

POLICY FUTURES

A Reform Agenda



Design and Planning Policy for Family-Friendly Apartment Living

To achieve sustainable increases to population density and create vibrant, walkable and well-connected communities, apartment living must be re-envisioned as a desirable housing choice for all stages in life, including raising children.

For this to be realised, planning policy and apartment design guidelines must first be revised to address the needs of families with children living in medium- and high-density neighbourhoods.

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Key Policy Recommendations

1

Federal Government:

- Establish a national “child-friendly communities” charter which outlines the importance of considering the needs and voices of children and young people in the design of neighborhoods.
- Establish a taskforce which considers the health and wellbeing of children in relation to the design of sustainable compact neighbourhoods.
- Provide funding for better research to establish the needs of families with children living in urban communities based on local consultation and global best practice.

2

State and Territory Governments:

- Establish state and territory-based policy which addresses the needs of families with children including considerations such as neighborhood play strategies, the equitable distribution of child-focused social infrastructure and the inclusion of children’s voice in planning decisions.
- Provide evidence-based amendments to existing apartment design guidelines to address the needs of families with children.

3

Local Governments:

- Provide additional training for planners assessing development applications to improve knowledge and understanding around the needs of families with children.
- Support community initiatives and activities which improve the liveability of families with children living in compact neighbourhoods.

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