



LYONS 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 summarises the feedback we heard from the community on the upgrade for a play space in Lyons.

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 144 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 the Lyons shops on Tuesday 18 October 2022 to promote the consultation and provide the community with an opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts. We spoke to approximately 18 people during the pop-up.

WHO WE ENGAGED

The consultation targeted regular users of Lyons 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 Lyons playgrounds, ACT Government Facebook and Twitter, a pop-up at Lyons shops, on the City Services website and via an email to key stakeholders including the Woden Valley Community Council.

80% of survey respondents visited Lyons play spaces at least once a month, with 55% visiting weekly or more.

Most respondents visited Lyons play spaces with toddlers aged four years and under (58%) or children between the ages of 5 and 9 (50%). We also heard pre-teens, teens, adults, and seniors visit Lyons play spaces.

83% of survey respondents were Lyons residents with the remaining survey responses predominantly from the broader Woden 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 Lyons – upgrade location and current use

1. There is strong support overall for upgrading the play space at Lyons oval, with the average level of support in the community survey at 94%.
2. The play space at Lyons oval is also the most visited play space in Lyons – 74% of survey respondents are current visitors. The next most visited Lyons spaces are the play space on Echo Place and the play space between Devonport Street and Longford Street, they are visited by 47% and 40% of survey respondents respectively.
3. There is broad support for moving the Lyons oval play space closer to the Lyons shops, with many people saying this would revitalise the shops and make the play space more convenient and enjoyable to use. There were a small handful of people who did not support moving the play space.

Amenities for inclusion

4. You told us the top three amenities you'd like to see included as part of the play space improvements are furniture for sitting, eating and studying; shade trees and shade sails.
5. We also heard improvements to paths and access including better linking the play space with the shops, picnic shelters, barbecues and drinking fountains are important to you.
6. Toilet facilities were also requested by many via the open comments field due partly to the proximity of the play space to the Lyons shops.

Play priorities

7. Your top three priorities for additional play equipment/elements are nature play (53%), climbing structures (49%) and a basketball hoop or multi-purpose court (33%). There was also strong support for the basketball court in the open comments section of the survey.
8. Slides and forts, fitness elements, learn to ride facilities and all abilities play equipment are also a priority for approximately one quarter of survey respondents.
9. There's also a strong desire for a variety of play equipment as part of the upgrade that caters to all ages, from toddlers and juniors to teens and adults. Suggestions included a flying fox, water play, table tennis tables as well as a hitting wall, soccer posts and a golfing range.

Safety and accessibility

10. Several people requested fencing as part of the upgrade to improve safety, especially if the play space is relocated closer to the shops and a busy road.
11. We also received a range of other suggestions for improving safety including lighting improvements, fixing drainage in specific locations and safety upgrades to existing play equipment. A couple of people were also concerned about the swooping magpies that are an issue at the current location in spring.

General improvements

12. We received several suggestions to improve landscaping as part of the upgrades with several requests for more native, deciduous and fruit trees to be planted to improve shade and amenity.
13. You told us the play space at Chifley is an example of the quality of play space you would like in Lyons but with complementary play equipment to provide more variety in the Woden area.
14. We also heard community art and cultural elements would be welcomed as part of the upgrades.



WHAT'S NEXT?

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

18 October 2022: Lyons shops pop-up

9 November 2022: Community consultation closes

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

Early 2023: Lyons play space upgrade design phase

Mid 2023: Design released for Lyons play space improvements

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

178

we received 178 pieces of feedback in total

144

a total of 144 people completed the survey

444

a total of 444 people visited the YourSay page

1

we held one pop-up and spoke to 18 people

13,000+

we reached 13,888 people via ACT Government Facebook and received 32 comments

40+

we sent an email to 47 stakeholder groups encouraging feedback

94%

the average level of support for upgrading the play space at Lyons Oval was 94%

93%

the majority of survey respondents (93%) were satisfied with the engagement experience