



Spotlight on City of Canning (WA)

A 1000 Play Streets IMPACT case study

June 2023



A 1000 Play
Streets initiative
supported by:



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

CENTRE FOR
SPORT AND
SOCIAL IMPACT



**CITY OF
CANNING**



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

In 2022, **City of Canning in Western Australia** partnered with Play Australia, La Trobe University and community organisations in Baris Education & Culture Foundation and Little Learners Playgroup, to deliver:



The Neighbourhood and Engagement Team at the City of Canning supported their Queens Park communities to coordinate Play Streets, to help grow social connections, improve feelings of belonging amongst newly arrived communities and boost civic participation.

Play Streets were held as part of “Wanju Welcome Queens Park”, a local initiative that celebrates the diversity of community and nurtures connections between people and the places they share.

To support evaluation, survey responses were collated from participating Queens Park residents, both volunteer Hosts (n=8) and attendees (n=15) including a large proportion of people from diverse multicultural backgrounds.

[Check out City of Canning’s Play Street video to see the action](#)



A Play Street is a simple concept:

it is a quiet residential street where neighbours of all ages connect and play together, led by the local community and supported by Council.

They normally last 2-3 hours and most include the temporary closure of the street to traffic. Importantly, Play Streets are not large-scale community events, they are small-scale gatherings for neighbours, ideally coordinated by residents themselves.



Top three community impacts

1 More connected communities in Queens Park

2 More children's outdoor play in Queens Park

3 More support for Queens Park communities

Play Street Net Promoter Score

This measure shows that Queens Park communities would recommend Play Streets to their friends and family. As a general guide any score over 50 is highly regarded, therefore this result places Play Streets near the top range of experiences.



"It provides a good opportunity to get to know your neighbour and create a sense of community."
Queens Park resident





1

“Love to meet up with neighbours and get to know them. This reminds me of the old days where you know everyone along the street.”
Queens Park resident

Top three community impacts

More connected communities in Queens Park

At the heart of Play Streets is a desire to connect communities to support a range of benefits including; introducing new people in the neighbourhood to their community, improving feelings of safety, supporting general feelings of neighbourhood enjoyment and connecting people so they can continue to play and be active together after the Play Street is complete.

Pleasingly, one series of Queens Park Play Streets was enough to initiate a neighbourhood Halloween gathering in a local park, completely organised and led by local residents, who had met at Play Streets a few weeks earlier.

Queens Park survey respondents indicated that as a result of being involved with a Play Street:

100%

improved their confidence to talk to people in the street

100%

improved their connection to others in the street

94%

improved their feelings of safety in their street/ community

93%

indicated that their children improved connection to others in the street as well

Community connection activities in Queens Park varied – including:

- Having designated people to welcome arrivals, introduce people and provide name tags, helped to break the ice;
- Sharing tea, coffee, BBQ and other foods, proved a popular way to connect; plus
- Opportunities to participate in a range of different activities – such as craft, lucky dips, sand and water sensory tables, modified sports, giant games of chess and jenga – all helped bring people together.

+ In addition, attending residents connected with a range of local community services seeking to provide support for them including the City’s Neighbourhood Watch and Waste Education teams.



“I did not have that much fun with my kids for long time. To have a safe and secure open street for them to play was wonderful”
Queens Park resident

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Top three community impacts

More children’s outdoor play in Queens Park

Play Streets are a great way to support improved play opportunities within communities and unlock longer-term health and wellbeing benefits for children.

Parents & caregiver survey respondents from Queens Park indicated that *as a result of being involved with a Play Street*:



Play Street Hosts supported a wide range of child-led activities, including: hopscotch, tiggy, tug-of-war, skipping, bubbles, hula hoops, bike riding, skateboarding, roller skating, scooting, dancing and playing different sports, such as soccer, badminton, basketball, cricket and frisbee
...and the list goes on!

93%
intend to support their child to play outside with other neighbour’s children more regularly

94%
indicate their children have increased their amount of time playing outside

100%
indicate their children have improved their overall physical activity

80%
indicate they are now more confident to support their child/ren to play outside





3

“City of Canning were very supportive and continue to build strong relationships with all residents of Queen’s Park. Thank you very much for the support you gave us.”
Queens Park resident

Through Play Streets ,City of Canning staff have actively supported resident volunteers to navigate all aspects of planning – including:

- Traffic management and road closures
- Public liability insurance
- Support to complete forms
- Marketing support
- Ideas on activities and provision of equipment

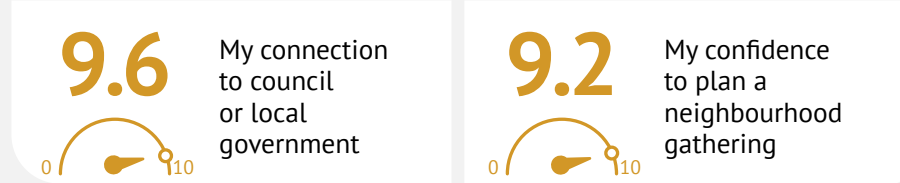
Top three community impacts

More support for Queens Park communities

Queens Park Play Street Hosts who responded to the survey all rated City of Canning support as **“very helpful”** (on a scale whereby ‘0 = not at all helpful’ to ‘10 = very helpful’):



+ In addition, Queens Park Play Street hosts who responded to the survey rated significant improvements across a number of key areas (where 0 = not at all improved to 10 = significantly improved):



▲ This demonstrates that City of Canning’s Neighbourhood and Engagement Team provided invaluable support to build capacity and confidence amongst resident volunteers.





Did you know **Play Australia** supports Australian Local Governments with 1000 Play Streets Partnerships.

 [Click here to read more](#)



Play Australia congratulates City of Canning on an impressive Play Streets pilot and we acknowledge the dedication of Ellie Efijemueh and James Murphy (City of Canning) in driving this important neighbourhood work, alongside Dr. Erica Randle (Centre for Sport & Social Impact at La Trobe University) who provided evaluation support.

Results are based on survey responses from Queens Park Play Street Attendees (n=15) and Hosts (n=8)

Thanks to City of Canning for providing the photographs (not to be reproduced without consent).



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