

FAMILY FRIENDLY CHARTER

wyndhamcity

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2020/2021

About the Family Friendly Charter

The Wyndham Family Friendly Charter (the Charter) was formally adopted by Council in May 2018. The Charter outlines principles and guidelines to advise how Wyndham City and its partners work with and support families. It is believed that the Charter is the first of its kind for local government in Victoria.

Being a Family Friendly City means Wyndham City will ensure their services and infrastructure, as well as their stakeholder consultation and policy development, meet the needs of families while encouraging them to participate in decisions affecting them.

The vision for the Wyndham Charter is that Wyndham will be a Family Friendly City where a broad range of lived experiences and opportunities encourage families to feel informed, valued, welcomed and empowered to live productive and positive lives, while being increasingly engaged in decisions affecting them.

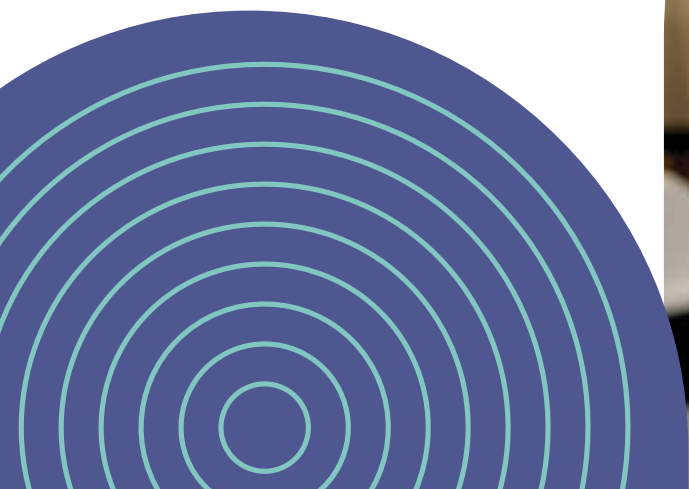
The Charter is structured around four key principles:

- Voice
- Equity and Social Cohesion
- Family Friendly Places and Spaces
- Partnerships

Key achievements

Between July 2020 and June 2021, Wyndham City Council showed its commitment to be a Family Friendly City through the delivery of over 40 activities and projects aligned to the principles of the Family Friendly Charter.

Below is a snapshot of achievements and outcomes under each of the four key principles. For a comprehensive list of initiatives, please refer to the Annual Reports found here www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/family-friendly-charter-2018.



PRINCIPLE 1 – VOICE

Families in Wyndham should have opportunities to express their individual and collective opinions, participate in and contribute to decisions about their wellbeing, and how liveability can be improved.

Truganina Community Centre – Community Engagement

The Platforms model of community engagement is an evidence-based engagement model that is being trailed on this project. This model has guided comprehensive input from the community by working in partnership throughout the project. This year Council held several community roundtable discussions to inform the project, as well as an online forum that was attended by over 50 community members and key stakeholders.

Wyndham Middle Years Children (8-12 years old) – Health & Wellbeing Survey 2021

The Middle Years is a critical stage in children's development; a period in which major changes occur at multiple levels of a child's life. The Middle Years Working Group engaged Wyndham parents in a survey aimed at better understanding of how children have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Between March and April 2021 the survey was sent out to school and local networks.

Young Professionals Network

The Social and Economic Inclusion Unit engaged YLab to co-design a Young Professional Network in the municipality. A total of 45 applications were received; 20 participants were shortlisted to take part in the YPN co-design workshops.

The first workshop was held in April 2021 with 15 young professionals. The challenges and barriers that young professionals in Wyndham face in obtaining secure and meaningful employment and how these challenges may have changed with COVID-19 were explored.



PRINCIPLE 2 – EQUITY AND SOCIAL COHESION

Families in Wyndham should have access to services and infrastructure that meet their current and future needs, and promote equity and social cohesion to ensure the benefits of liveability are shared by all.

Opportunity Wyndham

The Social and Economic Inclusion Unit have developed the Opportunity Wyndham initiative calling on local businesses to partner with Council to support inclusive economic growth. This year over 600 local employment vacancies were sourced and promoted to the community. The initiative has also connected 100 Wyndham residents experiencing barriers in obtaining local employment to our service delivery partners.

Tarneit Foodbank

In February 2021, the Epiphany Church Hoppers Crossing in collaboration with the Neighborhood Hubs team, initiated a foodbank service for the local community at Penrose Community Centre. In March the foodbank was providing basic food packages and household essentials to 20 people and families a week, increasing to 30 by May. This service is operated by volunteers of the Epiphany Church and is open to people of all ages.

Check in and Chat

The Check in & Chat service was initiated by the Neighbourhood Hubs team in response to community need for connection during the COVID-19 pandemic. From April 2020 to March 2021, residents feeling isolated or lonely received a weekly or fortnightly phone call to check in and chat with a team member.



PRINCIPLE 3 – FAMILY FRIENDLY PLACES AND SPACES

Families in Wyndham should have equitable access to and experiences of well-designed and safe places and spaces that meet community needs.

Launch of the Street Surfer Bus

The Street Surfer Bus was officially launched in February 2021. The Street Surfer Bus (SSB) is a mobile youth information service that provides young people with the tools they need to enjoy healthy, active and fulfilling lives. It is fitted out with state-of-the-art equipment, including WiFi, music and DJ equipment, gaming consoles, art equipment, sports equipment including a mobile basketball ring and soccer goals, and five LCD screens inside and an outdoor LCD screen which can be utilised for gaming and movies, and more.

Wyndham Explorer Scavenger Hunt

The Wyndham Explorer Scavenger Hunt ran over the summer school holiday period and provided participants with a new experience at several parks and reserves across Wyndham. Approximately 216 individuals submitted an entry to the competition and an estimated 21,825 hours of physical activity was generated by participants. Participants are eager to see more hunts suited to a diverse range of ages and abilities. This feedback will be used to inform next year's scavenger hunt.

West End Experience – Werribee City Centre

Wyndham City's West End Experience transformed the Western end of Watton Street, Werribee into a pop-up alfresco dining precinct, fully fit out with outdoor dining furniture, greenery and comfy spots to relax. The temporary street closure enabled 15 restaurants, cafes and bars to extend their footprint into the street for the ultimate dining experience. Participants enjoyed family friendly activities including movies, a reptile encounter and face painting.

PRINCIPLE 4 – PARTNERSHIPS

Acknowledging that services, infrastructure and decisions affecting families are often provided, or affected, by other partners, Council will work with partners in government, non-government, business and community organisations to support and strengthen our Family Friendly City.

MADE on Watton

As part of Council's COVID-19 recovery efforts, a vacant tenancy on Watton Street, Werribee was transformed into a market-style pop-up shop featuring original products made by local makers, artists and designers.

From January to June 2021, MADE on Watton supported 47 local makers to showcase their products. This unique opportunity enabled local creatives to collaborate and build partnerships with other stallholders and businesses.

Recovery Picnic

In partnership with Drummond Street, the Community and Sector Engagement team held a Recovery Picnic for families in Manor Lakes and Wyndham Vale. The picnic was an opportunity for families attending playgroup to reconnect with each other and local support services following COVID-19 restriction periods.

Hello Togetherness

Hello Togetherness was a creative partnership project pilot that recruited diverse households and uniquely supported families to participate in the creation of public art works that are displayed in their municipality. Five families across Wyndham (Truganina, Hoppers Crossing, Werribee and Point Cook) participated in this pilot program over a 3 month period. Families participated in activities at home with each other, and then presented their work publicly, inviting participation of neighbours and passers-by. The project culminated in five chalkboards throughout the neighbourhood and three banners displayed in front of peoples homes. The Arts and Culture Team are exploring ways of increasing the scale of this project to create greater impact and community visibility.

