

2023–24

Health and Wellbeing Snapshot



City of
STONNINGTON



Introduction

The Health and Wellbeing Snapshot is Council's annual report on how we are progressing towards achieving the priorities set out in our Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021–25.

Reporting on each area, we highlight our achievements from last year and focus for the next 12 months.

Find more information about Council's health and wellbeing initiatives at **stonnington.vic.gov.au/community**

Acknowledgment of First Peoples

The City of Stonnington acknowledges we are on the Traditional Lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong peoples of the East Kulin Nations and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.

We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We acknowledge their living connection to the Country, their relationship with the land and all living things extending back tens of thousands of years.



Our health and wellbeing priority areas:

PRIORITY 01

Healthy and well

- » Our community is more physically active
- » Our community has a healthier diet
- » Services supports and information are easier to access in our community
- » Our community is healthy in a changing climate

PRIORITY 02

Respectful and safe

- » Equity and respect are thriving in our community
- » Our community is a safer place for everyone
- » Harm from alcohol, gambling, tobacco and other drugs is reduced

PRIORITY 03

Connected and supportive

- » Mental wellbeing is strengthened in our community
- » Our community is more socially connected and able to participate in community life
- » All members of our community are valued, supported and connected

Healthy and well

Health and wellbeing
profile updates –
how are we tracking?



39.6%

of people in Stonnington are **overweight or obese**, compared to 54.4% in Victoria (VPHS, 2023).



38.1%

of adults in Stonnington engage in at least 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous **physical activity** per week, compared to 35.1% in Victoria (VPHS, 2023).



84.5%

of people in Stonnington self-report their **dental health** as excellent, very good or good, compared to 72.9% in Victoria (VPHS, 2023).



85.3%

of people in Stonnington self-report their **health** as excellent, very good or good, compared to 78.1% in Victoria (VPHS, 2023).

Victorian Population Health Survey (VPHS). Department of Health, 2023.

Goal

Enabling our community to move more often and eat a healthier diet is good for both our health and for our climate.

Strategies that support our goal

Active Stonnington Strategic Framework	Open Space Strategy	Neighbourhood Activity Centre Strategy
Sustainable Environment Strategy	Cycling Action Plan	Community Infrastructure Plan
Walking Action Plan	Playground Strategy	Biodiversity Strategy
Active Transport Strategy	Climate Emergency Action Plan	Municipal Emergency Management Plan
Fair Access Policy	Urban Forest Strategy	

Actions we have committed to in our Health and Wellbeing Plan

Create neighbourhoods that make it easy for our community to be physically active.	Improve our community's understanding about how healthy food and drink is good for their health and good for the environment.	Facilitate more effective ways of getting information to our community about services and supports and about how diseases and illnesses can be prevented or reduced.
Increase understanding about the factors that influence health and how important it is to be physically active.	Enable all members of our community to access nutritious and safe food.	Enable 20-minute neighbourhoods to increase opportunities for local living.
Build the capacity of our community to be more active and remain engaged in sport and physical activity throughout their life.	Increase our understanding of the barriers our community experiences when accessing services, supports and information.	Increase access to quality public open space, especially in areas where there is higher residential diversity or lower socioeconomic circumstances.
Embed healthy food and drink policies in Council-owned and operated spaces, programs and activities.	Advocate for and facilitate access to health and community services throughout Stonnington.	Support our community to understand and take action to adapt to the health impacts of climate change.

Outcomes we hope to see

Our community is physically active.	Our community has a healthier diet.	Our community is healthy in a changing environment.
Services, supports and information are easier to access in our community.		

Impact

Stonnington is **healthy** and **well**.

Key achievements

1. Our community is more physically active

- » delivered Vic Health Local Government Partnerships Grant modules focused on increasing active opportunities, building more connected and supportive communities and creating better access to healthy food and drink options.
- » implemented the Walking Action Plan with pram and wheelchair accessible walking routes designed by Victoria Walks and shared on Stonnington Walking Trails page.
- » installed more than 50 new tactile indicator sets and pram ramp upgrades to improve accessibility at crossings.
- » broadened participation in the Walk n Talk Buddy Program (social walking group) by auditing and introducing accessible trails, allowing a wider range of community members to join.
- » completed a wayfinding audit of all activity centres to guide future upgrades to encourage walking to local precincts.
- » held Open Streets events at Lloyd Street Primary School and Malvern Valley Primary School, closing off the street frontage to through traffic to support walking, riding and scooting.
- » opened Prahran Skate Park and Basketball Court and Windsor siding BMX track following major refurbishment works.
- » completed refurbishment of Prahran Aquatic Centre and scoping of upgrades at Harold Holt.
- » opened Stonnington Sports Centre with new and existing clubs offering tennis, bowling, cricket, lacrosse, basketball, netball, pickleball and volleyball.
- » delivered Year 4 actions of the Active Stonnington Strategy.

- » participated in the South East Public Health Unit active living regional expert advisory group.

- » delivered recreational programs for young people aged 5 to 25 including a weekly soccer clinic, school holiday activities, workshops and programs including kayaking and skateboarding.

2. Our community has a healthier diet

- » conducted a food system and food security needs assessment to inform development of a council-wide healthy food policy, to enable healthier and more resilient and sustainable diets in Stonnington.
- » supported community centres, including Maternal and Child Health, Grattan Gardens Community Centre, Stonnington libraries and Chapel Off Chapel, participating in the Breastfeeding Welcome Everywhere program.
- » directed community grant funding to emergency food relief agencies to provide relief to vulnerable members of our community.
- » conducted a Winter Food Drive to support the provision of nutritionally balanced food parcels available from Prahran and Malvern Police stations.
- » rolled out the Healthy Sports Club program to several clubs, focusing on healthy canteens, including engagement with kiosk operators to offer variety of healthy food options.
- » shared information with sport clubs regarding seasonal produce, recipes, body-confidence and food as fuel.
- » delivered weekly breastfeeding support sessions through Maternal Child Health Centres.
- » provided INfant Feeding, Active play and NuTrition (INFANT) program as part of all new parent groups and weekly sessions for all families.

3. Services supports and information are easier to access in our community

- » delivered Maternal Child Health Services, with 95.08% of newborns participating in a four-week key age and stage visit.
- » updated information and support services for carers on Council website.
- » conducted investigation into extended library operating hours with outcomes presented to Council and endorsed in principle pending budget for 2025–26.
- » Strengthened partnership between Stonnington Youth Services and Prahran High School, De La Salle and Hester Hornbrook Academy, with youth workers facilitating lunchtime drop-in sessions at the schools.
- » received a \$32,000 Australian Sports Commission Play Well grant to assist Active Stonnington's work with TeamSports4All to subsidise seasonal sporting fees for low-income people aged 5 to 18.

4. Our community is healthy in a changing climate:

- » participated in the Climate Change Advisory Group for municipal public health and wellbeing planning.
- » released Home Energy Efficiency kits into Stonnington libraries in August 2023, with kits being borrowed more than 100 times, and reservations continuing.
- » partnered with Glen Eira City Council and City of Boroondara to deliver a four-part series including sustainable renovating, electric vehicles and two sustainability sessions for renters.
- » joined the Solar Savers program.
- » adopted the Nature Strip Planting Policy.

Spotlight on:



Fair Access Policy

In June 2024, the City of Stonnington endorsed the Fair Access Policy 2024–27, which addresses known barriers experienced by women, girls and gender diverse people in accessing and using community sports and active recreation infrastructure, sports grounds and facilities.

The Fair Access Policy aims to build the capacity and capabilities of Council in identifying and eliminating systemic causes of gender inequality in policy, programs and delivery of services relating to community sports and active recreation infrastructure and land.

A Fair Access Implementation Plan has been developed to support the necessary and proportionate steps towards implementation of the Fair Access Policy. This document outlines the short-term (12 to 18 month actions) of the plan to date and includes integrating the fair access objectives and principles into new and under review policies and processes, such as the Sports Infrastructure Plan and Sports Ground Allocation Policy and Fees and Charges Policy.

Supporting strategy updates

Our health and wellbeing goals are met through the aligned efforts of several other Council strategies.

Climate Emergency Action Plan:

Finalised installation of electric vehicle (EV) chargers at 311 Glenferrie Road, Malvern to support Council's EV fleet. Delivered Community Climate Support Program to support the Stonnington community to reduce emissions and plan and adapt to a changing climate. Received a \$200,000 grant as part of the State Government's Green Links program to support restoration of the Glen Iris wetlands and surrounding area.

Open Space Strategy (OSS):

Commenced review of the Public Realm Strategy through the development of an OSS. Strategy scope developed and tested with a representative sample of the community. Completed tender evaluations for development of the new strategy.

Active Travel Behaviour Change

Program: Endorsed and commenced implementation of the Program to encourage community to walk and ride more often for local trips. Conducted audits to improve accessibility and safety and inform future capital works across the city to enable active travel.

Electric Vehicle Charging Plan:

Endorsed the Electric Vehicle Charging Plan and the Public Transport Advocacy Plan. Facilitated installation of a new fast charger in Council's Windsor Car Park. Installed 21 new car share bays.

Walking Action Plan 2022–23:

Implemented initiatives to address barriers to walking and guide Council actions to encourage more frequent walking. This included footpath audits and several crossing upgrades. Developed concept designs for new crossings and footpath improvements, and promoted safe routes for schools and early learning centres, including decal installations.

Cycling Strategy Implementation

Plan 2020–25: Secured more than \$2.5 million in grants and funds for the delivery of programs and projects. Implemented traffic calming devices on 10 local streets cycling routes. Commenced works on Dunlop Street shared crossing.

Active Stonnington Strategy:

Endorsed Fair Access Policy, a framework to increase sport participation by women and girls

Our Future Waste Strategy 2022–25:

Commenced the public food waste trial in four locations. Council has progressed towards offering additional food and garden organic waste (FOGO) services universally to kerbside residents by establishing public drop off points and continuing to offer opt-in FOGO services. Conducted Stonnington's first Detox your Home collection event.

Municipal Emergency Management

Plan (MEMP): Revised the plan and undertook an assurance process before presenting the plan to the Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee for endorsement in August 2023.

Participated in the Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) in September, in partnership with external emergency agencies. Reviewed the Heatwave Plan in preparation for summer 2023 and 2024 to minimise heat-related harms. Ongoing annual reviews of all plans and subplans continue.

**Focus for 2024–25**

- » explore options to further support local sporting clubs to promote healthier food and drink options.
- » explore opportunities to include healthy food and drink requirements in Council leases, licences and user agreements.
- » undertake healthy eating awareness raising campaigns.
- » explore opportunities to co-locate services to reduce operational costs and enhance service delivery.
- » facilitate accessible, plain English, sexual and reproductive health information.
- » implement the Fair Access Policy and ensure fair access principles are embedded in all Active Stonnington policies and plans.
- » partner with University of Melbourne to deliver a cycling program for young people aged 8 to 29 with disability.
- » implement the final year of the Active Stonnington Strategic Framework 2021–25 and evaluate the strategy as part of the planning for a renewed Active Stonnington Action Plan 2025–29.
- » seek Council endorsement of the Library Strategy in March 2025, which includes proposal for extended opening hours.

Respectful and safe

Health and wellbeing profile updates



For the year ending June 2024 there were:

- » 1,011 **family incidents**, compared to 941 in 2023. This is a **7.4% increase**.
- » 8,489 **victim reports**, compared to 7,442 in 2023. This is a **14.1% increase**.
- » 12,038 **offences recorded**, compared to 11,171 in 2023. This is a **7.8% increase**.
- » 9,524 **criminal incidents** compared to 8,487 in 2023. This is a **12.2% increase**.



> **15.9%**

of people in Stonnington are at **increased risk harm from alcohol-related disease injury**, compared to 13.1% in Victoria (VPHS, 2023)



> **8.3%**

of adults in Stonnington **currently vape**, compared with 6.1% in Victoria. (VSHS, 2024)



> **5.5%**

of adults in Stonnington experienced **racism** in the last 12 months, compared to 6.9% in Victoria (VPHS, 2023)

Source: Crime Statistics Agency, data as of September 2024

Victorian Population Health Survey (VPHS). Department of Health, 2023.
Victorian Smoking and Health Survey (VSHS). Cancer Council Victoria, 2024.
Crime Statistics Agency (CSA). June 2024.

Goal

A fair, equal and safe community promotes good health and wellbeing.

Strategies that support our goal

Community Safety Plan	LGBTIQA+ Action Plan	Graffiti Management Plan
Road Safety Strategy	Gender Equality Action Plan	Mutual Respect Charter
Child Safety Policy	Local Laws	

Actions we have committed to in our Health and Wellbeing Plan

Increase understanding of gender stereotypes and challenge our community to be more equitable and respectful.	Create places that improve safety, crime prevention and perceptions of safety.	Create environments that support low risk alcohol consumption.
Embed equality and respect in services, programs, planning and places.	Increase safety for children in our community.	Facilitate improved access to harm reduction services and supports.
Reduce unintended and structural barriers that drive discrimination and marginalisation.	Reduce injury caused by falls and road trauma.	Advocate for reduced access to alcohol, gambling, tobacco and other drugs.

Outcomes we hope to see

Equity and respect are thriving in our community.

Harm from alcohol, gambling, tobacco and other drugs is reduced in our community.

Our community is a safer place for everyone.

Impact

Stonnington is **respectful** and **safe**.

Key achievements

1. Equity and respect are thriving in our community

- » started implementing the Guide for prevention of violence against women and all forms of violence.
- » submitted an application for the Free from Violence grant.
- » delivered annual 16 days of activism campaign, including communication of respect messaging, distribution of family violence banner pens and a community art exhibition exploring key themes.
- » joined a working group hosted by Women with Disabilities and Intouch to better improve access to support services for CALD women experiencing family violence.
- » hosted an elder abuse session at Grattan Gardens Community centre.
- » delivered family violence training to Maternal Child Health Nurses to build confidence in identifying and responding to family violence.
- » provided 63 family consultations to specific screen or respond to family violence risk.
- » participated in 2024 Midsumma Pride March and supported Midsumma events including the Pool Party at Prahran Aquatic Centre and performances at Chapel Off Chapel.

2. Our community is a safer place for everyone

- » finalised and endorsed the Safer Stonnington (Community Safety) Action Plan identifying priorities, partnerships and actions for implementation over the next three years to reduce and prevent crime and create environments where people feel safe and connected.

- » started implementing the Local Government guide for preventing all forms of violence against women.
- » promoted Are You Safe at Home? resources on Council website and training module for staff.
- » continued to deliver Stonnington Zero in partnership with local health, housing and homelessness partners.
- » conducted monthly Hot Spots meetings, fortnightly Service Coordination and quarterly executive meetings to monitor and respond to rough sleeping homelessness.
- » revised the Homelessness Protocol.
- » continued to educate the community about homelessness and Council's role and responsibilities and participated in the Homes for Homelessness campaign during Homelessness Week 2024.
- » updated and distributed Food and Other Help wallet card.
- » applied for funding to deliver a Scams Awareness program targeting vulnerable groups.
- » launched and promoted 9pm Safety Campaign in partnership with Victoria Police.
- » liaised with the Department of Justice and Community Safety regarding abolishment of the freeze on late night liquor licences, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing regarding public housing safety concerns, and the Department of Treasury and Finance regarding Liquor Licence Reform.
- » completed oval and lighting upgrade at Toorak Park.
- » facilitated free swimming lessons for parents with low swimming skills as part of the supported playgroups.

3. Harm from alcohol, gambling, tobacco and other drugs is reduced

- » successfully applied and received \$200,000 VicHealth funding to deliver a vaping prevention project aimed at young people.
- » participated in the South-East Public Health Unit tobacco and e-cigarette regional expert advisory group.
- » conducted 40 cumulative impact assessments on liquor licence applications providing comment on potential negative community and health impacts
- » received funding to deliver VicHealth's Local Government Partnership alcohol and tobacco harm prevention modules.
- » met with the Liquor Control unit of the Department of Justice and Community Safety Victoria to discuss Council's experiences following the end of the Freeze and the introduction of new Guidelines.
- » conducted regular Liquor Forum meetings involving licensees, police and liquor industry representatives to improve community safety and develop local harm prevention actions.
- » delivered the Stonnington Street Team, in partnership with the Salvation Army, on Friday and Saturday nights in the Chapel Street entertainment precinct to support the wellbeing of vulnerable young people.
- » subscribed to the Alliance for Gambling Reform to support gambling harm advocacy.
- » developed a liquor licence data dashboard to monitor venues defined as sources of potential harm.

Spotlight on:



Vaping prevention project

The rise of vaping among young people is a significant concern for Council, with more than a quarter of teenagers aged 12 to 17 in Victoria having vaped. Stonnington led a successful grant application and has secured \$200,000 of VicHealth funding in partnership with Glen Eira, Port Phillip, Bayside and Kingston councils.

The partnership will deliver a youth-focused project that includes a series of forums with young people and the development of creative content to increase awareness of the harms of vaping and help young people say no to vaping. The young people will then be encouraged to deliver place-based campaign or event within their schools and local community to amplify anti-vaping messages.

As well as working with neighbouring councils, Stonnington will also continue to collaborate with our local public health unit and other community health organisations such as Better Health Network, Caulfield Community Health and the Drug and Alcohol Foundation to deliver community focused initiatives, such as educational workshops for parents and sports clubs to reduce vaping harm in our community and awareness of laws around the sale and consumption of tobacco and vaping products.

Supporting strategy updates

Our health and wellbeing goals are met through the aligned efforts of several other Council strategies.

Safer Stonnington Community Safety Plan 2024–27:

Endorsed Safer Stonnington Community Safety Plan and commenced Year 1 Actions. Launched and promoted 9pm Campaign in partnership with Victoria Police. Liaised with the Department of Justice and Community Safety Victoria regarding abolishment of the freeze on late night liquor licences, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing regarding public housing safety concerns and the Department of Treasury and Finance regarding Liquor Licence Reform.

Towards Zero, Road Safety Strategy 2018–22:

Delivered the final year and commenced development of a new Strategy including community engagement. New strategy is in draft stage.

Workforce Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) 2021–25:

This plan has successfully integrated critical work and distributed responsibilities across all levels and business areas within the Council. Key actions have been implemented, policies and strategies refined and practices embedded to deliver equitable and inclusive programs to the community. During the 2023–24 financial year, 15 Gender Impact Assessments were undertaken to ensure Council policies, programs and services provide equal access and opportunities to all genders. These efforts have significantly advanced the GEAP and Council will continue to build in previous actions to further strengthen gender equity and meet legislative and organisational requirements.

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

2022–24: Conducted internal and external consultations to inform the development of the Draft Reconciliation Action Plan 2025–27. Held cultural consultations with Wurundjeri regarding protocols, signage, history, naming of rooms at children's centres, Council strategies, and art works. Finalised acknowledgement signage design for Council owned buildings and installed children's acknowledgment signage at 60 Council playgrounds.



Focus for 2024–25

- » deliver and evaluate the vaping prevention project by December 2025.
- » deliver prevention of gender-based violence initiative in partnership with Victoria Police, Salvation Army and Full Stop Australia focused on the Chapel Street entertainment precinct.
- » deliver VicHealth's Victorian Local Government Partnership, alcohol and tobacco harm prevention modules, with a focus on harm prevention in sports club environments through regulatory controls including Council lease agreements, legislative compliance and capacity building programs such as the Alcohol and Drug Foundation's Good Sports initiative.
- » finalise the Reconciliation Action Plan 2025–27 for Council endorsement and deliver events in recognition of National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week and 26 January.
- » provide residents and businesses with access to information, resources and seminars that support crime prevention and equip them with practical skills.
- » deliver cyber security awareness workshops to vulnerable community groups

Connected and supportive

Health and wellbeing profile updates



16.7%

of adults in Stonnington report high or very high levels of **psychological distress**, which is below the Victorian average of 19.1% (VPHS, 2023).



78.4%

of people in Stonnington agree that **multiculturalism** makes life in their area better, which is well above the Victorian average of 66.5% (VPHS, 2023).



21.7%

of adults in Stonnington experience **loneliness**, which is below the Victorian average of 23.3% (VPHS, 2023).



81.4%

of people in Stonnington report a high or very high level of **life satisfaction**, which is above the Victorian average of 76.7% (VPHS, 2023).

Victorian Population Health Survey (VPHS). Department of Health, 2023.

Goal

Community that is connected, supportive and inclusive can deliver improved health and wellbeing outcomes for all community members.

Strategies that support our goal

Homelessness Protocol (Stonnington Zero)	Engagement Policy	Library Strategy
Cultural Diversity Action Plan	Community Grants Policy	Economic Development Strategy
Disability Inclusion Action Plan	Children, Youth and Family Strategy	Place Led Economic Development Strategy
Reconciliation Action Plan	Ageing Well Action Plan	Volunteer Portal

Actions we have committed to in our Health and Wellbeing Plan

Increase our community's understanding of mental illness.	Provide opportunities for social connection, particularly for community members experiencing social isolation and loneliness.	Improve understanding about vulnerability and disadvantage in our community.
Build our community's capacity to seek help and support those who need help.	Enable volunteering across our community.	Facilitate initiatives which support community members experiencing vulnerability, to be connected to and participate in community life.
Increase awareness of how mental health can be strengthened.	Empower our community to be active participants in decisions about their lives and their communities.	Advocate for increased services and supports, including housing for community members experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping.

Outcomes we hope to see

Mental wellbeing is strengthened in our community.	Our community is more socially connected and able to participate in community life.	All members of our community are valued, supported and connected.
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Impact

Stonnington is **connected** and **supportive**.

Key achievements

1. Mental wellbeing is strengthened in our community

- » launched a mental health resource page on Council website.
- » participated in the South-East Metro Interim Regional Body local government consultations and workshop to identify local and regional mental health needs of priority populations: people experiencing homelessness, First Nations, CALD communities, older people, people living with alcohol and drug addiction, people with disability, people with chronic health problems, refugees and asylum seekers and people experiencing financial insecurity.
- » advocated for mental health outreach and wrap around services for people experiencing homelessness, and those at risk of becoming homeless.
- » strengthened partnership between Stonnington Youth Services and Headspace Malvern, with a youth worker co-located at the service on a fortnightly basis.
- » raised awareness of mental wellbeing and available support services via days of significance including World Mental Health Day, RU OK? Day and Wear It Purple Day.
- » delivered life skills and employment workshops for young people, to build independence and resilience and improve community connections.
- » funded therapeutic drumbeat workshops within schools to support emotional regulation and student wellbeing.

2. Our community is more socially connected and able to participate in community life

- » conducted Stonnington Disability and Access Committee and LGBTIQ+ Community Advisory Committee meetings.
- » partnered with Thorne Harbour Health to deliver weekly social groups for older LGBTIQ+ community members.
- » delivered Regional Accessible Playgrounds at Sir Zelman Cowen Reserve, Kooyong and Central Park, Malvern East.
- » delivered Auslan interpreted performances including the Torch Song at Chapel Off Chapel, annual Healing Ceremony and Library Storytime during International Day of People with Disability.
- » facilitated supported playgroup for families with young children who are socially isolated, have parents experiencing mental health challenges or are from multicultural communities.

3. All members of our community are valued, supported and connected

- » adopted the Ageing Well Action Plan to guide how we support the older members of our community to live healthy, safe, connected and meaningful lives.
- » developed social stories and accessibility information for Youth Space at Grattan Gardens and access keys for every youth event.
- » developed Easy Read translations of the Community Safety and Ageing Well Action plans.
- » hosted the first Volunteer Expo and Volunteer awards at Malvern Town Hall.

- » held Bi-monthly Connect and Discover Network meetings to facilitate connection between not-for-profits across Stonnington.
- » delivered training sessions to Connect and Discover Network members, including volunteering recruitment, grant writing and diversity and inclusion training.
- » continued to provide interpreter services for community members.
- » continued to facilitate the Inner South Multicultural Network.
- » launched staff eLearning Module Introduction to Culturally Responsive Practice.
- » celebrated Harmony Week across the City involving a range of events and activities hosted at libraries, Princes Close Early Years Service and Grattan Gardens Community Centre.
- » delivered Planning for your future workshop program to promote financial wellbeing for older adults.
- » delivered the Stonnington Zero collective impact project providing outreach and support for people experiencing rough sleeping homelessness.
- » participated in the MAV state-wide survey on responses to homelessness at a community/local level identifying local priorities and needs.
- » established a new support service to help older people and their carers navigate Aged Care reforms.
- » facilitated school pride and cultural groups and developed a framework to support schools with the implementation of inclusive programs.
- » supported Dads Group to deliver regular sessions for fathers and carers, with a focus on social connection and parenting support.

Spotlight on:



Greet-U-There partnership

This year, Council partnered with Thorne Harbour Health to launch Greet-U-There, a social initiative designed to create a welcoming and inclusive space for older LGBTIQ+ individuals, as well as their carers, friends, and family, to connect and socialise.

Held monthly at the Positive Living Centre in South Yarra, the group focuses on fostering social connections among older LGBTIQ+ community members and their allies. Participants enjoy relaxed coffee mornings in a safe, friendly environment where they can build new friendships. Since its launch, Greet-U-There has attracted over 20 regular attendees and boasts an impressive 90% retention rate.

As part of the 2024 Seniors Festival, Council hosted a special LGBTIQ+ BBQ, drawing more than 60 new attendees. For many, this was their first LGBTIQ+ Seniors Festival event, and the overwhelmingly positive feedback suggests that it will become a regular occurrence. Participants emphasised the value of such events in strengthening community bonds among older LGBTIQ+ individuals and creating meaningful connections, particularly during a stage of life when socialising with new people can be more challenging.

Supporting strategy updates

Our health and wellbeing goals are met through the aligned efforts of several other Council strategies.

Cultural Diversity Action Plan

(2022–25): Launched new staff ELMO training module: Introduction to Culturally Responsive Practice. Installed Google Translate on Council's website, enabling translation of content into 12 languages. Renewed language service agreements to provide interpreting and translating support services for our community. Delivered Harmony Week events and activities across Council.

Disability Inclusion Action Plan

(2023–26): Opened new all abilities play spaces at Central Park and Sir Zelman Cowen Reserve, and new Changing Places (specialised toilet facility) at Sir Zelman Cowen Reserve. Renewed the membership of the Stonnington Disability and Access Committee (SDAC) and conducted four advisory committee meetings.

Ageing Well Action Plan 2024–27:

Endorsed March 2024. The plan recognises that older people are integral to our community and that Council's role is to create inclusive and healthy environments that allow community members to thrive and reach their full potential at each life phase. Recent activities include monitoring aged care reforms and creating new opportunities for participation. For example, pickleball, monitoring safety concerns, implementing programs to improve digital literacy and delivering a new navigation program to help older people, their carers and families, to navigate the new aged service system.

LGBTIQA+ Action Plan (2023–26):

Delivered the first year of the plan. Reviewed LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and continued to fill vacancies. Delivered a range of events and activities including Midsumma 2024, Wear it Purple, and IDAHOBIT Day. Facilitated quarterly LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee meetings, engaging on a variety of topics including the development of an Inclusive language and Imagery Guide.

Stonnington Zero: Continued to deliver Stonnington Zero in partnership with local health, housing and homelessness partners. Continued to educate the community about homelessness and Council's role and responsibilities. Updated and distributed 'Food and other help' wallet card.

Place-Led Economic Development Strategy (PLED) 2023–27: Endorsed and commenced implementation of the Place-led Economic Development Strategy, with completion of the first annual PLED activity report. Conducted a community views survey to better understand current place sentiment to help guide future planning and programming.



Focus for 2024–25

- » build community help seeking capacity through the provision of information, tips and activities that strengthen and support mental health and wellbeing.
- » explore delivering the Mental Health First Aid course for business, community organisations and residents.
- » explore ways to raise awareness of experiences for vulnerable/disadvantaged residents through guest speakers, storytelling and Stonnington Zero.
- » develop an affordable housing strategy.
- » continue to advocate for quality housing and support services to meet specific needs (e.g. LGBTIQA+, older women, women and children escaping family violence, people on low incomes, people with disabilities, CALD communities etc.) including through Public Housing Renewal.
- » continue to participate in Midsumma events and Pride March.
- » expand Hub programming at Horace Petty Estate to include water safety and swimming skills and establish a homework club.
- » continue to build and implement pride and cultural groups within schools and expand to other schools within Stonnington.
- » further build capacity in the volunteering sector through additional development and streamlining of Council's online Volunteer Hub and hosting Stonnington's 2025 Volunteer Awards Program.

Service Centres

Stonnington City Centre
311 Glenferrie Road, Malvern

**Stonnington Services and
Visitor Centre**
Prahran Square, corner Chatham
and Izett streets, Prahran

PO Box 58, Malvern Victoria 3144
T 8290 1333
F 9521 2255
council@stonnington.vic.gov.au

STONNINGTON.VIC.GOV.AU



City of
STONNINGTON