

Earning & Learning

Community Summary Report
February 2021



Wyndham 2040 Community Vision for Earning and Learning

The Wyndham 2040 Community Vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of our City. The current Vision for Earning and Learning is as follows:

“Our city will offer varied and plentiful local employment options. It will be a place of choice for businesses of all sizes and have a thriving network of small business operators. Wyndham will be known for great schools and universities. There will be lots of ways for people to learn and gain employment. Wyndham libraries will support learning for everyone. Residents will be able to share skills and build knowledge at community centres. Wyndham will have a good mix of shops and shopping destinations. Local events and attractions will build Wyndham’s reputation as a place to visit and be a source of community pride.”

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 Earning and Learning. 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 Services

Under Earning and Learning, Council works with our partners and community to ensure Wyndham is a place of opportunity for learning, working, investing and succeeding. Council also works to build a vibrant and sustainable city where all residents have access to opportunities. We seek innovative ways to build an attractive business and investment environment – both locally and internationally.

Council provides nine services under Earning and Learning, some of these include Libraries, Inclusive Employment, Place Making and Activation, Investment and Business Growth.

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

Education

Schools

- Following the completion of kindergarten, Wyndham parents can choose to send their kids to 46 primary schools in Wyndham, of which 29 are government schools. A total of 25 schools offer secondary education, 18 of them being government schools as at January 2021. Almost 50,000 children go to school in Wyndham, with NAPLAN results not far behind Victoria, and an increasing rate of secondary school completion compared to Greater Melbourne.
- Latest data available (2017) tells us that, overall, approximately 90% of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students are achieving national benchmarks for literacy and numeracy.
- 58.2% per cent of Wyndham residents have completed Year 12, on par with the completion rates for Greater Melbourne.

University and TAFE

- More than one in three Wyndham young people aged 19 to 25 attend university or TAFE.
- In 2016, the percentage of Wyndham adults attending University or TAFE was slightly lower (8%) than the percentage across Greater Melbourne (10%) and Victoria (9%).

Bachelor Degrees and higher

- The proportion of Wyndham residents with a Bachelor degree or higher is increasing. In 2011, 18.6% of Wyndham residents had a Bachelor degree or higher, and this increased to 24.4% in 2016. Recent migration trends are increasing the proportion of residents with Bachelor degrees or higher.
- Such degrees are relatively more common among young people and recent migrants, and sustained growth will see Wyndham surpass Greater Melbourne in this respect in the near future.

Local learning opportunities

- The local library is a key place of learning and a central meeting point for a community. In terms of resident satisfaction with Councils services, libraries are one of the areas with the highest satisfaction levels in Council.
- The number of adults participating in learning and skills programs at Wyndham libraries is increasing with 7,263 residents participating in 2018/19.
- Another key place for Wyndham adults to gain education is the Wyndham Community & Education Centre (WCEC).

Employment and Income

Employment

- Almost two thirds of Wyndham residents aged over 15 participate in the workforce (65.7%). This is higher than in Greater Melbourne (61.9%).
- In June 2020, there were 7,502 unemployed Wyndham residents, with the unemployment rate being 6.5%. This has increased from 5.3% in December 2019
- 60.2% of people in the labour force being full-time employed, and 29.5% being part-time employed.
- In the most recent quarter (June 2020), the unemployment rate was 6.5%, which is lower than the unemployment rate in Australia (7.2%) and Victoria (7.1%) but higher than Greater Melbourne (6.1%).
- Labour force participation differs between men and women with more than three quarters of Wyndham men in the labour force (76.9%) compared with 62.2% of women.
- Across Australia more than half (53%) of working-age people (15-64) with disability are in the labour force, compared with 83% without disability. This is particularly so for those with severe or profound disability, where it is 25%.
- Wyndham residents' occupations are more likely to be blue collar than in Greater Melbourne.
- As many as one in ten young people neither study nor work, compared with 7.5% in Greater Melbourne.

Employment self-containment

- Self-containment refers to the proportion of residents who live and work in the municipality. Overall, 66% of Wyndham residents who are employed work outside the municipality.

- To enable all local residents to be employed locally, an additional 44,766 local jobs are needed.

Individual Income

- In Wyndham, there is a lower proportion of people earning a high income (those earning \$1,750 per week or more) and a similar proportion of low-income people (those earning less than \$500 per week), when compared to Greater Melbourne.

Household Income

- Household income levels in Wyndham are slightly above the Greater Melbourne median, driven by a comparatively larger middle class.
- In Wyndham, there is a smaller proportion of high-income households (those earning \$2,500 per week or more) and a lower proportion of low-income households (those earning less than \$650 per week), when compared to Greater Melbourne.
- Overall, 21.1% of households in Wyndham earned a high income and 12.5% were low income households, compared with 22.9% and 16.7% respectively for Greater Melbourne.

Economy

Gross Regional Product

- A key indicator of any economy is the gross regional product (GRP), which is the value of economic activity in a region. In 2019, Wyndham's GRP was \$10.6 billion, making it the second largest Gross Regional Product (GRP) of all growth areas in Victoria, second only to Hume.
- Gross Regional Product in Wyndham is the second highest among all growth areas in Greater Melbourne and has increased twice as quickly as the Victorian GRP in 2018/19.

Local employment

- Local employment contributes to making the municipality a desirable place to live and reduces economic leakage – expenditure by residents elsewhere.
- Between 2017-18 and 2018-19, the growth of local employment in Wyndham exceeded growth in all other growth areas and was twice the Victorian rate. There are now 83,596 jobs in Wyndham.
- Retail, transport and manufacturing are the three largest local employers in Wyndham in 2018/19.
- The majority of Wyndham residents go outside the municipality to get to their place of employment (66%).
- The top five employing industries among employed Wyndham residents are health care, retail, transport, manufacturing and construction.

Local businesses

- There are currently 19,784 businesses in Wyndham, compared to 14,799 businesses in 2017.
- The growth of nearly 5,000 businesses in two years was largely due to the Transport industry (+2,203 businesses), followed by Construction (+529), Professional Services (+430) and Administrative and Support Services (+402).

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:

Economic development and industry

- When people work locally, it stimulates the local economy and reduces travel time – which in turn improves quality of life. We want the Victorian and Federal governments to invest in infrastructure and support programs that will attract a diverse range of industries and support local enterprise. This will also help to reduce local unemployment.
- When it comes to investing in outer growth areas like Wyndham, research shows that the benefits outweigh the costs. Jobs will be created, tax revenues increased, and the nation will benefit from a permanent boost to GDP. We're asking the Victorian and Australian Government to commit to this vision.
- Opportunities for economic development include investing in rail and road transport infrastructure, freight infrastructure, development of Avalon Airport, support for our farmers and market gardeners, and promotion of Wyndham's tourism precinct.

Learning

- Wyndham is growing even faster than expected and we urgently need more schools. Existing schools are struggling to cope and are becoming overcrowded. It also means many children travel long distances to attend class – and this affects quality of life.
- The Victorian Government has committed to building 100 new schools state-wide by 2026 and has started to address the shortfall of schools in Wyndham with five new schools announced in the 2020-21 state budget, however this needs sustained effort to catch up with years of underinvestment.
- Our schools4wyndham campaign is asking the Victorian government to continue to build more schools in Wyndham to meet demand in our fast-growing suburbs, so they are ready when our community needs them.
- Young people in Wyndham will also need better access to local further and higher education opportunities to equip them for the jobs of the future.
- Wyndham is also committed to the ongoing provision of high-quality public library services. Libraries are community hubs that provide free and equal access to services and programs that contribute to lifelong literacy and learning. We joined with other local governments in asking the state government to boost operational funding of public libraries. The 2020-21 Victorian Budget included an additional \$2.2 million for public libraries collections and outreach, and an additional \$11.1 million over two years for library upgrades.

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 economic impacts of COVID-19 measures include job losses through shop and industry closures as well as tourism downturns, and downturns in expenditure because of decreases in household income and the lack of opportunity to spend disposable income.
- Industries most affected by COVID-19 economic downturns (currently) include retail trade (except supermarkets), accommodation and food services, creative and performing arts, the airline industry (part of the transport industry), sports and recreation, schools and pre-schools, and travel and employment agencies (as part of the administrative industry). The number of casual staff across these industries in Wyndham is 6,248 (in 2016).
- The Australian Bureau of Statistics have reported that 50.1% of people aged 18 years and over in Victoria were working from home during the second lockdown. However, this doesn't neatly apply to the workforce of Wyndham as many employed in industries such as logistics and warehousing that require on site attendance. If only the jobs that can be done from home are included in the calculation, then about 31% of the workforce have based from home during the pandemic.
- Unsurprisingly due to COVID-19, the unemployment rate has increased during 2020. For Wyndham, it has increased from 5.3% in December 2019 to 6.5% in June 2020 (DESE SALM, 2020). This figure is not the final account of how many people have been affected by the lockdowns. The full impact of the second lockdown will be reported in the third quarter data.

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