**Thomas Street All Abilities and Ages Playground**

**Community Reference Group**

**Terms of Reference** 3 Dec 2018

Bayside City Council, in conjunction with the Bayside community, will redevelop the playground at Thomas Street Park, Hampton, to provide for play for people of all abilities and ages. To achieve this goal of inclusiveness, the playground will equipment and materials enjoyable for all children, including children who have a disability, as well equipment suitable for senior adults, to encourage active ageing.

A Community Reference Group will provide input to the project, to ensure that the views and needs of the particular groups in the community are heard.

Bayside City Council’s Playground Improvement Plan 2015 -2025 identifies the opportunity to create a regional-scale all-abilities play space at Thomas Street (south) Reserve. There is a strong community connection to the existing structure, which was funded and built through community input. Unfortunately the existing structure has reached the end of its useable life. It provides limited (almost no) accessible play. Due to its age, the costs to keep it meeting Australian standards for safety are increasing to the point where replacement of the play structures will be more cost effective than continual repair.

Consultation and design to develop a plan for the playground will be undertaken in 2019 and construction will be undertaken in 2020.

**Role and duties**

A Community Reference Group will help to guide the planning and development of the all abilities and ages playground. The advice of members will be provided to the Council to inform the project. Members will be expected to:

* provide views on the needs of children with a disability and their families in developing an accessible and enriching playground
* provide views on the needs of seniors in developing a play space that encourages older people to exercise
* actively promote across their community and connections the opportunities to provide input to the project
* assist in community consultation activities to be held in the park
* attend approximately 5 meetings of the group

**Membership**

* Three local parents, including two parents of children with a disability
* one representative of a disability support service/local specialist school
* a member of Council’s Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group
* one resident of the immediate area of the park (within 1 residential block)

**Criteria**

Members of the Community Reference Group must:

* fit with one of the positions described
* have connections into your community and capacity to spread the word (demonstrated by relevant community groups you belong to, and your broader community networks)
* be able to commit the time to meetings
* have experience of or interest in visiting other accessible playgrounds or playgrounds designed to encourage adult exercise

 **Frequency** **of meetings**

It is expected the Community Reference Group will meet on approximately 5 occasions between January and October 2019 to develop the playground plan. Meetings will be held at a Council facility or at the Thomas Street Park.

 **Reporting**

The Community Reference Group will provide its advice, through minutes of its meetings, to the Council’s Project Control Group.

**Recruitment**

Members will be recruited via an Expressions of Interest process open to the Bayside and broader communities. The recruitment will be open from Friday 7 December 2018 until 11.59 Sunday 13 January 2019. Submissions can be made through the online application or hard copy. The assessment and recruitment will be completed by 4 February 2019.

**Term**

The Community Reference Group will be constituted for the period of the development of the plan for the playground.

**Reimbursement**

Members are not eligible for financial remuneration for their participation in the Group.