

# People & Community

Community Background Report  
**February 2021**



## Acknowledgement of Country

Wyndham City Council recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Custodians of the lands on which Australia was founded. Council acknowledges the Wathaurong, Woiwurrung and Boonwurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the lands on which Wyndham City is being built.

For tens of thousands of years, the Werribee River has been a significant meeting place for Aboriginal people to build community, exchange resources, and share responsibility for its lands.

Council pays respect for the wisdom and diversity of past and present Elders. We share commitment to nurturing future generations of Elders in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

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# Introduction

Wyndham City Council currently delivers over 60 different services to its community. It has responsibility for a range of areas including local roads, parks, waste, land use planning, local laws, urban planning, community and early years services, recreation, community development, health protection, emergency management, building and maintaining assets and advocating for community needs.

Council has a range of roles including:

- **Good governance** - providing good governance, as well as making local laws and policies for the benefit and wellbeing of the Wyndham Community.
- **Service Provider** - provision of services including garbage collection, maternal and child health, libraries and other community services and programs.
- **Planner** - engage with our community to understand the current and future needs of the municipality and set the overall direction for Wyndham through long-term planning. Develop, implement and regularly review policies to guide council activities and resourcing, having regard to the long-term and cumulative effects of decisions.
- **Advocate** - represent the diverse needs of the local community on matters of concern and communicate the needs to relevant stakeholders and with State and Federal governments
- **Infrastructure Provider** - provide and maintain buildings, open spaces, recreational facilities and spaces and the road/footpath/cycle network.
- **Leader, capacity builder, partner and broker** - work in collaboration with, a range of stakeholders to improve outcomes for our residents and municipality.

Despite its many functions and responsibilities, Council is not able to do everything. Federal and State Governments also play a role in addressing many of the issues affecting the municipality including social services and pensions, immigration, trade and commerce, health, education, roads, transport and employment/industrial relations.

Following a general election, all Councils are required by legislation to develop a new Council Plan.

The Council Plan identifies what the Council is planning to achieve in the new Council term (four years) as part of the longer-term journey towards the achievement of the Wyndham 2040 Community Vision.

As required under the Local Government 2020, a deliberative consultation process will be undertaken to allow Council to work actively with its community to refresh the Wyndham 2040 Community Vision. This process will also determine priorities for the Council to deliver over the next four years. These priorities will inform the development of Wyndham City's new Council Plan 2021-25 as well as help to develop other important plans including our Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Financial Plan.

This paper presents information about what is currently known about People and Community in Wyndham, as well as the opportunities, challenges and issues facing the municipality into the future.

# Wyndham 2040 Community Vision and the 2017-21 City Plan

Globally, liveability has in recent years become an important concept in public policy and urban planning, highlighting the increasing demand among residents for enhanced urban quality of living. There is a strong relationship between quality of living, liveable places and spaces and life satisfaction - that is, improved overall quality of living can generally contribute to greater subjective life satisfaction and community wellbeing.

The meaning of liveability varies depending on who defines it, whom is asked, community circumstances and the time of assessment. Over the past two decades the term 'city liveability' has emerged as an overarching label for a wide range of vital components of urban living that are associated with enhanced quality of life.

**“Liveability, Quality of Living and Quality of Life are regularly used interchangeably.”**

In the past few years, numerous city liveability assessments have also been conducted across Greater Melbourne municipalities, highlighting specific circumstances of localities. Although Melbourne typically reaches fairly high positions in international city liveability rankings, due to rapid population increases in the Greater Melbourne region, municipalities such as Wyndham face different challenges compared to more established local government areas, putting significant pressure on various aspects of liveability.

Academic discussions about liveability are dominated by questions of how built environments, i.e., physical features, can better support quality of living and health and wellbeing among residents. In this context, municipalities and neighbourhoods are considered to offer greater liveability, if they provide their residents with a high level of, and accessibility to, places with vital amenities and services including transportation choices, housing diversity, employment opportunities, open and green spaces as well as educational, social, cultural and recreational facilities.

As a custodian of public funds, it is important that the choices Council makes are based on a range of factors including local community priorities, needs and wants that aim to improve the liveability of the municipality. To assist Council to do this, in 2016, Council adopted the Wyndham 2040 Community Vision (Wyndham 2040) which describes the community's aspiration for the future of the municipality. Wyndham 2040 is now a legislative requirement under the Local Government Act 2020, as is the need to undertake a review of it every four years.

Wyndham 2040 is made up of four themes. The vision for the People and Community is as follows:

*“Wyndham will be a family friendly city. Relationships between family members will be strong. The people of Wyndham will be connected to each other. Our communities will be welcoming. We will be known for listening to and learning from the diversity of all residents. Wyndham will celebrate culture and art. We will share stories that challenge and inspire. We will acknowledge the Aboriginal heritage of the land. The country beginnings of our towns and shire will be remembered. Wyndham residents will have opportunities to stay fit and healthy. Services for health will be easily accessed and delivered at a high standard. Community members will be confident and part of caring neighbourhoods.”*

The [Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008](#) mandates that each Council must develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP). Wyndham City 's MPHWP was integrated into the City Plan 2017-21 with health, wellbeing and safety goals overarching Council's strategies across the four themes of the City Plan.

Council works towards the Vision through its Council Plan (previously the City Plan) and ensures resources are available each year in our Annual Plan and Budget. Under the People and Community theme, the City Plan 2017-21 consisted of the following strategic objective, health wellbeing and safety goal and strategies as follows:

#### *Strategic Objective*

Council will work with the community to ensure Wyndham is an inclusive, safe and welcoming city, which celebrates our diverse heritage and cultures, and helps residents to stay healthy, active and connected.

#### *Health, Wellbeing and Safety Goal*

People in Wyndham are well across the life stages, safe and socially connected regardless of where they live or their social, economic or cultural background.

#### *Strategies*

- Council will celebrate a strong arts and culture sector, by actively promoting and attracting creative and cinematic industries; examining the feasibility of new arts initiatives; and providing a platform for visual and performing arts drawing from and celebrating a diversity of backgrounds. Partners identified to assist working toward this strategy include; [The Australia Council \(Arts\)](#), [Creative Victoria](#), [Multicultural Arts Victoria](#), [Arts Access Victoria](#).
- Council will endeavour to increase health and wellbeing outcomes of our community by engaging with the State and Federal Governments on gambling reform and reducing harmful alcohol and drug use, particularly among young people and other at-risk community cohorts. Partners identified to assist working toward this strategy include; [Department of Health and Human Services](#), [Department of Justice and Regulation](#), [Victoria Police](#), [Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation](#), [IPC Health](#), [Gambler's Help - Western](#), [Odyssey House Victoria](#).
- Council will enhance community health and wellbeing by making it easier for residents to participate in physical activities by building mainstream and accessible sporting infrastructure at the local level and providing a diversity of sporting opportunities through assisting minor and 'hard-to-locate' sports, as well as recreation and informal opportunities for physical activity. Partners identified to assist working toward this strategy include; [Sport and Recreation Victoria](#), [Department of Health and Human Services](#), [Department of Education and Training](#), [State Sporting Associations](#), [VicSport](#)
- Council will help to create a safer, more cohesive community by: effective planning, design and regulation of public spaces which encourage active transport and social inclusion opportunities; actively engaging with the community to improve perceptions of safety; and encouraging shared responsibility to prevent and address issues which impact on residents' sense of safety and wellbeing. Partners identified to assist working toward this strategy include; [Victoria Police](#), [Westgate Roadsafe](#), [WEstjustice](#), [Odyssey House Victoria](#), [Western Integrated Family Violence Committee](#), [Department of Health and Human Services](#), [Werribee Support and Housing](#), [Women's Health West](#), and [Department of Justice & Regulation](#).

- Council will celebrate the cultural diversity of our City, actively support social inclusion and tackle inequalities by ensuring all residents have access to services and building social connections in our local communities. Partners identified to assist working toward this strategy include; [Wyndham Community and Education Centre](#), H3 Wyndham Alliance, [Wyndham Humanitarian Network](#), Community service organisations seeking to establish a physical presence for service delivery in Wyndham, [Wyndham Interfaith Network](#) and places of worship.
- Council will acknowledge and engage with the diverse local Aboriginal community of Wyndham, including Traditional Owners of the Kulin Nation, through implementing our Reconciliation Action Plan, to conserve and protect our Aboriginal heritage and improve access and inclusion for Aboriginal people in Council services, programs and facilities. Partners identified to assist working toward this strategy include; Traditional Owners Organisations, Statewide and local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations such as; [VACCA](#) (Victorian Aboriginal Childcare Agency) and [VALS](#) (Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service).



## Council Services

Council is responsible for delivering a range of services, programs, activities and facilities that contribute to the People and Community theme as presented in the following table.

Service	2020/21 Budget \$'000
<b>Aged and Disability</b> Provision of quality services for people with care needs to ensure they can remain living independently.	9,683
<b>Animal Management</b> Protects the community and the environment from animals through a range of education and enforcement/compliance measures.	2,401
<b>Arts &amp; Culture</b> Provides opportunities to the Wyndham community through the production and presentation of arts, cultural and creative programs and activity.	1,714
<b>Civic Compliance</b> Addresses community concerns in relation to quality of life, amenity, and safety issues within Wyndham City, as per legislation administered by Council.	4,820
<b>Community Development &amp; Resourcing</b> Enables local communities to strengthen relationships, gain information and skills, connect to services and spaces, participate and contribute to their local community.	2,594
<b>Community Infrastructure Planning</b> Develops a network of assets and community infrastructure that is responsive and agile to community needs, growth and diversity now and in the future.	631
<b>Community Wellbeing &amp; Inclusion</b> Provides policy, planning, community development activities and programs to help build the skills and capacity of individuals to lead healthy lives and creating communities which are safer.	1960
<b>Customer Service</b> Leads customer experience through implementation of an operating model that delivers customer first services via face to face, digital and phone channels.	2,902
<b>Early Education &amp; Care</b> Provides State funded Kindergarten educational programs for 4-year-old children. Delivery of three kindergarten and children's services including occasional care. Central enrolment and planning.	17,200



Service	2020/21 Budget \$'000
<b>Environmental Health Services</b> Protects public health as it relates to state legislation, directives and standards through a range of education and enforcement measures.	1,943
<b>Family &amp; Sector Partnerships</b> Support the child, youth and family service areas in partnership with the local child and family service sector and the community.	2,290
<b>Festivals &amp; Events</b> Delivery of community and civic events which enhance Wyndham's sense of place, cultural heritage and community strengthening.	3,745
<b>Integrated Service Planning &amp; Reform</b> Determine when and where services are needed; service models and integration; and service adaptation in response to government reforms, partnership opportunities, and changing community needs.	827
<b>Maternal Child Health &amp; Wellness</b> Supports every child in Wyndham to be healthy and to develop, grow and learn through a schedule of consultations at key ages and stages, outreach and other activities including parent groups.	11,749
<b>Municipal Emergency Management</b> Supports the community and emergency service agencies before, during and after emergencies. Ensures the organisation has capacity to respond to emergencies within our community and the North West Metro Region.	2,703
<b>School Crossings</b> Supports the safe passage of children and their families to and from school through the operation of school crossings.	2,616
<b>Sport Recreation &amp; Physical Activity</b> Provides opportunities for the community to be physically active through infrastructure provision, facility management and the delivery of community activation programs.	17,426
<b>Youth</b> Ensures that young people are empowered and active citizens through the provision of youth counselling and support for young people aged 12 to 25 years and their families.	4,666

## The Wyndham Community

The following section provides relevant background information about the residents who make up the Wyndham municipality, as specific to this theme.

### Who are we?

Currently, Wyndham has an estimated resident population of 288,212 which has increased by more 43,000 people since 2016 (227,008 ERP) (ABS, 2020).

Between 2013 and 2018, Wyndham experienced the third largest population growth across Australia, and the largest in Victoria, adding over 65,000 people that time (id, 2019).

The table below shows the age statistics for the Wyndham community This table demonstrates that Wyndham is primarily made up of families with young children.

Table 1. Wyndham population age structure, id profile usual residence data, 2016

Age groups (years)	Number	%
0 to 4	21,381	9.8
5 to 9	18,395	8.5
10 to 14	14,029	6.5
15 to 19	12,735	5.9
20 to 24	13,376	6.2
25 to 29	17,427	8.0
30 to 34	23,462	10.8
35 to 39	20,486	9.4
40 to 44	16,134	7.4
45 to 49	13,723	6.3
50 to 54	11,700	5.4
55 to 59	9,842	4.5
60 to 64	8,084	3.7
65 to 69	6,444	3.0
70 to 74	4,067	1.9
75 to 79	2,716	1.3
80 to 84	1,671	0.8
85 and over	1,451	0.7
<b>Total population</b>	<b>217,123</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: [id Community](#) based on 2016 ABS Census data

Over the next 20 years an extra 220,000 people will call Wyndham home, taking the total population of Wyndham in 2040 to 505,822 (id, 2019). The area that is expecting to experience the highest rate of growth is Tarneit with an estimated population of 129,645 people, an increase of 93,263 people since 2016 (id, 2019). The population is expected to grow at about 11,000 per year during this time.

The age groups with the greatest growth rates will be the 0-14 and the 25-44 year age groups. This is indicative of the parent-child pattern you would see in developing areas due to housing availability and affordability. The age cohort aged 65 years plus is also expected to grow by than 32,000 people over the next 20 years.

Table 2. Estimate population growth in Wyndham from 2020 to 2040

	2020		2030		2040		Change 2020→2040
Age group	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
0 to 4	27,961	9.7	36,417	8.9	43,147	8.5	15,187
5 to 9	25,580	8.9	35,481	8.7	42,162	8.3	16,582
10 to 14	19,541	6.8	30,658	7.5	37,294	7.4	17,752
15 to 19	16,071	5.6	25,397	6.2	32,394	6.4	16,323
20 to 24	18,804	6.5	24,300	6.0	30,949	6.1	12,145
25 to 29	24,582	8.5	30,899	7.6	37,200	7.4	12,618
30 to 34	29,050	10.1	37,581	9.2	43,854	8.7	14,804
35 to 39	27,728	9.6	36,452	9.0	42,714	8.4	14,986
40 to 44	21,180	7.3	31,124	7.6	37,465	7.4	16,285
45 to 49	17,397	6.0	26,139	6.4	32,313	6.4	14,917
50 to 54	14,404	5.0	20,823	5.1	27,429	5.4	13,025
55 to 59	12,577	4.4	17,806	4.4	23,784	4.7	11,207
60 to 64	10,357	3.6	14,781	3.6	19,551	3.9	9,194
65 to 69	8,254	2.9	12,493	3.1	16,605	3.3	8,351
70 to 74	6,235	2.2	10,066	2.5	13,760	2.7	7,524
75 to 79	3,935	1.4	7,528	1.9	11,027	2.2	7,092
80 to 84	2,487	0.9	5,109	1.3	7,949	1.6	5,462
85 and over	2,068	0.7	3,864	0.9	6,224	1.2	4,156
Total persons	288,212	100.0	406,918	100.0	505,822	100.0	217,610

Source: <https://forecast.id.com.au/wyndham>

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population

In Wyndham, there is a large Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, the largest in Greater Melbourne (ABS, 2016).

Wyndham's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population increased by 51.4% (588 people) from 2011 to 2016 (ABS, 2016). Compared to Greater Melbourne (0.5%), Wyndham has an indigenous population that is equal to 0.8% of the total population of the municipality or 3.6% of the State's total population (id, 2017). The growth in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Wyndham was 1.5 times faster than the growth in the number of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (id, 2017).

Overall, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are younger than the rest of the population with proportionally more people in the age groups 0-24 years and the 25-34 and 35-49 cohorts. This is similar to the wider population profile of Wyndham, young families.

Table 3 below shows the age statistics for the Wyndham indigenous community.

Table 3. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by service age groups living in Wyndham, 2016

Age group (years)	Number	% by age group	Victorian. Indigenous population %
0 to 4	218	12.6	11.5
5 to 11	285	16.4	15.5
12 to 17	217	12.5	12.4
18 to 24	229	13.2	12.9
25 to 34	297	17.1	13.7
35 to 49	284	16.4	16.7
50 to 59	124	7.1	8.9
60 to 64	41	2.4	3.2
65 and over	42	2.4	5.3
<b>Total people</b>	<b>1,737</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: [id Community](#) based on 2016 ABS Census data

### Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Population

More than half (53%) of Wyndham residents were born overseas and there are more than 120 languages spoken across the municipality (ABS, 2016). The profile of non-English speaking background (NESB) people in Wyndham mirrors the broader population of Wyndham; that is majority young families.

Table 4. Profile of non-English speakers by census year and age Wyndham ABS 2016

	2016			2011			Change 2020→2040
	Number	%	%Gtr Melb	Number	%	%Gtr Melb	
0 to 4	8,739	9.8	6.0	4,061	8.3	5.3	4,678
5 to 9	6,838	7.7	5.2	3,250	6.6	4.9	3,588
10 to 14	4,700	5.3	4.4	2,671	5.5	4.9	2,029
15 to 19	4,017	4.5	5.5	2,445	5.0	5.5	1,572
20 to 24	4,563	5.1	8.2	3,039	6.2	8.3	1,524
25 to 29	8,274	9.3	9.5	5,572	11.4	9.7	2,702
30 to 34	13,787	15.5	10.4	6,554	13.4	8.9	7,233
35 to 39	11,381	12.8	8.6	5,133	10.5	7.9	6,248
40 to 44	7,054	7.9	7.2	3,970	8.1	7.7	3,084
45 to 49	5,070	5.7	6.6	3,065	6.3	7.0	2,005
50 to 54	3,829	4.3	5.9	2,518	5.1	6.1	1,311
55 to 59	3,209	3.6	5.1	2,023	4.1	5.2	1,186
60 to 64	2,746	3.1	4.4	1,589	3.2	4.7	1,157
65 to 69	1,996	2.2	3.8	1,066	2.2	3.7	930
70 to 74	1,183	1.3	2.9	800	1.6	3.6	383
75 to 79	807	0.9	2.7	573	1.2	2.9	234
80 to 84	557	0.6	2.0	380	0.8	2.0	177
85 and over	415	0.5	1.7	265	0.5	1.4	150
<b>Total people</b>	<b>89,165</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>48,974</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40,191</b>

Source: [id Community](#) based on 2016 ABS Census data

In 2016, 74.1% of overseas born people in the City of Wyndham, spoke a language other than English at home (id, 2017). Between 2001 and 2016 there have been 40,191 people from NESB move into Wyndham, a 45 per cent increase.

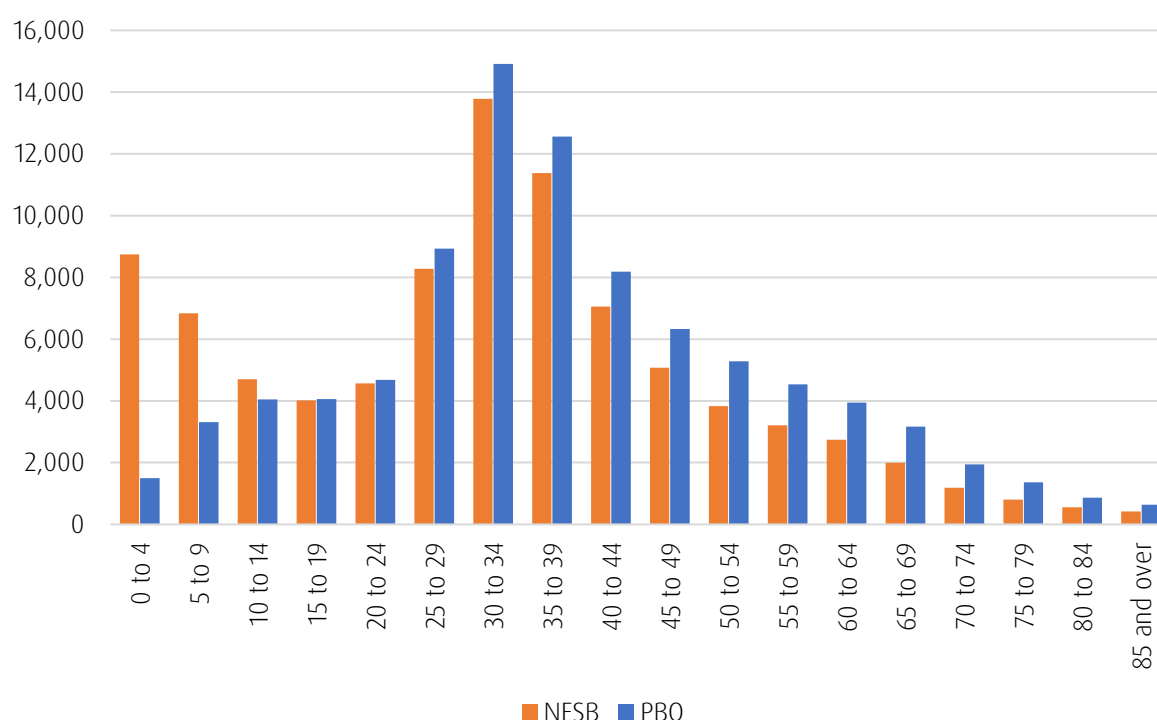


Figure 1. Contrast between people of non-English speaking background and people born overseas

Many of the residents who have settled in Wyndham come from South Asia and Asia, with a significant population of Pasifika and Maori also residing in Tarneit and Truganina (id, 2017).

Table 5. The top 10 non-English speaking countries, Wyndham 2016

City of Wyndham - Overseas born (Usual residence) Birthplace	2016			2011			Change 2011→2016
	Number	%	Gtr. Melb %	Number	%	Gtr. Melb %	
India	22,392	10.3	3.6	8,094	5.0	2.7	+14,298
Philippines	5,726	2.6	1.0	3,923	2.4	0.8	+1,803
China	5,521	2.5	3.5	2,485	1.5	2.3	+3,036
Pakistan	2,069	1.0	0.4	736	0.5	0.2	+1,333
Malaysia	2,057	0.9	1.1	1,280	0.8	1.0	+777
Sri Lanka	2,039	0.9	1.2	1,218	0.8	1.1	+821
Burma (Myanmar)	2,018	0.9	0.2	1,017	0.6	0.1	+1,001
Italy	1,733	0.8	1.4	1,818	1.1	1.7	-85
Vietnam	1,625	0.7	1.8	1,176	0.7	1.7	+449
Bangladesh	1,582	0.7	0.2	646	0.4	0.1	+936
Total OS Born	75,202	34	28	42,538	26	25	+32,664

Source: [id Community](#) based on 2016 ABS Census data

The majority of languages in the top 10, are from South Asia and Asia, namely India, China, Philippines, Pakistan and Myanmar. As is a common trend across Melbourne, European languages are gradually being overtaken by languages from Asia and this is also represented in the number of new migrants from these regions arriving in Australia (id, 2017).

Table 6. The top 10 languages other than English spoken at home, Wyndham 2016

City of Wyndham - Total persons (UR) Language (exc. English)	2016			2011			Change 2020→2040
	Number	%	Gtr. Melb %	Number	%	Gtr Melb %	
Punjabi	7,851	3.6	1.2	2,047	1.3	0.7	+5,804
Hindi	7,680	3.5	1.1	3,186	2.0	0.8	+4,494
Mandarin	7,333	3.4	4.1	3,207	2.0	2.5	+4,126
Filipino/Tagalog	4,914	2.3	0.8	3,539	2.2	0.7	+1,375
Arabic	4,195	1.9	1.7	2,453	1.5	1.6	+1,742
Urdu	3,710	1.7	0.5	1,201	0.7	0.3	+2,509
Gujarati	3,237	1.5	0.3	903	0.6	0.2	+2,334
Italian	2,936	1.4	2.3	3,243	2.0	2.8	-307
Telugu	2,803	1.3	0.3	987	0.6	0.2	+1,816
Karen	2,416	1.1	0.1	1,451	0.9	0.1	+965
Total LOTE	86,338	39.8	31.6	47,538	29.4	28.4	38,800

Source: [id Community](#) based on 2016 ABS Census data

The majority of Non-English speaking people live in Point Cook and Tarneit. Truganina (61.5%) has the highest proportion of resident from a non-English speaking background followed by Williams Landing (59.9%) (id, 2017). Table 5 below shows the number and proportion from non-English speaking backgrounds for 2011 and 2016 census periods and comparisons to Western region of Melbourne and Greater Melbourne (id, 2017).

Table 7. Wyndham localities and the number and per cent of people from NESB, 2016

Region	2016	2016 %	2011	2011 %	Change 2011→2016
Hoppers Crossing	13,165	34.0	10,620	28.3	2,545
Little River - Rural West	389	22.5	133	12.3	256
Point Cook	22,132	44.3	12,411	38.3	9,721
Tarneit	18,544	53.5	8,339	38.2	10,205
Truganina	12,717	61.5	4,074	44.6	8,643
Werribee	10,761	27.2	8,442	22.4	2,319
Werribee South - Cocoroc	369	21.1	338	20.9	31
Williams Landing - Laverton North	4,030	59.9	1,365	47.5	2,665
Wyndham Vale - Manor Lakes	6,805	29.2	3,102	17.9	3,703
City of Wyndham	88,927	41.0	48,881	30.3	40,046
Western Region	340,346	40.8	270,064	37.7	70,282
Greater Melbourne	1,447,479	32.3	1,161,173	29.0	286,306

Source: [id Community](#) based on 2016 ABS Census data

For Wyndham as a whole, there is a comparatively smaller proportion of people who are English only speakers. The data also suggests bilingualism is higher in Wyndham than Greater Melbourne. It should be note that 5.7% of the total Wyndham population does not speak English well or at all (id, 2017).

*Table 8. English proficiency status for people living in Wyndham, 2011 and 2016*

	2016			2011			Change 2011 to 2016
	Number	%	%Gtr Melb	Number	%	%Gtr Melb	
Speaks English only	115,332	53.1	62.0	104,170	64.5	66.3	+11,162
Speaks another language, and English well or very well	76,546	35.3	26.7	41,890	25.9	24.0	+34,656
Speaks another language, and English not well or not at all	12,440	5.7	5.6	6,987	4.3	5.0	+5,453
Not stated	12,799	5.9	5.7	8,528	5.3	4.6	+4,271
<b>Total population</b>	<b>217,117</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>161,575</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>+55,542</b>

Source: [id Community](#) based on 2016 ABS Census data

The localities with the highest number of people with low proficiency in English are Point Cook (3,016) and Werribee (2,268) (id, 2017). The areas with the highest proportion of people with low proficiency in English are Truganina (7.6%) and Williams Landing – Laverton (7.5%) (id, 2017). The following table provides an overview of this:

*Table 9. Wyndham localities and the number and per cent of people who speak another language, and English not well or not at all, 2016*

Area	2016		2011		Change 2011→2016
	2016	2016 %	2011	2011 %	
Hoppers Crossing	2,182	5.6	1,614	4.3	568
Little River - Rural West	32	1.9	15	1.4	17
Point Cook	3,016	6.0	1,550	4.8	1,466
Tarneit	2,011	5.8	862	4.0	1,149
Truganina	1,574	7.6	523	5.7	1,051
Werribee	2,268	5.7	1,740	4.6	528
Werribee South - Cocoroc	37	2.1	49	3.0	-12
Williams Landing - Laverton North	506	7.5	165	5.8	341
Wyndham Vale - Manor Lakes	820	3.5	426	2.5	394
City of Wyndham	12,440	5.7	6,987	4.3	5,453
Western Region	61,145	7.3	50,673	7.1	10,472
Greater Melbourne	251,545	5.6	201,151	5.0	50,394

Source: [id Community](#) based on 2016 ABS Census data



## People with Disabilities

It is estimated that 12% of the Wyndham population lives with a disability (ABS, 2019). The following table indicates that people over 65 years have the greatest likelihood of having a disability, but overall, the prevalence of people with a disability is lower than the prevalence for Victoria:

Table 10. Modelled estimates of disability by age group, Wyndham ABS 2015

Age Group	Wyndham Number	Wyndham %	Victoria %
0 - 14 years	3,046	5.9	6.7
15 - 24 years	1,840	7.2	9.3
25 - 34 years	2,364	5.9	6.5
35 - 44 years	3,116	9.0	9.3
45 - 54 years	3,492	14.2	14.8
55 - 64 years	4,333	24.8	25.0
65 years and over	7,188	48.4	57.8
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>25,325</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>17.0</b>

Source: [2018 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers for Local Government Areas](#)

It needs to be noted that this data is an estimate, calculated by applying the proportions from the Disability, Ageing, and Carers survey 2018 conducted by the ABS.

The role of the carer is determined by the assistance provided. A primary carer is someone aged over 15 years and provides the most *informal* assistance to a person with one or more disabilities, with one or more of the core activities of mobility, self-care or communication (ABS, 2019). It is estimated that there are 17,894 people who are primary carers to people with a disability, the largest group are partners aged over 65 years. There are 28% (7,431) people with a disability across Wyndham who appear to have a carer.

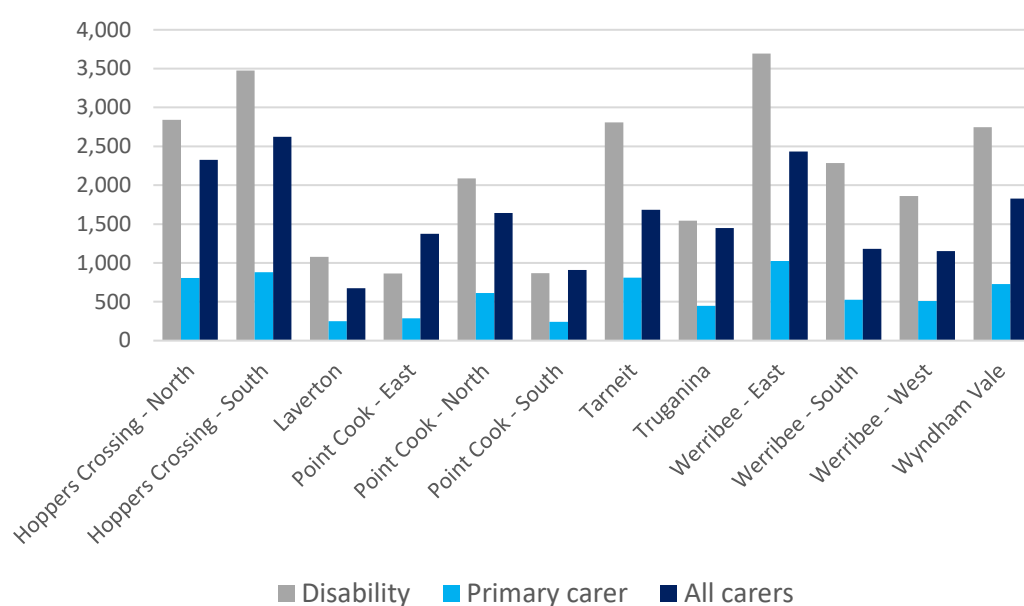


Figure 2. Number of people with a disability with access to a carer, Wyndham SA2, 2015

Source: [2015 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers for Local Government Areas](#)

## How do we live?

The City of Wyndham's household and family structure is one of the most important demographic indicators. It reveals the area's residential role and function, era of settlement and provides key insights into the level of demand for services and facilities as most are related to age and household types.

### Household Type

Analysis of the household/family types in the City of Wyndham in 2016 compared to Greater Melbourne shows that there was a higher proportion of couple families with child(ren) as well as a higher proportion of one-parent families (id, 2017). Overall, 45.6% of total families were couple families with child(ren), and 11.6% were one-parent families, compared with 33.5% and 10.1% respectively for Greater Melbourne (id, 2017).

There were a lower proportion of lone person households and a lower proportion of couples without children (id, 2017). Overall, the proportion of lone person households was 14.4% compared to 22.0% in Greater Melbourne while the proportion of couples without children was 20.2% compared to 22.9% in Greater Melbourne (id, 2017).

*Table 11. Forecasted household and family structure, Wyndham 2019*

City of Wyndham Type	2020		2030		2040		Change 2020→2040
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Couple families with dependents	41,751	45.6	57,648	43.7	70,362	42.0	28,611
Couples without dependents	19,901	21.8	29,184	22.1	38,376	22.9	18,475
Group households	2,236	2.4	3,022	2.3	3,685	2.2	1,449
Lone person households	13,858	15.1	22,116	16.8	29,686	17.7	15,828
One parent family	9,665	10.6	14,430	10.9	18,304	10.9	8,639
Other families	4,071	4.5	5,528	4.2	6,931	4.1	2,860

Source: [id forecast](#)

### Dwelling Type

The number of bedrooms in a dwelling is an indicator of the size of dwellings, and when combined with dwelling type information, provides insight into the role the City of Wyndham plays in the housing market. For example, an area of high-density dwellings that are predominantly 1-2 bedroom are likely to attract students, single workers and young couples, whereas a high-density area with dwellings that are predominantly 2-3 bedroom may attract more empty nesters and some families (id, 2017).

Table 12. Number of bedrooms per dwelling, Wyndham 2016

City of Wyndham - Households (Enumerated) Number of bedrooms	2016			2011			Change 2020→2040
	Number	%	Gtr Melb. %	Number	%	Gtr Melb. %	
0 or 1 bedrooms	595	0.8	6.0	533	1.0	5.5	+62
2 bedrooms	4,756	6.8	19.5	3,673	6.7	19.3	+1,083
3 bedrooms	29,782	42.4	40.1	26,473	48.1	43.8	+3,309
4 bedrooms	27,720	39.4	23.0	19,628	35.7	22.0	+8,092
5 bedrooms or more	3,051	4.3	4.8	2,001	3.6	4.3	+1,050
Not stated	4,395	6.3	6.8	2,709	4.9	5.1	+1,686
<b>Total households</b>	<b>70,299</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>55,017</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>+15,282</b>

Analysis of the number of bedrooms in dwellings in City of Wyndham in 2016 compared to Greater Melbourne shows that there was a lower proportion of dwellings with 2 bedrooms or less, and a higher proportion of dwellings with 4 or more bedrooms (id, 2017).

Overall, 7.6% of households live in dwellings with 2 bedrooms or less, and 43.8% households live in dwellings that have 4 or more bedrooms. This is significantly higher when compared with 25.4% and 27.7% for Greater Melbourne respectively (id, 2017).

The major differences between the number of bedrooms per dwelling of the City of Wyndham and Greater Melbourne were:

- A larger percentage of 4 bedroom dwellings (39.4% compared to 23.0%)
- A larger percentage of 3 bedroom dwellings (42.4% compared to 40.1%)
- A smaller percentage of 2 bedroom dwellings (6.8% compared to 19.5%)
- A smaller percentage of dwellings with 1 or no bedrooms (includes bedsitters) (0.8% compared to 6.0%)

### Housing Tenure

In Wyndham, 19.2% of people fully own their own home, 46.3% have a mortgage, and 27.4% are renting (id, 2017).

Of those paying off their home, in Wyndham there is a smaller proportion of households paying high mortgage repayments (\$2,600 per month or more), as well as a smaller proportion of households with low mortgage repayments (less than \$1,200 per month) (id, 2017).

Overall, 13.8% of households were paying high mortgage repayments, and 19.6% were paying low repayments, compared with 22.4% and 22.2% respectively in Greater Melbourne (id, 2017).

The major differences between the household loan repayments of the City of Wyndham and Greater Melbourne were:

- A larger percentage of \$1,600 - \$1,799 (12.0% compared to 8.8%)
- A larger percentage of \$1,400 - \$1,599 (10.7% compared to 8.0%)
- A larger percentage of \$1,800 - \$1,999 (9.0% compared to 6.6%)
- A smaller percentage of \$3,000 - \$3,999 (5.5% compared to 9.2%)

Mortgage Stress is defined as per the NATSEM (National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling) model as households in the lowest 40% of incomes who are paying more than 30% of their usual gross weekly income on home loan repayments (id, 2017). The areas in Wyndham with the highest proportion of households in mortgage stress are Truganina (16.7%) and Tarneit (15.6%). However, Point Cook has the largest number of households in mortgage stress (7,996) (id, 2017).

*Table 13. Distribution of households in mortgage stress across Wyndham, 2016*

Area	Number in mortgage stress	Total households	Percent %
<i>Hoppers Crossing</i>	570	5,139	11.1
<i>Little River - Rural West</i>	22	286	7.6
<i>Point Cook</i>	894	7,996	11.2
<i>Tarneit</i>	856	5,503	15.6
<i>Truganina</i>	552	3,308	16.7
<i>Werribee</i>	438	5,047	8.7
<i>Werribee South - Cocoroc</i>	12	136	8.8
<i>Williams Landing - Laverton North</i>	119	1,154	10.3
<i>Wyndham Vale - Manor Lakes</i>	469	4,008	11.7
City of Wyndham	4,334	32,547	13.3
Greater Melbourne	63,826	570,250	11.2
Western Region	13,453	108,577	12.4

Of those renting, in Wyndham, there is a smaller proportion of households paying high rental payments (\$450 per week or more), as well as a smaller proportion of households with low rental payments (less than \$250 per week).

Overall, 6.1% of households were paying high rental payments, and 11.7% were paying low payments, compared with 23.0% and 17.0% respectively in Greater Melbourne.

The major differences between the housing rental payments in the City of Wyndham and Greater Melbourne were:

- A larger percentage of \$300 - \$349 (33.0% compared to 18.9%)
- A larger percentage of \$250 - \$299 (19.9% compared to 10.7%)
- A smaller percentage of \$450 - \$549 (3.9% compared to 11.7%)
- A smaller percentage of \$550 - \$649 (1.0% compared to 5.4%)

Rental Stress is defined as per the NATSEM (National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling) model as households in the lowest 40% of incomes who are paying more than 30% of their usual gross weekly income on rent (id, 2017). The areas in Wyndham with the highest proportion of households in rental stress is Werribee South - Cocoroc (36.5%). However, Point Cook (4,442) has the largest number of households in rental stress followed by Werribee (4,211) (id, 2017).

Table 14. Distribution of households in rental stress across Wyndham, 2016

Area	Number in rental stress	Total households	Percent %
<i>Hoppers Crossing</i>	778	2,936	26.5
<i>Little River - Rural West</i>	28	108	26.0
<i>Point Cook</i>	812	4,442	18.3
<i>Tarneit</i>	660	2,791	23.7
<i>Truganina</i>	420	1,621	25.9
<i>Werribee</i>	1,240	4,211	29.4
<i>Werribee South - Cocoroc</i>	67	184	36.5
<i>Williams Landing - Laverton North</i>	119	637	18.7
<i>Wyndham Vale - Manor Lakes</i>	553	1,925	28.7
City of Wyndham	5,176	19,271	26.9
Greater Melbourne	131,431	479,160	27.4
Western Region	22,350	82,133	27.2

## The Wyndham Municipality

What is our municipality like – what land uses do we have?

Covering an area of 542km<sup>2</sup>, the City of Wyndham is located on the western coastal volcanic plain of Port Phillip between Melbourne and Geelong. It is adjacent to the municipalities of Greater Geelong, Moorabool, Melton, Brimbank and Hobsons Bay.

Wyndham is one of metropolitan Melbourne's designated growth corridors. The City comprises the suburbs of Werribee, Hoppers Crossing, Point Cook, Laverton, Laverton North, Williams Landing, Truganina, Tarneit and Wyndham Vale, all of which are within the Urban Growth Boundary. Werribee South, Cocoroc, Little River, Mambourin, Quandong, Eynesbury and Mount Cottrell are outside the growth area.

Wyndham has strong industrial and technology districts, major retail precincts, key activity centres, established agricultural lands and important tourist attractions. Werribee South is one of the most significant market garden regions in the State, while Laverton North is a key major industrial area.

Wyndham has a number of significant rivers and waterway corridors, such as Werribee River, Skeleton Creek, the Port Phillip Bay coastline and the habitats and wetlands of Point Cook and the Western Treatment complex.

The key land uses in Wyndham are residential, commercial, industrial and green wedges. Majority of industrial land uses are located in the eastern side of the municipality and green wedges are located in the western and southern parts.

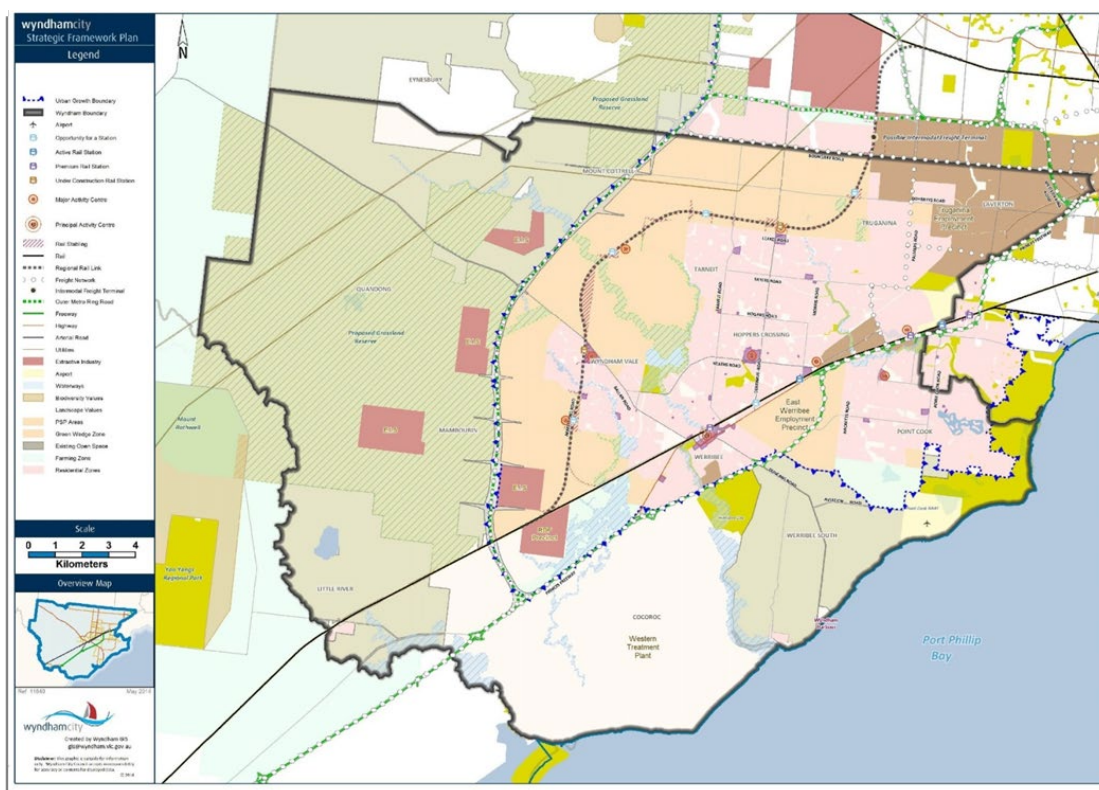


Figure 3. Wyndham Municipality

## What uses will increase, what uses will decrease?

Wyndham is a fast-growing municipality and development inside the Urban Growth Boundary will continue to occur across the spectrum of land uses (i.e. residential, commercial, mixed use, and industrial). The green wedges of Werribee South and Western Plains South will continue to be protected and managed in accordance with State Policy for ongoing environmental, economic, cultural and health and wellbeing outcomes. These green wedges support food production, biodiversity, recreation, open space, natural resources, heritage and landscape conservation, and critical infrastructure provision.

The Victorian Government seeks to manage growth through its planning strategy and by investing in major infrastructure. Furthermore, the Victorian Government plays an important role in funding infrastructure in outer suburbs and the Federal Government also provides some funding for local road backlogs and upgrades, libraries and, in some instances, sports and other community facilities.

Residential land use has had a steady growth since 2017 with an approximate annual average of 4500 new dwellings approved each year.

*Table 15. Number of Dwellings Allowed by Permits Yearly*

Year	Number of Dwellings Approved by Permits Yearly
2017	4578
2018	4418
2019	4666

As **Figure 4** shows, the 2019-2020 financial year distribution of permits between the groupings of suburbs was as follows:

- North 50%
- Central 20%
- West 18%
- South 12%
- Rural 0%



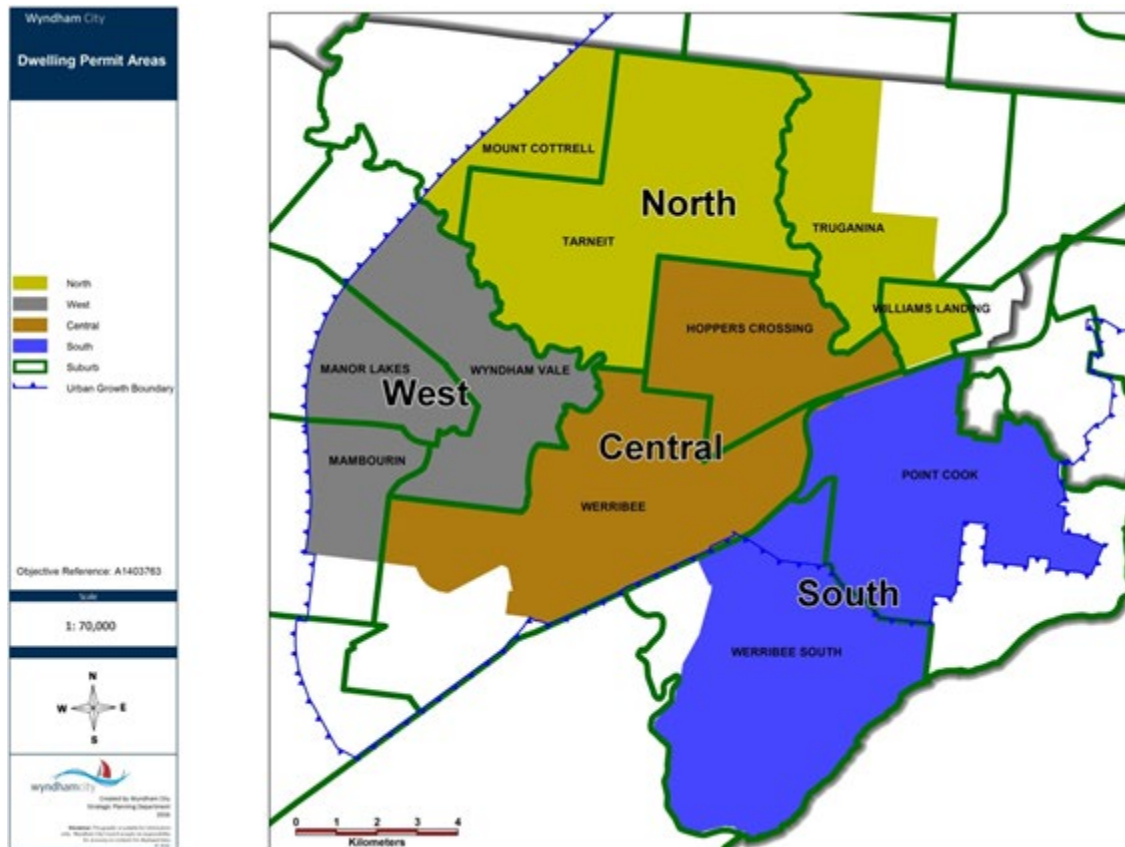


Figure 4. 2019-2020 financial year distribution of permits between groupings of suburbs in Wyndham

The majority of future growth is expected to occur in Wyndham North and Wyndham West.

90% of new residential development occurs in the Urban Growth Zone areas of the municipality. Aerial images below captured late 2019 show the progress of precinct structure plan developments across Wyndham. Some precincts are significantly progressed (e.g. Truganina South and Point Cook West), some are partly developed (e.g. Manor Lakes and Alfred Road) and others are in early stages of development (e.g. Ballan Road and West Brook).

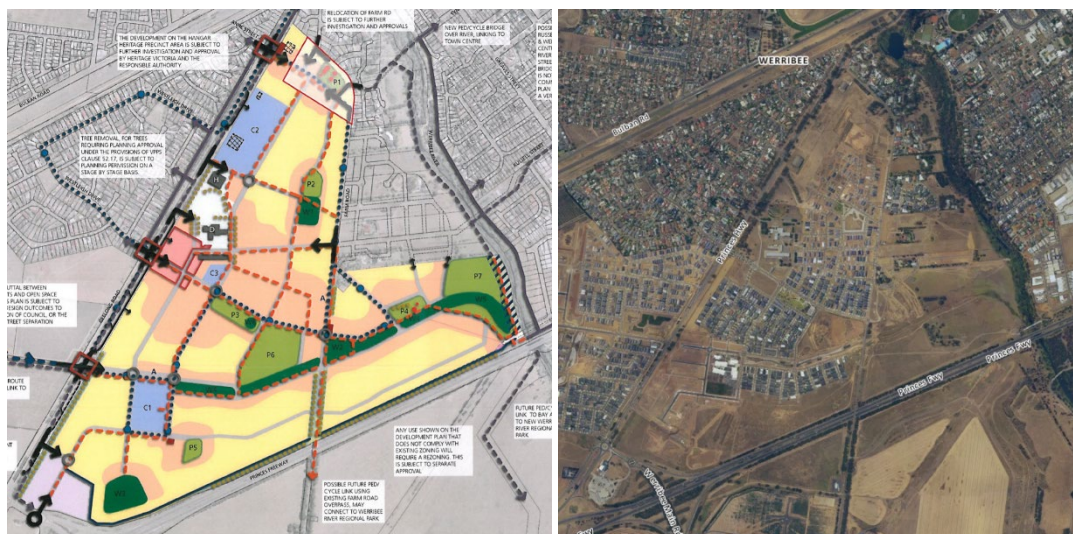


Figure 5. Riverwalk Precinct Structure Plan



Figure 6. Truganina South Community Precinct Structure Plan

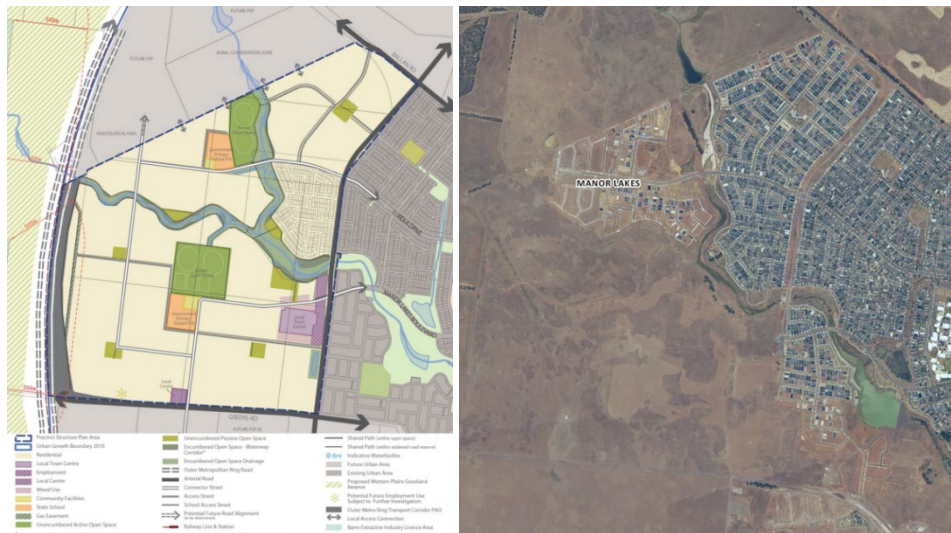


Figure 7. Manor Lakes Precinct Structure Plan

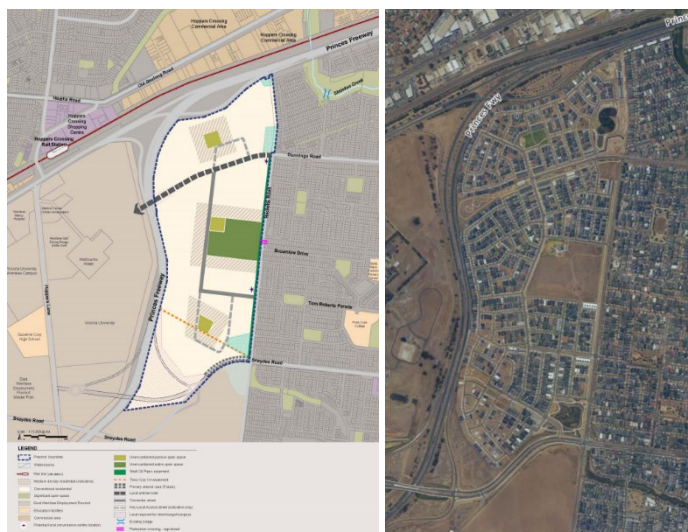




Figure 8. Point Cook West Precinct Structure Plan



Figure 9. Alfred Road Precinct Structure Plan

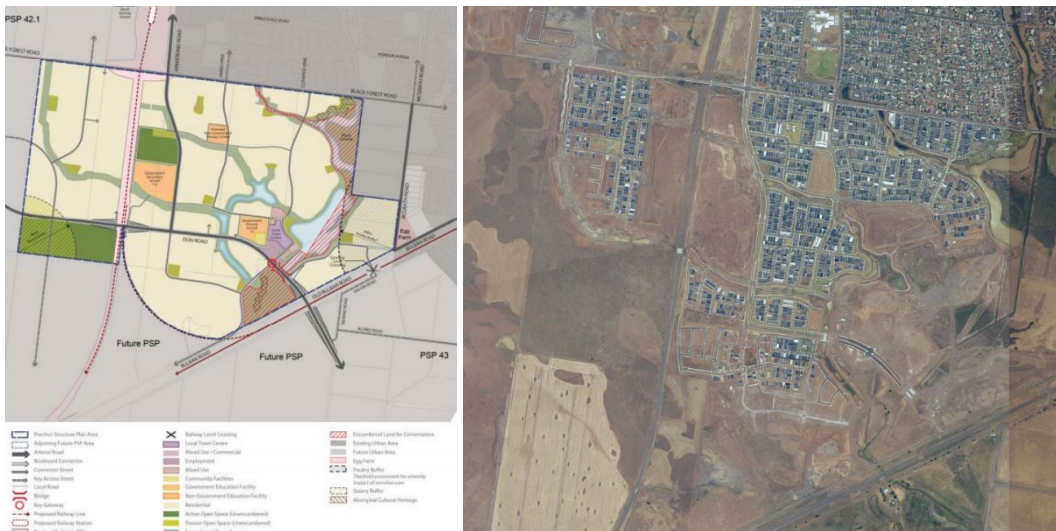


Figure 10. Black Forest Road South Precinct Structure Plan

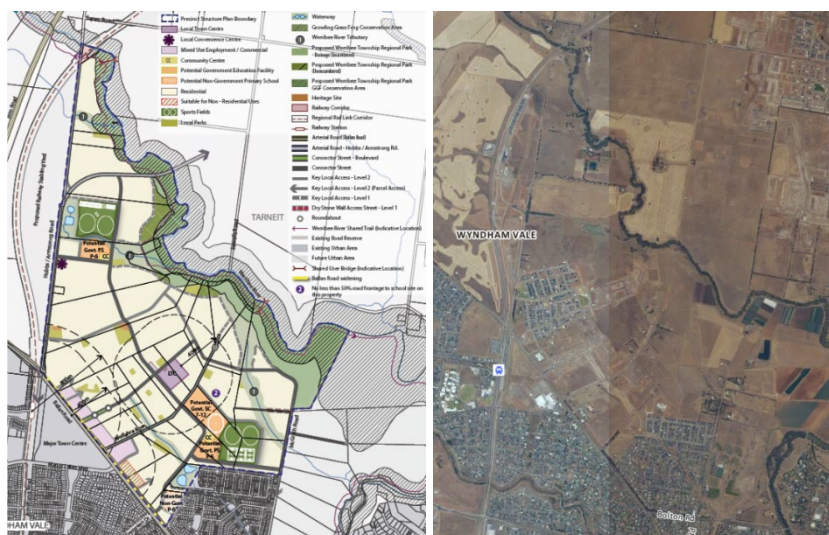


Figure 11. Ballan Road Precinct Structure Plan

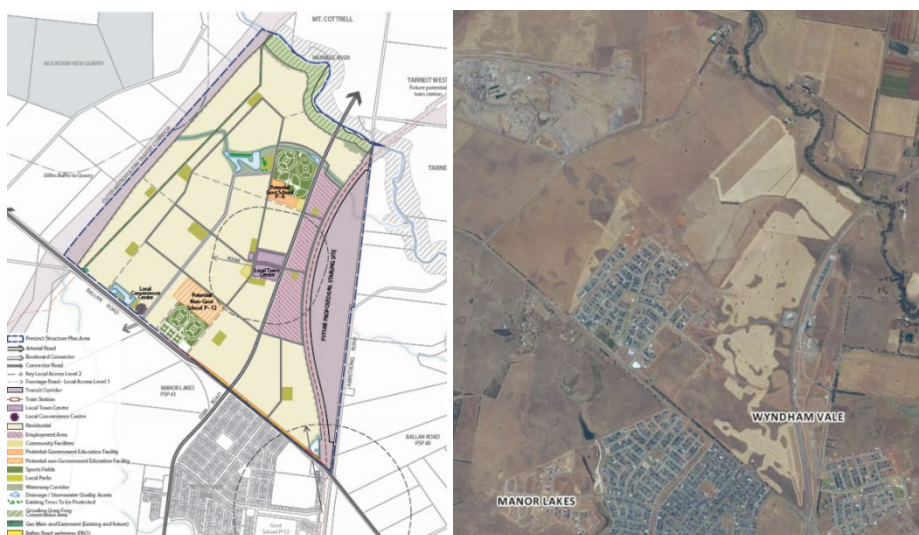


Figure 12. Westbrook Precinct Structure Plan



Figure 13. Tarneit north Precinct Structure Plan



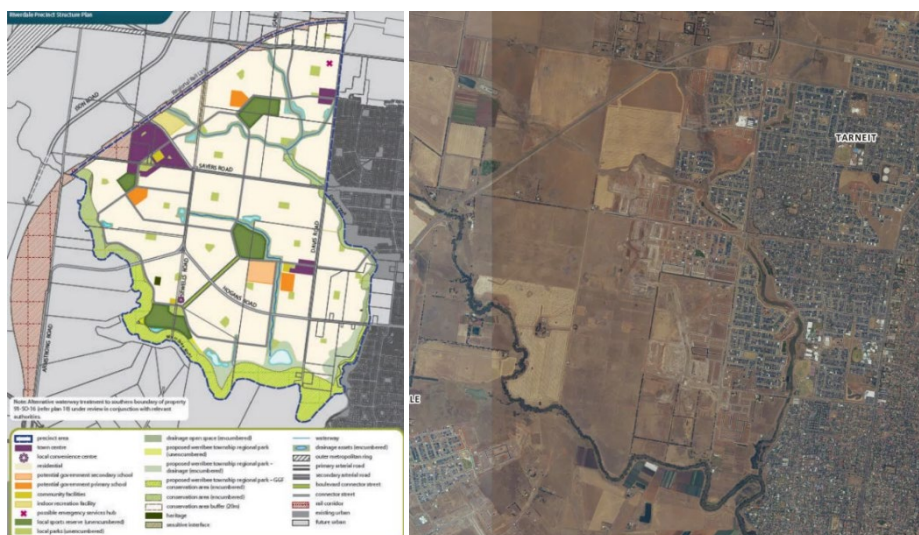


Figure 14. Riverdale Precinct Structure Plan



Figure 15. Lincoln Heath South Precinct Structure Plan

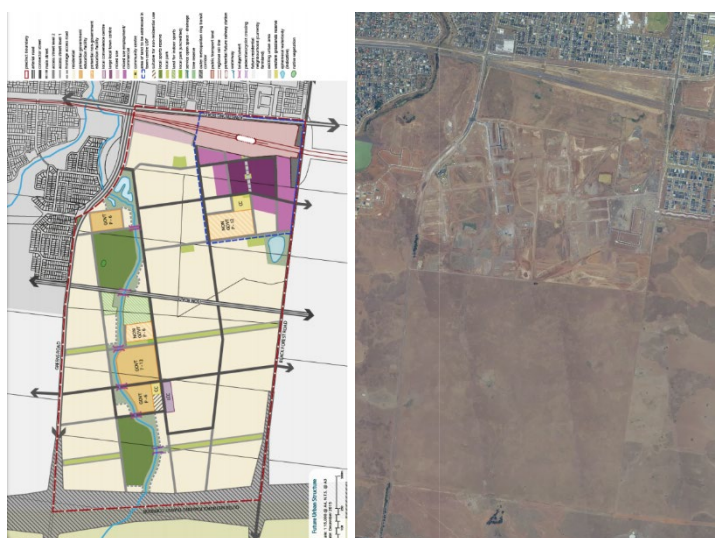
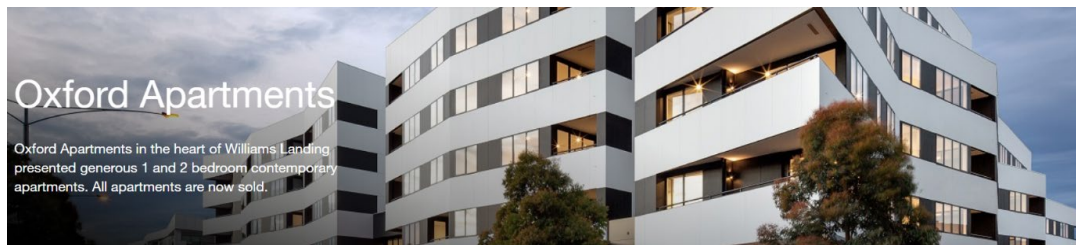


Figure 16. Black Forest Road North Precinct Structure Plan

Within the residential sector, there has been a shift to a more diverse housing development and higher densities with apartments emerging in Williams Landing and Werribee. Such higher density developments provide opportunities for better access to infrastructure and services as well as giving residents a wider range of housing options. However, the number of one- and two-bedroom dwellings in Wyndham is significantly lower than the Melbourne average.



*Figure 17. Apartments emerging in Williams Landing*

**Source:** <https://www.cedarwoods.com.au/project-finder/projects/oxford-apartments>

## Social Determinants of Health

Our health and wellbeing are determined by much more than genes and lifestyle decisions. It is also determined by the circumstances in which we are born, grow, live, work and age - the social determinants of health and these circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources (World Health Organisation, 2016).

Wellbeing is also influenced by the environment in which we live. Environments, therefore, need to be supportive, equitable and inclusive to ensure access to:

- Early childhood services
- Education
- Transport
- Employment
- Adequate housing
- Access to services
- Environmental sustainability
- Social inclusion and community connections
- Gender equity
- Community Safety and
- Food Security

When populations don't have equal access to these elements, we see health inequities. Through the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, the Council has a major role to play in protecting, improving and promoting the health of its residents to ensure everyone is provided with an environment which allows them to equally achieve the best personal health and wellbeing possible.

The relevant social determinants within the People and Community theme are discussed below.

### What do we know about adult residents' health and wellbeing?

The health outcomes of populations can be predicted by a variety of risk factors for chronic diseases (e.g. diabetes, heart disease etc). The Victorian Population Health Survey (VPHS) is a bi-annual survey conducted by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services which aims to collect data on these risk factors to present a picture of the health of populations at local government level. The 2017 survey revealed that compared to Victoria, Wyndham had (DHHS, 2019):

- lower rate of diagnosed cancers, with 4.1% of Wyndham respondents having had a diagnosis of cancer in 2017 compared to 8.1% of all Victorian respondents.
- lower risk of alcohol harm from lifetime drinking and binge drinking: lifetime risk applies to 49.2% of Wyndham respondents compared with 59.5% of all Victorian respondents, and short-term risk from binge drinking to 33% of Wyndham respondents versus 43.3% of Victorian respondents. Lifetime risk of alcohol related harm measures the risk associated with developing an illness due to alcohol dependence (DHHS, 2016).

However, the following indicators suggest that residents in Wyndham are at a higher risk for negative health outcomes:

- more people who are overweight or obese: 57.9% of Wyndham respondents are overweight compared with 50.8% of all Victorian respondents.



- higher daily consumption of sugary drinks: 15.8% of Wyndham respondents consume these daily compared with 10.1% of all Victorian respondents.
- higher levels of daily physical inactivity: 54.5% of Wyndham respondents engage in insufficient physical activity compared with 44.1% of all Victorian respondents.
- lower daily consumption of fruit and vegetables: 36.6% of Wyndham respondents meet the daily fruit consumption guidelines compared with 43.2% of all Victorian respondents.
- had a higher proportion of people who are daily (15.4%) and current smokers (20.8%) compared to Victoria (14.7% and 16.7% respectively)
- almost a quarter (23.9%) of Wyndham respondents reported low life satisfaction levels which is higher than the Victorian average (20.5%), and
- more than a quarter have been diagnosed with anxiety and/or depression (25.9%) compared to Victorian respondents (24.2%)

Differences between 2014 and 2017 are minimal. The only significant differences between 2014 and 2017 are that the rate of people who complete and return the bowel cancer screening test has gone up (from 56.7% in 2014 to 72.7% in 2017), while the proportion of people who are satisfied or very satisfied with life has decreased (from 92.2% in 2014 to 74.5% in 2017).



Figure 18. Summary of all VPHS 2017 indicators for Wyndham and Victoria

**Legend:** Grey bar: range of results across all LGAs; dark red line: Victorian estimate; yellow dot: Wyndham value not significantly different from Victorian estimate; green dot: Wyndham value significantly more favourable than Victorian estimate; red dot: LGA value significantly less favourable than Victorian estimate

### Causes of death

According to the Australian Institute Health and Wellbeing (AIHW) report, the leading cause of death for males was heart disease, and the leading cause of death for females was dementia and Alzheimer's disease (AIHW, 2018). Both conditions tend to be related to older age, however with advances in diagnosis, these are being detected earlier and treatment commenced at a point where life expectancy can be improved. However, not all diseases are ailments of age. The following graphic shows the five leading causes of death by age group. Please note this data is only provided at a national level, it is not available at local government area level.

Age group	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Under 1	Perinatal and congenital conditions	Other ill-defined causes	SIDS	Spinal muscular atrophy	Accidental threats to breathing
1-14	Land transport accidents	Perinatal and congenital conditions	Accidental drowning and submersion	Brain cancer	Other ill-defined causes
15-24	Suicide	Land transport accidents	Accidental poisoning	Assault	Other ill-defined causes
25-44	Suicide	Accidental poisoning	Land transport accidents	Coronary heart disease	Other ill-defined causes
45-64	Coronary heart disease	Lung cancer	Suicide	Breast cancer	Colorectal cancer
65-74	Lung cancer	Coronary heart disease	COPD	Cerebrovascular disease	Colorectal cancer
75 and over	Coronary heart disease	Dementia and Alzheimer disease	Cerebrovascular disease	COPD	Lung cancer

SIDS = sudden infant death syndrome.

Note: 'Other ill-defined causes' include the following codes: Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified (ICD-10 codes R00-R99, excluding R95: SIDS; Cardiac arrest, unspecified (I46.9); Respiratory failure of newborn (P28.5); Other unspecified convulsions (R56.8). AIHW General Record of Incidence of Mortality (GRIM) books are available for selected leading causes of death.

Source: National Mortality Database; Table S3.2.2.

Figure 19. Leading causes of death by age group, 2014-2016

Source: [AIHW, Australia's Health 2018](#)

Cancer makes an appearance in this table from the age of 45 years and above. Deaths from both lung and colorectal cancers can be reduced or prevented through smoking cessation, diet and screening. Absent from the table are communicable diseases largely because Australia has a strong public health focus. Vaccination is the most effective means of prevention, along with surveillance and other prophylactic measures (needle exchange and safe sex practices for example). We are, however, not immune to epidemics and pandemics as COVID-19 has made us all aware. Globalisation has reduced the time and a disease can be transmitted via the vast transport networks that cross countries and continents.

### Health Sector Services

The focus of this section is to examine the status of the primary health care system in Australia as it occurs in Wyndham. A strong primary health system is essential to the health and wellbeing of all

society. Addressing issues earlier through primary health care can reduce the impact of disease and injury and keep people from attending hospital. The economic benefit of keeping people away from hospitals is the freeing up of resources to attend to more serious health events. In the process of doing so it reduces costs to the health system, governments, and the taxpayer. Wyndham is designated as an area of workforce shortage for secondary care (specialists), but not for primary care. A situation that is likely to change as the population continues to grow.

The following table outlines the number of selected practitioners grouped into their professions (DoH, 2018):

*Table 16. Estimated number of health care providers in Wyndham, 2016*

Profession	Count	People per Provider	Providers per 10K person
GP	314	692	14
Allied Health <sup>a</sup>	232	936	11
Primary Care Nurse <sup>b</sup>	206	1,054	10
Mental Health Clinician <sup>c</sup>	348	624	16
Dentist	95	2,285	4
Medical Specialist <sup>d</sup>	355	624	16

Source: Department of Health, Health Workforce Data.; <https://hwd.health.gov.au/>

- (a) Included Allied Health providers include: Chiropractors, Medical Radiation Practitioners, Occupational Therapists, Optometrists, Osteopaths, Physiotherapists, and Podiatrists
- (b) Primary care nurses are based within GP clinics and provide support and ancillary services to patients.
- (c) Included Mental Health providers include: Psychologists, Alcohol and other drug (AOD) clinicians, other mental health clinicians
- (d) Included Medical specialties include: Addiction medicine, Anaesthesia, Dermatology, Emergency medicine, Intensive care medicine, Obstetrics and gynaecology, Occupational and environmental medicine, Ophthalmology, Paediatrics and child health, Pain medicine, Palliative medicine, Pathology, Physician, Psychiatry, Public health medicine, Radiation Oncology, Radiology, Rehabilitation medicine, Sexual health medicine, Sport and exercise medicine, and Surgery

Compared to other metropolitan Melbourne LGAs (21), the patient load is markedly different. For example, inner suburbs have an average of 486 people per GP and conversely, 22 providers for every ten thousand people. Without further workforce increases, the burden upon the hospital system will increase in Wyndham as to the likelihood of deleterious health events related to delayed access to medical services.

### *Emergency Department presentations*

When presenting to an emergency department, a person will be triaged into one of five categories depending upon the severity of the ailment they are presenting with. Table 14 lists these categories from most important to least important. When gauging the patient load within an emergency department, examining the least important is a good place to start. The triage categories 4 and 5 are commonly known as GP type presentations and are health conditions that can be treated effectively in most GP clinics.

There are many reasons why people attend an emergency department to have treatment, one of the main reasons is cost. As will be presented in a following section, the rate of services that are bulk billed (i.e. no cost to the patient if they have a Medicare card) is above 90% in Wyndham. There are other factors outside of the data that aren't published, the main one being the rate of bulk billing at the personal level (not everyone is bulk billed). Other factors include access to services and

knowledge of the health system. The following table and chart show the number of presentations by triage category over eight financial years. The most common type of presentation is the semi-urgent triage group, conditions that can potentially be treated by a GP:

*Table 17. Presentations to Werribee Mercy grouped by triage category*

<b>Triage Category</b>	<b>2011– 2012</b>	<b>2012– 2013</b>	<b>2013– 2014</b>	<b>2014– 2015</b>	<b>2015– 2016</b>	<b>2016– 2017</b>	<b>2017– 2018</b>	<b>2018– 2019</b>
Triage 1. Resuscitation	35	40	37	42	78	100	87	97
Triage 2. Emergency	1,886	1,739	2,107	2,564	3,050	3,942	5,178	7,592
Triage 3. Urgent	6,509	6,439	7,016	7,398	8,074	9,422	10,582	13,489
<i>Triage 4. Semi-Urgent</i>	<i>22,141</i>	<i>22,921</i>	<i>21,189</i>	<i>20,647</i>	<i>21,364</i>	<i>22,250</i>	<i>22,900</i>	<i>22,905</i>
<i>Triage 5. Non-Urgent</i>	<i>4,105</i>	<i>3,518</i>	<i>3,747</i>	<i>2,323</i>	<i>2,495</i>	<i>2,147</i>	<i>2,100</i>	<i>1,374</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,676</b>	<b>34,657</b>	<b>34,096</b>	<b>32,974</b>	<b>35,061</b>	<b>37,861</b>	<b>40,847</b>	<b>45,457</b>

**Source:** <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/myhospitals/sectors/emergency-department-care>

### What do we know about children's health and wellbeing?

Children aged 0-11 make up 21.1% of the Wyndham population. Children's healthy development depends upon a range of elements, including growing up in an environment which has an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.

While all parents want the best for their children, not all parents have the same resources to help their children grow up healthy. It is well-documented that social and economic factors can have the most detrimental effect in our early life from prenatal to age 11, setting the foundations for our adult health (World Health Organisation, 2003).

Parents' education and income levels can create (or limit) opportunities to provide their children with nurturing and stimulating environments and to adopt healthy behaviours for their children to model (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2008).

Research tells us that a child's experiences within the family and community have a lasting effect on whether they will make friends, enjoy school, form stable relationships and make healthy lifestyle choices (Najman et al, 2004).

In particular, early childhood experiences contribute to a child's academic ability and performance and can influence their adult life. Those who have poor experiences in early life are at greater risk of poorer emotional and physical health into adult life, which can lead to shorter life spans and experiences of disadvantage.

Some indicators of child health in Wyndham include:

- The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) service is important in supporting children and families with access to health services. These include early detection, referral, monitoring and recording child health and development, and providing information and advice. Participation in the MCH service is moderate throughout Wyndham, with a participation rate of 68.21% in 2019/20.
- There is high participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children, 84.45% in 2019/20, due in part to an initiative that has a Maternal and Child Health Nurse supporting Aboriginal families based at the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA).

- According to the Department of Health, breastfeeding babies provides with the best start in life and is a key contributor to child health. In 2014/2015 (latest data available) 40.4% of Wyndham babies were breastfed at 3 month and 27.4% at 6 months (VCAMS, 2015)
- Immunisation is important to protect children against disease and illness, as of March 2020, 93.9% of 1 year old, 91.4% of 2 year old and 95.0% of 5 year old were fully vaccinated (DoH, 2020).

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) measures how children in prep are progressing in relation to their health and wellbeing, social skills, emotional ability, language, communication skills and general knowledge (discussed as domains). For Wyndham the 2018 survey found that:

- 23.2% of those children surveyed were vulnerable on one domain, higher when compared to Victoria and Australia
- 11.7% of those children surveyed were vulnerable on two domains, higher when compared to Victoria and Australia

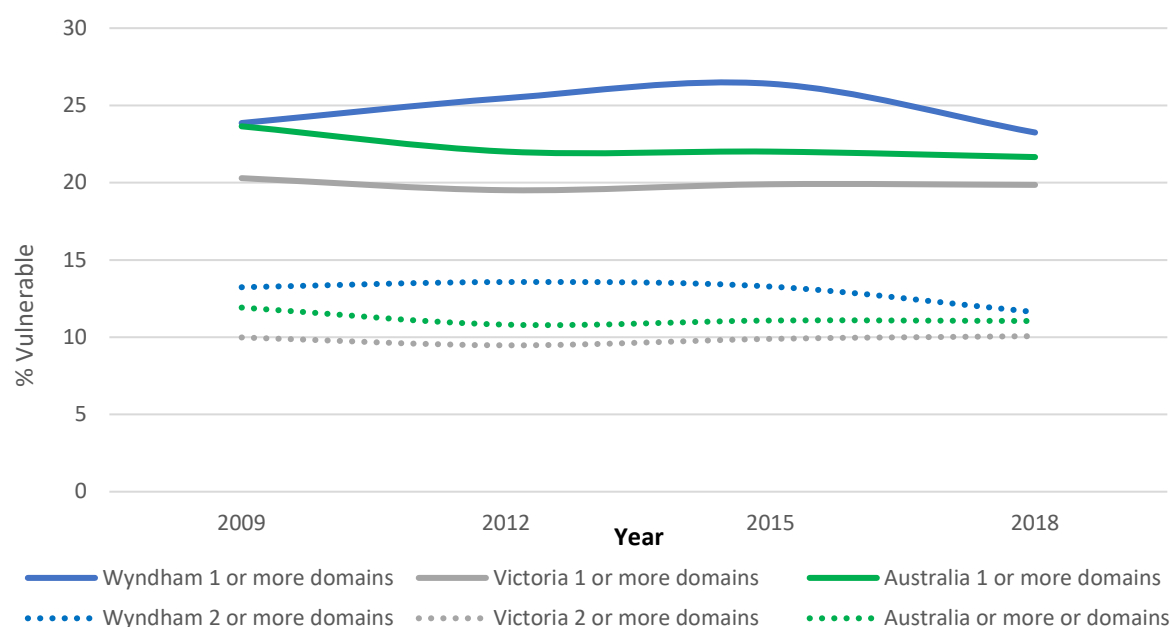


Figure 20. Vulnerable on two or more domains AEDC 2009-2018:



The figure below provides the comparative results for Wyndham children for all domains, showing that generally the majority of children are on track, with the percentage of those at risk significantly decreasing during the comparison period.






		2009		2012		2016		2018		Significant change	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	2009 vs 2018	2016 vs 2018
 Physical health and wellbeing	On track	1,581	77.0	2,010	77.2	2,656	76.1	3,494	79.7	Significant increase	Significant increase
	At risk	286	13.9	328	12.6	483	13.8	496	11.3	Significant decrease	Significant decrease
	Vulnerable	187	9.1	266	10.2	350	10.0	393	9.0	No significant change	Significant decrease
 Social competence	On track	1,520	74.0	1,876	72.0	2,480	71.1	3,304	75.3	Significant increase	Significant increase
	At risk	294	14.3	391	15.0	574	16.5	622	14.2	No significant change	Significant decrease
	Vulnerable	240	11.7	338	13.0	434	12.4	463	10.5	Significant decrease	Significant decrease
 Emotional maturity	On track	1,561	76.3	1,926	74.4	2,562	73.7	3,341	76.5	No significant change	Significant increase
	At risk	304	14.9	413	16.0	601	17.3	669	15.3	No significant change	Significant decrease
	Vulnerable	182	8.9	250	9.7	315	9.1	359	8.2	No significant change	Significant decrease
 Language and cognitive skills (school-based)	On track	1,628	79.5	2,112	80.9	2,783	79.8	3,586	81.7	Significant increase	Significant increase
	At risk	245	12.0	273	10.5	435	12.5	466	10.6	No significant change	Significant decrease
	Vulnerable	174	8.5	226	8.7	269	7.7	335	7.6	No significant change	No significant change
 Communication skills and general knowledge	On track	1,516	73.8	1,907	73.3	2,526	72.4	3,229	73.6	No significant change	Significant increase
	At risk	323	15.7	425	16.3	568	16.3	722	16.5	No significant change	No significant change
	Vulnerable	215	10.5	271	10.4	395	11.3	437	10.0	No significant change	Significant decrease

Figure 21. Wyndham AEDC domain results over time

### Community Safety

Community safety is about feeling safe at home, in the street, or at work. It reflects our quality of life, and our capacity to access personal, social and economic opportunities without fear or hindrance from crime and anti-social behaviour (Northampton Borough Council, 2018).

Community safety also relates to the community's perception of safety, as well as actual incidences of crime and injury. Crime prevention involves activities that seek to prevent crime and offending before it occurs (Department of Justice, 2012).

Feeling unsafe can be based on your perceptions of a place or your experiences within a place and research tells us this affects our health (VicHealth, 2010). Feelings of safety can be influenced by proximity to threatening behaviours or crime, by information in the media and by personal experiences.

However, feelings of safety are also influenced by the care and appearance of public places, including lighting and opportunities for natural surveillance (ibid.).

When people feel unsafe, they feel anxious for their personal security which affects how they think, act, and go about their daily lives. When people feel safe within their communities, they are more likely to get involved in community life, which is critical for mental and physical wellbeing as well as community connectedness. With this in mind, increasing feelings of safety, whether perceived or real, can bring about positive changes in the way people live and ultimately this can improve long term health outcomes.

### Perceptions of safety

The majority of people surveyed through the Council's Annual Community Satisfaction Survey in 2019 reported that they felt very safe during the day (68.4%). The proportion of those who feel unsafe at night however is higher (13.3%) (Metropolis Research, 2019).

The perception of safety in the public areas of the municipality during the day is measurably but not significantly lower than the 2019 metropolitan Melbourne average, although similar to the average of both the western region councils and the growth area councils (Metropolis Research, 2019). The perception of safety at night in Wyndham is almost identical to the metropolitan Melbourne average, and is marginally but measurably higher than the average of both the western region councils and the growth area councils (Metropolis Research, 2019).

Table 18. Perception of safety in the public areas of Wyndham

Response	Year	Number	Average mean	Unsafe (0 - 4)	Neutral to somewhat safe	Very safe (8 - 10)
During the day	2013	787	8.22	3.9%	19.0%	77.2%
	2014	781	8.24	2.3%	22.5%	75.2%
	2015	791	8.37	1.8%	15.7%	82.5%
	2016	1,158	7.95	4.5%	27.4%	68.1%
	2017	1,176	7.94	4.5%	25.9%	69.6%
	2018	1,191	7.88	2.8%	30.6%	66.6%
	2019	1,195	7.85	3.9%	27.7%	68.4%
At night	2013	748	6.37	19.8%	43.4%	36.8%
	2014	746	6.37	17.5%	48.6%	33.9%
	2015	766	6.94	12.0%	40.9%	47.2%
	2016	1,080	5.83	24.9%	48.9%	26.2%
	2017	1,150	6.01	26.0%	43.0%	31.0%
	2018	1,167	6.63	11.7%	50.6%	37.7%
	2019	1,165	6.80	13.3%	43.9%	42.8%

Source: Wyndham city Council [2019 Annual Community Satisfaction Survey](#)

### Family Violence

In 2019, Wyndham had the fifth highest number of family violence incidents of all Victorian municipalities, with an increase of 8.3% from the previous year (Crime Statistics Agency (CSA), 2020).

Between 2015 and 2019, the number of family violence incidents in Wyndham increased by 17.7% which is higher than for Victoria in the same period (13.7%) (CSA, 2020).

Table 19. Family violence incidents, year ending December 2019

Rank by number of incidents	Area	Number of incidents	Change since previous year	Change over 4 years
1	Casey	4,695	2.40%	18.30%
2	Hume	4,011	10.60%	33.20%
3	Greater Geelong	3,751	13.00%	19.30%
4	Whittlesea	3,294	2.60%	17.40%
5	Wyndham	3,263	8.30%	17.70%
-	North West Metro Region	27,534	6.00%	15.50%
-	Victoria	84,546	6.60%	13.70%

Source: [Crime Statistics Agency](#), 2019

### Recorded offences

In 2019, there were 16,760 offences recorded in Wyndham. This was an increase of 2,296 (15.9%) offences from the previous year. In comparison, there was an annual increase of 9.0% for Western Melbourne and 4.6% in the number of offences recorded in Victoria (Crime Statistics Agency (CSA), 2020).

As shown in the graph below, the extent to which offences committed in Wyndham does not differ much from Victoria. There are slightly more crimes against the person and property and deception offences, and slightly less drug and public order offences (CSA, 2020).

Property and deception offences were the most common offence recorded in Wyndham, making up 59.5% of all offences. Property and deception offences include arson, property damage, burglary/break and enter, theft, and deception. The most common type of property and deception offence in Wyndham was theft (57.7%) followed by burglary / break and enter (18.4%) and property damage (13.8%) (CSA, 2020).

Wyndham City is one of the largest growing municipalities in Victoria with large volumes of new dwellings being built, which are more susceptible to theft and burglary / break and enters when left vacant (CSA, 2020).

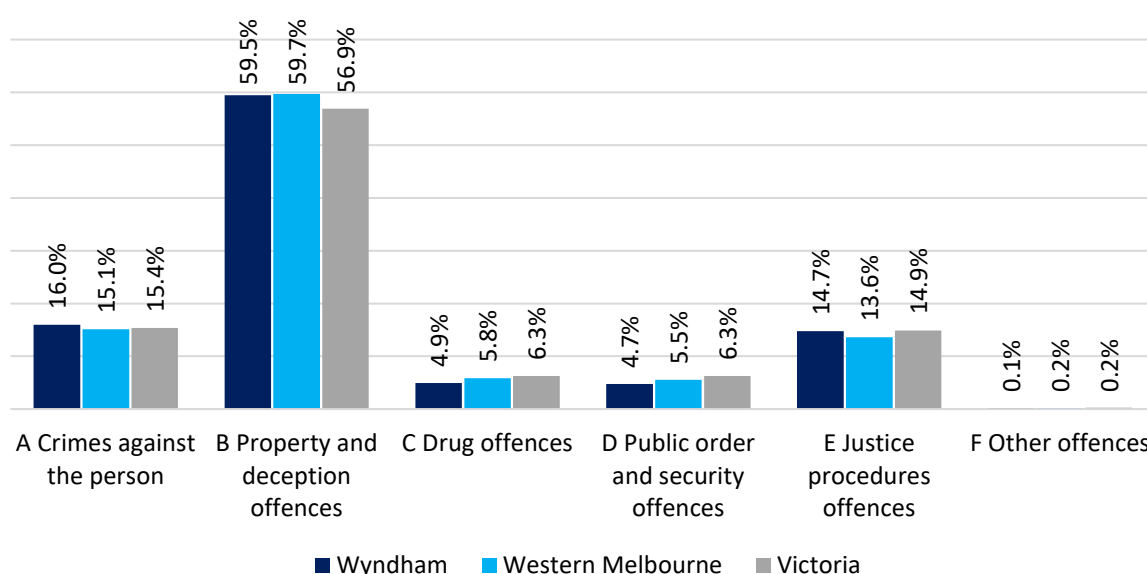


Figure 22. Percentage of recorded offences by offence division, Wyndham Western Melbourne and Victoria, December 2019  
Source: [Crime Statistics Agency](#), 2019

### Gender Equity

The World Health Organisation identifies gender as the factor most likely to dictate position or status in society, and therefore one of the most powerful drivers of health and wellbeing inequality.

Gender equity recognises that within all communities, women, men and gender diverse people have different needs, benefits, access to power, resources and responsibilities (Gender Equity in Local Government Partnership, 2012).

Gender equity is the process of being fair to women, men and gender diverse people by recognising diversity and disadvantage and directing resources and services towards those most in need to ensure equitable outcomes for all (Gender Equity in Local Government Partnership, 2012).

### Food Security

Food security is defined as regular access to safe, nutritionally adequate and culturally acceptable food from non-emergency sources (VicHealth, 2010). People who are not able to access nutritious

food on a regular basis are said to be experiencing 'food insecurity'. Food insecurity can lead people to become more vulnerable to illness and impact on physical, mental and social wellbeing.

A Foodbank 2018 survey indicated that in 'the last 12 months, more than four million Australians (18 per cent of the population) have been in a situation where they have run out of food and have been unable to buy more'. The report also indicated that charities are reporting that the number of people seeking food relief continues to increase (Foodbank, 2018).

A person's social and economic circumstances can affect their health throughout their life. This is because as a person earns more money, their opportunities to access better health care, education, nutritious food and secure adequate housing improve (World Health Organisation, 2003).

Some population groups are more vulnerable to food insecurity and this includes those of a low socioeconomic status, people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, newly arrived and refugee communities, individuals with chronic illness or a disability, older people, young people and people experiencing (or at risk of experiencing) homelessness.

The Socio Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) are produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage is based on factors such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations. The Australian benchmark is set at 1,000. Scores below 1,000 indicate a higher incidence of disadvantage and are likely to contain more people with limited education or qualifications, in low skilled jobs or unemployed and on low incomes.

In 2016, the SEIFA Index of Disadvantage (IRSD) for Wyndham was 1009, which is higher than Western Melbourne (987), less than Greater Melbourne (1024) and Victoria (1010). Within Wyndham the areas with the highest SEIFA IRSD score are: Sanctuary Lakes (1074), Point Cook (1070) and Williams Landing (1069). The areas with the lowest IRSD score are Wyndham Vale North (904), Werribee Central (907) and Mossfiel (935).

The following table provides an overview of the cohorts within Wyndham who may be vulnerable to food security issues. The groups are based on the lowest three deciles on the SEIFA index of relative disadvantage. Potentially, there is 39,338 (17.7%) of the Wyndham population at risk of not being able to afford weekly staples or have issues accessing fresh food. Furthermore, there are 18,096 (8.2%) people who earn less than \$650 per week meaning the cost of living leaves them with very little after housing and utilities are paid for.



Table 20. Potential at risk groups for low food security based on the lowest three deciles, Wyndham 2016

**Household ran out of food / unable to buy more**  
**Wyndham City Council - 2019 Annual Community Survey**  
 (Number and percent of total respondents)

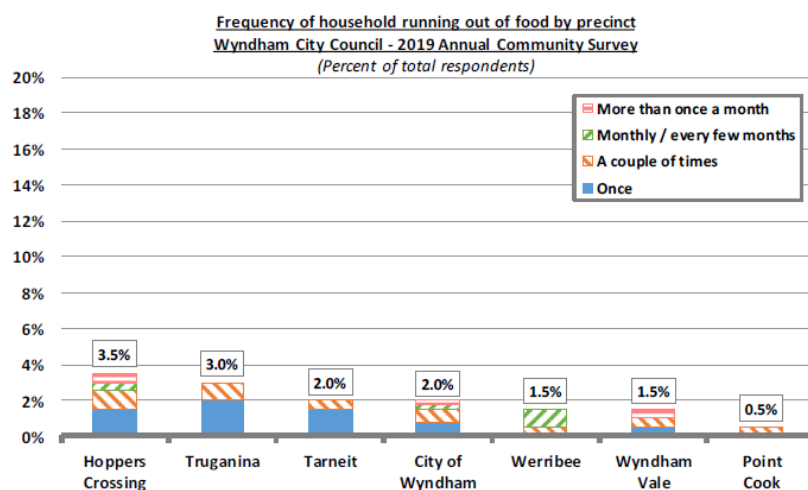
Response	2019		2018	2017	2013
	Number	Percent			
Never	1,163	96.9%	94.9%	94.4%	93.2%
Once	10	0.8%	1.0%	0.5%	1.3%
A couple of times	8	0.7%	1.0%	1.5%	3.2%
Monthly or almost every month	3	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
More than once a month	2	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Can't say	14	1.2%	3.0%	3.4%	2.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>801</b>

Cohort	Wyndham		Western Melbourne
	Number	Per cent	Per cent
All people	39,338	17.7%	41.6%
Low English Proficiency	2,715	1.2%	4.6%
Indigenous	406	0.2%	0.3%
Disabled	2,428	1.1%	2.7%
Aged under 19 years	10,321	4.7%	10.4%
Aged over 65 year	5,267	2.4%	5.4%
Income Less than \$650 per week	18,096	8.2%	13.5%

Source: ABS Census

The following table provides a recent update based on the Annual Community Satisfaction Survey. Two per cent of the Wyndham population either ran out of food or were not able to buy more food at least once in 2019 (Metropolis Research, 2019). The areas of the municipality most likely to have households in this situation include Hoppers Crossing, Truganina and Tarneit (Metropolis Research, 2019).

Table 21. The number of times per year households ran out of food or were unable to afford more, Wyndham 2019



## Impacts of COVID-19

The impacts of COVID-19 have been felt right across the globe and Wyndham is no exception. Although information is still coming in, analysis of social, health and economic data available as at December 2020 can help us respond to COVID-19 impacts on the community, including:

- The Australian Bureau of Statistics have reported that 1 in 3 Victorians have experienced loneliness and social isolation during the lockdown stages (ABS COVID-19 Household Survey, October 2020). This is more than twice the national average.
- Furthermore, Victorians have been twice as likely to report issues in maintaining a healthy lifestyle and experienced more issues maintaining existing health concerns (Ibid.).
- Each week in Wyndham 13 new babies are welcomed into the world, to help maintain service continuity our response has been to use online services to complement face to face appointments. Access to Wyndham Councils essential services such as Maternal Child Health, have continued to experience high demand throughout the pandemic.
- Compared to June 2019, there has been a 5% increase in the incidence of reported family violence. The true impact of family violence is yet to be fully realised as data for the third quarter has yet to be published.

For more information please refer to the COVID-19 Response and Recovery summary report.

## 2016-20 Achievements and Performance

The Council uses a range of measures to determine how well it is performing in its efforts to achieve the Wyndham 2040. This includes the Strategic Liveability and Wellbeing Indicators, achievement of the Major Initiatives and Initiatives (significant projects and activities) committed to through its annual plan and budget, completion of its capital works commitments and the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) indicators of service, sustainability and financial performance.

The following section provides the measures relevant for this theme and how Council has performed against these over the last term of Council 2016-20.

### Strategic Liveability and Wellbeing Indicators

The Council adopted a set of [Strategic Liveability and Wellbeing Indicators](#) to track how the community is fairing and as indicators of progress towards the achievement of Wyndham 2040. These indicators tell us that between 2016 and 2020, (or the nearest available period) in Wyndham:

- Community satisfaction with arts and culture increased from a score of 7.45 (out of 10) in 2016 to a score of 7.94 in 2019
- The number of people who are obese has remained the same between 2014 and 2017 at 25% (VHISS, 2020)
- The proportion of adults who engage in the recommended amount of physical activity each week has increased slightly from 35.2% in 2014 to 38.6% in 2017 (VHISS, 2020)
- In 2014, Wyndham adults were eating on average 2.1 serves of vegetables per day, this has decreased to 1.9 in 2017 (VHISS, 2020)
- The proportion of people with a depression/anxiety has increased between 2017 (25.9%) and 2014 (23.2%) (VHISS, 2020)
- The proportion of current smokers has increased from 13.1% in 2014 to 20.8% in 2017 (VHISS, 2020)
- The proportion of people who have an increased risk of disease or injury from alcohol consumption has decreased from 51.2% in 2014 to 49.2% in 2017 (VHISS, 2020)
- The number of fully immunised children (at 5 years of age) has increased from 92.4% in 2015 to 95.1% in 2020 (DoH, 2020). The average for Greater Melbourne over the same period was 92.1% and 95.1% respectively.
- Offences recorded in Wyndham appear to have remained at a similar rate, with 6,710 offences recorded in 2016 compared to 6,803 offences recorded in 2020 (Crime Statistics Agency (CSA), 2020)
- Family violence rates appear to have remained at a similar rate, with 1,296 in 2016 to a rate of 1,164 for 2020 (CSA, 2020)
- Resident's perception of safety during the day has remained consistent from 2016 (7.95) to 2019 (7.85) (Metropolis Research, 2019). Resident's perception of safety at night has improved from 2016 (5.83) to 2019 (6.80) (Metropolis Research, 2019).
- For the year ending March 2020 there were 903 electronic gaming machines in Wyndham, increasing from 892 in 2017 (VCGLR, 2020).

- The measure of subjective wellbeing is 76.8 as at 2015. A comparison for this data is not available through the VicHealth indicators Survey.

### Major Initiatives and Initiatives

Council identifies key strategic and significant pieces of work, programs, activities or investments in its Annual Plan and Budget. Over the past four years, the Council has delivered the following:

- Council's first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2017-2019 was developed and the Wunggurrwil Dhurrung Centre was opened in 2019.
- The Wyndham Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy and Action Plan, the Family Friendly City Charter, and the Accessibility Action Plan were adopted by Council.
- Council endorsed the draft Gender Equity Strategy "Towards Equality" and action plan in April 2020 and committed to a Social & Economic Inclusion Framework.
- In partnership with the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation, Council delivered the Sons of the West (SOTW) program for improving health education physical activity for men of all ages.
- The Chirnside Park hub development was completed to include a regional level pavilion, facilities for women's football, a new grandstand, a commercial kitchen and kiosk, multi-purpose social, meeting and community spaces, media rooms, coach's spaces and improved car parking.
- Five new kindergartens were opened in Truganina East, Tarneit, Tarneit North, Werribee and Wyndham Vale.
- Wyndham City's cultural program grew in scale and impact with new opportunities for the community to experience the arts. Events and activities included the Children's Picnic, State Rose & Garden Show, Winter Street Party, Fromage a Trois Cheese Festival, Pop up park and more.
- Council advocated for the delivery of the Wyndham Justice Precinct including the integrated support service hub and a focus on the construction of a new court.
- Undertook construction of and upgrades to community centres and neighbourhood hubs including Tarneit Community Learning Centre, Manor Lakes Community Centre (formerly Wyndham Vale), Mainview Integrated Family Learning Centre in Truganina, Saltwater Youth Space in Point Cook, and the Grange Community Centre in Hoppers Crossing.
- Council continues to coordinate Wyndham's H3 Alliance which brings together key service providers across the municipality to respond to emerging issues and work to improve outcomes for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Wyndham.
- Council awarded 711 community grants totalling \$2,571,700. These grants supported a range of community activities aimed at improving and enhancing the lives of Wyndham residents.

### Capital Works

Council plans for and builds the assets and infrastructure needed by our community. Over the past four years, Council has delivered the following:

- Wunggurrwil Dhurrung Centre, Wyndham Vale
- Enhanced Neighbourhood Hubs Upgrade - Manor Lakes, Point Cook and Tarneit
- Mainview Boulevard Reserve – Family Learning Centre, Pavilion and Car Park, Truganina
- Quantin Binnah Community Centre Extension and Play Space, Werribee

- Baden Powell Drive Park - Active Youth Space, Tarneit
- Wyndham Youth Resource Centre Outdoor Redevelopment, Hoppers Crossing
- Point Cook Skate Park Expansion, Point Cook
- Riverdale Community Centre, Tarneit West – construction commenced

### Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) Indicators

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) is a mandatory system of performance reporting for all Victorian councils. It allows council performance to be measured and compared across a range of standardised indicators spanning Aquatic Facilities, Animal Management, Food Safety, Governance, Maternal and Child Health, Libraries, Roads, Statutory Planning and Waste Collection. Results can be viewed in detail in our [Annual Reports](#) or via the [Know Your Council](#) website.

Performance against those relevant to this theme are as follows:

#### *Animal Management*

Council commits to a high quality of animal management and responsible pet ownership services to the community including monitoring, registration, enforcement and education. Council's timeliness in response to animal management requests has consistently improved and the percentage of animals reclaimed by their owners has increased.

#### *Maternal and Child Health (MCH)*

Wyndham's focus on supporting families continues with consistent overall participation rates in both the first MCH home visit and in subsequent key ages and stages visits. Wyndham has seen an increase in participation by Aboriginal children due to an initiative that has a Maternal and Child Health Nurse supporting Aboriginal families based at the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA). There has been a slight increase in cost of the overall service due to an increase in service demand.



## Advocacy

Between 2016 to 2020, Council delivered effective advocacy plans and worked closely with key stakeholders in the delivery of projects aimed at reducing traffic congestion, supporting local employment, improving our education system, sustaining our quality of life, and assisting local businesses. This has resulted in significant positive outcomes for the Wyndham community as follows:

### *Schools and Kindergarten*

Wyndham's schools are under increasing pressure to accommodate a growing number of students. Council's schools4wyndham campaign has been advocating for schools to be built in the areas they are needed most since 2017.

This campaign has helped bring wider attention to the issue of a shortage of schools, with the State Government's 2020-21 state budget announcements for Wyndham including upgrades to infrastructure at three Wyndham schools and funds to acquire land for 5 new local schools: Truganina North Secondary School, Holyoake Parade Primary School in Manor Lakes, Lollypop Creek Primary School in Werribee, Riverdale East Primary School in Tarneit and Tarneit Missen House Primary School.

With much more work needed in this area, Council continues to actively campaign for greater investment in Wyndham's schools via the [schools4wyndham](#) campaign. Additionally, through the I Love Kinder campaign - which was launched in late 2018 – Council will continue to call for the Federal Government to provide ongoing secure funding for kindergarten, rather than ad hoc annual renewals.

### *Social and Economic Inclusion*

Council has advocating for further funding towards social and employment initiatives in Melbourne's west, and was successful in achieving federal funding for a Regional Employment Trial in Wyndham in 2019-20 to improve economic participation of humanitarian entrants in the municipality.

Wyndham's social and economic inclusion focus brings together business, community and government to create and sustain pathways for local people to fully participate in work and community life.

A Social and Economic Inclusion Taskforce network governance structure was established, and a Wyndham Social and Economic Inclusion Framework was developed with input from business, community and government to guide further development of the trial and a broader Wyndham approach to social cohesion and economic participation.

Federal funding for the Wyndham Regional Employment Trial was extended for 2020-21.

### *Asylum Seeker Support*

Council is a proud supporter of the Back Your Neighbour campaign, which calls on the Federal Government to reverse cuts to the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) program. This program supports people who have escaped extremely dangerous situations to seek asylum in Australia by providing them with language and psychological support, medicine, food and critical job-seeking assistance.

Since this campaign was launched, the Victorian Government has provided \$3 million in funding to maintain access to the SRSS program for those with the most acute need, and with pre-arrival

experiences of trauma, torture and family loss and separation, to reduce the long-term consequences and deterioration of physical and mental health, including children and young people.

#### *Wyndham Multidisciplinary Centre*

Wyndham's diverse population has evolving needs that require a broad range of services to support it, including specialist sexual assault support services. That's why Council advocated for the Wyndham Multidisciplinary Centre to be established to provide timely, accessible and continued support. Funding for this centre was provided in the 2018/19 State Budget and it was opened to the community in June 2018.

#### *Arts and Culture*

Throughout 2020 Council responded to the COVID-19 crisis by programming a range of activities, exhibitions and workshops on digital platforms to highlight and advocate for diverse voices and experiences to be reflected in the broader experience of the community.

This included programming for NAIDOC week, contributing to 16 Days of Activism initiatives, programming for Midsumma Festival (LGBTQI+) and supporting a significant number of CALD artists through our arts development and creative industries programs.

Council also advocated for the unique needs of Wyndham City to enhance participation and investment in the arts and creative industries through sector wide initiatives. This included being a joint signatory to Outer-Metro Melbourne submission to the Federal Parliamentary Enquiry on the impact of Covid-19 on the Creative Industries and contributing responses to the Creative Victoria Creative State strategy consultation.

Council has also commenced a masterplanning process and feasibility for a multi-disciplinary creative space "Arts Centre Wyndham" (on the existing Cultural Centre site) in Werribee.

#### *Pokies Reform*

Every year in Wyndham more than \$100 million is lost to one of Wyndham's 13 gaming venues. Council has become a leading member of the Alliance for Gambling Reform and is an active contributor to The Pokies Play You campaign. In collaboration with other Councils and the Municipal Association of Victoria, Council has advocated for pokies reform and other gambling reform.

#### *Wyndham Justice Precinct*

Council has been advocating strongly for the Victorian Government to fund the delivery of the Wyndham Justice Precinct, including a new multi-jurisdictional court complex, a new police complex and a Support Services Hub.

The 2020-21 State Budget includes \$272 million towards a new Wyndham Law Court. The new court will provide a full range of specialist court programs and services including hearing rooms, mediation suites and a specialist family violence court.

A new police station has already been funded and construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2020.

## What Have We Heard from the Community?

As the level of government closest to the community, Council is best placed to engage with their unique communities around their needs, wants and expectations. Wyndham's approach to community engagement includes a variety of methods for Council to connect with our community and provide genuine opportunities to inform the projects, strategies, decisions and services that affect them.

In developing this background report to support the refresh of the Wyndham 2040 Community Vision and the development of a new Council Plan for the next four-year Council term, Council undertook a review of the findings of recent community consultations. Some selected high-level findings relevant to this theme are listed below:

- The Maternal and Child Health Statement consultation in 2018 told us that Wyndham parents and carers value:
  - Knowing their baby / child is healthy and developing well
  - Talking to someone and getting some support
  - Learning more about parenting and connecting with new parents
  - Understanding why they are feeling down after giving birth
  - Knowing there is somewhere to go to ensure they and their children are safe
- The Accessibility Action Plan – 2019-22 consultation identified that the Wyndham community:
  - wants a municipality that provides a diversity of community program and services across the community's lifecycle, is safe, collaborative, celebrates culture and heritage, and promotes healthy living.
  - values inclusion and greater participation opportunities for everyone
- The Living Your Best Life in Wyndham 2019 consultation identified that the Wyndham community:
  - value diversity, friendliness and opportunities to meet each other
  - has a particular fondness for the places, events and activities that give them an opportunity to come together. The pop-up park in Point Cook is a particular favourite amongst the local community who live there
- The Affordable Housing Strategy consultation in 2020 identified that the Wyndham community:
  - that libraries and community centres are valued resources for our community
  - there needs to be opportunities those in lower socio-economic groups and the young to get into their first homes, and more opportunities for the elderly to downsize
- The Wyndham 2040 consultation found that the community identified that Wyndham's aboriginal and settler history needs to be recognised and communicated
- The Help Shape Wyndham consultation 2019 found that most people feel that their community is safe although a few people have minor concerns about personal safety and property crime
- Through the consultation for the Wyndham Volunteering Strategy 2019-24 it was found that some older adults think that their community is good for young families, but less inclusive for older people who might feel a little excluded and have limited opportunities to meet and socialise.

## Opportunities, Challenges and Issues

A variety of challenges and issues are facing Wyndham in 2021 and beyond. As outlined in Wyndham's Advocacy Strategy, [Securing Wyndham's Future](#), Council is largely reliant on other levels of government to fund and provide the infrastructure and services our community needs to prosper.

Council is working with partners and the community to achieve change on many locally and regionally important issues that need to be addressed through effective intergovernmental relationships, awareness campaigns, and advocacy.

In relation to People and Community, the following issues have been highlighted from [Securing Wyndham's Future](#), and recent budget submissions:

### *Early childhood and family services*

Wyndham's population has been growing faster than expected. We urgently need new early childhood education and care facilities, public paediatric health services, and family support centres.

Services need to be located where they're needed most – and funding needs to be made available so that they're up and running when our families and children need them.

We're building new centres and planning innovative new service models for our community, but we need cooperation and investment from the Victorian Government.

To give our kids the best possible start in life we also need the Australian Government to commit to long-term funding for kindergarten that guarantees 15 hours of four-year-old kinder per week, per child.

### *Health, Support & Inclusion*

People's wellbeing is influenced by many things. These include our employment, our relationships with families and friends, the layout of our suburbs, and our connection to our community.

As a local government, we're uniquely placed to have a positive influence on health and wellbeing at different life stages. We do this by supporting the development of healthy environments and providing community services. But there's only so much we can do.

Delays in the arrival of infrastructure like kindergartens, schools, health services, roads, and public transport are some of the biggest issues affecting the health and wellbeing of our community.

On top of this, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on the well-being and connectedness of our community. The longer-term impacts of this crisis on our community health and wellbeing are not yet clear and we will need ongoing support from the state and federal governments as we adapt to a changed and changing world.

### *Arts, culture, sport & recreation*

As a local government, we see our local arts sector as being crucial to liveability. However, recent downward trends in national funding for the arts present a challenge. The sector has been hit hard by the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis and will need support from state and federal governments to recover and continue to thrive.

Sporting and recreational facilities also play an important role by promoting physical activity and house sporting clubs that help bind our community together. Participation promotes social inclusion, healthy child development, and helps with anti-social behaviour. However, rapid population growth has made it difficult to keep up with demand. We're seeking federal and state government support to make sure the health and wellbeing of our community is reinforced by an active sports and recreation culture.

#### *Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations*

People from NESB have special needs when accessing community services. There are often language barriers when engaging with people from outside of their cultural groups.



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