



ARANDA 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 Aranda.

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 Aranda. A total of 283 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 Aranda Playing Fields on Tuesday 3 May 2022 to promote the consultation and provide the community with an opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts. We spoke to six people during the pop-up.

WHO WE ENGAGED

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

We promoted the consultation via a number of channels including the Our Canberra electronic newsletter, signage at Aranda playgrounds, ACT Government Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, a pop-up at the Aranda Playing Fields, on the City Services website and via an email to key stakeholders including the Aranda Residents Group.

72% of respondents visit Aranda play spaces at least once a month, including 50% who visit at least once a week. Half of survey respondents visit Aranda play spaces with children between the ages of 5 and 9, 43% visit with pre-teens and one third visit with toddlers. We also heard teenagers, older adults and adults are regular visitors to Aranda play spaces.

Almost 60% of respondents live in Aranda and a further 15% live in the neighbouring suburb of Cook. The majority of the remaining responses were from residents from the broader Belconnen region who use Aranda play spaces.

The Aranda Residents Group also provided a detailed submission and a number of surveys were from local primary school students.



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 Aranda – upgrade location and current use

1. There is support overall for upgrading the Banambila Street play space, with the average level of support in the community survey at 78%.
2. The Banambila Street play space is also the most visited play space in Aranda – 66% of survey respondents are current visitors.
3. Approximately one quarter of respondents visit the play spaces on Jagara Street, Gundara Street and Jalanga Crescent.
4. Open-text comments and written submissions from the community show there's a desire for minor improvements to be spread across all play spaces in Aranda, rather than one significant upgrade to a single play space. About 5% of respondents do not support upgrading Banambila Street play space.

Amenities for inclusion

5. You told us your top three priorities for amenity improvements are furniture for sitting, eating or studying; shade trees; and shade sails.
6. We also heard picnic shelters, bins and improvements to paths and access are important to you. Some of you told us these amenities are important because they promote usability of play spaces for small events or catching up with family and friends.
7. Bicycle racks and fencing are significantly lower ranked priorities for Aranda play space upgrades, this may reflect the older age of children visiting Aranda play spaces and how they travel to them.

Play priorities

8. Your top three priorities for additional play equipment/elements are nature play (57%), climbing structures (52%) and swinging equipment (39%).
9. About a quarter of respondents prioritised all abilities play equipment, a basketball hoop or multi-use court and fitness equipment. Specific comments on the climbing elements included tiered climbing structures, a climbing wall and large climbing frames.
10. You told us multi-use equipment and amenities would help improve the use of play spaces and those improvements that better cater for different age groups including seniors and adults are important.

Safety and accessibility

11. A number of suggestions were made about increasing the accessibility of all play spaces in Aranda, making them safer and easier to use for people with different abilities. These comments included better paths and general access improvements, such as wheelchair ramps.
12. Some of you also mentioned your desire for minor improvements across the suburb, rather than improvements to one play space, is due to the walking distance from parts of Aranda to where the available play spaces are.

General improvements

13. In addition to supporting minor improvements across play spaces in Aranda, you told us the play space at Aranda Primary School was great inspiration for play space upgrades across the suburb and you'd like to see improvements in keeping with the look and feel of the suburb.
14. The community indicated it is important to ensure new or upgraded equipment is different from equipment and play opportunities at the other play spaces in the suburb. Comments noted older children, including teenagers were not well catered for, or adults, including seniors.
15. The community also shared their ideas around making better use of existing equipment and increasing general maintenance across all Aranda play spaces.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Feedback from this engagement will help shape the initial design for the future Aranda 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.

Key Timings

24 March 2022: Community consultation starts on Aranda play space improvements

3 May 2022: Pop-up held at the Aranda Playing Fields

5 May 2022: Community consultation closes

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

Mid 2022: Aranda play space upgrade design phase

Late 2022: Design released for Aranda play space improvements

2023: Upgrades to Aranda play space underway

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

290

we received 290 pieces of
feedback in total

283

a total of 283 people
completed the survey

470

a total of 470 people visited
the YourSay page

1

we held one pop-up and
spoke to six people

17,000+

we reached 17,906 people
via ACT Government
Facebook and received 3
comments

160+

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

78%

the average level of support
for upgrading Banambila
Street was 78%

80%

the majority of survey
respondents (80%) were
satisfied with the
engagement experience