



Baw Baw Family Friendly Initiative

Project summary

One in 5 children in Inner Gippsland has developmental delays by the time they start school. We know what children need to thrive and intend to work with local services, businesses and community members to build on the great things already happening in our area, to make our families stronger.

Our goal is to create an informed and connected community that welcomes children and families. We want to create confident, involved Baw Baw residents who work together to contribute to better outcomes for all families and children.

The Australian Early Development Census data shows not all children do as well as they could in their first few years of life.

The Centre for Community Child Health (a research group of Murdoch Children's Research Institute) published *The First Thousand Days evidence paper* in September 2017. It showed:

- Experiences in early childhood have a lasting impact.
- The best opportunity to build a strong foundation for lifelong health and wellbeing occurs between conception to the end of a child's second year.
- The social and environmental conditions in which families are conceiving and raising children have a direct impact on a child's development.
- It is never too late to make changes that improve health and wellbeing.
- Raising healthy, happy children is a whole-of-community responsibility.

We're seeking community feedback to identify:

1. What "family friendly" means to them.
2. What is currently happening in Baw Baw Shire that makes the area family friendly.
3. What needs to change or be added to make Baw Baw Shire more family friendly.

This consultation opportunity is open until **Friday, 5 April, 2019**.



Tell us your feedback

There are many ways the Baw Baw community is already “Family Friendly”. Here are just a few examples -

- Variety of early childhood education and care options available, including Family Day Care, Kindergarten and Long Day Care programs.
- Family friendly events such as SNOW fest, farmer’s and craft markets, and Ficifolia Festival.
- Playgroups
- Parking spaces for parents with young children at local supermarkets
- Parks, playgrounds and nature reserves

1. What does “family friendly” mean to you? (mark words/phrases that apply or add your own)

	Baby changing facilities		Play spaces for children
	Welcoming to families		Accessible parking
	Breastfeeding spaces		Activities for children provided
	Information for parents easily accessible		Support and advice for parents
Other			

2. What places, spaces, or services in your area are family friendly?

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3. What are the services that need to be added in your area to make it more family friendly?

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4. What are the places and facilities that need to be added in your area to make it more family friendly?

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5. Do you have any other suggestions?

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If you would like to receive further information and newsletters relating to this project, please list your contact details below:

Name
Address
Email

Privacy statement: The personal information collected will be solely used for the purpose of providing feedback. You can access your own personal information by contacting Council's Privacy and Freedom Information Officer on 5624 2411.

What happens next?

Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback. Your thoughts and ideas are highly valued and will ultimately form part of Council's decision making. Council Officers will collate all responses and identify recurring themes to develop further at an upcoming forum. All forms, submissions and correspondence will be acknowledged either by email or letter, to confirm receipt of your comments.

Contact us

We're here to help! For more information about this project, please contact Michele McCrohan on 5624 2411 or by email at michele.mccrohan@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au