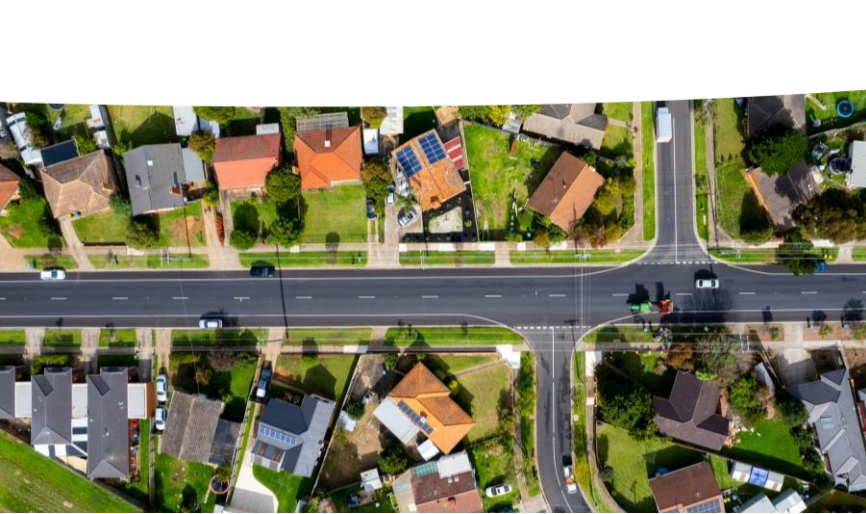




2025/26 Progress Report

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan Implementation Plan



Council's focus on health

Our health and wellbeing is influenced by our living conditions, neighbourhood and communities. Council, with its broad range of responsibilities, can lead efforts that make an impact across a wide range of things that contribute to the health and wellbeing of its residents.

For this reason, the Council Plan 2025-29 incorporates the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and ensures that the work of Council effectively delivers outcomes that drive positive community wellbeing. **The four strategic areas of the Council Plan ensure that Council is delivering on the things that make up a liveable community.**

In addition to that, **Council is committed to working with our partners.** Through the establishment of the **Wyndham Health Plan Governance Group**, Council will collaborate with key stakeholders to ensure all members of our community are supported to achieve their best health and wellbeing.

The [Implementation Plan](#) outlines what Council will do together with relevant partners to achieve improved health and wellbeing outcomes across the five Health Focus Areas.



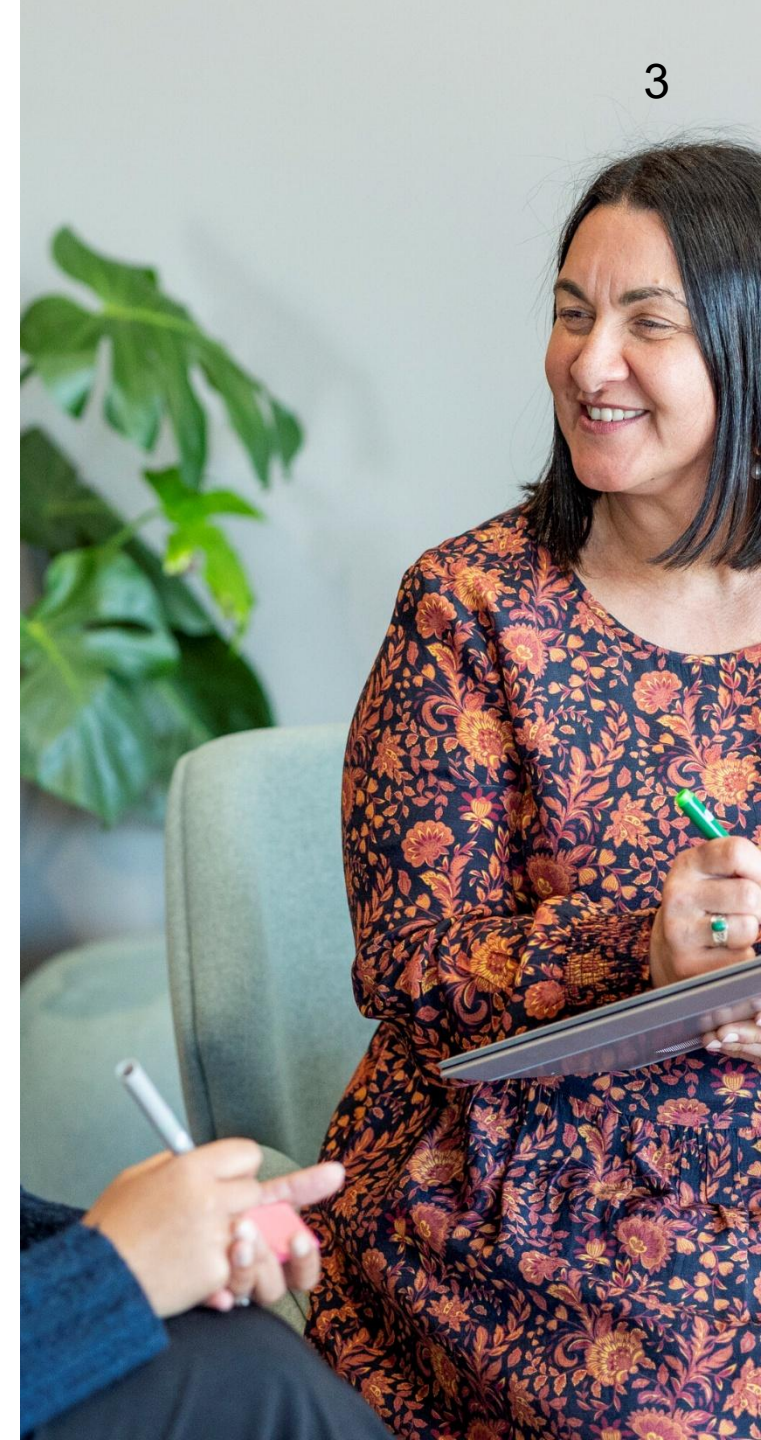
Accessible Services

We have equitable access to culturally safe services that support our health and wellbeing needs.

We want to	What did we do over the year?
Improve equitable and culturally safe access via the Accessibility and Inclusion Plan 2026-2030	Wyndham's new policy is to be called the Wyndham Disability Plan 2026-2029. Community Engagement was in November/December 2025, including a workshop and pop-up sessions. Online engagement via The Loop had 909 page views with 32 people completing the on-line survey. Half of those were people with a disability and 38 per cent were carers or family members. The draft Plan will be presented to Council later in 2026 for public exhibition when there will be further opportunity for engagement. Until then Council continued the work of the previous Plan with a Disability Expo and the "Think before you park" Campaign to remind drivers that parking in an accessible parking bay without a permit puts the independence of a permit holder at risk.
Promote health literacy including digital health literacy by reducing barriers, i.e. translated materials, bilingual workers, improve access to free wi-fi at community facilities	During the summer months Council worked with the Western Public Health Unit (WPHU) to improve awareness of thunderstorm asthma with a focus on residents from our Asian and Indian communities who are disproportionately affected.
Advocate to attract specialist health services by defining priorities and coordinating activities	Work continues with our health sector partners to identify translated materials to make these more widely available across the community and ensure everyone has the information they need to help them navigate health services in Wyndham.
Advance our commitment to reconciliation First Nations by supporting the development of Wyndham City's Reconciliation Action Plan 2026-2029	Initial work to develop Wyndham's new Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) began with designing the policy process including the community engagement plan. The aims of the Health Focus Areas will be duly considered as the RAP develops to better align work to overcome the health inequalities experienced by First Nations people.

Other public health and wellbeing activity across Council

Deliver the Affordable Housing Strategy 2026-36 – Deliver the first year of the new strategy 2026-28.	Significant amendments to the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> commenced in 2026, primarily through the <i>Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Act 2026</i> . These reforms are expected to have substantial implications for planning policy development across Victoria. As the Victorian Government is still developing the regulations required to implement the Act and provide operational guidance on the changes, Wyndham's next Affordable Housing Strategy has been deferred to 2027.
Inform the new Wyndham Active Transport Strategy - Provide health related input to review of this strategy.	The draft Wyndham Active Transport Strategy was on public exhibition in June 2026 and input to support the aims of the Health Focus Areas was provided including additional health status data to further demonstrate the need for people to be active (i.e. obesity/overweight and physical activity data), and data on levels of psychological distress in Wyndham to further inform the benefits of walking or cycling to mental health and wellbeing.



Healthy Living

We are supported to make choices that improve our health and wellbeing, including healthy eating, tobacco and vape free living and being physically active.

4

We want to	What did we do over the year?
Lead the connecting Local Food to Families Project (Funded by VicHealth, this project is a partnership with the Western Public Health unit (WPHU), supporting healthy eating for infants and children of all ages with a focus on strengthen easy access to healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate food)	The Community Grocer undertook a feasibility study early in 2026 to identify the best location in Wyndham, settling on Wyndham Park Community Centre. Community Grocer run low-cost fresh food markets across Melbourne (up to 30% less than supermarkets). The new Wyndham Park fresh food market opened in May 2026, providing a welcoming space for people to shop, connect, socialise, and support one another.
Support community gardens	Wyndham's community gardens improve food security, contributing to health and wellbeing, and improving mental and physical wellbeing. Council is committed to implementing the Open Space Community Garden Policy . This included the new community garden on the site of the old Mossfiel Kindergarten managed by the Mossfiel Reserve Community Garden Committee.
Increase the number of 'No Smoking or Vaping' signs displayed across Wyndham. Expand smoke-free and vape-free areas	Council co-hosted a workshop for sports club volunteers together with Good Sports and IPC Health on the importance of displaying 'No Smoking/No Vaping' signage. Council also conducts education and monitoring visits, providing signage for retailers, sports groups, and food outlets in Wyndham. This year we completed partial audits at sports grounds to determine where signs are required and monitored smoke and vape free areas across Wyndham.
Participate in the Vape Free West Project to increase ability of multicultural young people to reject vaping and support parents and guardians to support their children to reject vaping.	This project aims to prevent uptake of vaping by susceptible young people (12-25 years), working this year with the Arabic, Burmese, Chin and Karen communities to produce translated resources. As project partners, Council helped to shape the final resources, including a successful social media campaign co-designed with young people. Parent videos were also finalised and translated this year. These resources are now available on the webpage Helping parents and carers understand vaping .
Other public health and wellbeing activity across Council	
Food First in the West - Support community access to fresh food markets, including via The Community Grocer	This collective impact food system project funded by VicHealth aims to address food insecurity and equity needs across the west. The Western Public Health Unit (WPHU) is lead partner with Wyndham City and neighbouring councils participating in a collaborative impact model. Council is joint decision-maker, in this first project year approving the workplan and refining the budget. Together with the Connecting Food to Local Families project we are working to make fresh local produce available at low cost to households in Wyndham.
INFANT Program - Support families with healthy eating, active play and reduced screen time from the start of their baby's life and improve diet and reduce sedentary time.	Council incorporated aspects of the INFANT Program into Maternal Child Health services. The My Baby Now App compliments INFANT, co-designed with parents, maternal child health nurses and experts from Deakin University and the University of Sydney.
Reduce the impact of alcohol and other drugs.	To supply liquor in Victoria requires a liquor licence from Liquor Control Victoria. Previously, a planning permit was also required but recent regulatory changes mean that is not required now. As Council's social planning role in liquor regulation is now very limited we consider this action completed.



Climate Change Health Impacts

We are a resilient community that can adapt to the health impacts of climate change.

We want to	What did we do over the year?
Have open access to community infrastructure during extreme weather events to mitigate urban heat for vulnerable groups	Council completed the Wyndham Urban Heat Mapping project supporting community health and wellbeing outcomes. Council owned facilities including libraries, community and recreation centres are also open during extreme heat days for anyone seeking air-conditioned comfort during opening hours.
Build capacity across Wyndham through effective cross-sector collaboration with key stakeholders to address the health impacts of climate change promoting climate change health impacts across Council	Council collaborated with the Western Public Health Unit (WPHU) on Action in Climate Transformation in the West included meeting regularly through the year to align our work, including consideration of the Healthy Choices, sustainable food procurement and the Catering for Good Directory. Council also joined with Jesuit Social Services , Centre for Just Places on the Mobilising Climate Just and Resilient Communities and Lessons in Resilience projects. The Final Report was launched in March 2026 to assist with preparation for climate-related shocks.
Support integrated and streamlined planning for climate events by building community capacity to prepare, respond and recover from associated health impacts related to extreme weather events	Council, in partnership with Melton City Council and other organisations, produced emergency preparedness videos in ten languages to help residents stay safe during emergencies. Council also provided heat health information and pop-up awareness raising events to support households to prepare for extreme heat events. In addition, Council undertook extensive community engagement to inform the next Resilience Strategy; a draft is being prepared for public exhibition in late 2026.
Other public health and wellbeing activity across Council	
Buy Local, Spend Local - Source local to reduce carbon footprint with services and products sourced and consumed locally.	Wyndham City endorsed a new Quadruple Bottom Line Procurement Policy to ensure that economic, environmental, social and ethical considerations are embedded into Council processes.
Wyndham’s Tree and Urban Forest Policy - Plant trees in new development and established areas to deliver canopy, coverage of 25% in streets and 35% in open space across the municipality.	Wyndham’s Tree Planting program is on track with 100 per cent of targets met this year.
Climate and Community Education Series - Series of sustainable living workshops and events to build skills, providing tips for greener living.	Council supported climate adaptation and sustainable living through a range of community education programs. Open Garden Day showcased practical ways to create wildlife-friendly gardens, grow food and incorporate water features, while two Adaptation Game sessions explored the impacts of climate change and extreme weather. The My Smart Garden program delivered 102 workshops to 2,988 participants, and Sustainability Incursions engaged more than 1,300 students through 39 sessions held across Wyndham schools, kindergartens, day care centres and libraries.
Adopt a Park Policy - Support for people to join in the stewardship of our open spaces via Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Council.	Sharing management of Open Space helps residents to be involved in regular maintenance of local parks, learn new skills and make new friends, fostering community connection and cohesion. This year governance and volunteer insurance arrangements were finalised, supporting safe participation.



Mental Wellbeing and Social Connection

We are supported to maintain good mental wellbeing, and are an inclusive, connected and socially cohesive community.

Through its provision of youth services, community centres, sport and recreation and libraries, Council invests heavily in ensuring local opportunities for connections, not only for young people, but all ages. Explore [Strategic Area 1](#) of this report for more information on the work of these services over this quarter and the numbers of people engaged.

We want to	What did we do over the year?
Improve access to mental health programs	Wyndham has a new service, the Mental Health and Wellbeing Local, Werribee which opened this year, providing free mental health service for adults and older adults (age 26 and over). This is a free walk-in service supporting the Wyndham community. No referral is necessary to attend or Medicare card, to access the service, with onsite appointments (including Telehealth or Outreach).
Increase participation of young people (12-25) in Youth Services programs, Sports and recreational activities and Employment Pathways	- Referred 40+ young people to the weekly Culture Konnect Employment Pathway Program; Via Youth Career Connect we assisted 400+ young people with local education and employment prospects; and eight students completed placements with Wyndham Youth Services. Council also hosted another Year 10 Thinktank for local school students. - Engaging Community Through Sports this year meant many young people tried Indoor Cricket, Social Futsal, Boxing and Volleyball; weekly soccer and basketball programs. - Almost half of registered Wyndham volunteers are young people.
Encourage youth-led initiatives by building a sense of purpose and connection civic participation and other socially inclusive strategies (i.e. Q Program)	- Twelve successful applicants for the Youth Civic Participation Project endorsed by Council. - The Youth Task Force led a session of the Wyndham Student Representative Council to 30 students from five Wyndham Secondary Schools; and consulted with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) to help Councils better plan for young people. - Little River, Possy Newland Reserve upgraded sports court with new Youth Space.
Improve local opportunities for people of all ages to socialise, including through social prescribing	- Provided 18,855 programs and activities at Council managed Community Centres. - Council provided many free activities to better connect people - Cultural Diversity Week activities, Building Real Inclusion Together Workshop, Sons and daughters of the West programs, expanded Community Learning Calendar, Meet Your Neighbours, Multicultural Lunar Festival and activities at the Wyndham Art Gallery.
Connect people across the life course into community groups with funding opportunities	
Other public health and wellbeing activity across Council	
Gambling Harm Prevention Policy - Reduce the harms from electronic gaming machines.	Council is committed to reducing the harms of gambling, especially electronic gaming machines (Pokies). We recognise the cost to the local economy and to people's health and wellbeing. Council has commenced reviewing its Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy.
Accessibility and Inclusion Plan 2026-2029 – Increased support for carers.	For information on recent community engagement please access the Engagement Report .



Gender Equality

We promote gender equality with zero tolerance for violence in all its forms.

We want to	What did we do over the quarter?
Strengthen the sexual and reproductive health literacy of communities	- Partnering with Children by Choice, Council delivered the Introduction to Reproductive Coercion and Abuse webinar during the 16 Days of Activism campaign, strengthening professionals working in the health and family violence sectors, supporting them to recognise and respond to reproductive coercion and abuse (22 health sector participants). - Supported GenWest to promote free body safety sessions with parents, carers and families in Tarneit (Indian & Arabic communities) and Hoppers Crossing (African community), helping parents and carers with practical ways to keep young children safe at home, in childcare, at school, and in the community.
Build community capacity to take action on the sexual and reproductive health priorities that matter to them	
Increase the participation of women and girls in organised sport	- Completed community consultation on the Active Wyndham Strategy, supporting residents to become more active with strategies to encourage girls and women. - Council delivered Beginner Running Courses specifically designed to encourage women's participation. 846 people attended; 72 per cent were women. - Council's Active Holidays program also delivered 50 x Come and Try activities, offering inclusive opportunities to encourage girls to take part in sports, challenging traditional gender stereotypes in sport.

Other public health and wellbeing activity across Council

Gender Impact Assessments (GIAs) - Ensure policies, programs and services provide fair and equal consideration to needs of women, men and gender diverse individuals.	Wyndham City improved the process for completing Gender Impact Assessments (GIAs), streamlining across the organisation for consistency. The first phase began this year to increase awareness of the need for GIAs. Under the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> we must consider the impacts of our public policies, programs and services on women and gender diverse people. Departments have submitted 11 GIAs including those completed for the Wyndham Active Transport Strategy refresh, Year 10 Think Tank, and the Priority of Access Framework.
Wyndham Family Violence Network & Western Integrated Family Violence Committee - Work together to raise awareness, coordinate supports and advocate for needs in Melbourne's West.	Wyndham City upholds the right of women to be safe, including at home. We promote gender equality with zero tolerance for violence in all its forms. During Family Violence Prevention month in May 2026, the network hosted a candlelight vigil to raise awareness of family violence. The vigil brought the community together in solidarity to honour those women and children who have lost their lives due to family violence and the impact on their families. 40 community members gathered to hear Sherele Moody give the keynote address.





Further Information

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

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