Draft Community Safety Plan 2019–23

Contents

Womin djeka

Council respectfully acknowledges the Yaluk-ut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung. We pay our respect to their Elders, both past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

Mayor's Message

I am proud to present the City of Port Phillip Community Safety Plan 2019-23 which identifies strategies to improve safety for all who live, work and visit our wonderful city.

The City of Port Phillip loves to share our places of national importance with visitors. We are committed to ensuring that all enjoy our city in safety.

Safety, and feelings of safety, have great impacts on our health, wellbeing and motivations to participate in community life. For this reason it is a key priority of our Health and Wellbeing Implementation Strategy 2017-2021.

The World Health Organisation describes safety as an 'essential resource for everyday life, needed by individual and communities to realise their aspirations'[1]. Safety is a fundamental human right and, along with shelter and food, it is considered a basic precondition for health.

Council understands that safety is reflected differently for particular groups in our community depending on age, gender, cultural background. abilities and past experiences. Council will work to ensure we consider everyone's wellbeing.

A Community Safety Plan is an important way of identifying those issues that matter to the City of Port Phillip. It brings together the work of Council and key partners in co-ordinating and implementing actions and initiatives that will maintain and progress safety in the community. We all have a role to play. You can play your part by calling 000 if you see someone who is clearly unwell or any kind of illegal behaviour.

---

1.   World Health Organisation (1984). 'Health promotion: a discussion document on the concept and principles'. Copenhagen, Regional Office for Europe

Introduction

The City of Port Phillip local area is home to over 110,000 residents but is one of the smallest municipalities in Victoria at only 21 square kilometres, and the most densely populated with more than twice the population density of the metropolitan Melbourne average.

A popular inner city area of Melbourne, Port Phillip attracts more than 2.8 million visitors each year[2], making it one of the most visited places in metropolitan Melbourne, second only to the central business district. The foreshore that stretches over 11 kilometres, and vast public open spaces, make the City highly desirable to residents and visitors.

---
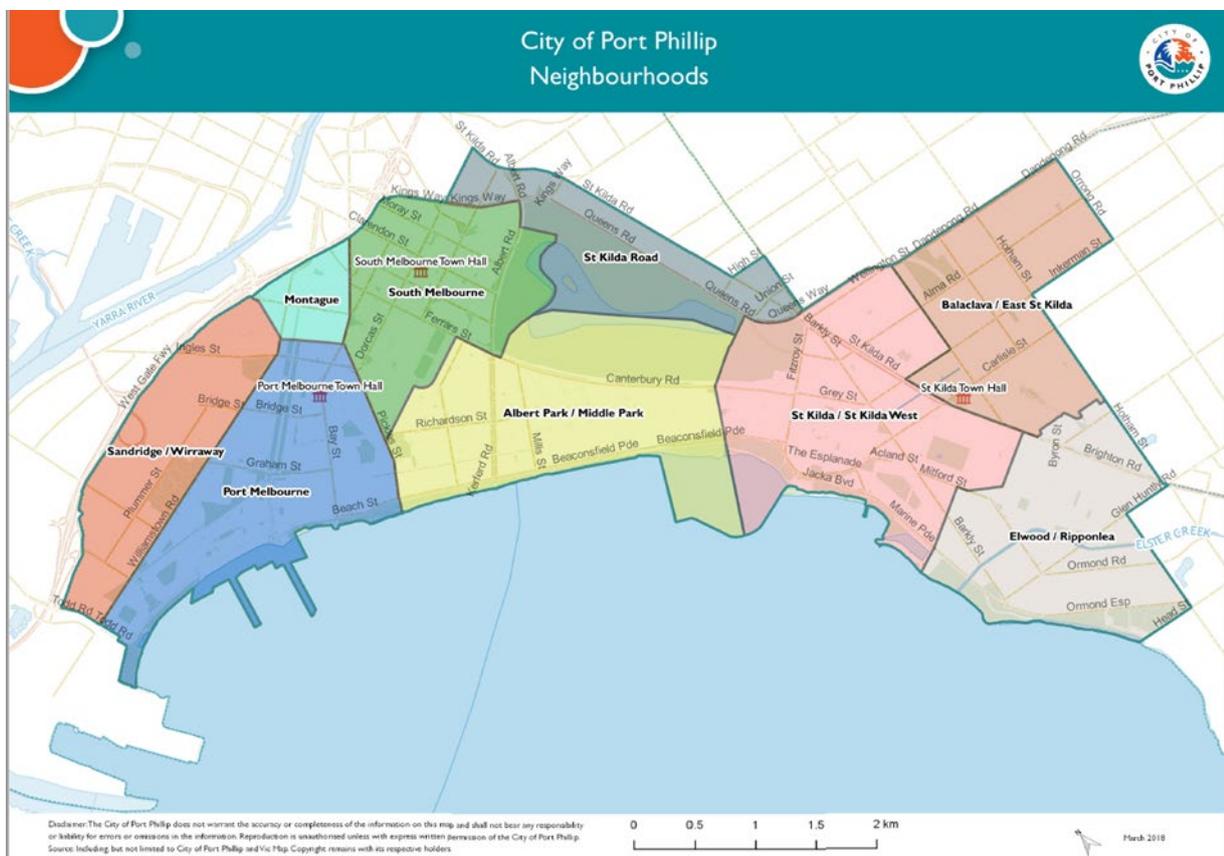
2. Source: Tourism Research Australia Data (March 2016). Note: Excludes local (Melbourne) visitors

People of the City of Port Phillip

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) indicates that the City of Port Phillip is home to **110,397 residents** (2017 Estimated Resident Population). It is anticipated that this number will grow by 23% to 136,140 by the year 2027[3]. The dominant age group is 25 to 34 year olds.
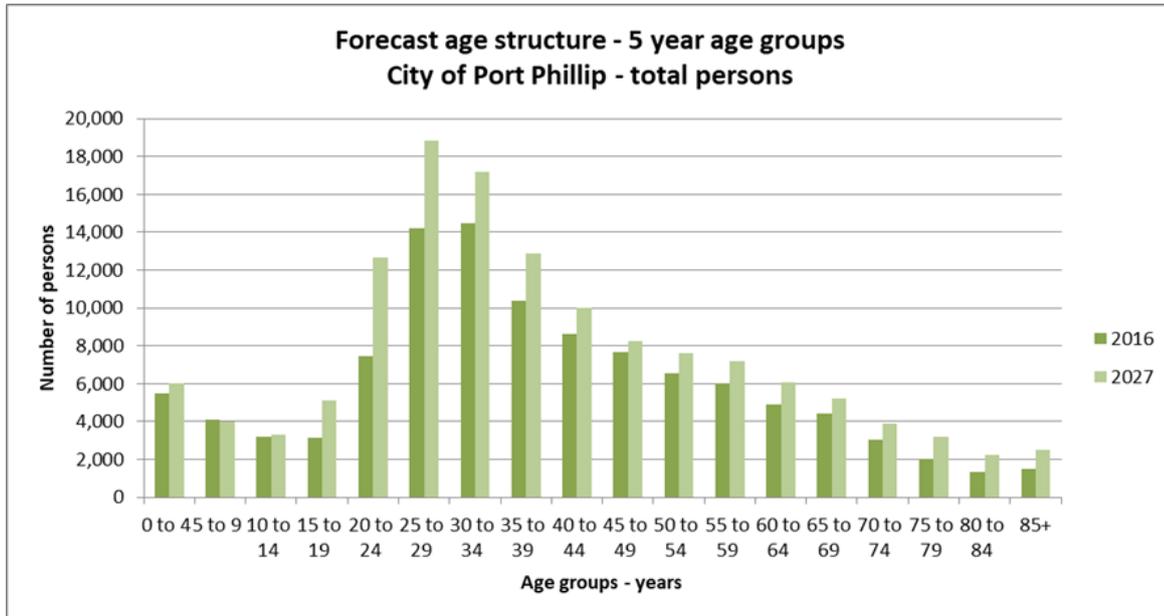
The City attracts large numbers from overseas and interstate. As a result, it is possible that these new residents will not be familiar with the area compared to those who have lived in the area for many years and who are familiar with where they can access services and amenities. This may lead to a perception of feeling unsure about safety by new people.

The number of households in Port Phillip increased by 4,612 between 2011 and 2016. That increase saw more couples with children (14.6%), more couples without children (24.8%), more people who live alone (35.2%), and more single parents (5.2%)[4].

Port Phillip has notably more lone person households than Greater Melbourne (35.2% compared to 22%)[5].

Port Phillip has a smaller proportion of households who own or are purchasing their home than Greater Melbourne (17.8% and 20.8% compared to 29% and 34.3% respectively). There is a much higher proportion of renters, both in the private and social housing tenure than Greater Melbourne (44% and 4.7% compared to 25.8% and 2.6%)[6].

---

3. Population and household forecasts, 2016 to 2041, prepared by .id, the population experts, December 2017.
4. Population and household forecasts, 2016 to 2041, prepared by .id, the population experts, December 2017.
5. Population and household forecasts, 2016 to 2041, prepared by .id, the population experts, December 2017.
6. Population and household forecasts, 2016 to 2041, prepared by .id, the population experts, December 2017.

The City of Port Phillip is predominately an **affluent area** with a SEIFA score of 1,069 making it the 8th most advantaged LGA in the state of Victoria. However, disadvantage does exist, the lowest SEIFA scores are associated with pockets of public housing. Overall, 23.5% of the population earned a high income, and 23.1% earned a low income, compared with 11.9% and 37.8% respectively for Greater Melbourne.

Community safety is a priority

Community safety is not just about recorded crime it is also about how safe people feel in our city. Feeling safe is key to positive health and wellbeing.

Overall, Victorians report high levels of perceived community safety. The Community Indicators Victoria Survey and VicHealth Indicator Survey measured Victoria's safety perceptions both during the day and night. It was found that on average, 97% of Victorians felt safe walking alone in their local area during the day. This statistic decreased with only 70% of Victorians reporting feeling safe when walking alone in their local area at night.[7]

When comparing Port Phillip's results to the Community Indicators and VicHealth Indicator surveys, Port Phillip compares well with state-wide community safety perceptions. 97.7% of Port Phillip respondents felt safe or very safe when walking alone in their local area during the day. This is very similar to the Victorian average of 97%. Port Phillip has higher safety perceptions regarding walking in their local area at night. 78.6% of Port Phillip residents felt safe or very safe at night compared to the Victorian average of 70%. Port Phillip also has higher safety perceptions compared to the wider Southern Metro region. 96.7% of people in the Southern Metro region reported feeling safe or very safe when walking alone in the day. 70.3% of people in the region felt safe or very safe walking alone at night.[8]

Influencing perceptions of safety

The City of Port Phillip is committed to working to address neighbourhood factors that influence perceptions of safety. Research identifies a range of 'incivilities' that make people feel unsafe, including litter, graffiti, vandalism, poor lighting and environmental disrepair[9]. There is widespread recognition of the influence of design on perceptions of safety. People who perceive their neighbourhood has high levels of disorder are inclined to be 'more anxious about crime, fearful and mistrustful of their neighbours'[10].

Lack of neighbourhood cohesion is a recurring them across the literature, with research identifying fear associated with changing populations and the presence of new social groups.

7. Community Indicators Victoria 2011, *Perceptions of safety,* <http://www.communityindicators.net.au/metadata_items/perceptions_of_safety>.
8. Community Indicators Victoria 2011, *Port Phillip Wellbeing Report,* <http://www.communityindicators.net.au/wellbeing_reports/port_phillip>.
9. Cordner G (2010). 'Reducing Fear of Crime: Strategies for Police'. Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice.
10. Delbosc A and Currie G (2012). 'Modelling the Causes and Impacts of Personal Safety Perceptions on Public Transport Ridership'. Transport Policy No 24. Pp 302 – 309.

Evidenced approach: engaged communities are safer communities

Less cohesive neighbourhoods, where people are disconnected, show higher levels of fear. There is strong evidence that engaged communities are more resilient and less fearful. In the City of Port Phillip local communities are encouraged to gather socially for a range of activities, including :

- The Neighbourhood Ngargee Program. Ngargee is an Indigenous Australian word meaning "gathering for celebration".
- Pride March
- National Sorry Day and Reconciliation week
- Yalukut Weelam Ngargee music festival
- Participation in Midsumma Festival
- Homeless Memorial
- City of Port Phillip Multi Faith Group
- Community Ball
- City of Port Phillip Multi-Cultural Group
- Seniors' Festival
- Older Person's Consultative Committee
- Adventure Playground Programs and Long-table lunches
- Iftar dinner during Ramadan
- Sporting activities at more than 20 Council-owned sporting venues
- Adventure Playground programs
- Youth events and activities
- St Kilda Foreshore events
- St Kilda Festival
- Esplanade Markets

These activities create an atmosphere of trust, safety, belonging and social cohesion in the local community and improve community health and wellbeing.

Our priority areas for the City of Port Phillip's safety

The Community Safety Plan (the plan) sets out the City of Port Phillip's contribution to making our community a safe and resilient place to live, visit, work and study. It describes our commitment to safety and our areas of focus for the next four years.

The Victorian Government is responsible for law and order, public housing, health and public transport, and lead on responses to these issues in the City of Port Phillip.

The plan sets out three priority areas for action:

Safer places, streets and activity centres

- Working with partners to increase actual and perceived public safety in our streets and spaces as well as management of lighting, CCTV, parks, footpaths, graffiti and waste management.
- Implement design principles to balance the liveability of an area by using appropriate plantings of shrubs and trees and attractive lighting to encourage place users
- Promote a creative and vibrant night life to reduce alcohol related anti-social behaviour as part of Placemaking initiatives with the community and traders
- Working with partners to improve road, public transport and pedestrian safety

Crime prevention and harm minimisation

- Contributing to reducing local crime by supporting initiatives that address domestic and family violence, sexual assault and safeguarding children from abuse including online abuse and cyberbullying.
- Reduce the opportunities for crime to occur, e.g. advice about scams, property safety and fraud.
- Working with police and emergency services where crimes are observed taking place in public spaces.

A welcoming, inclusive and resilient community

- Build resilient and connected communities to increase safety
- Working together to better prepare for and respond to emergencies that may arise, and strengthening community resilience.
- Ensure visitors feel safe and welcome in Port Phillip
- Working together to increase affordable housing and reduce homelessness and rough sleeping

Contributing to the City of Port Phillip's Council Plan 2017-2027

Public safety influences many different aspects of our city's quality of life and sustainability for its growing population of residents, workers and visitors. Consequently, the areas for action in this plan contribute broadly to Council's overarching vision for Port Phillip set out in our Council Plan 2017-27.

Council, in adopting the Council Plan 2017– 27, committed to the delivery of actions across six strategic directions. Relevant to the Community Safety Plan are:

Direction 1: We embrace difference and belong

Outcomes by 2027 include:

- A safe and active community with strong social connections.
- Access to services that support the health and wellbeing of our growing community.
- Community diversity is valued and celebrated.

Direction 4: We are growing and keeping our character

Outcomes by 2027 include:

- Liveability in a high density City
- A City of diverse and distinctive neighbourhoods and places

Direction 5: We thrive by harnessing creativity

Outcomes by 2027 include:

- A City of dynamic and distinctive retail precincts
- A prosperous City that connects and grows business
- A City where arts, culture and creative expression is part of everyday life

Improving community safety is a key priority for the Health and Wellbeing Implementation Strategy through the vision 'a safe and active community with strong social connections.'

A key objective of the Health and Wellbeing Implementation Strategy is to ensure Council's planning of natural and built form are informed by land use and design principles that contribute to community safety.

Our role and approach to community safety

While the Victorian Government is responsible for law and order, public housing, health, including mental health treatment services and public transport, we contribute to the safety of the community in a number of ways led by a set of key principles that guide how we work. The following describes the City of Port Phillip's operating principles for community safety:

1. Safety is central to our approach

Safety is fundamental to how we approach our work and how we deliver our services. Under the *Local Government Act 1989* (VIC), the City of Port Phillip can influence some of the drivers of crime and public safety issues in the city through:

- using our planning controls to specify the design quality and safety of new buildings and infrastructure, and regulate their usage (for example, licensed premises)
- directly managing the public domain, including waste, street lighting, public events, public art and community recreational spaces
- using our regulatory functions to promote safety, including outdoor alcohol restrictions and our animals policy
- maintaining a high standard of governance to ensure policy and procedures contribute to a safe organisation and community.

2. We work together for collective impact

No one organisation can solve complex safety issues in isolation. The City of Port Phillip works with a range of partners – including community members, government agencies, non-government organisations, universities and businesses – to identify agreed solutions and share resources to respond to priority issues.

Community feedback plays a key part in developing our priorities. Our residents, visitors and businesses are essential partners in making our community safer. We recognise the valuable skills, experience and knowledge they hold and create the conditions for them to collaborate and contribute to decision making.

3. We co-design solutions with community members

Where possible, we seek to co-produce our programs with community members. Co-production means delivering programs through an equal and reciprocal relationship between professionals, people using services, their families and their neighbours. This involves both designing and delivering initiatives with those who are likely to be impacted the most by the changes implemented. Where activities are co-produced in this way, both services and neighbourhoods can become far more effective agents of change.[4]

Some of the ways we do this are through our involvement in community-led working groups, our safety audits and our participation in place-based initiatives.

4. We take a proactive and informed approach

Changes in infrastructure and technologies; shifts in patterns of behaviour; and broader social, economic and environmental factors can impact community safety and patterns of crime. To keep informed, we work closely with our partners and draw on available evidence to identify and understand emerging risks to community safety and, where possible, put pre-emptive measures in place to mitigate risks.

We recognise the need for flexibility and will adjust our areas of focus and activities in the plan as required to reflect local, regional and even global changes that affect our urban environment over the next four years.

The role of Commonwealth Government

The Australian Commonwealth Government creates and maintains legislation that provides an overall system and framework for laws that govern appropriate conduct and behaviour for a well-regulated and fair society. The Commonwealth oversees and is responsible for:

- funding the legal system which upholds the law
- national security, including through espionage and counter-terrorism activities
- national crimes that include money laundering, human trafficking, cyber-crime and drug trafficking
- co-ordinating and funding national emergency management programs;
- the Australian Federal Police
- support for people with disabilities via the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- the Council of Australia Government's Law, Crime and Community Safety Council, a key vehicle for the coordination of law enforcement and crime reduction
- supporting community safety at the local level by funding local crime prevention and security infrastructure programs such as the Safer Communities Fund and the Safer Streets Program.

The role of State Government

The Victorian State Government develops State laws and supporting guidelines and engages in a range of other activities and functions that impact on safety and security, including:

- funding and supporting the Victorian legal system including prisons, youth justice and rehabilitation centres
- responsibility for Victoria Police who respond to crime such as traffic offences, theft, online abuse, assault, property damage, family violence and antisocial behaviour
- supporting communities through delivering a wide range of health, wellbeing and safety programs and funding emergency and social housing
- leading on issues that affect safety such as family violence and overseeing the control of alcohol and gambling
- Funding of the provision of mental health and alcohol and other drug treatment and support services

- coordinating the Victorian Emergency Management Framework.

The role of Local Government/Council

Council, as the local level of government, has a critical role in ensuring safety, peace and order in its municipal district through many functions, services and activities including:

- creating and enforcing local laws including those that regulate animal management, parking, and planning for new developments. Council also has responsibility to enforce some Victorian Government legislation, such as food safety inspections and building controls
- providing and maintaining public places for community that are safe and support community development, sporting, leisure, social and business activities
- supporting safe travel and transport through planning, road and footpath design and maintenance; bicycle paths and walking tracks; contributing to local road safety programs; working with public transport providers; and ensuring adequate levels of street lighting
- delivering a range of community services for family, children and youth services, older people and people with a disability and working to build social cohesion and harmony
- supporting programs and community approaches to crime prevention
- providing safety information and raising awareness on safety issues including through libraries, online, community groups and community programs.
- forming partnerships with strategic stakeholders and/or community to improve safety

The role of partners

Partnerships are key to achieving community safety. A number of other key agencies and stakeholders that work towards community safety and/or with mandated responsibilities include:

- Victoria Police is the key agency for law enforcement however also has a strong focus on preventative programs and on engagement with the community, for example, CCTV and its monitoring and evaluation.
- The Department of Education plays a strong role in maintaining connections to school and providing support services for young people who may be at risk.
- The Department of Justice and Regulation provides crime prevention programs and grants through the Community Crime Prevention Unit, protects children and youth that may be vulnerable, supports road safety cameras, and delivers emergency services.
- The Department of Health and Human Services provides health, housing, mental health and alcohol and other drug treatment and support and services
- Community health and other support agencies funded by the Victorian Government, provide important assistance and advice to families and individuals when at risk.
- Vic Roads plays an important role in maintaining major roads and footpaths within our community. Council generally has responsibility for local roads and footpaths.
- Transport Accident Commission (TAC) provide funding to address road safety blackspots. They are evolving this program to provide better funding and supports to meet local governments transport safety needs.

- Safety on public transport (trains, trams and buses) is the responsibility of the contracted public transport providers, Victoria Police and Protective Service Officers, Public Transport Victoria and Vic Track.
- The State Emergency Service plays an important role in restoring and maintaining safety following significant natural weather or emergency events and also assists in community preparedness, in partnership with State Government and Local Councils.
- Other key partners include Life Saving Victoria, Ambulance and Fire Brigade and Vic Parks

The role of the community

The community is fundamental to the successful implementation of community safety initiatives and are key to achieving community safety. Council, the state government and other agencies work in partnership with the community through avenues such as:

- Working with neighbourhood groups on community safety audits and other initiatives
- Participating in keeping our streets clean
- Working with traders, traders associations and businesses around the economic impacts of community safety
- Continuing to assist in the education of licensed premises in our city around things such as Responsible Service of Alcohol.

City of Port Phillip recognises that young people are citizens that will become adults of our community.

In Port Phillip 1,783 students were surveyed from 11 schools including seven primary and four secondary schools (Resilience survey; Port Phillip, 2017).

Overall survey findings identified young people in Port Phillip have high levels of resilience when compared to national data, 54% of Port Phillip young people have 'good/excellent' levels of resilience compared to 47% at the national level.

Key strengths and challenges

The below list outlines the key strengths and challenges from across the 1,783 young people surveyed (941 females, 842 males). Key strengths for young people included a sense of family belonging, good physical health, positive engagement in education and a strong demonstration of positive values. Key challenges for young people included bullying, mental health particularly from being under strain, lack of community belonging and lack of positive identity.

Key strengths
Family belonging

- 90% feel safe and secure at home.
- 91% say that parents try and help them succeed.

Physical health

- 98% do not smoke.
- 91% do not drink alcohol.

- 75% keep physically fit.
- 79% eat to stay well.

Educational Engagement

- 90% are eager to achieve.
- 92% are engaged in the learning process.
- 90% feel connected to school.

Positive values and social skills

- 92% accept people different from themselves.
- 92% think it is important to help other people.

Key challenges

Bullying

- Bullying was identified as a challenge across all year levels.
- 46% have been bullied at school in the last 6 months.

Mental health

- 31% are constantly under strain.
- 29% are unhappy and depressed.

Community belonging

- 38% are not involved creatively in music, art or similar.
- 45% are not involved in serving others in the community.

Positive identity

- 32% don't feel good about themselves.
- 40% have not developed a sense of purpose in life.
- 31% do not feel optimistic about the future.

Priority Area 1 : Safer places, streets and activity centres

Safe streets and spaces are clean, active, inviting, well designed and cared for, and welcoming for everyone. The positive 'look and feel' of our streets and spaces can contribute to reducing crime and increase feelings of safety. A priority of the City of Port Phillip is to ensure our streets, network of walking paths and cycleways, entertainment precincts, parks and outdoor spaces provide a vibrant, safe and welcoming environment that can be enjoyed by all both day and night.

Increasing actual and perceived public safety

Perceptions of safety often come from how people feel about an area or place. These fears can impact people's quality of life and the social and economic wellbeing of communities.[5]

Perceptions can be influenced by environmental and design factors such as poor lighting; lack of clear sight lines; the presence of graffiti, damaged property or rubbish; an absence of other people; or a lack of seating or recreational spaces. They can also be influenced by social factors including the behaviour of other people – for example, alcohol or drug consumption in public places, dogs off-leash, or unsafe road and cycling behaviour.

Making changes to the environment through designing, activating and managing the city's streets and public places can reduce fear of crime and opportunities for actual crime to occur.

Safe streets and welcoming public spaces

Council is responsible for our streets and public spaces. One of our key responsibilities is to ensure our local areas are designed and planned to minimise the potential for crime to occur – an approach known as 'Crime Prevention through Environmental Design' (see below).

Design techniques to improve safety include implementing ample lighting, clear sight lines, space activation and the use of physical barriers to control access. The Move, Connect, Live Strategy 2018-2028 is Council's plan to ensure our City's transport network, streets and places cater for our growing community and that our community is healthier because it has safe, connected and convenient active transport choices

Council is committed to improving safety of all road users on the transport network with the aim to eliminate fatalities and reduce the risk and severity of injuries on our roads, allowing people of all ages and abilities to travel on our road network safely and with confidence. The number of road injuries has significantly reduced, with serious injuries to pedestrians in the City having reduced by approximately 50 per cent since 2007. The Move, Connect, Live Strategy identifies safety as a key outcome over the life of the plan and details a range of actions that Council will take in partnership with others to achieve this.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

If people are using the public domain confidently, safely and into the evening this is an effective component of a safe public domain   The domain can also 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 the impression that more effort is required 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 and patronage, may present greater opportunities for crimes to occur.

CPTED provides strategies for urban designers and planners to contribute to local crime prevention and increase perceptions of safety.

Our street safety camera program

The City of Port Phillip has trialled closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras in Fitzroy Street and Little Grey Street. Cameras are also being installed on the Foreshore and funding has been offered towards installing them on the Acland Street, Palais Theatre and Luna Park areas. The presence of these cameras can increase public perceptions of safety and so Council will be developing a policy to guide its thinking about where and how CCTV can contribute to respond to State Government offers of partial funding.

Managing and maintaining our streets and spaces

A cared-for environment can also give the impression that greater effort is required to commit a crime, with heightened risks of being seen or caught. The ongoing process of maintaining, cleansing and removing waste from our city streets and spaces contributes to enhancing actual and perceived safety for members of the public.

Our work includes upgrading our infrastructure such as cycleways, footpaths, parks and signage. We also have a focus on improving and maintaining a high standard of lighting.

As part of managing our streets and spaces, Council aims to ensure that pets and people live together harmoniously. Our policy for animals balances the rights of animals and their owners with the needs of the wider community and environment, and encourages responsible animal ownership. We also promote community connection through a shared love of animals through many of our community events.

Placemaking

Through its Art and Soul Strategy, Council has committed to the delivery of a concentrated placemaking effort and investment within three (3) priority areas in Fitzroy Street, Waterfront Place and Clarendon Street.

Placemaking is an action learning process that enables all parts of the community and Council to work together to create great places.

Through placemaking, Council will be seeking to increase the place capital of the designated placemaking precincts. Place capital is multi-faceted and includes: -

- Social elements for example community leadership, participation, volunteering, inclusion and wellbeing;
- Cultural elements for example street life activation, innovation, creative and artistic expression as well as attachment to, and significance of the place;
- Economic elements for example entrepreneurship, business growth and sustainability, accessibility and affordability;
- Physical elements for example accessibility, connectivity, safety, comfort, attractiveness;
- Environmental elements for example environmental sustainability, awareness and participation.

Promote a creative and vibrant night life to reduce alcohol related anti-social behaviour

Another key focus for the City of Port Phillip is to work with our partners to continue to promote a creative and vibrant night life. This involves our work with traders and traders associations, our cultural and creative sectors and promoting a vibrant night life through our Art and Soul Creative and Prosperous City Strategy 2018-22 and the work from our newly established Art and Soul Strategy Advisory Panel.

Outdoor alcohol restrictions

Alcohol restrictions in public places can help prevent alcohol-related antisocial behaviour, including offensive behaviour, littering and excessive noise, and help mitigate crimes such as malicious damage and acts of violence. They assist Victorian Police existing powers to intervene early by confiscating alcohol within designated areas. The City of Port Phillip considers outdoor alcohol restrictions in certain areas at regular intervals by analysing applications, submissions and current crime statistics.

Street prostitution

Street sex work is an illegal activity in Victoria and both workers and clients face fines or jail terms under the *Sex Work Act 1994*. Nevertheless it is a complex issue which cannot be addressed solely through legislation or enforcement. There are many reasons a person undertakes street based sex work. For some it is their chosen profession, but for others it is something they undertake because they feel that they have few other choices left due such factors as drug addiction, mental and physical health issues, homelessness, missed educational and/or training opportunities or abuse.

To this end, Council works in collaboration with the local police and community services to manage the impact of street sex work on the local community. In line with best practice national and international approaches, Council employs a range of strategies which aim to reduce the supply, demand and harm associated with street sex work.

Community service providers act as an integral part of this approach. These services provide emergency relief, exit programs, supported accommodation, drug rehabilitation, methadone and trauma counselling. In doing so, they help to reduce the need for individuals to be involved in street sex work.

Agency professionals who work in this field are acutely aware of the harms and risks involved in street sex work and do not encourage women to remain in the industry, rather they work with those who are ready to change their lives to find and choose alternative opportunities.

There are several agencies within the City of Port Phillip which offer support services to street sex workers including: Gatehouse, Sacred Heart Mission, RhED and St Kilda Legal Service.

Safer places, streets and activity centres

Increase actual and perceived public safety in city streets and spaces to ensure they are well-lit and attractive

- Continue to deliver high-quality cleansing and waste services to the community
- Continue to implement our Street Safety Camera Program and security services according to a policy guiding the location and Council responses to partial funding offers from State Government or other partners
- Continue to use CPTED principles in the design of the public domain
- Activate spaces in the public domain through events and programs to enhance safety
- Continue to implement a range of activities and actions in our designated Placemaking areas
- Promote responsible pet management and safety in the public domain
- Continue to implement the Visitor and Summer Management program
- Continue to work with partners to minimse safety impacts arising from street sex work

Promote a creative and vibrant night life to reduce alcohol related anti-social behaviour

- Continue to promote and support a vibrant night life through our Art and Soul Strategy and the work from our newly established Art and Soul Advisory Panel
- Manage outdoor alcohol restriction compliance
- Create a positive social and physical environment around licensed premises and events to attract patrons and help people to feel and be safe
- Support initiatives to deliver safety interventions for people in the city who are intoxicated at night

Improve road, public transport and pedestrian safety

- Continue to improve safety for people walking, using wheelchairs and cycling through the design and renewal of footpaths and cycleways across the city, and the use of accessible wayfinding as part of being an Age Friendly City.
- Partner and work with government stakeholders to improve road and pedestrian safety through behaviour change and education
- Work with the Vic Government to ensure safety at high-use or late-night transport departure points

Priority Area 2 : Crime prevention and harm minimisation

Crime prevention refers to the range of strategies that are implemented by individuals, communities, businesses, non-government organisations and all levels of government to target the various social and environmental factors that increase the risk of crime, disorder and victimisation.[10]

The social approach to crime prevention focuses on addressing the underlying social and economic causes of crime in the community (such as a lack of social cohesion, and limited access to affordable and secure housing, employment, education and health services) and the motivations for people to commit offences.[11]

The environmental approach to crime prevention aims to modify the physical environment to reduce opportunities for crimes to occur. This includes situational crime prevention techniques and broader urban planning initiatives. This approach is referred to as 'crime prevention through environmental design' (CPTED), and is discussed under *Safer places, streets and activity centres*.

Our focus areas are determined by an analysis of crime problems affecting our local area. To inform our work and respond to changing patterns of crime, we:

- identify crime hotspots in the local area and continually monitor crime trends using data from the Crime Statistics Agency
- regularly consult with stakeholders, such as Victoria Police, community members, businesses and other levels of government
- conduct surveys with residents, businesses and visitors on their perceptions of safety and get insights from members of the public on an ongoing basis through our customer service channels.

We can also direct people impacted by crimes – including bystanders, victims and survivors of crime – to relevant information and support services.

Reducing opportunities for crime to occur

Certain types of crime are often opportunistic. Situational crime prevention aims to change contextual factors to reduce opportunities for offenders to engage in criminal behaviour. An example would be locking windows and doors when leaving your home or not leaving valuables in plain sight in an unattended vehicle to reduce the risk of burglary or theft.

The City of Port Phillip operates in close proximity to our businesses, visitors and residents. This level of community engagement positions us well to support local preventive activities that reduce the opportunities for crime to occur, such as raising awareness, providing information and building skills and knowledge.

An example of collaborative work with the community is the neighbourhood safety audits we conduct to identify and reduce crime and safety risks in local neighbourhoods.

Safety Audits

Little Grey Street Safety Audit 2017

The City of Port Phillip – in partnership the local community and Victoria Police, Council undertook a safety audit of the Little Grey Street area.

This involved a collaborative approach, using CPTED principles to:

- identify possible safety concerns and community perceptions of safety using group 'walk throughs' in a local area
- make recommendations to appropriate agencies to respond to safety concerns such as maintenance issues, lighting etc
- enable the community to monitor the implementation of recommendations.

"Well-planned crime prevention strategies not only prevent crime and victimisation, but also promote community safety and contribute to the sustainable development of countries. Effective, responsible crime prevention enhances the quality of life of all citizens. It has long-term benefits in terms of reducing the costs associated with the justice system, as well as other social costs that result from crime." United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Protection against cybercrime

As technologies and online behaviours rapidly evolve, so do the risks of crime that can be associated with digital technologies for organisations, businesses and members of the public.

Fraud is an ongoing problem and is constantly changing as new technologies and payment options are introduced. Crime statisitcs show that 35 per cent of fraud crimes are related to credit cards. The City of Port Phillip will work with Police and others to reduce these risks for residents and businesses.

Cybercrime is defined as a crime in which a computer is the object of the crime (for example, hacking, phishing and spamming) or is used as a tool to commit an offence electronically (for example, theft, fraud, distribution of child pornography, online abuse and hate crimes).

The provision of access to free public wi-fi and digital facilities at our libraries and community centres provides an opportunity to promote awareness of safer internet use for residents, workers and visitors, including reducing the risks of identity fraud, scams, exploitation, and online abuse of children and young people.

For our organisation, we have protections in place to safeguard our digital infrastructure and the data we hold that has been provided to us by the public and local organisations, and we continue to assess risks and upgrade protections on a regular basis.

Contributing to reducing domestic and family violence, and sexual assault

"One in 6 Australian women and 1 in 16 men have been subjected, since the age of 15, to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or previous cohabiting partner."[11]

---

11. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2018. *Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia.*

Anyone can experience domestic and family violence, and sexual assault, regardless of their age, gender, sexuality or cultural background. However, it is widely recognised that women are disproportionately affected by these forms of violent crime. In the period from 2012 to 2014, one woman was killed every week by a partner or former partner in Australia, compared with one man every month. These crimes have complex underlying social factors that require a whole of community approach to reducing the prevalence and impact of these crimes.

Crime statistics reveal that rates of family violence across Victoria have increased over the past 5 years from 60,545 (2012) to 78,006 in 2017 (an increase of 17,451). In 2017, children were identified as being present in 31.2% of family violence incidents[12].

The reported rate of family violence incidents for the City of Port Phillip is 1105 per 100,000[13]. This is an increase of 397 incidents since 2012. Of these family violence incidents, the highest categories of offences were assault and related offences (539) followed by stalking harassment and threatening behaviour (122) and property damage (74). A vast majority of family violence victims are women (88.59 %) compared to men (32.66 %) as recorded in Victoria Police family violence incident reports (L17 reports)[14].

There were 140 intervention orders sought over the 2015 – 2016 period (July to June). In the same period, there were 539 breaches of intervention orders.

The integrated Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan recognise family violence as a priority and endorse a program of work aimed at preventing and responding to family violence. This work is aligned to state and federal government policies and follows the recommendations set out by the Royal Commission in to Family Violence and the National prevention of violence against women agency, Our Watch.

Reducing harm from alcohol

Alcohol-related harm is estimated to cost the Australian community at least $15 billion per annum with $10.8 billion attributed to tangible costs (e.g. labour and health costs) and $4.5 billion to intangible costs such as death from violence[15].

Millions of Australians are harmed in alcohol-related incidents each year. Almost five million people in Australia (26.per cent) aged 14 and over reported being a victim of an alcohol-related incident in the preceding 12 months, and the number of Australians who experienced physical abuse in an alcohol-related incident increased[16].

The City of Port Phillip has the second highest rate of alcohol related hospitalisations and the highest alcohol related ambulance attendances in the Southern Region. Port Phillip has the fourth highest rate of alcohol related assault in the Southern Region. During high alcohol hours (Fridays

---

12. Crime Statistics Agency (2017). Retrieved: https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/family-violence-data-portal/family-violence-data-dashboard/victoria-police
13. Law Enforcement Assistance Program January 18 2017
14. Victorian Women's Health Atlas 2017
15. Collins DJ & Lapsley HM 2008. The costs of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drug abuse to Australian society in 2004/2005. National Drug Strategy Monograph series no. 66. Canberra: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
16. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2014

or Saturdays between 8 pm and 6 am), Port Phillip has the highest rate of alcohol related assault in the Southern Region. During Medium Alcohol Hours (Sunday through Thursday, between 8 pm and 6 am), Port Phillip has the highest rate of alcohol related assault in the Southern Region[17].

Although major alcohol control policies are the responsibility of the state and federal governments, councils can reduce residents' risk of harm from alcohol by:

- strategic plans and policies that explicitly aim to reduce alcohol-related harm
- designing environments that reduce alcohol-related harm
- implementing strategic approaches that change alcohol cultures by changing social norms, attitudes and beliefs about alcohol consumption and intoxication
- building local partnerships that reduce alcohol-related harm[18].

Reducing harm from drugs

Illicit drug use has both short-term and long-term health effects, which may include poisoning, mental illness, self-harm, suicide and death. The social impacts of illicit drug use include stressed family relationships, family breakdown, domestic violence, child abuse, assaults and crime[19].

Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use. Harm Reduction is also a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs. Harm reduction incorporates a spectrum of strategies from safer use, to managed use to abstinence addressing the conditions of use along with the use itself.

The following principles are central to harm reduction practice:

- Drug use is a complex, multi-faceted phenomenon that encompasses a continuum of behaviors from severe abuse to total abstinence, and acknowledges that some ways of using drugs are clearly safer than others.

- The quality of individual and community life and well-being–not necessarily cessation of all drug use–is the criteria for successful interventions and policies.

- Non-judgmental, non-coercive provision of services and resources to people who use drugs and the communities in which they live in order to assist them in reducing harms.

- Drug users and those with a history of drug use routinely have a real voice in the creation of programs and policies designed to serve them.

- Drug users themselves are the primary agents of reducing the harms of their drug use, and seeks to empower users to share information and support each other in strategies which meet their actual conditions of use.

---

17. Department of Health and Human Services 2014/15
18. VicHealth 2016, Reducing harm from alcohol Local government action guide
19 Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy 2011

- Recognises that the realities of poverty, class, racism, social isolation, past trauma, sex-based discrimination and other social inequalities affect both people's vulnerability to and capacity for effectively dealing with drug-related harm.

The **Victorian Government's Ice Action Plan** addresses urgent issues, including more support for Victorian families, expanding drug treatment services, protecting frontline workers and making communities safer.

The **Victorian Parliamentary Drug Inquiry** looked at how effective the state's current laws were in regards to dealing with drugs, and called for a more effective response centred around health and safety. The report contains 50 recommendations for reform to Victoria's drug laws and policies.

Needle and syringe program

One of the most important and effective harm reduction initiatives in Australia is the needle and syringe program (NSP), an integral component to Australia's harm minimisation approach to illicit drug use since its inception in 1986. The NSP is a prime example of a health-based response that is compassionate, evidence-based and has resulted in few, if any, unintended consequences.

The City of Port Phillip has a Syringe Disposal Program that aims to reduce needle and syringe litter within the municipality.

Sharp Safe Bins

The City of Port Phillip has a syringe disposal contract with Sweeney Todd Waste Disposal. As part of this contract, 157 syringe disposal units (sharp safe bins) are located within our Council area in all public toilets and in identified hot spots.

Sweeney Todd empty all sharp safe bins monthly, or more frequently if required. Statistical reports about the contents of the bins are provided to the City of Port Phillip's Health Services Unit for planning purposes.

Sweeney Todd also conducts community clean-ups of known hot spots such as Grey, Carlisle and Greeves Streets in St Kilda. Discarded syringes and other associated equipment are picked up from the street and statistics kept.

What To Do If You Find Discarded Syringes

If you find a discarded syringe on public or private property, please contact ASSIST on (03) 9209 6777.

Sometimes you may find needles and syringes and other injecting equipment inappropriately thrown away in gutters, parks, laneways or washed up on the beach.

You can help the community by making sure needles and syringes are removed from where they may cause harm to others by reporting the exact location of the needles and syringes to ASSIST to arrange for collection.

Contributing to preventing child abuse and supporting effective responses

The City of Port Phillip has invested significantly in ensuring the safety of children who are under our duty of care or who engage with our organisation (for example, through our childcare facilities, community programs, and sport and recreational venues). This includes developing and implementing revised child protection policies and procedures that reflect current child protection legislation, and compulsory tailored training for staff. The Final Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse was released in December 2017.[19] The Royal Commission's work has shown that sexual offences against children are not confined to the past. Incidents continue to occur in wide-ranging contemporary institutional and community settings, including through online platforms. Child sexual abuse is still significantly under-reported to police and typically involves delayed disclosure and reporting. Crime data reflects only a small proportion of incidents.

The Royal Commission identified [10] Child Safe Standards that are seen as essential for all child-safe institutions. Council continues to embed these standards across our organisation. Beyond our legislative role as a childsafe organisation, Council also takes a proactive role in contributing to preventing child abuse and ensuring effective responses in our local area. In line with recommendations from the Royal Commission, this will include helping local child-related businesses and organisations to be child-safe, and supporting future community initiatives implemented by the State or Federal government to prevent child abuse.

The following information outlines the key actions the City of Port Phillip will undertake over the next three years to contribute to crime prevention and harm minimisation.

Reduce the opportunities for crime to occur

- Build the capacity of businesses and the community to prevent crime
- Conduct safety audits with Victoria Police, businesses and residents to reduce the risk and impact of crime
- Track crime trends and community perceptions of crime and safety to identify priorities and emerging risks

Contribute to reducing domestic and family violence, and sexual assault

- Increase collaboration across agencies to reduce domestic and family violence
- Partner with Victoria Police and other agencies to encourage bystanders to support victims and increase reporting of domestic and family violence
- Support prevention strategies to reduce violence against women
- Partner with government and non-government agencies to provide information and support for victims of sexual assault and harassment

Contribute to preventing child abuse and supporting effective responses

- Continue to embed and promote child-safe standards across our organisation
- Support local child-related businesses and organisations to be child-safe
- Support community initiatives to prevent child abuse including online abuse

Reduce harm from drugs and alcohol

- Provide support for targeted harm minimisation initiatives in Port Phillip

- Increase community awareness of where to get help and support with drug and alcohol issues
- Continue to implement the needle and syringe disposal and collection program

Priority Area 3: A welcoming, inclusive and resilient community

Creating culturally safe and welcoming spaces

An important aspect of feeling safe is for people to feel welcome and respected for who they are. To create and champion safe and welcoming spaces for all, we use inclusive language, signage and cultural symbols in Council facilities, venues and parks. This includes recognised symbols such as flags, artwork, multilingual resources and place names. Symbols of recognition can contribute to people feeling safer. Council partners with our community to create welcoming and inclusive spaces.

Acknowledgement and celebration of traditional owners

Council acknowledges the Yaluk-ut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung who are descendants of the first people of the City of Port Phillip, with a continued strong connection to the land. The City of Port Phillip is committed to acknowledging, sharing and celebrating a living culture in our city.

Council has adopted the following acknowledgement at meetings, on Council documents and at the commencement of Council events:

Council respectfully acknowledges the Yaluk-ut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung.

We pay our respect to their Elders, both past and present.

We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

Council works with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to provide a safe, respectful and welcoming environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living, working, studying, visiting and accessing services in the City of Port Phillip.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are a vital presence in the City of Port Phillip. Through our engagement and partnership work, we know community aspirations include resilience and prosperity. We are also keenly aware that the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is developed from within, through empowerment and self-determination. As a local council that governs an area which has a strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, we also have a special role in supporting our communities towards prosperity.

Local communities can play a role in strengthening connections to culture by getting involved in local events that showcase the work of our Aboriginal creative sector and local Aboriginal artists. These initiatives can connect people to each other through Aboriginal culture and foster greater understanding. They will also provide more business, employment and leadership opportunities for Aboriginal people. The City of Port Phillip can showcase a progressive and inclusive society by celebrating all of its citizens, with special recognition of the resilience and strength of the living cultures of Aboriginal communities.

Reconciliation Week

Reconciliation Week is held annually from 27 May to 3 June. The dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey - the anniversaries of the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision.

The week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort.

27 May 1967 - Marks the anniversary of Australia's most successful referendum and a defining event in our nation's history. The 1967 referendum saw over 90 per cent of Australians vote to give the Commonwealth the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognise them in the national census.

3 June 1992 - The High Court of Australia delivered its landmark Mabo decision which legally recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a special relationship to the land—that existed prior to colonisation and still exists today.

This recognition paved the way for land rights called Native Title.

NAIDOC Week (National Aborigines and Islanders Week)

NAIDOC Week is a national observance lasting from the first Sunday in July until the following Sunday. NAIDOC Week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples nationally.

Council hosts community events during Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week which includes Mabo Day, and National Sorry Day.

Yalukut Willam* Signs

The City of Port Phillip has a series of Aboriginal interpretative signs to recognise and celebrate the continuing culture of the local Boon Wurrung people as part of its Reconciliation Action Plan. The signage was launched during Reconciliation Week in 2016.

The 10 signs, which form a self-guided tour of Port Phillip, were created with the Boon Wurrung Foundation and include information about significant Aboriginal landmarks and historical figures.

The signs, which stand at 1.6 metres tall and feature contributions from Boon Wurrung artist Jarra Steel, have been installed at Point Ormond, Beaconsfield Parade, Peanut Farm Reserve, St Kilda foreshore, West Beach, South Melbourne Market, Fraser St, Lagoon Reserve and Port Melbourne foreshore.

*The spelling of Yalukut Willam has changed following a request from the Boon Wurrung Foundation to Yaluk-ut Weelam.

Flying the rainbow flag

The rainbow flag is a potent symbol of pride that was born out of political action in the global lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) community. At key times during the year, this iconic flag flies above the St Kilda Town Hall as an emblem for inclusion, and to raise awareness and highlight important issues that continue to face the LGBTIQ community.

Victorian Pride Centre

Fitzroy Street, St Kilda is the future home of the Victorian Pride Centre (VPC). The VPC will be a civic and community facility of state significance. Its establishment in Fitzroy Street aligns with Council's commitment to celebrate diversity within our community. It is intended that the Pride

Centre will be the new home for a range of LGBTIQ organisations, including the Victorian AIDS Council and JOY FM. Council's investment in the VPC will deliver enduring benefits to Victoria's LGBTIQ community and to local residents, traders, artists and visitors.

Rainbow Road

A rainbow road celebrating diversity and inclusion was launched in August 2018 in Jackson Street at the Fitzroy Street intersection.It will be in pride of place for the annual Midsumma Pride March along Fitzroy Street for the next two years.

Social Support in the City of Port Phillip

The City of Port Phillip's Social Support Program provides older residents, those experiencing dementia or who are socially isolated and people with disabilities the opportunity to participate in recreation and cultural activities. The Social Support Program offers weekly activities in-house at Cora Graves in Blessington Street and out and about to fun and interesting locations. The City of Port Phillip partners with Port Phillip Community Group, Uniting and South Port Community Group to lever a range of social inclusion opportunities for its most vulnerable residents.

Ready and resilient

A resilient city is prepared and connected. It has networks primed and ready to act together in an emergency or in response to chronic issues. The systems and infrastructure that support how it functions are diversified to enable essential businesses and institutions to keep running during shock emergency events. Strong connections between organisations, governments and communities help them to recover from shocks and to deal with longer-term stresses together. People participate in decision-making and are agents of change, contributing to shared solutions.

Sudden shocks that cause short-term, acute disruptions include emergencies such as extreme weather events (heatwaves and storms), water supply issues, infrastructure failures (for example, power outages or building collapses), digital network failures, terror attacks, cyber attacks and disease pandemics.

Examples of stresses that weaken the fabric of a city over the longer term include high unemployment, an overtaxed or inefficient public transportation system, a lack of affordable and secure housing, increasing rates of chronic disease, diminishing social cohesion, drug and alcohol abuse, high crime rates, and increased inequality across communities.

With strong connections and a commitment to sharing knowledge and creating opportunities for diverse perspectives, we can better prevent or mitigate such stresses and shocks, adapt to situations, and rapidly recover and thrive after disruptions.

Ensuring Port Phillip knows how to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies

In resilient cities, communities are aware and prepared. They know how they can prepare and equip themselves in the event of a major shock, both as individuals and as members of their local neighbourhoods and communities.

Certain emergencies in the city require a significant coordinated response from emergency services and other government agencies, such as those responsible for health and transport. To manage a coordinated response, emergency service agencies in the local area work with us to

develop our local emergency management plan, which describes the local arrangements to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. As part of this, we also have ancillary plans to address differing contexts. This includes plans for vulnerable communities – for example, people sleeping rough who are at risk from the adverse effects of extreme weather events.

We also work in partnership to protect crowded places (such as major events) against planned deliberate acts of harm. As outlined in Australia's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism[20], Council works in partnership with government and the private sector to better protect places in our local area.

Owners and operators have the primary responsibility for protecting their sites, including a duty of care to take steps to protect people that work, use or visit their site. By working together to implement this strategy, owners and operators are in a better position to protect crowded places.

Building resilient and connected communities to increase safety

A strong community has the capacity to cope with change or challenges. It fosters connections between people which helps to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour. A sense of belonging, social cohesion and purpose in life are the foundations that support a safe community. Individuals and families connected to others and to the broader community, young people involved in activities and education, neighbours knowing and supporting one another, and people having meaningful activities and purpose in life are all factors that help to create a safer community and help people to feel safe within their community. These factors contribute to personal attitudes and social capital essential for safety: respectful relationships, pride of place, caring for others, tolerance, inclusiveness and understanding, and a lack of discrimination

Appropriate housing contributes to safer communities

Access to safe and sustainable housing is fundamental to increasing safety and building community resilience. Homelessness can be both a cause and a consequence of being a victim or an offender of crime. Some people in the community report feeling unsafe as a result of confusing rough sleeping with antisocial behaviour.

Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness in Australia[21]. Victims fleeing an unsafe home environment are often left without the resources to access alternative accommodation. There are also well-documented links between homelessness, offending and reoffending[22]. There is insufficnet rental housing across Melbourne available for people and families on low incomes.

The City of Port Phillip has a dedicated team to help people experiencing homelessness access long-term housing with support.

---

[20]Australian Government, 2017. *Australia's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism,* accessed at: https://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/Securityandyourcommunity/Pages/australias-strategy-for-protecting-crowded-places-from-terrorism.aspx

[21] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2018. *Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia*

[22] McDermott, S, Bruce, J, Fisher, KR and Gleeson, R, January 2010. *Evaluation of the Integrated Services Project for Clients with Challenging Behaviour: Final Report,* SPRC Report 5/10, prepared for Ageing, Disability and Home Care, NSW Department of Family and Community Services, Sydney: Social Policy Research Centre.

To increase opportunities to access housing that is affordable, Council continues to invest in a range of initiatives, including **In Our Backyard- Growing Affordable Housing in Port Phillip 2015 – 2025.**

The strategy builds on the successful partnership with Port Phillip Housing Association as Trustee of the Port Phillip Housing Trust, and maintains our longstanding leadership in affordable housing. This is central to our commitment to maintaining a diverse, inclusive and equitable city, especially for those who are disadvantaged and marginalised.

Over the next 10 years to 2025, we will continue to grow the supply and diversity of affordable housing in the City of Port Phillip to address priority local housing needs. This will include facilitating new community housing projects through property and cash contributions to local housing organisations, and advocating for an affordable housing planning mechanism that will incentivise private sector delivery of new affordable housing including in Fishermans Bend.

Ensuring visitors feel safe and welcome

People visiting Port Phillip make a significant contribution to our local economy. The City of Port Phillip is a popular destination for tourists as seen by the following number of visitors in the nine month period from March 2017 to March 2018[23]. It is important to point out that this data refers to visitors from more than 50kms outside the municipality, so in theory these figures are likely to be greater.

- Domestic daytrip – 447,000 visitors
- Domestic overnight – 429,000 visitors, 1,075,000 visitor nights
- International – 102,000 visitors, 2,204,000 visitor nights

We have a number of initiatives in place to welcome visitors and to help them familiarise themselves with and contribute to our local area. We manage a meet-and-greet program of volunteer ambassadors at the passenger ship terminal in Port Melbourne. We provide effective signage and wayfinding tools to help visitors easily and safely navigate to popular destinations. Our vibrant late-night entertainment areas attract both locals and visitors, and the experiences they offer shapes their impressions of the City of Port Phillip and its reputation.

The following outlines the key actions the City of Port Phillip will undertake over the next four years to contribute to ensuring the city is a welcoming, inclusive and resilient community.

Ensure Port Phillip knows how to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies

- Work with emergency services, relevant agencies and the community to build resilience in communities to prevent, respond to and recover from emergencies
- Implement the recommended approach of Australia's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism

Build resilient and connected communities to increase safety

- Collaborate with the Victorian Government, non-government agencies and residents to address safety and amenity issues for social housing residents
- Provide and support community capacity – building initiatives in social housing neighbourhoods to increase tenant participation in increasing safety
- Coordinate community events to increase opportunities to meet with police, neighbours and local services, and increase knowledge about safety

---

[23] Tourism Research Australia, available on the department's website <http://www.tra.gov.au/>.

- Support people sleeping rough to access safe and sustainable housing and health services
- Work with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to promote and celebrate the continuing culture of the local Boon Wurrung people

Ensure visitors feel safe and welcome

- Continue to implement programs to welcome visitors as they familiarise themselves with the City of Port Phillip
- Use culturally inclusive language, signage and symbols in Council facilities, venues and parks to create and champion safe and welcoming spaces for all

Developing the draft action plan

The draft plan builds on the City of Port Phillip's current strategies, plans and policies, and draws on our day-to-day experience working with our many partners, networks and community members to address safety.

To identify immediate and longer-term priorities and desired outcomes for the action plan, the City of Port Phillip:

- engaged with community members, Victoria Police, non-government organisations, academic institutions, government agencies and peak bodies and networks such as the Older Persons' Consultative Committee, Inner Metro Metropolitan Partnership, Inner Melbourne Action Plan, MAV LGGAODIF,
- drew on outcomes from extensive community and stakeholder engagement undertaken for the development of the City of Port Phillip's integrated Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
- analysed long-term trends in local crime data and community indicators to identify risks and areas of resilience and strength to build on
  Conducted action research projects, such as community safety audits with community members and agencies, traders and Victoria Police.
- reviewed community safety and crime reduction initiatives from comparable cities.

Have your say

To help finalise the Community Safety Plan, we welcome you to have your say and provide feedback on this draft plan.

This document will be on public exhibition through to 28 June 2019. You can provide comments and submissions via:

Online: https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/community-safety-plan

Email: Community Strengthening Team via Assist@portphillip.vic.gov.au
Post: City of Port Phillip

Private Bag No 3

PO ST KILDA VIC 3182

Need help providing feedback?

We want to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to provide ideas and feedback

- If you or someone you know would like to talk to us in person about the Community Safety Plan, please phone our ASSIST Customer Service Centre on **(03) 9209 6777** to connect with City of Port Phillip staff
- An accessible version of the action plan suitable for screen readers can be downloaded from the website
- Printed versions of the draft Plan are also available upon request.

KEY COMMONWEALTH PLANS, STRATEGIES AND POLICIES INCLUDE:
Australia's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism

National Crime Prevention Framework

National Drug Strategy 2017−26

KEY STATE GOVERNMENT PLANS, STRATEGIES AND POLICIES INCLUDE:

Victorian Government Community Safety Statement 2017

Victoria Police Capability Plan 2016−2025

Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015−2019

Absolutely Everyone: The Victorian State Disability Plan 2017−2020

Towards Zero 2016−2020

Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy 2016

Ending Family Violence: Victoria's Plan for Change 2017

Family Violence Primary Prevention Strategy 2017

Preventing Violence Against Women: A Framework for Action 2015

Reducing the Alcohol and Drug Toll Plan 2013−2017

Community Crime Prevention Program

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Safer Design Guidelines for Victoria 2005. Updated