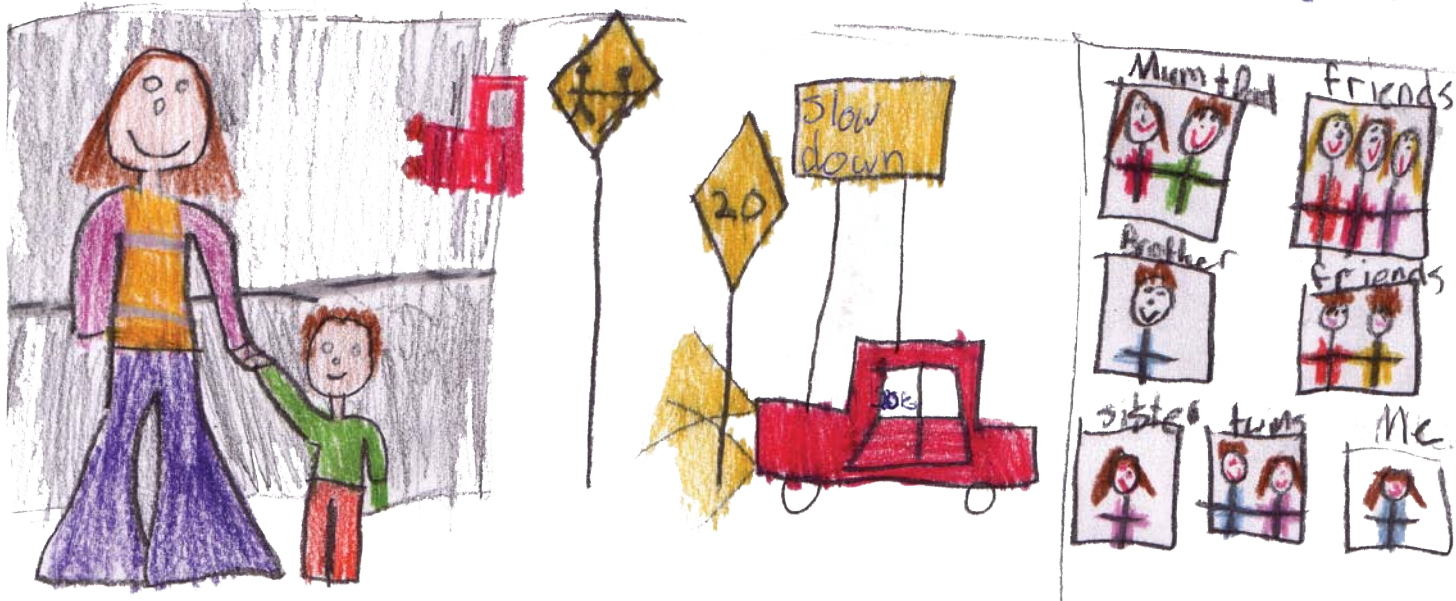


Child & Youth Friendly Charter

a safe community a friendly community friends and family



Our Vision:

“Create and sustain an entire municipal community that: cares for, includes, trusts and respects all children, youth and families; provides for health, welfare and education needs; offers safe, meaningful, welcoming and fulfilling entertainment options for the whole family and; ensures a supportive environment in which friends and extended family can be closely involved in the lives of our children and youth.

Our Commitment:

AS A COMMUNITY MEMBER:

- ★ To recognise families, children and youth as fundamental to the health and well-being of the entire community.
- ★ To cherish and respect the role and rights of families, children and youth.
- ★ For community groups to support youth through mentoring and succession plans.
- ★ To encourage the community to trust, respect, support and care for children and youth.
- ★ To search for, recognise, encourage and acknowledge the positive behaviour and actions of children and youth, to recognise achievement and offer praise and encouragement.

AS A BUSINESS:

- ★ To create a family friendly business, particularly when relocating, renovating or expanding.
- ★ To adopt a philosophy recognising family support and health as core to community health and business success.
- ★ To offer mentoring and flexible employment opportunities to youth.
- ★ To offer empathy, support and flexibility to parents and carers returning to your workforce.
- ★ To cater for the needs of younger children and their parents (for example change stations, activities to engage children and friendly places to breastfeed).

AS A SERVICE PROVIDER:

- ★ To work with families, children and youth, using their language and recognising them as the experts in their own lives.
- ★ To work in collaboration with other service providers, facilities and businesses and to ensure a comprehensive safety net for families, children and youth.
- ★ To offer mentoring and flexible employment opportunities to youth.
- ★ To offer family friendly policies for parents in the workplace.

TO SUPPORT THE CHILD & YOUTH FRIENDLY CHARTER:

- ★ Listen with respect and trust to children and youth.
- ★ Include children and youth in the decision making processes that affect them.
- ★ Report unsafe behaviours to create a safer community for all.
- ★ Include children and youth in your organisation, event or activity.
- ★ Encourage and support events that build a sense of community inclusion and neighbourhood spirit.



I / we as a community member / business / service provider
commit to the vision and achievement of the
Child & Youth Friendly Charter



SIGNATURE(S): DATE:/...../.....

The Child & Youth Friendly Charter is the shared vision of Swan Hill Rural City Council's children, youth, parents/carers, residents, businesses and service providers.