



Equal Access Play Facilities Policy

Objective:

This policy aims to address accessibility issues experienced by children with disabilities when using local playspaces.

Scope:

This policy applies to new and existing playspace facilities provided by Council within the Parramatta Local Government Area.

Policy Statement:

1. Parramatta City Council will seek to provide playspaces which provide a stimulating play and learning environment for all children, regardless of physical ability. It is recognised that many existing playspaces within the local government area (LGA) are currently inaccessible to children with disabilities and that the play needs of children with disabilities have not been adequately addressed in the past.
2. Council's approach to playspace design shall reflect the principles of accessibility and inclusiveness. The aim of playspace design shall be to provide a stimulating sensory experience to all children in a shared and equally accessible space.
3. Where any new playspace is to be installed in the LGA, or any existing facility is to be substantially upgraded, Council will seek to make that facility accessible to children with disabilities and will seek to include design features which promote a shared and stimulating experience for children of all abilities.
4. It is recognised that Council's ability to achieve these aims will be limited by geographical site and budgetary considerations. In many instances, access to playspaces located deep in park settings will be severely limited and the cost of installing access pathways will be prohibitive. The other major limitation is availability of car parking adjacent to play facilities.
5. The designers of all new play facilities in the Parramatta LGA, whether they be Council's design services team, or external contractors, shall in the first instance consider issues of accessibility when responding to design briefs. Where practicable, allowing for the limitations outlined above, they shall incorporate principals of equal access into their designs.

Authorisation:

Policy 081 - Minute no. 6550, 8/10/02

Review:

This policy is scheduled to be reviewed within 6 months of every general Council election.

Version:

Version 1, 12/01/06

Owner:

The Open Space and Recreation Unit is responsible for this policy.