

CITY OF CLARENCE

Simmons Park Liberty Swing Upgrade

Consultation Summary Report

June 2025





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Survey Design

Survey Purpose

The purpose of the survey was to seek feedback from the community on their experiences using the existing Liberty Swing and to understand preferences for a new type of wheelchair accessible play equipment at Simmons Park.

Consultation feedback will be used to make a community driven decision on the new, inclusive play equipment to replace the Liberty Swing.

Survey Format

The survey asked questions regarding the frequency of visiting and using the existing Liberty Swing and if any barriers to easy use were experienced.

Images of play equipment and play experiences were provided as examples, and respondents were asked to rank the type of play they would most like to see at Simmons Park.

The survey also invited general feedback on any issues, concerns or ideas to guide the final design and equipment selection.

What we did

How the survey was promoted



Social media posts



Via **meetings** with key stakeholders and dissemination to wider networks outside of Council



Coreflute **signage** at Simmons Park linking to Your Say website



Email promotion to Council Working Groups and networks



227 visitors to the Your Say website and **340 views**

Survey period

6 weeks: 10 April - 21 May 2025

Ways people engaged and provided feedback



74

Online survey responses

1

Email submission



4

Key stakeholder meetings and visits

1

Presentation to Council working group



Data Summary

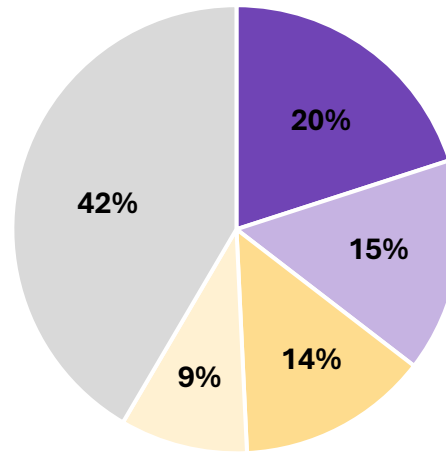
Number of responses

74 total survey submissions

- **62 complete submissions**
- **12 partial submissions**

1 written submission via email

How often do you, your family or someone you care for use the Liberty Swing in Simmons Park, Lindisfarne? (65 responses)



■ Weekly

■ Monthly

■ Every couple of months

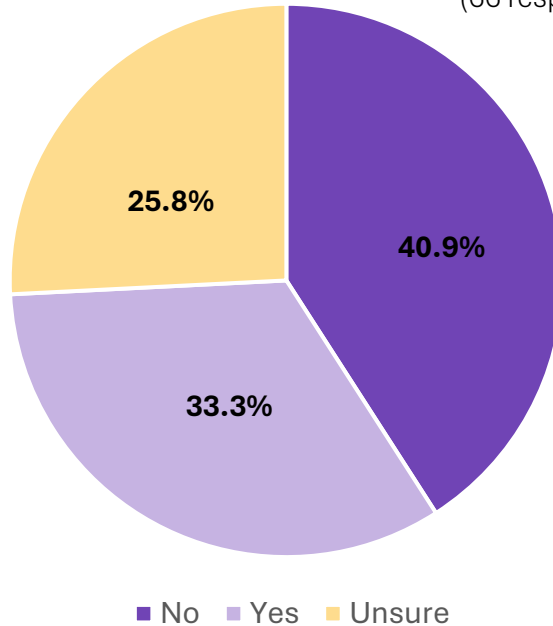
■ A few times a year

■ I/we do not use the swing

Data Summary

Have you experienced any issues or barriers when accessing or using the Liberty Swing?

(66 responses)



Details of types of barriers experienced:

- Swing key not working / gets stuck
- Separation from family/friends by fencing, not inclusive
- Gate makes it difficult to access – hard to open, unlock, and gets stuck
- Special key (MLAK) required – inconvenient, had to get a key to use
- Do not have a MLAK key / forgot key
- Instructions difficult to follow
- Swing not working / chains tangled / maintenance required under ramp
- Swing not suitable for heavy / large electric wheelchairs
- Improper use of swing by other children/vandalism

Data Summary

Respondents ranked the type of play they would most like the new equipment to provide. The results are: (63 responses)



- #1 Spinning**
- #2 Rocking**
- #3 Bouncing**
- #4 Musical**
- #5 Sensory**
- #6 Tactile**
- #7 Other**

Spinning received the highest rank, with rocking very close in second spot.



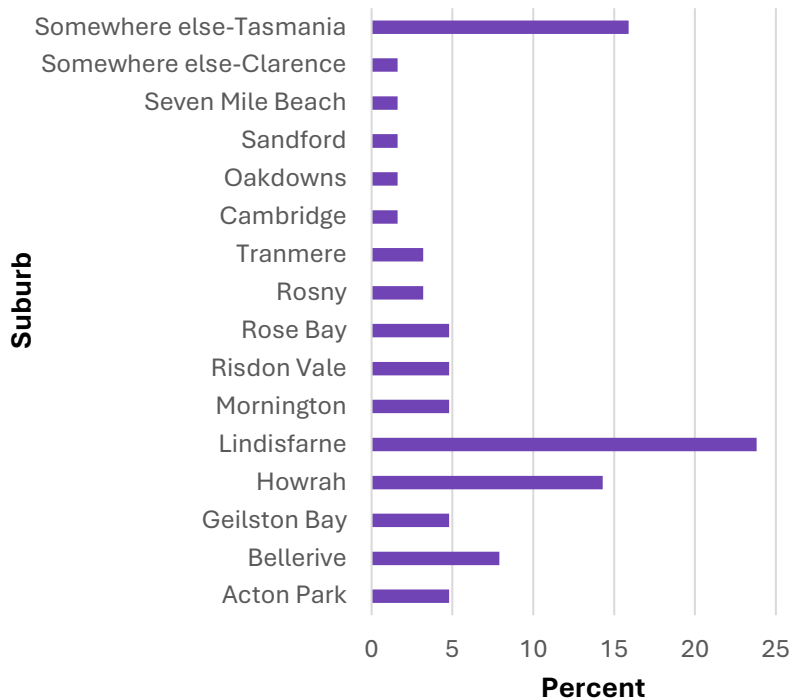
Suggestions for 'other' types of play:

19 responses provided more detail and ideas for 'other' type of play:

- Flying fox with a high back swing seat
- Quiet/calm activities for shy children
- Five responses suggested a We-Go swing
- Bouncing mat large enough for crawling on
- Undulating boardwalk for wheels
- Paths with handrails
- Three responses prefer to keep the Liberty Swing
- Four responses suggest more swings /swings for all levels of support requirements
- Communication boards
- Ramps leading to inclusive equipment

Data Summary

Location of respondents (suburb) (63 responses)



Simmons Park Liberty Swing Upgrade

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Suggestions, ideas and concerns: (24 responses)

Respondents were asked for general feedback to guide the equipment selection and site design.

Valuable feedback was provided ranging from accessible pathways and advocacy for assistance dogs in playgrounds to provision of improved changing facilities for families.

Involve families of children with disabilities to be part of this planning process...

There should be more than one piece of wheelchair equipment...

Opportunities that allow siblings to play together...

An area a child can crawl if non mobile that is sensory...

Replace the swing with a swing!

Key Findings

Key findings for equipment selection:

The ranking results identified **spinning** as the most preferred type of play for the new equipment item to provide, with **rocking** a close second preference.

Bouncing ranked third with several general comments suggesting the existing trampoline mat is very popular/busy and a second, larger bouncing surface would spread the use and meet a wider range of children's needs.

Key findings from general comments:

- Desire to remove fencing and barriers separating play areas and to create an inclusive space for all children and families to play together.
- Support for inclusive equipment items providing movement and promoting playing together.
- Desire for Simmons Park to continue to provide a wheelchair swing, such as a We-Go Swing (or equivalent).
- Opportunities for wider park improvements to provide better accessibility for everyone, such as removing dense vegetation barriers and connecting play spaces with paths and surfacing.

Where to from here?

Next steps

Council will focus the project budget on delivering spinning play to replace the Liberty Swing at Simmons Park. Survey feedback will inform selection of the most appropriate item of spinning equipment to accommodate wheelchairs and encourage multiple children to play together.

Options for delivering additional play features which ranked high (e.g. rocking, bouncing) or were suggested via survey feedback (e.g. communication boards) will be investigated within the constraints of project scope and budget.

Information gathered via this consultation will continue to inform future works in Simmons Park, including ongoing play equipment renewals and maintenance programs.

Council will continue to investigate grant opportunities for installing a We-Go Swing (or equivalent) at Simmons Park or another appropriate playground in Clarence.

Project timeline

Working towards project completion by end 2025:

June 2025



- Select suitable spinning equipment item
- Prepare design for new play area
- Provide concept design on Your Say for community information
- Prepare detailed project documentation
- Equipment manufacture and delivery lead times
- Construction of new play area

December 2025