

Greater Dandenong People's Panel - Community Vision and Principles



Introduction

The City of Greater Dandenong invited and randomly selected 40 community members for the purpose of creating 'The Greater Dandenong People's Panel'. The final panel was comprised of 31 people who reflected the demographic profile of the city of Greater Dandenong including age, gender, country of birth, disability and household type .

The task given to the People's Panel was to discuss and create an overarching community vision and guiding principles to drive both Council and the community to a better 2040, based on the following question:

"What is our future vision for the City of Greater Dandenong and how can we balance the community's diverse needs?"

The panel met over three and half days to discuss the outcomes of the broad community consultation and hear about some of the key challenges facing our community. They heard from Council staff and eight guest speakers on specific topics including climate change, health and active living, youth services, positive ageing, refugees and asylum seeker support services, and local industry. This enabled the panel members to have informed, robust discussions about the future of our city.

The energy of the People's Panel was fantastic and the insights and experience they shared have created a new community vision and a rich and diverse set of principles to guide Council's work for the next twenty years.

Community Vision

The new community vision reflects the key aspirations of the Greater Dandenong People's Panel and the broader community as expressed throughout the consultation phase which was held from September 2020 until June 2021. This vision will influence Council's activities for many years to come.

Our community's vision for 2040 is:

The City of Greater Dandenong is a home to all. It's a city where you can enjoy and embrace life through celebration and equal opportunity!

We harmonise the community by valuing multiculturalism and the individual. Our community is healthy, vibrant, innovative and creative.

Our growing city is committed to environmental sustainability.

Welcome to our exciting and peaceful community.

Key Principles

As part of developing the new vision the Greater Dandenong People's Panel was asked to develop some key principles which would help guide Council in its long-term planning for the future of our city.

The following six principles are the result of many discussions and detailed consideration of the challenges facing Greater Dandenong. They highlight specific priorities for our community, what the future would look like with these as a focus, and the reasons why they are so important.

The vision and principles are exactly as developed by the panel and have not been altered in any way by Council. They will be used to influence the Council Plan 2021-25 and the Long Term Financial Plan and will guide the development of specific actions over the next few years.

Principle 1: Safe and Peaceful Community

What is the intent? What would be different in the future if we do this?

The intent is to diminish the crime rate and make Greater Dandenong one of the safest places in Victoria.

The following positive effects will be seen in future:

- Safer streets
- More technological surveillance
- More neighbourhood watch or other civilian safety programs
- More rehabilitation to stop drug abuse and resultant crimes
- More employment rate to reduce crimes due to poverty
- More education and raising awareness to stop destructive behaviour and crime
- Faster police response and undercover police patrols
- Consider stricter laws and penalties
- Transparency about safety issues in Greater Dandenong
- More focus on hot spots/crime spots
- More support and funding for organisations and people experiencing domestic and family violence and programs to assist with its prevention.

Rationale, why is this important for us?

A safer community will encourage people to live here long term and it will allow them to live fearlessly and prosper and focus more on education and advancement which in turn will help the economy of Greater Dandenong.

Principle 2: Education, Training, Entrepreneurship and Employment Opportunities

What is the intent? What would be different in the future if we do this?

Creating secure futures through an abundance of training, education and employment pathways.

Bridge the gap between skills gained overseas and employment opportunities here.

More collaboration between employers and schools to bring greater visibility to the employment opportunities available to young people.

Valuing our ageing community and ensuring they have opportunities for training and employment/advocate for businesses to employ older people/incentivised by Council.

Encouraging entrepreneurship training programs and providing funding for new start-ups and small businesses.

Opportunities to turn hobbies into profitable income sources.

Rationale, why is this important for us?

It is crucial for a prosperous and comfortable future for individuals and to benefit the economy of Greater Dandenong.

Principle 3: Sustainable Environment

What is the intent? What would be different in the future if we do this?

It is important to prevent further ecosystem damage and embrace nature.

Raise community awareness about the importance of a sustainable environment and create a balance between human activities/development and the living world.

Rationale, why is this important for us?

It is imperative to live in a healthy environment to improve the health outcomes for our community

- Reduce the carbon footprint by altering lifestyles
- It will help nature to regenerate appropriately.

Principle 4: Embrace diversity and multiculturalism

What is the intent? What would be different in the future if we do this?

Treat all with respect.

This would make a better, more balanced community in terms of finances, authority, privileges and more.

Respect for differences.

Compassion and understanding.

More cultural and diverse events (harmony day).

Indigenous representation.

Greater respect for and acknowledgement of traditional owners.

Bridge the gap between rich and poor.

Rationale, why is this important for us?

To promote equal opportunities for all recent arrivals.

This is the place that represents cultural diversity.

Principle 5: Mind, Body and Spirit

What is the intent? What would be different in the future if we do this?

To educate, promote and support the community, empowering them to make healthier, long-term lifestyle choices and to stick with them.

To value physical, mental and spiritual health by providing safe spaces through programs and events easily accessible and promoted by the community.

Rationale, why is this important for us?

To address mental health issues (depression, anxiety) and the outcomes when they aren't managed (suicide).

To improve the quality of life.

To reduce medical costs.

To reduce the burden on the community and in turn giving back to it.

Principle 6: Art and Culture

What is the intent? What would be different in the future if we do this?

We celebrate an inclusive community that respects all ethnicities through art and culture.

We use art to enhance education, promote mental healing, creativity and open mindedness by promoting and encouraging art as a career.

Rationale, why is this important for us?

Art can bring people together and help them find common ground.

To create an inclusive environment for all ages.

To aid connectivity and communication through art.

Encouraging youth to take up art as a positive outlet to manage mental health issues.