



Perth Airport Project

A Child's Perspective

2025



Valuing Children
— INITIATIVE —

Acknowledgement of 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 (land) 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.

The Valuing Children Initiative also acknowledges the rights of all koolankas (children in Noongar) and endorses the United Nations Conventions of the Rights of the Child. We say to all children: that you matter and you are valued.

About Valuing Children Initiative

The Valuing Children Initiative is dedicated to changing societal attitudes so that all children and young people are valued and their needs are the first priority for every Australian. We stand up for children's rights, voices and their place in decision-making as standard practice in community, government, business and the corporate sector. We do this through advocacy, research, workshops and training, campaigning and partnerships to effect meaningful change. We collaborate with stakeholders, policymakers, and like-minded organisations to create a collective positive impact on child well-being.

The Valuing Children Initiative is a project of Centrecare Inc.

Our partnership with Perth Airport

As part of our mission to change adults' attitudes towards children, we actively look for spaces where children are present, but are not designed for them.

Perth Airport is one such place, where children spend many hours, but have a limited ability to influence their experience. With the announcement of the new terminal we are delighted that Perth Airport embraced this opportunity to partner with the Valuing Children Initiative to become leaders in honouring the rights of children and genuinely hearing their voices.



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Child Rights are Human Rights

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history, with Australia signing on in 1990, recognising that children have rights at their current age and stage.

Article 12 states that “parties shall assure the child who is capable of forming his or her own views 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.”

The National Principles of Child Safety

Centrecare is committed to the 10 National Principles for Child Safe Organisations in all of its service provision, and in all levels of the organisation, including the Valuing Children Initiative.

For the Perth Airport project we took note of the the following principles in the entire process of the project.

Principle 2 - Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.

Principle 3 - Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

Principle 4 - Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.

Principle 5 - People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.

Principle 6 - Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused.



Why Perth Airport?

Travelling through an airport can bring out vastly different emotional responses from adults compared to children and young people. For adults and parents, navigation, efficiency, logistics, staff assistance and clear information are key design considerations to entice a calm and a less stressful process.

However, for children and young people, feeling safe, happy, excited and relaxed is reliant on being close to their parents, being entertained and having fun by learning through interactive experiences along the way. For children in the project, the 'holiday' began when they got out of the car at the airport.

At every step of the journey through the airport, there are opportunities to introduce choices and accommodations for children and their families to reduce this stress and make it a better experience. So who better to ask about this than children themselves?



Design of the project

This project was designed by adults with children front of mind. Every consideration was taken to prioritise children and young people in the consent forms, the workshops, the walk through activities, the food provided, how the information would be collected and how we would thank and provide information back to everyone. Throughout the workshops, children were given space to speak their minds and at the end verbally through writing and drawing. Parents were contacted after the workshops and invited to provide written feedback, which was overwhelmingly positive.

Methodology

Workshops

An Expression of Interest (EOI) to participate in child advisory workshops was sent out via Perth Airport social media, with over 1,300 EOIs being submitted. From this, 21 children and young people ranging in ages from 9 months to 17 years and their parents attended three workshops in February 2025 in age groups 0-5, 6-11 and 12-17 years old.

The groups included Aboriginal children and families, children and families from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds, children with physical disabilities and children who are neurodivergent. All families resided in the Perth metropolitan area or Peel region.

Children, young people and their parents completed written consent forms at the commencement of the workshops. Participants were given an introduction to the new airport terminal project in an allocated room at the airport, then went on a guided walk of the Terminal 1 (T1) domestic terminal with Perth Airport and VCI staff.

Along the way they were asked to share their opinions and ideas, then the groups came back to the room to share more ideas and document them with words and pictures.

Survey

After the workshops, an online survey was promoted by Perth Airport and garnered an amazing 1005 responses. The survey featured questions to be completed by parents/guardians, and an optional section to be completed by their children with 72% of respondents completing the children section.

The overwhelming response to the EOI and survey show that there is real interest from the public to ensure Perth Airport caters to the needs of children and families. Through the survey and workshops, the children, young people and families had so many incredible ideas. Other data has been presented to Perth Airport in the form of verbatim quotes, written ideas and drawings from children, photos from the workshops, raw survey data and further survey data analysis.



How we did it - The Lundy Model

This project was part of our core child voice work at the Valuing Children Initiative. We offer facilitated workshops and opportunities for children and young people to articulate their views, opinions and experiences and ensure adults consider those views when making decisions that affect children.

We use the Child Rights Model of Participation, developed by Professor Laura Lundy from Queens University in Belfast, widely known as the Lundy Model. This model provides decision makers a clear framework to authentically honour the voices of children. This model outlines four key domains that must be considered to ensure meaningful participation of children and young people in decision-making:

SPACE – children and young people must be given safe, inclusive opportunities to express their views

- Information was sent to families beforehand so children knew what to expect.
- We asked about access requirements beforehand so we could plan accordingly.
- We had floor and table seating options in the workshops.
- Fidget toys were available.
- Dual consent forms with the children completing the children's consent form first, after thorough explanation with us, with the support of their parents.
- Parents participated so the children had a trusted caregiver with them.
- We had a plan, but were OK with not sticking to it.
- Breaks for food/drink and active play was incorporated.

VOICE – Children and young people must be supported to give their views

- We instructed parents that their role was to support their child's voice to be heard.
- We supplied written and drawing options for those not comfortable to speak in a group.
- We offered options to work individually or in small groups.
- We had a team of facilitators that worked together, so if we noticed some people weren't participating, we spoke with them.
- We reminded children and young people often they could stop participating at any time.
- Children and young people were given thank you bags, certificates and vouchers.
- Children and young people were identified by everyone as the experts in the room with hi vis vests, saying, 'I'm a Child Expert. Ask Me!'

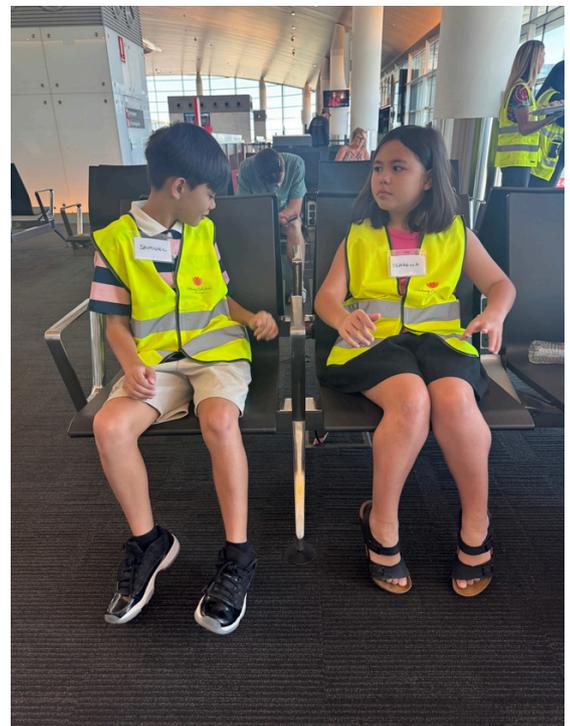


AUDIENCE – their views must be listened to

- Children lead the conversation, and we followed up with open, curious questions (closed questions only if we needed to clarify).
- When adults offered ideas, we asked the children what they thought.
- We physically positioned children in the inner layer rather than outer when we were doing circle work.
- We showed a video of the airport redevelopment project beforehand so they had the whole concept in mind first.
- We had airport staff with us as well.
- The follow up survey open to all was based on feedback from the workshops
- We produced a professional report detailing feedback to the airport, as well as all the raw data.
- We have asked the airport to collect data and let us know who has read the report and for what purpose.

INFLUENCE – the views must be acted upon as appropriate.

- In the development phase of the project, we kept asking how we would demonstrate influence for the children.
- We asked “will the children have influence over that?”
- One example was the airport suggested the children give feedback on the self service check in kiosks, however, the airlines own those (not the airport) and we couldn’t track whether or not the feedback would have influence, so we didn’t ask it.
- The new terminal isn’t opening until 2031, when these children will be at a different stage of development. We hope they will see their ideas in use then, but we were open and transparent with them about the timeline.
- We will invite the children back for an interactive workshop, where we will share information about the project at the workshop.



Airport Touch Points and Decompression Zones

The workshops journeyed the 'Airport Touch Points' the children and families explored and highlight the reflections and ideas that were expressed in the workshops, and the follow up survey. 'Decompression Zones' are areas that families have identified as 'chill' or 'emotional regulation' zones, to allow families and children to reconnect before heading off to the next stage in the airport.

Touch Points

Decompression Zone



PLAY



Airport Touch Points and Decompression Zones

Touch Points

BOARDING



Arrivals



Baggage



Transfer



TAXI

EXIT

Decompression Zone



Outcomes

The children, young people and families who participated in our tours and survey had so many incredible ideas.

Clever design centered on the needs of children inevitably assists parents to feel like the airport cares about them and has considered their families' needs.

From across both the survey and the workshops, clear themes emerged:

- **Play** – more opportunities for different types of play and entertainment at every step of the journey;
- **Efficiency** – more family priority areas and more clarity about processes and accessibility;
- **Food** – more child-friendly, allergy friendly and affordable food options; and
- **Comfort and practicality** - spaces and processes designed with families in mind and opportunities for low sensory experiences.



What happens now?

The extensive feedback shows there is no one size fits all for children and young people. As a diverse cohort, their needs differ based on their abilities, temperament and sensory profiles, and those change as children grow and develop.

A comprehensive report of qualitative and quantitative feedback was provided to Perth Airport outlining all key themes, detailed pain points and ideas for the future. Children also shared positive comments, including their enjoyment of the new playground and the games available, highlighting elements that are already working well. This report will be useful to the Perth Airport project delivery team and Lead Design Consultant in considering children's ideas and views, and the needs of families, with data to shape the spaces accordingly.

We will conduct an interactive session where the children get to meet an architect and airport planner, and talk about how their feedback was considered for the upgrades of the airport.



Appendices

Children's posters 6-11 years old



Children's posters 12-17 years

DESIGN

- Light, airy, colourful spaces - skylights
- Wide passages - with guides ie. lines, dividers - room to stop at the side, seats
- Landmarks, meeting places - seats - room for luggage

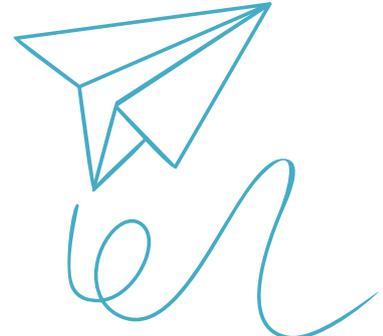
MOVEMENT

- Seating everywhere - room for carry-on - variety of seat styles - family-oriented
- Seating areas w/ groups of seats
- Enough seats at gates - enough for full flights - variety of seats - room for carry-on - clear signs/announcements for boarding
- Signage - colour-coded - advisory ie. what to do at security, when to have boarding pass & passport ready

FACILITIES

- Staff - assistance/help points - available at check-in
- Shops & food - variety of food options - international food hall - for kids & families
- Luggage lockers - free - at side, allow for free movement to shops & restaurants while boarding waiting for

- monO Rail cooler room, hatter room, plane simulator
- gym, cinema, audio books, plane quiz
- climbing frame, bike, kids play ground, clothes platform, fresh air
- sushi hub, free foot massage, birthday hire, suite, sleeping rooms
- story telling, plane facts, aboriginal art, colour chairs
- less light room, quiet room
- lockers for luggage, room of wood
- fish for own food garden, a tea sculptures
- interactive board, basketball court, long slides
- more food options, trays between tables, swimming pool
- waterfall platform on farm, aquatics
- lighter room, quieter room, projectors



Appendices

Consent Form

CHILDREN'S CONSENT FORM



The Valuing Children Initiative and Perth Airport Pty Ltd would like to hear your ideas and is asking permission from you and your parents and/or guardians to record and use your feedback, age, name, photo and video.

My Name is _____

I am _____ years old

Event title and topic: Child Advisory Workshops at Perth Airport February 2025

The Valuing Children Initiative would like to record the information and feedback you give us and use it in research papers and public documents including media and social media. The Valuing Children Initiative will disclose information and feedback to Perth Airport Pty Ltd (including its consultants) for the purposes of research, planning and any other business needs including use in print, digital and social media.

Tick if you agree:

I have read the information, and/or it has been explained to me and I am happy to have my ideas recorded for use by the Valuing Children Initiative and provided to Perth Airport Pty Ltd and its consultants.

I understand I can tell a trusted adult that I want to finish being a part of the event at any time

The Valuing Children Initiative will take photos and videos of participants during the workshop for both the Valuing Children Initiative and Perth Airport Pty Ltd to use in social media, media and other materials like newsletters and reports.

Tick if you agree:

The information has been explained to me or I have read it and I am happy for photos and videos of me to be taken by the Valuing Children Initiative and provided to Perth Airport Pty Ltd for use in the way described

I understand I can tell a trusted adult if I change my mind about my photo or video being taken at any time

Date _____

Signature _____

Witness Signature _____

You can withdraw consent at any time by contacting the Valuing Children Initiative yourself, or asking a trusted adult to do so on 9325 6644 or emailing info@valuingchildren.com.au who will also notify Perth Airport Pty Ltd

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM

I have assisted my child to complete the consent form and give permission for my child to participate in this project. I also understand that:

My child and I will be discussing our ideas and they could be used by **The Valuing Children Initiative and Perth Airport Pty Ltd** (Including its consultants) for reports, research and publications;

My child and I's images may be included in any photos and videos to be used on social media, media, reports and any publications;

Your name _____

Your child's name _____ and age _____

Relationship to child _____

Date _____

Signature _____

We would love to send you the finished outcome of this project so you can show your child! Please provide us with an email and/or postal address to send you the information.

Email _____

Postal address _____

You can withdraw your consent at any time by contacting the Valuing Children Initiative on 9325 6644 or emailing info@valuingchildren.com.au who will also notify Perth Airport Pty Ltd

Appendices

Q8 - Look at the pictures of different play ideas. Pick the THREE (3) ways to play that you like the most!



Tech & Digital Play 📺
(AR, VR, interactive screens)



Active Play 🏃
(Climbing, running, movement-based)



Hands-On Play 🛠️
(Building, Crafting)



Interactive Experiences 🌟
(lights, projections, music...things to explore)



Shopping 🛍️
(Toy stores, fashion, hair/nails, massage)



Learning Through Play 📖
(Science, history, problem solving...like your favourite museums)

Q9 - And now, which of these themes do you like the most? Pick your favourite one. (By "themes," we mean the overall look and feel of the play areas.) - Selected Choice



Flying & Airplanes ✈️
(Aviation, air travel, pilots, airports)



Places & Landmarks 📍
(Geography, Amazing Places)



Wildlife & Nature 🌿
(Australian animals & plants)



Aboriginal Culture & Stories 🇺🇲
(Dreamtime, totems, traditions)



Sports ⚽️
(Sporting activities or favorite sporting teams)



The Valuing Children Initiative is a project of the not-for-profit organisation, **Centrecare**.

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