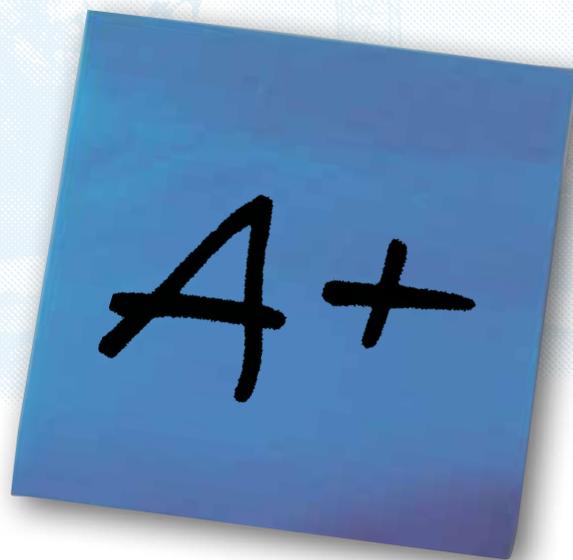

2014
CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENT
& HEALTH

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORT CARD
SHOWCASE DOCUMENT**



2014
CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENT
& HEALTH

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORT CARD
SHOWCASE DOCUMENT





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INTRODUCTION

The Public Health Advocacy Institute of WA (PHAIWA) is a driving force in promoting health through advocacy in Western Australia. It is well known that there are a variety of factors which influence health, including genetic and environmental factors, as well as social and mental wellbeing. Promoting health, and creating healthy opportunities in childhood, has a positive impact on the future health of an individual. PHAIWA recognises that identifying and developing healthy environments at a local community level will create a safer and healthier environment for childhood, and have a positive effect on child and adolescent development. The Children's Environment and Health Report Card Project was piloted in 2011, and the report card has become an annual activity for monitoring and maintaining standards of child & environmental health at a Local Government level. The aim is to promote positive change and integrate children's environment and health issues within policies and plans in the local government sector, through feedback on progress via a report card.

Since 2011, PHAIWA has seen an increased diversity in the range of projects being implemented, and this annual "Best of WA" Showcase document highlights the innovations and achievements across 20 participating local governments. It recognises each of the category award winners by outlining the rationale for their success. PHAIWA hopes that these cases will act as a motivation for local governments to further improve their existing public health plans or policies, and establish new plans or policies which integrate strategies tailored towards children's environment and health.



ABOUT THE REPORT CARD PROJECT

BACKGROUND

The Children's Environment and Health Local Government Report Card Project originated following the Environment and Health Advocacy Forum – an event organised by PHAIWA in March 2009. The Environment and Health Advocacy Committee was formed following the Forum with members from across Western Australia. One of the Committee's first duties was to prioritise the advocacy consensus targets developed from the Forum. The area of children's environment and health was allocated the highest priority. Subsequently a range of ideas on how to advocate for improved children's environment and health were canvassed and it was decided that targeting the local government sector would be the most suitable focus, given that many of the settings where children congregate come under the jurisdiction of local government.

WHY A REPORT CARD?

Although report cards are not often used to assess policy, they have proven to be effective at evaluating program quality, promoting program improvement and informing and advocating for programs in many settings including schools, urban planning and health services. This project employs the report card system as an innovative advocacy tool that can act as both an effective evaluation mechanism of local government corporate strategy, as well as an instrument to promote positive change in the local government sector.



APPLICATION PROCESS

Local governments were required to submit an application form as well as their most recent Annual Report and Strategic Plan. They also had the option of submitting up to four supporting planning or policy documents or reports. If possible, submitting at least one supporting document that contained a focus on consultation with children was encouraged. The application forms allowed the submitting officer to reference the location of each of the children's environment and health strategies within. Each referenced strategy was required to be categorised into one of 16 categories relating to children's environment and health. These categories are named below.

- Adventurous play spaces/public open spaces
- Stimulating learning environments
- Nature discovery
- Environments supportive of physical activity
- Road/pedestrian safety
- Housing density and affordability
- Child care centre design and placement
- Healthy eating
- Smoke free environments
- Food safety and security
- Outdoor air quality
- Prevention of diseases
- Shade in public spaces
- Child health and development
- Child friendly planning approaches
- Children's consultation

B NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS

Submissions were due at the beginning of August 2013, with extensions provided if the local government gave notice by the due date of their intention to submit. In total 20 submissions were received: 12 from the metropolitan area and 8 from regional areas. These were:

- City of Bayswater
- City of Belmont
- City of Bunbury
- Shire of Chapman Valley
- Shire of Coolgardie
- City of Cockburn
- Shire of Cranbrook
- Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
- City of Joondalup
- Shire of Kalamunda
- City of Kwinana
- City of Nedlands
- City of Perth
- Shire of Plantagenet
- City of Rockingham
- Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale
- City of Stirling
- City of Subiaco
- City of Swan
- Shire of Westonia

B+

EVALUATION PROCEDURE

Using the application form as a reference guide, each of the submitted publications were reviewed to confirm whether adequate strategies had been identified relating to the 16 children's environment and health categories. Each category was assessed separately against six criteria:

1. Has an environment and health strategy targeting the general population been ratified? **Score out of 3**
2. Has an environment and health strategy specifically targeting children been ratified? **Score out of 3**
3. Has an environment and health strategy targeting the general population been implemented? **Score out of 3**
4. Has an environment and health strategy specifically targeting children been implemented? **Score out of 3**
5. Is there evidence of community consultation (especially children's consultation) during the planning process? **Score out of 6**

A cumulative marking system was used, with information from each publication assessed against each category. The chosen marking format was similar to that used in academic grading.

A+ Score > 15

B+ Score > 9

C+ Score > 3

N/A Score = 0

A Score > 12

B Score > 6

C Score > 0

A+

SUBMISSION AVERAGES

Adventurous play spaces/public open spaces	A
Stimulating learning environments	A
Nature discovery	B
Environments supportive of physical activity	B+
Road/pedestrian safety	B
Housing density and affordability	B
Child care centre design and placement	C+
Healthy eating	C+
Food safety and security	C+
Outdoor air quality	B
Smoke free environments	C
Prevention of disease	C+
Shade in public spaces	C+
Child health and development	C+
Child friendly planning approaches	B+
Children's consultation	B+
OVERALL	B

B+

A

A+

PHAIWA would like to congratulate all of 2013's Over-all winners, Commendable strategy winners and Valued participants.



WINNERS

BEST IN WA

- 1st: City of Cockburn
- 2nd: City of Subiaco
- 3rd: City of Rockingham

REGIONAL

- 1st: Shire of Chapman Valley and Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
- 2nd: Shire of Coolgardie
- 3rd: Shire of Plantagenet

CATEGORY WINNERS

Adventurous play spaces/public open spaces:	Shire of Westonia
Stimulating learning environments:	Shire of Chapman Valley
Nature discovery:	City of Subiaco
Environments supportive of physical activity:	Shire of Coolgardie
Road/pedestrian safety:	City of Bayswater
Housing density/affordability:	City of Nedlands
Child care centre design and placement:	City of Cockburn
Healthy eating:	Shire of Kalamunda
Smoke free environments:	City of Cockburn
Food safety and security:	City of Rockingham
Outdoor air quality:	Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
Prevention of diseases:	City of Cockburn
Shade in public spaces:	City of Kwinana
Child health and development:	City of Cockburn
Child friendly planning approaches:	City of Nedlands
Children's consultation:	City of Rockingham

Award:

ADVENTUROUS PLAY SPACES/PUBLIC OPEN SPACES



Winner:

SHIRE OF WESTONIA

The Shire of Westonia had great success building a motorcycle-bicycle track in late 2012. The track was designed specifically for children and was developed by local community members.



The Shire of Westonia's new playground equipment located in the community playground.

The shire has developed new play equipment at the Westonia Community Playground. They consulted with local children to determine their preferred type of play equipment and found that the overwhelming response was for climbing equipment, so the Council has opted for a set of mixed age playground equipment that features climbing walls, web walls, treadmills and a large triangular climbing net.

Commendable Strategies:

CITY OF BUNBURY

The City of Bunbury has delivered the first stage of its Accessible Playground. Located at the Bunbury Big Swamp precinct, the playground incorporates wheelchair friendly play equipment and promotes social inclusion for children of all ages. It has been designed to incorporate nature features with a sense of adventure in mind. The equipment includes a carousel, aeroglider, roller-table and sand factory.



The City of Bunbury's Accessible Playground

Award:

STIMULATING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS



Winner:

SHIRE OF CHAPMAN VALLEY



Shire of Chapman Valley's Yuna Park

Local Chapman Valley school students engaged with professional artists to design and construct a mosaic of the Chapman River. The mosaic was erected at the Yuna community park and shows the flora, fauna and land use that surrounds the river.

The Shire of Chapman Valley is also considering ways to inform local children about the heritage and environment of the Shire to protect and conserve its identity in the future. Suggested activities to facilitate this include

creating a mini theatre with a screen showing local history and events, and developing a walking tour along the Chapman River at Nanson to showcase the local environment.

Commendable Strategies:

SHIRE OF WESTONIA

The Shire of Westonia organises a number of events and programmes for children, including:

- Community Treasure Hunt
- Burracoppin Daffodil Day
- Nest Box Building
- Christmas Tree Making
- A Night With the Stars

Commendable Strategies:

CITY OF BUNBURY

The Bunbury Kidsfest is an all-encompassing three day children's festival that introduces children to activities such as:

- Science experiments
- Farm animal petting
- Fruit and vegie pot planting
- Theatre shows
- Wood workshops

Background: Shire of Chapman Valley mosaic of Chapman River

Award:
NATURE DISCOVERY



Winner: **CITY OF SUBIACO**



Courtesy of City of Subiaco
Subiaco's Playspace Strategy
Document

The City of Subiaco's 'Play Space' strategy document provides a holistic analysis of the components required to create an exciting playground for children, including a section that highlights the importance of incorporating natural features into play spaces.

Principle 7 of the Strategy states:

Natural features, materials and surrounds should be integrated and made available and accessible within play spaces. Such features improve aesthetics and provide informal play opportunities... Natural components, such as trees and vegetation and features such as rocks, level changes, and different surface materials provide children with an environment conducive to more creative, active and imaginative play.

Subiaco has several parks within the city's borders which include significant natural play elements.

Commendable Strategies:

SHIRE OF PLANTAGENET

The Shire has continued to improve its Nature Play inspired playground at Centenary and Wilson Park. It comprises play equipment fabricated from natural products, plantings and landscaping to create a sensory and visually appealing garden and large spaces to encourage children to move throughout the site. The Native Animal Theme of the play space was identified through workshops with students from Mt Barker Primary School.



Shire of Plantagenet's nature playground

Award:
ROAD/ PEDESTRIAN SAFETY



Winner:
CITY OF BAYSWATER



The City of Bayswater youth consultation for road safety workshop

The City of Bayswater’s Youth Friendly Communities Report provides an excellent overview of the youth consultation workshops the City conducted to inform future planning and development within the City of Bayswater. Key findings relating to road safety within this document include that young people living in Bayswater believe there is a lack of pedestrian and bike paths, and that many roads are dangerous to cycle on. Furthermore, young people identified the Morley Bus Station as a potentially dangerous area due to traffic and poor visibility. In light of these consultation findings the Report

advises that strategies to improve the safety at Morley Bus Station and provide safer pedestrian and bike paths should be considered when developing the City’s new Strategic Community Plan.

Commendable Strategies:
**SHIRE OF DONNYBROOK
-BALINGUP**

The Shire holds a Youth Road Prevention Trauma Day to educate young high school students about the potential consequences of risk-taking behaviour on the road. The day includes road safety related presentations including guidelines on buying a safe vehicle, police perspectives on road trauma and prevention, a simulated road crash with fatality and victims, as well as a talk from a family affected by road trauma.

Background: Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup Youth Road Prevention trauma day.

Commendable Strategies:
CITY OF SUBIACO

The City provides its residents with a free child car restraint fitting or checking service at Kidsafe WA located at Princess Margaret Hospital.

Award:

HOUSING DENSITY AND AFFORDABILITY

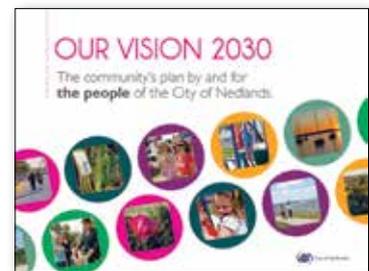


Winner:

CITY OF NEDLANDS

The City of Nedlands' Vision 2030 document contains two contemporary housing strategies.

- I. To increase density and diversity around civic, community and activity hubs.
- II. To zone for diversity and varying density of housing and community (including age groups and facilities).



City of Nedlands' Our Vision 2030 document

The City's Community Plan also provides survey responses showing that residents support the planned increase in diversity, such as providing more housing choices for students.

Commendable Strategies:

CITY OF BAYSWATER

The City of Bayswater's newly adopted Local Housing Strategy is based on three key objectives.

- I. Provide a strategic direction for Council, developers and the community in relation to residential densities and housing issues in the City.
- II. Facilitate a mix of housing choices to accommodate all ages and diverse lifestyles.
- III. Identify locations that have the capacity to accommodate population growth and change.

Ensuring there are accessible and affordable housing options for young people is a commendable strategy that is also noted in both the Strategic Community Plan and Youth Friendly Communities documents.

Award:

CHILD CARE CENTRE DESIGN AND PLACEMENT



Winner:

CITY OF COCKBURN

The purpose of the City of Cockburn's Child Care Centres within Residential Areas policy document is to:

"Provide guidelines for the location, siting and design of Child Care Centres to ensure that such developments are compatible with, and avoid adverse impacts on, the amenity of surrounding areas".

The policy notes that where applications for Child Care Centres are received within established areas, a set of criteria should be taken into account. The criteria include:

Location and residential amenity

- Sites in close proximity to busy intersections or roads are not preferred due to issues of traffic conflict, noise and possible health implications associated with vehicle emissions.
- Child Care Centres should be located adjacent or within close proximity to public transport routes.

Site design

- The site is to have a regular shape, with a minimum lot area of 1,000 m² and an effective frontage of 20 metres to minimise the impact on surrounding residential properties.
- Site coverage is required to be a maximum of fifty per cent (50%) to allow for adequate open space, residential character and car parking areas.

Outdoor play areas

- Outdoor play areas should be located so as to take advantage of solar orientation and should be screened from sources of pollution, such as car parking areas and roads, by appropriate fencing or vegetation.
- A portion of the outdoor play area is required to be covered with a shade structure for sun protection.

Commendable Strategies:

CITY OF PERTH

The City of Perth offers a Commonwealth Accredited Long Day and Occasional child care centre to meet the needs of people working and shopping in the city, as well as for migrants that attend English speaking classes. Citiplace is licensed for 71 children and is open between 7.30am to 5.30pm, 5 days a week.



City of Perth's Citiplace Childcare Center



Background: City of Perth 'Citiplace Childcare Center

Award:
HEALTHY EATING



Winner:
SHIRE OF KALAMUNDA

The Shire holds a Kids Cooking Club during school holidays for local 5-12 year olds at the High Wycombe Community and Recreation Centre. These classes introduce kids to cooking vocabulary, techniques, tools, utensils, etiquette, nutrition and safety.

The Shire of Kalamunda also intends to implement a food Traffic Light System for all Shire run facilities, services and functions.



*The Shire of Kalamunda's Kids
Cooking Club*

Commendable Strategies:
CITY OF BELMONT

The City of Belmont has outlined three nutrition-focused advocacy objectives in their Physical Activity and Healthy Eating Plan. These include:

- I. Appoint a range of local Physical Activity and Nutrition Champions who become spokespersons for physical activity and healthy eating within the City.
- II. Advocate for changes to the current café menu at Oasis Recreation Centre to provide at least 80% healthy options.
- III. Advocate to and support sporting clubs to increase healthy food options sold at their canteens.

Background: The Shire of Kalamunda's Kids Cooking Club

Award:
SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENTS



Winner:
CITY OF COCKBURN

City of Cockburn's Smoke-Free Environment policy prohibits smoking within 10 metres of all children's playground equipment, parks and reserves, council playing fields or sporting groups and council beaches. This is a comprehensive policy which extends beyond the tobacco control laws enacted by the State Government. The City actively promotes its smoke free agenda as part of its Be Active Cockburn initiative, with information available from: <http://www.beactivecockburn.com.au/smokefree/>



The City of Cockburn winners of the Smoke Free Environments category



Award:
FOOD SAFETY AND SECURITY



Winner:
CITY OF ROCKINGHAM



The City of Rockingham's Hillman Hall Hub is actively encouraging and empowering more young people to become involved in intergenerational activities at the Rockingham Community Garden located within Hillman Reserve.



Furthermore, children nominated growing vegetables in their own garden at home as an important part of living in Rockingham during the Children's Drawing Forum at the Rockingham Community Fair.

Left: The City of Rockingham's Community Garden at Hillman Reserve

Commendable Strategies:
SHIRE OF KALAMUNDA

The Shire of Kalumunda has successfully introduced a Local Schools Food Gardening Programme. This initiative has been well received and will continue into the future with the expectation of launching new community school food garden projects and the development of stronger partnerships between existing programs.

Commendable Strategies:
CITY OF SUBIACO

The City conducted approximately 7000 food business inspections in 2011-2012 and opened the Wandana Community Garden which is used as a demonstration site for other community gardens in Perth. Subi's Future for Kids publication also mentions encouraging sustainable gardening as a means to promote sustainability.

Award:
OUTDOOR AIR QUALITY



Winner:
SHIRE OF DONNYBROOK-BALINGUP

Over the course of the year students from two primary schools within the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup assisted the council in maintaining outdoor air quality and protecting the natural environment by planting seedlings. Balingup Primary School students planted over 300 wetland reed and sedge species at Balingup Pool while Kirup Primary School students planted native shrubs and trees around their school grounds.



The Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup's tree planting group

Commendable Strategies:
CITY OF COCKBURN

The City of Cockburn has held 48 planting events, with some of these involving school students. The City's Child Care Centres Within Residential Areas policy also discourages child care centres from being built near busy intersections due to vehicle emissions.

Commendable Strategies:
CITY OF STIRLING

The City of Stirling has several strategies in place to reduce the impact of greenhouse gas emissions in the city. The Adopt a Street-Tree programme encourages residents and community groups such as schools to work together with the City of Stirling to help revitalise local streetscapes by planting and maintaining street trees. The City also provides a TravelSmart programme which works with primary schools to reduce car use by parents and encourages pupils to walk to school instead.

Award:
PREVENTION OF DISEASE



Winner:
CITY OF COCKBURN

The City of Cockburn is implementing its strategy to advocate for an expansion of immunisation services across the region. The Children’s Development Officer is liaising with the new Immunisation Alliance WA organisation on an ongoing basis and has also attended a meeting regarding the current state of immunisation in Fremantle and surrounds district.

Commendable Strategies:
CITY OF JOONDALUP

Throughout the year the City of Joondalup provides free scheduled immunisation vaccinations for babies and children at its clinic located next to the Joondalup Library. These immunisation clinics are primarily for babies, though children who miss their school vaccinations are able to attend. Parents or carers of newborn babies are also able to receive certain vaccines.

Commendable Strategies:
SHIRE OF WESTONIA

The Shire of Westonia with support from the Royal Flying Doctor Service is able to provide free seasonal adult and child flu vaccinations. Dr Olga Ward, with assistance from Nurse Laura Black, conducts this service during her monthly visits to Westonia.



Royal Flying Doctor service general practitioner Dr Olga Ward

Award:
SHADE IN PUBLIC SPACES



Winner:
CITY OF KWINANA

The City of Kwinana's Children and Family Youth Action Plan states that there are adequate shade provisions in the city. A strategy will be implemented to ensure that the City will ensure that there is adequate shade provision at all new and existing parks. The Public Open Space Strategy also lists a number of parks and playgrounds that have existing access to shade structures.

Commendable Strategies:
SHIRE OF COOLGARDIE

The Shire of Coolgardie is installing new shade sails at Lions Park and is considering constructing a shelter over one of their tennis courts. The Shire's community survey results also revealed that the community would like the shade infrastructure at parks and gardens to be upgraded.

Commendable Strategies:
CITY OF COCKBURN

The City of Cockburn has implemented a Shade Sail Strategy that delivers shade sail installation and/or tree planting to playgrounds throughout the City.

Commendable Strategies:
SHIRE OF WESTONIA

Two new large brightly coloured shade sails were constructed at the Westonia Community Playground in January 2013. The Shire of Westonia received funding assistance from Lotterywest for the installation of the sails.



Sail shades at the Community playground in Westonia

Background: The City of Kwinana provides play equipment in shaded areas.

Award:
CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT



Winner:
CITY OF COCKBURN



Froggy's Fun on the Green, community events for children and parents

The City of Cockburn is committed to ensuring that children and their parents or caregivers have access to affordable, inclusive and quality community support and health services. This is illustrated by the City's principal Access to Community and Health Services strategy, as referenced in its Children's Services Implementation Plan.

Froggy's Fun on the Green, an outdoor play program for 0 – 5 year olds operated by the City of Cockburn, makes occasional visits to playgroups, community events for children, and library storytimes and pram jams to inform parents of available child health services whilst also providing information about child and early brain development.

Commendable Strategies:
CITY OF SUBIACO

The City is to be congratulated for promoting several innovative child health and development related strategies and facilities in its Subi Alive document. These are:

- I. Free monthly parenting workshops which examine topics such as child resuscitation, behaviour and boundaries, eating and nutrition and sleep well workshops.
- II. The Breast Feeding Welcome Here programme that encourages mothers to use the Subiaco Library to breastfeed.
- III. The Shenton Park Child Health Centre which is staffed by a registered nurse with qualifications in child and family health.

Award:

CHILD FRIENDLY PLANNING APPROACHES



Winner:

CITY OF NEDLANDS

The City of Nedlands operates two valuable programs for children to provide them with access to motor skills coaching sporting clubs.

- The Sports Link Program is an inclusive program run in partnership with the Towns of Claremont and Mosman Park and the Shire of Peppermint Grove that teaches basic sports skills and confidence to children experiencing difficulty with motor skills or with disabilities.
- The City of Nedlands also works with the City of Subiaco to offer the Kidsport program which provides eligible children and young people aged 5-18 years with financial assistance to contribute towards membership fees in clubs. The fees go directly to the registered Kidsport clubs participating in the project and enables more children to participate in community sport and recreation, no matter their financial circumstances. *Background: City of Nedlands 'Buzz Timetable*



Commendable Strategies:

SHIRE OF COOLGARDIE

The Shire of Coolgardie distributed a youth focused survey targeting people aged between 12 and 17 to inform its Youth Development Plan. This plan contains several child friendly planning strategies, including:

- Improving transport options through a Transportation Strategy to improve accessibility for all members of the community, particularly for the mobility impaired and children/youth living in Kambalda East.
- Offer more activities in Coolgardie that are inclusive of children and youth

from Indigenous and disadvantaged backgrounds.

- Installing a water fountain at the skate park to reduce vandalism at Kambalda Primary School by children/youths that access the school grounds out of school hours for drinking water.

Commendable Strategies:

SHIRE OF KALAMUNDA

The Shire of Kalamunda has undertaken an audit of its skate park facilities to determine future needs and establish priorities. In the wake of this the Shire decided to fund and develop the Forrestfield Skate Park.

Award:

CHILDREN'S CONSULTATION



Winner:

CITY OF ROCKINGHAM



The City of Rockingham's children's consultation workshop

The City of Rockingham also performed well in this category in 2012, however in this edition of the Report Card Project, the City of Rockingham has placed more of an emphasis on primary school aged children. The City undertook a Children's Drawing Forum at the Rockingham Community Fair by dispensing crayons to children and asking them to draw what they liked best about the City and what would make it better in the future. 15 children aged between 4-10 years old participated in the process. The City held a Youth Engagement Workshop that complemented this. It was facilitated by Rockingham's Youth Advisory Council and targeted under-25s.

Commendable Strategies:

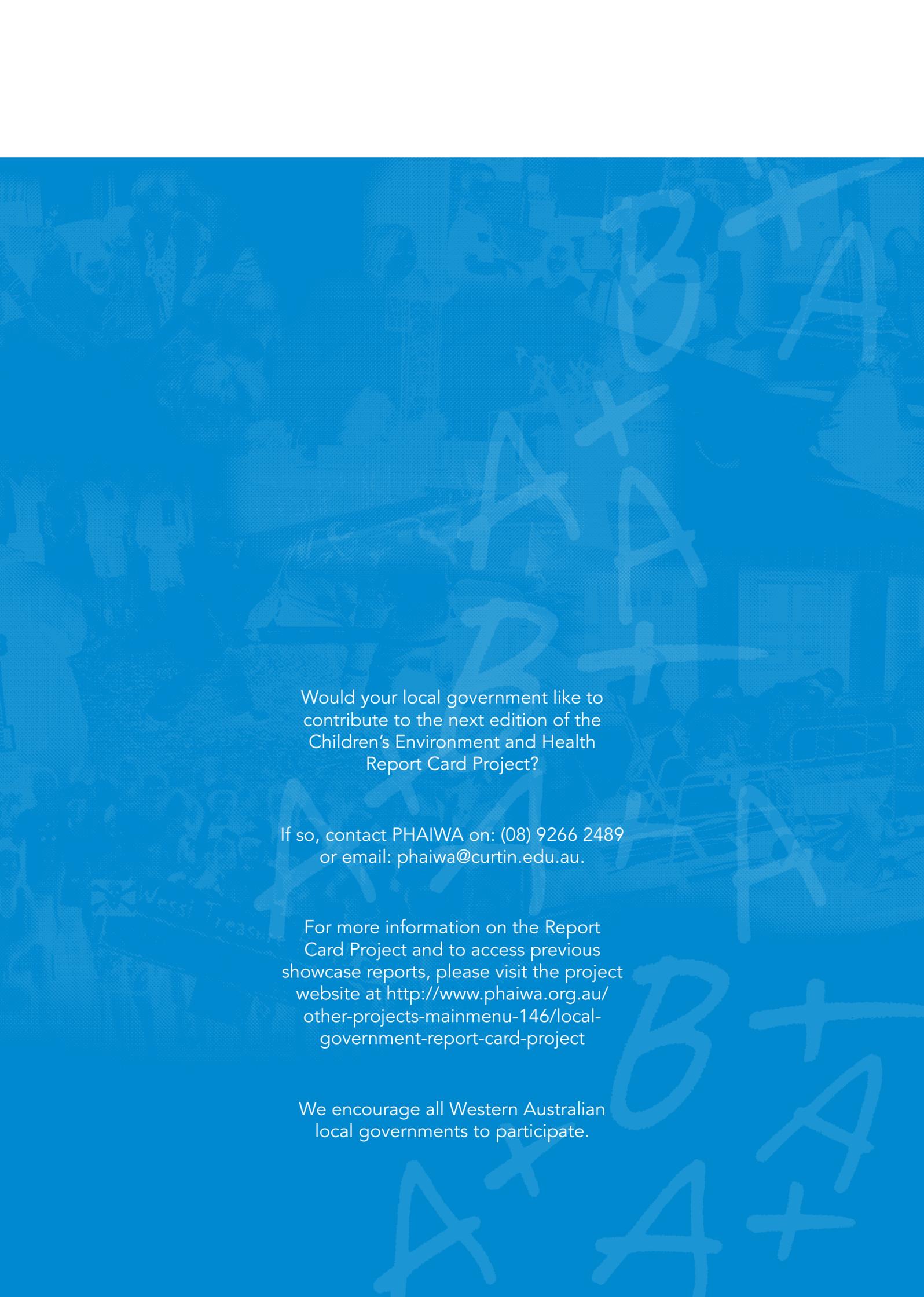
CITY OF NEDLANDS

The City of Nedlands held a Children's Art Competition as an innovative concept that utilised art as a way of recording the ideas and visions that children held about how Nedlands could look 20 years into the future. A unique exercise in consultation, this process was also implemented in local schools' curriculum and yielded a large 120 competition entries.

Commendable Strategies:

SHIRE OF KALAMUNDA

The Youth Consultation Plan developed by the Shire of Kalamunda is an outstanding example of targeted engagement with young people. The consultation process importantly took place at both primary and high schools so a diverse mix of year groups was involved. The desire for young respondents to have an impact in planning for skate parks, a youth friendly café and transport issues is promising



Would your local government like to contribute to the next edition of the Children's Environment and Health Report Card Project?

If so, contact PHAIWA on: (08) 9266 2489
or email: phaiwa@curtin.edu.au.

For more information on the Report Card Project and to access previous showcase reports, please visit the project website at <http://www.phaiwa.org.au/other-projects-mainmenu-146/local-government-report-card-project>

We encourage all Western Australian local governments to participate.