

# Making your street more child-friendly



Would you like to make your neighbourhood a better place for children to walk and play? Perhaps you've already [identified some areas](#) that could be improved. These suggestions will help you take the next step.

## Beautify your street

### This can:

- Make the street more inviting.
- Provide shade and shelter.
- Encourage drivers to slow down.
- Improve visibility.

### To get started:

- Tidy your front yard, allowing a line of sight from your house to the street.
- Plant a fruit tree by your fence, in reach of passers-by (though do not allow it to become a hazard).
- Plant edible or native plants on your nature strip. Ask your neighbours to join you.
- Be creative – paint your mailbox or decorate your fence.
- Tidy the street with your children, taking the [Smart Steps: for Families – Activity Sheet 'Young Environmentalist Walk'](#).
- Report damaged infrastructure (e.g. signs, seats) to council for repair.

Please note: Before planting contact [Dial-Before-You-Dig](#) to ensure that you avoid underground utilities. Enquire with your council about their nature strip planting policy or guidelines.

### Useful link:

- [Case study: Colourful Pavers in Westgarth](#)



## Raise concerns with your neighbours

### This can:

- Address local driver behaviour (e.g. obstructing footpath, exiting driveways).
- Make your street or neighbourhood feel safer and more inviting.
- Help you get to know your neighbours.

### To get started:

- Talk about your concerns to neighbours that you know.
- Put a note in neighbour's letterboxes or car windscreens.

### Useful links:

- [Case study: Yellow Feet](#)

## Organise a street party or other social event

### This can:

- Help you get to know your neighbours.
- Make your street or neighbourhood feel safer and more inviting.
- Celebrate your area.

### To get started:

- Talk about your idea with your neighbours and council.
- Consider linking with calendar events (e.g. Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, Australia Day).
- Put event fliers in neighbour's letterboxes.
- Host a free barbecue in your front yard or on the nature strip.
- Organise children's activities (e.g. chalk drawings on the street, hopscotch).

### Useful links:

- [Case study: Rossmoyne Street](#)
- [DIY street makeover](#)



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## Contact your local council about issues for walkers

### This can:

- Let your council know about issues affecting walkers.
- Improve infrastructure for walkers.

### To get started:

- Identify if the affected street is managed by your council or by VicRoads.
- Phone your council or VicRoads' general information line to reach the right person.
- If submitting a letter, include photos to demonstrate the issue.
- Ask neighbours to support you by making a phone call or adding their signatures to a letter.
- Invite a council or VicRoads official to come out and assess the problem.

### Useful links:

- [Template letter to government](#)
- [Working with local government](#)
- [Working with state government \(e.g. VicRoads\)](#)



## Form or join a Walkability Action Group (WAG)

### This can:

- Increase your ability to influence decision-makers.
- Improve infrastructure for walkers.
- Help you get to know your neighbours.

### To get started:

- Find a WAG in your area and introduce yourself to the group.
- Invite your neighbours to join you in forming a WAG (it can be one person or many).
- Contact Victoria Walks for support in establishing your WAG, including access to your own web page.
- Host an informal meeting to discuss the issue concerning your WAG.

### Useful links:

- [Tips for successful advocacy](#)
- [Forming a WAG](#)
- [Finding an existing WAG](#)
- [Case study: Burke Road](#)
- [Case study: Jasper Road](#)
- [Case study: LOCOMOTE](#)



**Congratulations!** You have taken a step toward making your neighbourhood better for children to walk and play.

Need more advice? Contact Victoria Walks – We are here to help you make streets and neighbourhoods better for walking.

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