

Sister City and International Arrangements Policy

- We are developing a new policy for Sister City and International Arrangements.
- The purpose of this policy is to optimise the relationships already held by the City of Adelaide with international partners, and to clarify how we respond to new requests and opportunities.

Consultation closes 11:59pm, Wednesday 15 July 2026



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CITY OF
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Customer Centre
25 Pirie Street, Adelaide
(08) 8203 7203
ouradelaide.sa.gov.au

Sister City and International Arrangements Policy

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We are seeking your feedback on the draft Sister Cities and International Arrangements Policy.

Background

The City of Adelaide has relationships with cities and organisations around the world to support cultural exchange, knowledge sharing, education, tourism, business and community connections.

These include:



SISTER CITY

A formal, long-term partnership between Adelaide and a city in another country.

These relationships build strong connections and create opportunities to share culture, knowledge and ideas.



CITY-TO-CITY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A formal, non-binding and time-limited agreement.

These arrangements focus on clear themes for cooperative action, learning and exchange.



INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Broader partnerships or agreements with international organisations, governments or cities.

These arrangements support collaboration, knowledge sharing and opportunities that benefit Adelaide and our community.

The Sister City movement originated through the United Nations after the Second World War, to foster cultural understanding and peace through building people to people relationships.

The Sister Cities of the City of Adelaide are:

- Christchurch (Ōtautahi) New Zealand/Aotearoa (established 1972)
- Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia (established 1973)
- Himeji, Japan (established 1982)
- Austin, Texas, USA (established 1983)
- Qingdao, Shandong Province, China (established 2014 from a Friendly City in 2001)

Two other Friendly City arrangements were also established with Chengdu and Dalian, China in 2001 and these remain in place. The City of Athens, Greece and the City of Adelaide signed a

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three-year Memorandum of Understanding in 2025 to share knowledge and exchange in the fields of cultural cooperation, tourism, digitisation of services and environmental resilience. Conversations between the cities are underway.

This draft Policy seeks to both optimise our current relationships and align with national legislation and includes four Principles:



Principle 1

International arrangements will be strategic, purposeful and mutually beneficial.



Principle 2

International arrangements will endeavour to connect people to people.



Principle 3

International arrangements can raise the profile of Adelaide internationally to maximise opportunities for trade and investment.



Principle 4

International arrangements will align with the City of Adelaide's cultural principles of reconciliation and truth-telling.

Timeline

- Public Consultation open from Wednesday 18 June to 11:59pm on Wednesday 15 July 2026.
- The Policy is to be presented to Council for consideration and endorsement in August 2026.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we need a Sister City and International Arrangements Policy?

Council has no formal policy on Sister City and International Arrangements.

The Australian Government brought in a new Act in 2020 to govern Foreign Arrangements and this Policy aligns Council with that legislation.

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What other international arrangements does the City of Adelaide participate in?

The City of Adelaide participates in a range of international partnerships that support cultural exchange, knowledge sharing and collaboration with cities around the world.

One example is Adelaide's designation as a UNESCO Creative City of Music, which connects Adelaide with an international network of cities that recognise the importance of music and culture in creating vibrant communities.

These international arrangements help the City of Adelaide build relationships, share knowledge and explore opportunities that benefit our community.

What the difference between a Sister City and a City-to-City Memorandum of Understanding?

A Sister City is a long-term partnership between two cities. It is a formal agreement, signed by the top elected officials of the two cities. A Sister City partnership provides the opportunity for two cities to collaborate in cultural, educational, business and technical exchange.

A City-to-City Memorandum of Understanding is a time-limited and purposeful agreement, a non-binding formal document outlining a formal agreement between parties, detailing their roles, responsibilities and shared goals.

How will this Policy be useful?

City of Adelaide Sister City and Friendly City arrangements are not time-limited, have no review dates in place or options for expiry and so this new Policy requires that to happen. The new Policy also proposes that Council uses a new tool to assess all international requests for any potential new arrangements thoroughly, to assist in good decision-making.

How will this Policy affect the Sister City relationships we currently have?

This policy will provide an approach of review and 'checking in' with our international arrangements to ensure relationships are based on clarity, respect and where possible planned and resourced action for mutual benefit.

How do I provide my feedback?

Online

ouradelaide.sa.gov.au

Contribute your feedback via the **Online Survey**

Email your comments to ouradelaide@cityofadelaide.com.au.

Written Submissions

All written submissions should be delivered to the Customer Centre, 25 Pirie Street Adelaide, or posted to:

Community Consultation

Sister City and International Arrangements Policy

GPO Box 2252, Adelaide SA 5001

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What happens next?

- We will acknowledge your feedback either by email or in writing.
- The draft Policy will be revised after all feedback has been considered
- A final version will be presented to Council for approval, along with the feedback arising from public consultation.

For enquires please contact:

Felicity Edwards, Strategic Project Lead

P: (08) 8203 7203

E: internationaladelaide@cityofadelaide.com.au

Or visit ouradelaide.sa.gov.au

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Feedback Form

This form can also be completed online at ouradelaide.sa.gov.au.

Submissions close 11.59pm, Wednesday 15 July 2026.

Q1. Do you support draft Principle 1: International arrangements will be strategic, purposeful and mutually beneficial.

Yes / No

Comments (optional)

Q2. Do you support draft Principle 2: International arrangements will endeavour to connect people to people (at a community level).

Yes / No

Comments (optional)

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Q3. Do you support draft Principle 3: International arrangements can raise the profile of Adelaide internationally to maximise opportunities for trade and investment.

Yes / No

Comments (optional)

Q4. Do you support draft Principle 4: International arrangements will align the City of Adelaide cultural principles of Reconciliation and truth-telling.

Yes / No

Comments (optional)

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Q5. As the Capital City of South Australia, should the City of Adelaide seek out more mutually beneficial international arrangements (please circle).

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Strongly Agree Agree

Please provide your feedback regarding the **Draft Sister City and International Arrangements Policy**

Comments (optional)

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Contact Details (optional)

Providing contact details in a feedback form is optional. However, we ask for this information because we want to know a little more about who you are and how you use the city to ensure we get a higher quality of data to go along with your feedback. The data will help us analyse feedback from specific groups (e.g. age, gender, City users), which in-turn will provide a richer and more valuable response to help Council make decisions.

First Name:		Last Name:	
Email Address:			
Address:			
Business/Organisation Name (if applicable):			
Gender:	☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Other Identity	Year of Birth:	
Are you a City of Adelaide Ratepayer?		☐ Yes ☐ No	
Please tell us how you participate in city life (tick all that apply):			
☐ Work	☐ Live	☐ Shop	☐ Business Owner/Operator
☐ Study	☐ Tourist	☐ Play (e.g. leisure, recreation, entertainment, dining)	
Please indicate your main areas of interest (tick all that apply):			
☐ Our Community	☐ Our Economy	☐ Our Environment	☐ Our Places
Please indicate the locations that are of interest to you (tick all that apply):			
☐ East End	☐ North Adelaide	☐ South East	
☐ South West	☐ West End		

OurAdelaide.sa.gov.au is Council's online consultation website. It is your chance to be kept up-to-date and provide feedback on areas of the city that interest you. Would you like to sign up to Our Adelaide to receive the monthly newsletter and be notified of new projects that match your interests?

☐ Yes* ☐ No

**Please provide your email address above*