



Living your best life *in Wyndham*

A Life Course Framework Year 2 report





Acknowledgment of Country

Wyndham City Council recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first Peoples of Australia. We acknowledge the Wadawurrung and Bunurong Peoples as Traditional Owners of the lands on which Wyndham City operates. The Wadawurrung and Bunurong Peoples have and always will belong to the Werribee Yalook (river), creeks, stars, hills, and red clay of this Country. We pay respect to their Ancestors and Elders who always have, and always will, care for Country and community today and for future generations.



Executive Summary

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

The Framework reframes service delivery around life transition points, which are variable, rather than pre-determined demographic cohorts. The Framework is about delivering outcomes across the lifecourse. This includes Council's activity around planning for the built environment, partnerships with others, advocacy work, direct service delivery, and more.

This report covers the second year of the Framework. The report affirms Council's long-standing commitment to ensure our services, infrastructure, stakeholder consultation and policy development continue to meet the needs of families and households, while encouraging them to participate in decisions affecting them.

In this year report we have included key initiatives that aim to create better outcomes for all cohorts, these include:

Adoption of the Public Toilet Policy in July 2023

The Public Toilet Policy provides a framework for decision making around public toilet provision in open space and the public realm. This policy links to the strategic statement on the lifecourse framework that states that place and spaces in Wyndham are easy to access and multipurpose to encourage participation of community members regardless of their life stage. No toilet provision in certain places means that certain cohorts are unable to use spaces. This policy promotes a design standard that is accessible to all and emphasises the importance of the public toilet's location, siting, and orientation to maximise community safety outcomes.

Unite for Diversity Campaign

The Unite for Diversity: Listen, Share, Understand Campaign went live in March 2024. The campaign activities were implemented throughout April and May and included a series of community dinners with "living books", Anti-Racism and Inclusion focused training sessions, Youth Healing Day, Cultural and Faith Open Days. Over 500 community members and staff participated in a variety of opportunities on offer. The Campaign was a great success with community commending Council on addressing this issue.

Walk Against Violence 2023

Council staff for the first time attended and supported the annual Walk Against Family Violence as part of the United Nation's International campaign 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, that takes place each year from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of violence against women) until 10 December (International Human Rights Day). Staff and local family violence organisations came together to take part in a drone photo to spell out "UNITE" to stand against gender-based violence in Wyndham.

Design Principles Guidelines Development

Current development of the Design Principles guidelines for community spaces is underway with the engagement period complete. The guidelines aim to create spaces that offer services that help everyone in the community to be healthy and happy. Building design plays a big role in making sure everyone has a great experience, whilst getting the services they need.



Coffee with a Cop

Wyndham City in partnership with Victoria Police hosts monthly 'Coffee with a Cop' sessions at various locations around Wyndham. This popular event provides community members and local traders with the opportunity to connect one on one with local police discussing community safety issues that impact them.

This year, hundreds of community members engaged across nine sessions delivered across the municipality. Many attendees noted they don't feel comfortable visiting a police station to discuss their issues but having the chance to speak with police in a local café, or at a Community Centre was much more inviting!

Wyndham Community Safety Grants

The Wyndham Community Safety grants were made available through the Empowering Communities initiative that is part of the State Government's Building Safer Communities Program. A total of \$370,000 was awarded to five successful recipients to deliver community safety projects and activities within Wyndham.

On Thursday 7th September 2023, the five successful projects were officially announced at the Empowering Communities Safety Grants Launch Event, where funded organisations, community partners, Local Action Group members, and Council staff came together to network, connect and identify opportunities for collaboration. Many of the projects are youth specific, and all target perceptions of safety in Wyndham. One safety project has now been completed engaging with a total of 1059 participants in Wyndham. The remaining four safety projects will finish by the end of August 2024.



Wyndham Learning Festival (WLF) 2023

This community-driven series of free learning activities inspired both formal and informal learning across the City of Wyndham in September 2023. The festival offered activities for all ages and interests, promoting lifelong learning for everyone. Under the theme "Our Thriving, Creative Community," the 2023 WLF featured events like the Young Scientist of Wyndham Competition, Vietnamese cooking classes, and adult ballet classes. The festival launched with "WynTalk: Celebrate the Magic of Storytelling with Mem Fox," honouring the renowned author Mem Fox and 40 years of "Possum Magic." With 78 free learning events, the festival fostered growth and development across all life stages. In addition, the festival spotlights the broad range of learning opportunities on offer in Wyndham and serves to motivate the community to discover what is available and to get involved.

Key initiatives by Cohort

Early Years

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

Early Years Matters Conference

The Early Years Matters Conference is the cornerstone event in the professional development calendar for early years professionals in Wyndham. On 28th June 2024, over 260 early years professionals from across Victoria came together online to attend Wyndham Council's 19th Early Years Matters Conference. This year's conference was sponsored by Nerdu Badji, Restoring Resilience, Noah's Ark, Life Education Victoria, Infinity and Beyond Childcare Solutions, Wyndham Community and Education Centre and Council's Early Years Partners – ECMS, Bestchance, Sparkways, One Tree and KU. Participants were engaged in a full day of presentations and workshops under the theme of 'Transitions in Early Years: Teach, Transform Triumph'. Topics included creating an inclusive environment, Transformative Communication, and Educators' role in positive transitions. The annual event continues to demonstrate Council's commitment to its role as a leader and facilitator by supporting the capacity of the early years.

Introduction of QR code enabled posters

The Maternal and Child Health service has introduced a QR code-enabled poster to obtain feedback from participants across Sleep and Settling, First Time Parent Groups, and lactation services. This initiative underscores Council's commitment to fostering continuous improvement and ensuring the delivery of high-quality care to all families.

Children's Week Picnic

Children's Week Picnic is Wyndham's longest running annual community event and took place on Sunday 22 October 2023 with about 4809 people in attendance. The free event provided an opportunity for children to explore new experiences with a focus on education and learning. The event showcases several Council departments such as libraries, early years, sports and recreation, youth and more, allowing the community to connect with and learn more about vital Wyndham services.

Pedagogical Strategy 24/25

The Wyndham Pedagogical Strategy for 2024/25 has been successfully developed and endorsed by the Early Education and Care Services leadership team. This internal collaboration ensures a comprehensive approach to aligning School Readiness Funding (SRF) initiatives with pedagogical goals. By strategically integrating SRF with the Pedagogical Strategy, Wyndham can ensure that resources are used efficiently to meet young children's educational and developmental requirements, thereby benefiting the entire community.

Establishment of Maternal Child Health outreach services

Council has established alternative Maternal Child Health services at Long Day Care centres in Point Cook, a GP clinic in Tarneit, Utopia, and at IPC Health, with full staffing levels, providing much needed additional capacity to service families in Wyndham.

Best Start, Best Life kindergarten

Council completed a thorough assessment of the market's capacity to meet the Best Start, Best Life kindergarten reforms and is continuing to work collaboratively with the Department of Education (DE) and the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) to update Wyndham's Kindergarten Infrastructure and Service Plan (KISP) to reflect the level of infrastructure expansion required. Council is assessing its own capacity for future infrastructure investment, as well as engaging with 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. Ongoing support is being provided to the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) in the form of data and information for Building Blocks funding applications. In addition, Council is assessing the viability of its ageing infrastructure to meet the needs of the community into the future.

Middle Years

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

Tuning into Kids

This year the Youth Services team introduced Tuning into Kids which is an 8-week parenting program that focuses on the emotional connection between parents/carers and their children. Tuning into Kids is suited for parents/ caregivers of children aged between 5-11 years of age. This evidence-based program has proven to be successful in improving parenting, parent-child relationships and children's emotional competence and behaviour.

Level Up - Art Extension (20 Oct - 14 Nov 2023)

An exhibition by the students of Saltwater P9 which involved students attending before school once a week to continue their passion. 11 students participated in this exhibition.

Favourite Things by DMR Art Studio (18 Jan - 20 Mar 2024) - An exhibition of things that make them happy by the students of DMR art studio. 16 students participated.

To Make the World Better presented by Just Art Studio (10 Apr - 21 Apr 2024)

An art competition to celebrate Earth Day, 2024. 120 young participants. It was exhibited at the Annex. 680 people attended the exhibition.

Library Holiday Programs

In 2023-24, Wyndham Libraries provided 26,623 middle years children, their siblings and parents/ carers with access to 702 activities across the four school holiday programs throughout the year. This is a 74per cent increase in attendance in comparison to the 2022-23 financial year. These free, fun, and educational activities included Lego, science shows, craft sessions, story times, illustration workshops, sustainability workshops and shows covering topics such as beekeeping and recycling, First Nations cultural experiences, Dancing Story sessions with the Australian Ballet, reptile and butterfly interactions, passive all-day drop-in scavenger hunts, colouring tables, and much more! The demand for school holiday activities often exceeds the Library's capacity and Library staff continue to partner with both internal and external providers to try and meet the needs of the community.

Parenting sessions

Wyndham Library Children's Team partnered with Drummond Street Services to deliver a series of parenting talks to help support Wyndham children and families on the topics such as; Parenting Children Who Worry Too Much, and A Transition to School Life.

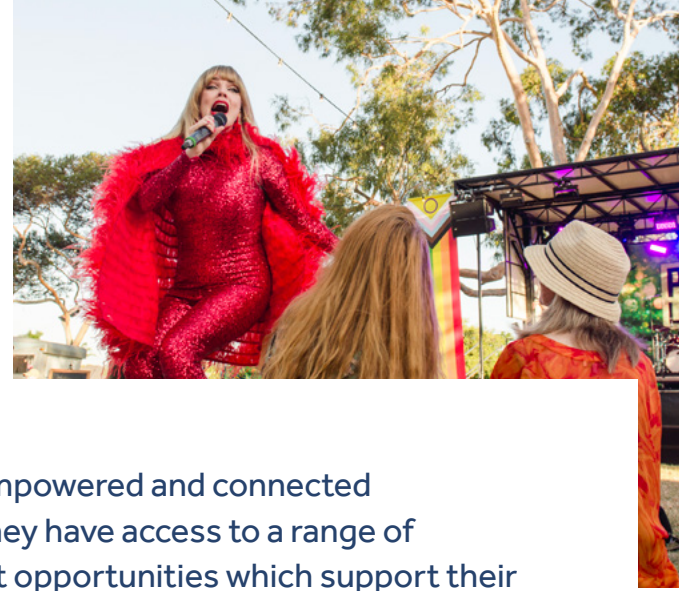
Wyndham Community Grants

One large community grant was awarded in the 2023/2024 period to a local agency to deliver a mentoring and wellbeing program to middle years children in the municipality. Other medium and larger grants were allocated that included middle years such as festivals, health and wellbeing, sports and recreation and environment.

Active Kids Program

The Active Kids program was designed by Wyndham City to support Wyndham Primary schools to encourage more 8- to 10-year-old children (grades 3 and 4) to be physically active and eat healthily through an 8-week program that aligns to the school curriculum. In 2024, 22 schools registered for the program with about 3737 students participating in the initiative.





Youth

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

Library Volunteering Opportunities for Young People

The Wyndham Libraries Education and Youth Team offered a variety of popular volunteering opportunities for young people aged 14+. These programs are designed to foster young people's sense of connection to their community, empower young people to have a say in designing and developing library programming, develop confidence and interpersonal skills, and provide an opportunity to gain work and life skills. With the support of our trained volunteer supervisors, currently more 20 young people regularly volunteered across the library service at our Point Cook, Julia Gillard and Manor Lakes Library branches.

First Nations Engagement officer

Youth Services successfully appointed a First Nation's engagement worker who has focused on relationship building and determining the needs and interests of First Nation's young people in Wyndham. A Yarning Circle Network group has been established partnering with the Department of Education.

First Nations Traineeship program established

In March 2024, the First Nations Unit recruited and filled the First Nations Community Officer. The First Nations Employment Pathway position, including the commencement of the First Nations Traineeship program, where two trainees were onboarded with the team to gain experience and accredited training.

Game Changers

Empowering young people in their employment journeys - In June 2024, the Social and Economic Inclusion Unit collaborated with Opportunity Wyndham partner The Huddle on their Game Changers program. A group of six young people participated in workshops, before starting a casual employment experience to develop and run an engaging youth forum event. The participants worked with The Huddle to deliver a volleyball tournament with over 100 attendees, invited local service providers to raise awareness about their supports for young people, as well as developing a survey to collect information about local employment needs.

Park Lounge

Wyndham's annual Park Lounge event is a celebration for the LGBTQIA+ community and allies and forms part of the greater Midsumma Festival program. Held in Werribee's Kelly Park, the event took place of Saturday 3 February 2024 with about 1098 people in attendance. Whilst Park Lounge is an intergenerational event, we have seen an increase in attendance from young people in recent years. The event provided a safe and inclusive place for the LGBTQIA+ community and allies to come together and celebrate queer culture.

Opportunity Wyndham

Opportunity Wyndham made a resurgence with a planning/workshop held with the Point Cook/Williams Landing team, providing individual support with Employment Pathways for young people in partnership with AAFRO. Two student placements are currently underway within the Youth Counselling team, and planning is underway with two other students, who will commence later in 2024 - one with the Projects team, the other with the Tarneit/Truganina team.

QArt Exhibition

QArt project brought the creative works together of rainbow youth to share voice, story, pride, strength, and experience. 24 queer youth artists participated in this exhibition. 102 people attended the exhibition.

Open Stage: Muses by Western Edge

held on Saturday 27 April 2024 was a free, live music pop-up gig at The Annex in central Werribee. The curator was NOMAD and there were three performing artists featured across the event: Tébir, Hope and Vina. A crowd of 70 people age approx. 16-25 years enjoyed the music, social opportunity, food, and non-alcoholic drinks on offer.

Street Surfer Bus (SSB)

The SSB team delivered three outdoor movie nights at Little River, Baden Powell Skate Park and Tarneit, including a minimum of four youth engagement activities each week, totalling 60 interactions and engaging 1,324 young people. The team have been supporting the youth mobilisation and response team with hotspot engagements on Friday evenings providing a barbecue.

Older People

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

Seniors Expo

The Seniors Expo was held on the 28 November 2023 at Encore Events. This free community event showcased 54 services and supports for older residents and their carers in Wyndham. More than 850 people attended the Expo, with 90 per cent rating their overall experience as being good to excellent, 82 per cent reported that they walked away with new information. 86 per cent felt they had a better understanding of services and supports available because of their attendance. In terms of the service providers who made up the Expo, 96 per cent rated their experience as excellent and the best they had attended.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Training Session

Elder abuse can take many forms, but is still a hidden form of abuse. The harm caused to an older person may range from the effects of verbal harassment through to serious physical injury inflicted deliberately. Harm can also include emotional harm and financial loss, including the loss of a home and belongings. Wyndham City organised to have 25 externally facing staff members participate in a training session to assist them in identifying elder abuse and understand referral pathways that may assist residents.

Warm Safe Home Project

Wyndham City in conjunction with local community groups participated in the Warm Safe Home Project to raise awareness on elder abuse and the importance that everyone has the right to a safe home in our community. Over 70 older residents participated in the activities throughout the municipality and the project homes were out of display at Manor Lakes, Point Cook and Tarneit community learning centres to raise awareness about Elder Abuse in our Community in the lead up to Elder Abuse Awareness Day on 15 June 2024.

Pop Up library Van

The partnership with Little River Mechanics Institute Hall provided adult residents in fringe Wyndham communities with access to enriching library programs. The Bookshelf at the Saltwater Community Centre has expanded its collection significantly since its inception, offering a wide range of titles to the community. It has also seen substantial usage, with 5,788 transactions recorded since the launch in May 2023. A larger proportion of the participants on these initiatives are older residents.

Silver Threads and Golden Needles project

Wyndham City in collaboration with the Elder Abuse Western Network hosted the silver threads and golden needles project at the Youth Services space in Hoppers Crossing. The project aimed to shine a light on negative attitudes towards older women by highlighting women's strengths. Around 46 people were in attendance to hear from Dr Catherine Barrett (Celebrate Ageing) and Mandy Strange (Better Place Australia). 100 per cent of attendees surveyed indicated that they were more confident in challenging ageist language directed at older women, and they had new phrases to respond to ageist language if they hear it.

Future Wyndham @ Morning Melodies

The Future Wyndham project is helping to create the Wyndham 2050 Community Vision and informing the next Council Plan, including the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, as well as the Long-Term Financial Plan and Asset Plan. During the engagement period older residents were invited to give their feedback on this project, providing their views on what our community wants Wyndham to be like in 2050 and the priorities council should focus on in the term of the next Council (2025-2029).

Virtual Connections Project

Council's Virtual connection project has engaged ten older residents with the aim of combatting the social isolation of residents that cannot attend face to face programs. Activities include access to apps, games and puzzles, with participants completing a diary of how they can use the devices to stay connected.

Exhibitions

Level Up - Yu Fanghong - Blooming Red Of Fabric Artistry (12 Jul - Sept 2023) – A Chinese/Australian artist in her 60s had an exhibition at Saltwater Community Centre of her fabric art works. By ingeniously combining discarded fabric scraps, Yu Fanghong transformed them into exquisite fabric artworks.

Close Knit With The Werribee South Gallery Group (6 Sep – 24 SEP 2023) - Werribee South Gallery Group of eight senior artists had this exhibition at the Annex. They also ran six workshops during their time in the Annex which was open to all. 261 people attended the exhibition.



FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information or to receive a copy of this document in an alternate format, please contact:

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