Proudly funded by the NSW Government through the NSW Social Cohesion Grants for Local Government.

CBCity Social Justice Charter summary

What is social justice?

Social justice is about everyone getting a fair go. People who are discriminated against based on gender, age, disability, income, race, cultural background, religion, sexual/gender identity and citizenship are often disadvantaged due to unfair treatment.

Social injustices can be multi layered due to things like education, employment, income, healthcare, access to information/language barriers, land rights, access to services, social discrimination, housing and food security, bias and inequality, participation in democratic processes and entrenched societal norms, attitudes and behaviours.

Communities are not homogeneous. As individuals our identities are complex, overlapping, can change over time and be influenced by our personal circumstances as well as our experience within a place and community.

CBCity social justice statement of commitment

The CBCity Social Justice Charter (the Charter) is a commitment by Canterbury-Bankstown Council (CBCity) and its community to promote fairness, inclusion, equity and empowerment. It encourages everyone to work together with understanding and respect, address hate and divisiveness, and support positive actions. The Charter guides local businesses, organisations and individuals to incorporate social justice in their daily lives and activities.

This Charter provides a guide for all of us in delivering social justice principles in our local neighbourhoods, community groups, organisations and businesses. The Charter invites everyone to join in and help create a more inclusive future. Individuals, businesses, community groups and local organisations who would like to sign up to the Charter can find more information at cb.city/SJC

Purpose of this Charter

The Charter guides us in promoting social justice, addressing inequalities and ensuring equitable access for all community members. Social justice is a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of a fair and equitable society. We are committed to promoting social justice and addressing the systemic inequalities that exist within our community.

It emphasises collective decision-making, respect for diverse perspectives and belonging. Informed by discussions from over 285 community members and co-authored by our community, it reflects a commitment to reducing social injustice and increasing inclusion.

Role of CBCity and the community in building a socially just culture

Both CBCity and the broader community play an equally important and active role in building a sustained culture of social justice and delivering on the commitment outlined in this Charter.

Anyone in Canterbury-Bankstown can sign up to the Charter. We encourage everyone to be a part of building a social justice culture.

Council and the community have different roles to play and actions to take to deliver the Charter. These roles could include leading by embedding social justice principles, advocating for social change, connecting with others from diverse backgrounds and experiences, delivering equitable and inclusive services, calling out social injustices, partnering with others to represent marginalised communities and supporting each other.

What does social justice mean to our community?

Through discussions with the Canterbury-Bankstown community in the development of this Charter, they told us that social justice means:

- Education, the ability to influence decision making and knowing how the processes work and how to effectively have input and be involved
- Empowerment, participation and feeling safe to speak and ensuring community voices are heard and valued
- Appreciation of our differences and differing viewpoints with empathy, understanding and maturity
- Autonomy, ability and choice to be our authentic selves and make independent decisions about issues that impact us and our communities
- Kindness, respect and dignity for everyone – basic needs are met and rights recognised – and assisting those in need
- Freedom from discrimination and exclusion
- Support for diversity, inclusion and representation
- Connection to each other, to strengthen community connections and working together to ensure fair access to resources and "make things happen"

CBCity social justice principles

Based on all this information, our social justice principles to which we have committed, include:

1. **Human rights** - We recognise and respect our fundamental individual and collective rights, including our individual right to self-determination, participation and information, and our collective right to dignity, regardless of our race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age or socioeconomic status.
2. **Equity** - We want everyone to be treated fairly and have equal access to infrastructure, services and participation. Critically, it is where everyone can access the services and support they need to be understood and to thrive.
3. **Access and inclusion** – We want everyone in Canterbury-Bankstown to feel welcome and free to access, participate and contribute fully to community life and to be able to access help and support when we need it. Inclusion is where differing voices and experiences are valued and shape our community, services, infrastructure and programs.
4. **Empowerment** - We want everyone to feel they have capacity and the confidence to be part of the decisions that affect us personally, as well as our community. Empowerment comes from education, being informed and aware. A resilient community is empowered to represent diverse views and experiences, participate in decision making, advocate for individual and collective needs and contribute to Canterbury-Bankstown being a socially just community.