



Agenda

Ordinary Council Meeting

6:30 pm, Tuesday 8 July 2025

Fitzroy Town Hall

www.yarracity.vic.gov.au

Council Meetings

Council Meetings are public forums where Councillors come together to meet as a Council and make decisions about important, strategic and other matters. The Mayor presides over all Council Meetings, and they are conducted in accordance with the City of Yarra Governance Rules.

Council meetings are decision-making forums and only Councillors have a formal role. However, Council is committed to transparent governance and to ensuring that any person whose rights will be directly affected by a decision of Council is entitled to communicate their views and have their interests considered before the decision is made.

Question Time

Yarra City Council welcomes questions from members of the community.

Asking your question

During Question Time, the Mayor will invite a person wishing to ask a question to come forward to the microphone.

Please:

- state your full name;
- direct your question to the Mayor;
- don't ask questions about matter listed on tonight's agenda;
- don't engage in debate; and
- if speaking on behalf of a group, explain the nature of the group and how you are able to speak on their behalf.

You will be provided a maximum of three minutes to ask your question, but do not need to use all of this time.

You may be asked to provide your contact details for the purpose of any necessary follow-up response to the matter raised.

Comments not allowed

A question may be disallowed by the Chair if the Chair determines that it:

- relates to a matter that is being considered by Council at this meeting;
- relates to something outside the powers of the Council;
- is defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable;
- deals with a subject matter already answered;
- is aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or a member of Council staff;
- includes or relate to confidential information; or
- relates to something that is subject to legal proceedings.

Addressing the Council

An opportunity exists to make your views known about a matter that is listed on the agenda for this meeting by addressing the Council directly before a decision is made.

Registration

To address Council, you will need to register by 6.30pm on the day before the meeting. Late registrations cannot be accepted, and you will be unable to address the meeting without registration.

Before each item is considered by the Council, the Mayor will invite everyone who has registered in relation to that item to address the Council. When your turn comes, come forward to the microphone and:

- state your name;
- direct your statement to the Mayor;
- confine your submission to the subject being considered;
- avoid repeating previous submitters;
- don't ask questions or seek comments from Councillors or others; and
- if speaking on behalf of a group, explain the nature of the group and how you are able to speak on their behalf.

You will be provided a maximum of three minutes to speak, but do not need to use all of this time.

Comments not allowed

When you are addressing the meeting, don't make any comments which:

- relate to something other than the matter being considered by the Council;
- are defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable;
- are aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or a member of Council staff;
- include or relate to confidential information; or
- relate to something that is subject to legal proceedings.

Arrangements to ensure our meetings are accessible to the public

Access to the building is available either by the stairs or lift. Seating is provided to watch the meeting, and the room is wheelchair accessible. Accessible toilet facilities are available. Speakers at the meeting are invited to be seated at the table to address the Council, and all participants are amplified via an audio system. Meetings are conducted in English.

If you are unable to participate in this environment, we can make arrangements to accommodate you if sufficient notice is given. Some examples of adjustments are:

- a translator in your language;
- the presence of an Auslan interpreter;
- loan of a portable hearing loop;
- reconfiguring the room to facilitate access; and
- modification of meeting rules to allow you to participate more easily.

Recording and Publication of Meetings

A recording is made of all public Council Meetings and then published on Council's website. By participating in proceedings (including during Question Time or in making a submission regarding an item before Council), you agree to this publication. You should be aware that any private information volunteered by you during your participation in a meeting is subject to recording and publication.

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1. Acknowledgement of Country

“Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra.

We acknowledge their creator spirit Bunjil, their ancestors and their Elders.

We acknowledge the strength and resilience of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, who have never ceded sovereignty and retain their strong connections to family, clan and country despite the impacts of European invasion.

We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra.

We pay our respects to Elders from all nations here today—and to their Elders past, present and future.”

2. Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence

Attendance

Councillors:

- Cr Stephen Jolly Mayor
- Cr Sarah McKenzie Deputy Mayor
- Cr Evangeline Aston
- Cr Andrew Davies
- Cr Kenneth Gomez
- Cr Sharon Harrison
- Cr Meca Ho
- Cr Sophie Wade
- Absent
- Cr Edward Crossland Parental Leave

Council staff:

Chief Executive Officer

- Sue Wilkinson

General Managers

- Ruth Jones Governance, Communications and Customer Experience (Acting)
- Brett Grambau Infrastructure and Environment (Acting)
- Kerry McGrath Community Strengthening
- Mary Osman City Sustainability and Strategy
- Lucy Roffey Corporate Services

Governance

- Phil De Losa Manager Governance and Integrity
- Patrick O’Gorman Senior Governance Coordinator
- Mel Nikou Governance Officer

3. Announcements

An opportunity is provided for the Mayor to make any necessary announcements.

4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Any Councillor who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered at this meeting is required to disclose that interest either by explaining the nature of the conflict of interest to those present or advising that they have disclosed the nature of the interest in writing to the Chief Executive Officer before the meeting commenced.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17 June and Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 1 July 2025 be confirmed.

6. Question Time

An opportunity is provided for questions from members of the public.

7. Council Business Reports

7.1. Request for public exhibition of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-29

Author Lauren Krnjacki – Senior Planner (Community Health and Safety)
Authoriser General Manager Community Strengthening

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the Draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) 2025–2029, outlining its scope, legislative requirements, and strategic alignment with Council priorities; summarise consultation and evidence, including key findings from the Yarra Health and Wellbeing Profile and feedback from public engagement and the Health and Wellbeing Expert Reference Group; and seek endorsement for public exhibition of the draft MPHWP for a four-week period from 11 July to 11 August 2025.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approves the public exhibition of the draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.
2. Notes that the exhibition period will run from 11 July to 11 August 2025.

History and background

1. Requirements of municipal health and wellbeing plans under the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, and adherence to these requirements, are outlined in the table below:

Requirement	Adherence
Adoption is required within 12 months of the council election (by 22 October 2025).	Our timelines will ensure this is endorsed at the Council meeting on 14 October 2025.
Examine data about local health status.	The health profile is a comprehensive report on local health status. This has been completed and published on the Yarra Council website (see point 2, below) and attached to this report.
Involve the local community in the development of the Plan	The initial round of consultations is complete (see point 4 below).

	A public exhibition is proposed from 11 July to 11 August 2025.
Identify strategies for creating maximum health and wellbeing.	The proposed strategies, initiatives and annual action plans will clearly specify how Council plans to maximise health and wellbeing for the community.
Specify how the Council will work with the Department of Health and other agencies.	This is identified in the draft initiatives and will be further specified in annual action plans.
Specify measures to prevent and respond to family and gendered violence	This is included in the proposed priority area, 'Building safe and respectful communities'. Under the strategies of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support a community-wide approach to preventing family and gendered violence • Promote gender equity.
Have regard for the Climate Change Act (2017)	This is included under the proposed priority area, 'Climate Resilient Households and Communities', and aligns with the following strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve climate resilience in the community • Improve public spaces to support climate resilience.
Be consistent with the Council Plan and the Municipal Strategic Statement.	The draft MPHWP is consistent with these documents. The alignment to the Council Plan 2025-29 is outlined under the 'strategic analysis section'.
Have regard to the Victorian Health and Wellbeing Plan	The priority areas of the draft MPHWP largely align with the priorities of the Victorian state plan, as relevant to Yarra.

Summary of work to date

2. Yarra's Health and Wellbeing Profile provides a comprehensive overview of the health and wellbeing of the people living in the City of Yarra. The profile was used to identify evidence-based priority areas and informed our consultation and engagement. The full profile, an Executive Summary, and 10 one-page summaries of key issues were published on Yarra's website in December 2024. This information is attached to the report as follows:
 - (a) Executive Summary (see Attachment 1);
 - (b) 10 x one-page Key Issue Summaries (see Attachment 2); and
 - (c) Full Health and Wellbeing Profile (see Attachment 3);

3. To create a meaningful Health and Wellbeing Profile, Council undertook original research to address the lack of health and wellbeing data at a local level:
 - (a) The Social Indicators Survey was a Yarra-specific questionnaire designed to fill gaps in local health and wellbeing data. It captured detailed information on participation, barriers, behaviours, perceptions, and service use, broken down by priority population groups and by suburb, to provide a level of local insight not previously available;
 - (b) To date, Yarra is the only Council, other than the City of Melbourne, to have undertaken this type of original population-representative social research:
 - (i) While the City of Melbourne undertakes a similar survey annually, Yarra's Social Indicators Survey was conducted specifically to inform the development of the Council Plan and the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP), and the data continues to inform the development of other policies and programs across the Council; and
 - (c) This type of research contributes to a deeper understanding of health and wellbeing patterns in the local community, providing more detailed insights than are readily available through other data sources.
4. A summary of the process for determining priorities for the MPHWP is contained in Attachment 4, which includes:
 - (a) Summary of the legislative context for Municipal Health and Wellbeing plans;
 - (b) Summary of key findings from Yarra's Health and Wellbeing Profile;
 - (c) Overview of the three stages of consultation and engagement:
 - (i) Stage 1: Community engagement;
 - (ii) Stage 2: Community working group;
 - (iii) Stage 3: Health and Wellbeing Expert Reference Group; and,
 - (d) The rationale for determining our priority areas.

Discussion

Draft MPHWP

5. The draft MPHWP is attached for consideration (see Attachment 5), which includes draft strategies and initiatives for each of the proposed priority areas:
 - (a) First Peoples' Health and Wellbeing;
 - (b) Safe and respectful communities;
 - (c) Climate-resilient households and communities;
 - (d) Food security and healthy food environments;
 - (e) Mental and social wellbeing;
 - (f) Reduced impacts of alcohol, drugs, vaping and tobacco; and
 - (g) Active living.
6. As explained above in point 4, Attachment 4 to this report provides a concise overview of the evidence and consultation used to determine the priority areas as listed above. This

research and consultation summary will be published for exhibition as a companion background document to the draft MPHWP.

Overview of priority areas

7. The planned health and wellbeing initiatives and actions build upon existing programs of work across the Council and draw upon other existing strategies and initiatives that are connected to promoting community health and wellbeing.
8. Strategies with significant overlap include:
 - (a) Open Space Strategy, 2020;
 - (b) Transport strategy, 2022–32;
 - (c) Climate Emergency Plan, 2024–2030;
 - (d) Yarra Moves Action Plan 2022–24; and
 - (e) Draft Play Space Strategy (pending Council's endorsement).
9. It is noted that the delivery of the health and wellbeing plan relies on the continuation of various existing actions, programs, and strategies across the Council.

Targeted actions to be developed and delivered within 2025–26

10. A detailed annual action plan will be developed to align with the draft priorities, strategies and initiatives once the MPHWP is finalised. The action plan will be reviewed and updated annually.
11. Some headline actions proposed for 2025–26 include:
 - (a) First Peoples' Health and Wellbeing:
 - (i) Work in partnership to embed culturally responsive practices across our services and programs (as per the Council Plan);
 - (ii) Activate and strengthen the Aboriginal Service Providers Network (Marnelong), a new forum named after the Woi Wurrung word for bee, developed to enhance local collaboration and coordinated action across community-controlled and other organisations; and,
 - (iii) Work in partnership with Ngaweeyan Maar-oo, Victoria's Closing the Gap (CTG) Partnership Forum, to develop a local framework for monitoring the relevant CTG socio-economic targets;
 - (b) Safe and respectful communities:
 - (i) Promote awareness via '16 days of activism';
 - (ii) Speak Out Against Racism (SOAR) anti-racism project (includes community training); and,
 - (iii) Youth services programs relating to respectful relationships;
 - (c) Climate-resilient households and communities:
 - (i) Deliver education programs to support residents to transition to thermally efficient homes;
 - (ii) Programs to support improving awareness of climate resilience in the community; and,
 - (iii) Increase urban greening to improve public spaces;

- (d) Food security and healthy food environments:
 - (i) Develop an accessible Community Food Guide to connect the community with affordable healthy food options, including a map of community gardens, Neighbourhood Houses, food relief services, and affordable markets;
 - (ii) Facilitate collaboration among local food security agencies and programs; and,
 - (iii) Support residents in growing food by identifying and delivering innovative food-growing sites, including accessible community gardens, throughout the municipality;
 - (e) Mental and social wellbeing:
 - (i) Development of a Loneliness Action Plan;
 - (ii) Social support programs (home library, chatty café, thread together store, intergenerational kindergarten programs); and
 - (iii) Funding for 'Healthy, Inclusive and Connected Communities' through the community grants program and Neighbourhood House Partnerships;
 - (f) Reduced impacts of alcohol, drugs, vaping and tobacco:
 - (i) Improving the promotion of vape-free environments in Yarra's sports clubs;
 - (ii) Convene the Yarra Liquor Forum; and,
 - (iii) Deliver advanced Responsible Service of Alcohol training to Yarra licensees; and
 - (g) Active living:
 - (i) Improving equitable access to Yarra's sports clubs;
 - (ii) Walking audits to inform future walking accessibility projects; and
 - (iii) Continue running a range of programs to support priority populations to access Yarra's leisure facilities (e.g. the Making Waves program).
12. A range of ongoing programs and investments by Council directly support initiatives in the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP), including community grants provided through the 'Healthy, Inclusive and Connected Communities' stream of the Yarra Community Grants Program, which accounts for 30 per cent of the total \$1.54 million funding pool.

Monitoring and evaluation

13. The measures for the MPHWP align with the following measures for monitoring success in the Council Plan:
- (a) Number of Aboriginal Community Controlled organisations partnering with Council in relation to the Closing the Gap outcomes;
 - (b) More of our community feels connected to community life;
 - (c) More people have access to services and places which support their health and wellbeing;
 - (d) More people with greater access to green space nearby; and,
 - (e) Transport networks are better connected and accessible.

14. The other impact measures in the draft MPHWP are based on measures available within our existing service and program data, as well as through surveys of partners and stakeholders.

Options

Option 1 – To adopt the Officer's recommendation (Recommended)

15. This option ensures that the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is progressed in line with the timeline set out in state legislation, which requires adoption by 31 October 2025.

Option 2 – To not adopt the Officer's recommendation (Not recommended)

16. Council could choose not to endorse the draft Plan for exhibition at this time. However, this would delay development and risk missing the statutory deadline of 31 October 2025, potentially impacting Council's ability to deliver key public health initiatives.

Community and stakeholder engagement

17. There have been three stages of Community and Stakeholder engagement (see Attachment 4):
- (a) **Council Plan, Stage 1, Community engagement** - Broad community engagement via survey, with almost 1800 responses, and:
 - (i) 36 community-based stakeholder groups and Advisory Committees; and
 - (ii) 142 children and young people.
 - (b) **Community Working Group (CWG)** – The 45-member CWG reflected the demographic makeup of the Yarra community. Our CWG attended four sessions to provide priorities, feedback and ideas to inform our Health and Wellbeing Plan; and
 - (c) **Health and Wellbeing Expert Reference Group** – The 20-member HWERG included local stakeholders and experts who shared their insights and perspectives on health and wellbeing priorities across two facilitated workshop sessions.
18. The next stage of community engagement will involve presenting the draft plan for community feedback on Yarra's Your Say Yarra webpage.
- (a) The engagement will be open from the 11 July to 11 August 2025; and
 - (b) The results of the engagement will be presented to the Council for consideration (out of session), and a report of the engagement findings will be made available on the YSY webpage.

Strategic Analysis

Alignment to Council Plan

Strategic Objective one - Living in the City

Strategy 1. Make our streets and shopping strips safer and more beautiful.

Strategy 2. Provide places and services to support engagement in community life.

Strategic Objective two - Building the City

Strategy 3: Ensure people can move safely across the city using all modes of transport.

Strategy 6: Provide green spaces and beautify the city.

Strategic Objective three - Working and Playing in the City

Strategy 7 : Enhance our activity centres with events and festivals.

Strategic Objective four - Running the City

Strategy 11: Ensure we deliver services that are fit for purpose and provide value to the community.

Strategy 12: Engage in broad partnerships with First Peoples of Yarra.

19. These objectives have been chosen because they best align with the priorities of the MPHWP.

Climate emergency

20. The MPHWP strongly reflects the intent of the Climate Emergency Plan and Action Plan, with a priority area of 'Climate Resilient Households and Communities'.

21. This priority area supports the following actions:

- (a) Deliver education programs to support residents to transition to thermally efficient homes;
- (b) Deliver programs to improve awareness of climate resilience in the community;
- (c) Increase urban greening to improve public spaces;
- (d) Identify opportunities to support the provision of a network of cool places;
- (e) Pilot programs for eligible low-income households to assist with thermal efficiency improvements;
- (f) Map UV-protective shaded and connected cycling and walking infrastructure to support the community in navigating public spaces during extreme hot weather; and
- (g) Improve access to high-quality, cool, green, UV-protective shaded open spaces, parks, and reserves.

Community and social implications

22. The MPHWP has clear community and social implications, as the Plan explicitly aims to support improvements in health and wellbeing for the wider Yarra community.

Economic development implications

23. There are no economic development implications.

Human rights and gender equality implications

24. There are human rights and gender equality implications:

- (a) Human rights – the Plan includes initiatives to prevent and respond to family and gendered violence and also to improve social cohesion (aiming to create a Yarra that is free of discrimination, racism, ableism, homophobia and transphobia); and
- (b) Gender Equity – the Plan includes an initiative to promote gender equity, which will also be considered as part of health equity actions across all priority areas.

Finance and Resource Impacts and Interdependencies

25. The MPHWP will be delivered across various areas of the Council and brings together a range of work that is part of ongoing programs, projects, and plans, covered through the operational budget:
 - (a) Areas of work with significant overlap are outlined in points 7–9 above; and
 - (b) Action planning for the MPHWP is inclusive of existing Council initiatives and programs. Accordingly, any adjustments to MPHWP actions due to changes in these initiatives would be subject to Council's budget processes.
26. An additional operational budget of \$100,000 has been allocated for FY26 to drive health and wellbeing projects, building on existing work across Council.

Legal and Legislative obligations

27. Under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, Council is required to adopt a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan by the statutory deadline of 31 October 2025. Failure to comply with this legislative requirement may result in administrative consequences, including increased oversight or reporting requirements from the Department of Health

Conflict of interest disclosure

28. Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.
29. The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

Risks Analysis

30. The MPHWP incorporates actions drawn from existing Council strategies, programs, and initiatives. Any reduction or removal of resources for these activities may require adjustments to the Plan and could negatively affect Council's ability to deliver the MPHWP as currently presented. Such changes would be managed through Council's established budget processes.

Implementation Strategy

Timeline

31. The final MPHWP will be presented to Council for adoption on 14 October 2025.
32. The first annual action plan will be finalised once the Plan is adopted.
33. Action plans will be reviewed and updated annually from FY26 to FY29.

Communication

34. Once the Council endorses the draft MPHWP for exhibition, it will be made available for feedback on the Your Say Yarra website, along with accompanying information, for a month.
35. Opportunities to participate in the consultation will be promoted through Council's digital channels (e.g., the website, Yarra Life, Facebook, and Instagram), notices at Council

facilities such as libraries and town halls, and via partner agencies that played a key role in developing the Plan.

36. The final MPHWP and associated action plan will be made available via the Yarra Council website following the adoption of the Plan.

Report attachments

1. 7.1.1 Attachment 1 - Yarra Health and Wellbeing Profile_Exec Summary
2. 7.1.2 Attachment 2 - Yarra One_Page Key Issue Summaries
3. 7.1.3 Attachment 3 - Yarra Health and Wellbeing Profile_Full Profile
4. 7.1.4 Attachment 4 - Determining priorities for the MPHWP companion document for draft MPHWP
5. 7.1.5 Attachment 5 - Draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

Yarra's Health and Wellbeing Profile 2024: Executive Summary



Introduction

The Yarra Health and Wellbeing Profile (the Profile) provides an overview of the health and wellbeing of the people living in the City of Yarra (Yarra). Health and wellbeing are an overall state of physical, mental, and social wellbeing. They are not only about treating illness and injury, but also about how people connect to each other, to the place they live in, and whether they feel a part of their community. This Executive Summary provides a brief overview of key highlights of the Profile, which will be used to inform the next Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) for Yarra.

Determinants of health framework

The Profile uses a framework to demonstrate the multiple layers of determinants of health for Yarra's:

- demographic factors
- lifestyle factors
- social and community factors
- built, commercial and natural environment factors
- health and wellbeing indicators

Health and wellbeing outcomes are often a result of a combination of determinants from across multiple layers and this interconnection between the layers can be seen when exploring a specific health issue. Alongside this Profile are ten single-page overviews of priority health issues for Yarra, which cut across the determinants layers and pull together the story for specific topics.



Priority population groups

Yarra City Council identified five priority population groups, who may experience an inequitable burden of poor health and wellbeing. The Profile explores data for these priority groups to identify opportunities to inform a strengths-based approach in the MPHWP, which will help Yarra move towards more equitable health outcomes. The groups are:

- First Peoples
- People living with disabilities
- Low-income households
- People who are culturally and/or linguistically diverse (CALD)
- People who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community

Data sources

The Profile collates data from multiple sources. Those sources that are most up to date with comparisons available to metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria were prioritised. A key source for the Profile was the Yarra Social Indicators Survey, which was conducted by the City of Yarra in June 2024. The rationale for this survey was to provide important health and wellbeing data for exploring patterns within Yarra, incorporating measures that were not included in other population-level data sources.

Yarra's People

The people that live in the City of Yarra are vibrant and diverse. On average they enjoy a high level of socio-economic advantage and are 'young working adults' (25-34 years). However, there is also great variability in this advantage and some areas within Yarra are characterised by people with lower levels of income, education and employment.

The highlights about Yarra's People are:



Yarra has a median age of 34 years, 3 years younger than Metropolitan Melbourne and 4 years younger than Victorians.



Yarra has 4 times more households rented from government authorities (also known as social housing) compared to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria.



Yarra has a highly educated population with more people completing Year 12 and more people holding a Bachelor-level qualification compared to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria.



Yarra residents have higher average incomes compared to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria.



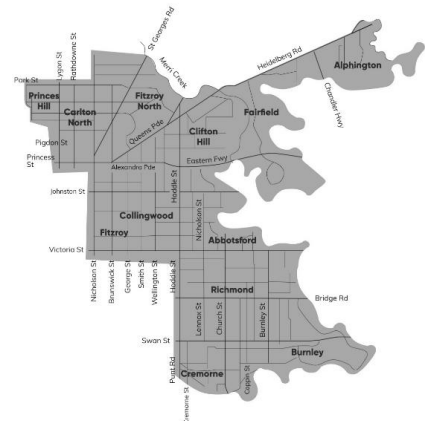
First Peoples in Yarra are less likely to own their own home and more likely to be living in private rental or social housing compared to First People in Metropolitan Melbourne



Yarra has double the proportion of community identifying as LGBTQIA+, compared to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria.

Yarra has distinct neighbourhoods of people

Where people live impacts their health and wellbeing. Within Yarra there are different patterns or groupings of peoples in across suburbs. The pattern of socioeconomic indicators show that **Fitzroy, Collingwood and North Richmond experience greater socio-economic disadvantage** compared to the Yarra average, and that **Central Richmond, Clifton Hill and Cremorne/Burnley – South Richmond are more socio-economically advantage**. This data can be used by Council to guide resource allocation for services and programs that may specifically benefit people with lower socio-economic position. It can also be used to understand how infrastructure and facilities in these areas play a role in the relative accessibility of people in the neighbourhoods that are experiencing greater socio-economic disadvantage compared to the Yarra average.



Yarra's Lifestyle Factors

Yarra residents enjoy an active lifestyle. High proportions of people use active transport to connect their daily living activities, and this is likely driven by the high proportion of “young workers” in the region. A significant issue for the Yarra population is the high rate of alcohol and other drug use in the community. The focus in this section is on the community's behaviour, and later, there is data on the social impacts and environmental aspects that relate to this significant narrative for the Yarra community.

Key findings on Yarra's lifestyle are:



Yarra residents have higher rates of vaping compared to Victoria. This was especially high in people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community.



Yarra residents have higher rates of alcohol consumption compared to metropolitan Melbourne and to Victoria. Young people and men are more likely to engage in risky drinking behaviour (i.e., more than 4 standard drinks in a day).



Many Yarra residents lead an active lifestyle. However, some groups need more support to stay active or be sufficiently active, especially older adults (55+ years), people living with disability, people who are culturally and/or linguistically diverse, younger people (18-34 years), and people who live in a low-income household.



There is low vegetable consumption, with less than one in ten Yarra residents meets the guidelines for consuming the recommended vegetable intake.

Yarra's Social and Community Factors

Evidence supports the close relationship between people's health and the living and working conditions which form their social environment. The World Health Organization (WHO) describes social determinants as 'the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes'. They are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. These forces and systems include economic policies and systems, development agendas, social norms, social policies and political systems'. According to the WHO, social determinants of health account for between 30–55% of health outcomes. They have an important influence on health inequities – the unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between countries.

The key findings about Yarra's social and community factors are:



While Yarra residents generally embrace diversity, some continue to experience discrimination or unfair treatment.



People living with disability and those living in low income households were more likely to feel isolated or lonely.



Yarra residents were high users of services for mental health-related problems.



Yarra has much higher rates of assaults, hospitalisation and health services use from the impacts of alcohol and other drugs, compared to metropolitan Melbourne, but these are similar to rates seen in other inner-city areas with nighttime economies.



Yarra has double the rate of criminal incidents than metropolitan Melbourne but is similar to the rate seen in other inner-city areas with nighttime economies.



Some Yarra residents feel unsafe in public spaces during the day and night.



Gambling via Electronic Gambling Machines is less prevalent in Yarra than in other areas.

Yarra's Built, Commercial and Natural Environment Factors

The built environment is a determinant of health due to its ability to affect activity levels, access to clean air, nutritious food and clean water, the quality of our shelter, where we work, contact with nature and the spaces we have for social interactions.

Key findings for Yarra's environment are:



Yarra tree coverage has remained stable since 2016 and is low for some suburbs.



Yarra housing leaves some residents exposed to unacceptable temperatures.



Yarra residents enjoy close proximity to healthy food outlets, destinations of daily living and health services.



Yarra has a high concentration of off-premises alcohol outlets in close proximity to the community.



Yarra residents take more trips by active transport modes, but also experience higher rates of pedestrian and vehicle collisions.

Yarra has distinct environments between neighbourhoods

Within Yarra there are different patterns of environmental features or urban forms between different suburbs. The pattern of environmental indicators shows that higher density suburbs such as **Fitzroy, Collingwood and Richmond** were more likely to have lower tree coverage, more fast-food outlets and alcohol premises, as compared to the Yarra average. These high-density areas however were also more likely to have closer proximity to healthy food outlets and higher proportion of people using active transport modes compared to the Yarra average.



Yarra's Health and Wellbeing Indicators

Health and wellbeing indicators are shaped by a variety of social determinants that reflect different aspects of our lives and environments. These diverse social determinants interact to shape comprehensive health and wellbeing indicators, reflecting their collective influence on our overall quality of life.

Key findings for Yarra's health and wellbeing indicators are:



There are fewer people with an overweight or obese BMI in Yarra compared with Victoria.



Priority groups in Yarra need extra support with long-term health conditions. First Peoples, people living with disability, and people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community had higher incidences of long-term health conditions than the rest of the population.



Priority groups in Yarra need extra support with their mental health. People living with disability, First Peoples, people living in low income households and people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community all experienced more mental health challenges than the rest of the population.



In Yarra, people living with disability had lower life satisfaction than the rest of the population.

Summary

Yarra's community, on average, enjoys good health and wellbeing comparative to other metropolitan Melbourne areas and to Victoria. This is largely due to the higher socioeconomic position of the largely younger working population, and due to the medium density living with accessibility of health services, active transport infrastructure and daily living destinations.

However, Yarra is a city with embedded areas of socioeconomic divide. There are suburbs within Yarra that consistently showed poorer rates of socioeconomic, lifestyle, social and environmental factors across this Profile. There are also priority groups within Yarra that sometimes experience an unfair burden of poor health and wellbeing because of broader social issues and barriers.

The data from the Profile points to ten key priority areas for Council to direct attention towards:

1. Alcohol and other drugs
2. Community safety
3. Mental and social wellbeing
4. Vaping and tobacco smoking
5. Domestic and family violence
6. Food security and food systems
7. Healthy housing
8. Climate resilience
9. Active community
10. Early years development

A single-page fact sheet for each of these priority areas is available to show how the layers of determinants cut across the framework used in this Profile. These ten issues somewhat overlap in their underlying social and environmental determinants, which should be the key areas that Council uses as leverage to address and further enhance the health and wellbeing of the people they serve.

Yarra City Council



Community Safety

Why is it important?

Community safety supports social interaction and economic growth. Safe environments reduce crime, improve quality of life, and promote community engagement.

What is the story in Yarra?

Yarra's inner-city location and renowned night-time economy draw people to the region, contributing to the vibrancy of the city, but also to safety issues, with incident rates that are higher than Victoria, but comparable to other inner-Melbourne areas with night-time economies. Nearly half of all residents do not feel safe in public areas at night. The areas with the lowest perception of safety are Richmond, Abbotsford, Cremorne and Burnley.

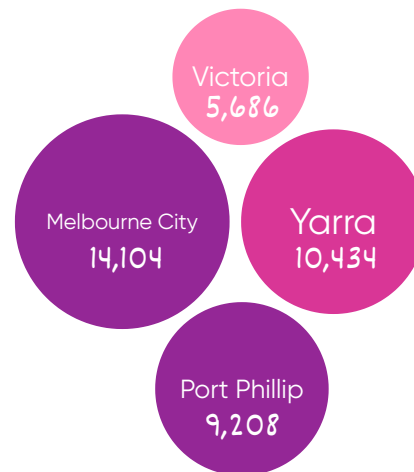
15% of Yarra residents experienced discrimination

72% of criminal incidents were **Property and Deception incidents**

There were proportionally more **Property and Deception incidents** in Yarra (72%) than in Victoria (60%), and fewer **Crimes against the Person** in Yarra (12%) than in Victoria (17%)

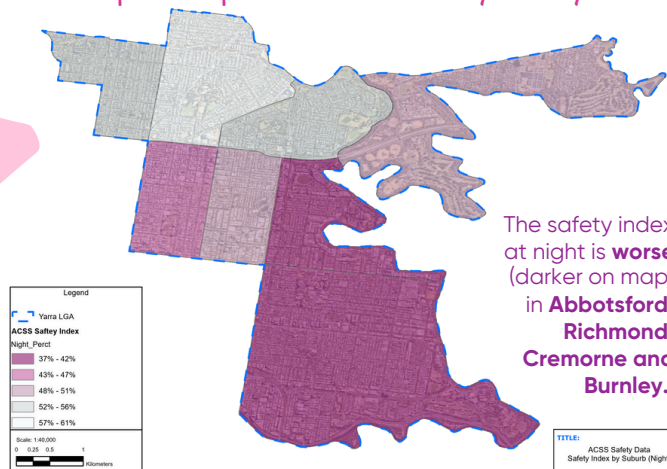
46% of Yarra residents do not feel safe at night in public places

Criminal incidents:



In 2024, Yarra had nearly twice as many **criminal incidents per 100,000 residents** than Victoria. But this was comparable to Port Phillip and Melbourne City

Map: Perceptions of community safety



Addressing community safety is particularly important for:

- people living in Abbotsford, Richmond, Cremorne and Burnley
- women
- young people (18-34 years)
- people with young children
- First Peoples
- people with disability



Yarra City Council

Alcohol and Drugs

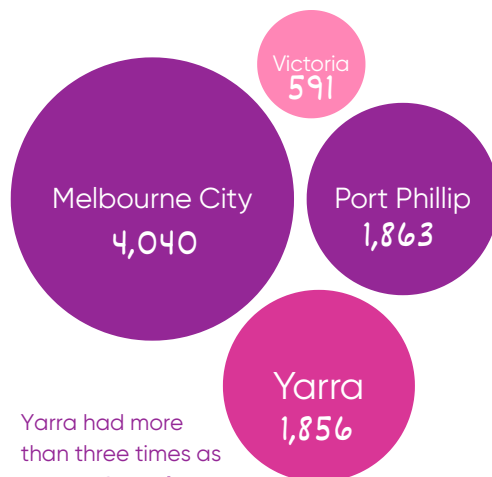
Why is it important?

Alcohol and other drugs (AOD) have significant health, social and economic impacts in communities, and are a major risk factor for preventable disease, illness and death.

What is the story in Yarra?

Alcohol outlets are a part of the tourism, social and cultural fabric of the community. However, there is a very high rate of risky drinking behaviour in Yarra, with 20% of residents at a lifetime risk of alcohol-related harm. There is also a high level of drug-related offences in Yarra. In Yarra, there are high rates of AOD-related social harms and AOD-related health service use.

AOD related assaults:



Yarra had more than three times as many **AOD-related assaults** per 100,000 residents as Victoria, but **comparable rates to Port Phillip and Melbourne City**, which also have night time economies.

19% of Yarra residents engage in 'binge' drinking at least once a week

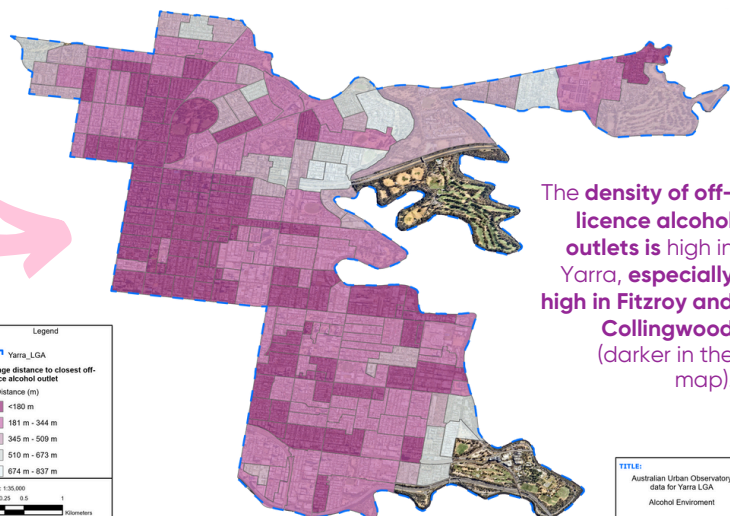


Yarra's rate of **AOD-related ambulance attendances** were lower than Melbourne City, and comparable to Port Phillip



The rate of **AOD-related ambulance attendances** is high, but there is a downward trend in Yarra in the last 3-4 years

Map: Density of off-licence alcohol outlets



Groups at higher risk of alcohol harm:

- Significantly more young people report binge drinking
- Significantly more men report daily drinking

Alcohol outlet density is related to greater alcohol harm, with Fitzroy, Collingwood and Carlton North having greater density.

Yarra City Council



Smoking Tobacco and Vaping

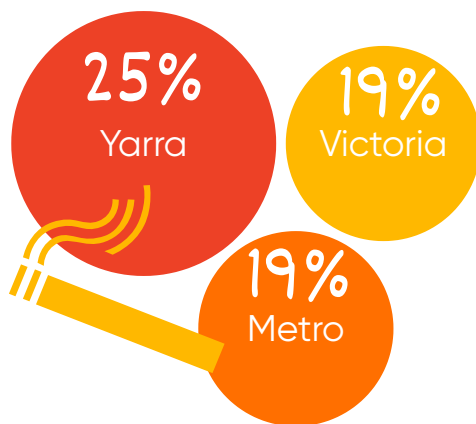
Why is it important?

Tobacco smoking is the leading risk factor contributing to disease burden and deaths in Australia. There is also evidence of negative health effects of vaping. Vaping is rapidly increasing in Australia with 20% of people aged 14 and over reporting having used e-cigarettes in 2023, up from 11% in 2019. This increase in the popularity of vaping coincides with an increase in tobacco smoking for the first time in more than a decade. The legislative landscape of vaping is changing rapidly in Australia.

What is the story in Yarra?

While Yarra has much higher rates of vaping than Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria, there are fewer daily tobacco smokers in Yarra compared with Victoria.

Any current vaping or smoking



Smoking or vaping is higher in Yarra (25%) compared to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria (19%)

Regular smoking

6% regularly smoke (all or most days)
which is less than Victoria (10%).
However, within Yarra this is higher for...



- people who are culturally and linguistically diverse (9%)
- people with a disability (7%)



and lower for...
• women (3%)

Regular vaping

7% regularly vape (all or most days)
which is more than Victoria (4.5%).
However, within Yarra this is higher for...



- LGBTQIA+ (14%)
- people who are in the low income households (8%)



and lower for...
• people who are culturally and linguistically diverse (2%)

There are no data within Yarra on people under 18 years, however vaping is a known issue for younger people

Managing smoking and vaping is particularly important for:

- younger people
- people in the LGBTQIA+ community
- culturally and/or linguistically diverse communities
- First Peoples

Yarra City Council



Active Community

Why is it important?

Active living is important for wellbeing and helps to reduce the risk of chronic diseases. Creating environments that promote physical activity for the community will support people's health and wellbeing. With active living, it is especially important to consider groups within the community who may have fewer opportunities to stay active.

What is the story in Yarra?

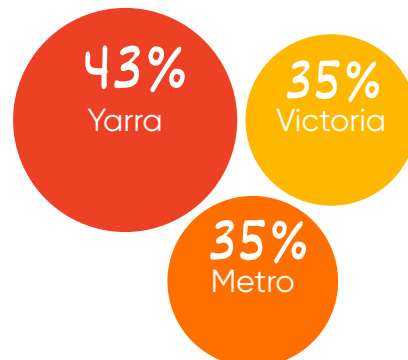
Yarra residents enjoy an active lifestyle with high proportions of people using active transport and meeting physical activity guidelines. However more residents in Yarra sit for at least 8 hours a day than in Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria, likely because of the high proportion of professional occupations. There are some priority groups who are less likely to engage in physical activity.

Meeting physical activity guidelines

39% of Yarra residents sit for at least 8 hours a day



77% of Yarra residents use active transport at least weekly



Yarra has **significantly more adults meeting guidelines**, compared to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria.

However, this is lower for:

- low-income households
- culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- people living with disability

Sufficient physical activity



*Estimate from Yarra Social Indicators Survey differs slightly to VPHS estimate (left)

No physical activity



Older people (13%) and people living with a disability were more likely to not engage in physical activity.

Supporting physical activity is particularly important for:

- people living with disability
- people aged over 55 years
- First Peoples
- people who are culturally and/or linguistically diverse
- people living in low-income households

Yarra City Council



Mental and Social Wellbeing

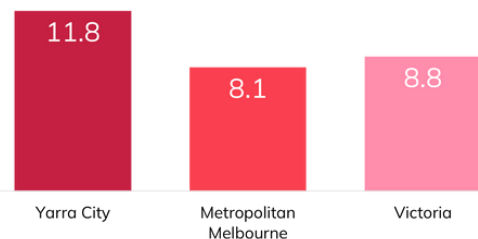
Why is it important?

Positive mental health can reduce the risk of developing some chronic diseases and tof misusing of alcohol and other substances. Social inclusion and connection can greatly impact how people feel about their lives and community as a whole. Community connection supports positive mental health and a sense of belonging.

What is the story in Yarra?

Yarra has a comparable rate of diagnosed mental illness compared with Victoria, however residents of Yarra seek support for mental health at a significantly higher rate. Within some priority groups in Yarra, there are more people struggling with their mental and social wellbeing.

Mental health condition, %



Mental health conditions in Yarra (11.8%) are higher than Metropolitan Melbourne (8.1%) and Victoria (8.8%)



31% of people, sought help for a mental health related problem

This was significantly higher than metropolitan Melbourne (20%)



15% of Yarra residents experienced discrimination

This is similar to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria.

22% report **poor/fair mental health**

26% report **experiencing loneliness**

These experiences are more commonly reported by people who:

- live with disability
- live in low-income households
- are in the LGBTQIA+ community



Self-rated poor/fair mental health



People experiencing loneliness



Supporting mental and social wellbeing is particularly important for:

- people living with disability
- people living in a low-income household
- people in the LGBTQIA+ community
- First Peoples



Yarra City Council

Early Years Development

Why is it important?

The foundations of adult health are laid during the early childhood period (0-5 years). Physical, social, emotional and language/cognition development in early childhood strongly influence school success, economic participation, social citizenship and health later in life.

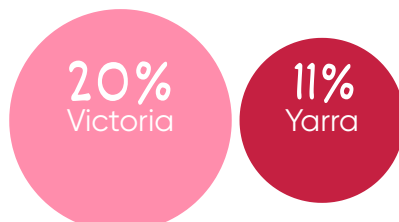
What is the story in Yarra?

4% of Yarra residents were 0-4 years of age in 2021, which represents 3,636 people. This is lower than the proportion of 0-4 year olds living in Metropolitan Melbourne (5.9%) and Victoria (5.8%) in 2021. The foundational importance of the first five years of life makes it an important population group to understand.

92% of Yarra children are fully immunised at 5 years of age, which is comparable with the Victorian average of 93%

Developmental vulnerability in Children

Proportion of children who are '**developmentally vulnerable**' **overall** (on two or more domains)



↓ Overall, fewer children in Yarra were developmentally vulnerable (11%), compared to the Victorian average (20%)

↑ However, when considering specific areas, some domains of developmental vulnerability were higher in Yarra

Proportion of children in Yarra who were '**developmentally vulnerable**' **by domain**:



For the domains of **physical health and wellbeing** and **emotional maturity**, Yarra had a **higher proportion of 'developmentally vulnerable' children** than Victoria

The **suburbs** with higher proportions of children who were '**developmentally vulnerable**' overall, compared to the Yarra average were:

- Richmond/ Burnley 16.3%
- Fitzroy 15.4%
- Abbotsford 16.1%

Addressing early years development is particularly important for:

- people living in Richmond, Fitzroy and Abbotsford
- the physical health and wellbeing domain
- the emotional maturity domain

Yarra City Council



Food Security and Food Environments

Why is it important?

Access to adequate and nutritious food is a basic human right. Irregular access to safe, nutritionally adequate, culturally acceptable food from non-emergency sources is known as 'food insecurity'. Food insecurity impacts on physical, mental and social wellbeing. People can experience food insecurity over longer periods or temporarily.

What is the story in Yarra?

Yarra residents has a comparable rate of food insecurity to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria. Yarra residents enjoy a close proximity to healthy food outlets, which is comparable to other Victorian Metropolitan local governments.

Experienced food insecurity

9%

of Yarra residents have run out of food because they could not afford or access it.

This is similar to Metropolitan Melbourne (7.9%) and Victoria (8%)



Worried about food insecurity

8%

of Yarra residents are worried about running out of food.

This is similar to Metropolitan Melbourne (8.3%) and Victoria (9.7%)

Some are more likely to experience food insecurity

- People living with disability (22%)
- People with low income (23%)
- People aged 18-34 years (12%)
- Public renters (30%)

Proximity to healthy food and fast food outlets

Yarra has **better proximity to healthy food outlets than to fast food outlets**, which is comparable to other Metropolitan local governments.

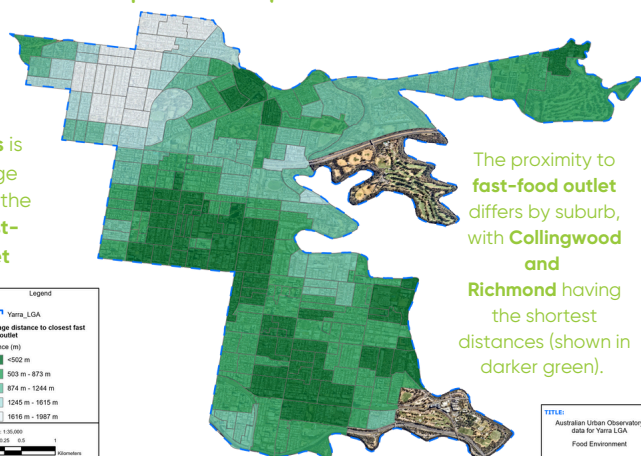


498 metres is the average distance to the closest **healthy food outlet**



808 metres is the average distance to the closest **fast-food outlet**

Map: Proximity to fast food outlets



No data was available on the affordability of food across Yarra, which is an important consideration for food security.

Addressing food security is particularly important for:

- people living with disability
- people with low income
- people aged 18-34 years
- people who are public renters
- First Peoples

Yarra City Council



Family and Gendered Violence

Why is it important?

Family, domestic and sexual violence is a major health and welfare issue in Australia. It occurs across all socioeconomic and demographic groups, but predominantly affects women and children. These types of violence have a serious impact on individuals, families and communities and can inflict physical injury, psychological trauma and emotional pain, effects that can be long-lasting and affect future generations.

What is the story in Yarra?

In Yarra, the rate of reported family incidents has remained stable over the last five years, and is comparable to the Victoria, however the rate of incidents related to alcohol consumption is higher.

In 2024, there were 1,111 family incidents per 100,000 people in Yarra, which is comparable to Victoria (1,378)



There were 320 family incidents per 100,000 people in Yarra that were **definitely or probably attributed to alcohol consumption**



which is higher than the rate for Metropolitan Melbourne (105) and Victoria (137)



26% of family incidents in Yarra involved children or young people as other parties



72% of affected family members in family incidents in Yarra were female, which is line with the 74% seen across Victoria

Focusing on family and domestic violence is particularly important for:

- people living with disability
- people in the LGBTQIA+ community
- people who are public renters

12% of Yarra residents **reported experiencing some form of domestic and family violence** related to drugs or alcohol

This rate was significantly worse for...

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| • people who are public renters | 30% |
| • people living with disabilities | 17% |
| • people in the LGBTQIA+ community | 18% |

Yarra City Council



Climate Resilience

Why is it important?

The earth is rapidly warming as a result of increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This climate crisis will impact community health through factors like worsening of air quality, changes in the spread of infectious diseases, and risks to drinking water quality and the increasing prevalence of extreme temperatures.

What is the story in Yarra?

There are some suburbs in Yarra that are at an increased of heat vulnerability, partially because of a lack of tree coverage. Yarra's yearly average air quality meets the National Standard for air quality, and is on par with Victoria.

18% is Yarra's canopy tree coverage which has remained steady since 2016 (17%)

Tree coverage is lower in:

- Collingwood (10%)
- Cremorne (10%)

Fitzroy, Collingwood and Richmond had hotter temperatures, which corresponds with lower tree coverage.

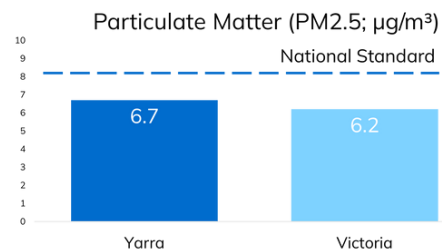


18% of the time, Yarra's air quality was defined as 'poor'

9.3% of Yarra residents have **asthma**, higher than Metropolitan Melbourne (7.9%)

41% of Yarra residents experience **respiratory issues or allergies** due to air pollution, pollen or allergens

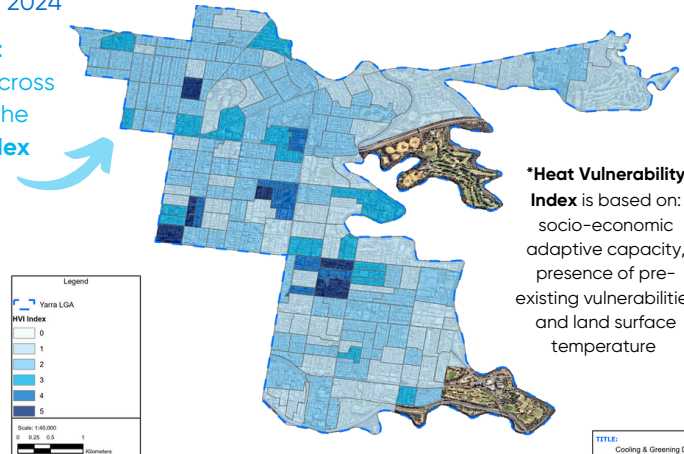
Yearly Average Air Quality



Yarra's **highest summer temperature** in 2023 was 41.3°C, and 39.7°C in 2024

Pockets of **high heat vulnerability** are visible across the municipality using the **Health Vulnerability Index**

Map: Heat vulnerability index*



Addressing heat vulnerability is particularly important for:

- Older people
- People with chronic health conditions
- Lower income households
- People living in poorer-quality housing
- People experiencing homelessness

Yarra City Council



Healthy Housing

Why is it important?

To maintain good health, people need to live in healthy and safe environments. Factors like homelessness, housing stress, overcrowding, indoor air quality, and exposure to indoor extremes of temperature can impact on people's mental and physical health. Evidence supports a direct association between poor-quality housing and health outcomes such as respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease and poor mental health.

What is the story in Yarra?

The dominant housing across Yarra is 'medium density', with an average of 14,109 dwellings per 1,600 metres, more than double the Victorian average of 6,396 dwellings within 1,600 metres. In Yarra, half of all households (51%) are renting, which is higher than Metropolitan Melbourne (29%), and can be an insecure tenure type. Furthermore, 8.1% of households rent social housing, which is higher than Metropolitan Melbourne (2.3%) and Victoria (2.5%).

51% of households are **renting**, which is higher than Metropolitan Melbourne (29%)

8% of households are **renting social housing**, which is higher than Metropolitan Melbourne (2.3%)

6.4% of Yarra residents live in an **overcrowded residence** (need one or more bedrooms)

19% of Yarra residents are in **housing affordability stress** (spending >30% of income on mortgage or rent)

47% of Yarra residents could **NOT afford to heat or cool their home** whenever needed

65%

Yarra residents are able to keep their home **adequately cool in Summer**

This rate was significantly worse for:

- people aged 18-34 years (59%)
- low income households (64%)
- people in the LGBTIQIA+ community (64%)

61%

Yarra residents are able to keep their home **adequately warm in Winter**

Supporting healthy housing is particularly important for:

- low income households
- young people aged 18-34 years
- people in the LGBTIQIA+ community
- First Peoples



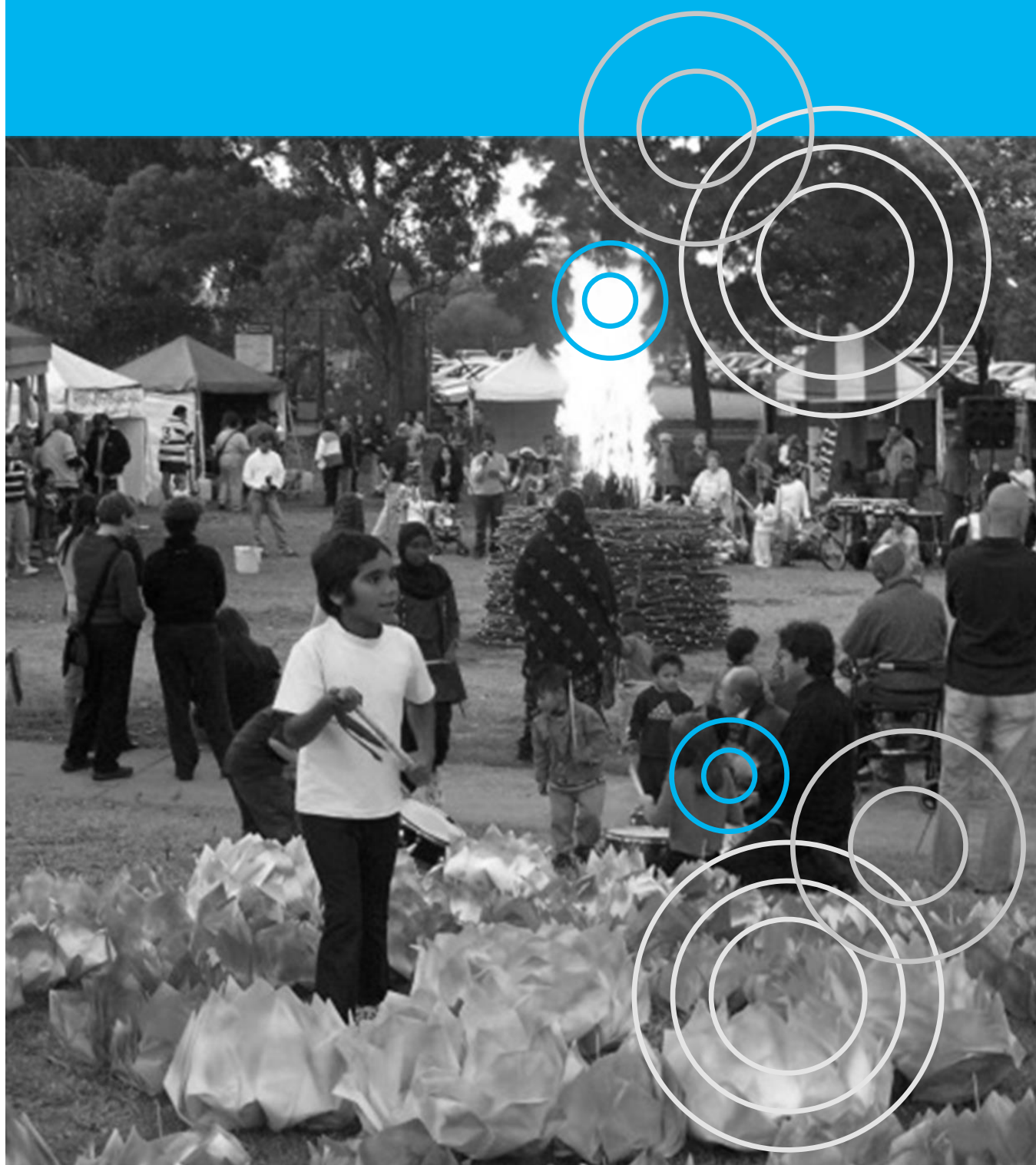
728

people were recorded as **experiencing homelessness** in Yarra in 2021.

Homelessness is often hidden or unidentified, meaning the actual figures are likely to be considerably higher.

Homelessness can be considered a crucial and life-threatening condition

Yarra's Health and Wellbeing Profile 2024



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This document was created by Enable Health Consulting for Yarra City Council.

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We acknowledge the strength and resilience of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, who have never ceded sovereignty and retain their strong connections to family, clan and country despite the impacts of European invasion. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra.



Introduction

Health and wellbeing are an overall state of physical, mental, and social wellbeing. It is not only about treating illness and injury, but also about how people connect to each other, to the place they live in, and whether they feel a part of their community. There is strong evidence that the most effective approach in achieving **equitable health and wellbeing across a community** is by addressing the social, natural and built environmental conditions that influence health, and the social factors and processes that distribute these conditions unequally. These conditions and processes exist around an individual and can have a strong influence on their individual health and wellbeing choices, capabilities, and opportunities.

This Yarra Health and Wellbeing Profile provides an overview of the health and wellbeing of the people living in the City of Yarra (Yarra). This Profile will be used to inform the next Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) for Yarra and facilitate decision-making for the Yarra City Council to focus resources to best support community health and wellbeing.

Council's role in health & wellbeing

The local government sector has an important role to play in understanding and addressing the health and wellbeing needs of the communities they serve. They are the level of government closest to the community, and they have jurisdiction over processes and policies that influence the natural, built, and social environments within their neighbourhoods, which uniquely positions them to improve community health and wellbeing outcomes and inequities.

Yarra City Council follow the health priorities and strategies detailed in their MPHWP, which is incorporated into the 2021–2025 Council Plan. Council's **core services** create several leverage points to support community health and wellbeing. These include:

- Maternal child and health services
- Youth and family services
- Age and disability services
- Cleansing services (public amenity)
- Recreation and leisure services
- Library services
- Art and cultural events
- Health protection
- Needle and syringe disposal
- Immunisation services

Council also provides and maintains **infrastructure and facilities** for the community that support health and wellbeing. These include:

- Urban design, planning & place-making
- Strategic transport and planning
- Open space, parks & urban agriculture
- Building and asset management, including footpaths, bike paths and roads
- Waste management and minimisation
- Sustainability and biodiversity

Yarra City Council also **provides grants** to many local community groups and initiatives aimed at supporting health and wellbeing, and regularly **partners with and advocates for** various stakeholders in the City of Yarra who already promote community health and wellbeing. They are an **important conduit** between Federal and State government and the health and wellbeing providers and champions in the area.

Victorian legislative context

Local Government Act 2020

The new Local Government Act is the most ambitious reform to the local government sector in over 30 years. The Act establishes a modern legislative framework for Victorian councils, guided by five primary principles including community engagement, strategic planning, financial management, public transparency and service performance. The principles of community engagement and strategic planning are particularly relevant to council planning and the development of the MPHWP.

Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

The Public Health and Wellbeing Act requires the MPHWP to be consistent with the Council Plan prepared under section 90 of the Local Government Act 2020. As part of developing the MPHWP every four years, local governments in Victoria take responsibility for public health and wellbeing planning and must include “an examination of data about health status and health determinants in the municipal district”. That is the purpose of this Health and Wellbeing Profile.

Victorian Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 2023-27

The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (VPHWP) is the state level plan for improving public health and wellbeing outcomes for all Victorians. The priorities detailed in the VPHWP 2023-27 were used as a starting point in collating data for this report. The ten priorities in the VPHWP 2023-27 were carried over from the 2019-23 VPHWP. They are:

Improve sexual and reproductive health	Reduce harm from alcohol & drug use
Improve wellbeing	Increase healthy eating
Increase active living	Reduce injury
Tackle climate change & its impacts on health	Prevent all forms of violence
Decrease antimicrobial resistance across human and animal health	Reduce harm from tobacco and e-cigarette use

Gender Equality Act 2020

The Gender Equality Act requires Councils to undertake Gender Impact Assessments when developing or reviewing any policy, program or service that has a direct and significant impact on the public. Under the Act, local governments have a range of obligations in relation to both workplace gender equality and the promotion, advancement and achievement of gender equality in the community.

This profile is intended to guide the development of the MPHWP, which will be guided by the Gender Equality Act, therefore this profile has considered gendered issues in health and wellbeing and where possible surveillance data has been explored by gender.

Victorian Climate Change Act 2017

The Climate Change Act requires councils to consider climate change in the development of the MPHWP, which aligns well with the priorities in the VPHWP. This Profile presents data on influences and outcomes of climate change as it relates to community health and wellbeing.

Other State-level strategic documents

There are other strategic documents at the state level that should be taken into consideration at the local level and that have informed part of the evidence gathering for this Profile. These include:

- Tobacco Act 1987
- Sport and Recreation Act 1972
- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006
- Ending Family Violence: Victoria's plan for change
- Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health: Key priorities 2017–2020
- Safe and Strong: A Victorian gender equality strategy
- Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018–2023
- Korin Korin Balit-Djak: Aboriginal health, wellbeing and safety strategic plan 2017–2027
- Health 2040: Advancing health, access and care

Local plans, policies, & strategies

Yarra's Social Justice Charter

Yarra's Social Justice Charter has four principles that ensure Council has a social justice lens when planning strategies, policies and programs. The principles are central to equitable community health and wellbeing and are defined as:

1. **Access** – All services, programs and facilities should be available for use by all people, free from any form of discrimination;
2. **Equity** – Economic, social and political resources should be distributed in ways that are not restricted by age, gender, sex, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion, ability, or income;
3. **Rights** – Everyone is entitled to equal effective legal, industrial and political rights; and,
4. **Participation** – There should be opportunities for real participation by all in the decisions which govern their lives.

Yarra Council Plan 2026-2030

A new Council Plan is being developed for 2026-2030. This Plan will once again incorporate the MPHWP and will be guided by the data presented in this Profile.

Yarra Climate Emergency Plan 2024-30

This is the first Climate Emergency Plan for Yarra and it cements Yarra's commitment to respond to the climate emergency. The planet's climate is already too hot, with dangerous heatwaves, droughts, storms and flooding becoming more intense and destructive. This Plan spells out

transformational change across society and economy to rapidly reduce carbon emissions and drawdown emissions from the atmosphere to restore a safe climate. It requires large-scale action across all levels of government, businesses and the community to both cut carbon emissions and adapt to living on a hotter planet. The changes need to occur in a fair and socially equitable way. The community's most vulnerable people have typically made the least contribution to the problem and often have less capacity to respond and cope with the impacts.

Approach to this Profile

Determinants of health framework

The complexity of community health and wellbeing can be overwhelming when planning a MPHWP. It can be constructive to use a scaffolded framework to break down the determinants of health into layers (See Figure 1). The Profile uses the framework below to demonstrate these layers and it is organised by each layer using the colours to indicate the level of determinants. Health and wellbeing outcomes are often a result of a combination of determinants from across multiple layers and this interconnection between the layers can be seen when exploring a specific health issue. Alongside this Profile are ten single-page overviews of priority health issues for Yarra (see topics in [Summary](#)). These documents show the intersections of the determinants across the framework and are helpful for guiding internal conversation and informing planning decisions.

Priority population groups

Yarra City Council has identified five priority population groups, who may experience an inequitable burden of poor health and wellbeing. This Profile will look at the data for these priority groups where possible to identify opportunities to inform a strengths-based approach in the MPHWP, which will help Yarra move towards more equitable health outcomes. The groups are:

- First Peoples
- People living with disabilities
- Low-income households
- People who are culturally and/or linguistically diverse (CALD)
- People who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community

These subgroups are defined in more detail in the following section of the Profile and as sub-groups for data analysis throughout the Profile (with the exception of First Peoples, see the [First Peoples](#) section below). Data on the health and wellbeing of these subgroups is largely sourced from the [Yarra Social Indicators Survey](#). Wherever possible (using the Census of Population and Housing) the data analysis will compare the priority group within Yarra to people from the same priority group from other regions, as well as comparing the priority group to the general population of Yarra. To the extent possible within the limitations of the data, this approach avoids perpetuating the deficit narrative for a group and instead examines the relative health and wellbeing of this group within Yarra as compared to other regions.

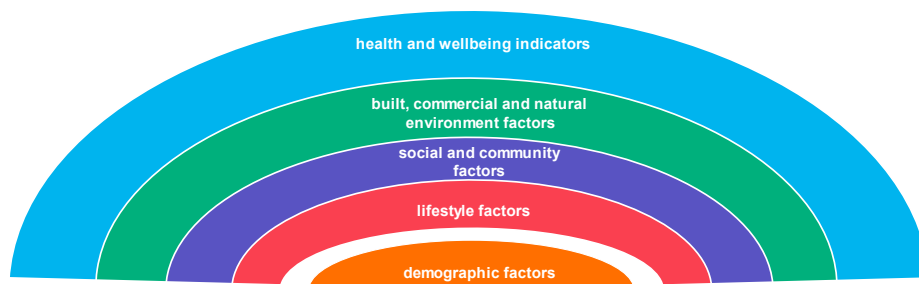


Figure 1: Framework for environmental, social, and behavioural determinants of health.

A note on data sovereignty for First Peoples

Yarra City Council respects the principles of data sovereignty for First Peoples. As such, the data used in this health profile are limited to information from the Australian Census.

Where possible and appropriate, Council seeks to build partnerships and undertake deliberative engagement with First Peoples. Only in partnership with Closing the Gap Partnership Forum – Ngaweeyan Maar-oo – and with relevant permissions, will further data be used for health planning in the municipality. Council recognises that action needs to be led by expertise and advice through guiding principles from Ngaweeyan Maar-oo who understand communities and have rightful access to data to make informed strategic decisions regarding First Peoples' health and wellbeing.

Data relating to First Peoples is shown in the [Priority Group](#) section and in the [Health and Wellbeing Indicators](#) section (not throughout the document) and focuses on socio-economic indicators and long-term health conditions as reported in the Census.

A note on gender

Yarra City Council acknowledges there are important differences in health and wellbeing by gender. The most recent Victorian Population Health Survey (VPHS) had not yet released data disaggregated by gender at the LGA level at the time of compiling this profile. It is possible to look at gender differences using the Census of Population and Housing and the Yarra Social

Indicators Survey (see details on [Page 10](#)). Where there are significant differences in health and wellbeing by gender, these will be noted throughout the profile. An important limitation is that, to date, the Census has not collected data on gender, meaning that there is no data on non-binary people available. The sample size for non-binary people in the Yarra Social Indicators Survey was 1% (13 people) so there were insufficient data collected to include in the profile.

Data sources

The Profile collates data from multiple sources. Compared to other states in Australia, Victoria has a depth of health and wellbeing data sources available. Sources and indicators that are the most up to date with comparisons available to metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria have been prioritised. However, less recent data without available comparisons have been included in some cases to ensure that key health and wellbeing issues, especially those that align with state and national legislation, could still be explored for the Yarra community.

Table 1 shows all included sources that were explored to develop the Profile. While not all of the data sources in Table 1 have been used within the final Profile, they were all considered

in the development. The data source is also referenced underneath each graph or referenced in text where there is no accompanying graph.

Infographic Glossary



This symbol is used throughout the Profile to indicate if there are significant differences in the issue of interest by gender (see the Gender section to read more about this approach).



This symbol is used throughout the Profile to denote when a priority group experiences a larger burden compared to the general population for a specific indicator (see the *Priority Population Groups* section to read more about this approach).

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Table 1. Data sources included in the Yarra Health and Wellbeing Profile.

Data Source	Year
Australian Census Data	2021; 2016
Australian Early Developmental Census	2021
Australian Observatory Data	2021
City of Yarra Social Indicators Survey	2024
City of Yarra Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey	2021-2024
Crime Statistics Agency Victoria	2014-2023
Department of Health and Human Services - Infectious Diseases	2023
Department of Social Services, Benefit and Payment Recipient Demographics, June 2024 Quarter	2024
Department of Transport and Planning, Cooling and Greening	2018
Environment Protection Authority Victoria	2022
Forecast ID	2024
Homes Victoria – Rental Affordability Data	2024
Maternal and child health breastfeeding data	2020- 2024
Northwest Melbourne Primary Health Network - Primary Health Care Access and Non-Avoidable Hospitalisations Data	2016/17 – 2020/21
Public Health Information Development Unit: Social Health Atlas of Australia	2021
Report on Government services (RoGS): police services	2022/23
Social Statistics	2023/24
Turning Point AOD Stats and Ambo-AOD Stats	2022/23
VicRoads	2023
Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System	2015-2021
Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation	2020
Victorian Integrated Survey of Travel and Activity (VISTA)	2020
Victorian Population Health Survey	2023; 2017; 2015
City of Yarra - Tree Management Data	2021
Wellington St Baseline Data Summary report (quality measures, collected by independent contractor)	2023

City of Yarra Social Indicators Survey

The Yarra Social Indicators Survey was conducted by the City of Yarra in June 2024. The rationale for this survey was to provide important health and wellbeing data for Yarra, incorporating measures that were not included in other population-level data sources (for example, the extent to which people's needs are met by health services and facilities in the area, safety concerns by type of activity, and barriers to physical activity). The data was also collected to allow disaggregation of results by segments of the overall population (for example by gender, age, tenure-type and the identified priority groups (see: [Priority Population Groups](#)) to provide robust data and identify where segments of the population may benefit from more support with their health and wellbeing.

This was a representative population-based survey, where participants were randomly invited by phone or targeted social media advertising. The final sample was 940 people, with 700 people having conducted the interview over the phone and 240 online (via the targeted social media invite). The sample was broadly representative of the age and gender of municipality and was further weighted to align to the City of Yarra population (benchmarking to the 2021 Census). The large sample size allowed statistically robust comparisons for segments (sub-groups) of the population.

Differences between the City of Yarra Social Indicators Survey and the Victorian Population Health Survey

There are similar measures included in the VPHS and Yarra Social Indicators Survey, both of which are included in the profile. We use the VPHS to benchmark Yarra against other geographical areas, whereas we use the Social Indicators Survey for sub-group analysis within Yarra. These surveys do not always have the same overall estimate for Yarra. Differences may be explained by slightly different measures of similar constructs, timing differences (2023 and 2024, respectively), different sample sizes (440 and 940, respectively), and somewhat different recruitment methods (all phone interviews for VPHS and a mix of phone and social media

sampling for the Social Indicators Survey). Estimates from both surveys are valid.

A note on missing data.

When data is not available, it sometimes means the story of a community's health and wellbeing remains untold. Yarra City Council are investing in the surveillance of their community's health and wellbeing through the recently collected Yarra Social Indicators Survey and the annual Customer Satisfaction Survey. This data is invaluable in explaining the patterns of indicators within the community. Unfortunately, due to smaller sample sizes, these data sources are not able to tell the story of First Peoples within Yarra. This remains a key issue for future focus to improve the insights available for future Profiles.

Data interpretation

Benchmarking

Data in this Profile will be aggregated to show averages for Yarra, and then compared to the Victorian average, and the Metropolitan Melbourne average (this geographical area is defined [here](#)). For consistency, we have referred to both Greater Melbourne and Metropolitan Melbourne as 'Metropolitan Melbourne' throughout the Profile. In some cases where it is not possible to aggregate averages for the Metropolitan Melbourne region, the Yarra average is compared to other comparable local governments including Melbourne City, Port Phillip and/ or Maribyrnong. Where it is more appropriate to compare to an inner-city context (for example when comparing AOD environments and crime statistics) comparison will be to nearby municipalities and, where relevant, to metropolitan Melbourne. This benchmarking is used to identify health and wellbeing issues that are unique (or not) to Yarra.

Interpreting differences between regions or between priority groups

Where there were 95% confidence intervals (CI) available in the data, they have been interpreted as statistically significant if the intervals do not overlap. In graphs, a significant difference *. In

text, we refer to these differences as significantly different. We have not used the term 'significant' otherwise. Where the intervals do overlap, we have interpreted these as not significantly different. Where there are no 95% CI available, we describe the differences between regions as 'lower' or 'higher' or 'better' or 'worse'.

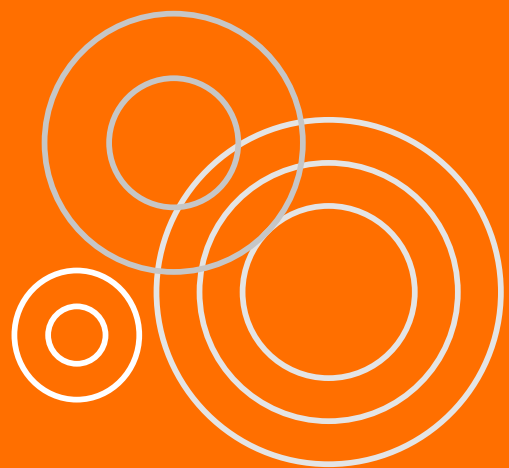
Interpreting differences within Yarra

Sometimes comparing to other regions hides the story of what is happening within a community. Where possible, data has been averaged by suburbs within Yarra to understand whether there are pockets within the community who need extra support. To compare between suburbs, we have used the Yarra average and presented suburbs as higher or lower based on +/-10% of the Yarra average. There is also some data available by priority group, especially in the Yarra Social Indicators Survey. The differences by suburb and by priority group will be interpreted in the same way as the benchmarking data.

A note on strengths-based approach and the available data.

We acknowledge that for the priority groups mentioned, there is a need to move away from deficit-based data and research methodologies that reinforce harmful stereotypes that in turn directly and indirectly impact negatively on health and wellbeing. The Council is bound through legislation to produce this health profile based on the available data sources, which unfortunately are subject to this systemic bias. In the analysis we have taken the approach of noting where priority groups are doing **better**, as well as where more support would be beneficial, as a small way of addressing the lack of available strengths-based data. The data will be used to identify opportunities to inform a strengths-based approach in the MPHWP, which will help move Yarra towards more equitable health outcomes.

The People of Yarra



The People of Yarra

The people that live in the City of Yarra are vibrant and diverse. On average they enjoy a high level of socio-economic advantage and are 'young working adults' (25-34 years). However, there is also great variability in this advantage and some areas within Yarra are characterised by people with lower levels of income, education and employment.

What are the key findings in Yarra?



There are approximately 96,990 people living in Yarra.



Yarra has a median age of 34 years, 3 years **younger than Metropolitan Melbourne** and 4 years younger than Victorians.



Yarra **has 4 times more households rented from government authorities (also known as social housing)** compared to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria.



Yarra has a **highly educated population** with more people completing Year 12 and more people holding a Bachelor-level qualification compared to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria.



Yarra residents have **higher average incomes** compared to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria.



First Peoples in Yarra are less likely to own their own home and more likely to be living in private rental or social housing compared to First People in Metropolitan Melbourne



Yarra has **double the proportion of community identifying as LGBTQIA+**, compared to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria.

Population

The City of Yarra resident population in 2023 is estimated to be 97,448 and is forecast to grow to 136,983 by 2046.¹ The pattern of population growth for Yarra tells an interesting story. The percentage change in estimated resident population in Yarra was relatively stable from 2013 to 2016, and then declined sharply in 2020-21, and has since rebounded in 2023 (Figure 2). This population decline is largely attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.

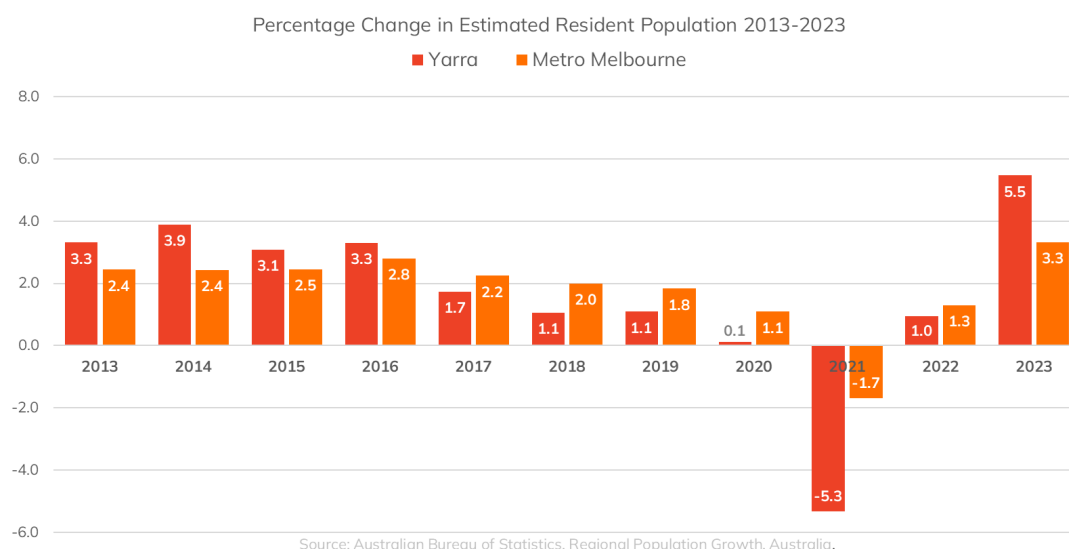


Figure 2. Percentage Change in Estimated Resident Population from 2013- 2023.

Yarra's population density is 4,990 persons per square kilometre (sq. km.). It is important to note that population density varies across the Council area, ranging from a low of 972 persons per square kilometre in Fairfield - Alphington to a high of 7,296 persons per sq. km. in Fitzroy. The five suburbs with the highest population densities are:

- Fitzroy (7,296 persons per sq. km.)
- Collingwood (7,232 persons per sq. km.)
- North Richmond (6,893 persons per sq. km.)
- Carlton North- Princes Hill (5,411 persons per sq. km.)
- Abbotsford (4,991 persons per sq. km.)

Age

Yarra has a **relatively young population**. Yarra has a median age of 34 years, 3 years younger than Metropolitan Melbourne and 4 years younger than Victorians.⁹

Analysis of the age groups of the Yarra population in 2021 compared to Metropolitan Melbourne shows that there was a lower proportion of people in the younger age groups (0 to 17 years) as well as a lower proportion of people in the older age groups (60+ years);

Figure 3).

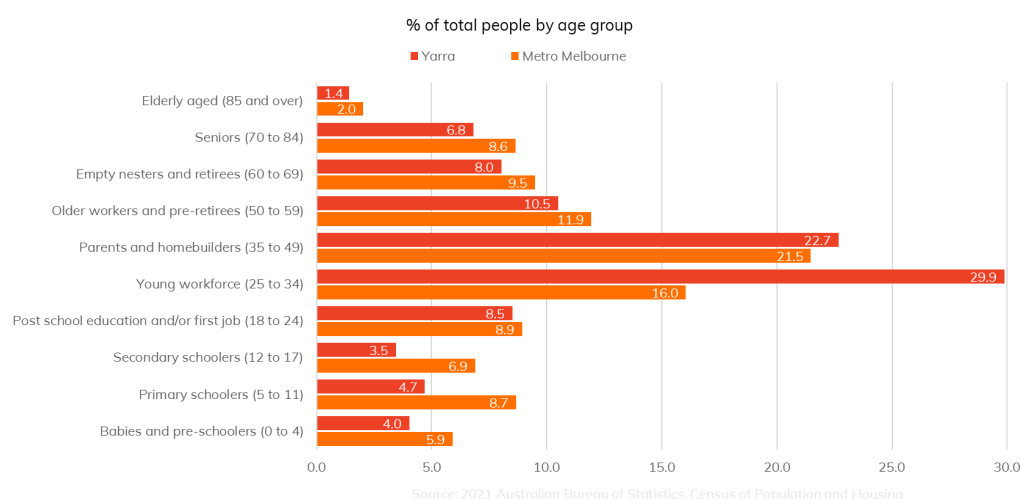


Figure 3. Proportion of total people by age groups.

The major differences between the age structure of Yarra and Metropolitan Melbourne were:

- A larger percentage of 'Young workforce' (29.9% compared to 16.0%)
- A smaller percentage of 'Primary schoolers' (4.7% compared to 8.7%)
- A smaller percentage of 'Secondary schoolers' (3.5% compared to 6.9%)
- A smaller percentage of 'Babies and pre-schoolers' (4.0% compared to 5.9%)

While Yarra has a younger population overall, this varies across the City. Proportions ranged across suburbs from a median age of 33 to 38 years. The median age by suburbs are:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| • Abbotsford (33 years) | • North Richmond (34 years) |
| • Central Richmond (33 years) | • Fitzroy (35 years) |
| • Collingwood (33 years) | • Fitzroy North (36 years) |
| • Cremorne/Burnley (33 years) | • Clifton Hill (37 years) |
| • Carlton North/ Princes Hill (34 years) | • Fairfield/Alphington (38 years) |

Gender

Gender refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed, such as norms, behaviours and roles associated with being a woman, man, girl or boy. As a social construct, gender varies from society to society and can change over time. Gender interacts with but is different from sex, which refers to the different biological and physiological characteristics of females, males and intersex persons, such as chromosomes, hormones and reproductive organs. Gender identity refers to a person's deeply felt, internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond to the person's sex at birth. Gender inequality and discrimination faced by women, girls and gender-diverse people puts their health and well-being at risk. Women, girls and gender diverse people often face greater barriers than men and boys to accessing health information and services.

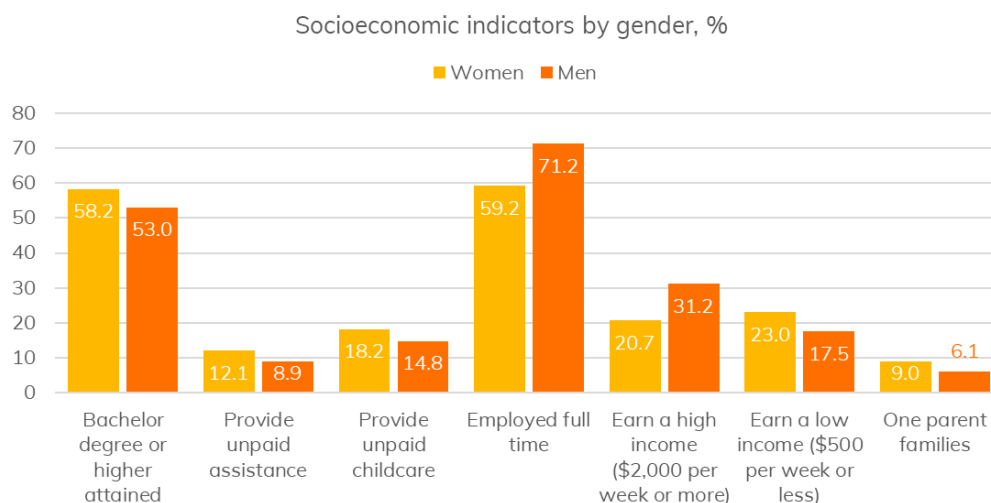
The data in this section comes from the ABS Census. Males and females in the 2021 Census are part of the "Sex" classification. While this is often called "gender", this is not the same concept. The ABS collects Male and Female in the Census. While an option for "Other" sex is a part of the form, no information has been released from this characteristic so far for the 2021 Census, and the Census does not measure gender diversity beyond this. In 2021 there 46,120 people who identified as female in Yarra, which represents 51.2% of the total population, and 48.8% were male.

Gender differences within Yarra show that women earn lower incomes, do more unpaid assistance (to a person with a disability, long term illness or old age) and unpaid childcare than men, and are more likely to be sole parents. However, in contrast to women in Metropolitan Melbourne, women in Yarra experience higher levels of socioeconomic advantage, including higher incomes, greater workforce participation, and less unpaid caregiving.

Women compared to men in the City of Yarra

Women in Yarra have higher education levels than men but are more likely to provide unpaid assistance (to a person with a disability, long term illness or old age) and unpaid childcare (Figure 4). Women are less likely to work full time and are less likely to earn more than \$2,000 per week. Women are more likely to be the head of one-parent families.

Figure 4. Proportion of people in Yarra by gender for a range of socioeconomic indicators



Source: 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics: Census of Population and Housing

Women in Yarra compared to women in Metropolitan Melbourne

Similar to the pattern observed for the overall population, women in Yarra have greater socioeconomic advantage when compared to women in Metropolitan Melbourne (Figure 5).

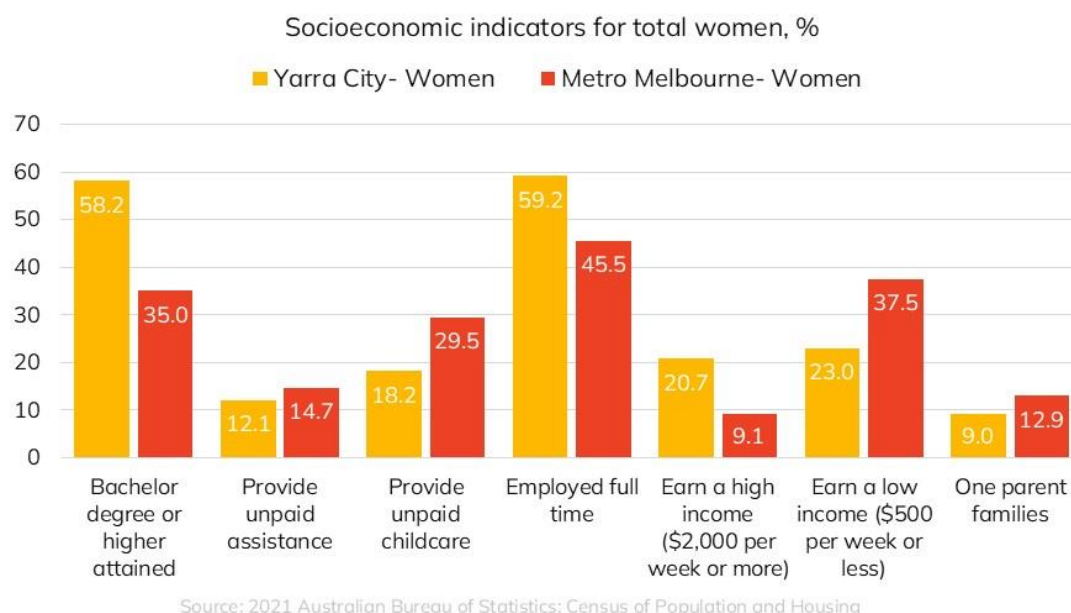


Figure 5. Proportion of total women for a range of socioeconomic indicators

Compared to women in Metropolitan Melbourne, women in Yarra are:

- more likely to have a high level of education
- less likely to provide unpaid assistance or unpaid childcare
- more likely to be employed full time
- much more likely to earn a high income and less likely to earn a low income
- less likely to be the head of a one parent family

Gender interacts with and has impacts on people's experiences of health and wellbeing. This relationship is driven by difference societal, economic and cultural determinants, which are important to highlight. Therefore, throughout this Profile this symbol will be used to indicate if there are significant differences in the issue of interest by gender. This approach is possible to explore in the Yarra community using the Yarra Social Indicators Survey.



Housing

People's housing has a large impact on their health and wellbeing. A region's dominant dwelling structure provides an overview of the types of dwellings that dominate in a particular area. It can give useful information about the density and housing style. It is mapped by four categories, showing simply which types of dwellings are present in the largest number in the area: Low density (separate house); Medium density (units and small blocks of flats); High density (high-rise flats); and Other (caravans, cabins).

The Census usual resident population of the City of Yarra in 2021 was 90,114, living in 50,057 dwellings with an **average household size of 2.02**.⁹ The residential built form often reflects planning policy, such as the building of denser forms of housing around public transport nodes or employment centres. It also reflects the role and function the City of Yarra plays in the housing market. A greater concentration of flats, units and apartments, for example, is likely to attract more young adults and smaller households.

In 2021, the **dominant dwelling structure in Yarra was 'Medium density'**. This was different to the dominant tenure for Metropolitan Melbourne, which was 'Separate house'. While the dominant dwelling structure in Yarra was 'Medium density', this did vary between suburbs, and the following ones had high density dominant tenure types:

- Abbotsford
- Collingwood
- Fitzroy
- North Richmond

More of Yarra's households were renting their dwelling compared to the proportion of Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria (see Figure 6: Proportion of households by tenure type)

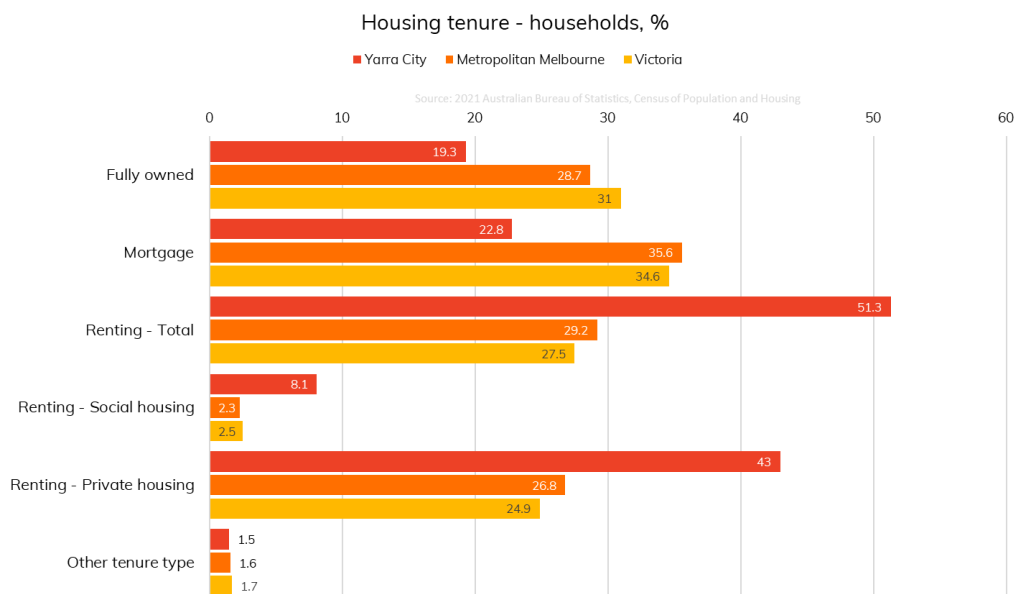


Figure 6: Proportion of households by tenure type

More of Yarra's households were renting their dwelling from a social housing (public and community housing) compared to the proportion in Metropolitan Melbourne or Victoria (Figure 7).

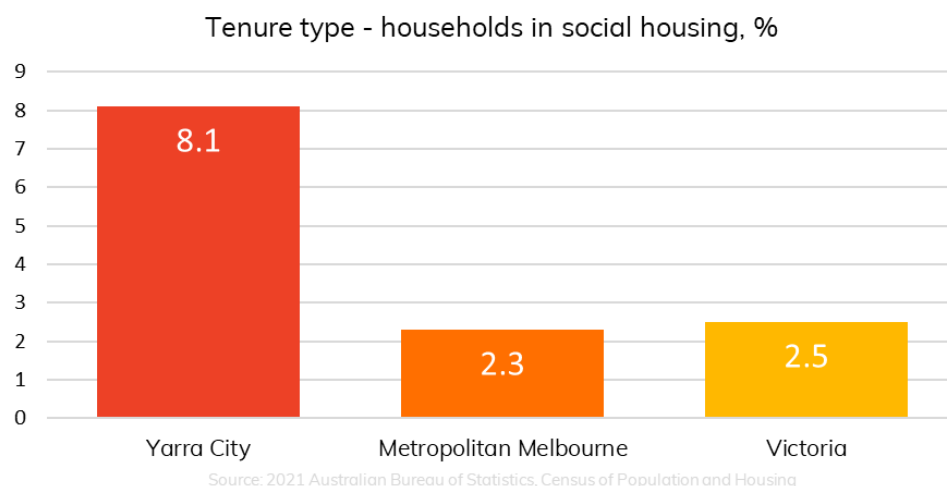


Figure 7. Proportion of households living in social housing

While Yarra had a higher proportion of households in social housing this varied across the City. Proportions ranged across suburbs from a low of 1.2% in Cremorne/Burnley to a high of 15.5% in Fitzroy. The five suburbs with the highest percentages were:

- Fitzroy (15.5%)
- Collingwood (15.0%)
- North Richmond (14.6%)
- Fitzroy North (8.4%)
- Clifton Hill (4.1%)

Across Yarra, 19% of households that were spending more than 30% of their household income on paying a mortgage or rent, which is referred to as **household affordability stress** or housing stress (Figure 8, overleaf). This rate of household affordability stress was comparable to that seen in Metropolitan Melbourne and in Victoria. This indicator is a combination of household income (for which Yarra has higher than average incomes) and the costs of renting or buying a dwelling in Yarra. As with all of the socioeconomic indicators this experience of household affordability stress varied greatly between suburbs within Yarra (see Table 2).

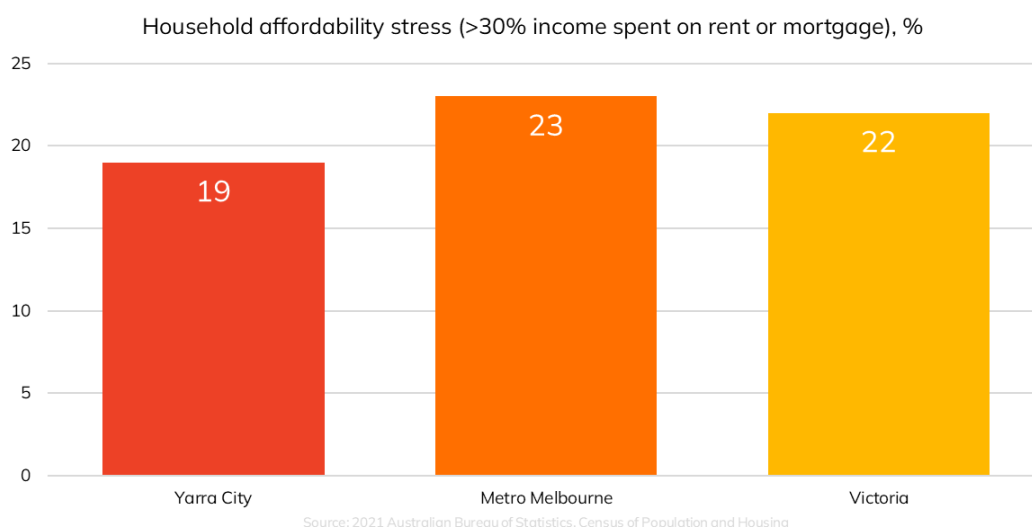


Figure 8. Proportion of households experiencing housing affordability stress

Homelessness in Yarra

Homelessness takes a range of forms. Some people may have become suddenly homeless and require crisis accommodation, while others may be sleeping rough in public places over a long period of time or 'couch surfing' between friends, family and acquaintances. People experiencing homelessness will cycle between different types of temporary living situations.

In the 2021 Australian Census, **728 people were recorded as experiencing homelessness in Yarra**, with 28 people recorded as sleeping rough.⁹ As homelessness is often hidden or unidentified, the actual figures are likely to be considerably higher.

Since that time, Yarra has embarked on the Yarra Zero project, tracking rough sleeping homelessness using a By Name List (BNL), which records the situation of each person identified through specialist services as sleeping rough in the municipality, connecting them to services with the goal of placement in permanent housing. Yarra Zero started in July 2023, and 14 months later, as of 30 September 2024, 101 people had been identified as sleeping rough in the municipality across the life of the project, with 47 people active on the list and 37 housed since the project began.

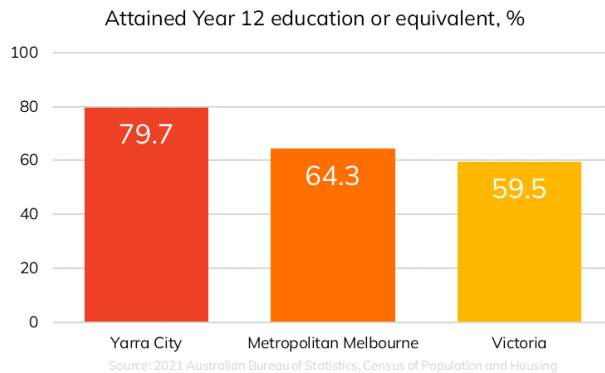
Health impacts of Homelessness

As noted by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, there is a comprehensive and growing volume of research demonstrating the direct and negative impacts of homelessness on physical and mental health outcomes, including life expectancy. People experiencing homelessness are likely to have their life expectancy shortened by an average of 22 to 33 years.² For this reason, homelessness can be considered a crucial and life-threatening condition.

As a lived experience, homelessness is shaped by multiple social factors (such as alcohol or drug dependency, mental health concerns, intergenerational trauma, family violence), as well as structural and economic factors (such as poverty, disconnection from the labour market, a lack of housing for low-income households). When people are homeless, they often become distanced from family, friends and the community and lose social connection and control over their environment, all of which are essential to maintaining good health.

Employment and Education

Participating in education or starting employment after concluding compulsory education helps individuals to develop abilities and skills and encourages a socially inclusive and productive society. Not participating in either can contribute to future unemployment, lower incomes and employment insecurity.³⁴



Yarra has a highly educated population. A **higher proportion of Yarra residents completed Year 12 or equivalent** compared to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Proportion of people who attained Year 12 or equivalent education.

A **higher proportion of Yarra residents hold formal qualifications** (Bachelor or higher degree; Advanced Diploma or Diploma; or Vocational qualifications) compared to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria (Figure 10).

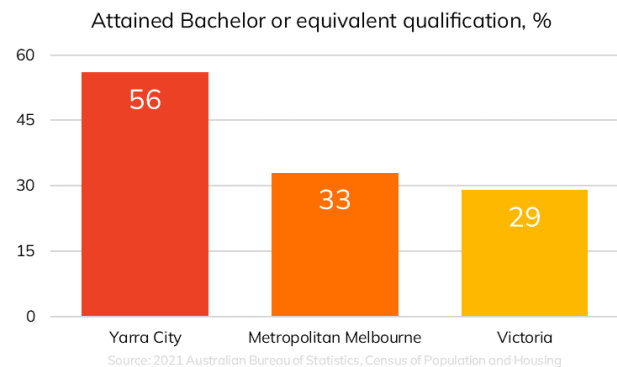


Figure 10. Proportion of people who have attained a Bachelor or equivalent qualification.

Yarra has a population that is highly engaged in the workforce, which is related to the higher proportion of 'young workers' population group seen in the age structure of the population. The size of Yarra's labour force (total population aged over 15 years) in 2021 was 59,432. A **higher proportion of Yarra residents are in employment**, and a lower proportion unemployed, compared to Metropolitan Melbourne (Figure 11, overleaf).

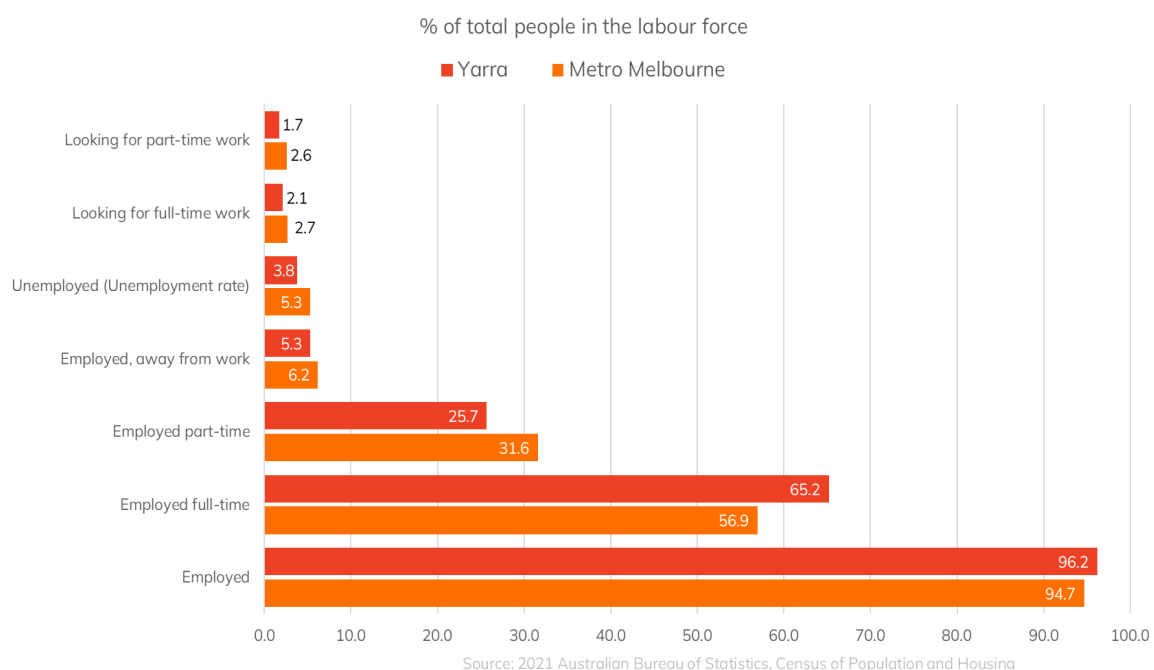


Figure 11. Proportion of labour force by employment status.

An analysis of the jobs held by Yarra residents in 2021 shows the three most popular industry sectors were:

- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (10,772 people or 18.8%)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (7,925 people or 13.9%)
- Education and Training (5,313 people or 9.3%)

In combination, these three industries employed 24,010 people in total or 42.0% of the total employed resident population. In comparison, Metropolitan Melbourne employed 9.6% in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; 13.5% in Health Care and Social Assistance; and 8.8% in Education and Training

Income

A person's wellbeing is influenced by many factors, but having an adequate income remains an essential component in measuring individual and household wellbeing. Adequate income can help people support themselves, their families, and their broader communities. For most people, income can be an indicator of a person's ability to access food, clothing, education, housing and leisure activities. A person's income is influenced by their economic circumstances, in particular employment status and type, hours worked, occupation, and government support through Australia's social security system.

Yarra's population **have a higher-than-average income**, compared to Metropolitan Melbourne (Figure 12). The figure below shows the proportion of Yarra and Metropolitan Melbourne population in each of the quintiles based on Victorian income levels (meaning that 25% of the Victorian population sits in each of the four categories).

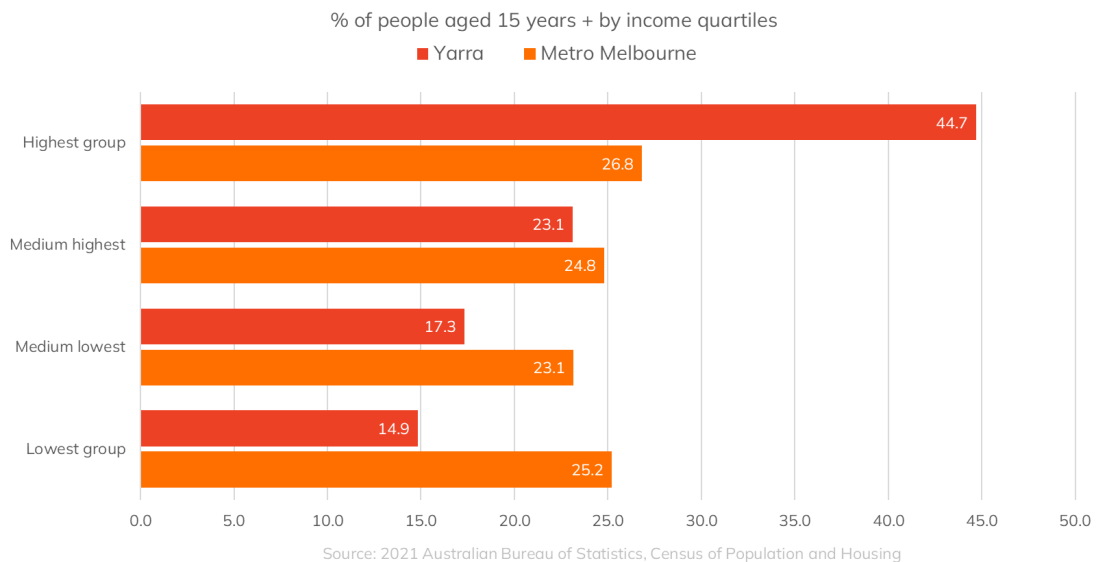


Figure 12. Proportion of labour force (people aged 15 years +) grouped by Victorian individual income quartiles

The **median weekly household income of Yarra residents is higher** than the average for Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria (Figure 13).

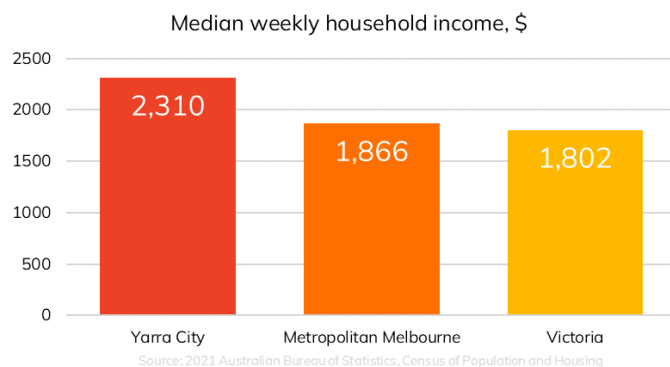


Figure 13. Median weekly household income

Households in the City of Yarra have a median income that was \$444 per week more than Metropolitan Melbourne. Within Yarra, median household incomes range from a low of \$1,967 in Fairfield to a high of \$2,959 in Cremorne.⁹

Another way to understand the income of the Yarra population is to explore the proportion of the population receiving Centrelink payments. Figure 14 shows that the Yarra population has similar or lower proportion of people receiving a Centrelink payment compared to Metropolitan Melbourne. This data aligns with the story shown by exploring median income levels in Yarra.

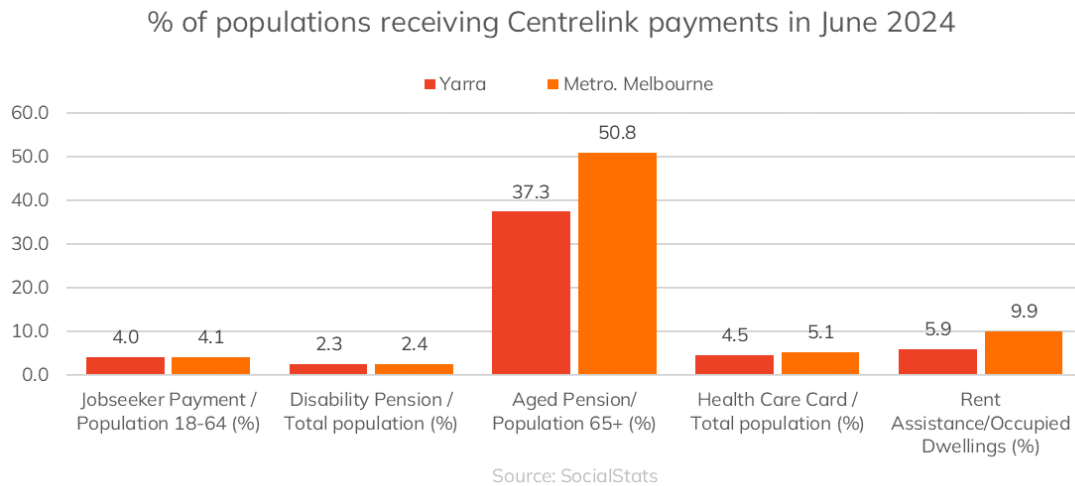


Figure 14. Proportion of Yarra population receiving Centrelink payments at June 2024

However, as also discussed above, there are suburbs within Yarra where these proportions of people receiving Centrelink payments are higher. Figure 15 shows the number of payment recipients by suburb. Fitzroy (480) and Fitzroy North (480) had the highest number of rental assistance recipients; whilst Richmond North had the highest number of disability support recipients (475), Health Care Card holders (755), Job Seeker Recipients (675) and Age Pension recipients (885; Figure 15).

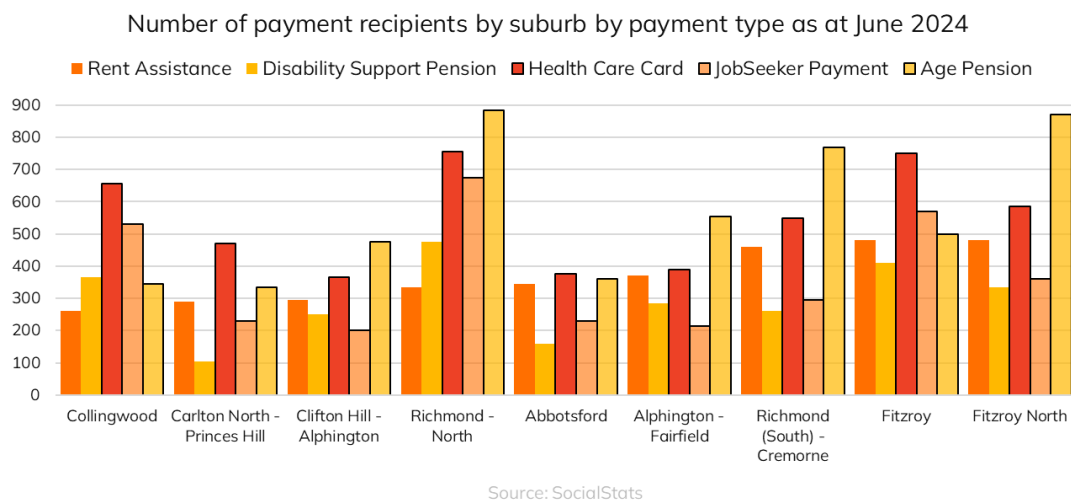
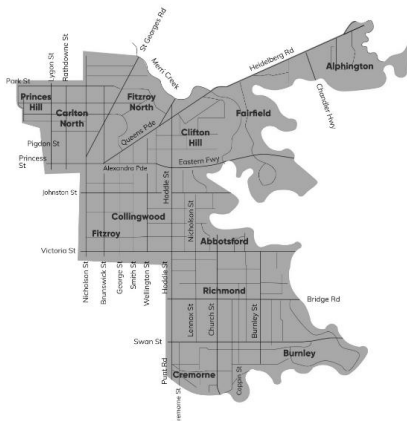


Figure 15. Number of Centrelink payment recipients by suburb by type as at June 2024

Yarra has distinct neighbourhoods of people

Where people live deeply impacts their health and wellbeing. Within Yarra there are different patterns or groupings of peoples in different suburbs (Table 2). The table below shows six different indicators that relate to the socioeconomic position of a person or household.

The pattern in Table 2 show that **Fitzroy, Collingwood and North Richmond experience greater socio-economic disadvantage** on five or all six indicators compared to the Yarra average, and that **Central Richmond, Clifton Hill and Cremorne/Burnley – South Richmond are more socio-economically advantaged** than the Yarra average on all six of the indicators. This data can be used by Council to guide resource allocation for services and programs that may specifically benefit people with lower socio-economic position. It can also be used to understand how infrastructure and facilities in these areas play a role in the relative accessibility of people in the neighbourhoods that are experiencing greater socio-economic disadvantage compared to the Yarra average.



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Table 2. Indicators of socio-economic status (SES) within Yarra neighbourhoods.

	Yarra	Abbotsford	Central Richmond	Clifton Hill	Collingwood	Cremorne/ Burnley – Richmond South	Fairfield - Alphington	Fitzroy	Fitzroy North	Carlton North – Princes Hill	North Richmond
SEIFA	1,046	1,077	1,102	1,093	962	1,117	1,097	979	1,068	1,087	977
Low income households*, %	15.8	13.5	11.7	13	18.7	10.2	13.5	19.3	18.1	14.3	19.5
Unemployment rate, %	3.8	4	2	4.1	5	2.2	3.6	4.5	3.5	3.9	4.6
Social housing, %	8.1	2.8	2	4.1	15	1.2	1.6	15.5	8.4	3.2	14.6
Dwelling owned outright**, %	19.3	14.9	21.3	28.7	10.2	20.6	26.7	17	24.1	29	14.4
Housing affordability stress***, %	19	20	16	15	20	15	23	21	20	22	20
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #f4a460; padding: 5px 10px;">Higher SES than Yarra</div> <div style="background-color: #d9d9d9; padding: 5px 10px;">Similar to Yarra</div> <div style="background-color: #f4c400; padding: 5px 10px;">Lower SES than Yarra</div> </div>											

Source: 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing

* Low income households are defined as earning less than \$800 per week.

**Owning a dwelling outright may not always be an indicator of SES.

***Housing affordability stress is defined as all households spending more than 30% of income on housing costs (renting and mortgage). If looking only at very low income households (earning less than 50% of Metropolitan Melbourne median income), 87% of the group experiences housing stresses overall, compared to 76.1% in Metropolitan Melbourne. Regarding households on low incomes (earning more than 50% but less than 80% of the Metropolitan Melbourne median income), 62.1% experience housing stress.

Priority Population Groups

In a public health-guided response to community health and wellbeing it is important to act for all population groups and sometimes this means prioritising population groups who experience inequitable shares of the burden of disease due to ingrained cultural, social, political and environmental factors and prejudices. The data in this Profile will be used to identify opportunities to inform a strengths-based approach in the MPHWP, which will help move Yarra towards more equitable health outcomes.

Based on the available data on the Yarra community, and what we know from Victorian and Australian population surveillance data, there are some groups within community that carry an inequitable burden of poorer health and wellbeing. Council has an opportunity to address this inequitable burden through tailored, culturally appropriate planning and action through the MPHWP. The following priority groups have been identified for Yarra:

- First Peoples
- People living with disability
- People who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community
- People living in low-income households
- People who are culturally and/or linguistically diverse

Throughout this Profile, there will be data presented for overall community averages and for priority population groups where relevant (with the exception of First Peoples, where only Census data is reported (shown in the [First Peoples](#) section below and in the [Health and Wellbeing Indicators](#) section – see note on our approach that is in line with the principals of [data sovereignty](#)). This symbol will be used in the Profile to denote when a priority group experiences a larger burden compared to the general population for a specific indicator. This symbol was chosen because whilst it is a group, it is made up of many different individual circles. It is important to acknowledge that belonging to one priority population does not exclude a person from belonging to another group or many groups. 'Intersectionality' refers to the ways in which different aspects of a person's identity can expose them to overlapping forms of discrimination and marginalisation.⁵ When these aspects or characteristics combine:



- there is a greater risk of people experiencing family violence
- people find it harder to get the help they need due to systemic barriers
- there is increased risk of social isolation

First Peoples

Historically Yarra is a significant place with longstanding and continuing connections with First Peoples. Yarra City Council recognises the importance of this connection and respects the principles of data sovereignty for First Peoples ([see note above](#)). Where possible and appropriate, Council seeks to build partnerships and undertake deliberative engagement with First Peoples. Action needs to be led by expertise and advice through guiding principles from Ngaweeyan Maar-oo who understand communities and have rightful access to data to make informed strategic decisions regarding First Peoples' health and wellbeing.

Census snapshot

The First Peoples population of Yarra in 2021 was **517 people** living in 355 dwellings, which represents approximately 0.6% of the Yarra population, which is comparable to representation in Metropolitan Melbourne (1.6%) and Victoria (0.8%). The population size of First Peoples in Yarra is growing over time, from 313 in 2011, to 382 in 2016 to 517 people in 2021.

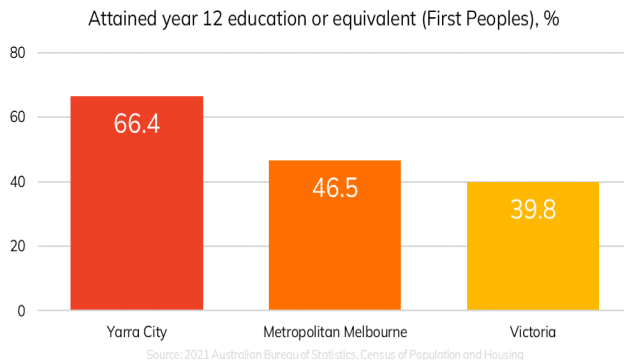
87% of Yarra residents believe that the relationship with First Peoples is important.⁵

Closing the Gap

First People in Yarra have (on average) higher education and labour force participation when compared to First Peoples in greater Melbourne and Victoria. However, many First Peoples in Yarra still experience disadvantage when compared to the overall population of Yarra and there still are significant gaps in socio-economic indicators and health outcomes.

First Peoples in Yarra compared to First Peoples in other areas of Victoria.

Education – compared to First Peoples in other areas of Victoria



First Peoples in Yarra are **more likely to have attained Year 12** than First Peoples in Metropolitan Melbourne or Victoria (Figure 16).

Figure 16. Proportion of First Peoples who attained Year 12 or equivalent education

First Peoples in Yarra are also **more likely to have obtained a Bachelor degree or higher** than First Peoples in Metropolitan Melbourne or Victoria (Figure 17).

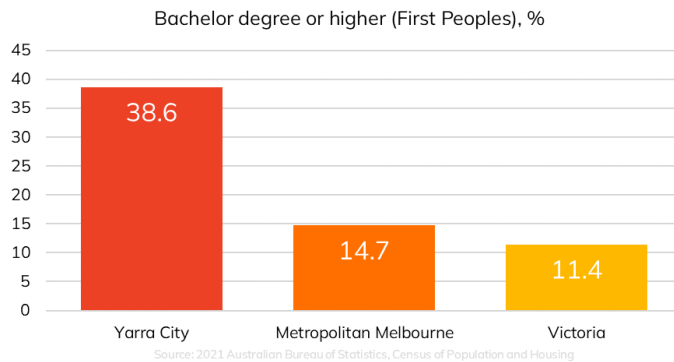


Figure 17. Proportion of First Peoples who attained bachelors degree or higher

Employment – compared to First Peoples in other areas of Victoria

First Peoples in Yarra are **more likely to be participating in the workforce** compared to First Peoples in Metropolitan Melbourne or Victoria (Figure 18).

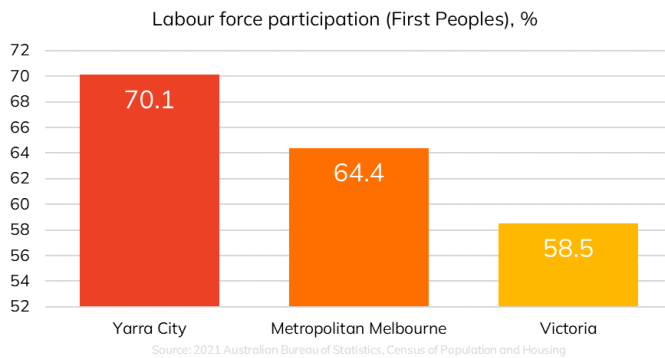


Figure 18. Proportion of First Peoples participating in the labour force

Housing – compared to First Peoples in other areas of Victoria

Compared to First People in Metropolitan Melbourne, First People in Yarra are less likely to own their own home or have a mortgage, and more likely to be living in private rental or social housing (Figure 19).



Figure 19. Proportion of First Peoples households by tenure type

First peoples in Yarra compared to the overall population of Yarra

First Peoples in Yarra are more likely to experience greater socioeconomic disadvantage and chronic conditions than the general population of Yarra, contributing to a greater need for accessibility to services.

Education – compared to the overall population of Yarra

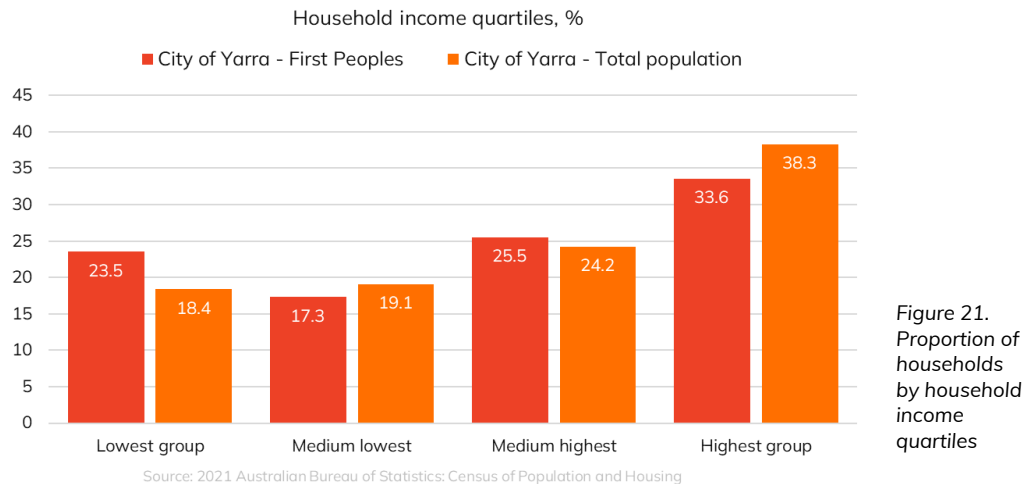
First People in Yarra are **less likely to have obtained a Bachelor degree** as their highest level of education compared to all of Yarra (Figure 20).



Figure 20. Proportion of people by the highest qualification achieved

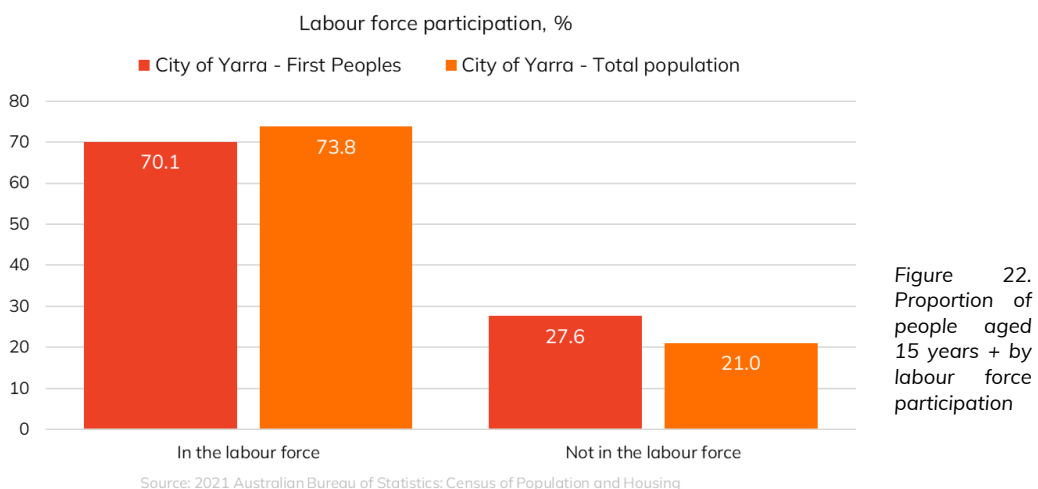
Income – compared to the overall population of Yarra

The highest income quartile for First Peoples in Yarra has the greatest proportion of households (33.6% of First Peoples Households) which is 5% lower than the proportion for all of Yarra (38.3% of all Yarra households) (Figure 21). There is also a large proportion of First Peoples households in the lowest income quartile (23.5% of First Peoples Households), which is 5% higher than the proportion of households in all of Yarra (18.5% of all Yarra households). This indicates polarisation of income in the municipality, particularly for First Peoples households.



Employment – compared to the overall population of Yarra

Labour force participation in Yarra is similar for First Peoples compared to the total Yarra population (Figure 22). There was a slightly lower proportion of First Peoples in the labour force (70.1%) compared with the total population in City of Yarra (73.8%) and a higher proportion not in the labour force (27.6% compared to 21.0%).



Housing – compared to the overall population of Yarra

First People in Yarra are **more likely to rent and live in social housing** compared to the total population of Yarra (Figure 23).

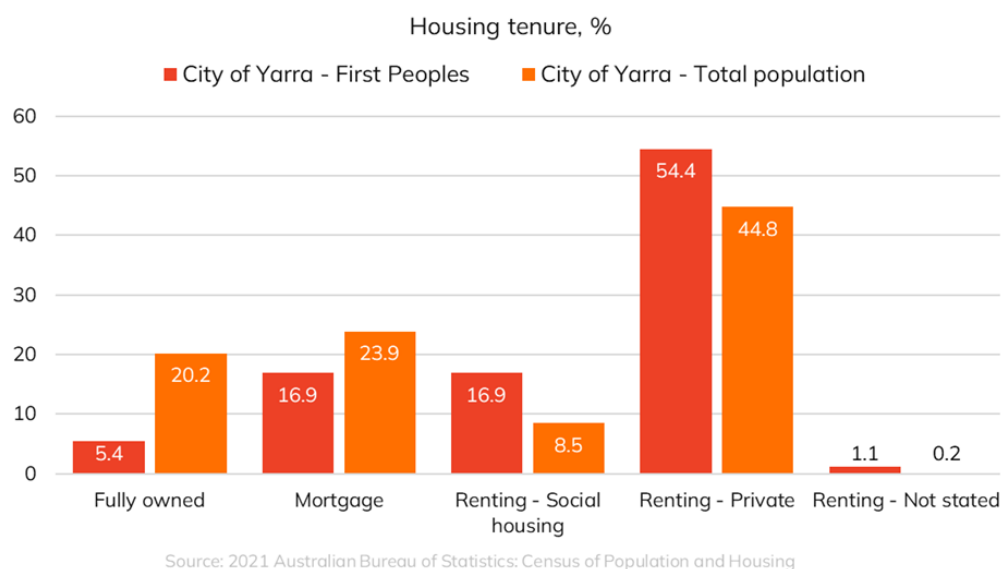


Figure 23. Proportion of households by tenure type

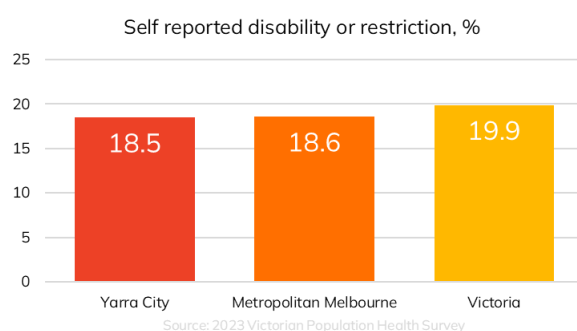
It is much more likely that a First People household is a renting household (whether social housing, private rental or other rental) than the housing tenure pattern for total households in Yarra.

Later in this Profile, in the section on [Health and Wellbeing Indicators](#), there is also a discussion about First Peoples' experiences of chronic health conditions.

People living with disability

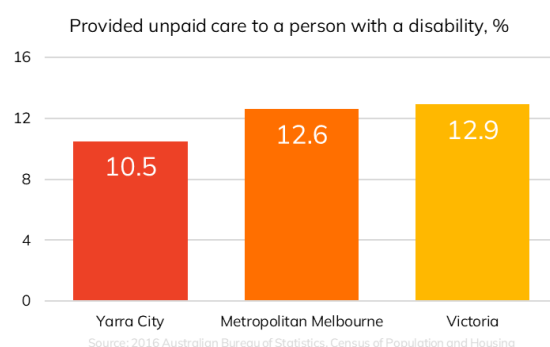
People living with disability are diverse – having different types and levels of disability, coming from all demographic and socioeconomic groups, and having varying needs for assistance. Disability covers a range of experiences and should not be seen as a fixed concept. Quantifying disability in a community is complicated as there are different definitions. Surveys rely on self-identification and government figures often report on benefit recipients who meet eligibility criteria.

As a group, Australians living with disability experience significantly poorer health than people without disability. This includes poorer self-rated health, higher rates of long-term health conditions and higher prevalence of risk factors for health conditions.⁶ There are a variety of reasons for this, some of which may be directly related to a person's disability. Many of the health differences are, however, socially determined, rather than due to particular characteristics of the disability itself.⁷ People with disability also achieve lower levels of labour force participation, educational achievement and income than people without disability.⁸



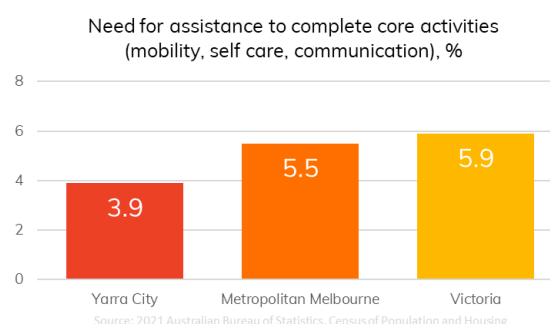
People in Yarra experience a **similar prevalence of some form of disability** to Victorians (Figure 24).

Figure 24. Proportion of people self-reporting disability



People in Yarra experience a **similar prevalence of caring** for a person with a disability compared to Victorians (Figure 25).

Figure 25. Proportion of people providing care for a person with a disability



People in Yarra were **less likely to have acute needs for assistance to complete core activities** compared to Victorians (Figure 26).

Figure 26. Proportion of people needing assistance for core activities

Looking within Yarra, there are differences in the household income (Figure 27) and housing tenure (Figure 28) for people needing assistance compared to the total Yarra population. There is a higher proportion of people needing assistance living in households of the lowest income quartile (52.8%) than there is in the total Yarra population (13.3%).

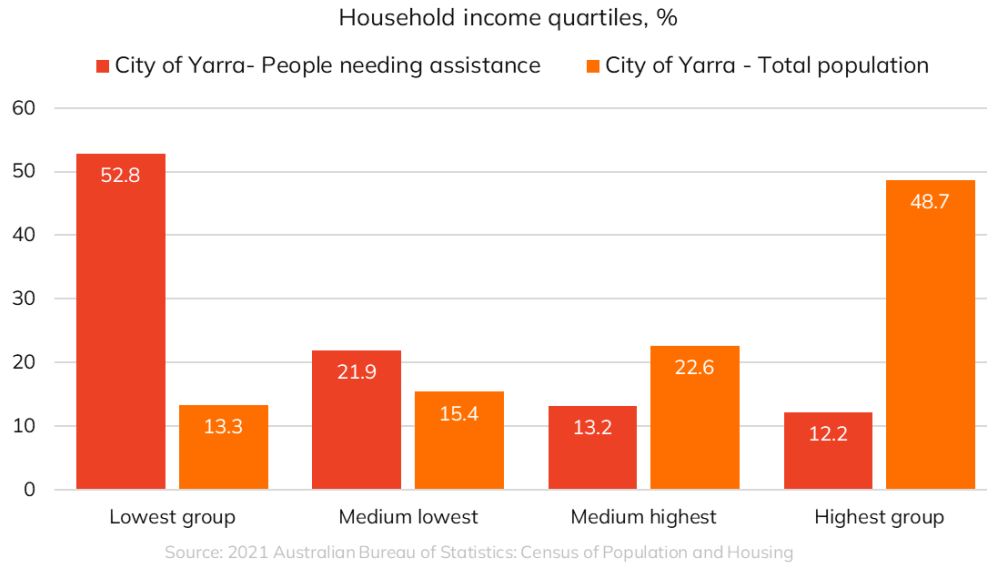


Figure 27. Proportion of households by household income quartiles for people in Yarra needing assistance and the total Yarra population

A higher proportion of people needing assistance in Yarra live in fully owned homes (39.0%) and are renting through social housing (35.8%) than compared to the total Yarra population (18.8%, 7.9% respectively (Figure 28).

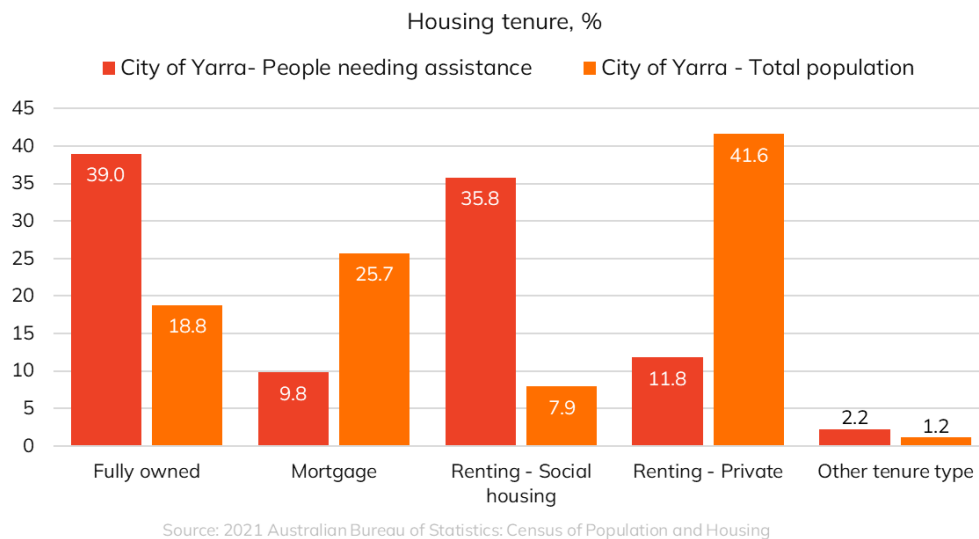


Figure 28. Proportion of households by housing tenure type for people in Yarra needing assistance and the total Yarra population

People who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community

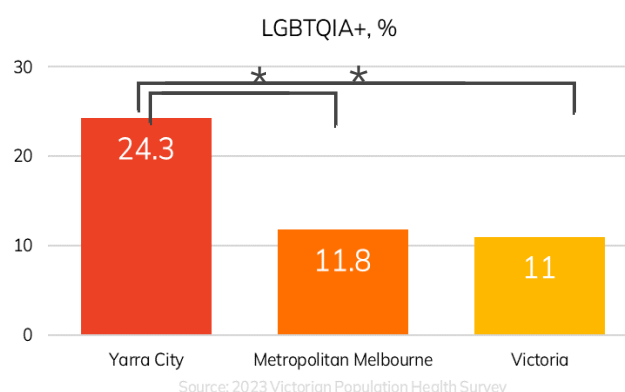
The LGBTQIA+ community is not a homogenous group, though many community members who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender diverse, intersex, queer, asexual may share some common experiences based on shared history of discrimination or changing social awareness and acceptance of diversity in gender and sexual identities. There is very little statistical data on people who identify as LGBTQIA+ which limits evidence-based priority setting and decision making to enhance the LGBTQIA+ community health and wellbeing.

There are ongoing significant health and wellbeing disparities experienced across and within LGBTQIA+ communities. This includes, for example, disproportionate rates of mental health diagnoses, suicidal behaviours, as well as elevated rates of drug and alcohol use, higher rates of sexually transmitted infections, and a significantly higher cancer incidence.

Yarra has a **significantly higher population of LGBTQIA+ community** (24.3%, 95% CI 20.1-29.2%), compared to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria (Figure 29). Although the wide confidence interval on this estimate of the proportion of community who identify as LGBTQIA+ should be noted. Particularly because data from the Yarra Social Indicators Survey indicates that in 2024 a smaller proportion of people identified as LGBTQIA+ (15%, 95% CI 13%-18%) compared to the data in Figure 29. However, 15% is still more than the proportion estimated for Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria and this difference in estimates may be due to differences in the wording of the questions or the sample recruited (see descriptions on [Page 10](#)).

Figure 29. Proportion of people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community.

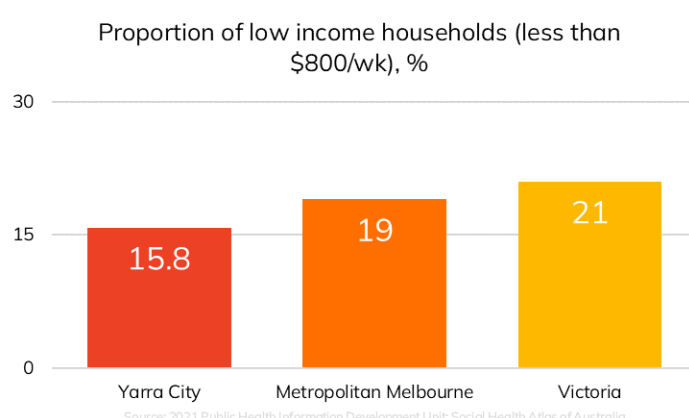
(* indicate significant differences between population groups)



It should be noted there is limited population-level data available on the health status of people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community, as questions on sexual identity have been omitted in census data collections to date. This lack of data makes the Yarra Social Indicators Survey particularly valuable, with the LGBTQIA+ community included as a sub-groups for data analysis throughout the Profile.

Low-income households

Low-income households refer to those receiving less than \$800 per week (before tax in 2021).⁹ This threshold was chosen because it is close to the bottom 25% of households Australia-wide. Household income is one of the most important indicators of socio-economic status. The amount of income a household generates is linked to the number of workers in the household; the number who are unemployed or on other income support benefits; and the type of employment undertaken by the household members. It is important to remember that households vary in size, so that some areas have a greater number of dependents per income generated than others.



A lower proportion of Yarra's total households were classed as low income compared to Metropolitan Melbourne (Figure 30).

Figure 30. Proportion of households with combined income less than \$800 per week.

While Yarra had a lower proportion of low-income households, it is important to note that this varied across the city and ranged from a low of 10.2% in Cremorne- Burnley to a high of 19.5% in North Richmond. The five areas with the highest percentages were:

- North Richmond (19.5%)
- Fitzroy (19.3%)
- Collingwood (18.7%)
- Fitzroy North (18.1%)
- Carlton North - Princes Hill (14.3%)

It is also important to note that there are differences in housing tenure types (Figure 31) and employment status (Figure 32) for people living in low-income households compared to the total Yarra population.

A much higher proportion of low-income households are renting through social housing (43.3%) than in the total Yarra population (8.5%; Figure 31).

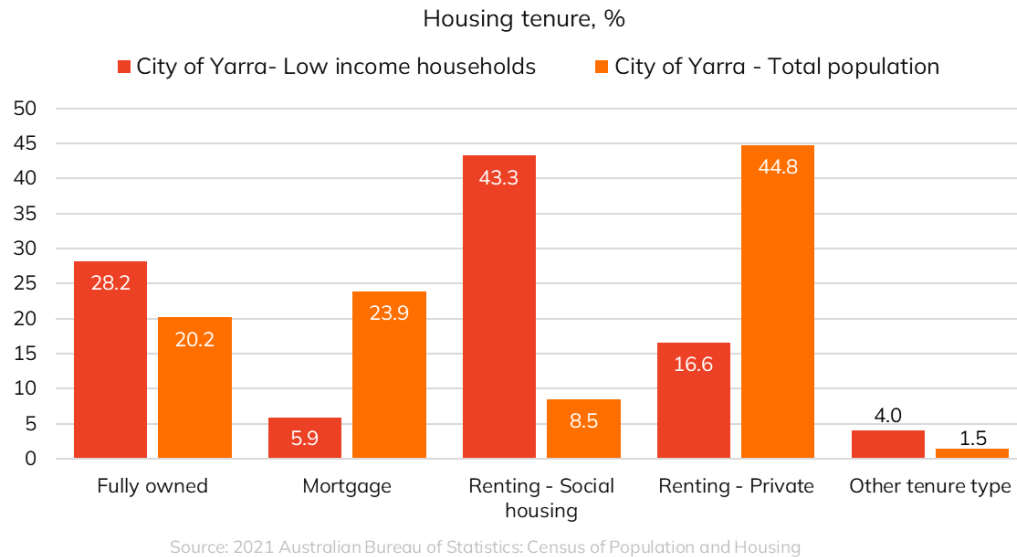


Figure 31. Proportion of households by housing tenure types for low-income households and the total Yarra population

There is also a higher proportion of people who are unemployed (32.8%) and who are employed in part-time work (45.0%) in low-income households compared to the total Yarra population rates (3.8% and 25.7% respectively; Figure 32).

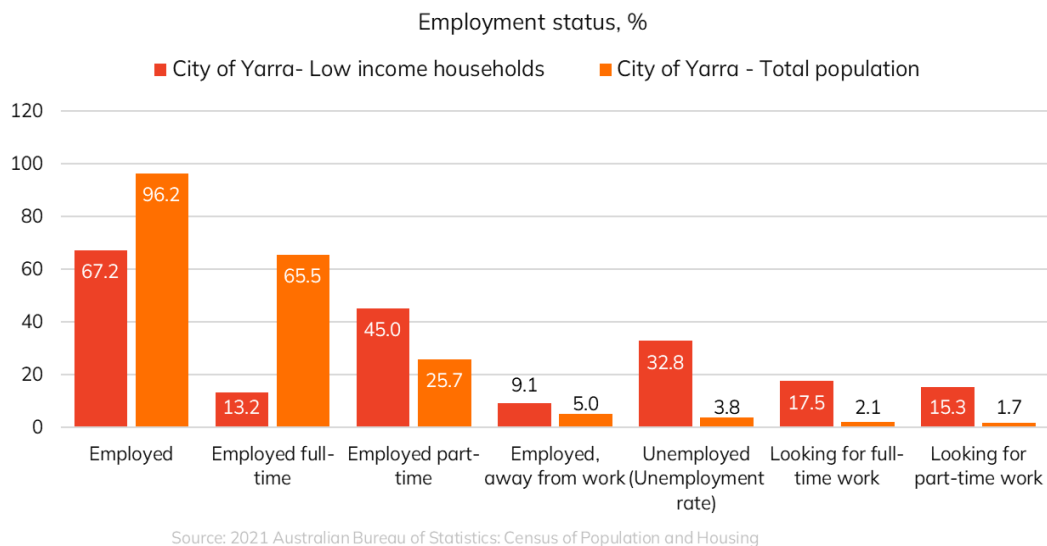


Figure 32. Proportion of households by housing tenure type for low-income households and the total Yarra population

People who are culturally and/or linguistically diverse

Australia is one of the most culturally and/or linguistically diverse countries in the world. However, some people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds face greater challenges when dealing with the health and welfare system. Language barriers, lower health literacy, and difficulties navigating an unfamiliar system put them at greater risk of poorer quality health care, service delivery and poorer health outcomes compared with other Australians. Understanding the distribution of people speaking a language other than English can assist in delivering services such as translation and library services to this population.

Fewer people in Yarra spoke a language other than English at home compared to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria (Figure 33).⁹

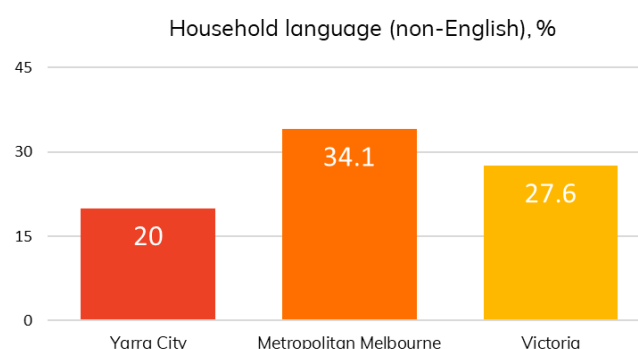


Figure 33. Proportion of people who speak a language other than English at home.

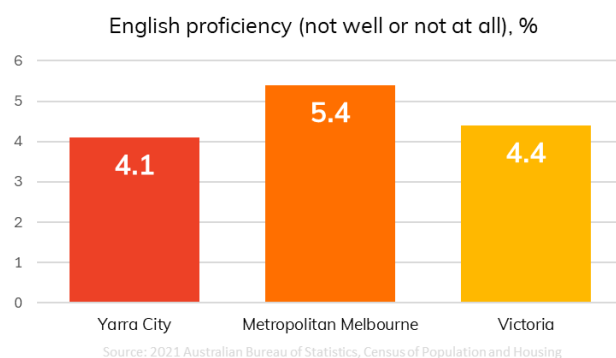
Source: 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing

While Yarra had a lower proportion of persons speaking a language other than English, this varied ranged from a low of 11.2% in Cremorne- Burnley to a high of 32.1% in North Richmond. The three areas with the highest percentages were:

- North Richmond (32.1%)
- Collingwood (24.8%)
- Abbotsford (23.4%)

The most commonly spoken languages (other than English) in Yarra in 2021 were:

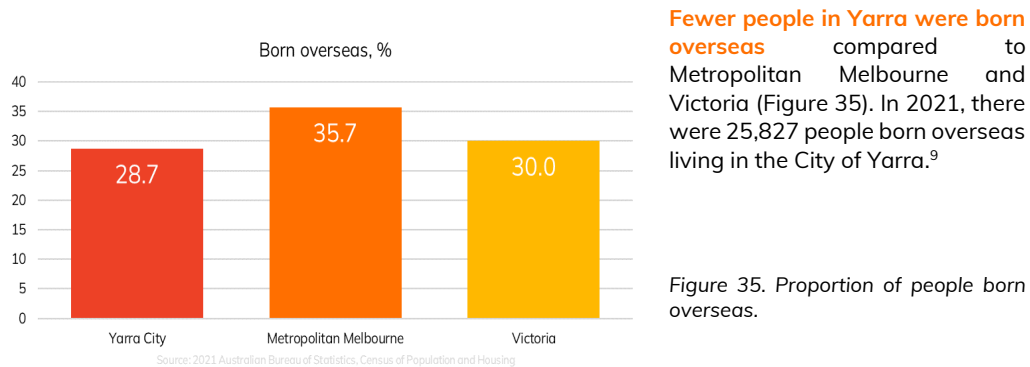
- Vietnamese (3.3%)
- Greek (2.2%)
- Mandarin (1.9%)
- Italian (1.4%)
- Cantonese (1.2%)



Source: 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing

Also of note is that 16.1% of the Yarra population who do speak English at home, self-identified that they have low proficiency with English (not spoken at all or not well), which is comparable to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victorian rates (Figure 34).⁹

Figure 34. Proportion of people reporting low English proficiency



While Yarra had a lower proportion of persons born in a country other than Australia, this varied and ranged from a low of 21.4% in Clifton Hill to a high of 37.1% in North Richmond. The three areas with the highest percentages were:

- North Richmond (37.1%)
- Collingwood (34.8%)
- Abbotsford (34.0%)

Income

For people in Yarra who are speaking a language other than English at home, the lowest household income quartile had the greatest proportion of households (28.9% of Non-English speaking Households; Figure 36) which was a higher proportion of households than for the total Yarra population (13.3% of all Yarra households).

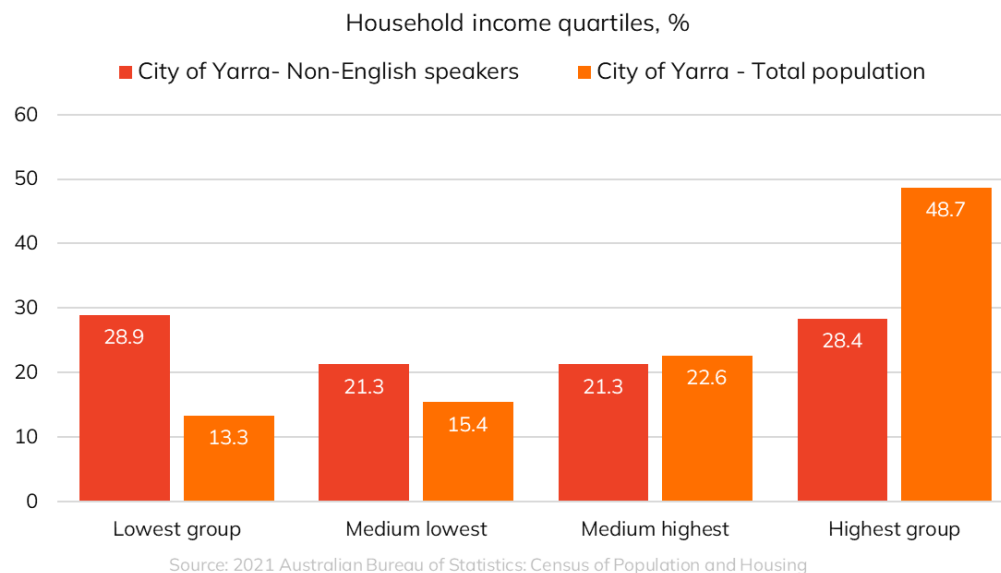


Figure 36. Proportion of households by household income quartiles for non-English speaking people and for the total Yarra population

Housing

There are also differences in the type of housing tenure for people who speak a language other than English at home and the total Yarra population, with non-English speaking people more likely to live in rental accommodation through social housing (26.8%) than the general Yarra population (7.9%; Figure 37).

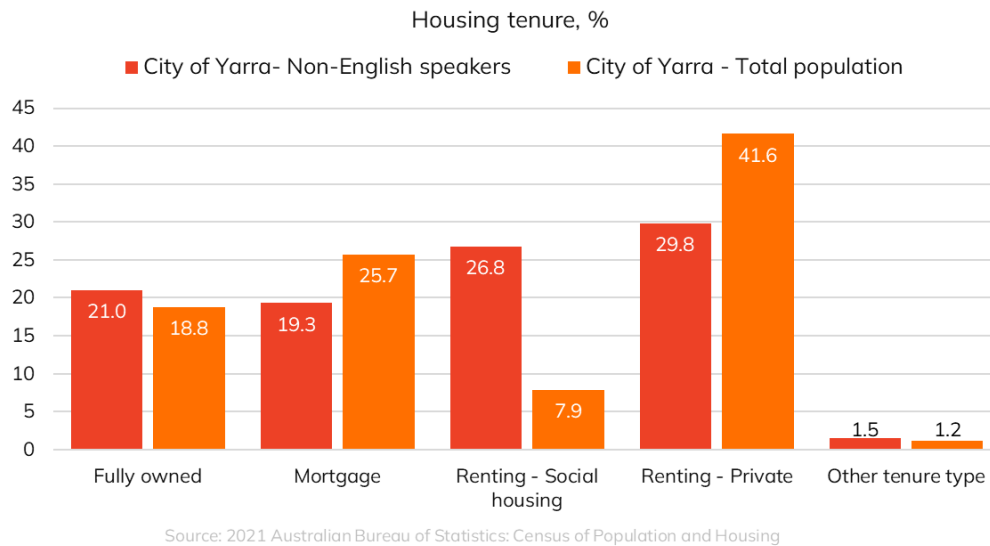
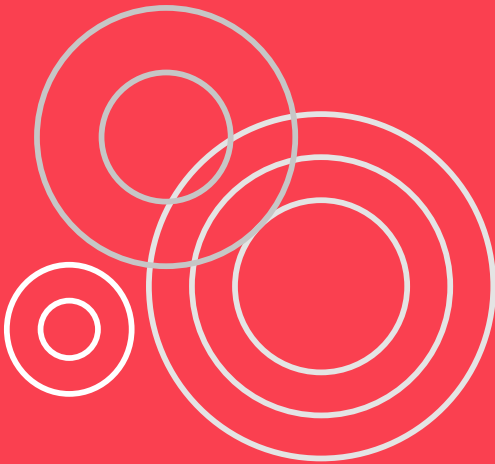


Figure 37. Proportion of households by housing tenure type for non-English speaking people and for the total Yarra population

Need for assistance

Overall, 9.8% of the non-English speaking population in Yarra reported needing assistance with core activities, compared with 3.9% for the total Yarra population.⁹

Yarra's Lifestyle Factors



Yarra's Lifestyle factors

Yarra residents enjoy an active lifestyle. High proportions of people use active transport to connect their daily living activities, and this is likely driven by the high proportion of “young workers” in the region. A significant issue for the Yarra population is the high rate of alcohol and other drug use in the community. The focus in this section is on the community's behaviour, and later, there is data on the social impacts and environmental aspects that relate to this significant narrative for the Yarra community.

What are the key findings for Yarra?



Yarra residents have higher rates of vaping compared to Victoria. This was especially high in people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community.



There is a high level of alcohol consumption in Yarra. Young people and men are more likely to engage in risky drinking behaviour (i.e., binge drinking).



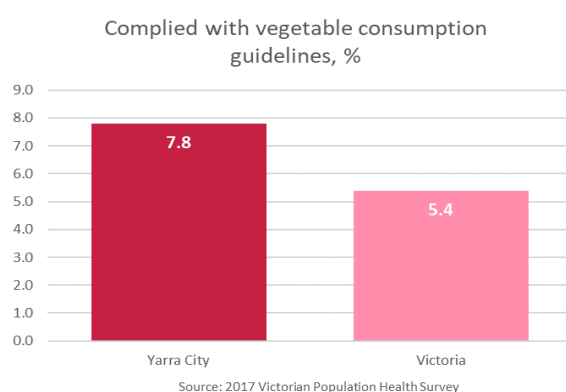
Lots of Yarra residents lead an active lifestyle. However, some groups need more support to stay active or be sufficiently active, especially older adults (55+ years), people living with disability, people who are culturally and/or linguistically diverse, younger people (18-34 years), and people who live in a low-income household.



Less than one in ten Yarra residents meet the guidelines for consuming the recommended vegetable intake.

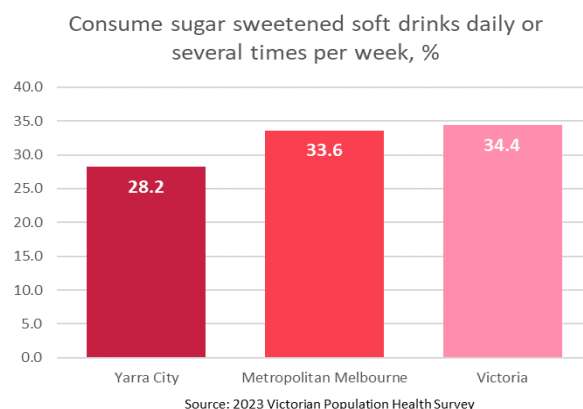
Dietary behaviours

Diets play a role in our overall health and wellbeing, especially for reducing the risk of many chronic diseases like coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, and also some types of cancer. Supporting access to healthy food and drinks and promoting consumption of the appropriate amount (i.e., not too little or too much) can help to improve health, especially in communities experiencing an unfair burden of disease. Dietary patterns are impacted by individual preference, affordability, accessibility and availability of foods and socioeconomic status.



Yarra is doing better than Victoria in vegetable consumption, but 7.8% is still very low (Figure 38). Increasing vegetable consumption is part of broader, national strategies and is a target in the National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030 and National Obesity Strategy 2022-2032. These national strategies specifically call out the need to address dietary behaviour by making changes to systems, environments, and commercial determinants of health.

Figure 38. Proportion of people who complied with national guidelines for vegetable consumption.



Yarra is doing better than Victoria, with significantly **less of the population regularly consuming sugar sweetened drinks** (Figure 39).

Figure 39. Proportion of people who consumed sugar sweetened soft drinks daily or several times a week.

Physical activity

Physical activity supports overall health and wellbeing and, like dietary behaviours, helps to reduce the risk of chronic diseases. Creating environments that promote healthy options for the community will support people to attain better health and wellbeing. Examples include better access to safe, usable active transport like walking and bike paths, and more availability of destinations for daily living within the Yarra community.

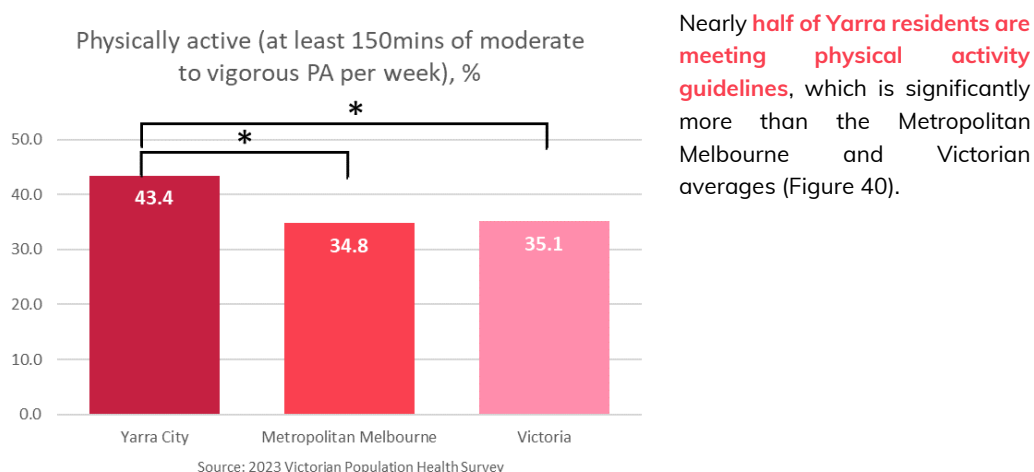


Figure 40. Proportion of people who meet the physical activity guidelines.

The Yarra Social Indicator Survey shows what is happening in different priority groups within Yarra for meeting physical activity guidelines. The groups with significantly less people meeting guidelines are **younger people aged 18-34 years, people who are culturally and/or linguistically diverse, and people living in a low-income household** (Figure 41).



Figure 41. Proportion of Yarra residents who do at least 30 minutes of exercise on five or more days of the week.

There are also some groups in the community who are more likely to be inactive (i.e., do not exercise for 30 minutes on any day of the week). One in 12 Yarra residents were not exercising on any day of the week, and this was significantly higher for **men (11%), people aged over 55 years (13%) and for people living with a disability (13%)**¹⁰ (Figure 42). While this is an important consideration for priority groups within Yarra because of the increased health risks associated with inactivity, this is still lower than the VPHS estimate of inactive people in Victoria (16.8%, 95%CI 16.2-17.4).

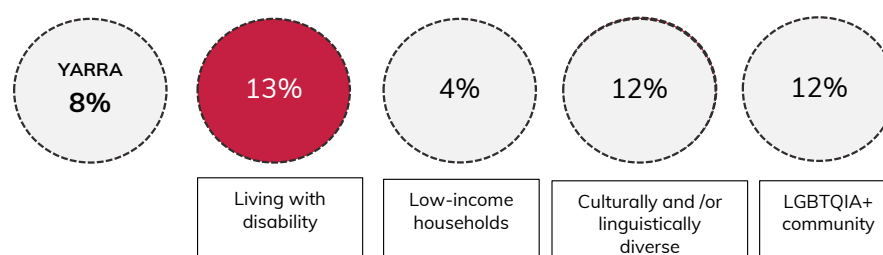
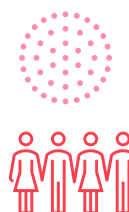
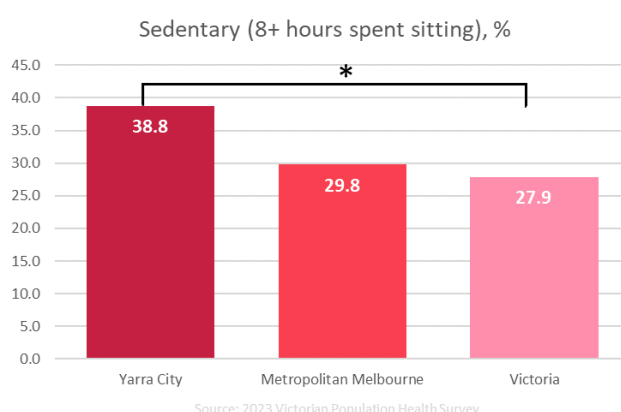
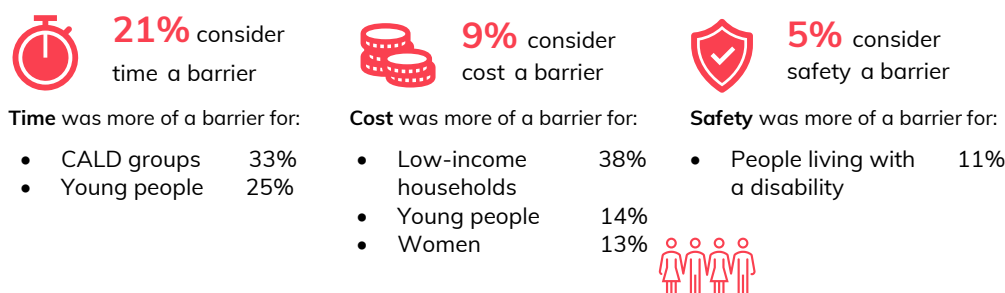


Figure 42. Proportion of Yarra residents who did not exercise for at least 30 minutes on any day of the week.

Common barriers to physical activity are time, cost, and perceptions of safety. For Yarra residents these barriers can be explored through the Yarra Social Indicators Survey, where they reported:

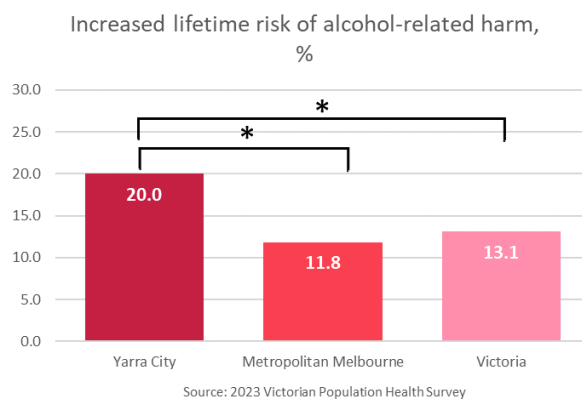


Yarra residents are generally doing quite well in physical activity participation, however they do spend **significantly more time engaging in sedentary behaviour** (i.e. sitting) compared with the Victorian average (Figure 43). This pattern of high physical activity and high sedentary behaviour is common in areas where there is a high proportion of office workers (i.e., metropolitan areas).

Figure 43. Proportion of people who sit for eight or more hours per day.

Alcohol and other drug use

Alcohol and other drug use (AOD) has health, social and economic impacts on communities. AOD is a major cause of preventable disease, illness and death in Australia and includes hospitalisation from injury and other disease, mental illness, pregnancy complications, injection-related harms, overdose and mortality. In addition, AOD has social impacts of risk behaviour and criminal activity, domestic and family violence, contact with the criminal and justice systems and trauma. The economic impacts on communities include lost productivity and household expenditure.



'Risky drinking' or drinking more than 10 standard drinks per week (or more than 4 standard drinks on any one day), increases the risk of alcohol-related harm. **1 in 5 Yarra residents are at an increased lifetime risk of alcohol-related harm**, this is significantly more than the Metropolitan Melbourne and Victorian averages (Figure 44).

The Yarra Social Indicators Survey confirmed high levels of 'risky drinking', with 1 in 5 (19%) binge drinking one or more days per week.

Figure 44. Proportion of people with an increased lifetime risk of alcohol-related harm.



Most priority groups were not engaging in a higher frequency of alcohol consumption or more binge drinking behaviour

However, risky drinking was more common in the LGBTQIA+ community, in some age groups and in men. More older people consumed alcohol more frequently than the Yarra average (30% v. 19%). Binge drinking (at least once a month) was more common in young people than the Yarra average (28% v. 22%), and was also higher for the LGBTQIA+ community (30% v. 22%).



Significantly more **men were daily drinkers** than the Yarra average (24% v. 19%).

Prevention Approaches for AOD

Primary prevention – targets the entire population and/or sub-populations and aims to prevent or delay the use of drugs (e.g. tobacco laws, drug and alcohol policies, partnerships to build community capacity, social marketing campaigns).

Secondary prevention – targets groups and individuals at risk of using or currently using drugs, and aims to prevent use, problematic use and harm (e.g. responsible service of alcohol, Safer Venues, social marketing campaigns, Quitline, Alcohol and Drug Information Service).

Primary prevention has the broadest and greatest potential for sustainable positive impact because it focuses on entire populations and influences social change.

Yarra has almost double the recorded drug-related offenses per 100,000 people (829 per 100,000) than the Victorian average (438 per 100,000), but much less than Melbourne City (1,276 per 100,000; Figure 45).

Yarra has a significant night-time economy, as does Melbourne City, with a high density of both on- and off-premises alcohol outlets (see Alcohol Outlets). This likely explains the higher incidence rates of drug-related offences. These offences are made up mostly of drug use and possession (77.7%).¹¹

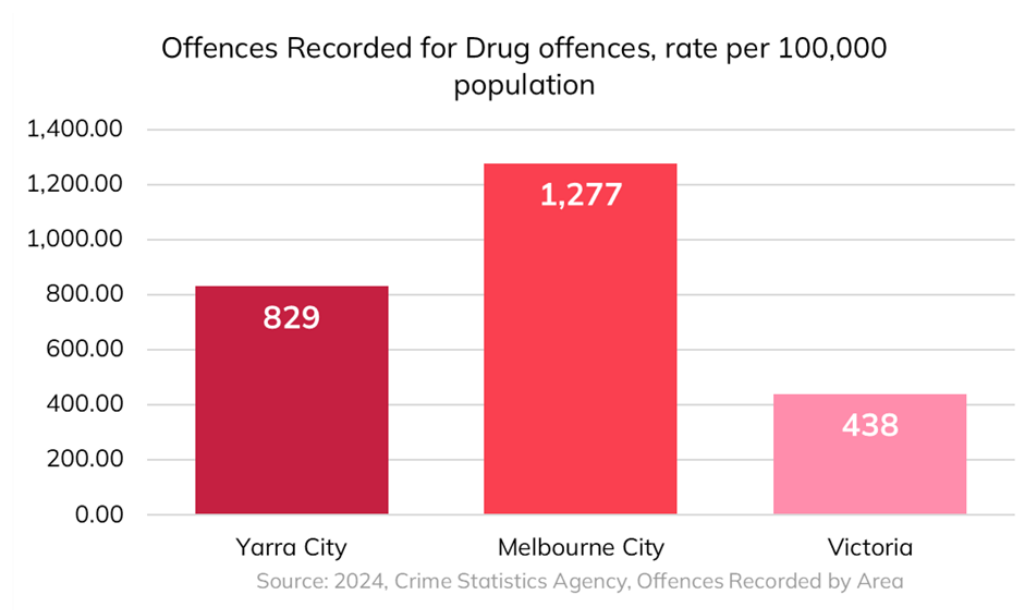


Figure 45. Rate per 100,000 of drug-related offences.

Tobacco and vaping

Smoking tobacco includes manufactured (packet) cigarettes, roll-your-own cigarettes, cigars, and tobacco in pipes. This excludes chewing tobacco, electronic cigarettes (and similar vaping devices), and any other tobacco products where the tobacco is not lit, and smoke is not inhaled. Tobacco smoking use is the leading risk factor contributing to disease burden and deaths in Australia.

Electronic cigarettes or vapes are small personal devices where users inhale aerosol rather than smoke. The inhaled aerosol usually contains flavourings, a range of toxic chemicals, and may contain nicotine. Vaping is rapidly increasing in Australia with 1 in 5 (19.8%) people aged 14 and over reported having used e-cigarettes at least once in their lifetime in 2023, up from 11.3% in 2019.

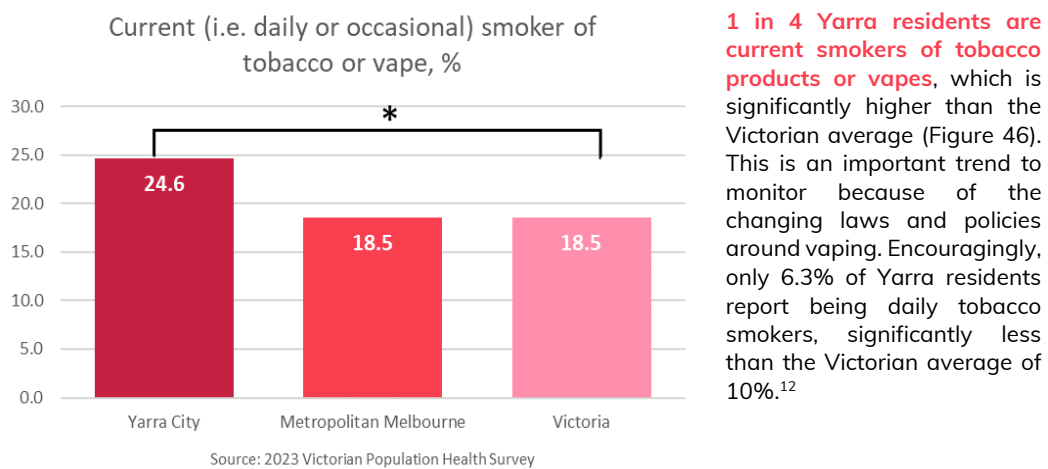


Figure 46. Proportion of people who currently smoke tobacco or vape. (* indicates significant difference between population groups)

The Yarra Social Indicators Survey shows that **younger people (7%)** and the **LGBTQIA+ community** have significantly more people engaging with daily, or almost daily **vaping** when compared to people not identifying as part of these priority groups (Figure 47).

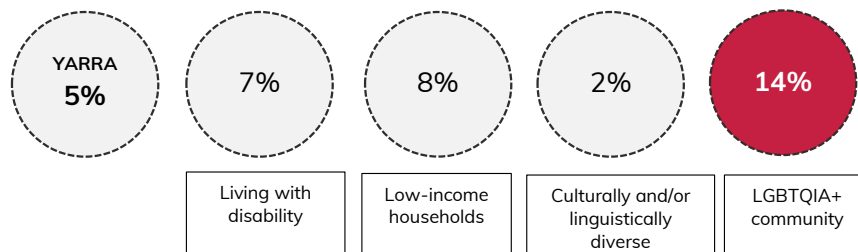


Figure 47. Proportion of Yarra residents who vape daily (or almost daily) vaping by priority group.

The culturally and/or linguistically diverse community had significantly more daily (or almost daily) tobacco users when compared to people not identifying as part of this group (Figure 48).

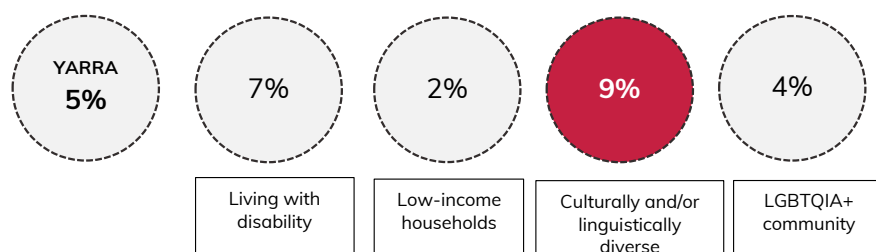


Figure 48. Proportion of Yarra residents who use tobacco daily (or almost daily) by priority group.



Significantly less women were daily tobacco users (3%) compared to men in Yarra (6%), which aligns with population patterns seen across Australia.¹³

Breastfeeding

Breastfeeding promotes the healthy growth and development of infants and young children. In Australia, The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) publishes infant feeding guidelines recommending that infants be exclusively breastfed until around 6 months of age when solid foods are introduced. The guidelines also recommend that breastfeeding be continued until 12 months of age and beyond, 'for as long as the mother and child desire'.¹⁴



Figure 49. Proportion of babies exclusively breastfed at 6-months of age.

Within Yarra, there is more recent data from the Maternal and Child Services that show there appears to be a decline in the proportion of Yarra infants exclusively breastfed at 6-months. In 2020-21 there was 22% of infants exclusively breastfed but that has dropped to 17% in 2023-24.¹⁵

Yarra's Social & Community Factors



Yarra's Social and Community Factors

Evidence supports the close relationship between people's health and the living and working conditions which form their social environment.^{3,16} The World Health Organization (WHO) describes social determinants as 'the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes'. They are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. These forces and systems include economic policies and systems, development agendas, social norms, social policies and political systems'. According to the WHO, social determinants of health account for between 30–55% of health outcomes. They have an important influence on health inequities – the unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between countries.

What are the key findings in Yarra?



Yarra residents have a high tolerance for diversity, although some still have experienced discrimination or been treated unfairly.



People living with disability and those living in low income households were more likely to feel isolated or lonely.



Yarra residents were high users of services for mental health-related problems.



Yarra has much higher rates of assaults, hospitalisation and health services use from the impacts of alcohol and other drugs, compared to Victoria, but are similar to rates seen in other areas with night-time economies.



Yarra has double the rate of criminal incidents than Victoria, but these are similar to rates seen in other areas with night-time economies.



Some Yarra residents feel unsafe in public spaces during the day and night.



Gambling via Electronic Gambling Machines (EGMs) is less prevalent in Yarra than in other areas.

Community Connection

Feeling part of the community is protective of overall health and wellbeing, especially mental health and wellbeing. Community connection can be fostered by volunteering, community events, participation in local sports or other recreation clubs, and social connections within the community. Experiencing discrimination or intolerance in the community can reduce people's perceptions of connection to community.

1 in 5 Yarra residents
**volunteered in the
community**



More than half
**participated in arts and
cultural events**



3 in 4 Yarra residents
**spent an hour or more
in public spaces**

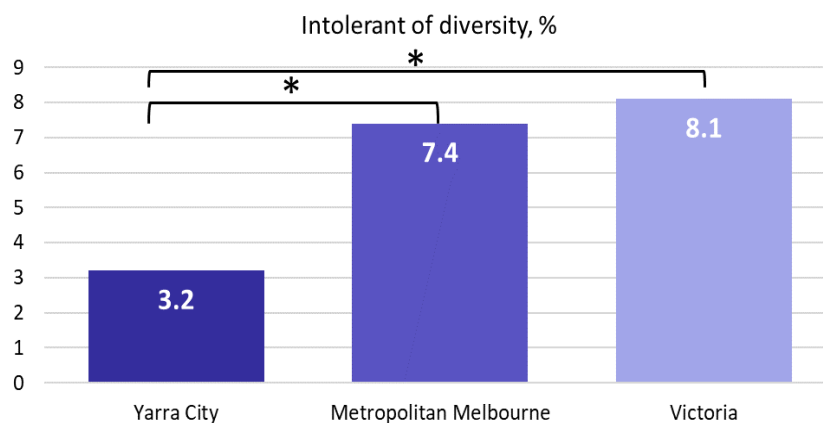


*Data Source: Yarra Social Indicators Survey 2024

Yarra has a highly diverse population, which makes it especially important to consider whether people who belong to all the different communities within Yarra feel connected to the community. There was high engagement with public spaces, arts and cultural events, and volunteering in Yarra. **Volunteering and engagement in community events was especially high in the LGBTQIA+ community.**



Yarra has a significantly lower proportion of people who are intolerant of diversity than Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria (Figure 50). People in Yarra who identified as part of the LGBTQIA+ community had especially positive ratings of people from other cultures and First Peoples. This is a positive story, **however experiencing discrimination and being treated unfairly was similar** in Yarra residents (14.8%) to Metropolitan Melbourne (16.3%) and Victoria (15.8%)¹² so people's attitudes may not necessarily be reflected in their behaviour.



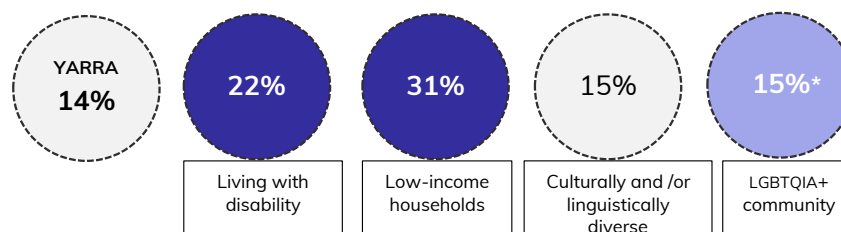
Source: 2023 Victorian Population Health Survey

Figure 50.
Proportion of
people who are
intolerant of
diversity.

(* indicates a
significant
difference
between
population
groups)

Inclusion

Satisfaction with community inclusion differed across priority groups. The priority groups who are significantly more unsatisfied with inclusion are people living with a disability and people living in low-income households (Figure 51).



*The LGBTQIA+ community did not have significantly more people unsatisfied with inclusion in the community, however they did have significantly less people who reported being satisfied (i.e., rated 4 or 5 out of 5) in the community.

Figure 51. Proportion of Yarra residents who are NOT satisfied with their community inclusion by priority group.

Loneliness

1 in 5 people in Yarra reported experiencing loneliness, which is similar to rates of loneliness in Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria (Figure 52).

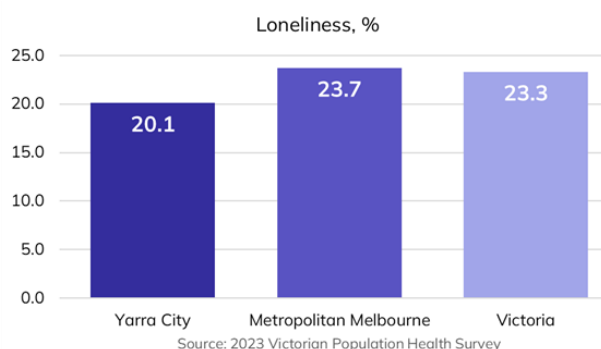


Figure 52. Proportion of people who reported experiencing loneliness.

Based on data from Yarra Social Indicators Survey, 26% (95%CI 23-30) of residents in Yarra reported experiencing loneliness. This **experience of loneliness was significantly higher for people living with disability and people living in a low-income household** (Figure 53), with around half of the respondents in these priority groups reporting they often experienced a lack of companionship, felt left out or were isolated from others.

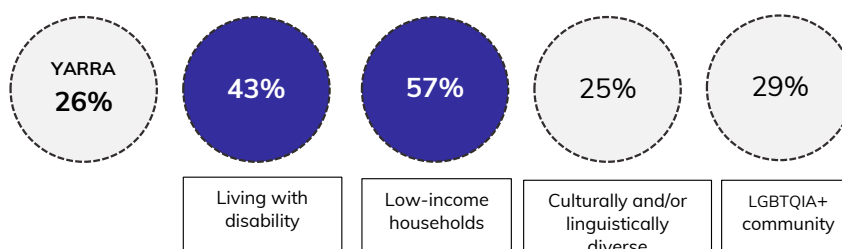
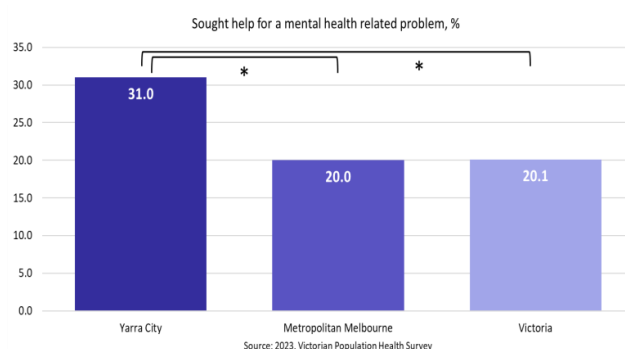


Figure 53. Proportion of Yarra residents experiencing loneliness by priority group.

Health Services Use

Engaging with health services depends on the actual and perceived accessibility of services, as well as the need for health services (i.e., ill-health).

Overall, **the large majority of Yarra residents sought professional or medical services in the last 12 months (83%).**¹⁰ Yarra residents have comparable engagement in cancer screening behaviours like mammograms (85.4%) and bowel screening (58.3%), and blood pressure (79.6%) and blood glucose tests (49.4%) when compared with the Victorian averages.¹⁷



Yarra residents were high engagers with health services for mental health-related problems, and this was significantly higher than Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria (Figure 54).

Figure 54. Proportion of people who sought help for a mental health-related problem.

These rates of seeking professional help for mental health issues recorded in the VPHS (31%) were very similar to that reported in the Yarra Social Indicators Survey for seeking help for mental health in the past 12 months (34%). However, in the Yarra Social Indicators Survey more residents were seeking professional help for their physical health in the past 12 months (53%, 95%CI 49-57%).



Men were significantly less likely to seek help for their physical health (49%) compared to women (56%).¹⁰

Perceptions of health needs being met

Although there is good engagement with health services in Yarra, there are still people who are not able to access care when they need it. For the priority groups, there are some differences in whether people's health service needs are being met (Figure 55). While the differences were not significant, **there were less people whose needs were being met if they were living with a disability, in a low-income household, or part of the LGBTQIA+ community.**



Figure 55. Proportion of Yarra residents whose health service needs were 'completely' met by priority group.

*Data note: Statistical differences are likely impacted by the smaller sample size that answered this question.

One major barrier is cost. The likelihood of cost being the reason that people could not access healthcare when they needed it was significantly higher in Yarra than in Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria (Figure 56). Cost is only one barrier to accessing healthcare, although this is the only data available. Other barriers also include availability of health professionals, distance to travel to access care, lack of cultural safety, and discrimination.

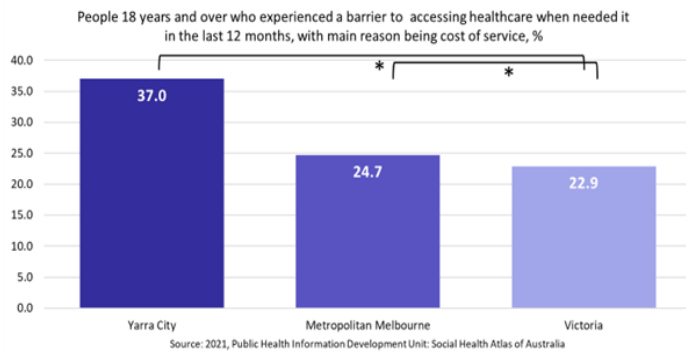


Figure 56. Proportion of people who were NOT able to access healthcare when they needed it due to cost.

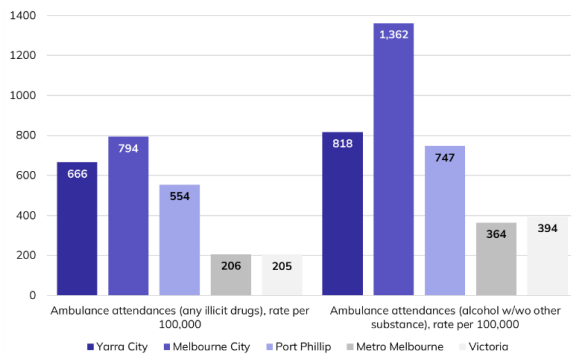
When we look within Yarra, 16% of residents reported being unable to access a GP in the past year because of cost. This was significantly higher in people living in a low-income household, younger people aged 18-34 years, and people living with a disability (Figure 57).



Figure 57. Proportion of Yarra residents who were unable to access a GP in the past year due to cost by priority groups.

Social Impacts of Alcohol and Other Drug Use

In Yarra, there is a high number of licensed premises (see [Daily Living Destination Availability](#)), as there is a large night-time economy. There is also a high occurrence of risky drinking behaviour and illicit drug use (see [Alcohol and Other Drugs Use](#)), which taken together translates to a **high incident rate of alcohol and other drug (AOD)-related harm**. There are concerning AOD-related social impacts in Yarra, however **these patterns are also seen in other similarly dense areas with a prominent night-time economy**, such as Port Phillip and Melbourne City.



Yarra has a **higher ambulance attendance rate attributable to AOD** than Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria per 100,000 residents, but this is lower than Melbourne City and similar to Port Phillip (Figure 58).

Figure 58. Rate per 100,000 of AOD-related ambulance attendances.

This rate of AOD-related ambulance attendances is high, but **there is a downward trend in Yarra in the last 3-4 years**, so this is moving in the right direction (Figure 59).

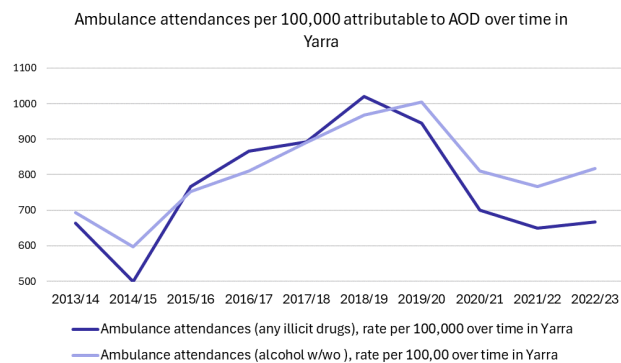
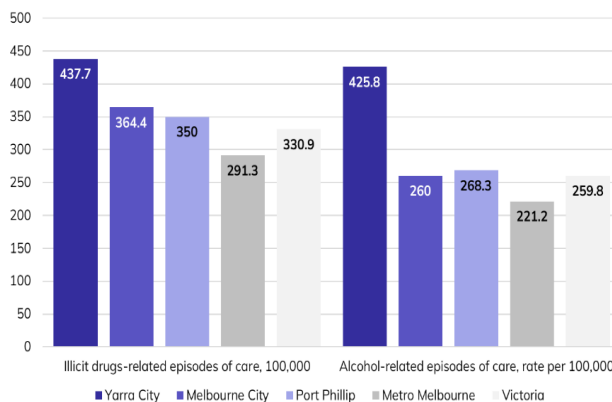


Figure 59. Rate per 100,000 of AOD-related ambulance attendances in Yarra over time.



Yarra has a **higher number of episodes of care attributable to AOD** than Melbourne City, Port Phillip, Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria per 100,000 (Figure 60).

Figure 60. Rate per 100,000 of AOD-related episodes of care.

Yarra has a **higher incident rate of assaults and family violence attributable to definite or possible alcohol consumption** than in Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria per 100,000, but lower than Melbourne City and similar to Port Phillip (Figure 61). The night-time economy, which attracts many people who are not residents of Yarra, is a primary driver of the increased incident rate, relative to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria.

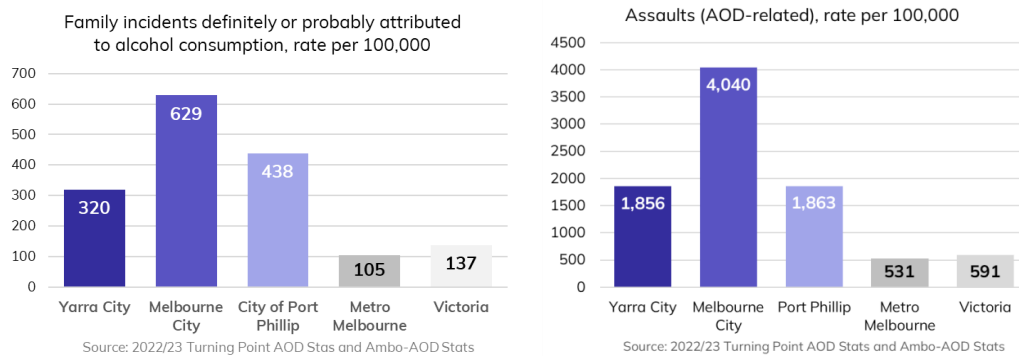
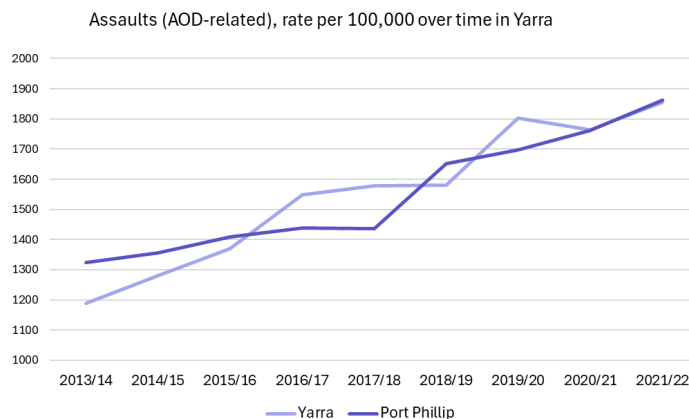


Figure 61. Rate per 100,000 of family violence incidents definitely or probably attributed to alcohol consumption (left) and assaults (right) in Yarra compared with Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria.



The incident rate for AOD-related family violence has remained relatively steady in the past decade, **and the incident rate for AOD-related assaults is increasing in Yarra, similar to Port Phillip** (Figure 62). These are devastating social harms, and preventing and mitigating these are a priority.

Figure 62. AOD-related assaults in Yarra per 100,000 over time.

The Yarra Social Indicators Survey showed that 86% of Yarra residents had witnessed or experienced anti-social behaviour related to alcohol and/or drug-use, and over half (54%) of Yarra residents reported **feeling unsafe because of this** in their community.¹⁰ This proportion was significantly higher for:

- **women (64%),**
- **18-34 years olds (61%), and**
- **those with children under 12 years (66%).**



Considering these social impacts together, it is clear that the AOD use in Yarra is having significant impacts on the community health and wellbeing and is related to perceptions of community safety.

Community Safety

Community safety is important because it creates security, encourages social interaction, and boosts economic growth. Safe environments reduce crime, improve quality of life, and promote community engagement.

When comparing Yarra to other local government areas with prominent night-time economies, such as Melbourne City and Port Phillip, the crime rates per 100,00 are comparable (Figure 63).¹¹ For these local government areas, the crime rates are higher than the Victorian rates, and it is likely that the night-time economies are a common determinant of the higher crime rates in these areas.

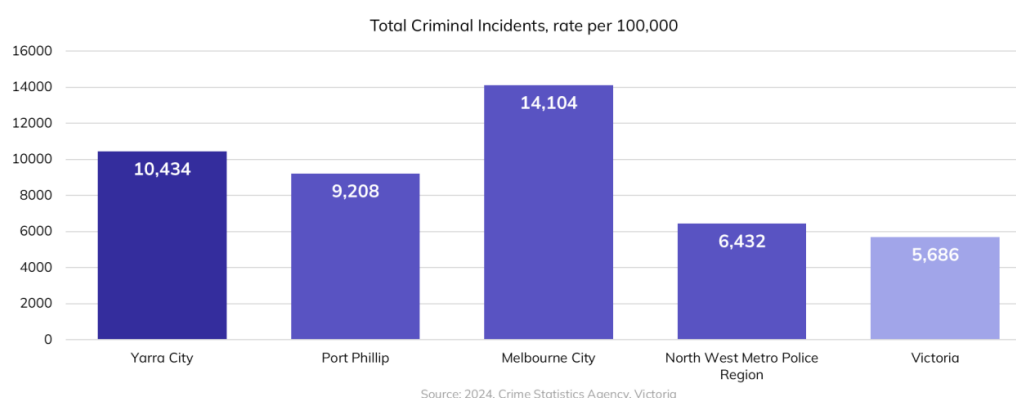


Figure 63. Rate per 100,000 people of total criminal incidents.

The types of criminal incidents can be categorised into five major groupings. While Yarra has a higher number of criminal incidents than Victoria, the categorisation of these incidents largely follows similar distributions between Yarra and Victoria (Figure 64).

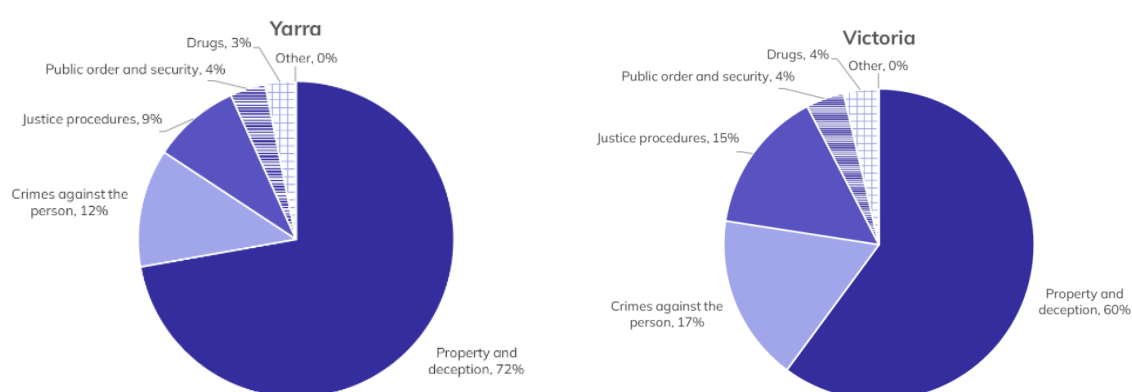


Figure 64. Proportion of total criminal incidents by sub-group in Yarra and Victoria in 2024.

There were proportionally more Property and Deception incidents in Yarra (72%) than in Victoria (60%), and less Crimes against the Person in Yarra (12%) than in Victoria (17%) (Figure 64).

The relatively high crime rates in Yarra also translate into lower perceptions of safety for residents in public spaces.

Only **46% of Yarra residents feel safe in public areas at night**,¹⁸ which is lower than the Victorian average of 53% feeling safe.¹⁹ There are also suburbs within Yarra that have lower rates of feeling safe at night (Figure 65; shown in darker green), including Richmond/Cremorne/Burnley 37%; and Abbotsford, 39%.¹⁸

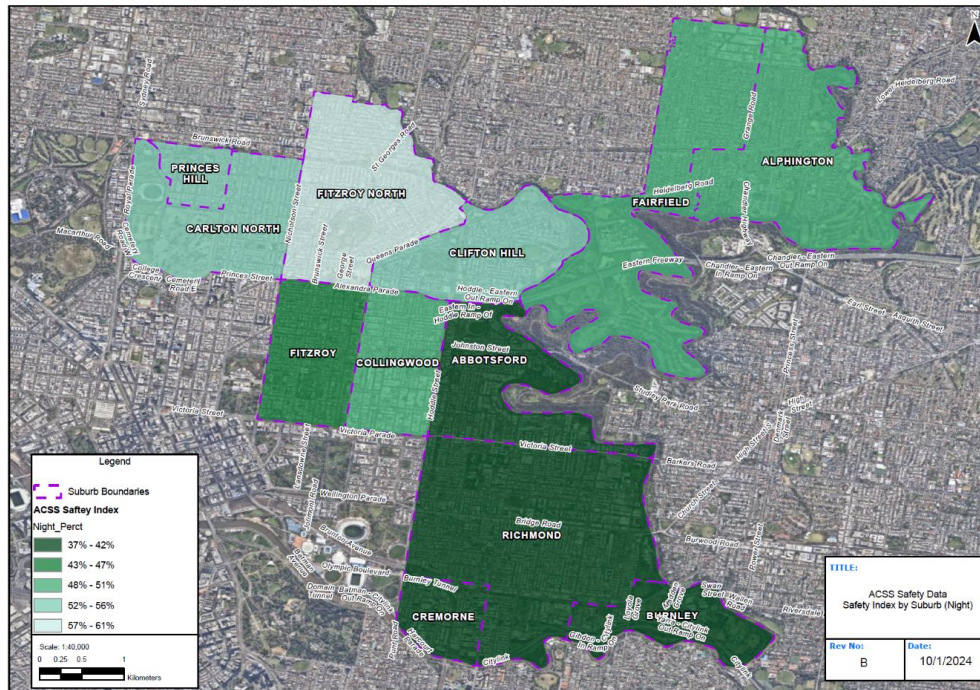


Figure 65. Perceived safety in public areas at night across Yarra suburbs.



For some priority groups there were higher rates of feeling unsafe at night too. Data from the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey shows significant differences in perceptions of public safety in Yarra during the night, compared to the total of City of Yarra:

- Perceptions of safety during the night is **significantly higher** amongst males, those without a disability or those living in a semi-detached, row or terrace house.
- Perceptions of safety during the night is **significantly lower** amongst females, those living in the region for less than two years, couple with dependent children, those in a flat, unit or apartment dwelling and those living in public housing.

During the day, **80% of Yarra residents feel safe in public areas**,¹⁸ in comparison to the Victorian average of 91% feeling safe during the day.¹⁹ There were also some suburbs within Yarra where this safety perception was even lower (e.g. Collingwood, 64%; Fitzroy, 74%)(Figure 66; shown in darker green).¹⁸



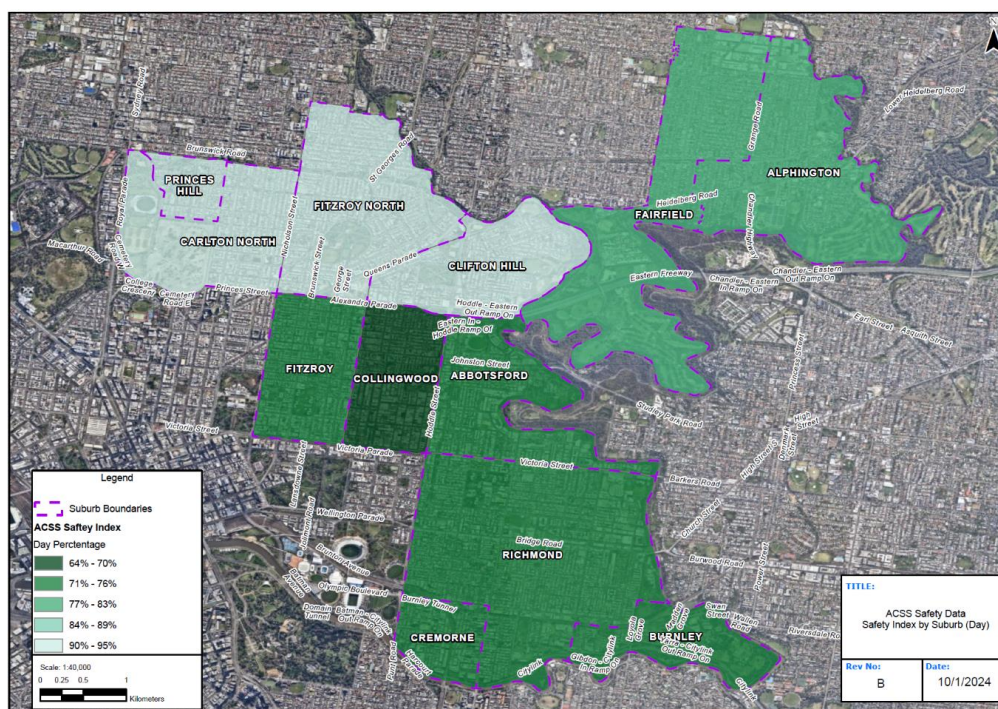


Figure 66. Perceptions of safety in public spaces during the day across Yarra suburbs.



For some priority groups there were higher rates of feeling unsafe at day too. Data from the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey shows significant differences in perceptions of public safety in Yarra during the day, compared to the total of City of Yarra:

- **Significantly higher perceptions** of safety during the day is noted amongst couples with no dependent children, those who speak English only, those in households with no disability, those living in semi-detached, row or terrace house, those who own their dwelling or are in a rental dwelling.
- **Significantly lower perceptions** of safety during the day is noted amongst those between the ages of 45 and 54, those in households with a disability, living in a flat, unit or apartment, or those who have a mortgage or those living in public housing.

Types of activity when people feel unsafe

Community safety remains a key issue for the Yarra community. Data from the Yarra Social Indicators Survey shows which specific activities they're doing when they feel these safety concerns. This data shows that community safety is heavily gendered.



Women are more likely to express safety concerns for all activities (Table 3).

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Table 3. Proportion of men and women expressing safety concerns by activity type.

In the last 12 months, have you had concerns about your personal safety when doing...		
	men	women
physical activity at night	22%	48%
commuting without a vehicle (e.g. walking to and from public transport)	29%	43%
using public outdoor parks, trails or reserves	16%	32%

Interestingly, although women were more likely to express safety concerns for doing physical activity at night, only 2% of the resident sample expressed that safety concerns were a barrier that stopped them from being physically active.

Domestic and Family Violence


Family, domestic and sexual violence is a major health and welfare issue in Australia, occurring across all socioeconomic and demographic groups. It can occur in any relationship, regardless of gender or sexual orientation but predominantly affects women and children. It has a serious impact on individuals, families and communities and can inflict physical injury, psychological trauma and emotional suffering. These effects can be long-lasting and can affect future generations.

In Yarra, there were 1,111 **family incidents** per 100,000 people in 2024 (year ended March 2024).¹¹ This rate has remained stable over the last five years, and is comparable to the Victorian rate (Figure 67).



Figure 67. Number of domestic and family violence incidents per 100,000 people

When exploring the patterns of domestic and family violence in Yarra, there are three key aspects to understand:

- 72% of affected family members in family incidents in Yarra were **female** in 2024, which is line with the 74% seen across Victoria 
- 320 incidents per 100,000 people were **definitely or probably attributed to alcohol consumption**, which is higher than the rate for Metropolitan Melbourne (105) and Victoria (137), shown previously in Figure 61¹¹
- 26% of incidents in Yarra **involved children or young people** as other parties²⁰

Using the Yarra Social Indicators Survey data, we can explore which groups of people in Yarra have experienced any form of domestic and family violence. This data shows that 12% of Yarra residents had **experienced family violence** and that this rate was significantly higher for public renters (30%), people living with disabilities, and people from the LGBTQIA+ community (Figure 68).¹⁰



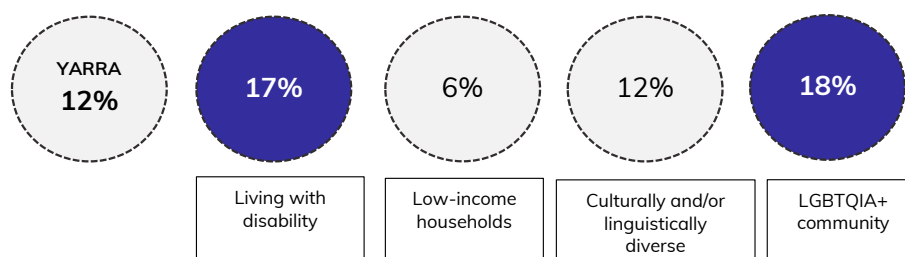


Figure 68. Proportion of people who had experienced domestic and family violence by priority groups

In approaching the **prevention of family and domestic violence**, the region must consider the relationship to higher levels of alcohol intake in Yarra ([see details](#)) and social impacts of alcohol in Yarra ([see details](#)). However, this form of violence is highly gendered, with women more likely to be affected, and men more likely to be perpetrators. A key known driver of family and domestic violence is gender inequality, and this must remain at the forefront of preventive actions for the region.²¹

Early Years

The foundations of adult health and wellbeing are laid in-utero and during the early childhood period (0-5 years). Physical, social, emotional and language/cognition development in early childhood strongly influence school success, economic participation, social citizenship and health.²²

Four percent of Yarra residents were 0-4 years of age in 2021, which represents 3,636 people.⁹ This is lower than the proportion of 0-4 year olds living in Metropolitan Melbourne (5.9%) and Victoria (5.8%) in 2021. The foundational importance of the first five years of life makes it an important population group to understand.

Yarra has **good child immunisation rates**, with 92% of Yarra children fully immunised at 5 years of age, which is comparable with the Victorian average of 93%.²³

A key source that helps to describe the relative positioning of Yarra children to Australian children is the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC). Every three years, the AEDC collects data on children in their first year of full-time school in Australia. In 2021, this involved over 305,000 children. The AEDC results include the number and proportion of children developmentally 'vulnerable', 'at risk' and 'on track' on five developmental domains: physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills and communication skills and general knowledge.

Overall, **fewer children in Yarra were developmentally vulnerable** on two or more domains (11%), compared to the Victorian average of 20%.²⁴ However, when exploring the five developmental domains, Yarra had a higher proportion of 'developmentally vulnerable' children than Victoria for physical health and wellbeing and emotional maturity (Figure 69).

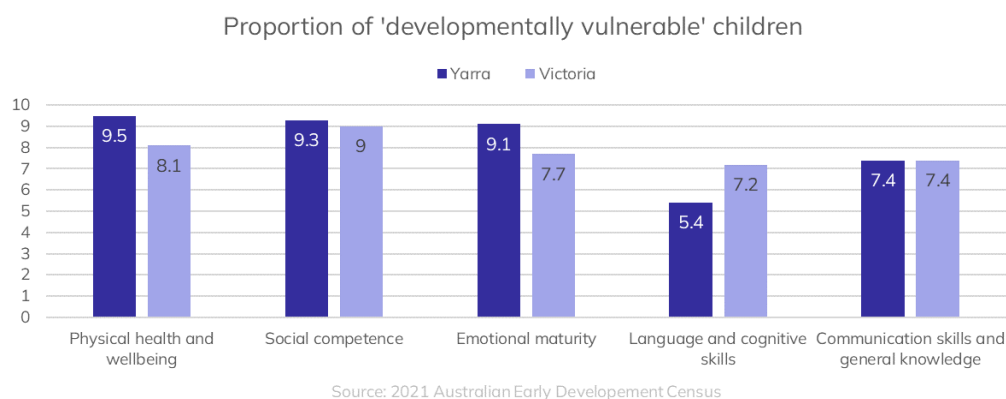


Figure 69. Proportion of children in their first year of school who were 'developmentally vulnerable' by domain.

There was also variability in the AEDC results between suburbs within Yarra.²⁴ The suburbs with higher proportions of children who were 'developmentally vulnerable' on two or more domains compared to Yarra (11%) were:

- Richmond/ Burnley (16.3%)
- Fitzroy (15.4%)
- Abbotsford (16.1%)

Gambling

Gambling is a major public policy issue in Australia, affecting the health and wellbeing of individuals and families in a range of ways. The social costs of gambling – including adverse financial impacts, emotional and psychological costs, relationship and family impacts, and productivity loss and work impacts – have been estimated at around \$7 billion in Victoria.²⁵

In 2024, there were 7 Electronic Gambling Machine (EGM) venues within Yarra and 288 EGMs which is 3.4 EGMs per 1,000 adults in Yarra. EGM losses in Yarra for 2023-24 were estimated to be \$29.8 million, with average losses per day being \$81,760.

Compared to Victoria and other LGA, Yarra has **fewer EGM per 1,000 adults** (Figure 70).

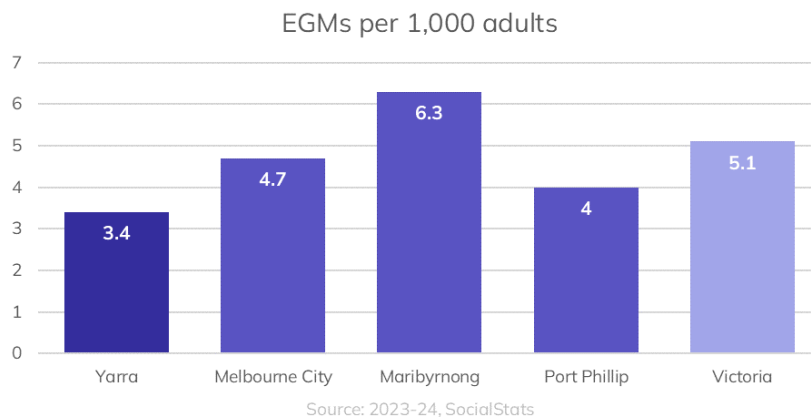


Figure 70.
Electronic
Gaming
Machines
(EGMs) per
1,000 adults.

There are also **lower relative losses** in the Yarra community to EGMs, than seen in Victoria and other comparable local governments (Figure 71).

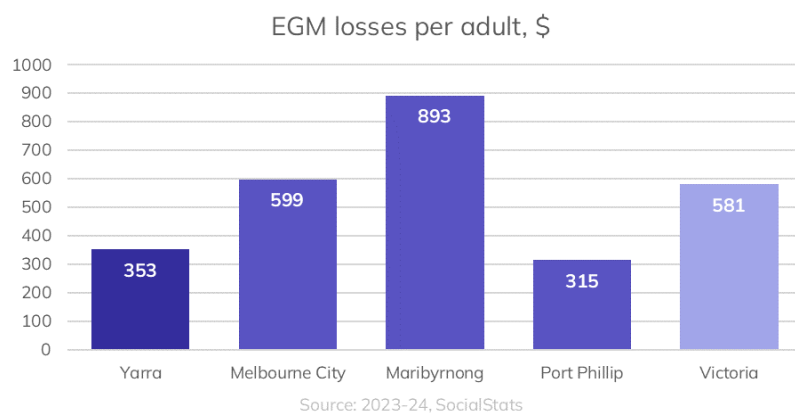


Figure 71.
Electronic Gaming
Machine (EGM)
losses in dollars
per adult.

It is important to note that there is no data available on the prevalence of online gambling in Yarra, however, nationally evidence suggests a move away from venue-based gambling (via EGMs) to gambling available online, such as sports betting.²⁶

Yarra's Built, Commercial and Natural Environment Factors



Yarra's Built, Commercial and Natural Environment Factors

The built environment is a determinant of health due to its ability to affect activity levels, access to nutritious food and clean water, the houses we live in, where we work, contact with nature and the spaces we have for social interactions. It also affects the air we breathe and the water we drink and shelters us from the weather.

What are the key findings in Yarra?



Yarra tree coverage has remained stable since 2016 and is low for some suburbs.



Yarra housing leaves some residents exposed to unacceptable temperatures.



Yarra residents enjoy close proximity to healthy food outlets, destinations of daily living and health services.



Yarra has a high concentration of off-premises alcohol outlets, with the highest density in Fitzroy and Collingwood.



Yarra residents take more trips by active transport modes, but also experience higher rates of pedestrian and vehicle collisions than Victoria.

Climate Resilience

The earth is rapidly warming as a result of increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This climate crisis will directly impact our health in an immediate and acute way, through the increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events. The increasing prevalence of extreme temperatures will disproportionately impact the health of vulnerable people in our communities. Indirectly, our health will be impacted by a worsening of air quality, changes in the spread of infectious diseases, risks to food safety, food security and risks to drinking water quality.

Heat

Being a highly urbanised municipality, the City of Yarra experiences urban heat island effects where air and surface temperatures are higher than in peri-urban and rural areas. This is because structures like buildings, roads and other infrastructure absorb and re-emit the sun's heat more than natural environments. The Figure below shows the variance in land surface temperatures across Yarra, with hotter temperatures (in red) recorded in the suburbs of Fitzroy, Collingwood and Richmond. These hot spots indicate areas with higher concentrations of heat absorbing materials and have lower tree canopy coverage (see Table 4).

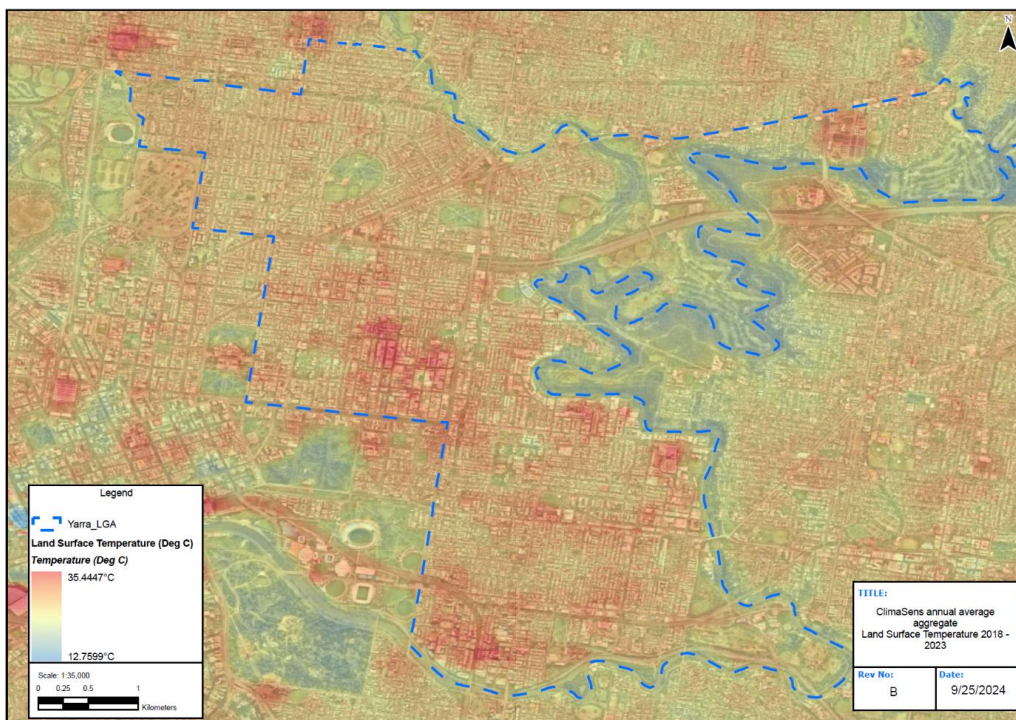


Figure 72. Land surface temperatures across Yarra in 2024.

Annual average minimum and maximum air temperatures remain moderate (10.2°C and 20.4°C in 2023)²⁷, though climate change is causing these averages to increase, such that both are 0.5°C above the average over time.²⁷ The combination of increasing temperatures and urban heat islands mean Yarra residents will be exposed to higher temperatures in the future. Despite moderate averages, heat health impacts are driven by increases in extreme temperatures. Yarra's highest summer temperature in 2023 was 41.3°C, and 39.7°C in 2024 (thus far).²⁷

Heatwaves have the most significant heat health impact and have claimed more lives than any other natural hazard in Australia. Heatwaves occur when unusually high maximum and minimum temperatures persist for at least three days at a specific location.²⁸ Temperature thresholds for heatwaves vary and are relative to a location's recent weather and local climate.²⁸ Yarra, and Greater Melbourne, are experiencing increasingly frequent and severe heatwaves.²⁹ The impact of heatwaves can be moderated by (among other factors) good health, thermally comfortable accommodation and increased canopy cover. This means that the most severely impacted are those with pre-existing vulnerabilities, living in older and poorer-quality housing (or unhoused) in areas with lower canopy cover, and with lower adaptive capacities. When looking at suburb-level data, these pockets of high heat vulnerability are visible across the municipality using the Health Vulnerability Index (HVI) (Figure 72), and notably coincide with warmer areas in Figure 71.

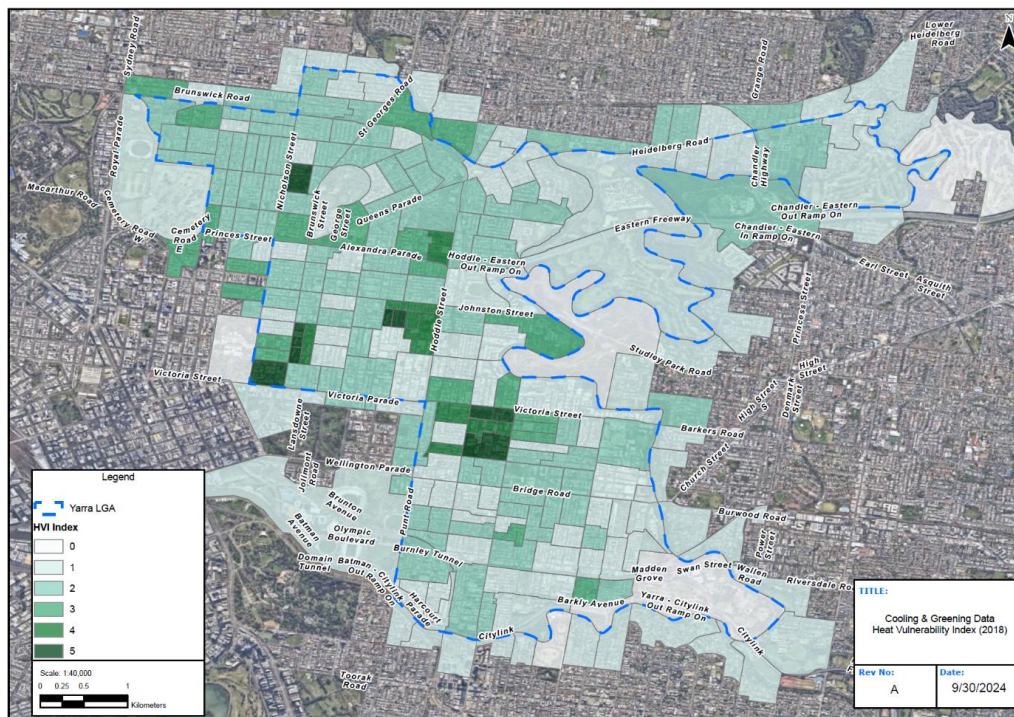


Figure 73. Heat vulnerability index (HVI) within Yarra

Vulnerabilities that increase the risk of heat health impacts include age (especially those over 75 years), chronic health conditions (including cardiovascular disease and diabetes), and disability (including spinal damage impacting thermal regulation). Residents with lower adaptive capacity, including those with lower economic capacity, are also more severely impacted.

Canopy cover can mitigate urban heat islands and reduce the human impacts of heat. The average canopy tree coverage (including private land) in Yarra is 17.7%, which has remained stable since 2016 levels (17.0%).³⁰ This stability in average tree canopy does not describe the relative differences in tree canopy seen across different areas of Yarra, which are shown in Figure 74. Importantly, the areas with hot spots in Figure 65 are also areas with lower proportions of tree canopy (Fitzroy, Collingwood and Richmond; Figure 74).

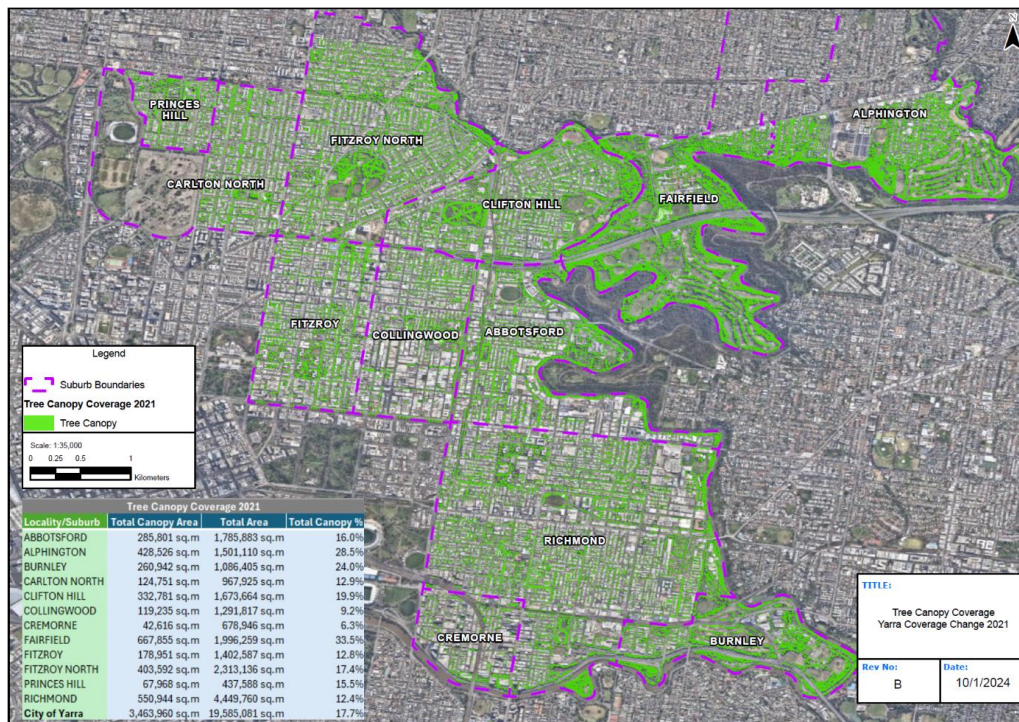


Figure 74. Tree canopy coverage in Yarra in 2021.

Air Quality

Yarra's yearly average **Particulate Matter (PM2.5)** level was **6.7 µg/m³** is higher than the Victorian average of 6.2 µg/m³ but below the National standard of 8 µg/m³.³¹ The city's **PM2.5 emissions** exceeded the Environmental Protection Authority levels of 'poor' air quality (n=>50 PM2.5) threshold levels 18% of the time. Although it should be noted that the single air quality monitor within Yarra is located in the relatively greener suburb of Alphington.³² In Metropolitan Melbourne, it is recognised that wood heaters are the key cause fine-air particle pollution, responsible for 51%.³¹

Another important issue to highlight for climate-related health concerns is **epidemic thunderstorm asthma**. Grass pollen season brings a seasonal increase in asthma and hay fever. It also brings the chance of thunderstorm asthma. When a large number of people develop asthma symptoms over a short period of time, caused by high amounts of grass pollen and a certain type of thunderstorm, it is known as epidemic thunderstorm asthma. Melbourne experienced the world's largest epidemic thunderstorm asthma event in November 2016, with thousands of people developing breathing difficulties in a very short period of time. These particles are small enough to be breathed deep into the lungs and can rapidly trigger asthma symptoms, making it difficult to breathe. This can become very severe, very quickly and many people may require medical help at the same time.

Healthy Housing

Access to appropriate, affordable and secure housing can limit the physical and mental health risks presented by factors such as homelessness and overcrowding.³³ Evidence also supports a direct association between poor-quality housing and health consequences such as respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease and poor mental health, as well as climate-related health impacts such as heat stress and hypothermia.³⁴

The **dominant housing** across Yarra is medium density. In Yarra there is on average 14,109 dwellings per 1,600 meters, which is over double the Victorian average of 6,396 dwellings within 1,600 metres.³⁵ However, this density varies greatly by suburbs within Yarra (see Table 4).

Importantly, whilst 19% of households within Yarra experienced **Household Affordability Stress** (>30% income spent on mortgage or rent), which is in line with rates seen in Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria (see Page 18), this ranged greatly between suburbs of Yarra (Table 4).

6.4% of Yarra residents report living in an overcrowded residence (requiring one or more bedrooms), which is comparable to Metropolitan Melbourne (6.7%) and Victoria (6.1%).⁹

Only 65% of Yarra residents are able to keep their home adequately cool in Summer.¹⁰ This is significantly lower for younger people aged 18-34 years (58%), but not different for any of the priority groups. **Only 61% of Yarra residents are able to keep their home adequately warm in Winter.**¹⁰ This proportion is significantly lower for younger people aged 18-34 years (50%) low income households (32%) and the LGBTQIA+ community (51%)(Figure 75).



Figure 75. Proportion of people who cannot adequately cool their home in Summer

Only 53% of Yarra residents could afford to heat or cool their home whenever needed. This proportion was lower for younger people (aged 18-34 years; 41%), low-income households (36%) and the LGBTQIA+ community (36%) (Figure 76).



Figure 76. Proportion of people who can afford to warm or cool their home whenever needed

Transport and Mobility

Active travel is the process of being physically active (usually walking or cycling) while moving from one place to another and can include multiple modes of transport in one trip. The health benefits of active travel include:

- increased physical activity which can benefit physical, mental and social health
- reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and traffic congestion and less noise and air pollution

Living in close proximity to a mix of destinations, such as public transport stops and shops, was associated with higher levels of active transport across all age groups.^{36,37} Other factors associated with increased active travel include well-lit streets and footpaths which contribute towards improved traffic safety.³⁶

Yarra residents make **more trips by public transport (16%), walking (34%) and bicycle (7%), and less trips by private vehicle (41%)** compared with Victorian averages (Figure 77).³⁸

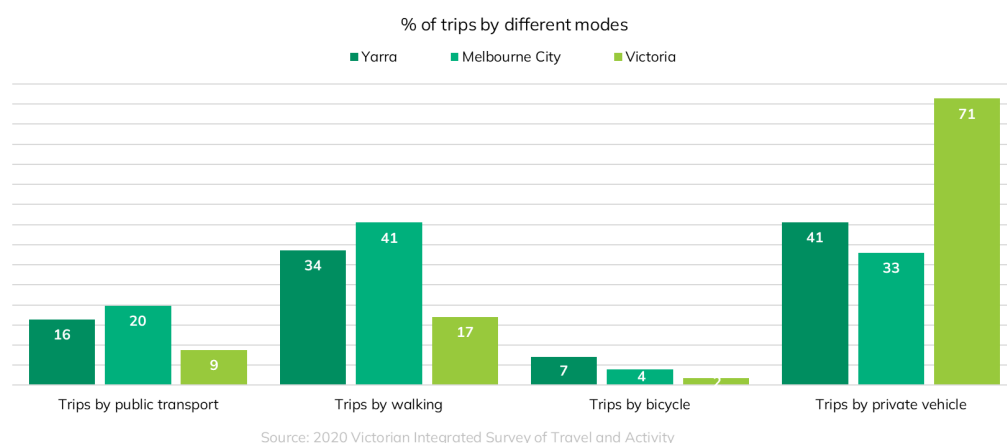
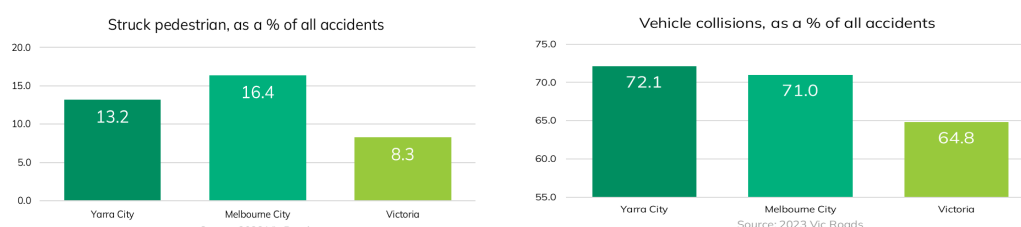


Figure 77. Proportion of trips by different modes of transport

Data from the Yarra Social Indicators Survey tell us that 27% of respondents were using public transport daily and 77% at least weekly.¹⁰ When people were out using public spaces in Yarra, the most common reasons were for: walking (72%), jogging (32%), walking a dog (24%) and then cycling (18%).¹⁰ High rates of active transport in Yarra is likely the cause for **a higher proportion of struck pedestrians (13%) and vehicle collisions (72%)** compared with the Victorian average



(Figure 78).³⁹

Figure 78. Proportion of all accidents that are struck pedestrian (left panel) and vehicle collisions (right panel)

Food Security

Access to adequate and nutritious food is essential to good health and is a basic human right. Irregular access to safe, nutritionally adequate, culturally acceptable food from non-emergency sources is known as 'food insecurity'. Food insecurity impacts on physical, mental and social wellbeing. It is much more common than we think; people can experience food insecurity during their lifetime for various reasons such as lack of income, an inability to walk, drive and carry shopping home, or inadequate food storage and cooking facilities.

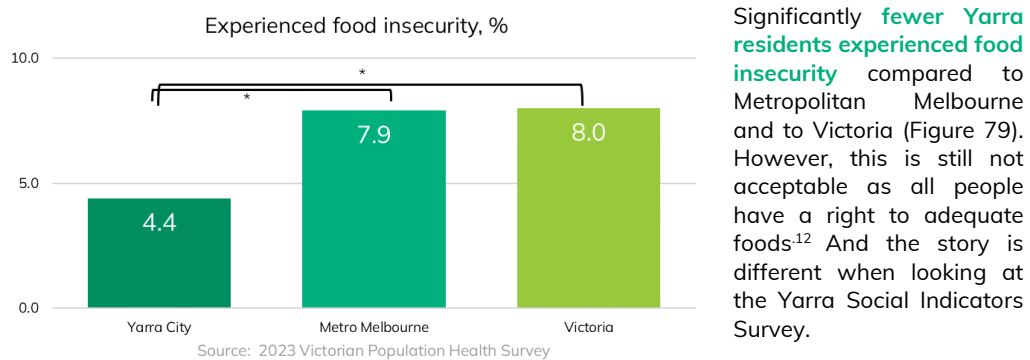


Figure 79. Proportion of people who have experienced food insecurity. (* indicates a significant difference between population groups)

Using data from the Yarra Social Indicators Survey enables a deeper exploration of which residents have experienced food insecurity. This data shows that 9% of Yarra residents had experienced food insecurity, which is more in line with Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria in the VPHS data (Figure 79). People living with disability, those with low income and those aged 18-34 years (12%), and those who are public renters (30%) were significantly more likely to have experienced food insecurity (Figure 80).¹⁰

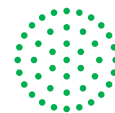
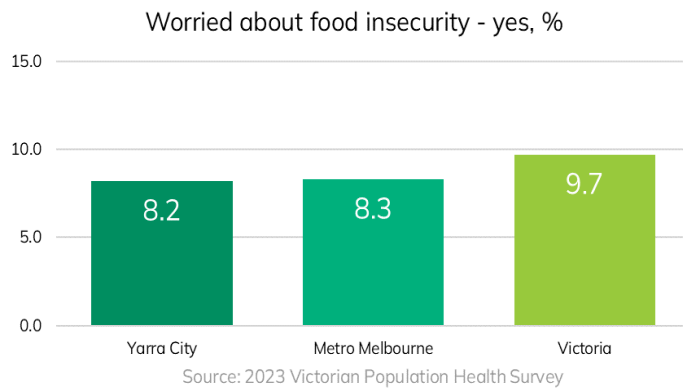


Figure 80. Proportion of people who have run out of food in past 12 months by priority group



A **similar proportion of Yarra residents are worried about food insecurity** as there are in Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria (Figure 81).

Figure 81. Proportion of people worried about food insecurity

Health Services Availability

The concept of health services access incorporates physical aspects (such as availability and accessibility), financial aspects (affordability) and cultural aspects (acceptability). Access to General Practitioners (GPs) was selected as the type of health service to be studied. GPs encompass the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of ill health and are accessed by people for both initial and ongoing management of disease.

Yarra has one of the **lowest average distances to a general practitioner (GP)** in the region, which is a strength for the community availability to a GP (Figure 82).

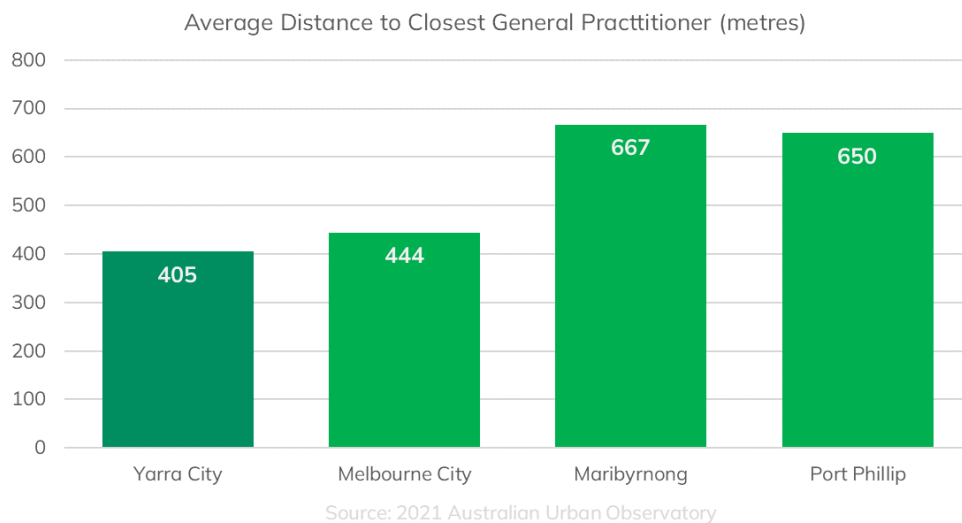


Figure 82. Average distance (in metres) to the closest General Practitioner

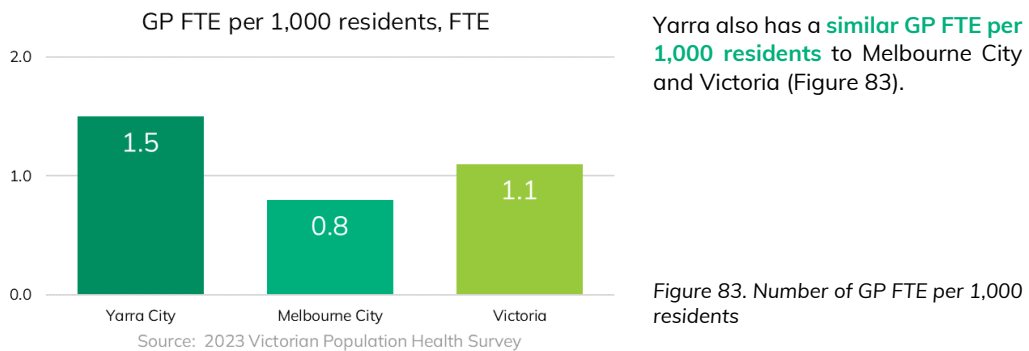


Figure 83. Number of GP FTE per 1,000 residents

As noted above, health services access is not purely about environmental availability of a service. It is also about the affordability, cultural acceptability and accessibility of the service too. See the section on [Health Services Use](#) to understand how this availability of services is translating into use for different social groups.



Daily Living Destination Availability

Destinations of Daily Living

Mixed land use (the presence of multiple destinations of daily living) is a major influence on neighbourhood walkability.⁴⁰ A consistent and large body of cross-sectional evidence shows that greater land-use mixes (or numbers of destinations) and shorter distances to destinations (in close proximity to home) are associated with greater amounts of walking for adults.

Liveable neighbourhoods have a range of essential shops and services within easy walking distance. The Australian Urban Observatory (AUO) definition of 'daily living destinations' includes three types of destinations:

- Supermarkets (source of fresh, healthy food)
- Public transport stops (allow people to get to jobs, schools and other important places)
- Convenience (including convenience stores, newsagents and petrol stations)

Having more of these daily living destinations close by allows people to meet their daily needs locally. Rather than driving, local and convenient facilities encourage walking or cycling which reduce each individual's risk of chronic diseases.

Yarra residents enjoy **close proximity to a range of daily living destinations**. The average distance to the closest activity centre in Yarra is 500 metres. This ranges from 194 metres in Fitzroy to 1,368 metres in Alphington (Figure 84).

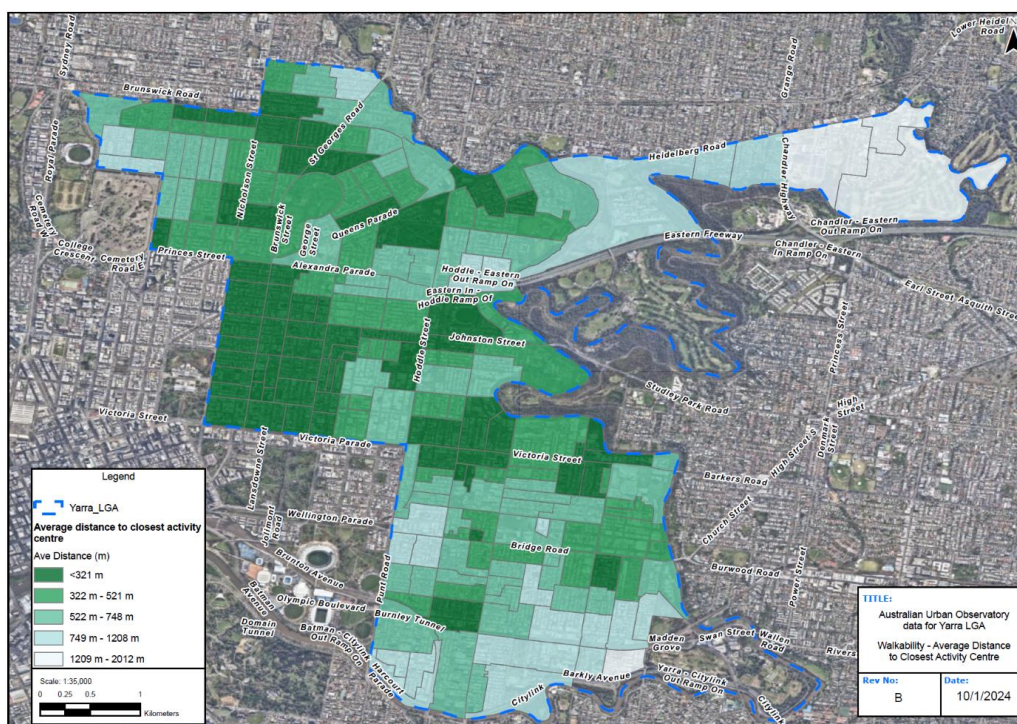


Figure 84. Average distance to closest activity centre in metres across suburbs of Yarra.

Alcohol Outlets

While it is not a destination of daily living, alcohol outlets are prevalent in Yarra and are a part of the tourism, social and cultural fabric of the community. However, it must be acknowledged that reducing access to alcohol is an important and cost-effective strategy for decreasing alcohol consumption and associated harm.⁴¹ Local alcohol outlet density may have a more detrimental effect on self-rated health for those living in more disadvantaged neighbourhoods, compared with those living in more advantaged areas.⁴¹

Yarra has **higher proximity (lower average distance) to alcohol outlets**, relative to other similar council areas (Figure 85), but lower than City of Melbourne. While there can also be great social and cultural benefit from accessing on-premise alcohol outlets (such as music venues, bars and restaurants) it must be acknowledged that off-license premises density and on-premises density are related to greater alcohol harm.¹⁹

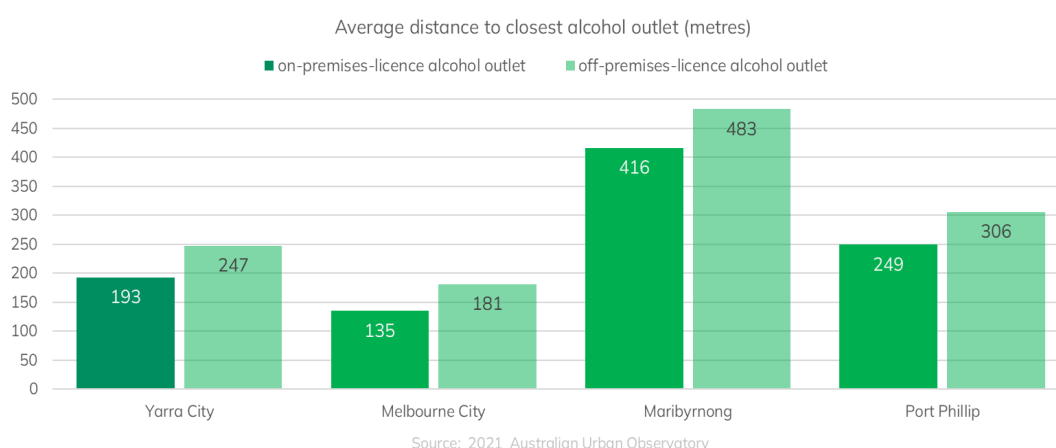


Figure 85. Average distance to closest alcohol outlet in metres.

It is also important to acknowledge that the concentration of licenced premises differs by suburb, but the pattern of off- (Figure 87) and on-licences (Figure 86) premises is similar with clusters in certain suburbs, including Fitzroy and Collingwood.

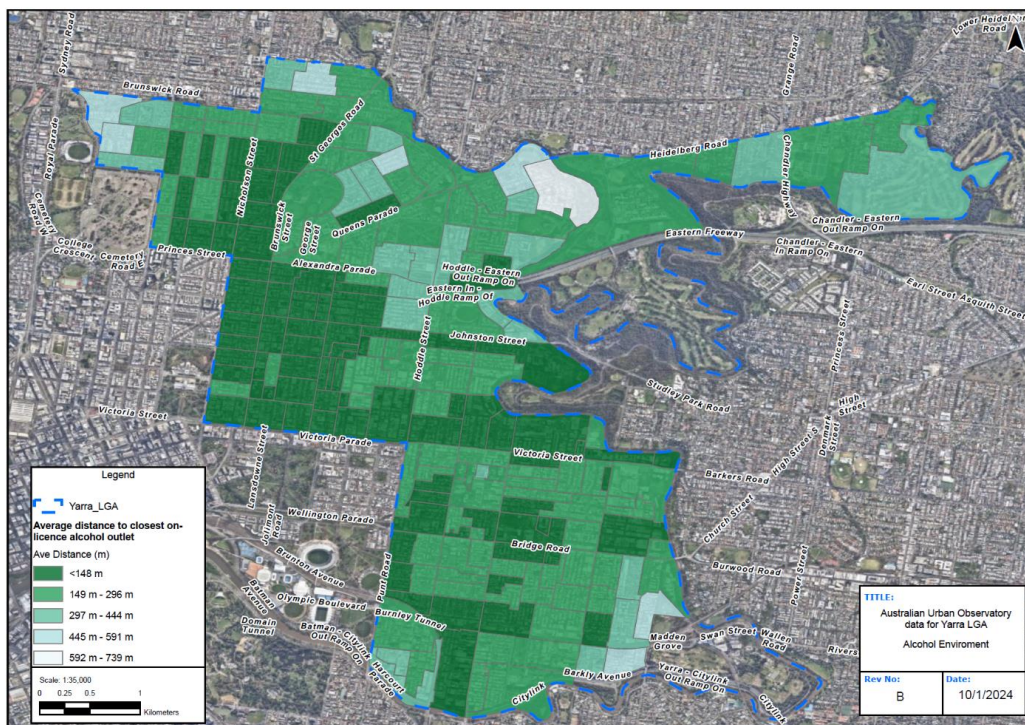


Figure 86. Average distance to the closest on-premises alcohol outlet.

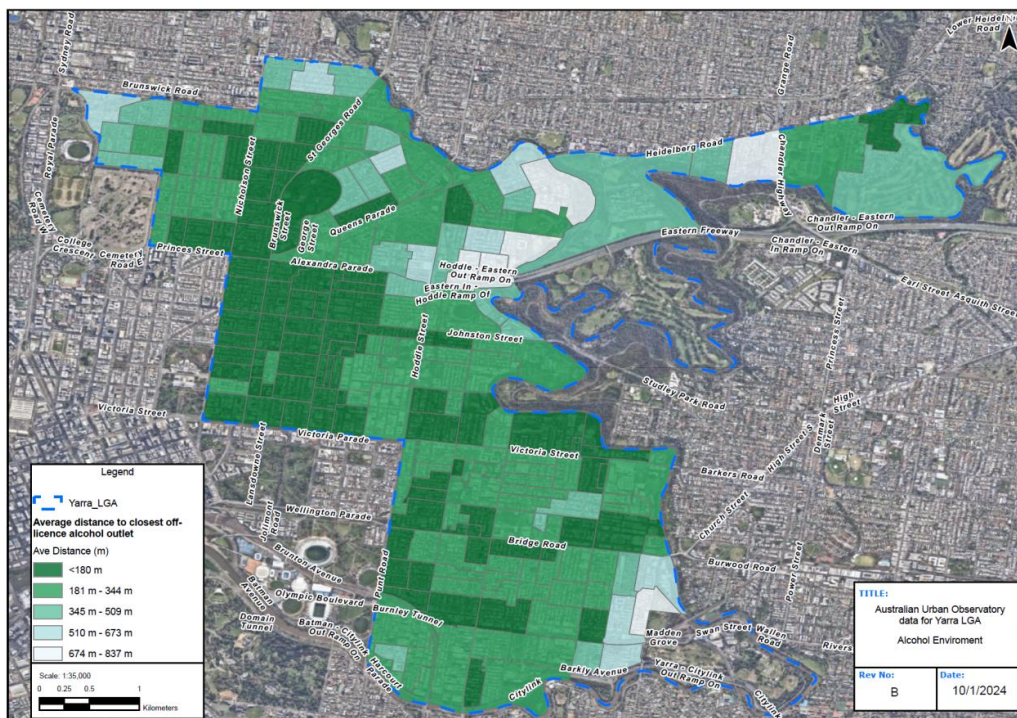


Figure 87. Average distance to closest off-license alcohol outlet.

Food Environment

Access to fresh food provides residents with the opportunity to purchase nutritional foods which support healthy eating behaviours and lifestyles. Supermarkets and fruit and vegetable retailers (greengrocers) are a common source of fresh healthy foods and provide opportunities to purchase these types of foods. Living within easy walking distance of fresh food stores also encourages and enables people to walk or cycle instead of driving and hence, reduces their risk of chronic disease.

In Yarra, and across the other LGA, there is **better proximity to healthy food outlets** than to fast food outlets. Yarra residents have proximity to healthy food outlet options, which is comparable to other Metropolitan local governments (Figure 88).

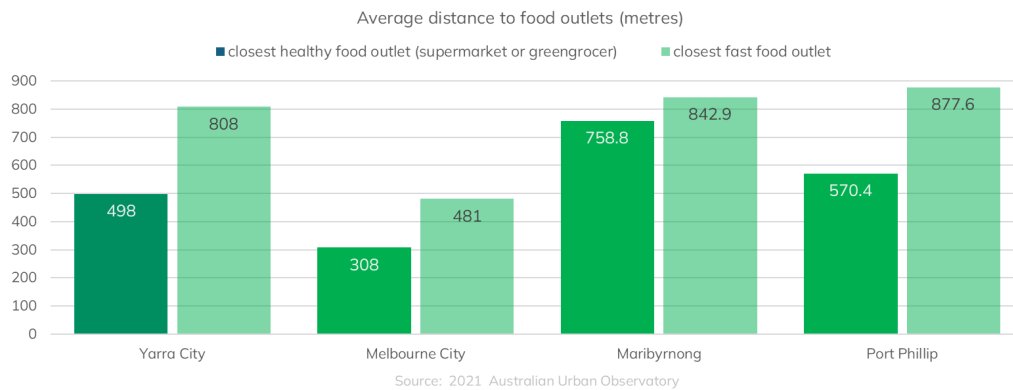


Figure 88. Average Distance to food outlets in metres

The average distance to the closest fast-food outlet does differ by suburb, with Collingwood and Richmond having some of the lowest distances (Figure 89, shown in darker green). Importantly, we do not have data available on the affordability of food sources across Yarra, which is an important consideration for food security.

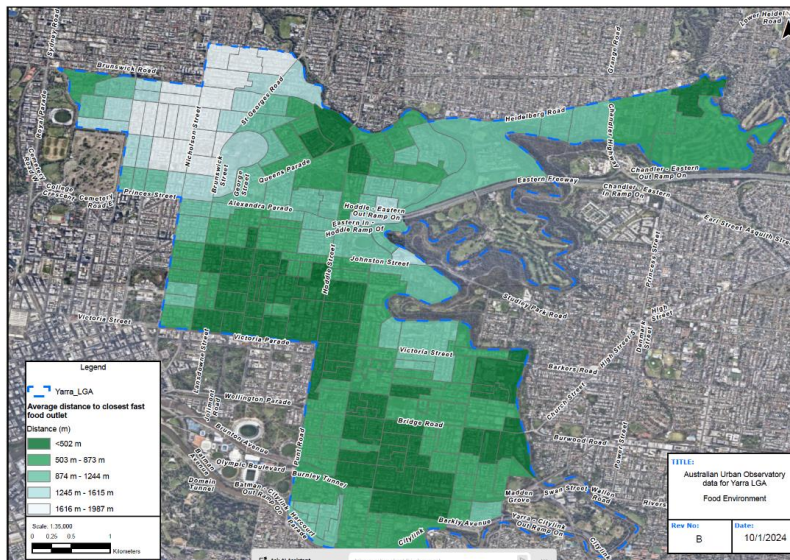
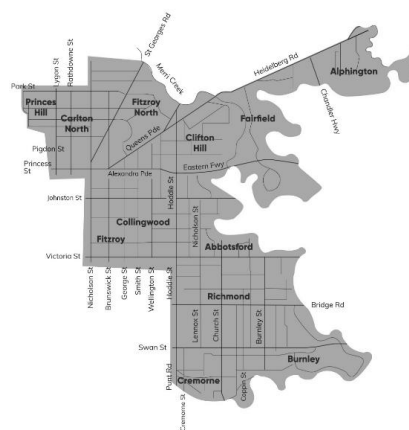


Figure 89. Average distance to closest fast-food outlet across Yarra suburbs.

Yarra has distinct environments between neighbourhoods

Where people live deeply impacts their health and wellbeing. Within Yarra there are different patterns of environmental features or urban forms between different suburbs (Table 4). The table below shows ten different indicators that describe an aspect of the environment that is known to be related to health and wellbeing. The table is sorted by the top row- population density, as this is the grouping factor that often explains the patterns in the other environmental factors. For example, Alphington is the least dense suburb, and Fitzroy is the most dense suburb.



The pattern in Table 4 shows that higher density suburbs such as **Fitzroy, Collingwood and Richmond** were more likely to have lower tree coverage, and closer proximity to fast food outlets and alcohol premises, as compared to the Yarra average. These high-density areas however were also more likely to have closer proximity to healthy food outlets and higher proportion of people using active transport modes compared to the Yarra average.

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Table 4. Environmental indicators by suburb.*

INDICATOR	Yarra	Alphington	Fairfield	Burnley	Clifton Hill	Princes Hill	Cremorne	Abbotsford	Fitzroy North	Carlton North	Richmond	Collingwood	Fitzroy
Average number of dwellings within 1,600m	14,109	4,474	6,797	7,385	8,340	11,888	12,904	13,170	13,571	13,988	14,647	16,268	20,217
Proportion tree coverage, %	17.7	28.5	33.5	24	19.9	15.5	6.3	16	17.4	12.9	12.4	9.2	12.8
Distance to Closest GP with bulk billing, m	505	1,400	736	593	774	519	382	339	518	366	459	519	400
Avg. Distance to Closest Activity Centre, m	500	1,368	651	1,292	539	693	761	323	453	461	564	388	194
Proportion of workers using active transport, %	10.5	4.7	6.2	6.8	8.9	11.8	10.1	9.7	10.7	12	9.1	13	14.9
Proportion of workers using public transport, %	8.4	4.9	6.4	10.4	6	6.3	9.1	10.3	6.9	8.3	9	8.8	8.3
Avg. Distance to healthy food outlet, m	499	1,368	651	1,292	539	693	761	323	442	461	564	388	193
Avg. Distance to fast food outlet, m	808	815	598	957	934	1,185	754	699	1407	1599	545	520	632
Avg. Distance to alcohol on-premises, m	193	293	334	414	306	383	224	151	246	164	190	143	92
Avg. Distance to alcohol off-premises, m	247	454	390	524	498	383	289	187	286	202	242	166	119

Higher than Yarra

Similar to Yarra

Lower than Yarra

Source: 2021 Australian Urban Observatory

*It is noted that compared to Table 2, suburbs in this table have been disaggregated due to differing data sources.

Yara's Health & Wellbeing Indicators



Yarra's Health and Wellbeing Indicators

Health and wellbeing indicators are shaped by a variety of social determinants that reflect different aspects of our lives and environments. These determinants are comprised of our **people** – who we are, where we come from, what we do; our **lifestyle factors** – our daily habits and choices, how we exercise, what we eat and how we behave; our **social and community factors** – how we engage with our networks whether they be community or healthcare, our safety, our social cohesion; our **built, commercial and natural factors** – the environment we live in, including access to safe housing, clean air and water, and green spaces, the availability of nutritious food and healthcare facilities, and our exposure to environmental hazards. These diverse social determinants interact and culminate to shape comprehensive health and wellbeing indicators, reflecting their collective influence on our overall quality of life.

What are the key findings in Yarra?



There are less people with an overweight or obese BMI in Yarra compared with Victoria.



Priority groups in Yarra need extra support with long-term health conditions. First Peoples, people living with disability, and people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community had higher incidences of long-term health conditions than the rest of the population.



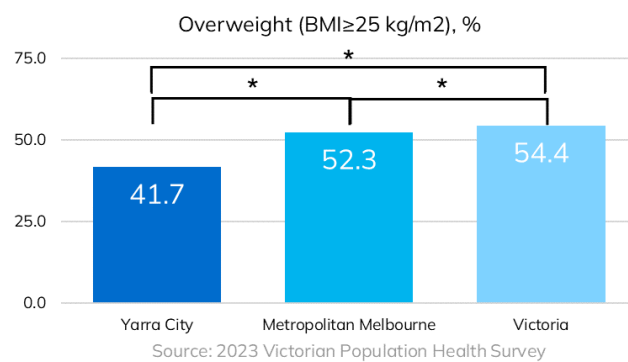
Priority groups in Yarra need extra support with their mental health. People living with disability, First Peoples, people living in low income households and people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community all experienced more mental health challenges than the rest of the population.



In Yarra, people living with disability had lower life satisfaction than the rest of the population.

Physical Health Conditions

Physical health conditions are fundamental to overall wellbeing and can significantly impact an individual's quality of life. The presence of chronic illnesses, acute diseases, or physical disabilities can influence a person's daily functioning and health outcomes. These conditions often stem from various factors, including genetics, lifestyle choices, and environmental influences.



Overall, **two-fifths of Yarra residents had an overweight or obese body mass index (BMI over 25 kg/m²)**, which is significantly lower than the Metropolitan Melbourne and Victorian proportions (Figure 90). Maintaining a lower proportion of BMI is beneficial for overall health primarily because it reduces the risk of developing chronic diseases.

Figure 90. Proportion of people who have a BMI over 25 kg/m²

Around 31.5% of Yarra residents reported having **at least one long-term health condition**, which is higher than the Metropolitan Melbourne proportion of 29.5%, and similar to the Victorian proportion of 31.4%.⁹ Among the most prevalent long-term health conditions in the Yarra population are asthma, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. **Yarra residents have a higher rate of asthma** at 9.3% compared to the Victorian and Metropolitan Melbourne averages, **but lower rates of diabetes and cardiovascular disease** (Figure 91).

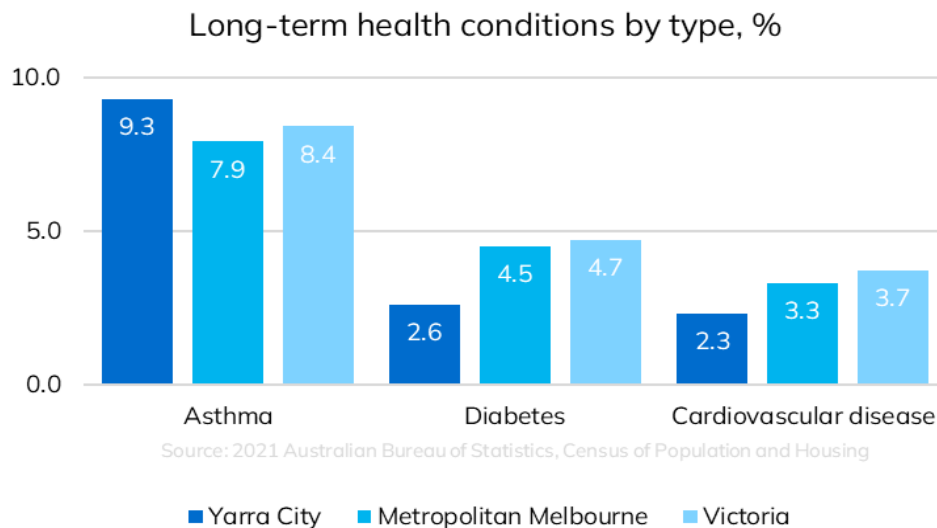


Figure 91. Proportion of long-term health conditions by type.

The higher rates of asthma in Yarra compared to the Victorian state average is underscored by Yarra's air quality. Yarra's exposure to PM2.5 pollutants (see Yarra's Built, Commercial and Natural Environment Factors section) may have resulted in elevated incidence of respiratory issues and allergies. The Yarra Social Indicator Survey shows resulting respiratory issues or allergies due to air pollution, pollen or allergens across different priority groups. Although not statistically significant, **people living with a disability, those coming from low-income households and those that identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community** indicate that they experience more respiratory issues as a result of air pollution than the average Yarra resident (Figure 92).

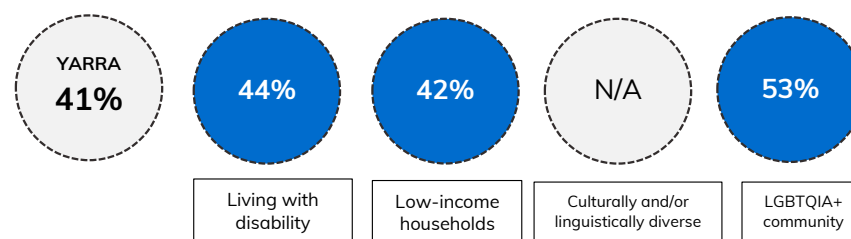


Figure 92. Proportion of Yarra residents who experience respiratory issues or allergies due to air pollution, pollen or allergens

Long-Term Health Conditions by Priority Groups

First Peoples

First Peoples in Yarra experience greater chronic conditions than the general population of Yarra, contributing to a greater need for accessibility to services. They report almost **double the rate of mental health conditions, higher rates of asthma and diabetes, and double the rates of lung conditions** than the general population of Yarra (Figure 93). Mental health conditions are discussed further in the "Mental Health and Wellbeing" section.

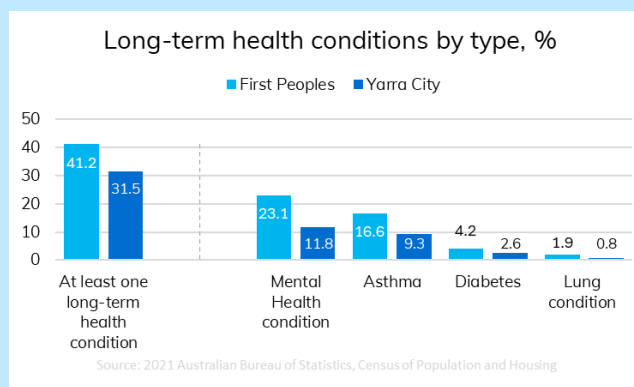


Figure 93. Proportion of First Peoples who have a long-term health condition by type as compared to the general population of Yarra.

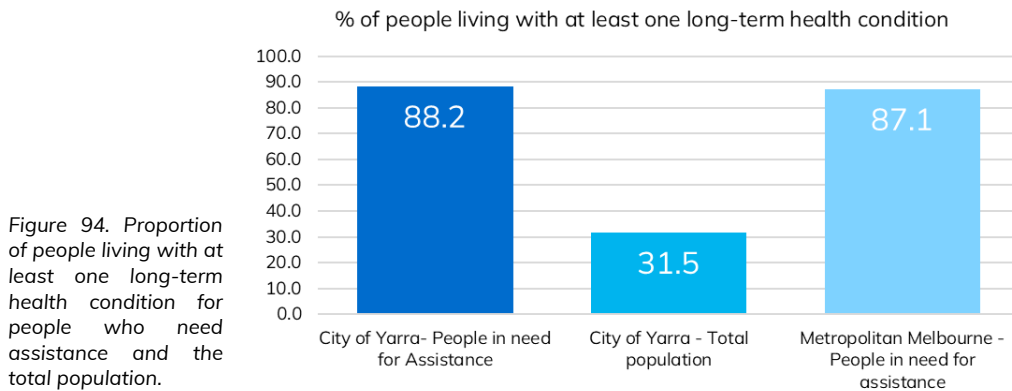
First Peoples in Yarra also have **higher need for assistance** at 8.6%, more than double, when compared to 3.9% for the whole population in the City of Yarra.

Low-income households

Those from low-income households have higher reports of at least one long-term health condition (44.5%) compared to the general population of Yarra (31.5%).⁹ Of note, the most prevalent long-term health conditions for this group are mental health conditions (15.1%), arthritis (12.2%), asthma (9.3%), and diabetes (8.1%), all except asthma are higher than the general population of Yarra (diabetes at 2.6% and arthritis at 5.3%). Mental health conditions are discussed further in the Mental Health and Wellbeing [section](#).

People living with disability

People needing assistance were more likely to report living with a long-term health condition (88.2%), compared to the general Yarra population (31.5%). The rate reported in Yarra for people needing assistance was similar to the rate of people needing assistance living in Metropolitan Melbourne (Figure 94).

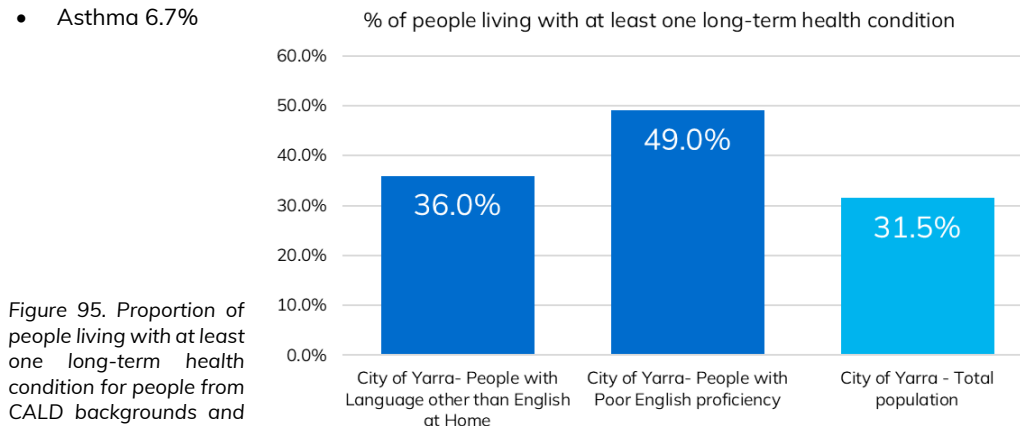


Source: 2021 Census of population and housing

Culturally and/or Linguistically Diverse people

People living in Yarra who speak a language other than English at home were more likely to report living with at least one long-term health condition (36%), compared to the total Yarra population (31.5%; Figure 95). This difference between population groups was also true for people who reported having low English proficiency (Figure 95). The most prevalent chronic conditions reported by people in Yarra who speak a language other than English at home were:

- Mental health conditions 7.7%
- Arthritis 6.9%
- Asthma 6.7%



Source: 2021 Census of population and housing

Gender

There are also differences in the experience of long-term health conditions by gender. Slightly more females reported living with a long-term health condition in Yarra compared to the total population

(Figure 96), and this was slightly higher in Yarra than the proportion of females living in Metropolitan Melbourne.

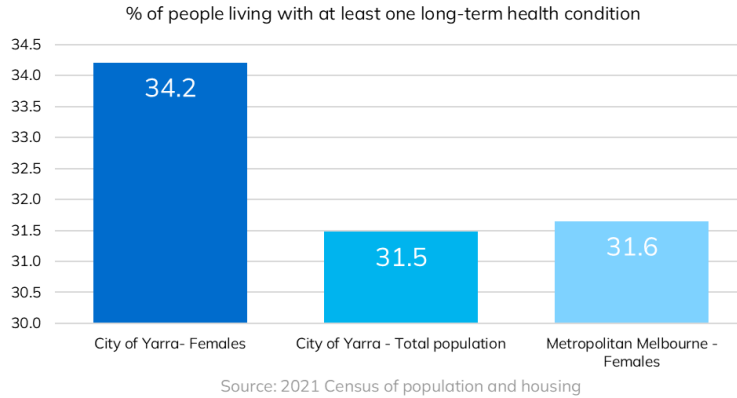


Figure 96. Proportion of people living with at least one long-term health condition for females and total population.

The most prevalent chronic conditions reported by females in Yarra were:⁹

- Mental health conditions 14.3%
- Asthma 9.7%
- Arthritis 6.8%

Long-term health conditions cannot be discussed for the LGBTQIA+ community as these people are not identified through the Census data. However, the Yarra Social Indicator Survey also shows what is happening in different priority groups for people who reported having a long-term health condition, disability or impairment, and whether resulting restriction from these conditions affect daily activities. **In the Yarra community, aiding those with these restrictions is especially important for LGBTQIA+ community, and for people living with disability** (Figure 97Figure 42).

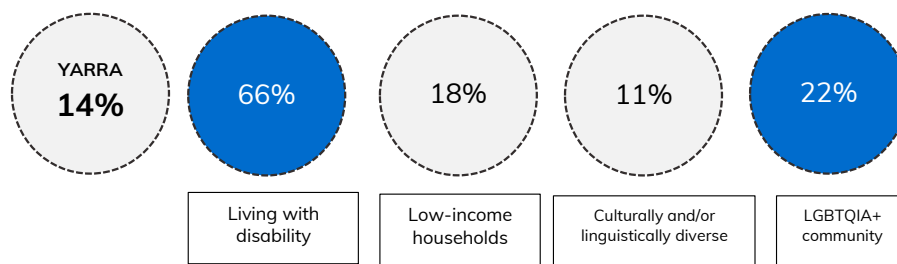


Figure 97. Proportion of Yarra residents who experience restriction that affects daily living related to a long-term health condition or impairment.

Dental health

Chronic conditions like diabetes or cardiovascular disease can influence other areas, including dental health. **Lower incidence of diabetes and cardiovascular disease is reflected in the dental health** of Yarra residents: only 16.2% reported **poor or fair dental health which is significantly lower** than the Metropolitan Melbourne and Victorian averages of 21.8% and 22.5%, respectively (Figure 98).⁹

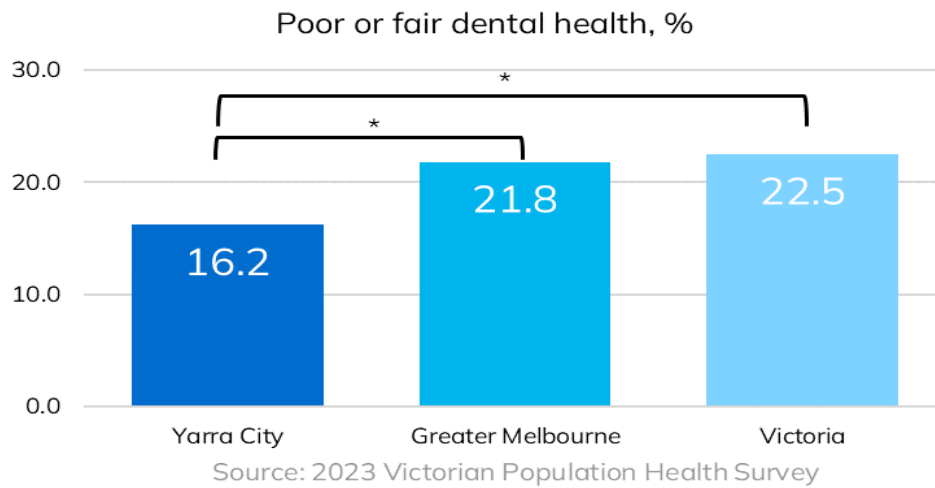
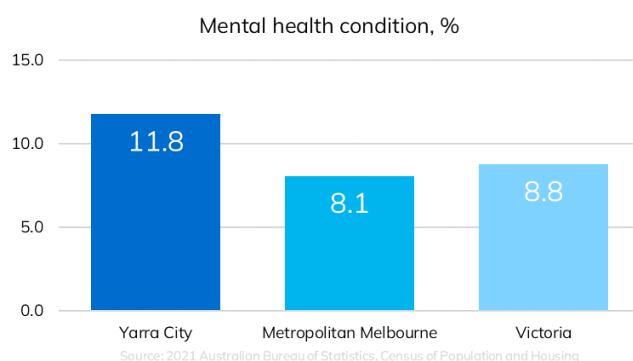


Figure 98. Proportion of people who reported having poor or fair dental health.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

People with a positive mental wellbeing have a better chance of enjoying life, developing and reaching their potential and contributing to the community. Poor mental wellbeing can increase the risk of developing a variety of chronic diseases as well as increasing the risk of alcohol and substance misuse and problem gambling (see Yarra's Social and Community Factors).



Prevalence of mental health conditions is a complex interplay of factors that affect individuals and communities. Various stressors, ranging from economic pressures and social challenges to environmental influences, contribute significantly to the mental health landscape. Yarra residents are living with a diagnosed **mental health condition at 11.8%**; slightly higher than Victoria (Figure 99).

Figure 99. Proportion of people with a diagnosed mental health condition.



Mental health conditions by priority group are discussed in the “Long-Term Health Conditions by Priority Groups” sections. Briefly, First Peoples and those from low-income households experience higher rates of mental health conditions at 23.1% and 15.1%, respectively, than the general population of Yarra (11.8%). This may be due to a combination of historical, social, and economic factors such as historical trauma, discrimination and stigma (see “Community Connection”), economic stressors (see “The People of Yarra”), limited access to resources (see “Health Services Use”) or adverse childhood experiences (see “Domestic and Family Violence”).

Long-term health conditions cannot be discussed by sex, for people living with disability, the LGBTQIA+ community and the culturally and/or linguistically diverse community as these cross-sections are not available through the Census data.

While rates of mental health conditions are similar, Yarra residents seek help for mental health at a much higher rate than Victoria (see “Health Services Use” section). This could be because Yarra residents may have more positive attitudes towards seeking help for mental health, or they are more able to access these services. Yarra has one of the lowest average distances to a GP (see “Health Services Availability”), and some sections of the community have a relatively high average income, both of which supports help-seeking behaviour.

Increased use and access to healthcare services and a growing awareness of mental health issues can lead to higher rates of diagnosis. As individuals seek medical help more frequently, healthcare providers are more likely to identify and diagnose mental health conditions that might have previously gone unrecognised or untreated.

Conversely, an actual increase in the prevalence of mental health conditions can drive more frequent healthcare use. Individuals experiencing mental health issues are more likely to seek professional help, leading to higher demand for mental health services and, subsequently, more diagnoses.

The Yarra Social Indicator Survey maintains this prevalence of mental health conditions with **1 in 5 Yarra residents describing their mental health as poor or fair**. This was significantly poorer for people living with disability, people in low-income households and those that identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community (Figure 100).

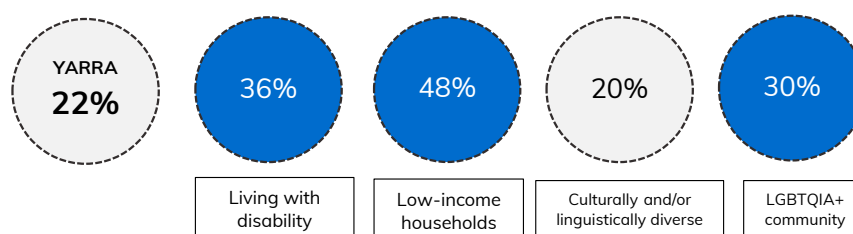


Figure 100. Proportion of Yarra residents who describe their mental health as poor or fair.

When individuals describe their mental health as poor or fair, a variety of underlying factors might contribute to their perception, with loneliness being a significant factor. Feelings of loneliness (see "Community Connection") has been linked not only to poor mental health but also to greater psychological distress and premature death.⁴²

However, Yarra residents have lower, but still comparable, reports of psychological distress (17.5%) and rates of suicide per 100,000 population (8.6%) than the Victorian averages (19.1% and 10.6%, respectively; Figure 101).

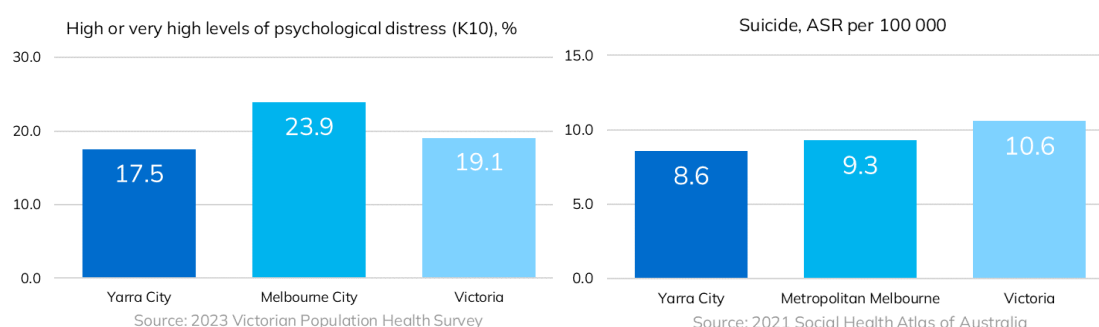


Figure 101. Proportion of people who report high/very high levels of psychological distress (left) and suicide rates per 100,000 population (right).



Although no Census data is available to provide an LGA-level cross-section of suicide rates by gender, national averages show that it does tend to be higher in males (18.8 per 100,000) than females (5.9 per 100,000).⁹ Of note, suicide rates are also higher nationally for:

- people who receive income support payments (35.2 per 100, 000),⁴³
- and, people who use disability services (33.5 per 100,000)⁴³

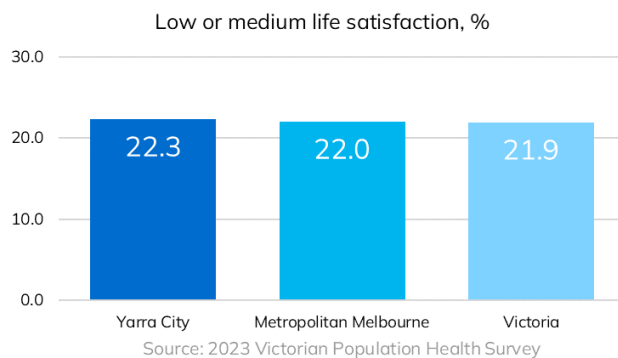
However, rates are lower nationally for:

- humanitarian entrants (6.7 per 100,000) and permanent migrants (4.0 per 100,000),⁴³ many of whom belong to culturally and/or linguistically diverse communities.

There are currently no reliable national data on rates of suicide and self-harm among LGBTQIA+ communities in Australia.

Quality of Life and Longevity

The concepts of quality of life and longevity are intricately linked, shaping how individuals experience and perceive their lives. Quality of life encompasses various dimensions such as physical health, emotional wellbeing, social relationships, and overall life satisfaction. Longevity, on the other hand, refers to the length of time an individual lives, often influenced by a combination of genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors. Together, these factors not only determine the length of life but also the richness and fulfillment experienced during those years.



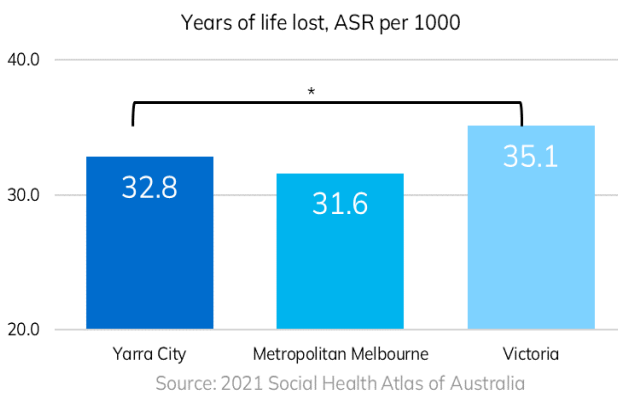
Around one-fifth of Yarra residents have low or medium satisfaction with their life, which is similar to Victoria (Figure 102).

Figure 102. Proportion of people who describe their overall life satisfaction as low or medium.

The Yarra Social Indicator Survey shows that people living with a disability are significantly more likely to be unsatisfied or not satisfied at all with their life overall (Figure 103).



Figure 103. Proportion of Yarra residents who describe their overall life satisfaction as unsatisfied or not satisfied at all.



With regards to longevity, Yarra residents have significantly lower rates of years of life lost per 1,000 population when compared to the Victorian average (Figure 104).

Figure 104. Years of life lost, rate per 1000 population.

Infectious Diseases

Infectious diseases serve as key indicators of a region's overall health and wellbeing, reflecting the effectiveness of public health measures and the general health environment. By understanding the prevalence and types of infectious diseases in a community, we gain valuable insights into the underlying health conditions and risk factors affecting the population.

In Yarra, the profile of infectious diseases reveals notable trends that reflect the community's unique characteristics. Among these trends, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) emerge as the most prevalent infectious diseases. However, **Yarra residents still have lower incidence rates of both chlamydia and gonococcal infection** when compared to the City of Melbourne (Figure 105).⁴⁴

CHLAMYDIA INCIDENCE RATE PER 10,000		GONOCOCCAL INFECTION INCIDENCE RATE PER 10,000	
YARRA	MELBOURNE CITY	YARRA	MELBOURNE CITY
268.1	391.3	177.7	187.6

Figure 105. Incidence rates per 10,000 population of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the City of Yarra and the City of Melbourne.

Yarra has had a longstanding commitment in providing support for local drug-related issues.⁴⁵ Yarra has a Medically Supervised Injecting Service (MSIR), a safety-first, medical approach focused on harm reduction – it is one of only two that exist across all of Australia.⁴⁶ The MSIR aims to reduce overdose deaths and harm, and improve neighbourhood amenity for the local community, through reducing the incidence of public injecting, and reducing the number of discarded needles and syringes in neighbouring public areas.⁴⁷ The public health effects of the MSIR can be seen through the low incidence of infectious disease that commonly arise through shared needle use: **Yarra residents have lower incidence rates of both hepatitis B and hepatitis C** when compared to the City of Melbourne (Figure 106).⁴⁴

HEPATITIS B INCIDENCE RATE PER 10,000		HEPATITIS C INCIDENCE RATE PER 10,000	
YARRA	MELBOURNE CITY	YARRA	MELBOURNE CITY
1.6	12.1	3.4	8.9

Figure 106. Incidence rates per 10,000 population of hepatitis B and C in the City of Yarra and the City of Melbourne.

Healthcare utilisation and outcomes

Healthcare utilisation and outcomes offer a comprehensive perspective on a community's health by highlighting patterns in how individuals' access and use medical services. Hospitalisations and emergency department (ED) presentations help us understand the community's health needs.

The City of Yarra has higher rates of hospitalisations due to chronic conditions (58 per 10,000 population) when compared to the City of Melbourne (38 per 10,000 population; Figure 107)⁴⁸ – this may be attributable to Yarra's higher rates of long-term health conditions, particularly asthma as denoted in Physical Health Conditions.

However, the City of Yarra has lower rates of hospitalisations due to mental and behavioural disorders (78 per 10,000 population) when compared to the City of Melbourne (91 per 10,000 population; Figure 107)⁴⁸ – although Yarra has higher rates of mental health condition diagnoses, the concurrent high use of healthcare services for mental health may be attributable to the lower rates of hospitalisations.

HOSPITALISATIONS DUE TO CHRONIC CONDITIONS, RATE PER 10,000		HOSPITALISATIONS DUE TO MENTAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS, RATE PER 10,000	
YARRA	MELBOURNE CITY	YARRA	MELBOURNE CITY
58	38	78	91

Figure 107. Hospitalisation rates per 10,000 population due to chronic conditions and mental/behavioural disorders in the City of Yarra and the City of Melbourne.

The City of Yarra has higher rates of potentially preventable hospitalisations (104.4 per 10,000 population) when compared to the City of Melbourne (82.7 per 10,000 population; Figure 108)⁴⁸ – this may be due to Yarra's high prevalence of asthma and urban health challenges such as pollution (see "Climate Resilience") which can exacerbate chronic conditions, or even access to healthcare services (see "Health Services Use" and "Health Services Availability") where inadequate access to healthcare resources or lack of community-based support can result in increased hospital admissions for conditions that could be managed with proper outpatient care.

The City of Yarra has lower rates of emergency department (ED) presentations due to AODs (48 per 10,000 population) when compared to the City of Melbourne (53 per 10,000 population; Figure 108)⁴⁸ – although Yarra has high proportions of ambulance attendances and episodes of care due to AODs (see "Alcohol and other drug use"), this may not always translate to ED presentation due to effective on-site care, referrals to alternative forms of care, or patient decision.

NUMER OF TOTAL POTENTIALLY PREVENTABLE HOSPITALISATIONS, RATE PER 10,000		ED PRESENTATIONS DUE TO AOD, RATE PER 10,000	
YARRA	MELBOURNE CITY	YARRA	MELBOURNE CITY
104.4	82.7	48	53

Figure 108. Rates per 10,000 population of potentially preventable hospitalisations and ED presentation due to alcohol and other drugs in the City of Yarra and the City of Melbourne.

A note on hospitalisation data: This data from the Northwest Melbourne Primary Health Network collated hospital presentations by LGA. As such, these hospitalisation rates may not be applicable to Yarra residents alone, as they may also encapsulate people who present to hospitals that are within the City of Yarra but reside in a different LGA.

Summary

Yarra's community, on average, enjoys good health and wellbeing comparative to other metropolitan Melbourne areas and to Victoria. This is largely due to the higher socioeconomic position of the largely younger working population, and due to the medium density living with accessibility of health services, active transport infrastructure and daily living destinations.

However, Yarra is a city with embedded areas of socioeconomic divide. There are suburbs within Yarra that consistently showed poorer rates of socioeconomic, lifestyle, social and environmental factors across this Profile. There are also priority groups within Yarra that sometimes experience an unfair burden of poor health and wellbeing because of broader social issues and barriers.

The data from the Profile points to ten key priority areas for Council to direct attention towards:

1. Alcohol and other drugs
2. Community safety
3. Mental and social wellbeing
4. Vaping and tobacco smoking
5. Domestic and family violence
6. Food security and food systems
7. Healthy housing
8. Climate resilience
9. Active community
10. Early years development

A single-page fact sheet for each of these priority areas is available to show how the layers of determinants cut across the framework used in this Profile. These ten issues somewhat overlap in their underlying social and environmental determinants, which should be the key areas that Council uses as leverage to address and further enhance the health and wellbeing of the people they serve.

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Yarra City Council

**Determining
priorities for the
Health and
Wellbeing Plan**

2025–2029



Development of Yarra's Health and Wellbeing Plan

Victorian Legislative context for the health plan

In developing the Health and Wellbeing Plan we have regards for the following legislation:

Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

As part of developing the MPHWP every four years, local governments must include “an examination of data about health status and health determinants in the municipal district”. This has been done with the Yarra Health and Wellbeing Profile (see below – add link).

Victorian Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 2023-27

The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (VPHWP) is the state level plan for improving public health and wellbeing outcomes for all Victorians. When considering priority areas, we have been guided by the ten state priorities.



Gender Equality Act 2020

The Gender Equality Act requires Councils to undertake Gender Impact Assessments when developing or reviewing any policy, program or service that has a direct and significant impact on the public. We have undertaken a gender impact assessment

Victorian Climate Change Act 2017

The Climate Change Act requires councils to consider climate change in the development of the MPHWP, which aligns well with the priorities in the VPHWP.

Other State-level strategic documents

There are other strategic documents at the state level have also been taken into consideration:

- Local Government Act 2020
- Tobacco Act 1987
- Sport and Recreation Act 1972
- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006
- Ending Family Violence: Victoria's plan for change
- Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health: Key priorities 2017–2020
- Safe and Strong: A Victorian gender equality strategy
- Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018–2023
- Korin Korin Balit-Djak: Aboriginal health, wellbeing and safety strategic plan 2017– 2027
- Health 2040: Advancing health, access and care

Yarra Health and Wellbeing profile and snapshots

[Yarra's Health and Wellbeing Profile](#) provides a comprehensive overview of the health and wellbeing of the people living in the City of Yarra. The Profile has been used to identify evidence-based priority areas for the Health and Wellbeing Plan

Summary of findings

Yarra's community, on average, enjoys good health and wellbeing comparative to other metropolitan Melbourne areas and to Victoria. This is largely due to the higher socioeconomic position of the largely younger working population, and due to the medium density living with accessibility of health services, active transport infrastructure and daily living destinations.

However, Yarra is a city with embedded areas of socioeconomic divide. There are suburbs within Yarra that consistently showed poorer rates of socioeconomic, lifestyle, social and environmental factors across this Profile. There are also priority groups within Yarra that sometimes experience an unfair burden of poor health and wellbeing because of broader social issues and barriers.



The health and wellbeing summary snapshots

The summary snapshots provide a quick overview of the key themes emerging from data in the Health Profile:

1. [Alcohol and other drugs](#)
2. [Community safety](#)
3. [Mental and social wellbeing](#)
4. [Vaping and tobacco smoking](#)
5. [Domestic and family violence](#)
6. [Food security and food systems](#)
7. [Healthy housing](#)
8. [Climate resilience](#)
9. [Active community](#)
10. [Early years development](#)



The snapshots are also available in: [Vietnamese](#), [Arabic](#), [Traditional Chinese](#) and [Simplified Chinese](#)

Consultation and engagement

We received feedback from people across Yarra in three stages of community and stakeholder engagement in late 2024 to mid-2025. We have worked to ensure our engagement was as representative as possible and our diverse community had a voice.

Stage 1: Community engagement

In late 2024, we undertook broad community engagement through Your Say Yarra, our online consultation platform, and a social research project. Our broad community engagement received almost 1800 responses. We also spoke to 36 community-based stakeholder groups and Advisory Committees as well as 142 children and young people.

The top five priorities identified by the community in response to the survey were:

1. Early years development
2. Healthy housing
3. Community safety
4. Food relief
5. Family and gendered violence

Note: As the survey sought opinions over the phone and via the Yarra webpage, participants were not provided with the complete health profile or the one-page summaries. Accordingly, the available evidence base did not inform the responses, and they were based on subjective opinion and personal preference.

Stage 2: Community Working Group

We worked with independent consultants to recruit a representative sample of the Yarra community to form a Community Working Group (CWG). The 45 member CWG reflected the demographic make-up of the Yarra community. Our CWG attended four sessions to provide priorities, feedback and ideas to inform our Health and Wellbeing Plan

The top five priorities identified by the CWG were:

1. Family and gendered violence
2. Healthy housing
3. Mental and social wellbeing
4. Active community
5. Climate resilience

Stage 3: Health and Wellbeing Expert Reference Group

In early 2025, local stakeholders and experts were invited to join our Expert Reference group to share to their insights and perspectives on health and wellbeing priorities for the people who live in the City of Yarra.

Their insights are deeply valued by Council because they are based on expertise and a depth of experience in working with people in the local area over many years.

We ran two workshops (with activities for individual reflection and group discussions) and used an online whiteboard (Miro) to enable experts to contribute to the consultations between and during the workshops (whether in-person or online; see Figure 1).

Members of the Expert Reference Group included:

• Yarra Drug and Health Forum	• Australian Catholic University
• North Richmond Community Health	• Brotherhood of St Laurence
• Multicultural Centre for Women's Health	• Australian Catholic University
• North Richmond Community Health	• Ngaweeyan Maar-oo
• Cohealth	• Neighbourhood Justice Centre
• North West Melbourne Primary Health Network	• Thorne Harbour Health
• Access Health and Community	• North Eastern Public Health Unit
• Victorian Aboriginal Health Service	• Launch Housing
• Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations	• Women's Health in North

The top five priorities identified the Expert Reference Group were:

1. Mental and social wellbeing,
2. Family and gendered violence,
3. Healthy housing,
4. Food security and food environments, and
5. First Peoples health and wellbeing

Determining our priority areas

Summary of key themes community and stakeholder engagement

The message from community and stakeholder engagement was that the key focus areas of the health plan should include:

- Family and gendered violence
- Food environments and food security
- Climate resilience (including healthy housing)
- Mental and social wellbeing
- Active community

Furthermore, the Expert Reference Group strongly recommended that the health plan should include:

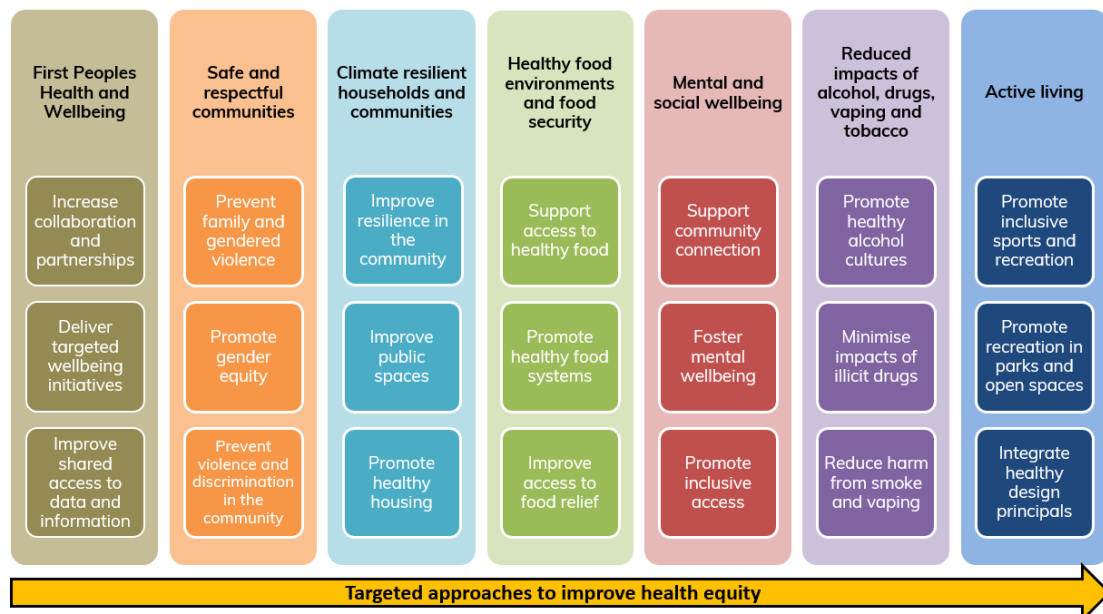
- A stand-alone priority area for First Peoples Health and Wellbeing
- Targeted approaches to improve health equity

These key focus areas have become the priority areas for the health plan.

Additionally, having regard for the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and being informed by evidence to show the high rates of smoking, vaping, drinking and drug-use in Yarra, we have included a priority area on:

- Reducing the harms from alcohol, other drugs, smoking and tobacco.

Overview of priorities and related strategies



Yarra City Council

Health and Wellbeing Plan

2025–2029



Welcome

Yarra's Health and Wellbeing Plan sets out the Council's health priorities and strategies for the next four years.

Our goal

We aim to help Yarra residents achieve their highest attainable health and wellbeing at every stage of life.

We aim to improve health equity by providing responsive, inclusive, prevention-focused, culturally safe facilities, programs and services.

Development of our plan

This plan is informed by the best available evidence on the health and wellbeing of our local community, published in the [Yarra Health and Wellbeing Profile](#).

Our one-page [Health and Wellbeing Snapshots](#) summarises key health and wellbeing issues.

Our plan has been developed according to the relevant legislation and [the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023–27](#).

The priority areas are based on feedback and ideas shared with us via extensive community engagement, including with our Community Working Group and local health and social support organisations that took part in our Health and Wellbeing Expert Reference Group.

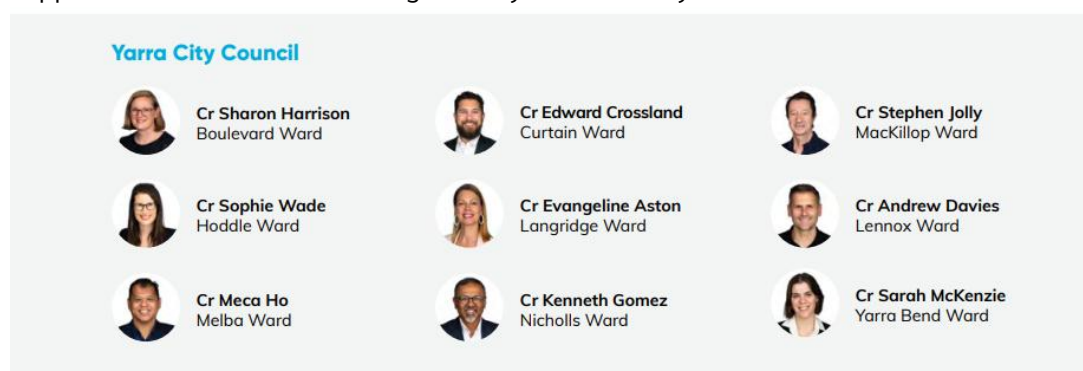
For more detail on the development of our plan, please see our Health Plan Development overview.

How we will deliver

We support our community through programs, services, infrastructure and facilities,

We will develop specific annual action plans and report on our progress through the Council's Annual Report.

We're passionate about our community and working to ensure that Yarra is a place that supports the health and wellbeing of everyone in our city.



Yarra's Health and Wellbeing Plan

Priority areas

The Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025–2029 guides the Council's work for the next four years to ensure we support the community to achieve their best possible health and wellbeing.

The plan guides Council's work in protecting, improving and promoting our community's health and wellbeing.

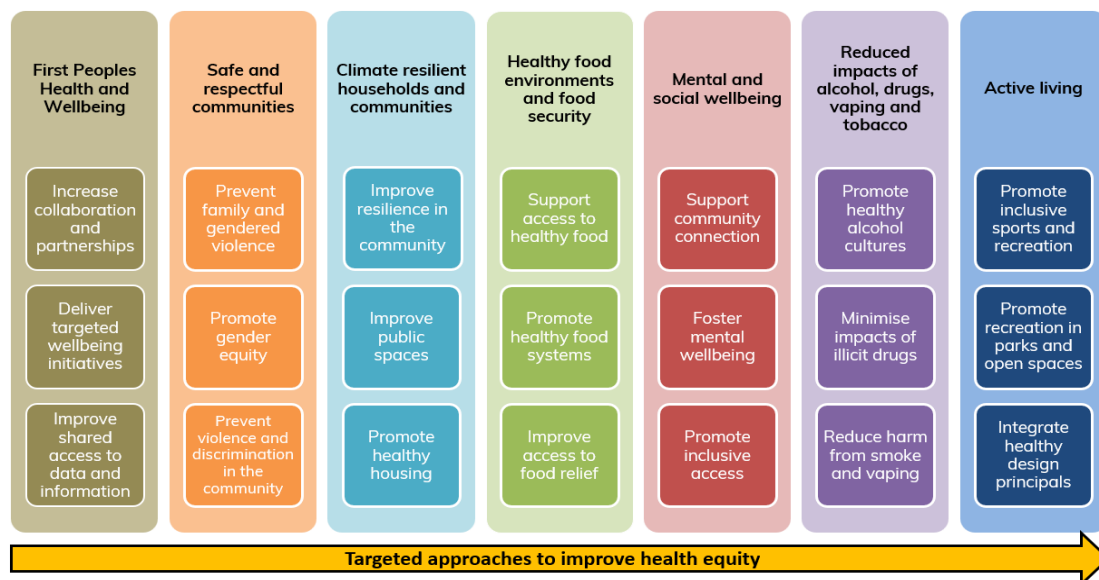
Seven priority areas and related strategies will guide the delivery of a range of initiatives.

Our priority areas are:

- First Peoples' Health and Wellbeing
- Safe and respectful communities
- Climate resilient households and communities
- Food security and healthy food environments
- Mental and social wellbeing
- Reduced impacts of alcohol, drugs, vaping and tobacco
- Active living

We will work towards improving the health and wellbeing of all people in Yarra through targeted actions to promote health equity across all priority areas.

Overview of priorities and related strategies



Monitoring success

Throughout this plan we outline measures to track the direct impact of our work in the community (such as gender equality in allocations to sports clubs). **More detailed measures will be developed in parallel with the annual action plans.**

Council's role in promoting health and wellbeing

Local governments play a crucial role in understanding and addressing their communities' health and wellbeing needs. As the closest level of government, councils have authority over policies and processes that shape neighbourhoods' natural, built, and social environments. This positions councils uniquely to address inequities and improve health and wellbeing outcomes.

Council's core services promoting community health and wellbeing:

- Maternal child and health services
- Youth and family services
- Age and disability services
- Library services
- Recreation and leisure services
- Art and cultural events
- Immunisation services
- Health protection
- Needle and syringe disposal
- Cleansing services (public amenity)
- Waste management and minimisation

Council infrastructure and facilities supporting health and wellbeing:

- Urban design, planning & place-making
- Strategic transport and planning
- Sustainability and biodiversity
- Open space, parks & urban agriculture
- Building and asset management, including footpaths, bike paths and roads

Grants to support health and wellbeing

Yarra City Council also provides a significant material investment through grants to local community groups and initiatives to support health and wellbeing.

Partnerships

Council partners with and advocates for various stakeholders in the City of Yarra who work to promote community health and wellbeing. Council is an important conduit between the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments and local health and wellbeing providers and champions.

Yarra Council Plan 2025–2029

Yarra's Council Plan outlines strategic objectives to ensure that Yarra remains a place where people love to live, visit, work and celebrate. The Council Plan includes many priorities to support health and wellbeing, including:

- Greening our streets and public spaces, including expanding the tree canopy.
- Enhance safety in our streets and public spaces.
- Deliver programs to foster connection and support people of all ages and backgrounds to live a healthy and fulfilling life.
- Advocate for external stakeholders to support at-risk communities in Yarra.
- Support families in accessing early years services and programs in their neighbourhood.
- Maintain and develop our cycling network.

Understanding health and wellbeing

Environmental, social and behavioural determinants of health

We recognise that the local environments around each person can strongly influence their health and wellbeing choices, capabilities, and opportunities.

There is strong evidence that the most effective approach to achieving equitable health and wellbeing across a community is to address the social, natural and built environmental conditions that influence health and the social factors and processes that distribute these conditions unequally.



Figure 1: Framework for the social determinants of health

Balancing universal approaches and health equity

We aim to ensure that all community members have the opportunity to achieve good health and wellbeing.

Across all priority areas of the Health and Wellbeing Plan, initiatives will be designed to benefit everyone while also addressing specific needs to ensure equitable outcomes.

Targeting health equity is a strong approach for everyone.

Certain groups experience a disproportionate burden of poor health and wellbeing. Council has the opportunity to address this by implementing tailored, culturally appropriate planning and actions within this plan. By improving the health and wellbeing of those most affected by social, political, and structural determinants of health, we can uplift the health and wellbeing of the entire community.

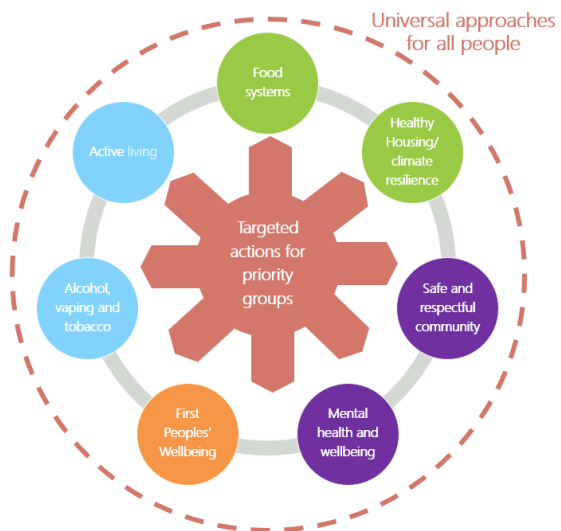


Figure 2: Interplay between universal and health equity approaches

Priority populations and improving health equity

The following priority groups have been identified as having a greater burden of health and wellbeing challenges:

- First Peoples
- People living with disability
- People who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community
- People living in low-income households
- People who are culturally and/or linguistically diverse

Key age cohorts are:

- Early childhood/families with young children
- Youth (aged 15–24)
- Seniors (aged 50+)

Gender differences in health and wellbeing

Yarra City Council also acknowledges important differences in health and wellbeing by gender. The impact of gender is considered in all policies and programs by conducting Gender Impact Assessments.

Specific approaches to improving health equity

To strengthen our approach across Council, we will invest in:

- Conducting Equity Impact Assessments on policies, services, and programs
- Investing in staff awareness and upskilling
- Reviewing existing programs to improve health equity
- Further developing targeted programs to address gaps

Approach to First Peoples health and wellbeing

Yarra Council is committed to Closing the Gap in First Peoples Health and Wellbeing.

The health and wellbeing of First Peoples is a standalone focus in the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP). With over 500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people residing in Yarra, and many more connected to the city through work and community ties, Council is committed to partnering with community-controlled and other organisations to close the gap in First Peoples' health and wellbeing.

We will work collaboratively to design and deliver culturally appropriate services that reflect First Peoples' values, knowledge, and aspirations. In partnership, we will help establish and sustain a local network to respond to the health and wellbeing needs of First Peoples in Yarra. Our approach will be grounded in self-determination, ensuring that First Peoples have control over decisions affecting their health.

First Peoples Health and Wellbeing

Our aim

- To contribute to Closing the Gap in health and wellbeing outcomes for First Peoples
- To work in partnership with community-controlled organisations, other service providers and community to design and deliver culturally appropriate services that reflect First Peoples' values, knowledge, and aspirations

Why is this important?

All First Peoples have the right to live and grow in a community that recognises their strengths, sustains their culture, and supports improved health outcomes.

How we will deliver to the community

- Be guided by the Yana Ngargna framework
- Implement commitments under Yarra's Reconciliation Action Plan
- Strengthen cultural safety in maternal and child health and early years services by listening to First People to shape service design and delivery

Strategies and initiatives:

Increase collaboration and partnerships
Partner with community-controlled and other organisations to help close the gap in First Peoples' health and wellbeing
Collaborate to identify shared opportunities, fill service gaps, and strengthen local partnership pathways.
Engage with community-controlled organisations through Closing the Gap sector meetings to identify and progress shared priorities
Deliver targeted wellbeing initiatives
Co-design and deliver initiatives that support First Peoples' health and wellbeing
Strengthen cultural safety across Yarra's programs and services
Improve shared access to data and information
Enhance the quality, access, and relevance of local First Peoples health and wellbeing data.
Support local monitoring and reporting with community-controlled organisations, upholding data sovereignty and community control over data use.

Monitoring success

1. Increased and strengthened partnerships with Aboriginal Controlled organisations to progress Closing the Gap socio-economic outcome areas*
2. Improved cultural safety across Council programs and services, as reflected in feedback from First Peoples organisations and community members

For more information

See our information about [Aboriginal Yarra](#), the National Agreement on [Closing the Gap](#), and Closing the Gap implementation in Victoria in partnership with [Ngaweeyan Maar-oo](#).

*Aligns with monitoring in the Council Plan

Safe and respectful communities

Our aims

- To prevent family, gendered and sexual violence, which is inclusive of women, girls, gender diverse people, cis-gender and transgender women
- To achieve a community that is gender equitable and free of racism, stigma, ableism, homophobia and transphobia

Why is this important?

Family, domestic and sexual violence is a significant health and welfare issue in Australia, with higher rates of violence and discrimination experienced by the identified priority groups within our community.

Mechanisms to deliver to the community

- Extensive family, youth and children's services programs
- Advisory groups and partnership plans
- Workforce training to detect and respond to family violence

Strategies and initiatives:

Support a community-wide approach to preventing family and gendered violence
Promote healthy relationships through education and awareness
Cross-council coordinated approach
Create and support local partnerships
Promote gender equity
Gender equity across programs and processes
Initiatives to support gender equity
Promote social cohesion
Celebrate and promote diversity in the community
Ensure Council spaces and programs are safe and welcoming
Strengthen organisational networks and relationships in the community

Monitoring success

1. Number of grants awarded to projects that support gender equity and social cohesion programs
2. Improved gender equity in access to sports clubs, facilities and grounds
3. Yarra's diverse communities are well represented across networks and advisory groups

For more information

See our data snapshots on [Family and Gendered Violence](#) and [Community Safety](#)

Climate resilient households and community

Our aims

- To reduce the impact of extreme weather and climate change on health and wellbeing
- To support residents to live in healthy and thermally comfortable homes

Why is this important?

Climate change affects health and wellbeing through extreme weather and poor air quality, with greater impacts on older people who have existing health conditions or live in lower-quality housing.

Mechanisms to deliver to the community

- Urban greening and open space improvements
- Emergency management during extreme weather
- Via Yarra's neighbourhood houses

Strategies and initiatives:

Improve climate resilience in the community
Support communities to understand and prepare for extreme weather
Collaborate with local organisations to build climate-resilient communities
Provide emergency management
Improve public spaces to support climate resilience
Enhance nature to mitigate the Urban Heat Island effect
Improve public spaces to support climate resilience
Increase biodiversity of the urban forest to support healthier environments
Promote healthy housing
Address the impacts of extreme weather on people sleeping rough
Support to create more thermally efficient homes and developments
Identify opportunities to advocate for improved rental housing standards

Monitoring success

1. People sleeping rough are supported to access places of respite from extreme weather
2. Better awareness of shaded routes and way finding to access essential services, school and public transport
3. Neighbourhood houses and other relevant organisations are well prepared to support their local community during extreme weather events

For more information

See our data snapshots on [Climate Resilience](#) and [Healthy Housing](#)

Healthy food environments and food security

Our aim

- To improve the availability and affordability of healthy food in Yarra
- To support people experiencing food insecurity to access healthy and culturally appropriate food relief

Why is this important?

Rising living costs make it harder for people to access healthy food, with food insecurity increasing across the community – particularly among low-income households.

How we deliver to the community

- Investing directly in local food relief
- Provide infrastructure to link the community to food relief
- Community gardens/through our neighbourhood houses

Strategies and initiatives:

Support access to healthy food
Support community growing spaces
Promote affordable healthy food options
Empower the community through education and partnerships
Promote equitable and healthy food systems
Investigate options to expand markets and affordable fresh food options
Advocate for improved food systems
Contribute to regional partnerships towards systemic changes
Improve access to food relief
Support and connect local food relief providers
Connect community to food relief options
Provide funding for food relief

Monitoring success

1. Local food relief providers are supported to deliver different forms of food relief
2. The community are supported to develop skills and access public growing spaces
3. The community are supported to access affordable, healthy and culturally appropriate food

See our data snapshot on [Food security and food environments](#)

Mental and social wellbeing

Our aim

- To improve social connection and reduce loneliness in the community
- To increase access to the services and facilities that support mental health and wellbeing

Why is this important?

Social isolation and exclusion are linked to serious health risks, while social inclusion and connection can improve mental and physical wellbeing by fostering a sense of belonging and community.

How we deliver to the community

- Volunteering programs
- Youth hubs, programs and services
- Grants programs

Strategies and initiatives:

Support community connection
Partner with community organisations to deliver programs
Provide spaces and programs to foster community connection
Support and deliver loneliness reduction initiatives
Foster mental wellbeing
Provide equitable opportunities for civic participation
Promote local mental health and wellbeing support services
Advocate for more inclusive mental wellbeing services in Yarra
Promote inclusive access
Strengthen processes to identify barriers to access
Embed inclusive practices across services, events and programs
Ensure facilities and spaces are accessible and inclusive

Monitoring success

1. More of our community feel connected to community life*
2. More people have access to services and places which support their health and wellbeing*

For more information

See our data snapshot on [Mental and social wellbeing](#)

*Aligns with monitoring success in the draft Council Plan

Reduce impacts of alcohol, drugs, vaping and tobacco

Our aim

- To reduce the harms related to the use of alcohol, drugs, vaping and tobacco
- To reduce the impacts of intoxication on the broader community

Why is this important?

Yarra has relatively high rates of binge drinking, smoking, vaping, and drug use – major risk factors for preventable illness and death that carry significant health, social, and economic impacts for individuals and the broader community.

How we deliver to the community

- Yarra's local law on public drinking
- Enable intoxication outreach through service commissioning
- Yarra's youth services

Strategies and initiatives:

Promote healthier alcohol cultures
Promote a safer night-time economy
Promote the responsible service of alcohol
Promote utilisation of existing and emerging alcohol-free spaces and programs
Minimise the community impacts of illicit drugs
Advocate for more responsive recovery and rehabilitation services
Strengthen enhanced outreach and neighbourhood community policing
Proactively engage with local health and wellbeing agencies to promote more responsive and effective services
Reduce harm from smoking and vaping
Promote smoke and vape-free environments across shared public spaces
Help raise awareness of tobacco and vaping harms and promote pathways to cessation for young people and priority populations

Monitoring success

1. Yarra's liquor licensees are supported to create a safer night-time economy
2. Yarra has strong partnerships with local health and wellbeing agencies
3. Increased visibility of smoke and vape free environments

For more information

See our data snapshots on [Alcohol and drugs](#) and [Smoking, tobacco and vaping](#)

Promote active living

Our aim

- To ensure our community is supported to be physically active in a way that suits their needs, lifestyle and preferences
- To actively support physical activity for our priority population groups who may face additional barriers to being active

Why is this important?

Active living supports health and reduces the risk of chronic disease, but some community members face barriers and have fewer opportunities to stay active. Creating environments that promote physical activity helps everyone stay healthier and more connected.

How we will deliver to the community

- Sporting grounds, courts, pavilions and pitches
- Sports clubs
- Parks and open spaces

Strategies and initiatives:

Promote inclusive physical activity, sports and recreation
Deliver and support programs to encourage recreation
Deliver targeted programs to meet needs of priority populations
Improve inclusion and accessibility in sports clubs
Promote recreation in parks and open spaces
Create spaces that are welcoming, flexible and safe
Infrastructure to suit different abilities and preferences
Promote movement and connection in Yarra's diverse natural spaces
Integrate healthy design principals to support active living
Deliver safe, connected and comfortable opportunities active transport
Advocate for improvements in accessibility of public transport services and infrastructure
Reduce barriers to movement for all members of the community

Monitoring success

1. More people with greater access to green space nearby*
2. Transport networks are better connected and accessible*

For more information

See our data snapshot on [Active living](#)

*Aligns with monitoring success in the draft Council Plan

Acknowledgement of Country Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations and to their Elders past, present and future.

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Call our interpreter service: [03 9280 1940](tel:0392801940)

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7.2. ISP - Draft Community Infrastructure Plan

Author Caroline Gillies – Community Infrastructure Planner
Authoriser General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

Executive Summary

This report presents the draft Community Infrastructure Plan for endorsement for community feedback.

The Community Infrastructure Plan sets the strategic framework and direction for community infrastructure planning in Yarra to guide decision-making regarding prioritisation and investment to respond to community need for community services and infrastructure.

The Community Infrastructure Plan will replace the existing *Strategic Community Infrastructure Framework* and will inform a review of the *Yarra Development Contributions Plan 2017*.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorse the Community Infrastructure Plan (attachment 1) for community consultation.
2. Receive a report at the October 2025 Council meeting with the results of the community consultation and consider adoption of the final Community Infrastructure Plan.

History and background

1. The *Financial Sustainability Strategy 2023-2033* calls for the development of a Community infrastructure Plan. The three drivers informing the development of a new Community Infrastructure Plan are:
 - (a) The pace of anticipated development and projected population growth, as well as changing community needs and aspirations, requiring investment in community infrastructure to keep pace with demand;
 - (b) The current state of Council's assets, where many assets particularly buildings are either at or close to the end of their useful life; as well as many assets that are underutilised, presenting opportunities to reconsider the purpose and use of assets; and
 - (c) The need to diversify funding sources, particularly in relation to maintaining and investing in assets.
2. The development of the Community Infrastructure Plan has been informed by community engagement, which was incorporated as part of the two-stage engagement program for the Community Vision, Council Plan and other documents in late 2024 and 2025.

3. The draft Community Infrastructure Plan is now complete as a first version Plan, with the intention that this is a live Plan that is agile and adaptive to changing community need.
4. The Community Infrastructure Plan will ultimately replace the existing *Strategic Community Infrastructure Framework*. The Community Infrastructure Plan will inform a review of the *Yarra Development Contributions Plan (DCP) 2017*, gazetted into the *Yarra Planning Scheme* in 2021.

Discussion

Draft Community Infrastructure Plan

5. The draft Community Infrastructure Plan is included in Attachment 1. It sets the strategic framework and direction for community infrastructure planning in Yarra to guide decision-making regarding prioritisation and investment to respond to community need for community services and infrastructure.
6. The Community Infrastructure Plan does not set the direction for operational matters such as the levels and models of services provided within community infrastructure, or the operating or management models of community infrastructure.
7. The Community Infrastructure Plan is underpinned by the community services and infrastructure audit, which includes several assessments about community need and the current state and performance of the community infrastructure assets that Council owns and/or manages.
8. The community services and infrastructure audit assists to facilitate the Community Infrastructure Plan being a live and adaptive Plan to respond to changing community need.

Strategic Community Infrastructure Framework & Yarra Development Contributions Plan (DCP) 2017

9. The *Strategic Community Infrastructure Framework* was developed between 2016 and 2018 and is one of the key strategic documents that has informed the *Yarra Development Contributions Plan (DCP) 2017*, gazetted in the *Yarra Planning Scheme* via Amendment C238yara in May 2021.
 10. Amendment C238yara applies the Development Contributions Plan Overlay (DCPO) to all areas in Yarra, divided into 11 areas, where the corresponding schedule to the DCPO indicates the levies that apply to that particular area.
 11. The DCP comprises two parts: a Development Infrastructure Levy (DIL) and a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
 - (a) The Development Infrastructure Levy (DIL) requires all residential, retail, commercial and industrial developments to provide funding to Council to contribute to land acquisition or infrastructure projects such as roads, cycling infrastructure, drainage, footpaths, and public realm improvements; and
 - (b) The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) requires only residential developments to provide funding to Council to contribute to infrastructure projects such as childcare centres, maternal and child health centres, recreation and sporting facilities, libraries, neighbourhood houses, public toilets, and shared community facilities.
 12. The *Financial Sustainability Strategy 2023-2033* seeks to review the *Yarra Development Contributions Plan (DCP) 2017*, in recognition of the DCP system as a mechanism to
-

secure alternative revenue sources to fund community infrastructure that meets community need, without over-burdening rate payers.

13. The new Community Infrastructure Plan will replace the *Strategic Community Infrastructure Framework* and, along with other relevant strategic and infrastructure planning documents, will inform a review of Yarra's DCP.
14. The timing and nature of the review of the DCP is yet to be determined, where potential review and changes to the DCP system at the State Government level may influence this review.

Implementation Plan

15. An implementation plan will be developed and provided alongside the final version of the Community Infrastructure Plan, to be presented to Council in October 2025.
16. The implementation plan will set out priority projects and tasks to deliver on the Community Infrastructure Plan, which considers resource allocation and balanced by other Council priorities. The implementation plan will also consider internal priorities to further develop the Plan (and the community services and infrastructure audit) to facilitate the purpose as a live and adaptive Plan.
17. This report is seeking Council endorsement of the draft Community Infrastructure Plan for community feedback in accordance with Council's engagement strategy.
18. After considering community feedback, Council has the option to adjust the draft Community Infrastructure Plan prior to final adoption.

Community and stakeholder engagement

Public exhibition

19. The draft Community Infrastructure Plan was informed by extensive community engagement over two stages of consultation, which also included engagement on the *Community Vision*, *Council Plan 2025-29*, and other strategic plans including the *Asset Plan*.
20. The draft Community Infrastructure Plan will be placed on public exhibition for a period of four weeks from 11 July 2025 until 11 August 2025. Community engagement for the draft *Asset Plan 2025-2035* will occur at the same time.
21. The community can provide feedback through:
 - (a) Online survey via Your Say Yarra; and
 - (b) In person pop-up opportunities.

The engagement opportunities will be promoted using a wide range of communication channels to reach our diverse community with further details to be shared soon.
22. Following the public exhibition period, the Community Infrastructure Plan will be considered for adoption by Council at the 14 October Council Meeting.

Strategic Analysis

Alignment to Council Plan

Strategic Objective two - Building the City

Strategy 5: Provide infrastructure that responds to the current and future needs of a growing Yarra.

23. The Community Infrastructure Plan has been developed in accordance with the Council Plan 202-29, where Strategy 5 directly relates to purpose of the Community Infrastructure Plan, and strategic initiative 5.3 prioritises implementation of the Community Infrastructure Plan when it is adopted.
24. Strategic initiative 5.3: Implement the community infrastructure plan so that Yarra has facilities to meet a diversity of needs.

Climate emergency

25. The Community Infrastructure Plan supports Council's climate emergency and sustainability policies and objectives, and these are particularly reflected in the strategic framework guiding the Community Infrastructure Plan.

Community and social implications

26. The Community Infrastructure Plan seeks to respond to community need for community services and infrastructure now and over time. This is reflected at a strategic level in the strategic framework guiding the Community Infrastructure Plan, and tactically in the community services and infrastructure audit, to understand, assess and respond to community need over time.

Economic development implications

27. The Community Infrastructure Plan seeks to respond to economic development implications in recognising people who work in Yarra as an integral part of community, requiring equal access to community services and infrastructure.

Human rights and gender equality implications

28. The Community Infrastructure Plan seeks to respond to human rights and gender equality implications, reflected in the strategic framework guiding the Community Infrastructure Plan

Finance and Resource Impacts and Interdependencies

29. The Community Infrastructure Plan is delivered through the annual budget.
30. The implementation of the Community Infrastructure Plan will be subject to financial and resource prioritisation through Council's usual means and will be informed by the evidence of community need and unmet demand for community infrastructure that the Community Infrastructure Plan identifies.

Legal and Legislative obligations

Conflict of interest disclosure

31. Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

32. The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

Risks Analysis

33. Financial sustainability and the ability to plan and provide for community in the years to come remains a key strategic risk for all Victorian local Councils.
34. For Yarra the residential population is predicted to almost double by 2041 putting increasing pressure on services and infrastructure.
35. Government policy, such as the State Government housing targets, presents unknown implications for Council in understanding and meeting future community need.
36. Government reform, such as the Best Start Best Life kindergarten reform, presents risks in Council's planning and prioritisation of community infrastructure needs, as well as funding and delivery of required community infrastructure to meet demand.

Implementation Strategy

Timeline

37. The results of the consultation will be considered in adopting the final Community Infrastructure, which will be presented to Council at the Council Meeting on 14 October 2025.

Communication

38. The draft Community Infrastructure Plan will be published for public exhibition from 11 July to 11 August 2025.

Report attachments

1. 7.2.1 Draft Community Infrastructure Plan (1)

Community Infrastructure Plan

Draft Plan –8 July 2025



Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations and to their Elders past, and present.

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Introduction

Background

This Plan seeks to provide a framework for Yarra City Council to deliver the right-sized infrastructure at the right time and in the right places to support our growing community's needs and aspirations.

The Community Infrastructure Plan seeks to respond to three key drivers:

1. **Population Growth:** The population in our municipality is expected to grow by 35% by 2046, noting this could be higher as a result of the Victorian Government's housing targets for Yarra, outlined in the *Plan for Victoria*. The pace of anticipated development and projected population growth, as well as changing community needs and aspirations, requiring investment in community infrastructure to keep pace with demand for services, programs and activities to meet community need.
2. **State of Council's Assets:** The current state of Council's assets, which contains a high number of assets (particularly buildings) that are close to the end of their useful life. Many assets are also underutilised, presenting opportunities to reconsider the purpose and use of assets to meet community need, balanced with financial sustainability.
3. **Funding:** The need to source alternative strategies and funding mechanisms to invest in community infrastructure to meet community needs over time.

The Community Infrastructure Plan will also inform a review of the *Yarra Development Contributions Plan 2017* (DCP).

Community Infrastructure includes the physical spaces and places that facilitate delivery of services, programs and activities to meet the community's needs. This new Community Infrastructure Plan for Yarra will reflect the current and forward-thinking context. It will be driven by data and evidence about community need, backed by engagement with our community. It will assess the demand, availability and quality of community infrastructure, to ensure we have the right spaces and places that enable the delivery of services, programs and activities for the community.

Key terms

Community

Our users of our community infrastructure are our residents, workers and visitors from neighbouring suburbs and those from further afield. Our community is comprised of people with diverse socio-economic backgrounds, identities and experiences. As such, the needs of our community need to be catered for through a lens responsive to the intersectionality and differences that exist. Our community is ever-changing and growing, and the legacy of our community who shaped the identity of Yarra is recognised.

Community Infrastructure

Community infrastructure is generally the facilities that provide the physical infrastructure for services, including programs and activities, to exist. Community infrastructure aims to provide outcomes for our community to foster health and wellbeing, social interaction, learning, creative practice, cultural and creative experience, recreation, physical activity and where appropriate, essential needs.

We recognise that community infrastructure can be delivered by Council, other levels of government, the private sector, or the not-for-profit sector. Community benefit is a key driver for investment in community infrastructure.

In this Community Infrastructure Plan, community infrastructure assets include buildings and structures, and open space used for active recreation / sports participation. It excludes public open space for passive uses, and transport infrastructure.

We also recognise that our community will also use community infrastructure in adjoining municipalities, and we maintain awareness of these community infrastructure assets that our community may choose to utilise.

Community Hubs

Community hubs are welcoming, safe and inclusive places that foster connection through access to a variety of services, activities or programs and information to support engagement in community life.

Community hubs are multi-purpose and may include co-located (located together) or integrated (working together) spaces.

We aspire to community hubs that provide a central gathering place within Yarra's neighbourhoods. We aspire to community hubs that are accessible, culturally safe and responsive to the diverse needs of local places and also encourage active participation from all residents.

Purpose

The purpose of a new Community Infrastructure Plan for Yarra is to:

- Ensure that new community infrastructure investment is informed by evidence of need, and that community need is addressed.
- Ensure we take a proactive and equitable approach to effectively plan for future and changing community needs, through providing community infrastructure to enable the services needed, the right levels of service, and at the right time.
- Ensure decisions about community infrastructure prioritise inclusion; while addressing economic, environmental and social challenges.
- Embed a practice of continual analysis and review to ensure community infrastructure is well-utilised, fit for purpose and responsive to community need.
- Inform and be informed by service and asset planning and capital planning.
- Explore sourcing alternative revenue for community infrastructure investment such as the Development Contributions Plan in the Yarra Planning Scheme, advocacy and partnerships.
- Be iterative in nature, to be responsive to changing priorities.

Council's role in community infrastructure

Responsibility for community infrastructure

Responsibility for community infrastructure involves various levels of government, not-for-profit organisations and the private sector. In addition to Council's service delivery using Community Infrastructure, our Community Infrastructure role also covers the below three key components:

Provide

- **Provide or lead** the delivery of needed community infrastructure.

Council provides community infrastructure for community use. This can involve Council funding the infrastructure alone or in partnership. It may involve Council leading the design and construction of community infrastructure. It may involve Council managing the infrastructure or partnering with agencies to manage infrastructure on Council's behalf.

The cost for Council to provide the community infrastructure our community needs is increasing. Council will need to be more discerning about when we lead the provision of community infrastructure, aligned to service provision and community need, and asset management.

Facilitate

- **Facilitate, broker or partner** with other agencies including developers, government agencies, local community groups and not-for-profit organisations to provide for or deliver community infrastructure.

Council will need to increase our focus on facilitation, partnership or brokerage considering financial pressures and growing community need for community infrastructure. We will need to be more innovative in how we ensure community services and infrastructure are made available to the community without burdening future rate payers.

Advocate

Advocate to state and federal governments or other agencies to deliver, or contribute to the delivery of community services and infrastructure projects, through provision of funding, land or assets.

Council will need to increase our focus on advocacy considering financial pressures and growing community need for community infrastructure. We will need to seek increased support to fund the construction and operation of community infrastructure.

Multiple stakeholders

The ownership and management of community infrastructure in Yarra can and does take various forms. The landowner, building owner and service management can vary and we anticipate this to continue as we seek diverse and innovative solutions to ensure community needs are met while maintaining financial

sustainability and not burdening future rate payers. Stakeholder engagement and involvement is broad, and we will be reliant on coordinated participation and decision-making for successful planning and delivery.

Community Infrastructure in Yarra

Scope

Scope of the Community Infrastructure Plan

The scope for the Community Infrastructure Plan outlines the types of services and the physical infrastructure spaces that support delivering those services.



Community infrastructure not considered in this Community Infrastructure Plan

Public open space

The *Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020* sets out the strategic direction and priority deliverables to meet the current and future needs for local public open space, such as parks, playgrounds and nature reserves, in Yarra.

The *Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020* does not include planning and requirements for:

- open space reserves used for structured sport, such as ovals, greens and courts, as well as associated pavilions and other buildings or structures.
- regional public open spaces that are designed to attract use from outside of the local area.

The draft Play Space Strategy complements the *Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020* to articulate the current and future requirements and priorities for play spaces in Yarra.

Transport (roads, public transport, paths)

Moving Forward: Yarra's Transport Strategy 2022-2032 sets out the strategic direction and basis for decision making to meet the current and future needs for transport in Yarra, including active transport modes (walking, cycling, scooters), public transport, vehicles facilitating access for people with a disability, freight, construction and servicing vehicles, car share, taxi's and rideshare, local traffic and through traffic.

Ensuring all community infrastructure is considered collectively

While public open space and transport are excluded from the Community Infrastructure Plan, it is important that all aspects are collectively considered in the way in which community infrastructure is provided for the benefit of community. Processes will be established to ensure that planning for future need across the three areas is collaborative to avoid duplication or gaps, and to identify and maximise opportunities to deliver on multiple benefits.

Community engagement

The initial phases of community engagement were combined with engagement on the *Yarra 2036 Community Vision*, *Council Plan 2025-2029*, the *Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029*, the *Asset Plan 2025-2035* and *2025-2026 Budget*, with the first two stages of community engagement in late 2024 to early 2025.

Stage 1: Community Engagement

Key findings:

Spaces that benefit broader cross-sections of the communities on a more regular basis were given the greatest priority by the public including:

- Public toilets and amenities
- Libraries
- Early childhood care and learning facilities
- Dedicated spaces or places for young people and for older people
- Fitness and leisure facilities specifically swimming pools, fitness and training areas in leisure centres, and sports club rooms and pavilions.

Stage 2: Deliberative Community Engagement

Stage 2 Consultation – detailed key themes:

1. Planning for housing, transport and public spaces

Take a proactive and equitable approach to planning for growth, ensuring that decisions prioritise inclusion while addressing economic, environmental, and social challenges.

2. Evidence-based decision-making and transparency

Council decisions should be informed by research, data, and meaningful community engagement to determine priorities and needs. Yarra should be a leader in making informed decisions that best support the local community including engagement processes are accessible and inclusive.

3. Financial sustainability

To ensure long-term financial sustainability, Council should focus on delivering core services efficiently while identifying internal efficiencies that allow funding to be redirected to capital works. Exploring alternative revenue streams is also important.

4. Environmental sustainability and climate action

Council should consider environmental sustainability in all decision-making. This is particularly important regarding climate-resilient infrastructure, protecting ecosystems, supporting opportunities to reduce emissions, increasing urban green cover and enhancing biodiversity.

5. Accessibility, equity and wellbeing

This was broadly interpreted to mean Council supports access to transport, housing, open space and infrastructure. Inclusion was highlighted as a core Council service. Accessibility was flagged as a key priority for Council, particularly regarding walkability, pedestrian safety and access to buildings and open spaces.

6. First Nations partnerships and greater multi-cultural recognition

Cultural recognition emerged across numerous discussions, particularly regarding the need for strengthened partnerships with First Nations people to co-manage land and resources and to plan culturally safe services and infrastructure.

7. Safe and connected community.

Safety was described in numerous ways, including a focus on cultural safety, mental, emotional and physical safety, and access to secure housing. Council should partner and advocate for initiatives that prioritise community safety, gender-based violence prevention and improved transport that is safe and accessible.

8. Growing the local economy and business support

Local businesses were seen as key partners in delivering on community needs, including providing access to services and community spaces and enhancing the vibrancy of activity centres.

Stage 3: Public Exhibition¹

Our community also had an opportunity to comment on the draft Community Infrastructure Plan during public exhibition in July and August 2025 before being adopted by the Council in October 2025.

Strategic context

A summary of the strategic context that has informed the Community Infrastructure Plan is included in Appendix 1. This includes the following:

National	State	Local
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure Australia's <i>Infrastructure Market Capacity Report</i> Early Childhood Education and Care reforms Aged Care reforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Plan for Victoria</i> <i>Victoria's Housing Statement 2024-2034</i> Public housing redevelopment program Best Start Best Life reform Infrastructure Victoria draft Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Yarra 2036 Community Vision</i> <i>Council Plan 2025-2029</i> <i>Yarra Planning Scheme</i> <i>Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan</i> (draft, 2025-2029) <i>Asset Plan</i> (draft, 2025) <i>Financial Sustainability Strategy 2023-2033</i> <i>Service Planning and Review Principles 2024</i>

The Community Infrastructure Plan will be consistent with Council's other adopted plans, policies and strategies, as well as other legislative and regulatory requirements, as appropriate.

Our community

The following key statistics are drawn from Yarra's Health and Wellbeing Profile 2024.

Population, Age and Gender

Population	Population density	Age	Gender
The City of Yarra resident population in 2023 is estimated to be 97,448 and is forecast to grow to 136,983 by 2046, noting any additional growth resulting from the Victorian Government's housing targets for Yarra.	Yarra's population density is 4,990 persons per square kilometre (sq. km.).	Yarra has a median age of 34 years, 3 years younger than Metropolitan Melbourne and 4 years younger than Victorians.	In the ABS Census 2021, there were 46,120 people who identified as female in Yarra, which represents 51.2% of the total population, and 48.8% were male.

¹ This section will be updated at the completion of stage 3 community engagement

Cultural background

First Peoples	Birthplace	Ancestry	Language
The First Peoples population of Yarra in 2021 was 517 people, which represents approximately 0.6% of the Yarra population, which is comparable to representation in Metropolitan Melbourne (1.6%) and Victoria (0.8%). The population size of First Peoples in Yarra is growing over time, from 313 in 2011, to 382 in 2016 to 517 people in 2021.	In the ABS Census 2021, 28.7% of Yarra residents were born overseas, compared to 35.7% for Greater Melbourne. 23% of Yarra residents arrived in Australia between 2016 to 2021, compared to 19.7% for Greater Melbourne.	In Yarra, the most identified ancestries include: English, Australian, Irish, Scottish, Italian, Chinese, German, Greek, Vietnamese, and Dutch.	In the ABS Census 2021, 20.0% of Yarra residents speak a language other than English at home compared to 34.1% for Greater Melbourne. Most common languages include: Vietnamese, Greek, Mandarin, Italian, Cantonese, Spanish, French, Arabic, German and Somali.

Priority Population Groups

First Peoples	People living with a Disability	LGBTQIA+	Low Income	Culturally and/or Linguistically Diverse
The population size of First Peoples in Yarra is growing over time, from 313 in 2011, to 382 in 2016 to 517 people in 2021. First Peoples in Yarra are more likely to experience greater socioeconomic disadvantage and chronic conditions than the general population of Yarra, contributing to a greater need for accessibility to services.	18.5% of Yarra residents self-report living with a disability or restriction, compared to 18.6% for Metropolitan Melbourne or 19.9% for Victoria. People in Yarra experience a similar prevalence of caring for a person with a disability compared to Victorians. People in Yarra were less likely to have acute needs for assistance to complete core activities compared to Victorians.	Yarra has a significantly higher population of LGBTQIA+ community compared to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria, with 24.3% of Yarra residents identifying as part of the LGBTQIA+ community.	While Yarra had a lower proportion of low-income households, it is important to note that this varied across the city and ranged from a low of 10.2% in Cremorne-Burnley to a high of 19.5% in North Richmond. The five areas with the highest percentages were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Richmond (19.5%) • Fitzroy (19.3%) • Collingwood (18.7%) • Fitzroy North (18.1%) • Carlton North - Princes Hill (14.3%) 	Yarra's community of people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds varies. Speaking a language other than English: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Richmond: 32.1%, Collingwood 24.8%, Abbotsford 23.4% 4.1% of people self-reporting low proficiency in English. Born overseas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Richmond: 37.1% • Collingwood: 34.8% • Abbotsford: 34.0%

Housing

Household size	Density	Tenure	Housing Stress	Homelessness
The Census usual resident population of the City of Yarra in 2021 was 90,114, living in 50,057 dwellings with an average household size of 2.02.	In 2021, the dominant dwelling structure in Yarra was 'Medium density'. This was different to the dominant tenure for Metropolitan Melbourne, which was 'Separate house'	More of Yarra's households were renting their dwelling compared to the proportion of Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria. More of Yarra's households were renting their dwelling from a social housing (public and community housing) compared to the proportion in Metropolitan Melbourne or Victoria.	Across Yarra, 19% of households that were spending more than 30% of their household income on paying a mortgage or rent, which is referred to as household affordability stress or housing stress	In the 2021 Australian Census, 728 people were recorded as experiencing homelessness in Yarra, with 28 people recorded as sleeping rough

Employment and Education

Schooling	Tertiary Education	Employment Status	Industries	Jobs in Yarra
79.% of Yarra residents completed Year 12 or equivalent, compared to 64.3% for Metropolitan Melbourne, or 59.5% for Victoria	56.0% of Yarra residents hold formal qualifications (Bachelor or higher degree, Advanced Diploma or Diploma; or Vocational qualifications), higher compared to Metropolitan Melbourne or Victoria.	A higher proportion of Yarra residents are in employment, and a lower proportion unemployed, compared to Metropolitan Melbourne	The most common industries of employment for Yarra residents are Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Health Care and Social Assistance, and Education and Training.	There are 98,041 jobs in Yarra, producing \$37.3B of economic output. 84.4% of workers live outside of Yarra. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services industry: \$5.7B Health Care and Social Assistance industry: 19,177 jobs Source: Yarra Economic Profile, Remplan, 2025.

Income

Household Income	Low- and High-Income Households	Centrelink recipients	Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage
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Median weekly household income of \$2,310 compared to \$1,866 for Metropolitan Melbourne or \$1,802 for Victoria	<p>44.7% of households in the 'highest' household income quartile, compared to 26.8% for Metropolitan Melbourne.</p> <p>14.9% of households in the 'lowest' household income quartile, compared to 25.2% for Metropolitan Melbourne.</p>	<p>37.3% of Yarra residents aged 65 years and over receive the Aged Pension.</p> <p>Fitzroy (480) and Fitzroy North (480) had the highest number of rental assistance recipients; whilst Richmond North had the highest number of disability support recipients (475), Health Care Card holders (755), Job Seeker Recipients (675) and Age Pension recipients</p>	<p>Fitzroy, Collingwood and North Richmond experience greater socio-economic disadvantage on five or all six indicators compared to the Yarra average, and that Central Richmond, Clifton Hill and Cremorne/Burnley – South Richmond are more socio-economically advantaged than the Yarra average on all six of the indicators.</p>
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Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges and influences

The challenges and influences shaping the planning for and availability of community infrastructure are broad.

State policy is driving **increased residential and commercial development**, which is affecting parts of Yarra differently from others. This is leading to increased population growth and changing community needs, with broadening and increasing demand on services across all ages and stages.

Increased development is also **changing our urban fabric**, with more vertical development and people living in apartments, which is placing pressure on our limited public and green spaces. There is increasing demand for and expectations to protect spaces away from the home or workplace for social interaction, relaxation and a sense of belonging (often known as 'the third place'), where people can occupy space without being expected to spend money.

Post-pandemic impacts continue to influence socio-economic outcomes in the way we live and afford to live, the way we work and the jobs we do. There are ongoing health impacts and changed demands and expectations about how we access services and use technology.

In Yarra, we particularly experience the **polarisation of very low and very high-income households** which presents further challenges and community needs, where this also contributes to pricing out middle-income households which can include key sector workers, critical to ensuring the successful running of the city.

Community safety and inclusion remains a high priority for our community, particularly relating to increased isolation, declining perceptions of safety and community trust, and a less resilient community.

State and Federal government policies are changing Council's level of influence in outcomes that affect our local communities, such as new housing targets for Yarra; shifting governance in major planning decisions to the State government; the redevelopment of high-rise public housing towers; or service reform placing additional population and regulatory demand on services like kindergarten.

Our **community infrastructure portfolio is ageing**, with some assets that are not fit for purpose, and many requiring significant investment to maintain and grow the capacity of our community infrastructure portfolio to meet the needs of future generations.

Our **capacity to finance investment in community infrastructure** is affected by several factors. The combination of revenue limitations, and escalating costs continues to add strain on how much we can achieve with our limited resources. The *Yarra Financial Sustainability Strategy 2023-2033* outlines these challenges in more detail. In the context of community infrastructure, Council's financial sustainability is threatened by our long-term ability to maintain assets to an adequate level, to respond to community need, and to work within infrastructure pressures relating to the cost to deliver infrastructure and the availability and flexibility of alternative revenue sources such as government grants and infrastructure levies like development contributions.

Opportunities and commitments

Council commits to undertaking community infrastructure planning that is **underpinned by evidence and guided by informed strategy**, and which is central to assisting adequate asset management and meeting community infrastructure need.

The *Yarra Financial Sustainability Strategy 2023-2033* Council outlines several strategic levers to uplift Council's financial position that can facilitate the required provision of community infrastructure, and aligns with strategic review of Council's services, digital transformations, and contemporary property management.

There are a number of opportunities for **more efficient and effective provision of community infrastructure**, which will guide our approach to community infrastructure planning.

Our community is calling for community infrastructure that is **multi-use**, with several services and opportunities to connect and participate in community life in the one place, where service provision can change to respond to community need. Our community is also open to us exploring **advocacy and partnership opportunities** with other government agencies, not for profit organisations, and businesses to share land, space and resources to provide community infrastructure and services, while **reducing the financial burden to future rate payers** to fund community infrastructure.

Council will explore opportunities to **optimise revenue**, including reviewing the *Yarra Development Contributions Plan 2017* and strategically applying for State and Federal grants to uplift required community infrastructure.

The community infrastructure we are planning for today needs to last for generations to come, and so there are opportunities to:

- Make the **best use of space** in our built-up city and ensure community infrastructure is **well-utilised** to meet community needs and provide opportunities to connect and participate in community life
- **Involve the community** in planning for new community infrastructure and apply a **place-based approach** to ensure community infrastructure responds to local needs
- Improve **access** to and within community infrastructure, and **safety, equity and inclusion** to facilitate connectedness to community life and tackle isolation and health issues
- Ensure **preservation, conservation, and celebration of our cultural assets**
- Plan for **disaster preparedness and resilience** of our community infrastructure and how they operate
- Explore the **role of technology** in digital service delivery, cost-effective asset management and improved user-experience, and opportunities for the community to access technology for their use.

Community Infrastructure Plan

The Community Infrastructure Plan contributes to Council's strategic focus to accommodate population needs, to lean into and seek to creatively address the tension between limited space and increasing demand for community infrastructure.

Our Community Infrastructure Vision

Yarra City Council is a leader in planning for quality community infrastructure in Yarra in response to population growth and change.

Our Community Infrastructure Mission

Yarra City Council will respond to growth and community need, while creatively making the most of its assets and generating alternative income streams to minimise the financial impact on ratepayers.

What's informing this vision and mission?

We heard through the Community Working Group that you want Council to be innovative and creative with our resources, and to lead, collaborate and partner to achieve the best outcomes for Yarra (and you are less interested in Council being a leader across sectors).

We heard that you want to prioritise the inclusivity and accessibility of Council's community infrastructure, and to ensure community infrastructure is well-utilised.

We want to be more ambitious but build on the current Strategic Community Infrastructure Framework vision: *To identify current and future needs so that Council can deliver and influence the provision of quality, flexible and responsive community infrastructure to support a prosperous, liveable and sustainable City of Yarra.* Growth is inevitable but outside of Council's control. Council's must remain financially sustainable, but the availability of quality, flexible and responsive community infrastructure remains crucial.

Policy direction

This is a critical time for Council to respond to growing and changing community need and effectively managing our community infrastructure assets, while balancing Council's financial sustainability. To do this, **strong policy direction is required to guide planning and decision-making.**

We will do this by:

1. Linking community infrastructure planning within Council's integrated strategic planning framework.

We will deliver on the *Community Vision 2036* and *Council Plan 2025-2029* to ensure that community services and infrastructure are provided when they are needed. We will use the *Yarra Service Planning and Review Principles 2024* to make decisions about what services Council provides. The Community Infrastructure Plan will be used to inform investment priorities to meet community service and infrastructure needs. The *Asset Plan 2025-2035* will allocate funds based on these needs.

2. Engaging the community on new initiatives.

We will engage with community when we look at options for how future community needs could be addressed. We will engage with community on new capital projects to confirm what community infrastructure will be used for and what's to be included and sharing information about the design and construction progress.

3. Improving transparency to direct resources and investment.

We will improve how we measure and report on the cost to build community infrastructure projects, that includes consideration of the indicative annual operating expenses required by the assets.

4. Reviewing all vacated community infrastructure and properties to determine the most suitable use.

We will assess any vacant community property for potential use against a variety of lenses including social, cultural, economic, fiscal and civic lenses to determine the most needed and suitable use or uses.

5. Delivering excellence in managing community infrastructure, with operating models determined in the planning phase.

We recognise the need for community infrastructure to be designed to fit the intended operating model. We will determine the operating model for new or redeveloped infrastructure in the planning phase and ensure involvement from subject matter experts in the design phase.

What's informing the policy directions?

We recognise the relationship between our integrated strategic planning activities under the *Local Government Act 2020*, and the role that a Community Infrastructure Plan can have in delivering on the *Community Vision* and *Council Plan*, and in informing decisions about investment in our community infrastructure assets.

In balancing meeting community need with maintaining our financial sustainability we know there are opportunities to think differently about community infrastructure for our current and future generations. These policy directions draw on the feedback we've heard about involving the community in decisions about community infrastructure, improving transparency about where investment is proposed, and community desire for co-located services within multi-use community infrastructure, to make the most of the community infrastructure we have.

We acknowledge that there are many competing priorities. Hard choices will need to be made, and we will underpin decisions with sound evidence and community need.

Strategy objectives

Council's overall approach to community infrastructure planning needs to shift, so that we can be more responsive to community need, while maintaining financial sustainability.

Our new approach will look to:

1. Strengthen community and respond to need

Community infrastructure is used to facilitate connection, community wellbeing and cohesion. It enables community participation and access to critical services. It can be a 'third space' for the community outside of work/study or home.

We will continually engage with community to understand their needs and expectations.

We will prioritise those most vulnerable. We will invest in community infrastructure and services for children and young people, and older people.

We recognise opportunities to strengthen the Arts, through creative, cultural, social, educational and economic drivers. We recognise opportunities for a future focus around digital and technology within community infrastructure.

2. Maximise the potential of the community infrastructure we have

We will work towards ensuring community infrastructure is well-utilised now and protected for the benefit of future generations. Community infrastructure will need to be multi-use, and flexible and adaptable to respond to changing community need and growth.

We will prioritise community infrastructure that is the most used, such as libraries and public toilets, and aspire to the provision of a community hub within each of Yarra's neighbourhoods.

We will consider alternative service models to increase utilisation of our existing assets.

We will identify opportunities where community infrastructure can support broader community initiatives. Examples may include increasing open space or canopy cover, providing space for repair hubs as part of Council's circular economy objectives.

Where we have community infrastructure assets that are of heritage significance, we will protect and maintain the heritage qualities whilst developing or using the asset for community needs.

3. Data driven and socially responsive

We will monitor trends about emerging community needs, as well as engaging with the community around needs.

We will monitor the performance of community infrastructure to ensure it is well-utilised and fit for purpose.

We will make informed decisions, underpinned by sound evidence and need.

4. Innovative and financially viable solutions

Community infrastructure in Yarra is highly valued and used by residents, workers, and visitors such as tourists, residents in neighbouring municipalities, and others who come to Yarra or come through Yarra for a variety of reasons. However, funding of infrastructure predominantly falls to our residents.

We will explore partnerships with businesses, social enterprise, and not-for-profit organisations to share resources. We will be open to sourcing alternative revenue streams to reduce the burden to ratepayers. We will review the *Yarra Development Contributions Plan 2017*, with a view to seek the highest value contribution towards community infrastructure that will be driven by new development.

5. Progressive leadership

The Yarra community deserves valuable and impactful community services and infrastructure.

We will demonstrate excellence to achieve planning and design expectations regarding environmental sustainability and climate resilience, waste reduction, and access, inclusion and cultural safety.

We will lead with fiscally responsible and sustainable decision-making.

Governance and operations of community infrastructure will be thoughtful and planned, to ensure quality and equitable service outcomes.

6. Adaptive to act on opportunities

We will seek and respond to opportunities that influence the demand and availability for community services and infrastructure in Yarra. Examples include responding to reform such as the Best Start Best Life kindergarten reform, *Plan for Victoria* and Victorian Government housing targets, the Victorian Government's redevelopment of public housing towers, and private market opportunities.

We will critically assess the best role that Council can play to ensure the needs of our growing and changing community will be met.

We will be ready to advocate, particularly at critical times, such as the upcoming Federal and State Government elections.

What's informing the strategic objectives?

In thinking differently about the needs of community infrastructure for our current and future generations, we need to shift our approach and be equipped to respond as our community grows.

These strategic objectives draw on community feedback about the things that are important to you. We heard the desire to support the most vulnerable members of the community, to focus on young people, where investment can have the most long-term benefit, as well as older people to age positively in Yarra. We heard your expectations around ensuring community infrastructure is inclusive, culturally safe, accessible and fit for purpose.

We heard your desire to make the most of the community infrastructure we have, and exploring innovative and creative solutions to ensure the needs of the community are being met without burdening rate payers.

We heard you are open to exploring innovative and creative opportunities, including partnerships with businesses, social enterprise and not-for-profits, and sourcing alternative revenue streams that reduce the financial burden on ratepayers.

Guiding Principles

These principles will guide how we provide community infrastructure in Yarra to ensure it is available as it is needed, is inclusive, accessible and well-utilised. The principles will be used when we plan for, advocate for, and design new or improved community infrastructure. Each principle is unique, and all six principles need to be considered collectively.

1. Connected

Community infrastructure is multi-use and adaptable to facilitate many services and opportunities in the one place, and to change in response to community need.

Community infrastructure exists within a network, where the offering within one asset may be complementary to another.

Where community infrastructure assets, or spaces within assets are intended for single use, these decisions are purposeful and informed by evidence.

2. Fit for purpose and maximised use

Community infrastructure is fit for purpose and well-utilised, while ensuring availability of infrastructure for generations to come.

3. Engaging

Community infrastructure is welcoming and inspiring, where playfulness and creativity can be explored. Places that people want to come to. Places that embrace and represent the many cultures of Yarra through storytelling, interpretation and signage.

4. Safe

Community infrastructure is physically and culturally safe, and perceived to be safe within, around, and travelling to the place at all times, which may include lighting and security measures.

5. Inclusive and accessible

Community infrastructure is friendly, safe and accessible for all, building on foundations such as Universal Design, Child Safe Standards, Age-friendly cities, LGBTIQ+ principles, and equitable access that goes beyond compliance. Inclusive and accessible to travel to community infrastructure, as well as within community infrastructure.

6. Future-focused

Community infrastructure reduces and mitigates negative impacts on Yarra now, for the benefit of us and the generations to come. Climate-resilience, sustainable energy use, sustainable construction practices and material use, including recycling of disused materials. Economic and social viability. Technology for community use, and technology to improve the useability of community infrastructure.

What's informing the principles?

We heard through community engagement the desire to access multiple services or programs in the one place. We heard the desire for places that are safe, inclusive, accessible (walkable, as well as universally accessible), and environmentally sustainable.

Through the children's engagement we heard themes about spaces that are fun, that are safe and comfortable. Places that are designed for community connection and embrace creativity and imagination. Places that are practical with community conveniences and leisure, natural spaces, and places that foster growth and skill development.

Through the Community Working Group, we heard additional themes regarding the investment in spaces for connection, expanding opportunities for creative spaces and supporting arts and cultural programs, recognising that these spaces have unique requirements that may prevent flexible use of those spaces. Nevertheless, the desire for multi-purpose and collocated services and community hubs can be achievable.

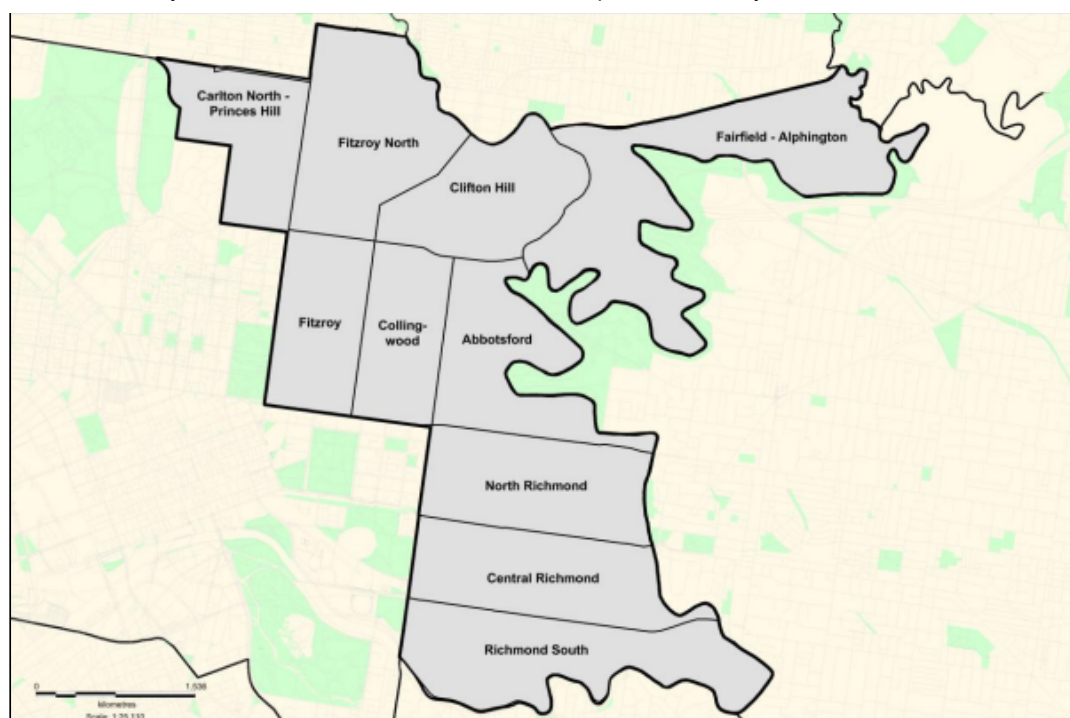
Community Services and Infrastructure Audit

Audit methodology

The Community Infrastructure Plan is underpinned by the community services and infrastructure audit, which includes a range of assessments and multiple sources of data to assist our understanding of current and anticipated community need, as well as the supply and performance of our community infrastructure.

The audit considers place-based analysis at a neighbourhood, precinct and municipal level over a 20-year horizon, to identify gaps and opportunities for investment to meet community needs. Findings are recommendations that will be considered as part of Council's 10-year long-term financial planning.

The Community Infrastructure Plan recognises the relationship between service planning and asset planning, where our analysis needs to remain responsive to any changes that may occur in what services are available within community infrastructure, or how those services are provided, and by who.



The community services and infrastructure audit includes several categories, where each is critical to understanding a different part of community services and infrastructure needs in Yarra. The components of the audit are outlined below.

Audit category	Description	What it tells us
Infrastructure register	A record of all community infrastructure assets within the scope of the Community Infrastructure Plan, which includes information about the size and capacity of the asset, what it's used for, and the services that are provided to the community from the asset.	What we have What its used for Distribution of infrastructure across Yarra

Audit category	Description	What it tells us
Quantity assessment	A dynamic assessment that incorporates desired provision ratios and assumptions to analyse and identify the community services and infrastructure needed now and into the future.	Current and future demand Supply gaps (over-supply / under-supply)
Capacity and utilisation assessment	An assessment of the current and potential use of our current infrastructure, which also considers conditions that may prevent increased or maximum use.	Capacity of current infrastructure Current utilisation (under-utilised / at, or over capacity)
Asset condition assessment	An assessment, completed as part of Council's asset management requirements, to assess the condition of our community infrastructure assets and compliance with legislative and regulatory compliance. Asset condition assessments typically also predict the remaining length of useful life of the asset or components of the asset.	Condition and compliance Areas requiring investment to renew/repair When there are opportunities to deliver other works alongside renewals
Functionality (fit for purpose) assessment	A new assessment, designed for Yarra, that complements the asset condition assessment to consider the suitability of a community infrastructure asset to facilitate service delivery and community uses, including consideration of access, inclusion and equity.	Fitness for purpose to meet need Opportunities requiring investment to uplift, expand, or change use (subject to need)
Future improvement: travel accessibility assessment	We aspire to incorporating a travel accessibility assessment in a future version of the Community Services and Infrastructure Audit, to measure the extent of equitable access to critical services and infrastructure within a reasonable time or distance.	Suitability of location and transport options Another element of infrastructure gap Improve quantity assessment through understanding of infrastructure catchments
Future improvement: asset cost profile	We aspire to incorporating an asset cost profile for each asset in a future version of the Community Services and Infrastructure Audit, to fully understand the cost of managing and maintaining infrastructure and the cost to deliver the service(s), offset by any potential revenue.	Cost of asset at the asset level, an overall average is provided in the <i>Asset Plan 2025-2035</i> Potential return on investment

Desired provision ratios

Desired provision ratios have been specifically developed to consider the unique service offering and community needs within Yarra. Desired provision ratios are accompanied by analysis of a range of assumptions relating to demographic information, service use (such as enrolments, bookings, memberships, visits, etc.), and community engagement, which helps us to understand growth and change in demand and validate the desired provision ratios. Desired provision ratios may change over time in response to changing community need and growth, which are influenced by many factors.

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We recognise that community in Yarra can mean residents, workers and visitors; and that our community and the communities around us will access their preferred services, which may extend beyond our municipal boundaries. It is not always possible to apply a one-size-fits-all approach, and therefore, desired provision ratios will be used as guiding tools.

Council's community services

Service category	Summary points	What helps us to understand community need?	Key considerations
Children's Services	<p>Children's services provide education and care opportunities to support the development of young children and facilitate support for parents (particularly mothers) to work or study.</p> <p>There are varied ownership and management models for Council-associated children's services in Yarra, including centres owned and operated by Council, centres owned by Council but operated by others, and centres operated by Council by owned by others. There are also other private and not-for-profit service providers in Yarra not directly associated with Council.</p> <p>In addition to several kindergarten and long day early education and care facilities, Council also manages the Fitzroy Adventure Playground, located near the Atherton Gardens public housing estate.</p> <p>Children's services are impacted by reforms at both the Federal and State levels, through long day early education and care and kindergarten, respectively.</p> <p>In planning community infrastructure for children's services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarra has very high participation rates across all of Council kindergarten (integrated and sessional programs), where some centres are at capacity with no opportunities for growth. • Services are mostly used by residents, however where services are located near 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population forecasts for young children and family types. • A broad range of demographic trends co-relating to access, inclusion and equity for parents and children. • Trends in enrolment data (kindergarten vs. long day care, age, trends in non-Yarra residents, average days of use) • Service provision within and around Yarra (opening, closing, or expanding services) • Workforce participation data relating to parents (industry/sector, hours of work, location of work compared to home, key workers/jobs that are typically conducted outside of traditional work hours) • Household income data (single parent, single/dual income) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration between the Community Infrastructure Plan and the Kindergarten Infrastructure and Service Plan (KISP), including alignment between all aspects of planning (workforce, service model, Council's role in the service) with community infrastructure requirements. • General recommendations from functionality assessments centre around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Acoustics and lighting – Opportunities to enhance child safety, such as installing swing-doors on children's toilet cubicles • Awareness of other providers in and around Yarra. • Advocacy regarding coordinated planning for early education and primary schools. • Make best use of grant programs such as Building Blocks grants to invest in infrastructure to meet modern requirements and capacity needs. • A suite of infrastructure that can flex and adapt to community needs (type of service, age of children).

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Service category	Summary points	What helps us to understand community need?	Key considerations
	<p>Yarra's borders or on key transport routes, they attract residents from outside of Yarra, particularly residents from neighbouring Councils. Some residents also attend services outside the municipality.</p> <p>There are opportunities to improve the functionality of children's services community infrastructure to align to contemporary requirements.</p>		
Family Services	<p>Family services include community infrastructure for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternal and child health appointments • Spaces or group programs for social and development outcomes of babies/young children and parents • Playgroups • Other spaces, such as toy library and immunisations and others. <p>The Community Infrastructure Plan will plan for consulting rooms and flexible program spaces, while maintaining awareness of infrastructure needs for other family services.</p> <p>In planning community infrastructure for family services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is increasing complexity in supporting vulnerable families, resulting in longer or more frequent appointments and a drive for highly accessible services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local-level population data relating to babies (birth notifications and families who move into or around Yarra) • Population projections of babies, changes in fertility rates • A broad range of demographic trends co-relating to access, inclusion and equity for parents and children. • Trends in enrolment data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration or co-location of service with other children's or community services to support easier access, seamless service delivery, increased professional support for staff, increased safety and reduced isolation, space sharing, and economic and environmental benefits. • General recommendations from functionality assessments centre around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lighting, acoustics, accessibility to get to community infrastructure and within community infrastructure – Ability to conduct Maternal and Child Health appointments in line with service frameworks and guidelines – Safety for staff and families • Increase the availability of flexible spaces to support group programs, that are welcoming for families and babies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – adequate size for programs with spaces for prams (doorway widths, storage and circulation)

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Service category	Summary points	What helps us to understand community need?	Key considerations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a desire for well-located infrastructure to enable parents to walk to appointments or programs with ease • There is a desire to co-locate family services with other children's services or community uses such as library • Spaces for family services can be used for other purposes outside of core service delivery, for example allied health services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – access to toilets and baby change – clean (happy to lay your baby on the floor) – comfortable furniture, including chairs for breastfeeding mothers – Lockable storage for program materials – Group presentation resources such as audio-visual equipment, whiteboards) • Consideration of requirements for additional services such as immunisation, toy library and other spaces • Opportunities to utilise community infrastructure for additional purposes.
Youth Services	<p>In Yarra, we currently have two community hubs dedicated to youth (people aged 12 – 25 years), which are the Richmond Youth Hub (owned by DFFH) and Yarra Youth Centre in Fitzroy. Council also supports the Drum in Collingwood to provide youth services within the local area, including from DFFH-owned space on the Collingwood Housing Estate</p> <p>In planning community infrastructure for youth services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will consider a well-distributed network of enhanced community spaces that facilitate dedicated (but not necessarily exclusive) service delivery for youth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population forecasts for youth population • A broad range of demographic trends relating to access, inclusion and equity for youth and their caregivers (as appropriate) • Service participation • Household and dwelling types for youth • Education and employment, including unpaid work and youth disengagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate to retain / expand community infrastructure for youth services within the North Richmond and Collingwood. • Facilitate service provision through place-based multi-use community infrastructure that enables interest, social connection, activity or recreation. This may include service provision within neighbourhood houses, libraries, community centres, leisure and recreation facilities. • Community infrastructure requirements specific to youth services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Accessibility, considering practicality of transport options for young people

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Service category	Summary points	What helps us to understand community need?	Key considerations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future infrastructure may be owned or managed by Council or may be complemented by externally provided spaces. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of suitable amenities, including consideration for child safety and supervision Potential consideration for shower and laundry facilities Assess the functionality of community infrastructure assets for youth services
Seniors Services	<p>In Yarra, we currently have one community hub dedicated to people aged 65 years and over with specific needs, which is the Willowview Centre in Collingwood. We also have the Djerring Centre as a community hub dedicated to people aged 65 years and over with general needs. The Richmond Seniors Centre is another facility within Yarra.</p> <p>The community spaces on the third floor of Bargoonga Nganjin North Fitzroy Library are built to enhanced design standards that supports the delivery of services for older people with specific needs.</p> <p>In planning community infrastructure for seniors services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will consider a well-distributed network of enhanced community spaces that facilitate dedicated (but not necessarily exclusive) service delivery for seniors. Future infrastructure may be owned or managed by Council or may be complemented by externally provided spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population forecasts for seniors population A broad range of demographic trends relating to access, inclusion and equity for seniors and their caregivers (as appropriate) Service participation Household and dwelling types for seniors Education and employment for seniors, including unpaid work (as appropriate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate service provision through place-based multi-use community infrastructure that enables interest, social connection, life-long learning activity or recreation. This may include service provision within neighbourhood houses, libraries, community centres, leisure and recreation facilities. Community infrastructure requirements specific to seniors services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility, considering practicality of transport options for seniors, including traffic patterns. Provision of suitable amenities, including ambulant, access and Changing Places facilities for older people who require assistance with core activities Physical design considerations, such as colour scheme; acoustics; wider doorways, corridors and circulation space; considerations for furniture, equipment, storage, etc. Assess the functionality of community infrastructure assets for seniors services

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Service category	Summary points	What helps us to understand community need?	Key considerations
Leisure	<p>There are four leisure facilities in Yarra – Fitzroy Swimming Pool, Collingwood Leisure Centre, Richmond Recreation Centre, and Burnley Golf Course.</p> <p>This Community Infrastructure Plan focuses on maximising the use and functionality of the leisure infrastructure that exists. Community need will drive considerations around service demand, such as learn to swim and casual swimming, gym, group fitness and other programs.</p> <p>Assessments as part of the Community Services and Infrastructure Audit will determine the opportunities to make improvements that facilitate maximised use, with a focus on flexibility of infrastructure to adapt to needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population forecasts by age and gender • Housing forecasts by household type and dwelling type • Population data about workers, students, and visitors • A broad range of demographic trends relating to access, inclusion and equity across population cohorts • Service participation and usage data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to get off gas • Opportunities to uplift community infrastructure to enable us to meet community need
Recreation	<p>There are a variety of recreation opportunities available in Yarra which are not evenly distributed across the municipality.</p> <p>Land is restricted to facilitate an increase in sports-related infrastructure, so the focus of the Community Infrastructure Plan centres around making the best use of what we have and enhancing the flexibility of spaces to meet a variety of needs and respond to demand, while seeking opportunities to expand where we can.</p> <p>We will also consider the use of supporting assets (e.g. multi use cricket nets) that can increase sports participation and alleviate pressures on primary assets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population forecasts by age and gender • Housing forecasts by household type and dwelling type • Population data about workers, students, and visitors • A broad range of demographic trends relating to access, inclusion and equity across population cohorts • Sports participation trends and bookings • Physical condition of playing surfaces and hours of use • Sports provision, as identified by State Sporting Associations to track where 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a sports provision and participation mapping study to understand the changing and growing demands in sports participation and the current places and spaces where recreation infrastructure exists or could exist to respond to projected demand. • General recommendations from functionality assessments for pavilions centre around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Gender equity within change facilities – Improved and consistent signage – Opportunities for general uplift and modernisation

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Service category	Summary points	What helps us to understand community need?	Key considerations
	<p>We recognise that pavilions play an important role in supporting service delivery for structured sport, where pavilions do not drive demand themselves. Pavilions can also play a role in supporting other community service and infrastructure needs outside of typical playing hours.</p> <p>Functionality assessments have been carried out for all pavilions and playing surfaces of recreation reserves.</p>	Yarra sits in the context of these benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend functionality assessments to broader components of recreation reserves.
Library	<p>In Yarra, we have five libraries that are reasonably distributed through the municipality, as well as reasonably accessible libraries provided within neighbouring municipalities.</p> <p>Yarra has a high library floorspace provision compared to other Victorian municipalities, and space is well utilised with very high utilisation across multiple areas such as memberships, visits, borrowings, program attendance, Wi-Fi sessions).</p> <p>Resident library members are typically loyal to their local library, with some preference to Bargoonga Ngangin North Fitzroy Library as a larger, contemporary library which is co-located with other services.</p> <p>Equity considerations demonstrate a prioritisation towards Collingwood and Fitzroy libraries to respond to higher levels of community need. These equity considerations are also found in the North</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population forecasts by age and gender Housing forecasts by household type and dwelling type Population data about workers, students, and visitors A broad range of demographic trends relating to access, inclusion and equity across population cohorts Service participation and library usage data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future service offering options at each location (perhaps not the same in each place), tailored to local need and responsive to growth. Investigate potential solutions to increase access to library service options in North Richmond, where no offering currently exists. General recommendations from functionality assessments centre around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Line of sight, safety for staff and users Improvements relating to equity and inclusion Tired and dated appearance, tired and mis-matched furniture Innovative solutions to maximise service access, such as satellite service provision, digital borrowing, program offering in other locations. Multi-use / community hub as a future library building model.

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Service category	Summary points	What helps us to understand community need?	Key considerations
	<p>Richmond area where there is also a higher level of community need.</p> <p>In planning community infrastructure for libraries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to consider the changing nature of libraries with increasing demand to physically access libraries to participate in services, programs, activities, or utilise space, balanced against the increasing demand for digital borrowings. • We need to deepen our understanding the changing nature of libraries in the context of growing and changing community need. 		
Neighbourhood Houses	<p>Yarra has nine neighbourhood houses, which are embedded within communities to deliver responsive, locally focussed programs. Some are located within Council-owned assets, with the remaining houses predominantly leasing sites from State Government agencies.</p> <p>Council also has arrangements with Neighbourhood Houses to manage all or part of community hubs on Council's behalf (for example, Richmond Community Learning Centre is currently managing part of the Studio One Community Hub).</p> <p>Neighbourhood houses emerged through the 1970s as a model to address experiences of social marginalisation, which are deliberately based on community development principles and operate firmly within a social justice framework, as</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population forecasts by age and gender • Housing forecasts by household type and dwelling type • Population data about workers, students, and visitors • A broad range of demographic trends relating to access, inclusion and equity across population cohorts • Service participation and library usage data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with Neighbourhood Houses to advocate to retain / expand community infrastructure for neighbourhood houses within public housing estates • Provision of flexible community venue spaces for additional program offering

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Service category	Summary points	What helps us to understand community need?	Key considerations
	<p>outlined in the <i>Yarra Neighbourhood House Partnership Framework</i>.</p> <p>While not every neighbourhood in Yarra is equally serviced by a dedicated Neighbourhood House, the Neighbourhood Houses also make use of flexible hireable spaces to expand their service offering and reach within the community. While Neighbourhood Houses are already well-catered in Yarra, it is anticipated that growth will place higher demand on Council's flexible hireable spaces in libraries, community hubs and community halls.</p>		
Creative and Cultural Services	<p>Creative and cultural services exist to provide opportunities to create, display and exhibit; to rehearse and perform; or to view and experience art and culture in Yarra. Cultural infrastructure facilitates these opportunities.</p> <p>There is a need to distinguish creative and cultural services in Yarra that supports Yarra's thriving and changing arts economy to manufacture and export art, as well as community-based opportunities as part of participation and experience in community life in Yarra.</p> <p>Council's provision of cultural infrastructure opportunities includes both community-based opportunities, as well as some opportunities for manufacture and export, both within indoor and outdoor spaces. These opportunities are provided in an ad-hoc way, where a strategic approach and clarity on Council's role(s) relating to the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographic and economic data relating to creative industries and the people who work within Yarra's creative industries • Participation in creative and cultural services in Yarra and demand on cultural infrastructure • Distribution, type, and use of cultural infrastructure in Yarra and surrounding area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a creative industries mapping study to understand the current places, spaces and cultural infrastructure that exists in Yarra to support both local production and presentation. • Opportunities to uplift cultural infrastructure to meet contemporary needs, while respecting heritage.

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Service category	Summary points	What helps us to understand community need?	Key considerations
	provision of cultural infrastructure is merited.		
Community Venue	<p>Small community meeting rooms 1-20 people</p> <p>Small rooms can be used for smaller group activities, committee meetings, smaller flexible service programming, and used for appointments in addition to consulting spaces.</p> <p>Medium community meeting rooms 20-50 people</p> <p>Medium rooms are most likely required for the bulk of family services group programs, youth programs, seniors and disability programs, as well as general community use, therefore recommending the higher side of provision.</p> <p>Large community meeting rooms 50-100 people</p> <p>Assume that two medium sized rooms could be used as one large room, where each is measured separately, despite being the same space.</p> <p>Further work is required to determine whether this measure also includes dedicated town/community hall spaces, or social spaces within pavilions.</p> <p>Council service provision, as well as use by not for profit / community organisations, or general community use.</p> <p>Community Hall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population forecasts by age and gender • Housing forecasts by household type and dwelling type • Population data about workers, students, and visitors • A broad range of demographic trends relating to access, inclusion and equity across population cohorts • Council service demand • Quantity, type, frequency of bookings • Suitability of spaces for booking purpose (e.g. size, type of booking, functionality of the space for booking purpose) • Requests for consideration of reduction in hire fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location/distribution and quality/functionality of community venues for community service delivery and community use. • Strategies to address unmet service demand • Improvements to community venue booking system and process for improved customer experience and monitoring of demand / utilisation • Storage requirements to support use of community venues for regular hirers or service providers • Integration / co-location of community venue spaces with other services and infrastructure • Modernising spaces and places while also balancing heritage value (if it exists) • Functionality of existing infrastructure, for intended use(s) • Future needs and operating models within new/redeveloped infrastructure • Complete functionality assessments for all community venues

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Service category	Summary points	What helps us to understand community need?	Key considerations
	<p>Legacy spaces within town halls and community halls that may duplicate larger community meeting rooms, but also provide additional purposes, particularly for events, performances or rehearsals.</p> <p>Social rooms within sports pavilions</p> <p>Opportunities to maximise use of social rooms within sports pavilions for a broader range of service offering.</p> <p>The Learning Bank, North Richmond</p> <p>Yarra established The Learning Bank in partnership with the Victorian Government, as a service hub in Victoria Street, Richmond. It focuses on community-centric adult education and life skills, business training and 'Retail Ready' job readiness programming, as well as being home to Thread Together - a not-for-profit clothing hub, a food relief program, and having strong ties to the Yarra Youth Hub, the Neighbourhood Justice Centre. The Learning Hub is jointly funded until the end of the 2025/26 financial year.</p> <p>Kitchen</p> <p>Ancillary to other community venues, as well as recreation facilities and neighbourhood houses to support community use. Commercial kitchens are also required for service provision of long day early education and care.</p> <p>In planning community infrastructure for community venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to better understand functionality / fitness for purpose and 		

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Service category	Summary points	What helps us to understand community need?	Key considerations
	<p>utilisation of spaces for service delivery and community use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need to improve access and automation of venue hire services across Council facilities 		
Public Toilets and Change Facilities	<p>There are a variety of Council-owned and managed public toilet facilities across Yarra, which may be included in parks and open space, associated with recreation infrastructure, along streetscapes, or within community facilities. There is one Changing Places facility in the Bargoonga Nganjin North Fitzroy Library. Some toilets are traditional non-automated toilets, whereas some are automated toilets with a self-washing function and a limit on occupation time to discourage on-going occupation. All public toilets are cleaned at least once per day, but more frequently in some locations based on typical usage patterns.</p> <p>In addition to Council-provided toilets, there are some toilets provided by Parks Victoria and toilets within publicly accessible spaces in other places such within the city such as railway stations, shopping centres and service stations.</p> <p>Public toilets do not attract people independently, but support other services and infrastructure, where the driver is about convenience in places needed.</p> <p>The <i>Public Toilet Strategy 2017</i> identified the need for new public toilets in the municipality in particular areas of demand, some of which but not all have yet been</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customer enquiries and concerns, consultation with other Council departments Indicators of utilisation, including vandalism and safety incidents Internal audit findings and reviews from the <i>Public Toilets Strategy 2017</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace the <i>Public Toilets Strategy 2017</i> with a Public Toilet Policy to consider opening hours for public toilets, naming conventions, and how Council prioritises the types of toilets it provides. Expand Council's understanding of public toilets provided by others in Yarra Strategic provision of Changing Places facilities within key community infrastructure precincts Explore potential provision of shower and laundry facilities.

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Service category	Summary points	What helps us to understand community need?	Key considerations
	<p>delivered. Operating hours for toilets vary depending on the local context, with longer operating hours within activity centres.</p> <p>There are opportunities for Council to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location and distribution of public toilets across Yarra. • The real and perceived safety concerns within toilet facilities, including design, visibility, user confidence, opening hours and cleaning regimes • Gender equity and toilet provision, including consistent naming conventions for toilet type • Accessibility and universal design, including provision of accessible toilets and Changing Places infrastructure • The provision of shower facilities in supporting people experiencing homelessness in workforce participation and social inclusion, where provision of facilities should balance the promotion of dignity, hygiene and social inclusion with the imperative of ensuring community safety. • Tourism and economic benefit to facilitate visitors in Yarra • Amenity and environmental benefits of reducing public urination • Operational risks and management measures 		

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Service category	Summary points	What helps us to understand community need?	Key considerations
Property	<p>Council has a variety of properties that are leased or licensed to other organisations for the purposes of delivering a broad range of community services and uses.</p> <p>The Community Infrastructure Plan aligns with the Property Strategy to determine the demand for community services and infrastructure, and the opportunities to support other organisations providing services within Yarra.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community service needs identified elsewhere through the Community Infrastructure Plan. • Enquiries regarding property leasing or licensing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future demand for community services in Yarra and the opportunities for existing properties to meet demand • The functionality of properties to meet community service demands, to be assessed at the time when leases or licenses are due to end/renew. • Ensuring equity and transparency in the allocation of community properties by type of use, to meet community need.

Neighbourhood profiles

Neighbourhood profiles provide a place-based approach to understanding the needs for community services and infrastructure over time.

While not all community infrastructure is needed at a neighbourhood level, consideration is given to the accessibility of infrastructure that is located nearby and the reasonable expectation for people to travel to access community services and programs.

Neighbourhood profiles are used to consider the demand for community services and infrastructure over time and the challenges and opportunities to meet those needs, noting that analysis of future demand does not reflect the Victorian Government's housing targets for Yarra, and analysis of current trends reflects ABS Census 2021 data, where the Census was conducted when Melbourne was in a COVID-19 lockdown period. Considerations of potential opportunities will be driven by the Community Infrastructure Plan strategic framework objectives and principles.

Abbotsford

Key features

Some of the key features in Abbotsford include:

- Victoria Street Activity Centre, on the southern border of Abbotsford
- Abbotsford Primary School
- The Carlton United Breweries site, which is planned for redevelopment
- Collingwood Town Hall precinct, including surrounding infrastructure such as the Djerring Centre, Willowview Centre, Collingwood Library and Gahan Reserve
- Victoria Park in the northern section of Abbotsford
- Collingwood Children's Farm
- Abbotsford Convent, and the Sophia Mundi Steiner School.

Population indicators

Cultural diversity: 34.0% of residents born overseas (28.7% for Yarra). 23.4% of residents speak a language other than English at home (20.0% for Yarra).

Work and Income: 77.5% of residents are engaged in work (73.8% for Yarra). Unemployment rate of 4.0% (3.8% for Yarra). Affluent area, with 45.2% of households in the 'highest' household income quartile (44.7% for Yarra).

Jobs: 11.37% of jobs in Yarra are based in Abbotsford, producing \$4.9b of economic output. The manufacturing industry produces the most economic output in the area, and the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services industry produces the greatest number of jobs in the area.

Housing: 38.4% lone person households (35.1% for Yarra) and 28.2% couples without children (26.8% for Yarra). 49.9% households privately renting (43.0% for Yarra) and 25.4% households with a mortgage (22.8% for Yarra).

Health: 3.5% people needing assistance with core activities (3.9% for Yarra), most of whom require assistance due to older age (75 years and over, at a rate higher than the Yarra average). 3.7% 0–5-year-olds and 3.0% of 10–19-year-olds needing assistance with core activities (2.1% and 2.6%, respectively for Yarra). 31.1% people with at least one long-term health condition (31.5% for Yarra). Most common health conditions are mental health condition, asthma and arthritis.

Anticipated future community need

2026: 9,900 people

2036: 12,300 people

2046: 14,300 people

Growth is expected across all age groups, particularly young families, working adults, and seniors.

Precinct Summary

The following table outlines the community infrastructure that is owned or managed by Council.

Location	Community Infrastructure	Address	Suburb	CIP Category
Gahan's Reserve	Abbotsford Maternal & Child Health Centre	Park Street (Gahans Reserve)	Abbotsford	Family Services
	Sports Court – half basketball	Park Street (Gahans Reserve)	Abbotsford	Recreation
Collingwood Library	Collingwood Library	7-11 Stanton Street	Abbotsford	Library
	Collingwood Library Meeting Room	7-11 Stanton Street	Abbotsford	Community Venue
	Public Toilets	7-11 Stanton Street	Abbotsford	Public Toilets

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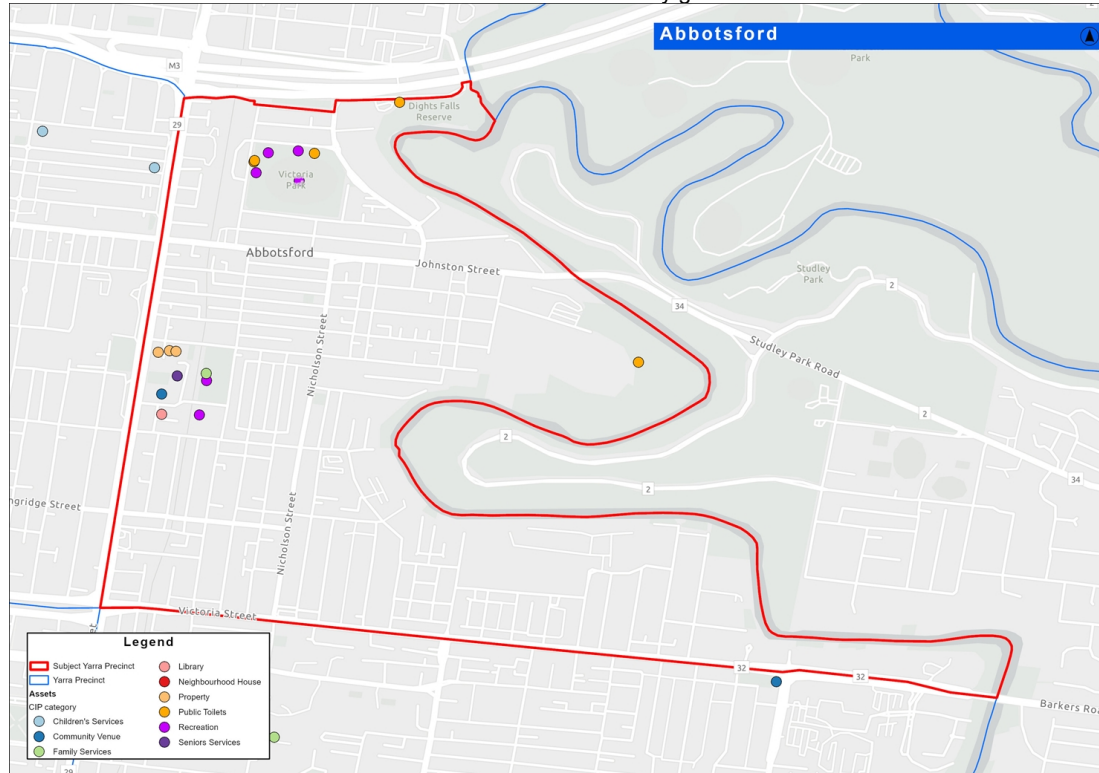
Collingwood Town Hall Precinct	Collingwood Town Hall	140 Hoddle Street	Abbotsford	Community Venue
	Djerring Centre	Eddy Court	Abbotsford	Community Venue (Seniors Services)
	Willowview Centre	6 Eddy Court	Abbotsford	Seniors Services
	Collingwood Sailors & Soldiers Memorial Hall	150-152 Hoddle Street	Abbotsford	Property
	Factory	117 Vere Street	Abbotsford	Property
	Factory	119-123 Vere Street	Abbotsford	Property
Stanton Street Hall	Stanton Street Hall	17 Stanton Street	Abbotsford	Community Venue
Victoria Park	Sports Field – AFL	Abbot Street & Lulie Street	Abbotsford	Recreation
	Bob Rose Stand	14 Lulie St	Abbotsford	Recreation
	Ryder Stand	20 Abbott St	Abbotsford	Recreation
	Sherrin Stand	Lulie St	Abbotsford	Recreation
	Public Toilets	Abbott St	Abbotsford	Public Toilets
Collingwood Children's Farm	Public Toilets	3 St Heliers St	Abbotsford	Public Toilets
Yarra River Parklands – Dights Falls	Public Toilets	112A Trenerry Crescent	Abbotsford	Public Toilets

Key considerations

- Council's response to increasing demand for children's and family services in Abbotsford
- Future library service demand, generated by Abbotsford and surrounding neighbourhoods
- Future purpose for the Collingwood Town Hall precinct, including but not limited to community use for the Collingwood Town Hall and the future use for the Collingwood Sailors and Soldiers Memorial Hall, and the potential provision of affordable housing in this area which would generate additional community need².
- Revitalisation of Victoria Street and any potential community service and infrastructure opportunities
- Revitalisation and future purpose for Victoria Park to meet the needs for future generations.

² Associated with an initiative in the Annual Budget 2025/26 to reactivate the Collingwood Town Hall precinct housing proposal in order to secure and advocate for funding and approvals to progress this project.

Demand on recreation infrastructure as the Abbotsford community grows.



Carlton North – Princes Hill

Key features

Some of the key features of Carlton North and Princes Hill include:

- Rathdowne Village
- Schools including Princes Hill Primary School, Princes Hill Secondary School, and Carlton North Primary School
- Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre, which is not owned by Council.

Some of the key features outside of Yarra, adjacent to Carlton North and Princes Hill include:

- Princes Park
- Royal Park and Melbourne Zoo
- Kathleen Syme Library
- Melbourne University and related facilities within the university precinct.

Population Indicators

Note: Carlton North and Princes Hill have been areas that have typically attracted overseas students to live, due to proximity to tertiary education opportunities around Carlton and Melbourne. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, many overseas students returned home, and this is reflected in data captured through the ABS Census 2021, which is likely to impact results listed in this section.

Cultural diversity: 22.7% of residents are born overseas (28.7% for Yarra). 14.3% of residents speak a language other than English at home (20.0% for Yarra).

Work and Income: 73.3% of residents are engaged in work (73.8% for Yarra). Unemployment rate of 3.9% (3.8% for Yarra). Affluent area, with 39% of households in the 'highest' household income quartile (44.7% for Yarra).

Jobs: 2.14% of the 98,000 jobs in Yarra are based in Carlton North – Princes Hill, producing \$587.1m of economic output. The construction industry produces the most economic output, and the Education and Training industry produces the greatest number of jobs in the area.

Housing: 28.3% couples without children (26.8% for Yarra). High rate of lone person households at 27.3% (35.1% for Yarra). Higher rates of all other household types than Yarra (family households, group households). 43.5% households privately renting (43.0% for Yarra) and 29.0% households fully own their home (19.3% for Yarra).

Health: 2.9% people needing assistance with core activities (3.9% for Yarra), most of whom require assistance due to older age (80 years and over, at a rate lower than the Yarra average). 5.1% 0–5-year-olds needing assistance with core activities (2.1% for Yarra). 33.6% people with at least one long-term health condition (31.5% for Yarra). Most common health conditions are mental health condition, asthma and arthritis.

Anticipated future community need

2026: 8,500 people

2036: 8,800 people

2046: 8,700 people

There is little growth expected in Carlton North – Princes Hill. Growth in elderly people (80 years and over) is expected to be particularly high. Small growth is expected for young children and middle-aged adults, particularly within the next 10 years. Populations of young adults is expected to decline.

Precinct Summary

The following table outlines the community infrastructure that is owned or managed by Council.

Location	Community Infrastructure	Address	Suburb	CIP Category
North Carlton Children's Centre	North Carlton Children's Centre	481 Canning Street	Carlton North	Children's Services
Princes Hill Primary School	Princes Hill Kindergarten	Corner Wilson Street & Pigdon Street	Princes Hill	Children's Services

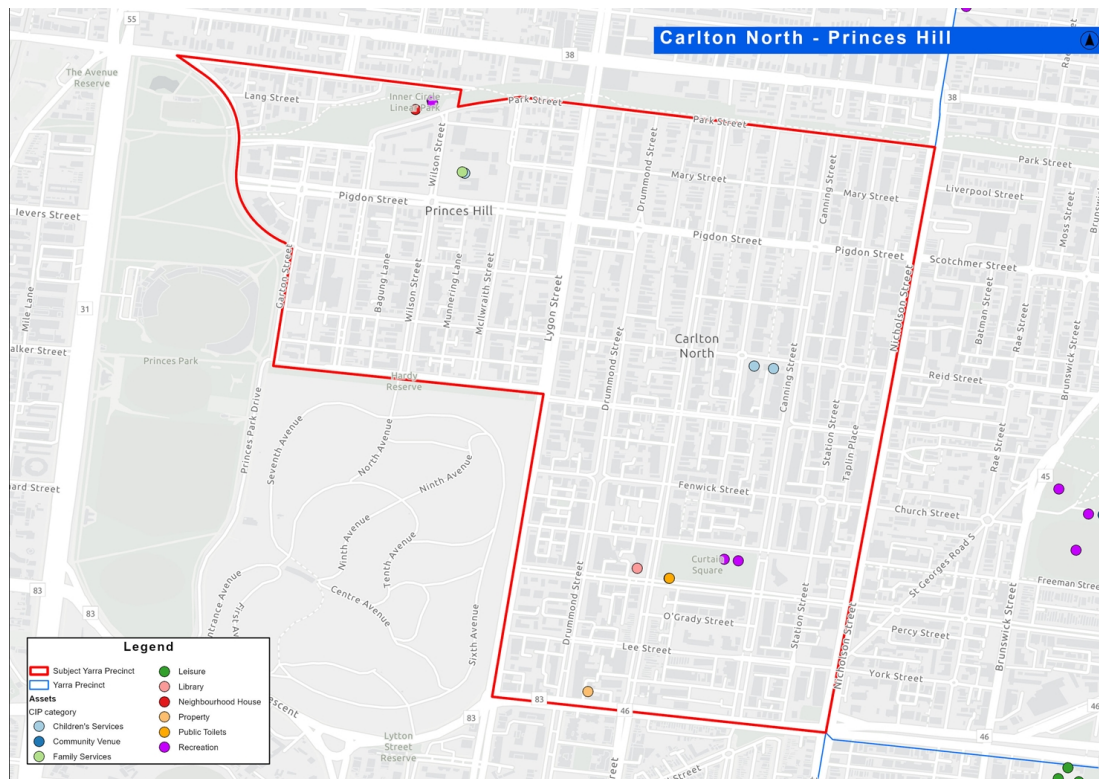
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	Princes Hill Maternal and Child Health Centre	Corner Wilson Street & Pigdon Street	Princes Hill	Family Services
Carlton Library	Carlton Library	653-659 Rathdowne Street	Carlton North	Library
	Carlton Library meeting room	653-659 Rathdowne Street	Carlton North	Community Venue
	Public Toilets	653-659 Rathdowne Street	Carlton North	Public Toilets
Dancehouse	Carlton Hall	150-154 Princes Street	Carlton North	Property
North Carlton Railway Station Neighbourhood House	North Carlton Railway Station Neighbourhood House	20 Solly Avenue	Princes Hill	Neighbourhood House
Gallagher Reserve	Bocce Rink Club House	20 Solly Avenue	Princes Hill	Recreation
	Sports Court – Bocce	20 Solly Avenue	Princes Hill	Recreation
Curtain Square	Public Toilets	Cnr Newry Street & Rathdowne Street	Carlton North	Public Toilets
	Sports Court – Basketball	Rathdowne Street	Carlton North	Recreation
	Sports Court – Netball	Rathdowne Street	Carlton North	Recreation
	Public Toilets	Cnr Newry Street & Rathdowne Street	Carlton North	Public Toilets
Nicholson Street	Public Toilets (Automated)	Nicholson Street, between Richardson Street and Park Street	Carlton North	Public Toilets

Key considerations

- Maintain, modernise and increase the functionality of existing infrastructure for use by future generations, such as children's and family services, library, community meeting rooms, and others
- Consider the needs for recreation and leisure, noting the availability of surrounding infrastructure in other parts of Yarra and outside of Yarra.

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Central Richmond

Key features

Some of the key features of Central Richmond include:

- Bridge Road, including Epworth Hospital and the Richmond Town Hall precinct
- Swan Street
- Richmond Train Station as a significant interchange for multiple metropolitan and regional train lines
- Richmond Neighbourhood House, which is not owned by Council
- Victoria Gardens Shopping Centre
- Private schools, including Melbourne Girls' College and St Kevin's College Waterford Campus.

Some of the key features outside of Yarra, adjacent to Central Richmond include:

- Yarra Park, and the Melbourne Sports and Entertainment Precinct.

Population Indicators

Cultural diversity: 24.5% of residents are born overseas (28.7% for Yarra). 14.8% of residents speak a language other than English at home (20.0% for Yarra).

Work and Income: 77.6% of residents are engaged in work (73.8% for Yarra). Unemployment rate of 2.6% (3.8% for Yarra). Affluent area, with 44.4% of households in the 'highest' household income quartile (44.7% for Yarra).

Jobs: Approximately 9.87% of the 98,000 jobs in Yarra are based in Central Richmond, producing \$3.1b of economic output. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services is the most common industry in Central Richmond for both economic output and number of jobs in the area. This data includes jobs and economic output generated from both sides of Swan Street, however other demographic data recognises Swan Street as the boundary between Central Richmond and South Richmond.

Housing: 27.5% couples without children (26.8% for Yarra) and 34.5% lone person households (35.1% for Yarra). Higher rate of group households than Yarra at 12.4% and 11.1%, respectively. 46.4% households privately renting (43.0% for Yarra). Higher rates of home ownership, with 24.5% households with a mortgage (22.8% for Yarra) and 21.3% households fully own their home (19.3% for Yarra).

Health: 3.2% people needing assistance with core activities (3.9% for Yarra), most of whom require assistance due to older age (75 years and over, at a rate similar or slightly higher than the Yarra average). 29.2% people with at least one long-term health condition (31.5% for Yarra). Most common health conditions are mental health condition, asthma and arthritis.

Anticipated future community need

2026: 14,300 people

2036: 16,500 people

2046: 16,900 people

Growth is expected across all age groups in the next 10 years, with most growth occurring in adult populations of all ages, particularly people in their late 20s, 40s and 50s, and elderly aged.

Growth in 10-20 years' time will be far more focused on older populations (50 years and older), with some growth continuing in younger populations (0-17 years).

Precinct Summary

The following table outlines the community infrastructure that is owned or managed by Council.

Location	Community Infrastructure	Address	Suburb	CIP Category
Richmond Kindergarten	Richmond Kindergarten	92-104 Lord Street	Richmond	Children's Services
Studio One Community Hub	Studio One Community Hub	15 Barnet Way	Richmond	Neighbourhood House
	South Richmond Maternal and Child Health Centre	15 Barnet Way	Richmond	Family Services

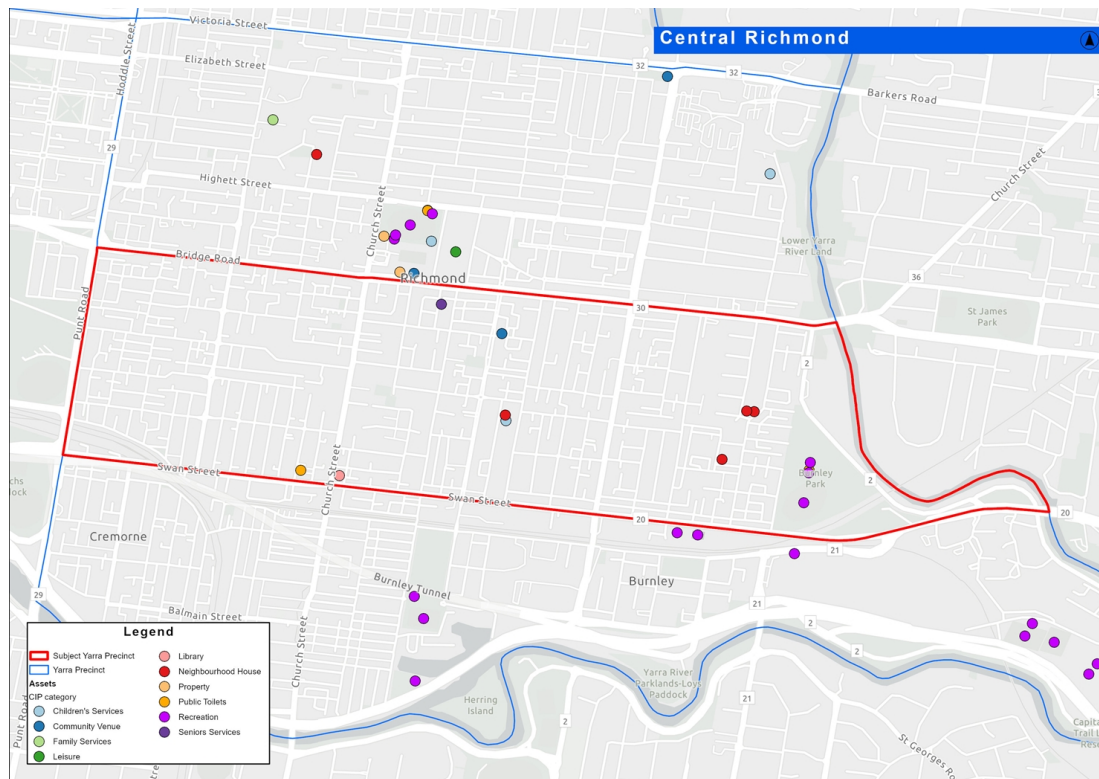
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Richmond Senior Citizens Centre	Richmond Senior Citizens Centre	3 Hosie Street	Richmond	Seniors Services
Richmond Library	Richmond Library	415-417 Church Street	Richmond	Library
	Richmond Theatre	415-417 Church Street	Richmond	Community Venue
	Richmond Library Meeting Room	415-417 Church Street	Richmond	Community Venue
	Carringbush Adult Education	415-417 Church Street	Richmond	Property
	Richmond Toy Library	415-417 Church Street	Richmond	Property
	Richmond and Burnley Historical Society	415-417 Church Street	Richmond	Property
	Women's Art Register	415-417 Church Street	Richmond	Property
	Public Toilets	415-417 Church Street	Richmond	Public Toilets
Jim Loughnan Hall	Jim Loughnan Hall	65-67 Coppin Street	Richmond	Community Venue
Burnley Backyard	Burnley Backyard	49 Tudor Street	Richmond	Neighbourhood House
The Stables	The Stables	19-21 Duke Street	Richmond	Neighbourhood House
Burnley Park	Sports Court – Basketball	Yarra Boulevard 150	Richmond	Recreation
	Sports Field – AFL/Cricket	Yarra Boulevard 150	Richmond	Recreation
	Public Toilets	Yarra Boulevard 150	Richmond	Recreation
Docker Street	Public Toilets	Docker Street	Richmond	Public Toilets

Key considerations

- Council's response to increasing demand for children's and family services
- Council's response to increasing demand for seniors' services
- Future community infrastructure needs within the Richmond Library building³
- Addressing ageing and underutilised community infrastructure.

³ Associated with an initiative in the Annual Budget 2025/26 for preliminary investigations, feasibility and business case work for a future major redevelopment of the library



Clifton Hill

Key features

Some of the key features of Clifton Hill include:

- Eastern Freeway and Alexandra Parade, as a key transport connection into and through Yarra
- Heidelberg Road
- Clifton Hill Train Station junction
- Yarra Bend Park and other public and recreation open space along the Merri Creek to the east of Clifton Hill, including the Merri Creek trail
- Collingwood Leisure Centre and Mayor's Park precinct and nearby Darling Gardens.

Some of the key features outside of Yarra, adjacent to Clifton Hill include:

- Northcote and Fairfield libraries
- Northcote Theatre.

Population Indicators

Cultural diversity: 21.4% of residents are born overseas (28.7% for Yarra). 12.6% of residents speak a language other than English at home (20.0% for Yarra).

Work and Income: 73.7% of residents are engaged in work (73.8% for Yarra). Unemployment rate of 3.5% (3.8% for Yarra). Affluent area, with 47.9% of households in the 'highest' household income quartile (44.7% for Yarra).

Jobs: 1.97% of the 98,000 jobs in Yarra are based in Clifton Hill, producing \$636m of economic output. The construction industry produces the most economic output in Clifton Hill, where the Health Care and Social Assistance industry produces the most jobs in Clifton Hill.

Housing: 28.8% couples without children (26.8% for Yarra), 26.8% lone person households (35.1% for Yarra), and 25.5% couples with children (14.5% for Yarra). 34.4% households privately renting (43.0% for Yarra). Higher rates of home ownership, with 29.7% households with a mortgage (22.8% for Yarra) and 28.7% households fully own their home (19.3% for Yarra).

Health: 4.2% people needing assistance with core activities (3.9% for Yarra), most of whom require assistance due to older age (75 years and over, at a rate higher than the Yarra average). 33.2% people with at least one long-term health condition (31.5% for Yarra). Most common health conditions are mental health condition, asthma and arthritis.

Anticipated future community need

2026: 7,000 people

2036: 7,400 people

2046: 7,500 people

While a relatively stable population overall, changes in age cohorts will contribute to changing community need over time, where growth is anticipated across older populations (60 years and over). Middle age groups (30s, 40s and 50s) are expected to decline.

Precinct Summary

The following table outlines the community infrastructure that is owned or managed by Council.

Location	Community Infrastructure	Address	Suburb	CIP Category
Walker Street Community Kindergarten	Walker Street Community Kindergarten	89 Walker Street	Clifton Hill	Children's Services
Clifton Hill Scout Hall	Clifton Hill Scout Hall	95 Walker Street	Clifton Hill	Property
Mayor's Park	Mayor's Park Tennis and Netball Centre	Turnbull Street	Clifton Hill	Recreation

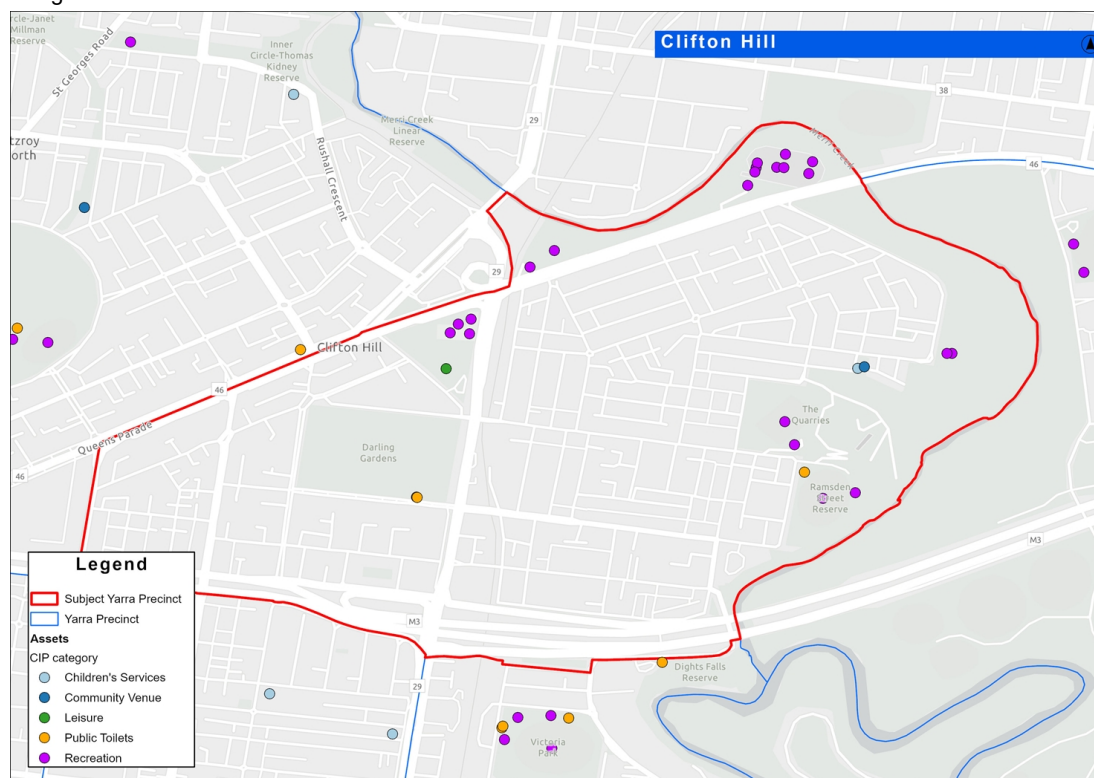
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Mayor's Park	Sports Court – Multi-use (2)	Turnbull Street	Clifton Hill	Recreation
Mayor's Park	Sports Court - Tennis	Turnbull Street	Clifton Hill	Recreation
Mayor's Park	Collingwood Leisure Centre	Turnbull Street	Clifton Hill	Leisure
George Knott Reserve	Ray Coverdale Pavilion	15 Heidelberg Road	Clifton Hill	Recreation
	Athletics	15 Heidelberg Road	Clifton Hill	Recreation
	Sports Field - Soccer	15 Heidelberg Road	Clifton Hill	Recreation
	Ray Coverdale Pavilion and Public Toilets	15 Heidelberg Road	Clifton Hill	Public Toilets
Coulson Reserve	Pavilion	1 Heidelberg Road	Clifton Hill	Recreation
	Sports Field – Soccer	1 Heidelberg Road	Clifton Hill	Recreation
	Pavilion and Public Toilets	1 Heidelberg Road	Clifton Hill	Public Toilets
Quarries Park	Yambla Street Reserve Pavilion	Yambla Street	Clifton Hill	Recreation
	Sports Field - Soccer	Yambla Street	Clifton Hill	Recreation
	Yambla Street Pavilion and Public Toilets	Yambla Street	Clifton Hill	Public Toilets
Ramsden Street Reserve	Pavilion	Field St cnr Ramsden Street	Clifton Hill	Recreation
	Sports Field – AFL/Cricket	Field St cnr Ramsden Street	Clifton Hill	Recreation
	Sports Court – Multi-use	Field St cnr Ramsden Street	Clifton Hill	Recreation
	Pavilion and Public Toilets	Field St cnr Ramsden Street	Clifton Hill	Public Toilets
	Cricket Practice Nets	The Esplanade	Clifton Hill	Recreation
	Sports Court – Half Basketball	The Esplanade	Clifton Hill	Recreation
	Public Toilets	237 Gold Street	Clifton Hill	Public Toilets
	Cricket Practice Nets	237 Gold Street	Clifton Hill	Recreation

Key considerations

- Council's response to increasing demand for children's and family services
- Increasing demand for library and community venues, recognising the availability of infrastructure in neighbouring Yarra suburbs, as well as outside of Yarra

- Uplift the Collingwood Leisure Centre to meet the needs for future generations⁴
- Uplift recreation infrastructure such as the Yambla Reserve pavilion to meet the needs for future generations⁵.



⁴ Associated with an initiative in the Annual Budget 2025/26 for the electrification of the Collingwood Leisure Centre.

⁵ Associated with an initiative in the Annual Budget 2025/26 for the delivery of Yambla Pavilion.

Collingwood

Key features

Some of the key features of Collingwood include:

- Smith Street and Wellington Street precincts
- Gipps Precinct
- Hoddle Street as a key north-south transport connection through Yarra
- Significant public and social housing precincts, where the Collingwood public housing estate includes several community infrastructure opportunities including Collingwood Neighbourhood House and The Drum youth services, and adjacent community infrastructure at Collingwood College and CoHealth
- Collingwood Yards creative arts precinct
- Melbourne Polytechnic (Collingwood Campus).

Some of the key features outside of Yarra, adjacent to Collingwood include:

- Fitzroy Gardens.

Population Indicators

Cultural diversity: 24.8% of residents are born overseas (28.7% for Yarra). 24.8% of residents speak a language other than English at home (20.0% for Yarra).

Work and Income: 74.8% of residents are engaged in work (73.8% for Yarra). Unemployment rate of 5.0% (3.8% for Yarra). Net rate of affluence, with 33.6% of households in the 'highest' household income quartile (44.7% for Yarra). Higher rates of low-income households, with 21.5% of households in the 'lowest' household income quartile (18.5% for Yarra),

Jobs: 14.61% of the 98,000 jobs in Yarra are based in Collingwood, producing \$5.1b of economic output. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services is the most common industry for both economic output and number of jobs.

Housing: 40.0% lone person households (35.1% for Yarra), 27.5% couples without children (26.8% for Yarra). Larger proportion of one parent families compared to Yarra (6.4% and 6.0%, respectively). 45.9% households privately renting (43.0% for Yarra), and 15.0% households renting social housing (8.1% for Yarra). Lower rates of home ownership, with 21.1% households with a mortgage (22.8% for Yarra) and 10.2% households fully own their home (19.2% for Yarra).

Health: 3.9% people needing assistance with core activities (3.9% for Yarra), most of whom require assistance due to older age (60 years and over, at a rate higher than the Yarra average). 29.7% people with at least one long-term health condition (31.5% for Yarra). Most common health conditions are mental health condition, asthma and arthritis.

Anticipated future community need

2026: 10,800 people

2036: 12,900 people

2046: 14,400 people

Growth is anticipated across all age groups, particularly across children, youth, young adults and middle-aged adults in the next 10 years. In 10 to 20 years' time, higher rates of growth are expected in older populations (50 years and over, especially in elderly aged populations).

Precinct Summary

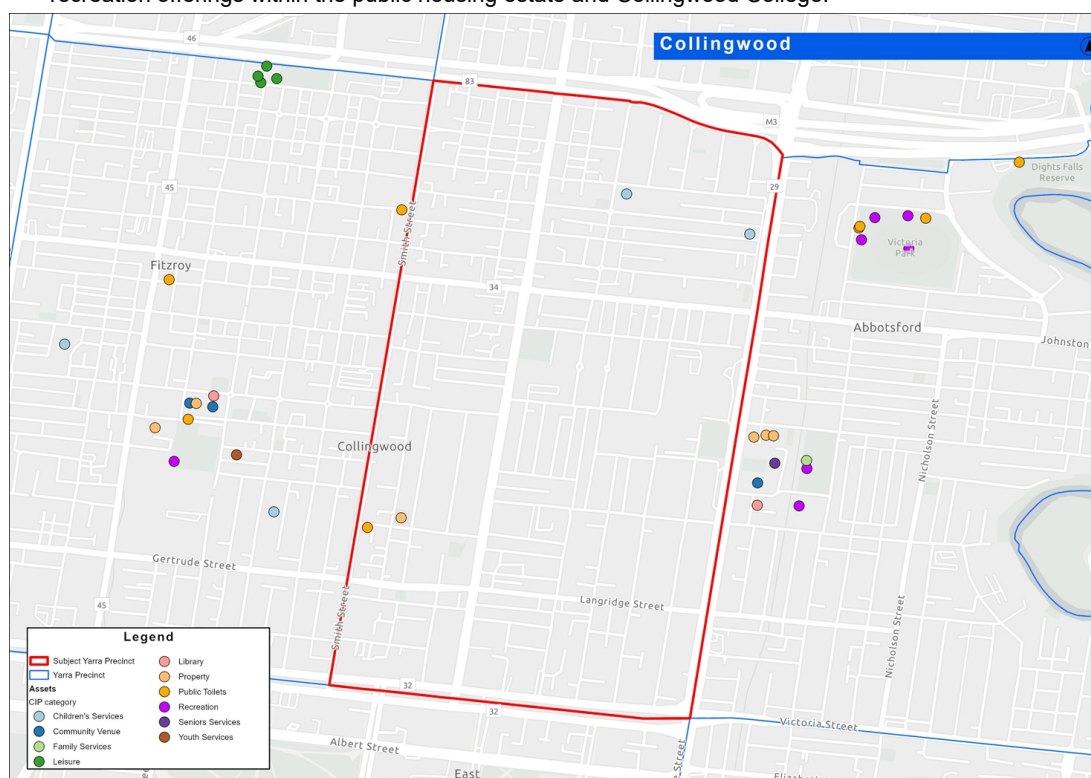
The following table outlines the community infrastructure that is owned or managed by Council.

Location	Community Infrastructure	Address	Suburb	CIP Category
Gold Street Children's Centre	Gold Street Children's Centre	58-64 Gold Street	Collingwood	Children's Services
	Collingwood Maternal and Child Health Centre	58-64 Gold Street	Collingwood	Family Services

Keele Street Child Care Centre	Keele Street Children's Centre	177 Keele Street	Collingwood	Children's Services
Yallabirrang Kindergarten	Yallabirrang Kindergarten	49 Vere Street	Collingwood	Children's Services
Wellington Street	Arts & Craft Gallery	57 Wellington Street	Collingwood	Property
Office – Peel Street	Office – Peel Street	12-16 Peel Street	Collingwood	Property
Peel Street, cnr Smith Street	Public Toilets (Automated)	Cnr Peel Street & Smith Street	Collingwood	Public Toilets
Otter Street, cnr Smith Street	Public Toilets (Automated)	Otter Street cnr Smith Street	Collingwood	Public Toilets

Key considerations

- Preservation and growth of community infrastructure at the Collingwood public housing estate
- Access to local community infrastructure opportunities, such as library and family services, recognising that Hoddle Street is a barrier to accessing services located in Abbotsford
- Recreation opportunities within Collingwood and the potential ongoing community opportunities to utilise recreation offerings within the public housing estate and Collingwood College.



Cremorne, Richmond South and Burnley

Key features

Some of the key features of Cremorne, Richmond South and Burnley include:

- Cremorne global innovation precinct, which will drive significant economic development and employment opportunities. Bendigo Kangan Institute is also located in the precinct.
- City Link and Monash Freeway as a key transport connection into and through Yarra
- Swan Street precinct.

Some of the key features outside of Yarra, adjacent to Cremorne, Richmond South and Burnley include:

- Melbourne Sports and Entertainment Precinct.

Population Indicators

Cultural diversity: 22.4% of residents are born overseas (28.7% for Yarra). 11.2% of residents speak a language other than English at home (20.0% for Yarra).

Work and Income: 81.2% of residents are engaged in work (73.8% for Yarra). Unemployment rate of 2.2% (3.8% for Yarra). Affluent area, with 48.1% of households in the 'highest' household income quartile (44.7% for Yarra).

Jobs: 15.01% of the 98,000 jobs in Yarra are based in Cremorne, Richmond South and Burnley, producing \$8.4b economic output. The electricity, gas, water and waste services industry produces the most economic output, and the retail trade industry produces the most jobs in the area.

Housing: 31.8% lone person households (35.1% for Yarra), 29.2% couples without children (26.8% for Yarra). Larger proportions of couple households (with or without children), and group households than Yarra. 43.4% households privately renting (43.0% for Yarra). Higher rates of home ownership with 29.8% of households with a mortgage (22.8% for Yarra) and 20.6% of households fully own their home (19.2% for Yarra).

Health: 2.4% people needing assistance with core activities (3.9% for Yarra), most of whom require assistance due to older age, where people aged 85 years and over require assistance at a higher rate to the Yarra average. 28.2% people with at least one long-term health condition (31.5% for Yarra). Most common health conditions are mental health condition, asthma and arthritis.

Anticipated future community need

2026: 5,800 people

2036: 7,000 people

2046: 9,200 people

Growth is expected across all ages, particularly in adult populations (25 years and over). Higher rates of growth in young children and teens are expected in 10 to 20 years' time.

Precinct Summary

The following table outlines the community infrastructure that is owned or managed by Council.

Location	Community Infrastructure	Address	Suburb	CIP Category
Burnley Golf Course	Burnley Golf Course	102 Madden Grove	Burnley	Leisure
	Pavilion	102 Madden Grove	Burnley	Leisure
	Social Room – Burnley Golf Course	102 Madden Grove	Burnley	Community Venue
	Public Toilets	Swan St (Park Grove to Yarra Boulevard)	Burnley	Public Toilets
Kevin Bartlett Reserve	Sports Field – AFL/Cricket (JA Loughnan Oval)	FR Smith Drive off Yarra Boulevard	Burnley	Recreation

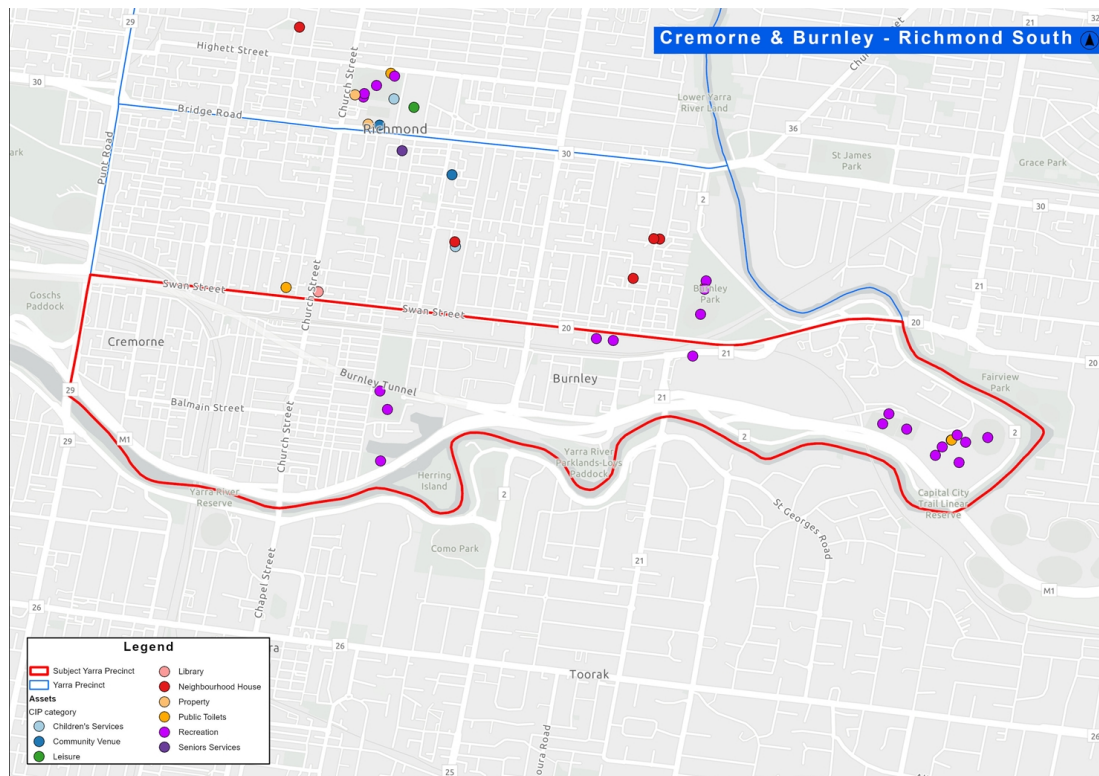
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	Johnston Pavilion	FR Smith Drive off Yarra Boulevard	Burnley	Recreation
	Sports Field – Soccer (EJ Bastow Oval)	FR Smith Drive off Yarra Boulevard	Burnley	Recreation
	Gillon Pavilion	FR Smith Drive off Yarra Boulevard	Burnley	Recreation
	Sports Field – Soccer (Fletcher 1)	FR Smith Drive off Yarra Boulevard	Burnley	Recreation
	Sports Field – Soccer (Fletcher 2)	FR Smith Drive off Yarra Boulevard	Burnley	Recreation
	Malcolm Graham Pavilion	FR Smith Drive off Yarra Boulevard	Burnley	Recreation
	Sports Court – Multi-use	FR Smith Drive off Yarra Boulevard	Burnley	Recreation
	Public Toilets	FR Smith Drive off Yarra Boulevard	Burnley	Public Toilets
Ryans Reserve	Mary Rogers Pavilion	510 Swan Street	Burnley	Recreation
	Sports Court – Netball (4)	510 Swan Street	Burnley	Recreation
McConchie Reserve	Sports Court – Basketball (half)	320 Mary Street	Richmond	Recreation
Barkly Gardens	Barkly Gardens Pavilion	Cnr Barkly Avenue & Mary Street	Richmond	Recreation
	Sports Field – Soccer/Cricket (Alan Bain Reserve)	Mary Street	Richmond	Recreation
	Barkly Gardens Pavilion and Public Toilets	Cnr Barkly Avenue & Mary Street	Richmond	Public Toilets

Key considerations

- The demand for direct community service delivery (children's and family services, youth, seniors, library, and others) within the area, and Council's response to this
- The increasing demand for community infrastructure generated by workers, and Council's response
- Maintain and uplift recreation infrastructure and open space in the precinct, to meet the needs for Yarra more broadly⁶.

⁶ Associated with initiatives in the Annual Budget 2025/26 to deliver open space and sporting improvements to Kevin Bartlett Reserve; and to invest in sporting facilities at Kevin Bartlett Reserve including designing the rehabilitation of Fletcher 1, constructing a new fence between Fletcher 1 and Fletcher 2 to improve access, designing a new pavilion to replace the Gillon Pavilion and designing a new synthetic soccer pitch to replace Bastow 2.



Fairfield - Alphington

Key features

Some of the key features of Fairfield - Alphington include:

- Yarra Bend development at the former Alphington Paper Mill site
- Schools including Alphington Primary School and Alphington Grammar School
- Melbourne Polytechnic Fairfield Campus.

Some of the key features outside of Yarra, adjacent to Fairfield - Alphington include:

- Fairfield Library
- Schools including Fairfield Primary School and St Anthony's Primary School Alphington.

Population indicators

Cultural diversity: 21.9% of residents are born overseas (28.7% for Yarra). 15.5% of residents speak a language other than English at home (20.0% for Yarra).

Work and Income: 68.5% of residents are engaged in work (73.8% for Yarra). Unemployment rate of 3.6% (3.8% for Yarra). A combination of middle- and higher-income households, with 39.4% of households in the 'highest' household income quartile (44.7% for Yarra) and 22.3% of households in the 'medium lowest' household income quarter (19.1% for Yarra).

Jobs: 2.31% of the 98,000 jobs in Yarra are based in Fairfield – Alphington, producing \$695m economic output. The Health Care and Social Assistance industry produces both the most economic output and number of jobs in the area.

Housing: 33.9% lone person households (35.1% for Yarra, 24.9% couples without children (26.8% for Yarra). Larger proportions of family households, with 24.4% couples with children (14.5% for Yarra), and 6.0% one parent families (6.0% for Yarra). 36.3% households privately renting (43.0% for Yarra). Higher rates of home ownership with 29.2% of households with a mortgage (22.8% for Yarra) and 26.7% of households fully own their home (19.2% for Yarra).

Health: 4.0% people needing assistance with core activities (3.9% for Yarra), most of whom require assistance due to older age (70 years and over, where people aged 85 years and over require assistance at a higher rate to the Yarra average). 34.2% people with at least one long-term health condition (31.5% for Yarra). Most common health conditions are mental health condition, asthma and arthritis.

Anticipated future community need

2026: 4,400 people

2036: 8,700 people

2046: 9,200 people

Fairfield-Alphington is Yarra's fastest growing neighbourhood by rate of growth, and by Net population increase within the next 10 years.

In the next 10 years, growth is anticipated across all populations, with most growth expected to occur in people in their 20s and 30s. In 10 to 20 years' time, those population age groups are expected to decline, with more growth expected in older populations (50 years and over).

Precinct Summary

The following table outlines the community infrastructure that is owned or managed by Council.

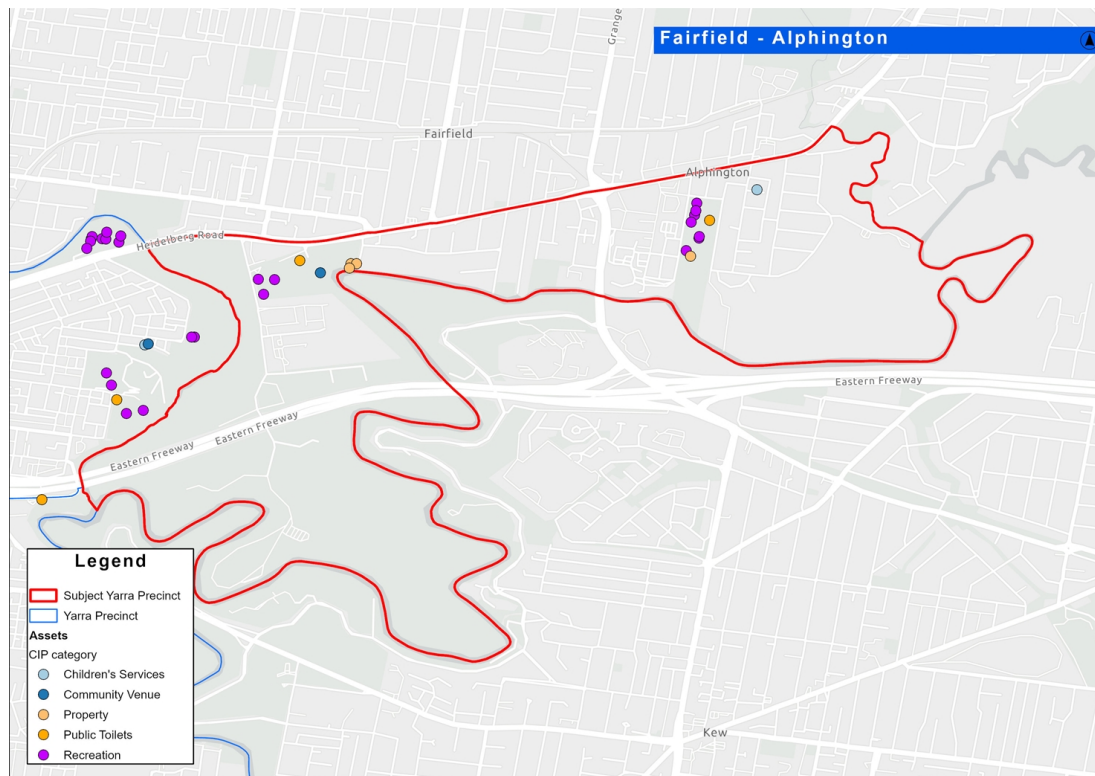
Location	Community Infrastructure	Address	Suburb	CIP Category
Yarralea Children's Centre	Yarralea Children's Centre	54 Yarralea Street	Alphington	Children's Services
	Alphington Maternal and Child Health Centre	54 Yarralea Street	Alphington	Children's Services
Fairfield Park	Amphitheatre - Fairfield Park	Fairfield Park Drive	Fairfield	Community Venue

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	Fairfield Boathouse	Fairfield Park Drive	Fairfield	Property
	Maxwell Sutherland Pavilion	Fairfield Park Drive	Fairfield	Recreation
	Sports Field – Soccer/Cricket	Fairfield Park Drive	Fairfield	Recreation
	Cricket Practice Nets	Fairfield Park Drive	Fairfield	Recreation
	Public Toilets	Fairfield Park Drive	Fairfield	Public Toilets
Alphington Park	Alphington Bowls Club	Cnr Parkview Road & Riverview Grove	Alphington	Recreation
	Bowling Green (2)	Cnr Parkview Road & Riverview Grove	Alphington	Recreation
	Kevin Crehan Pavilion and Grandstand	Parkview Road	Alphington	Recreation
	Sports Field – AFL/Cricket	Parkview Road	Alphington	Recreation
	Sports Field – Soccer	Parkview Road	Alphington	Recreation
	Cricket Practice Nets	Parkview Road	Alphington	Recreation
	Northcote Obedience Dog Club	View Street	Alphington	Recreation
	Public Toilets	Parkview Road	Alphington	Public Toilets
Yarra Bend Park	Fairlea Netball Precinct and pavilion	Yarra Bend Road	Fairfield	Recreation
	Fairlea Reserve oval	Yarra Bend Road	Fairfield	Recreation
	Public Toilets	Yarra Bend Road	Fairfield	Public Toilets

Key considerations

- Potential community infrastructure opportunities through the Yarra Bend development
- Uplift family services opportunities for the needs of future generations
- Uplift children's services opportunities for the needs of future generations
- Future demand for library services and other community services, balancing the demand expected to be generated within this neighbourhood and potential impact on community infrastructure in neighbouring suburbs, both within and outside of Yarra.



Fitzroy

Key features

Some of the key features of Fitzroy include:

- Smith Street precinct
- Brunswick Street commercial precinct
- Significant public and social housing precincts, where the Fitzroy public housing estate includes several community infrastructure opportunities such as Atherton Reserve, the Connie Benn Centre and Dill-be-din Kindergarten, and nearby Yarra Youth Centre and Fitzroy Learning Network.
- Fitzroy Town Hall precinct, including Fitzroy Library and Florence Peel Centre.
- Fitzroy Swimming Pool
- Schools including Fitzroy Primary School and Sacred Heart Primary School
- Medical precinct surrounding St Vincents Hospital and St Vincents Private
- Australian Catholic University
- Victorian Aboriginal Health Service.

Some of the key features outside of Yarra, adjacent to Fitzroy include:

- Carlton Gardens, Royal Exhibition Building and Melbourne Museum
- Fitzroy Gardens.

Population indicators

Cultural diversity: 31.4% of residents are born overseas (28.7% for Yarra). 23.0% of residents speak a language other than English at home (20.0% for Yarra).

Work and Income: 69.2% of residents are engaged in work (73.8% for Yarra). Unemployment rate of 4.5% (3.8% for Yarra). A combination of higher- and low-income households, with 37.5% of households in the 'highest' household income quartile (38.2% for Yarra) and 22.5% of households in the 'lowest' household income quartile (18.5% for Yarra).

Jobs: 16.39% of the 98,000 jobs in Yarra are based in Fitzroy, producing \$4.1b economic output. The Health Care and Social Assistance industry produces both the most economic output and number of jobs in the area.

Housing: 35.2% lone person households (35.1% for Yarra), 25.8% couples without children (26.8% for Yarra). Larger proportion of one parent families than Yarra (7.1% and 6.0%, respectively). High rates of renters, with 39.1% households privately renting (43.0% for Yarra) and 15.5% of households renting social housing (8.1% for Yarra).

Health: 3.9% people needing assistance with core activities (3.9% for Yarra), most of whom require assistance due to older age (60 years and over, at a higher rate to the Yarra average). 30.5% people with at least one long-term health condition (31.5% for Yarra). Most common health conditions are mental health condition, asthma and arthritis.

Anticipated future community need

2026: 11,900 people

2036: 15,500 people

2046: 18,200 people

Fitzroy is one of Yarra's fastest growing neighbourhoods, particularly expecting a Net population increase of 3,600 people within the next 10 years.

Growth is anticipated across all age groups. In the next 10 years, growth is expected to be highest for people in their 20s, 30s and 40s. In 10-20 years' time, growth is expected to be highest for people in their 30s and 40s and seniors (50 years and over).

Precinct Summary

The following table outlines the community infrastructure that is owned or managed by Council.

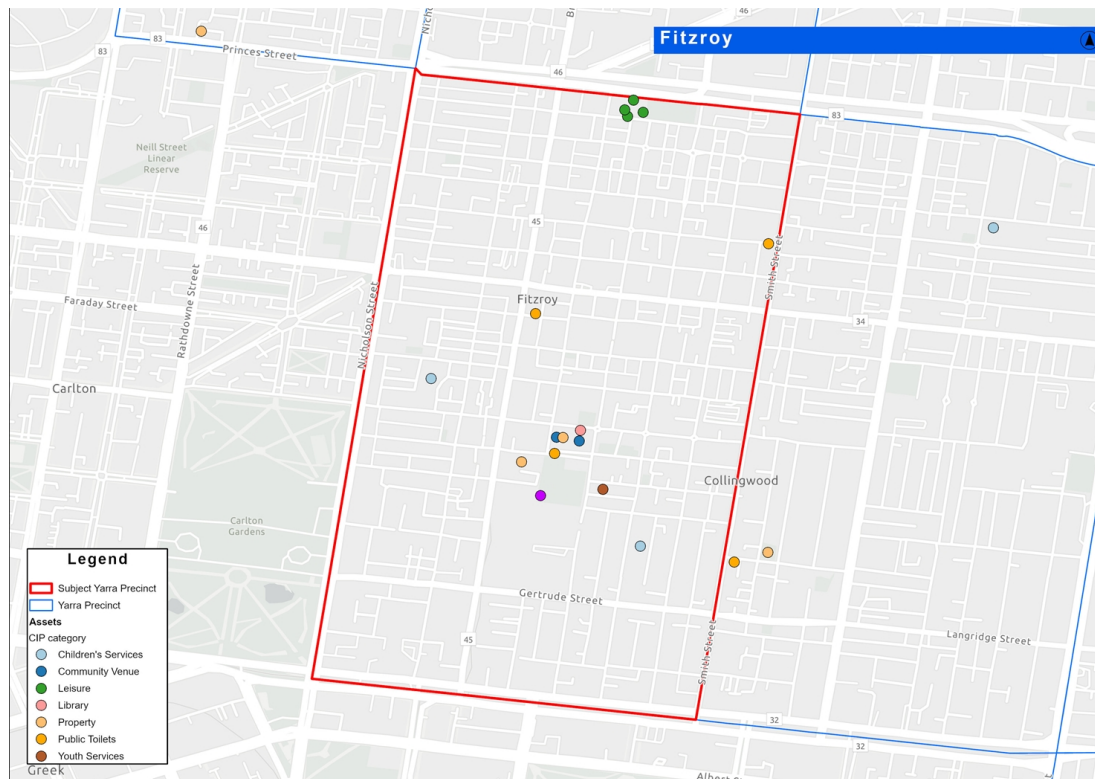
Location	Community Infrastructure	Address	Suburb	CIP Category
Dill-be-din Kindergarten	Dill-be-din Kindergarten	125 Napier Street	Fitzroy	Children's Services

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East West Childcare	East West Childcare	138 George Street	Fitzroy	Children's Services
John Street Community Early Childhood Co-op	John Street Community Early Childhood Co-op	23 John Street	Fitzroy	Children's Services
Connie Benn Centre	Early Learning Centre	160 Brunswick Street	Fitzroy	Children's Services
	Fitzroy Maternal and Child Health Centre	160 Brunswick Street	Fitzroy	Family Services
	Council leased area	160 Brunswick Street	Fitzroy	Property
Atherton Gardens	Fitzroy Adventure Playground	165 Napier Street	Fitzroy	Playground
	Cricket Practice Nets	165 Napier Street	Fitzroy	Recreation
Yarra Community Youth Centre	Yarra Community Youth Centre	156 Napier Street	Fitzroy	Youth Services
Fitzroy Town Hall Precinct	Fitzroy Library	128 Moor Street	Fitzroy	Library
	Fitzroy Library Meeting Rooms 1 & 2	128 Moor Street	Fitzroy	Community Venue
	Fitzroy Library Public Toilets	128 Moor Street	Fitzroy	Public Toilets
	Fitzroy Town Hall	201 Napier Street	Fitzroy	Community Venue
	Florence Peel Centre	190 Young Street	Fitzroy	Community Venue
	Tenancy 1	201 Napier Street	Fitzroy	Property
	Tenancy 2	201 Napier Street	Fitzroy	Property
Fitzroy Swimming Pool	Fitzroy Swimming Pool	160 Alexandra Parade	Fitzroy	Leisure
Kerr Street, cnr Smith Street	Public Toilets (Automated)	Cnr Kerr Street & Smith Street	Fitzroy	Public Toilets
Victoria Street, cnr Brunswick Street	Public Toilets (Automated)	105 Victoria Street cnr Brunswick Street	Fitzroy	Public Toilets
Condell Street, cnr Young Street	Public Toilets	Condell Street cnr Young Street	Fitzroy	Public Toilets

Key considerations

- Preservation and growth of community infrastructure in the Fitzroy public housing towers
- Improved activation, community access and future community needs surrounding the Fitzroy Town Hall precinct, recognising heritage conservation and social cohesion/community safety considerations
- Council's response to increasing demand for recreation infrastructure.



Fitzroy North

Key features

Some of the key features of Fitzroy North include:

- Fitzroy Gasworks Redevelopment site, led by Development Victoria
- Brunswick Street and St Georges Road commercial precincts
- Alexandra Parade as a main east-west transport connection through Yarra
- Bargoonga Nganjin North Fitzroy Library
- Edinburgh Gardens
- Holden Street Neighbourhood House
- Schools including Fitzroy North Primary School, Fitzroy High School, Saints College – Fitzroy North College, and Deutsche Schule Melbourne (an English German bilingual school)
- A new school, Wurun Senior Campus, is located within the Fitzroy Gasworks site, is the senior campus to Collingwood College and Fitzroy High School
- Bundha Sports Centre, which is also located within the Fitzroy Gasworks site.

Population indicators

Cultural diversity: 24.6% of residents are born overseas (28.7% for Yarra). 15.2% of residents speak a language other than English at home (20.0% for Yarra).

Work and Income: 71.1% of residents are engaged in work (73.8% for Yarra). Unemployment rate of 3.5% (3.8% for Yarra). A combination of higher- and low-income households, with 39.4% of households in the 'highest' household income quartile (38.2% for Yarra) and 20.9% of households in the 'lowest' household income quartile (18.5% for Yarra).

Jobs: 4.14% of the 98,000 jobs in Yarra are based in Fitzroy North, producing \$1.1b economic output. The Construction industry produces the most economic output in the area, and the Health Care and Social Assistance industry produces the greatest number of jobs in the area.

Housing: 33.5% lone person households (35.1% for Yarra), 25.8% couples without children (26.8% for Yarra). Larger proportion of couples with children than Yarra (18.0% and 14.5%, respectively). High rates of renters, with 39.3% households privately renting (43.0% for Yarra) and 8.4% of households renting social housing (8.1% for Yarra). Larger proportion of households that fully own the home compared to Yarra (24.1% and 19.3%, respectively).

Health: 4.8% people needing assistance with core activities (3.9% for Yarra), most of whom require assistance due to older age (65 years and over). 3.6% 10–19-year-olds requiring assistance with core activities (2.6% for Yarra). 35.3% people with at least one long-term health condition (31.5% for Yarra). Most common health conditions are mental health condition, asthma and arthritis.

Anticipated future community need

2026: 13,000 people

2036: 16,100 people

2046: 16,800 people

In the next 10 years, growth is anticipated across all age groups, particularly younger children, working adults, and elderly aged (85 years and over). In the next 10-20 years, the younger working population is expected to decline, with growth particularly expected in senior populations (50 years and over).

Precinct Summary

The following table outlines the community infrastructure that is owned or managed by Council.

Location	Community Infrastructure	Address	Suburb	CIP Category
North Fitzroy Childcare Co-operative	North Fitzroy Childcare Co-operative	173 Clauscen Street	Fitzroy North	Children's Services
Clifton Childcare Co-operative	Clifton Childcare Co-operative	121 Rushall Crescent	Fitzroy North	Children's Services
	Library	182 St Georges Road	Fitzroy North	Library

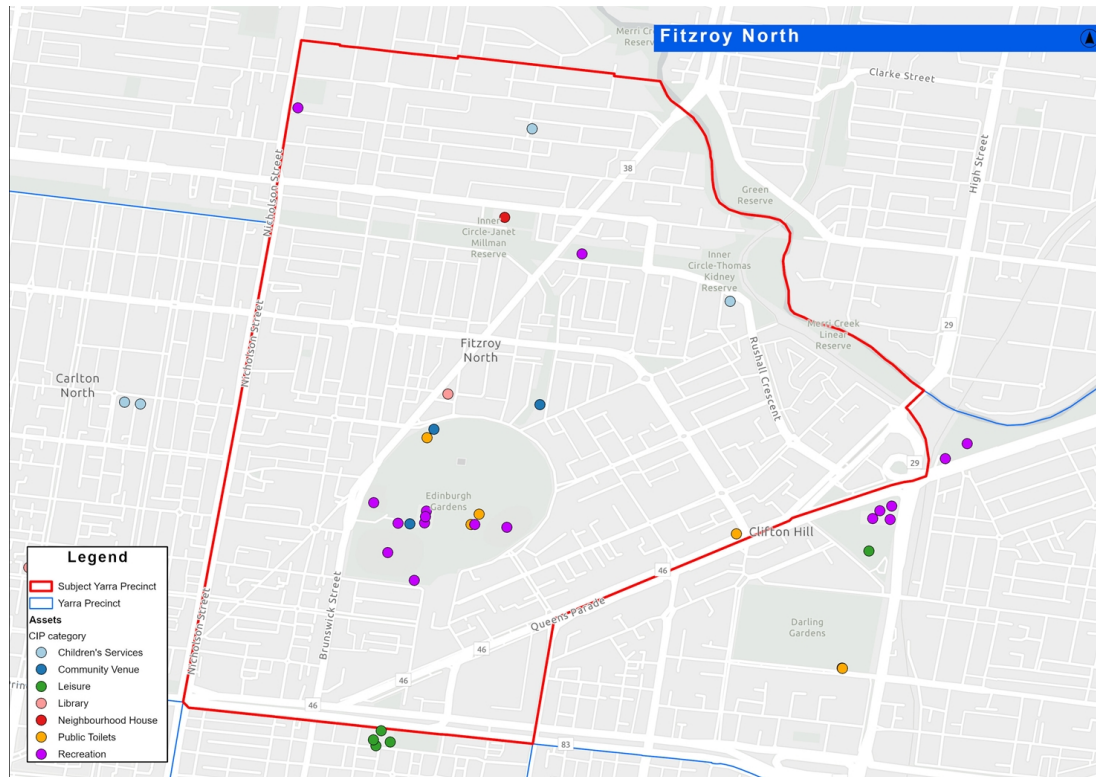
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Bargoonga Nganjin - North Fitzroy Library	Meeting Rooms	182 St Georges Road	Fitzroy North	Community Venue
	North Fitzroy Maternal and Child Health Centre	182 St Georges Road	Fitzroy North	Family Services
	Public Toilets	182 St Georges Road	Fitzroy North	Public Toilets
Edinburgh Gardens	Fitzroy Community Rooms	Cnr Brunswick Street & Freeman Street	Fitzroy North	Community Venue
	Emely Baker Building	Alfred Crescent cnr St Georges Road	Fitzroy North	Community Venue
	Fitzroy Tennis Club	100F St Georges Road	Fitzroy North	Recreation
	Sports Court – Tennis (2)	100F St Georges Road	Fitzroy North	Recreation
	Fitzroy Victoria Bowling & Sports Club	578 Brunswick Street	Fitzroy North	Recreation
	Brunswick Street Reserve / WT Peterson Oval	Brunswick Street	Fitzroy North	Recreation
	Fitzroy Football Club Grandstand	Brunswick Street	Fitzroy North	Recreation
	Alfred Crescent Pavilion	Alfred Crescent	Fitzroy North	Recreation
	Alfred Crescent Pavilion Public Toilets	Alfred Crescent	Fitzroy North	Public Toilets
	Sports Field – AFL/Cricket (2)	Alfred Crescent	Fitzroy North	Recreation
	Sports Court – Basketball	Alfred Crescent	Fitzroy North	Recreation
	Cricket Practice Nets	Alfred Crescent	Fitzroy North	Recreation
Mark Street Hall	Mark Street Hall	Mark Street	Fitzroy North	Community Venue
North Fitzroy Neighbourhood House	North Fitzroy Neighbourhood House	128 Holden Street	Fitzroy North	Neighbourhood House
Inner Circle – Park Street Reserve	Sports Court – Basketball (half)	68 Park Street	Fitzroy North	Recreation
Langdon Reserve	Sports Court – Basketball (half)	16 Miller Street	Fitzroy North	Recreation
Queens Parade, cnr Michael Street	Public Toilets (Automated)	Queens Parade cnr Michael Street	Fitzroy North	Public Toilets

Key considerations

- Council's response to increasing demand for children and family services in Fitzroy North
- Maintenance and uplift of existing community infrastructure to meet the needs of future generations
- Redevelopment of the Brunswick Street Oval Sport and Recreation Precinct at Edinburgh Gardens⁷.

⁷ Co-funded with the State Government, and associated with an initiative in the Annual Budget 2025/26 for the continuation of the Brunswick Street Oval Project.



North Richmond

Key features

Some of the key features in North Richmond include:

- Bridge Road precinct, including Epworth Hospital and the Richmond Town Hall precinct
- Victoria Street commercial precinct
- Significant public and social housing precincts, where the Richmond public housing estate includes several community infrastructure opportunities such as Richmond Youth Hub and recreation facilities, and the adjacent North Richmond Community Health, Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House, and Richmond West Primary School
- Richmond Town Hall Precinct, including the adjacent Citizens Park, Richmond High School, Richmond Recreation Centre, and the Gleadell Street weekend market
- Victoria Gardens Shopping Centre.

Population indicators

Cultural diversity: 37.1% of residents are born overseas (28.7% for Yarra). 32.1% of residents speak a language other than English at home (20.0% for Yarra).

Work and Income: 71.6% of residents are engaged in work (73.8% for Yarra). Unemployment rate of 4.6% (3.8% for Yarra). A reasonably well-spread proportion of household income rates, with 30.7% households in the 'highest' household income quartile (38.2% for Yarra), 25.6% households in the 'medium highest' household income quartile (24.2% for Yarra), and 22.5% households in the 'lowest' household income quartile (18.5% for Yarra).

Jobs: 16.82% of the 98,000 jobs in Yarra are based in North Richmond, producing \$5.1b economic output. The Health Care and Social Assistance industry produces both the most economic output and the greatest number of jobs in the area.

Housing: 39.7% lone person households (35.1% for Yarra), 25.8% couples without children (26.8% for Yarra), 24.4% couples with children (26.8% for Yarra). Higher proportion of one parent families compared to Yarra (7.5% and 6.0%, respectively). High rates of renters, with 43.2% of households renting privately (43.0% for Yarra), and 14.6% of households renting social housing (8.1% for Yarra).

Health: 5.1% people needing assistance with core activities (3.9% for Yarra), most of whom require assistance due to older age (60 years and over, at a rate higher than the Yarra average). 2.7% 5–9-year-olds and 4.2% 10–19-year-olds requiring assistance with core activities (2.1% and 2.6%, respectively, for Yarra). 30.9% people with at least one long-term health condition (31.5% for Yarra). Most common health conditions are mental health condition, asthma and arthritis.

Anticipated future community need

2026: 15,300 people

2036: 18,800 people

2046: 21,800 people

North Richmond is one of Yarra's fastest growing neighbourhoods, anticipated to be the third-fastest growing neighbourhood by Net population increase in the next 10 years, and the fastest-growing neighbourhood by Net population increase in the next 10-20 years.

Growth is expected across all age groups. In the next 10 years, growth is particularly expected in younger to middle-aged adults (20-50 years). In 10-20 years, higher rates of growth are anticipated in senior populations (50 years and over).

Precinct Summary

The following table outlines the community infrastructure that is owned or managed by Council.

Location	Community Infrastructure	Address	Suburb	CIP Category
Yarraberg Child Care Centre	Yarraberg Child Care Centre	4 River St	Richmond	Children's Services
North Richmond Community Health	North Richmond Maternal and Child Health Centre	23 Lennox St	Richmond	Family Services
Richmond Youth Hub	Richmond Youth Hub	110 Elizabeth St	Richmond	Youth Services

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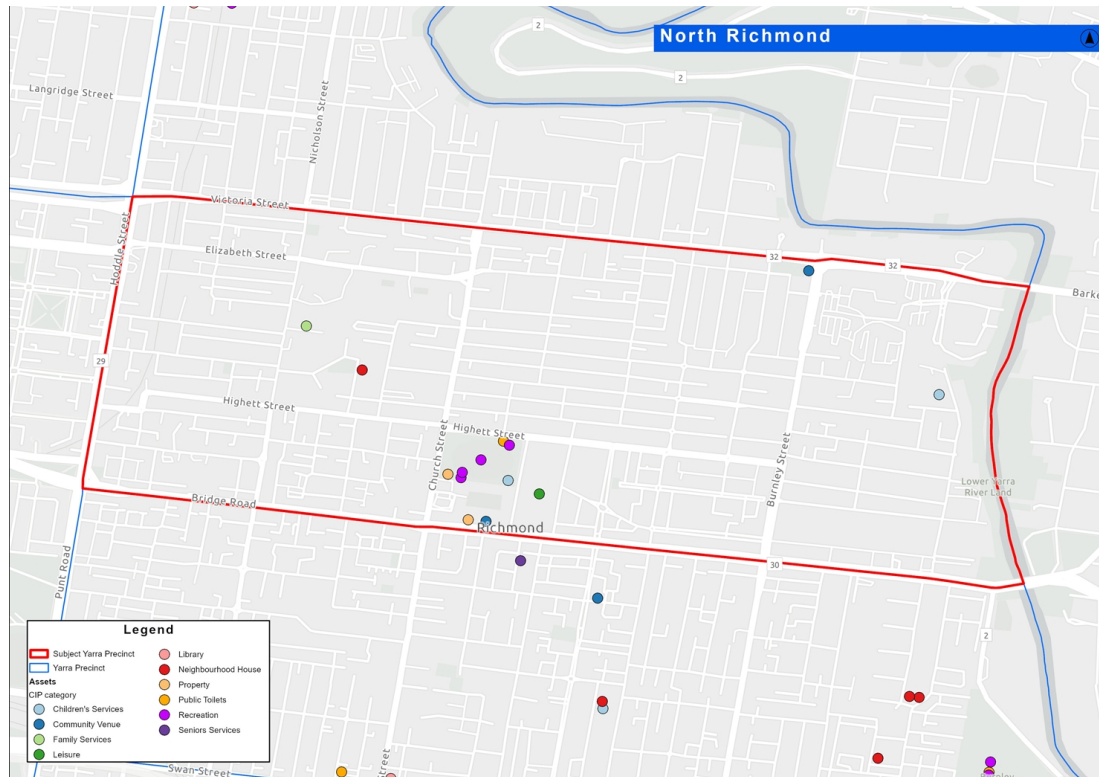
Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House	Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House	5A Belgium Avenue	Richmond	Neighbourhood House
Richmond Town Hall Precinct	Richmond Town Hall	325-333 Bridge Road	Richmond	Community Venue
	Public Toilets	325-333 Bridge Road	Richmond	Public Toilets
	Richmond Offices (ex Richmond Police Station)	319-323 Bridge Rd	Richmond	Property
Citizen's Park	Jack Dyer Pavilion	245 Highett St	Richmond	Recreation
	Jack Dyer Pavilion Social Room	245 Highett St	Richmond	Community Venue
	Sports Field – AFL/Cricket	245 Highett St	Richmond	Recreation
	Cricket Practice Nets	245 Highett St	Richmond	Recreation
	Jack Dyer Pavilion and Public Toilets	Highett St	Richmond	Public Toilets
	Offices - Citizens Park	213-215 Church St	Richmond	Property
	Richmond Multicultural Children's Centre	16 Gleadell St	Richmond	Early Years
Richmond Recreation Centre	Richmond Recreation Centre	11-15 Gleadell St	Richmond	Leisure
Learning Bank	Learning Bank	124 Victoria St	Richmond	Community Venue
Williams Reserve	Williams Reserve Community Room	Ground Floor 520 Victoria Street	Richmond	Community Venue

Key considerations

- Council's response to the need for children's and family services, in North Richmond
- Preservation and growth of community infrastructure in the Richmond public housing estate and surrounds and other infrastructure arising from the Victoria Street Revitalisation Project⁸. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Ongoing delivery of family services
 - Unmet demand for provision of new kindergarten places
 - Ongoing delivery of youth services
 - Ongoing opportunities for recreation
 - Ongoing delivery of neighbourhood house functions
 - Ongoing delivery of services through the Learning Bank
 - Potential need for a community hub – of integrated programs and services, including library
 - Potential integrated planning with North Richmond Community Health regarding future health needs and associated community infrastructure.
- Improved community access and future community needs surrounding the Richmond Town Hall precinct
- Uplifting Citizens Park to meet the needs for future generations⁹.

⁸ Associated with an initiative in the Annual Budget 2025/26 to develop a comprehensive Urban Renewal Strategy for Victoria Street, while implementing short-term public realm improvements.

⁹ Associated with an initiative in the Annual Budget 2025/26 to deliver open space and sporting improvements at Citizens Park



Review

The Community Infrastructure Plan is due for administrative review in four years, October 2029.

The data captured through the community services and infrastructure audit is to be maintained and reviewed annually.

Review of specific components of the Community Infrastructure Plan may occur more frequently in response to changing demand, policy change, service review, etc.

A trigger for review of all or part of the Community Infrastructure Plan can come from a variety of sources and will be assessed by Council officers to qualify the need for review and raised with Executive or Council for approval.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Strategic context

National

Infrastructure Australia

Infrastructure Australia's *2024 Infrastructure Market Capacity Report* shows the nation's \$213 billion five-year Major Public Infrastructure Pipeline is growing across energy and social infrastructure projects. After many years of focussing on transport projects, many governments are now turning to energy and social infrastructure projects to address the housing crisis and transition to a net zero future.

All governments are still suffering from the high cost of construction materials and skills shortages to deliver the \$71b of identified building projects.

Early Childhood Education and Care reforms

The Commonwealth's current focus is on creating a universally accessible early years' service system through initiatives such as:

- Three Day Guarantee - from 5 January 2026, families can access at least 72 subsidised hours of education and care each fortnight for each child, regardless of how much work, training, study or volunteering they do.
- Service Delivery Prices review – over \$10 million is being invested to understand reasonable costs of early childhood education and care services.
- Worker Retention Payment – Eligible service providers can opt-in to grant funding to pay eligible early childhood educators 15% above the modern award rates over two years.

Council continues to evaluate and monitor the impacts of these reforms in relation to its operational role as a service provider and in assessing potential broader implications for the provision of early childhood education and care services across the municipality.

Aged care reforms

Across 2016-2024, the Commonwealth Government has designed a new Support at Home Program to replace and integrate the Commonwealth Home Support Program, the Home Care Package program and the Short-term Restorative Care Program. The Home Care Package program will transition to the new program by 1 July 2025 and the Commonwealth Home Support Program will transition to the new program by 1 July 2027.

The aged care reforms have driven Council to review the way it delivers services to older people, particularly in relation to home care services. In March 2024, Council made the decision to cease providing home-based services and transition these to a trusted provider. Council also resolved to continue providing community transport, meals services and social support services – these services rely on infrastructure such as venues, commercial kitchens, and buses. Within the new market model, other providers may also seek to establish these services and compete or engage with Council, including seeking possible use of community spaces.

State

Plan for Victoria

Plan for Victoria calls for the provision of accessible services and community facilities needed to lead healthy, productive lives, including schools and kindergartens, TAFEs, emergency services, health care, active transport and open space. *Plan for Victoria* seeks community-centred design for good access to local public facilities and services (such as parks, libraries, community centres and cultural facilities), to meet daily needs close to home, and designed to encourage social interaction and active lifestyles.

Decision-making will be driven by community needs, sustainability and population density, whilst respecting the land and its history.

Actions relating to *Plan for Victoria* that influence community infrastructure planning for Yarra include:

- Action 1: Implement housing targets for every local government – The Plan identified the whole of Yarra as an activity centre where specific opportunities for strategic redevelopment sites will be identified in collaboration with the State Government.
- Action 9: Streamline community infrastructure developer contributions, which is likely to influence the planned review of the *Yarra Development Contributions Plan 2017*.

- Action 11: Coordinate public infrastructure and service delivery to support more homes, where Yarra encourages the timely provision of community services and infrastructure as the community needs it.
- Action 16: Embed Traditional Owners' knowledge in the built environment and introduce more Traditional Owner place names in partnership with Traditional Owners, which extends on Yarra's commitments to engage with Traditional Owners in the design and place naming for new community infrastructure.

Victoria's Housing Statement 2024-2034

Victoria's Housing Statement 2024-2034 sets out the commitments from the State Government to increase the supply and availability of housing, and address gaps, such as infrastructure gaps, to unlock housing opportunities.

In the context of community infrastructure planning in Yarra, the Housing Statement speaks to:

- Reducing red tape to speed up planning and therefore delivery of new homes, in which Council must be across to understand the impact of service and infrastructure need.
- Increasing housing densities around key transport networks and activity centres, where Yarra is an attractive location for new development.
- Investing in infrastructure to meet community needs, where commitments in the statement are focused to growth areas within Victoria.
- Investing in social housing via the public housing redevelopment program, in which 10 per cent of Yarra's current population live in public housing.

Public housing redevelopment program

The Victorian Government has announced plans to replace 44 ageing high-rises and other social housing buildings across Melbourne with modern, accessible and energy-efficient homes and improved community facilities between now and 2051. Residents are relocated while estates are redeveloped. existing

The program includes the three main estates in Yarra in Richmond, Collingwood and Fitzroy, where announcements have been made regarding the redevelopment of a series of buildings in North Richmond.

Infrastructure Victoria

Infrastructure Victoria is preparing its new Strategy to be tabled in the Victorian Parliament in late 2025. Council's officer submission includes the following themes relating to community infrastructure planning:

- Alongside housing, it is vital that Councils are adequately supported and resourced to meet the community's infrastructure needs. This includes replacing or upgrading existing ageing infrastructure and investing in new infrastructure. Significant investment in Council's asset portfolio will be required. The State Government must make a strong financial commitment to funding the recommendations to be included in the draft strategy, with a strong emphasis on implementation and promotion of infrastructure investment.
- Community infrastructure will need to respond to the changing nature of the inner city by providing flexible, accessible, innovative and adaptable facilities that reflect universal design and meet multiple service needs.
- While the draft strategy is focussed on infrastructure, it must recognise that people are the end users of infrastructure. Decisions on infrastructure must ensure a fair and equitable quality of life is possible, regardless of age, ability, ethnicity, gender or religion. It must also ensure equitable opportunities for housing and services provided to all.
- It will be important that the development industry contributes to the provision of infrastructure, and Council supports proposals for a new development contribution system. Other funding options towards state infrastructure will also need to be considered.
- Yarra included an additional recommendation, calling for support to develop multi-purpose, flexible and adaptable community hubs throughout Victoria, where community hubs provide integrated community facilities in one location to provide better access to a wide range of services in a cost-effective way. This recommendation included additional commentary such as:
 - The provision of space and opportunities for communities to meet and celebrate, that allow people to connect and build relationships through leisure, social, or educational activities, in response to increasing medium and high-density environments and growing social isolation.
 - Spaces that are physically accessible and welcoming to people of all abilities, linguistic, cultural backgrounds and age groups; particularly providing for Yarra's diverse cultures and LGBTQIA+ communities.
 - Spaces that are provided at no or low cost, and not part of a commercial premise such as a café or pub.

- Spaces that can be used as a place of refuge during extreme weather events.

Local

Yarra 2036 Community Vision

Vision Statement: Yarra is a vibrant, safe and inclusive environment. We celebrate and embrace our diversity and connection to each other and the land. Our community is empowered to work together and support one another with respect and trust.

The 2025 reflection and update addendum to the *Yarra 2036 Community Vision* speaks to the community's interest to balance growth with the provision of community infrastructure through an integrated lens of environmental, economic and social factors; and access to services that are safe, accessible and affordable.

Financially sustainable and transparent decision-making and communication is a priority. Consideration of creative use of assets and opportunities for generating new revenue should also be included.

New considerations around Yarra's vibrant arts scene and cultural heritage, and First Nations history; and inclusive and equitable access to services were added to the Community Vision.

Council Plan 2025-2029

Our *Council Plan* outlines four strategic objectives to guide our work over the coming four years:

- **Living in the City** - We are a City for everyone. We are welcoming, friendly and connected, where everyone is safe and supported.
- **Building the City** - We have the infrastructure we need to accommodate a growing community.
 - **5:** Provide infrastructure that responds to the current and future needs of a growing community
 - **5.3** Implement the community infrastructure plan so that Yarra has facilities to meet a diversity of needs
- **Working and playing in the City** - We have a thriving economy with a variety of opportunities to work, create, play and celebrate.
- **Running the City** - We are transparent and accountable, making evidence-based decisions to ensure the sustainability and health of Yarra.
 - **13:** Manage Council's land and building assets to maximise value to the local community
 - **13.1** Implement the Property Strategy to identify ongoing efficiencies and optimise community benefit.

Yarra Planning Scheme

The spatial vision for Yarra City includes:

New housing will provide homes in a range of sizes to meet the needs of the population and be supported by the necessary community facilities and infrastructure. (Clause 02.02).

Infrastructure is required to cater for Yarra's growing population and the consequential increased demand on infrastructure. Clause 02.03-8 seeks to respond to Yarra's changing social and physical infrastructure needs, to provide, renew or adapt social and physical infrastructure to meet the needs of the growing population and employment base. Clause 19.02 includes further strategies within the Victorian Planning Provisions around health facilities, education facilities, cultural facilities (including regionally significant cultural and sporting facilities), social and cultural infrastructure, emergency services, and open space.

The *Yarra Development Contribution Plan 2017* was introduced to the Yarra Planning Scheme via Clause 45.06 (Amendment C238yara).

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

The *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* requires all Victorian Councils to prepare a municipal public health and wellbeing plan within 12 months after each general election of the Council.

Yarra's *Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029* outlines Council's unique position to address inequities and improve health and wellbeing outcomes surrounding core services promoting community health and wellbeing, and infrastructure and facilities supporting health and wellbeing.

The Plan includes seven priority areas with related strategies that can inform the Community Infrastructure Plan and Council's understanding of community need, including:

1. First Peoples Health and Wellbeing – shared opportunities, strengthen cultural safety, fill service gaps
2. Safe and respectful communities – safe and welcoming spaces and programs, addressing gender equity
3. Climate resilient households and communities – improve public spaces to support climate resilience, opportunities to mitigate the Urban Heat Island effect

4. Health food environments and food security – programs and spaces from which the community can access food relief or affordable food options
5. Mental and social wellbeing – spaces and programs to foster community connection, accessible and inclusive facilities and spaces
6. Reduced impacts of alcohol, drugs, vaping and tobacco
7. Active living – welcoming, flexible and safe spaces, infrastructure to suit different abilities and preferences

Asset Plan 2025-2035

The services that Council delivers to the community rely on assets and the Asset Plan describes our how we use and manage these assets throughout their lifecycle in a financially sustainable manner.

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires all Victorian councils to develop, and keep current, an Asset Plan. The plan must cover a period of at least ten financial years and applies to the infrastructure assets under the control of Council.

The *Asset Plan 2025-2035* contains information about how Council, in strategic and financial terms, will manage the portfolio of infrastructure assets under its control. The Asset Plan is linked with the budget and projections outlined in our Long-Term Financial Plan to ensure the ongoing affordability and financial sustainability of the management of assets.

Asset management includes all the activities Council does to assets in delivering services to the community. This includes activities throughout the asset lifecycle including planning, acquisition / construction, maintenance, renewal/replacement, upgrade/expansion and disposal of assets.

The asset plan is the key strategic document that aligns the Community Infrastructure Plan with Council's other Infrastructure Plans

Financial Sustainability Strategy 2023-2033

The Community Infrastructure Plan is a key implementation action of the *Yarra Financial Sustainability Strategy 2023-2033* (FSS).

One of Council's primary obligations under the *Local Government Act 2020* is to be financially sustainable and make effective use of public funds entrusted to Council and ensure the responsible management and planning of community assets, so that future ratepayers are not burdened unnecessarily. Through the preparation and ongoing implementation of the Financial Sustainability Strategy (FSS), Council is on a journey to improve its financial position through implementing a holistic approach and organisation-wide cultural shift to ensure financial sustainability.

The FSS identifies strategic levers as one of the two primary types of levers for change to drive long term financial sustainability, where strategic levers *ensure that future investment decisions are **based on need, underpinned by evidence** and guided by informed strategies including detailed **asset management plans**, contemporary **property management** and **community infrastructure planning** and an ongoing program of **service reviews**.*

Yarra Service Planning and Review Principles 2024

The service planning and review principles were developed to support Council to establish a new robust service planning and review framework, where the principles have been developed in consultation with community to underpin the new framework to ensure all services are relevant, financially sustainable and can meet future community needs.

In the context of community infrastructure planning, the service planning and review principles assist in understanding and planning for service-based priorities. The Community Infrastructure Plan aligns with the intent of the service planning and review framework to determine how Council responds to community need through the provision of community services and infrastructure.

Appendix 2: Differences in ownership and management of community infrastructure

Table 1 Differences in land, building and manager responsibilities

Council land	Council asset	Council managed	Non-Council land	Non-Council asset	Non-Council managed	Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<p>Currently a common arrangement, many services and facilities fall under this model.</p> <p>Under this model, Council may also make all or part of the asset available for license or hire for broader community use or service delivery by others.</p> <p>Examples include libraries, leisure centres, Town Halls and other community centres.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Under this model, the land and asset are entirely managed by another provider, typically a community or not-for-profit organisation.</p> <p>Examples include community kindergartens, and Neighbourhood Houses that are located within Council buildings.</p>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<p>This arrangement (usually) occurs with Crown Land or when the land is owned by State Government.</p> <p>Under this model, Council may also make all or part of the asset available for license or hire for broader community use or service delivery by others.</p> <p>Examples include recreation assets on Crown Land.</p>
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<p>A newer arrangement, usually involving partnership between Council and another government body or organisation.</p> <p>Under this model, Council may make all or part of the asset available for sub-lease, license or hire for broader community use or service delivery by others.</p> <p>Examples include the Connie Benn Centre and Richmond Youth Hub.</p>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>An uncommon arrangement, usually a legacy of a past agreement. This arrangement (usually) occurs with Crown Land or when the land is owned by State Government, that is controlled by Council and Council builds infrastructure on the site.</p> <p>Under this model, Council makes all of the asset available for exclusive use for a community use or service delivery by others.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<p>An uncommon arrangement, usually a legacy of a past agreement.</p>
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>There are a small number of arrangements where Council hires spaces within other locations to provide community services. Examples include the maternal and child health service within North Richmond Community Health Centre.</p> <p>Council will also maintain awareness of community infrastructure provided for and managed by others, where there is overlap with Council planning.</p>

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						Examples include neighbourhood houses and venue hire.
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7.3. ISP - Draft Asset Plan

Author Ashleigh Tomkins – Coordinator Strategic Asset Management
Authoriser General Manager Infrastructure and Environment

Executive Summary

The draft Asset Plan provides a long term asset view of the direction established in the other Integrated Strategic Plans ensuring that decisions and actions on Council's assets are financially sustainable. The draft has been informed by extensive deliberative community engagement held over two stages.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorses the draft Asset Plan 2025-35 for public exhibition to seek community feedback prior to adoption by Council later in 2025.

History and background

1. Council is required (Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) Section 92(1)) to develop and adopt an Asset Plan, for at least the next 10 financial years, by 31 October after a general Council election in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices. This is next due by 31 October 2025.
2. Council's Asset Plan describes how we use infrastructure assets to deliver services and manage these assets throughout their lifecycle in a financially sustainable manner.
3. This includes activities throughout the asset lifecycle including planning, acquisition / construction, maintenance, renewal/replacement, upgrade/expansion and disposal of assets. Infrastructure assets excludes Council's plant and equipment and land assets.
4. Council's previous Asset Plan was adopted on 23 June 2022.

Discussion

5. Officers have drafted the Asset Plan 2025-2035 to reflect decisions made through the Community Vision, Council Plan, Budget and Long Term Financial Plan. This draft plan is appended at **Attachment A**.
6. The Asset Plan is a strategic document, setting out Council's asset management direction for the next 10 years. As such, it does not specifically outline all of Council's asset management activities rather seeks to provide a summary of them. Detailed planning for assets and specific works are outlined in Council's strategies and plans.

7. The draft Asset Plan consolidates information from these plans and presents a view of these across various state of the assets reports identifying:
 - (a) Value and split of assets across subclasses;
 - (b) Key asset measures;
 - (c) Challenges;
 - (d) Opportunities;
 - (e) Asset management objectives/measures;
 - (f) Historic and proposed spending;
 - (g) Current and future condition distributions; and
 - (h) average condition trend.
8. The Asset Plan also provides detail on:
 - (a) How we manage assets;
 - (b) Alignment with the Community Vision and Council Plan, strategies and budgets;
 - (c) The deliberative community engagement; and
 - (d) Our asset management maturity and improvement plan.
9. To date Council has undertaken community engagement which informed the Asset Plan as part of the overall Integrated Strategic Planning engagement “Shaping a better Yarra Together”. This included both broad community engagement and deliberative engagement through a community working group.
10. Officers will build on this existing consultation by asking the community to provide comments on the draft plan. This will focus on the presentation of information and any additional information that could be presented. This is planned to be delivered in parallel with the community infrastructure plan and through:
 - (a) Online survey on the Your Say Yarra project page; and
 - (b) 2 in-person opportunities.
11. The engagement will be promoted using various communication channels. The asset plan is recommended for public exhibition between 11 July and 11 August.
12. Prior to adoption, the draft Asset Plan will be updated to reflect the adopted Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan and Council’s 24/25 Financial Statements.

Options

Option 1 – Proceed with exhibition of draft Asset Plan - Recommended

13. Endorse the draft Asset Plan 2025-35 for community feedback as required by the Local Government Act.

Option 2 – Not proceed with exhibition of draft Asset Plan - Not recommended

14. Council has undertaken significant community engagement in developing the Integrated Strategic Planning approach including the deliberative engagement required by the Local Government Act.

Community and stakeholder engagement

15. To date Council has undertaken community engagement which informed the Asset Plan as part of the overall Integrated Strategic Planning engagement “Shaping a better Yarra Together”. This included both broad community engagement and deliberative engagement through a community working group.
16. Officers will build on this existing consultation by asking the community to provide comments on the draft plan. This will focus on the presentation of information and any additional information that could be presented. This is planned to be delivered in parallel with the community infrastructure plan and through:
 - (a) Online survey on the Your Say Yarra project page; and
 - (b) 2 in-person opportunities.

Strategic Analysis

Alignment to Council Plan

Strategic Objective four - Running the City

Strategy 10: Ensure all decisions are financially sound, transparent, and accountable to the community.

17. The Asset Plan provides a long-term transparent view of Council's asset spending to ensure it is financially sound

Climate emergency

18. Climate change's impact on assets is noted in the plan and is addressed through the detailed strategies which inform Council's asset spending

Community and social implications

19. The assets council provides are key to supporting the community.

Economic development implications

20. Ensuring Council manages its assets appropriately to is key to support economic development in the long term

Human rights and gender equality implications

21. As part of Council's processes the individual strategies which inform the Asset Plan will be assessed for human rights and gender equality implications.

Finance and Resource Impacts and Interdependencies

22. The Asset Plan is reflective of the advertised draft budget and will be updated to reflect the final budget and long-term financial plan prior to adoption.

Legal and Legislative obligations

Conflict of interest disclosure

23. Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates. The officer reviewing this report, having

made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

Risks Analysis

24. The below risks have been identified:

Identified Risk	Risk mitigation approach
The current condition of Council's assets differs from that presented in the plan	Council regularly undertakes condition assessments of assets to ensure that decisions are based on appropriate data. The condition of Council's assets typically deteriorates on the scale of decades rather than years.
Community suggests additional spending on an asset class	The values presented in the asset plan have been developed through Council's budgeting and long-term financial planning framework to ensure financial sustainability. Changes to the budget can be considered as part of the 26/27 budget process and beyond
The community desires additional information	Additional information (where appropriate and available) will be considered for inclusion prior to adoption or may be included as a "future improvement" in the plan for delivery in future revisions

Implementation Strategy

Timeline

25. The asset plan is recommended for public exhibition between 11 July and 11 August 2025.
26. Prior to adoption, the draft Asset Plan will be updated to reflect the adopted Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan and Council's 24/25 Financial Statements.
27. The Asset Plan will be presented to Council for adoption prior to 31 October 2025.

Communication

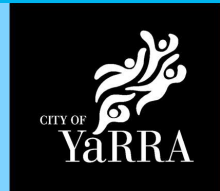
28. The engagement will be promoted using various communication channels.

Report attachments

1. 7.3.1 City Of Yarra Draft Asset Plan 2025-2035

Draft Asset Plan 2025- 2035

Part of Council's Integrated
Strategic Planning Framework

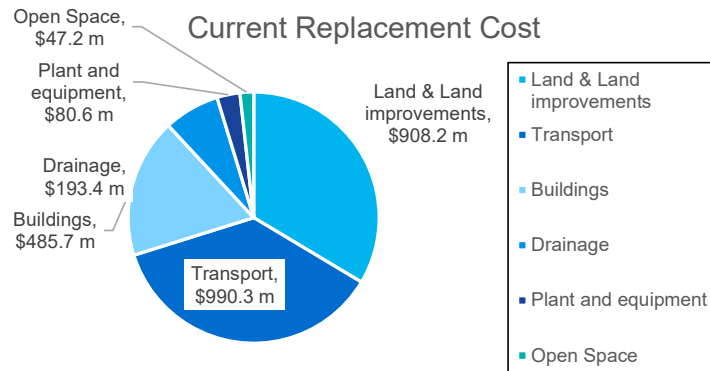


Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations and to their Elders past, present and future.

Note this draft plan has been prepared using financial data available at the time of drafting.

Prior to adoption this plan will be updated to reflect Council's final 24/25 financial statements.

State of the assets



Key Measures

- Asset Plan excludes Land, plant and equipment
- \$1,716m infrastructure assets

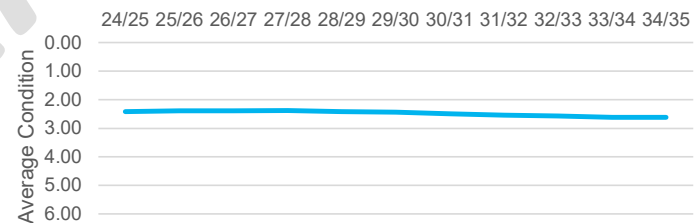
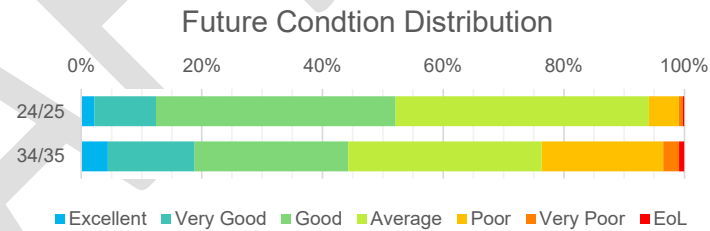
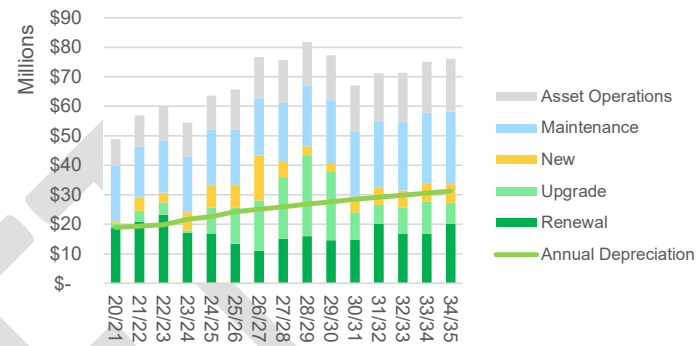
Challenges

- Climate change impacting assets
- Growing & changing population
- looking after what we have before building more

Opportunities

- More data to make better decisions
- ERP empowering decision making

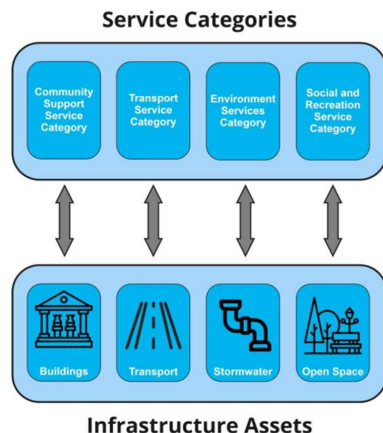
Asset Management Objective	25/26	Predicted 10-year average
Customer Satisfaction	53.2 (23/24)	
Infrastructure Assets Per Person (\$)	\$26,006	\$24,367
Depreciation Expense Per Person	\$217.63	\$206.23
Renewal / Depreciation	74.2%	83.1%
Annual Maintenance / Replacement Cost	0.71%	0.79%
Capital delivery (% of budget)	81% (23/24)	



Council is investing in growing its assets to meet growth while also investing in renewing assets as they need it

What is asset management

The delivery of services to the community is guided by the *Yarra 2036 Community Vision, Council Plan 2025-29*, and Council's other strategic documents including strategies, plans and policies. These services to the community rely on assets and the Asset Plan describes our how we use these assets to deliver services and managing these assets throughout their lifecycle in a financially sustainable manner.



The *Local Government Act 2020* requires all Victorian councils to develop, and keep current, an Asset Plan. The plan must cover a period of at least ten financial years and applies to the infrastructure assets under the control of Council.

The *Asset Plan 2025-2035* contains information about how Council, in strategic and financial terms, will manage the portfolio of infrastructure assets under its control. The Asset Plan is linked with the budget and projections outlined in our Long Term Financial Plan to ensure the ongoing affordability and financial sustainability of the management of assets. Each year Council will review the asset plan alongside its budget to ensure spending matches needs and is based on the latest data.

Asset management includes all the activities Council does to assets to help deliver services to the community. This includes activities throughout the asset lifecycle including planning, acquisition / construction, maintenance, renewal/replacement, upgrade/expansion and disposal of assets. Asset related activities can broadly be grouped into the below categories.

	Category	Description
Operating Expenditure	Operations	The regular activities to ensure the assets support the service (cleaning, utilities etc. excludes costs of the service itself such as early years staff/librarians etc.)
	Maintenance	The activities to preserve an asset including preventative maintenance and reactive repairs
Capital Expenditure	Renewal	Replacement of all or part of existing assets to improve condition, may be with a modern equivalent asset,
	Upgrade	Increase the service provided by existing assets. These may include functionality improvements to existing assets
	New	Creating new assets to allow service that did not exist previously

Management approach

The services that the community needs in the future to achieve the *Community Vision 2036* will be different to what Council delivers today. This is due to population growth, changing demographics, climate change, demand change and many other factors. Council first focuses on looking after what we have before building more to ensure financial sustainability. Where the assets that Council needs to deliver these future services changes, this is guided by infrastructure planning strategies such as the Community Infrastructure plan, Transport Action Plan and Open Space Strategy. These changes are delivered through upgrade and new capital budgets.

Council regularly inspects its assets to determine their condition. These inspections may identify:

- Defects – minor issues to be addressed through maintenance (e.g. vertical displacements in footpaths, leaking taps)
- Functional issues – where the existing asset aren't suitable for service delivery. Addressed through upgrade budgets (e.g. buildings without equitable access)
- Overall Condition – used to identify renewal capital projects that restore all or part of an asset's condition. (e.g. resurfacing a road, refurbishing a toilet)

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In addition to identifying short term renewal projects the current condition of assets is utilised to predict the future condition of assets. This allows Council to predict what renewals may be required in the future as well as predicting future maintenance demand. The condition scale used by Council and indicative maintenance demand at each condition score is outlined below.

Score	Description of condition	Maintenance demand
0 - Excellent	Brand new asset or recently refreshed to as new condition.	Nil
1 - Very Good	Asset is in very good overall condition	Proactive only
2 - Good	Minor defects may be present	Proactive & minor
3 - Average	Moderate deterioration.	Proactive & moderate
4 - Poor	High deterioration is evident.	High
5 - Very Poor	High level of deterioration, approaching unserviceability.	High, unplanned failures
6 – End of Life	Asset is no longer serviceable	NA, out of service

By taking a long term view of our asset spending Council has the ability to plan and optimise when we do projects, resulting in savings. Examples include:

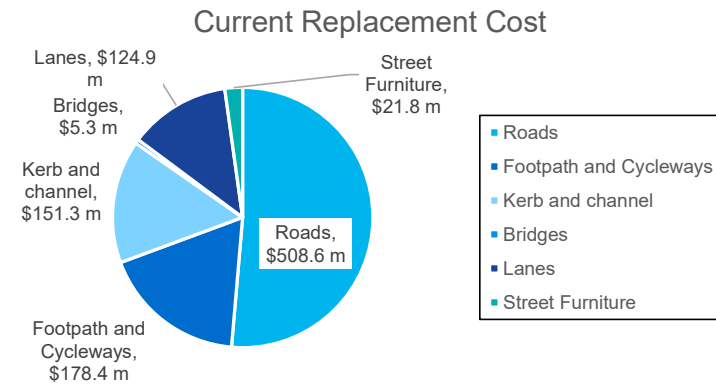
- Undertaking upgrades at the same time as major renewals resulting in economies of scale (better prices by doing more at once) and less disruption to users
- Creating packages of work that can be delivered for better prices than the individual projects
- Upgrading assets to adapt to climate change when doing renewals (e.g. increasing drainage pipe sizes, increasing AC capacity)

Whilst Council has allowed for operational budgets to grow over time, in some cases maintenance needs can grow more than this. The maintenance we need to deliver may grow in excess of CPI due to; Council building more assets, Council becoming responsible for additional assets (built by developers or gifted from the state), assets in poor condition, or due to increased usage causing quicker deterioration. To continue delivering our existing service levels within constrained budgets Council may need to find efficiencies in how maintenance is delivered.

Asset management objectives help us to ensure our Assets are delivering for the community. These are aligned with Council's Running the City Strategic Objective and focus on measuring how well we are delivering to the community. These are also aligned with the Vision Themes identified below.

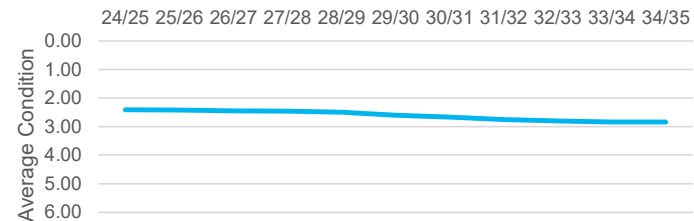
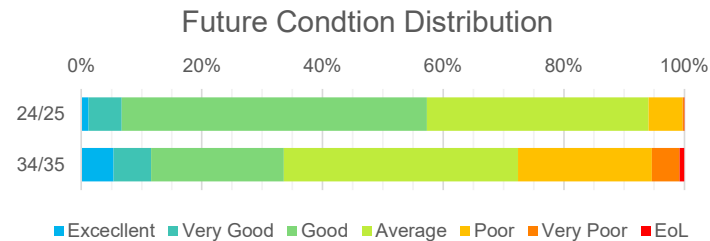
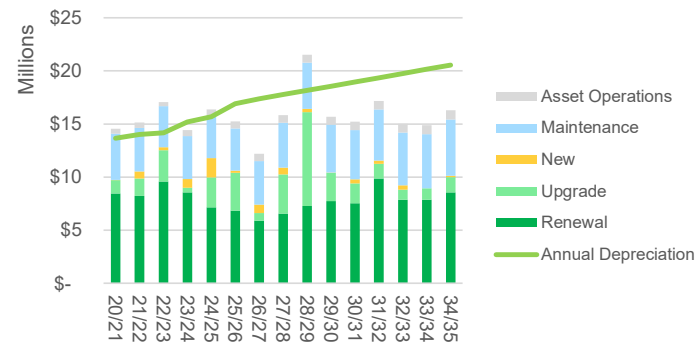


State of the assets - Transport



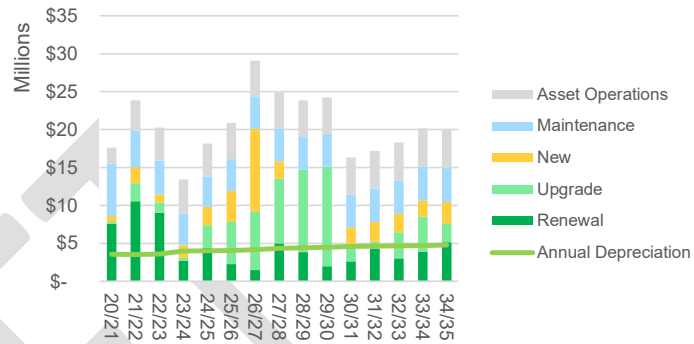
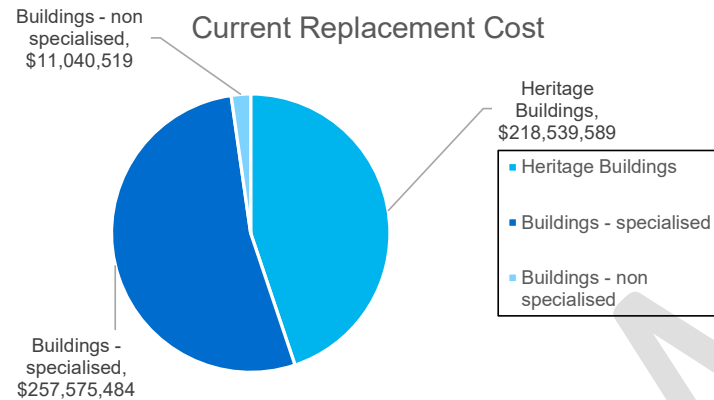
Key Measures	Challenges	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 223 km of roads • 95 km of lanes • 414km of footpaths • 95 km Shared & Bicycle pathways • \$990m to replace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change damaging assets • Increased usage decreasing condition • Balancing different users • High cost of laneways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active transport reducing vehicle damage to road assets • Reviewing laneway function • 25/26 condition inspection

Asset Management Objective	25/26	Predicted 10-year average
Customer Satisfaction	60.6 (23/24)	
Assets Per Person (\$)	\$10,543	\$10,717
Depreciation Expense Per Person	\$166.80	\$166.84
Renewal / Depreciation	44.7%	43.3%
Annual Maintenance Budget / Asset Value	0.37%	0.38%

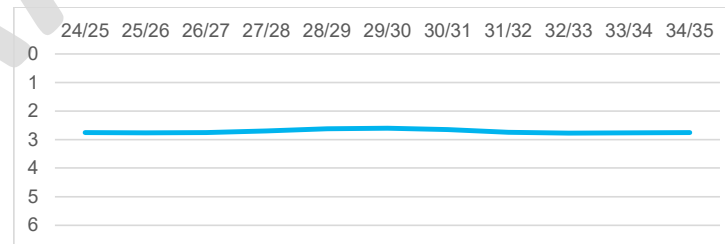
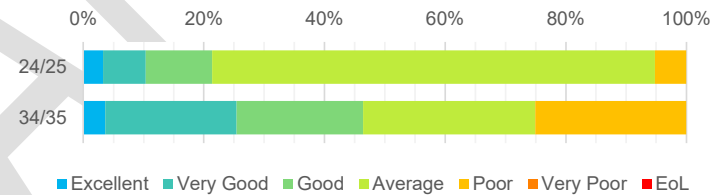


Transport renewal budgets have been set considering the current needs of the network. Transport financial value and depreciation are a focus in 25/26 with new condition assessment planned.

State of the assets – Buildings



Future Condition Distribution



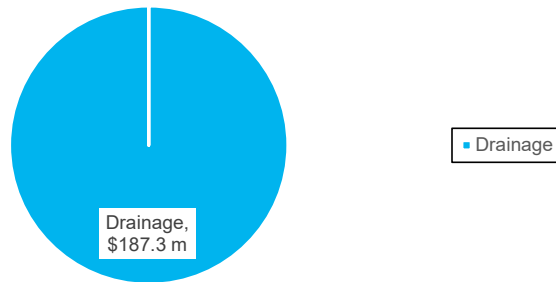
Key Measures	Challenges	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 143 Buildings • 48 minor structures • \$487m to replace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage assets • Complex assets • Need to increase maintenance efficiency by 6% over 10 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community infrastructure planning identifying future needs • Increased demand for adaptable spaces

Asset Management Objective	25/26	Predicted 10-year average
Customer Satisfaction	70.1 (23/24)	NA
Assets Per Person (\$)	\$4,948	\$5,343
Depreciation Expense Per Person	\$41.22	\$45.03
Renewal / Depreciation	88.8%	108.2%
Annual Maintenance Budget / Asset Value	0.86%	0.82%

Council is growing its building portfolio and addressing functionality challenges through upgrade projects. This is balanced with our existing buildings' needs.

State of the assets - Drainage

Current Replacement Cost



Key Measures

- 193km of pipes
- 11,537 Pits
- 71 WSUD devices
- \$187,259,000 to replace

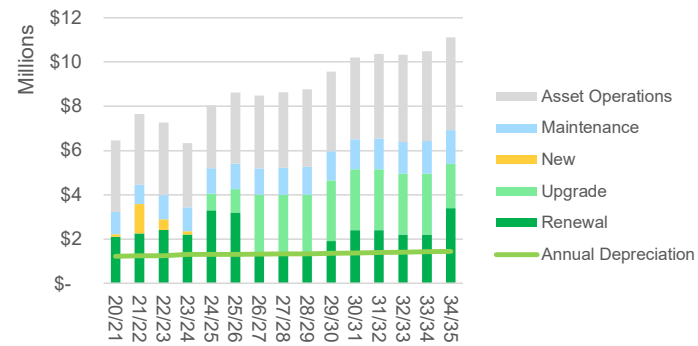
Challenges

- Increased rainfall from climate change
- Construction damaging pipes
- Rely on Melbourne Water & DTP

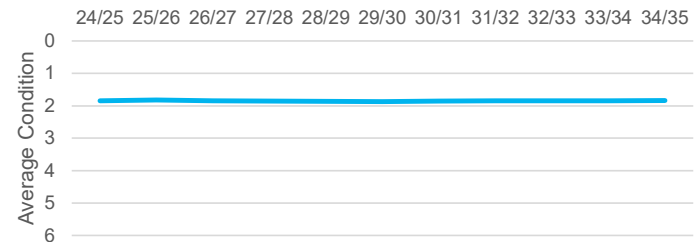
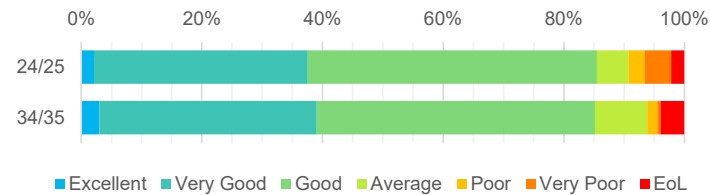
Opportunities

- Stormwater management as part of other projects (e.g. open space)

Asset Management Objective	25/26	Predicted 10-year average
Customer Satisfaction	61.3 (23/24)	
Assets Per Person (\$)	\$1,855	\$1,769
Depreciation Expense Per Person	\$12.87	\$12.19
Renewal / Depreciation	253.1%	177.2%
Annual Maintenance Budget / Asset Value	0.59%	0.66%

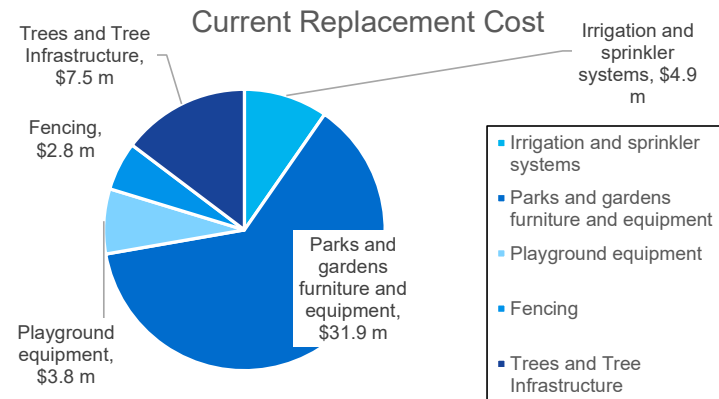


Future Condition Distribution



Council is investing in both upgrading our drainage network to address climate change and managing our assets over their 100 year life to keep them in overall good condition

State of the Assets - Open Space

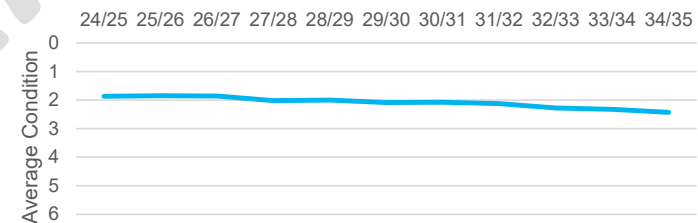
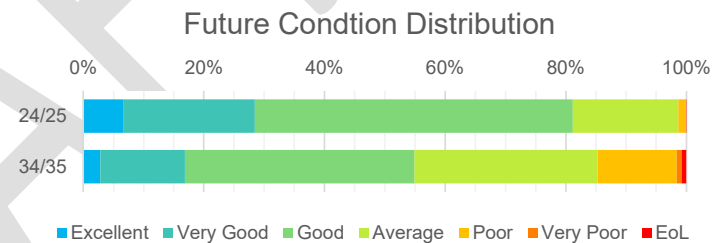
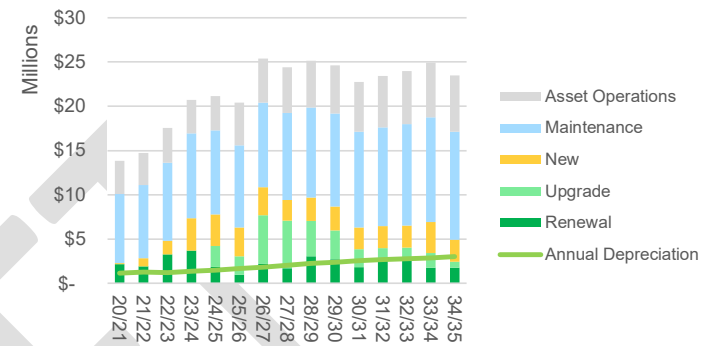


Key Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •82 Open Spaces •2,452,000m² •\$47,236,513 to replace

Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increasing assets to maintain •Increase in maintenance efficiency needed

Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Significant growth in assets •Integrating open space in roadsides •Acquiring additional Open Space

Asset Management Objective	25/26	Predicted 10-year average
Customer Satisfaction	68.2 (23/24)	
Assets Per Person (\$)	\$503	\$654
Depreciation Expense Per Person	\$16.49	\$21.26
Renewal / Depreciation	107.0%	139.6%
Annual Maintenance Budget / Asset Value	18.19%	14.72%



Council is investing in enhancing our open spaces and managing the significant maintenance these spaces need

Asset Management Strategic Direction and Expenditure Categories

		Transport	Buildings	Drainage	Open Space
Strategic Direction	Community Vision	Yarra is a vibrant, safe and inclusive environment. We celebrate and embrace our diversity and connection to each other and the land. Our community is empowered to work together and support one another with respect and trust.			
	Council Plan alignment	Building The City 3. Ensure people can move safely across the city using all modes of transport	Building the City 5. Provide infrastructure that responds to the current and future needs of a growing Yarra		Living in the City 1. Make our streets and shopping strips safer and more beautiful
					Building the City 6. Provide green spaces and beautify the city
		Running the City 10. Ensure all decisions are financially sound, transparent and accountable to the community. 11. Ensure we deliver services that are fit for purpose and provide value to the community. 13. Manage Council's land and building assets to maximise value to the local community.			
	New & Upgrade infrastructure planning	Moving Forward: Transport Action Plan	Community Infrastructure Plan, Property Strategy	Integrated water management plan	Yarra Open Space Strategy, Community Infrastructure Plan, Property Strategy
		Development Contributions Plan			
	New & Upgrade Programs (may include renewal)	Transport action plan and Road safety program, Street furniture program, Street light program, EV Charging and Parking Technology	Getting off gas, Pavilions, Grandstands, Youth centres, Maternal & Child Health Centres, Kindergarten, and Childcare	Flood mitigation works	New Open Space Program, Sports field and playing courts, Open Space and playgrounds, Rewilding and planting project
	Ongoing Asset Renewal Programs	Roads, Laneways, Footpaths, Kerb and Channel Renewals	Whitegoods, Closed Circuit TV, Fire indicator panels, Plumbing, leisure centre works, Contaminated soil remediation, Asbestos management	Brick Drains, Drainage, Urgent drainage renewals	Open space furniture, Horticulture, Irrigation, Minor lighting, Minor turf, Pathways, Playgrounds, Signage, Sporting assets, Walls and Fences, Tree planting
	Maintenance (not limited to)	Inspections, Pavement, Kerb & Channel, Footpaths	Security, Programmed maintenance, AC maintenance	Inspections, unclogging	Weed management, streetscapes, bushlands
	Asset Operations (not limited to)	Street Lighting	Cleaning, Utilities	Street Sweeping	Cleaning, Mowing, utilities, graffiti management

Deliberative Community Engagement

We received feedback from people across Yarra as part of three stages of community engagement in late 2024 to late 2025. The engagement was structured to ensure it was as representative as possible of our diverse community, so everyone had a voice. The community engagement process was also designed to meet our obligations under the Local Government Act 2020 and Gender Equality Act 2020.

What you said

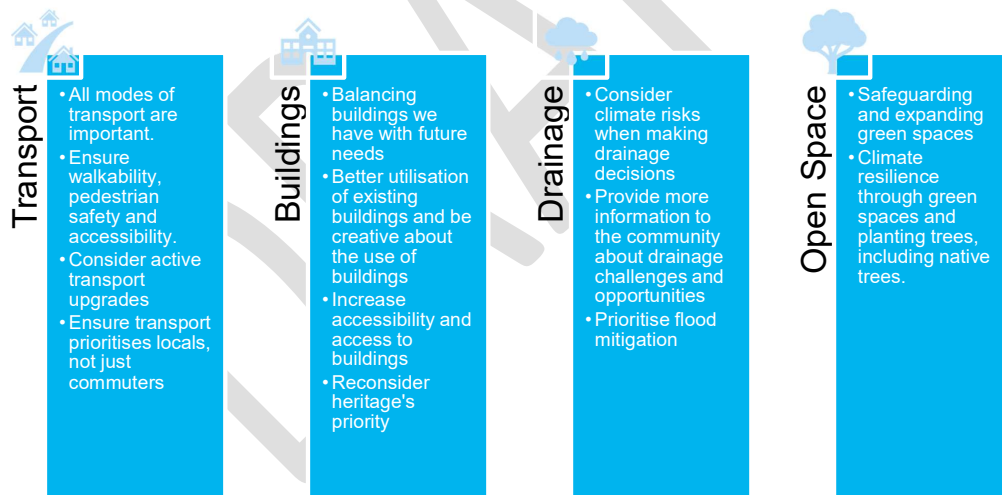
As part of the Yarra's broad community engagement for our Integrated Strategic Planning it was identified that across the almost 1800 respondents "Responsible Asset Management" ranked third in importance behind "Promoting a safe and secure community" and "preserving and protecting local natural environments"

We worked with independent consultants to recruit a representative sample of the Yarra community through expressions of interest to form a 45 person Community Working Group (CWG). The CWG told us the following key messages were priorities to be considered by Council:

- Evidence-based and transparent decision-making.
- Foster and promote community wellbeing and cohesion.
- Grow and build better.
- Operational excellence and accountability.
- Sustainability and holistic decision-making.

"Prevention is better than a cure... being ready beforehand instead of reacting to a situation"
CWG member

What we heard from the Community Working Group



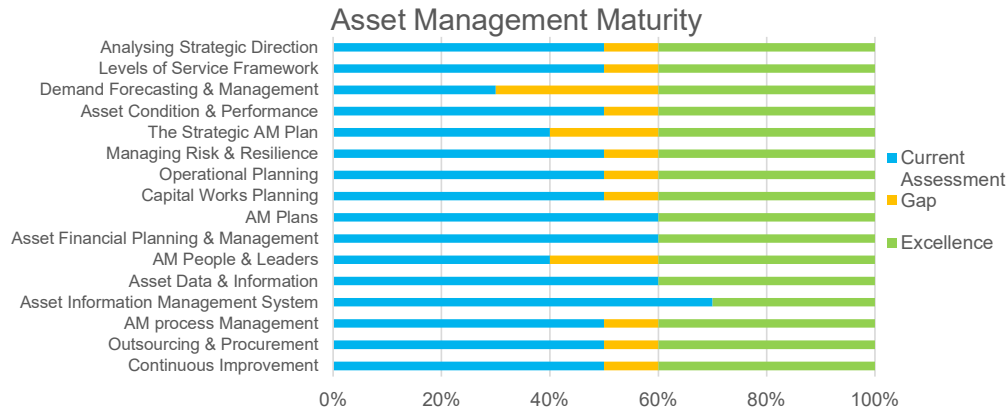
What we're doing

The Asset Plan provides the opportunity for Council to grow and build better through understanding the long term impacts of decisions. It supports Council in making evidence based decision about assets considering the impact on Assets and Sustainability. By understanding our depreciation, renewal, maintenance, and operation costs and how it is impacted by new and upgraded assets we take a long term picture of asset funding.

Our long term projections also help make sure we are spending enough renewing our assets. If we don't renew assets we both provide a lower level of service to the community, increase maintenance need and may create long term economic challenges for future generations.

Asset Management Maturity

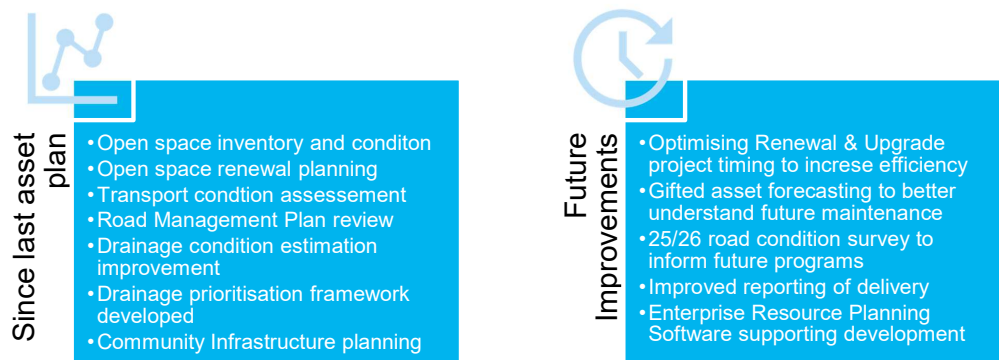
Council's most recent asset management maturity assessment is shown in the below graph. This highlights that Council is achieving appropriate levels of maturity however opportunities exist particularly in managing future demand for assets through strategies such as the community infrastructure plan, implementing this Asset Plan and Asset Management Strategy (combined to form the Strategic AM plan) and improving our AM culture.



Asset Data Status

Asset Class	Asset Inventory	Asset Condition	Renewal Planning	Maintenance data	Growth and Function data
Transport	High	High	High	High	Medium
Buildings	High	High	Medium	Medium	Medium
Drainage	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Open Space	High	High	Medium	Medium	Medium

Improvement plan



7.4. LGBTIQA+ Memorial Commission

Author Brona Keenan – Coordinator Arts Development
Authoriser General Manager Community Strengthening

Executive Summary

Council is developing a memorial to recognize LGBTIQA+ community within the City of Yarra, who have died of suicide.

Initial scoping and development of the project has taken place, including the commissioning of concept designs for the memorial. A community-based Project Reference Group has been established, which has reviewed the concept designs and made a recommendation regarding the preferred design.

The recommended design requires endorsement from Council to proceed to fabrication and installation of the memorial.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorses the Project Reference Group Recommendation: Flower Pavillion by Andrew Atchison to proceed to next stage of commission.

History and background

1. The concept of a memorial was initially raised by community member through Council's Civic Recognition Policy, where a nominator must lodge a written proposal to the Chief Executive Officer outlining the basis for the nomination.
 2. This proposal highlighted the impacts and prevalence within the LGBTIQA+ community of bullying, violence, discrimination, and social rejection due to their sexual or gender identity. 15% of the Yarra community identify as LGBTIQA+. 61% of LGBTIQA+ community had experienced feeling unsafe, and 42% had witnessed violence.
 3. The proposal identified a community need for a memorial to create a sanctuary for friends and family to reminisce, find solace and celebrate the authentic lives of loved ones, who have died of suicide and who were members of the local LGBTIQA+ community.
 4. In FY25, Council allocated \$30k to initiate and scope the project, with a provision of \$320,000 in the FY26 adopted Council budget to fabricate, install and launch the memorial.
 5. This project has been informed by the Civic Recognition Policy, Public Art Policy, and LGBTIQA+ Heritage Study.
-

Site Context

6. The Collingwood Town Hall Park is the recommended site location for the memorial. The proposed concept design has been produced as a site-specific work, responding to this location.
7. The site location was considered in response to criteria relating to community connection/significance of the site, accessibility, public usage, the design of existing amenities, and competing infrastructure. The recommendation identified the following key considerations:
 - (a) The site is situated within an area of Yarra (Collingwood, Fitzroy) recognised for its historical significance to the LGBTIQ+ community, as documented in the LGBTIQ+ Heritage Study (adopted by Council 13 May 2025);
 - (b) The Collingwood Town Hall, located adjacent to the park, is noted in the LGBTIQ+ Heritage Study for its historical significance as a gathering place, particularly for events related to the gay liberation movement in the 1970s;
 - (c) The site offers good amenities that align with the intended nature of the memorial, including green space, seating, walkways, lighting, hospitality facilities, access to public transport, ample parking, passive surveillance, and strong street presence; and
 - (d) The reserve maintains a contemporary connection to the LGBTIQ+ community, as it hosts flag-raising ceremonies for significant LGBTIQ+ community days.
8. A planning or building permit is not required for this proposed project.

Discussion

9. The commission aspires to create a permanent memorial for the City of Yarra recognising the loss of all LGBTIQ+ community members who have died of suicide. Once completed, the memorial will become part of Council's Collection and will be managed in line with the Collection Policy. The memorial will have a minimum life span of 35 years.
 10. Officers have completed due diligence such as site scoping and investigations, project planning and setting parameters regarding the ethical and safety considerations of the memorial project.
 11. A Project Reference Group (PRG) was established for the project, including representatives from the Rainbow and Arts Advisory Committees, LGBTIQ+ support organisations including Transgender Victoria, Thorne Harbour Health and Switchboard.
 12. The PRG has worked with officers to confirm the preferred site, developed the artist brief and evaluated the submissions of artists who submitted to an EOI process.
 13. The site selection process involved due diligence and site investigations informed by the draft LGBTIQ+ Heritage Study. Sites considered included Cambridge Reserve, Peel Street Park, Oxford Street Reserve and the Collingwood Town Hall Park. The Collingwood Town Hall Park was recommended and endorsed by the PRG.
 14. Artists were invited to submit an Expression of Interest for the commission. Sixteen submissions were received and the PRG shortlisted three proposals that progressed to a more detailed design stage. After a second round of evaluation, the PRG has recommended for Council decision Flower Pavillion by Andrew Atchison for the commission (Attachment 1).
-

15. The PRG assessment of recommended concept design noted the following:
- (a) High artistic merit – the concept design is innovative and creative to attract interest and encourage people to visit, learn and gain greater understanding;
 - (b) Cultural relevance – the concept design recognises the loss of all LGBTIQ+ community members who have died of suicide, respecting sensitivities and ethical obligations;
 - (c) Accessibility – The concept design is inclusive of all LGBTIQ+ community and provides a welcoming and inclusive space;
 - (d) Site responsive – The concept design reflects thoughtfully on its location, the historical and contemporary significance of the area to the community;
 - (e) Viable – the concept design includes materials and fabrication that is accounted for, reasonable and justified, with clear, detailed cost estimations, realistic timelines and flexibility; and
 - (f) Durability – the materials and installation methods are site appropriate.

Options

Option 1 – Endorse the PRG's recommendation: Flower Pavillion by Andrew Atchison to proceed to next stage of commission (Recommended)

16. The evaluation process has followed best practice public art processes. The submissions were assessed against set criteria by the PRG. The PRG has contributed their knowledge and experience in informing key elements of the project such as location, concept brief and design recommendations.

Option 2 – Pursue an alternative concept proposal (Not recommended)

17. The recommendation of the PRG is the outcome of a thorough commissioning process, with strong input and advice from the PRG. Pursuing an alternative would not value the process and reduce the community ownership essential for the success and sustainability of the initiative

Option 3 – Do not proceed with the commission (Not recommended)

18. The project has involved community engagement, resulting in a concept that reflects community priorities and lived experiences. As a result, community expectations have been raised.
19. The community has identified this will be valued and provide a safe space for the community to feel acknowledged and welcomed in a meaningful way for this generation and future generations.

Community and stakeholder engagement

20. The PRG has been central to the process of developing the project brief, selecting artists to undertake the concept design and recommending the preferred design.
21. The PRG included representatives from project aligned organisation, committees and individuals including the Rainbow and Arts Advisory Committees, LGBTIQ+ support organisations including Transgender Victoria, Thorne Harbour Health and Switchboard.

Strategic Analysis

Alignment to Council Plan

Strategic Objective one - Living in the City

Strategy 2. Provide places and services to support engagement in community life.

22. The memorial will provide a place for LGBTIQ+ community, family, friends and allies to engage in a shared connection. The memorial will be a site for individual solace, as well as collective gatherings in recognition of the presence and impact of suicide in the LGBTIQ+ community.

Strategic Objective three - Working and playing in the City

Strategy 9: Support the arts and creative industries across Yarra.

23. The project is identified as a key initiative of Council Plan's Working and Playing in the City objective and funded in the FY26 budget. The memorial will support the creation a new public realm work, which will bring visibility to artists and the contributions artists make to place making and community.

Climate emergency

24. Whilst the memorial does not directly address climate emergency, the finished work will provide further shade within the park as an option for park users during hot weather.
25. A number of local businesses have been identified for the fabrication process, reducing travel emissions and the carbon footprint of the project.

Community and social implications

26. The memorial will bring visibility to a marginalised community and attention to sensitive and important topic. Its presence will demonstrate support for the LGBTIQ+ community and show the community it is a valued part of Yarra.
27. The presence of the memorial and the presence of the LGBTIQ+ flag in the park, will lead to a greater community connection to the park and create a space for more community events and gatherings happening in this space.

Economic development implications

28. As a unique public realm work, the memorial will draw people to the site on an individual basis and for gatherings. There is potential for people to also visit other local destinations and support local businesses, as a secondary action when visiting the memorial.
29. The fabrication and installation of the work will involve a range of specialist contractors, some of which will be local, helping to support local creatives.

Human rights and gender equality implications

30. City of Yarra is a vibrant and diverse municipality and Council has an important role in upholding and protecting its diverse population's human rights. The LGBTIQ+ memorial will provide validation of the LGBTIQ+ community and create a place for community expression.

Finance and Resource Impacts and Interdependencies

31. The fabrication, installation and launch of the proposed memorial will be funded from the FY26 budget.

32. Once completed, the memorial will be managed as part of Council's collection. The memorial has an intended life span of 35 years. A maintenance schedule will be provided as part of the documentation of the project.
33. The memorial will be a significant addition to the Collection responding strongly to the General Collection Criteria, including the ability for the memorial to build on representation of LGBTIQ+ artists/subject matter in the Collection.
34. The new work will address the Key Category Criteria: Commemorates a group or individual that has contributed significantly to the artistic, cultural, economic, political or social aspects of Yarra's development, or commemorates a significant anniversary of an event unique to Yarra's history and development.

Legal and Legislative obligations

Conflict of interest disclosure

35. Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates. The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

Risks Analysis

36. A key risk relates to the raised community expectations, in particular from the LGBTIQ+ community, if this project does not proceed.
37. Council has an obligation to support the PRG and artists involved with the commission, given the subject matter of the commission. This aspect is being supported through providing access to relevant community service organisations throughout the project.

Implementation Strategy

38. Timeline:
 - (a) July – September 2025 - final design and procurement;
 - (b) October – December 2025 – fabrication and construction;
 - (c) January – March 2026 – site preparation and installation; and
 - (d) April – June 2026 – final inspections, adjustments and launch.

Communication

39. A communication plan will be developed and implemented for the remaining stages of the project including fabrication, installation and launch of the completed work. Key messaging on the project to date has noted:
 - (a) Council is developing a memorial to honor LGBTIQ+ people living in the City of Yarra who have died of suicide;
 - (b) Council is working the LGBTIQ+ Community to create a permanent memorial for the City of Yarra; and
 - (c) The memorial will offer a dedicated site for solace and reflection.

Report attachments

1. 7.4.1 Attachment 1_ Yarra LGBTQIA Memorial Commission Concept Proposal Andrew Atchison

Yarra LGBTQIA+ Memorial Commission

Concept Proposal:
Andrew Atchison



Contents

1	Introduction: Artist Biography	7	Budget
2	Past Works	8	Timeline
3	Proposal: Flower Pavilion Memorial	9	Consultation
4	Illustrations: In-situ and Annotated	10	CPTED Considerations
5	Fabrication Requirements	11	Certificate of Insurance Currency
6	Key Elements 1—4		

Introduction: Artist Biography

Andrew Atchison is a Melbourne/Naarm-based artist who works across various artforms. His practice explores themes such as queer identity, language, public space, coded communication, and the aesthetics of withholding.

From 2019 to 2022, he was a studio artist at Gertrude Contemporary. He has exhibited widely at venues including Gertrude Contemporary, LON Gallery, TCB Art Inc, Incinerator Gallery, Testing Grounds, Greenwood Street Projects, Light Projects, Firstdraft, West Space, Kings ARI, Seventh, First Site Gallery, and at events like the Next Wave and Midsumma Festivals.

In 2021, he curated *Education Space: Creating Art in Public* as part of the exhibition *Who's Afraid of Public Space?* at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA). In 2019, he curated and published the exhibition catalogue for *...(illegible)...* at the Monash Art Design and Architecture (MADA) Faculty Gallery.

Andrew has also created several large-scale public artworks, including a permanent commission for the City of Melbourne. He is represented by LON Gallery.

Past Works



Figure in the Round (Redaction) 2019,
existing statue by William Eicholtz, aluminium, C-Stands



(Top) *Figure in the Round (Annotation) 2017,*
existing statue, coloured acrylic, C-Stands
(Bottom) *Return 2010,* birdseed, mixed media,
Wangaratta Sculpture Biennial

Past Works (continued)



*...to the point where we can see nothing, everything has become clear... 2013,
neon, commissioned by the City of Melbourne*



*Commune 2012,
steel rope, mixed media*

Past Works (continued)



Proposal: Flower Pavilion Memorial

The memorial I propose is a sculptural shelter—a *flower pavilion*—shaped like a bouquet. Designed to provide both beauty and refuge, it offers integrated seating beneath a canopy of vibrant, transparent acrylic flowers. Structural ‘stems’ rise to support the subtly domed floral canopy, bound together at the centre by a strong horizontal bronze ring. The seating design takes inspiration from the gentle, concentric ripples formed when water is disturbed—an echo of emotional reverberations felt in grief.

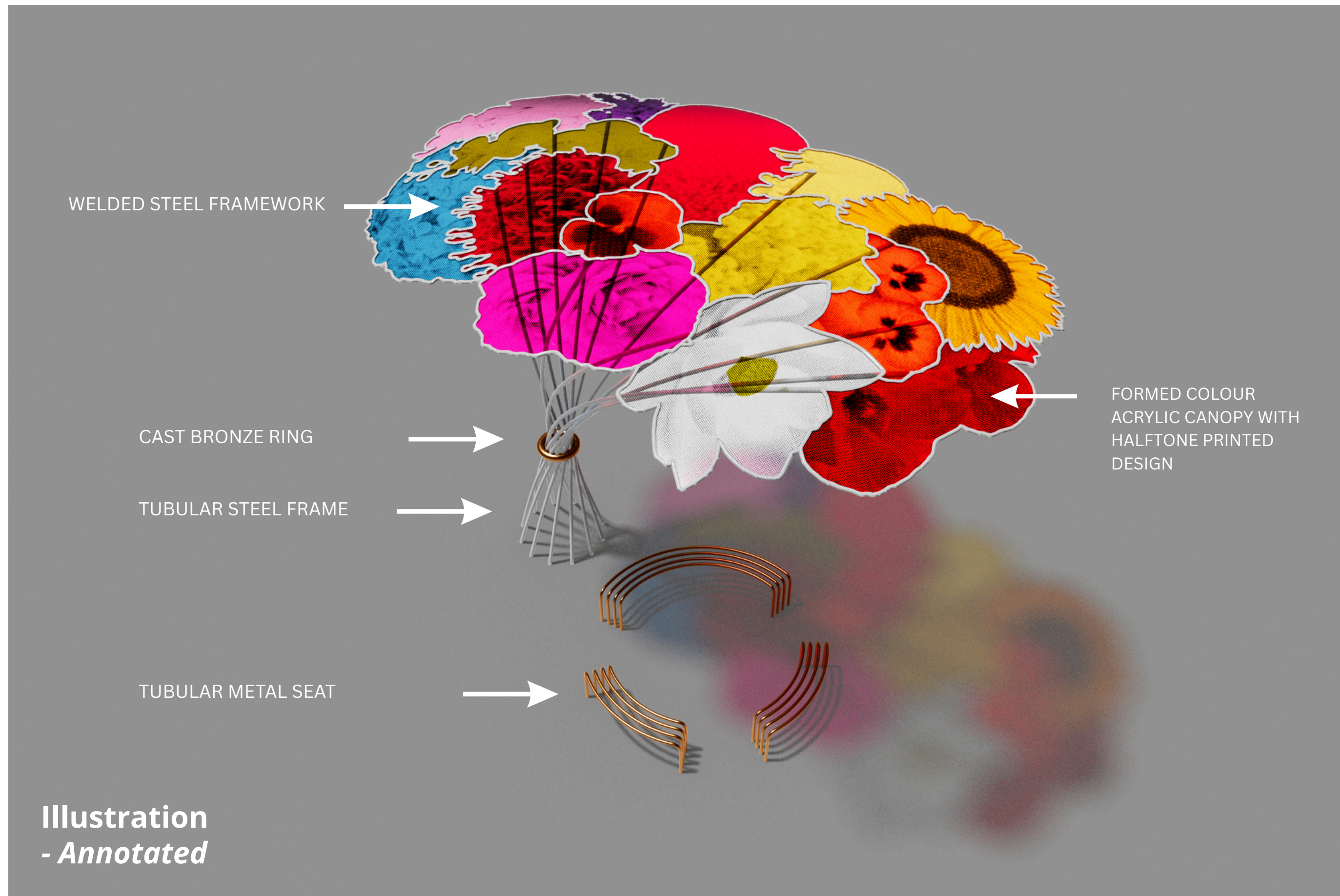
I have chosen flowers for their layered symbolism. In the LGBTQIA+ community, they have long served as coded emblems of identity, self expression and queer affection. Across both Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures, flowers and flora hold deep significance in rituals of remembrance and mourning. Each species in the pavilion has been selected for the meanings it carries, whether referencing queer cultural heriatge or traditions of grieving. The piece takes a secular, intersectional approach, acknowledging the diversity of identity and ethnicity within Yarra’s LGBTQIA+ community, including Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, Chinese, Greek, Vietnamese, Japanese, English, Irish, and Scottish demographics. As a whole, the ‘bouquet’ becomes a shared symbol of this multifaceted, interconnected community, each segment of which has been affected by suicide.

To transcend language barriers, the memorial communicates entirely through visual form. It harnesses the evocative power of coloured light to shape mood and memory, drawing inspiration equally from nightclub lighting and stained glass windows. Light, intangible yet deeply affecting, mirrors the nature of remembrance itself: visceral, emotional, yet ultimately ungraspable. To balance the weightlessness of light, the bronze ring acts as a tie and grounding anchor, a reliable touch point that, in time, will be polished by many hands.

Importantly, the pavilion provides shelter, something currently missing in the park’s infrastructure. It creates a space for contemplation, a welcoming place to remember those lost to suicide. Visitors will find comfort in its protective canopy, which will bathe them in shifting coloured light. This light, echoing the hues of the Pride and Trans flags flown on the nearby flagpole, will transform throughout the day—sometimes a soft wash, other times rich and vivid—depending on the sun’s position in the sky.

My goal is to create a space that holds and honours memory for a largely invisible community in Yarra. While specific in its form, the pavilion invites personal reflection, allowing each visitor to find their own meaning in the shared experience of loss, resilience, and community.

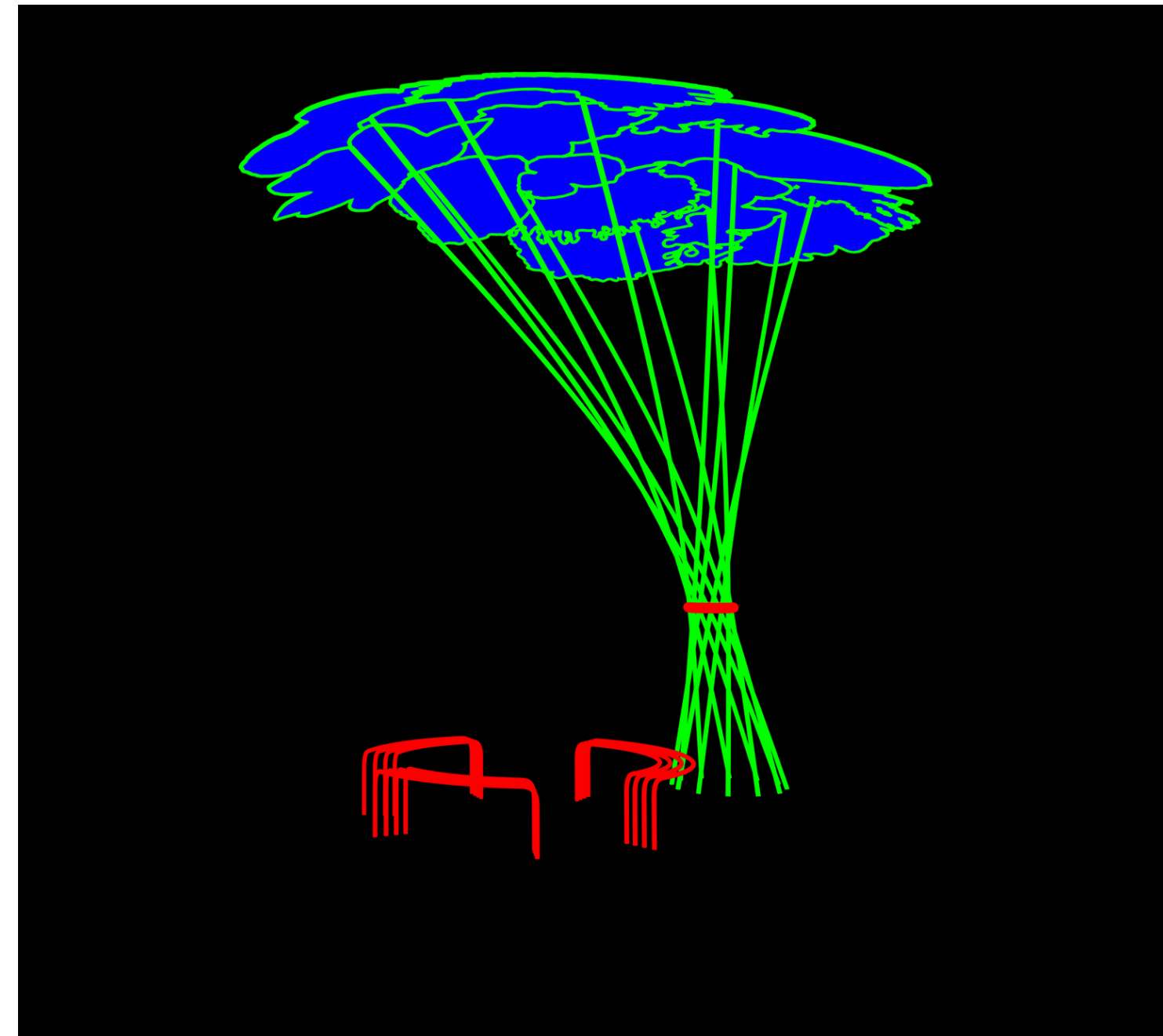




Fabrication Requirements

The Flower Pavilion is constructed using three primary materials: steel (green), acrylic sheet (blue), and bronze (red).

- The design renders will be translated into fabrication plans by a structural engineer, who will determine the specific materials and construction methods.
- Material and technical trials will be conducted to test the printing and forming of the acrylic for the domed canopy. These trials will be carried out by Palram Industries, the manufacturer and supplier of PALGLAS acrylic sheets.
- Once the final dimensions are confirmed, the bronze ring will be cast by Meridian Foundry.
- The steel frame will be fabricated by Urban Art Projects (UAP) at their Melbourne facility. UAP will also receive the acrylic sheets and integrate them into the welded steel frame.
- A concrete slab with anchor points will be poured on-site by a contracted builder.
- Finally, the structural upright elements will be installed in situ. The bronze ring will then be attached, and the flower canopy will be lifted into place using a crane truck.



Key Elements: Flowers

Each flower in the memorial has been carefully selected for its symbolic significance, reflecting the coding of LGBTQIA+ experiences and identities, the Wurundjeri people's connection to Country, and traditions of mourning.

- **Hydrangea:** Capable of changing the colour between blue and pink, denoting the trans community and flag colours.
- **Silver Wattle:** Associated with the passing of Elders and the interconnectedness of life in Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung culture.
- **Violet:** An enduring coded symbol of lesbian identity related to Sappho.
- **White Lotus:** Associated with purity, rebirth and regeneration in Vietnamese culture, particularly in the context of death.
- **Chrysanthemum:** White and yellow chrysanthemums associated with sorrow, respect and remembrance of deceased in Chinese culture.
- **Waratah:** Symbolises connection to Country for Indigenous peoples across South-Eastern Australia.
- **Lavender:** A signifier of the queer community, notably associated with the 'lavender scare', a reclaimed symbol of gay pride.
- **Banksia:** Indigenous to Wurundjeri Country and significant in culture.
- **Pansy:** Reclaimed slur, now a symbol for gay men and of hope and resilience in the broader LGBTQIA+ community.
- **Poppies:** In Greek mythology, poppies are strongly associated with death, sleep, and the afterlife.
- **Sunflower:** Symbolises the journey from birth to death, representing the inevitable cycle of life (multicultural).
- **White Orchid:** Associated with death and mourning in Japan, China and Korea.
- **Rose:** A feature of funerals and mourning ceremony in English, Irish and Scottish cultures, also symbolically linked to of gay men in Japan.
- **Manna Gum:** Origin of Wurundjeri name in woi wurrung, "wurun" means Manna Gum, and "djeri" refers to the grub that lives in the tree.

Key Elements: Bronze Ring

Bronze Ring:

The bronze ring is a central element of the design, symbolically holding the ‘community’ of blooms together. Its form is associated with eternity and the continuity of life, while its horizontal orientation is meant to ground visitors, much like internal datum lines help orient people to the horizon within architecture. The use of bronze references the of ancient traditions of sculpture and statuary, while its clean, minimal form offers a contemporary connection. Positioned at approximately chest—or heart—height, it invites physical interaction.

I hope this will encourage the phenomenon of ‘statue rubbing,’ where repeated touch of many hands over time creates a polished surface. This sheen becomes a visible trace of collective presence, allowing even solitary visitors to feel their grief reflected and shared by others. In this way, the bronze ring not only honors the community commemorated by the memorial, but also offers a tactile ritual—an important bridge between those who have died of suicide and those who remain.



Image: An example of the phenomenon of ‘statue rubbing’ on a bronze public sculpture.

Key Elements: Colour and Light

Coloured Light:

Colour plays a significant role in LGBTQIA+ culture and symbolism. The memorial will echo the Pride and Transgender flags when they are flown on the nearby flagpole. As light passes through the memorial's canopy, it will cast tinted colours onto the ground, seating, and visitors, creating an immersive experience. I've chosen to use coloured light because of its unique ability to touch surfaces and people without impact or trace. This quality allows the memorial to extend beyond its physical structure, offering a more intimate and atmospheric encounter.

The colours will be bright to reflect the exuberance of the LGBTQIA+ community, while the gentle, intangible nature of light evokes the fleeting quality of memory and the presence of those who are no longer with us.

Images: (clockwise from top) coloured light on hand; two indicative examples of the specified PALGLAS acrylic and the colour tint it casts in natural light.



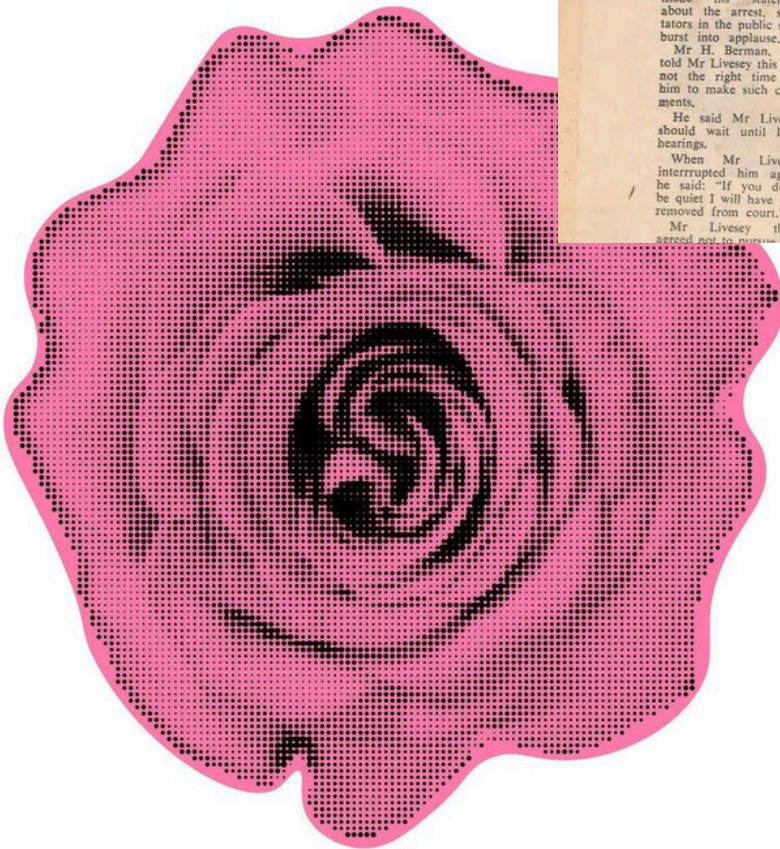
Key Elements: Halftone Printing

Halftone Graphic:

The flowers are depicted using a halftone print effect—a printing technique traditionally associated with newspapers and valued for its clarity and legibility. Originating in the nineteenth century, halftone printing remains in use today through digital technologies.

I chose this technique to make the flowers easily recognisable at scale and to evoke a sense of history. This helps the memorial honour those lost to suicide both in the past and present, emphasising that LGBTQIA+ people have always been part of Yarra. I believe this is important, as many people continue to mourn loved ones lost long ago.

Images: (clockwise from top) two examples of LGBTQIA+ historical news pieces in halftone newspaper print; an indicative example of a flower (rose) rendered in solid colour and halftone print technique.

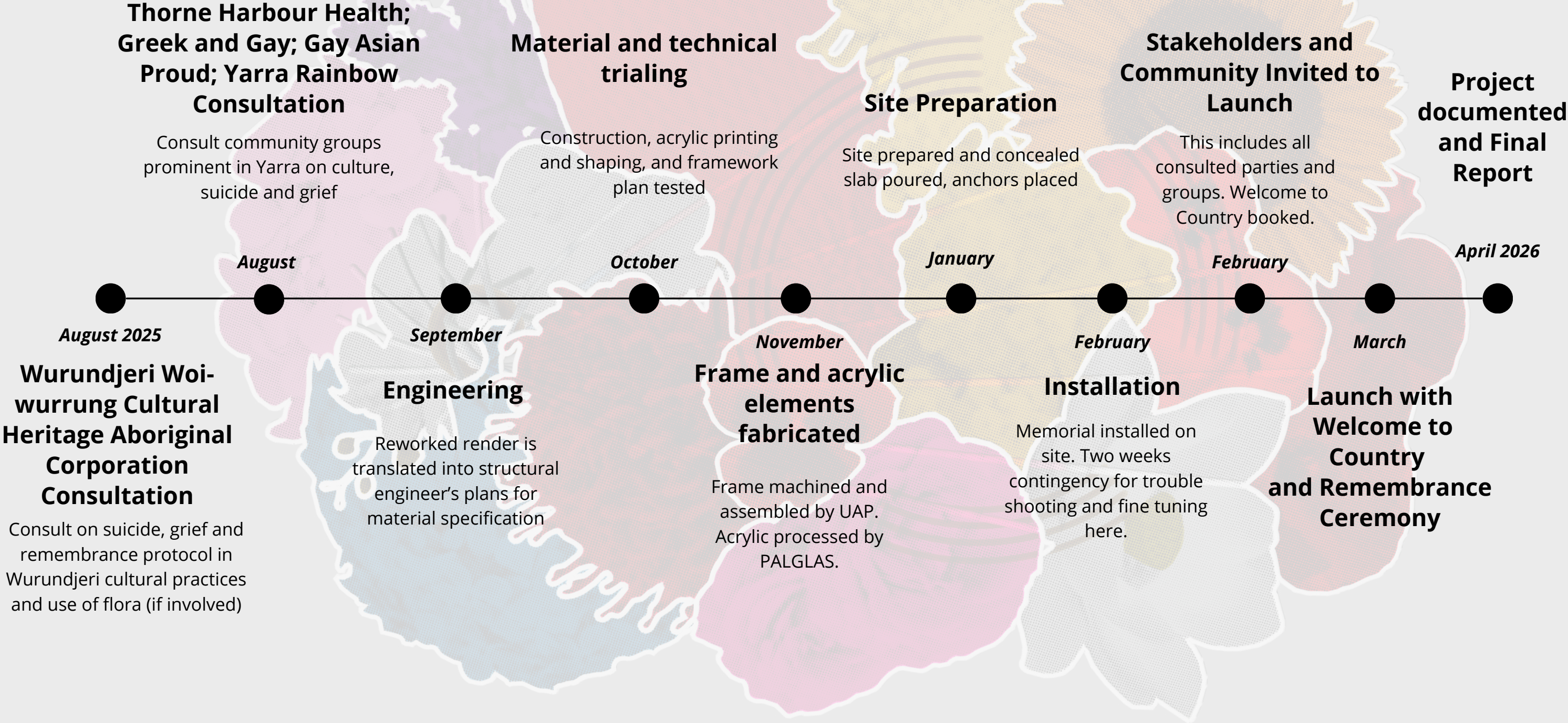


Budget

I have developed the following indicative budget based on consultations with multiple fabricators, architects and suppliers, supplemented by insights from peers with experience in comparable large-scale, complex projects.

Consultation - Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (20 hours @ \$150 p/h)	\$3000
Insurance (NAVA) (2026-27)	\$365
Artist fee (\$35000 + 12% superannuation)	39200
Structural engineering plans	\$4500
Steel Frame - material and fabrication	\$40000
Material trials	\$4000
Bronze - material and casting	\$3500
Acrylic - material, printing and cutting	\$21000
Foundation - concrete pour with anchor points (sculpture and seating)	\$4500
Installation - heavy machinery hire and labour	\$9000
Finishing landscaping	\$1500
Welcome to Country	\$700
Documentation	\$500
Sub total:	\$131,765
Contingency (10% of total budget)	\$13,176
Total:	\$144,941

Timeline



Consultation: Key Organisations

These groups represent the community organisations I would seek to consult. A formal consultation would be arranged with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC), while the other organisations would be approached informally. Each has been selected for their relevance to key aspects of the project: Thorne Harbour Health for its focus on suicide and grief; the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung for their role as Traditional Custodians and their Connection to Country; and community groups such as the Yarra Rainbow Advisory Committee, Gay Asian Proud (GAP), Trans Hub (connected to the Brotherboy Sistergirl community), and Greek and Gay for their work at the intersection of queer identity and cultural diversity.



Yarra Rainbow
Advisory
Committee

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung
Cultural Heritage
Aboriginal Corporation



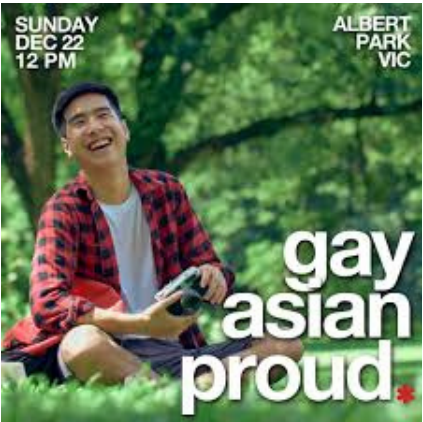
Thorne Harbour
Health LGBTQIA+
Counselling Team



Greek and Gay



Trans Hub



GAP:
Gay Asian Proud

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

This memorial concept incorporates the principles of CPTED in the following ways:

1. Natural Surveillance

- The Flower Pavilion Memorial will make the park feel safer by increasing visibility and drawing people into the space.
- The position of the artwork takes advantage of passive surveillance offered by the Town Hall's windows.

2. Access Control

- The integrated seating acts a subtle guide regarding appropriate movement and usage, defining the space as calm and restful.

3. Territorial Reinforcement


- As a public artwork, the Flower Pavilion Memorial will foster a sense of ownership and pride in the community.
- The fact that the artwork is centred on the community of Yarra, and will involve authentic consultation with locals during development will help the community to feel connected to and protective of the artwork and the space it occupies.

4. Maintenance (and Image)

- the ground level elements of the artwork will be metal and therefore easy to keep clean. The design also provides little opportunity for graffiti or tagging, and so will be manageable to keep clean and intact. Acrylic elements, which are the most sensitive, are well out of reach and so safe from vandalism. Periodic cleaning with water will keep the space well maintained, communicating that the space is cared for, discouraging vandalism.
- As an artwork that involves the community, its upkeep by maintenance and cleaning will deepen engagement and respect over time building a sense of pride and ownership among locals.

Certificate of Insurance Currency

I have secured the required insurance coverage through my professional membership with the National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA).



Berkley
 Insurance Australia
a Berkley Company

PO Box Q296, QVB NSW 1230
 1300 800 772
australia@berkleyna.com.au
berkleyna.com.au

Certificate of Currency

POLICY NO:
202502-0562 BIA

POLICY WORDING:
BIA Combined 2022

INSURANCE TYPE:
Professional Indemnity and Public & Products Liability

PERIOD OF INSURANCE:
From: 1/02/2025 4pm To: 1/02/2026 4pm

INSURED: The National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA) and all Nominated Members of the Insured.

BUSINESS: Principally Association for artists practicing in the area of visual arts, crafts and design including advocacy, advice and professional practice resources & performing arts for this sector

ABN: 16003229285

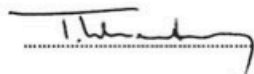
LIMIT OF INDEMNITY:	
Professional Indemnity	\$5,000,000 any one Claim and \$10,000,000 in the aggregate - Cost In Addition
Public Liability	\$20,000,000 any one Occurrence
Products Liability	\$20,000,000 any one Occurrence and in the aggregate any one Period of Insurance

SUB-LIMITS:	
Exports to North America	\$5,000,000

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS: Reinstatement of the Indemnity Limit

INSURER: Berkley Insurance Company ABN: 53126559706 an APRA Authorised General Insurer

RETROACTIVE DATE: Unlimited, excluding known claims and / or circumstances



Signed for and on behalf of Berkley Insurance Australia.

This policy is current at date of issue: 31/01/2025

This certificate is issued subject to the full payment of premium and is issued for information purposes only. This certificate confers no rights on the certificate holder. This certificate does not amend, extend or alter coverage under the policy.

The policy of insurance, not this certificate, details the extent of insurance cover provided.

Page 1 of 1

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7.5. City of Yarra Collection Policy Renewal

Author Brona Keenan – Coordinator Arts Development
Authoriser General Manager Community Strengthening

Executive Summary

This report is seeking endorsement from Council to proceed with public exhibition of the draft City of Yarra Collection Policy 2025-2029 (policy). The draft policy has been developed based upon benchmarking with other Councils, alignment with national collections standards and consultation with Council's Yarra Arts Advisory Committee and Visual Arts Panel.

It sets out the principles and practices to guide decision-making about Council's art and heritage collection, including how the collection is developed, documented, conserved, interpreted and made accessible to the broader community. This policy is a renewal of the Collection Policy 2020-2024.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorses the draft City of Yarra Collection Policy 2025-2029 for public exhibition for the period 11 July to 11 August 2025.

History and background

1. The draft Collection Policy 2025-2029 (policy), as contained in Attachment 1, sets out the principles and practices that guide decision-making about Council's art and heritage collection. This includes how the collection is developed, documented, conserved, interpreted and made accessible to the broader community. This document is a renewal of the Collection Policy 2020-2024.
2. Council's Civic Art and Heritage Collection (collection) comprises over 1,030 items and consists of indoor and outdoor items divided into three main categories: Civic (500 + items); Art (450+ items); and Public Art (80 items). The collection was last valued at over \$8 million (2022) and is re-valued every five years.
3. The collection aims to reflect artistic, cultural, social, environmental, and historical context of the City of Yarra.

Discussion

4. Benchmarking of other local government collection policies identified consistent features including a 'local' collection focus and operational guidelines. Each of the surveyed Councils enlisted the expertise of an Art Advisory Committee to provide recommendations on acquisitions for their collections, and all had acquisition budgets to actively acquire artwork for their collections.

5. The draft policy is consistent with a range of local government collection policies and is in alignment with best industry practice and museum standards regarding collection management.
6. Officers have consulted Council's Yarra Arts Advisory Committee and Visual Arts Panel. This engagement focused on the strengths, gaps, and opportunities of the current policy, as well as the potential future direction or initiatives for the renewed policy. This process identified policy gaps in relation to equity, inclusion, and sustainability.
7. Subsequently, a gender impact assessment on the collection has been completed. This assessment highlighted the need to increase the representation of works by women and gender-diverse communities. In response, new criteria have been added to ensure the collection is developed and guided by gender-equity and inclusion drivers. Additionally, the draft policy addresses sustainable practices in collection care and collection access.
8. Additionally, the Arts Advisory Committee and Visual Arts Panel emphasised:
 - (a) the opportunity to broaden community access to the collection through improvements to public displays and curated public exhibitions;
 - (b) the opportunity to ensure that access and inclusion policy drivers are embedded to ensure the collection remains relevant to and reflective of Yarra's diverse and rapidly growing population overtime; and
 - (c) the importance of the collection as a valuable educational and cultural resource was highlighted.
9. These considerations have been integrated into the policy.

Options

Option 1 – Adopt the revised draft policy for public exhibition (Recommended)

10. It is recommended that Council adopt the renewed draft policy for public exhibition. This has been informed by benchmarking, alignment with national collections standards and feedback from Council's Arts Advisory Committee and Visual Arts Panel.
11. This option responds to current policy gaps and opportunities, such as diversifying the collection in line with population growth and future trends and embeds access and inclusion as pillars of the policy.

Option 2 – Extend the current policy (Not recommended)

12. The impact of this option is that equity and inclusion outcomes are not prioritised to better reflect the diversity of Yarra's growing population and unique identity. Further, it would not enable broader community access.

Community and stakeholder engagement

13. Officers have consulted with Council's Arts Advisory Committee, the Visual Arts Panel.
 14. During the proposed exhibition period for the draft Collection Policy (11 July-11 August 2025), a Your Say Yarra web page will provide opportunity for community feedback on the document. In addition, there will be two in-person consultation sessions and these will include Council's key priority groups including artists with disability, creative practitioners from culturally and linguistically diverse identities and a focus on age diversity.
-

Strategic Analysis

Alignment to Council Plan

Strategic Objective one - Living in the City

Strategy 2. Provide places and services to support engagement in community life.

Strategic Objective three - Working and Playing in the City

Strategy 9. Support the arts and creative industries across Yarra.

Climate emergency

15. The draft policy identifies that peak bodies, such as the Australian Museums and Galleries Associations, are critical in providing standards and procedures in collection management, conservation care, exhibition and operations particularly in relation to climate change. Addressing the environmental impacts of maintaining and expanding the collection support the long-term viability of the collection.

Community and social implications

16. The draft policy has increased gender equity and inclusion drivers, which will facilitate greater community representation and engagement.
17. Consultation during the proposed exhibition period will seek further community feedback to shape the final policy.

Economic development implications

18. The draft policy supports opportunities to grow the collection through the accepting Council developed commissions, which support investment in artists and the creative sector.
19. Public realm collection items play an important role in placemaking and contributing to the identity and attractiveness of local areas.

Human rights and gender equality implications

20. A Gender Impact Assessment on the collection has informed the development of the draft policy. It proposes an increase in the representation of works by women and gender-diverse communities and new criteria have been added to ensure the collection develops towards gender-equity and inclusion drivers.

Finance and Resource Impacts and Interdependencies

21. Funding to support the current collection is within Council's FY26 adopted budget and is inclusive of maintenance, conservation, repairs (planned and reactive), exhibition costs, transport and storage.
22. Growth of the collection in recent years has been driven by physical donations of artworks to the collection. The renewed policy identifies the giving process to Council.

Legal and Legislative obligations

Conflict of interest disclosure

23. Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates. The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

Risks Analysis

24. Council has a responsibility to ensure that the collection is well maintained and preserved for future generations. The collection is valued at \$8m and there are limited resources to manage and conserve the collection without a prioritisation process. Officers evaluate conservation planning and re-prioritise conservation works on an ongoing basis. There are financial impacts in response to unplanned maintenance due to vandalism and unexpected events.
25. To preserve the collection for future generations and ensure improved access, Officers rotate the collection across various Council sites.

Implementation Strategy

Timeline

26. Should Council endorse the draft Collection Policy 2025-2029, there will be a four-week public exhibition period. Feedback from the public exhibition period will inform a further report to adopt the final Collection Policy 2025-2029 at the Council meeting 14 October 2025.

Communication

27. The Your Say Yarra platform and two in-person consultation sessions will be utilised during the exhibition period to provide opportunities for community feedback on the draft policy. These opportunities will be promoted through Council channels and community networks.

Report attachments

1. 7.5.1 Attachment 1 - Draft Collections Policy 2025-2029

Attachment 1



City of Yarra Collection Policy 2025-2029 (draft)

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations—past, present, and future.

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

Yarra City Council (Council) is committed to integrating arts and culture into everyday life within the municipality and the City of Yarra Collection plays a crucial role in this mission.

The City of Yarra Collection Policy (the Policy) outlines the principles and practices for managing the collection, including development, documentation, conservation, interpretation, and accessibility.

This policy replaces the City of Yarra Collection Policy 2020-2024.

1.2 Context

The Policy sits within Council's social, cultural and planning frameworks (see section 7 below).

1.3 Policy development

This Policy is the culmination of a review of the preceding City of Yarra Collection Policy (2020-2024). It is informed by a benchmarking survey of local government collection policies, consultations with Advisory and Working Arts Panels and relevant internal stakeholders from Council, and a review of national and international standards for museum collection management.

The City of Yarra Collection Policy has had a Gender Impact Assessment completed and is compliant with the obligations and objectives under the Victorian Gender Equality Act 2020.

1.4 Glossary of terms

Acquisition: The process by which Council may legally and formally accept items into its collection.

Collection Care: Methods of storage, handling, and display of collection items, as well as basic approaches to condition reporting, environmental monitoring, and pest control.

Cultural Gifts Program: An Australian Federal Government program that allows approved organisations to receive gifts of money or property, for which the donor may claim a tax deduction.

De-accessioning: The process by which the Council may legally and formally remove items from its collection.

Exhibitions: A curated display of items from the City of Yarra Collection, which may include items on loan from external organisations or individuals.

Loans: Processes by which items in a collection may be temporarily exchanged between approved institutions or organisations. Outward loans refer to items lent from a collection; inward loans refer to items brought into an institution or organisation.

Preventive Conservation: Part of collection care, undertaken to slow deterioration or prevent damage to cultural material.

Restorative Conservation: Part of collection care, undertaken to modify the existing material and structure of an item to represent a known earlier state. All restoration treatments applied to an item must be easily detectable and, if possible, removable.

Arts Advisory Committee: An expert panel of community members appointed for a fixed term and guided by Terms of Reference.

2. Council's collection

2.1 Vision

The artistic, cultural, social, environmental, historical and political life of the City of Yarra, its vibrancy and evolution is reflected in Council's Collection.

The collection:

- invites the community to access, appreciate and identify with the municipality's history.
- recognises that the City of Yarra is a home to a diverse community of artists and is enriched by their creativity.
- is inclusive and engages with local artists and diverse communities.

2.2 Strategy

Council achieves this vision for its collection by:

- adopting clear, accountable and best practice collection management processes.
- applying storage standards that ensure the stability of the Collection and preserve its asset value.
- commissioning conservation assessments and treatments as needed.
- managing the Collection with consideration for sustainability. Choices about materials, acquisition, storage, display, access, de-accession and disposal will be considered for their impact on the environment, resources, fiscal responsibility and community well-being.
- applying standards for exhibiting, displaying and interpreting the Collection in Council's public spaces and buildings.
- recognising all voices and experiences being inclusive of marginalised groups and peoples.
- promoting cooperation across Council to cohesively document, preserve and interpret the heritage of the City of Yarra.
- providing opportunities for the public to access and engage with the Collection and to understand the social, historical, artistic, cultural, political and environmental development of Yarra.
- fostering and supporting the creative economy by investing in local artists and/or artists with prior strong connections to the municipality and acquiring their significant works.
- fostering a supportive working relationship with the arts, history and heritage networks operating within the City of Yarra.
- attracting donations, bequests and other external support because of the Collection's professional management, standing and accessibility.

2.3 Scope

The City of Yarra is celebrated for its rich cultural heritage, known for its historical artist collectives and cultural institutions. It remains a vibrant hub for both established and emerging artists. Recognising the importance of preserving the city's unique history and cultural heritage, the Council is dedicated to documenting, managing, and enhancing accessibility to the City's Collection.

Founded in 1994, the Collection emerged from the amalgamation of the municipalities of Collingwood, Richmond, and Fitzroy. With over 1,000 items, the Collection offers a valuable record of Yarra's history and people. It features a diverse array of indoor and outdoor artworks, including paintings, works on paper, sculptures, murals, memorials, monuments, and multimedia installations. Notably, some items, such as original fittings and furniture in the Richmond, Fitzroy, and Collingwood Town Halls, date back to the mid-19th century. Contemporary works in the Collection focus on local subjects

and practitioners, ensuring high-quality contributions from professional Australian artists. The representation of First Peoples artists is also actively developed.

In addition to inherited public artworks, Council continues to commission new works as part of major redevelopment projects and in prominent public spaces within the municipality. The percentage for art directive within the City of Yarra's Public Art Policy has been instrumental in expanding this aspect of the Collection.

2.4 Categories

The Collection is comprised of both indoor and outdoor items, categorised into three main areas: Civic, Art and Public Art.

2.4.1 Civic Collection

The Civic Collection comprises items from town halls and those with a provenance in council business. This includes:

- Original fittings and furniture from and/or in use in the Collingwood, Fitzroy and Richmond town halls in the conduct of Council business.
- Decorative and ceremonial items including illuminations, mayoral robes and chains stained and etched glass and sculptures, mayoral and councillor portraits.
- Archival material such as maps and plans, documents and ephemera.
- Monuments, memorials, fountains and plaques deemed unique and relating to civic, ceremonial and commemorative events and people in the municipality's history.

2.4.2 Art Collection

The Art Collection features a diverse range of works that capture the historical and contemporary development of the municipality and beyond. It includes works on paper, paintings, photographs, textiles, sculptures, installations, and digital media. These artworks are intended for display and exhibition in publicly accessible spaces within Council buildings. The collection is curated through formal acquisition processes, including purchases, donations, and Council commissions.

2.4.3 Public Art Collection

Public art refers to permanent or semi-permanent artworks, markers, monuments and memorials in any medium created outside a gallery setting, specifically intended for display in public spaces. These artworks are designed to engage the community and enhance a sense of place. Public spaces, which are generally open and accessible to all, can be either indoors—such as foyers—or outdoors—such as forecourts, parks, squares, or plazas. Public works may

comprise illustrations, paintings, photographs, portraits, digital art, site-specific installations, performances, artistic concepts integrated into urban or public space design, unique fabricated features for public spaces, mosaics, murals, and sculptures.

The Council's Public Art Policy provides a framework for acquiring public art through commission, purchase, donation, or transfer.

3. Collection development

Collection development involves the ongoing process of reviewing and refining the collection through both acquisition and deaccession. The management of acquisitions and deaccession will be managed by Council's Arts Development Unit.

3.1 Acquisitions

Items may be proposed for acquisition by members of the community, including collectors, artists, Councillors, Arts Advisory Committee members and Council officers.

Council acquires items for the Collection by:

- Purchase
- Donation/Gift
- Bequest
- Commission
- Transfer.

3.2 Acquisition funds

Funding for acquisitions (purchase/commission) may come from:

- Council's operational or capital works budgets.
- External funding such as grants from other government departments, agencies or philanthropic trusts and foundations.
- Partnerships and sponsorship with industry and the private sector.
- Partnerships with the local community.
- Donations, bequests and gifts of money for the collection or for specific commissions. If applicable, donations may be submitted through the Australian Federal Government's Cultural Gift Program (CGP).
- Funds generated from the sale of de-accessioned works from the collection.

3.3 Acquisition proposals

It is recommended that proposals for acquisition by the public refer to the Vision and Section 3.4 (Acquisition Criteria), of this policy within their submission. Proposals must be submitted with the following information and, where appropriate, made available for a studio or gallery visit.

- Image of work.
- Title of the work/item, name of artist/manufacturer and date of production (if known).
- Description of the item.
- History and provenance of the item.
- Significance of the item and relevance to the Collection (refer to the Vision and Section 3.5, Acquisition Criteria of this Policy).
- Associated costs such as storage or display requirements.
- Recommendations and valuations (market value).
- Purchase price (if applicable)
- Conservation report (where necessary).
- Date acquisition commitment required.
- Attachments as required.

Officers will conduct an initial assessment of the acquisition proposal to determine the item's suitability in meeting the Vision and Acquisition Criteria of this policy. Should the item fail to meet these criteria, it will not be considered for recommendation at this preliminary stage.

3.4 Acquisition criteria

For all three areas within the collection, namely Civic, Art, and Public Art, items considered for acquisition should refer to the **Vision** of this Policy and meet **all** the General criteria below:

3.4.1 General criteria

- Fill a gap or build upon the strength of items and/or areas in the collection.
- Be in sound and stable condition.
- Not require extraordinary conservation, restoration or storage except where rare items in poor condition are assessed as significant to the collection.
- Not require extraordinary installation and/or exhibition costs.
- Have display or exhibition and interpretive capacity.
- Have clearly established provenance.
- Be offered unconditionally and without restrictions, including the right to deaccession.
- Must not be discriminatory or offensive in line with Council policies.

Items must also meet **at least one** of the category criteria below:

3.4.2 Category criteria

- Increase the representation of items/artworks in the Collection by First Peoples artists.
- Increase the representation of items/artworks in the Collection by women and gender diverse artists.
- Increase the representation of items/artworks in the Collection by artists that reflect the City of Yarra's diverse communities.
- Created by prominent emerging, mid-career, or established artists who live, work, or have a significant connection to the City of Yarra.
- Be innovative, relevant, and high-quality works, that expand the range of representation of art forms and contribute to contemporary art practice and theory.
- Be relevant and appropriate to the context of the proposed site for installation.
- Be consistent with the planning, heritage and environmental policies of the City of Yarra, including other artworks in the vicinity.
- Be significant to the social, cultural, and political history of the City of Yarra and/or Yarra City Council.
- Commemorate a group or individual that has contributed significantly to the artistic, cultural, economic, political, or social aspects of Yarra's development.
- Commemorate a significant anniversary of an event unique to Yarra's history and development.

3.5 Acquisition Recommendation

An acquisition recommendation report by the Visual Arts Officer will be presented to the Arts Advisory Committee for their information and assessment of the proposed item's compliance against the vision and acquisition criteria of this policy.

In addition to the Arts Advisory Committee, Council will engage individuals with specialised skills and expertise to assist with the assessment of proposed items if required.

Acquisition recommendation reports will include an item description, provenance, a statement on the item's relevance to the Collection, and a current market value for insurance purpose.

Valuations for donations via the Cultural Gifts Program (CGP) are generally the donor's responsibility; however, Council may choose to cover these valuation costs.

Meetings to discuss recommendations for acquisitions will be held twice a year. For proposed items that present a unique opportunity or require an immediate response, an

extraordinary meeting may be called, or the Arts Advisory Committee may be informed accordingly or retrospectively.

The committee must reach a consensus to recommend an item for acquisition; a motion that is moved and seconded by two members and carried by a majority, which will be noted in the minutes of the meeting. The committee will follow a similar process as per the deaccessioning of artworks from the Collection.

All members of the committee must declare any real or perceived conflict of interest prior to the consideration of proposed items for acquisitions. This declaration will be documented in the minutes, and those members identified with a conflict of interest will abstain from participating in the assessment process of that item.

3.6 Arts Advisory Committee

The Arts Advisory Committee is a group of local artists and industry professionals that represent the City of Yarra's diverse communities. They provide a formal mechanism for Council to seek specialist advice on arts and culture matters within the municipality, including recommending items for the collection. Their role is advisory only, in accordance with its Terms of Reference.

The Arts Advisory Committee may offer recommendations and advice on:

- The allocation of funds towards the purchase of one or more works for the collection.
- The acceptance of donations, gifts and bequest into the collection.
- The de-accessing of items in the collection.
- The strategic direction of the collection.

3.7 Acquisition formalisation

Recommendations for acquisition must be authorised in accordance with the Council's procurement policy and delegated authority.

Donated works recommended by the Arts Advisory Committee for acquisition are subject to approval by the Manager Libraries Arts and Events.

An acquisition acknowledgment form, which includes an accession number, will be sent to the artist (estate/gallery) or donor as a receipt of the item within the Collection. This form will also include permission from the artist, estate, or copyright agency to reproduce an image of the item in print and online for collection management, educational, and promotional purposes.

3.8 De-accessioning

De-accessioning is the process by which Council may formally remove items from its Collection as part of responsible collection management. It is not a method for raising

revenue, and any money raised from the sale of a deaccessioned item will be used for the care and development of the Collection. The International Council of Museums Code of Ethics serves as the guiding document for this process.

3.8.1 De-accessioning criteria

Items proposed for de-accessioning must meet **one or more** of the following criteria:

- Poor condition or have suffered irreparable damage.
- No known provenance or have legal ownership other than that of Council.
- Pose a risk to public safety, which cannot be mitigated.
- Conservation and storage costs are beyond the means of Council.
- Lost or stolen without possibility of recovery.
- Copies, duplicates, or reproductions of items already in the collection.
- Have no relevance or fall outside the scope of the policy.

Items cannot be proposed for de-accessioning if:

- They are being considered on purely aesthetic grounds.
- They have been in the collection for less than five years.
- They have a legal encumbrance that prohibits them from being de-accessioned.
- They have a contested provenance.

3.8.2 De-accessioning procedure

- A report will be developed for the Arts Advisory Committee's consideration.
- The Arts Advisory Committee must vote (majority) on or resolve a motion to recommend the de-accessioning.
- The Arts Advisory Committee's recommendation is then approved by the appropriate Council officer.
- The item will be held within the Collection for a twelve-month 'cooling off' period. This period allows Council time to contact the creator, donor, or the creator's estate to discuss disposal options.
- If the item poses a health and safety risk, the cooling off period may be waived for the object.
- Once the item is de-accessioned, it must be de-registered. A record of the item's provenance and deaccession documentation must be retained, and the electronic record marked 'de-accessioned' but not deleted.

3.8.3 Disposal

The item for disposal can either be:

- Returned to the artist, estate, or donor. *
- Offered to a more appropriate institution.
- Arranged for sale.
- Dismantled and/or destroyed as a last resort.

If a gift or donated item is sold, funds raised by the sale must be redirected towards new acquisitions, which, with consent, may be attributed to the original donor.

*Items donated under the Commonwealth Government Cultural Gift Program will not be returned to the donor if de-accessioned, as they have already received the benefit of a tax deduction for the donation.

4. Collection management

Council's Arts Development Unit is responsible for the day-to-day management of the collection. An annual operational budget is provided by Council to ensure the collection is documented, handled, stored, preserved, and shared in accordance with this Collection Policy.

4.1 Record administration

Administration required for best practice collection management include:

- Acquisition Recommendation Report template (for all methods of acquisition).
- Art and Heritage Collection Asset Register (Enterprise Tech One).
- Acquisition Acknowledgment form (including permission to reproduce image).
- Commissioning agreement/contract.
- Deaccession Recommendation Report.
- Loan template (inward and outward).

4.2 The Asset Register

All items are formally processed and registered into Council's asset register (Enterprise/TechOne) to ensure their status as the property of the City of Yarra is legally substantiated.

The Asset Register serves as Council's Collection Management System and is maintained by the Arts Development Unit. This primary collection management tool records detailed information for all items, including provenance, date of acquisition, conservation status, valuation, and object storage location. The record also includes visual documentation and image references.

Where resourcing is available, Council should expand on these basic fields of registration by:

- Researching and documenting the significance of relevant items.
- Recording detailed exhibition and access history for each item.

4.3 Record Keeping

Documents relating to items in the collection are stored in Council's record management system, Content Manager. These files are administered by the Arts Development Unit and managed by the Records Management Unit.

Prior to 2020, hard copy files were produced to store documents relating to the collection item and artist. In line with Council's move to paperless processing, hard copy files have now ceased (but still available), with documents scanned and attached to files relevant to the item recorded in the Asset Register and Content Manager whenever possible.

4.4 Accessioning

Accession numbers will be allocated in chronological order to each item in the collection. If an item consists of more than one integral part, those parts will be allocated a number and/or letter following the sequential number. Preceding these accession numbers each item will be allocated a three-letter code that indicate the category in which the item is registered:

- **Civic** (Historic Memorabilia **HM**, Contemporary Memorabilia **CM**, Decorative Art **DA**, Historical Fine Art **HFA**)
- **Art** (Contemporary Fine Art **CFA**)
- **Public Art** (Public Art **PA**, Monuments/Memorials **MM**)

Each item will also be identified with a Yarra City Council label or tag attached to the back of the item (if applicable), stating the artist's name, title of the work, date, medium, dimensions, and accession number.

4.5 Image library

Each item within the Collection will be digitally photographed for security, promotional and educational purposes and recorded in the asset register with its file name corresponding to the item's accession number.

4.6 Moral Rights and Copyright

Copyright of an item housed in the Collection shall be reserved by the artist (or their estate). Permission from the artist, estate, or copyright agency to reproduce an image of the item in print and online for collection management, educational, and promotional purposes is formalised within the Acquisition Acknowledgment form.

This usage shall not contravene any laws, including those governing copyright, intellectual property, or moral rights, nor conflict with any commitments made by the Council in agreements with artists or donors. The artist/maker/creator and title of the item will be attributed wherever and whenever an image, or the item is displayed.

4.7 First Peoples material

Council acknowledges its mandatory obligation under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 to register Victorian Aboriginal cultural artefacts in its possession with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and that human remains and secret and sacred material legally belonging to the Traditional Owners should be repatriated.

Council also adheres to legislative requirements related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, content and artefacts as follows:

- *Creative Australia, Protocols for Producing Indigenous Australian Visual Arts*, 2007
- *Indigenous Cultural Protocols and the Arts* 2015 by Terri Janke
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

4.8 Access, equity and inclusion impacts

The Visual Arts Officer will:

- Actively consider how community members of various ages, abilities, cultural and gender identities, sexual orientation, religions, locations and social economic backgrounds might access policies, programs or services differently and if there are any barriers which may hinder these groups from accessing these policies, programs or services.
- Will act to increase the inclusiveness of the Collection and its accessibility.
- Review labels, other collateral and published texts to improve representation and accessibility.
- Address barriers to participation.
- Will ensure pay rates meet industry standards and explore ways in which to provide further assistance for artists.

4.9 Collection valuation and insurance

Council's Risk team manages insurance for the collection, with the value of new acquisitions forwarded to Risk by the Visual Arts Officer upon acquisition and before the end of each financial year. An independent valuation of the Collection for insurance purposes, and to ensure the asset register is accurate will be conducted by an approved valuer every five years or based on the recommendation of Council's Risk manager and advisor. Items acquired since the previous valuation will be sighted in person by the valuer, with previous items undergoing a desk top valuation.

4.10 Winding up

The Collection is recognised as an asset of Yarra City Council. In the event of a local government restructure, the treatment of any assets would be in accordance with the Local Government Act.

5. Collection care

Council owns, manages and cares for the Collection on behalf of the Yarra community. Within our limited resources we are committed to conserve and preserve the Collection in accordance with best practice, providing a safe environment for the Collection, with effective storage, security and environmental controls, for the benefit of current and future generations.

The Arts Development team commits to liaising with Australian Museums and Galleries Associations about changing standards and procedures in collection management, conservation care, exhibition and operations particularly in relation to climate change. Addressing the environmental impact of maintaining and expanding the collection supports the long-term viability of the collection.

5.1 Preventative conservation

Council is committed to the preventive conservation of the Collection in accordance with recognised museum standards and will engage qualified and accredited conservators and approved contractors to advise on and undertake the care, repair, maintenance, display, and exhibition of the Collection.

The Arts Development Unit is responsible for day-to-day preventive conservation by:

- Ensuring the physical safety and security of collection items in storage and on display.
- Establishing regular inspections and a condition schedule for each item in the collection.
- Developing an annual collection maintenance schedule and budget in consultation with approved conservators. Audits of outdoor items, including public art, memorials and monuments, are assessed every five years by conservation experts and specialists.
- Coordinating and managing all movement, handling, relocation, and installation of collection items according to industry handling practices.

5.2 Storage

Collection items not on display will be stored on Council premises and offsite at suitable fine art storage facilities, adhering to museum conservation standards.

Council acknowledges the challenges of storing items and will endeavour to maintain a stable environment utilising appropriate storage solutions and practices to help preserve the integrity of the Collection and ensure that items are stored safely and efficiently. This includes:

- Providing and managing secure and environmentally controlled collection storage within resource and budget constraints.
- Maintaining a secure list of storage locations, their access arrangements, and a floorplan of each collection store noting numbered or labelled storage units.
- Minimising risk to the collection by monitoring storage conditions and addressing risks as required.
- Develop and implement emergency response plans tailored to specific risks such as flooding, storms, fires.
- Inspecting incoming material to ensure it is pest-free and arranging appropriate treatments.
- Using archival-quality boxes and protective coverings, to safeguard items from damage.
- Clear labelling of storage boxes and shelves, linked to Collection records, to minimise handling and facilitate easy retrieval.

5.3 Restorative conservation

The Arts Development Unit is responsible for commissioning and documenting all restorative conservation work on the Collection. Treatments and priorities are determined by curatorial staff in consultation with the relevant artist and/or approved conservators. Conservation work will be undertaken according to established priorities and within budget parameters, with repair and restoration work undertaken by qualified and accredited conservators or approved contract specialists.

5.4 Damage and at-risk process

If an item belonging to the Collection is damaged or appears to be at risk the following actions and procedures must be followed:

- It must be immediately reported to a member of the Arts Development Unit.
- It must be left in situ together with all broken parts and cordoned off until it can be assessed by a member of the Arts Development Unit or an approved conservator. In such circumstances, consideration must be given regarding the safety of the item as well as public safety and access issues.
- It should only be removed and handled by a member of the Arts Development Unit or by Council maintenance officers if the item is too large and/or poses an immediate risk to the public.

- It should be photographed as soon as possible in the state it was found to provide a record of the event and to document the condition or risk of the item.
- Must be reported to appropriate authorities if an act of vandalism towards an item in the Collection has been identified.
- Council's Risk team must be notified, and a claim made to insurance if applicable.
- Damage sustained must be documented in the Collection database. The altered condition of the object, as well as a description of the conservation treatment applied, should also be clearly recorded.

5.5 Occupational health and safety

Council is committed to providing ongoing Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) training for both current and new collection staff. This commitment extends to observing the Council's OH&S procedures in every aspect of managing a mixed collection, including exhibition and display installation, as well as in the movement and handling of objects.

This includes:

- Wearing gloves to avoid touching objects where applicable.
- Using transport aids such as trolleys to minimise risks and assist with awkward and heavy items.
- Organising workstations for safe handling to minimise the potential for falls and breakages.
- Hiring specialists for the transportation and installation of artworks where required.

6. Collection access

Council is committed to making arts and culture an everyday experience in the municipality and to enriching the community's understanding of Yarra's artistic, social and cultural history. Exhibiting and interpreting the collection, lending items to other institutions, along with developing an online catalogue accessible through the Council's website and external platforms, are key strategies employed to achieve this goal.

6.1 Display

The display and allocation of items in the Collection are the responsibility of the Arts Development Unit.

Priority for display in Council buildings is given to areas with high levels of public and staff access, as well as security. These areas include:

- customer service, reception areas/foyers

- meeting rooms
- libraries
- offices where suitable hanging arrangements exist.

The rotation of items within Council premises is based on incoming staff, office changes and refurbishments, best art conservation practices, and available resources. The suitability, location, condition, and interpretation of each item will be regularly monitored and reviewed when displayed, and items may be subject to removal or relocation as necessary.

Tours of the collection in Council buildings will be programmed annually and available on request for community groups.

6.2 Digital access

Items in the Collection can be accessed online via Council's website, as well as through social media and promotional platforms. Where artists have granted permission for digital reproduction, these items will also be available on the Victorian Collections website. The Visual Arts Officer will explore opportunities to utilise new technologies, such as virtual tours, to make the Collection more accessible, engaging, and relevant to a wider audience

For items not currently on display or online, members of the public may contact the Arts Development Unit to arrange a viewing by appointment, subject to availability.

6.3 Exhibitions

Developed in accordance with the Vision of this Policy, Council's Arts Development unit will curate and present collection exhibitions of artistic, cultural, historical, social, and contemporary interest and relevance for all members of Yarra's diverse communities. These exhibitions may feature accompanying educational and public programs, including collection tours and will be displayed within Council's key civic buildings and dedicated arts spaces.

In addition, Council will seek opportunities to partner with other institutions, organisations, artists, curators, councils, communities, festivals, and events to exhibit Collection items and pursue funding opportunities to help realise these projects, programs and initiatives.

6.4 Environmental conditions

Where possible, Council will undertake sustainable practices in maintaining appropriate temperature, humidity conditions and optimal lighting when displaying and exhibiting items. Within our available resources we are committed to meeting this within conservation standards and best industry practice.

6.5 Interpretation

All items on display must be accompanied by a label and presented under optimal display conditions. Wall labels will include the following information:

- Artist name.
- Accession details.
- Title of work.
- Creation date.
- Medium.
- Dimensions.
- Acquisition/donation details.
- Collection acknowledgement.

6.6 Loans

Council temporarily lends items from its Collection to other institutions or organisations for exhibition and community engagement purposes (outward loans).

Similarly, it may borrow items from other institutions, organisations, and individuals for comparable purposes (inward loans).

6.6.1 Loan approval

Council does not lend items from its Collection to individuals. Applications will be considered from any public institution, with an item's conservation history and vulnerabilities, including handling, packing, transport, and installation, considered before it goes on loan. All loan requests will be reviewed and approved by the Coordinator of the Arts Development Unit.

6.6.2 Loan care

Council will exercise the same care with respect to borrowed items as it does for its own Collection and will provide agreed and appropriate storage and display conditions for borrowed items for the term of the loan. Condition reports are written prior to an object being packed, upon unpacking at each borrowing institution, upon packing at each borrowing institution, and as soon as possible after return.

6.6.3 Loan Agreements

Loan items shall only be sought for specific exhibitions or research purposes and for fixed periods of time, to be considered on a case-by-case basis. Adequate insurance provisions must be arranged and a copy of the insurance policy sighted or confirmed in writing. All loans will be subject to the terms and conditions outlined in a Loan Agreement form, as agreed upon by Council and the lending/borrowing organisation. Council reserves the right to terminate a loan agreement if the terms and conditions are breached.

7. References

This Collection Policy should be read alongside the following documents produced by the City of Yarra, as well as those that guide best practice in the museum and collection sector.

- Yarra 2036 Community Vision
- Council Plan
- Arts and Cultural Strategy
- Public Art Policy
- Arts Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
- Yana Ngargna Plan
- Access and Inclusion Strategy
- Asset Management Plan
- Climate Emergency Plan
- Community Engagement Plan
- Economic Development Strategy
- Gender Equity Action Plan
- Graffiti Management Framework
- Heritage Strategy
- Multicultural Partnerships Plan
- Open Space Strategy
- Procurement Policy
- Risk Management Framework
- Strategic Advocacy Framework
- The Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material
<https://www.aiccm.org.au>
- International Council of Museums (ICOM) Code of Ethics for Museums 2017
<https://icom.museum/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/ICOM-code-En-web.pdf>
- International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)
<https://australia.icomos.org/about-us/australia-icomos/>
- National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries 2023 (second edition)
<https://mgnsw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Nationals-Standards-for-Australian-Museums-and-Galleries-2.0.pdf>
- AMAGA First Peoples: a Roadmap for Enhancing Indigenous Engagement in Museums and Galleries 2018

https://www.amaga-indigenous.org.au/_files/ugd/f76062_c67539d5b2e2433181f66b15ec499d89.pdf

- Victorian Gender Equality Act 2020
<https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/as-made/acts/gender-equality-act-2020>
- National Copyright Act 1968
<https://www.legislation.gov.au/C1968A00063/2019-01-01/text>
- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006
<https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/charter-human-rights-and-responsibilities-act-2006/015>

DRAFT

7.6. – Procurement Australia for Library Services

Author	Stephen Wright – Coordinator Library Resources Technology and Operations
Authoriser	General Manager Community Strengthening

Executive Summary

The report recommends awarding contracts to the selected panel of suppliers under Contract C1835 – Library Collections, Furniture, Equipment & Associated Requirements, following a tender process conducted through an agency arrangement with Procurement Australia.

This contract will commence once approved by Council for an initial term of two years, with options for Council to extend the contract for up to two additional periods of twelve months each (four years in total if all options are exercised). The total estimated contract cost, inclusive of all Council-related expenses, is \$1,100,000 per annum (excluding GST), and has already been accounted for in the FY26 budget.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Awards contract C1835 - Library Collections, Furniture, Equipment & Associated Requirements through Procurement Australia with selected Panel of Suppliers.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign on behalf of Council all necessary documentation including any contract variations (capped at 20% of annual contract value) relating to contract C1835 - Library Collections, Furniture, Equipment & Associated Requirements including the contract documentation and exercise options (as required and subject to satisfactory performance) on behalf of Council.

History and background

1. For this contract, Council has collaborated with Procurement Australia, an approved procurement agency, under a state-endorsed panel arrangement.
2. Council's library services have previously participated in a similar arrangement with Procurement Australia for Library Collections, Furniture, Equipment & Associated Requirements, under contracts spanning from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2025. This arrangement provided value for money, streamlined procurement processes, and access to competitively priced, pre-qualified suppliers.
3. Procurement Australia issued an invitation to tender for the establishment of a panel of providers for Library industry specialists to supply and deliver products and services relevant to their nominated tender category/categories. The contract period is scheduled to begin on 1 July 2025 and conclude on 30 June 2027. There is an option to extend the contract for up to two (2) additional periods of twelve (12) months each. This contract serves as the retender for contract 2306/0843 – Library Collections, Furniture, Equipment & Associated Requirements which expires 30 June 2025.

Discussion

4. The Procurement Australia tender: 2706/0848 Library Collections, Furniture, Equipment & Associated Requirements was advertised on 20/11/2024 in The Herald Sun newspaper inviting suitably qualified contractors to submit a response to the tender. The closing date for tenders was 18 December 2024 at 3pm. Forty-four tender submissions were received as outlined in Confidential Attachment 1.
5. The tender evaluation panel consisted of nine industry experts from various councils, including representatives from Procurement Australia. A pre-tender evaluation panel meeting was held to discuss and determine the evaluation criteria and weightings, and a member of our Library Services team participated in the discussion.
6. The following key evaluation criteria were used to assess tender submissions:
Non-Scoring Criteria:
 - (a) Completed Statutory Declaration;
 - (b) Insurance Coverage;
 - (c) OHS; and
 - (d) Financial Viability.Scoring Criteria:
 - (a) Experience & Capability;
 - (b) Capacity & Resources;
 - (c) Provision of Services;
 - (d) Industrial Relations;
 - (e) Quality Management System;
 - (f) Environmental Management System;
 - (g) Social Sustainability;
 - (h) Corporate Social Responsibility; and
 - (i) Equal Opportunity.
7. Tenderers were able to tender for any one or any combination of the following categories:
 - (a) Category 1 Printed Material – English;
 - (b) Category 2 Printed Material - Community Languages;
 - (c) Category 3 Printed Magazines and Newspapers - English & Community Languages;
 - (d) Category 4 Digital Collections - English & Community Languages;
 - (e) Category 5 Audio-Visual Materials – English & Community Languages;
 - (f) Category 6(a) Cataloguing, (b) Processing & (c) Processing Service Consumables;
 - (g) Category 7 Physical Collection Support Services;
 - (h) Category 7 Physical Collection Support Services;
 - (i) Category 8 Digital Support Deliverables;
 - (j) Category 9 Library Management Systems;

- (k) Category 10 RFID and Unstaffed Library Access Systems;
 - (l) Category 11 Library Furniture and Shelving;
 - (m) Category 12 Non-traditional Library Collection Deliverables; and
 - (n) Category 13 Library Removalists.
8. For each category, an appropriately qualified panel of Suppliers was sought to provide the relevant deliverables for any one or combination of states and territories. In addition to achieving a satisfactory weighted score, other factors were evaluated, including compliance with:
- (a) Insurance requirements;
 - (b) Tender Terms & Conditions; and
 - (c) Contract Terms & Conditions.

Options

Option 1 – Endorse the Officer’s recommendation and award the contract to Procurement Australia (Recommended)

9. It is recommended that Council opt in to Procurement Australia’s panel arrangement and proceed with the selected panel of suppliers. This approach provides access to a pre-qualified and diverse group of suppliers that meet the full range of library collection, equipment, and service requirements. It delivers immediate value for money through pre-negotiated rates and offers the flexibility to adapt to local service needs throughout the contract term.
10. Procurement Australia has identified recommended suppliers through a tender process that is fully compliant with Council’s Procurement Policy. By leveraging the collective purchasing power of multiple councils, Procurement Australia has secured more competitive pricing through economies of scale achieving outcomes that would be difficult to match if Council were to undertake a standalone public tender. This approach not only ensures better value for money but also enables Council to continue delivering Library services to the community without disruption to service quality or delivery.

Option 2 – Award contracts to alternative providers (Not recommended)

11. This option is not recommended as it could be seen as inconsistent with Council’s Procurement Policy and Section 108(3)(c) that required the Council will need to consider potential collaborative procurement arrangements to take advantage of economies of scale.

Option 3 - Do not award the contract (Not recommended)

12. This option would result in service gaps for FY26, jeopardising the continuity of library operations and member access to resources. Deferral may also increase costs due to inflation or market changes.

Community and stakeholder engagement

13. The Library Services & Operations Team, together with Procurement, were involved from the early stages of the tender process and participated in the review of evaluation reports prepared by Procurement Australia.

Strategic Analysis

Alignment to Council Plan

14. This service engagement aligns with the following strategic objectives in the Council Plan 2021-2025:
- Strategic Objective two – Social equity and health
- 2.2 Build a more resilient, inclusive, safe and connected community, which promotes social, physical and mental wellbeing
- Strategic Objective six – Democracy and governance
- 6.1 Provide opportunities for meaningful, informed and representative community engagement to inform Council's decision-making

Climate emergency

15. Continuing to invest in digital collections and other library materials will help reduce Council's climate footprint.

Community and social implications

16. This contract will maintain equitable access to up-to-date library resources for all community members.

Human rights and gender equality implications

17. All suppliers were assessed on equal opportunity practices, as part of the evaluation process.

Finance and Resource Impacts and Interdependencies

18. The contract value aligns with operational budget for FY26.

Legal and Legislative obligations

Conflict of interest disclosure

19. Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates. The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

Legal Implications

20. The form of agreement is a Procurement Australia contract. The recommended tenderer has identified no departures from these conditions.
21. It is a requirement for the contractor to maintain the specified amount of public liability insurance for the contract period. Workcover insurance must also be in place for the duration of the contract.

Risks Analysis

22. The key project risks and the actions/controls to address the risk are shown below:
-

Risk Identified	Risk Mitigation/Control
Vendor delivery delays	This is mitigated through extensive access to multiple suppliers and the panel model of the contract.

Implementation Strategy

Timeline

23. The anticipated project timelines and key dates are summarised below:

Milestone/Activity	Date/Period
Contract Approval & Opt-In	11 July 2025
Contract Ending Date	30 June 2027 (Initial two-year period)
Review and Renewal	1 July 2027 (extension of 1 st Option – 12 months)
Review and Renewal	1 July 2028 (extension of 2nd Option – 12 months)

Report attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL -7.6.1 Attachment 1 - Tender Evaluation Report

This attachment is confidential information for the purposes of section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 for the following reason:

- (a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

7.7. Governance Report - July 2025

Author Patrick O'Gorman – Senior Governance Coordinator

Authoriser General Manager Governance, Communications and Customer Service

Executive Summary

The Governance Report is prepared as a periodic report to Council which provides a single reporting platform for a range of statutory compliance, transparency and governance related matters.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. In the exercise of the powers conferred by s 147(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, resolves that Kathryn POUND be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument at Attachment one, with the instrument coming into force immediately upon it being signed by Council's Chief Executive Officer, and remaining in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.
2. In the exercise of the powers conferred by s11(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2020 Council resolves:
 - (a) there be delegated to the person holding the position, or acting in or performing the duties, of Chief Executive Officer the powers, duties and functions set out in the Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer at Attachment One, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument;
 - (b) the instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument;
 - (c) on the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to the Chief Executive Officer are revoked; and
 - (d) the duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.
3. Having considered community feedback in relation to the following place naming proposals, apply to the Office of Geographic Names to:
 - (a) Assign the name "Burrung Lane" to right of way 1817 (off Argyle street, Fitzroy);
 - (b) Assign the name "Barrawang Lane" to right of way 76.1 (off Fenwick and Yambla streets, Clifton Hill); and
 - (c) Assign the name "Yirram Lane" to right of way 612 (off Davison street, Richmond).

Discussion

Delegation under Planning and Environment Act 1987

1. In order to conduct inspection, enforcement and prosecution activities on Council's behalf, officers require specific authorisation under the relevant legislation. While authorisation for most legislation is provided by the Chief Executive Officer acting under delegation, specific provisions of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 require that the authorisation be made directly by Council resolution.
2. In order to undertake the required duties, staff members listed in the recommendation require authorisation under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. In addition, authorisation must also be provided under section 313 of the Local Government Act 2020 in order to enable these officers to commence enforcement action where necessary.
3. The proposed Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation is provided at Attachment One.

Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer

4. Council has the power to delegate its powers by way of section 11 of the Local Government Act 2020, which provides that Council may delegate its powers to either the Chief Executive Officer, subject to certain restrictions. Section 11 (7) of the Local Government Act 2020 requires Council to review this instrument of delegation within 12 months after a general election.
5. Council delegates all of the powers that can be lawfully delegated to the Chief Executive Officer by way of an Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer.
6. The Instrument delegates "the power to determine any issue, take any action or do any act or thing arising out of or connected with any duty imposed, or function or power conferred on Council by or under any Act" and then lists a series of limitations and restrictions. These limitations can be found in full in the attached instrument, but in summary they are:
 - (a) The entering into contracts and making any expenditure of significant value;
 - (b) Exercising powers that can lawfully be delegated or must be done by resolution;
 - (c) Acting in a way inconsistent with Council Policy or Strategy (which includes updating or repealing a policy made by Council resolution);
 - (d) Exercising a power that has been exclusively delegated to someone else; and
 - (e) The power of delegation.
7. The Instrument of Delegation sets a limit on the award of a contract and the making of any expenditure up to \$1 million, excluding GST.
8. The only change is to add the words "and the making of any expenditure" to ensure Local Government Act compliance.

Place Naming Proposals

9. The Naming Rules for Places in Victoria, Statutory Requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2022 (Naming Rules) outline the statutory requirements under the Geographic Place Names Act 1998. They are mandatory for all naming authorities in Victoria. Under the Geographic Place Names Act 1998, Council is the 'naming authority'

in respect of most roads within the municipality. This role is supported by Council's Place Naming Policy.

10. Council is the authority for the naming of public features within the City of Yarra. As a result, Council is required to comply with the Naming Rules when making any application to the Office of Geographic Names to name or rename a public feature. An application to name a feature can take between 3 and 6 months to complete.
11. The general principles contained within the Naming Rules ensure no ambiguity, confusion, error or discrimination is caused by the naming process. To make an application to the Office of Geographic Names, Council must address the following 12 principles upon application:
 - Principle (A) Ensuring public safety;
 - Principle (B) Recognising the public interest;
 - Principle (C) Linking the name to place;
 - Principle (D) Ensuring names are not duplicated;
 - Principle (E) Names must not be discriminatory;
 - Principle (F) Recognition and use of Aboriginal languages in naming;
 - Principle (G) Dual names;
 - Principle (H) Using commemorative names;
 - Principle (I) Using commercial and business names;
 - Principle (J) Language;
 - Principle (K) Directional names to be avoided; and
 - Principle (L) Assigning extent to a road, feature or locality.
12. Officers are satisfied the naming proposals outlined below are compliant with the Naming Rules and Principles.

Place Naming Process

13. Council's Place Naming Policy guides Council in exercising its powers as a naming authority under the Local Government Act 1989 and the Geographic Place Names Act 1998 to name or rename roads, features and localities within the City of Yarra.
14. The process for naming is as follows:

Process	Responsibility	Next step
1 Naming Request	Anyone may submit a request for a place to be named.	Go to 2
2 Assessment	A Council officer determines whether the place warrants naming using the criteria set out below.	Yes , go to 3 No , process ends
3 Woi wurrung naming	A Council officer contacts the Wurundjeri Tribe to see if they can suggest a suitable Woi wurrung name.	Yes , go to 6 No , go to 4
4 Community naming	A Council officer commences community consultation to see if the community can suggest a suitable name.	Go to 5
5 Proposed name	A Council officer consults with Councillors on community, Councillor and officer suggestions and selects a proposed name (or alternative names) for formal exhibition.	Go to 6
6 Exhibition	A Council officer undertakes targeted consultation with affected owners and occupiers and with street naming stakeholders on the proposed name(s).	Go to 7
7 Submissions	A Council officer receives submissions from the public on the proposed name, prepares a Council report and invites all submitters to the relevant meeting.	Go to 8
8 Decision	Council receives public submissions, considers the report and makes a final decision about the street name.	Council process ends

15. For each of the three naming proposals presented in this report, Steps 1 to 7 have been completed, and this report represents the final Step 8.

Barrawang Lane, Fitzroy

16. The application to name the unnamed laneway between Fenwick and Yambla streets given the plan for subdivisions of property owners of Ramsden Street. In accordance with Council's Place Naming Policy, the naming of the laneway was triggered as subdivisions are occurring and new properties will use the unnamed laneway as their exclusive access. In these cases, it can be beneficial for properties to be properly addressed as this assists with mail, deliveries, emergency services and visitors.
17. A plan of the laneway to be named is provided below:



18. In accordance with Council's Place Naming Policy, officers sought a naming suggestion from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWWC). In accordance with the Naming Rules, a place cannot be assigned a name in the first Nations language without explicit permission from the relevant First Nations authority. The WWWC provided Council the name 'Barrawang', meaning 'magpie'. In order to comply with the naming rules, 'lane' has been inserted as the end of the name to link the name to place.
19. This name is compliant with the Naming Rules General Principles outlined above.

Burrung Lane, Fitzroy

20. The requirement to assign a name to an unnamed laneway to provide a unique property address has been identified for a property located at the lane but is currently given an Argyle street address, which has caused mail services and general identification errors for the property. This also carries the risk of emergency services providers not being able to locate the property at the end of the laneway.
21. A plan of the laneway to be named is provided below:



22. In accordance with Council's Place Naming Policy, officers sought a naming suggestion from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWWC). In accordance with the Naming Rules, a place cannot be assigned a name in the first Nations language without explicit permission from the relevant First Nations authority. The WWWW provided Council the name 'Burrung', meaning 'mist'. In order to comply with the naming rules, 'lane' has been inserted as the end of the name to link the name to place.
23. This name is compliant with the Naming Rules General Principles outlined above.

Yirram Lane, Richmond

24. The application to name the unnamed laneway off Davison street in Richmond given the plan for subdivisions of property owners on Buckingham street. In accordance with Council's Place Naming Policy, the naming of the laneway was triggered as subdivisions are occurring and new properties will use the unnamed laneway as their exclusive access. In these cases, it can be beneficial for properties to be properly addressed as this assists with mail, deliveries, emergency services and visitors.
25. A plan of the laneway to be named is provided below:



26. In accordance with Council's Place Naming Policy, officers sought a naming suggestion from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWWC). In accordance with the Naming Rules, a place cannot be assigned a name in the first Nations language without explicit permission from the relevant First Nations authority. The WWWC provided Council the name 'Yirram', meaning 'light of day'. In order to comply with the naming rules, 'lane' has been inserted as the end of the name to link the name to place.
27. This name is compliant with the Naming Rules General Principles outlined above.

Options

Place Naming Proposals

Adopt the names recommended

28. The approval of the street names will facilitate an address to a property/properties on a laneway that will assist emergency service providers in identifying properties, as well as assisting in the approval of subdivisions.

Community and stakeholder engagement

Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer

29. The only change is to add the words "and the making of any expenditure" to ensure Local Government Act compliance. Benchmarking was conducted with neighbouring Councils

Council	Delegation
Kingston	Entering into a contract or making any expenditure exceeding the value of: (a) \$1,500,000 excluding GST in relation to roads or drains; (b) \$1,000,000 excluding GST in relation to all other contracts or agreements;

	Making any expenditure that exceeds \$1,000,000 excluding GST, unless the payment is for statutory charges, insurance premiums or utility charges in an amount generally consistent with a Budget prepared or adopted by Council;
Hobson's Bay	Entering into a contract or the expenditure of Council funds exceeding \$1,000,000 (inclusive of GST), with the exception of insurance premiums, Workcover premiums and employee superannuation payments
Maribyrnong	Making any expenditure that exceeds \$2 million (unless it is expenditure made under a contract already entered into or is expenditure which Council is, by or under legislation, required to make)
Melbourne	Enter into a contract for not more than \$2 million (exclusive of GST) and expend money not exceeding \$2 million (exclusive of GST) in any single instance, subject to: The restrictions contained in sections 11(2) AND 11(3) of the LGA 2020 Compliance with Council's General Delegations Policy.
Stonnington	Awarding a contract or approving a purchase or payment exceeding the value of \$1 million, unless the contract, purchase or payment has been previously approved by resolution of Council or a delegated committee; awarding a contract or approving a purchase or payment exceeding the value of \$1 million (including GST) unless the contract, purchase or payment relates to statutory charges such as superannuation, taxation, Fire Rescue Victoria levy and insurance charges generally consistent with the approved or revised or budget; Awarding a contract or making an expenditure exceeding the value of \$1 million (including GST);
Brimbank	Entering into a contract or making an expenditure on behalf of Council exceeding the value of \$2 million (excl. GST) unless <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that contract or expenditure is one with a utility (such as a telecommunications carrier or supplier of electricity to Council) or an insurer (being an insurer underwriting a policy or policies issued to Council) or is expenditure which Council is, by or under legislation, required to make (such as WorkCover or fire services property levy) in which case the expenditure under the contract may exceed \$2,000,000 (excl. GST); or that contract (or works order or purchase order) or expenditure is in accordance with an existing contract or expenditure already approved or awarded by Council, including to a panel of contractors in which case the expenditure under the contract (or works order or purchase order) may exceed \$2,000,000 (excl. GST).
Darebin	Entering into a contract exceeding the values of \$1,000,000 (including GST) Making any expenditure that exceeds \$1 million (unless it is expenditure made under a contract already entered into or is expenditure which Council is by or under legislation required to make in which case it must not exceed \$1 million)

Place Naming Proposals

30. Council entered into a 30-day consultation period to invite submissions for all three naming proposals, beginning Friday 22 May and closing Monday 23 June. A public notice was placed on Council's website and the surrounding residents of the laneway were contacted via mail of the proposed name and inviting submissions on the proposed name.

Barrawang Lane

31. Council received four responses in relation to "Barrawang Lane". Out of the four responses, all four were in favour of the proposed name.
32. A copy of the submissions can be found in Attachment three.

Burrung Lane

33. Council received 3 responses in relation to "Burrung Lane". Out of the 3 submissions:

- (a) 2 were in favour of the proposed name; and
- (b) 1 proposed alternate names. Officers have since provided a response back in writing to this submitter.

34. A copy of the submissions can be found in Attachment four.

Yirram Lane

35. Council received two responses in relation to “Yirram Lane”, both of which were in favour of the proposed name.
36. A copy of the submissions can be found in Attachment five.

Strategic Analysis

Alignment to Council Plan

Strategic Objective four - Running the City

Strategy 10: Ensure all decisions are financially sound, transparent, and accountable to the community.

37. Updating the Council’s Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer ensures that Council complies with the legislative deadline to update the delegation in the year after a general election in accordance with 11(7) of the Local Government Act 2020.

Climate emergency

38. Not applicable to this report.

Community and social implications

39. Not applicable to this report.

Economic development implications

40. Not applicable to this report.

Human rights and gender equality implications

41. Not applicable to this report.

Finance and Resource Impacts and Interdependencies

42. Not applicable to this report.

Legal and Legislative obligations

Conflict of interest disclosure

43. Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates. The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

Risks Analysis

44. Not applicable to this report.
-

Implementation Strategy

Timeline

45. Should Council endorse the place naming proposals, officers will submit Council's decisions to Geographic Names Victoria for final audit and gazettal. Once gazetted, Council will introduce the necessary steps by way of signage for the newly named lanes.
46. Geographic Places Victoria incorporates the names of all newly named places into Vicnames (the official naming registry map) and alerts all emergency service providers of the names.

Communication

47. All submitters of the place naming proposals will be contacted with the outcome of Council's decision. In accordance with the Naming Rules, objectors will be provided 30 days to appeal Council's decision to Geographic Names Victoria.

Report attachments

1. 7.7.1 Appointment of Authorisation Planning Enforcement Officer - Kathryn Pound
2. 7.7.2 Instrument of Delegation (Council to CE O) - 8 July Council meeting
3. 7.7.3 Community consultation responses Barrawang Lane
4. 7.7.4 Community consultation responses Burrung Lane
5. 7.7.5 Community consultation responses Yirram Lane

Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation
Planning Enforcement Officer



In this instrument "officer" means -

Kathryn POUND

By this instrument of appointment and authorisation, Yarra City Council –

1. under section 147(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 - authorises the officer to carry out the duties or functions and to exercise the powers of an authorised officer under the Planning and Environment Act 1987; and
 2. under section 313 of the Local Government Act 2020 - authorises the officer either generally or in a particular case to institute proceedings for offences against the Acts and regulations described in this instrument.
-

It is declared that this Instrument -

- (a) comes into force immediately upon its execution; and
- (b) remains in force until varied or revoked.

This instrument is authorised by a resolution of the Yarra City Council on 8 July 2025.

Sue Wilkinson
Chief Executive Officer
Yarra City Council

8 July 2025

Instrument of Delegation



INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION BY THE COUNCIL TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

In exercise of the power conferred by section 11(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) and all other powers enabling it, the Yarra City Council (Council) delegates to the member of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the position of Chief Executive Officer, the powers, duties and functions set out in the Schedule to this Instrument of Delegation, and declares that -

1. this Instrument of Delegation is authorised by a Resolution of Council passed on 8 July 2025;
 2. the delegation -
 - 2.1. comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to this Instrument of Delegation;
 - 2.2. is subject to any conditions and limitations set out in the Schedule;
 - 2.3. must be exercised in accordance with any guidelines or policies which Council from time to time adopts; and
 - 2.4. remains in force until Council resolves to vary or revoke it.
-

**The Common Seal of the
Yarra City Council was
affixed hereto in the
presence of:**

**Cr Stephen Jolly
Mayor
Yarra City Council**

8 July 2025

**Sue Wilkinson
Chief Executive Officer
Yarra City Council**

SCHEDULE

The power to determine any issue, take any action or do any act or thing arising out of or connected with any duty imposed, or function or power conferred on Council by or under any Act.

Conditions and Limitations

The delegate must not determine the issue, take the action or do the act or thing:

1. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action, act or thing which involves:
 - 1.1. entering into a contract or making any expenditure exceeding the value of:
 - 1.1.1. \$1 Million (excluding GST) for a single transaction; or
 - 1.1.2. in the case of a multi-year contract, \$750,000 (excluding GST) per annum for the initial term of a contract of up to 5 years or subsequent terms of a contract of up to 2 years.
 - 1.2. appointing an Acting Chief Executive Officer for a period exceeding 28 days;
 - 1.3. electing a Mayor or Deputy Mayor;
 - 1.4. granting a reasonable request for leave under s 35 of the Act;
 - 1.5. making any decision in relation to the employment, dismissal or removal of the Chief Executive Officer;
 - 1.6. approving or amending the Council Plan;
 - 1.7. adopting or amending any policy that Council is required to adopt under the Act;
 - 1.8. adopting or amending the Governance Rules;
 - 1.9. appointing the chair or the members to a delegated committee;
 - 1.10. making, amending or revoking a local law;
 - 1.11. approving the Budget or Revised Budget;
 - 1.12. approving the borrowing of money;
 - 1.13. subject to section 181H(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1989, declaring general rates, municipal charges, service rates and charges and specified rates and charges;
2. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action, act or thing which is required by law to be done by Council resolution;
3. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action or thing which Council has previously designated as an issue, action, act or thing which must be the subject of a Resolution of Council;
4. if the determining of the issue, taking of the action or doing of the act or thing would or would be likely to involve a decision which is inconsistent with a policy or strategy adopted by Council;
5. if the determining of the issue, the taking of the action or the doing of the act or thing cannot be the subject of a lawful delegation, whether on account of s 11(2)(a)-(n) (inclusive) of the Act or otherwise; or
6. the determining of the issue, the taking of the action or the doing of the act or thing is already the subject of an exclusive delegation to another member of Council staff.

Community consultation responses - “Barrawang Lane” to right of way 76.1 (off Fenwick and Yambla streets, Clifton Hill);

Feedback:
<p>Hi Yarra council governance team</p> <p>My husband and I (and our two sons) live at ADDRESS REDACTED and our property backs onto the laneway for which the name Barrawang has been proposed.</p> <p>We would love to see the laneway named and the proposed Wurundjeri name is very appropriate. We wholeheartedly support the proposal.</p> <p>Warm regards,</p> <p>NAMES REDACTED</p>
<p>Hello,</p> <p>I’m a resident at ADDRESS REDACTED.</p> <p>We fully support the proposed the naming of the lane to Barrawang Lane.</p> <p>We value that the name reflects Wurundjeri custodianship of the land and has support of the council.</p> <p>Having a name will help ease challenges we experience living on an unnamed lane- with directions, post, food delivery and on odd occasion requiring emergencies services.</p> <p>Warm regards,</p> <p>NAMES REDACTED</p>
<p>Hi Patrick,</p> <p>Just a brief email to show my support for the proposed naming of the laneway at the rear of my property.</p> <p>I think this is a fantastic idea and I am sure it will further enhance the usability of our immediate neighbourhood.</p> <p>The name is terrific!</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>NAMES REDACTED</p>
<p>Dear Patrick,</p> <p>We have received a letter advising that Council is proposing to name the lane behind our property as “Barrawang Lane”.</p> <p>We fully support this proposal.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>NAMES REDACTED</p>

Community consultation responses - “Burrung Lane” to right of way 1817 (off Argyle street, Fitzroy)

<p>Feedback:</p> <p>Comments on the lane way naming proposal - Burrung - Misty/Mist</p> <p>While it's pleasing you consulted with the Wurundjeri Community the word for misty, while it sounds "nice" does not represent a person, animal or plant which, in my opinion, makes it less suitable as a place name. It might be relevant if the site was closer to the Birrarung where one would expect more misty mornings.</p> <p>In my opinion a name like Wurun Lane (Manna Gum) with more of a connection to the actual people who lived here and trees which grew here before white settlement is more appropriate. Muiyang Lane (Wattle) is another suggestion.</p> <p>Alternatively a name like Jock Austin Lane, a nod to a late member of the local community. This lane is a bit out of the way, Mr Austin deserves a more prominent memorial.</p> <p>https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au%2Fherbert-jock-austin&data=05%7C02%7Cgovernance%40yarracity.vic.gov.au%7C2dc6b86333e147ce3ef608dda239b033%7C56d8217416544fcb4bc1b03f7fb29ca%7C0%7C0%7C638845091030732560%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWU%3D%3D%7C40000%7C%7C&sdata=x2MEO5pQzcWfLQVCGwXkwawAhsGiWquDuhch9OfPQY%3D&reserved=0</p> <p>Whatever name is chosen will the City of Yarra be putting up a bi-lingual sign, or in the case of a person, a brief description of their achievements? Even though any sign is usually swiftly graffitied it seems pointless to use an aboriginal word without giving its meaning.</p> <p>NAME REDACTED</p>
<p>That name—Burrung Lane—looks fine to me :-)</p> <p>Cheers,</p> <p>NAME REDACTED</p>
<p>We recently received communication about the proposal to name a small street near us "Burrung Lane" . This seems like a great name- just a pity it's for a small lane way only. We happily endorse this naming proposal</p> <p>NAME REDACTED</p>

Community consultation responses - “Yirram Lane” to right of way 612 (off Davison street, Richmond)

Feedback:
<p>As a resident of ADDRESS REDACTED Richmond I wish to provide feedback as invited in your letter of the 23 May 2025. I wish to strongly support the appropriateness of the proposed name and Council's commitment to the policy described in the letter .</p> <p>Regards NAME REDACTED</p>
<p>Good morning Mr O’Gorman, This email is in relation to your letter addressed to me at ADDRESS REDACTED St Richmond, dated 23 May 2025. I wish to provide my full support for the naming of the lane behind my home as ‘Yirram Lane’, and show my gratitude to and support for my local council’s adherence to practices that recognise the original and true owners of these lands. Kind regards, NAME REDACTED</p>

8. Notices of Motion

8.1. – Notice of Motion No. 9 of 2025 – Commemorating Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Author	Councillor Jolly
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I, Councillor Jolly, hereby give notice that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 8 July 2025:

Motion

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the 80th anniversaries of the US atomic bombings of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6th and 9th, 1945 and honours the 210,000+ victims of these attacks, and the Hibakusha and Hibaku Nisei, who continue to live with the legacy of nuclear weapons.
2. Notes that Council is deeply concerned about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world and believe that our community has the right to live in a world free from this threat.
3. Notes that any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment.
4. Endorses the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Cities Appeal, a global call from cities and towns in support of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and calls on our national government to sign and ratify it without delay.

Report attachments

Nil

9. Petitions and Joint Letters

An opportunity is provided for Councillors to table or present a petition.

10. Questions without Notice

An opportunity is provided for Councillors to raise a question.

11. Delegates Reports

An opportunity is provided for Councillors to table or present a Delegate's Report.

12. General Business

An opportunity is provided for Councillors to raise items of General Business for Council's consideration.

13. Urgent Business

An opportunity is provided for the Chief Executive Officer to introduce items of Urgent Business.

14. Confidential Business Reports

The following items were deemed by the Chief Executive Officer to be suitable for consideration in closed session in accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020. In accordance with that Act, Council may resolve to consider these issues in open or closed session.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the meeting be closed to members of the public, in accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020, to allow consideration of the following confidential items:

14.1. Chief Executive Officer KPI's 2025/26 and Review

Author	Grace Wong – EA to General Manager Corporate Services
Authoriser	General Manager Corporate Services
Confidential Reason:	<p>This agenda item is confidential information for the purposes of section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 for the following reason:</p> <p>(f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.</p> <p>The explanation as to why the specified ground/s applies is:</p> <p>Personal information.</p>