



KALEEN 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 28 September 2022 to 9 November 2022 on play space improvements in Lyons and Kaleen to ensure the future upgrades meet the needs of the community.

Consultation on the other four suburbs of Aranda, Chisholm, Gordon and Ngunnawal took place earlier this year, with draft designs released for community feedback from 12 November 2022 to 11 December 2022.

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

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 Lyons. A total of 74 surveys were completed.

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

Community pop-up

Two pop-up sessions were held in Kaleen on Thursday 20 October 2022 and Friday 21 October 2022 to promote the consultation and provide the community with an opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts. We spoke to approximately 40 people during the two pop-ups.

WHO WE ENGAGED

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

We promoted the consultation via several channels including the Our Canberra electronic newsletter, signage at Kaleen playgrounds, ACT Government Facebook, and Twitter, two pop-ups in Kaleen, on the City Services website and via an email to key stakeholders including the Belconnen Community Council.

88% of survey respondents visited Kaleen play spaces at least once a month, with 76% visiting weekly or more.

Most respondents visit Kaleen play spaces with children between the ages of 5 and 9 (70%) or toddlers aged four years and under (58%). We also heard pre-teens, teens, adults, and seniors visit Kaleen play spaces.

85% of survey respondents were Kaleen residents with the remaining survey responses predominantly from the broader Belconnen region and neighbouring suburbs.



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 Kaleen – upgrade location and current use

1. There is support overall for upgrading the play space at Wakool Circuit, with the average level of support in the community survey at 82%.
2. The play space at Wakool Circuit is also the most visited play space in Kaleen – 58% of survey respondents are current visitors.
3. The next most visited Kaleen play space is the play space at Gwydir Square shops, it is visited by 55% of survey respondents. All other Kaleen play spaces are visited by less than one third of survey respondents.

Amenities for inclusion

4. You told us the amenities you'd most like to see included as part of the play space improvements are shade sails; furniture for sitting, eating and studying; shade trees and picnic shelters.
5. We heard installing fencing and improvements to paths and access are important to many of you.
6. We also received suggestions for bins, water fountains and barbecues to be included as part of the upgrades with a couple of people also requesting toilets.

Play priorities

7. Your top three priorities for additional play equipment/elements are nature play (55%), climbing structures (50%) and a basketball hoop or multi-use court (30%).
8. A learn to ride track, slides and forts and sensory play are also a priority for approximately one quarter of survey respondents, closely followed by swinging equipment and all abilities play equipment.
9. We also received a small number of requests to incorporate water play into the upgrade as well as suggestions for specific play equipment such as monkey bars, a spider swing and table tennis table.

Safety and accessibility

10. In addition to supporting fencing as part of any future play space upgrades, you told us improving safety and accessibility for toddlers and smaller children is important, including providing sufficient, suitable play equipment to meet their needs.
11. We heard catering to multiple age groups, including seniors who may not traditionally be well catered for is a priority for the community due to the changing demographics in Kaleen.
12. You also had a variety of suggestions for improving safety across Kaleen play spaces more broadly including fixing drainage issues at specific locations.

General improvements

13. We heard some of you would prefer we refresh other play spaces in Kaleen rather than (or in addition to) upgrading the play space at Wakool Circuit.
14. You told us most Kaleen play spaces are showing their age and need refreshing.
15. We received some suggestions of the type of upgrades you'd like to see in Kaleen with specific examples provided of the standard of play space the community you would like.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Feedback from this engagement will help shape the initial design for the future Kaleen play space improvements. We look forward to sharing the design with in the coming months.

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.

Key Timings

28 September 2022: Community consultation starts on Kaleen play space improvements

20 October 2022: Kaleen pop-up (Gwydir Square)

21 October 2022: Kaleen pop-up (Kaleen shops on Georgina Crescent)

9 November 2022: Community consultation closes

February 2023: What We Heard report released [**we are here**]

Early 2023: Kaleen play space upgrade design phase

Mid 2023: Design released for Kaleen play space improvements

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

84

we received 84 pieces of feedback in total

74

a total of 74 people completed the survey

406

a total of 406 people visited the YourSay page

2

we held two pop-ups and spoke to 40 people

8,000+

we reached 8,149 people via ACT Government Facebook and received 8 comments

40+

we sent an email to 47 stakeholder groups encouraging feedback

82%

the average level of support for upgrading the play space at Wakool Circuit was 82%

90%

the majority of survey respondents (90%) were satisfied with the engagement experience