

Program Model

2023 Children's Reference Group



Merri-bek
City Council

Aims of the Children's Reference Group (CRG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide an opportunity for children to provide advice and input into Council's plans, projects and strategies Promote children's civic engagement and increase their understanding of the role of local government Build children's leadership, group work and problem-solving skills
Meeting frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 meeting per term, 1.5 hours in length
Member involvement length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 calendar year
Nomination process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating primary schools distribute student nomination forms and a parent information sheet (provided by Council) to interested students to complete Schools determine the successful two students who will take part in the CRG Schools ensure inclusion and diversity principles in student selection Students are in upper primary school, Year 5 and/or Year 6 Council supports the nomination and selection process by an officer attending schools and speaking with students about the CRG and discussing nominations with schools, where requested
Student information and consent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student information sheet and consent form is provided prior to commencement of the CRG
Parent information and consent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent information sheet and consent form is provided prior to the commencement of the CRG
Facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CRG is facilitated by experienced Council staff
Child safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council completes a Risk Assessment with relevant mitigation strategies prior to the commencement of the CRG All regular CRG facilitators and accompanying school staff are required to have a valid Working with Children's Check or current registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) Students are advised at the commencement of each CRG meeting who they can speak with if they feel unsafe during meetings
Feedback and review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback form is completed by students at the end of the each CRG meeting Short meeting held with accompanying school staff following each CRG meeting for reflection and feedback

