CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN

6 September 2023

Mayoral Message



Dear Residents

This week is one that is very close to my heart for several reasons.

National Child Protection Week (**3–9 September**) is all about ensuring every child in our country is safe and supported. It's a very public reminder we must all work towards preventing child abuse and neglect.

As a father of four, I understand how important it is to know your child is safe and I also understand there are still children falling between the cracks.

According to the latest statistics, there were an alarming 35,000 Australian children abused or neglected last year, and it's clear more needs to be done by way of promoting children's safety.

This week, the focus will be around issues connected with child protection, from cyber security and being safe on the road, to bullying, mental health and more.

And the message couldn't be any clearer – keeping children safe is every adult's responsibility and it shouldn't just be left to parents, grandparents, teachers and the police.

When it comes to keeping our most vulnerable safe from harm, we all have a role to play. It's important to really listen to children and understand their issues, and if something doesn't seem to be right, report it.

There's no doubt our City is a family-orientated community, and I'm proud of the initiatives our Council has taken to ensure we are fostering a child friendly environment.

To raise awareness during Child Protection Week, we're hosting a range of activities aimed at empowering families.

Activities include self-defence classes for kids, a Belmore Youth Resource Centre open day, and, for the parents, online cyber safety sessions. I encourage all families to get involved and check out the full program at **cb.city/CPW**

Let's continue working together to build a community where every child feels safe, valued and empowered.

Bilal El Hayek

Clr Bilal El-Hayek
MAYOR

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