



Children's Plan

First Year Action Plan Report 2021–22



**Executive
Summary**



Greater Dandenong City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise and respect their continuing connections to Climate, Culture and Country.

Executive summary

The Children's Plan 2021–26 was developed in consultation with children, local service providers and various Council departments. The plan's vision is for children and their families to be valued, celebrated, respected and supported to reach their full potential. It outlines an integrated approach in working together with and for children 0–13 years, acknowledging the important role of parents, carers and their extended families in supporting each child's development in education, health and wellbeing.

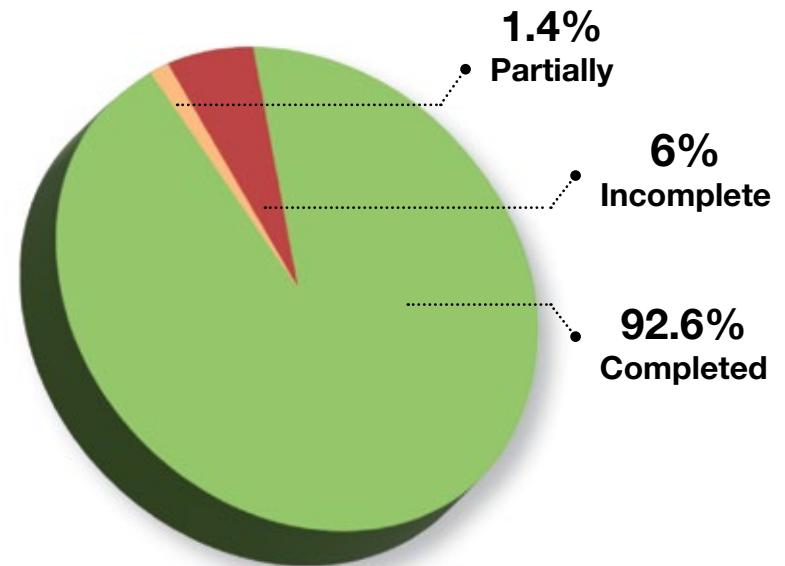
This report is the first progress update for the plan and highlights a number of a key successes in 2021–22. The delivery of a number of programs and activities were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic but the commitment, creativity and professionalism of staff during these adverse times is reflected in the number of activities successfully delivered to the community.

The First Year Action Plan Report 2021–22 contains 68 actions across five strategic objectives. These actions are the responsibility of many different Council departments and the delivery of the plan is a collaborative effort.

Progress summary

Progress Key

	Percentage
● Completed	92.6 per cent
● Partially	1.4 per cent
● Incomplete	6 per cent



Strategic Objective 1: Provide leadership and advocacy in planning for children and families

The City of Greater Dandenong has a central role to play in local infrastructure, service planning and the provision of high quality, sustainable services. Council's close proximity to the community means it is well-placed to be an advocate for community needs. Council works with all levels of government, various sectors, organisations, services and community members to create effective community outcomes. In the first year of the plan these service planning and advocacy efforts were reflected in the following achievements.



8 Child and Family Partnership meetings



Children and families accessed culturally appropriate food supports and other specialist services



2288 children enrolled for kindergarten in 2022

Strategic Objective 2: Strengthen health and wellbeing outcomes for children and families

Health and wellbeing encompasses physical, emotional and mental health and is supported by Council through the provision of universal health services, early intervention support services and health promotion and prevention activities. In 2021–22 key initiatives included:



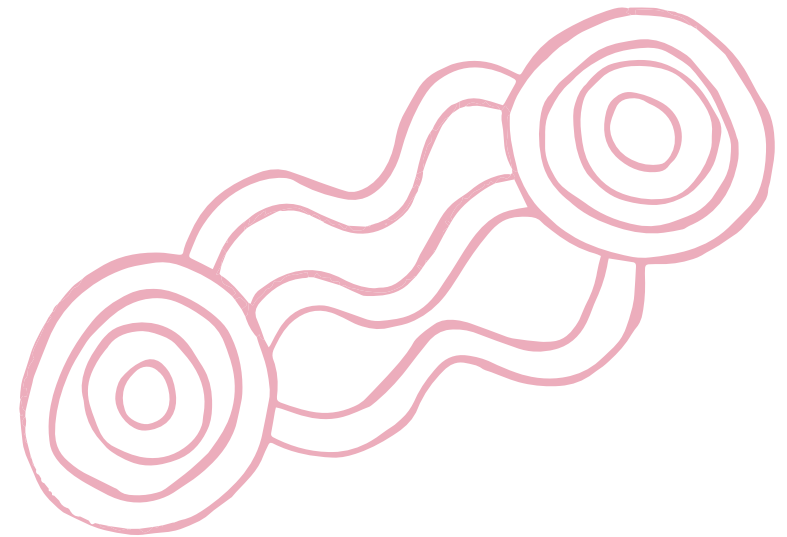
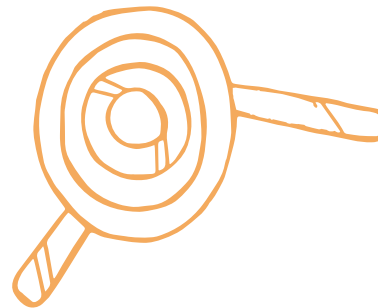
1000 Play Streets
launched



Baby Bounce
delivered 69 sessions
to 2,433 participants



20 Supported
playgroups engaged
with 760 families



Strategic Objective 3: Support engagement in learning, skill development and vocational pathways

Learning 'is a continuous process throughout life', children 'learn through a variety of formal and informal experiences within the classroom and more broadly in their home and in the community.' Council supports the provision of high-quality early learning and care services including:



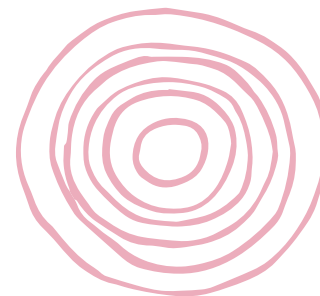
349 vulnerable children attending Early Start Kindergarten



Reading Buddies in Schools



Information Sessions delivered online in eight different languages





**Sharon,
keep your
hair On**
Gillian Rubenstein, David Mackintosh



Strategic Objective 4: Improve safety and accessibility for children and families to participate in the community

Council has an important role to play in supporting the safety of children and families from bullying, discrimination and in accessing public spaces and amenities throughout the municipality. This year to improve engagement and participation the following projects were delivered:



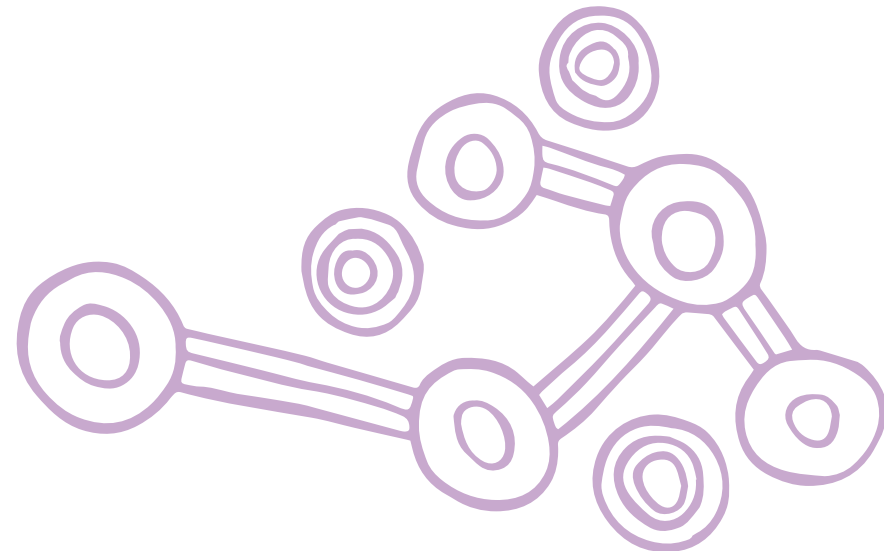
10th Greater Dandenong
Children's Festival



Early years services
supporting the
Reconciliation
Action Plan



Hemming St public art
project launched



Strategic Objective 5: Value active participation and engagement of children and families in the community

A child friendly city implements the 'Convention on the Rights of the Child' (1990) to local communities in partnership with children. Central to the Child Friendly City concept is that children's 'voices and opinions are taken into consideration and influence governance, decision making at a local level including laws, policies, programs and budget to improve the lives of children and to create sustainable environments now and into the future.



140 students
attended the online
Children's Forum



New Junior Mayor
nominated for 2022



Children actively
participated in the
planning of JB Sheen
Reserve and Sandra
Reserve new playgrounds





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