

Early Years Action Plan- Year 1- 2026/27

Purpose

This Action Plan outlines priority initiatives approved for implementation to support improved outcomes for children from birth to school age, and their families. Initiatives included in this plan have been assessed through Council's early years priority assessment process.

Strategic Alignment

- Council and Wellbeing Plan objectives
- Municipal Early Years Plan (MEYP) priorities
- Relevant State Government early years reform directions
- Child safe and inclusion principles.

Council Initiative Summary

The following table summarises initiatives to be delivered during 2026/27.

Initiative	Priority Area	Intended Outcome	Lead Unit	Priority Rating
Develop and implement an annual communication plan for Early Years Services	1	To facilitate the regular promotion of the Early Years Services through various media platforms.	Children's Services Maternal and Child Health & Immunisation	Medium
Introduce grandparent / grandchild intergenerational activities across the municipality	4	To provide further intergenerational lifelong learning opportunities including in libraries and as part of future pop-up playgroups and children's week and seniors' week activities.	Children's Services	High
Explore opportunities to respectfully include children's voices in consultation activities	3	To monitor and initiate opportunities to include children's voices in consultation activities, in line with the developed procedures.	Children's Services	High
Improve community understanding of funded kindergarten options and pathways	2	To assist families understand the range of funded kindergarten options available (including sessional and long day childcare settings) and that they are supported to make informed choices that meet their needs.	Children's Services	High
Provide a well-supported rollout of the Pre-Prep program	4	To provide coordinated support to service providers and families throughout the transition by implementing clear communication, effective change management strategies, and a user-friendly software system to streamline registration and enrolment processes.	Children's Services	High
Establish foundations for Pre-Prep implementation including governance, communication and system readiness	4	To ensure service providers are supported to confidently implement the Pre-Prep program through clear communication, improved systems, and strong peer networks that enable shared learning and collaboration.	Children's Services	High
Investigate and identify opportunities to strengthen parent wellbeing, connection and access to mental health support services	3	To gain an understanding of community need and identify opportunities to strengthen parent wellbeing, connection and access to appropriate supports.	Children's Services Maternal and Child Health & Immunisation	Medium

Initiative	Priority Area	Intended Outcome	Lead Unit	Priority Rating
Explore a more flexible MCH & Immunisation service delivery model	2	To develop a scoping document that evaluates flexible MCH and Immunisation service delivery options, including extended-hours models, through analysis of demand, workforce capacity and resourcing requirements, ensuring alignment with broader service planning priorities and cost-neutral implementation.	Maternal and Child Health & Immunisation	Medium
Develop a structured child & family health education and support program, including evidence-informed content and delivery models	3	To establish an accessible and responsive child & family health education and support program that strengthens caregiver knowledge, confidence and engagement, supports early intervention and prevention, and aligns with MCH service delivery and community needs.	Maternal and Child Health & Immunisation	Medium
Assess all Council facilities to evaluate accessibility and functionality, informing future upgrade and redevelopment planning.	6	To work with Facilities and Asset Teams to audit all early years facilities (both kindergarten and MCH) to identify gaps in accessibility, safety, and functionality, and develop a prioritised plan for upgrades and redevelopment. To ensure alignment with the <i>Kindergarten Partnership Strategy 2024-2034</i> .	Children's Services	Medium
GIA initiative/s Develop and implement a Gender Equity and Inclusion Practice Guide for Early Years Services	2	To ensure all Council early years services consistently apply inclusive and gender equitable practices, supporting safe, respectful and welcoming environments for all children and families.	Children's Services Maternal and Child Health & Immunisation	Medium
Deliver targeted workforce training and capability building in gender equity and inclusion	5	To build workforce capability and confidence in applying gender equity, inclusion and culturally safe practices across early years services.	Children's Services Maternal and Child Health & Immunisation	Medium