



# Community Safety Roundtable – 19 March 2025

Prereading Information



## Acknowledgement

Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge their legacy and spiritual connection to the land and waterways across the City of Port Phillip and pay our heartfelt respect to their Elders, past, present, and future.

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# Introduction

## Background

Community safety refers to when all sections or groups in an area feel comfortable and secure in their environment, where they can live, work, and travel freely. This can be achieved through policies, programs and actions by multiple stakeholders, including government, police and individuals.

The purpose of the Community Safety Roundtable is to:

- Review best-practice community outreach models from other jurisdictions and explore opportunities to strengthen community safety in the City of Port Phillip.
- Examine the role of local laws in protecting public spaces and consider police protocols and operations - such as those implemented by City of Melbourne - and their relevance to Port Phillip.
- Assess the feasibility of establishing an ongoing alliance to continue this work over the next four years.
- Provide short- and long-term recommendations to the Council to improve safety and public amenity.

This document seeks to provide Community Safety Roundtable participants with an overview of the following prior to the Round Table session in March 2025:

- City of Port Phillip current activity and practice.
- Benchmarking of selected Victorian councils.
- Community safety best practice models from around the world.

## Port Phillip at a Glance

Port Phillip is located between 2 and 8km from the Melbourne CBD and covers an area of 21km<sup>2</sup>.

Port Phillip is home to people from over 163 birthplaces, with our residents speaking 114 different languages. While there is no typical resident, about three in five are aged 18 to 49 years. It is likely our community will continue to feature many people aged 18 to 49 years; however, the largest growth is expected to be in those aged over 60, suggesting many residents will retire and age within our community.

91% of the estimated 109,515<sup>1</sup> people live in medium to high density housing. Forty-one per cent of households belong to singles and 44% of residents in Port Phillip are renting. There is a housing crisis across Australia and Council has advocated to State and Federal governments to address this.

On any given night, around 25 people sleep rough on the streets, parks or foreshore in Port Phillip. There are many more sleeping on someone's couch, in their cars, in crisis accommodation, rooming houses or overcrowded dwellings.

Causes of homelessness are many and varied. Family violence, a critical shortage of affordable housing, unemployment, mental illness, family breakdown and drug and alcohol abuse all contribute to the level of homelessness in Australia.

Safety and security are important determinants of people's health and wellbeing. Overall, Port Phillip residents have a sense of safety and security that is comparable with the Victorian average. However, criminal incidents are persistently more common in Port Phillip than Victoria overall.

The rates of criminal incidents in Port Phillip have been consistently higher than the Victorian average over the past ten years. In the year ending in September 2024, the criminal incident rate per 100,000 population in Port Phillip was 9,596, an increase of 11.4% compared to the previous year. The Victorian average was 6,196.

Port Phillip's incidence of family violence has been below the Victorian average since 2018. While rates in Port Phillip increased in 2021 and 2022; they have decreased across 2023 and 2024. In the year ending in September 2024, the family violence incident rate per 100,000 population in Port Phillip was 1,270, compared with the Victorian average of 1,465.<sup>2</sup>

In 2021, alcohol and other drug consumption accounted for 22.6 hospitalisations per 1,000 residents in Port Phillip – compared with the Victorian average of 8.7.<sup>3</sup>

In 2020/21, the rate of alleged drug offences recorded by police was 50% higher than the Victorian rate and the 9th highest in the State.

In 2020/21, Victoria Police recorded 2.2 alcohol-related incidents of family violence, per 1,000 population – 71% higher than the corresponding Victorian rate and the 19th highest level in the State.

The forecasted population growth in Port Phillip by more than 60,000 residents by 2041 is expected to have implications for social disadvantage, rough sleeping, and crime. Addressing these challenges will require a coordinated effort from local authorities, community organisations, and residents to create a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all.

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<sup>1</sup> ABS resident population 2023.

<sup>2</sup> [Latest crime data by area | Crime Statistics Agency Victoria](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Victorian alcohol and drug statistics - AODstats](#)

## City of Port Phillip – What We Currently Do

### Summary

Community safety is a part of all aspects of our lives and is essential to health and wellbeing. It includes:

- increasing community wellbeing and cohesion, and social and cultural inclusion,
- increasing opportunities for social and physical activity,
- improving public amenities,
- preventing and reducing hardship and insecure housing,
- preventing and reducing incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour.

We know that community safety requires a partnership approach. This is why we work collaboratively with our communities, support and service organisations, Victoria Police and State Government. We play a role in:

- fostering diversity, inclusion and social connection,
- activating public spaces through community grants and funding,
- providing supports for those experiencing hardship and insecure housing,
- maintaining and upgrading public amenities and addressing identified traffic blackspot issues,
- fostering strong partnerships with police and other emergency services, local traders and community groups,
- activating and revitalising our high streets,
- developing regulations to promote and maintain safety,
- maintaining safe public spaces through CCTV, Local Laws and joint patrols with Police and partnerships with service providers.

The City of Port Phillip shares our community's concern about safety and stands with the community in our expectation and commitment to Port Phillip as being a safe, liveable and vibrant place to live, work and visit.

We are actively working to consider joint solutions to community safety issues acknowledging the issues are complex and not in the remit of any one party to resolve.

This year we are commencing development of a new Community Safety Plan including extensive community consultation throughout 2025, seeking meaningful and lasting progress.

The Community Safety Plan is the umbrella under which Council's safety-focussed programs, activities and projects sit. Engagement on the plan will provide us with qualitative and quantitative understanding of where people feel and experience safe and unsafe spaces in the municipality, and the current sense of community resilience and social cohesion.

### Health and Wellbeing

We have a legislated responsibility under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Victoria)* to prepare a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan every four years.

To recognise the important role Council plays in supporting health and wellbeing across all our activities, we have integrated the planning, implementation and evaluation requirements of Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan into the [Council Plan 2021-31](#).

This means we are working to protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing in everything we do.

See **Appendix D** for a list of services identified in the City of Port Phillip currently in the City of Port Phillip working in the areas of community support services and social infrastructure (2024).

## Community Safety Plan

Community safety is a priority for the City of Port Phillip. It influences our physical health and wellbeing by altering how people use, and interact with the built environment, local amenities, parks and community facilities. A safe city contributes to positive social and economic outcomes for our community.

The [Community Safety Plan](#) details the City of Port Phillip's contribution to making our community a safe and resilient place to live, work and visit. It highlights three key priority areas of focus, foundational to the Action Plan.

*Priority 1: Creating Safe Spaces*

*Priority 2: Building Resilience*

*Priority 3: Healthy Living*

The Plan also aligns with a range of state and national strategies that relate to crime prevention, family violence, reducing harm from alcohol and drugs, emergency response and community safety.

Delivery of some [Community Safety Plan](#) actions has been delayed due to the impacts of COVID19, including lockdowns, service closures and the diversion of Council resources to support the emergency response. Despite this unexpected extra demand on our resources, we have managed to achieve many actions in the [Community Safety Plan](#) since its inception in 2019. These include:

- Maintaining our public place CCTV network and purchasing a mobile CCTV trailer.
- A comprehensive Local Laws review in 2023.
- The Renew Fitzroy Street, Acland Street and Carlisle Street vacant shopfront projects to help revitalise these high streets.
- Substantial financial contribution to the Wellington Street Common Ground Project to support people with complex needs who have been sleeping rough.
- Helping provide housing for those who need it most through our sponsorship housing program and connecting vulnerable members of our community to services.
- Partnering with Victoria Police and advocating for community safety needs.
- Ongoing support of Port Phillip Zero
- Increase in Local Laws officer shifts
- Installation of graffiti deterring murals bringing colour and vibrancy to our streets.
- Activation of public spaces through performances and community grants and funding.

On 2 August 2023, Council extended the [Community Safety Plan](#) and updated the action plan to set priorities and initiatives to November 2025. Review of the [Community Safety Plan](#) is currently underway and will include outcomes from this Roundtable and further community consultation.



## Local Laws and Regulatory Framework

Council's Local Laws outline what is and isn't allowed on Council land, roads and streets. These Laws are developed under The *Local Government Act 1989 (Victoria)* to manage a range of community issues.

Our activities to manage and protect the safety and amenity of our community, including protection of amenity and Council land and how this is enforced are outlined in the [Community Amenity Local Law 2023](#).

[Please see Appendix A: Regulatory Framework Considerations.](#)

### Council Notice of Motion 19 February 2025

At the 19 February 2025 Council meeting, a Notice of Motion was passed requesting officers investigate changes to the current Local Law, and provide a report back to Council by May 2025, with a particular focus on:

- Clause 17 – Behaviour on Council Land and Roads.
- Clause 42 – Camping on Council Land
- Clause 43 – Furniture and Other Items on Council Land and Roads.

[see Appendix B: City of Port Phillip Notice of Motion 19 February 2025.](#)

### Local Laws Officers

Council's Local Laws officers are authorised to issue warnings, Notices to Comply and infringement notices to people and organisations who breach the Local Law. They may impound items, goods, or equipment in relation to a breach. They do not have the legal power to move people on or respond to criminal behaviour. Police, not Local Laws officers, have the training, equipment and authority to respond to these issues.

Our officers are out seven days a week, undertaking daily patrols and working with Victoria Police around hot spots.

### Joint Patrols

Our Locals Laws officers work collaboratively with Victoria Police members from South Melbourne and St Kilda Stations to patrol on foot together along key high streets in the City.

These patrols are an opportunity to share information about issues on the streets, and for traders and residents to ask questions of our local Victoria Police and Local Laws Officers. Joint patrols are dependent on police resourcing. We continue to advocate for extra police resources for these patrols to be held regularly.

### Rapid Response

Our Rapid Response team patrol key areas of the City daily to clean the streets and support people sleeping rough.

Additionally, Council has recently increased overnight street sweeping and pressure washing of Fitzroy and Acland Streets.

### What is the Role of Victoria Police?

Police are responsible for public safety, law enforcement and crime prevention. It is their responsibility to:

- Respond to calls for assistance for personal and public safety, emergencies, and serious incidents.
- Work to prevent crime through a range of proactive community safety programs.
- Detect and investigate offences and bring to justice those responsible for committing them.
- Provide a visible presence within the community and at major events.

In January 2025, Council wrote to the Chief Commissioner of Police to seek advice on potential Local Law amendments to address community safety issues; and formally requested additional resources and joint patrols.

For more information about Victoria Police, visit <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/>

## Recent Changes to Legislation

Recent changes to Victorian legislation and initiatives to achieve better public health and human rights outcomes that have changed policing practice and responses, include:

[Sex Work Decriminalisation Act 2022](#)

[Summary Offences Amendment \(Decriminalisation of Public Drunkenness\) Act 2021](#) which has led to [new public intoxication response services](#)

[Bail law amendments 2023](#)

## CCTV

CCTV is a crime prevention tool that assists with incident response, and crime management surveillance. We have CCTV cameras in four precincts in St Kilda. It is one tool we use to keep the community safe and prevent crime. There is also a rapid deployment CCTV trailer that is used by Victoria Police at different locations across Port Phillip.

Council is responsible for the infrastructure associated with the system. Victoria Police are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the cameras and monitoring of the network. Victoria Police own all footage.

CCTV camera locations:

- Fitzroy Street, St Kilda
- Little Grey and Grey Streets, St Kilda
- The St Kilda Foreshore
- The Acland Street, St Kilda Entertainment Precinct

As part of the 2024/25 budget process, Council made provision of \$800K over the next three years to renew the current network as part of planned maintenance. In 2022 Council purchased a mobile CCTV trailer which is used by Victoria Police under the terms of a loan agreement

For further information, please see the [Public Place Closed Circuit Television \(CCTV\) Policy](#).

## Public Place Design and Activation

Community ownership of public space sends positive signals to the broader community. Places that feel owned and cared for are likely to be used, enjoyed, and revisited. Research shows that woman and gender diverse people can experience safety and perceptions of safety differently. Our approach to community safety needs to address these different experiences to ensure equitable access to public spaces.

Spaces that are inviting and appealing, have good lighting, clear lines of sight, and a sense of ownership by the community can help people to feel safe, and prevent crime. All space, even if well planned and well-designed, need to be effectively used and maintained to maximise community safety. Conversely, places that are infrequently used are commonly abused.

Public places can be designed to discourage criminal activity by ensuring there is more chance for offenders to be seen, challenged, or caught; reducing opportunities for criminal activity; and creating a need for more effort to commit a crime, with limited rewards. This approach is referred to as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

Aspects such as poor lighting, amenity, visibility, and wayfinding, and limited natural surveillance may present greater opportunities for crimes to occur. The City of Port Phillip applies strategies to improve perceptions of safety and reduce the likelihood of crime, for broad community benefit.

The ongoing maintenance, cleansing and removal of graffiti and waste from our City contributes to enhancing actual and perceived safety for members of the public. Our work includes upgrading our infrastructure such as bike corridors, footpaths, parks, and signage. We also have a focus on improving and maintaining a high standard of lighting across the city.

Council has a program of street activation, festivals and events, and supported community activities and link to the City of Port Phillip [Events Strategy](#), [Outdoor Events Policy](#), Great Places and Precincts initiative and the [Creative and Prosperous City Strategy](#), and [Public Space Strategy](#).

## Family and Gender Based Violence

National, State and local governments across Victoria have established family violence as a key priority for action. Council has a legislated obligation to prevent family violence and respond to the needs of victim survivors and includes this in our Council Plan. Council will:

- Take action to advance gender equality across the organisation and in the community, including through our [Gender Equality Action Plan 2022 to 2025](#).
- Ensure that all staff employed in health and human service delivery have undertaken professional development in risk assessment for family violence.
- Ensure that the development of Council policies, programs and services consider the specific impacts of gender inequality on health, wellbeing and safety.
- Seek to provide safe and gender-equitable facilities and public environments.
- Play a leadership role in collaborating and co-ordinating initiatives tailored to the local community that focus on public education and community development.
- Participate in the Southern Metropolitan Region's Promoting Respect and Equity Together (PRET) Strategy group led by Women's Health in the South-East (WHISE), including working with community health and NGO partners.
- Develop an organisational Family Violence policy to support staff experiencing family violence.

City of Port Phillip has a Family Support Team where families can receive support and advice on topics such as family violence.

## Alcohol and Other Drugs

Part of our approach to reducing alcohol-related harm includes controls on public consumption through our Local Laws. This includes alcohol and glass bans at certain times of the year and in certain places.

We support the safe disposal of drug litter through daily cleaning programs and syringe disposal collection.

We also work with partners to minimise harm through awareness raising campaigns and local engagement activities.

## Housing and Homelessness

We take a human rights approach to people sleeping rough and managing public space. This means working in a coordinated way to ensure the rights and interests of vulnerable people, who are sleeping rough, are also met.

### Increasing Access to Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is an important element of our strategy to help those experiencing housing stress and who have no home. [In our Backyard: Growing Affordable Housing in Port Phillip 2015-2025](#) is Council's affordable housing strategy.

There may be potential future issues related to changes in the housing space within the City of Port Phillip, especially if the state government's housing program includes significant demolition and redevelopment projects. Some key aspects to consider:

- Pipeline Impacts: How planned demolitions and rebuilds may affect the housing supply, affordability, and availability in the area.
- Displacement Concerns: Whether temporary or permanent displacement of residents will be a factor, and what mitigation strategies might be in place.
- Infrastructure & Services: Potential strain or upgrades needed in transport, utilities, and community services due to redevelopment.
- Market & Investment Effects: Changes in property values, rental market shifts, and investor sentiment.

Council continues to advocate for an increase in affordable and community housing stock.

### Housing and Homelessness Support

Council's [Think and Act: Homelessness Action Strategy 2015 – 2020](#) is Council's specific homelessness strategy.

Through the Homelessness Action Strategy, we have worked with over 1,300 people aged over 50 to assist them to apply for a range of housing and support. We've also directly assisted over 300 people aged 50 plus to move into social housing locally (most through Council's sponsorship nomination into older persons public housing). Over half of these people were long term local residents on very low incomes, mainly receiving Centrelink Job Seeker benefits, who were losing their private housing.

### Supporting People Sleeping Rough

[Port Phillip Zero](#) is a partnership between Council, local organisations and the community. We work together to manage amenity of sites and find opportunities to create new housing and reduce rough sleeping.

The goal is to end rough sleeping homelessness in the City of Port Phillip by providing appropriate, secure, affordable long-term housing, and support, to all people who are living without a home. This uses a 'housing first' approach that places people experiencing homelessness directly into permanent and safe housing with 'wrap around' support services to address complex needs such as mental health and alcohol and drug support.

The By Name List is an up-to-date list of everyone we know to be sleeping rough, in their cars or in abandoned buildings (known as squats). The objective of this approach is that we know everyone by name, learn their support and housing requirements and address complex needs.

Between February 2022 to February 2024, the Port Phillip Zero achieved a 40% decrease in rough sleeping in the City of Port Phillip.

Recently, people who have access to housing but are sleeping rough due to barriers in access have been included on the By Name List.

Local organisations involved include Council, [Victoria Police](#), [Housing First](#), [Alfred Health](#), [First Step](#), [Launch Housing](#), [Sacred Heart Mission](#), [Salvation Army](#), [Better Health Network](#), [Housing First](#), [St Kilda Community Housing](#), [Port Phillip Community Group](#), [Tenants Victoria](#), [Uniting Care](#), [Wintringham](#), [Ngwala Willumbong](#), [Southside Justice](#) and [Southport Community Housing](#).

For recent statistics see the Social and Amenity Management reports on Council's [community safety webpage](#)

Housing needs analysis from December 2024 identified the following requirements for people on the By Name List:

- DFFH housing
- Permanent Supported Housing
- Community Housing
- Support for Transition
- Support for Long Term Housing

For more information see the following documents:

[No fixed address - Council's responses to people sleeping rough in Port Phillip \(PDF 2.4 MB\)](#)

[Protocol for Assisting People Who Sleep Rough](#)

## Trauma Aware Port Phillip

Trauma Aware Port Phillip (TAPP) is a community-led, evidence-informed project to strengthen resilience and reduce the impact of trauma and shame in the Port Phillip community.

The TAPP Working Group is a network of individuals, organisations and service providers in the Port Phillip local government area who are collaborating to empower sectors and community to enhance connection and capacity, reduce trauma and shame in everyday interactions, build inclusion, and share knowledge. Through this work the aim is improve community health and wellbeing, increase social cohesion and resilience, support local services sectors, and build sustainable positive change.

## Community Funding and Service Agreements

[Community grants programs](#) and funding agreements support eligible community groups and organisations to apply for funding for projects and programs that: strengthen capacity, encourage social connection, address health and well-being inequities, enable access and inclusion for diverse communities, and support sustainability initiatives.

Please also see Council's [Community Funding Policy](#).

### Service Agreements

Council has service agreements in place with a number of service providers to support volunteers, information and referral services, food relief and support, legal services, and assertive outreach and support work.

## Benchmarking of selected Victorian Councils

### Summary

A summary of community safety approaches is provided for the following Councils.

- City of Melbourne
- Frankston City Council
- Knox City Council
- Stonnington City Council
- Glen Eira City Council
- Yarra City Council

### City of Melbourne

CITY OF MELBOURNE - SUMMARY	
Health and Wellbeing	<p>The <a href="#">Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2021-2015</a> focus areas are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public health and safety</li> <li>2. Mental wellbeing and inclusion</li> <li>3. Healthy and sustainable lifestyles</li> <li>4. Housing and homelessness</li> <li>5. Food security</li> <li>6. Health impacts of climate change</li> </ol>
Inclusive Melbourne	<p>The <a href="#">Inclusive Melbourne Strategy</a> responds to the Council Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Plan and provides a framework for the City of Melbourne that progresses inclusion for the city.</p> <p>Priority 3 – Empowered Participatory Communities aims to build connection and empowerment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People have the capacity to identify local needs and are empowered to lead change in their neighbourhoods.</li> <li>• People and communities are connected and participate fully in community life.</li> <li>• All people can participate in city decision-making.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Activities Local Law 2024</a> summary	<p><u>Prohibited activities in public places (2.1 and 2.2)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Causing nuisance, affecting amenity, enjoyment or personal comfort of other persons in a public place</li> <li>• Indecent behaviour, such as defecating, offensive acts, threatening, abusive or insulting words.</li> <li>• Damaging public places.</li> <li>• Instruction to leave a place that is not open to the public.</li> </ul> <p><u>Camping in public places (2.8)</u></p> <p>Unless in accordance with a permit, a person must not camp in or on any public place in a vehicle, tent, caravan or any type of temporary or provisional form of accommodation.</p> <p><i>(note that this <u>does not</u> include rough sleepers with minimal belongings – i.e. without furniture, tents or structures – see <a href="#">Homelessness Protocol</a>)</i></p>



CITY OF MELBOURNE - SUMMARY	
	<p><u>Causing obstruction (8.9)</u></p> <p>A person must not without a permit, unreasonably obstruct or interfere with the passage of pedestrian or vehicular traffic in or on a public place.</p> <p><u>Furniture in public places (8.10)</u></p> <p>Unless in accordance with a permit, a person must not place or cause to be placed any furniture in or on a public place.</p> <p><u>Consumption and possession of liquor is prohibited in certain circumstances</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot consume or possess liquor in prescribed areas (other than in a sealed container).</li> <li>• Exemptions for permitted festivals and events.</li> <li>• Officer direction to seal or dispose of contents.</li> </ul>
Regulatory Activities	<p><u>Local Laws Officers</u></p> <p>Council's Local Laws officers are authorised to issue warnings, Notices to Comply and infringement notices to people and organisations who breach the Local Law. They may impound items, goods, or equipment in relation to a breach. They do not have the legal power to move people on or respond to criminal behaviour. Police, not Local Laws officers, have the training, equipment and authority to respond to these issues.</p> <p><u>Security Contractors</u></p> <p>Council commenced a trial in February 2025 where security guards are contracted to address complex on-street issues.</p> <p>It comes after 37 incidents of violence were recorded over the past two years against council staff members who were enforcing local laws, with the council seeking to address the community's safety concerns.</p> <p>Under the trial, an external security services firm will provide two contracted security guards to support Local Laws Officers who are responsible for on-street behaviour-related issues.</p> <p><u>Role of Victoria Police</u></p> <p>Victoria Police Officers are not authorised under the Local Law, rather they support Council Officers if and when a safety risk is perceived.</p> <p>Currently, police provide support to those experiencing homelessness, as well as running regular daily patrols across the CBD.</p> <p><u>Rapid Response</u></p> <p>The Rapid Response Clean Team patrols the CBD seven days a week. The team responds in real time to requests for street cleaning and graffiti removal.</p>
CCTV	<p><u>Melbourne Security Upgrades</u></p> <p>In 2021, the State Government completed a \$52.5 million security upgrade project in Melbourne's CBD including the installation of physical barriers at Melbourne's busiest locations, upgrades to CCTV cameras and a new public address system.</p> <p><u>Safe City Cameras</u></p>

CITY OF MELBOURNE - SUMMARY	
	<p>Closed circuit TV (CCTV) surveillance cameras are installed throughout the city and parts of Carlton, as part of the City of Melbourne's Safe City Cameras Program (SCCP).</p> <p>The City of Melbourne employs specially trained security contractors to monitor the cameras 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Staff record incidents captured by the cameras and notify police immediately. Reports are prepared detailing the nature, time and place of an incident, as well as the action taken by staff and emergency services.</p> <p>The 200+ cameras help to create a safer environment and reduce crime levels by deterring potential offenders and helping in crime detection. Speaker sets are also in place across the CBD to create a Public Address System and can be used to communicate important messages in an emergency.</p>
Public Place Design and Activation	<p>The <a href="#">draft Future Streets Framework 2030 and Beyond</a> proposes to guide the future planning and design of our city streets to create safe, efficient and vibrant spaces for everyone.</p> <p>Streets support safety and wellbeing by catering to a spectrum of user requirements across genders, ages, cultures, life stages and abilities. Ensuring everyone feels safe to occupy public spaces, and can access the same places and opportunities, is crucial to fostering diverse environments.</p> <p>This is further supported through actions in the <a href="#">Transport Strategy 2030</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure best-practice lighting design is employed in new projects and address lighting shortfalls in areas where a significant problem is identified.</li> <li>• Support improvements to public transport safety and user experience.</li> </ul>
Family Violence	<p>The <a href="#">Creating Communities of Equality and Respect: Women's Safety and Empowerment Action Plan</a> was developed in consultation with City of Melbourne leaders, practice leaders in the prevention sector, community and business leaders and other stakeholders on opportunities for our external-facing work.</p> <p>While prevalent and serious, violence against women is not inevitable and all of us can take action to prevent violence.</p> <p>This Action Plan focusses on how to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• transform the deep underlying causes of violence against women so that violence against women doesn't occur in the first place, and</li> <li>• target and disrupt the drivers of violence against women. This approach is known as primary prevention.</li> </ul> <p>The four broad themes contained in our plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance women and gender diverse people's leadership and participation in economic, social and civic life across the municipality</li> <li>• Promote the safety of women and gender diverse people in our communities and public spaces</li> <li>• Engage men and boys to shift unhealthy norms of masculinity and condoning of violence</li> <li>• Achieve sustainable primary prevention for our municipality.</li> </ul>



CITY OF MELBOURNE - SUMMARY	
	<p>This Action Plan is dedicated to our external-facing work with communities and sits alongside the newly enacted Gender Equality Act 2020 requiring all local councils to take positive action towards achieving workplace gender equality, and to consider and promote gender equality in policies, programs and services that interface with communities.</p>
Alcohol and Other Drugs	<p>Council partners with a number of organisations to provide a network of <a href="#">City Drug Support Services</a>.</p>
Housing and Homelessness	<p><a href="#">Homelessness Protocol</a></p> <p>Council, Victoria Police and DHHS have a formal operating protocol to address rough sleeping in the city.</p> <p>Council continues to work with the Victorian Government and housing and homelessness agencies on medium and long-term solutions to homelessness.</p> <p>The protocol and ongoing work to address homelessness means Council can act quickly to protect public safety and amenity, while also ensuring that the most vulnerable people in the city have access to the services they need.</p> <p><a href="#">Daily Support Team (through Launch Housing)</a></p> <p>The team delivers daily engagement with and provides support to people sleeping rough.</p> <p><a href="#">Partnerships</a></p> <p>Council, VicPol, DHHS and the homeless sector (including the Daily Support Team) work together daily to address immediate issues. The group also meets weekly to ensure the appropriate and timely level of support services are provided to rough sleepers, and that there is a balanced approach to support, compliance and enforcement.</p> <p><a href="#">Homes Melbourne</a></p> <p>Recognising that the complexity and extent of the housing crisis needed a comprehensive, targeted response, Council created Homes Melbourne in 2022 – a multi-disciplinary team committed to ending homelessness and increasing safe, secure, and affordable housing in our city.</p> <p>Homes Melbourne is helping to solve the affordable housing crisis and create pathways out of homelessness – at pace and scale.</p> <p>The Homes Melbourne team brings housing, homelessness and policy experts together to innovate, advocate and collaborate with partners across the housing sector.</p> <p>The team are working with governments, businesses, developers, funders, community housing organisations and the not-for-profit sector to deliver facilitate 6000 affordable homes and reduce homelessness in the city.</p> <p>Initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Make Room:</b> Providing secure supported housing for people experiencing rough sleeping or chronic homelessness for up to 12 months, or until they can secure access to long-term housing.</li> </ul>

CITY OF MELBOURNE - SUMMARY	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Affordable Housing Strategy 2020-2030</a> outlines Council's commitment to deliver, plan, advocate for and deliver more affordable housing in the City of Melbourne.</li> <li>• Affordable housing projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Currently investigating converting a Council-owned car park site at 44-60 Curzon Street, North Melbourne, into affordable housing.</li> <li>○ Delivered 48 affordable housing units in the Munro development alongside Queen Victoria Market.</li> <li>○ Delivering 40 affordable housing units at the Boyd development in Southbank.</li> <li>○ Will deliver affordable housing as part of the Southern Precinct at the Queen Victoria Market. 15 per cent of the floor space in one of the proposed buildings will be secured as affordable housing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Community Food Relief	<p>The City of Melbourne has identified food security as a key health and wellbeing focus area within our Council Plan 2021-2025. One of our major initiatives is to develop and deliver programs that will provide food relief to vulnerable members of the community and improve local food production by supporting communities to grow their own food.</p> <p>In December 2021, councillors endorsed <a href="#">Community Food Relief 2021 - 2025: Planning for a food secure city</a>. This plan outlines Council's role and commitment to improving access to food relief services and includes the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnering with food relief and other charities to provide groceries and meals to vulnerable residents.</li> <li>• Investigating community food enterprise models, including opportunities to work with Queen Victoria Market traders to redirect surplus food that would otherwise go to waste.</li> <li>• Advocating to State and Federal Governments to raise income support above the poverty line and increase investment in social housing.</li> </ul> <p>Council's strategic priority is to move beyond food relief to increased food security for everyone, especially the most vulnerable.</p>
Comprehensive list of community services	<p>The <a href="#">Helping Out Guide</a> is a comprehensive list of free and low cost services from more than 90 organisations in the central city and surrounding suburbs. The agencies listed offer many types of support and services. These include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Homelessness accommodation (including rental assistance)</li> <li>2. Services for women</li> <li>3. Essential items and services (including food, clothes, showers, laundry, travel)</li> <li>4. Support for addictions (including drugs, alcohol, gambling, needle exchange)</li> <li>5. Health and wellbeing services (including hospitals, counselling, medical)</li> <li>6. Legal and financial services</li> <li>7. Assistance with employment services</li> <li>8. Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples</li> </ol> <p>The City of Melbourne updates this information periodically to make sure the service details are as accurate as possible</p>

**CITY OF MELBOURNE - SUMMARY**

Community Funding and Grants	<p>The City of Melbourne offers many funding opportunities to support and empower people and communities to become engaged, to connect and to take local action. Some of these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal community grants -Funding for First Nations initiatives.</li> <li>• Connected neighbourhood small grants – funding to support connection, social inclusion, access and participation.</li> <li>• Community event grants – funding for events that increase connection and belonging.</li> <li>• Community inclusion grants – supporting diverse communities.</li> <li>• Community meals subsidy program – creating welcoming spaces to enjoy a meal together.</li> <li>• Operational small grants – supporting volunteer-run organisations with operational costs.</li> <li>• Social investment partnership grants – partnering with organisations to address social issues.</li> <li>• Community use of town halls – supporting not for profit organisations.</li> </ul>
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## Frankston City Council

FRANKSTON CITY COUNCIL - SUMMARY	
Health and Wellbeing	<p>The <a href="#">Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2021-2015</a> focus areas are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Building healthy and active communities</li> <li>2. Building fair and inclusive communities</li> <li>3. Increasing mental wellbeing and resilience</li> <li>4. Strengthening climate action for community wellbeing</li> <li>5. Strengthening gender equality and respectful relationships</li> <li>6. Building safe communities</li> </ol>
Safer Community Strategy	<p>The <a href="#">Safer Community Strategy 2023</a> provides Frankston City Council with the strategic direction for how it will work with the community and partners over the next ten years to create a safe, fair and inclusive municipality where people feel safe, well connected and empowered to participate in community life.</p> <p>The strategy identifies our strategic priorities and key strategies to guide Council and its partners in taking collaborative approaches towards four long-term outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community strength and connection</li> <li>• Healthy and safe behaviours</li> <li>• Well planned and liveable communities</li> <li>• Collaboration, innovation and empowerment</li> </ul> <p>The implementation of this strategy supports the facilitation of strategic partnerships and enable more integrated and innovative approaches to community safety and crime prevention.</p>
<a href="#">Community Local Law 2020</a> summary	<p><a href="#">Behaviour (2.1)</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Causing nuisance, affecting amenity, or other persons reasonable use of a public place.</li> <li>• Dangerous behaviour.</li> <li>• Indecent behaviour, such as defecating and spitting.</li> <li>• Damaging public places.</li> <li>• Hinder or harass Council staff.</li> <li>• Instruction to leave a place that is not open to the public.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Camping and caravans (3.14(c))</a></p> <p>A person must not without a permit camp in a tent, caravan, motor home or other temporary structure on a road or in a municipal place.</p> <p><i>(Council does not have powers or the authority to move people who are homeless. People who are homeless have a right to be in public spaces and will be treated as any other member of the public. This means working in a coordinated way to ensure the rights and interests of vulnerable people, who are experiencing homelessness, are met.)</i></p> <p><a href="#">Obstructions on roads and Council land (2.2)</a></p> <p>A person must not without a permit, store or leave items on a road or Council land.</p>

FRANKSTON CITY COUNCIL - SUMMARY	
	<p><u>Liquor (3.17)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot without a permit consume or possess liquor in a public place (other than in a sealed container).</li> <li>• Cannot consume or possess liquor on vacant private land (other than in a sealed container – and with permission of occupier or owner).</li> <li>• Officer direction to seal or dispose of contents.</li> </ul>
Regulatory Activities	<p><u>Local Laws Officers</u></p> <p>Council's Local Laws officers are authorised to issue warnings, Notices to Comply and infringement notices to people and organisations who breach the Local Law. They may impound items, goods, or equipment in relation to a breach. They do not have the legal power to move people on or respond to criminal behaviour. Police, not Local Laws officers, have the training, equipment and authority to respond to these issues.</p> <p><u>Rapid Response</u></p> <p>Council's Rapid Response Team provide a visible presence throughout the municipality, focusing on proactive patrols and providing a quick response to Local Law issues. The team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform proactive patrols across Frankston City, including beaches, reserves, suburban retail shopping strips and town centres</li> <li>• Investigate Local Law offences</li> <li>• Educate the community to reduce offences and reported issues</li> <li>• Quickly respond to reported issues from the community</li> </ul> <p><u>Role of Victoria Police</u></p> <p>Currently, police provide support to those experiencing homelessness, as well as running regular daily patrols.</p> <p><u>Protective Services Officers (PSO's) at Frankston Station</u></p> <p>Protective Service Officers (PSOs) are posted at Frankston Station. They work with local Police, who have continued their regular foot patrols in and around Frankston Station. PSO powers include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• being able to move people on</li> <li>• arresting those found to be drunk and disorderly</li> <li>• detaining people believed to have committed a serious offence.</li> <li>• They patrol Frankston Station from 6:00PM until after the last train</li> </ul>
CCTV	<p>Council's CCTV program has been hugely successful in improving residents' feelings of safety and helping Victoria Police respond to crime in the area.</p> <p>There are a number of CCTV cameras mounted throughout Frankston City. Footage is streamed directly to the Frankston Police Station and can only be viewed by police investigators as part of a criminal enquiry.</p> <p>Council's Safer Communities team works closely with Frankston Police to identify sites for the new cameras based on community need.</p> <p>The Frankston City Council CCTV program has been supported by State and Federal Government via numerous grant programs.</p>

FRANKSTON CITY COUNCIL - SUMMARY	
Public Place Design and Activation	<p>The <a href="#">Open Space Strategy 2016-2036</a> addresses community safety and seeks to create well maintained and actively managed spaces that ensure people feel safe and secure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure active open edges to open space reserves.</li> <li>• Encourage natural surveillance through design and planning.</li> <li>• Undertake CEPTED and land assessments for spaces with a history or risk of antisocial behaviour,</li> </ul> <p>These other plans and strategies listed below have also been developed to help Council deliver equitable public realm and open space improvements across Frankston City.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Lighting Frankston Plan</a>.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Local Park Action Plan</a>.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Frankston Local Strip Action Plan</a>.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Public Toilet Action Plan</a></li> </ul>
Family and Gender Based Violence	<p>Council has overviewed our preventative action in the <a href="#">2024-2028 Family Violence Prevention Action Plan</a>, which outlines how Council will lead prevention in four unique ways – as a leader, a workplace, a service provider and a connector.</p> <p>Council also developed the <a href="#">2021-2025 Gender Equality Action Plan</a> that sets out vision, objectives and actions to ensure Council is working to exceed its obligations under the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i>.</p> <p>More recently, at a Council meeting held on 29 January 2025, a motion was unanimously approved, which asked Council to continue investing in advocating for funding to support local family and domestic violence programs and services.</p> <p>Some of Council's current initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for community to lead or participate in gender equality initiatives such as <a href="#">International Women's Day</a>, <a href="#">IDAHOBIT</a>, <a href="#">Men's Health Week</a> and <a href="#">16 Days of Activism</a>;</li> <li>• Education and training for workforce and community in addressing the drivers of violence;</li> <li>• Partnerships with specialist agencies, groups and networks to prevent violence and promote gender equality such as the Frankston City &amp; Mornington Peninsula Family Violence Prevention Collaborative.</li> </ul>
Alcohol and Other Drugs	<p>Council partners with a number of organisations to provide a network of <a href="#">alcohol and other drug support services</a>.</p>
Housing and Homelessness	<p><a href="#">Partnerships</a></p> <p>While Council does not directly offer housing, it continues to work with partners, including community organisations and government agencies, to support the community members experiencing or at risk of homelessness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frankston City has a single-entry point for homelessness support which is operated locally by The <b>Salvation Army - Homelessness Services</b>. The purpose of entry points is to have a coordinated approach among</li> </ul>



## FRANKSTON CITY COUNCIL - SUMMARY

local homelessness services, assess a person's needs, prioritise their case, and connect people to the most appropriate local service

- **Frankston Strategic Housing and Homelessness Alliance** – an alliance of local service providers who are committed to increasing our city's capacity to respond increasing system pressures from homelessness.
- **Frankston & Mornington Peninsula Zero** – a coordinated homelessness response where information and resources are shared between partners to reduce the number of rough sleepers locally.
- **Regional Local Government Charter and Homelessness and Social Housing** – 13 councils who have come together to highlight regional housing and homelessness issues.
- **Winter Shelter** – a local initiative of Frankston churches coming together to provide beds, warms meals and a safer place for the night – five nights a week through the winter months.
- **Community Support Frankston (CSF)** is a not-for-profit charitable organisation providing emergency relief and essential supports for residents in Frankston City experiencing hardship. Assistance is provided with food and essential items, medications, clothing, education, housing and much more. CSF is not a housing provider but will connect clients to the most appropriate, local agency. CSF has co-located services and programs assisting financially vulnerable residents, including the Services Australia, Bolton Clarke Homeless Persons Program, Orange Sky Laundry, and the Mental Health Legal Clinic.

### Free Training for Volunteers

Council is providing free training for volunteers engaging with people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and in need of emergency relief – building their skills and capacity to engage with community members who are often experiencing multiple and complex hardships.

Future training opportunities are currently being planned for 2025.

Training was developed in consultation with volunteers and commenced in 2024 and included:

- Five Conflict Resolution Workshops delivered to 73 volunteers from 14 local charities and not-for-profit organisations.
- Five Mental Health and Wellbeing Workshops delivered to 65 volunteers representing 12 local charities and not-for-profit organisations.

### Increasing Access to Affordable Housing

The Housing Advisory Committee was established by Council in 2022 to monitor, advocate, and provide advice to the Council on local housing needs within Frankston City. The Committee was established in response to the current housing affordability crisis and the need to identify opportunities and innovative solutions to facilitate sustainable housing outcomes.

Council is currently developing an affordable housing policy that will provide the Council's position and framework to guide and facilitate an increase in the supply of affordable housing on public and private land within Frankston

FRANKSTON CITY COUNCIL - SUMMARY	
	<p>City by enabling housing supply through the local land use planning system, advocacy, and partnerships.</p> <p>Community engagement is open on the <a href="#">Draft Affordable Housing Policy</a> until 23 March 2025.</p>
<p>Community Connectors</p> <p>(public transport safety)</p>	<p>Council has partnered with Metro Trains Melbourne and South East Community Links (SECL) to support community members who visit Frankston Station and are facing complex challenges – such as mental health, substance abuse, financial, family violence, and housing insecurity issues.</p> <p>Two SECL community practitioners with social work, mental health and nursing qualifications will be present at Frankston Station from 1pm – 5pm on weekdays.</p> <p>The program follows a successful pilot at Dandenong Station.</p> <p>Council is seeking additional funding from the federal government to ensure we can continue to provide this initiative beyond the pilot program.</p> <p>Key benefits of the program include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid and effective responses to people experiencing mental health issues or participating in anti-social behaviours</li> <li>• Ensuring commuters feel safe at Frankston Station and on public transport</li> <li>• De-escalation of situations before they become major incidents</li> <li>• Building positive rapport with individuals requiring support and establishing referral pathways</li> <li>• Increased safety for all users in the Young Street precinct</li> </ul>
Monash University Social Work Clinic	<p>The Monash University Social Work Clinic offers free services from the Frankston Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm.</p> <p>The Clinic is staffed by Monash University postgraduate social work students, with all participating students being supervised by qualified and experienced social works practitioners.</p> <p>The students are equipped to help community members deal with hardship, connect to emotional supports, develop essential skills and access resources.</p>
Community Funding and Grants	<p><u>Community Grants</u></p> <p>Frankston City Council offers a range of grants to support both local not-for-profit organisations and community members. Some grants that have previously and continue to support vulnerable community members, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Annual Community Grants</li> <li>• Child and Youth Inclusion Grants</li> <li>• Urgent Grants</li> <li>• The Frankston Charitable Fund</li> <li>• Community Service Partnership Grants</li> <li>• Emergency Relief Funding 2024/25</li> </ul>



FRANKSTON CITY COUNCIL - SUMMARY	
	<p>A total of \$200,000 was allocated through the one-off Emergency Relief Fund 2024/25 enabling 12 vital organisations to increase their capacity and provide essential support to over 43,000 individuals across Frankston City. Through that grant, funding was provided to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frankston Brekky Club</li> <li>• Mums Supporting Families in Need Inc</li> <li>• Project Fresh Start Inc</li> <li>• Local 2 Community</li> <li>• Peninsula Christian Care</li> <li>• Theodora House</li> <li>• Bolton Clarke</li> <li>• Sikh Volunteers Australia</li> <li>• Operation Larder</li> <li>• St. Vincent de Paul</li> <li>• Salvation Army Carrum Downs</li> <li>• LifeGate</li> </ul> <p><u>Financial Hardship Assistance</u></p> <p>Council understands that financial hardship can affect anyone, at any time, without any notice. Council offers a free and confidential financial counselling service, rate repayment plans, and Pensioner rates concessions.</p>
Advocating for local supports for vulnerable residents	<p>Council is committed to advocating to the Australian Government for secure, long-term funding to support vulnerable community members. As our local need for support services increases, it requires increased annual funding to continue to meet that need.</p> <p>Council has requested additional \$500,000 per annum (increased by CPI each year) to support local emergency relief providers and \$350,000 per annum over three years (2026-2028) to continue the Community Connectors initiative beyond the pilot program at Frankston Station.</p>

## Knox City Council

KNOX CITY COUNCIL - SUMMARY	
Health and Wellbeing	<p>The <a href="#">Council Plan 2021-2025</a> incorporates the following health and wellbeing principles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having access to lifelong learning opportunities and local employment is essential for our social connection, mental health, self-expression, and financial stability and growth.</li> <li>• Affordable and accessible housing and infrastructure are essential to the safety and wellbeing of individuals and increase the liveability of Knox.</li> <li>• A healthy natural environment is essential to good food supplies and clean air and water. Our reserves and parkland also provide spaces to enjoy and connect with nature, which can also reduce stress and improve our mental health.</li> <li>• Belonging and social inclusion are essential to mental health and general wellbeing. The ability to practice and connect with culture is also essential to all forms of health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• The opportunity to be heard allows people to help shape their community and in turn create a sense of belonging and being valued.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Knox CARES Strategy 2022-2027</a>	<p>The Knox Connection, Access, Respect, Equality and Safety (Knox CARES) Strategy guides Council's commitment to building a safer, healthier and more inclusive Knox.</p> <p>Actions have been developed to support 'people in Knox feeling safe in their home and their neighbourhood and having a positive sense of belonging to their community.</p> <p>Previously Council has developed discrete action plans for a range of key planning and policy areas, as well as different priority populations. These are now captured within the Knox CARES Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Violence Action Plan</li> <li>• Disability Access and Equity Plan</li> <li>• First Nations Action Plan</li> <li>• Community Safety Plan</li> <li>• Multicultural Communities Plan</li> <li>• LGBTIQ+ Action Plan</li> </ul> <p>There remain a number of other Council plans and strategies that are closely related to this strategy. These include the Reconciliation Action Plan, Mobility and Access Action Plan, Social and Affordable Housing Strategy, and the Mental Health Action Plan.</p>
Knox Empowering Communities	<p>The <a href="#">Knox – Empowering Communities Program</a> is a community-led program aimed at enhancing safety in Ferntree Gully through local engagement, partnerships, and targeted projects.</p>

<p>Program (evaluation report)</p>	<p>Key Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Funding &amp; Goals:</b> The Victorian Government allocated \$700,000 to Knox City Council under the Empowering Communities Grant to address crime and safety concerns through community-led initiatives.</li> <li>• <b>Community Consultation:</b> Over 275 individuals participated in discussions to identify major safety concerns, including family violence, substance abuse, and public disorder.</li> <li>• <b>Action Group:</b> A diverse local group was formed to oversee project implementation and funding distribution.</li> <li>• <b>Funded Initiatives:</b> Six community projects were launched to build relationships, reduce isolation, and foster safety:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cultural Safety Program – Focused on First Nations youth and cultural inclusion.</li> <li>2. Ferntree Gully Village Markets – Designed to activate public spaces and promote local businesses.</li> <li>3. Community Safety Outreach – Support for vulnerable residents, particularly those experiencing homelessness.</li> <li>4. Neighbour Day – Strengthening social ties through local events.</li> <li>5. Knox Nocturnals Youth Group – Providing safe, inclusive spaces for youth.</li> <li>6. YES Program – Aiding youth engagement and social inclusion.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• <b>Community Engagement &amp; Impact:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Over 4,300 participants were engaged across projects.</li> <li>o Improved perceptions of safety in Ferntree Gully, particularly during evening hours.</li> <li>o Increased social connections and community pride.</li> <li>o Fostered long-term collaborations between local organizations, law enforcement, and service providers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Evaluation &amp; Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Successes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The community-led model effectively engaged local voices and needs.</li> <li>o The Action Group played a key role in ensuring inclusivity and program alignment.</li> <li>o Strong partnerships were developed between stakeholders, leading to potential sustainability of certain initiatives beyond the project period.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Challenges:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Stakeholder participation varied, with some groups disengaging over time.</li> <li>o Sustainability concerns for certain projects, particularly those needing ongoing funding.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Evaluation data gaps for some initiatives, limiting the ability to measure full impact.</li> </ul> <p>The Knox Empowering Communities project was successful in fostering community-led safety improvements, enhancing social cohesion, and activating public spaces. The initiative established sustainable community partnerships, though ongoing support and funding will be necessary to maintain long-term benefits.</p>
<a href="#">Amenity Local Law 2020</a> summary	<p><u>Behaviour on Council land and roads (5.1, 5.2)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interfere with another person's reasonable use.</li> <li>• Dangerous behaviour.</li> </ul> <p><u>Camping on Council land (5.4)</u></p> <p>Without a permit, a person must not camp in or on any Council land or road.</p> <p><i>(Camp means using a caravan, tent, sleeping bag, vehicle, shipping container, shed or like structure for residential accommodation (either temporary or permanent) by a person).</i></p> <p><u>Obstructions on roads and Council land (5.5)</u></p> <p>Without a permit, a person must not place or permit to be placed or allow to remain on a road or Council land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a bulk rubbish container; or</li> <li>(b) a shipping container; or</li> <li>(c) a donation bin; or</li> <li>(d) any other thing</li> </ul> <p><u>Alcohol (8.1)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot without a permit consume or possess liquor in a public place (other than in a sealed container).</li> <li>• Officer direction to seal or dispose of contents.</li> </ul>
Regulatory Activities	<p><u>Local Laws Officers</u></p> <p>Council's Local Laws officers are authorised to issue warnings, Notices to Comply and infringement notices to people and organisations who breach the Local Law. They may impound items, goods, or equipment in relation to a breach. They do not have the legal power to move people on or respond to criminal behaviour. Police, not Local Laws officers, have the training, equipment and authority to respond to these issues.</p> <p><u>Role of Victoria Police</u></p> <p>Currently, police provide support to those experiencing homelessness, as well as running regular daily patrols.</p>

Public Place Design and Activation	<p>The Knox CARES strategy, at the highest level, seeks to lead collaborative partnerships across Council to promote a ‘whole of business’ approach promoting safer public places, including the use of safer design principles and the urban design framework, as well as responding to CCTV enquiries.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Open Space Asset Management Plan</a> addresses community safety and seeks to create well maintained and actively managed spaces that ensure people feel safe and secure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing for safe, well-lit and readily accessible passive open spaces.</li> <li>• Encourage natural surveillance through design and planning.</li> <li>• Undertake CEPTED and land assessments for spaces with a history or risk of an! social behaviour,</li> </ul> <p>These other plans and strategies listed below have also been developed to help Council deliver equitable public realm and open space improvements across Frankston City.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Lighting Frankston Plan</a>.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Local Park Action Plan</a>.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Frankston Local Strip Action Plan</a>.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Public Toilet Action Plan</a></li> </ul>
Family and Gender Based Violence	<p>Knox City Council pledges its commitment to working toward a community free from violence. Family violence is a major health and human rights issue and can affect anyone in the community regardless of gender, age, location, socio-economic and health status, culture, sexual identity, ability, ethnicity, religion or family type. This commitment is embedded in the Council Plan, incorporating the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan, the Knox CARES strategy and the Mental Health Action Plan.</p>
Mental Health Action Plan	<p><a href="#">The Mental Health Action Plan 2021</a> applies a partnership approach with peak bodies and other organisations to achieve collective impact. Key initiatives broadly address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health promotion.</li> <li>• Community education.</li> <li>• Sector collaboration and coordination.</li> <li>• Advocacy.</li> </ul>
Alcohol and Other Drugs	<p><a href="#">Statement of Commitment for Reducing Alcohol Harm</a></p> <p>Knox City Council is committed to taking steps that improve the health and wellbeing of the community by reducing the harm caused by alcohol misuse. The statement outlines areas where Council can have most impact:</p> <p>Managing alcohol on Council land, at recreation reserves, in sporting and community facilities.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting a responsible drinking culture within Council and community.</li> <li>• Designing public places to be family friendly and manage alcohol consumption in areas where this is a problem.</li> <li>• Working together with Victoria Police, local community organisations and businesses to develop solutions, share resources and advocate for change in state government policies.</li> <li>• Strengthening Council assessments of liquor licensing applications which will include assessing the impact on community.</li> <li>• Providing education about responsible alcohol consumption, the risks associated with misuse, and information on local support services.</li> <li>• Taking leadership by prioritising alcohol harm reduction in our health and wellbeing strategies, policies, and programs.</li> <li>• Researching and monitoring data on alcohol harm to guide Council decisions and development of effective harm reduction programs.</li> </ul>
Housing and Homelessness	<p>Council's approach to homelessness and rough sleeping in Knox is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• connecting people who are homeless or sleeping rough with support services</li> <li>• linking people with suitable housing or services before they become homeless, where possible</li> <li>• working with other organisations towards the goal of preventing homelessness</li> <li>• monitoring accessibility to housing providers and support services</li> <li>• increasing awareness and community education on the cause of homelessness.</li> </ul> <p><u>Homelessness Information and Support - Partnerships</u></p> <p>Support and services are available for people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or escaping family violence in Knox.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing support services</li> <li>• Community meals</li> <li>• Emergency food relief</li> <li>• Shower and washing machine services</li> <li>• Crisis support services</li> <li>• Family violence support services</li> </ul> <p><u>Support for Older People</u></p> <p>Council provides support for eligible Knox residents aged 55 years or older who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Housing support services can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• advice</li> <li>• advocacy</li> <li>• referrals and help in applying for public housing</li> <li>• recommendation for sponsorship housing within Knox</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• helping existing tenants in sponsorship properties to transfer to more suitable accommodation. E.g. moving from upstairs to a ground floor unit.</li> </ul> <p>Council has sponsored housing for older residents, provided through the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).</p> <p>Sponsorship housing allows older residents of Knox who are eligible for public housing to remain within the local area.</p> <p><u>Increasing Access to Affordable Housing</u></p> <p>The <a href="#">Knox Social and Affordable Housing Strategy and Action Plan 2023–2027</a> current evidence of the housing needs in Knox. Importantly, access to safe, secure and affordable housing was a key priority identified by the community when developing the Knox Council Plan 2021-25.</p> <p>In addition to this strategy, Council has a Housing Strategy (Knox Housing Strategy January 2015). That Strategy provides direction for residential development and provides the basis for planning controls such as Clause 21.06 (Housing) and Clause 22.07 (Development in Residential Areas and Neighbourhood Character). Further, it identifies a number of Strategic Investigation Sites which may contribute to new housing development.</p>
Community Funding and Grants	<p><u>Community Grants</u></p> <p>Knox offers a range of grants to support both local not-for-profit organisations and community members. Some grants that have previously and continue to support vulnerable community members, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Empowering Communities Program</li> <li>• Community Partnership Funding</li> <li>• Community Development Fund.</li> </ul>

## Stonnington City Council

STONNINGTON CITY COUNCIL - SUMMARY	
Health and Wellbeing	<p>The <a href="#">Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025</a> priority areas are:</p> <p>Priority 1- Healthy and Well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our community is more physically active.</li> <li>• Our community has a healthier diet.</li> <li>• Services, supports and information are easier to access in our community.</li> <li>• Our community is health in a changing climate.</li> </ul> <p>Priority 2- Respectful and Safe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equity and respect are thriving in our community.</li> <li>• Our community is a safer place for everyone.</li> <li>• Harm from alcohol, gambling, tobacco and other drugs is reduced.</li> </ul> <p>Priority 3 – Connected and Supportive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental wellbeing is strengthened in our community.</li> <li>• Our community is more socially connected and able to participate in community life.</li> <li>• All members of our community are valued, supported and connected.</li> </ul>
Safer Stonnington Community Safety Plan	<p>The <a href="#">Safer Stonnington Community Safety Plan 2024-2027</a> provides Stonnington with the strategic direction for how it will work with partners to make the City safe and enjoyable for everyone.</p> <p>The Plan's four priority areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People: Encouraging safe behaviours and community connections, recognising the unique needs of different population groups</li> <li>• Place: Creating a safe and well-maintained physical environment so that people can engage in community life and explore our city with confidence.</li> <li>• Planning: Developing integrated, evidence-based approaches with strong governance frameworks to respond to current and future needs.</li> <li>• Partnerships: Working collaboratively with local agencies and community to identify solutions to complex issues and address safety concerns.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">General Local Law 2018</a> summary	<p><a href="#">Behaviour (117)</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behave in a manner that is indecent, insulting, riotous.</li> <li>• Engage in behaviour that is dangerous.</li> <li>• Engage in behaviour that interferes with another person.</li> <li>• Dangerous behaviour.</li> </ul>



	<p><u>Camping on Council land and roads (143)</u></p> <p>(3) A person must not, without a Permit, camp on Council Land, a Public Place or on any Road in a tent, caravan, Motor Vehicle or other temporary or makeshift structure unless within a caravan park licensed under the Residential Tenancies Act 1997.</p> <p>(4) A person must not leave any personal goods or effects on Council Land, Public Place or any Road as part of any camp.</p> <p><i>(Council does not have the power to move people on. People who are homeless have a right to be in public spaces and will be treated as any other member of the public. Reports of homelessness will be investigated by Council's Local Laws Officers who will liaise with local police and make a referral to the Launch Housing and Star Health outreach services. These services will visit the location and offer a variety of support including emergency housing.)</i></p> <p><u>Liquor (129)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot without a permit consume or possess liquor in a public place (other than in a sealed container).</li> <li>• Officer direction to seal or dispose of contents.</li> </ul>
Regulatory Activities	<p><u>Local Laws Officers</u></p> <p>Council's Local Laws officers are authorised to issue warnings, Notices to Comply and infringement notices to people and organisations who breach the Local Law. They may impound items, goods, or equipment in relation to a breach. They do not have the legal power to move people on or respond to criminal behaviour. Police, not Local Laws officers, have the training, equipment and authority to respond to these issues.</p> <p><u>Responsive maintenance</u></p> <p>To ensure a safe and well-maintained physical environment through routine and responsive street cleaning and waste removal.</p> <p><u>Role of Victoria Police</u></p> <p>Currently, police provide support to those experiencing homelessness, as well as running regular daily patrols.</p>
CCTV	<p>Council's Community Safety Camera (CCTV) network is part of a package of crime prevention measures in place to improve safety.</p> <p>Council, Victoria Police and other stakeholders from the Public Safety CCTV Steering Committee guide decision making around needs / camera locations, including review of the network to ensure it is meeting its objectives and operational needs.</p> <p>There is also a formal process where the community can apply for additional CCTV cameras.</p>

<p>Public Place Design and Activation</p>	<p>The <a href="#">Public Realm Strategy 2010</a> addresses community safety through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure areas that attract high levels of vandalism are maintained on a regular basis to ensure maintenance is perceived as a priority</li> <li>• Ensure night lighting is adequate to reduce vandalism and improve safety</li> <li>• Promote safe night routes through parks where necessary; however, it is preferable to promote streetscapes for safe night-time movement</li> <li>• Design new facilities to ensure that blind spots are avoided, and walls are created in a manner that minimises their susceptibility to graffiti attack</li> <li>• Use materials that are not conducive to supporting illegal graffiti or use coatings that facilitate quick removal.</li> </ul> <p>The <a href="#">Safer Stonnington Community Safety Plan 2024-2027</a> flags additional initiatives to reduce criminal and antisocial behaviour, enhance road safety, ensure public places are designed to be safe and encourage positive use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Safer Design Guidelines, toolkits, and training that highlight vulnerability of women, girls, people with disability, LGBTIQ+, First Nations and cultural groups to build internal capacity to improve safety, surveillance and crime prevention in public spaces and places.</li> <li>• Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) training.</li> <li>• Applying urban design crime prevention strategies to support confidence in open spaces, including clear paths of travel, passive surveillance, adequate lighting and appropriate planting and maintenance.</li> <li>• Extending the hours of lighting in public spaces to enable longer periods of community use, for example, dog walking.</li> </ul> <p>The <a href="#">Urban Lighting Guidelines</a> has also been developed to help Council deliver equitable public realm and open space improvements across Stonnington.</p>
<p>Family and Gender Based Violence</p>	<p>The City of Stonnington is committed to creating a fair, equal and safe community including taking action to reduce violence against women and family violence. Creating a respectful and safe community is a priority.</p> <p>The City of Stonnington remains firmly committed to working with key stakeholders to address gender-based violence affecting the Stonnington community.</p> <p>Stonnington is a signatory to <a href="#">Promoting Respect and Equality Together 2021-2025</a>, a regional strategy developed by <a href="#">Women's Health in the South-East</a> (WHISE) for collective action across Southern Metropolitan Melbourne.</p>

	<p>Stonnington delivers community awareness campaigns to address safety concerns including 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, training for aged services staff to recognise and report elder abuse, community awareness training sessions (e.g. Active Bystander Training and the Man Box). Stonnington also partners with specialist agencies, groups and networks to prevent violence and promote gender equality</p> <p>Council also developed the <a href="#">2021-2025 Gender Equality Action Plan</a> that sets out vision, objectives and actions to ensure Council is working to exceed its obligations under the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i>.</p>
Alcohol and Other Drugs	<p>Stonnington has the second highest lifetime risk of alcohol related harm out of all Victorian local governments. Residents on average drink more alcohol, more frequently in comparison to surrounding areas.</p> <p>Council partners with a number of organisations to provide a network of <a href="#">alcohol and other drug support services</a>.</p>
Housing and Homelessness	<p>Stonnington's approach is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information to people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness about where they can access housing and support,</li> <li>• Ensure people requiring assistance are referred to the appropriate service providers as soon as possible,</li> <li>• Monitor the extent of homelessness in Stonnington, and</li> <li>• Enhance community understanding about the causes of homelessness and local support service</li> </ul> <p>Council does not have the power to move people on. People who are homeless have a right to be in public spaces and will be treated as any other member of the public.</p> <p>Council will respond to a person who is, or appears homeless if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They request assistance,</li> <li>• They appear distressed or in need of assistance,</li> <li>• They are sheltering in circumstances that threaten the health and safety of themselves and/or others (e.g. in derelict buildings),</li> <li>• Their behaviour threatens their own safety or the safety of others,</li> <li>• Their behaviour is likely to result in damage to property or to the environment,</li> <li>• Their safety is threatened by others, and</li> <li>• They appear to be under the age of 18.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Partnerships</a></p> <p>While Council does not directly offer housing, it continues to work with partners, including community organisations and government agencies, to support the community members experiencing or at risk of homelessness.</p> <p><a href="#">Stonnington Zero</a></p>

	<p>A collaborative partnership that brings organisations and the community together to identify opportunities to create new housing and reduce rough sleeping.</p> <p><u>Homelessness Week</u></p> <p>Homelessness Week - supporting the Victorian Homelessness Network's campaign to raise awareness about the urgent need for more social and public housing.</p> <p><u>Increasing Access to Affordable Housing</u></p> <p>Stonnington has developed a draft Housing Strategy Council that considers housing needs for current and future Stonnington residents on very low, low and moderate incomes.</p>
Community Funding and Grants	<p><u>Community Grants</u></p> <p>Council provides help to eligible not-for-profit or charitable organisations to implement Stonnington-based programs meet the following objectives and priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improve community health, well-being and safety</li> <li>• enhance social connections</li> <li>• promote accessibility and inclusiveness</li> <li>• advance social cohesion and reconciliation</li> <li>• actively promote environmental sustainability</li> </ul> <p><u>Partnership Grants</u></p> <p>Partnership Grants provide funding on a triennial (3 years) basis to support the planning and delivery of community-based services, programs and activities.</p>

## Glen Eira City Council

GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL - SUMMARY	
Health and Wellbeing	<p>The Glen Eira <a href="#">Council Plan 2021–2025</a> includes a range of indicators within its strategic priorities that align with safety concerns of the community. These include an ‘improved look and feel of activity centres, including cleanliness, footpath condition, graffiti, waste management, trees, parking, safety and lighting’, ‘the progression of safe, accessible and sustainable transport initiatives’, and Council advocating for ‘improved transport infrastructure’.</p> <p>The Glen Eira <a href="#">Community Wellbeing Plan 2021–2025</a> has objectives related to ‘improving the built environment to be more accessible, safe, walkable and interconnected’, reducing ‘harm to our community from tobacco, vaping, alcohol and other drugs, and gambling’, and participating ‘in partnerships to promote gender equality, respect and the prevention of violence’.</p>
Community Safety Committee	<p>Council established the Glen Eira Safety Committee in 2017 to bring together key agencies and organisations whose work has a significant impact on community safety. Membership of the Committee includes Glen Eira elected Councillors, senior Council officers, government stakeholder representatives and representatives from community organisations and Victoria Police.</p>
Community Safety Plan	<p>The Glen Eira <a href="#">Community Safety Plan 2022–2025</a> is a collaboration between Council, the Glen Eira Community Safety Committee, the community and other stakeholders.</p> <p>The Plan outlines the strategic activities that Council will undertake to improve safety and security for the community. This Plan focuses these activities through three key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strong, resilient, inclusive and connected community</li> <li>• Living safely and securely</li> <li>• Creating safe public spaces and transport.</li> </ul>
Building Safer Communities Forum 2024	<p>On Monday 22 July 2024, Council held the Building Safer Communities Forum. The purpose of the forum was to hear from experts on youth safety and how to support young people at risk and participate in discussions on how we can build a safer community for young people.</p> <p>Find out more about the forum in this report and visual snapshots:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Glen Eira City Council Building Safer Communities Forum: Summary Report (PDF)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Glen Eira City Council Building Safer Communities Forum: Visual Snapshot (PDF)</a></li> </ul>

Coffee with a Cop	Coffee with a Cop aims to provide an opportunity for the community to interact and connect with their local police on community safety issues. Residents can ask any and all questions on community safety, understanding police and interact and connect with their local police.
Know your Neighbour	Know Your Neighbour is about helping neighbours get to know each other and creating connected neighbourhoods and communities.
Driving it Down	<p>The Driving It Down campaign educates and promotes awareness to address the issue of theft from vehicles and theft of vehicles in targeted hotspot areas of Glen Eira.</p> <p>The campaign is funded by the Victorian State Government's Community Safety Fund.</p> <p>Street signs, postcards and a video have been designed with four key messages toward securing your car:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Park in a well-lit area.</li> <li>2. Remove all valuables.</li> <li>3. Always lock your car.</li> <li>4. Secure your keys.</li> </ol> <p>Key rings have also been designed to promote the message 'secure your car'.</p>
Living Safely	<p>The Glen Eira Living Safely Program is a crime prevention initiative between Council, Victoria Police, Neighbourhood Watch, and the Glen Eira Neighbourhood House Network. Glen Eira enjoys a high level of community safety, and the Program acknowledges that we all have a role to play in keeping our homes and neighbourhoods safe.</p> <p>To help residents do this, the Program has specially designed the Crime Prevention Kit of practical tools and information on how to enhance your home and car security knowledge and practices.</p> <p>The Crime Prevention Kit contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glen Eira City Council's 'Home Security Checklist' - Use it to increase the security in and around your home, including your car.</li> <li>• A wheelie bin sticker – Place it on the side (not the top) of your Council-issued bin – This will help you and your neighbours remember to lock your homes and cars and show that your neighbourhood is serious about security.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Community Local Law 2019</a> summary	<p><u>Inappropriate behaviour on Council land (26)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affecting amenity or interfering with other persons use and enjoyment of a public place.</li> <li>• Molest or obstruct other people.</li> <li>• Indecent, offensive or riotous act.</li> <li>• Display offensive, threatening or abusive words or symbols.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damaging public places.</li> <li>• Instruction to leave Council land.</li> </ul> <p><u>Camping, caravans, campervans and shipping containers (40)</u></p> <p>(1) A person must not without a permit pitch a tent, erect any temporary or permanent shelter, place or occupy a caravan, campervan shipping container...on any land for the purpose of camping or living.</p> <p><u>Supply and consumption of liquor (53)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot without a permit supply or consume liquor in a public place.</li> <li>• Officer direction to seal or dispose of contents.</li> </ul> <p><u>Caulfield Alcohol-Free Zone (54)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot consume or possess liquor in an unsealed container in the Caulfield Alcohol Free Zone on race meeting day.</li> </ul>
Regulatory Activities	<p><u>Local Laws Officers</u></p> <p>Council's Local Laws officers are authorised to issue warnings, Notices to Comply and infringement notices to people and organisations who breach the Local Law. They may impound items, goods, or equipment in relation to a breach. They do not have the legal power to move people on or respond to criminal behaviour. Police, not Local Laws officers, have the training, equipment and authority to respond to these issues.</p> <p><u>Responsive maintenance</u></p> <p>To ensure a safe and well-maintained physical environment through routine and responsive street cleaning and waste removal.</p> <p><u>Role of Victoria Police</u></p> <p>Currently, police provide support to those experiencing homelessness, as well as running regular daily patrols.</p>
CCTV	<p>Council operates CCTV systems at fixed locations throughout Glen Eira, on land and buildings that they own or control.</p> <p>See also <u>CCTV Policy</u>.</p>
Public Place Design and Activation	<p>Glen Eira applies Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to all new Council projects in parks and reserves and planning of public civic spaces - including consideration of lighting, clear sight lines and passive surveillance.</p> <p>See also</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Better Streets, Better Places 2023</u> - guide improvements in the main streets of Glen Eira's major, neighbourhood and local activity centres and seeks to improve the vibrancy, safety and function of streets as places for the community.</li> <li>• <u>Open Space Strategy 2020</u></li> </ul>



Family and Gender Based Violence	<p>Glen Eira is committed to supporting the prevention of family violence with priority actions in our <a href="#">Community Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025</a> and current <a href="#">Action Plan 2024-2025</a>. The plans outline the activities and actions we will implement to help prevent family violence in the workplace, community and in the home.</p> <p>Glen Eira is a partner in the regional gender-based violence strategy, <a href="#">Promoting Respect &amp; Equity Together 2021-2025 – A Strategy to End Gendered Violence in the Southern Metropolitan Region</a>, convened by Women’s Health in the South East (WHISE).</p> <p>Glen Eira is committed to the delivery of the annual <a href="#">16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence</a> to increase awareness of family violence prevention within the community.</p> <p>The newly established Glen Eira Prevention of Family Violence Stakeholder Working Group aims to promote, guide and support strategic responses to prevent family violence in Glen Eira.</p> <p>As a diverse and inclusive community, Glen Eira has a reputation for collaborating with key partners across areas of intervention and prevention of family violence.</p> <p>In May 2024 Council hosted the <a href="#">Glen Eira Prevention of Family Violence Roundtable</a>. This Roundtable provided a valuable opportunity for local agencies to work together for effective outcomes in response to ongoing incidents and community concern around the impact of family violence against women, children, families and our broader community.</p>
Alcohol and Other Drugs	<p>Council partners with a number of organisations to provide a network of <a href="#">community connections and support</a>.</p>
Housing and Homelessness	<p><u>Partnerships</u></p> <p>Glen Eira works with partners, including <a href="#">community organisations</a> and government agencies, to support the community members experiencing or at risk of homelessness.</p> <p><u>Increasing Access to Affordable Housing</u></p> <p>The purpose of the <a href="#">Social and Affordable Housing Strategy 2019–23</a> is to assess the need for social and affordable housing in Glen Eira and to identify Council’s role in developing solutions that will see an increase in the provision of social and affordable housing.</p> <p><u>Independent Living Units</u></p> <p>Council provides low-cost rental accommodation for financially disadvantaged older persons in Glen Eira. There are 64 independent living</p>



	units across three sites, consisting of bedsitters and one-bedroom accommodation. Tenants pay either market rent or a rebated rent.
Community Funding and Grants	<p><u>Community Grants</u></p> <p>The Community Grants Program supports not-for-profit community groups and organisations to deliver projects and activities that benefit the Glen Eira community, provide meaningful social impact and respond to community need.</p> <p>Types of grants include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community strengthening grants</li> <li>• Partnership and event grants</li> <li>• Small grants program.</li> </ul>

## Yarra City Council

YARRA CITY COUNCIL - SUMMARY	
Health and Wellbeing	<p>The <a href="#">Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan</a> is embedded in the Council Plan 2021-2025 and focuses on the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist to reduce the harms from tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs and gambling</li> <li>• Promoting gender equality and reducing gendered violence</li> <li>• Promoting community safety</li> <li>• Promoting physical wellbeing</li> <li>• Promoting mental wellbeing</li> <li>• Assist in reducing health harms from climate change</li> </ul>
Social Justice Charter	<p><a href="#">Social Justice Charter</a></p> <p>The Social Justice Charter acts as an umbrella document for all future plans, policies and frameworks. It is a lens which will guide the development of policies, processes and programs. Yarra currently employs a human rights-based approach in policy development. The Charter will ensure this approach is formalised, is responsive to community needs and has longevity.</p>
Partnerships	<p>Council works with a number of agencies, including Victoria Police and the State Government, to improve safety in public places and support the social, physical and mental health of our community.</p> <p>Council recognises that some community members have complex needs and may need specialised support, and have developed the <a href="#">Your Local Support Community Guide</a></p> <p><a href="#">Neighbourhood House Partnership Framework</a></p> <p>Council recognises and is committed to supporting the core business of neighbourhood houses, which represent an important investment in Yarra's communities. The overall strategic direction of this framework is to work in partnership with Yarra's neighbourhood houses to build and support communities at a local level. Council works towards this in partnership with the neighbourhood houses through three key areas: 1. Build Community and Capacity 2. Add Value Through Partnerships and Collaboration 3. Communicate, Promote and Advocate These directions are intended to Neighbourhood houses are independent non-profit organisations and operate in partnership with Council and the other funding bodies. Both the State Government and Council provide core funding for neighbourhood houses.</p>
<a href="#">General Local Law 2016</a> summary	<p><a href="#">Activities on Council land (46)</a></p> <p>A person must not...behave or carry on an activity which unreasonably interferes with any other person using the Council land.</p>

	<p><u>Camping (17)</u></p> <p>17.1 A person must not, without a permit, camp in or on any public place in a vehicle, tent, caravan or any type of temporary or provisional form of accommodation.</p> <p>17.2 The registered owner of a vehicle used for the purpose of camping in contravention of clause 17.1 is guilty of the same offence as the person who contravenes clause 17.1</p> <p><u>Obstructions and Hazards on Roads and Council Land (10)</u></p> <p>A person must not, without a permit, place...anything that interferes with the use of a road, footway or Council land.</p> <p><u>Liquor (68)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council may prescribe liquor free areas.</li> <li>• Cannot without a permit consume or possess liquor in a prescribed area, or in a municipal reserve between 9pm and 9am (other than in a sealed container).</li> <li>• Officer direction to seal or dispose of contents.</li> </ul>
Regulatory Activities	<p><u>Local Laws Officers</u></p> <p>Council's Local Laws officers are authorised to issue warnings, Notices to Comply and infringement notices to people and organisations who breach the Local Law. They may impound items, goods, or equipment in relation to a breach. They do not have the legal power to move people on or respond to criminal behaviour. Police, not Local Laws officers, have the training, equipment and authority to respond to these issues.</p> <p><u>Role of Victoria Police</u></p> <p>Currently, police provide support to those experiencing homelessness, as well as running regular daily patrols.</p>
Safety in parks and outdoor spaces	<p>Council focuses on creating safe, inclusive spaces and addresses safety concerns in Yarra parks and outdoor spaces.</p> <p>Council is working on creating inclusive streets, parks, trails and recreational facilities for women, girls and gender-diverse people, to help create a safer environment for the community.</p> <p>Council has a number of specific initiatives designed to improve safety in certain areas, including the <a href="#">Safe and Liveable Victoria Street Project</a>.</p> <p>See also <a href="#">Urban Design Strategy</a> and <a href="#">Open Space Strategy</a>.</p> <p><u>CCTV</u></p> <p>Yarra has chosen to not install and operate surveillance systems, such as Closed Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV), in public spaces. The</p>

	<p>evidence on the effectiveness of CCTV for crime prevention is inconclusive.</p> <p>Yarra views CCTV as a standard police operational tool and that the installation and management of such systems should be the responsibility of the Victorian Government.</p> <p>Instead, Yarra applies Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles, which aim to deter criminal behaviour through optimising physical environments in order to lessen the opportunity for crime. Examples include lighting and clear sightlines to ensure visibility.</p>
Safe and Liveable Victoria Street Project	<p>The Victoria Street precinct in Richmond and Abbotsford is a vibrant dining, shopping and cultural destination. However, the area also faces challenges in relation to public safety, liveability, community connectedness and economic prosperity, which are often the result of drug-related activity.</p> <p>Yarra is working to make Victoria Street a safer, more attractive and welcoming place for everyone.</p> <p><u>Litter and graffiti</u></p> <p>Yarra cleans Victoria Street and the surrounding streets daily.</p> <p>Street bins are emptied daily and we're working with businesses to reduce the number of commercial rubbish bins being left on the street.</p> <p>Yarra graffiti crews clean posters and graffiti from Council assets (such as bins, signs and poles) daily. This does not include private property (e.g. shopfronts).</p> <p><u>CCTV</u></p> <p>In October 2017 the Victorian government installed 13 CCTV cameras in and around Victoria Street. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eight cameras affixed to three poles on the east side of Lennox Street, between Victoria and Highett streets, and</li> <li>• Five cameras affixed to two poles on Victoria Street, one located on the corner of Nicholson Street (on the eastern side) and the other installed opposite Little Lithgow Street (southern side of Victoria Street).</li> </ul> <p><u>Improving the streetscape</u></p> <p>In 2015, Council adopted the <a href="#">Victoria Street streetscape masterplan</a> to guide future streetscape improvements in the Victoria Street precinct.</p> <p>Recent upgrades have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Lennox Street/Nicholson Street intersection</li> <li>• paved footpaths and roadways to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improved lighting</li> <li>• new seating and other furniture</li> <li>• new street bins</li> <li>• new landscaping</li> <li>• new bicycle hoops</li> <li>• new protective guards for street trees</li> <li>• renewing existing garden beds with new soil and vegetation</li> </ul> <p>These improvement projects were funded by Yarra City Council and the Victorian government's Community Crime Prevention Program.</p> <p><u>Shopfront improvements</u></p> <p>Yarra are in the third and final year of the pilot program to help business owners improve their shopfronts and enhance the appearance of Victoria Street.</p> <p>With the Victoria Street Business Association, Council is working with a number a number of Victoria Street traders to refurbish their shopfronts and roller shutters with funding and in-kind support. This has included supporting 10 shops and 15 roller shutters with artwork designed by local children. This year, five new businesses will have their roller shutters improved.</p> <p><u>Parking and traffic</u></p> <p>Council is working to improve local streets and the safety of pedestrians and cyclists in and around Victoria Street. This process is known as a Local Area Place Making Study (LAPMS).</p>
Family and Gender Based Violence	<p>Council developed the <a href="#">Gender Equality Action Plan 2022</a> that sets out vision, objectives and actions to ensure Council is working to exceed its obligations under the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i>.</p> <p><u>Family Support</u></p> <p>A free, voluntary in-home service provided to families living in Yarra with children aged 0-17 years, including pre-birth. The service promotes and protects the best interests of children by building on family strengths, working with families to develop new skills and increase links with the local community.</p> <p>Yarra Family Services works with families from many diverse backgrounds and experiences.</p> <p><u>Some of Council's current initiatives</u></p> <p>Support for community to lead or participate in gender equality initiatives such as <a href="#">16 Days of Activism</a>; International Women's Day, Rainbow Advisory Committee.</p>

<p>Alcohol and Other Drugs</p>	<p>Council partners with a number of organisations to provide a network of <a href="#">alcohol and other drug support services</a>.</p> <p><u>Removal of syringes and related litter</u></p> <p>Council provides a range of free services to ensure that needles and syringes are disposed of safely.</p> <p>Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• approximately 90 syringe disposal bins, located across the municipality and in all public toilets that are serviced regularly</li> <li>• regular patrols by cleaning crews in key areas</li> <li>• responsive collection of inappropriately discarded syringes.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">North Richmond Community Health Medically Supervised Injecting Room</a></p> <p>This Victorian Government-operated facility is a safe and hygienic place where people can inject drugs in a supervised health setting. It also provides other health services like mental health care, drug treatment, wound care and pathology.</p> <p>Council's role is the maintenance of public amenity surrounding the centre including litter collection, street sweeping and graffiti removal.</p>
<p>Housing and Homelessness</p>	<p><u>Homelessness Strategy</u></p> <p>Council's approach recognises the <a href="#">Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities</a> . These aim to treat people with respect and dignity and balance our duty of care to the community.</p> <p>To ensure that Yarra remain welcoming for everyone and address the impacts of homelessness, Council created the <a href="#">Yarra Homelessness Strategy</a></p> <p>The strategy guides Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• deliver a coordinated and compassionate response to homeless people and rough sleepers</li> <li>• focus on early intervention for vulnerable or at-risk people</li> <li>• support an increase of affordable housing and appropriate support services.</li> </ul> <p><u>Rough Sleeping</u></p> <p>Council works with <a href="#">Launch Housing</a> to help rough sleepers and assess the safety of sites. Launch Housing will visit it and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make sure there are no dangers or health issues for rough sleepers or residents</li> <li>• work with rough sleepers on housing and other needs</li> <li>• advise Council on the status of people they speak to.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Social and Affordable Housing Strategy</a></p>

	<p>Yarra City Council commits to maintaining our vibrant and diverse municipality by supporting initiatives that lead to an inclusive and welcoming city for all. Sustaining a diverse population requires a diversity of housing available at prices that can be afforded by households with modest or low incomes. Yarra wants to see an increase in social and affordable housing in the municipality and are committed to equitable housing outcomes for current and future population. Council will focus its attentions on the mechanisms within its control that result in a higher proportion of new housing being affordable to very-low, low and moderate income households.</p>
Community Funding and Grants	<p><u>Community Grants</u></p> <p>Each year, Yarra distribute more than \$2 million in grants to support local not-for-profits, grassroots organisations and community initiatives.</p> <p>The grants program provides the diverse community with the necessary support and funding to deliver tailored programs, events and services that meet their unique needs.</p> <p><u>Community Training</u></p> <p>Yarra offers community training sessions throughout the year to support not-for profit and community organisations in Yarra to run as effectively as possible.</p> <p>These sessions provide advice and information on how to apply for grants, managing relationships, project management, media strategies and more..</p>
Advocating for and on behalf of the community.	<p>Advocacy, representing the views and needs of the community, is a core function for all councils.</p> <p>Yarra advocate for projects and initiatives that are important to the community, and will help create a climate-safe, equitable and liveable city.</p> <p>Advocacy can include lobbying for funding, seeking policy changes or reforms and working with government departments and agencies to deliver joint projects.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Advocacy Action Plan</a> sets out key positions across several policy areas, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Climate</li> <li>2. Landfill</li> <li>3. Transport</li> <li>4. Arts and culture</li> <li>5. Land use and planning</li> <li>6. Public, social and affordable housing</li> <li>7. Public Health and well-being</li> <li>8. Early years, education and young people</li> <li>9. Financial sustainability</li> </ol>



## Other Research / Best Practice Models

Below is some of the literature and research available relating to the topics being addressed at the Roundtable. It is by no means exhaustive and serves as a sample of responses to common issues

## Regulatory Lens / Harm Minimisation

### Victoria Police Community Sentiment Survey

The third annual Victoria Police Community Sentiment Survey was conducted state-wide over a four-week period, from 1 May 2024 to 31 May 2024.

Victorians were asked to share their local safety concerns and how comfortable they feel about approaching Police and Protective Services Officers outside of an emergency.

Over 13,000 responses were received from the 2024 Community Sentiment Survey, helping police identify issues that matter most to Victorians.

Victorian residents noted their top five safety concerns as:

#### 2024

- Safety in public places
- Safety of my property and possessions
- Drugs and alcohol
- Road safety
- Serious and organised crime

#### 2023

- Safety in public places
- Safety of my property and possessions
- Road safety
- Drugs and alcohol
- Cybercrime or online safety

Respondents were given an opportunity to share their ideas on how to make them feel safer. The most frequently noted comments were 'increased police presence' and 'more patrols', followed by 'improving community environments' e.g., better lighting on streets/more CCTV.

### Alternative First Responders – National Justice Project

The "Alternative First Responders Position Paper" (February 2025) by the National Justice Project (NJP) advocates for replacing police as primary responders in situations requiring health and social care interventions. The paper critiques the reliance on police for non-criminal incidents, emphasizing the harm caused—particularly to marginalized communities, including First Nations people, those experiencing mental health crises, and individuals facing homelessness.

Key points include:

#### 1. The Need for Alternative Responders

- Police are frequently involved in situations that require de-escalation, medical expertise, or social services, often resulting in excessive force, criminalization, and harm.
- Police interactions disproportionately affect marginalized communities, exacerbating issues like systemic racism and discrimination.

#### 2. Guiding Principles for Alternative Models

- Community-led response programs should be trauma-informed, culturally appropriate, and prioritizing de-escalation over enforcement.
- Responder teams should include individuals with lived experience and reflect the diversity of the communities they serve.

### 3. Successful Alternative Models

- Examples from Australia and internationally demonstrate effective non-police first responder programs, such as:
  - Murri Watch (Queensland, Australia) – A First Nations community patrol program.
  - Urgent Mental Health Care Centre (South Australia) – A peer-led crisis intervention service.
  - CAHOOTS (Oregon, USA) – A model that diverts emergency calls to mental health and crisis workers instead of police.

### 4. Policy Recommendations

- Governments should reallocate resources from policing to community-based crisis response services.
- Emergency call diversion programs should be expanded.
- Justice reinvestment strategies should focus on health and social care rather than criminalization.

The paper argues that alternative first response models can improve public safety, reduce harm, and provide more effective care for vulnerable populations while decreasing unnecessary and harmful police interactions.

For more information please see [National Justice Project- Alternative First Responders](#).

## **Violence Reduction Units at a Crossroads – A Positive Future**

This report, authored by Professor Niven Rennie, examines the current state of Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) in the UK and proposes a future direction that emphasizes prevention over punitive responses. It critiques the historical "tough on crime" approach, arguing that addressing the root causes of violence—poverty, lack of youth services, and social inequality—would be more effective and financially sustainable in the long term.

### Key Themes and Findings

#### 1. Challenges of Crime-Focused Approaches

- Since the 1990s, crime policies in the UK have been reactive and punitive, often prioritizing imprisonment over preventative social measures.
- This "crisis response" model is not only ineffective but also costly, as it diverts funds away from early interventions.

#### 2. The Rising Cost of Crisis Responses

- Youth homelessness, school exclusions, and youth justice system involvement are increasing.
- A lack of youth services has resulted in higher costs for alternative provisions like pupil referral units and young offender institutions.
- The annual cost of youth homelessness in the UK is estimated at £8.5 billion, while placing a young person in custody can cost up to £300,000 per year.

### 3. The Importance of Prevention

- Investing in prevention programs can reduce long-term costs while improving youth outcomes.
- A public health approach to violence reduction—focusing on early intervention and social support—has proven successful in areas where VRUs have been implemented.

### 4. Key Components of a Preventative Approach

- Safe Spaces: Youth hubs, community centres, and informal gathering places (e.g., McDonald's, libraries) can serve as safe spaces for young people.
- Trusted Adults: Mentorship from reliable adults plays a crucial role in youth support and crime prevention.
- Community-Led Initiatives: Programs tailored to specific community needs, such as the Brighton Streets Project and Lancashire Youth Champions, have demonstrated success in reducing youth violence.

### 5. Proposed Structural Changes

- The report suggests expanding VRUs into Prevention Partnerships, which would take a broader role in youth welfare and crime prevention.
- These partnerships could integrate with existing initiatives, such as the Labour government's proposed Young Futures Programme, to provide holistic support to young people.
- Alternative funding sources, including private sector and philanthropic contributions, should be explored to reduce reliance on public sector finances.

The report advocates for a shift in focus from punishment to prevention, arguing that early intervention, youth support, and community engagement are more effective in reducing violence. By restructuring VRUs into broader prevention-focused bodies and securing sustainable funding sources, the UK could create a long-term strategy for reducing youth crime and supporting at-risk individuals.

For further information please see [Violence Reduction Units at a Crossroads – A Positive Future](#)

## Impact of a Police Crackdown on a Street Drug Scene

This study examines the effects of *Operation Clean Heart*, a police crackdown on a street heroin market in Footscray, a suburb of Melbourne, Australia. The research is based on qualitative data from individuals involved in the drug market and harm reduction services.

### Key Findings:

- Temporary and Superficial Impact: While the crackdown reduced the visible presence of the drug scene, the market quickly adapted, making the effects short-lived.
- Displacement of Drug Activity: Rather than eliminating the drug trade, the operation pushed it to nearby areas, increasing risks for users and communities.
- Negative Public Health Consequences: The increased police presence led to:
  - Riskier injecting behaviors (e.g., hurried use, reluctance to carry clean needles).
  - Unsafe disposal of needles and syringes.
  - Reduced access to harm reduction services.
- Increased Violence and Crime: The crackdown led to greater volatility, fraud, and violence within the drug scene.

- Strained Police-Community Relations: Frequent searches, surveillance, and intimidation tactics worsened relations between law enforcement and affected communities.

The study argues that police crackdowns are ineffective in addressing illicit drug problems and can have harmful unintended consequences. Instead, a balanced approach incorporating supply reduction, demand reduction, and harm reduction, as outlined in Australia's National Drug Strategic Framework, is recommended.

For more information please see [The impact of a police crackdown on a street drug scene: evidence from the street \(International Journal of Drug Policy – September 2002\).](#)

## Public Place Design and Activation

### Safe Spaces – Understanding and Enhancing Safety and Inclusion for Diverse Women

This 2023 research report focuses on enhancing safety and inclusion for diverse women in public spaces. Conducted in partnership with Victorian councils, universities and community organisations, the study aimed to identify barriers to safety and develop co-designed solutions.

Key Themes and Findings:

1. Perennial Safety Issues: The study identified recurring safety concerns such as poor lighting, lack of surveillance, and antisocial behaviour, particularly at night. Women reported feeling unsafe in certain public spaces, with a focus on racism, discrimination, and the behaviour of men and young people.
2. Co-Designing Safe Spaces: Through engagement strategies like focus groups, interviews, and a co-design workshop, women collaborated with local councils and researchers to develop practical interventions. The study emphasized that women's safety must be considered through an intersectional lens, acknowledging different experiences based on age, ability, and cultural background.
3. Planning for 24-Hour Safety: The research found that women's safety concerns varied based on time of day, with heightened fears at night. Participants proposed improved lighting, security, and activation of spaces through community programs to enhance safety.
4. Safety Through Connection: The study highlighted that inclusion and a sense of belonging contribute to perceptions of safety. Women felt safer in environments where they saw diverse representation and community activities.

Recommendations:

- Integrating gender-sensitive urban planning strategies.
- Strengthening local government partnerships with women's organizations.
- Using co-design approaches for inclusive and culturally relevant safety interventions.

Overall, the report underscores the importance of inclusive urban design and community-driven solutions in making public spaces safer for diverse women.

For more information please see [Safe Spaces – Understanding and Enhancing Safety and Inclusion for Diverse Women.](#)

### Co-Designing Out Crime

The document *Co-designing Out Crime* by Olga Camacho Duarte, Rohan Lulham, and Lucy Kaldor explores how collaborative design can be used to prevent crime. It focuses on the Winter School program at the Designing Out Crime (DOC) research centre at the University of Technology

Sydney (UTS), where students, academics, and external stakeholders work together to develop crime prevention strategies.

Key Points:

- **Co-Design vs. Traditional Crime Prevention:** The paper critiques Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) as too rigid and prescriptive, arguing that a co-design approach fosters creativity and innovation.
- **Winter School Program:** A four-week design course where students, in collaboration with partner organizations (such as government agencies and businesses), work on real-world crime issues.
- **Reframing Crime Problems:** Instead of merely addressing symptoms, the program encourages students to redefine crime-related challenges, leading to holistic, user-centered solutions.
- **Case Studies:** The paper presents three case studies:
  - Improving passenger safety at a railway station.
  - Enhancing community engagement in a social housing estate.
  - Managing alcohol-related violence in an urban nightlife area.
- **Challenges and Benefits:** While the co-design approach provides fresh perspectives and strengthens partnerships, challenges include managing diverse stakeholders, ensuring implementation, and dealing with time constraints.

The paper argues that co-design offers a more dynamic, socially responsive way to prevent crime. It promotes the idea that engaging communities, designers, and organizations in a collaborative process leads to more effective and sustainable crime prevention solutions.

For more information, please see [Co-Designing Out Crime](#)

## **Want to Fight Crime? Plant Some Flowers with Your Neighbour**

The article "[Want to Fight Crime? Plant Some Flowers with Your Neighbour](#)" explores how improving neighbourhood social connections can help reduce crime.

It highlights research at the University of Michigan, showing that when neighbours engage in small community activities—such as planting flowers or maintaining shared spaces—they build trust and a sense of responsibility for their surroundings. This increased social cohesion leads to more informal surveillance (more "eyes on the street"), which can deter criminal activity.

The article connects this idea to crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) and the broken windows theory, emphasizing that well-kept spaces signal community care and discourage disorder. Ultimately, the message is that small, collective actions can make neighbourhoods safer.

## **Housing and Homelessness**

### **Everybody's Business: What Local Government Can Do to End Homelessness**

The report, *Everybody's Business: What Local Government Can Do to End Homelessness* by Leanne Mitchell, explores the role of local councils in addressing homelessness, particularly rough sleeping. It is based on the author's 2019 Churchill Fellowship research, where she travelled to the UK, US, and Canada to study local government responses.

Key Themes and Findings:

- **Challenges Faced by Local Governments:** Councils often lack a clear mandate, sufficient funding, and coordinated strategies to tackle homelessness effectively. Despite this, they are at the forefront of the response due to their direct engagement with communities.

- Best Practices and Guidelines for Councils: The report presents structured recommendations across four key areas:
  1. Understanding the local homelessness situation – Collecting data, listening to communities, and establishing a shared definition.
  2. Leading collaboration and shaping the narrative – Engaging partners, using lived experience perspectives, and educating communities.
  3. Organising council strategies and workforce – Developing strategies, structuring teams, involving leadership, and securing funding.
  4. Taking action to prevent and end homelessness – Influencing housing supply, focusing on prevention, leveraging community spaces like libraries, and improving crisis response.
- Case Studies: The report features international examples of successful initiatives, such as Manchester’s collaborative approach, San Francisco’s Public Library engagement, and Halifax’s response to encampments.
- Policy Recommendations: The report advocates for a stronger role for local councils in national homelessness strategies, better funding mechanisms, and cross-sector collaboration.

The report emphasizes that homelessness is a shared responsibility and that local governments, despite their limitations, can play a crucial role by fostering partnerships, advocating for policy change, and implementing innovative responses.

For more information please [see Everybody’s Business: What Local Government Can Do to End Homelessness](#).

### **“This is My Community”: Reproducing and Resisting Boundaries of Exclusion in Contested Public Spaces**

This U.S. 2015 study by Toolis and Hammack explores how people perceive boundaries of public spaces and how they engage and participate within them. The article explores inclusion and exclusion mediated through public spaces and determined by relationships to power. The study provides context for theories of inclusion and exclusion which support our understanding of social cohesion and community connectedness. The research setting was the Santa Cruz downtown area which has some parallels to St Kilda as both are resident and tourist destinations and receive high media attention on crime and safety. Santa Cruz is also a city with a progressive reputation, and which has harsh anti-homeless local laws.

Key finding:

- Laws that target low income and unhoused people by prohibiting non-criminal activities such as sitting, sleeping, and standing may only serve to stigmatise and exacerbate community tensions regarding economic development and inequality.
- Addressing the structural roots of inequality such as availability of affordable housing and secure employment opportunities are better placed to address community welfare,

### **Cash up front: Can no-strings payments help solve homelessness?**

A study published in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#) investigated the effects of a one-time, unconditional cash transfer of CAD\$7,500 to individuals experiencing homelessness in Vancouver, British Columbia. The randomized controlled trial included 50 participants who received the cash transfer and 65 control participants who did not. Results indicated that recipients moved into stable housing faster and spent fewer days homeless over the following year compared to the control group. Additionally, the cash transfer led to net societal savings, primarily by reducing shelter use.



The study also explored public perceptions regarding cash transfers to homeless individuals. It found that many people harbor mistrust about how homeless individuals would spend such funds, often assuming they would misuse the money. However, the study's findings challenge these stereotypes, demonstrating that recipients used the cash to improve their housing situations without increasing spending on temptation goods.

These findings contribute to the growing body of evidence supporting cash transfers as a viable intervention for reducing homelessness and highlight the importance of addressing public

## Social Cohesion

### Mapping Social Cohesion

The *2024 Mapping Social Cohesion Report* by the Scanlon Foundation Research Institute provides an in-depth analysis of social attitudes in Australia, focusing on key factors affecting national unity and inclusion.

Key Findings:

- **Economic Pressures:** Rising living costs and housing challenges are affecting Australians' sense of security and cohesion.
- **Immigration & Diversity:** Attitudes toward multiculturalism remain mostly positive, but concerns about immigration levels persist.
- **Trust in Institutions:** Confidence in government and public institutions has fluctuated, reflecting broader political and social trends.
- **Community Strength:** Local communities play a crucial role in maintaining wellbeing and social harmony.
- **Emerging Challenges:** Global conflicts, misinformation, and political divides are influencing national cohesion.

While Australians generally support diversity and social inclusion, economic strains and global tensions are testing the resilience of social cohesion. The report emphasizes the need for policies that promote stability, trust, and inclusive community engagement.

For more information please see [2024 Mapping Social Cohesion Report](#).

### Social Cohesion and Pro-Social Responses to Perceptions of Crime

The study aims to explore how perceptions of crime influence community behaviours and whether social cohesion plays a role in shaping pro-social responses (e.g., engagement in crime prevention, neighbourhood watch, and social support).

Key Findings

- **High Social Cohesion Encourages Positive Responses:**
  - Individuals in tightly-knit communities are more likely to respond to crime concerns with proactive and collective measures.
  - They engage in activities such as neighbourhood watch programs, supporting victims, and advocating for policy changes.
- **Fear-Based Reactions in Low Social Cohesion Areas:**
  - In communities with weaker social ties, crime perceptions are more likely to lead to avoidance behaviours (e.g., staying indoors, distrust of neighbours) rather than collective action.
  - This suggests that a lack of cohesion exacerbates fear rather than fostering solutions.



- Crime Perceptions Do Not Always Match Reality:
  - Some individuals overestimate crime levels due to media exposure or personal biases, which can influence their willingness to engage in community efforts.

#### Implications

- Policy Recommendations: The study emphasizes the need for local governments and organizations to strengthen social bonds within communities as a means to enhance crime prevention and resilience.
- Community Engagement Strategies: Encouraging neighbourhood interactions, trust-building initiatives, and shared public spaces can foster stronger collective responses to crime.

The research highlights that social cohesion is a crucial factor in determining how communities respond to crime perceptions. Strong social networks lead to proactive, collective solutions, while weaker cohesion results in avoidance and fear-driven behaviours.

For more information please see [Social Cohesion and Pro-Social Responses to Perceptions of Crime](#).

## Adverse Childhood Experiences

When we talk of people who living rough, we need to understand some of the impact of child-and adult-hood trauma.

“Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) is a term used to describe very stressful events or circumstances that children may experience during their childhood. The term was introduced in a seminal 1998 US study on the impact of childhood abuse and neglect and household challenges on later-life health and wellbeing (n = 17,337) (Felitti et al., 1998). This early study showed an association between adverse experiences in childhood and potentially profound impacts on later health and social functioning.

The most widely recognised and researched ACEs relate to abuse, neglect and household adversities, and include:

- childhood physical, sexual and emotional abuse
- physical neglect and emotional neglect
- exposure to family violence
- parental substance use
- parental mental illness
- parental separation or divorce; and
- parental incarceration.

An estimated 72% of Australian children have been exposed to at least one ACE, with this rate being higher in some vulnerable Australian populations e.g. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (Zubrick et al., 2005), juvenile offenders (Baglivio et al., 2014), and children involved in welfare services (Kerker et al., 2015).

A dose-response relationship [extent of exposure] is also observed with health risk behaviours and social functioning (Bellis et al., 2016; McGavock & Spratt, 2016). For example, adults who had been exposed to four or more ACEs as a child (i.e. who had an ACEs ‘score’ of four or more) were:

- 10.3 times more likely to have injected drugs
- 6 times more likely to have had or caused unintended teenage pregnancy
- 2.5 times more likely to contract sexually transmitted infections

- 15 times more likely to have committed violence against another person in the previous 12 months
- 20 times more likely to have been incarcerated during their lifetime
- 4.6 times more likely to suffer from depression
- 12.2 times more likely to have attempted suicide.

Exposure to ACEs can have intergenerational effects. Children who experience ACEs are more likely to have parents who experienced ACEs themselves (Allen & Donkin, 2015)."

[Adverse childhood experiences \(ACEs\): evidence - Emerging Minds](#)

Additional resource [Adverse childhood experiences and trauma among young people in the youth justice system](#)

[The Australian Child Maltreatment Study \(ACMS\)](#)

## Community Building / Resilience Programs

### Knox Empowering Communities – Evaluation Report

The document is a project evaluation report for the Knox Empowering Communities initiative, conducted by Capiche Consulting for Knox City Council and the Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety. It assesses the outcomes of a community-led program aimed at enhancing safety in Ferntree Gully through local engagement, partnerships, and targeted projects.

Key Highlights:

- **Funding & Goals:** The Victorian Government allocated \$700,000 to Knox City Council under the Empowering Communities Grant to address crime and safety concerns through community-led initiatives.
- **Community Consultation:** Over 275 individuals participated in discussions to identify major safety concerns, including family violence, substance abuse, and public disorder.
- **Action Group:** A diverse local group was formed to oversee project implementation and funding distribution.
- **Funded Initiatives:** Six community projects were launched to build relationships, reduce isolation, and foster safety:
  1. Cultural Safety Program – Focused on First Nations youth and cultural inclusion.
  2. Ferntree Gully Village Markets – Designed to activate public spaces and promote local businesses.
  3. Community Safety Outreach – Support for vulnerable residents, particularly those experiencing homelessness.
  4. Neighbour Day – Strengthening social ties through local events.
  5. Knox Nocturnals Youth Group – Providing safe, inclusive spaces for youth.
  6. YES Program – Aiding youth engagement and social inclusion.
- **Community Engagement & Impact:**
  - Over 4,300 participants were engaged across projects.
  - Improved perceptions of safety in Ferntree Gully, particularly during evening hours.
  - Increased social connections and community pride.

- Fostered long-term collaborations between local organizations, law enforcement, and service providers.

#### Evaluation & Findings:

- Successes:
  - The community-led model effectively engaged local voices and needs.
  - The Action Group played a key role in ensuring inclusivity and program alignment.
  - Strong partnerships were developed between stakeholders, leading to potential sustainability of certain initiatives beyond the project period.
- Challenges:
  - Stakeholder participation varied, with some groups disengaging over time.
  - Sustainability concerns for certain projects, particularly those needing ongoing funding.
  - Evaluation data gaps for some initiatives, limiting the ability to measure full impact.

The Knox Empowering Communities project was successful in fostering community-led safety improvements, enhancing social cohesion, and activating public spaces. The initiative established sustainable community partnerships, though ongoing support and funding will be necessary to maintain long-term benefits.

For more information please see the [Knox – Empowering Communities Program](#).

### **Community Resilience and Crime Prevention: Applying the Community Engagement Theory to the Risk of Crime**

The paper, "*Community Resilience and Crime Prevention: Applying the Community Engagement Theory to the Risk of Crime*," examines how the Community Engagement Theory—previously applied to natural disasters—can also be used to understand and enhance community participation in crime prevention.

#### Key Points:

##### 1. Growing Role of Citizens in Crime Prevention

- Governments increasingly expect citizens to take an active role in social safety.
- Online neighbourhood watch groups (e.g., WhatsApp-based crime alert systems) have gained popularity as a community-driven approach to preventing crime.

##### 2. Application of Community Engagement Theory

- The study explores psychological drivers at three levels:
  - Individual level: Personal beliefs, emotions, moral values, self-efficacy.
  - Community level: Sense of belonging, collective efficacy, prior participation.
  - Institutional level: Trust in police, legitimacy of law enforcement, perceived empowerment.

##### 3. Research Methodology

- Conducted an online survey with 1,245 Dutch citizens who were part of municipal citizen panels.
- The survey measured willingness to gather crime-related information and willingness to act in crime situations.

##### 4. Key Findings

- Information gathering was primarily influenced by individual-level factors (e.g., risk perception, moral values, emotions).
- Willingness to act was influenced by all three levels (individual, community, and institutional).
- Community participation played a strong role in crime prevention; people who had participated in neighbourhood activities were more likely to intervene in crime situations.
- Trust in the police and perceived legitimacy had a marginal effect on reporting behaviour.

#### 5. Implications & Recommendations

- Authorities should focus on individual-level factors (e.g., improving self-efficacy) when encouraging citizens to seek crime-related information.
- Community engagement efforts (e.g., organizing events, strengthening local networks) can enhance crime intervention.
- Caution is needed to avoid vigilantism, as increased citizen involvement in crime prevention may sometimes lead to unauthorized actions.

The Community Engagement Theory is applicable not just to natural hazards but also to human-made risks like crime. Encouraging citizen participation in crime prevention requires understanding psychological drivers at multiple levels. The study provides insights for policymakers on how to motivate reporting and intervention behaviours while maintaining lawfulness and community trust.

For more information please see the paper [here](#).

## Appendices

- **Appendix A: Regulatory Framework Considerations**
- **Appendix B: City of Port Phillip Notice of Motion 19 February 2025**
- **Appendix C: City of Port Phillip Notice of Motion 11 December 2024**
- **Appendix D: Services within the City of Port Phillip**

## Appendix A: Regulatory Framework Considerations

Matter	Victoria Police – enforcement powers	Community Amenity Local Law 2023	Other considerations and context	Council – enforcement powers
<b>Anti-social behaviour in public places</b>  (Individually or collectively exhibiting aggressive, abusive, threatening or intimidating behaviour in the public place)	<p>Powers of arrest and prosecution exist if there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the use of profane, indecent or obscene language or threatening or abusive words (s 17(c) of the SOA<sup>4</sup>);</li> <li>behaviour of a person which is riotous, indecent, offensive or insulting in manner (s 17(d) of the SOA); or</li> <li>disorderly behaviour (s 17A of the SOA). The power to serve an infringement notice also exists in respect of this offence.</li> </ul> <p>There also exists a power to issue a direction to move on (section 6(1) of the SOA).</p>	<p>Clause 17 in the Local Law addresses <u>Behaviour on Council Land and Roads</u></p> <p>(1) A person must not on or in Council land, a road or a footpath:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>create a nuisance;</li> <li>behave in a manner which unreasonably interferes with another person on or in the Council land, road or footpath;</li> <li>behaves in a manner which unreasonably interferes with another person occupying premises in close proximity to the Council land, road or footpath;</li> <li>harass any person using the Council land, a road or footpath;</li> <li>defecate or urinate except in a toilet or urinal (as the case may be) in a public convenience;</li> <li>act contrary to any conditions or signs that contain conditions applying to the use of the Council land, road or footpath;</li> <li>fail to comply with a reasonable direction of an Authorised Officer or Council staff member whilst on Council land.</li> </ol>	<p>The breadth of power to make local laws under the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> is tempered by context.</p> <p>Local Law must be administered with respect to the <i>Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i>.</p> <p>Local Law cannot be inconsistent with existing legislation.</p> <p>Harassing Council staff in the performance of their duties is already covered under the Local Government Act 1989 S224(8)(b).</p>	<p>Power to serve an infringement notice or prosecute exists.</p> <p>No power of arrest.</p>

<sup>4</sup> SOA = Summary Offences Act 1966 Vic

Matter	Victoria Police – enforcement powers	Community Amenity Local Law 2023	Other considerations and context	Council – enforcement powers
<p><b>Rough sleeping</b></p> <p>To the extent of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>materially impeding the ability of others to access or use the public place;</li> <li>having a significantly adverse impact on the amenity of the public place; or</li> <li>creating a security risk in the public place.</li> </ul>	<p>Powers of arrest and prosecution exist if there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an obstruction of the footpath (s 4(e) of the SOA); or</li> </ul> <p>There also exists a power to issue a direction to move on (s 6(1) of the SOA).</p>	<p>Section 42 in the Local Law addresses <u>Camping on Council land</u>:</p> <p><i>(1) A person must not camp on any Council land or in any public place in a vehicle, tent, caravan or any other type of temporary or provisional form of accommodation.</i></p> <p><i>(2) A person is not guilty of an offence under sub-clause (1) where that person establishes that they:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) are homeless or in need of secure accommodation; or</i></li> <li><i>b) have complex needs or is in the need of additional assistance because of mental or physical disability or illness.</i></li> </ul> <p>This clause is not intended to criminalise social or economic disadvantage nor to create barriers to seeking or receiving support from appropriate health and social services. People may be in vulnerable circumstances if they are experiencing homelessness or are socially, culturally or economically marginalised.</p> <p>For these reasons, in situations in which the clause would usually apply, Authorised Officers must address the reason for the apparent breach of the clause and first offer the option of support through local health and outreach services and/or considering non-punitive options.</p>	<p>The breadth of power to make local laws under the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> is tempered by context. Matters of amenity, protection of property and to some extent, safety, are of municipal concern.</p> <p>Local Law must be administered with respect to the <i>Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i>. Prohibition on camping engages the Charter as it affects peoples’:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freedom of movement</li> <li>Right to assemble peacefully</li> <li>Freedom of expression</li> <li>Right to not be subject to cruel or degrading behaviour.</li> </ul> <p>Whether an infringement could be justified under the Charter is unclear – is a response proportionate, protecting amenity, safety etc?</p> <p>May also engage <i>Equal Opportunity Act 2010</i>, particularly where disability and mental illness is a consideration.</p> <p>Local Law cannot be inconsistent with existing legislation.</p>	<p>Power to serve an infringement notice or prosecute exists.</p> <p>No power of arrest.</p>



Matter	Victoria Police – enforcement powers	Community Amenity Local Law 2023	Other considerations and context	Council – enforcement powers
<b>Furniture and other items on Council land and roads</b>  To the extent of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>materially impeding the ability of others to access or use the public place;</li> <li>having a significantly adverse impact on the amenity of the public place; or</li> <li>creating a security risk in the public place.</li> </ul>	Powers of arrest and prosecution exist if there is placed upon a footpath an obstruction likely to cause death or injury (s 7(a) of the SOA).  There also exists a power to issue a direction to move on (s 6(1) of the SOA).	Typically, mattresses and other sleeping items are used in connection with rough sleeping. Council may impound what is left on Council land or the road.  Section 43 in the Local Law addresses <u>Furniture and other items on Council land and roads</u> <i>(1) A person must not on a footpath or access way, place or cause to be placed any furniture that obstructs that footpath or accessway.</i> <i>(2) Council may direct a person to remove any of the items in subclause (1).</i> <i>(3) If a person fails to remove any item after being directed to do so, Council may seize any item and impound it in accordance with clause 78.</i>	The breadth of power to make local laws under the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> is tempered by context. Matters of amenity, protection of property and to some extent, safety, are of municipal concern.  Local Law must be administered with respect to the <i>Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i> . Engages the Charter as any impoundment would involve the deprivation of property.  Local Law cannot be inconsistent with existing legislation.	Power to serve an infringement notice, prosecute and impound exists.  No power of arrest.
<b>Consumption and possession of liquor</b>	Public drunkenness is no longer a criminal offence in Victoria.  Police can intervene if there's a risk to community safety or if a crime is being committed.  Powers of arrest and prosecution exist if there is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the use of profane, indecent or obscene language or threatening or abusive words (s 17(c) of the SOA<sup>5</sup>);</li> </ul>	Section 27 in the Local Law addresses <u>Consumption of liquor</u> . <i>(1) A person must not:</i> <i>a) in or at a public place; or</i> <i>b) in or on a vehicle which is on or at a public place - consume any liquor or have in their possession or control any liquor other than liquor in a sealed container in that part of the municipal district designated by Council.</i>	The breadth of power to make local laws under the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> is tempered by context.  Local Law must be administered with respect to the <i>Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i> .  Local Law cannot be inconsistent with existing legislation.	Power to serve an infringement notice, prosecute and impound exists.  No power of arrest.

<sup>5</sup> SOA = Summary Offences Act 1966 Vic

Matter	Victoria Police – enforcement powers	Community Amenity Local Law 2023	Other considerations and context	Council – enforcement powers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>behaviour of a person which is riotous, indecent, offensive or insulting in manner (s 17(d) of the SOA); or</li> <li>disorderly behaviour (s 17A of the SOA). The power to serve an infringement notice also exists in respect of this offence.</li> </ul> <p>There also exists a power to issue a direction to move on (section 6(1) of the SOA).</p>	<p>(2) <i>Without limiting sub-clause (1), a person must not:</i></p> <p>a) <i>in or at a public place; or</i></p> <p>b) <i>in or on a vehicle which is on or at a public place - possess liquor in a sealed container in that part of the municipal district designated by Council, except where the possession is for the transport of liquor to premises referred to in sub-clause (4).</i></p> <p>(3) <i>Council may designate areas for purpose of this clause.</i></p> <p>(4) <i>Sub-clause (1) does not apply to a person:</i></p> <p>a) <i>taking part in a special event in respect of which the Council has granted a permit for persons to consume liquor or to have in their possession or control any liquor other than liquor in a sealed container;</i></p> <p>b) <i>within authorised premises or licensed premises under the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 or any subsequent legislation relating to the serving and consumption of liquor; or</i></p> <p>c) <i>who has been granted a permit to take liquor into an area designated by Council.</i></p> <p>(5) <i>Where Council believes on reasonable grounds that a person is contravening or has contravened sub-clause (1), the Council may</i></p>	<p>Summary Offences Amendment (Decriminalisation of Public Drunkenness) Act 2021 has led to new public intoxication response services. Public drunkenness is no longer a criminal offence in Victoria.</p>	

Matter	Victoria Police – enforcement powers	Community Amenity Local Law 2023	Other considerations and context	Council – enforcement powers
		<p><i>direct the person to seal any container or dispose of the contents of any unsealed container.</i></p> <p><i>(6) A person to whom a direction is given under sub-clause (5) must comply with that direction.</i></p>		

## Appendix B: City of Port Phillip Notice of Motion 19 February 2025

14.1

### NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR HARDY - CHANGES TO LOCAL LAW

I, Councillor Rod Hardy, give notice that I intend to move the Motion outlined below at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 19 February 2025:

That Council:

1. Requests officers to investigate the following:
  - a. the statutory process under section 73 of the Local Government Act 2020 for undertaking a Local Law amendment;
  - b. any regulatory compliance and application issues; and
  - c. an estimate of costs and timelines for the following City of Port Phillip Local Law changes to the current Local Law:
    - i. Replace 17(1b)  
A person must not on or in Council land, a road or a footpath: "behave in a manner which unreasonably interferes with another person including sitting, sleeping or laying on or in the Council land, road or footpath.
    - ii. Replace section 42  
"A person must not reside in temporary accommodation including a vehicle, tent, caravan or any good or chattel that enables a living arrangement or sleep on council land or in any public place.
    - iii. Replace section 43
      1. A person must not place or cause to be placed on a footpath, access way, car park, public place or Council land any furniture or good or chattel that obstructs that footpath or accessway or enables a living arrangement or sleep.
      2. A council staff member or authorised officer may remove the furniture, good, chattel or item that enables a living arrangement or sleep where in the opinion of the Council staff member or authorised officer is in contravention of Section 43 (1).
      3. A council staff member or authorised officer may impound, confiscate or dispose of any item or items removed under Section 43 (1).
      4. A Council staff member or authorised officer may in circumstances arising in contravention of Section 43(1) if in their opinion the furniture, good, chattel or property enabling a living arrangement or sleep where a person or persons deny ownership of the property and or the property in their reasonable belief has been abandoned. The Council staff member or authorised officer may impound, confiscate, or dispose of any item or items removed under Section 43 (1b).
  - d. Requests officers to provide a report back to Council by May 2025.

### Current and proposed amendments relating to the Notice of Motion

#### Current section 17(1b)

A person must not on or in Council land, a road or a footpath:

- (a) create a nuisance;
- (b) behave in a manner which unreasonably interferes with another person on or in the Council land, road or footpath;

#### Proposed amendment to Section 17(1b)

A person must not on or in Council land, a road or a footpath: "behave in a manner which unreasonably interferes with another person including sitting, sleeping or laying on or in the Council land, road or footpath.

#### Current section 42

- (1) A person must not camp on any Council land or in any public place in a vehicle, tent, caravan or any other type of temporary or provisional form of accommodation.

(2) A person is not guilty of an offence under sub-clause (1) where that person establishes that they:

(a) are homeless or in need of secure accommodation; or

(b) have complex needs or is in the need of additional assistance because of mental or physical disability or illness.

#### **Proposed amendment to section 42**

“A person must not reside in temporary accommodation including a vehicle, tent, caravan or any good or chattel that enables a living arrangement or sleep on council land or in any public place.

#### **Current section 43**

(1) A person must not on a footpath or access way, place or cause to be placed any furniture that obstructs that footpath or accessway.

(2) Council may direct a person to remove any of the items in subclause (1).

(3) If a person fails to remove any item after being directed to do so, Council may seize any item and impound it in accordance with clause 78.

#### **Proposed amendment to section 43**

(1) A person must not place or cause to be placed on a footpath, access way, car park, public place or council land any furniture or good or chattel that obstructs that footpath or accessway or enables a living arrangement or sleep.

(2) A council staff member or authorised officer may remove the furniture, good, chattel or item that enables a living arrangement or sleep where in the opinion of the council staff member or authorised officer is in contravention of Section 43 (1).

(3) A council staff member or authorized officer may impound, confiscate or dispose of any item or items removed under Section 43 (1).

(4) A council staff member or authorised officer may in circumstances arising in contravention of Section 43(1) if in their opinion the furniture, good, chattel or property enabling a living arrangement or sleep where a person or persons deny ownership of the property and or the property in their reasonable belief has been abandoned. The council staff member or authorised officer may impound, confiscate, or dispose of any item or items removed under Section 43 (1b).

## Appendix C: City of Port Phillip Notice of Motion 11 December 2024

### MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 11 DECEMBER 2024



14.1

#### NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR BUCKINGHAM - COMMUNITY SAFETY

**I, Councillor Libby Buckingham, give notice that I intend to move the Motion outlined below at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 11 December 2024:**

That Council:-

1. Reaffirms its commitment to a safe, liveable and just community.
2. Requests that City of Port Phillip initiate a round table of key stakeholders, incorporating the City of Port Phillip, health, housing, community legal and social service providers, Victoria Police and other relevant stakeholders or recognised expertise to examine the current situation and review place-based models to address community safety issues in our high streets and surrounding areas.
3. Requests that the round table:
  - a) Provide advice and case studies from other jurisdictions on community outreach models and consider opportunities to ensure best practice in the City of Port Phillip;
  - b) Provide advice and case studies from other Council jurisdictions on how local laws can be used to provide community safety and protect the amenity of public spaces within the City of Port Phillip. The advice is to include consideration of police protocols and operations with the City of Melbourne and their applicability to the City of Port Phillip;
  - c) Review the merit and feasibility of establishing an ongoing alliance to continue this work over the next four years.
  - d) Provide recommendations to Council on the above within the short and long-term.
4. Requests that the Mayor write to the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police seeking advice and recommendations on local laws in the City of Port Phillip, and a proposal on how any changes to the local laws would be used and work in practice.
5. Notes that officers have commenced work on the update of the City of Port Phillip's Community Safety plan including opportunities for the public to share their lived experiences in relation to community safety and that Councillors will be updated on this regularly.

#### Supporting Information

1. Concerns have been raised by our community, including traders, about antisocial and illegal behaviour (including public drug and alcohol use, dealing, abuse and harassment of passers-by). Council receives many complaints about the issue, its impacts upon amenity, safety, perceptions of safety and the appeal of high streets and other areas as vibrant, attractive and safe places to visit.
2. In many cases those who are involved include people experiencing homelessness, mental health, addiction and other challenges. In response, Council has:
  - a) Invested and partnered with the State Government and St Kilda Community Housing in the Wellington Street Common Ground Project, to provide 26 self-contained units for people with complex needs who have been sleeping rough.
  - b) Invested in CCTV in Fitzroy Street to enable Police to monitor activity.



## MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 11 DECEMBER 2024



- c) Purchased a mobile CCTV unit that Victoria Police move around the city to deter poor behaviour and to provide footage of specific problem areas.
  - d) Funded cardboard collection for businesses on these streets.
  - e) Introduced the 7 day a week Rapid Response crew to provide 'instant' response to incidents, spillages, waste and cleanliness problems.
  - f) Introduced the 7 day a week City Amenity Officers' team to undertake daily patrols to identify and manage hotspot areas.
  - g) Increased overnight street sweeping and pressure washing of both Fitzroy and Acland Streets.
  - h) Advocated for additional Police resources to provide an increased presence, improved response times and for Police to accompany our Officers on joint patrols.
  - i) Committed to community engagement on the review of Council's Community Safety Plan in 2025.
  - j) Weekly meetings with social service agencies such as Better Health Network and Launch Housing to provide outreach and other services.
3. These issues are complex, and their resolution does not sit exclusively with the City of Port Phillip. Collaboration with police, health and other services are essential.



## Appendix D: Services within the City of Port Phillip

Note this list is not exhaustive and was mapped in 2024.

### Libraries / Community Centres / Rooms

- 1 Emerald Hill Library
- 2 St Kilda Library
- 3 Port Melbourne Library
- 4 Albert Park Library
- 5 Middle Park Library and Community Centre
- 6 Betty Day Community Centre
- 7 Mary Kehoe Community Centre
- 8 Sandridge Community Centre
- 9 South Melbourne Community Centre
- 10 Port Melbourne Community Centre
- 11 Port Melbourne Community Room
- 12 Sol Green Community Centre
- 13 Fishermans Bend Community Centre
- 14 Koalin-ungal Family Centre
- 15 Uardet Community Centre
- 16 Cora Graves Community Centre
- 17 Southport Community Centre
- 18 Port Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre
- 19 Peanut Farm Pavilion - Community Room
- 20 Alma Road Neighbourhood House
- 21 Christ Church Community Centre
- 22 Bet Anielewicz
- 23 Chabad North Caulfield

#### Mobile service:

City of Port Phillip Home Library Service

### Community Groups

- 1 St Kilda Police and Citizen's Youth Club (PCYC)
- 2 Back2Bikes
- 3 Port Phillip Bicycle Users Group
- 4 Port Phillip Men's Shed
- 5 St Kilda Repair Cafe

### Community Health Services

- 1 Access Health - The Salvation Army St Kilda
- 2 Alfred Health St Kilda Road Clinic
- 3 Better Health Network (BHN) - South Melbourne
- 4 Better Health Network (BHN) - St Kilda
- 5 Avenues Australia (mental health service)

No exact location/various locations/based outside of CoPP:

City of Port Phillip Immunisation Program  
MIND Australia Boyside

### Community Gardens

- 1 South Melbourne Sustainability Group Community Gardens
- 2 Dig In Community Gardens
- 3 Mary and Basil Community Garden
- 4 Newton Court Reserve
- 5 Port's Garden Inc
- 6 Simply Living Community Garden
- 7 South Park Towers Community Garden
- 8 St Kilda Community Gardens
- 9 Te Aral Community Gardens
- 10 The Heart Gardening Project (incl. South Melbourne Bee Gardens)
- 11 Veg Out Community Garden

### Environmental Groups

- 1 Friends of Elster Creek
- 2 Friends of St Kilda Botanical Gardens
- 3 Port Phillip Eco Centre
- 4 Westgate Biodiversity and Friends of Westgate
- 5 South Melbourne Sustainability Group
- 6 Nature Colling Program

No exact location/various locations:

Port Phillip Emergency Climate Action Network (PECAN)  
Earthcare St Kilda  
Love Our Streets  
Port Phillip Pickers

### Families and Children

- 1 Elwood Toy Library
- 2 Middle Park Toy Library
- 3 Port Melbourne Toy Library
- 4 South Melbourne Toy Library
- 5 St Kilda Playgroup
- 6 Steiner Playgroup Elwood
- 7 Elwood Community Playgroup
- 8 Baby Sensory Port Melbourne
- 9 Mini Maestros
- 10 St Kilda Adventure Playground
- 11 Skinners Adventure Playground
- 12 School holiday programs (St Kilda library)
- 13 Maternal & Child Health Centre, Middle Park
- 14 Maternal & Child Health Centre, Ferrars Street
- 15 Maternal & Child Health Centre, St Kilda West
- 16 MacKillop Family Services
- 17 Smiley Days Psychology (Child Psychology)

No exact location/various locations:

City of Port Phillip Integrated Family Service  
City of Port Phillip Maternal and Child Health  
City of Port Phillip Middle Years and Youth Services  
City of Port Phillip Lead Family Worker Program  
CWA Port Phillip  
City of Port Phillip Early Years Outreach Program

### Scouts

- 1 1st Victorian Sea Scouts
- 2 Elwood Scouts
- 3 Port Melbourne Scouts
- 4 Girl Guides

### Youth Support Programs

- 1 Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)
- 2 Free2a
- 3 City of Port Phillip Youth Leadership Program
- 4 City of Port Phillip Youth Support Program
- 5 Youth Summit 2024
- 6 The Young Carer Project
- 7 Homework Club (Park Towers)
- 8 Breakfast Club (Park Towers)
- 9 Drop in space (Park Towers)
- 10 Elwood Drop in (Elwood College)
- 11 Games Club

### Older Adults Support and Activities

- 1 Mary Kehoe Senior Citizen's Club
- 2 Port Melbourne Probus Club
- 3 South Port Day Links
- 4 South Melbourne Senior Citizens Club
- 5 St Kilda RSL
- 6 USA Port Phillip

No exact location/various locations:

City of Port Phillip Aged Care Services  
City of Port Phillip Linking Neighbours Program and Seniors Register  
Older Persons Advisory Committee (OPAC)  
Galini Senior Citizens Club  
Port Phillip Life Activities Club  
Rotary Port Phillip  
Senior's Festival  
St Kilda Probus Club  
Yachad Senior Citizens Club  
New Life Association Inc

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Support

- 1 Ngwala Willumbong
- 2 Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation
- 3 Star Health Indigenous Health Services
- 4 VISHN - Victorian Indigenous State-wide
- 5 Homelessness Network
- 6 Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership
- 7 Kinaway Chamber of Commerce

No exact location:

City of Port Phillip Reconciliation Action Plan

### Disability Services and Support

- 1 Access for All Abilities
- 2 Arts Access Victoria
- 3 Definite care support services
- 4 Partner N Care
- 5 Permalink Support Services
- 6 IML Support Services
- 7 Aligned Assist
- 8 Port Melbourne Beach Accessible Equipment
- 9 St Kilda Beach Accessibility Mobi Beach Chair

No exact location/various locations/based outside of CoPP:

Aspergers Victoria  
Borderline Personality Disorder Community Victoria  
City of Port Phillip Disability Access Map

### LGBTQIA+ Support and Recreation

- 1 Melbourne Rovers Soccer Club
- 2 Victorian Pride Centre
- 3 Minus18

No exact location/various locations:

City of Port Phillip LGBTQIA+ Advisory Committee  
OUTminds (Prahan)  
Midsumma Festival  
Alice's Garage  
Melbourne Spikers Club (Volleyball)  
Melbourne Surge Water Polo Club  
The Shed  
Transfamily

### Asylum Seeker Support

- 1 Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project
- 2 Space2B Social Design

No exact location/various locations:

City of Port Phillip Multicultural Network Forum  
Multicultural Advisory Committee  
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (Footscray)

### Multicultural Support and Groups

- 1 CoPP Multicultural Network Forum
- 2 Jewish Care
- 3 Jewish Museum of Australia
- 4 St Kilda Islamic Society

No exact location/various locations:

Multicultural Advisory Committee  
Port Phillip Multifaith Network  
Welcoming Cities network  
The Lotus Choir  
Ensemble Nostalgia Russian Women's Choir  
Singing Hearts Russian Choir  
Ethnic Discussion Club  
Friends of Suai Covadima  
Interpreter Services  
Jewish Ecological Coalition  
Polish Senior Citizens Club of St Kilda 'Astry'  
Port Melbourne Greek Community  
Port Phillip Multifaith Network  
Association of Former inmates of the Nazi Concentration Camps and Ghettos from the Former Soviet Union  
The Victorian Association of WW2 Veterans from the Former Soviet Union

## Religious and Spiritual

- 1 Catholic Parish of Sacred Heart and St Columba
- 2 Christ Church of St Kilda
- 3 South Port Uniting Church
- 4 St Joseph's Church
- 5 St Kilda Baptist Church
- 6 St Kilda Uniting Church
- 7 Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
- 8 Planetshakers Church
- 9 Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia (St Eustathios Church)
- 10 Hare Krishna Melbourne and Bhakti Yoga
- 11 Yeshiva Centre - Lubavitch
- 12 Chabad on Carlisle-Jewish Russian Centre

## Support Services

- 1 Inner South Family and Friends
- 2 Melbourne City Mission (MCM)
- 3 Red Cross Shop, South Melbourne
- 4 Sacred Heart Mission
- 5 The Women's House - Sacred Heart Mission
- 6 The Brotherhood of St Laurence
- 7 Emerald Hill Mission
- 8 The Salvation Army Crisis Services
- 9 The Salvation Army Youth Services
- 10 Southside Justice
- 11 Carer Solutions
- 12 Port Phillip Community Group (PPCG)
- 13 St Kilda Gatehouse (Sex worker safety)
- 14 The Mirabel Foundation
- 15 Empower Australia (food relief)

## Support Services (Housing and Homelessness)

- 1 Launch Housing South Melbourne
- 2 Launch Housing East St Kilda
- 3 Launch Housing St Kilda
- 4 Housing First
- 5 Southport Community Housing Group
- 6 St Kilda Community Housing Ltd
- 7 Bridge it (Youth homelessness support)
- 8 Southern Homelessness Network
- 9 YWCA Australia

## Support Services (Addiction)

- 1 Windana Drug & Alcohol Recovery
- 2 Gallambie Men's Recovery Centre
- 3 First Step
- 4 The Bridge Centre
- 5 Melbourne Addiction Treatment Program

No exact location/various locations/based outside of CoPP:

City of Port Phillip Social Support Program  
City of Port Phillip Carer Support Group  
Free Food Directory Guide  
Lifeline  
Griefline  
Mensline Australia  
Alfred Carers Support  
Carer Information Hub  
MOIRA Carer Connect  
Carers Victoria  
Directline  
Alcoholics Anonymous Victoria  
Narcotics Anonymous Victoria  
Reconnection

## Training, Education and Employment

- 1 Elwood and St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre (ESNLC)
- 2 Uniting Employment Services St Kilda
- 3 IMVC Employment Services and Training and Education (HELM Youth Services)
- 4 Youth2Industry College
- 5 Embark Training
- 6 N & B Training and Recruitment
- 7 Future Path Finders
- 8 KM Training & Consulting PTY LTD
- 9 Career Coaching and Training
- 10 ncentric skills
- 11 EmployEase by Healthcare Australia

No exact location/various locations:  
Swim teacher and Lifeguard/water safety courses  
First Aid

## Volunteering Opportunities

No exact location/various locations:  
Beach Patrol  
South Port Day Links

## Sport and Recreation

- 1 Ajax Football Club
- 2 Albert Park Bowls Club
- 3 Albert Park Football and Netball Club
- 4 Albert Park Indoor Sports Centre
- 5 Albert Park Lawn Tennis Club
- 6 Albert Park Sailing Club
- 7 Albert Park Soccer Club
- 8 Albert Park South Melbourne Rowing Club
- 9 Albert Park Tennis and Hockey Centre
- 10 Albert Park Yachting & Angling Club
- 11 Albert Park College - Upskills sports program (Basketball)
- 12 Carmelite Middle Park Tennis Club
- 13 Elwood Angling Club
- 14 Elwood City Soccer Club
- 15 Elwood Cricket Club
- 16 Elwood Croquet Club
- 17 Elwood Life Saving Club
- 18 Elwood Sailing Club
- 19 Fishermans Bend Gymnastics Club
- 20 Maccabi Hockey Club
- 21 Melbourne Razorbacks Hockey Club
- 22 Melbourne Smashers Badminton Club
- 23 Middle Park Bowls Club
- 24 Middle Park Cricket Club
- 25 Middle Park Football (Soccer) Club
- 26 Port Melbourne Community Centre Trugo Club
- 27 Port Melbourne Baseball Club
- 28 Port Melbourne Bowls Club
- 29 Port Melbourne Breakers Basketball Club
- 30 Port Melbourne Cricket Club
- 31 Port Melbourne Football Club
- 32 Port Melbourne Life Saving Club
- 33 Port Melbourne Netball Club
- 34 Port Melbourne Soccer Club
- 35 Port Melbourne Tennis Club
- 36 Port Melbourne Yacht Club
- 37 Power House Rugby Union Melbourne
- 38 Powerhouse Football Club
- 39 Powerhouse and St Kilda Hockey Club
- 40 Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron
- 41 Sandridge Life Saving Club
- 42 Sandridge Community Centre Trugo Club
- 43 South Melbourne District Sports Club
- 44 South Melbourne Football (Soccer) Club
- 45 South Melbourne Women's Football Club
- 46 South Melbourne Life Saving Club
- 47 St Kilda Baseball Club
- 48 St Kilda Celts Soccer Club
- 49 St Kilda City Football Netball Club

- 50 St Kilda City Junior Football Club
- 51 St Kilda Cricket Club
- 52 St Kilda Life Saving Club
- 53 St Kilda Sharks Womens Football Club
- 54 St Kilda Sports Club (Bowling Club)
- 55 Victorian Race Walking Club
- 56 Y Rowing Club
- 57 Six Harmonies Martial Arts
- 58 Absolute MMA
- 59 de Been 100% Jiu Jitsu St Kilda
- 60 Celtic Jiu-Jitsu
- 61 10th Planet Jiu Jitsu South Melbourne
- 62 Conscious Combat Club
- 63 Seishinkan Iaido Martial Arts
- 64 Hall's Taekwondo - Port Melbourne
- 65 National Pickleball League
- 66 Soccer (Oneball) 12-17 yo
- 67 Kids Kung Fu 12-17 yo (Six Harmonies Martial Arts - SIMA)
- 68 Baking 12-17yos (PCYC)
- 69 Kingswim St Kilda East (Swimming School)
- 70 St Kilda East and Caulfield Chess Club

No exact location/various locations:  
St Kilda Cycling Club

## Arts, Music, Dance, Culture and History

- 1 Astor Theatre
- 2 Australian Tapestry Workshop
- 3 Brightspace
- 4 Carlisle Street Arts Space
- 5 Gasworks Arts Park
- 6 Linden New Art
- 7 Metartworld - Art Space
- 8 Artea Art School
- 9 Artbus (Artist for Kids Culture - AKC)
- 10 Art therapy (Colourful Journeys Art Studio)
- 11 Port Art
- 12 Paint for Fun (Paint And Sip Melbourne)
- 13 Champointing Melbourne
- 14 Vivien Anderson Gallery
- 15 Treble Makers Music School
- 16 JAANZ International Singing Academy
- 17 Mix Academy Music School
- 18 Melbourne Music Education
- 19 Kidko Performing Arts School & Chambers Music
- 20 AML Golden Voice Studio
- 21 Little Feet Music
- 22 Treble Makers Music School
- 23 Palais Theatre
- 24 Red Stitch Theatre
- 25 Temperance Hall
- 26 The Alex Theatre
- 27 The National Theatre Melbourne
- 28 Theatre Works
- 29 Somebody's Daughter Theatre Company
- 30 Phoenix Theatre (Elwood College)
- 31 Geoffrey Kays Museum
- 32 The Port Melbourne Preservation and Historical Society
- 33 Port Phillip Heritage Centre
- 34 St Kilda Historical Society

No exact location/various locations:  
Live n Local  
Music Classes (Music with Jade)



City of Port Phillip

99a Carlisle Street

St Kilda VIC 3182

Phone: ASSIST 03 9209 6777

Email: [portphillip.vic.gov.au/contact-us](mailto:portphillip.vic.gov.au/contact-us)

Website: [portphillip.vic.gov.au](http://portphillip.vic.gov.au)

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