



# LEARNING COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2018-2023

COMMUNITY UPDATE #3

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Wyndham City Council recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Custodians of the lands on which Australia was founded. We acknowledge the Bunurong and Wadawurrung people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which Wyndham is being built. We pay respect to Ancestors and Elders who always have, and always will, care for Country and community today and for future generations.

Council pays respect to the wisdom, sharing, learning and diversity of past and present Elders. We share commitment to nurturing future generations of Elders in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and supporting learning within the community.



## NOTE FROM WYNDHAM'S DEPUTY MAYOR AND LEARNING CITY PORTFOLIO HOLDER

As Wyndham City Council's Deputy Mayor and Learning City Portfolio Holder, I am very pleased at the key learning achievements and progress made throughout 2021, and am proud to be reporting on, in this third Update of the Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023 (LCS). Our Strategy supports us to pursue Wyndham's vision of a community where there is equitable access to education, and access to life-long and life-wide learning opportunities enabling and driving equity and inclusion.

There were many significant breakthroughs and achievements in 2021 and I would like to highlight a few here. Thanks to the Victorian Government for the \$47 million commitment in partnership with Wyndham City Council, we are planning to deliver 17 planned new and expanded kindergartens across our City between 2022 and 2029. We have also successfully secured Growing Suburbs Funding to build five community centres and continued to secure more public schools across the fast-growing City.

The year ended well with a significant highlight which my team and I are particularly proud of - Wyndham was awarded a UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities Award at the end of 2021. This award shows the resilience and determination of the Wyndham Learning City and Community to achieve its lifelong and life-wide learning goals, as well as highlighting the strong partnerships amongst various learning institutions locally, nationally and across the globe. The pandemic has opened new

opportunities. Our learning community has welcomed and embraced these changes and adopted new ways to live and to learn.

Wyndham City Council is keen to continue to ensure that every Wyndham resident can pursue their own learning goals. Council's Learning City Portfolio continues to develop a deeper understanding of the diverse learning needs of the Wyndham community and strives to support the creation of learning environments that promote civic and social participation, fosters thinking and innovation, encourages equity and inclusion, and are localised and place based. As the learning needs of our growing and diverse community change, so do the services provided by our community centres, kindergartens, and libraries, providing and promoting learning opportunities across all ages and stages of life. We are keen to provide services in innovative and creative ways and I'd love to hear your ideas! I am looking forward to continuing to bring more exciting stories in the next Learning Community Update.

Sincerely,  
**Cr Jasmine Hill**  
April 2022





## LEARNING IN WYNDHAM

According to recent data, the City of Wyndham continues to undergo rapid change and growth in its demographics and character, due to a high and increasing birth rate and a large influx of new residents. The Australian Bureau of Statistics recently released its Estimated Resident Population report, which showed in 2021 Wyndham's population grew to 302,650. Wyndham experienced one of the largest increases in population in Victoria, and the third largest in Australia behind Brisbane and the Gold Coast. With significant cultural diversity including the largest population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Greater Melbourne area, the richness of culture is woven throughout the entire community.

As a part of its important advocacy work to support learning and education in Wyndham, Wyndham City Council called on the State Government to urgently fund construction of five new schools as part of their 2021-22 Budget to meet demand in Wyndham's fastest growing suburbs.

As a member of the Global Network of Learning Cities, Wyndham utilises and strives to achieve the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) "Learning City" definition as one which:

- Promotes inclusive learning from basic to higher education
- Revitalises learning in families and communities
- Facilitates learning for and in the workplaces
- Extends the use of modern learning technologies
- Enhances quality and excellence in learning, and
- Fosters a culture of learning throughout life



## OVERVIEW OF THE LEARNING COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2018-2023

The Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023 (LCS) identifies the driving imperatives behind facilitating lifelong and life-wide learning in Wyndham. The LCS is Wyndham's driver for innovation and change in learning, and functions as a roadmap for developing an equitable, inclusive, and innovative learning community. Lifelong Learning forms the guiding principle of the Strategy, driving social, economic, environmental, and cultural life in the community. The Strategy includes 18 key actions, which are organised according to 4 themes:

- CELEBRATING living and Learning
- ADVOCATING for equity and quality in service provision
- FACILITATING partnerships and collaboration across sectors
- INNOVATING learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action comprising 17 interlinked global goals designed to create a better, equal and more sustainable future for all. The SDGs were agreed upon in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly with the goal to achieve them by 2030. Through its Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023 and the principle of lifelong learning, Wyndham City Council supports the 2030 SDG Agenda and recognises that learning underpins the achievement of many of the SDGs. Council continues to collaborate with the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) to help progress the SDG agenda through our work in lifelong learning and embeds the goals in each action to link local to global to ensure our work improves the lives of all.

## PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING KEY ACTIONS:

Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Celebrating living and learning in Wyndham	<b>ACTION 1: Learning Festival as Wyndham's Signature learning event</b>	<p>The Wyndham Learning Festival (WLF) is Wyndham's largest annual learning event, focusing on promoting and celebrating learning across the lifespan. Following a challenging year for all in 2021 the WLF was a smaller, curated program ensuring that all community members had the opportunity to find a learning event of interest in the program.</p> <p>With the theme of <i>Re-emerge, Connect &amp; Thrive</i>, the 2021 WLF provided a celebration for the community living through challenging times and offered hope for re-emerging brighter and better into the future. As collaborators on the delivery of the Festival, now in its sixth year, the Wyndham Community and Education Centre (Wyndham CEC) and Wyndham City Council (WCC) share a passion for learning and recognise the far-reaching social, economic, environmental, and cultural benefits of promoting lifelong learning. Whilst initially planned as a hybrid event, the 2021 Festival was switched to completely online due to prolonged lockdowns in Victoria. This meant that some events could not proceed, as they did not translate into the virtual space, reducing the number of events offered to 43 (down from a planned, smaller than previous years 55 events). Approximately 1400 people attended the 43 events, with over 1800 people registering.</p> <p>The festival evaluation report is available here: <a href="https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/wyndham-learning-city/learning-city-resources">https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/wyndham-learning-city/learning-city-resources</a></p>
	<b>ACTION 2: Transformative Education Showcase</b>	<p>As a part of the 2021 Learning for Earning Festival, Wyndham Community &amp; Education Centre's Transformative Education Showcase was held 27 May and featured four speakers presenting on Best Practice in Applied Learning. RMIT's School of Social Work presented their innovative work integrated learning model; Tradeswomen of Australia presented their work on promoting diversity and inclusion in workplaces and the promotion of pathways into trade for women and girls; Adult Learning Australia provided an effective model of education for disengaged young people; and finally the Public Pedagogies Institute detailed their Knowledge Project and Pop Up School Project, demonstrating and celebrating the rich knowledge held in 5 communities. An enthusiastic audience enjoyed the Showcase, highlighting learning across all life stages and best practice in education and learning models.</p>

Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Advocating for Equity and Quality in Service Provision	<b>ACTION 3: Strong Advocacy to Ensure Learning for All</b>	<p>With over 100 babies being born in Wyndham each week, our challenge is to ensure we are continuing to keep pace with the substantial growth by providing the right services, in the right places, at the right time. In August 2021, following a significant amount of work behind the scenes, Wyndham City welcomed the announcement of the Building Blocks Partnership Agreement with the Victorian Government - the first of its kind with a local council. Through this partnership the Victorian Government has committed \$47 million to deliver 17 planned new and expanded kindergartens across our City, providing 3,600 kindergarten places between 2022 and 2029. This upfront investment provides certainty to our pipeline of infrastructure projects and enables us to confidently commit to rolling out funded three-year-old kindergarten across Wyndham. The outcome has been a robust multi-year, multi-million-dollar partnership between the Department of Education and Training, the Victorian School Building Authority and Wyndham City Council, that will serve our community now and into the future.</p> <p>The <i>I Love Kinder</i> campaign is now complete. The Wyndham advocacy team, in partnership with the State Government Department of Education, achieved their advocacy goals and the Federal Government has entered into agreement with state government to provide Kinder for all four-year-olds. This supports the growth of this age cohort for Wyndham.</p>





Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Facilitating Partnerships and Collaboration	<b>ACTION 4: Education Roundtable</b>	In July 2021, Council hosted the Wyndham Education Roundtable, facilitating discussions to identify key strategic planning and resource issues impacting Wyndham's learning sectors. In partnership with the team from Management Governance Australia, an interesting consultation and discussion unfolded with the goal of creating a collaborative and workable Action Plan for Education in Wyndham until 2023. Attendees included over 42 education and learning leaders from across Wyndham, welcomed by Cr Jasmine Hill who spoke as a Councillor deeply passionate about her community, and as an educator. Fiona Miller, a graphic harvester from Tasmania was engaged to capture, visually, the discussions and create a visual roadmap. While originally planned to be held live at the Wunggurrwil Dhurrung Centre, due to Melbourne's pandemic lockdown the roundtable was moved online. Educators and community leaders exchanged ideas about their vision for the future of learning in this municipality, in the context of our wider Education and Learning Strategy focused on supporting this community to be lifetime learners. As follow up to the meeting, an Action Plan was sent out to all participants capturing the priorities identified and providing a mechanism for sharing the information and engaging stakeholders in progressing potential solutions to the identified challenges. A follow up Education Roundtable is planned for 2022 to consider progress of the Action Plan.
	<b>ACTION 7: Inclusion and Equity</b>	<p>The Wyndham Integrated Learning Group (WILG2), co-chaired by Council and Deakin's National Disability Coordinator Officer, meets monthly, and features a different guest speaker to enhance the knowledge of members around inclusion and learning for Wyndham.</p> <p>With the goal of enhancing inclusion and equity in learning for People with Disability aged 15-30 in Wyndham, WILG2 comprises 15 community and Council leaders from learning sectors, local government, disability action groups and higher education. WILG2 supports equitable pathways and outcomes for place-based learning needs in Wyndham with the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting the enhancement of learning providers' organisational culture, structures, systems, processes and practices to ensure they are designing learning for People with Disability from the target age cohort</li> <li>• Advocating for learning recruitment and promotion which targets People with Disability</li> <li>• Advocating that choice and control drives learning opportunities for 15-30-year-olds with disability in Wyndham</li> <li>• Supporting learning providers in Wyndham to continuously adjust teaching and learning strategies to support learning for People with Disability</li> </ul> <p>Highlights included hearing from SBS on their inclusive recruitment processes; a session on the topic of self-efficacy and belonging; a Professional Development session on transport accessibility; and a session by Wyndham Library staff presenting and consulting on how Library Young Adult programs can be more inclusive.</p>

Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Facilitating Partnerships and Collaboration	<b>ACTION 8: Literacy and Numeracy Network</b>	The Wyndham Literacy and Numeracy Network met quarterly across 2021, featuring a guest speaker to enhance members' knowledge and understanding of the literacy and numeracy needs of the 0 to 8 age cohort and their families in Wyndham. A highlight was hearing from Barbie Bates from <i>Paint the Town ReAd</i> , an early literacy movement encouraging people to read with children from birth to enhance their school-readiness skills. Additionally, in 2021, Council engaged two Victoria University Bachelor of Education students to support the development of a research report on the state of 0-8 literacy and numeracy in Wyndham. This report was presented to the Literacy and Numeracy Network in November 2021 and provides a benchmark for the Network's future work in 2022.
	<b>ACTION 9: Aboriginal Culture Driving New Ways to Learn</b>	As a part of the Global Learning Festival in November 2021, WYNTalk keynote speaker Shelley Ware shared her perspectives on Aboriginal issues; leadership development in Aboriginal communities and ways in which Aboriginal history, culture, learning and teaching can be embedded into our broader education systems; interwoven with her own journey. Chaired by Laban Toose, Principal of Wyndham Park Primary School, the event included a well-received introduction from Cr Jasmine Hill. With 196 registrations, 97 people joined in from across Victoria, South Australia, NSW and from as far away as Massachusetts, USA. You can access a range of great resources supporting this vision here: <a href="https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/wyndham-learning-city/learning-city-resources">https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/wyndham-learning-city/learning-city-resources</a> .



Theme	Action	Progress To Date
<b>Innovating learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit through integration with, and promotion of, Wyndham's Smart City Agenda</b>	<b>ACTION 12: Engaging, Participating and Leading Globally</b>	<p>Throughout 2021 Wyndham has continued its global engagement and participation. The following is a snapshot of some of Wyndham's global contributions:</p> <p>In September Wyndham was recognised for its commitment to lifelong learning by the Alliance for Asia-Pacific Learning Cities (APLC). APLC is a coalition of cities with policies, wills and plans for the growth of global learning cities under the motto of promoting lifelong learning in the region. An Expert Advisory Committee reviewed Wyndham's lifelong learning achievements and inducted Wyndham into the Alliance's Hall of Fame, acknowledging future oriented cities with models of learning programs that may benefit other member cities. Wyndham joined four Korean cities and Okayama (Japan), Kashan (Iran), and Chiang Rai (Thailand) as the inaugural Hall of Fame inductees.</p> <p>Wyndham was further honoured to become a proud recipient of a UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities Award in October, for its work in lifelong and life-wide learning. The biennial UNESCO Learning City Awards encourage, recognise and reward UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC) members who have demonstrated significant progress in enhancing education and lifelong learning opportunities for all. Wyndham joined Shanghai, China; Damietta, Egypt; Clemont-Ferrand, France; Dublin, Ireland; Osan, Korea; Huejotzingo, Mexico; Al Wakra, Qatar; Jubail, Saudi Arabia; and Belfast, United Kingdom as 2021 Learning City awardees. Wyndham joins neighbouring municipality, the City of Melton, as the only other Australian recipient of the award.</p> <p>In May, through its work supporting sustainable development in lifelong learning and education, Wyndham was invited to attend the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), held online and live in Berlin, Germany. Wyndham joined approximately 2500 policymakers working in education and other areas related to sustainable development, ESD practitioners, NGOs, and other experts and members of the development community and private sector from around the world. The overall goal of the conference, considering the pressing environmental issues the world is facing, was to create momentum for the new framework ESD for 2030, which aims to build a more just and sustainable world through strengthening ESD to build education systems that support learners of all ages to be responsible and active contributors to more sustainable societies and a healthy planet. Being involved in this conference supported Wyndham's goal of further incorporating the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) authentically into our work.</p>

Theme	Action	Progress To Date
		<p>Wyndham's journey towards becoming a Learning City was shared in a paper delivered virtually at the Adult Education in Global Times Conference, hosted by the University of British Colombia in Canada in June. The conference featured presentations by scholars around the world and formed part of an important global conversation about research and scholarship on adult learning and education.</p> <p>A representative from Wyndham continues to hold a place on the executive of the Australian Learning Communities Network (ALCN), chairing this important network and offering secretariat support enabling the ALCN to continue to offer proactive collegiate support and resources to learning cities and communities across Australia.</p> <p>In May Wyndham partnered with ALCN to host a webinar: 'Australian Learning Cities: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.' The webinar included a presentation by Peter Kearns, AM, 'Learning cities in Australia: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow', and Wyndham's insightful presentation on Empathy in Learning City Partnerships.</p> <p>Also, in May, Learning Limerick Ireland and Wyndham Learning City partnered to co-lead a webinar titled: <i>Transformation Through Empathy Partnerships</i>. Led by the PASCAL Observatory EcCoWell group, the initiative built on the paper developed by Peter Kearns in 2020 and an exciting and proactive new collaboration between two key Australian and Irish Learning Cities, raising the profile for Wyndham Learning City on the global platform. The webinar highlighted ways in which learning cities and communities and their projects can progress using a lens of empathy for transformational change. Participants joined the webinar from across the globe including South Africa, Australia, Hungary, United Kingdom, United States of America, and India.</p>

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<b>Innovating learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit through integration with, and promotion of, Wyndham's Smart City Agenda</b>	<b>ACTION 12: Engaging, Participating and Leading Globally</b>	<p>Wyndham presented at the GNLC Cluster 'Learning for Health and Well-being', in May, an opportunity to discuss and share the Cluster Member Cities' work on <i>Strengthening Resilience through Activism and Networking</i>. The meeting was co-hosted by learning cities Osan, Republic of Korea and Cork, Republic of Ireland. Wyndham provided context and background to the issues facing Wyndham in the past year, sharing examples of healthy and sustainable learning through civic activists, the Wyndham Learning Festival, the Young Scientist of Wyndham competition, and the Learning for Earning Festival. Participants joined from as far as Ireland, Hungary, Germany, Iran, Korea, Colombia, Thailand, France, Greece, Northern Ireland, UK, Egypt, Vietnam, Turkey, Italy, Algeria, Portugal and of course Australia.</p>
		<p>Wyndham collaborated with five neighbouring local government areas in western and inner-northern Melbourne to deliver the LearnWest Network's Learning for Earning Festival 27-29 May. The festival was developed in response to the similar challenges faced by our respective communities in the face of the pandemic. By pooling resources, networks and contacts, the Network was able to maximise outcomes for our collective communities; being online, the Festival ensured access to a greater number of community members. The Learning for Earning Festival focused on six key themes: Learning; Skills; Career Planning and Pathways; Employment; Industry; and Business and Entrepreneurship and offered 30 free practical and inspirational virtual workshops, aimed at helping people gain knowledge in starting or changing careers, learn about dominant and emerging local industries and discover opportunities for the future.</p>
		<p>The highlight for November was the Global Learning Festival (GLF) with over 95 live and recorded events delivered from across Australia, the USA, the U.K, Israel, Northern Ireland, Taiwan, Canada, Bangladesh, Kenya, Benin, Colombia, Finland, Italy, Lithuania, and Turkey. Co-hosted by Wyndham and Melton Councils along with over 20 learning communities around the world, the Global Learning Festival ran for the second time in 2021. The GLF aims to bring unity and connection to communities all over the world, and to give learners a firsthand experience of the benefits that lifelong learning can bring, particularly during uncertain and challenging times. The live events were scheduled between 8-11 November, and several recorded events can still be viewed on the GLF website. Topics included Cooking, History, Environment &amp; Sustainability, International Development, Inclusion, Entrepreneurship, Reconciliation, Gardening, Cooking, Hope &amp; Attachment, Hope &amp; Resilience, Mentoring, Mental health and self-care, STEM, Author Talks, Career Change, Peacebuilding, Human Rights and a Virtual Tour of the Victorian Parliament House.</p>

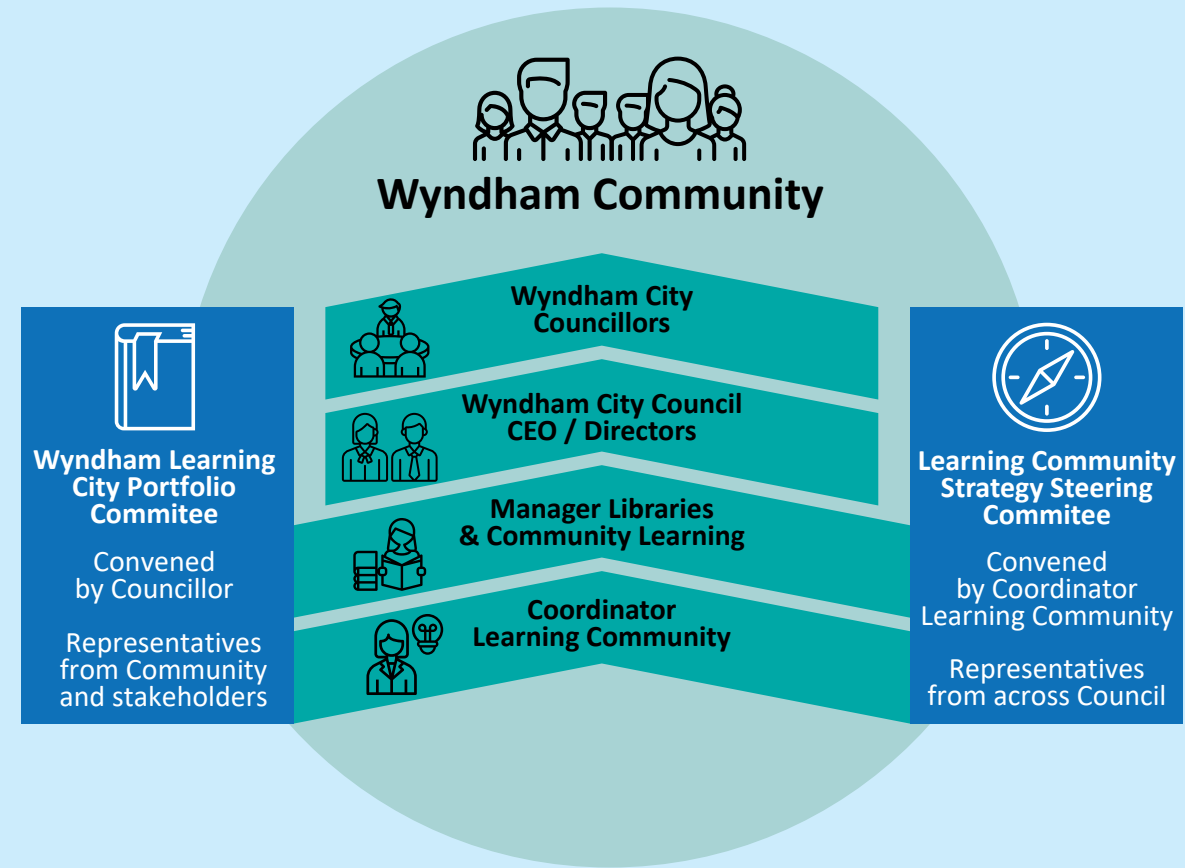
Theme	Action	Progress To Date
	<b>ACTION 13: WynTalks</b>	<p><b>WYNtalk 1: "Re-emerge, Connect &amp; Thrive", with Mina Guli</b></p> <p>Wyndham Learning Festival's signature event WYNtalk "Re-emerge, Connect &amp; Thrive" featured global leader, entrepreneur, and adventurer Mina Guli: Water Advocate, Ultra Runner, Founder &amp; CEO of Thirst. Mina inspired participants to look forward, post-COVID, to find purpose, to pursue goals in the face of unprecedented challenges and re-imagine ourselves and our future.</p>
		<p><b>WYNtalk 2: "Reconciliation: Respecting and Valuing Aboriginal History, Learning and Teaching", with Shelley Ware</b></p> <p>As Wyndham's signature contribution to the Global Learning Festival, WYNtalk keynote speaker Shelley Ware shared her perspectives on Aboriginal issues; leadership development in Aboriginal communities and ways in which Aboriginal history, culture, learning and teaching can be embedded into our broader education systems; interwoven with her own journey. Participants joined from across Victoria, South Australia, NSW and from as far away as Massachusetts, USA. You can access a range of great resources supporting this vision.  <a href="https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/wyndham-learning-city/learning-city-resources">https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/wyndham-learning-city/learning-city-resources</a></p>





GOVERNANCE AND WORKING GROUPS

WYNDHAM LEARNING COMMUNITY 2018 - 2023 GOVERNANCE MODEL



Victoria University



Wyndham Tech School



SPARK - Wyndham City's Innovation Hub





## LOOKING FORWARD

After two intense and dynamic years of managing uncertain times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, moving into 2022 the work of the Learning Community Strategy will be adaptive, sustainable, and responsive to the learning needs of Wyndham where lifelong and life wide learning drive equity, inclusion and a healthy and safe environment for all.

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACT

An electronic copy of the Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023 is available at: <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/learning-community-strategy-2018-2023>

For more information about the Learning Community Strategy, or to connect with our network, please contact:  
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