



ACT Planning &
Land Authority

Community and Recreation Facilities Location Guidelines General Code

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1. Introduction

Purpose

This Code is for use in making decisions about where to locate a broad range of community and recreational facilities, whether new facilities or the re-use of existing ones. They document sound town planning practice for agencies providing facilities, and include detailed guidelines which reflect the key location objectives. They are not rigid standards, but a guide intended for ACT planning and facility providers in determining suitable sites and locations for facilities. Location decisions should try to meet the general objectives, recognising that specific guidelines may not be achievable in all cases.

This Code covers those facilities used for community purposes and which need public access: health, education, community services, arts, sport and recreation. Other civic facilities not needing direct public access have been included because of their need for locations which enable short response times: those providing fire, emergency and ambulance services. Although public telephones, post offices and post boxes have no site implications they require accessible locations and are included for completeness.

This Code covers the very broad range of facilities that may be provided in the ACT. It aims for facilities that are in the best place for both users and providers. While they will help in location decisions, this Code does not infer that facilities listed *will* be provided by agencies.

The Code has three key components:

1. Objectives
2. General location guidelines
3. Detailed location guidelines

The Objectives set out the general location principles which facilities should meet.

The Detailed Location Guidelines provide criteria for specific facilities. These criteria refer to how close facilities should be to buses and shops; the relationship of the facility in relation to other uses (what the facility should be close to and what it should be separated from); opportunities for co-location with other facilities, and other issues, such as locations on major roads. The detailed location guidelines outline practical ways of meeting the general location guidelines and objectives.

It may not be possible to achieve all the detailed location guidelines in locating a new facility. In this case, the location of facilities should still try to meet the general location guidelines and the objectives of the Code.

It should be noted that this Code is not retrospective – it applies only to the location of new facilities, whether on new or existing sites. They also apply in re-using existing building for new purposes.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Code are:

1. To protect and enhance social amenity for all ACT resident and visitors. Social amenity includes access to services, safety and equity in the distribution of facilities.
2. To maximise efficient land use, accessibility and convenience for uses through clustering related facilities and encouraging shared use.
3. To protect and enhance residential amenity for ACT residents whilst meeting the need to provide access to facilities best located in the residential area.

3. General Location Guidelines

3.1 Public Transport Routes

All community and recreation facilities which are directly used by the public should be located on or near public transport routes which provide *services which are appropriate to the user group* of the facility.

The location guidelines in this code commonly aim for facility locations within 500 metres of *bus stops*, except where facilities are likely to be used by small children, older people, or people with a disability. Users may include day visitors to facilities, as well as longer term occupants of the facility.

A distance of 400 metres is considered a reasonable maximum walking distance for older people and is consistent with guidelines used elsewhere in Australia. Distances for very young children should aim to be shorter, and 200 metres has been assessed as the maximum walking distance that can be managed by children under about 7 years of age. Similarly, whilst 400 metres has been assessed as acceptable for older people, a shorter distance (200m) to public transport stops would ensure greater accessibility for older or infirmed people, or persons with a disability. These guidelines should be achievable in most cases. In some cases, such as retirement villages, on-site transport services may compensate where maximum distances are exceeded.

ACTION aims for daytime *bus routes* which are within 500 metres of 95 percent of all dwellings. Facilities for planning new developments should be located in consultation with ACTION.

3.2 Parks

In locating parks, reference should also be made to the *Canberra Landscape Guidelines*, and the *ACT Code for Residential Development*.

ACT City Operations aims for all residential areas to be within 400 metres of local parks with playground facilities.

3.3 Retail Facilities

Community facilities generally should be located near retail centres in a position that is relatively central to their long-term catchment and at a level of the urban hierarchy that is appropriate to their size and scale.

3.4 Co-location/ Mixed Use opportunities

Compatible facilities should be clustered at every opportunity, and facilities shared wherever possible to increase participation opportunities and a range of amenities to meet community needs. Flexible designs to meet changing needs are also encouraged.

Early stages of planning for new areas should address the need to cluster appropriate land uses to increase opportunities for co-location of appropriate community and recreational facilities, and to share parking.

By mixing compatible industrial, institutional, retail, entertainment, business and residential use areas, greater community safety can also be achieved by increasing after-hours activity levels.

Mixed uses must be compatible in scale and consistent with neighbouring uses. Facilities used at night should also be located to enable informal surveillance or 'overlooking' by other activity in the area or by passing traffic.

3.5 Separation

In considering relationships to other uses, "separated from" (unless specifically prescribed) will mean:

1. *noise separation* – set apart from roads or other noise generating activities by distances which are within the relevant noise guidelines volumes set out under the *Noise Management Guidelines*; and
2. *social separation* – the maximum achievable distance between access points.

Facilities likely to generate noise (such as clubs and outdoor recreation facilities) should be located so that they do not reduce residential amenity, nor constrain or preclude later residential development in surrounding areas.

3.6 Access and Mobility

Reference should be made to Australian Standards 1428.1-1993 *Design for Access and Mobility* to ensure access to all community and recreation sites by older people and people with disabilities. Community and recreation sites should be as flat as possible. Where it is necessary to move further than 18 metres, the maximum gradient should be between 1:20 and 1:33. Steeper gradients should only be considered for shorter distances and / or where design solutions according to Australia Design standard 1428.1/1993 will enable disability access (preferably unassisted access). A key criterion for accessibility for people with disabilities is to ensure that access is possible with dignity.

3.7 Parking

Parking for people with disabilities and older persons should be provided close to entrances of public buildings for both convenience and safety factors, particularly for after hours use, and low gradient access should be provided to parking areas.

Parking should be provided for all community and recreation facilities referred to in this Code in accordance with the *Parking and Vehicular Access General Code*. This code includes requirements for set down and pick up areas and parking for people with disabilities.

The location of parking should enable safe, well lit pedestrian access after dark, and should not disrupt the amenity of the area.

3.8 Pedestrian Access

Safe access is a key location criteria for all community and recreation facilities. Facilities which are used by pedestrians should avoid locations on arterial roads and other roads with high traffic volumes. Walking distances to bus stops, shops and associated facilities should not involve crossing such roads except where safe crossing are provided.

3.9 Lighting/ Surveillance

All facilities likely to be used at night should provide well-lit pedestrian routes to parking areas on and off the site, and good artificial lighting to parking areas and external access points to enhance the safety and security of users. Parking to be used at night should be visible, preferably by users of the facility, to ensure safety and security. Landscaping of areas likely to be used after dark should avoid plantings that screen areas and make them unsafe. After-hours uses should be located together to enhance safety through increased activity.

To maximise surveillance of public areas and thereby increase community safety, colocation of pedestrian and cycle routes with roads is desirable.

3.10 Design and Siting in Residential areas

All community facilities located in Residential zones should comply with the Residential Zones Development Code where applicable, particularly in relation to:

- 1 Building height
- 2 Building in relation to front boundaries
- 3 Building in relation to side and rear boundaries
- 4 Private Open Space

4. Detailed Location Guidelines for community and recreation facilities

Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
Arts					
* Visual Arts/Craft - Professional Arts Space (for professionals working in the arts)	Near group or town centre	Near public parking		Arts Centre	
*Visual Arts/Craft-Community Arts Space (non-professional group space)			Noise separation/adequately buffered from residential areas if noisy	Community or youth centre; library; theatre studio; schools	Access for large vehicles to site
*Community Arts Centre (theatre, gallery space, workshop etc)	Near town retail centre			Concert hall	
*Community Theatre (small fitted out theatre)	Near town retail centre	Close to arterial roads; near public parking	Noise separation from residential areas unless sound insulated	Major community arts space; schools; youth facility	On site parking as close to building as possible for performer safety after hours Access for large vehicles to site
*Theatre Studio (rehearsal space)	Near retail centre	Close to arterial roads	Noise separation from residential areas unless sound insulated	Community arts space; schools; youth facility	On site parking as close to building as possible for performer safety after hours Access for large vehicles to site

** Section 2.1 refers to public transport

* Not a defined use under the Territory Plan; refer to index of Common Terminology for relevant definition

Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
* Major Theatre, Concert Hall, Recital Hall		Close to arterial roads; near major car parking areas	Noise separation from residential areas	Arts centre; cinemas; restaurants; other indoor entertainment	On site parking as close to building as possible for performer safety after hours Provision for safe drop-off area and bus bay
Commercial * Club – Licensed (eg, ethnic clubs, football clubs, Labor club, Leagues club, RSL clubs)	Within group centre or town centre	Near car parking	Noise separation from residential areas, or adequately noise buffered; social and noise separation from schools, colleges and youth facilities	Indoor/outdoor sporting facility	
* Drink Establishment (tavern, bar, nightclub)	Within group centre or town centre	Restaurants and other entertainment facilities	Noise separation from residential areas, or adequately noise buffered; social and noise separation from schools, colleges and youth facilities		
* Brothel (Note locations restricted to Mitchell and Fyshwick under ACT Prostitution Regulations (Subordinate Law No 19 of 1993))		Located in areas with good artificial lighting at night; safe vehicle drop off and pick up area within 50 metres of premises	Not in residential areas; not within sight lines of schools, child care or similar community facilities; not within sight line of hotels or night clubs or other licensed premises; not in isolated areas where no other after hours uses are operating		On-site parking should be concealed from road and as close to building as possible. Ensure adequate surveillance from building for worker security

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Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
Community					
*Community Centre <i>(large multi-purpose centre with community group accommodation)</i>	400 metres of town centre	Near major car parking area	Noise separation or adequately noise insulated from residential areas	College; youth centre; aged day care centre; recreation centre; child care centre; library; health facility	Provision for emergency vehicle access and safe drop-off area on site; also off-street parking for large vehicles
*Neighbourhood Centre <i>(smaller centre for recreation, family support etc)</i>	400 metres of group or local centre	In residential area, close to schools	Noise separation or adequately noise insulated from residential areas	Child care centre; day care for elderly persons; small scale health facility; school	Provision for safe drop-off area at site
*Community House <i>(house for meeting, family support etc)</i>	400 metres of local centre	In residential areas, close to open space and pedestrian paths		Child care centre; pre-school; primary school	Scale and character to be generally compatible with surrounding residential development. Cul-de-sacs acceptable if there is street capacity to handle traffic generated by the centre; corner blocks acceptable if safe access to site provided. Sufficient parking is vital
*Senior Citizens' Centre <i>(recreation and social support)</i>	Near town or group retail centre	Close to other community facilities, shops, health facilities		Library; community centre; day care for aged persons; health facility	Provision for emergency vehicle access and safe drop-off area on site. Ground floor access preferred

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Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
*Scout/Guide Hall, Community Hall		Bicycle networks and pedestrian paths	At residential fringe to minimise noise impact on residents	Park; oval or playing field	Provision for safe drop-off area at site
*Sea Scout Hall		At lake edge	At residential fringe to minimise noise impact on residents	Open space	Provision for safe drop-off area at site
* District Youth Centre <i>(youth café and recreation)</i>	In town centre		Noise separation or adequately noise buffered from residential areas Separated from safety hazards (eg stormwater channels) Social separation from clubs and other licensed premises	Recreation including skateboard facilities, cinema, skating rink; group centre	
*Youth Resources Centre <i>(smaller outreach centre for support, information, structured activities and recreation)</i>	Near town or group retail centre	Close to/direct access to open space; close to primary school, high school	Noise separation or adequately noise buffered from residential areas Separated from safety hazards (eg stormwater channels) Social separation from clubs and other licensed premises	Recreation including skateboard facilities, group centre; college; community centre; library	

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Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
<p>*Child Care Centre (long day care or occasional care)</p> <p>(Note: The licensing authority for child care in the ACT is the Children's Youth & Family Services Bureau. They should be consulted about location for child care facilities)</p>	Near retail centre (for occasional care)	Long day care centres on major work routes, or easy vehicle access near major work places. Only small centres in residential areas; on pedestrian path/open space system where possible	Social separation from correction facilities. Buffered from sight, smell, fumes and noise of industrial uses and from roads with high traffic volumes (refer to air quality guidelines). Separated from safety hazards (eg water bodies; busy roads)	<p>Pre-School or primary school for long day care</p> <p>Recreation facility or community centre/ house for occasional care centre; neighbourhood centre</p> <p>Baby health clinic</p> <p>Long day care with occasional care or at major workplaces</p>	<p>Child care centres must be licensed to operated by the Children's Youth & Family Services Bureau. Requirements include minimum standards for building size and play area. The Bureau must be consulted in the process of site selection. Play areas should have north easterly orientation</p> <p>Cul-de-sac sites acceptable if there is street capacity to handle traffic generated by the centre; corner blocks acceptable if safe access to site provided</p>
<p>* Multi-Agency Accommodation for Non-Government Organisations (community office/service space)</p>	Town centre	Near major car parking areas and town centre bus passenger facilities		Community centre; library and town centre bus passenger facilities	
<p>*Meals on Wheels Centre</p>		Near car parking areas		Community centre; hospital	

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Accessibility of bus stops for Corrections Facilities enables access for older visitors and visitors with small children.

Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
Corrections Facility *Custodial Complex <i>(Prison)</i>		Industry/work opportunities. Closeness to courts is an advantage	Social separation from residential areas and from facilities serving older persons or children	Remand centre	Large site allowing secure boundaries. Extra internal security required. Capacity for unbroken visibility on every perimeter
*Remand Centre <i>(adults)</i>		Industry/work opportunities. Closeness to courts is an advantage	Social separation from residential areas and from facilities serving older persons or children in non-correctional matters	Custodial complex	Medium site allowing secure external boundaries and internal security Capacity for unbroken visibility on every perimeter
*Transitional Release Hostel <i>(adults)</i>	Near town or group centre	Preferably close to residential area	Social separation from other facilities serving children or older persons in non-correctional matters	Locate with periodic detention centre/ community service order depot	Capacity for visibility of site boundaries
*Periodic Detention Centre <i>(adults)</i>	Near town or group centre		Social separation from other facilities serving children or older persons in non-correctional matters	Community service order depot	Capacity for visibility of site boundaries

Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
*Community Service Order Depot (adults)	Near town centre		Social separation from other facilities serving children or older persons in non-correctional matters	Periodic detention centre	Capacity for visibility of site boundaries
*Remand Shelter (youth)	Near town or group retail centre	Within 15 minutes drive of courts	Social separation from other facilities serving children or older persons in non-correctional matters		Medium site allowing secure external boundaries and internal security Capacity for unbroken visibility on every perimeter
*Juvenile Justice Centre (residential care) <i>Note: defined as a special care establishment in the Territory Plan</i>			Social separation from other facilities serving children or older persons in non-correctional matters	Youth attendance centre	Separated from adult custodial complexes
*Youth Attendance Centre (non-residential)			Social separation from other facilities serving children or older persons in non-correctional matters	Juvenile justice centre; youth remand centre	Separated from adult custodial complexes
*Transitional Release Facility; Periodic Detention Centre; Bail Probation Hostel (youth)	Near town centre		Social separation from other facilities serving children or older persons in non-correctional matters	Periodic detention centre	Proximity to public transport vital
*Courts	On major transport routes	Police station; social services (eg legal aid, welfare services)		Major police station, community corrections centre for adults	Secure access to building and secure building perimeters essential. Where connected with police station, underground tunnel preferable for secure access

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Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
Cultural Facility *Public Art Gallery		Close to arterial road; near major car parking areas; close to major pedestrian paths, adjacent to park or open space	Separated from residential areas to preserve amenity, particularly in relation to traffic	Museum; other cultural or entertainment facilities	Safe drop-off area and bus bay. Ground floor access essential Separate loading facilities
*Cinema <i>(private enterprise)</i>	Near town retail centre	Close to major car parking areas		Major arts centre	Provision for safe drop-off area
*Library	Near town or group retail centre	Close to arterial roads and major car parking areas		Community facilities (youth centres, community centre, senior citizens centre); cultural facilities; retail centres	The size of the library should be related to the total catchment population to be served. Ground floor access essential Access to loading bay
*Museum, Culture and Heritage Centre⁴	Close to town retail centre	On pedestrian route, close to parking	Separated from residential areas to preserve amenity, particularly in relation to traffic	Major community facility; other cultural or entertainment facilities	Ground floor access essential Safe drop-off area and bus bay Separate loading facilities

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² Refer to detailed site selection guidelines

Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
Education *Preschool	400 metres from retail centre where possible	Central to catchment area, linked to major pedestrian system	Noise separation from special care hostels; social separation from clubs and other licensed premises; separated from safety hazards (eg roads with high traffic volumes, stormwater channels)	Child care centre, primary school, baby health clinic	Northerly aspect Safe drop-off areas essential
*Primary School <i>(education and community use, includes kindergarten)</i>	400 metres from retail centre where possible	Adjoining/adjacent to playing fields/ovals essential, and on cycleway; central to long-term catchment; located on distributor or local road or close to a collector road; within safe pedestrian access to dwellings in catchment	Noise separation from special care hostels; social separation from clubs and other licensed premises; separated from safety hazards (eg roads with high traffic volumes, stormwater channels) No direct access off arterial roads and other roads with high traffic volumes; social separation from major shopping areas and amusement centres; careful consideration should be given to relationship between school and residential streets to avoid disturbing residents, and to ensure safety of children.	Other community facilities; child care centre; preschool; church for non-government church school	Northerly aspect immediately adjoining oval or playing fields Substantial, uninhibited street frontage on three boundaries where possible Streets must be suitable for bus laybys and pick up and set down areas

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Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
*High School (<i>education and community use</i>)	400 metres from retail centre where possible	Adjoining/adjacent to district playing fields essential, on cycleway; central to long-term catchment On collector or distributor roads	Noise separation from special care hostels; social separation from clubs and other licensed premises, amusement centres; separated from safety hazards (eg roads with high traffic volumes, stormwater channels) No direct access off arterial roads and other roads with high traffic volumes, but within easy access of arterial roads	Government and non-government high school, primary school; other community facilities	Northerly aspect immediately adjoining district playing fields with easterly aspect Uninhibited street frontage on two boundaries Street must be suitable for bus laybys and pick up and set down areas
*Secondary College (<i>education and community use</i>)	Located on boundary of town or group centre where possible	Near open space, adjacent to district playing fields (essential), on cycleway network; safe walking distance of town centre bus passenger facilities	Noise separation from special care hostels; social separation from clubs and other licensed premises, amusement centres; separated from safety hazards (eg roads with high traffic volumes) No direct access off arterial roads and other roads with high traffic volumes	Recreation facilities, library; theatre	Northerly aspect immediately adjoining playing fields Uninhibited street frontage on at least one boundary
Emergency Services					
*Ambulance Station		On major road. Locate for 10 minute response time to edge of catchment	Separated from schools or other children's facilities to enhance safety	Other emergency services	Wide and uninhibited street frontage required for vehicular access
*Fire Station		Quick access to a major road; to ACT Standards of Fire Cover	Not adjacent to residential areas	Other emergency services	Wide and uninhibited street frontage required for vehicular access

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Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
*Police Station		Remand centre; court house; public parking area		Other emergency services	Special parking and traffic movement requirements (secure parking and access to site). Wide and uninhibited street frontage required for vehicular access. Where connected with courts, underground tunnel preferable for secure access
*Police Shopfront	In town centre			ACT Government Shopfront	
Health					
* District Health Centre <i>(health services and aged day care)</i>	Near or within town centre of group centre	Near major car parking areas		Other health and welfare services	Provision for emergency vehicle access
*Outreach Health Centre <i>(satellite centre)</i>	At group centre or local centre	Near major car parking areas		Other health and welfare services; neighbourhood centres	Provision for emergency vehicle access
*Baby Health Clinic, Family Care Centre	Near local or group retail centres	Safe and easy access from housing		Preschools, primary schools, health centre, community centre	
Hospital		Close to arterial roads Preferably quiet location	Noise separation from residential areas	Primary health services; Child care facility	Northerly aspect preferable Provision for emergency vehicle access

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Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
<p>*Hospice (palliative nursing care for terminally ill people) Note: defined as a special care hostel in the Territory Plan</p>		<p>Park; close to arterial roads Preferably quiet location</p>	<p>Noise separation, or adequately buffered from major and/or continuous sources of noise; not on arterial roads or roads with high traffic volumes, unless safe crossing is provided to access facilities</p>	<p>Hospital</p>	<p>Provision for emergency vehicle access</p>
<p>*Convalescent Facility (<i>recuperative nursing care</i>)</p> <p>Rehabilitation Centre (<i>rehabilitation for head injuries or other reasons</i>) Note: both defined as a special care establishment in the Territory Plan</p>	<p>200 metres</p>	<p>Park Preferably quiet location</p>	<p>Noise separation, or adequately buffered from major and/or continuous sources of noise; not on arterial roads or roads with high traffic volumes, unless safe crossing is provided to access facilities</p>	<p>Hospital; primary health services; retirement village, nursing home</p>	<p>Northerly aspect preferable Provision for emergency vehicle access</p>
<p>*Day Care Centre for Elderly People (<i>day activity centre</i>)</p>	<p>Near retail centre</p>	<p>On major work routes or easy vehicle access near major work places</p>		<p>Preschool or primary school; community centre/house; child care centre</p>	<p>North or north-easterly orientation Provision for emergency vehicle access and safe drop-off area at site Cul-de-sac sites acceptable if street capacity to handle traffic generated by the centre; corner blocks if safe access to site</p>
<p>*Day Care Centre – Mental Health (<i>day activity centre for psychiatric patients</i>)</p>	<p>Near retail centre</p>	<p>On major work routes or easy vehicle access near major work places</p>		<p>Recreation facility; community centre/house</p>	

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Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
*Medical Centre/Surgery/Dental Surgery <i>(medical/dental consulting rooms)</i>	In or within 200 metres of retail centre	Residential areas		Health facility; retail centre	Provision for emergency vehicle access
*Secure mental health/ corrections facility <i>(constrained residential care)</i>			Social separation from other facilities serving children or older persons	Remand centre; hospital	Provision for emergency vehicle access
*Half-way House, Hostel, Nursing Home <i>(see Residential page 25)</i>					
Indoor Sport & Recreation * Sports Hall; Indoor Basketball/ Netball Centre; Cricket Centre		Near town or district based recreation; near major car parking areas if parking demand not met on site	Noise separation or adequately noise buffered from residential areas; social separation of youth facilities and liquor outlets	Community centre; gym; indoor courts, secondary college; child care centre	Safe drop-off area at or near site; bus bays Close proximity to licensed club may be appropriate if other relations (eg with schools and colleges) are not compromised
*Fitness Gymnasium; Squash Centre			Noise separation or adequately noise buffered from residential areas	Recreation facilities	Safe drop-off at or near site; bus bays
*Indoor Recreation Centre <i>(pool, gym, indoor courts, etc)</i> Swimming Complex; Tennis Centre	At town or group retail centre	Near major car parking areas if parking demand not met on site	Social separation of youth facilities and liquor outlets Noise separation or adequately noise buffered from residential areas	Outdoor recreation facilities; enclosed oval; skating rink; school; secondary college; gym; indoor courts; community arts and cultural facilities; youth resources centre	Safe drop-of area at or near site; bus bays Close proximity to licensed club may be appropriate if other relationships (eg with schools and colleges) are not compromised

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Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
Roller Skating or Ice Skating Rink		With town based recreation; near major car parking areas if parking demand not met on site	Not on residential street, or within audible distance of residential uses	Where possible with other indoor or outdoor recreation facilities; youth centre; secondary college; swimming pool	Safe drop-off area at or near site
*Amusement Centre⁵ (pinball parlour)	Near retail centre		Not within 500 metres of a school or college, or visible from school or college grounds	Recreation facilities	
*Bowling Alley	Near town or group retail centre	Park	Noise separation or adequately noise buffered from residential areas	Co-locate where possible with other	Safe drop-off area at or near site
Outdoor Recreation					
*Local/neighbourhood park (including playground)		Within 400 metres of dwellings; on cycleway route		Local playing field; primary school; pre-school	Refer to Canberra Landscape Guidelines for detailed on-site guidelines
*District Park (eg Kambah, Latham)		Water features; major pedestrian pathway; on cycleway route		Primary school; high school; playing fields; secondary college; tennis courts	Refer to Canberra Landscape Guidelines for detailed on-site guidelines
*Town Park (eg Glebe Park in Civic, Woden Town Park)	Near town retail centre	Food outlets, water features, employment centres; major cycleway network		Indoor recreation facilities; outdoor recreation facilities; district playing fields	Refer to Canberra Landscape Guidelines for detailed on-site guidelines
*District Playing Fields		Locate near schools, parks and convenient to residential areas; near major car parking areas if parking demand not met on site		District park; high school essential	North of school buildings where co-located

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³ Location in relation to schools is significant and should be subject to assessment

Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
*Neighbourhood Oval	Near local retail	Locate near schools, parks and convenient to residential areas		Primary school	North of school buildings where co-located
*Enclosed Oval	At or near town or group retail centre	Near major car parking areas if parking demand not met on site; district playing fields	Noise separation from residential areas; protect residential areas from oval lighting for night time use	District playing fields; other recreation facilities – indoor or outdoor	

Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
Skateboard Facility	Near town or group retail centre	On cycleway/ pedestrian network (close to road for informal surveillance) Near public parks	Noise separation or adequately noise buffered from residential areas	Park; recreation facilities (including BMX track, swimming pool); schools; secondary college; district youth centre; youth resources centre	Orientation and special landscaping treatment needed Locate in active area for informal surveillance and for safety of users Design surrounds/access to reduce tendency to ride boards to/from facility
*BMX Track (<i>bicycle track</i>)			Noise separation or adequately noise buffered from residential areas	Town or district park; skateboard facility and other youth recreation facility; District playing field	
*Tennis Centre (<i>tennis courts</i>)		Near car parking if demand not met on site	Protect residential areas from court lighting for night time use	Schools; other outdoor courts	Wind protection and North/South orientation needed
*Synthetic Hockey Field, Netball Complex		Near major car parking areas if parking demand not met on site	Noise separation or adequately noise buffered from residential areas	District playing fields; high school; secondary college	
*Mini-bike, Go-kart, Drag Racing Track, other Motor based Sports (<i>small motor racing</i>)			Noise separation or adequately noise buffered from residential areas	Race track	Avoid potential fire risk by separation from long dry grass areas
*Motor Racing Circuit			Noise separation or adequately noise buffered from residential areas	Go-kart, minibike track; drag racing	Extensive vehicular access needed
*Horse or Greyhound Race Track; Trotting Track			Noise separation or adequately noise buffered from residential areas		Extensive vehicular access needed

** Section 2.1 refers to public transport

* Not a defined use under the Territory Plan; refer to index of Common Terminology for relevant definition

Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
Golf Driving Range		Golf course	Away from major roads unless high fencing provided around the facility	Golf course	Reasonably flat site with buffer around it for safety
Equestrian Facility		Equestrian trails; pine plantations; access to cycle paths; residential area; major competition areas		Showground; racecourse; trotting tracks; agistment paddocks	Extensive vehicular access needed
Equestrian Trail		Equestrian facilities; agistment paddocks; access to cycle paths	Away from major roads	Cycle paths	Safe road crossings and adequate sign posting required Ring routes favoured
Gun/Rifle Range			Essential that remote from residential areas; separated from natural locations of concentrations of wildlife		Solar orientation and special landscaping requirements apply Boundary fencing and warning signs for safety
*Archery Course			Separated from areas likely to be developed to enhance safety		Solar orientation and special landscaping requirements apply Boundary fencing and warning signs for safety
*Croquet Green; Lawn Bowling Club		Near town or district based recreation			
*Velodrome			Noise separation from residential areas; on cycleway network	District playing fields; other recreation facilities	

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Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
Place Of Worship <i>(Church, Mosque, Temple, Chapel, Shrine, Synagogue)</i>	Proximity desirable	Near major car parking areas if parking demand not met on site; close to residential areas	Noise separation or adequately noise buffered from residential areas or large traffic generation if likely	Related non-government school; government school	Safe drop-off area and bus bay Ground floor access essential
Public Amenities <i>*Public Telephone</i>	At shops	Near high demand areas and/or high density housing; close to main road			Also located in areas of high customer demand
*Retail Post Shop (Post Office)	At shops				
*Post Box	At shops				
*Public Toilets <i>(excluding those provided by shopping centres, commercial facilities)</i>	Proximity desirable (but not located behind or in isolated position; entrances to be visible from shop frontage or other opportunities for informal surveillance)	Taxi stand, car park, town centre bus passenger facilities, park, street lights, telephones	Social separation from residential areas, taverns, night clubs	Service trades area; sport and recreation facilities	Good lighting; locate and landscape for public safety (ie provide opportunities for informal surveillance) To enhance user safety, group other activities near toilets (eg change facilities, telephones, seating)

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Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
<p>Public Transport</p> <p>*Town Centre Bus Passenger Facilities</p>	<p>Near town based retail and employment centres</p> <p>To be visible from shop frontage or other opportunities for informal surveillance</p>		<p>Social separation from taverns, night clubs</p>	<p>Park and ride facility, taxi stand, telephones, toilets, theatre, cinema</p>	<p>Good lighting; locate and landscape for public safety</p>
<p>*Park and Ride' Centre (Commuter Parking for Bus Travel)</p>		<p>On major commuter routes and bus stops</p>		<p>Town centre bus passenger facilities and facilities used outside working hours</p>	<p>Existing car parks used</p>
<p>*Bus Stops</p>		<p>Close to nearby facilities or residences and telephone to increase passenger safety; adjacent to walkways where possible</p>			<p>Active locations away from vacant land, car parks or buildings set back from the street to enhance passenger safety</p>

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Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
Residential Special Dwelling <i>(Refuge, Halfway House, Residential Treatment Unit)</i>	400 metres where maximum gradient 1:20; otherwise closer (so that the same effort is required to travel the distance)	In residential area, within walking distance of open space and relevant facilities (eg School, pre-school, shops) In some cases, a quiet location may be preferable to proximity to the above facilities	Not on arterial roads or roads with high traffic volumes' social separation from shopping centres, hotels or similar commercial uses. Avoid concentrations of special dwellings in a suburb	Some special dwellings may require proximity to health facilities, but not to shopping centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On-site parking for refuges should be concealed from road and as close to building as possible for security purposes and to increase anonymity - Gardens should have north or north easterly aspect for good sun penetration - Avoid extensive exposed boundary such as corner blocks unless benefits outweigh exposure - Site dependant on street parking capacity to accommodate peak demand (eg staff meetings) - Scale and character to be generally compatible with surrounding residential development - Refer to Residential Design and Siting Codes, Single Dwellings, Appendix III., Territory Plan

** Section 2.1 refers to public transport

Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
Residential Care Accommodation	400 metres where maximum gradient 1:20; otherwise closer (so that the same effort is required to travel the distance)	<p>Hostels and nursing homes⁵ should be located in quiet areas (such as residential areas); residents of these uses value quiet locations over accessibility</p> <p>Preferably on pedestrian path system with good access to health facilities, places of worship, parks</p>	Noise separation or adequately buffered from major and/or continuous sources of noise; not on arterial roads or roads with high traffic volumes, unless safe crossing is provided to access facilities	Aged persons' units for aged persons' hostels or nursing homes	<p>Locate hostels and nursing homes to maximise views and overlook active streetscape in residential area. An assessment of the extent of relevant facility provision in the surrounding area is required.</p> <p>Gardens and/or balconies and living areas should have north or north easterly aspect for good sun penetration</p> <p>Site dependant on street parking capacity to accommodate peak demand (eg staff meetings)</p> <p>Corner site only where safe access can be achieved</p> <p>Provision for emergency vehicle access</p> <p>Refer to Residential Design and Siting Code, Multi-Dwelling Developments, Appendix III.2, Territory Plan</p>

** Section 23.1 refers to public transport

⁵ Refer to Commonwealth guidelines in Hostel Design Guidelines, Department of Community Services & Health, 1990 (Section 401)

Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
Retirement Village (Independent Aged Persons' Units with Community Space and either Hostel or Nursing Home)	Complexes with self-care units should be within 400 metres of shops along maximum gradient of 1:20	Within or adjacent to residential areas Near medical centres, on public transport route to hospital, major health facilities; town centre etc. On pedestrian path system, with access to parks and local centres	Locate to avoid crossing roads with high traffic volumes to access shops and public transport Noise separation from schools, colleges, youth centres	Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An assessment of the extent of relevant facility provision in the surrounding area is required. Where there is a shortfall in relevant transport, community, retail, health or personal services, these may be required on site - Avoid public 'short cut' routes through complex - Provide individual access to private open space (eg patios or verandahs) for self-care units - Gardens and/or balconies and living areas should have north or north easterly aspect for good sun penetration - Provision for emergency vehicle access, safe drop-off area and access for service vehicles to site - Refer to Residential Design and Siting Code, Multi-Dwelling Developments, Appendix III.2, Territory Plan

** Section 2.1 refers to public transport

Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
Aged Persons' Units (attached or detached dwellings under the Territory Plan)	400 metres where maximum gradient 1:20; otherwise closer (so that the same effort is required to travel the distance)	Recreation or community facility; other residential areas to ensure an integrated relationship with community; existing pedestrian crossing	Noise separation or adequately buffered from major and/or continuous sources of noise; not on arterial roads or roads with high traffic volumes, unless safe crossing is provided to access facilities	Aged persons' hostel; nursing home	Gardens and/or balconies and living areas should have north or north easterly aspect for good sun penetration Refer to Residential Design and Siting Codes, Multi-Dwelling Developments, Appendix III.2, Territory Plan
* Boarding House, Mobile Home Park, Long-stay Caravan Park	400 metres to shops, near restaurants and cafes where possible	100 metres from pedestrian links to shops; 400 metres from parks. Location desirable next to residential areas			Communal open space to be provided for all occupants For long-stay caravan or mobile home parks an assessment is required of the extent of relevant facility provision in the surrounding area. Where there is a shortfall in relevant community or retail services, these may be required on site

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Development	Relationship to Shops	Relationship to other uses – Close to **	Separated from	Co-location Opportunity	Other Issues
Guest House (Youth Hostel, chalet, Lodging House, Tourist Lodge)	400 metres to shops, near restaurants and cafes where possible	Locate on or close to arterial roads Near interstate bus depot			
*Short-stay Caravan Park		Locate on or close to arterial roads. Near interstate bus depot.			

Glossary of Terms

Below are common terms used in this code to describe community facilities, recreation facilities and retail centres:

Hierarchy of Retail Centres

Retail centres are provided with the following hierarchy of size:

- City Centre – the commercial and retail centre of Canberra. Also known as Canberra City and Civic
- Town Centre – The commercial and retail centre of a town. Existing town centres are: Belconnen, Woden, Tuggeranong and Gungahlin
- Group Centre – an intermediate retail and commercial centres serving a number of suburbs within a town. Examples of existing group centre include Coleman Court in Weston Creek, Kippax, Jamison Centres in Belconnen and Erindale Centre in Tuggeranong.
- Local Centre – a small retail centre serving a local catchment of one or two suburbs.

Hierarchy of Community Facilities

Hierarchical terms are also used for some community facilities:

- District Family – a facility located generally at the town centre level of the hierarchy of centres, providing for a broad catchment of users.
- Outreach/ satellite facility – a facility located within a town area, generally either at or near group centres or local centres.

Common Terminology

Other common terminology used in the code include:

- After hours - after hours use or after hours public transport refers to hours outside normal working hours (8am to 6pm)
- Drop off area – a drop off area is a safe parking bay designed to allow ease of vehicular access for users wishing to be dropped off on, or near the premises of the community facility. Commonly, a drop off area is a slip lane parallel to a thoroughfare allowing room for one or more vehicles to be temporarily stopped out of the general flow of traffic.
- High traffic volumes – generally volumes of over 4,000 vehicles each day.

Index of common terms and development defined in the Territory Plan

Common Term	Development
Adjunct child care	Community activity centre or ancillary use
Adult education centre	Educational Establishment
Aeromodelling	Outdoor recreation facility
Aged persons' hostel	Special care hostel
Aged persons' units	Attached house or detached house
Alcohol treatment centre	Special care establishment
Ambulance station	Emergency services facility
Amusement park	Tourist Facility
Amusement centre/ pinball parlour/ arcade	Indoor entertainment facility
Archery course	Outdoor recreation facility
Arena	Outdoor recreation facility
Art dealer	Shop
Art gallery/ public art gallery	Cultural facility
Attendance centre (youth)	Corrections facility
Auditorium (community)	Community theatre
Auditorium (commercial)	Place of assembly
Baby health clinic	Health facility
Bail hostel/ transitional release facility/ probation hostel	Corrections facility
Bar	Drink establishment
Basketball centre (indoor)	Indoor recreation facility
BMX Track	Outdoor recreation facility
Boarding house	Boarding house
Bowling alley	Indoor recreation facility
Bowling green/ lawn	Outdoor recreational facility
Brothel	Personal Services

Common Term	Development
Bus interchange/ town centre bus passenger facilities	Public transport facility
Cabins	Caravan park/ camping ground
Camp(church/ outward bound/ school/ YMCA/ youth/ scout guide)	Group or organised camp
Caravan park (short stay)	Caravan Park/ camping ground
Caravan park (long stay)	Mobile home park
Casino	Indoor entertainment facility
Chalet	Guest house
Chapel	Place of worship
Child health clinic/ baby health clinic	Health facility
Child minding	Community activity centre
Childrens shelter	Special dwelling
Church residence	Religious associated use
Church hall	Religious associated use
Church	Place of worship
Cinema (community)	Community theatre
Cinema (commercial)	Indoor entertainment facility
Civil defence	Emergency services facility
Club (licensed/ football/ RSL/leagues club)	Club
College, secondary college	Educational establishment
Community arts space	Cultural facility
Community arts centre	Cultural facility
Community centre	Community activity centre
Community services order depot	Corrections facility
Community group space/ multi-agency accommodation for non-government organisations	Community activity centre
Community house	Community activity centre
Community services/ community space	Community activity centre

Common Term	Development
Community theatre	Cultural facility
Concert hall (commercial)	Indoor entertainment facility
Concert hall (community)	Community theatre
Consulting rooms	Health facility
Convalescent home/ facility	Special care establishment
Convent	Religious associated use
Convention Centre	Place of assembly
Courts	Civic Administration
Craft dealer	Shop
Craft gallery	Cultural facility
Creche/ child care centre	Child care centre
Cricket centre (indoor)	Indoor recreation facility
Croquet green/ lawn	Outdoor recreation facility
Culture and heritage centre	Cultural facility
Custodial complex/ prison	Corrections facility
Dance hall	Indoor entertainment facility
Day activity/ day care centre (elderly people/ mental health)	Health facility
Dental clinic/ surgery	Health facility
Discotheque	Indoor entertainment facility
District health centre	Health facility
District playing fields	Playing field
Doctors surgery/ clinic	Health facility
Drag racing track	Outdoor recreation facility
Drug treatment centre	Special care establishment
Enclosed oval	Outdoor recreation facility
Equestrian facility	Equestrian facility
Exhibition hall	Place of assembly
Family care centre	Health facility
Family planning clinic	Health facility
Farmstead accommodation	Guest house
Fire station	Emergency services facility

Common Term	Development
First aid station	Health facility
Fitness centre/ gymnasium	Indoor recreation facility
Go-karting track	Outdoor recreation facility
Golf course	Outdoor recreation facility
Guest house	Guest house
Guide hall	Community activity centre
Gun range	Outdoor recreation facility
Half-way house	Special dwelling
Hall (scout/ guide/ community)	Community activity centre
Health centre (outreach/ district)	Health facility
High school	Educational establishment
Hockey field	Outdoor recreational facility
Hospice	Special care hostel
Hospital	Hospital
Hostel (aged persons/ other)	Special care hostel
Hotel, private hotel	Boarding house
Ice skating	Indoor recreation facility
Indoor basketball centre	Indoor recreation facility
Indoor cricket centre	Indoor recreation facility
Indoor netball centre	Indoor recreation facility
Indoor recreation centre	Indoor recreation facility
Indoor sports stadium	Indoor recreation facility
Indoor swimming pool/ complex/ centre	Indoor recreation facility
Inn	Drink establishment
Institute of technology	Educational establishment
Interchange (bus)/ town centre bus passenger facilities	Public transport facilities
Juvenile justice centre	Special care establishment
Kindergarten/ preschool	Educational establishment
Lawn bowling club	Outdoor recreational facility
Library	Cultural facility

Common Term	Development
Lodging house	Boarding house
Long day care	Child care centre
Major theatre	Community theatre
Manse	Religious associated use
Medical clinic/ centre/ surgery	Health facility
Meals on wheels centre	Community activity centre
Meeting rooms/ community space	Community activity centre
Mini bike track	Outdoor recreational facility
Mobile/ transportable homes	Mobile home park
Model aviations	Outdoor recreational facility
Monastery	Religious associated use
Mosque	Place of worship
Motor racing track/ circuit	Outdoor recreational facility
Motor bike track	Outdoor recreational facility
Multi-agency accommodation for non-government organisations	Community activity centre
Museum	Cultural facility
Music hall	Indoor entertainment facility
Heighbourhood centre	Community activity centre
Netball court/ centre/ complex *(indoor)	Indoor recreational facility
Netball court/ centre/ complex (outdoor)	Outdoor recreational facility
Night club	Indoor recreational facility
Nursing home	Special care establishment
Occasional child care centre	Child care centre
Outreach health centre	Health facility
Oval (neighbourhood)	Playing field
Park (local/neighbourhood/ district/ town)	Parkland
Park and ride centre	Public transport facility
Pathology centre	Health facility

Common Term	Development
Periodic detention centre	Corrections facility
Pinball parlour/ amusement centre	Indoor entertainment facility
Place of worship	Place of worship
Playing field/ district playing field	Playing field
Playschool/ child care centre	Child care centre
Police shopfront	Emergency services facility
Police station	Emergency services facility
Pony club	Equestrian facility
Post office/ retail post shop	Public agency
Post box	Ancillary use
Presbytery	Religious associated use
Preschool	Educational establishment
Primary school	Educational establishment
Priory	Religious associated use
Prison/ custodial complex	Corrections facility
Private hotel	Boarding house
Probation hostel Transitional release hostel/ bail hostel	Corrections facility
Professional arts work space	Craft workshop
Public art gallery/ art gallery	Cultural facility
Public toilets	Ancillary use
Public telephone	Ancillary use
Racecourse	Outdoor recreational facility
Racing track (motor/ horse/ greyhound/ trotting)	Outdoor recreational facility
Reception rooms	Place of assembly
Recital hall	Community theatre
Rectory	Religious associated use
Refuge	Special dwelling
Rehabilitation centre/ facility	Special care establishment
Religious retreat	Group or organised camp
Remand centre/ shelter	Corrections facility

Common Term	Development
Residential treatment unit	Special dwelling
Retirement Village	Retirement Village
Riding school	Equestrian facility
Rifle range	Outdoor recreational facility
Road safety education centre	Educational establishment
Roller skating rink	Indoor recreation facility
Scout hall	Community activity centre
Sculpture dealer	Shop
Sea scout hall	Community activity centre
Secure mental health/ corrections facility	Special care establishment
Senior citizens centre	Community activity centre
Serviced room	Boarding house
Sheltered worship	Educational establishment
Showground	Outdoor recreation facility
Shrine	Place of worship
Skateboard arena/ facility	Outdoor recreation facility
Ski run (grass/snow)	Outdoor recreation facility
Special care establishment	Special care establishment
Special care hostel	Special care hostel
Special dwelling	Special dwelling
Sports institute	Educational establishment
Sports hall	Indoor recreation facility
Sports ground	Outdoor recreation facility
Squash court/ centre	Indoor recreation facility
Stables	Equestrian facility
Stadium	Outdoor recreation facility
Swimming pool complex (indoor)	Indoor recreation facility
Swimming pool complex (outdoor)	Outdoor recreation facility
Synagogue	Place of worship
Synthetic hockey field	Outdoor recreation facility

Common Term	Development
Tavern	Drink establishment
Technical and further education	Educational establishment
Temple	Place of worship
Tennis court/ centre (outdoor)	Outdoor recreation facility
Tennis court/ centre	Indoor recreation facility
Theatre (commercial)	Indoor entertainment facility
Theatre (community)	Community theatre
Theatre studio	Community theatre
Theatrette (community)	Community theatre
Theme park	Tourist facility
Tourist Lodge	Guest house
Trade fair	Place of assembly
Transitional release centre/ bail hostel Probation hostel	Corrections facility
Transportable/ mobile home	Mobile home
Treatment centre (drug/ alcohol)	Special care establishment
Trotting track	Outdoor recreation facility
University	Education establishment
Velodrome	Outdoor recreation facility
Veterinary surgeon/ hospital/ clinic	Health facility
Visual arts and craft	Craft workshop
Welfare services	Community activity centre
X-ray centre	Health facility
Youth attendance centre	Corrections facility
Youth centre/ youth resources centre/ district youth centre	Community activity centre