



# Living your best life *in Wyndham*

A Life Course Framework Year 3 report





## Acknowledgment of Country

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



# Executive Summary

The Lifecourse Framework (the Framework) remains focused on optimising strategies that guide the provision of age-specific services. Wyndham City is widely recognised for offering high-quality and effective services and initiatives tailored to specific demographic groups, which are well-received within the Wyndham community.

The Framework emphasises service delivery at various life transition points, which are adaptable rather than fixed demographic categories. Its primary objective is to achieve meaningful outcomes throughout different stages of life. This encompasses the Council's efforts in planning the built environment, fostering partnerships, engaging in advocacy, delivering services directly, and more.

This report presents an overview of the third year of the Framework. It reaffirms the Council's enduring commitment to ensuring that our services, infrastructure, stakeholder engagement, and policy development align with the needs of families and households, while also encouraging their active involvement in decisions that impact their lives.

In this annual report, we have highlighted essential initiatives designed to promote improved outcomes for all age cohorts, including:

## **Sons & Daughters of the West**

Wyndham City Council in partnership with Western Leisure Services and the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation, delivered another stellar round of community health programs for 2024-2025. These popular annual programs continue to engage hundreds of Wyndham community members across the 10-week program to learn about health, social connection and provides a physical fitness component each week, tailored to the needs and level of the participants. The two programs target men and women from all backgrounds, abilities and age ranges, to join in on the free 10 week program,

hosted at Eagle Stadium in Werribee. This year around 150 community members completed the two programs, celebrating the milestone at a graduation event where they presented with a certificate of participation, along with some Sons & Daughters of the West merchandise. Participants reflected on the standout session being the cooking & nutrition session and the 'What's in Your Backyard' session, which is planned and delivered by the Community Strengthening team and includes speakers from a range of local groups, services and organisations, promoting a range of opportunities for the men to continue to engage in their community.

## **Naidoc Week 2024**

Wyndham City Council started NAIDOC WEEK celebrations with the morning flag raising ceremony on Monday 8th July at the Civic Centre. It was a time for all Australians to recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The theme of the week was: 'Keep the fire burning! Black, loud and proud'. Council's flag raising event was open to staff and the community, it included cultural celebrations and an opportunity to come together. Highlights included: NAIDOC week video and performances by Yldiki and First Nations artist Madi Colville Walker.

## **Building Blocks Community Leadership Program**

Wyndham City Council delivered the 2025 Building Blocks Community Leadership Program, which concluded in May. The Building Blocks program is a free 12-week community leadership program that, targets aspiring community leaders from across Wyndham, bringing them together to learn about; Community Development approaches, How to access grant funding, Community engagement principles, Community governance and a range of other useful community topics. The program culminates in the group of 22 participants being divided into smaller working groups of 4-5



participants who then work alongside program mentors to plan, deliver and evaluate a small community project aimed at bringing community members together, aligning to the program theme. The 2025 program theme targeted bringing communities together in new and emerging estates. Each one of the five community projects were provided grant funding of up to \$2,000 to deliver their community project.

Community projects included:

- 'Welcome to Harpley' in the Lollypop Creek Community
- 'A Taste of Harmony' in the Saltwater Community
- 'Dianella Family Event' in Tarneit West
- 'Many Cultures One Community' in Truganina and;
- 'Mambourin Cultural Neighbourhood Expo' in the Mambourin Community.

### **Continuous Improvement**

Continuous improvement remains a key focus across all initiatives in the Community Support Department. The trial of The Loop has been completed and is currently under evaluation to gather insights for future implementation across Community Support. As part of the Customer Feedback Project, the team sent out email campaigns to almost 3,800 families accessing Maternal and Child Health services, significantly expanding its engagement. Throughout the trial, the team made numerous tweaks to the surveys to improve usability and accuracy. Currently the team are scoping building a Community Support PowerBi dashboard, which is expected to be completed later into 2025. To further increase feedback participation, the team are exploring

including the survey QR code in online eNewsletters as well as the quarterly ward newsletter.

### **Accessibility and Inclusion at Events**

Improved accessibility has been a primary focus across Council's major community events in 2024-2025 including; a Sensory Spaces at all major events, providing a space for people to self-regulate; Participation in the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Initiative and training for staff; Social Stories to assist with event preparation; accessibility aids such as hired equipment at State Rose & Garden Show, and free accessibility golf buggy shuttles at Treaty in the Park; and direct consultation with and feedback from people with lived experience, findings of which were used to improve accessibility at future events.

### **Werribee Library**

Werribee Library was closed temporarily to the public while critical works were undertaken at the Wyndham Cultural Centre. It has now re-open with a new address @ 1 Wedge St South, Werribee with refresh new paint, upgrade air conditioning and toilet facilities.

### **Visitor Shuttle Bus Service**

Wyndham City Council launched a new pilot visitor shuttle bus services for Werribee and Surrounds, making it easier for visitors to travel between Werribee City Centre and some of the regions' biggest tourism attractions. The Initiative is designed to help spread visitation between the local attractions encouraging visitors to stay longer and discover something and spend more on the local businesses.

# 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.

### **Sleep and Settle Outreach Program**

The sleep and settling outreach model of care has proven successful, as well as the co-location of General Practitioners, NINO Early Learning Centre and Utopia services. This approach has significantly enhanced family engagement, providing accessible support. The initiative will continue to evaluate locations to ensure that the Maternal Child Health team continues to strengthen community connections and provide better support to families from a refugee and asylum seeker background.

### **Best Start, Best Life Kinder reforms**

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) to update Wyndham's Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP). DE aims to complete KISP reviews for all local governments by the end of 2025 to reflect the level of expansion required in each local area until the full reform rollout in 2036. Council's localised planning has already helped support decisions on State capital funding and the timing of kindergarten builds across Wyndham for the next five years – both for Council-owned sites and other providers.

### **Children Week Picnic 2024**

Children's Week Picnic is Wyndham's longest running annual community event and took place on Sunday 26 October 2024 with over 8500 people in attendance. The free event aimed at children aged 0-12, provides 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, arts & culture, youth and more, allowing the community to connect with and learn more about vital Wyndham services.

### **Active Kinder Program**

The Active Kinder program has been developed to encourage healthy and active habits across Wyndham children enrolled in the 3 and 4 year old kinder programs. The program provides kinders with resources to assist educators in creating healthy and active environments for children, while outside of the kinder room there are opportunities for children to engage in free weekly 'Mini Movers' sessions delivered at various locations across the municipality. Each school holiday period sees the delivery of an 'Active Kinder Day' where children are encouraged to try a range of activities at a local reserve. Over 3500 children were engaged in the Active Kinder program this year.

### **Refugee Family Fun Day**

The Refugee Family Fun Day event, held in July 2024, aimed to enhance community access and participation in Council and local support services. Data and evaluation content from the event was collected, providing valuable insights into community engagement and service awareness. The evaluation document assisted in the developed new priorities in working with refugee/ multicultural families.

## 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.

### Creative Writing Competition Awards Night

In November 2024, Wyndham Libraries hosted the Imagination Creation Writing Competition Awards Night. Twenty-nine talented young writers came to the Hoppers Crossing Library to accept awards for their winning and shortlisted stories and poems. Over 100 people attended the event, including proud family members, friends, and guest authors/judges Nova Weetman and Margaret Campbell. 559 entries from all over Victoria were received in competition. Out of 35 shortlisted entries, 27 were written by young Wyndham residents. The Imagination Creation Writing Competition is a biennial competition open to writers aged 5-18 who live in Victoria.

### Pop-Up Library

The Pop-Up Library van plays a crucial role in connecting Wyndham's schools and kindergartens – especially those on the outskirts where physical library branches are far away – with valuable library resources. By visiting these educational settings regularly, the van provides students and educators with easy access to books and other literacy resources, supporting learning and fostering a love of reading from an early age. The Pop-Up Library Van visited local schools and kindergartens on the outskirts of Wyndham, ensuring children and families at some distance from a physical library have convenient access to Library books and resources. With a small, curated collection onboard, families could sign up to free membership, browse and borrow books on the spot and learn about the range of Library services available.

### Active Holidays

Wyndham City's Active Holidays program partners with local community organisations to offer free sport and physical activity sessions for kinder and school aged children during the school holidays. The program offers members of the community a chance to connect and participate in activity within a safe and welcoming environment, with activities being delivered in trusted sport and active recreation settings. Over the 2024/25 year 4758 participants attended one of the 206 Active Holiday sessions delivered as part of this program.

### Tuning into Kids

In partnership with Wyndham Community and Education Centre a multicultural Tuning Into Kids program was delivered to eight mothers from a Karen background. Parents reported that the program was highly successful and showed great outcomes.





## 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.

### Mental Health Event

A collaboration between Mackillop College, Rotary Club and Youth Services was initiated in which a mental health event was delivered to young people. There were 60 young people in attendance at the school where they received information from esteemed psychologists on mental health and wellbeing. Youth Response Mobilisation Team has developed 14 partnerships with public and private schools and school principals within Wyndham, with the aim of developing partnerships to co-locate/share facilities with local schools and higher education to enhance engagement with young people.

### Lawrie Emmins Reserve Skate Park

The Lawrie Emmins Reserve Skate and Youth Precinct has completed construction and is open to the public. Located at Lawrie Emmins Reserve in Laverton North, the precinct offers a vibrant youth precinct and activated gateway into Lawrie Emmins Reserve and includes, a large plaza with shade and seating, BBQ and picnic facilities, skate park for skate/scooter and BMX, outdoor bouldering/climbing wall, outdoor basketball, netball and multi-use courts, outdoor exercise equipment, irrigated lawn areas, public toilets and car parking.

### Opportunity Wyndham

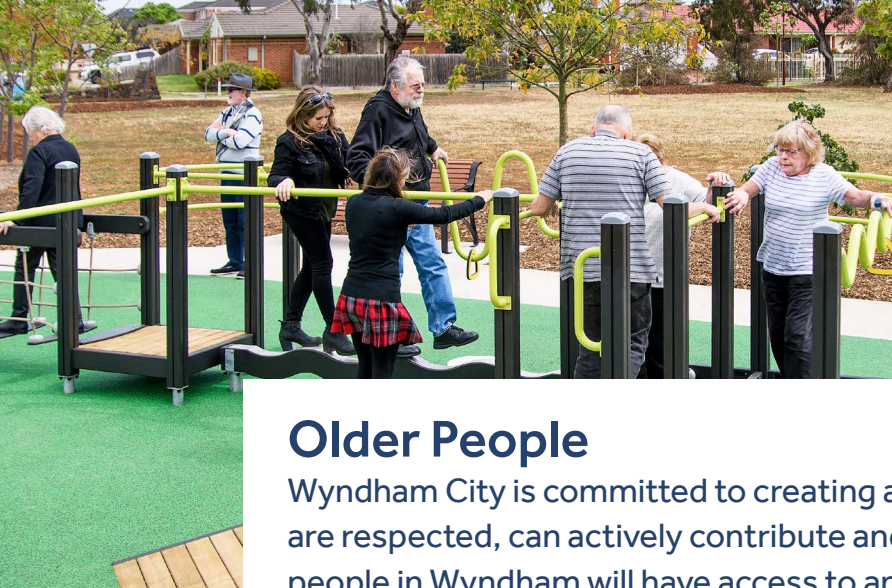
In late 2024 Council collaborated with Opportunity Wyndham partner The Huddle to deliver their Game Changers program in Wyndham, supporting young people to develop transferable employment skills through group projects. In a final pitch event hosted by Council at Civic Centre, participants presented their ideas on how to increase the activation of Wyndham's Chirnside Park for young people in the community. A group of panellists, including staff from Council's Sports & Recreation and Place Making & Activation teams, as well as local emerging leaders, provided feedback and encouragement on the day.

As a result, a group of seven young people have all now been provided with an employment opportunity at The Huddle to develop and implement this local community initiative to meet the wellbeing, social connection, and health needs of young people in Wyndham, with continued support from Council.

As one of Australia's youngest and fastest growing municipalities, employment support for young people is in high demand in Wyndham. This is being supported by Council through its Opportunity Wyndham partnership which collaborates with a range of service providers to deliver a range of education and employment interventions for young people aged 15 to 25. In May 2025 the partnership commenced a pilot with local employers to fund paid work experience placements to help young people gain skills and experience and to allow employers to witness the talent pool available to them for their vacancies. It is hoped the program will also result in longer term employment outcomes as the young people successfully complete their placements.

### Park Lounge

Wyndham's Annual Park Lounge event is a celebration for the LGBTIQA+ community and allies and forms part of the greater Midsumma Festival program. Held in Werribee's Kelly Park, the event took place on Saturday 1 February 2025. Whilst Park Lounge is an intergenerational event, we have seen an increase in attendance from young people in recent years. The event provides a safe place for young people to meet people in the LGBTIQA+ community and allows them to be themselves.



## 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 Park @ Hoppers Crossing

The Seniors Exercise Park at Central Park Hoppers Crossing was designed to help Seniors within the community to maintain their strength, flexibility, balance and coordination. Wyndham City have engaged a team of 8 Seniors Exercise Park Volunteer Buddies, who were provided training through the National Ageing and Research Institute, to support safe utilisation of this equipment by other community member. This year, the Volunteer Buddies worked 216 volunteer hours, providing opportunities for 70 individuals aged 65 and over to be more physically active and socially connected. There were 662 attendances across 90 individual sessions.

### World Elder Abuse Awareness Campaign 2025

Wyndham's 2025 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) campaign, has been delivered as part of a state-wide Beyond Age initiative, aimed to raise visibility of elder abuse and spark important conversations across the community. Council partnered with Seniors Rights Victoria to deliver an educational workshop with the Master Movers Seniors Group at VU Health & Fitness Centre. Participants explored the links between ageism and elder abuse, discussed rights-based advocacy, and received information on where to go for help. Participants on the day and at various locations were invited to bring a photo of themselves from their late teens to 30s, a current photo, and one piece of advice they'll give to their younger self. Photos and quotes celebrating our older community members were proudly displayed at participating Community Centres from 12 - 26 June. Events like WEAAD 2025 demonstrate how we can collectively uphold Wyndham's values of respect, inclusion and community wellbeing—and why they matter in everything we do.

### Volunteering Opportunities

Wyndham City Council offers a wide range of volunteering opportunities for seniors, providing meaningful ways to stay active and involved in the community. Whether utilising existing skills or exploring new interests, seniors can build confidence, learn new things, and contribute to their community in meaningful ways. Volunteering through Council allows seniors to stay connected and engaged, with roles available at many Community Centres across Wyndham. Some of the programs seniors can get involved in include facilitating English Conversation classes, Table Tennis, Walking Football, Bingo, Citizenship Ceremonies, and activities supporting users at the Seniors Exercise Park.

Through volunteering, seniors can make new friends, enjoy being part of a team, and experience the reward of helping others. Their contributions help strengthen the community and make a real difference for themselves and for others.

### Senior Sessions @ library

In October 2024, Libraries partnered with Services Australia and IPC Health to deliver a series of presentations on Superannuation, Age Pensions, and Aged Care. These sessions provided valuable, practical information to older members of the community, with 56 residents in attendance. Participants described the sessions as informative, accessible, and highly relevant to their needs.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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