

Budget Submission – Playground Upgrade for Fisher

To: ACT Budget Consultation Team

From: Heather McDonald, Resident of Fisher

Date: 27/05/2025

Playground Upgrade in Fisher: Enhancing Community Wellbeing

Summary:

This proposal seeks funding to upgrade the existing playground nearby the shops in Fisher, which currently lacks engaging play equipment for a range of ages, adequate seating, and shelter. The upgrade will promote community wellbeing, social inclusion, and equitable access to public amenities.

Background and Need:

The current playground in Fisher is underutilized due to outdated and limited play equipment that does not cater to a wide age range. There is insufficient seating and no shelter, making it uncomfortable for families to stay and use the nearby electric BBQ facilities. Investing in cleaning and maintaining BBQ facilities that are not used seems a waste of resources. There is a clear disparity in investment where newer suburbs (or those in higher socioeconomic areas) receive multiple large, modern playgrounds while older suburbs like ours are overlooked. Fisher playground has ample space and existing infrastructure (e.g., electric BBQ) that could be leveraged for a cost-effective upgrade, without impacting surrounding houses negatively.

Please see attached photos of the current playground inclusions at end of document.

Proposal Details:

I propose the installation of modern, inclusive play equipment suitable for children of a range of ages, the addition of shaded seating areas and picnic tables to encourage longer visits, and landscaping improvements to enhance safety and aesthetics.

With recent playground development, there are design elements that give a sense of being designed by people who do not have children or use playgrounds. Having consultation with parents of children of different ages would help in designing playgrounds that avoid common issues.

Alignment with ACT Wellbeing Framework:

This proposal supports the following wellbeing domains: Health – encourages physical activity and outdoor play; Social Inclusion – creates a welcoming space for families of all backgrounds; Community Safety – improves visibility and usability of public space; Environment – promotes sustainable use of existing green space.

Community Support:

Local families have expressed strong interest in improved facilities. A petition or community feedback can be collected upon request.

Conclusion:

Investing in this playground will deliver long-term benefits to community wellbeing, equity, and public space usage. We urge the ACT Government to prioritise this upgrade in the 2025–26 Budget.

Sincerely,

Heather McDonald

Mcdonald.heather.j@gmail.com

0408653478

