



Media release

For immediate release

Date: 12 December 2013

Playing Out in Subiaco

With the help of the City of Subiaco, residents of two Subiaco streets will close their road to traffic this December to enable their children to 'play out' safely.

Playing Out is an after-school or weekend street play event where a residential street is closed to through traffic. Children have the space to play in the street, whilst adults have a chance to relax and get to know their neighbours.

The Playing Out concept has been very popular in the United Kingdom for many years and through a City of Subiaco initiative, is being trialled in Subiaco.

Gloster Street will close on Sunday 15 December from 3pm to 7pm between Hensman Road and Union Street. Children living in Gloster Street and immediate neighbours from surrounding streets are encouraged to bring out their skateboards, scooters, bikes and skipping ropes to enjoy a safe and traffic free play environment.

Bedford Avenue will be closed to traffic Sunday 22 December from 3pm to 11pm. Bedford Avenue residents will also incorporate their annual Christmas Carols in the Park Street Park event.

Mayor Henderson said: "I remember the days when children used to play out in the street and people knew their neighbours. Playing in the street creates a sense of community by bringing neighbours of all ages together. It encourages feelings of belonging and shared responsibility which can increase safety in the neighbourhood."

The city sought expressions of interest from local residents in September and there was an overwhelming response from the community wishing to trial the Playing Out concept in their street.

From the many submissions received the city chose two streets, Bedford Avenue and Gloster Street, to pilot the project.

Simone Janney is one of the residents in Gloster Street on the organising committee for the upcoming Playing Out session. Ms Janney said: "It all started when I was chatting with a neighbour, saying wouldn't it be great if we could block off the street and the kids could have a play? The very next day, a friend sent me the information from the City of Subiaco about Playing Out."



She continued: “I put in a submission and encouraged my neighbours to do the same. I guess lots of people in our street did, because we were lucky enough to be selected. I’m so grateful to the City of Subiaco for the opportunity to have this event – it is such a great community initiative.”

The city has worked closely with residents of both streets to organise their Playing Out sessions, including facilitating road closures and traffic management plans.

If the events are successful, the city will take further steps to support Playing Out events in other residential streets.

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Photo/Interview Opportunity

Residents of Gloster Street given their consent for members of the press to take photos and conduct interviews during the Playing Out event on Sunday 15 December from 4pm.

Notes to Editor

The City of Subiaco is recognised as a local government leader in a range of areas such as environmental and social initiatives, and long-term planning for the future. It is located in the inner metropolitan area of Perth and includes the suburbs of Subiaco, Daglish and parts of Nedlands, Shenton Park, Crawley and Jolimont. A major centre for employment with a diverse and growing business sector, the city provides important services including waste collection, town planning and public recreation facilities, to more than 19 000 residents. The city aims to maintain its vibrant sense of community and enhance the lives and well-being of everyone who lives, visits and works in Subiaco. For more information about the City of Subiaco, visit **www.subiaco.wa.gov.au**