

what we heard about making a difference

Safe and Secure

- Many things, but secure work is most important
- Adequate and secure housing for all families, with adequate heating and cooling for our seasons
- Reduced rates of family violence and in turn reducing children who are exposed to family violence in their homes.
- Ongoing authentic support for families who are struggling with resources, emotional stressors, health, peer to peer support, at the grass roots level

Early childhood services

- Bring back the Early Years guide to local services. People often ask on local Facebook groups about speech and OT therapists, day care, schools, kinders, playgroups. One place where all this information is available would make it easier for families.
- Increased service provision with shorter wait times for allied health services when referrals are made following early identification of concerns. There is no point of early identification if there is a 6 month+ wait for an initial consult for speech, OT, physio etc
- Extensive support for early childhood support people to really do their jobs
- Easy and quick access to expert help e.g. pediatricians, ENT, breast feeding experts - support and programs to help parents with varying problems
- More affordable medical options podiatry, nutrition etc.
- A community child nurse. Situated in the community with 'drop in' accessibility, taking pressure off A&E and the GP's. Not for the usual maternal and child health checks, for the times when a health review is actually needed
- Kinship care- lack of support from services- no respite
- Having centralised support spaces for families with disabilities/developmental delays to meet, find out information and supports
- More help with child's disabilities, don't know how to plan support for their future. Better wheel chair access
- Having accessible disability Playgroups available across the week
- Bigger hospital
- A strong sense of community makes a lot of difference raising kids
We find playgroup our biggest benefit- being able to connect with both parents and kids, need more play groups and help for young parents

Child and family friendly spaces

- Child friendly menus to support healthy eating
- Family friendly restaurants which caters for all ages
- Sealed bike paths, to encourage kids to ride to school and reduce traffic
- Improved public toilet facilities with small toilets for children, nappy change tables and breastfeeding room in the CBD
- Having a dedicated space for the Toy Library in the centre of town, open on weekends
- Nature/adventure playgrounds to encourage imagination, motor development and problem solving with nearby clean toilets, safe equipment for babies to play, fenced in for safety
- Improved outdoor spaces for family activities such as picnics and play areas that are appropriate for all ages and usable in most weather.
- Facilities within large parks, mall area to engage group meetings
- Having an indoor play facility that can be used when weather is extreme
- More indoor community spaces with drop in support and opportunity for adult socialisation, that are low/no cost
- More places with better facilities ie family friendly change rooms, more disability friendly (not as much climbing) playgrounds
- Play facilities for older children, 9-16, it seems like most play parks and free activity (in the mall, play groups etc) are aimed at pre-school and primary aged children



what we heard about making a difference continued

Activities for children and families

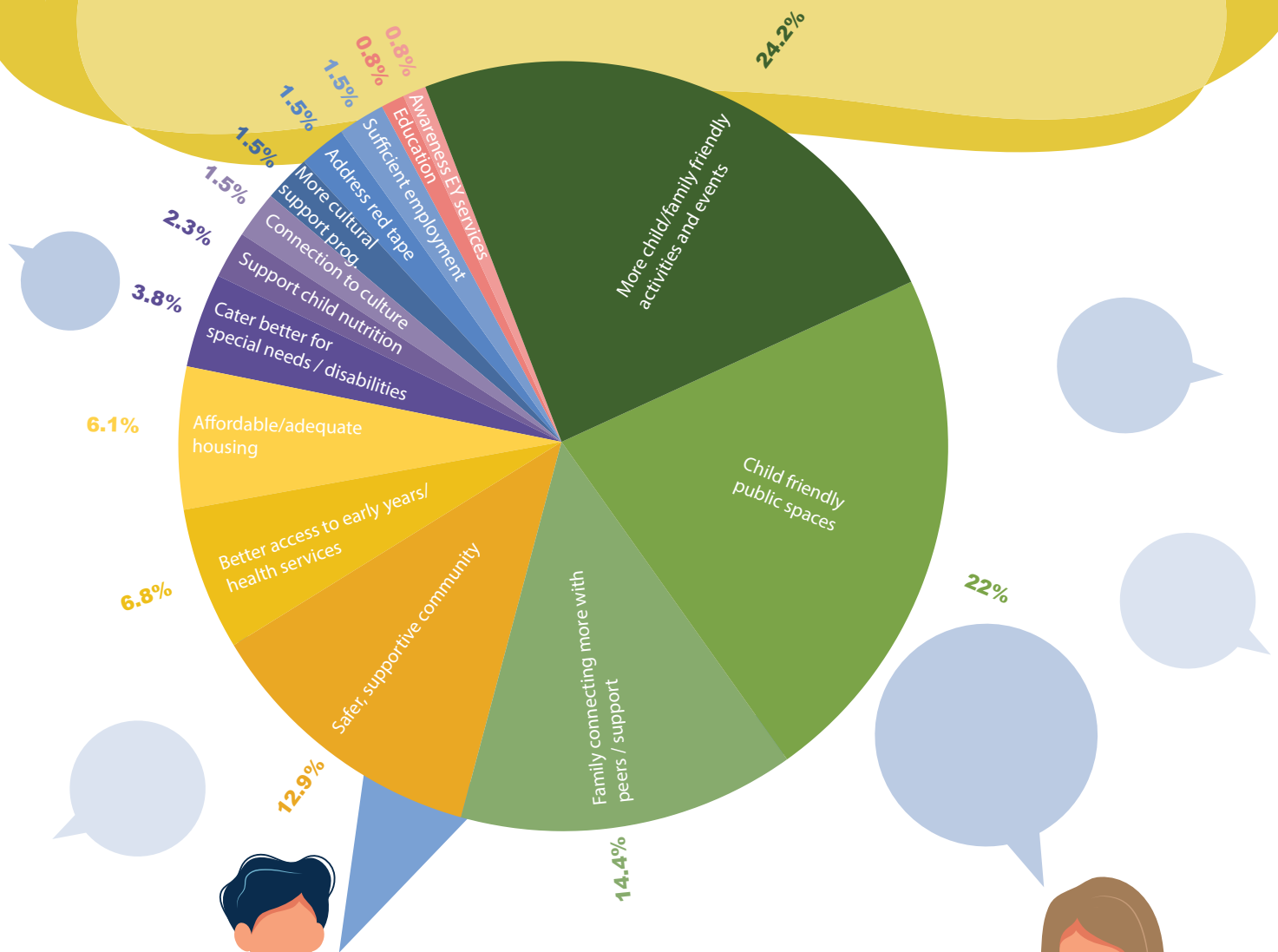
- Somewhere they can go celebrate birthdays e.t there isn't much in Mildura
- More places to go with young children- so many businesses are closed due to the pandemic and it feels like we have nothing left.
- More activities for kids of all ages – there really isn't much to do here.
- More young child friendly activities, clubs etc that we could join. Free/discounted activities so all children can benefit
- More events for kids in the school holidays, more free activities and events for families
- More community events for kids, more transport, so that all families can get to them
- Cultural camps for kids to connect to their culture and family
- Free kids sports so kids dont miss out
- Sunday afternoons a band and food vans at Nowingi, activities for kids etc.
- More community kids events. Eg petting Zoo down by the river front, story time and songs outside, family exercise clubs where kids and parents can exercise together, painting down by the river etc.
- Providing activities for parents and children not only encourages positive relationships between caregivers and children but also encourages parents and kids to meet others.
- More playgroups or childcare facilities that are more flexible with both days, times and pricing. Also more things where parents can meet other parents - especially Dads! There are Mother's groups which is amazing but, where's Fathers Group?

Identity and culture

- Inclusiveness and Equality Just basically to be involved, you can feel people looking at you differently
- Cultural activities, cultural understanding, cultural support programs, and general support for families, cultural camps for families
- Need an interpreter at VIC roads. need licence to get places, go to appointments, shopping
- Get visa issues sorted out. We can contribute to this country, we are well educated but can't work and no medicare
- Schools support for uniform



WHAT PARENTS / CARERS SAY WOULD MAKE THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE



CONVERSATIONS -
PEOPLE WHO CARE FOR CHILDREN
AGED 0-8 YEARS



HANDS UP MALLEE