



# CHISHOLM 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 Chisholm.

## 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 Chisholm. A total of 145 surveys were completed.

Members of the community and stakeholders were also invited to provide feedback via email and social media.

### Community pop-up

A pop-up session was held at Chisholm Village Shopping Centre on Saturday 9 April 2022 to promote the consultation and provide the community with an opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts. We spoke to approximately 60 people during the pop-up.

## WHO WE ENGAGED

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

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

82% of survey respondents visited Chisholm play spaces at least once a month, with 64% visiting weekly or more.

The majority of respondents visit Chisholm play spaces with toddlers aged four years and under (63%) or children between the ages of 5 and 9 (59%). We also heard pre-teens, teens, adults and seniors visit Chisholm play spaces.

68.5% of survey respondents were Chisholm residents with a further 16.5% from the adjacent suburbs of Gilmore, Fadden and Richardson. All but one of the remaining survey responses were from the broader Tuggeranong region.



## 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 Chisholm – upgrade location and current use

1. There is overall support for upgrading the Alston Street play space, with the average level of support in the community survey at 77%.
2. The most visited Chisholm play spaces by survey respondents are Deamer Crescent, Alston Street and Heagney Crescent.
3. There's some support in the open-text responses for the upgrades across a variety of other play spaces in Chisholm as well as requests for Deamer Crescent or Heagney Crescent to be prioritised for the upgrades.

#### Amenities for inclusion

4. You told us the top three amenities you'd like to see included as part of the Chisholm play space improvements are furniture for sitting, eating and studying; shade sails; and picnic shelters.
5. We also heard the inclusion of shade trees, improvements to paths and access and playground fencing are important to you.
6. Some of you told us you'd like to see other amenities to increase the overall use, look and feel of Chisholm play spaces, such as drinking fountains, new landscaping and improved play surfaces.

#### Play priorities

7. Your top priorities for additional play equipment/elements are nature play (53%), learn to ride facilities (42%), all abilities play equipment (31%) and climbing structures (30%).
8. Slides and forts, swinging equipment, a basketball hoop/multipurpose court and fitness equipment are also a priority for approximately one quarter of survey respondents.
9. You told us there should be more equipment for babies/children under two such as a five-point harness swing or tandem swing which parents/grandparents/guardians can operate.
10. Skating elements and play equipment for seniors and adults are a lower priority but still supported by 16% and 10% of survey respondents respectively. Both are also supported in the open comments along with suggestions for specific items such as musical elements, inground trampoline and equipment that sparks the imagination.

#### Safety and accessibility

11. In addition to path improvements and access for prams, bikes and scooters, you also told us the availability of parking was a key consideration when selecting a play space to visit and you'd like to see parking improvements.
12. Suggestions for safety improvements included softfall, removing a concrete step that poses a fall hazard and installing security cameras.
13. Some of you also told us wooden equipment and seats splinter and pose a safety concern that needs to be addressed.

#### General improvements

14. There's strong support for improved general maintenance of play spaces in Chisholm.
15. Several people would also like toilets and barbeques installed as part of the Chisholm play space upgrades.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

Feedback from this engagement will help shape the initial design for the future Chisholm 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 Chisholm play space improvements

**9 April 2022:** Chisholm Village Shopping Centre pop-up

**5 May 2022:** Community consultation closes

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

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

**Late 2022:** Final design released for Chisholm play space improvements

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

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

**166**

we received 166 pieces of feedback in total

**145**

a total of 145 people completed the survey

**541**

a total of 541 people visited the YourSay page

**1**

we held one pop-up and spoke to approximately 60 people

**23,000+**

we reached 23,878 people via ACT Government Facebook and received 17 comments

**160+**

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

**77%**

the average level of support for upgrading the play space at Alston Street was 77%

**84%**

the majority of survey respondents (84%) were satisfied with the engagement experience