

Background

In March 2015, a discussion paper was considered by the members of Kurilpa Futures Group to engage with young people 18-25 years, children and families of the area that would be affected by the Kurilpa Master Plan and other local area developments. Subsequently, Kurilpa Futures representatives attended a live music event at the Boundary Street Night Markets (April 2015) and distributed information to locals about planning and development in the area. Kurilpa Futures was represented at the West End State School annual Fiesta event (May 2015). Based on the Community Ideas Forum (May 2015), a similar forum was proposed that would involve members of West End State School Student Council (July 2015).

World's best practice

International best practice for engaging children and young people provides the stimulus for such activity.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) radically shifted global perceptions on the status of the child. This new focus has compelled us to find effective ways of engaging with children as active participants in all matters affecting them (Sinclair, 2004)

Effective engagement is about children guiding us into their worlds. Communicating with children and young people requires both different and similar approaches to engagement with adults.

Without effective engagement with children and young people we cannot access their perspectives, understand their concerns, provide adequately for their needs, or convey our regard for them.

Mary Kellett, Professor of Childhood and Youth, Centre for Childhood Development and Learning, Open University, UK

Further support is found in the multidisciplinary areas identified in the research program at the Children and Youth Research Centre (CYRC), QUT namely

- Rights and welfare of young people
- Health, wellbeing and happiness
- Child and youth cultures
- Environments for work and play.

<http://www.cyrc.qut.edu.au/>

Aim

To validate the voice of children and young people, empowering them to imagine their future and make meaningful contribution to the development of their suburb and community.

Objectives

1. To conduct a Student Ideas Forum
2. To include recommendations in reports to government
3. To engage this audience in ongoing conversation