

2020 Local Government Policy Awards Categories

Aboriginal Child Health

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have significantly poorer health and lower life expectancy than other Australians. While there have been improvements in the health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in recent years, some long-standing challenges remain.

Please describe how your Local Government (LG) has implemented culturally relevant programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families to support their health and development while strengthening an understanding of Aboriginal culture.

Action on Alcohol is sponsored by [Alcohol and Drug Foundation](#)

Local, national and international evidence confirms that alcohol is a cause of significant harm to the drinker and to others, including children and young people.

This category examines how LGs are developing and implementing policies and programs to reduce harm from alcohol among children and young people, such as measures to reduce exposure to alcohol advertising, limiting the availability of alcohol, communicating the harms from alcohol, engaging with young people, and building community support for action on alcohol.

LGs may also be a key partner in community groups to enable successful delivery of community led activities that increase the protective factors in the lives of children and young people and reduce the risk factors that lead children and young people to take up alcohol and other drugs early in life (such as boredom, lack of community connection and disengagement in school).

Children's Consultation is sponsored by [The Commissioner for Children and Young People WA](#).

Involving children and young people in discussions on issues supports them to make informed decisions about their own lives and ensures strategies meet their needs. This category looks for innovative strategies LG's are implementing to give young people a voice.

Child Health and Development

Child Health and Development includes all aspects that contribute to positive outcomes for children. Language skills, early literacy, cognitive development, social competence, physical health and wellbeing are all contributing aspects. Creating stimulating and engaging environments for children to explore will ensure that they are active participants in their own learning through play.

This category looks at the environments or programs LG's offer children and families to support development and achieve positive outcomes to enhance their experiences that promote lifelong learning.

Climate Change

Children and young people have the potential to contribute to the reduction of climate change in their communities. This category looks at how LG's are engaging with children to play a role in protecting the environment for the future. Tree-planting, recycling and utilising local resources such as rain water are practical ways to encourage this learning.

Environments Promoting Physical Activity

Children's participation in physical activity is influenced by the built, natural and social environment. This category determines how and to what capacity LG's are playing a role to create these spaces to provide opportunities for children to develop their physical, cognitive and social skills, build resilience and engage in outdoor play including nature play and active transport opportunities.

Healthy Food is sponsored by [WA School Canteen Association](#)

Children need healthy and safe food for successful development and to prevent disease. Food preferences and eating habits are learned in the early years and influence food choices later in life. This category looks at how LG's are supporting children and families in their communities through various avenues including reducing exposure to junk food advertising, promoting healthy food options at events and facilities, providing learning experiences and supporting community gardens.

Planning Healthy Communities

The build environment that children live and play in has the potential to influence their health. This category looks at how LGs are planning communities and taking into consideration the use of land, urban planning, building and land policies or preserving the natural environment for healthy communities for children.

Shade in Public Places is sponsored by the [Cancer Council WA](#).

Providing effective shade in public places is a key strategy to reduce overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Overexposure to UV radiation, particularly in childhood and adolescence, increases the risk of sunburn and skin cancer. Effective shade can reduce UV exposure by up to 75 per cent.

This category looks at the provision of shade at public facilities and public outdoor spaces frequented by children and youth; and examines the LG strategies that create shaded environments and support sun protection behaviours within the community.

Smoke free Environments is sponsored by [The Cancer Council WA](#).

Tobacco control at a LG level is essential to promote smoke free environments and reduce smoking normalisation within the community. LG plays a significant role to monitor compliance with tobacco control legislation relating to smoke free environments.

This category looks at what LGs are doing to expand smoke free environments, above and beyond areas that are mandated by tobacco control legislation, to ensure children aren't exposed to second-hand smoke. This may include outdoor public spaces such as sport and recreation facilities, LG run events and other LG managed areas that are widely attended and frequented by children and youth.

Young People Making a Difference in Communities is sponsored by the [Commissioner for Children and Young People WA](#).

This category looks at what the young people (highschool-24 years old) are doing in their communities and to what capacity LG's support their young people, giving them a voice to address current and potential issues that affect them. Examples can include youth councils or advisory groups.

Submission Criteria and Guidelines

How has your Local Government forward planned within this category? Please stipulate the specific policy relating to this category. 0 / 500 words

Describe the initiatives implemented in your community? 0 / 500 words

Was there consultation within your community (specifically children) to determine their needs and highlight gaps in services? 0 / 500 words

These awards are policy driven and discourage one off projects or programs.

Please consider the following:

- an evidence-based approach to inform decision making and planning
- the sustainability of the initiative (i.e. aligned with broader strategic goals, secured ongoing funding, embedded in policy).
Please supply a minimum of **one** and maximum of **three** supporting documents relevant to this category.
Examples of specific policies: Children and Family Strategic Plan, Strengthening Youth Plan, Early Childhood Strategy, Play Space Strategy.

Please consider the following when describing your initiative:

- when it was implemented
- who was involved
- goals of the projects
- target audience
- any partnerships
- how the initiative was promoted and/or communicated both internally (within LG) and externally (to the community)
- collaboration with others eg did you need to collaborate within LG (ie between teams/departments) and/or other LGs
- evaluation and specific outcomes

Need help?

Describe the methods used to consult with the community, including the number of people (specifically children) involved in the consultation process.