Community Consultation Summary Report

Airport West Kindergarten Redevelopment

May 2026



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mvcc.vic.gov.au

City of Moonee Valley

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1 Summary

1.1 Background

The Victorian Government is dedicated to ensuring all children have the best start to life. To achieve this, the government is making substantial investments to make room for more children to access increased hours in kindergarten programs throughout the state.

Moonee Valley City Council is committed to a partnership with the Victorian Government to deliver these opportunities to children in our community. Over the next five years, we will work together on various kindergarten redevelopment projects to address the anticipated increase in demand for places.

This major infrastructure initiative underscores our investment in delivering high-quality early childhood education, with co-located maternal and child health services, to families and children across the municipality.

While many aspects of the project, such as funding allocation and overall design, are guided by the scope of this state government-funded initiative and therefore limit the influence of community input, we value and encourage feedback on specific areas that directly affect local experiences. This feedback will enable us to work with the state government to incorporate the desires of our community.

In May 2026, Council consulted with community about the redevelopment of Airport West Kindergarten. Feedback received during this consultation will inform play space design, landscaping and future early years planning in Moonee Valley.

1.2 Engagement strategies

Community members could contribute to the consultation via:

1. Completing a hard copy or online survey via a QR code on a poster, postcard or the project Your Say page (Appendix 6.3)
2. Contacting Council via phone or in writing
3. Attending an in-person pop-up event on-site on 16 May 2026

1.3 Key findings

- A total of 17 people participated in the consultation, including 15 survey responses, one email submission and one pop-up attendee.

- Safety was the strongest theme across the feedback, with respondents emphasising secure access, fencing, and safer drop-off and pick-up conditions.
- Participants strongly supported nature-based and inclusive play spaces, including gardens, trees, climbing and sensory elements, and accessible design for children with different needs.
- There was a clear preference for native and indigenous planting that is sustainable, educational and practical, with added habitat, shade and seating.
- Overall, respondents want the redevelopment to create a safe, welcoming and child-friendly environment that reflects local values and supports learning through nature.

2 Introduction

2.1 Key engagement questions

Participants were invited to provide feedback about early years services, play spaces and landscaping.

The survey asked respondents:

- What do you think is most important for Council to consider regarding the enhancement of local early years infrastructure and its impact on improving kindergartens in Moonee Valley?
- Council is dedicated to creating play spaces that meet safety regulations, follow best teaching practices and include natural elements that are inclusive for all children. What should we consider to help us achieve this?
- We're planning the frontage landscaping for Airport West Kindergarten redevelopment and would love your input. What types of plants would you like to see? We're looking for options that reflect the local neighbourhood, promote sustainability, and create a welcoming, vibrant space.

Survey respondents were also asked questions about their demographic characteristics, as outlined in Section 3.3 below.

3 Methodology

3.1 Communication

Participants were informed about the engagement project via the onsite posters, Your Say page, social media posts, and community newsletters. \

3.2 Participation

The table below provides information about consultation participation.

Table 1. Consultation participation

Consultation	Engagement Type	Participation
Online survey	Survey responses:	**15**
Email submissions	Emails sent to Council	**1**
Pop-up attendance		**1**
Total respondents: **17**		

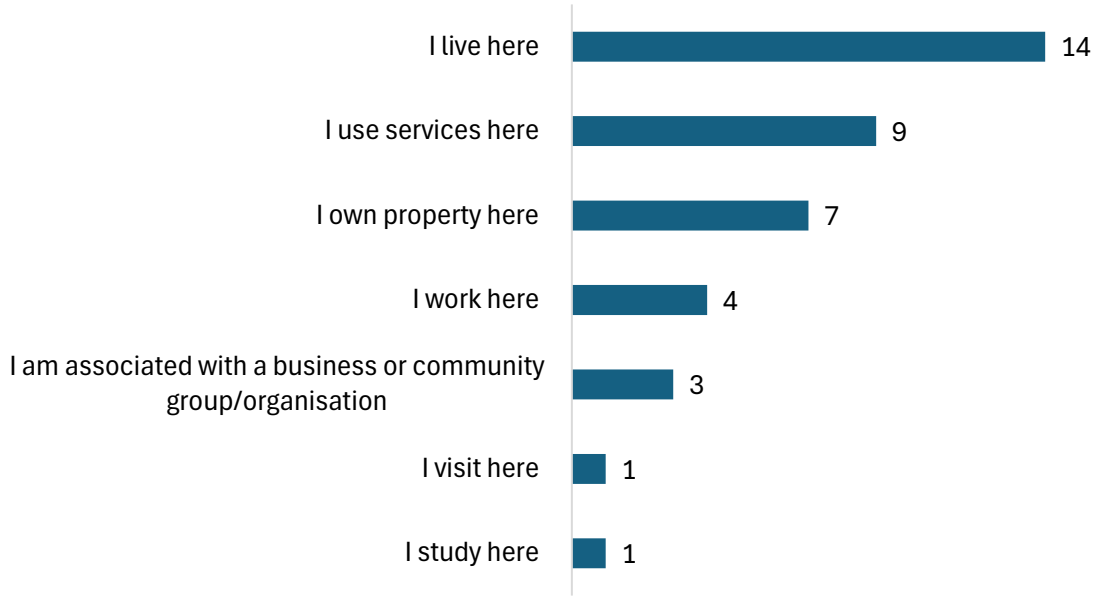
3.3 Survey respondent demographics

3.3.1 Connection to Moonee Valley

Survey respondents were asked to identify their connection to Moonee Valley, with the ability to select multiple of the following options:

- I live here
- I work here
- I study here
- I visit here
- I own property here
- I own a business here
- I am associated with a business or community group/organisation
- I am a Moonee Valley City Council staff member

Of those who responded to this question, 14 indicated they live in Moonee Valley. There were also numerous respondents who use services here (n=9), and those who own property here (n=7). There were several with other local connections, as illustrated in the graph below.



3.3.2 Type of business, community group or organisation association

Respondents (n=3) who were associated with a business or community group /organisation were asked to identify the name of the business or community group /organisation. 3 respondents answered this question and identified 5 unique associations as listed in the table below.

Table 2. Type of business, community group/organisation association

Name of business, community group or organisation	No. of respondents
Moonee Valley Sustainability	3
Maribyrnong River and Waterways Association	1
Essendon Symphony	1
Friends of Steele Creek	1

3.3.3 Suburb of residence

Respondents were asked to identify the suburb they live in. Of those who responded to this question (n=15), all were from suburbs within Moonee Valley. Of the respondents most were from Airport West (n=7), and Essendon (n=4). There were smaller numbers from Niddrie (n=2) Essendon North and Keilor East (n=1 each).

3.3.4 Gender identity

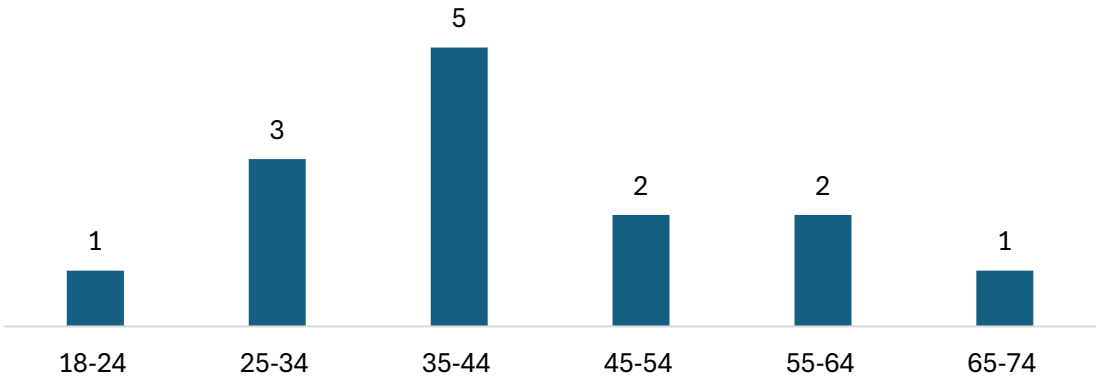
Respondents were asked their gender identity from the following options:

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe

There were 15 respondents to this question. A greater percentage of respondents identified as a woman (87%, n=13) compared with those who identified as a man or prefer not to say (n=1 each).

3.3.5 Age

Respondents were asked to identify which age group they belong to. There were 15 respondents to this question, with representation across 6 age brackets. Most respondents were between 35-44 years old (n=5).



3.3.6 Language

Respondents were asked if they usually speak a language other than English at home, with the majority (n=13, 87%) indicating they only speak English at home.

Respondents (n=2) who identified that they usually speak a language other than English at home were asked to specify the main language they speak at home, with both respondents noting they speak Italian at home.

3.3.7 Additional identifiers

Respondents were asked whether they identify with a range of different communities and were able to select multiple from the following options:

- First Peoples - This includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Culturally and racially marginalised (CARM) people - This includes people who face marginalisation due to their race, cultural background or religion

- People living with disability, mental illness, chronic illness, or who are neurodivergent (and/or their carers)
- People who identify as LGBTIQA+
- People experiencing, or at risk of, family violence
- People without stable housing or experiencing housing stress
- People living on low and/or insufficient incomes
- Prefer not to say
- None of the above

Council acknowledges that descriptive names and terminology evolve over time and can differ based on individual preferences, and Council strives to use the most current and respectful language to describe these communities.

As depicted in the table below, a number of people noted that they identified with different communities.

People living with disability, mental illness, chronic illness, or who are neurodivergent (and/or their carers)	3
Culturally and racially marginalised (CARM) people - This includes people who face marginalisation due to their race, cultural background or religion	1
People who identify as LGBTIQA+	1

4 Findings

4.1 Enhancement of early year services

When asked, ‘What do you think is most important for Council to consider regarding the enhancement of local early years infrastructure and its impact on improving kindergartens in Moonee Valley?’, 15 respondents provided free text comments.

Feedback identified safety as the strongest theme, particularly secure entry and exit points, fencing, and safe access for families in a busy street environment. Respondents also highlighted the importance of outdoor play, connection to nature, and sustainable design features such as gardens, shade, and composting. Inclusion was another key priority, with calls for accessible play spaces and environments that support children with disability and additional needs. Overall, participants wanted the centre to be welcoming, vibrant, and child friendly.

4.2 Play space ideas

When asked, ‘Council is dedicated to creating play spaces that meet safety regulations, follow best teaching practices and include natural elements that are inclusive for all children. What should we consider to help us achieve this?’, 13 respondents provided free text comments.

The feedback strongly supported play spaces that combine nature-based elements with engaging, age-appropriate equipment. Common suggestions include trees, gardens, natural materials, water and sand play, climbing and balancing features, and spaces for nature immersion such as bush kinder, wildlife gardens and edible planting. Respondents also emphasised the importance of accessibility and inclusion, including spaces that cater to different sensory and movement needs, and ensuring play areas are designed in consultation with disability and access experts. At the same time, some feedback highlighted the need for stimulating and challenging equipment, noting that play spaces should remain fun, practical and developmentally beneficial rather than overly minimal or basic.

4.3 Frontage landscaping

When asked, ‘We’re planning the frontage landscaping for Airport West Kindergarten redevelopment and would love your input. What types of plants would you like to see? We’re looking for options that reflect the local neighbourhood, promote sustainability, and create a welcoming, vibrant space.’, 15 respondents provided free text comments.

The feedback strongly supports a nature-based, practical landscaping approach centred on indigenous and native planting. People want the frontage and nature strip to be heavily planted with local, drought-tolerant species that attract birds and pollinators, contribute to habitat corridors, and help create a greener, more resilient neighbourhood. There is also a clear preference for retaining existing mature trees for shade, beauty and play value.

Respondents also emphasised that the landscaping should be usable and educational, not just decorative. Suggestions included seating, sensory and edible planting, habitat features such as logs, rocks and bird houses, fruit trees, and interpretive signage or art to help children learn about nature and ecosystems. A few comments highlighted the importance of a cohesive landscape design that fits the local area and soil conditions, rather than a fragmented or purely ornamental garden.

4.4 Email and pop-up feedback

Feedback received via email and during the pop-up noted the following:

- Safety concerns out the front of the facility with traffic often driving through the pedestrian crossings
- Concerns surrounding parents/carers parking in prohibited areas (such as a clearway or private land) when dropping children off to the facility.

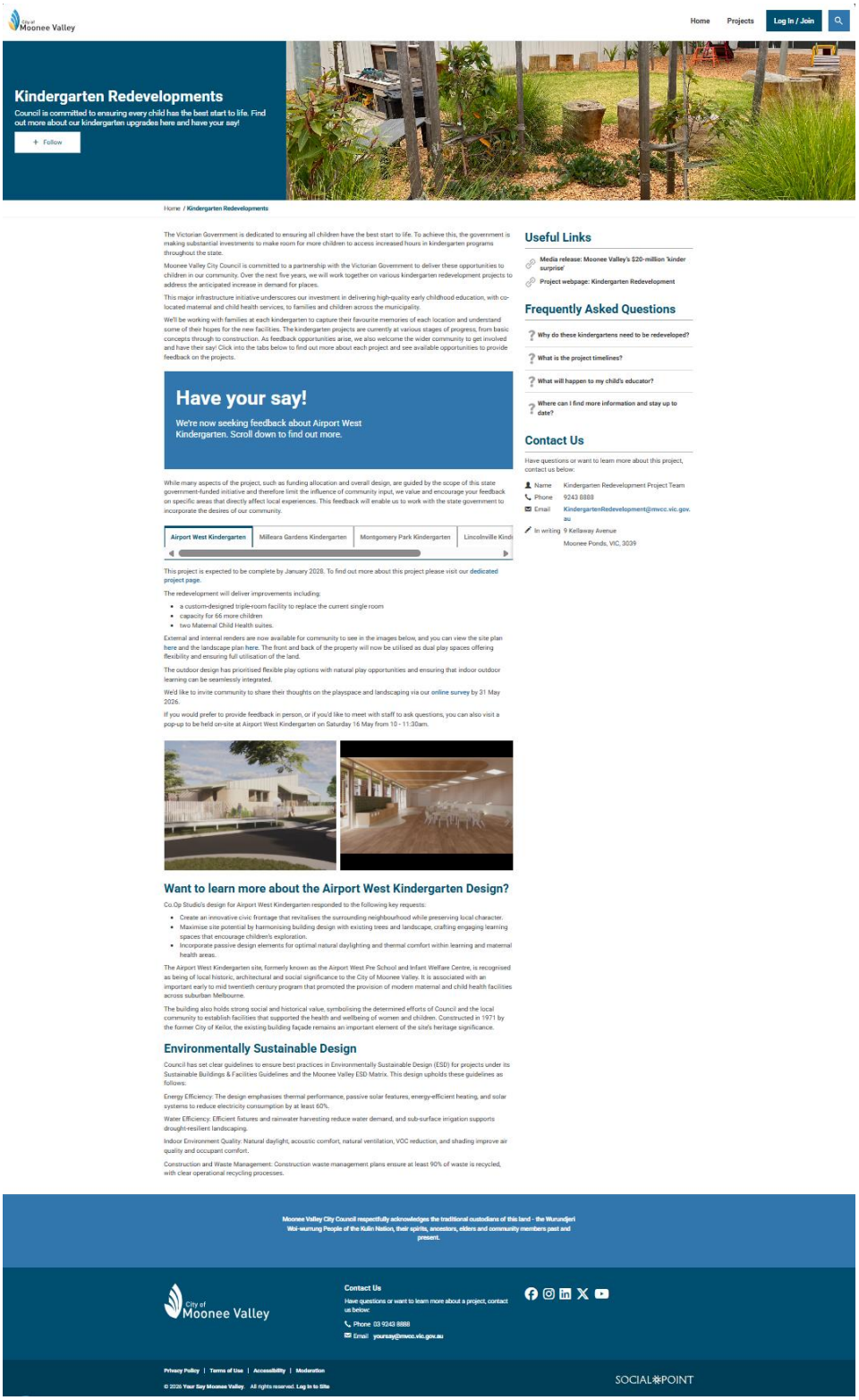
5 Conclusion

This consultation on the Airport West Kindergarten redevelopment received 17 contributions, including 15 survey responses, one email submission and one pop-up attendance. While participation was low, the feedback was consistent, with respondents clearly identifying the elements they see as most important in the redevelopment of the kindergarten and its surrounds.

Overall, the feedback shows strong support for a redevelopment that prioritises safety, inclusive and engaging play, and nature-based landscaping that is both practical and educational. These findings provide a clear community perspective to help guide the next stages of design and ensure the project reflects local priorities for a welcoming, sustainable and child-friendly early years environment.

6 Appendices

6.1 Your Say page



6.2 Onsite poster



Airport West Kindergarten landscape and playspace

Moonee Valley City Council is seeking community feedback for the landscaping and playspace for the redevelopment of Airport West Kindergarten.

Your input on playspaces and landscaping designs would be greatly appreciated as we seek to create environments that reflect the needs and desires of our community.

The consultation period is open from now until Sunday, 31 May. A pop-up information session will be held on-site on Saturday, 16 May at 10am at 97 McNamara Avenue, Airport West

Have Your Say

yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au/kindergarten-redevelopment

KindergartenRedevelopment@mvcc.vic.gov.au

03 9243 8888

your city your say
join the conversation

City of Moonee Valley

6.3 Engagement postcard



Consultation for the Airport West Kindergarten landscaping and playspace

Moonee Valley City Council is seeking community feedback for the landscaping and playspace for the redevelopment of Airport West Kindergarten.

Your input on playspaces and landscaping designs would be greatly appreciated as we seek to create environments that reflect the needs and desires of our community.

Scan the QR code or join us at our in-person consultation.

council@mvcc.vic.gov.au
9243 8888 | mvcc.vic.gov.au

The consultation period is open from now until Sunday, 31 May. A pop-up information session will be held on-site on Saturday, 16 May at 10am at 97 McNamara Avenue, Airport West

To have your say and learn more about the project:

- email our project team at KindergartenRedevelopment@mvcc.vic.gov.au
- call 03 9243 8888
- scan the QR code.



6.4 Survey tool

1. What do you think is most important for Council to consider regarding the enhancement of local early years infrastructure and its impact on improving kindergartens in Moonee Valley?
2. Council is dedicated to creating play spaces that meet safety regulations, follow best teaching practices and include natural elements that are inclusive for all children. What should we consider to help us achieve this?
3. We're planning the frontage landscaping for Airport West Kindergarten redevelopment and would love your input.
   What types of plants would you like to see? We're looking for options that reflect the local neighbourhood, promote sustainability, and create a welcoming, vibrant space.
4. What is your connection to Moonee Valley? Select all that apply.

   [ ] I live here

   [ ] I work here

   [ ] I study here

   [ ] I visit here

   [ ] I own property here

   [ ] I own a business here

   [ ] I use services here

   [ ] I am associated with a business or community group/organisation (please name):

   [ ] I am a Moonee Valley City Council staff member

5. What suburb do you live in?

   ( ) Aberfeldie

   ( ) Airport West

   ( ) Ascot Vale

   ( ) Avondale Heights

   ( ) Essendon

   ( ) Essendon Fields

   ( ) Essendon North

   ( ) Essendon West

   ( ) Flemington

   ( ) Keilor East

   ( ) Moonee Ponds

   ( ) Niddrie

   ( ) Strathmore

   ( ) Strathmore Heights

   ( ) Travancore

   ( ) Outside of Moonee Valley

6. What suburb do you live in?
7. To which of the following age groups do you belong?

   ( ) Under 18

   ( ) 18-24

   ( ) 25-34

   ( ) 35-44

   ( ) 45-54

   ( ) 55-64

   ( ) 65-74

   ( ) 75-84

   ( ) 85+

8. Do you identify as:

   ( ) Woman

   ( ) Man

   ( ) Non-binary

   ( ) Prefer to self describe:

   ( ) Prefer not to say

9. Do you use a language other than English at home?
   ( ) No, I only use English at home
   ( ) Yes, I use other languages at home

10. Please specify which languages you use at home. Select all that apply.

[ ] Italian	[ ] Cantonese	[ ] I use other languages at home (please specify the other languages you use at home):
[ ] Greek	[ ] Spanish	
[ ] Vietnamese	[ ] Croatian	
[ ] Mandarin	[ ] Turkish	
[ ] Arabic	[ ] Hindi	

11. Do you identify with any of the following communities? Please select all that apply.
    We acknowledge that descriptive names and terminology evolve over time and can differ based on individual preferences. We strive to use the most current and respectful language to describe these communities.
    [ ] First Peoples - This includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
    [ ] Culturally and racially marginalised (CARM) people - This includes people who face marginalisation due to their race, cultural background or religion
    [ ] People living with disability, mental illness, chronic illness, or who are neurodivergent (and/or their carers)
    [ ] People who identify as LGBTIQA+
    [ ] People experiencing, or at risk of, family violence
    [ ] People without stable housing or experiencing housing stress
    [ ] People living on low and/or insufficient incomes
    [ ] Prefer not to say
    [ ] None of the above

6.5 Free text comments

What do you think is most important for Council to consider regarding the enhancement of local early years infrastructure and its impact on improving kindergartens in Moonee Valley?
Environment
That you practice what you preach and ensure that all the latest technology and designs to make this building sustainable are adhered to, not chopped out as soon as there a budget constraint. JKids and young people need to be able to live a sustainable lifestyle everyday, so actually incorporating these normalises all those changes that we need in our community.
Quality outdoor spaces, all weather
Make a sustainable garden a feature of the landscape. It's important for children's future that they to learn to love and appreciate nature.
Creating shade and clean air for children to play. Ensure there is friendly and welcoming dropoff/pick up zones for families. A garden makes the difference of feeling like a community space instead of a production line.
Ensuring safety is one of the highest priorities eg code access provided to parents by kindergarten. Also including inclusive play equipment and environments so no child feels left out
Access to outdoor spaces and native vegetation within the centre and on nature strips. Bush Tucker garden, yarning circle and composting so that bush Tucker programs can be run.
Safety regarding entry and exit points as it is on a built up street. accessible play spaces with a strong focus on improving outdoor play areas.
Connection to nature.
More exposure to nature play and healthy environments for learning and development.
Making it safe for kids and parents T's to access the facility. This includes the need for adequate car parking and access to and from the centre
Separate toilets for boys and girls. Outdoor playground equipment. Lots of colour in the details our, walls and artwork. The internal picture of the Kindergarten looks bland, morbid and dull. These are children, have the area lively and bright, not an open space that looks like a mortuary. Security is important, gates and fences that protect the children.
Safety for kids and outdoor play
Accessibility and Inclusion for children with disability and additional support needs.
Safety is most important in terms of the design. I'm concerned that the main entrance will now be on macnamara avenue at a very busy roundabout (previously the entrance was somewhat removed, to the side).
Council is dedicated to creating play spaces that meet safety regulations, follow best teaching practices and include natural elements that are inclusive for all children. What should we consider to help us achieve this?
Sustainability, veggie garden, animals, open space and blank canvas design that can be set up and modified to suit different children's interests and abilities
Trees to climb and risk assessment opportunities
Safe indigenous plants, wooden play equipment and structural features imitating natural spaces. Safe water feature e.g. fountain, shallow pond if allowable. A range of flowering plants that create continuous flowering displays (not bee-attracting). Sand play if allowable. Play includes growing plants - edible plants and flowers.
Establish bush kinder so children learn how to safely interact with the natural world around them. And ensure there are well vegetated spaces for bush kinder to utilise!
It's okay to have an old school playground with climbing equipment, slide and swings no need to always have super funky equipment just needs to be easy to use for kids
Sensory gardens with outdoor climbing equipment.
Consider accessibility, and differing needs of the child i.e areas with less visual input, spaces with reduce noise input, spaces for kids who require movement based regulation

A more rustic play space with logs, fire pits, natural elements like seed cones, sticks, log seating, geological formations with fossils, water features, bird baths.
Ensure that outdoor vegetated areas are macimised including the planting of all nature strips outside the early learning spaces. No artificial grass, native plants and oportunities for nature immersion such as wildlife gardens.
You should stop focusing on the minority and include the majority. Because if you downplay equipment, then it becomes dull and boring. Children need to be stimulated if equipment is basic and not challenging. Then, it's a waste of money. How can children's brains develop and grow and their cognitive thinking And their motor skills develop, If you have equipment, that is not engaging.
Natural shade (trees), herb/vegie patch, balancing, climbing, water and mud play, and riding spaces.
Following standard safety regulations, DDA requirements and including nature play elements is really important, BUT this alone does not creat Inclusive and Accessible play spaces. Please consult the MVCC Disability Advisory Committee very early in the project planning and consult with professional Access Consultants to ensure play spaces are inclusive. Good resources to guide inclusive design: https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-03/everyone-can-play-a-guideline-to-inclusive-playspaces.pdf & https://acd.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/PlayReport_020924.pdf
See previous comment about safety. Also I think you should engage the teachers when designing the indoor space - they are the experts in terms of the best layout of play areas. For example, a very large open indoor space makes it hard for the teachers to hold the kids attention because they can see and hear everything across the room and get distracted.
We’re planning the frontage landscaping for Airport West Kindergarten redevelopment and would love your input. What types of plants would you like to see? We’re looking for options that reflect the local neighbourhood, promote sustainability, and create a welcoming, vibrant space.
Native
Plant, plants and more plants. You need to plant up the entrance including the nature strip to set the tone to the natural play space and provide cooling to the building. Council also needs to plant up nature strips with indigenous planting as default on all its future projects. How else are we going to get people to see the beauty and improtant role these spaces make to creating a resilient city.
Trees
Assuming this is outside the front door - an attractive display of indigenous and native plants, Including the nature strip - thus giving access to more of the local community. Such as kangaroo grass, wallaby grass, indigenous daisies, attractive native shrubs - bird and pollinator attracting.
Only native plants. Include colours. Include seating!!!!
Australian native plants
Native vegetation that support pollinators and contribute to corridors of nature strips that can support local waterways
Lots of green foliage like the rest of the neighbourhood. It would be wonderful to see some spaces with bird houses etc as we have lots in the area
Indigenous plants that are tough but not spiky. Grasses, flowers, ground covers. These will withstand drought. Exotic plants like salvias are pretty and attract honeyeaters and can be mixed in with indigenous plants. Plants like lavender, curry plants, lambs ear etc can form a sensory garden. Culinary plants could be included and form the basis of teaching experiences like using herbs to cook, or make insect repellents, teas, etc. The frontage should not be a designer garden just to look at. It should be a more practical space.
Fully planted nature strip garden with Indigenous/native and pollinator-attracting plants. The inclusion of habitat elements such as logs and rocks. Interprative signage or art to educate the young people about the ecosystem.
Fruit trees would be good fie the kids to see where healthy food comes fro.
At the moment airport west tree scape is not coherent. It's not consistent, it's a Hodge podge of different plants. So regardless of whatever you plant, it's not going to make a difference. Because there is no cohesiveness in airport West in regards to landscaping.
Olive trees and banksia are very popular in the area, evergreen native also works well in the area. Very clay soil.

Local indigenous plants, drought tolerant, create habitats
Please avoid removing the trees especially the big one! They're beautiful and the kids just love them - creates shade, something to climb. Allow the kids to plant some of the new plants when the kinder is ready.

Moonee Valley Language Line

العربية	Arabic	9932 1471
廣東話	Cantonese	9932 1472
Hrvatski	Croatian	9932 1473
Ελληνικά	Greek	9932 1474
Italiano	Italian	9932 1475
Somali	Somali	9932 1476
Español	Spanish	9932 1477
Türkçe	Turkish	9932 1478
Tiếng Việt	Vietnamese	9932 1479

All other languages 9932 1480
National Relay Service 13 36 77 or relayservice.com.au

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