

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025

Annual Report

2024 – 2025



Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

2021-2025 – Annual Report 2024-2025

In accordance with section 26 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, council has delivered the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025.

The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) 2021-2025 was developed in consultation with service providers, cross organisational stakeholders, and the community including people with lived experience of disability and their careers. The MPHWP was adopted by Council in October 2021.

Prepared in accordance with the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic), the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (Health Plan) is consistent with the Council Plan to guide Council's work. It identifies the ways that Council works in partnership with the Department of Health and other agencies to undertake public health initiatives to accomplish plan's goals.

In 2021, when the plan was adopted, Wyndham was still experiencing pandemic lockdowns. Reflecting those circumstances, Council used a cooperative approach with our health and community sector partners, working together towards clear outcomes. The 2021-2025 Health Plan was structured around four domains – Thriving, Liveable, Safe and Healthy.

Health equity has been an important driving principle, supporting the community post pandemic to recover and thrive. Successes in the areas of climate change health impacts, active living, healthy eating and food systems are all evidence of Council's commitment to the health equity principle. Highlights for 2024-2025 are as follows.

As this current Plan ends on 30 June 2025, we have included some content from the Health Plan 2021-2025 Review.

Thriving Wyndham

Wellbeing is the idea that we can judge a society by how much the people are thriving, in turn influenced by where we live. Social exclusion and discrimination are damaging to the functioning of our community.

- Recognising First Nations with adoption of Wyndham City's second Innovatr Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2023-2025, continuing and strengthening Council's role in reconciliation. Council's First Nations Unit leads work on First Nations' self-determination, inclusion, equity, safety and reconciliation.
- In 2024, customer satisfaction with Wyndham Library services was significantly higher than average and was ranked fifth in terms of satisfaction.
 - The Werribee Library reopened in 2025, with a new entrance at 1 Wedge Street South. The library is freshly painted with upgraded air-conditioning and toilet facilities.
 - Wyndham Libraries delivered a record number of programs and events to multiple locations, including community centres and festivals via the Pop-Up Library Van, reaching residents unable to travel to a library. The library came to them! Activities in the table below.

Program Type	No of Sessions	Total Attendees
Literacy and Lifelong Learning	2629	93775
Personal Development	750	12247
Digital inclusion	462	1026
Stronger and Creative Communities	299	10138
Economic and Workforce Development	246	316
Personal Development and Wellbeing	168	2888
Informed and Connected Citizens	109	1779
Health and Wellbeing	57	536
Lifelong Community Learning	11	908

- Civic engagement includes residents' participation in public decision-making, volunteering and otherwise contributing to the wellbeing of the community,
 - In 2024-2025, the Future Wyndham engagement program heard residents' views on refreshing the Wyndham 2024 Community Vision.
 - 2,830 people contributed their viewpoints
 - Another 545 completed surveys
 - And 436 took part in workshops
- The 2025 Volunteer Expo attracted presenters and residents interested in exploring opportunities to volunteer in Wyndham. The 2025 Expo attracted:
 - 49 volunteer-involving organisations
 - 403 local residents.
 - 147 residents signed up as volunteers on the day

Gender Equality

- We celebrated International Women's Day in March 2025, with a series of free events and activities at the Wyndham Civic Centre, Lancemore Mansion Hotel, Hoppers Crossing Library and Women! Let's Talk sessions at Arndell Park, Tarneit and Dianella Community Centres. The 2025 campaign theme was 'March Forward - turning promises into progress'.
- The participation of girls and women in sport and recreation is one way to further gender equality in Wyndham. In 2023, Werribee was selected by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) as base camp for the Morocco Women's National Football Team during the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup Australia & New Zealand 2023™ event – the largest women's sporting event on the planet. The team trained at Galvin Park where FIFA invested \$227,000 in international standard LED lighting on the main pitch.

- Council delivered initiatives to encourage women and girl's participation in soccer around the visit.
- Council also runs a regular range of sports programs to support gender equality including the Active Holiday program, This Girl Can events and a running program.

Liveable Wyndham

When the environment supports quality of life, health and wellbeing for the people who live, work or visit, it is liveable. 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.

- Council's public health and social 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 were adopted more broadly to enhance service provision across many services, including maternal and child health services, childhood vaccinations and free Community Counselling appointments.
 - This was reflected in feedback to Council in 2024, when residents expressed increased satisfaction with how well Council provides the services that people need (up 8%). Satisfaction with Council assistance to get the support services households need also increased measurably (up 9%).
 - There was also increased satisfaction with Council's efforts to inform the community about its work, services, activities, and programs (up 9%)
 - Satisfaction with maternal and child health services increased measurably in 2024 (up 7%), which was an "excellent" level of satisfaction. Satisfaction with Council's Youth Services increased by six per cent.
- Council began a dedicated Community Connector service during the pandemic (2021/2022) providing personalised support to help people navigate services, groups and activities. The service has since 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 with any other support needs.

Community Infrastructure Development

- Council opened three new community centres to serve as central hubs for Wyndham's growing population, including the Truganina Community Centre (\$18.4 million), Lollypop Creek Community Centre (\$13.7 million) and the new Hoppers Crossing Family Centre.
- In 2025, Jamieson Way Community Centre stage 1 works were completed, expanding the facilities with a third kindergarten room, larger kindergarten outdoor play area, new multipurpose meeting spaces, upgraded staff facilities, new Maternal and Child Health consulting rooms, new reception area and community kitchen.

- Also in 2025, a new flexible outdoor activation space became available for community use at Penrose Place, Tarneit. Residents can book the space which is designed for marquees, food trucks, and al fresco dining, for activations, cultural events, markets and private events. The site offers convenient access to water and power, ambient lighting, and a designated waste collection area with a selection of Council-managed bins.

Climate Change Health Impacts

- Between 2022-2025, Council collaborated on the Mobilising Climate Just and Resilient Communities in Melbourne's West project, led by Jesuit Social Services Centre for Just Places. The project contributed to the climate change health impacts outcome of the Health Plan and supported health equity. Climate change interacts with the social and environmental determinants of health, having potential to worsen as well as create new forms of health inequity.

The project produced a framework for collaborative action on climate justice.

- To ensure adaptation with climate change the project gathered data on social inequity and environmental change through a lens of climate justice, mapping collaborative opportunities to mobilise climate justice in the Melbourne's West.
- In 2023/24, the project reconvened around the Collaborative Action Framework with a view to designing practical projects to respond to the focus areas of the Framework. Council has contributed to three workshops to progress proposals. The five framework focus areas are:
 1. Context – ensuring understandings of climate justice are situated within the social and physical context of the west.
 2. Communication – drawing on experience and knowledge in the west to communicate a shared voice and vision for climate justice.
 3. Capacity - strengthening capacity to contribute towards climate justice, including continuous improvement.
 4. Coordination - of resources and knowledge on climate justice.
 5. Consolidation – to align efforts across sectors regionally to support integration of climate justice in organisational practices.
- In March 2025, Residents helped to Clean Up Australia Day in Little River, meeting at the Little River Mechanics Institute Hall to begin the environment clean up.
- Major initiatives undertaken to improve child-friendly and age-friendly infrastructure included:
 - In 2024-2025 finalising planning for new community facilities at Black Forest Road North, Mambourin and Tarneit major town centre.
 - in the third quarter of 2024, fifty-four placemaking initiatives delivered across Wyndham's activity centres (+116%).

Safe Wyndham

Our safety and success depend on the success of all others. Council works together with our partners Victoria Police to ensure the justice needs of the community including Wyndham's' community safety needs. People feel safe when they are included.

- In 2024, Council participated in The Safe Spaces project to help women from diverse backgrounds in Wyndham, Melton and Monash to feel safe. Wyndham residents identified racism and vilification, feeling unsafe at night and youth gathering in groups as safety concerns, adding to our understanding of why some public spaces seem unsafe.

This knowledge helped to:

- identify women's awareness of the problems in public places
 - understand women's experiences in and around these places
 - examine different strategies to improve safety in public places
- Overall, the project helped to build the confidence of the women who took part.
 - Knowing when and how to engage women in the community is the first step in improving their perceptions of safety and inclusion.
 - The project produced three useful toolkits for local councils to use in safety and inclusion in public places for women.
- The Safe Spaces, Understanding and enhancing safety and inclusion for diverse women, Final Report is available at the Monash University Safe Spaces web page. The project also produced three useful 'toolkits' – Walking Interviews, Community Safety Surveys and Co-Design to help local government to better design safe spaces.
- Road Safety - in 2024, residents' satisfaction increased with the maintenance and repair of sealed local roads (+18%), and traffic management (+10%).

Family Safety

- In 2025, Family Violence incidents in Wyndham were down by 6.9 per cent. This compares with an increase of 3.2 per cent in Brimbank and 15.8 per cent in Melton. ¹
 - In 2022, The Orange Door opened in Werribee providing a coordinated service pathway to family violence and connected services. First responses from services including Victoria Police go directly to Orange Door which strengthens support for people experiencing family violence, including children in Wyndham and the broader western region.

¹ Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, 2025

- We celebrated World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in May 2025 - Beyond Age: Changing the Conversation About Ageing. Residents were invited to submit current photos of themselves and when they were younger, with the advice they would give their younger self. Many residents submitted photos online and at a participating community centres.

Healthy Wyndham

Public health initiatives seek to encourage healthy living. The ideal food system is one that is healthy, fair and sustainable for human and environmental health.

Food Security and the local Food System

During the pandemic in 2021-2022, many Wyndham households faced food insecurity. Since then cost of living increases have further impacted household budgets. Council supports individuals and households with food relief at local community centres.

- Council also works with partners to improve the local food system. Since 2022, Council has worked with Sustain, the Australian Food Network to demonstrate food system capacity building within local government. This work helps to improve community wellbeing and ecological sustainability by aiding food security. The project improves local capacity in food systems thinking and practice across council.
- In 2025, Council, again working with Sustain, established the Wyndham Food Collective with local food producers to further support collaboration, networking and integration across the local food sector. Providing support and increasing collaboration between food relief agencies also increases access to food for our most vulnerable households.
- In 2024, with VicHealth Healthy Communities funding, Council is working to support residents' access to affordable, nutritious, and environmentally sustainable food. 'Connecting Local Food to Families' is a collective impact project in partnership with the Western Public Health Unit (WPHU), The Community Grocer, and Melton, Brimbank, Hobson's Bay and Melbourne City Councils.
 - Lack of access to healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food contributes to food insecurity and low consumption of fruit and vegetables in Wyndham.
 - In 2025, the project aims to strengthen community fresh food access by creating an innovative, financially sustainable and scalable approach to local food access and security. Establishing the Community Grocer in Wyndham, we hope to improve fruit and vegetable intake by 64 per cent, providing foods 30 per cent more affordable than other fresh food outlets within 1km.
- In 2024, Council adopted the Open Space Community Garden Policy to provide clear direction on the approval, establishment, management, and maintenance of community gardens within Wyndham's Open Spaces. Support for community gardens not only increases access to fresh produce, but provides opportunities for people to connect, improving mental wellbeing and building social capital.

Active School Holiday Programs

- Summer 2025, Council provided the following free activities for children 3-18 years.
 - Active Kinders Day, fun sporting activities tailored for children aged 3-6 years
 - Rugby on the Beach by Rugby League Victoria (children 5-12 years)
 - skateboard sessions,
 - bike mechanic inspecting and bike repair,
 - drop-in sport for young people,
 - face painting and Library Van

Wyndham City's Park Asset Renewal Program

- Several park upgrades were completed in 2024-2025, including enhancements at Dr. Charles Prouse Park, Grange Community Centre, Wyndham Park Kindergarten, Kiah Reserve, Barnstormer Boulevard Boardwalks, and The Reflections Wetlands Boardwalks and Lookouts, all designed to improve the experience of visitors.
 - Refreshed playground lookout tower at The Strand Park, Point Cook; new play equipment at Cambridge Crescent Park, Werribee; and upgraded boardwalk at Barnstormer Boulevard, Point Cook.
 - Playground and landscaping enhancement at Werribee's College Road
 - Kindergarten to create a better environment for children and staff.
 - New fitness equipment installed at Hemsley Promenade, Point Cook to encourage people to stay active outdoors.
- Council opened the Lawrie Emmins Reserve Gateway and Youth Precinct, designed for social connection, play, and opportunity to unwind. The precinct features a dynamic skate park, basketball and netball courts, and a bouldering wall paired with outdoor fitness equipment, offering endless opportunities for recreation and fitness. There are two shaded shelters with picnic settings and a spacious grassed gathering area with a volleyball court. The precinct also includes essential amenities such as public toilets, pedestrian paths for easy access, and a convenient car park.
- Major initiatives to promote active living in Wyndham include increased participation in organised sport following developments.
 - In 2024, construction of the AFL, Cricket, Netball Pavilion at Galvin Park, Werribee.
 - Working with local communities to establish clubs and user groups to activate new active open spaces. In 2025, six new clubs were established to deliver sporting opportunities at:
 - Alcock Road, Truganina
 - Webster Street, Point Cook
 - new 'Baseball and Softball Club' at Brookdale Road Reserve, Point Cook.