

Frankston City Council Policy	Policy Number: 02/2011
Learning City Policy A1011426	Issue: OM216 Date: 05/09/2011

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1. POLICY STATEMENT

Frankston City Council is committed to strengthening and developing a culture and networks that promote lifelong learning opportunities and development programs.

2. REASON FOR POLICY

Frankston City Council is responding to the Frankston community's 2025 Vision that we work together to provide opportunities for learning and development for every individual.

Lifelong learning is a primary driver of sustainable economic growth and social prosperity, and underlies the generation of local business and employment opportunities. Lifelong learning is a vital component for the creation of a civil society and is closely related to social measures of wellbeing and prosperity. Inequalities of gender, age, income, and health status can be overcome by educational attainment.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all business units within Frankston City Council who influence education, training, work experience, employment opportunities and decision making both within and external to Council. The business units with a primary role in this include: Urban Strategy, Organisational Development, Libraries and Learning, Youth and Family Services, Community Development and Governance.

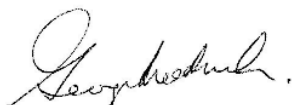
Through the implementation of this Policy, Council seeks to positively influence all early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary and community education providers in Frankston City, as well as local employers.

The scope of Frankston City Council's commitment to life long learning is further articulated in the Frankston City Economic Development Strategy, 2011.

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4. AUTHORISATION

This policy is managed by the Chief Executive Officer, Frankston City Council, and is delegated for approval by:



CEO, Frankston City Council

in accordance with Frankston City Council resolution at its Ordinary Council meeting of 5 September 2011 – OM216.

5. REVISION DATE/RELEVANT POLICIES SUPERSECEDED

This policy will be reviewed and presented to Council no later than 30 June 2015 or earlier as deemed necessary by Council, and thereafter once within each subsequent Council term.

This policy replaces the *Learning City Strategy 2005-2007* (and subsequent revisions). The intent of the Strategy is now incorporated into this policy in addition to:

- Frankston 2025 - Theme 6: Learning community
- Frankston City's Council Plan - Strategic Objective 6: A place of business prosperity that values learning communities
- Frankston City Council Economic Strategy
- Learning City Action Plan

6. PRINCIPLES

The adoption of the following principles will enable better decision making.

- Equitable access to lifelong learning and development as a fundamental human right regardless of culture, gender, social or economic status.
- Partnerships between local business, lifelong learning providers and government for a diverse range of local and regional lifelong learning and employment opportunities.
- High quality and locally relevant evidence informs decision-making where available, and encourages the development of such research.
- Access to lifelong learning enhances economic, social and environmental health and well-being.

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7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the role of Council to support the Policy in actions and decision-making.

It is important to note that while Council's Economic Development Unit plays a lead role in Learning City activities on behalf of Council through the implementation of Council's Economic Development Strategy - it is the responsibility of all Councillors, staff and contractors to understand the concept and principles of lifelong learning outlined in this policy and to apply these principles in all planning, decision-making, activities and reporting.

It is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer and the Corporate Management Team to develop an organisational culture that understands and values the importance of life long learning and embeds it in the decision making processes.

Organisational Development has the role of partnering with the CEO and Corporate Management Team to develop a culture that values the principle of life long learning by facilitating a diversity of learning and work placement opportunities within the organisation.

8. POLICY NON-COMPLIANCE

Non-compliance of this policy may negatively affect individuals and the broader community - compromising an individual's ability to reach their full potential; while also impacting upon sustainable economic growth and social prosperity of our local communities. It may also negatively affect the Council's ability to continuously improve and be an employer of choice.

9. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Victorian Charter of Rights and Responsibilities
- Frankston 2025 – Our Vision for Our Community's Future
- Frankston City Council Plan 2010 - 2014
- Health and Wellbeing Plan (2009-2013)
- Frankston City Economic Development Strategy, 2011
- Economic Development Policy
- Learning City Action Plan
- Future of Libraries Plan
- Municipal Literacy Partnership Action Plan (draft)
- Municipal Early Years Plan 2008 – 2013
- Best Start
- Aged Services Strategy
- Frankston Partnership Strategic Framework for Young People
- Frankston North Community Renewal Lifelong Plan
- Other related Policies, Strategies and Action Plans as they are developed.

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10. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY

This policy (in conjunction with other related documents) will be incorporated into the key decision making processes of Council. Council will develop a range of tools to assist staff, contractors, volunteers and Councillors understand their role in economic development and the promotion of lifelong learning.

Specific actions that apply and reinforce the principles of this Policy are outlined in the Frankston City Economic Development Strategy, 2011.

11. DEFINITIONS

Lifelong learning is the ongoing acquisition of knowledge and skills throughout our lives, and encompasses the earliest years of childhood, the formal years of schooling, the ongoing acquisition of skills and competencies in the workplace, and the senior years of retirement.

A **civil society** refers to the voluntary coming together of people with shared purposes, interests and values; to act for the common good. Civil society organisations are relatively independent of both government and commercial interests. They encompass community organisations, religious groups, trade unions, foundations, social movements, non-government organisations, volunteer organisations, charities, cooperatives, professional associations, clubs, public media, and others.

Participation in civic life through civil society organisations makes up the fabric of democracy. Strong, diverse and vibrant civic life increases both individual and collective freedoms, and the shared generation of moral and social capital.