

# Bassendean Street Play Project



Your perspectives on road safety to increase street play (Kids version)



## Acknowledge country

The Valuing Children Initiative acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of this country and its waters, particularly the Whadjuk Noongar people whose boodja we meet and work on. We wish to pay respect to the Elders past, present and emerging, particularly our young people and future decision makers.

## Acknowledge Children

The Valuing Children Initiative acknowledges the rights of all koolangkas (children) and endorses the United Nations Conventions of the Rights of the Child.

**We say to all children: that you matter and you are valued.**



## Bassendean Street Play Project This is all for you!

The good folks of Bassendean and Eden Hill rolled up their sleeves and threw two epic street parties, complete with kid-powered workshops on road safety. These little masterminds shared their bright ideas on how to make their neighborhood streets a playground paradise. This report is a delightful nudge to local and state government gurus, urging them to unlock the joy of safe street play without breaking the bank or building walls of red tape. The grand goal?

**To show you and the community that closing the road can transform it into a safe haven, boosting your confidence to play outside with gusto!**

VCI ran two child advisory workshops with 12 children in Eden Hill and 20 children in Bassendean an hour before each of the street parties. The parties were held at:

- 10-12pm October 19, 2024 at Whitfield St, Bassendean
- 3-6pm February 22, 2025 at Watkins St, Eden Hill



# You gotta right to play and a say!



Our neighborhoods are now more car-crazy than ever, leaving children like you with fewer chances to play outside on the street. But you have right to play safely outside your house, the United Nations have said so!

We know you are spending more time indoors because there's a lack of measures to make you feel safe to play outside and connect with your friends.

When you do play on the street, cars can drive straight through your game of soccer, cricket, or basketball and you have to keep hopping on and off the road.

Playful street elements keep you safe and remind drivers to slow down or go another way can change this, so you have get outside and have more fun!

## That's why asked you!

You also have a right to have your ideas, views and concerns heard by adults, parents and decision makers in your community!

**First we asked more than 100 of you, what do you want at a street party?**



You said.....

Paint balling, street art water balloons, food stalls and stalls where they could sell things and games with other children.

You want an outdoor cinema, gardening, lazer tag, bumper cars, go carts, face paint, live music, dog fashion shows, face paint, scooter race, fairy lights, dancing, pot plant growing, talent show, bouncy castle, pokemon cards, toy stalls, soccer, horses for free, cricket, giant chess board, inflatable waterslide, a skatepark clinic, a swimming pool and a colour fun run!

**Thanks for letting us know!**



### United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child says....

Children have a right to.....

“Rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities

appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts”.



### AND....

“The child who is capable of forming his or her own views has the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views

of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.”



# You want to play and party...safely

Thank you to the children of St Michael's Primary School for telling us your views!



What would you like to play with at a street party? (circle as many as you like)



What should adults do to help you feel safe and be safe at a street party?

Give us the freedom to make mistakes by ourselves. Road safety.



"Idk? Have more around to keep us safe."

"Make sure no cars will be very close to the street."

"Have an enclosed area that cars can't come."

"Get a stop guard."

"Block the roads."

"By having a stop sign and stand in with the children."

"Help children who need help."

"Guard the area, block the street for cars."

"Put cones for cars not go there."

"Feel involved and helpful."

"To make me feel safe and let me have fun."

"Bring their pets (on leads)."

"Parents stay near."

"Ask if they are having a good time."

"No mean children."

"Supervise children and never leave a child alone without supervision."

"No violence."

Block off the road.

Im not getting run over.

What should adults do to help you feel safe and be safe at a street party?

Make sure all the activitys are safe and everyone feels safe

Adults to block the street for us,



Is there anything else you want to tell us? (answer in words and/or pictures)

Kids could make a club and raise money for charity

Is there anything else you want to tell us? (answer in words and/or pictures)

To Make this more enjoyable for kids



# Street Party Time



The Bassendean party saw hundreds of people attend, grabbing a free sausage sizzle from the men's shed, buy toys, book, drinks and food from the stalls and play on their scooters, bikes and games they brought along with them. All the stalls were created and run by the children, selling Pokémon cards, homemade dogs biscuits, homemade jewellery, cakes, art, lemonade, second hand books and beading. They all made money, some \$80 – one child \$250! Activities included face painting, bubbles, giant games, Men's shed wood carving and pot plant making.



The Eden Hill party was hosted by Eden Hill CAN who ran the sausage sizzle for the community. Children made their own art including intricate dinosaur figures and sold homemade treats like honey joys and jam. A green strip for a cricket pitch was well used while the children played basketball all afternoon.





# Road safety workshops



Children and their parents sat in a yarnning circle and participated in an acknowledgement of country. Both children (of writing age) and their parents recorded their consent to have their ideas recorded and published. Children wore VCI-branded 'I'm a child expert, ask me!' fluorescent vests for visibility and were then questions about road safety. Parents took care of their children at all times as we walked around and recorded everyone's observations by drawing or writing on a clipboard and asking questions. The group then come back together and transfer their ideas on to a large canvas.

## What makes it safe to play outside on your street?

- **Supervision:** Having a parent with you, or in their line of sight, staying close to your home,
- lots of people being around, friends also playing outside and not going to a stranger's house.
- **Traffic:** You said that cars driving slowly is the single most important thing that makes you feel safe to play outside.

## What do you like to play outside on your street?

Bike riding, soccer, scooter riding and skateboarding. You also said mulberry picking, gymnastics, roller blading, monkey bars, trampoline, chalk drawing, hide & seek, basketball, AFL, netball, hopscotch and cricket, with one child telling us they like to play "any sort of game with other children of all ages!"



### What does safety mean?

'People aren't yelling.'

### What does safety look like?

'No cars driving around, nothing unusual, more people makes me feel more safe.'

### What makes it safe to play outside?

'No cars, friends outside, nothing slippery, shade.'

### What stops you from playing outside?

'People speeding, people doing wheelies on their bikes, heavy rain.'

### What would make it easier to play outside?

'No glass, less mosquitos, people going the speed limit, no bees and hornets and stuff.'

## How do you know if something feels and looks safe?

- No cars
- No strangers
- No construction
- Stay near parents
- Being around familiar people made them feel safe.



# What you told us

## What stops you from playing outside on your street?

**Traffic:** Many children spoke of the experience of witnessing cars speeding on their street.

**People:** Some children talked about not knowing their neighbours, and being worried about “strangers”, “scary people” and “unsafe people” and people doing wheelies on their bikes.

**Environment:** Children named big dogs, dog poo, rubbish, mosquitos, rain, bees, magpies, steep hills, lack of shade and lack of footpaths as environmental factors that stopped street play.



## What would make it more safe for you to play outside on your street?

**Traffic:** Almost all of the children told us loudly and clearly that they want adults to **SLOW DOWN** when driving. Some asked for lower speed limits, more signage, and more police to check for speeding. The children want drivers to give way to pedestrians and take greater care and look out for them.

**Space:** Some of the children said they'd like more space to move, more ovals or parks near their home, footpaths on both sides of the street and more bike paths.

**Community:** The children wanted to be able to feel like all the adults in their community were looking out for and supervising the children so that groups of children could come together.

## Why we did this project....

Play isn't just fun, it is essential for your development. It builds confidence, strengthens friendships, and encourages independence. Through street play we as adults can empower you to play together, share your lives, connect and increase your overall wellbeing. This project has given you a loud voice about road safety and what makes you feel safe in to play in our streets. The information in this report will given to your local and state government representatives so they can find ways for you to play safely in your street. All the adults involved in this project thanks you very much for your precious time and for providing such expert advice about road safety.

All the child participants were given a small voucher and gift bag to acknowledge their contribution and time.







The Valuing Children Initiative is a project of the not-for-profit organisation, [Centrecare](#).

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