

FAMILY FRIENDLY CHARTER



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2021/2022

Key achievements in 2021- 2022

Between July 2021 and June 2022 Wyndham City Council showed its commitment to be a Family Friendly City through the delivery of about 50 activities and projects that align to the principles of the Family Friendly Charter.

Here is a snapshot of achievements and outcomes under the principles of the Family Friendly Charter. For more information about Wyndham's Family Friendly Charter, please visit 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.

FReeZA Events Committee (Infinite Entertainment)

17 young people participated in Wyndham's FReeZA Committee this year. The FReeZA Committee supports the planning and delivery of youth events across Wyndham. This year The Push Start Tour hosted two events, the first at Encore Events Centre attracted 290 young people and showcased some of Victoria's most popular and upcoming artists. The second event held at the Youth Resource Centre attracted about 140 young people and showcased local performers and an interstate act.

Monash University Safe Spaces Project

Researchers from Monash University are working with Wyndham City Council, Wyndham residents, and local business owners to create safer and more inclusive public spaces. Monash University have engaged with local women who have migrated to Australia, to better understand their experiences of safety, discrimination, and harassment. The focus is to co-design practical strategies that can be used to re-design public spaces in Wyndham. 33 migrant women have participated in either a focus group or short interviews. In 2022-23 walking interviews will be conducted and additional co-design sessions will take place to help identify design principles that can be used for place-making projects.

Naming of New Family Centre in Manor Lakes

Council engaged Traditional Owners and key stakeholders in the development of a short list of names for the new family centre in Manor Lakes. Community engagement took place on Council's online engagement platform (The Loop) and a pop-up engagement session ran at the Manor Lakes Community Learning Centre. 212 residents shared their views on the name of the new centre, with 43 votes received online and 169 in person votes. This process has enabled the community to participate in the decision-making process to determine the name of the new facility.



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

Her Bright Future

The Social and Economic Inclusion Unit partnered with Wyndham Community and Education Centre and NextGen Jobs to deliver the Bright Futures Employment Pathways Workplace Immersion Program. The program provides short-term roles to build confidence, gain work experience and support women to transition into the workforce. Six women from refugee and migrant backgrounds participated in the program and two have been able to secure ongoing employment.

Intergenerational Pilot Project

The Early Education and Care Services Unit, in partnership with Deakin University and senior members of the Chinese community in Wyndham participated in an Intergenerational Pilot Project. The project supported intergenerational connections between Chinese families and early years children to inform them of supports and link to wider social services. The Pilot delivered eight online workshops to 50 participants. An online social media platform was made available for participants to connect with trained early years educators and enable access to the recorded workshops. The outcomes from this project will help inform recommendations for future intergenerational programs.

The Coffee Table – Supporting Community-Led Activities at Manor Lakes Community Learning Centre

The Coffee Table is a community group led by women from diverse cultural backgrounds who came together regularly during COVID-19 lockdowns to connect and support one another. The group has continued this year and now has 63 active members. With the support from centre staff, they have started several initiatives at Manor Lakes Community Learning Centre, including a community kitchen for people to connect and enjoy a nutritious meal together. 110 residents have participated in the community kitchen led by the Coffee Table group.

PRINCIPLE 3 – FAMILY FRIENDLY PLACES AND SPACES

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

Active Kids Program

Active Kids is a program delivered in partnership with Wyndham primary schools to teach children about physical activity and healthy eating. Participants complete a passport which tracks their healthy habits throughout the term-long program. The program explores the 'how' and 'where' to be active in Wyndham amongst a range of other topics. In 2021/22, the Active Kids program involved 21 schools, 218 classes and 4850 children.

Engaging Library spaces

In 2021/22 each Library branch has provided more engaging spaces for residents of all ages. This includes sensory play in the children's areas, a range of seating options to meet the needs of the whole family and a technology rich environment, with wi-fi and new computers. Shelving layouts have improved for families to have an increased visual connection with the library collections. Feedback from the recent library survey shows that Wyndham Library users value their library spaces more highly than any other Victorian public library users. Wyndham Libraries are committed to continuing to tailor their spaces to meet the needs and preferences of library users.

Social Support Groups – Group Services

During periods of social distancing restrictions, staff were able to continue to connect with older community members in the safety of their own homes, maintaining connection and reducing feelings of social isolation. In early 2022, the Planned Activity Group Social Support program was reactivated at Council's two Ageing Well Centres, Central Park Community Centre and Penrose Community Centre. These programs provide opportunities for older residents to make new friends, participate in group activities and new experiences.

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.

Winter Street Party

On Friday 24 June, the Werribee City Centre hosted the annual Winter Street Party which included fire shows, light installation, street performers, music, ice sculpting, kids' activities and more. Approximately 12,000 people attended making it the highest attended Winter Street Party to date. The one-night family friendly street party in Werribee showcased local businesses and provided a safe and engaging winter event. A total of 30 local businesses were involved in the night making the evening a huge success for local businesses and community.



Child and Family Hub Project

Council has co-located various early childhood services at IPC Health Wyndham Vale as part of the implementation of the Child and Family Hub model. The Centre of Research Excellence in Childhood Adversity and Mental Health partnered with IPC Health to implement the Child and Family Hub. The Child and Family Hub is being designed to integrate services at IPC Health and to improve connections with other local child and family services. As part of this work, service providers and families in Wyndham Vale participated in an intensive 10-week series of co-design workshops. The Child and Family Hub is being designed to integrate services at IPC Health and to improve connections with other local child and family services.

Wungguurrwil Dhurrung Centre Collaboration – Tree Planting

The Street Surfer Bus Youth Team and Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement Worker, in collaboration with Wungguurrwil Dhurrung Centre delivered a reconciliation tree planting event. The event attracted over 400 community members, planting 200 native seedlings and other flora. Consultation with young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members at the event has led to improved physical cultural safety materials in the Street Surfer Bus.

