



**REGIONAL PLAY PLAN**

Kaupapa Tākoro ā Rohe

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### Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide a framework that supports the development of play across the region. Specifically, we want to:

- provide a unifying vision for play across the Wellington region
- articulate our shared beliefs and values about play
- be able to coordinate our efforts regionally where there is value to all in doing so
- ensure consistency of our messages about play
- use our collective approach to advocate for consideration of play across other aspects of our respective businesses.

### Children have a right to play

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC) was ratified by New Zealand in 1993. UNCROC outlines the principles and standards for the status and treatment of children throughout the world. Article 31 identifies and affirms children’s right to play.

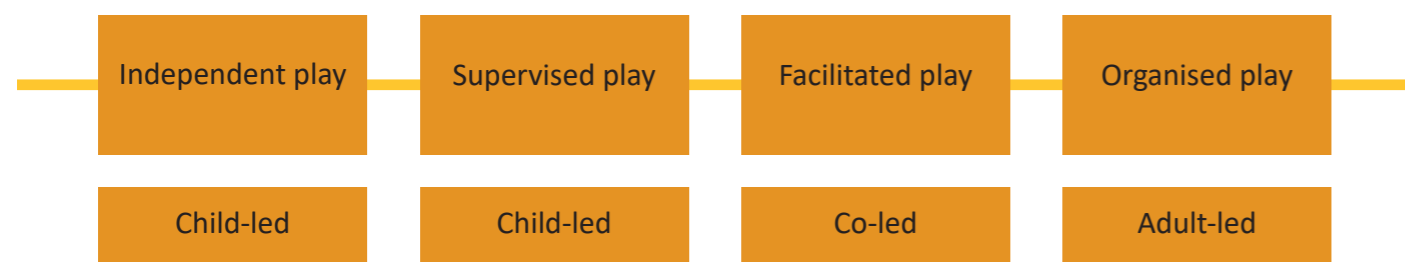
### Why play is important

Play is an essential part of a happy and healthy childhood. Every child deserves to develop to their unique potential and play is an important part of that process. We know that play:

- provides an opportunity for children to have fun and enjoy activities that are of importance to them
- provides opportunities for children to get a flying start to life by giving them a means of developing physically, cognitively, socially and emotionally especially when it is child-driven
- stimulates children’s imagination and creativity
- supports the growth of resilience and independence through helping children to master their world and develop new competencies
- affords opportunities for the wider whanau to engage meaningfully with children.

### The play continuum

- The play continuum distinguishes types of play based on the extent to which they are child or adult led. Ideally, we want to encourage more independent and child-led play.



### The Regional Play Framework

Across the wider Wellington region there is a growing emphasis on ensuring that play is an everyday part of children’s lives to ensure that the benefits accrued from a playful childhood are not lost to reducing levels of free time for both adults and children, concerns about health and safety, lack of space for play, or the changing role and use of technology and screen time in our lives.

While different approaches are being taken to bring about this change there are issues, challenges and opportunities held in common that we hope to address through working within a common planning framework.

### The Framework

Our work should be led by an overarching vision for children in the region. We also need to consider different settings for play that are relevant for children (as identified in both Upper Hutt and Hutt City research); allowing for different types of play; bringing the national play principles to life; and key priority areas of focus.

**Wellington is a play-friendly region where children have the best start to life through access to quality play experiences**

#### Settings

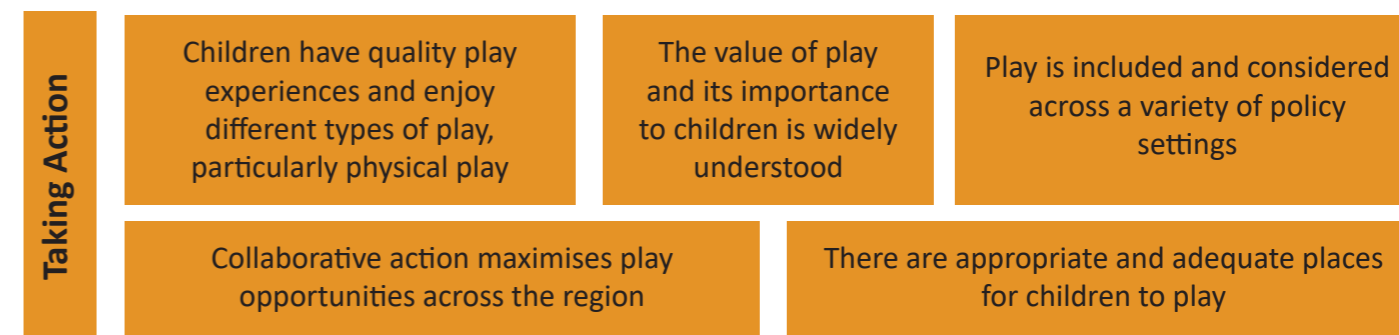
- Back yards
- Neighbourhoods – streets, built environment, pools
- Natural environments – beaches and bush areas
- Parks and open spaces – including playgrounds
- Education settings – including early childhood and primary school settings

#### Types of Play

- Physical, rough and tumble, locomotor
- Creative, dramatic, imaginative
- Social, cooperative, role plays
- Cognitive, exploratory, risky

#### Principles

1. Play is important to the wellbeing of young New Zealanders
2. Play is a cornerstone of our Physical Literacy approach
3. Play is the shared responsibility of everyone
4. Young people must have access to enriched and varied playful experiences within their local environments
5. Adults must understand what their role is in enabling play
6. Young people need the opportunity to experience risk and challenge through play
7. Wherever possible play should include the opportunity to be active



**Outcomes**

FOCUS				
Children have quality play experiences and enjoy different types of play, particularly physical play	There are appropriate and adequate places for children to play (any space is a play space)	The value of play and its importance to children is widely understood	Play is included and considered across a variety of policy settings	Collaborative action maximises play opportunities across the region
OUTCOMES				
Quality play experiences are built around the needs and interests of tamariki to ensure that their play needs are met and any barriers to play are addressed.	A range of different types of play spaces are available within local communities that are accessible to all children, and well-maintained to inspire different types of play activity and are safe for children to use and get to.	More people understand the value and importance of play for and to children and therefore enable play opportunities. Stories and evidence of good practice and success used to inform planning and decision-making	Consideration of play integrated or embedded in policy development and/or planning that has the potential to positively impact on play including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• housing and urban design,</li> <li>• design of parks and open spaces,</li> <li>• availability of green spaces for outdoor play provision,</li> <li>• community development and safety,</li> <li>• transport/traffic management planning</li> <li>• availability of other spaces suitable for play such as school grounds out of school hours</li> </ul>	Play providers and enablers contribute to a coherent and coordinated approach that supports action on areas of common interest that are best addressed through a collective approach.

**Evaluation**

For further discussion: Evaluation is likely to be more qualitative than quantitative perhaps in the form of case studies, telling stories verbally, or pictorially. This would be a useful conversation across the group to consider how we might evaluate progress.

**Regional Play Approach - 5 Phases**

<b>Create Play Champions</b>	Sport Wellington and individual councils have a point of contact for the regional play discussion.
<b>Let's Talk Play</b>	Individual organisations will take different actions based on their play priorities which will contribute to the overarching regional vision.
<b>Let's Plan Play</b>	The Regional Play Plan that is developed will provide a framework for thinking about play and capturing current approaches.
<b>Let's Empower Play</b>	The establishment of a regional play network to discuss play matters and check progress against the regional framework.
<b>Re: Play</b>	Evaluation of the regional approach and sharing learnings, case studies and using these to consider new approaches/activities.

# LivingWell

Wellington Region  
Physical Activity  
Strategy