.1       | It was suggested to have a big zip line from one end of Fagan Park to the other.<br>Fiona mentioned zip line/ high ropes course may be installed at Hornsby Park.  |
| 6.5         | Chess Sets   |
| 6.5.1       | It was asked if there are any chess sets in the Shire, and if not, could they be considered.   |
| 6.6         | Mazes  |
| 6.6.1       | A maze was requested. This would be fun to do with grandkids, they are attractive, and can (should) be accessible. Maze would need to be low for safety/surveillance   |
| <b>7.0</b>  | <b>Special Needs</b>   |
| 7.1         | A question was asked whether there were any plans for equipment for those with special needs in the Play Plan.<br><br>Fiona responded stating that Fagan Park is quite substantially inclusive, and that Warrah Special School use Fagan Park monthly. It was also stated that the Play Plan will strive for playgrounds to be for 'all ages, all abilities, all cultures' with equitable distribution across the Shire, and with due respect for the adopted play hierarchy |
| 7.2         | It was suggested that Variety club can assist with funds for inclusive playgrounds, and Hornsby Shire Council should look into this.   |
| <b>8.0</b>  | <b>Dog Friendly Playgrounds</b>  |
| 8.1         | It was requested to have some dog friendly playgrounds. It was mentioned that dogs typically are not welcome within 10m of a playground, although Councils are making an effort to have dog tie up posts and dog bowls nearby.   |
| <b>9.0</b>  | <b>Supportive Features</b>   |
| 9.1         | It was stated that playgrounds need to be located close to parking, walking distances not too far. 'Regular seats' are valued. Drinking water and nearby toilets are important for this used group.  |
| <b>10.0</b> | <b>Shade</b>   |

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|------|--|
| 10.1 | Shade was stated as crucial in a playground. Climate change was mentioned as even more reasoning for shade. Noted that Hornsby Shire Council have committed 25,000 new trees to be planted in the Shire. |
|------|--|

The meeting concluded with the Probus Club thanking the Consultant team for the opportunity to have a say in the Hornsby Play Plan.

## APPENDIX D

# Aboriginal Nation Consultations

This section contains the detailed notes from two consultations with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee members

|  |                    |               |   |                    |
|--|--------------------|---------------|---|--------------------|
| Special Interest Groups – Aboriginal Nations | Ku Ring Gai Nation | 18 April 2019 | 1 Ku Ring Gai Person - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee | Consultation Notes |
|--|--------------------|---------------|---|--------------------|

## Hornsby Play Plan

### Phone Consultation Summary

#### Ku Ring Gai Nation Consultation



| Meeting Details                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Meeting Date:                     | Thursday 18 April 2019   |
| Meeting Venue:                    | Phone Call   |
| Meeting Topic:                    | Hornsby Play Plan  |
| Meeting Time:                     | 9:30am – 10:00am   |
| Attendees                         |  |
| <i>Name:</i>                      | <i>Position:</i>   |
| Ku Ring Gai Nation Representative | Cultural Heritage Officer, Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation |
| Fiona Robbé (FR)                  | Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects (FRLA)                                |

| 1.0 | Suggestions for Play Spaces  |
|-----|--|
| 1.1 | Series of sandstone boulders   |
| 1.2 | Solar powered fountain   |
| 1.3 | Grinding grooves in sandstone boulders   |
| 1.4 | Include plant species that children can use for spear making, e.g. grass trees |
| 1.5 | Bush tucker garden   |
| 1.6 | Circular seating, i.e. yarning circles   |

## APPENDIX E    **Hornsby Councillor Consultations**

This section contains the detailed notes from two consultations with Hornsby Shire Councillors.

|                             |                         |         |                    |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| Hornsby Council Councillors | Hornsby Council Meeting | 3 April | Consultation Notes |
|                             | Clr Janelle McIntosh    | 9 April | Consultation Notes |

## Hornsby Play Plan

### Face to Face Consultation Summary

Hornsby Councillors



| Meeting Details   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Meeting Date:     | 3 April 2019                            |
| Meeting Venue:    | Hornsby Council Chambers                |
| Meeting Topic:    | Hornsby Play Plan                       |
| Meeting Time:     | 5pm to 6pm                              |
| Attendees         |   |
| <i>Name:</i>      | <i>Position:</i>                        |
| Nathan Tilbury    | Councillor Ward A                       |
| Warren Waddell    | Councillor Ward A                       |
| Mick Marr         | Councillor Ward A                       |
| Joe Nicita        | Councillor Ward B                       |
| Emma Heyde        | Councillor Ward C                       |
| Michael Hutchence | Councillor Ward C                       |
| Vince de Gallego  | Councillor Ward C                       |
| Andrew Flick      | HSC Parks                               |
| David Sheils      | HSC Parks                               |
| Sasheen Attygalle | HSC Strategic + Place Unit              |
| Fiona Robbé       | Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects (FRLA) |
| Michelle Robbé    | Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects (FRLA) |
| Lucy Band         | Urbis                                   |
| <i>Apologies:</i> |   |
| Phillip Ruddock   | Mayor                                   |
| Janelle McIntosh  | Councillor Ward B                       |
| Robert Browne     | Councillor Ward B                       |

| 1.0 | Process  |
|-----|--|
| 1.1 | David Sheils opened the session and explained the context of the Play Strategy as part of the LSPS.  |
| 1.2 | Fiona Robbé gave a presentation of the planned approach and process for developing the strategy.   |
| 1.3 | Community consultation is key to the process. Fiona outlined consultations to be undertaken with children, young people, and adults in the Shire (Community Survey, 2 schools, 2 public events |

|            |  |
|------------|--|
|            | and 8 special interest groups) asking the overarching question “What matters to you about play in Hornsby Shire and what does this mean for the future?”   |
| 1.4        | Councillors raised questions and concerns during and after the presentation. The main themes (other than the logistics of community consultation) are noted below.   |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Policy and Guidelines for Playground Provision</b>  |
| 2.1        | Questions were asked about policy related to putting playgrounds where the people are. E.g. walking distance from home for local parks, or short drives.   |
| 2.2        | It is recognised that the mix of high density, medium density and low density areas across the LGA require a different equation to determining the number and mix of playgrounds, and that the strategy will go beyond the traditional “number of playgrounds per x square kilometres” (compass method)  |
| 2.3        | Concerns and discussion about identifying barriers to play for people in high density areas having overcrowding of playgrounds such as Willow Park, versus people in the more remote areas such as Wiseman’s Ferry having to drive miles to a playground   |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Inclusive Play</b>  |
| 3.1        | It was noted that the Aboriginal communities would be consulted and that the information from these would be included to ensure best practice of cultural diversity in playground design and provision   |
| 3.2        | Discussion was held about the need to have guidelines to cater for various types of disability, and the challenges of inclusion in playgrounds. E.g. a 14 year old young person with Downs Syndrome has an adult sized body and the intellect to want to play at the level of 4 year olds. Will regional playgrounds cater for this need? It is accepted that this is not practical to cater for in smaller local playground which tend to be targeted to specific age groups. |
| 3.3        | Principles of inclusive play were discussed as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Having “something for everyone” regardless of age, culture or ability</li> <li>• Being comfortable and safe</li> <li>• Being able to stay e.g. having toilets, water, seating etc</li> </ul>   |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Catering to different age groups in playground design and provisioning</b>  |
| 4.1        | Discussion ranged across two points of view, and the need to address this tension in the Play Plan: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is best practice to have separate play spaces for young people, older and younger children. This is also something that children and young people ask for in consultations.</li> <li>2. Parents and carers can’t be split between separate playgrounds to supervise toddlers and children in one outing</li> </ol>            |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Nature play, natural features and natural settings</b>  |
| 5.1        | Hornsby has a natural bush setting to leverage and encourage interaction with nature. The Play Plan could look at opportunities for nature play across all ages and abilities.   |
| 5.2        | There is opportunity to use logs and branches from the bush in adjacent play settings in a safe way. In some playgrounds this is happening already that children are making cubbies out of branches from the bush  |
| 5.3        | It was generally agreed that Council could promote the bushland experiences at playgrounds as a unique feature of the Shire, and to attract visitors from beyond the Shire.  |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Fenced playgrounds</b>  |
| 6.1        | The topic of fenced playgrounds has two points of view:  |

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
|             | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recognition that fenced playgrounds are required for inclusion of children with behavioural issues, ADHD, Autism, sensory processing disorders e.g. the Children at Warrah Special School would love to go on bushwalks that are inclusive.</li> <li>2. Concerns about the cost of fencing playgrounds when that money could be used for play experiences. The point of view also being that it is not practical or affordable to make all playgrounds inclusive.</li> </ol>   |
| 6.2         | Hornsby has a lot of fenced playgrounds. It was discussed that the Play Plan needs to consider the site, community needs, common sense and finances in provision of fencing.   |
| <b>7.0</b>  | <b>Shade and shelter</b>   |
| 7.1         | Councilors are reporting strong points of view from their residents that every playground requires shade. Whilst many playgrounds have natural shade from the bush setting, there are many playgrounds that may require shade structures. There is widespread feedback from parents about children getting burned on hot slides and equipment in the heat of the day.  |
| 7.2         | <p>With the advent of climate change and global warming, Australian Standards and The Cancer Council recommend strategies for shade provision in playgrounds. Factors to consider include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of evergreen versus deciduous trees to cater for sun in winter</li> <li>• Corrugated iron is not suitable for shade as it cuts UV light, not heat</li> <li>• For small playgrounds, Standards Australia recommends that parents are responsible for heat/shade safety, and that Council cannot address every risk in every playground</li> <li>• Using a combination of natural shade and artificial shade structures in larger playgrounds e.g. Wahroonga Park</li> <li>• Some playgrounds require artificial structures e.g. Foxglove can't have natural shade due to contaminated soil</li> </ul> |
| 7.3         | Strategies adopted elsewhere could also be examined. e.g. in Perth they take down shade structures in winter   |
| <b>8.0</b>  | <b>Shared space and facilities with third parties</b>  |
| 8.1         | <p>Fiona Robbé proposed some ideas to consider to extend play opportunities, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having bylaws that put the onus on developers to provide play spaces for high rise developments, as is done in Canada and Singapore e.g. 1,000 units require x m<sup>2</sup> of play space</li> <li>• Developers partner with Council to participate in Playground planning and provision</li> <li>• Revising by-laws to be more child friendly e.g. current by-laws are somewhat hostile to children by having parents "keep them under control" in common areas</li> <li>• Using playgrounds in schools on weekends or out of school hours e.g. Asquith School</li> </ul>   |
| 8.2         | There was discussion about Wallaraba as an example of extending play to the next level e.g. art play, fenced areas   |
| <b>9.0</b>  | <b>Adventure play</b>  |
| 9.1         | <p>Discussion about Hornsby providing an adventure play experience such as the Wild Playground in Centennial Park or the Melbourne Adventure Playground covered topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The novelty of adventure play e.g. lighting fires, making pancakes, making cubbies, messy play</li> <li>• The opportunity to have a destination playground that is large and famous and draws people into the Shire</li> <li>• Fagan Park may be an ideal site</li> <li>• Organisations such as Rotary, Variety Club could be approached to raise funds and collaborate on provision and maintenance</li> </ul>   |
| <b>10.0</b> | <b>Input from Councilor's 9 year old son</b>   |
| 10.1        | Councilor Tilbury shared input from his 9 year old son to provide a child's perspective on desired elements in a playground:   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees and grassy hills to roll down</li> <li>• Toilets – can they be unlocked?</li> <li>• Bins – to be emptied and kept clean</li> <li>• Picnic tables for adults to sit at</li> <li>• Shade</li> <li>• Accessible paths for strollers</li> <li>• Co-Location with sports fields</li> </ul> <p>Access to coffee to make it social for adults, and provide commercial gain from green spaces</p> |
|--|--|

## Hornsby Play Plan

### Face to Face Consultation Summary

Janelle McIntosh



| Meeting Details         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Meeting Date:           | Tuesday 9 April 2019                                     |
| Meeting Venue:          | Cherrybrook Village Café                                 |
| Meeting Topic:          | Hornsby Play Plan – Engagement Strategy and General Plan |
| Meeting Time:           | 3:00pm – 4:00pm  |
| Attendees               |  |
| <i>Name:</i>            | <i>Role:</i>   |
| Janelle McIntosh        | Hornsby Shire Council Councillor                         |
| David Sheils            | HSC Parks and Recreation                                 |
| Fiona Robbé             | Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects (FRLA)                  |
| Michelle De Vries Robbé | Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects (FRLA)                  |
| Debbie Graham           | Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects (FRLA)                  |
| Matthew Parkinson       | Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects (FRLA)                  |

| 1.0 | School consultation review   |
|-----|--|
| 1.1 | Cherrybrook Technology High School consultation went well. Well organized and fun.   |
| 1.2 | Janelle may turn up to Waitara Public School consult day.  |
| 2.0 | Other consultations  |
| 2.1 | Youth event + Waitara playground opening will be a clipboard preference sheet (HSC consulting team heading to Saturday morning consult at Berowra Skate Park). |
| 2.2 | Consultations must be advertised on HSC website/ social media and shared by Councillors .  |
| 2.3 | Parent from Galston interview has already happened – a follow up meeting probable as play plan progresses.   |
| 2.4 | Consultation with Warrah School has already happened, although there's a questionnaire currently out to parents/ caregivers.                                   |
| 2.5 | Playgroup consultation TBA.  |
| 2.6 | Older people consultation: suggested to consult with an active probus group.   |
| 2.7 | ATSI meeting – JM believes HSC's suggestion of group is appropriate, date TBA.   |
| 3.0 | Guidelines/ Research   |
| 3.1 | FR stated the play plan will be informed by recent state inclusive guidelines, as well as international guides.  |
| 3.2 | Play Plan should consider what Korea is doing with high rise schools – playgrounds being built on multiple levels.   |

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 3.3        | It was stated there are two academics going to Toronto + Vancouver to study how vertical living is working there.                           |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Dementia friendly city/ Aging population</b>   |
| 4.1        | Hornsby Shire Council is an ageing population and a dementia friendly city is crucial.  |
| 4.2        | There are links between designing for dementia and designing for inclusion – ensure play plan discusses this.                               |
| 4.3        | With HSC's ageing population, grandparents will look for intergenerational playgrounds.   |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Funding/ Partnerships</b>  |
| 5.1        | If Hornsby Council have a plan (for playground provision) in place, then developers will/can contribute.                                    |
| 5.2        | Having an articulated plan will mean funding will become available (i.e. NSW Health/ Cancer Council etc.).                                  |
| 5.3        | Play plan should consider shared space/ partnerships with local schools etc.  |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Community Survey</b>   |
| 6.1        | Community Survey is currently underway and won't be 'live' until after JOC consultants meeting – no double up or questions.                 |
| 6.2        | Community widely consulted at the moment, be wary of survey fatigue.  |
| 6.3        | Local schools must be sent the link to Community Survey to be published in newsletters/ distributed to emails etc.                          |
| <b>7.0</b> | <b>Vertical Living</b>  |
| 7.1        | It was discussed that HSC is ready to be courageous in terms of vertical living – play provision must be considered in denser living areas. |
| 7.2        | Public is curious why Waitara has received two recent new playgrounds – answer: Because there is a need in this area.                       |
| 7.3        | Quarter acre blocks aren't realistic anymore – the way we live is changing – so play must adapt, and provision must be innovative.          |