



June 2024

# Review Report. Wyndham Health Plan 2021-2025





## Acknowledgement of Country

Wyndham City Council recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first Peoples of Australia. We acknowledge Bunurong and Wadawurrung<sup>1</sup> 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.

The Bunurong and Wadawurrung Peoples are the First Custodians of the lands, waters, seas and skies, and developers of ecological communities on these basalt plains around the Werribee Yalook.

We pay respect to their Ancestors and Elders who always have, and always will, care for Country and community today and for future generations. We acknowledge any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live in this tradition and call us to shared responsibility.

In the spirit of reconciliation, we understand the need to build strong connection between local First Peoples and local government that enables life in this place to flourish together. May our words and actions lead us to respect Country, learn from Elders and practice creative wisdom for future generations.





*75 years of improving public health, World Health Day 2023*

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# Wyndham Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2024 Review

## Executive Summary

Victorian local governments are required to prepare a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (the Health Plan) in accordance with the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (Vic) (sections 26 and 27), every four years. This is a requirement within the period of 12 months after each general election of the Council and is usually developed alongside the Council Plan.<sup>1</sup>

Council's role is to protect, improve and promote the residents' health to ensure everyone is provided with an environment in which they can achieve the best possible personal health and wellbeing. Councils have the option of including public health and wellbeing matters within the Council Plan or preparing a stand-alone Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (Health Plan).

In 2021, the Wyndham Health Plan was prepared as a stand-alone plan. Regardless, whether the final health plan is integrated or not, it must be consistent with the Council Plan. It must specify how Council will work in partnership with the Department of Health and other agencies undertaking public health initiatives, projects and programs to accomplish the goals and strategies identified in the public health and wellbeing plan. The 2021-2025 Health Plan did this successfully by leveraging internal working partnerships as well as engaging regularly in initiatives with external health sector, non-government organisations and academic partners.

### **Plan based on outcomes**

Following the lead of the State Government's Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and in line with state government public policy formulation, the Wyndham Health Plan was based on outcomes rather than a prescriptive action plan. We developed a Health Plan that ensured a cooperative approach with health and community sector agencies in Wyndham working together towards clear outcomes.

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<sup>1</sup> *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) (s.90).  
Wyndham City

In reviewing the Wyndham Health Plan this report provides a snapshot of how the Wyndham community is doing in respect to the outcomes which reflect the public health and wellbeing priorities identified in the plan.

## Wyndham Health Plan Priorities

The Wyndham Health Plan 2021-2025 was structured around four domains, with eight priorities and 15 outcomes. The outcomes enable a flexibility that can be lost in an action plan. They help to guide and link work both across Council and with our many sector partners, together working towards achieving the same outcomes. This approach also increases our ability to track, monitor, and report change over the life of the Health Plan. It assists in planning services and programs, guiding investment and informing strategic direction. Outcomes ensure that we are all heading in the same direction, through a shared vision and direction for change.

DOMAINS	PRIORITIES	OUTCOMES
<b>THRIVING</b>	<b>Opportunity, equity &amp; inclusion</b>	1. We have equal opportunity to contribute to our community including through strong employment opportunities
		2. We can access formal or informal learning Opportunities
	<b>Mental Wellbeing</b>	3. We are a cohesive and inclusive society socially connected and able to ask for help when we need it
	<b>Gender Equality</b>	4. We enjoy formal and substantive equality
<b>LIVEABLE</b>	<b>Accessible Services</b>	5. We can access safe and culturally appropriate services
		6. We are a resilient community and adapt to changing conditions
	<b>Climate change health impacts</b>	7. We are a zero carbon community consuming locally and responsibly
	<b>Housing &amp; Built Environment</b>	8. We can meet our housing needs
		9. We enjoy our neighbourhoods
<b>SAFE</b>	<b>Community Safety</b>	10. Our neighbourhoods are safe and inclusive
		11. Local spaces are age-friendly and promote independence
		12. We are safe at home
<b>HEALTHY</b>	<b>Healthy Living</b>	13. We can make healthy food choices and have food security
		14. We can access open space and participate in recreational opportunities
		15. We support smokers and e-cigarette users who want to quit

## Review Summary

This review of the Health Plan covers the years of the pandemic, 2021/22, when Council found new and innovative ways to continue with service provision during lockdowns. As COVID-19 vaccines became available services were gradually able to resume and pick up pace. In recovery Victoria was dealing with a relatively slow start to finally being able to resume more normal operations.

The learnings of the pandemic were taken forward and, in many aspects, improved the services and programs that Council was able to offer. The Community Connectors program for example, began in January 2021 to assist residents during lockdowns with information and support. In 2024, Council increased its investment in the program as part of an overall push to support and advocate for the aged care community in Wyndham.

Assessment of overall health status within the municipal population identified opportunities for improvement in mortality, chronic disease prevalence, and modifiable risk factors. Risk factors and chronic disease outcomes are socio-economically patterned; the most disadvantaged frequently experience worse health outcomes and at much higher rates than their more advantaged counterparts.<sup>2</sup>

Addressing modifiable risk factors as early as possible provides the best value for primary prevention efforts, starting with young children and families, to maximise potential long-term health benefits, reduce health disparities, and promote cost-effective strategies to prevent chronic diseases. Equitable access to resources and opportunities can contribute to healthier and more resilient communities. The high number of births and young families in Wyndham offers an opportunity to reach families at a critical life stage where modifiable risk factors such as healthy eating and physical activity are established and then impact on lifestyle patterns across the lifecourse.<sup>3</sup>

Health equity was important in driving the Health Plan 2021-2025, to ensure that the Wyndham community is able to thrive in socially just and ecologically sustainable ways living within our ecological boundaries. The success of work in the areas of climate change health impacts, and healthy eating and food systems is evidence of Council's commitment to the health equity principle.

## Review highlights

Priority	
<b>Equity &amp; inclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcoming record numbers of new residents and citizens to Wyndham</li> <li>Wyndham Accessibility and Inclusion Plan 2023-2025 adopted</li> </ul>
<b>Continuous learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learning Community Strategy 2024-2029 adopted</li> <li>Increased and increasing 3- and 4-year kindergarten enrolments</li> <li>Supporting labour participation Council facilitated 353 new small business start-up enquiries and permits (+20%. Q3 2024).</li> </ul>
<b>Mental wellbeing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early Years' Community Connector service supporting family wellbeing</li> <li>Average levels of psychological distress for younger people aged 18–24 was higher in 2020 to April 2022 than pre-pandemic levels.</li> <li>Youth counselling service introduced in 2022 and expanded.</li> <li>Satisfaction with Council's ability to empower people to lead and form social connections increased significantly in 2024 (up 11%).</li> </ul>
<b>Gender equity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2023, Wyndham City ran a range of sports programs to support gender equality.</li> <li>Availability of childcare increased across the municipality in 2024, critical to facilitate women's participation in the paid workforce.</li> </ul>
<b>Accessible services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2024, satisfaction with how well Council provides the services that people need increased measurably, up eight percent.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> (Western Health, 2023)

<sup>3</sup> (Western Health, 2023)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Satisfaction with Council assistance to get the support services households need also increased measurably, up nine percent.</li> <li>♦ Satisfaction with maternal and child health services increased by seven percent in 2024, which was an “excellent” level of satisfaction.</li> <li>♦ High satisfaction with the provision of youth services, six percent increase in 2024.</li> <li>♦ Childhood vaccination rates for Wyndham were and remain higher than those in the North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network area (2022-2024).</li> </ul>
<b>Housing &amp; built environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Wyndham City Affordable Housing Strategy 2022-2025 adopted.</li> <li>♦ The Wyndham Plan adopted in 2023.</li> </ul>
<b>Community safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Safe Spaces, Understanding and enhancing safety and inclusion for diverse women, a collaborative project with Melton and Monash City Councils, Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety and Sydney, Griffith and Monash Universities in 2023-24.</li> </ul>
<b>Healthy living</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Advertising of unhealthy food is restricted in Wyndham under the Wyndham Planning Scheme. When compared to Merri-bek and Hobsons Bay, Wyndham had a lesser number of advertisements at bus stops and around public transport hubs.</li> </ul>

## Partnerships highlights

Partnership	Details
<b>GenWest</b>	Action for Equity 2024-2030, a regional sexual and reproductive health strategy produced by GenWest as the lead agency. Wyndham was a partner council in collaboration with other local, state and federal government and health sector partners.
<b>Health Plan Advisory Committee 2021-2025</b>	A broad cross-section of community health providers, government and non-government organisations sit on this committee, meeting regularly throughout the year to drive the work of the Health Plan.
<b>Jesuit Social Services (JSS), Centre for Just Places 2022-2024</b>	Mobilising Climate Just and Resilient Communities in Melbourne's West 2023-2024. Wyndham City partnered together with Hobson's Bay, Melton, Brimbank and Maribyrnong City Councils in this capacity building project which supported the Health Plan principle of health equity. Phase one of the project produced a framework for collaborative action and learning on climate justice.
<b>Safe Spaces, Understanding and enhancing safety and inclusion for diverse women, 2023-2024</b>	This project responded to safety issues faced within Wyndham, Melton and Monash City Councils. The project demonstrated that safety and inclusion are intertwined, and produced three toolkits with general principles for engaging diverse groups of women, and outlining practices in collecting useful data about women's experiences in public places.
<b>Sustain - the Australian Food Network</b>	From July 2022 to August 2023, Sustain undertook a project with Wyndham City to demonstrate food system capacity building within local government, developing an action-learning model to enhance local government capacity to embed food systems thinking and practice across council and tackle related issues that compromise community wellbeing and ecological sustainability.

<b>Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA)</b>	In 2023-24 Wyndham City is lead member of the Alliance, together with Melton, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Brimbank, Hobsons Bay and Moorabool shire council.
<b>Western Public Health Unit (WPHU)</b>	Wyndham City is represented on the WPHU Population and Preventive Health Reference Committee (PPHRC), attending regular meetings. The PPHRC is leading work in the west around climate change health impacts (Liveable Wyndham) and healthy eating and prevention on vaping (Healthy Living).





# Introduction

## Co-creation and Innovation

The Wyndham Health Plan (2021-2025) was developed during the pandemic. Therefore, much of the plan included consideration of the public health emergency context, looking towards pandemic recovery. Public health came to the fore during the COVID-19 pandemic with measures implemented under emergency conditions to protect the wider community prior to the introduction of vaccines. Under the health crisis we became more accustomed to public health and social measures (PHSM) including non-pharmaceutical interventions such as social distancing to protect the health and well-being of the broader community.<sup>4</sup>

During the lifecycle of the Health Plan, we used multidisciplinary teams to combine a diverse range of expertise to guide progress towards the plan's outcomes including through the external Health Plan Advisory Committee with representation from a variety of community health and non-government organisations. Our internal stakeholder group included Officers from across Council. A pandemic legacy has been innovations developed through this type of multisectoral collaboration and multilevel coordination. These are important learnings to take forward into the next Wyndham Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

## Health Plan Priorities

In the first year of the Health Plan ongoing pandemic impacts, mental health, access to health care and health equity emerged as public health priorities. In April 2024, Council held a forum to bring together our organisational and community health sector partners to reflect on works accomplished and still to be achieved. Health Forum objectives were to:

- reflect on achievements at the mid-point of the Plan
- consider Health Plan 'outcomes' and identify outstanding priorities
- identify current actions working towards 'outcomes'
- think ahead to the next Health Plan (2025-2029)

The Table below illustrates the priorities in the first two years of the Health Plan and those that emerged in discussions with our sector partners at the Health Forum in March 2024.

Health Plan Priorities		
2021-2022	2022-2023	2024-2025
Priorities as the health crisis eased. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chronic Conditions</li><li>• Mental Health</li><li>• Physical Health</li><li>• Dental Health</li></ul>	Services began to open up once more. Face-to-face services gradually phased in. Wait lists following lockdowns was an issue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On-going priorities:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ accessibility</li><li>♦ mental wellbeing</li></ul></li></ul>	Health Forum emerging issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accessible services</li><li>• Joined-up service provision/coordination</li><li>• Social isolation</li><li>• Social connection/ connected community</li><li>• Mobile/outreach services</li><li>• Hearing the 'felt need' and the 'hidden voice'.</li></ul>

<sup>4</sup> (World Health Organization, 2024)  
Wyndham City

## Public Health

Local government plays an important role in the health system. Council provides a range of environmental and public health services, and community-based health care services. Practising public health is the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organised efforts of society.<sup>5</sup> Informed opinion and active co-operation on the part of the community are vitally important to improve people's health and wellbeing.

Council's public health initiatives are aimed at promoting and protecting the health of everyone in our community. The broader health sector treats people when they are sick. Public health initiatives work to prevent people from getting sick or injured in the first place by focusing on the municipal population as a whole.

## Health Promotion

Health promotion enables people to increase control over their own health. It covers a wide range of social and environmental interventions that are designed to benefit and protect individual people's health and quality of life by addressing and preventing the root causes of ill health, not just focusing on treatment and cure. Health promotion has three key elements.

1. **Good governance for health** requires that policy makers make health a central line of government policy, factoring health implications into decision making, and prioritising policies that prevent people becoming ill and protect them from injuries.
2. **Health literacy** means providing **people** with the information they need to make healthy choices, such as the food they eat and healthcare services that they need. They also need to be assured of an environment in which people can demand further policy actions to further improve their health.
3. **Healthy cities** play a key role in promoting good health. Strong leadership and commitment at the municipal level is essential to healthy urban planning and to build up preventive measures in communities and primary health care facilities.<sup>6</sup>

## Community Satisfaction

A key finding of the 2023-2024 survey was that satisfaction with the performance of Wyndham City Council increased measurably and significantly. The increase was broad based, across the full range of Council activities. Residents' satisfaction with core measures of governance and leadership increased significantly by an average of 10 percent. This included the responsiveness and agility of Council in:

- meeting community needs (up 9%)
- making decisions in the interests of the community (up 8%)
- keeping community informed about its work, services, activities, and programs increased significantly (+9%)<sup>7</sup>

The 2023-2024 survey included measures of the importance to the community and satisfaction with 46 Council provided services and facilities. Some services were measurably more important than the average including public health services.

Survey analysis drew attention to a range of issues associated with population growth and accompanying increased demand for infrastructure, services, and facilities to support a growing population. These issues are clear in Wyndham City's results, with issues including the provision and maintenance of infrastructure,

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<sup>5</sup> (Faculty of Public Health, 2024)

<sup>6</sup> (World Health Organization, 2016)

<sup>7</sup> (Metropolis Research Pty Ltd, 2024)

health and medical services including hospitals, education and schools, and population growth more generally, all nominated by a small number of respondents.<sup>8</sup>

The best performing areas of Council are library services, the community support services (particularly children's and youth), community centres and facilities, sports, recreation and cultural services and facilities.

## About this report

This Review Report uses a variety of available data sources including Council's own reporting to monitor progress towards Health Plan outcomes. The data show that we reconnected well as a community post-pandemic, engaging with services, taking on learning opportunities and enjoying sporting and recreational occasions. Some survey evidence also shows improvements to our overall mental health and wellbeing.

The challenge with measurement, especially when measuring the value of government policies and programs, is whether we can be sure that a program or policy has made a difference to people's lives.<sup>9</sup>

The Health Plan has four domains – Thriving, Liveable, Safe, Healthy. This report is broken into sections that match the domains, outcomes and indicators associated with the priorities.



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<sup>8</sup> (Metropolis Research Pty Ltd, 2024)

<sup>9</sup> (Kalisch, 2016)



# Thriving Wyndham

Wellbeing is the idea that we can judge a society by how much the people are thriving. Our wellbeing is heavily influenced by where we live. Environmental aspects that impact wellbeing include employment, mental wellbeing, isolation and loneliness. Social exclusion and discrimination are damaging to the functioning of our community.

## Opportunity, Equity and Inclusion

### Outcome 1. We have equal opportunity to contribute to our community including through strong employment opportunities

Indicators	<b>Social inclusion</b> Improved sense of personal wellbeing <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sense of belonging in Wyndham</li><li>• Recognising First Nations as cultural custodians of our land, and Indigenous culture as foundational to our identity in Wyndham</li><li>• Respect and inclusion for diversity - lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, and asexual (LGBTIQA+)</li><li>• Valuing our carers, people living with disability, multicultural communities cultural, linguistic and faith diversity, and working in harmony with our community leaders</li></ul> <b>Connected Community</b> Building strong social networks <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Connecting newcomers and established residents</li><li>• Valuing our volunteers and seniors</li><li>• Supporting greater engagement with community-based networks</li><li>• Encouraging participation in arts and cultural activities</li><li>• Facilitating participation in government decision-making processes</li></ul>
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## Social Inclusion

### Sense of Belonging in Wyndham

Wyndham welcomes new residents on a regular basis, including migrants from a variety of visa classes including high levels of skilled migrants, family and humanitarian visas. Family visas help people to bridge social connection in a new community when families are reunified. Many people moved to Wyndham from elsewhere in Australia (38.3%) compared with the Australian average (35.3%).

11.4 percent of Wyndham's new residents arrived from overseas, compared with the Australian average of 5.4 percent. New residents arrived on the following visa classes in the ten years between January 2013 and December 2022.

- Humanitarian Entrant 4,398
- Family Reunion 16,427
- Skilled Migrant 51,566

### New Citizens

Wyndham, together with many other councils was unable to host citizenship ceremonies during the pandemic. In 2023, there were 5,000 residents on the waiting list with 900 more added each month. Council held 40 citizenship ceremonies, conferring citizenship on 12,020 citizens. New citizens were from around 40 different countries. In quarter 3, 2024 Council performed 11 Citizen ceremonies, conferring 1,700 citizens, signifying a welcome return to more regular sized ceremonies.

### Recognising First Nations

The area on which Wyndham stands has a rich and diverse Aboriginal history, inhabited by the Bunurong and Wadawurrung People who also belong to the Kulin Nation. There are five different language groups in the Kulin Nation that are particular to the region.

Adopted in 2023, Wyndham City's second Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2023-25 was developed in consultation with the Wyndham Reconciliation Advisory Committee. The plan seeks to strengthen and continue Council's role in facilitating a whole of community approach to reconciliation. Wyndham City established a First Nations unit to lead Council's approach to First Nations self-determination, inclusion, equity, safety and reconciliation. The Unit embeds a whole of Council approach to reconciliation in Wyndham, supporting a shared vision, understanding and ownership of actions through Council's RAP.

## Connecting and Valuing Residents

### Wyndham Accessibility and Inclusion Plan 2023-2025

This Plan aims to remove and reduce barriers and facilitate full community participation for people living with a disability and their carers. A primary Plan objective is to build confidence by facilitating equitable engagement and participation for people with disability in our community. Highlights include:

- In 2022 and 2023 Council ran two sessions of Disability Confidence Training, including a guest speaker with lived experience. Topics included understanding inclusion, exploring enabling environments, and tips on inclusion and accessibility.
- Activation of a sensory space at the newly renovated Youth Services in Hoppers Crossing.
- Consultant engaged to undertake an accessibility (universal design) audit of Council's major events.
- *Sport 4 All* Wyndham continued work providing clubs and schools with support and skills to include people with a disability when, where and how they choose. In the third quarter of 2024, two clubs and three schools joined the program. *Sport 4 All* training was completed by 21 schools staff and 17 sports club in 2024.
- Council officers completed training on 'Insights into Easy English' communication, giving staff the opportunity to learn a range of accessible formats for people with low literacy, and how Easy English helps to connect with hard-to-reach audiences.



In 2024 resident's satisfaction with the provision of activities that are accessible to and inclusive of all members of the community increased notably up by four percent to 7.2 out of 10. Residents in Point Cook and Laverton North/Williams Landing rated satisfaction at "very good".<sup>10</sup>

## Connected Community

### Wyndham Libraries

Wyndham Libraries provide equity of access to membership, borrowing, activities and computers which are free. During the pandemic Wyndham Libraries continued to provide a click and collect service, online programs and events and a Home Library Service for housebound residents. Library programs promote social connection.

In 2024, customer satisfaction with Wyndham Library services was of significantly higher than average importance and was ranked fifth in terms of satisfaction.<sup>11</sup> In quarter 3, 2024, patrons paid 211,764 visits to Wyndham Libraries (+10%).

In 2023-24, Libraries delivered a record number of programs and events to multiple locations, including community centres and festivals via the Pop Up Library Van. This service reaches residents unable to come into a physical library because of distance or lack of transport. Below are the statistics for Library Programs and events for the year 2023/24.

Program type	Programs	Total attendees
Literacy and lifelong learning	2,687	83,036
Digital inclusion	1,493	31, 355
Economic and workforce development	280	298
Stronger and creative communities	141	1,570
Informed and connected citizens	130	2,805
Total	5,219	120,244

Table 1. Wyndham Library programs 2024.

### Supporting greater engagement

Civic engagement can include being actively engaged in public decision-making, volunteering and being invested in the place in which you live.<sup>12</sup> 'The Loop' is Council's online civic engagement tool. In 2023, 9,299 residents signed up as Loop members to engage in Council's community engagement initiatives, an increase of 27 percent from the previous year. In the third quarter of 2024, Council:

- delivered 11,198 group service hours and 7,751 meals to residents
- connected 429 residents to local services and supports, including food relief, financial aid and specialised homelessness services
- held 155 Social Support group programs and events with 1,657 attendees
- 52 transports to support residents to health appointments (144 hours)

<sup>10</sup> (Metropolis Research Pty Ltd, 2024)

<sup>11</sup> (Metropolis Research Pty Ltd, 2024)

<sup>12</sup> (Salinsky, 2022)



- provided seven carers with support
- connected 347 residents (51 x over 65 and 296 x under 65) with local services and supports

## Valuing Volunteers

Participating in volunteering can increase personal wellbeing, relieve stress and alleviate symptoms of depression.<sup>14</sup> While volunteering levels dropped during the pandemic (2021/22), they have since increased. In 2023 Council hosted events to kickstart volunteering including 'Step Into Volunteering' information sessions, with sessions focused on particular cohorts, such as Volunteering as a Pathway to Employment and Volunteering in Retirement.

EVENT	NO. OF ATTENDEES
<b>Wyndham Volunteer Expo</b>	450 attendees from the local community 55 volunteer-involving organisations 134 new volunteers recruited
<b>Building Blocks Community leadership programs</b>	24 community members engaged in the program 60 hours of participation
<b>Online volunteer supervisor training sessions and network meetings</b>	71 attendees across six sessions
<b>Community grants information and grant writing sessions</b>	105 community members attended across the sessions
<b>Wyndham's grant finder portal, Grants Guru</b>	Portal attracted 285 registered users with 7,695 total page view/visitor clicks over the course of the year

Table 2 Volunteering Data, selected programs City of Wyndham.

## Arts and cultural activities

Council delivered numerous free inclusive events. Some highlights include:

- **Seniors Expo**, 2023. Council brought together over 50 service providers to show case services for seniors across all levels of Governments, designed to help older residents age well with a range of stalls and information sessions on aged care reform and carer gateway programs.
- **Park Lounge**: as part of Melbourne's annual Midsumma Festival, an annual celebration of LGBTQIA+ arts and cultures. Participation in the annual event has grown steadily with an average of 500 attendees in 2019-2021, and over 800 in 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.
- **Winter Street Party**, June 2024. Watton Street transformed into a winter wonderland with three zones of live entertainment and wintry fun including fire twirlers, street performers, interactive art installations, marshmallow toasting, silent disco, market stalls, kids' activities and more for all ages.
- **Naidoc Week**, July 2024. Celebrating the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Wyndham's celebrations began with a flag raising ceremony at the Wyndham Civic Centre.
- **WYNTalk**, June 2024. Cultural Yarn with Uncle Charles Pakana, a Journey to Reconciliation: Finding Our Voice. Uncle Charles is the second of three generations of Aboriginal journalists, bringing passion and commitment to truth and positivity at Point Cook Library.

<sup>13</sup> Photo by Damjan Janevski, courtesy Star Weekly.

<sup>14</sup> (Health Direct, 2021)

- **Cultural Centre Redevelopment, Werribee.** In 2023, preliminary planning for Stage One resulted in prioritising the delivery of a larger gallery space and further exploration of design options. The upgrade will relocate and revamp the gallery spaces, provide a new collection space for the visual art collection, modernise and refresh the bar, foyer and amenities, and provide a direct entry into Werribee Library from Wedge Street. Construction is set to begin in late 2024, with completion of the new and refreshed space in 2025.

## Outcome 2. We can access formal and informal learning opportunities

Indicators	Continuous learning and social and economic inclusion through employment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Assisting young people's engagement with school, higher learning and work</li> <li>♦ Increased 3- and 4-year kindergarten enrolments</li> <li>♦ Ensuring adults have community learning opportunities</li> <li>♦ Supporting labour force participation including small business start up</li> </ul>

### Continuous learning

Disruptions to education services during the pandemic meant that many families needed additional supports. In 2022/23, there were 517 requests for early intervention support for kindergarten children. In addition, 932 families were connected to family services and supports, an increase of 33 percent on 2021-2022.

Community satisfaction with how well Council fosters local learning opportunities for all through appropriate infrastructure, services, and advocacy increased in 2024 (up 9%). This included somewhat higher satisfaction with the provision and maintenance of community centres and neighbourhood houses (3% higher).

Satisfaction with how well Council fosters local learning opportunities for all through appropriate infrastructure and services increased measurably and significantly this year, up nine percent. This was the highest score recorded for this aspect of performance and measurably above the long-term average satisfaction since 2018/19.<sup>15</sup>

### 3- and 4-year Kindergarten

Council continues to work collaboratively with the Department of Education and the Victorian School Building Authority to update Wyndham's Kindergarten Infrastructure and Service Plan to reflect the level of infrastructure expansion required for the Best Start, Best Life reforms.

Council is assessing its own capacity for future infrastructure investment, as well as engaging with the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) to evaluate possible opportunities for kindergartens on government school sites. Engagement has also occurred with independent schools to gauge their intentions for kindergarten provision into the future and whether they require support to achieve this. Council is also assessing the viability of its ageing infrastructure to meet the needs of the community into the future.

In the third quarter of 2024, 110 children accessed Early Start kindergarten in council facilitated services.<sup>16</sup> In 2022/23, Council serviced 517 requests for early intervention support for children in kindergarten through the Pre School-Field Officer program.

<sup>15</sup> (Metropolis Research Pty Ltd, 2024)

<sup>16</sup> Free or low cost Kindergarten to 3 year old children in contact with Child Protection, referred to Child First or is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.  
Wyndham City



### 3- and 4-year Kindergarten Enrolments, 2022-2024

Age	3-Year			4-Year		
Year	2022	2023	2024 (to June)	2022	2023	2024 (to June)
Wyndham	1,002	1,058	1017	2,023	1,992	1831
Partners	775	1,076	1434	1,513	1,680	1794
Total	1,777	2,134	2451	3,536	3,672	3625

### Early years services in Wyndham, 2024

Care Type	Number of approved NQF services in Q1 2024	% change from 2023
Childcare (Long Day Care)	102	1% (from 101)
Kindergarten – Standalone	41	2.5% (from 40)
Kindergarten – On School Site	11	57% (from 7)
Out of School Hours	55	-10% (from 61)
Family Day Care	23	-13% (from 26)

### Number of approved National Quality Framework (NQF) places by care type in Wyndham, 2024

Care Type	No. of approved NQF places in Q1 2024 (licenced capacity)	% increase from 2023
Childcare (Long Day Care)	11,745	1.5% (up from 11578)
Kindergarten – Standalone	3,001	1.2% (up from 2965)
Kindergarten – On School Site	816	48% (from 552)
Out of School Hours	4,835	-20% (from 5826)



In 2024, customer satisfaction was measurably higher than average in the provision of Council managed kindergarten services, maternal and child health services, and the maintenance of community centres and neighbourhood hubs.<sup>17</sup> 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.

### Child parent support

Wyndham libraries provided free programs to support and connect parents and their children.

- Parenting talks, including Transition to School Life, Raising Multilingual children, Understanding Post Natal depression and anxiety, how to read with Your Children, Parenting Children who worry too much (all partnership events with local organisations such as Drummond Street.)
- Regular in person Q & A Speech Therapist sessions with local speech pathologist Lisa Decker.
- Parenting Talk - Help Develop Your Child's Speech event.
- School holiday activities, over 11,000 attendances in 2023/24.
- Weekly Baby Time, Rhyme Time and Story Time sessions across the service, including at community centres from the Pop Up Library Van.
- After school activities for Kids and young people.
- Play centres in children's area of Libraries.
- Dedicated Children's spaces and collections.
- Parenting resources in print and online.
- Study support.



<sup>17</sup> (Metropolis Research Pty Ltd, 2024)  
Wyndham City

## Learning Community Strategy 2024-2029

This Strategy supports learning as a fundamental aspect of well-being, prosperity, and sense of belonging. It provides an integrated framework for community lifelong learning, and is the basis for Council's aims to advocate, facilitate, explore, initiate, and deliver on Wyndham's learning goals, clearly defining Council's role in improving learning outcomes.

Wyndham City is a member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)'s Global Network of Learning Cities and, in 2021, a recipient of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities Award and the Alliance for Asia- Pacific Learning Cities (APLC) Award.

## Supporting Labour Participation

Headline Gross Regional Product (GRP) is a measure of size or net wealth generated by the local economy. Changes in this figure over time can represent changes in employment, productivity, or the types of industries in the area.

Wyndham's GRP was \$16.60 billion in the year ending June 2023, growing 7.8 percent since the previous year. Transport, Postal and Warehousing was the most productive industry, generating \$2,337 million in 2022/23.<sup>18</sup> In quarter 3, 2024 Council facilitated 353 new small business start-up enquiries and permits (20%).



Figure 1. Value Added by Industry Sector 2017-2023 Wyndham

## Mental Wellbeing

### Outcome 3. We are a cohesive and inclusive society, socially connected and able to ask for help when we need it

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Indicators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ Assisting people to seek support when they need it</li><li>♦ Ensuring people can be linked into appropriate services across the lifecourse</li><li>♦ Working with our partners to support particular cohorts</li><li>♦ Advocating for the needs of all Wyndham residents for local specialist units</li></ul> |
|------------|---|

<sup>18</sup> (City of Wyndham Economic Profile, 2023)  
Wyndham City

## Assisting people to seek support

During the health crisis mental health and wellbeing were severely impacted. Council undertook many projects and programs at the time to support community resilience and mental wellbeing. Many, such as Community Connectors and programs introduced at Wyndham Libraries have remained in place. Post pandemic Council began to offer counselling support for young people. In 2022/23, Wyndham Youth Services began to offer free counselling support to young people and their families, group and individual counselling for children aged 8 - 11 years, and young people aged 12 – 25 years.

The waitlist for these services began to build as families engaged more fully with the service. The Wyndham Youth Surveys and the Wyndham Community Satisfaction surveys are good measures of the success of these council provided services. Many recommendations of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System are still to be funded. The Commission delivered its final report on 3 February 2021. Some of the most powerful contributions the Commission heard were from people with lived experience.

COUNCIL SERVICES	PARTICIPANTS	INCREASE 2022/23	Q3.2024
<b>Families connected to family services and supports</b>	932	+33%	
<b>New counselling referrals</b>	300	+24%	37
<b>Waitlist, young people</b>	76	+145%	41
<b>Completed counselling session</b>	1,123	N/A	260
<b>Youth programs delivered</b>	487 (5,303 participants)	+59%	158 (3,900 participants)
<b>New attendees, Youth Programs</b>	753	+14%	396
<b>Youth events held</b>	67 (8,724 participants)	+443%	20 (3,669 participants)
<b>Parenting programs delivered</b>	280 (1,720 participants)	+311%	6 (74 participants)
<b>Street Surfer Bus, mobile youth programs</b>	3,335	+39%	1,439
<b>Engaging multicultural youth</b>	N/A	N/A	4,680
<b>Community led playgroups supported</b>	40 (195 families represented)	+110%	

Many people do not seek professional help for mental health and wellbeing. For women and men of all age groups, there is a significant gap between the prevalence of mental illness, and the uptake of mental health services. Commonly reported barriers to help-seeking can include stigma, difficulties in accessing support, concerns about confidentiality and trust, and a preference for informal sources of help.

Australian women are typically more likely than men to report, and seek help for, mental health problems. For men, being in a male-dominated occupation is associated with reduced likelihood of help-seeking.<sup>19</sup>

In January 2023, 10.9 percent of Australian's experienced severe psychological distress.<sup>20</sup> Young people in particular have experienced higher average levels of psychological distress than people in older age groups.<sup>21</sup> Average levels of psychological distress for younger people (18-44), were higher in 2020 to April 2022 than they were before the pandemic, especially for those aged 18–24.

<sup>19</sup> (Victorian Women's Health Atlas, 2024)

<sup>20</sup> (Biddle & Gray, 2023)

<sup>21</sup> (Biddle & Gray, 2021)



Mental Health Conditions - Rate (per 10,000) ever diagnosed, 2021.					
Wyndham		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average	
Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
712.13	428.91	939.1	599.8	1,142.2	756.6

Table 3. Mental Health Conditions. Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021.<sup>22</sup>

## People linked into services across the lifecourse

In mid-2022, Council established The Early Years' Community Connector service to improve local support access for families receiving 427 initial referrals. The program provides families with:

- responsive and timely access to information about local early years services,
- place-based supports available in their local area, and
- one to one support with access to the services they need.

The service is particularly helpful for new residents and those unfamiliar with the types of early years services and supports available in Wyndham. The service has become a key part of the local early years services system, creating connections between residents and services, and increasing participation of children in Maternal and Child Health, Supported Playgroups and Kindergarten.

Community Connectedness					
Wyndham		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average	
Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
712.13	428.91	939.1	599.8	1,142.2	756.6

Table 4. Community connectedness. Source: Victorian Women's Health Atlas, 2024.

Customer satisfaction with the degree to which Council empowers the community to lead and form social connections increased measurably and significantly in 2024 (up 11%). This was the highest satisfaction score for this aspect of performance observed since the question was first included in the survey program back in 2018/19 and was measurably above the long-term average since 2018/19. The degree to which Council empowers the community to lead and form social connections also increased (up 11%).<sup>23</sup>

## Wyndham Libraries

In 2022/23, Wyndham Libraries gained funding to participate in a pilot program administered by VicHealth, Public Libraries Victoria and the State Library of Victoria, *Libraries as spaces for social connection and mental wellbeing for young people*, for 12-25 year olds to support mental wellbeing. Library's Education and Youth Team ran five co-design workshops at Point Cook and Hoppers Crossing libraries with young people aged 14-19. Youth co-designers identified their priority themes as study support, volunteering, and having more opportunities to influence the library's Young Adult collections.

In 2024, the Library Youth Collaborative was launched, a fortnightly volunteering program held at Julia Gillard Library to ensure youth voice is incorporated into library programming on an ongoing basis. The Collaborative currently has 10 members attending fortnightly. A second program, designed to support study

<sup>22</sup> ABS Census 2021. Data Packs. General Community Profile by Local Government Area (LGA): Victoria. Tables G19A, G19B. <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>

<sup>23</sup> (Metropolis Research Pty Ltd, 2024)

needs is the VCE Study Club, comprised a series of workshops to support Year 12 students at Point Cook and Hoppers Crossing libraries. The VCE Study Club caters for up to 25 young people. To date the study club workshops have focused on the subjects of English, General Mathematics, Psychology and Chemistry.

## Gender Equality

### Outcome 4. We enjoy formal and substantive equality

#### Indicators Capacity Building

- ♦ Increased participation of girls and women facilitated in sport and recreation
- ♦ Increased female representation in community organisation committees
- ♦ Increased availability of childcare and respite care
- ♦ Work to equal community representation of women on all Council Planning and decision-making groups (gender lens applied to all Council policies, services & programs)

### Capacity building

Gender is socially constructed and hierarchical, producing inequalities that intersect with other social and economic inequalities. Gender-based discrimination is intersectional, meaning that it intersects with other factors of discrimination, such as ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, age, geographic location, gender identity and sexual orientation, among others.<sup>24</sup>

Gender inequality is when men are valued more than women, with greater power, and access to resources and opportunities. Public life in Australia is still marked by gender inequality. In our legal and political systems, and in workplaces and the community, men continue to hold the majority of power and influence. Gender inequality also persists in the private domain, for example, at home and in relationships.<sup>25</sup>

In 2021, Wyndham City Council comprised seven female and four male councillors, taking council beyond parity for the term 2021 to 2025. Council is committed to supporting gender equality. Council conducts gender impact assessments on public policy, community-facing programs, conducts workplace audits and provides support services in family violence prevention and to promote gender equality in the broader community.<sup>26</sup>

### Participation of girls and women in sport and recreation

Werribee was selected by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) as base camp for the Morocco Women's National Football Team and home away from home during the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup Australia & New Zealand 2023™ event.

The team stayed locally, using Galvin Park for training during the competition involving 32 nations competing for the title in the



<sup>24</sup> (World Health Organization, 2024)

<sup>25</sup> (Our Watch, 2024)

<sup>26</sup> See also Family Violence at Outcome 12.  
Wyndham City

largest women's sporting event on the planet. FIFA invested \$227,000 in international standard LED lighting on the main pitch.<sup>27</sup> Council delivered initiatives to encourage women and girl's participation in soccer around the visit.

In 2023, Wyndham City ran a range of sports programs to support gender equality

Program	Attendance
<b>Active holiday program</b>	39 per cent attendance by girls across three programs (program for boys and girls)
<b>Young Matilda's</b>	Coaching girls and women football presentation by Young Matilda's coach.
<b>Football Victoria</b>	Girls' and women's action planning workshop attended by seven football clubs.
<b>This Girl Can</b>	Facilitating teenage girls and women to try different activities (8 promotions).
<b>Running Program</b>	Beginners' program to support women's participation (over 70 per cent women).
<b>Truganina Lions</b>	Supported this new football club to promote girls' and women's participation, resulting in two girls' teams and commitment to continue recruiting women as coaches and committee members. Club recognised as a Football Australia One Star Game Changer Club.
<b>Active Tarneit</b>	2,482 women and girls participated across all Active Tarneit programs.

### GenWest Action for Equity 2024-2030

Action for Equity 2024-2030 is a regional sexual and reproductive health strategy providing a best practice model for effective, collaborative, strengths-based and place-based work to improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes. This project was a collaboration of local, state and federal government and health sector partners. GenWest was the lead agency.<sup>28</sup> Wyndham City was a partner council.

The need for the Strategy was driven by sexual and reproductive health service provision failing to meet growing population demand and the lack of specialised clinics in the region, as well as lower than average state rates of cervical cancer screening uptake, and higher than average state rates of Hepatitis B and Syphilis.

The Strategy's vision is that "All people in Melbourne's West experience optimal sexual and reproductive health, without exception". Strategic objectives are grouped around three priorities, namely:

1. Equity and access
2. Capability and capacity
3. Partnerships and collaboration

Action for Equity creates an authorising environment for partners to prioritise sexual and reproductive health and primary prevention within their organisations and spheres of influence. Action for Equity 2024–2030 is an important advocacy tool in this regard.<sup>29</sup>

### Increased availability of childcare

Availability and cost of childcare are critical to facilitate women's participation in the paid workforce. In turn this impacts women's short and long-term financial security, career progression, and overall wellbeing. In 2024, parents are able to choose from a wide variety of child care centres in Wyndham.

<sup>27</sup> Part of the FIFA Training Site Infrastructure Grant.

<sup>28</sup> Action for Equity partners included Wyndham, Brimbank, Maribyrnong, Hobson's Bay, Moonee Valley and Melton City Councils, Department of Education, Cohealth, IPC Health, Centre for Culture Ethnicity and Health, Liverwell, Thorne Harbour Health, North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network and GenWest.

<sup>29</sup> (GenWest, 2024)

Postcode	Childcare Services No.	Centres with vacancies No.	Average cost per day – Toddler (2-3 yrs) \$
3030	141	98	150.20
3029	180	145	140.60
3026	10	8	140.00
3024	55	40	135.54
3027	12	10	148.60
3211	3	2	147.30

Table 5. Childcare availability by centre. Source: Care for Kids

## Liveable Wyndham

Liveability relates to the degree in which an environment supports quality of life, health and wellbeing for the people who live, work or visit. Cities considered to have a high degree of liveability tend to have a high level of, and widespread accessibility to, amenity.<sup>30</sup> The influence of place includes the availability and accessibility of places to pursue healthy recreation and enjoy a pleasant and safe housing and urban environment.

### Accessible Services

Outcome 5. We can access safe and culturally appropriate services	
Indicators	<p>Inclusive access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Improving health literacy and cultural safety</li> <li>♦ Improving digital access</li> <li>♦ High immunisation rates for 5-year olds</li> <li>♦ High COVID-19 vaccination rates</li> </ul>

### Inclusive Access

Community health services are best placed to relieve health system pressures and reduce health expenditure by providing care in the community.<sup>31</sup> These services, including those that Wyndham City provides to the community are about health promotion and prevention; providing care that addresses the social determinants of health to stop people from getting sick in the first place.

Access to primary services is of concern in Melbourne's west. This includes difficulties accessing allied health services, especially for young children and individuals with special needs. There were reportedly fewer GPs bulk billing in the catchment, adding to cost of living pressures and delays in timely treatment. Some postcodes within the catchment were identified as service and public transport deserts, leading to challenges in accessing critical services.<sup>32</sup>

### Pandemic innovation

The ability to access high-quality, affordable health and community services in a timely manner is critical to living a long and healthy life.<sup>33</sup> Wyndham City provides public health and social services, including maternal and child health services, childhood vaccinations and free Community Counselling.

<sup>30</sup> (Infrastructure Australia, Major Cities Unit, 2010)

<sup>31</sup> (Victorian Healthcare Association, 2022)

<sup>32</sup> (North Western Melbourne Primary health Network, 2021)

<sup>33</sup> (Department of Health , 2023)



Many services were disrupted during the pandemic with online access the 'go to' default to continue wherever possible. This led to gaps and wait lists as in-person services gradually resumed in 2022/23. Innovations and learnings from the service restrictions during the health crisis have been adopted more broadly to enhance service provision across many services.

In 2024, satisfaction with how well Council provides the services that people need increased measurably, up eight percent. Satisfaction with Council assistance to get the support services households need also increased measurably, up nine percent.

### Wyndham City services

Wyndham Libraries held sessions online to support parents by providing Q&A with a Speech Pathologist in 2021/22. These, combined with the Speechie Talk sessions, attracted over 160 participants during the year.

Parenting Talks included:

- Help Develop your Child's Speech 0 to 3 years,
- Help Develop your Child's Speech 3 to 5 years,
- Q&A with a Speech Pathologist (5 sessions)
- Dyslexia Information sessions
- 'Let's Eat' sessions – managing mealtimes
- Stress Management for Mums

In 2022, regular Council services resumed in stages. Wyndham City service highlights Quarter 3, 2024 include:

- 8,371 Key Ages and Stages Maternal and Child Health visits undertaken (+16%)
- 158 Youth programs delivered with 3,900 young people attending (+144% attendance)

In 2024, satisfaction with Council's efforts to keep the community informed about its work, services, activities, and programs increased measurably and significantly this year, up nine percent. Satisfaction with how easy Council information is to access and to understand also increased measurably, up three percent, which remains a "very good" level.

Satisfaction with maternal and child health services increased measurably in 2024, up seven percent, which was an "excellent" level of satisfaction. There was also somewhat higher satisfaction with the provision of youth services (6% higher).<sup>34</sup>

In the third quarter of 2024,

- 8,371 key ages and stages Maternal and Child Health visits were undertaken.
- 205 families supported through sleep settling programs.
- 133 families supported through First Time Parent Groups.

### Immunisation

Vaccination rates in Wyndham fell slightly in 2022/23 in pandemic recovery, perhaps reflecting vaccination reticence. However, in every age group, childhood vaccination rates were and remain higher than those in the North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (PHN) area. They are also higher in the one year old age bracket. In the third quarter of 2024, Council administered 8,851 immunisations.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> (Metropolis Research Pty Ltd, 2024)

<sup>35</sup> Immunisations administered as part of National Immunisation Program schedule only, not including COVID19 vaccinations.

Age	2020-21 (%)	2021-22 (%)	2022-23 (%)
City of Wyndham			
1 YO (12-15 months)	94.89	94.78	94.04
2 YO (24-27 months)	91.21	92.78	91.34
5 YO (60-63 months)	95.84	94.94	94.95
Primary Health Network			
1 YO (12-15 months)	94.57	93.46	93.27
2 YO (24-27 months)	91.78	91.76	91.02
5 YO (60-63 months)	95.27	94.62	94.42

## Drug Resistant Infections

Outcome 6. We are a resilient community and adapt to changing conditions	
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued low-level community transmission of COVID-19</li> <li>Council facilitating help-seeking and linking services</li> <li>Ensuring that people are connected in following any initial point of contact</li> <li>Building social capital and reducing the effect of shocks and stresses</li> </ul>

Satisfaction with public health services increased measurably in 2024, up four percent. This result is the highest satisfaction score recorded for these services since it was first included in the Community Satisfaction survey program in 2021/22.<sup>36</sup>

## Facilitating Help Seeking

Council initiated a dedicated Community Connector service during the pandemic (2021/2022) providing personalised support to navigate formal and informal services, groups and activities. The service has since been expanded to include:

- The Community Connector Early Years program to meet community needs for support and access to information to Council's early years services.
- The Community Connectors Ageing Well program to support older residents to navigate the aged care system and facilitate connections with any support needs they may have.

## Climate Change Health Impacts

Outcome 7. We are a zero carbon community consuming locally and responsibly	
Indicators	<p>Climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing greenhouse gas emissions (understanding and promoting associated health benefits)</li> <li>Mitigate urban heat island affects:</li> <li>Improved preparedness for future weather events</li> <li>Monitoring air quality especially during bushfires</li> <li>Improving understanding of thunderstorm asthma</li> <li>Mindful consumption resulting in reduced waste and litter</li> </ul>

<sup>36</sup> (Metropolis Research Pty Ltd, 2024)  
Wyndham City



## Climate change

Wyndham City reduces greenhouse gas emissions via the following initiatives.

- Sourcing 100 percent of its electricity demand from renewal energy sources, saving 15,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases each year.
- Installing 2.78 of solar PV and 373kWh of battery storage at council buildings, saving over 3,800 tonnes of greenhouse gases each year.
- Changing over streetlights with energy efficient globes, saving over 2,600 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

## Mobilising Climate Just and Resilient Communities in Melbourne's West

In 2022, Wyndham City collaborated in the project Mobilising Climate Just and Resilient Communities in Melbourne's West, led by Jesuit Social Services Centre for Just Places. This capacity building project supported the Health Plan principle of health equity, recognising that climate change also interacts with the social and environmental determinants of health to maintain, exacerbate, and create new forms of health inequity. The project produced a framework for collaborative action and learning on climate justice.<sup>37</sup>

The project aimed to investigate place-based action on climate justice and the role of community health and service organisations understanding that climate change is likely to exacerbate existing social inequities and disproportionately impact people experiencing marginalisation and disadvantage. The project sought to ensure adaptation with climate change so that no one is left behind, seeking to:

- gather perspectives of social inequity and environmental change through a lens of climate justice,
- map collaborative opportunities to mobilise climate justice in the West of Melbourne.

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<sup>37</sup> (Jesuit Social Services Centre for Just Places, 2022)  
Wyndham City

In 2023/24, the project reconvened around the Collaborative Action Framework with a view to designing practical projects that would respond to the focus areas of the Framework. Council has contributed to three workshops to progress proposals.

### Mindful consumption

The food system, diet and the environment cannot be regarded separately in public policy.<sup>38</sup> In 2024, satisfaction with Council programs, events, and policy development to encourage sustainability, increase resilience, and address climate change increased by 11 percent.<sup>39</sup> In quarter 3, 2024 Council delivered 13 Educational Programs to increase knowledge and care for the environment with 8,572 attendees (+14%).<sup>40</sup>

### Urban heat island mitigation

Increased tree canopy, 7,834 trees were planted in 2023 (4,502 in streets and 3,332 trees in open space) compared with a total of 6,492 in 2022.

The Trees for Schools program supports students to plant native trees around schools to improve knowledge of the importance of trees, biodiversity and urban greening. 400 trees were provided for 10 schools in 2023 (larger trees than in 2022) and 770 trees for 9 schools in 2022 (mix of tubestock).

In 2024, the provision and maintenance of street trees in Wyndham was the 16th most important of 46 services and facilities, with an average importance of 8.6 out of 10. Satisfaction with street trees increased measurably in 2024, by eight percent. This result was comfortably above the long-term average satisfaction since 2015/16 and the second highest score recorded.<sup>41</sup>

### Promoting health benefits

In April 2023, Council and Climate Futures Youth Leaders volunteers collaborated to host a Youth Summit to empower and educate young people to act on climate change.

In May 2023, as lead member of the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA), Council hosted workshops delivered by RENEW. Additional energy saving workshops for the community ran as part of 'Energy Smart Wyndham'.

## Housing and Built Environment

### Outcome 8. We can meet our housing needs

Indicators	Improved housing mix so that people can meet their housing needs including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ social and affordable housing options,</li><li>♦ 1- and 2-bedroom homes</li><li>♦ Reduced incidents of homelessness</li></ul>
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### Wyndham City Affordable Housing Strategy 2022-2025

Council's vision for social and affordable housing is "a safe, connected and inclusive community with affordable, appropriate quality housing to meet the community's diverse and changing needs". The Strategy aims to increase the supply of affordable housing in Wyndham, viewing housing as a human right and as critical community infrastructure which plays an important role in health and wellbeing.

Supporting lower-income and vulnerable residents, Council partners with the Wyndham Health, Homeless and Housing (H3) Alliance. The Strategy also prioritises women, noting that family violence is a major cause

<sup>38</sup> (Sustain: The Australian Food Network, 2024)

<sup>39</sup> (Metropolis Research Pty Ltd, 2024)

<sup>40</sup> (Metropolis Research Pty Ltd, 2024)

<sup>41</sup> (Metropolis Research Pty Ltd, 2024)



of women's homelessness. Older women are the fastest growing group experiencing homelessness in Australia.

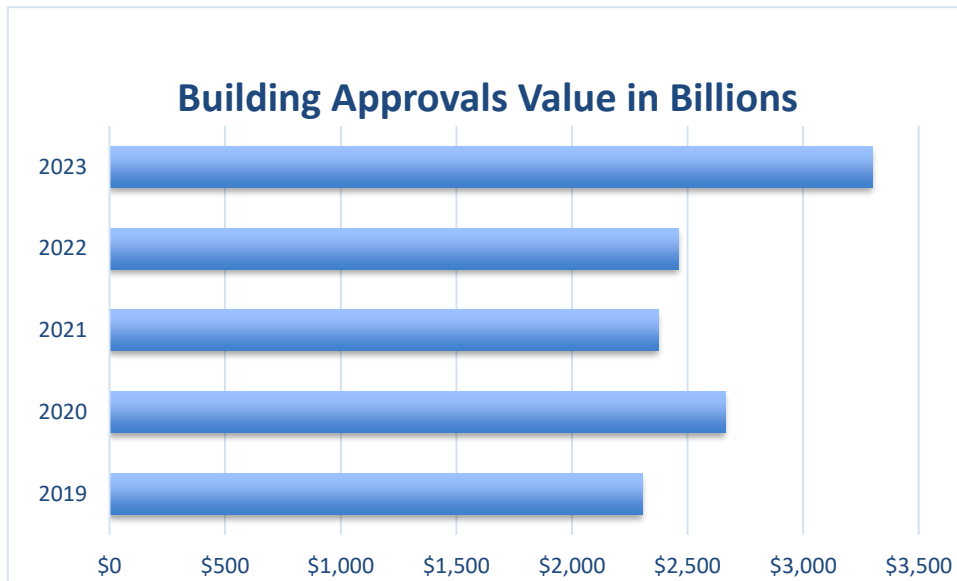


Figure 2. Building Approvals by Value 2017-2023

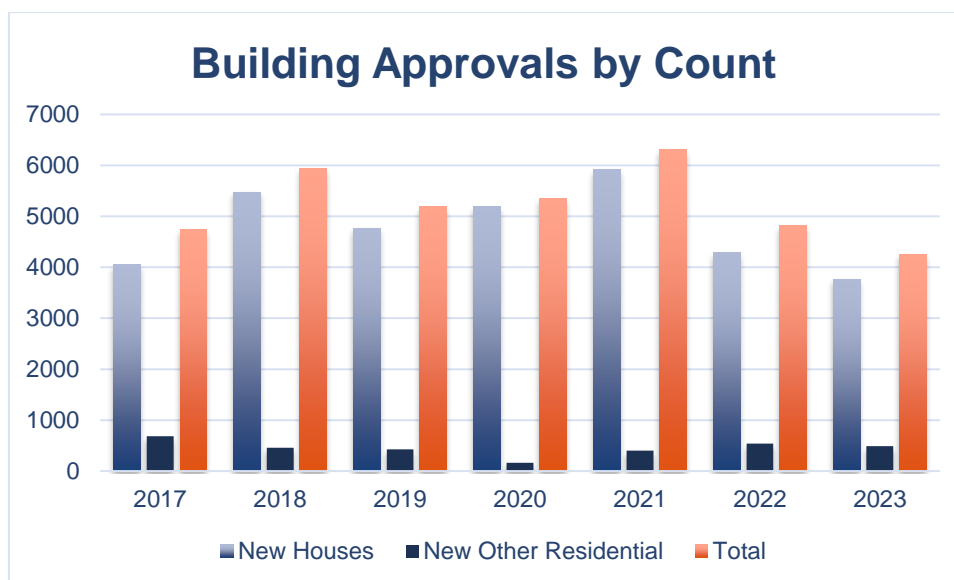


Figure 3. Building Approvals by Count Wyndham 2017-2023. Source: Remplan Economy.

## Improved Housing Mix

The role of housing as a social determinant of health is well-established.<sup>42</sup> Housing affordability affects stability and people's sense of control over their lives, including the ability to buy food.<sup>43</sup> When a household pays more than 30 percent of its gross income in housing costs (mortgage or rental costs) and its income is amongst the lowest 40 per cent of all households, it is defined as being in housing stress.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>42</sup> (Rolfe, et al., 2020)

<sup>43</sup> (VicHealth, 2011)

<sup>44</sup> (Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, 2019)  
Wyndham City

The pandemic created further housing stress when households struggled with the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 in 2020/2021. Post-pandemic, a national housing crisis and increased cost of living has created even greater constraints on many household budgets. Housing stress has been associated with a negative impact on the nutritional status of children in low-income families.

Building approvals are a leading indicator of the general level of residential development. Residential building activity depends on many factors that vary with the state of the economy including interest rates, availability of mortgage funds, government spending, and business investment.

The number of building approvals can also fluctuate substantially from year to year simply as a result of the short-term nature of many construction projects, and the cyclical nature of the industry. In 2023, the value building approvals increased considerably on 2021 and 2022 levels. However, the numbers of approvals fell below pre-pandemic levels.

## 1- and 2- Bedroom Homes

The number of bedrooms, in combination with Household Type and Household Size, can indicate issues around housing affordability, overcrowding and other socio-economic factors. Analysis of the number of bedrooms in dwellings in Wyndham compared to Greater Melbourne shows that there was a lower proportion of dwellings with 2-bedrooms or less, and a higher proportion of dwellings with 4 or more bedrooms.

Overall, 6.9 percent of households were in dwellings with 2-bedrooms or less, and 51.8 percent of 4 or more bedroom dwellings (compared with 25.7% and 31.6% for Greater Melbourne respectively).<sup>45</sup>

### The Wyndham Plan, 2023

The Wyndham Plan promotes the development of Wyndham as a city to service its future population of around 500,000 people and articulates that Wyndham will seek to be in a city. This involves transforming movement and place to connect people and places. The plan identifies six 'big ideas'. Delivering the plan is based on measurable goals and targets. The following Big Ideas and Goals of the Plan seek to deliver improved housing mix so that people can meet their housing needs.

*Big Idea 5.* Liveable Residential Neighbourhoods that deliver quality residential development and that link people to the places they need.

- Wyndham will require more diverse and affordable housing to accommodate its growing population.
- Medium density housing will occur in the Wyndham City Heart, the Wyndham City Pulses, and the Derrimut Road Boulevard, as well as in the greenfield growth areas to the west and north to ensure accessible, liveable, integrated and vibrant urban environments.
- 20-minute neighbourhoods underpin this big idea to achieve greater liveability for residents living in the greenfield growth areas of Wyndham.

*Goal 1:* Wyndham's dwelling mix will reflect that of Greater Melbourne. Wyndham will seek to reach a position where a total of 70 percent of all new dwellings each year in Wyndham will be within established urban areas and around key transport hubs by 2040, with:

- 30 percent of all new dwellings located in the Wyndham City Heart, and
- 40 percent of all new dwellings located in designated Activity Centres serving Wyndham City Pulse Areas and along the Derrimut Road Boulevard.

*Goal 2:* Wyndham will increase residential densities and provide more housing choice for a range of household types, income levels and age groups. This goal includes increased densities in all new residential developments in the urban growth areas to an average of 25-30 dwellings per Net Developable Hectare (NDHa) with diverse densities and housing typologies, encouraging and promoting:

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<sup>45</sup> (id City of Wyndham Community Profile, 2021)  
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- Densities of 40-60 dwellings per NDHa within 50 metres of green corridors and transport corridors adjacent or leading to major activity centres at the centre of Wyndham City Pulses.<sup>46</sup>
- Densities of between 40-90 dwellings per NDHa, within 400m of train stations.
- Densities of up to 60 dwellings per NDHa within 800m of activity centres (particularly major activity centres at the centre of Wyndham City Pulses).<sup>47</sup>



Figure 4. The measure of 20-minute neighbourhoods, DTP.

## Outcome 9: We enjoy our neighbourhoods

### Indicators Urban planning

- ♦ Improved child-friendly and age-friendly infrastructure
- ♦ Advocating for the community infrastructure needs of residents
- ♦ Health promoting environments

## Age-friendly infrastructure

Major initiatives undertaken by Council to improve child-friendly and age-friendly infrastructure include the following urban developments.

- Finalised planning for new community facilities in 2024 at Black Forest Road North, Mambourin and Tarneit major town centre, with further work to be undertaken in 2025.
- 54 placemaking initiatives delivered across Wyndham's activity centres (+116%) in the third quarter of 2024.

<sup>46</sup> Council will consider applications for higher density development on a case-by-case basis.

<sup>47</sup> In respect to this goal the majority of buildings will be no higher than 5-6 storeys. Applications for higher density development will be considered by Council on a case-by-case basis.

# Health Promoting Environments

## The Wyndham Plan

*Big Idea 2.* Creation of Wyndham City Pulses that foster the development of 20-minute neighbourhoods. Each Wyndham City Pulse is to include a mix of land uses, local retail activity, centrally located public space, community facilities, and accommodation for not-for-profit organisations and local residents wanting space for a new business enterprise.

*Big Idea 3.* A Wyndham Transport Network that better connects people and places. Streets, trails and paths that provide a safe network that supports all abilities, walking, cycling and micro-mobility modes are foundational elements of the Wyndham Active Transport Network.

*Goal 9:* The amount of public open space in Wyndham will increase.

*Goal 10:* Every neighbourhood will have an integrated pedestrian, cycling and micro-mobility network which is safe and connected to places where people want to go.

## Community infrastructure

In 2024, satisfaction with how well Council encourages a healthy and active lifestyle through appropriate Council infrastructure and amenity increased measurably, by six percent. This was the highest satisfaction with this aspect of Council performance since the question was first included in the Community Satisfaction survey program in 2018/19, and above the long-term average since 2018/19.<sup>48</sup>

Residents satisfaction with footpaths in Wyndham increased by 11 percent in 2024. Satisfaction with Council's work to protect and promote the unique built and cultural heritage also increased by seven percent. Satisfaction with the promotion and support of local activity centres increased measurably by seven percent.<sup>49</sup>

# Safe Wyndham

Community wellbeing is about recognising that our safety and success depend on the success of all others. For example, adhering to emergency public health measures during the pandemic was vital to keeping everyone safe. Council works together with our partners Victoria Police to ensure the justice needs of the community including Wyndham's' community safety needs.

## Community Safety

**Outcome 10. Our neighbourhoods are safe and inclusive**

**Outcome 11. Local spaces and places are age-friendly and promote independence**

Indicators	Community safety
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ Personal and road safety</li><li>♦ Perceptions of safety – people feel safe in local neighbourhoods and parks</li><li>♦ Reducing local crime (personal and property crime)</li><li>♦ Promoting responsible alcohol consumption, including by offering alcohol free Council sponsored events</li></ul>

<sup>48</sup> (Metropolis Research Pty Ltd, 2024)

<sup>49</sup> (Metropolis Research Pty Ltd, 2024)  
Wyndham City



Community safety

Safe Spaces

The Safe Spaces, Understanding and enhancing safety and inclusion for diverse women was a collaborative project with Melton and Monash City Councils, Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety and Sydney, Griffith, and Monash Universities. Employing an intentional co-design process, The project responded to known problems faced within each of the local councils. This knowledge of crime and safety in partner councils underpinned the Project Team’s approach.

Wyndham	Melton	Monash
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Racism and vilification</li><li>• Feeling unsafe at night</li><li>• Disengaged youth</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Racism and vilification</li><li>• Darkness and isolation</li><li>• Sexual assault and harassment</li><li>• Gangs and youth</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Racism and discrimination</li><li>• Feeling unsafe at night</li><li>• Darkness and isolation</li></ul>

The project demonstrated that safety and inclusion are intertwined: people felt safe in public places when they felt included and when they felt included, they felt safe. Throughout this project, women spoke of connection to place and people as important for their wellbeing, safety and inclusion. Projects findings converged around four main themes:

1. Perennial problems and standard solutions
2. Collectively designing safe and inclusive spaces for women
3. Planning for 24-hour safety
4. Safety and inclusion being underpinned by connection

The project produced three ‘toolkits’ for understanding and enhancing safety and inclusion for diverse women, namely:

1. Walking Interviews
2. Community Safety Surveys
3. Co-design

Each toolkit includes general principles to bear in mind when engaging with diverse groups of women, and outlines practices to support local councils and stakeholders in collecting useful data about women’s experiences in public places.<sup>50</sup>

Personal and road safety

In 2024, residents’ satisfaction increased with the maintenance and repair of sealed local roads (+18%), parking enforcement (+11%), and traffic management (+10%). Satisfaction with the maintenance and repair of sealed local roads increased also significantly, up 18 percent.<sup>51</sup>

<sup>50</sup> All Safe Spaces publications are available at the Monash University website.  
<sup>51</sup> (Metropolis Research Pty Ltd, 2024)  
Wyndham City

## Family Violence

### Outcome 12. We are safe at home

Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ Promoting attitudes that support healthy relationships and respect for women</li><li>♦ Working with sector partners to prevent family violence and reduce incidents</li><li>♦ Seeking to prevent and mitigate incidents of elder abuse in the community</li></ul>
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Gender inequality sets the underlying context for violence against women.<sup>52</sup> There are 4 factors that consistently predict or 'drive' violence against women.

**1. Condoning of violence against women.**

When we justify, excuse, or trivialise violence ('boys will be boys'), or blame the victim ('what did she expect, going out dressed like that?')

**2. Men's control of decision-making and limits to women's independence in public and private life.**

Violence is more common in relationships where men make all the decisions, feel they 'own' their partners or hold rigid ideas about how women should behave.

In the public sphere, when women have less independence and power, this sends the message that women are less valuable or worthy of respect – making violence against them more likely.

**3. Rigid gender stereotyping and dominant forms of masculinity**

Gender stereotyping is when we presume that there are natural or innate ways for women and men to behave. This includes urban myths such as men are naturally aggressive and dominant, and women are naturally passive and submissive.

**4. Male peer relations and cultures of masculinity that emphasise aggression, dominance and control**

Men's relationships with other men can be a source of support and comfort for men. But, when they are used to promote aggression, dominance, control or 'hypersexuality' (through things like sexual boasting), they are associated with higher levels of violence against women.<sup>53</sup>

### Pandemic impacts

Family violence incidents increased in Wyndham over both a five year period and in the post-lockdown period. While most Victorian municipalities experienced spikes in family violence during lockdowns, Wyndham's rate of report family violence continued to increase. Heightened risk and perpetration of family violence incidents can be related to the following stressors.



Figure 5. The iceberg illustration shows what lies below the surface driving violence against women (Our Watch, 2024).

<sup>52</sup> See also Gender Equality at Outcome 4.

<sup>53</sup> (Our Watch, 2024)

- Home isolation
- Challenging to access support
- New forms and types of violence
- Different types of support needed
- Different types of stressors
- Increase in first-time users

Research shows that during lockdowns, home isolation, where victim-survivors were forced to cohabit more closely with perpetrators increased violence. Many survivors found it challenging to access support and service providers noticed new types of violence, including tactics to achieve social isolation and threats of infecting others with the virus. This led to different types of supports being needed, including higher levels of psychosocial supports and help with managing work and childcare.<sup>54</sup>

Table 5 demonstrates that while reported family incidents dropped between 2020 and 2023 in Hobson's Bay, Melton and Brimbank, the rate of incidence has increased in Wyndham. Wyndham has unique challenges due to population growth, increasing housing unaffordability, and a lack of access to local services. The Orange Door was established and began operations in Werribee in 2022 and provides support across Wyndham and the Western Region. All first responses from services including Victoria Police now go directly to The Orange Door which strengthens support for people experiencing family violence, including children.

Municipality	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
<b>Hobson's Bay</b>	1176.9	1119.5	1066.7
<b>Melton</b>	1704.0	1493.8	1381.3
<b>Wyndham</b>	1342.0	1305.8	1402.1
<b>Brimbank</b>	1519.5	1425.9	1448.9
<b>North West Metro</b>	1340.0	1259.0	1237.0

Table 6. Reported family incidents per 100,000. Source: Crime Statistics Victoria.

### Working with sector partners

Council participates in the Wyndham Family Violence Network to strengthen professional collaboration in response to family violence incidents and prevention in Wyndham area. The network continues to build understanding and collaborative practice including the Victorian Government's Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) practice to support workers across the service system, setting out the varying workforce responsibilities in identifying, assessing and managing risks of family violence.

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<sup>54</sup> (Victorian Government, 2021)  
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# Healthy Wyndham

Public health initiatives seek to protect and improve community health through education and primary prevention to encourage healthy living. Our daily diet is influenced by the environments where we live, work and play. While many people understand the need to eat a healthy diet, the healthy choice is often not the easiest choice.<sup>55</sup> The ideal food system is one that is healthy, fair and sustainable for human and environmental health.

## Healthy Living

Outcome 13. We can make healthy food choices and have food security	
Indicators	<div>Promote healthy eating and reducing rates of obesity and overweight<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increasing fresh fruit and vegetable consumption</li><li>Increased green space to cultivate local fresh produce</li><li>Decreasing sugary drinks consumption</li><li>Supporting recommended alcohol consumption rates</li></ul></div>

### Promote healthy eating and reducing rates of obesity and overweight

Post-pandemic many families faced rising rent, mortgage and housing costs and increases in food prices.<sup>56</sup> The increased cost of living has resulted in housing stress and increasing food insecurity. The reasons why people experience food insecurity include a lack of:

- resources, including financial resources and other resources such as transport
- access to nutritious food at affordable prices
- access to food due to geographical isolation
- motivation or knowledge about a nutritious diet<sup>57</sup>

Food insecurity can be measured by the proportion of adults who ran out of money to buy food in the last 12 months.<sup>58</sup> Within the WPHU catchment, approximately 6.3 percent of adults experience food insecurity measured in this way, which is marginally higher than Victoria overall (5.9%).

Wyndham City fosters community support and meets the needs of people who are often overlooked by other formal services through food banks distributed across the community at various community centres.

Food Bank Location	No of households responded to each week
Manor Lakes Community Centre	45 households
Penrose Community Centre	50-55 households (Epiphany Church and Food Bank).
Jamieson Way Community Centre	70 households
Wyndham Park Community Centre	125-170 households

Table 7. Food Relief Provision, Wyndham, 2023.

### Commercial determinants of health

Wyndham City is represented on the Western Public Health Unit's (WPHU) Population and Preventive Health Reference Committee (PPHRC), attending regular meetings. The PPHRC is leading work in the

<sup>55</sup> (VicHealth, 2018)

<sup>56</sup> (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2024)

<sup>57</sup> (Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2011)

<sup>58</sup> (Victorian Agency for Health information, 2020)



west around healthy eating, prevention on vaping (Healthy Living), climate change health impacts (Liveable Wyndham).

The practices of a broad range of commercial organisations can directly and indirectly harm human and planetary health and impact health equity in different ways. For example, by encouraging people to consume harmful products. Some commercial actors' products and practices are responsible for escalating levels of preventable ill health, social and health inequity, and environmental damage.<sup>59</sup>

Council participated in a research study on the commercial determinants of health and in particular unhealthy food advertising (targeted to children and caregivers) on public transport in Wyndham. All train stations (internal and external areas) and bus stops in Wyndham were assessed for advertising in Nov-Dec 2023. Across the seven train stations in Wyndham, 200 advertisements were identified. None were identified at any of the 907 bus stops. Of the advertisements containing a specific food or drink product, 72 percent advertised ultra-processed products.

Approximately 45 percent of the advertisements were for food or drink and of these:

- 72 percent were deemed unhealthy
- 42 percent were for sugar-sweetened beverages (the largest category of unhealthy food and drinks)
- 17 percent advertised a food or drink brand but contained no specific product
- 44 percent were located on the outside of roaming buses adjacent to train stations (these were observed for a 20-min period during peak hour)
- 24 percent were located on vending machines inside train stations (this includes on external panels of vending machines as well as product displays showing branded products).

The lack of bus stop advertising in Wyndham differed from two other municipalities studied (Merri-bek and Hobsons Bay) which had a large number of bus stop advertisements. The Wyndham findings can be attributed to a local policy that prevents advertising in residential areas. This policy has been superseded by a section of the Wyndham Planning Scheme that aims to improve visual amenity by minimising signage clutter (Clause 15.01-1L-02 Signs).

### Wyndham Food Systems Capacity Building Project

From July 2022 to August 2023, Sustain - the Australian Food Network undertook a project with Wyndham City to demonstrate food system capacity building within local government. The project developed a replicable, scalable action-learning model to enhance local government capacity to embed food systems thinking and practice across council and tackle related issues that compromise community wellbeing and ecological sustainability.

This project recognised the need for greater community capacity, knowledge, skills and resilience to meet challenges such as:

- financial pressures associated with the cost of living crisis
- dietary and population health challenges linked to food manufacturing
- retail sectors that market and promote cheap and unhealthy food
- growing threats to medium and long-term food security through intensifying climate change and extreme weather events

In the next stage of the project, Council will establish a Wyndham Food Collective to further support collaboration, networking and integration across the local food sector. Support for community gardens and community gardeners/organisations increases access to fresh produce, opportunities for connection and improved mental wellbeing, all contributing to this outcome. Providing support and increased collaboration between food relief agencies also increases access to food for our most vulnerable households.

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<sup>59</sup> (The Lancet, 2023)  
Wyndham City

## Wyndham community gardens

An outcome of the Wyndham Food Systems Capacity Building Project is a new policy to support community garden across Wyndham. The draft policy recognises that community gardens contribute to community wellbeing, increase mental wellbeing, physical health, improve food security, and positively impact the environment.

The draft Policy is based on three key principles:

1. Community gardens will be located within Open Spaces so as not to compromise the open space's function.
2. Community gardens will be the responsibility of an incorporated group to establish, manage and maintain
3. Community garden need to meet minimum standards

Community consultation took place in April 2024 and the findings will be considered in line with the final policy draft to be presented to Council for adoption in late 2024.

## Fruit and vegetable consumption

Over 40 percent of Australian dietary intake now is now comprised of ultra-processed foods meaning that diet is now one of the leading risk factors for disease and early death.<sup>60</sup>

Only 5.7 percent of Victorian adults meet vegetable consumption guidelines (only 1.8% of men compared to 9.4% of women).<sup>61</sup> Over 40% of Australians' energy intake comes from ultra-processed foods (UPFs).<sup>62</sup>

Outcome 14. We can access open space and participate in recreational opportunities	
Indicators	<div>Promote active living<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increasing overall participation in organised sport</li><li>• Ensuring universal access to recreation and fitness programs</li><li>• Increased participation in regular walking and cycling activities</li><li>• Increasing participation in events and art installations</li></ul></div>

## Promote Active living

Pandemic lockdowns and social distancing measures increased sedentary behaviours, and decreased sport and physical activity. Less than 40 percent of young people met physical activity requirements during the pandemic.<sup>63</sup> Major initiatives undertaken by Council to promote active living including increased participation in organised sport include the following developments.

- Tom Roberts Parade, Point Cook and Arndell Park, Truganina Reserves were completed ahead of schedule during 2022/23.
- Construction of the AFL/Cricket/Netball Pavilion at Galvin Park, Werribee has continued and is forecast to be completed in late 2024.
- Council works with local communities to establish clubs and user groups to activate new active open spaces. Six clubs have been established, delivering sporting opportunities at Alcock Road, Truganina; Webster Street, Point Cook; and new 'Baseball and Softball Club' at Brookdale Road Reserve, Point Cook.

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<sup>60</sup> (Machado, et al., 2019)

<sup>61</sup> (Victorian Agency for Health Information, 2019)

<sup>62</sup> (Machado, et al., 2019)

<sup>63</sup> (Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, 2020)



## Ensuring universal access

In 2022/23, Council conducted 1,442 playground inspections of council-owned and maintained playgrounds and 4,425 inspections of parks and open spaces

Satisfaction with how well Council encourages a healthy and active lifestyle through appropriate infrastructure, services, and advocacy increased by six percent in 2024. This result was comfortably above the long-term average satisfaction since 2015/16 and was the equal highest score recorded.<sup>64</sup> The maintenance of parks, gardens, and open spaces was the 10th most important of the 46 included services and facilities, with an average importance of 8.7 out of 10.

Satisfaction with these services and facilities increased notably in 2024, up four percent, a “very good” level of satisfaction and the highest level of satisfaction with the maintenance and cleaning of public areas observed for the City of Wyndham since it was first included in the survey in 2021/22.<sup>65</sup>

## Active Wyndham Strategy 2019-2024

The Strategy seeks to ensure that all members of the Wyndham community are supported and empowered to reach health and wellbeing goals through physically activity. It supports the provision of diverse and adequate physical and recreational activity options by enabling the community to access, explore and enjoy facilities and programs for physical activities regardless of location, age, culture, gender, ability, or affordability.

## Western Bulldogs-Daughters and Sons of the West

In partnership with the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation, Council supports the free 10-week health programs, the Daughters and Sons of the West. The programs are open to people aged 18 and over and aim 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.

<sup>64</sup> (Metropolis Research Pty Ltd, 2024)

<sup>65</sup> (Metropolis Research Pty Ltd, 2024)  
Wyndham City





### The Wyndham Sports Strategy 2045

The Sports Strategy guides the delivery of sport and active recreation facilities for the growing Wyndham population. Adopted in 2017, the strategy was reviewed in 2022/23 to establish the priorities and actions for the next five years.

The revised Sports Strategy will incorporate other sporting strategies including the Cricket and Australian Rules Football Strategy, Hard to Locate Strategy and Skate, BMX and Bike Strategy. Mapping of Wyndham's future sport and active recreation facility network has been refreshed based on updated demand and supply data. Work is also progressing on the planning for Wyndham's future indoor facilities, including aquatic facilities and is set to be completed in 2023/24.

### Walking and Cycling

The provision of on and off-road / separated bike paths was allocated an average importance of 8.5 out of 10. This is a measurable increase in satisfaction with these facilities, up nine percent. Satisfaction with the provision of shared trails also increased measurably in 2024, up five percent.<sup>66</sup>

### The Wyndham Plan

The following goals have been identified as measurable key outcomes of The Wyndham plan.

*Goal 9:* The amount of public open space in Wyndham will increase.

*Goal 10:* Every neighbourhood will have an integrated pedestrian, cycling and micro-mobility network which is safe and connected to places where people want to go.

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<sup>66</sup> (Metropolis Research Pty Ltd, 2024)  
Wyndham City



Outcome 15. We support smokers and e-cigarette users who want to quit	
Indicators	Support smokers and e-cigarette users to quit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing the provision of smoke-free zones in Wyndham</li> <li>Reducing smoking rates among pregnant women and mothers</li> <li>Discouraging young people from taking up smoking or e-cigarette use</li> <li>Enforcing responsible sale of tobacco products</li> </ul>

A significant proportion (38%) of chronic disease burden is caused by modifiable risk factors including smoking.<sup>67</sup> Within the WPHU catchment, 12.5 percent of adults smoke daily, which is higher in comparison to Victoria overall (12.0%).<sup>68</sup> Proportions of daily smokers are above Victorian proportions in Wyndham.

There is an estimated 6.5 percent of mothers smoke during pregnancy in Wyndham which equates to more than 300 pregnancies affected by smoking in the municipality each year.<sup>69</sup>

## Support smokers and e-cigarette users to quit

A quarter of respondents (25%) to the Wyndham Youth Survey 2022, indicated that they were concerned or very concerned about vaping. This was a higher concern than for infectious diseases, alcohol and drugs.

### E-Cigarette Retailers Project

This program was a joint investigation by Wyndham City Public and Environmental Health Team and Victoria Police. Councils Public and Environmental Health team have an existing program in place for the sale and display of tobacco products, enforcing responsible sale of tobacco products in accordance with the *Tobacco Act 1987*.

Council initially targeted ten retailers together with Victoria Police and conducted five follow-up inspections. As a result, eight official warnings and three infringement notices for the display of e-cigarette products were issued. The project resulted in increased compliance with retailers across municipality (signage, displays).<sup>70</sup>

Council had received increased complaints from the community in relation to tobacco and vape products. These complaints coincided with a decrease in compliance at pro-active education visits at tobacco retailers and an increase in media reports regarding the sale of e-cigarettes to minors.

The Public and Environmental Health Team and Victoria Police have sound history of working together. The Westgate Proactive Policing Unit asked Council to assist in 2022 regarding complaints to their Youth Tasking Team. The main issue identified was the sale of vapes to minors. This was consistent with the information that Council was receiving.

Council officers and Victoria Police met to share information on offending premises, current actions, powers and delegations. This helped to identify each parties role in the investigation going forwards.

Wyndham City	Victoria Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide the retailer information under the Tobacco Act with respect to sales to minors, display of e-cigarettes and tobacco product</li> <li>Not able to test purchase e-cigarette in the same was as traditional tobacco products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide information under the Drugs, Poisons &amp; Controlled Substances Act on nicotine containing vapes and illegal tobacco</li> <li>Use the opportunity to provide education and information in the sale restrictions of bongs, and display of hookah pipes</li> <li>Provide support to Council staff</li> </ul>

<sup>67</sup> (Breadon, Fox, Emslie, & Richardson, 2023)

<sup>68</sup> (Western Health, 2023)

<sup>69</sup> (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2023)

<sup>70</sup> For further information on trends in vaping and tobacco use and the associated financial, health, social and environmental impacts on the local community see the Western Public Health Unit, 2024 submssion to the Inquiry into vaping and tobacco controls, 2024.

A series of investigation days were conducted together with a focus on premises known to both council and police. Education was provided to the retailer on the tobacco and e-cigarette requirements under both areas of responsibilities, and verbal warnings for breaches.

Victoria Police provided strong verbal warnings to the proprietors in response to the underage sales reports. Breaches found in follow-up inspection were referred to the appropriate external agency (Australian Border Force, Crimestoppers, ATO, Plain Packaging complaints to the Commonwealth).

Following the visits additional education materials sent out to all tobacco retailers in Wyndham. The program was one of the first joint operations for e-cigarette compliance and gathered interest from many other councils and Police areas.



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