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# People & Community

Community Summary Report  
**February 2021**



## Wyndham 2040 Community Vision for People and Community

The Wyndham 2040 Community Vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of our City. The current Vision for 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 current population of Wyndham is forecast to double between now and 2040. As Wyndham continues to grow and change, so will the aspirations and needs of our diverse community.

It goes without saying that the COVID-19 pandemic has hit Wyndham hard. With more than 2,200 people testing positive to the Coronavirus in Wyndham since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, there have been many challenges but there are also opportunities. Together we have a chance to move towards a ‘new normal’ and build back better as we recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

This summary presents a snapshot of People and Community. It includes current information about the municipality and the opportunities, challenges and issues facing the community now and into the future. The information is intended to assist you to work actively with Council to refresh the Wyndham 2040 Community Vision and determine priorities for Council to deliver over the next four years.

### Council’s role

Under People and Community, Council delivers services relating to the health, wellbeing and safety of all members of our community across the life stages. Council also works 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.

Council provides 18 services under People and Community, some of these include Aged and Disability, Maternal Child Health & Wellness, Youth and Family, Civic Compliance, Sport Recreation & Physical Activity and Municipal Emergency Management.

A full list of services provided by Council is available in the People and Community Background Report.

## Who are we?

- Wyndham has an estimated resident population of 288,212 for 2020.
- Between 2013 and 2018, Wyndham experienced the third largest population growth across Australia, and the largest in Victoria.
- Over the next 20 years an extra 220,000 people will call Wyndham home. The area that is expecting to experience the highest rate of growth is Tarneit.
- The age groups with the greatest growth rates will be the 0-14 and the 25-44 year age groups.
- In Wyndham, there is a large Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, the largest in Greater Melbourne.
- More than half (53%) of Wyndham residents were born overseas and there are more than 120 languages spoken across the municipality.
- 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.
- It is estimated that 12% of the Wyndham population lives with a disability.

## How do we live?

- In Wyndham, 19.2% of people fully own their own home, 46.3% have a mortgage, and 27.4% are renting.
- Mortgage stress is defined as households in the lowest 40% of incomes who are paying more than 30% of their usual gross weekly income on home loan repayments. 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).

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

The following Victorian Population Health Survey indicators suggest that residents in Wyndham are at a higher risk for negative health outcomes, due to:

- more people who are overweight or obese.
- higher daily consumption of sugary drinks.
- higher levels of daily physical inactivity.
- lower daily consumption of fruit and vegetables.
- a higher proportion of people who are daily (15.4%) and current smokers (20.8%)
- higher incidence of respondents reporting low life satisfaction levels
- higher incidence of respondents being diagnosed with anxiety and/or depression when compared to the Victorian average.

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

- As of March 2020, 93.9% of 1-year-olds, 91.4% of 2-year-olds and 95.0% of 5-year-olds were fully vaccinated. Between 2016-20, the number of fully immunised children (at 5 years of age) has increased.
- The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) service is important in supporting children and families with access to health services. Participation in the MCH service is moderate throughout Wyndham, with a participation rate of 68.2% in 2019/20.

- There is high participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children, 84.4% in 2019/20, due in part to an initiative that has an MCH Nurse supporting Aboriginal families based at the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA).

### What do we know about community safety?

- 68.4% of people surveyed through the Council's 2019 Annual Community Satisfaction Survey reported that they felt very safe during the day.
- 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.
- 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.
- In 2019, there were 16,760 offences recorded in Wyndham. This was an increase of 2,296 (15.9%) offences from the previous year.

### Advocacy

There are many infrastructure and service gaps affecting our community that we can't solve on our own. We're largely reliant on other levels of government to fund and provide the infrastructure and services our community needs to prosper. That's why it's important for us to hear from our community about what our city needs, and then communicate these needs and seek action from politicians, government departments, and other key stakeholders. This is what we call advocacy – and it's one of the most important functions we perform.

[Securing Wyndham's Future](#) is council's advocacy strategy that is updated regularly to reflect community needs and government policy and funding changes. Some key advocacy priorities and recent outcomes are listed below:

#### Community Safety

- The Victorian Government announced funds for construction of a new Wyndham Law Court, including a specialist family violence court, in the 2020-21 state budget.
- Council has also been advocating for access to community support services to be included along with a new police station and courts within the new Wyndham Justice Precinct.
- Council is also asking the Victorian Government to make sure police numbers increase in line with our rapid rate of population growth and there is an adequate police presence in our growth areas.

#### Health and Wellbeing

- The Victorian Budget 2020-21 included funding to grow our local health system, including funds to plan for an expansion of the Werribee Mercy Hospital and to acquire land for the new Point Cook Community Hospital.

#### 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. In November 2020 the state government committed to funding five new schools in Wyndham and upgrading three existing schools.
- Wyndham is working in partnership with the state government to plan for the delivery of three-year-old kindergarten.
- Additionally, through the I Love Kinder campaign Council will continue to lead calls for the Federal Government to provide ongoing secure funding for four-year-old kindergarten.

#### *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.

#### *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.

#### *Arts and Culture*

- In 2019/2020, Council continued to advocate for arts and culture through participation in sector networks including Municipal Association Victoria Arts and Culture, Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres Association and participated in consultation sessions with Creative Victoria.
- Between 2016 and 2020, in Wyndham community satisfaction with arts and culture increased.

#### *Pokies Reform*

- Every year in Wyndham more than \$100 million is lost to one of Wyndham's 13 gaming venues. For the year ending March 2020 there were 903 electronic gaming machines in Wyndham, increasing from 892 in 2017.
- 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 and other gambling reform.
- A proposed development in Truganina which included 80 poker machines was rejected by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal in December 2020 after it was opposed by Council.

## 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 the 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.