



Ararat Rural City

Introduction

Expression of Interest: Child Friendly Cities & Communities Working Group

The Child Friendly Cities & Communities (CFCC) Working Group has been established to advise the Chief Executive Officer and Council on the actions of the Victorian Child Friendly Cities & Communities Charter ("The Charter") and other advocacies of children aged birth to 17 years old, as requested by the CEO.

The CFCC Working Group will not be an established Committee of Council, and as such will not provide advice directly to Council. Rather, it will work in an advisory capacity to the CEO on matters that ensure the Victorian Child Friendly Cities & Communities Charter's principles are upheld and advanced. The results of these analyses will then form advice to Council on matters of The Charter and its statement of principles.

The composition of the CFCC Working Group will be as follows:

- Chair (Chief Executive Officer or Nominee)
- A minimum of four community representatives selected through an Expression of Interest (EOI) process
- A minimum of four skills-based representatives, with academic/practical/administrative skills and experience in child-related health, recreation and/or in education
- Up to fifteen members are appointed each calendar year and will represent the diversity of the communities they serve

All community representative positions on the CFCC Working Group will be filled by an open EOI process which will be advertised broadly to ensure maximum opportunity for potential members to express interest.

EOI – Child Friendly Cities & Communities Working Group

Purpose

The development of the CFCC Working Group provides an opportunity for community engagement in important advocacy and advisory roles on behalf of children and youth.

The Charter is a statement of principles, underpinning actions which support communities to be child friendly. It embraces the universal rights of children from birth to 17 years of age, and encompasses three tenets: to act in the best interests of the child, to allow children the freedom to express their individual opinions and the right to have those opinions considered in decisions that affect them, and to create equity for all children based on their needs.

Ararat Rural City Council has become a signatory to the CFCC Charter and in doing so, has made a commitment to increasing the attention on the best interests of children and to further develop strategies to ensure every child has opportunities to thrive in their community.

The CFCC Working group will be formed to expand on target outcomes of strategic documents, already established by Council, and will act as reference for any future goals that encompass positive and equitable outcomes for the community's youngest citizens.

CFCC Working Group EOI Process

Expressions of Interest will be received up until **5.00pm on Friday 14th February 2026**, submitted through a Council-approved online form and print version available on the Engage Ararat website (engage.ararat.vic.gov.au/child-friendly-cities-communities-working-group-eoi) or via hardcopy collection and returned in a sealed envelope at the Ararat Rural City Council Office, 59 Vincent Street, Ararat or mailed addressed to the Children and Youth Programs Coordinator at PO Box 246, Ararat, Victoria, Australia, 3377.

Expressions of Interest should outline the following:

- Compliance with the 11 Child Safe Standards
- Compliance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- Compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990)
- Compliance with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities
- Interests in amplifying the voice of children and supporting them to participate in civic life
- Previous experience or qualifications in a child-related sector
- Involvement in child-friendly community groups or sectors

CFCC Working Group Selection Process

Members of the CFCC will be selected following the EOI process through discussions with a panel consisting of the Mayor, Chief Executive Officer and a community nominee (nominated by the CEO).

Terms of Reference

A Terms of Reference for the CFCC Working Group will be developed by the Chief Executive Officer and endorsed by the CFCC Working Group and provided to Council for information.

The terms of reference will outline the scope and role of the CFCC Working Group, along with membership and meeting arrangements and schedule.