

Yarra Ranges **Council**

Health and Wellbeing

Strategy at a glance

2025–2029

Yarra Ranges Council

Health and Wellbeing Strategy at a glance

Our vision

Yarra Ranges is a safe, inclusive and connected community, where people can access the services and information that they need to be healthy and well at every stage of life.

Our purpose

To achieve a healthy connected community which is safe, healthy, inclusive and socially connected. Quality services are accessible to everyone.

Our guiding principles

Below is the set of principles that set the foundation for a system of belief, behaviour, attitudes and governance for Council.

- Human rights and health equity
- Intersectionality
- Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing
- Gender equity
- Evidence informed
- Social determinants of health

Focus Area 1

Increasing community adaptation to climate-related health risks.

Goal 1: Residents are equipped to protect their health and wellbeing from climate-related risks.

Desired outcomes:

- The community has the knowledge and tools to respond to climate-related health risks and extreme weather events.
- Reduced risk of climate-related ill-health and wellbeing, especially amongst vulnerable communities.
- Council is recognised as a trusted source of information on climate health risks.

Goal 2: Council operations, assets, and services are resilient to changing climate conditions and extreme weather events.

Desired outcomes:

- Council facilities, services and communications are prepared for climate impacts and extreme weather events.
- Open spaces and outdoor infrastructure are designed to remain safe and accessible in hotter conditions.
- Nature-based solutions are used to reduce climate related impacts, such as urban heat.
- The people and places most at risk from climate-related hazards are prioritised.

Goal 3: The community is prepared for climate impacts and extreme weather events.

Desired outcomes:

- Residents and businesses are equipped to manage disruptions to essential services and infrastructure.
- More homes are resilient to extreme weather and climate impacts.
- Residents understand the role of insurance in managing climate-related risk.

Focus Area 2

Improving mental wellbeing.

Goal 1: People feel a sense of belonging and strong community connection.

Desired outcomes:

- Towns and public spaces foster belonging, and connection to place and nature.

- Council's role in community strengthening is clear and coordinated.
- More people feel connected and mentally well through community participation.
- Council facilities support inclusion and connection across all ages and abilities.

Goal 2: People have better access to mental health supports and services.

Desired outcomes:

- Community know where and how to access mental health support.
- Families are better equipped to support mental wellbeing.
- Council has strong place-based partnerships to improve wellbeing outcomes for children, young people and families.

Goal 3: People have better access to emergency, social and affordable housing.

Desired outcomes:

- Community members in need are supported to access suitable housing.

Focus Area 3

Supporting our community to lead healthy lives.

Goal 1: The community has increased capacity to access healthy, affordable food.

Desired outcomes:

- Increased consumption of minimally processed foods and reduced consumption of discretionary foods.
- Fewer people experience food insecurity.

Goal 2: The community has access to substance-free spaces and activities.

Desired outcomes:

- Reduced risk of harm from alcohol, tobacco and e-cigarettes.

Goal 3: Neighbourhoods provide a wider range of accessible options to participate in physical activity.

Desired outcomes:

- People have more opportunities to be physically active.

Focus Area 4

Creating safer and more inclusive communities.

Goal 1: Our community works together to prevent all forms of violence.

Desired outcomes:

- Reduced levels of violence against women and children.
- Reduced levels of elder abuse.
- Increased sense of community safety.
- Reduced levels of violence in community.

Goal 2: Our community has equitable access to spaces and services where everyone feels welcome and included.

Desired outcomes:

- Increased access to safe, accessible and inclusive Council spaces and services.

Advocacy priorities

- Increase housing opportunities and partnerships
- Increase health services
- Increase safety and inclusion
- Increase physical activity
- Increase climate adaptation and reduced impacts of extreme weather
- Increase food security

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