

Community Wellbeing Plan 2017-21



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Introduction

Greater Dandenong is a vibrant City of opportunity that celebrates its diversity and encourages and supports people of all ages to live, work and play through healthy lifestyles. The Community Wellbeing Plan 2017-21 outlines Council's key priorities for the next four years to improve health and wellbeing outcomes to enable residents to live rewarding, healthy and socially connected lives.

In 2008, State Parliament enacted the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (Vic), requiring all Councils to set a mission, goals and priorities to improve the health and wellbeing of all residents. Every Council in Victoria is required by law to have a Community Wellbeing Plan which is based on a review of the existing Community Wellbeing Plan, community health status data and engagement feedback, collaboration with relevant stakeholders and consideration of the current Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

The Community Wellbeing Plan 2017-21 has been developed in parallel with the Council Plan 2017-21 to ensure the alignment of principles and strategic directions to promote a healthy, active and safe community. The Community Wellbeing Plan 2017-21 also has strong links to Council's strategic documents including *Imagine 2030 Community Plan* and the *Municipal Strategic Statement*.

In March 2016 the Royal Commission into Family Violence's final report was tabled in the Victorian Parliament. The report set out 227 recommendations aimed at improving the systems that respond to family violence. The Victorian Government committed to implementing all 227 recommendations.

Recommendation 94 called on the Victorian Government to amend section 26 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic) to also require councils to report on the measures they propose to take in reducing family violence and responding to the needs of victims. Council takes its role in the promotion of respectful relationships and the reduction of family violence seriously with safety and social cohesion a key component of both this Plan and the accompanying Action Plan.

The work of the Community Wellbeing Plan 2017-21 will take place under the themes of People, Place and Opportunity.

State Government acts and plans have also influenced the development of the Community Wellbeing Plan 2017-21, these included:

- The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-19
- The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework
- The Victorian Health Priorities Framework 2012-22.

In addition, Council has considered other key issues that will have an impact on the health of the community, such as climate change and sustainability.

The Community Wellbeing Plan 2017-21 draws on research and evidence of social and health outcomes, as well as consultation with children and young people, service agencies, organisations and council staff.



Mayor's Message

The City of Greater Dandenong is committed to ensuring all residents have the opportunity to live healthy, rewarding and socially connected lives.

The Community Wellbeing Plan 2017-21 demonstrates Council's commitment to work closely with the community, local service providers and other levels of government to promote health and wellbeing in the city. It also identifies key

priorities and objectives across Council that respond to the changing health needs of Greater Dandenong residents.

The Plan has been developed in consultation with our community and key health agencies and provides a framework for building and fostering positive health outcomes for all residents in the City of Greater Dandenong. It has also been developed alongside the Council Plan 2017-21 to ensure the principles and strategic directions align.

As a Council we pride ourselves on creating a liveable environment for the whole community. This includes walking and cycling infrastructure, advocating for convenient and accessible public transport, public open space, local shops and an attractive and sustainable environment.

Council also plays an important role in bringing together both the community and key agencies across the municipality so that we can all work to address issues that can impact on our health and wellbeing such as family violence, drug and alcohol harms and racism. In doing so we also make sure that we all take the time to help the community celebrate the

wonderfully diverse people and cultures that make the City of Greater Dandenong what it is.

All of these things contribute to the health and wellbeing of Greater Dandenong and its residents and are key priorities for Council.

I am excited to be leading Council as we foster and drive this Community Wellbeing Plan and ensure Greater Dandenong residents continue to live active and healthy lives.



Jim Memeti
Greater Dandenong Mayor



“As a Council we pride ourselves on creating a liveable environment for the whole community.”

Council's Vision and Values

Vision

Greater Dandenong is a safe and vibrant city of opportunity for all – to live, work, visit and play.



Live



Work



Visit



Play



Values

Council's core values are defined by our REACH principles which outline how we interact with our community.

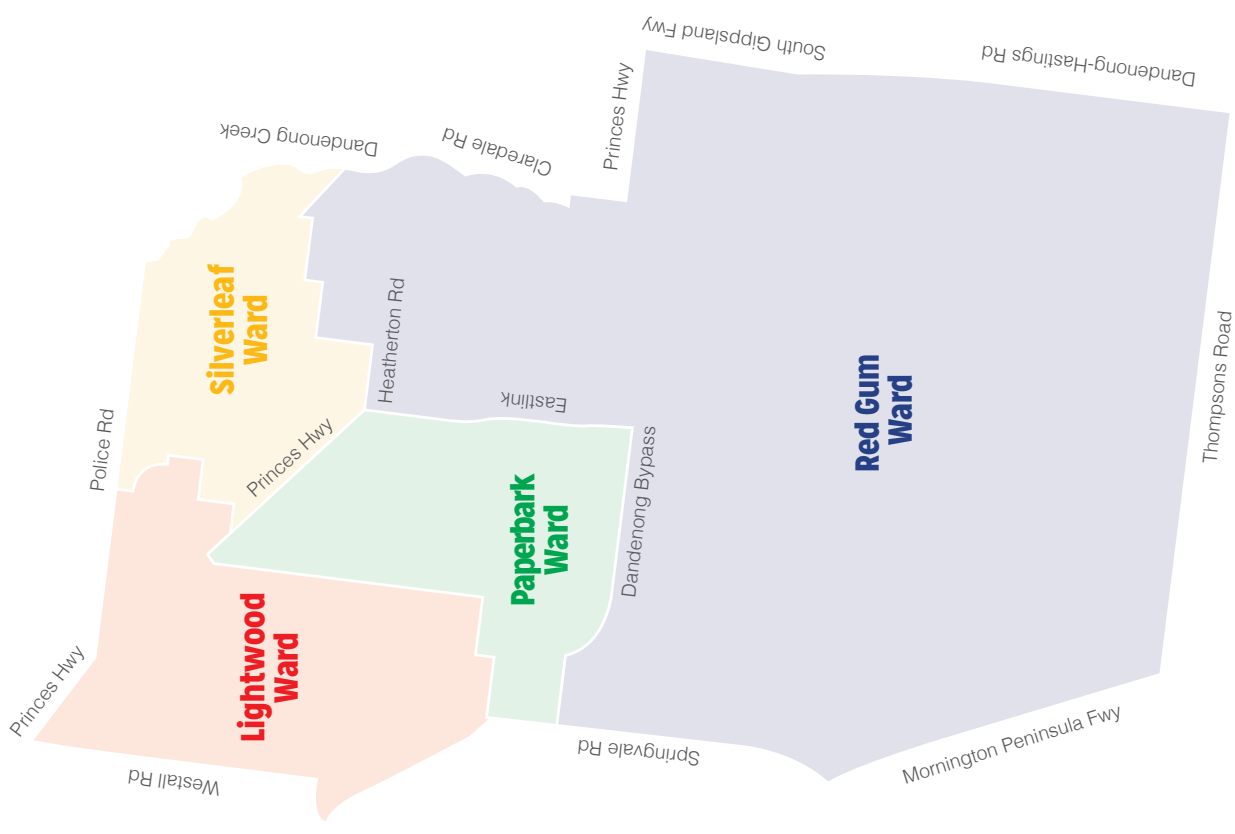
Snapshot of Council

Councillors are elected to represent the community's needs and make decisions on local issues. They advocate on areas of importance to our community and lead Council's strategic direction.

They deliver on key strategic documents including the Council Plan, Community Wellbeing Plan, Long Term Financial Strategy, Annual Plan and Budget.

The Chief Executive Officer and staff ensure that council decisions and services are implemented, manage day to day Council operations, provide services and programs to the community and deliver local projects and initiatives.

Greater Dandenong Council is represented by 11 Councillors who are elected for a four year term. Each year a Councillor is elected Mayor to lead Council and act as spokesperson for the next 12 months.



Councillors

Lightwood Ward



Youhorn Chea
0417 320 645



Sean O'Reilly
0422 523 258



Loi Truong
0466 004 618

Red Gum Ward



Matthew Kirwan
0403 072 295



Angela Long
0466 004 616



Jim Memeti (Mayor)
0434 560 239

Paperbark Ward



Roz Blades AM
0417 053 612



Tim Dark
0466 403 914



Heang Tak
0403 072 291

silverleaf Ward



Zaynoun Melhem
0466 518 082
























Maria Sampey
0438 800 027

Imagine 2030

The Corporate Planning framework for the City of Greater Dandenong is guided by the Imagine 2030 Community Plan which provides the overarching Strategic direction for Council and the community for the long term.

The following table is a summary of the Imagine 2030 Community Plan:

| People | | Place | | Opportunity | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
|  | Pride |  | Sense of Place |  | Education Learning and Information |
|  | Cultural Diversity |  | Safety in Streets and Places |  | Jobs and Business Opportunities |
|  | Outdoor Activity and Sports |  | Appearance of Places |  | Central Dandenong |
|  | Best Place Best People |  | Travel and Transport |  | Prosperous and Affordable |
|  | Recreation for Everyone |  | One City Many Neighborhoods |  | Leadership by the Council |
|  | Model Multicultural Community |  | Places and Buildings |  | Regional Capital Dandenong |
|  | The Generations Supported |  | Easy to get around |  | The Leading Council |

Integrated Planning Framework

All levels of government (Federal, State and Local) have a role in preventing avoidable health issues and enabling Australians to enjoy the highest attainable standards of health, wellbeing and participation.

Aligning with the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-19, Greater Dandenong acknowledges the need to reduce inequalities in health and wellbeing, ensuring the greatest improvements are realised among those who have poorer health.

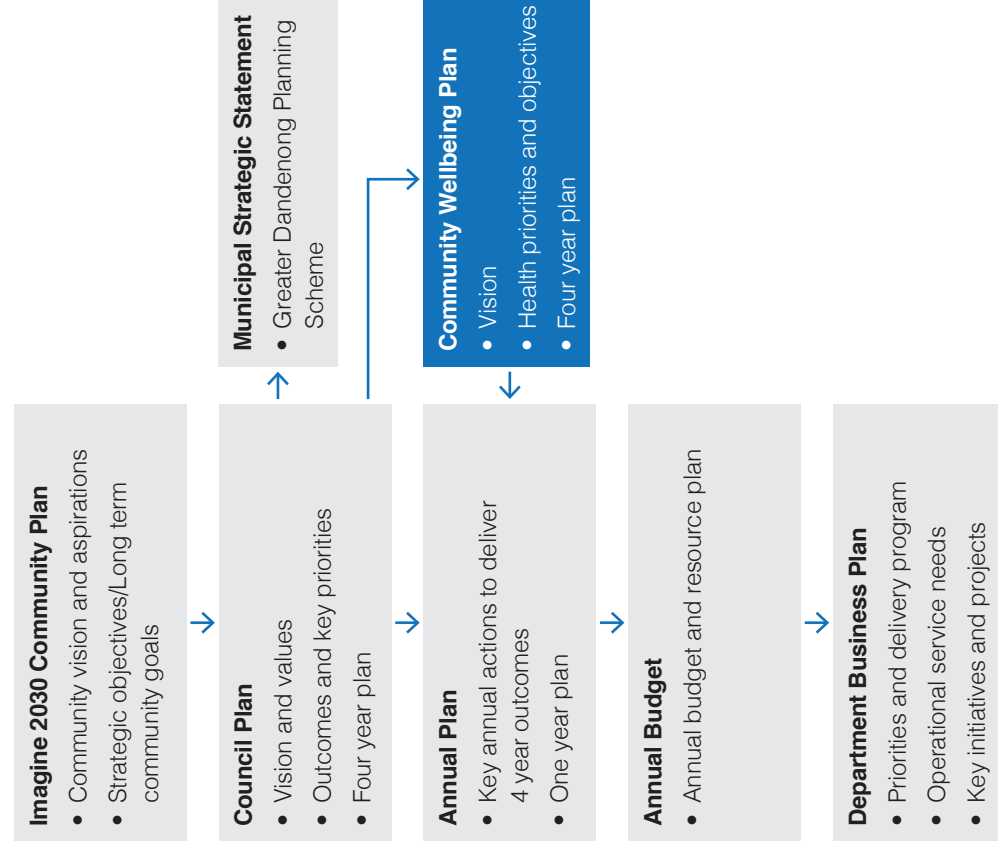
The Community Wellbeing Plan 2017-21 has been developed to enable its priorities to be reflected in the work and operational processes of Council. Improving health and wellbeing in Greater Dandenong has been a priority in a number of policies, strategies and plans. These include the following:

Community Plan

Imagine 2030 is the City of Greater Dandenong's community plan which was developed in 2009 after an extensive research and consultation project. This plan outlines the community's long term aspirations for our city and outlines the city they want to see in 2030. As part of the development of the Council Plan 2017-21, Imagine 2030 was reviewed and updated to include additional priorities identified by our community. These included tourism and encouraging more visitors to our city to experience the many excellent recreation, food and business opportunities on offer.

Council Plan

The Council Plan 2017-21 sets the strategic direction of the City of Greater Dandenong and describes how the community's vision of a safe, vibrant city of opportunity for all will be achieved. It outlines Council's key objectives for the next four years and the resources required to achieve them. Council's performance against these objectives is reported to Council and the community each year through the Annual Report.



Integrated Planning Framework (continued)

Annual Plan and Budget

Each year an Annual Plan and Budget are developed to outline the specific actions Council will undertake to deliver on its four year objectives and how these will be funded. Performance reports are provided on a quarterly basis to Council and the community to provide updates on specific projects and overall progress for the year.

Municipal Strategic Statement

The Municipal Strategic Statement is part of the Victorian Government's Planning Scheme and outlines the key strategic planning, land use and development objectives for Greater Dandenong and the strategies for achieving the objectives.

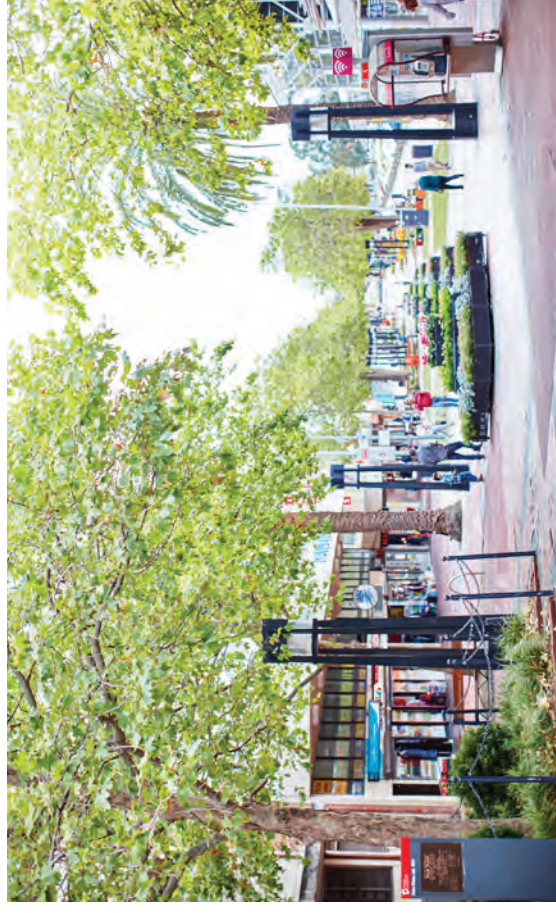
For a full list of strategies and plans that have helped to inform the Community Wellbeing Plan see **Appendix A**.



How was this plan developed?

Council undertook extensive community consultation to ensure multiple opportunities to contribute to the Plan were provided, including the following:

- Online consultation was undertaken through a public *Our Say* forum which invited residents to have their say by sharing and interacting with ideas. Consultation outcomes highlighted health and wellbeing as a priority that is of significant importance to Greater Dandenong residents.
- The community was engaged through social media, workshops and community conversations and activities at public events.
- Facilitated workshops and discussions provided local stakeholders, service agencies and community leaders with the chance to identify opportunities for collaboration to improve the health and wellbeing of Greater Dandenong residents.



The Community Wellbeing Plan 2017-21 acknowledges that many social, economic and environmental factors impact upon the health and wellbeing of the community. Greater Dandenong recognises that importance of tailoring efforts to meet community needs and takes a people-centred and place-based approach to improving health and wellbeing.

“The Community Wellbeing Plan 2017-21 acknowledges that many social, economic and environmental factors impact upon the health and wellbeing of the community.”



Snapshot of the City of Greater Dandenong¹

Volunteering in 8

Greater Dandenong residents are involved in volunteer activities on a regular basis, this is a little over the Victorian average.

Cultural diversity

Greater Dandenong is the most culturally diverse locality in Victoria, and the second most diverse in Australia.

Residents are from over 150 different birthplaces.

150+

Well over half of Greater Dandenong's population were born overseas.

Birthplaces include Vietnam, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, India, China, Italy, Greece, Bosnia, Afghanistan and Britain.

More than four out of five residents have at least one overseas-born parent.

Indigenous Australian population

517

Residents in Greater Dandenong, or 0.41%, identify as indigenous Australians.

Refugees and asylum seekers

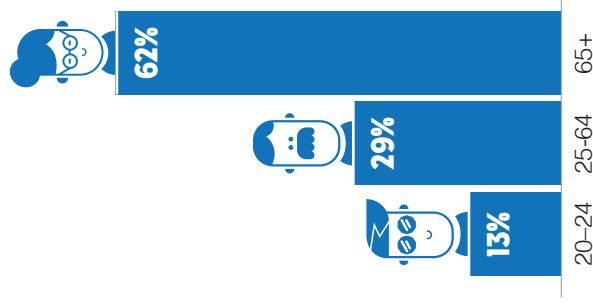
2400 (approx.)

Asylum seekers were living in Greater Dandenong in early 2017 – the largest number in any municipality in Victoria. Most were males aged 18 to 35 years and most were from countries such as Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

Education

Education levels have increased over recent times and as such, the rate of early school leaving among residents of Greater Dandenong is highest among older people.

Rate of early school leaving by age group



Languages



Two thirds of Greater Dandenong residents speak languages other than English at home. Widely spoken languages apart from English, include Vietnamese, Khmer, Chinese languages, Greek, Punjabi and Sinhalese.

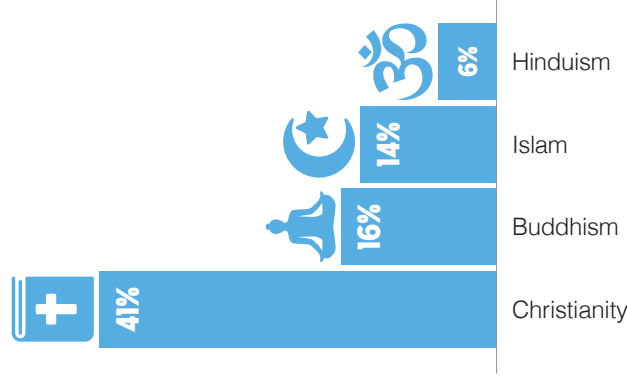


One in seven residents of Greater Dandenong has limited fluency in spoken English.

Residents with limited English fluency vary widely with age.

Religion

The diversity of this city is reflected in the range of religious faiths, which include:



There are over 100 places of worship across the city.

A health and wellbeing snapshot of the City of Greater Dandenong

To create an environment that supports the good health and wellbeing of all residents, it is important to understand the social, economic and environmental factors that influence health and wellbeing outcomes.

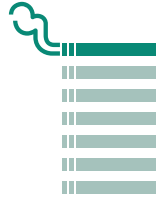
A liveable community is one that is safe, attractive, socially cohesive and inclusive. It is a place that is environmentally sustainable; with affordable and diverse housing linked to employment, education, public open space and local shops. Health and community services, leisure and cultural opportunities are provided via convenient public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure.

More extensive information and statistics about health and social conditions in the City of Greater Dandenong can be found in the document: 'Profile of Health and Wellbeing in Greater Dandenong' available from: greaterdandenong.com/document/7085/your-wellbeing.

Smoking

1 in 7

Residents in the City of Greater Dandenong have identified as being a cigarette smoker. This is at a similar rate to the rest of the State.



Nutrition

Surveys have shown that residents in Greater Dandenong eat as much fruit as others across the State although vegetable consumption is less. Residents are more inclined to eat takeaway meals.



Alcohol

1 in 20

Residents is at a high risk of ill health due to alcohol consumption, compared to one in 10 across the State.



Mental health

Residents of Greater Dandenong report satisfaction with life as a whole at rates equal to that of the rest of the State.

By contrast, reported levels of depression and anxiety are 30% higher across the state than in Greater Dandenong.



Other drugs

Data from Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria and hospitals suggest that the proportion of the Greater Dandenong community using illicit drugs is higher than the State average, though the precise extent cannot be told with certainty.



Sport & rec

Greater Dandenong residents are more inactive and less likely to be involved in organised sporting activities, than others throughout Victoria.



Why does Council take an interest in your health and wellbeing?

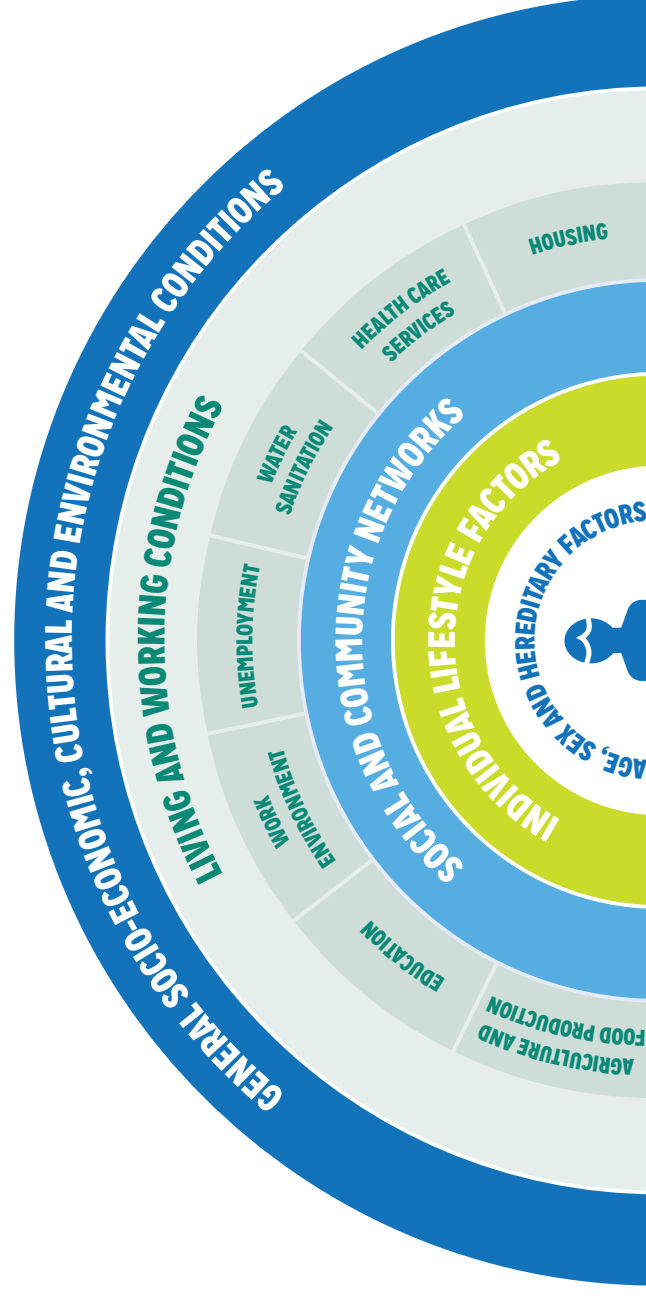
Local Governments are well placed to influence many of the attributes, determinants and factors identified in the following diagram² to improve health and wellbeing outcomes, however they cannot be effective acting alone.

Working with partners including local service providers to influence factors that fall beyond Council's role is essential in order to influence the multiple contributions to improved health and wellbeing.

Along with the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-19 the City of Greater Dandenong recognises that sustainable improvements in health and wellbeing are best achieved when approaches are tailored to meet local community need.

Greater Dandenong takes a people-centred approach by often working with specific age groups within our diverse community, including children, young people and older people.

Place-based approaches are also undertaken within the work of the City of Greater Dandenong defining and working within specific precincts, locations and suburbs within the municipality to ensure both the appropriateness and impact of efforts.



Advocacy

What is Advocacy?

Advocacy is a process designed to affect social change and consists of a series of activities undertaken with the aim of changing policies, practices and attitudes. Advocacy helps inform the policy and programs of the State and Commonwealth Governments from the perspective of the City of Greater Dandenong.

How does Council advocate for its community?

As the closest arm of government to the community, councils are best placed to understand and respond to local community needs and concerns. Our primary objective is to work with others to achieve the best outcomes for our community in relation to a range of areas including – roads, parks, waste, land use, local laws, urban planning, personal and home care, early years services, recreation, community development, health protection, emergency management, and advocating for community needs.

Greater Dandenong advocates for the interests of the local community to other communities and governments to affect social change and influence policies, practices and attitudes.

Advocacy efforts involve a range of models and methods, including making effective submissions, direct lobbying of politicians at a State and Federal level, consultation, public media campaigns and appropriate use of social media.



What are Council's priorities?

Following the consultation we undertook to inform both the Council and Community Health and Wellbeing Plans we identified four key priority areas:



What do our Partners and Stakeholders say?

We brought together those who provide services in the community to discuss and reflect on the priorities we had identified to ensure we were on the right track. Within each of those priorities we asked them what they thought needed to be done. This is what they had to say:

For a full list of Partners and Stakeholders see **Appendix B**.



Community Infrastructure, Transport and Environment

- Community leaders – identified and mobilised to influence community engagement in spaces, business development and safety
- Social housing – policy, planning and partnership, incentives for increasingly diversified social housing, CGD advocacy to bring partners together



Learning and Employment

- Early years programs and school attendance
- Pathways, coordination and funding – employment for vulnerable, asylum seekers and refugees



Mental and Physical Health

- Basic needs met first – housing/ food and security
- Food deserts – address lack of fresh food in some areas



Engagement, Social Cohesion and Safety

- Develop 'nice spaces' – which include attractive, well-lit spaces with shade
- Gender lens on environment - shift culture, focus on safe at home and in public spaces

What are we going to do? Health and Wellbeing Priorities

PRIORITY 1

Community Infrastructure, Transport and Environment

Appealing, accessible and appropriate community infrastructure contributes to inclusive communities, resulting in improved health and wellbeing.

Objectives:

| | |
|-----|---|
| 1.1 | Create places for people to enjoy and actively participate in their local community, including open spaces and recreational opportunities. (PLACE) |
| 1.2 | Advocate for appropriate housing that meets the needs of our diverse community. (PLACE) |
| 1.3 | Provide clear messages to State Government on decisions impacting on the provision of accessible and integrated transport, in particular public transport. (PLACE) |
| 1.4 | Work to create a city of 20-minute neighbourhoods to enable access to local services. (PLACE) |
| 1.5 | Council and its partners prepare for climate change and its impact on the health and wellbeing of the community. |



PRIORITY 2

Learning and Employment

Opportunities for education and learning enhance employment, personal satisfaction and financial security in addition to benefiting local economy and business.

Objectives:

| | |
|-----|--|
| 2.1 | Increase engagement in and strengthen the benefits of education and employment for residents. (OPPORTUNITY) |
| 2.2 | Promote opportunities for lifelong learning. (OPPORTUNITY) |
| 2.3 | Provide opportunities for skills development and social engagement through volunteering. (OPPORTUNITY) |
| 2.4 | Support young people to identify and stay connected in education and employment pathways. (PEOPLE) |





PRIORITY 3

Mental and Physical Health

Health and wellbeing outcomes can be positively influenced through increasing access to services and improving the quality of opportunities that are available to all members of the community.

Objectives:

| | |
|------------|--|
| 3.1 | Improve the health and wellbeing of all residents through collaborative planning and enhancing health promoting services and opportunities. (OPPORTUNITY) |
| 3.2 | Increase access to and understanding of health literacy. (OPPORTUNITY) |
| 3.3 | Raise awareness regarding alcohol and other drug related harm. (PEOPLE) |
| 3.4 | Promote equality and respect as a means of addressing and preventing family violence in the community. (PEOPLE) |



PRIORITY 4

Safety, Engagement and Social Cohesion

Creating a community in which people can feel safe and engaged will enhance social cohesion, increase interaction among residents and improve the community's sense of wellbeing.

Objectives:

| | |
|------------|--|
| 4.1 | Improve levels of social cohesion and actual and perceived levels of safety for all residents. (PEOPLE) |
| 4.2 | Celebrate the diversity of the community through engaging events and activities. (PEOPLE) |
| 4.3 | Provide opportunities for vulnerable community members to participate in community life. (OPPORTUNITY) |
| 4.4 | Celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and perspectives across the broader community. (PEOPLE) |



Appendix A Strategies and Plans

| | |
|---|--|
| The strategies and plans that have helped to inform this Community Wellbeing Plan are listed below and are reviewed on a regular basis. | Drum Theatre Strategic Plan 2016 |
| Activate Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2014-19 | Electronic Gaming Policy 2014 |
| Ageing is about Living Strategy and Action Plan 2016-23 | Employment Strategy |
| Alcohol Management Policy 2013 | Health and Wellbeing Policy 2016 |
| Arts and Cultural Heritage Strategy 2016-26 | Health and Wellbeing Profile 2016 |
| Arts and Cultural Heritage Action Plan 2016-18 | Housing Strategy 2014-24 |
| Asylum and Refugee Communities Action Plan 2014-17 | Housing Strategy Action Plan 2014-24 |
| Children's Plan 2015-19 | Imagine 2030 Community Plan |
| Community Development Framework | Integrated Transport Strategy |
| Community Engagement Policy 2013 | Language and Communications Policy and Framework 2015-21 |
| Community Hub Framework | Library Strategy 2017 |
| Community Safety Plan 2015-22 | Municipal Emergency Management Plan |
| Council Plan 2017-21 | Municipal Strategic Statement |
| Cycling Strategy 2016-23 | Open Space Strategy 2009 |
| Disability Action Plan 2016-23 | Playground Strategy 2013-23 |
| Disability Policy 2016 | Regional Food Strategy 2015-18 |
| Diversity, Access and Equity Policy 2015 | Smoke Free Workplace Policy 2016 |
| | Sustainability Strategy 2016-30 |
| | Walking Strategy 2015-23 |
| | Youth Strategy 2016-19 |

Appendix B Partners and Stakeholders

| | |
|---|---|
| To create a community that enjoys good health and wellbeing high levels of collaboration are necessary to address factors that fall beyond the role or influence of Council. | Gambler's Help Southern |
| Throughout the life of the Community Wellbeing Plan 2017-21 Council commits to working alongside and in partnership with the community, local service providers and other levels of government. | Interfaith Network |
| Council will achieve this through facilitating bi-annual forums that include health and wellbeing service providers to enable the sharing of information, facilitating networking and identifying collaboration opportunities. Forums will take on a strengths based approach to improve health and wellbeing, exploring the alignment between organisations considering municipal approaches and strategic priorities. | Mission Australia |
| Adult Multicultural Education Service (AMES) Australia | Monash Health |
| Catholic Care | Shire of Cardinia |
| City of Casey | South East Community Links |
| Department of Education and Training enliven | South East Local Learning & Employment Network (SELLEN) |
| | Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre |
| | Springvale Learning and Activities Centre |
| | Uniting Age Well |
| | Wellsprings for Women |
| | Women's Health in the South East (WHISE) |

Appendix C

Advisory Committees

| |
|---|
| Arts Advisory Committee |
| Community Safety Advisory Committee |
| Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee |
| Disability Advisory Committee |
| Family Violence Advisory Committee |
| Multicultural Advisory Committee |
| Positive Aging Advisory Committee |
| Refugee and Asylum Seeker Communities Advisory Committee |

Monitoring and Review

This Plan will be supplemented by a Community Wellbeing Action Plan that will establish a course of action for Council to achieve the objectives outlined above.

The Community Wellbeing Plan Action Plan will be reviewed and updated annually to ensure it meets the needs of the Greater Dandenong community and enable the City of Greater Dandenong to identify and respond to emerging issues as and when they arise.

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