

Wyndham Family Friendly City Charter

This Charter is an initiative of Wyndham's Family Friendly Portfolio Committee. It outlines the principles and guidelines to inform how Council and its partners work with, and support, families.

Vision

Wyndham will be a Family Friendly City where a broad range of life experiences and opportunities encourage families to feel informed, valued, welcomed and empowered to live productive and positive lives; while being increasingly engaged in decisions affecting them.

What do we mean by 'family'?

While the meaning of the term 'family' may vary from one context to another and be interpreted differently according to the type of service that is being provided, for the purpose of this document 'family' is used simply to mean two or more individuals related by blood, marriage/commitment or adoption - including people living together, not living together, those in committed same sex relationships, defacto relationships, foster care and step relationships.

Wyndham's Family Friendly City Charter recognises, consistent with the *Victorian Charter of Rights and Responsibilities*, that the family is the fundamental group unit of society and should be protected and nurtured. The concept of family therefore is broadly interpreted here to encompass the municipality's diverse family groupings. It focuses Council and its partners on targeting and supporting the needs of families with and without children across the lifecycle. In the context of emerging trends in Australian society, people sometimes 'use family' to describe themselves as 'family' when they share an intimate relationship but live in separate households ('living apart together') or when they are living in close association with unrelated housemates in a group household. To the extent that Wyndham is committed to being a family friendly city, the service and infrastructure needs of people in these sorts of living arrangements is also taken into account.

Principles

Being a Family Friendly City means we will ensure our services and infrastructure, as well as our stakeholder consultation and policy development, meet the needs of families while encouraging them to participate in decisions affecting them.

We will work towards strengthening our Family Friendly status by focussing on the following principles.

PRINCIPLE 1: VOICE

Families in Wyndham should have opportunities to express their individual and collective opinions, participate in and contribute to decisions about their wellbeing and how liveability can be improved.

Examples of possible actions include:

- Families will be involved in the co-design and development of policies and strategies affecting them, so that a diverse range of current and future needs is investigated
- Families and related support networks will be informed and consulted through inclusive community engagement practices, and

- Council will proactively seek the input of families.

PRINCIPLE 2: EQUITY AND SOCIAL COHESION

Families in Wyndham should have access to services and infrastructure that meet their current and future needs, and promote equity and social cohesion to ensure the benefits of liveability are shared by all.

Examples of possible actions include:

- Equitable access to services and infrastructure regardless of age, gender, income, sexuality, ethnicity, religion or ability
- Access to a suitable range of life-cycle services, affordable housing and nutrition options, activities and events
- Advocating to State and Federal Governments on local service and infrastructure needs,
- Workplaces are recognised for being family friendly.
- Encourage gender equity and participation in sport club activity (including governance)

PRINCIPLE 3: FAMILY FRIENDLY PLACES AND SPACES

Families in Wyndham should have access to and experiences of well-designed and safe places and spaces that meet their needs.

Examples of possible actions include:

- Wyndham's places and spaces will be co-designed so they encourage the capacity of children, older people and others to be healthy, while feeling safe and welcomed
- Wyndham's places and spaces adequately cater for an increasingly diverse range of life-cycle needs of families - children, young people, parents, carers, grandparents, older residents and people with lived experience of disabilities
- Wyndham's places and spaces will meet family needs while embracing existing and potential heritage, cultural or other neighbourhood characteristics where possible

PRINCIPLE 4: PARTNERSHIP

Acknowledging that services, infrastructure and decisions affecting families are often provided, or affected, by other partners, Council will work with partners in government, non-government, business and community organisations to support and strengthen our Family Friendly City.

Examples of possible actions include:

- Identifying and showcasing one (or several) 'Family Friendly' businesses as part of Wyndham's annual Business Awards event
- Reporting through the chamber on progress by Council and our partners in implementing the Charter.
- Promoting Wyndham's Family Friendly City Charter to businesses and the community sector on an ongoing basis.