

Minutes

Families and Children Advisory Committee



Date	Wednesday, 26 th August 2026
Time	10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Location	Collingwood Town Hall – Wurundjeri Room
Chair	Cr Sarah McKenzie
Minute taker	Marie Brancatella (FY&CS Team Leader, Branch Administration)
Content Manager Reference	D26/362049

Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations and to their Elders past, present and future.

Attendees

Councillor/s	Cr Sarah McKenzie
Committee members	Stephanie O'Collins; Ryan Carters; Ali Duncan; Lauren Streifer; Jane Furphy; Lily Vadasz; Kristin Seymour
Council Officers	Angela Morcos (Family, Youth and Children's Services Branch Manager); Jesse Grubb (Family Services Coordinator); Marie Brancatella (FY&CS Team Leader, Branch Administration)
Guest	Catherine Keating (Senior Advisor Diversity and Inclusion - Safeguarding Children & Young People)
Apologies	Cr Meca Ho; Committee members: Brielle Pope; Hayden Oberin; Claire Franz-Flack; Alex Payne-Billard

Item number	Item title or subject	Minute notes
1.	Welcome	Cr McKenzie welcomed the Committee Members and Acknowledged Country • Special welcome to new committee members
2.	Declarations of conflict of interest	None declared
3.	Adoption of the minutes from the previous meeting	Approved
4.	Business arising from the previous meeting	Action: Child Safe Reform - The PowerPoint presentation, including links to State Government Child Safety Resources to be circulated. Completed Action: Child Friendly Cities Presentation - Completed Action: The PowerPoint presentation and PDF guide for consulting

		children to be circulated. - Completed Action: Council Draft Budget FY27 – The Draft Budget presentation is to be circulated with the Minutes. - Completed Action: The Manager of Family Youth & Children’s Services to share recognition of Dill-be-Den Kindergarten’s National Quality Standard achievement with relevant internal teams. - Completed
5.	Child Safe Reforms	An update was provided by the Branch Manager of Family, Youth and Children’s Services regarding Child Safety Reform at both Victorian and Commonwealth levels. Update: The council continue to focus on implementation of legislative requirements announced in 2025 and ensuring that Yarra Council and their staff are compliant e.g. Staff training. Currently waiting on announcements from the State or Commonwealth Government/s about the next phase of reform.
6.	Implementation of Council’s new Child Safe Complaints Policy	A presentation and workshop was facilitated by the Senior Advisor Diversity and Inclusion - Safeguarding Children & Young People. Presentation focused on seeking feedback from Committee members to inform the implementation of, and communication strategy for the new Child Safe Complaints Policy: • The steps taken so far to develop the Policy • The new Child Safe Standards • The immediate changes implemented • Voice of the child • Consultation/feedback from committee members through various activities • Pathways to register a complaint • High level overview of council’s Child Safe complaint process. • What is and isn’t considered a complaint Discussion: • There are eleven new Child Safe Standards. Each with its own minimum requirement to meet compliance. • Nine core themes emerged from the “Voice of the child” consultation sessions with children and young people. • Definition of what is a child safe complaint, versus what is a child safe incident. • Council’s suite of Child Safe policies and how they are all inter-connected. • Young person’s accessibility to seeking help. • The policy will be released in 2026 – during National Child Protection Week. • Late 2026/early 2027 diagrams will be released to capture policy themes and with clear messaging relating to the process. • Aim moving forward is to build awareness, create new resources, and prioritising it as a discussion topic with the executive group.

		- Feedback on draft policy: - Easy to read - The presentation of the policy reflects Yarra - Simplified communication to help empower caregivers and young people – Clearer pathways to know what action to take - Create resources to help the community to determine what is an incident and what is a complaint - More clarity - Provide examples Action: Send an email to committee members when the new Child Safe Complaints policy becomes live.
7.	Other Business	The following matters of general business were raised: Upcoming consultation and engagements that will also be posted on Your Say Yarra: - Road Safety Studies - Upcoming Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) study focused on Collingwood - Eight-month pilot – Safer Streets for Prince’s Hill – officers seeking feedback from the Families and Children Advisory Committee - The Committee were notified that Community Grants are open for applications Reasonable supports that can be provided for additional engagement/participation from Committee members outside the 4 Committee meetings scheduled each year Suggestions so far: - Committee members are open to meetings in addition to the 4 scheduled meetings as per the Committee’s Terms of Reference - Committee members can meet together and coordinate responses to engagements outside of the Advisory Committee meetings - Attend Ward meetings - Yarra news is a good source of information - Subscribe to Yarra Your Say Action: Committee members to provide ideas and suggestions to help facilitate further engagement outside of the quarterly Advisory committee meetings. Link to Your Say Yarra to be circulated to Committee members to register, if they haven’t already registered
Meeting closed		The meeting closed at 11:59 am
Next scheduled meeting		The next meeting is scheduled for 28th October 2026 Possible Focus: Climate Emergency Plan