



# NGUNNAWAL PLAY SPACE UPGRADE

## REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

**The ACT Government is committed to delivering better play spaces across Canberra and providing people of different ages and abilities with fun, creative and engaging play experiences.**

Six play spaces will receive significant upgrades over the next three years across Canberra in the suburbs of Aranda, Chisholm, Gordon, Kaleen, Lyons and Ngunnawal.

Canberrans were invited to provide feedback from 25 March 2022 to 5 May 2022 on play space improvements in Aranda, Chisholm, Gordon and Ngunnawal to ensure the future upgrades meet the needs of the community.

Consultation on the remaining two suburbs of Kaleen and Lyons will follow later this year.

This report summarises the feedback we heard from the community on the upgrade for a play space in Ngunnawal.

## THE CONVERSATION

### Online survey

An online survey was open during the consultation period on the YourSay website for the community to provide feedback on play space improvements in Ngunnawal. A total of 116 surveys were completed. The community also provided feedback via email and Facebook.

### Community pop-up

A pop-up session was held at the local shops on Jabanungga Avenue on Tuesday 12 April 2022 to promote the consultation and provide the community with an opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts. We spoke to approximately thirty people during the pop-up..

## WHO WE ENGAGED

**The consultation targeted regular users of Ngunnawal play spaces including local residents, families, community groups and visitors from the broader Gungahlin region.**

We promoted the consultation via a number of channels including the Our Canberra electronic newsletter, signage at Ngunnawal playgrounds, ACT Government Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, a community pop-up, on the City Services website and via an email to key stakeholders including the Gungahlin Community Council.

90% of those who filled out the online survey were Ngunnawal residents with 95% visiting a play space in Ngunnawal at least once a month, including 82% who visit weekly or more.

The majority of respondents visit Ngunnawal play spaces with toddlers aged four years and under (67%) or children between the ages of 5 and 9 (52%). We also heard pre-teens, teens, adults and seniors regularly visit Ngunnawal play spaces.



## WHAT WE HEARD

The key insights below represent the most common themes raised across all feedback channels.

### Key insights from the community

#### Play spaces in Ngunnawal – upgrade location and current use

1. There is support overall for upgrading the Burramarra Avenue play space, with the average level of support in the community survey at 72.5%.
2. The most visited Ngunnawal play spaces by survey respondents are Homestead Park, Paul Coe Crescent and Burramarra Avenue.
3. Open-text comments show there's a desire for upgrades to be spread across a range of play spaces in Ngunnawal with comments ranging from outdated equipment and safety concerns to general refresh requests.
4. 17% of survey respondents did not support Burramarra Avenue as the play space to be upgraded and there were some open-text responses showing a desire for Homestead Park to be upgraded.

#### Amenities for inclusion

5. The top three ranked amenities were shade sails; furniture for sitting, eating and studying; and shade trees. The need for more shade was also echoed in 10% of open-text responses including a comment for full coverage wet weather shelter and covered seating.
6. Amenities increasing the usability of play spaces, such as picnic shelters and furniture, ranked highly in both the survey and the open-text responses with respondents also focusing on maintenance of both play spaces and the surrounding environment to encourage use of play spaces. More bins, barbecues and parking are also desired by some.
7. Bicycle racks were the lowest priority overall, behind paths and improved access which may indicate this mode of travel is not widely used amongst the demographic accessing play spaces.

#### Play opportunities

8. The top three ranked priorities for additional play equipment and/or elements were nature play (44%), slides and forts (40%) and climbing structures (38%).
9. Skating elements ranked lowest (7%) and this could be attributed to nearby availability at the Yerrabi Pond District Park and the Franklin Community Recreation Park.
10. There is also support from the community for more diverse play elements to be included, such as a learn to ride track (34%) or basketball hoop/multi-use court (31%).
11. A variety of suggestions also came from the open-text responses including spinners, baby and toddler swing and slide, an adult baby tandem swing, cricket nets and a range of play opportunities for all ages. There were comments about focusing the upgrades on replacing and updating older equipment rather than expanding the amount of equipment.

#### Safety and accessibility

12. Safety is a clear community priority with fencing ranked as the fourth priority overall for amenity improvements and a number of requests for the inclusion of more play equipment that is safe and suitable for toddlers and smaller children.
13. You provided a range of other suggestions to improve safety including the need for a pedestrian crossing, drainage improvements and signage to warn of swooping magpies and to educate the community on how to respond.
14. There was also considerable support for the inclusion of all abilities play equipment (supported by 30%) with one respondent noting in their open-text response that 'All abilities play equipment should be an absolute basic standard for all play spaces'.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

Feedback from this engagement will help shape the initial design for the future Ngunnawal play space improvements. We look forward to sharing the design with you later this year.

Updates will continue to be provided via the YourSay page. If you have any questions about this project or would like to be kept updated on its progress, please email [communityengagement@act.gov.au](mailto:communityengagement@act.gov.au).

### Key Timings

**24 March 2022:** Community consultation starts on Ngunnawal play space improvements

**9 April 2022:** Pop-up held at the local shops on Jabanungga Avenue, Ngunnawal

**5 May 2022:** Community consultation closes

**June 2022:** What We Heard report released [**We are here**]

**Mid 2022:** Ngunnawal play space upgrade design phase

**Late 2022:** Design released for Ngunnawal play space improvements

**2023:** Upgrades to Ngunnawal play space underway

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

**128**

we received 128 pieces of feedback in total

**116**

a total of 116 people completed the survey

**351**

a total of 351 people visited the YourSay page

**1**

we held one pop-up and spoke to approximately 30 people

**18,000+**

we reached 18,144 people via ACT Government Facebook and received 12 comments

**160+**

we sent an email to 167 community members and stakeholder groups encouraging feedback

**72.5%**

the average level of support for upgrading the play space at Burramarra Avenue was 72.5%

**87%**

the majority of survey respondents (87%) were satisfied with the engagement experience