

Living your best life in Wyndham:

Annual Report, Year One (2022 to 2023)



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Acknowledgement of Country

Wyndham City Council recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first Peoples of Australia. We acknowledge the Bunurong and Wadawurrung Peoples as Traditional Owners of the lands on which Wyndham City operates.

The Wadawurrung and Bunurong Peoples have and always will belong to the Werribee Yalook (river), creeks, stars, hills and red clay of this Country.

We pay respect to their Ancestors and Elders who always have, and always will, care for Country and community today and for future generations.

Foreword

As Wyndham City Council's Healthy City portfolio holder, I am pleased to see transformative social interventions and new capacity that supports all residents to achieve their potential over their life.

The Lifecourse approach is a renewed method which considers community outcomes in a holistic way.

A Lifecourse approach offers a mechanism to improve community outcomes across all life stages today, and in the long term. These experiences also have an impact across and within generations.

Investment strategies are needed to promote better outcomes for individuals and greater health equity in the population – the two are interlinked.

This *Annual Report, Year One (2022 to 2023)* outlines implementation initiatives Council and project partners, are undertaking to support the Wyndham community during their life stages including:

- Free counselling services for children (group and individual) aged 8 – 11 years
- Free counselling services for young people aged 12 – 25 years
- Strengthened collaboration for professionals responding to family violence across Wyndham
- Delivery of events for all seniors as part of the 2022 Victorian Seniors Festival
- Specialist Ageing Well Connectors to support older residents and their families.

Applying the Lifecourse Framework has resulted in Council taking a strong role in sector facilitation by bringing together different stakeholders to create and support a more cohesive sector wide service response, aligned to the diverse and changing needs of Wyndham's community.

Council's integrated, people-centred service provision will continue to operationalise the Lifecourse approach. This includes the ongoing targeting of risk and protective factors for wellbeing, such as promoting mental wellbeing.

Throughout our lives, we have specific needs and opportunities that can be used to improve our health and wellbeing. The Lifecourse Framework is for the benefit of all members of the Wyndham community, throughout their life stages.



Cr Adele Hegedich

Healthy Cities Portfolio

1. Summary

Wyndham City is pleased to present the *Living Your Best Life In Wyndham: A Lifecourse Framework 2022 to 2026* (the Lifecourse Framework) *Annual Report, Year One (2022 to 2023)*. It tracks the progress, and describes initiatives undertaken by Wyndham City, the community and our partners to support the delivery of the Wyndham 2040 Community Vision through supporting integrated and joined up services, that wrap-around community members as they seek different services at different stages of life.

The report covers the first year period of the Lifecourse Framework, embedding reporting against the *Wyndham Family Friendly City Charter*. In line with Council's long-standing commitment to ensure our services and infrastructure, as well as our stakeholder consultation and policy development, meets the needs of families while encouraging them to participate in decisions affecting them.

Some of Wyndham City's implementation highlights of the Lifecourse Framework have included:

- **Improved support, connection and learning opportunities** for residents in Tarneit and Manor Lakes through delivery of Wyndham's newest community and family centres. Specifically, Bembit Bag-rook Community Centre in Tarneit and Birnbial Family Centre in Manor Lakes.
- **Prioritising kinder aged children and their families and children's physical activity** to establish behaviours which support lifelong participation as well as maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Active Kinders is a collaboration between Wyndham City and the community of Kindergartens in Wyndham; Active Kids is a Council facilitated program delivered in partnership with Wyndham primary schools; and Wyndham's Active Holidays initiative runs for two weeks during school holidays.
- **Provided no cost children's counselling** (group and individual) to children aged 8 – 11 years. As well as provided no cost youth counselling to young people aged 12 – 25 years.
- **Strengthened collaboration for professionals responding to family violence across the Wyndham area**, in continuing to build understanding of collaborative practice and aspects of the Victorian Government's Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) which sets out the responsibilities of different workforces in identifying, assessing and managing family violence risk.
- **Delivered the 20th Year Anniversary Youth Festival** which saw over 3,000 young people and families attend.
- **Provided cohort-specific volunteer opportunities** for youth, adults and older people. For example, Wyndham City, in collaboration with the Climate Futures Youth Leaders volunteers, held a Youth Summit, in April 2023, to empower and educate young people to take action on climate change.
- **Delivered a series of events which were open to all seniors as part of the 2022 Victorian Seniors Festival**, a major state-wide festival for and involving seniors, which had its 40th year. Wyndham City utilised all its community centres to help bring the festival to attendees, to make it even more accessible.
- **Provided dedicated Wyndham City Community Connector** that covers all ages; The Early Years Partnership Panel together with Council developed a Community Connector (Early Years) program in response to a community need for support with access to information and

connection to Wyndham’s early years services; Provided dedicated Community Connectors (Ageing Well) to support older residents to navigate the aged care system and facilitate connections with any support needs they may have.

- **Delivered a successful funding bid to support carers of people with caring needs** via Victorian Support for Carers Program (SCP). The SCP provides tailored flexible supports to carers based on the specific needs of the carer.
- **Wyndham City Libraries offers a free home delivery service** to Wyndham residents who are unable to visit the library due to frailty, disability, or illness. Full time carers of people with an illness or disability are also able to use this service.

2. Lifecourse approach

Lifecourse services are functions and activities we undertake that have an influence on individuals’ health and wellbeing throughout the course of their life.

A healthy and resilient Wyndham is achieved through the active participation, engagement and contribution of people during all stages of their lives. By definition, a lifecourse approach is central to ensuring the health and wellbeing of all people at all ages.

The Lifecourse Framework streamlines strategies which govern the delivery of age-specific services. Wyndham City’s provision of high quality and effective services and initiatives to cohort-specific populations is well recognised and received by the Wyndham community.

The Lifecourse Framework reframes service delivery around life transitions, which are variable, rather than pre-determined demographic cohorts.

Broadly speaking the Lifecourse Framework is about how we deliver outcomes across the lifecourse. This includes Council’s activity around planning for the built environment, partnerships with others, advocacy work, direct service delivery, and more.

“ . . . we are committed to pursuing the opportunity to plan in an integrated and flexible way to be responsive to the lived experiences of our community and to plan for interventions and supports as residents move through life stages . . . ”

Liana Thompson, Director City Life

3. Policy context

The Australian Government will deliver a once in a generation reform of aged care in response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. The response is founded on the principles of respect, care and dignity.

Reforms in ageing will increase demand for aged care, disability support and mental health services across Wyndham.

Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System will drive major changes to Victoria’s mental health services over the next few years.

There are several findings from the Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System that require action. For example, the Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System heard that

young people often found the mental health system difficult to navigate and were not given age-appropriate supports.

Response to the Family Violence Royal Commission also continues to create demand for related support services and programs locally.

Additional growth is made possible for early childhood education through the big changes coming to kindergartens in Victoria as part of the State Government's Best Start, Best Life Kindergarten Reform. The reform will require the attraction and retention of a qualified kindergarten workforce across individual service providers.



Wyndham City's *Council Plan 2021-25* highlights the importance of high-quality, equitable and accessible services and community facilities that cater for all ages and life stages.

The *Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25* (Health Plan) includes the lifecourse rationale. Delivering actions that promote positive mental health outcomes for children, young people, older people, careers, parents and guardians remains important. The Health Plan states Priority 1: Mental wellbeing includes ensuring people can be linked in to appropriate services across the lifecourse.

World Health Organization literature describes how key stages in people's lives have particular relevance for their health. At every phase of life, people have specific needs and opportunities to optimise health and wellbeing across life stages. Because early protective factors have lifelong benefits, it is important that health and wellbeing is addressed at all ages and maintained throughout life.¹

¹ <https://www.who.int/universal-health-coverage/compendium/interventions-by-life-course>

Our programs addressing key stages of life work on long-standing collaboration with government and non-government organisations. Wyndham City continues to explore opportunities with our partners in community health based on shared Wyndham health priorities across four intersecting domains (thriving, liveable, safe and healthy), for the benefit of public health of all community members.

With linkage to the Lifecourse Framework, some key strategic documents include:

- Wyndham Council Plan 2021-25
- Wyndham Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25
- Wyndham Affordable Housing Strategy 2022-2025
- Learning Community Strategy.

About this report

The *Annual Report, Year One 2022 to 2023* (Annual Report) provides a snapshot of initiatives delivered by Council over the period, highlighting areas of focus for the next years in working towards the Wyndham 2040 Community Vision.

Initiatives contributing to accessible services and community facilities and for linking into appropriate services across the lifecourse are discussed throughout this Annual Report.

Monitoring and reporting on common strategic statements and key outcomes across the Lifecourse Framework will ensure we gain a complete picture of the effectiveness of services and programs delivered through the Lifecourse Framework.

Reporting on framework outcomes provides an opportunity to understand what has been achieved including community impact in progress towards key outcomes.

Key outcomes across the life stages include:

- Early Years – Wyndham families have access to services that support the capacity of the family through a range of targeted and integrated programs that respond to local community needs.
- Middle Years – Wyndham’s middle years children are valued members of the Wyndham community and have access to and participate in quality services related to education, health and wellbeing, and social inclusion. Parents, carers and families can access the services they need to support the development of their middle years children.
- Youth – Wyndham’s young people are engaged, empowered and connected members of the Wyndham community. They have access to a range of recreational, educational and employment opportunities which support their development and wellbeing.
- Older People – Wyndham City is committed to creating a community in which older people are respected, can actively contribute and participate, and feel safe. Older people in Wyndham will have access to an integrated system of local supports and services that meet their needs and support ageing in place.

For the purposes of this *Annual Report, Year One (2022-2023)*, Wyndham City is targeting risk and protective factors for wellbeing, including **family violence** and **mental health**, in the Council Plan domains of People and Community, Places and Spaces, Earning and Learning, and Leadership and Participation. Responding to vulnerabilities inherent in key transitions (infancy, childhood, adolescence), we provide interventions focused on Early Years, Middle Years, Youth, and Older People across the spectrum of promotion, prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery interventions.

4. Our City

As a growing municipality, Wyndham City is changing rapidly to respond to community need. From 2016 to 2021, Wyndham's population increased by 74,892 people (34.5%). This represents an average annual population change of 6.11% per year over the period.²

Analysis of the service age groups of City of Wyndham in 2021 compared to Greater Melbourne shows that there was a higher proportion of people in the younger age groups (0 to 17 years) and a lower proportion of people in the older age groups (60+ years).

In 2021, 48.0% of residents were born overseas, compared with 35.7% in Greater Melbourne. The largest non-English speaking country of birth in City of Wyndham was India, where 17.3% of the population, or 50,435 people, were born. Cultural diversity in Wyndham continues to increase.

In 2021, 12,089 people (or 4.1% of the population) in City of Wyndham reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability compared to 5.5% in Greater Melbourne. Based on self-reported data, in 2021, 16,628 people (or 5.7% of the population) in the City of Wyndham had a mental health condition, compared to 8.1% in Greater Melbourne.

The state's Crime Statistics Agency has released crime data for the year ending March 2023 and unfortunately family violence-related offences continued to increase. The statistics show family incidents increased 10.1% in Wyndham during 2023 compared to the previous year.³

For further information refer to **Appendix 1**.

5. Distilling evidence of what works

The consensus among researchers is that planning should be grounded in a more sophisticated understanding of how diversity and lived experience influence our abilities to overcome life's challenges. Such challenges often coincide with the transitions we experience throughout the course of our lives.

Research shows:

- Early protective factors have lifelong benefits
- Family-focused interventions strengthen family functioning
- Building safer and inclusive environments help to optimise health outcomes for all ages.

The Lifecourse Framework provides a high-level structure for considering the changing needs of Wyndham residents throughout their lives and ensures that Council and its partners are best paced to work in a flexible and future-focused manner.

The Lifecourse Framework recognises the need for greater collaboration between internal and external stakeholders to deliver better community outcomes.

² Unless otherwise stated all demographics are from the Wyndham Community Profile derived from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing. Available at: <https://profile.id.com.au/wyndham>

³ <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics/latest-crime-data-by-area>

One's abilities to reach their full health potential is dependent on the risk and protective factors that shape their health trajectory. Intervening at the right time, helps to maintain the health curve at the peak of the lifecourse trajectory.

There are opportunities to influence outcomes across the full lifecourse via:

- Planning grounded in a more sophisticated understanding of how diversity and lived experience influence our abilities to overcome life's challenges.
- A more cohesive sector wide service response, aligned to the diverse and changing needs of Wyndham's community.
- Consistency and alignment of services.

6. Interventions

6.1. Universal

The following is a snapshot of interventions that are universal or shared across life stage cohorts.

Provide dedicated Wyndham City Community Connector that covers all ages

Wyndham City Community Connectors are an access point for Wyndham residents to connect with personalised support to navigate formal and informal services and groups/activities. Community Connectors assist with:

- information and/or referrals about services, such as homecare, early years, family support personal care, respite, community access, group activity and allied health services
- access and navigate State and Commonwealth funded programs – Home and Community Care (HACC), Kindergarten Funding, My Aged Care (MAC) and National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- connecting with local community groups and activities information about council services.

Available are links/referrals to emergency relief supports, for example: food relief and material aid; mental health support and counselling; family violence support; family, youth and social support; homelessness and emergency accommodation; and financial support.⁴

Providing cohort-specific volunteer opportunities for youth, adults and older people

Wyndham City Council provides cohort-specific volunteer opportunities for youth, adults and older people. Benefits to volunteers include helping in a role/area that's meaningful to them and suited to their life stage.

- Youth volunteers in our Library 'VolunTeen', Climate Futures Youth Leader and Youth Representative Volunteer roles gain experience through the recruitment process; and learn new skills outside school or tertiary environments.
- Adults and Older People volunteer in a wide range of roles including Citizenship Ceremonies (new), Community Centres, Community Connection & Care Services, Libraries and Visitor Services. As well as 'giving back' to the community, volunteers build their networks, make friends, and learn new things.

⁴ www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/communityconnector

Strengthening and valuing volunteering in the Wyndham Community

Wyndham City Council's approach to strengthening and valuing volunteering in the Wyndham Community is linked to the Wyndham Volunteering Strategy's (2019-2024) mission to recognise, strengthen and promote accessible volunteering for all in Wyndham.⁵ During 2023, Council hosted a series of 'Step Into Volunteering' sessions, some of which focus on particular age groups e.g. Volunteering as a Pathway to Employment and Volunteering in Retirement. In March 2023, Council hosted a Wyndham Volunteer Expo which attracted 55 stallholders (volunteer-involving organisation) and 450 attendees. As a result of the Expo, 134 new volunteers were recruited.

Parenting talks with local speech pathologist

With many families in Wyndham experiencing long wait lists to see a speech pathologist, Wyndham Libraries formed a partnership with a local professional from Well Said Clinic, to deliver free talks to community. This partnership began when the Library joined the ALIA Speechie Library Talks campaign in 2020 and ran a session for parents with children aged three-to-five and another for ages five-to-eight. This was expanded to the zero-to-three age group in 2021 and again in November 2022. The campaign is aimed at increasing the awareness of speech pathology and the role of libraries in children's language and literacy development. These attracted over 523 parents and carers across six sessions.

The success of these sessions enabled Libraries to expand this partnership with the speech pathologist. As at June 2023, these sessions have reached 134 parents and carers.

Ensure meaningful consultation with the community that reflects all life stages and continues through Council's People's Advisory Panel focusing on capturing their experiences and thoughts to help inform key projects, strategies and plans

Wyndham City's People's Advisory Panel members provide regular advice and feedback to Council. They also connect with other residents to discuss topics that are important to the Wyndham community.

Improving access and inclusion in Wyndham

A collective approach to disability and ageing well in the City of Wyndham is being enabled through the integration of disability through the lens of each life stage. In 2023, community engagement helped to inform the Wyndham Accessibility and Inclusion Plan. Targeted consultations included feedback on the draft priorities from Wyndham's People's Advisory Panel. This also included an open invitation to people with lived experience in Wyndham (who may not be Panel members), as well as workshops with appropriate networks. The Wyndham Disability Services Network were integral stakeholders who informed the development of the plan which has as a primary aim to remove and reduce barriers and facilitate full community participation. Through this plan Council commits to improving access and inclusion for people living with disability in Wyndham and their carers.

⁵ https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-10/Volunteering%20Strategy_A4_Final.pdf

Adopting a lifecourse approach, where possible, in capturing reflections on Wyndham City's Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023

Wyndham City is committed to offering learning opportunities for residents of all ages. Wyndham City is developing the next iteration of the Learning Community Strategy which will guide our lifelong learning goals from 2024 to 2029.

A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been completed to help inform the refresh of Wyndham City's Learning Community Strategy. The aim of GIAs is to ensure fairer outcomes and to provide equitable access to opportunities and resources for all people. Insights included that women are disproportionately targeted by technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) for example. The ability to participate in lifelong learning (starts at birth) is essential to the health and wellbeing of people across all life stages.

Adopting a lifecourse approach, where possible, in implementing the Wyndham City's Affordable Housing Strategy 2022-2025

The *Wyndham City Affordable Housing Strategy 2022-2025* aims to meet Wyndham's diverse housing needs by responding to the evidence and establishing a Guiding Framework for coordinated action to increase the supply of affordable housing in Wyndham; and supporting lower-income and vulnerable residents to access assistance when they need it.

Collaboration, cooperation and partnerships are key. That's why Wyndham City also partners with health and homelessness services through the Wyndham Health, Housing and Homeless (H3) Alliance to provide needed supports. Both the Housing Strategy and H3 Alliance work with Melbourne City Mission are progressing a work program to provide accommodation and supports that meet the needs of young people and enable them to pursue their own aspirations towards full independent living.

The Housing Strategy recognises that older women are the fastest growing group experiencing homelessness in Australia. Moreover, family violence is a major cause of homelessness for women. The City of Wyndham's diversity means that a variety of housing stock is needed to meet with needs of the community, including women and children escaping family violence.

Western Bulldogs-Daughters and Sons of the West

Wyndham City, in partnership with the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation, supported the Daughters of the West and Sons of the West programs. The programs are free 10-week health programs, open to those aged 18 and over. The aim of the programs is to educate participants on ways to improve their health and wellbeing. A total of 54 women graduated from the program in September 2022, and 44 men in May 2023.

Energy workshops

According to National Seniors Australia (a not-for-profit organisation) higher energy prices impact hardest on those least able to afford them. Pensioners, and those on fixed incomes, find it hard to cope with rapid bill increases.⁶

Workshops are being delivered by RENEW through a collaboration with Wyndham and other councils in the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA). In May 2023, Wyndham ran additional energy saving workshops for the community, as part of 'Energy Smart Wyndham'.

⁶ <https://nationalseniors.com.au/advocacy/current/energy-affordability>

Delivering family-friendly events and initiatives designed for all ages in the Wyndham area

The second annual LIT event was held at Wyndham Park from 17 – 26 March 2023. Presented by Wyndham City this free and family-friendly light-based experience created wonderous landscapes to explore, with a breathtaking laser show, interactive projections, a magical glowing nature trail and more. This much-loved event was enthusiastically embraced again by the community with over 60,000 people turning up to enjoy the spectacle over 10 evenings.⁷

Established in 2021, the Tarneit Revitalisation Board provides a local voice to the Victorian State Government's Suburban Revitalisation program, working with communities to identify opportunities for locally-led projects to help Tarneit thrive.⁸ Projects funded in Tarneit include (but are not limited to) the Firefly Night Market which is part of the Meet me in Tarneit series of events. In 2023, with more than 70 market stalls to explore and a vibrant line up of entertainment, including LED performances and a fire show, there is something for all ages. The free Wyndham City event series is being delivered by the Tarneit Suburban Revitalisation Program in partnership with the Victorian State Government.⁹

The Kaleidoscope seven-week festival Celebrating Point Cook's Cultural Diversity was held at Point Cook Pop Up Park during March/April 2023. The Soho Village Makers Market was also held in April 2023 at Soho Village Pop Up Park, located at Adelphi Boulevard, Point Cook.

Wyndham City also has a program for Morning Melodies at Encore Events Centre featuring a spectacular array of musical shows for all to enjoy.

Continued to educate and advocate on gender and sexuality in Wyndham through proactive initiatives including Park Lounge, part of the Midsumma festival

Wyndham City's free Park Lounge event returned to Kelly Park as part of Melbourne's annual Midsumma Festival, an annual celebration of LGBTQIA+ arts and cultures. Park Lounge is an inclusive, fun and family-friendly event on Wyndham City's annual event calendar. It provides a wonderful celebration of LGBTQIA+ visibility and diversity.

The event has seen a steady growth in numbers with an average of 500 attendees in the years 2019-2021 rising to over 800 in both 2022 and 2023. In 2023, all survey respondents rated the event seven or higher (out of 10) with 37 percent rating it a 10/10.

Delivering Disability Confidence Training

Disability Confidence Training was offered twice in 2022/23. Topics covered in the training include understanding inclusion, exploring what an 'enabling environment' looks like, and tips for being inclusive and accessible. Wyndham City have partnered with Annecto Speakers Bank to enhance the training with the inclusion of a guest speaker with lived experience of disability. Over 30 people attended, and they were a mix of Wyndham City staff, local organisations, volunteers, and general community members interested in developing their knowledge and understanding of people with disability.

Support carers of people with caring needs via Victorian Support for Carers Program (SCP)

Resourcing is already being supported through the inclusion of lifecycle considerations in planning in other organisational strategy and guiding documents and successful funding bids. An example is

⁷ <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/LIT>

⁸ <https://www.suburbandevelopment.vic.gov.au/suburban-revitalisation/tarneit>

⁹ <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/firefly-night-market>

the Support for Carers Program (SCP) which has received funding for the next four years. Noting from 1 July 2022, the SCP program model is providing funding on a fixed-term basis, with funding delivered through new four-year service agreements from 1 July 2022 until 30 June 2026.¹⁰

The SCP provides tailored flexible supports to carers based on the specific needs of the carer. These supports may include counselling or respite or other supports that help carers at a time of need. Carers provide care for a partner, friend, family member or loved one with care needs. The SCP program focuses on person centred care and support¹¹.

Facilitation and delivery of the Wyndham Learning Together Professional Development Calendar for whole of life stage service sectors

The purpose of the Professional Development calendar is to delivery professional development sessions that are affordable and locally accessible. It also provides opportunities to showcase innovative practice and projects whilst being responsive to locally identified needs. New since 2021, some sessions have been included for families and parents.

Critical Incident Management Systems (CIMS) and Serious Incident Reporting Scheme (SIRS) alignment process

Streamlined incident management system incorporating the State Government's Critical Incident Management Systems (CIMS) (approach and key actions to manage a client incident) and Commonwealth Government's Serious Incident Reporting Scheme (SIRS) (an initiative to help prevent and reduce the risk and occurrence of incidents of abuse and neglect of older Australians receiving Commonwealth-subsidised aged care and services) process is underway.¹²

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) alignment

Wyndham City is strengthening collaboration for professionals responding to family violence across the Wyndham area, in continuing to build understanding of collaborative practice and aspects of the Victorian Government's Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM). MARAM sets out the responsibilities of different workforces in identifying, assessing and managing family violence risk.¹³ Council is continuing to strengthen referral pathways with services supporting victim survivors and children and individuals at risk of family violence, creating opportunities for direct secondary consultation with The Orange Door and supporting staff to have the capacity and capability to respond to family violence in all age groups in the community.

¹⁰ <https://www.vic.gov.au/support-carers-program-funding>

¹¹ <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/servicesandsupport/carer-services-home-help-and-support#victorian-support-for-carers-program>

¹² For more information about CIMS visit: <https://cims.vic.gov.au/> For more information about SIRS visit: www.agedcarequality.gov.au/sirs/introduction-sirs

¹³ For MARAM animation video series covering key MARAM topics and concepts visit: <https://www.vic.gov.au/maram-video-series>

6.2. Multigenerational

The following is a snapshot of interventions promoting multigenerational connections between people from different life stages.

Adopting a multigenerational approach to family violence prevention, advocacy and awareness raising including around Adolescent Violence In the Home (AVITH)

The Wyndham Family Violence Network (WfVN) is a mechanism to develop and support partnerships amongst key stakeholders based in and working in Wyndham, and to facilitate collaborative efforts in preventing and addressing family violence locally. It is supported and convened by Wyndham City primarily for service providers.

In May 2023, a representative from Anglicare Victoria delivered a presentation on Adolescent Violence in the Home (AVITH). AVITH is a targeted response that aims to reduce violence and increase safety in the home. According to Anglicare Victoria, a need for AVITH specific work has been recognised across the West given the significant growth across the region, particularly across Wyndham. AVITH works with families across the West where there is a young person aged 12 – 17 years who is displaying violence in the home. Breaking the Cycle (BTC) is an 8-week program for parents or carers where there is a young person who displays violence in the home. Although the BTC work is primarily with parents and carers, the young person remains at the centre of all of the AVITH work delivered.¹⁴

Providing improved multigenerational community wellbeing through mental health initiatives, including a focus on addictive behaviours such as gambling

In March 2023, Youth Services and IPC Health (one of the largest providers of community health services in Victoria) presented a Parent Education Session on gambling and the effects it can have on our children. The session provided tips, strategies and information to help parents and guardians be better informed about how to support young people.

Tuning Into Teens parenting program, Tuning into Kids parenting program, and parent information sessions

Tuning Into Teens is a parenting program that focuses on emotions and is designed to assist parents to establish stronger relationships with their teenage children.¹⁵ In the period of January to June 2023, Youth Services organised two Tuning into Teens programs with an average of six-to-nine parents attending each session.

Tuning Into Kids is a parenting program focusing on nurturing the emotional connection between parents or caregivers and their children.¹⁶ It is specifically designed for parents or caregivers of children aged five-to-eleven years. In the January to June 2023 period, Youth Services delivered one Tuning into Kids program with an average of nine parents attending each session.

Parent information sessions were also hosted including an online seminar featuring renowned psychologist and one of the world's best known parent educators, Steve Biddulph, which aimed to educate parents on effectively managing emotions in children and young people. The session was held in November 2022 and had 412 individuals in attendance.

¹⁴ For information on how Anglicare Victoria supports parents and carers who are experiencing violence from their young person visit: <https://www.anglicarevic.org.au/our-services/family-and-parenting-support/adolescent-violence-in-the-home/>

¹⁵ <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/youth-services/programs/tuning-teens>

¹⁶ <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/youth-services/programs/tuning-kids>

6.3.Cohort-specific

Key outcomes across life stages are provided in this section.

6.3.1. Early Years

Key Outcome 1: Wyndham families have access to services that support the capacity of the family through a range of targeted and integrated programs that respond to local community needs

The following is a snapshot of interventions that are cohort-specific and targeted interventions, tailored for the specific needs of the Early Years life stage.

Early Years’ service snapshot:

- Provision of the universal MCH program including Key Ages and Stages (KAS) consultation (newborn to school age)
- Sleep and Settling Program delivery
- First Time Parents Group
- Provision of the Enhanced MCH program including targets engagement and support for children 0 – 3 years and families who are experiencing vulnerability
- Provision of facilitated playgroups, pram walking groups and outreach activities to engage hard to reach families
- Provision of National Immunisation Program
- Best Start Program facilitation
- Support for community playgroups
- Provision of the Preschool Field Officer (PSFO) service to support access and participation of children with additional needs in their kindergarten program
- Provision of funded three- and four-year-old kindergarten
- Provision of occasional care for under school aged children
- Provision of centralised enrolment service for kindergarten.

The City of Wyndham population increases by 54 families every week	On average 105 babies are born in City of Wyndham each week ¹⁷	In 2021, 31.6% of people in low income households were aged between 0 and 15
In 2021, 8.9% of the population were babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	In 2021, 12.4% of the population were primary schoolers (5 to 11)	21.3% were aged 0 to 11 years

¹⁷ Wyndham City Council, Maternal & Child Health statistical data

People & Community

Outcome 1. Early years children and their families enjoy strong and healthy relationships with their family and peers embedded in the broader Wyndham community. Children in their early years and their families have access to the programs and services they need to live healthy and happy lives.

Three and four-year old kindergarten service delivery

Council's Early Education and Care Service provides direct service delivery of three and four-year-old kindergarten across 23 services.

Early Years Community Connector service

The Early Years Partnership Panel together with Council developed a Community Connector (Early Years) program in response to a community need for support with access to information and connection to Wyndham's early years services. The program provides support to families with children to build understanding and capacity to navigate and access services. As well as developing and strengthening relationships with community members, to enable strong advocacy to inform the development of responsive programs for families and their children.

Increased and coordinated advocacy to State and Federal Governments to take advantage of the existing and future resourcing and partnership opportunities

In April 2023, Wyndham City lodged a submission to the Australian Government Department of Social Services' Early Years Strategy to shape its vision for the future of Australia's children and their families. Recognising how critical the early years are for children's development and continued success over their lifetime, the Strategy will aim to deliver the best possible outcomes for Australian children. Wyndham City provided comprehensive feedback and ideas on how the Commonwealth can develop a Strategy that gets it right for children and families.¹⁸

Delivery of the National Immunisation Program (NIP) to eligible residents

The Wyndham City Immunisation Unit runs public immunisation sessions to vaccinate against many diseases. The National Immunisation Program (NIP) is a schedule of all free vaccines for babies, secondary students.

Delivery of the Universal Maternal and Child Health (UMCH) program and Enhanced Maternal Child Health (EMCH) program

Council's Universal Maternal and Child Health (UMCH) program provides ten key ages and stages consultations designed to optimise the health, wellbeing, safety, learning and development of infants and children. This includes providing universal access to information and advice on child and family health and development. Due to a shortage of nurses, high local birth rates along with the impact of COVID-19, Council currently has limited appointments.

Council also delivers more intensive support to families and children (0-3 years) experiencing vulnerability through the Enhanced Maternal Child Health (EMCH) program. The foundation of the EMCH program is a child centred and family partnership focus, to promote the best health and development outcomes for children 0-3 years, within families experiencing vulnerabilities. The

¹⁸ <https://engage.dss.gov.au/early-years-strategy/>

EMCH program offers flexible actions and interventions to families who would benefit from targeted support.

Wyndham City developed a video to ensure each family across Wyndham has access to the information from Council's MCH services. By using this tool, people can learn about their child's growth and development between the ages of four months and four years. People can interact with the video by clicking on different options. To access the video visit:

<https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/childrens-services/maternal-child-health/maternal-child-health-services>.

The Wyndham Maternal and Child Health (MCH) service offers clinics on two Saturdays monthly. This ensures accessibility for those unable to attend appointments during the week. Additionally, specialised sessions for two-year-olds are conducted monthly on Saturdays. These sessions focus on development assessments for children who are preparing to start kindergarten in the near future.

IPC Health and Wyndham City partnered to deliver Oral and Dental Health Information Sessions to Wyndham Families. Since December 2022 there have been three sessions held at community centres at Tarneit, Manor Lakes and The Grange, with two more planned for September and October respectively, at Koomail Tardy Community Centre and Point Cook Community Centre. The sessions have focused on the importance of teeth brushing and promotion of oral health literacy with parents, whilst children are occupied by various activity stations. The pre-schoolers are then provided an optional dental health check by the dental nurses and student dental nurses from IPC Health, and presented with a dental pack each.

Council partnered with Drummond Street services from October 2022 through to March 2023 to deliver additional parenting support information sessions to Wyndham families. Online sessions focused on assisting working parents with toddlers, stress management for parents with toddlers, managing challenging behaviours, and parenting kids with anxiety. In addition, face to face sessions assisting parents to build a strong foundation were offered at Arndell Park Community Centre.

Delivery of the Sleep and Settling information sessions and First Time Parents Group

Council's Maternal Child Family Health and Wellbeing Team now offers free Sleep and Settling information sessions. First Time Parent Groups are facilitated by an Early Years practitioner and cover many topics, from starting solids and safety to family relationships and well-being. First Time Parents Groups are free to attend and run for six weeks. In the final week, the First Time Parents Groups are held at the library to promote the families' inclusion in the community and to introduce them to the library environment. This serves as a valuable opportunity for families to engage with their community and familiarise themselves with the resources and services available at the library.



Places & Spaces

Outcome 2. Welcoming public spaces enable early years children to socialise, play and spend time in safe and fun environments in parks and neighbourhoods. Places and spaces are easy for families to access locally, and neighbourhoods are designed to be childfriendly to maximise active transport, play and local connection.

Improved support, connection and learning opportunities are available for residents in Tarneit and Manor Lakes through delivery of Wyndham's newest community and family centres

Bembit Bag-rook Community Centre in Tarneit

Located at 61 Polly Parade in Tarneit and next door to Nearnung Primary School, the new Bembit Bag-rook (previously 'Tarneit North') Community Centre in Tarneit is part of the delivery of a \$21 million Tarneit North Community Precinct Masterplan.

In Bunurong language, 'Bembit' means flower and 'Bag-rook' means women.

This brand-new centre is operated by Wyndham City's partner Bestchance and features include a fully equipped kitchen, full disability access, free WIFI, BBQ and children's play area and electric vehicle charging stations.

Delivery of the Bembit Ba-rook Community Centre was supported by \$2.5 million from the Victorian State Government's Growing Suburbs Fund and a \$2.5 million Building Blocks Grant.¹⁹

¹⁹ For more information on the Bembit Bag-rook Community Centre and the Tarneit North Community Precinct Master Plan visit: <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/project/tarneit-nth-community-precinct-master-plan-implementation>

Birnbial Family Centre in Manor Lakes

The new \$8.2 million Birnbial (previously 'Manor Lakes North') Family Centre is located at 84 Holyoake Parade in Manor Lakes, just a two-minute walk to Ngarri Primary School.

Birnbial (pronounced Bin-beel) is a Wadawurrung word for rainbow, and this name reflects the aspiration of this family centre to promote bright futures for a diverse, emerging community.

Managed by KU Children's Services, the centre will provide essential services locally, including three and four-year-old kindergarten and maternal and child health in a safe and welcoming environment. A toy library will also soon be available at this centre.

The centre was built with support from the Victorian State Government with \$1 million from the Growing Suburbs Fund and \$3 million Building Blocks Infrastructure Fund. The toy library is supported by \$20,000 from the Federal Government.²⁰

Engage the community in the infrastructure design and service delivery model for the Truganina (Elements) Community Centre

Due to be opened in early-mid 2024, this new centre is going to provide the local community with (including but not limited to):

- Early Years Education Services
- Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services
- Flexible small and large format community meeting spaces
- Integrated office space for services
- Consulting rooms for MCH and other services
- Library services including a small collection.

Site cleansing hosted: Bunurong Elder Uncle Mik Edwards and his son Eric lead Councillors and community in a traditional cultural site cleansing ceremony to honour the importance of connection to land, family, culture and community. This ceremony was the first of its type held in Wyndham and it represents our commitment to building genuine partnerships with the Traditional Owners of the land on which Wyndham is being built.

During a series of conversations from May 2022 to June 2023 Wyndham City invited community engagement to help shape the development of the Truganina Community Centre (Elements Estate) in Truganina.²¹

The centre was built with support from the Victorian State Government with \$4 million from the Growing Suburbs Fund and \$3 million Building Blocks Infrastructure Fund and \$921,000 from the Living Libraries Fund.²²

²⁰ For more information about Birnbial Family Centre visit: <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/venues/birnbial-family-centre>

²¹ <https://theloop.wyndham.vic.gov.au/truganina-community-centre-elements-estate>

²² <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/news/new-community-centre-coming-truganina>

Earning & Learning

Outcome 3. Quality, inclusive, local education meets the needs of Wyndham’s early years children and supports them to develop physically, mentally, socially and emotionally. Parents, carers and families are supported through adequate access to education and employment opportunities.

Quiet and Calm Story Times

Quiet and Calm Story Time is a new weekly program run at the Williams Landing Library Lounge. It is a program especially for families with children aged three-to-five who have sensory challenges that make attending a standard Rhyme Time or Story Time difficult.

The Williams Landing Library Lounge is a unique space that allows for the entire room to be used for a quiet and calm Story Time. The sessions include songs with quieter backing tracks, the lights are dimmed and the number of participants is restricted to keep it intimate.



Early Education and Care Services programs

Council’s Early Education and Care Services unit has successfully implemented a range of programs and initiatives to support children’s learning whilst simultaneously building the capabilities of teachers. Initiatives and programs focused on the three pillars of cultural inclusion, family support and enhancing children’s developmental outcomes. Highlights include roll out of Social Worker model, specialised Allied Health programs, Walk on Country Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander awareness and inclusion program.

Delivery of Supported and Shopping Centre Playgroups

Council's supported playgroups are a free program for families with children from birth to school age. A qualified Child and Family Resource Officer leads these sessions where parents develop their skills and confidence to support their child's wellbeing and developing. The programs aim to provide a safe space for parents to meet other parents and to build parent capacity and understanding of the value of play in their child's development. The team use low cost and recycled play equipment, including household items, so that parents can create their own play experience.

Council also delivers free playgroups in Shopping Centres across the municipality. In their local shopping centre, families can learn more about play ideas for children or ask questions about play or their child's development.

Preschool Field Officer Service

The Preschool Field Officer (PSFO) service contributes to the provision of a quality early childhood program to ensure it meets the diverse needs of all children.

The PSFO service is designed to deliver professional support and consultation. It aims to build the capacity of early childhood educators to provide for the inclusion and participation of children with additional needs in funded kindergarten programs.

The PSFO service is funded by both the Department of Education (DET) and Wyndham City Council, who manage and deliver the service with no additional cost to families.

Leadership & Participation

Outcome 4. Early years children feel a sense of belonging and connection to their wider community. Early years children and their families have opportunities to participate in a range of activities.

Continued implementation of the Kindergarten Services Statement

The *Kindergarten Services Statement 2017* affirms Council's approach to the provision of four-year-old and three-year-old kindergarten within an integrated service model in the City of Wyndham. It interfaces with a suite of council policies that relate to the provision of and support for services for children and facilities. It articulates Council's vision and sets the direction for the development of partnerships to ensure that Wyndham residents have access to a diverse range of services and providers.

Review of the Early Years Partnership Framework to support organisations to invest and embed themselves into Wyndham

The Early Years and Partnerships Officer position is helping lead the review of the Early Years Partnership Framework. Leading a strategic, collaborative and evidence-based approach to establishing and maintaining relationships with a range of partners to ensure that Wyndham families have access to a range of services and supports that are locally based and accessible.

As well as brokering and leading the development of systems, processes and agreements with a range of partners and stakeholders to ensure the delivery of services for families. This includes supporting the facilitation of strategic partnerships to respond to identified service gaps. The Early Years Partnership is made up of five early years providers delivery services from across 14 sites.

Delivery of the Wyndham Child and Family Directory

The Wyndham Child and Family Directory provides information about supports and services for children 0-12 years old and their families. Providing information for the following categories – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Supports / Services Child Care Options, Childhood Development, Children’s Health and Wellbeing, Counselling, Family Violence, Financial, Housing and Accommodation Assistance, Parenting Support, Play Learning and Education, and Refugee and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities Support and Services²³.

Oversee the Wyndham Child and Family Alliance, which works with the community and service sector to support and understanding of community need and service system navigation

The Wyndham Child and Family Services Alliance is a collaboration between agencies committed to building a robust early years’ (0-12 years) service system to improve the outcomes for vulnerable children and families in the City of Wyndham. The vision is that thriving Wyndham families have access to and participate in quality services related to education, health and wellbeing, and social inclusion.

Family and Friends Yarning Club (FFYC)

The Family and Friends Yarning Club (FFYC) provides an opportunity for families to be more engaged with their kindergarten and provide input into the delivery of the kindergarten. The FFYC sessions occur once a term to:

- Provide opportunities to be involved in kindergarten activities and events
- Provide feedback to Council and input into the operations of the kindergarten program
- Provide further information to families about the kindergarten program.

The purpose of the FFYC is to provide opportunities for families, Team Leaders and Educators to work together to discuss and support kindergarten activities.

Supporting kindergartens and their communities to generate and connect with physical activity participation opportunities

Wyndham City is prioritising kinder aged children and their families physical activity to establish behaviours which support lifelong participation as well as maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Active Kinders is a collaboration between Wyndham City and the community of Kindergartens in Wyndham, to encourage kinder aged children and their families to increase physical activity²⁴. The program explores the ‘how’ and ‘where’ to be active in Wyndham among a range of other topics. In 2022/23, the Active Kinders program involved over 25 kindergartens, children in more than 125 kinder rooms and over 3,000 children.

Planning for the future of kindergarten and childcare in Wyndham – community engagement

With Wyndham’s population of three and four-year-old children is set to increase by 50% by 2040, Wyndham City is planning for the future of kindergarten services in the municipality.

Big changes are coming to kindergartens in Victoria as part of the State Government’s Best Start, Best Life Kindergarten Reform.

²³ <https://wyndhamchildandfamilydirectory.com.au/>

²⁴ <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/active-kinders>

As part of the State Government's \$9 billion investment over the next 10 years, the reform will include:

- Four-Year-Old Kindergarten transitioning to 'Pre-Prep' and becoming a 30-hour-a-week program of play-based learning available to every four-year-old child in Victoria
- Establishing 50 new government-owned and affordable early learning centres.

This is in addition to the roll-out of three-year-old kindergartens across the state. The Victorian State Government is investing \$5 billion over the decade to deliver 15 hours per week of three-year-old kindergarten for every child.

These changes are aimed to benefit all families and children in Wyndham. The State Government also announced that one of their new early learning centres will be built in Wyndham.²⁵

During March and April 2023, Wyndham City facilitated community engagement on changes to kindergarten in Wyndham, to help plan Council's own services and to work in partnership with the Victorian State Government on the rollout to ensure our communities needs are being met.²⁶

Delivery of the 2023 Early Years Matters Conference for early and middle years professionals

On 23rd June, over 350 early years professionals from across Victoria came together online to attend Council's 18th Early Years Matters Conference.

This year's conference was sponsored by Tweddle, Children and Parenting Support Services, Wyndham Community & Education Centre and Council's Early Years Partners – ECMS, Bestchance, Sparkways, One Tree and KU.

Participants were engaged in a full day of presentations and workshops under the theme of 'the nature of belonging, it starts with early years, it starts young, its starts with us'. Topics included environmental sustainability, the benefits of nature in childhood anxiety and being and belonging at the heart of play.

The Early Years Matters Conference is a cornerstone event in the professional development calendar for early years professionals in Wyndham. The annual event continues to demonstrate Council's commitment to its role as a leader and facilitator by supporting the capacity of the early years sector.

Delivery of the Transition Conversation Event

In November 2022, Council delivered the Transition Conversation Event on behalf of Wyndham's early education and care services and local primary schools. This annual event brings together local early years educators and foundation teachers to discuss the individual needs of children, as they prepare to make the big transition to primary school. This year, over 441 conversations took place online with representatives from 47 local primary schools all discussing the individual transition needs of over 1,100 children.

²⁵ <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/news/how-do-you-plan-use-kindergarten-services>

²⁶ <https://theloop.wyndham.vic.gov.au/kinder-reform>

6.3.2. Middle Years

Key Outcome 2: Wyndham’s middle years children and valued members of the Wyndham community and have access to and participate in quality services related to education, health and wellbeing, and social inclusion. Parents, carers and families can access the services they need to support the development of their middle years children.

The following is a snapshot of interventions that are cohort-specific and targeted interventions, tailored for the specific needs of the Middle Years life stage.

Middle Years’ service snapshot:

- Provide no cost children's counselling (group and individual) to children aged 8 – 11 years
- Library After School and Holiday activities
- Supporting schools and their communities to generate and connect with physical activity participation opportunities.

In 2021, 7.5% of the population were secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	In 2021, 23.8% of the non-English speaking population was aged between 0 and 14	In the City of Wyndham 28.9% of children aged 12 to 17 years were in households who were renting privately , and 1.5% were in social housing in 2021
In 2021, 19.9% of the population needing assistance were aged between 0 and 14	In 2021, there were 21,804 people aged 12 to 17 years living in the City of Wyndham	

People & Community

Outcome 5. Middle years children enjoy strong and healthy relationships with family, peers and the broader Wyndham community. They and their families have access to the services they need to live healthy and happy lives as they transition from childhood to adolescence.

Counselling and youth mental health and wellbeing

The Practice Lead Counselling and Mental Health position is providing intake, assessment, confidential generalist counselling and family inclusive casework and/or a range of other counselling interventions to children, young people and families to help them reach their goals, improve their wellbeing, and strengthen their relationships. As well as leading and supporting the operational coordination of the Youth Services Counselling service, ensuring that services are aligned to Councils key priorities and are reflective of the diverse and changing needs of the community. Including providing professional direction, clinical supervision, expert advice, representation and reporting in the areas of counselling and youth mental health and wellbeing.

Middle years counselling primarily focuses on individual sessions. The level of family and caregiver participation in the program is strong and tailored to individual family's needs and goals.

Established Referral Pathways and Shared Client management with the counselling team

Of relevance in this strategic context is:

- Orange Door network Werribee site – The Orange Door network is providing coordinated family violence and child wellbeing support to residents of the Wyndham area.²⁷ Youth Services have established a direct referral pathway and communication channel that allows them to receive secondary consultation from Orange Door.
- Headspace Werribee site – Headspace Werribee offers support for young people aged 12-25, their families and friends.²⁸ Headspace offers a range of services catered to young people, including online and phone counselling, support for work and study, and a presence in schools. They provide assistance with mental health, physical health (including sexual health), alcohol and other drug-related issues, and support for work and study endeavors. Direct contact and secondary consultation channels are established. Sometimes Youth Services work on the same cases where we share information and align counselling planning.
- Mind Australia Werribee site – Mind Australia supports people experiencing mental health and wellbeing concerns to find help, hope and purpose in their lives.²⁹ Direct referral pathways were established, also reached an initial agreement to develop prevention of mental health and engaging in risk behaviours in youth.
- Orygen – Orygen provides specialist mental health services for young people.³⁰ Direct secondary consultation is available for Youth Services staff without going through the standard triage.
- The Break Inc – The Break Inc is a non-profit mental health support agency.³¹ They have the capacity to support a wide range of cohorts from different age groups. Youth Services has established a partnership license and MOU agreement with The Break Inc providing space for mental health support.

Continued to participate in Victorian Transcultural Mental Health (VTMH) Network Community of Practice

Victorian Transcultural Mental Health (VTMH) is a state-wide peak body that supports the mental health of diverse people, communities and systems.³² VTMH is funded by the Victorian State Government.

As at June 2023, VTMH has recently completed a project that was aimed at creating cultural safety, competence, literacy guidelines, resources, and tools for mental health professionals. Based on the results of this project, they are currently recording a podcast series. Youth Services are partnering with VTMA to provide space, recording equipment, and technical support. Ultimately, recordings will be published on the VTMH website.

²⁷ <https://www.orangedoor.vic.gov.au/>

²⁸ <https://headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/werribee/>

²⁹ <https://www.mindaustralia.org.au/>

³⁰ <https://www.orygen.org.au/>

³¹ <https://thebreak.org.au/>

³² <https://vtmh.org.au/>

The Mental Health and Cultural Diversity Community of Practice (MHCD CoP), convened by the VTMH Network, has supported a diverse cohort of practitioners across a range of settings, including those beyond the mental health sector, to come together to exchange ideas, thoughts and experiences regarding a broad range of issues relating to cultural diversity and mental health. This model is helping to build bridges and connections amongst members, find common ground, and encourage robust conversations about cultural diversity and mental health that may not usually be explored.³³

For more information about the MHCD CoP visit: <https://vtmh.org.au/community-of-practice-in-cultural-diversity-and-mental-health/>

Trauma informed practice to support the wellbeing of those who use and work in our youth services

Many Youth Services Council staff have been trained in trauma-informed practice. Learning about trauma is helping them recognise that particular behaviours, responses and emotions are shaped by life experiences, and to offer young people emotionally safe ways of working to assist.³⁴

For more information about the trauma-informed practice visit:

<https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/publications/framework-trauma-informed-practice>

Places & Spaces

Outcome 6. Welcoming public spaces enable middle years children to socialise, play and spend time in safe and fun environments in parks, town centres and neighbourhoods. Places and services are easy for families to access locally, and neighbourhoods are designed to be child-friendly to maximise active transport, play and local connection.

Hoppers Junction Placemaking initiative

The Hoppers Junction Placemaking initiative is a testament to Council's commitment to cultivating a beloved local destination. To ensure Council's focus on making Hoppers Junction a much-loved place, a comprehensive four-week community engagement process was conducted from September to October 2022. This process aimed to understand the community's current utilisation of the space and gather insights on desired improvements, specifically emphasising accessibility and activations.

Based on the valuable feedback received, various placemaking improvements have been implemented. Notably, pedestrian crossings have been installed at the entry and middle points of Hoppers Junction, enhancing safety and facilitating smoother movement within the area. Additionally, in response to a high percentage of community requests for markets in the space, the inaugural Christmas Market was successfully delivered in December 2022.³⁵ This captivating event featured local artisans, engaging children's activities, entertainment, and more.

The Hoppers Junction Placemaking initiative stands as a testament to our dedication to creating an appealing environment for residents and visitors alike. By actively involving the community in shaping the future of this space, we aim to foster a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere that reflects the desires and aspirations of the people it serves.

³³ <https://vtmh.org.au/highlighting-the-history-of-the-mental-health-and-cultural-diversity-community-of-practice-at-themhs-2022/>

³⁴ <https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/publications/framework-trauma-informed-practice>

³⁵ <https://theloop.wyndham.vic.gov.au/make-hoppers-junction-place-you-want-be>

Library After School and Holiday activities

Wyndham City Libraries offer welcoming spaces for children 8 to 12-years-old all year round, as well as a timetable of after-school activities. Dedicated Middle Years programs and events include STEAM Lab, Code Club, Girls for Science, Inbetweeners Book Club, Battle of the Books and the Wyndham Junior Chess Tournaments. School holiday activities are also provided free of charge, attracting thousands of children. These activities provide opportunities for young people to make new social connections and foster a love of literacy and learning.

Earning & Learning

Outcome 7. Quality, inclusive, local education meets the needs of Wyndham's middle years children and supports them to develop mentally, socially and emotionally. Parents, carers and families are supported through adequate access to education and employment opportunities. A broad range of out-of-school physical, creative and recreational learning activities are available and affordable.

Engaged with local schools to promote psychoeducational programs and mental health support in the middle years space

Wyndham City's Youth Services team offer free school and community group workshops to develop life skills and support mental health and wellbeing. The EduGram programs provide young people with practical skills as well as connections with local support agencies and Youth Services programs and resources.

The Healthy Minds EduGram program focuses on mental health, self-care and local agencies that young people can seek support from. Discussions are facilitated by youth workers which aim to assist young people to become more aware of their mental health and the importance of self-care. Suitable for up to 30 participants aged 12-18 years of age.

Leadership & Participation

Outcome 8. Middle years children feel a sense of belonging and connection to their wider community. Children and their families have opportunities to participating in a range of activities, contribute to their wider community and shape their future.

LOTE4Kids

Wyndham City Libraries have added LOTE4Kids to a growing collection of educational resources freely accessible to library members through Council's website.

LOTE4Kids is an online collection of over 2,000 digital picture books with audio narration, with content available in over 50 languages, making it an ideal offering for our diverse community where we have families wanting children's content in their community language.

Families learning English as a second language and families wanting to introduce their children to additional languages will also find this a valuable resource.

Supporting schools and their communities to generate and connect with physical activity participation opportunities

Wyndham City is prioritising children’s physical activity to establish behaviours which support lifelong participation as well as maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Active Kids is a Council facilitated program delivered in partnership with Wyndham primary schools.

Active Kids is designed to encourage healthy eating habits and increased physical activity in children aged eight to 10 years (grades three and four). Active Kids aims to support schools and teachers with a simple and flexible curriculum-based program that leads to positive behaviour change for all participating students and families. The eight-week program, including all print and digital resources is offered free to Wyndham primary schools.³⁶

Participants complete a passport which tracks their healthy habits throughout the term, and schools are connected with Activity Providers to deliver practical sessions. The program explores the ‘how’ and ‘where’ to be active in Wyndham amongst a range of other topics. In the 2022 school year, the Active Kids program involved 21 schools, 218 classes and 4,850 children.

6.3.3. Youth

Key Outcome 3: Wyndham’s young people are engaged, empowered and connected members of the Wyndham community. They have access to a range of recreational, educational and employment opportunities which support their development and wellbeing.

The following is a snapshot of interventions that are cohort-specific and targeted interventions, tailored for the specific needs of the Youth life stage.

Youth service snapshot:

- Deliver opportunities for young people to attend low (no cost) events within the community
- Provide opportunities for young people to make social connections and link young people to support services
- Engage with local schools to promote psychoeducational programs and mental health support
- Provide place-based opportunities for engagement with young people
- Provide easy to access spaces and facilities in places where young people recreate
- Provide spaces that are flexible and able to adapt to the needs of young people
- Provide no cost youth counselling to young people aged 12 – 25 years.

In 2021, 8.2% of the population were 18 to 24 years old	There are 29,466 couples with young children in City of Wyndham in 2021, comprising 31.3% of households	
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³⁶ <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/activekids>

People & Community

Outcome 9. Youth are connected to their peers, families and the broader Wyndham community. They have access to the services they need to live healthy and happy lives as they transition into adulthood.

Commenced implementation in response to insights of the Wyndham Youth Survey Findings Report

The 2022 Wyndham Youth Survey which was open to people between the age of 12-25 years who either lived, worked or socialised in Wyndham and three separately facilitated focus groups for youth from Māori and Pasifika communities; Horn of Africa; and South East Asia.

Findings show the topic that caused the most concern was social media (47%) followed by mental health (44%).³⁷ Wyndham City has commenced implementation in response to insights of the Wyndham Youth Survey Findings Report. As illustrated throughout this *Annual Report*.

Ensured continued alignment of Youth Services to Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVIC) Code of Ethical Practice

The Code of Ethical Practice for the Victorian Youth Sector (the Code) is based on human rights: things that all Victorians – including young people – can expect to enjoy, such as right to freedom of expression or right to take part in public life.

The Code includes a set of youth work principles and ethical practice responsibilities. It supports, but does not replace legal responsibilities.³⁸

Places & Spaces

Outcome 10. Welcoming public spaces provide places for youth to socialise and spend time in their neighbourhoods, natural environments and town centres, while feeling included in the wider community. Wyndham is connected and easy to get around, while services are provided in ways and places that make them easy for youth to access.

Deliver the Street Surfer bus, a mobile youth facility and multidisciplinary service and the further implementation of a place based service to Tarneit, Little River and Werribee South

The Street Surfer Bus has been making its way around Wyndham with visits to the Children's Week Picnic at Werribee Park, the Little River Primary school Fair, Eagle Stadium at part of Mental Health Week, the Werribee South Foreshore, as part of beach safety day and the Tarneit P-9 College family day. Regular engagement at Alamanda Reserve, Point Cook and Westbrook Estate, Truganina have continued and now include young people in the Jubilee Estate Wyndham Vale. The Street Surfer Bus and youth services team have been visiting Stanmore Crescent Park every Wednesday from 4 – 8 pm offering a range of sporting equipment, board games, video games and other forms of engagement and entertainment. During these visits young people have expressed their gratitude for having the bus visit the area.

³⁷ <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/youth-services/networks-committees/wyndham-youth-survey-findings-report>

³⁸ For more information about the Code visit: <https://www.yacvic.org.au/training-and-services/code-of-ethical-practice/>

Between June 2022-June 2023, The Street Surfer Bus has reached a total of 3,425 young people aged 12-25. These young people were reached through a wide range of delivery formats have included after-school and afterhours engagement in new and emerging areas of Wyndham, Community Events organised both with internal and external stakeholders, Structured program delivered by the team at youth services & community organisations, school engagement, Community Bookings as well as Community Response / Community Safety Initiatives.

The Street Surfer Bus has collaborated with more than 30 community partners over the year in meeting the diverse need of Wyndham and its Young People, creating access points for further support in specialised area whilst also providing a safe space for our hard-to-reach communities who do not have the means to access mainstream services.

The Street Surfer Bus' Movie Trailer has been an asset in providing outdoor movie nights in areas which are currently covered by the broader youth services team. The Trailer has been utilised a total of six times between September – March with each event attracting between 150 to 200 attendees on average.

Youth Resource Centre refurbishment

Refurbishment of the existing Youth Resource Centre facility will ensure greater access to the hub with upgrades to consulting rooms, commercial kitchen and foyer area. The project which is joint funded by Wyndham City and the Victorian Government includes upgrades to the quiet room, multipurpose room, consulting room, foyer, flooring and lighting. Design spaces will also be co-designed with young Victorians through new furniture, Indigenous artworks and soft furnishings. The space will ensure appropriate spaces for young people to access tailored services and programs, to connect with each other and to be a part of meaningful decision making opportunities and have their voices, lived experiences and solutions heard.

Earning & Learning

Outcome 11. High quality, accessible and diverse secondary and tertiary education and training meets the needs and aspirations of Wyndham's youth. Local employment opportunities are plentiful and diverse, ranging from after-school jobs, to apprenticeships, work experience, and professional full-time employment

Practical ways towards wellness

The Get Psych'd program is a free four-week program for young people – 90-minute workshops are designed to explore ways to look after ourselves and our mental wellbeing. The sessions are designed for two age groups – 12-15 and 16-25 years. The Get Psych'd program is designed to develop self-awareness by identifying individual values and strengths, understanding emotions, emotional triggers, developing individual coping strategies and implementing wellness plans. The Get Psych'd program sessions consist of:

- Identifying Strengths and Values and Building Self Esteem
- Emotions
- Relationships and Communication
- Wellness Planning.

Leadership & Participation

Outcome 12. Youth are valued members of the Wyndham community, and have the opportunities and abilities to shape their future and community. They have opportunities to lead and participate in a range of activities, events and programs locally, and have a strong voice in community engagement and decisions that have an impact on their wellbeing

Wyndham Senior Youth Alliance

The Senior Youth Alliance meets bimonthly. Items discussed are any trending themes and issues for young people and service providers in the Wyndham region as well as opportunities to collaborate on events and other initiatives. Victoria Police is also in attendance of these meetings and provide insights into youth crime in the region and assist in stakeholders' response.

Active Holidays

Wyndham's Active Holidays initiative, launched in 2002, runs for two weeks during school holidays. Working with Wyndham organisations and state sporting bodies, free sessions are offered to four to 18-year-olds to encourage kids to get out and be active during the school holidays and try new activities. All activities are linked into ongoing opportunities available in the Wyndham community.³⁹ In 2022, four programs were run, there were an average of 40 sessions run per holiday with 716 attendances per program.



Delivered the 20th Year Anniversary Youth Festival

On the 21st of April 2023, Youth Services celebrated the 20th year anniversary of Wyndham City's Youth Resource Centre marking a momentous occasion for the young people of Wyndham. The event saw over 3,000 young people and families attend to enjoy a night filled with entertainment

³⁹ <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/whats-on/active-holidays-active-fun-kids>

including rides, food trucks, stall holders and two separate stages highlighting local performances from young people.

Climate Futures Youth Leaders volunteers

Wyndham City, in collaboration with the Climate Futures Youth Leaders volunteers, held a Youth Summit, in April 2023, to empower and educate young people to take action on climate change. The summit, attended by 28 young people, was led by the youth volunteers and brought together like-minded young people to work together on the issue. The summit aimed to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change and provide young people with some practical ways they can engage in the conversation.

The Climate Futures Youth Leaders are a group of young people aged between 16 to 26 advocating for the environment and action on climate change. They provide support in the planning and delivery of environmental and sustainability events, programs, forums and workshops coordinated by Council's Climate and Resilience, Waste and Youth Services teams.⁴⁰

YOUR Library Co-design Project

The YOUR Library Co-design Project has engaged 30 young people (aged 14-19) from the Wyndham community. The project has comprised a review of library services and programs, identification of service gaps, and the use of co-design processes to develop new library offerings that meet young people's needs, interests and priorities.⁴¹

⁴⁰ <https://wyndham.starweekly.com.au/news/youths-look-to-the-future/>

⁴¹ This project has been funded by VicHealth and State Library Victoria.

6.3.4. Adulthood

The Royal Commission into Family Violence, Recommendations 37 and 38, were to establish a state-wide accessible entry point called The Orange Door. The Orange Door in the Western Melbourne area opened in October 2022 at 15-17 Watton Street, Werribee. Council supported The Orange Door to become operational. The Orange Door is an intake service model that offers individuals and families in need of support with an entry point to access the range of services they may require. A person-centred approach is used which supports individuals within families and is inclusive of diversity and complex needs. The model is also concerned with better integration of the broader service system including using strong governance at the state and local levels and engagement in iterative and outcome-focused service improvement.

In addition to the Health Plan, Council has a large number of strategies and plans which are primarily focused on adults. Some recent highlights have included:

- On 28 February 2023, Council adopted the *2023 Wyndham Integrated Transport Strategy* which provides the overall vision for the transport network and is underpinned by the Wyndham 2040 Vision.
- On 29 November 2022, Council adopted the *Wyndham City Economic Development Strategy 2022-2026*. The strategy sets a goal of increasing the status position of 37 percent of resident workers employed within the municipality to 51 percent by 2041.

As part of our commitment to ensuring lifelong learning opportunities for residents, we are collaborating with Wyndham Community and Education Centre (WCEC) to offer a range of courses delivered at Community Learning Centres across Wyndham. This means more opportunities closer to where residents live.

Transitions experienced in adulthood are also reflected in other lifecourse outcomes included in the Lifecourse Framework. For example, the early years outcomes ensure access to services that support the whole family for adults transitioning into parenthood. Outcomes focussed on the transitions older people experience will also be relevant and provide necessary support to adults transitioning into caring roles for the older people in their lives.

Development, implementation and reporting of plans and strategies is now being informed by the Lifecourse Framework, ensuring that the needs of all residents across every stage of life is considered.

6.3.5. Older People

Wyndham City is committed to creating a community in which older people are respected, can actively contribute and participate, and feel safe. Older people in Wyndham will have access to an integrated system of local supports and services that meet their needs and support ageing in place.

Following is a snapshot of cohort-specific and targeted interventions, tailored to the specific needs of the Older People life stage.

Older People service snapshot:

- Community Care – domestic assistance, personal care, respite and social support
- Provision of group services that promote social connection and wellbeing, and respite for carers
- 65+ (50+ Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people) and under 65 (under 50 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people) assessment service
- Provide nutritionally balanced delivered meals to eligible residents to support them to continue to live independently in their home
- Provide transport assistance to eligible residents to funded programs (e.g. group services)
- Provide transport assistance to eligible residents – in groups or individually – to access other community activities and appointments
- Provide access to community bus
- Property maintenance for eligible home modifications
- Provision of service navigation support and connection to local services and community groups via referral and requests for information
- Delivery of the Wyndham Seniors Directory
- Seniors Festival and Seniors Week activities.

In 2021, 38.9% of the population needing assistance were aged 65 years and over	Between 2021 and 2026, there will be a 39.9% increase in population of retirement age ⁴²	In 2021, the proportion of people aged 65 years or more in lone person households was 19.5%
The number of people aged 65 years or more in households in City of Wyndham increased by 5,985 between 2016 and 2021		

⁴² <https://forecast.id.com.au/wyndham/population-age-structure>

People & Community

Outcome 13. Older people are connected to the broader community and enjoy social connections with their peers. Older people and their families have access to the services they need to live healthy and happy lives as they transition into older adulthood.

Continued implementation of the Wyndham City Aged Care Services Statement 2019-2023

This Wyndham City *Aged Care Services Statement 2019-2023* affirms Council's commitment to support the experience of ageing in Wyndham through a holistic approach, and that aged care service provision is part of a national system. Wyndham City is continuously improving service planning and alignment to ensure public value in all service areas, and accountability and efficiency at the service level.

Delivered initiatives to increase social connections and reduce social isolation, an established risk factor for gambling harm

Wyndham City Libraries were part of Libraries After Dark, an initiative to provide welcoming and inclusive spaces for the community to enjoy during the evening. Libraries After Dark is a Victorian Government funded initiative that seeks to increase social connections and reduce social isolation, an established risk factor for gambling harm. The Libraries After Dark program was made available until the end of June 2023.

Additionally, Wyndham City Libraries 'Author Talks' events have included an Author Talk by The Accidental Gambler – Dr Cally Berryman in September 2022. Dr Berryman joined us for a special presentation on her book *The Accidental Gambler*, as well as women's health in general and how women often use gambling to deal with grief, trauma and unresolved issues.

Provide support to older people through Council/volunteer facilitated programs: Lunch With the Bunch and transport programs

Wyndham City's transport program offers eligible residents assistance. Furthermore, the Lunch with the Bunch Program is a social lunch group for older residents in the community. It aims to encourage independence and reduce social isolation. This program provides an opportunity to spend an afternoon at a local venue in a supportive environment.

Family History Groups

Wyndham City has two Family History Groups that meet at our Libraries to support people working on Family Histories.⁴³ Groups are open to all ages, but this topic has strong interest from older people. Many group regulars are older people including an attendee at Manor Lakes group who is 94.⁴⁴

Home Library Service

Wyndham City Libraries offers a free home delivery service to Wyndham residents who are unable to visit the library due to frailty, disability, or illness. Full time carers of people with an illness or disability are also able to use this service.⁴⁵

⁴³ <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/libraries/family-and-local-history>

⁴⁴ Ibid

⁴⁵ <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/libraries/adults/home-library-service>

Support older people and their carers to meet their needs and access services, including eligible residents via the Commonwealth Government's Home Support Program (CHSP) which offers a range of home and community care services

The Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) helps older Australians access entry-level support services to live independently and safely at home. CHSP is a government program that supports older people who are still managing well at home, but want some extra assistance, such as delivered meals or home maintenance.

To be eligible for this program, participants must be aged: 65 years or older (50 years or older for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people), or 50 years or older (45 years or older for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people), on a low income and homeless, or at risk of being homeless.⁴⁶

As a member of the Western Metropolitan Regional Assessment Service, Wyndham City's Assessment Officers undertake holistic assessments to help older people, their carers and families identify supports and services that best meet their needs and access Commonwealth Government funded programs for older people.

Wyndham City also does assessments for people under 65 to access Victorian State Government funded supports and services.

Provide dedicated Community Connectors (Ageing Well) to support older residents to navigate the aged care system and facilitate connections with any support needs they may have

Wyndham has specialised Ageing Well Connects available to support older residents and their families.

Promotion on Council's own channels of the Council on the Ageing's (COTAs) Seniors Information Victoria services which provides free information on issues

Continued to promote via Council's own channels the Council on the Ageing's (COTAs) Seniors Information Victoria service which provides free information on issues including retirement, home-based services, health and wellbeing, pensions and concessions, housing options, technology and more.⁴⁷

⁴⁶ <https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/help-at-home/commonwealth-home-support-programme>

⁴⁷ <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/directory/cota-council-ageing>



Places & Spaces

Outcome 14. Welcoming and safe public spaces provide places for older people to maximise social connections and spend time in their neighbourhoods, natural environments and town centres while feeling included in the wider community. Wyndham is connected and easy to get around, while services are provided in ways and places that make them easy for older people to access.

There are a range of community centres located throughout Wyndham, many of which offer programs and activities for older adults

There are a range of community centres located throughout Wyndham, many of which offer programs and activities for older adults. For example, The Grange Community Centre situated at 260-280 Hogans Road, Hoppers Crossing, holds regular arts, crafts, fitness and social activities for all ages, seniors, and people of all abilities.

Free activities in Libraries

Libraries provide a range of both regular programs, such as Craft and Conversation and English Conversation Café, and one-off events such as creative workshops, community information talks and author talks. Topics covered included Healthy Women's Aging, Financial Literacy support, Local History, Wills and Power of Attorney checks and information and Brain Gym. All Library activities are free and key outcomes include learning and social connection.



TWISTED STICHES

KNITTING, CROCHETING & CRAFT

MONDAY'S 12:30PM - 2:30PM

- Booking is required - Call us or book online via our website
- Tea & Coffee provided

The Grange Community Centre Inc ☎ 8742 8000

200 - 201 Hoppers Road, Hoppers Crossing, VIC 3030 | Email: enquiries@grangecommunity.org.au | www.grangecommunity.org.au



SENIORS HOUSE OF FUN

JOIN US FOR SOME FUN AND NEW FRIENDSHIPS

FRIAY 11:00AM - 12:30PM

- Bookings are required via our website or in person upon arrival
- Games, arts & crafts, sing-a-longs, and so much more
- FREE!

The Grange Community Centre Inc ☎ 8742 8000

200 - 201 Hoppers Road, Hoppers Crossing, VIC 3030 | Email: enquiries@grangecommunity.org.au | www.grangecommunity.org.au



CHAIR FITNESS

CHAIR FITNESS

WEDNESDAY'S 10:00AM - 10:45AM

- A fitness class held on chairs suitable for all ages, seniors, all disabilities and for rehabilitation
- Bookings are required via our website or in person upon arrival
- \$6.00 per class

The Grange Community Centre Inc ☎ 8742 8000

200 - 201 Hoppers Road, Hoppers Crossing, VIC 3030 | Email: enquiries@grangecommunity.org.au | www.grangecommunity.org.au

Continued delivery of the Community Facility Subsidy scheme for Wyndham based groups accessing Council Owned Facilities

Wyndham City provides the Community Facility Subsidy to cover the hire fees for eligible Wyndham-based senior and disability groups accessing Council owned community facilities. This includes hire at council managed community centres and committee-managed community centres (e.g. the externally managed community centres like Iramoo, Wyndham Park etc). It is provided on a calendar year basis (Jan-Dec). In 2023, Wyndham City is supporting 83 groups to access the Community Facility Subsidy. The range of activities that these groups provide include cultural groups, friendship groups, art and craft, sewing, dancing, singing, recreation and fitness, cooking, board games, book club, gardening, support groups and many more.⁴⁸

Promotion and activation of the Central Park Seniors Exercise Park which has been designed specifically for older people, to help improve physical and mental wellbeing

The Central Park Seniors Exercise Park is located at Central Park Community Centre - 80 Lonsdale Circuit, Hoppers Crossing, and has been specifically designed for older adults. It aims to help improve physical and mental wellbeing. The Park features a range of outdoor equipment to help improve your balance, strength, functional movement, joint range of motion and mobility. The facility was built in partnership with the National Ageing Research Institute (NARI) and Wyndham City and funded through Gandel Philanthropy.⁴⁹

Activation of the Exercise Park is currently underway. For example, The Grange Community Centre hosted three free exercise sessions during April 2023.

⁴⁸ <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/community-subsidy-scheme>

⁴⁹ <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/seniorsep>

Get Active this April

The Grange Community Centre is hosting
3 FREE exercise sessions

Where:
Seniors Exercise Park
@ Central Park Community Centre
80 Lonsdale Circuit, Hoppers Crossing

When:
Friday 14th,
Friday 21st &
Friday 28th April.

Time:
9:30am -10.00am



Why is physical activity good for you? As an older adult, regular physical activity is one of the most important things you can do for your health. It can prevent or delay many of the health problems that seem to come with age. It also helps your muscles grow stronger so you can keep doing your day-to-day activities.

The seniors exercise park is specifically designed for older adults. It aims to improve balance, strength, functional movement, joint range of motion and mobility. Exercising outdoors is great for your mental and physical health, it improves mood and self-esteem.

Bookings Essential
Contact Vanessa on 8742 8000
Vanessa.fairchild@grangecommunity.org.au

Earning & Learning

Outcome 15. Older people are supported to remain independent, maintain daily living skills and develop social networks outside of their own environment. A broad range of active ageing activities are available and affordable

Library Information Technology (IT) programs

Wyndham City has introduced various new Information Technology (IT) programs aimed at seniors. For example, six participants attended the 'BeConnected: Can you sport a scam' program in November 2022.

WynSenior program designed for over 60s

WynSenior is a program designed for over 60s, allowing participants to access WynActive facilities and services at a casual, discounted rate or via a WynActive membership. The program includes a Fitness consultation, use of the gyms and speciality Group Fitness classes (both land and water based), tailored for over 60s to increase to increase strength, balance, flexibility and coordination.

Five WynSenior sessions run each week at Aquapulse and four WynSenior sessions at Eagle Stadium.⁵⁰ An average of 14 participants attend each session.

⁵⁰ <https://eaglestadium.wynactive.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2023/02/WYNSENIOR-Timetable-8-January-2023.pdf>

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Wyndham City supported and participated in World Elder Abuse Awareness Day campaign and activities in June 2023.⁵¹ Community awareness raising was done through a social media campaign, posters and digital boards in the libraries.

Leadership & Participation

Outcome 16. Older people are respected members of the Wyndham community and have opportunities to contribute and participate in a range of local activities, programs and events. They have opportunities to participate in decisions that have an impact on their health and wellbeing.

Tackling Ageism

Wyndham City is supporting the EveryAGE Counts campaign to end ageism and join with others in our communities to create a society where every person is valued, connected and respected, regardless of age. EveryAGE Counts is an advocacy campaign aimed at tackling ageism against older Australians. The EveryAGE Counts campaign vision is “a society where every person is valued, connected and respected regardless of age and functional health”.⁵²

Delivery of the Wyndham Seniors Directory

The 2022-24 Seniors Directory was created to list the many and varied activities across Wyndham. The directory is sectioned into suburbs to allow people to quickly find local activities close to where they live or work. The directory is used to promote awareness of the importance of physical fitness, local engagement and social connection with family, friends and community.⁵³

Delivered the Wyndham’s Seniors Festival – in 2022, the Victorian Seniors Festival had its 40th year

The Victorian Seniors Festival is a major state-wide festival for and involving seniors, with an emphasis on support for older Victorians by empowering them to connect, socialise and further their wellbeing. In 2022, the Festival had its 40th year and the theme – Takin’ it easy – focused on presenting accessible and comfortable spaces.⁵⁴ Wyndham City delivered over 30 events which were open to all seniors throughout October 2022.

Council community centres helped to bring the festival to attendees, making it accessible and inclusive. Over 1,700 seniors attended the various offerings. Many seniors have connected more with local community centres as a result. Seniors Festival Grant funding has now been rolled into Wyndham City’s Community Grants Program. Four community groups were funded to deliver Seniors Festival activities. These funded groups saw 170 seniors participate in community-led events.

Service Sector Development

The Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) helps older Australians access entry-level support services to live independently and safely at home. This has included disseminating information to all CHSP Providers to keep them updated with any new reforms and translated into various languages to assist residents whose main language is not English. Training for CHSP Providers

⁵¹ <https://elderabuseawarenessday.org.au/>

⁵² <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/aged-disability/tackling-ageism>

⁵³ <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-11/Seniors%20Directory%2014.11.22.pdf>

⁵⁴ <https://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/victorian-seniors-festival>

has also been organised through the Sector Support and Development (SSD) Connect Alliance group which Wyndham is part of.

Walking Football

Two new Walking Football programs for over 50s were set up in partnership with Manor Lakes Community Centre, Featherbrook Community Centre, Football Victoria and Club 60. These programs run weekly during term-time. The Manor Lakes program has an average of 15 participants per week.

9 Concluding remarks

The evidence, capacity, partnerships and impact Wyndham City delivers will inform personalised, community-based policies, programs and services to benefit all members of the Wyndham community, throughout their lifecycle.

Five focus areas for implementation – Context, Coordination, Capacity, Communication and Consolidation – offer Wyndham City and project partners a guide to thinking about and characterising types of collaborative and shared work within the Wyndham area.

- 1. Context.** Wyndham City's Community Connectors are available to assist all residents in our community in accessing the services they need and empower them to make informed decisions. This includes specialist Ageing Well Connectors available to support older residents and their families and specialist Early Years Connectors to support young families.

Wyndham City is leading in the development of projects and initiatives that are inclusive of all ages and life stages. Community Centres, Libraries and the services that are delivered within them are important parts of our age-friendly approach.



2. **Coordination.** A Joint Management Working Group, with representation from multiple Wyndham City service areas, has been established and is focused on reinforcing and embedding the cultural and practice shift towards a lifecourse approach in Year One (2022-2023).
3. **Capacity.** Wyndham City has instigated service planning with a lifecourse lens to scope the possibilities to support residents as they move through life stages.
4. **Communication.** There is up-to-date information available about services available to support residents of all ages in Wyndham. This information is accessible through the Wyndham Child and Family Services Directory, and the Wyndham Seniors Directory.⁵⁵

In addition, we are celebrating older people as a diverse group, with diverse interests who contribute an enormous amount to our communities, families, organisations, and economy. As perhaps best illustrated by Wyndham City supporting the EveryAGE Counts campaign to end ageism.

5. **Consolidation.** Wyndham City is prioritising efforts due to changes such as:
 - the Victorian State Government’s Best Start, Best Life Kindergarten Reform
 - the development of Wyndham City’s second Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan
 - the commencement of the *Gender Equality Act 2020* on 31 March 2021
 - cost of living challenges
 - associated health equity considerations.

Some key priorities available in the 2023/24 Annual Plan and Budget initiatives are:

- Commence construction works for stage one of the Jamieson Way Community Centre Redevelopment Project in Point Cook which will include an additional kindergarten room, upgrading the maternal and child health facilities and the redevelopment of community spaces
- Redevelop the early years facility at Mossfiel Reserve, Hoppers Crossing in partnership with the Victorian School Building Authority to be operational in an increased capacity by 2024
- Complete construction and works to open the Black Forest Road South Community Centre
- Determine Council’s advocacy and partnership approach to addressing issues faced by at risk young people
- Assess Council's capacity to deliver on the introduction of increased three- and four-year-old kindergarten provision arising out of the State Government's early years reforms
- Coordinate and host a one-day Seniors forum that brings together service providers to show case their services for seniors across all levels of Government.⁵⁶

⁵⁵ For more information about lifecourse initiatives happening visit: www.wyncc.com.au/whats_on

⁵⁶ <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/annual-plan-and-budget-2023-2024>

10 Appendices

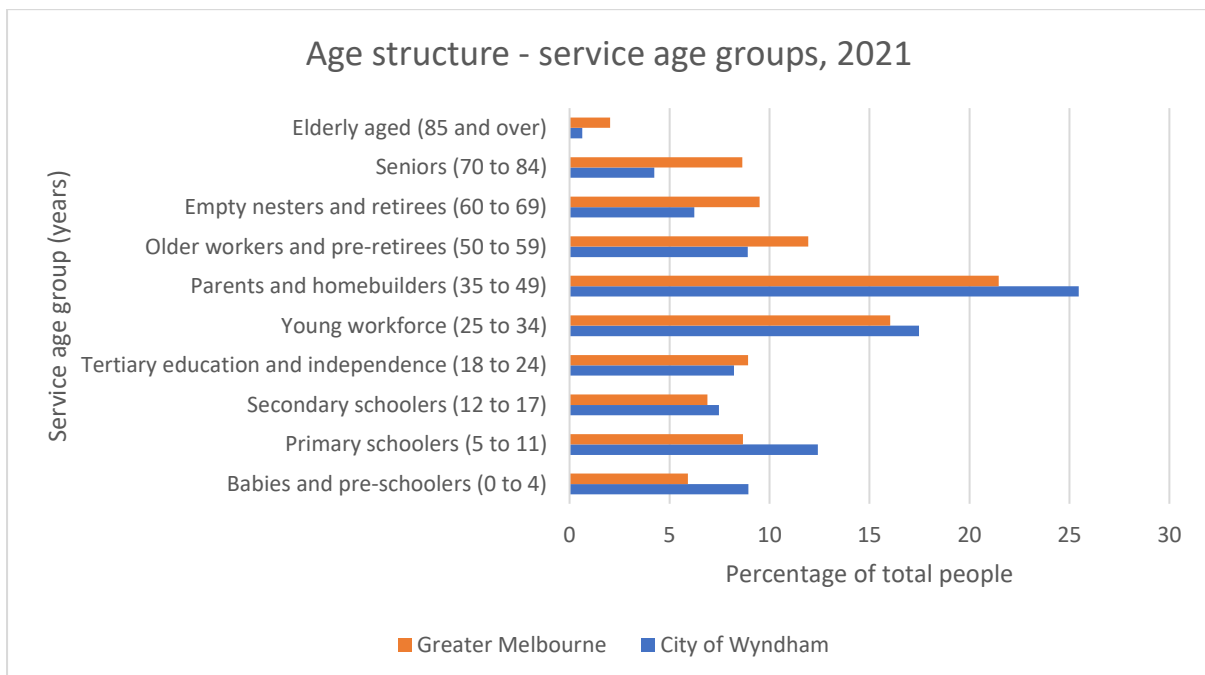
Service age groups

Analysis of the service age groups of City of Wyndham in 2021 compared to Greater Melbourne shows that there was a higher proportion of people in the younger age groups (0 to 17 years) and a lower proportion of people in the older age groups (60+ years). Overall, 28.8% of the population was aged between 0 and 17, and 11.1% were aged 60 years and over, compared with 21.5% and 20.2% respectively for Greater Melbourne. Refer **Figure 1**.

The age structure of City of Wyndham provides key insights into the level of demand for age-based services and facilities such as childcare. It is an indicator of City of Wyndham's residential role and function and how it is likely to change in the future.

Service age groups divide the population into age categories that reflect typical life stages. They indicate the level of demand for services that target people at different stages in life and how that demand is changing.

Figure 1 - Age structure service age groups 2021



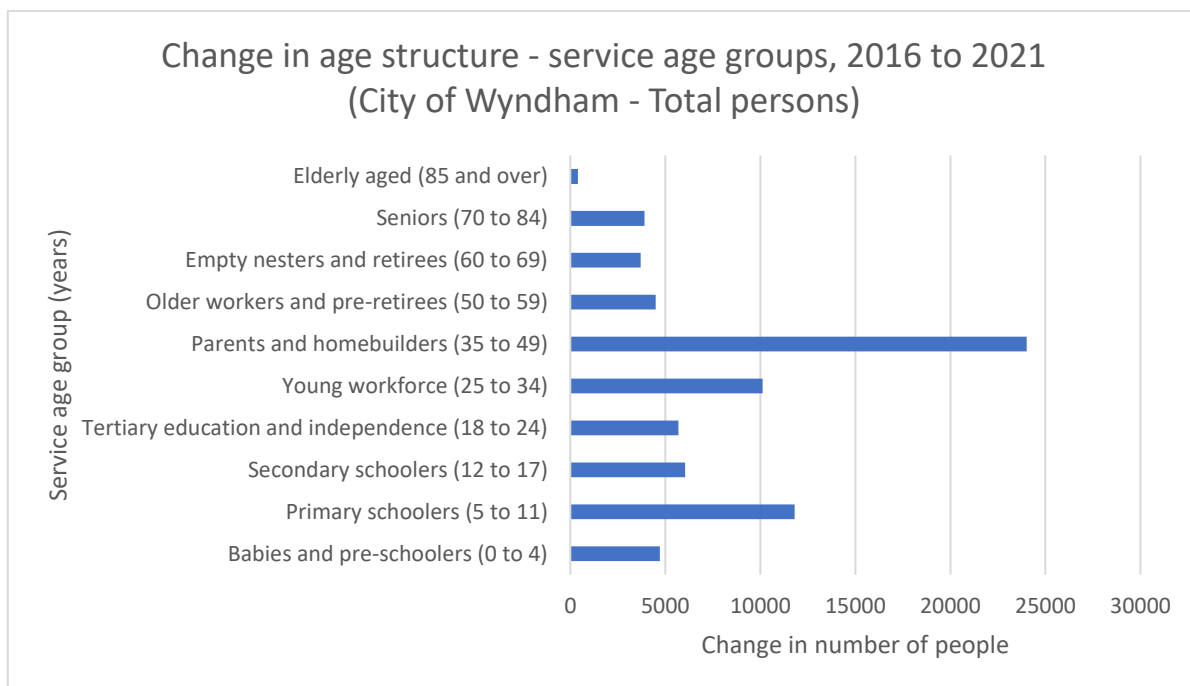
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing, 2021 \(Usual residence data\)](#).

From 2016 to 2021, Wyndham's population increased by 74,892 people (34.5%). This represents an average annual population change of 6.11% per year over the period. Refer **Figure 2**.

The largest changes in the age structure in this area between 2016 and 2021 were in the age groups:

- Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49) (+24,020 people)
- Primary schoolers (5 to 11) (+11,809 people)
- Young workforce (25 to 34) (+10,125 people)
- Secondary schoolers (12 to 17) (+6,041 people)

Figure 2 - Change in age structure service age groups 2016-2021

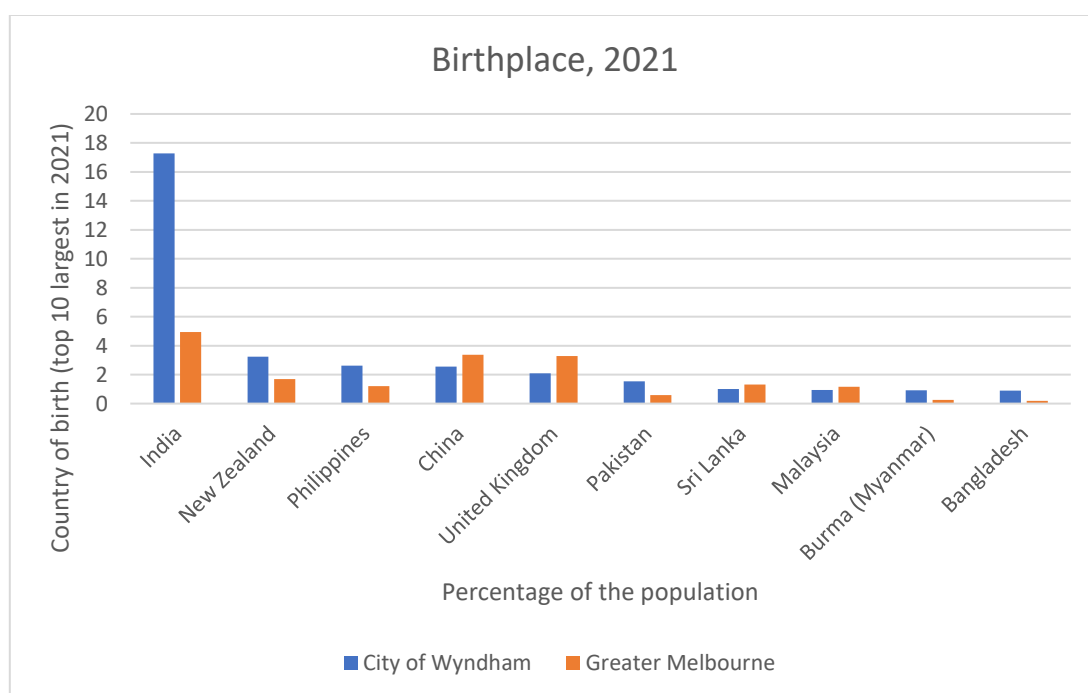


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing, 2016 and 2021 \(Usual residence data\)](#).

Birthplace

In 2021, 48.0% of residents were born overseas, compared with 35.7% in Greater Melbourne. The largest non-English speaking country of birth in City of Wyndham was India, where 17.3% of the population, or 50,435 people, were born. Refer **Figure 3**.

Figure 3 - Birthplace 2021

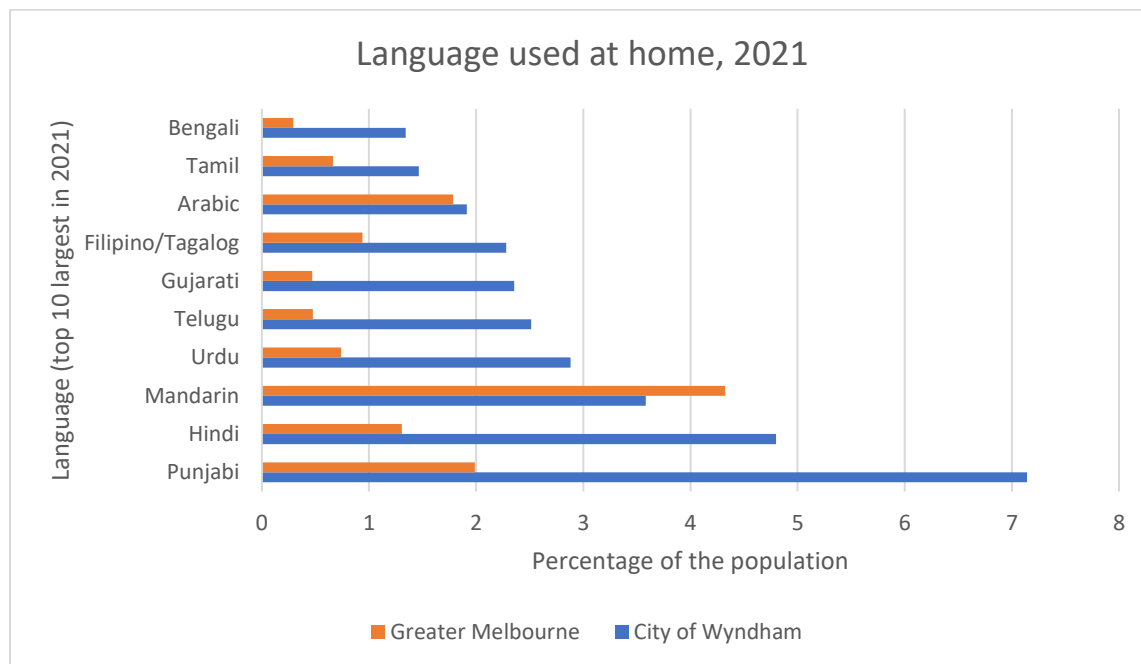


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing, 2021 \(Usual residence data\)](#).

Language used at home

In 2021, overall, 44.0% of the population in City of Wyndham used English only, and 49.8% used a non-English language, compared with 61.1% and 34.1% respectively for Greater Melbourne. The dominant language used at home, other than English, in City of Wyndham was Punjabi, with 7.1% of the population, or 20,853 people using this language at home. Refer **Figure 4**.

Figure 4 - Language used at home 2021



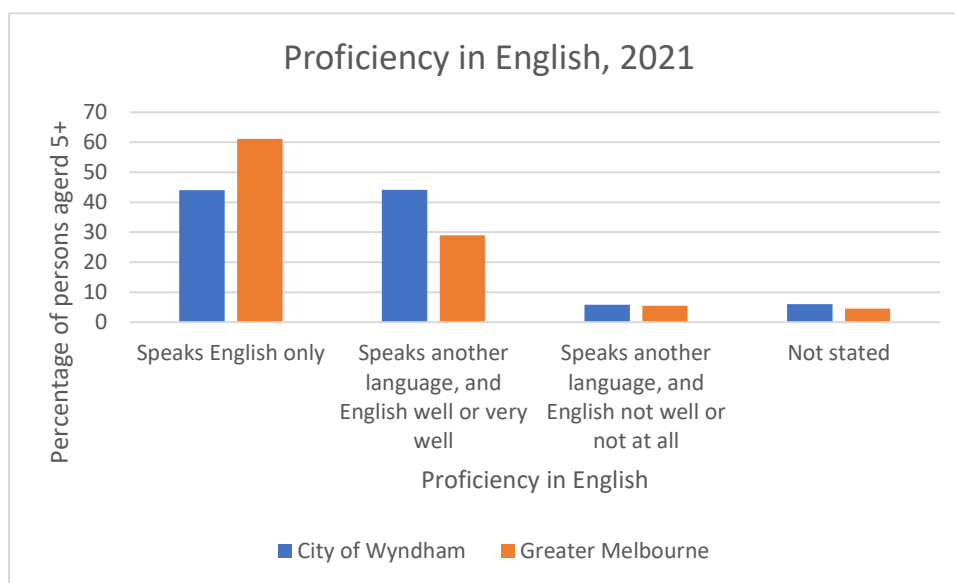
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing, 2021 \(Usual residence data\)](#).

Proficiency in English

In the City of Wyndham in 2021, 16,883 people who spoke a language other than English at home reported difficulty speaking English. Overall, 44.0% of people spoke English only, and 5.8% spoke another language and English not well or not at all, compared with 61.1% and 5.4% respectively for Greater Melbourne. Refer **Figure 5**.

Proficiency in English measures the self-assessed proficiency in spoken English of people who speak a language other than English at home. This data helps service providers determine whether they need to communicate with the local population in languages other than English.

Figure 5 - Proficiency in English 2021



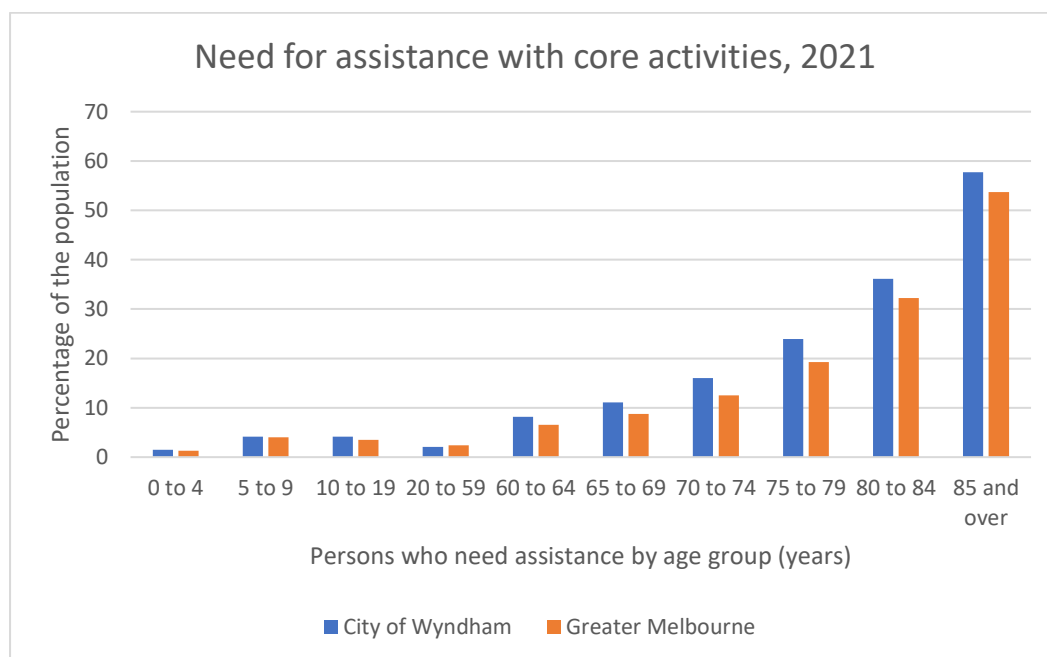
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing, 2021 \(Usual residence data\)](#).

Need for assistance

In 2021, 12,089 people (or 4.1% of the population) in City of Wyndham reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability compared to 5.5% in Greater Melbourne. Refer **Figure 6**.

City of Wyndham's disability statistics relate directly to need for assistance due to a severe or profound disability. The information may be used in the planning of local facilities, services such as day-care and occasional care and in the provision of information and support to carers. City of Wyndham's disability statistics help in understanding the prevalence of people who need support in the community, and along with information on unpaid care to a person with a disability, how that support is provided.⁵⁷

Figure 6 - Need for assistance with core activities 2021



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing, 2021 \(Usual residence data\)](#).

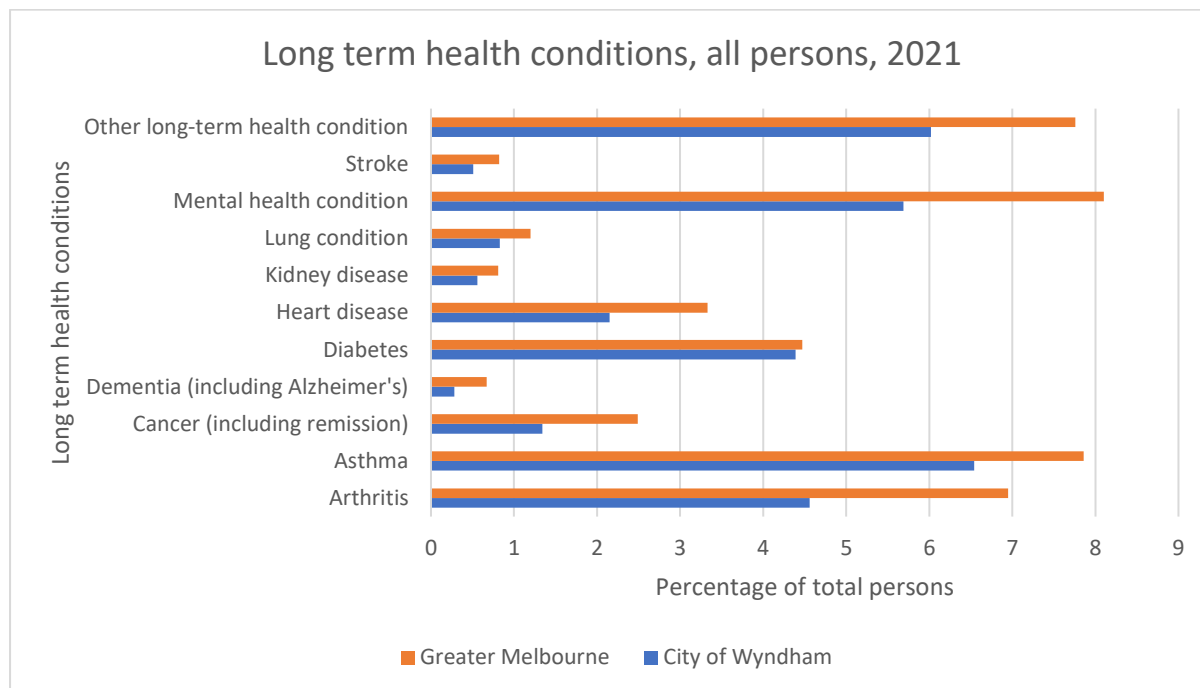
⁵⁷ Please note: A person's reported need for assistance is based on a subjective assessment and should therefore be treated with caution.

Long term health conditions

Analysis of the long term health conditions of City of Wyndham in 2021 compared to Greater Melbourne shows that there was a lower proportion of people with a long-term health condition 22.4% compared to 29.5% in Greater Melbourne⁵⁸. Refer **Figure 7**.

The 2021 Census looked for the first time at the level of incidence of selected long term health conditions in the community. The Census question asked respondents if they have been diagnosed with a specific condition (or other condition) from a list of ten conditions plus "other".

Figure 7 - Long term health conditions, all persons 2021



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing, 2021 \(Usual residence data\)](#).

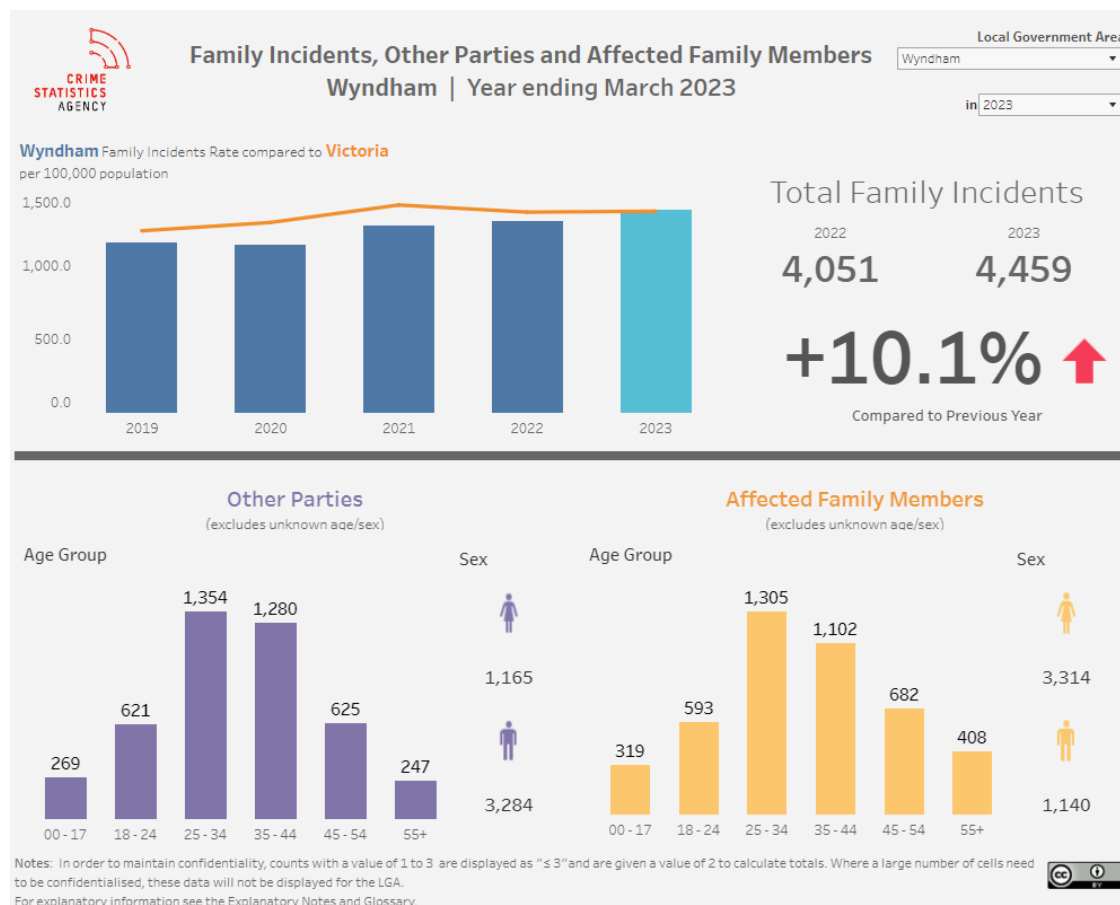
⁵⁸ <https://profile.id.com.au/wyndham/long-term-health>

Family violence

Family violence continues to be a major health and safety issue for Wyndham, representing a significant concern and priority for our community. Effectively addressing this issue at a local level requires partnerships and collaboration.

The state’s Crime Statistics Agency has released crime data for the year ending March 2023 and unfortunately family violence-related offences continued to increase. **Figure 8** shows family incidents increased 10.1% in Wyndham during 2023 compared to the previous year⁵⁹. A family incident is an incident attended by Victoria Police where a Victoria Police Risk Assessment and Risk Management Report (also known as an L17 form) was completed and recorded on Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP). An ‘affected family member’ is the individual who is deemed to be affected by events occurring during a family incident. The other individual involved in a family incident is referred to as the ‘other party’. The other party could be a current partner, former partner or a family member⁶⁰. **Table 1 & 2** show the gender disaggregated data across the subject cohort-specific demographics.

Figure 8 - Family Incidents, other parties and affected family members, Wyndham Year ending March 2023



Source: Crime Statistics Agency, [Latest Crime Data by Area](#), Released at 09:00AM (AEST) 15 June 2023 – downloaded (20 June 2023).

⁵⁹ <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics/latest-crime-data-by-area>

⁶⁰ <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/index.php/crime-statistics/latest-victorian-crime-data/family-incidents-2>

Table 1 - Number of affected family members (AFM) in Wyndham by select age groups and sex. April 2018 - March 2023

AFM Age Group	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019		Apr 2019 - Mar 2020		Apr 2020 - Mar 2021		Apr 2021 - Mar 2022		Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
00-11 years	28	26	34	42	38	36	33	51	48	39
12-24 years	122	452	109	491	156	583	148	598	202	622
25-64 years	494	1,938	510	1,956	613	2,181	568	2,446	814	2,526
65 years and over	26	59	32	91	46	80	41	106	68	84

¹ Excludes unknown age

² Excludes unknown sex.

Source: Crime Statistics Agency, custom data request for the year ending March 2023 data released at 09:00AM (AEST) 15 June 2023.

Table 2 - Number of other parties (OTP) in Wyndham by select age groups and sex. April 2018 - March 2023

OTH Age Group	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019		Apr 2019 - Mar 2020		Apr 2020 - Mar 2021		Apr 2021 - Mar 2022		Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
00-11 years	4	≤ 3	5	≤ 3	7	≤ 3	13	≤ 3	10	10
12-24 years	450	144	410	154	513	214	538	257	551	319
25-64 years	1,997	508	2,129	515	2,366	591	2,492	647	2,636	808
65 years and over	37	7	38	5	37	13	45	16	46	13

¹ Excludes unknown age

² Excludes unknown sex.

Source: Crime Statistics Agency, custom data request for the year ending March 2023 data released at 09:00AM (AEST) 15 June 2023.