



West Coast Council

ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES FOR 0-5 YEAR OLDS ON THE WEST COAST

Community Survey Summary

January 2022

SURVEY – ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN (0-5) ON THE WEST COAST

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

The 0-5 West Coast Activities and Services Survey was open for a period of four weeks from 19th October to 16th November 2021. During this time, 90 online responses were received with the majority of respondents from Queenstown and Strahan (83%).

19% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander with 3% of respondents being born overseas.

74% agreed that they had experienced barriers to playing with their young child. These included:

- Weather
- Safety concerns
- Opening hours
- Lack of amenities
- Access

The majority of activities enjoyed by carers and their young children were outdoors and included:

- Parks
- Child and Family Centre (partially indoors)
- Pools
- Walks
- Bike riding

Top 5 spaces used were:

- Hub/library
- Pools
- Parks
- Playgrounds
- Walking tracks

The main activities or spaces respondents wanted to see build or upgraded were:

- Indoor/covered pool
- Indoor play space
- Spaces that accommodated a range of age-appropriate activities
- Upgrading existing facilities
- Sporting and social group spaces

The top 5 services used on the West Coast were:

- Child and Family Centre
- Playgroups
- Launching into Learning
- HIPPY
- Library

Perceived needs for young children on the West Coast included:

- Safe play
- More active outdoor areas
- Physical and mental stimulation
- Improved access to external specialist health care services
- Improved social interaction and engagement with other children

When asked what services were needed on the West Coast for young children the top 5 responses were:

- More childcare services
- Swimming lessons and water safety programs
- Specialist services and programs e.g. Speech and physiotherapy
- More activities and programs for kids outside of normal work hours
- Designated parking

Perceived future needs for young children as they grew older were recognized as:

- More areas to be active
- More organised sports
- More after school/extracurricular activities and groups
- Age-appropriate equipment for older children
- Indoor areas for older children e.g., Youth group, PCYC

Other general suggestions included:

- Better promotion of services and activities available
- Extended opening hours for pools
- Support groups for parents and carers
- Mobile Child and Family Centre/play centre
- A variety of available activities to enhance development

Please note: there were many specific suggestions collated from the survey which will be workshopped with interested respondents in the new year. This summary has tried to capture the common themes that ranged across the responses as some general feedback. West Coast Council and the Queenstown Child and Family Centre would like to again thank all those who participated in the survey and represented the younger voices in our community.