

# Parent Information Sheet

## 2023 Children's Reference Group



Merri-bek  
City Council

### **What is the Children's Reference Group?**

The Merri-bek Children's Reference Group is being established to encourage and empower children to create better connections with local government and have a say in decision-making on matters that impact them. The Children's Reference Group members will have the opportunity to provide direct input into the Council's projects, plans and strategies.

### **What are the benefits for children?**

Children will have the opportunity to learn about the role of Council and how decisions are made. They will learn group skills and develop their leadership capabilities. Children will build confidence, learn about civic rights and responsibilities, and increase their community connections.

### **How are children selected?**

Nominations for the Children's Reference Group are made through children's participating primary school. The nomination and selection process are held alongside other leadership opportunities. Schools will determine the successful two students and advise Merri-bek City Council. Once selected, the children will be members of the Children's Reference Group for one year, February – December 2023.

### **What is required of members?**

The Children's Reference Group will meet in-person four times per year for 90 minutes at Merri-bek City Council, 90 Bell Street, Coburg. All participating children will be accompanied and supervised by a staff member from their primary school during meetings. There will be an online meeting option available for children at their primary school if they cannot attend in-person.

### **Where can I find out more information?**

Please contact Bonnie Thomson, Acting Early Years Planning and Development Officer on 9240 1111 or [bnthomson@merri-bek.vic.gov.au](mailto:bnthomson@merri-bek.vic.gov.au)

