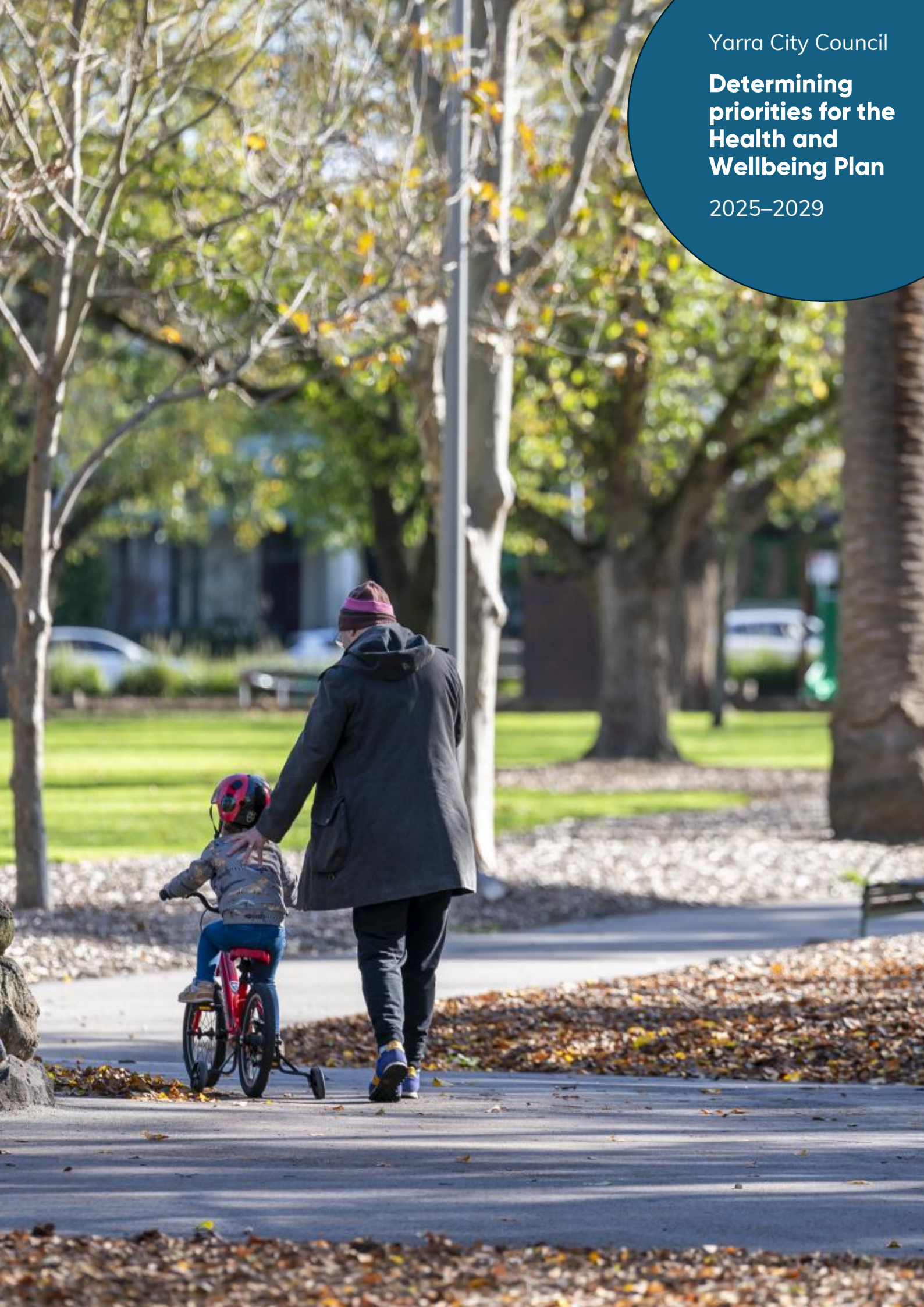


Yarra City Council

**Determining
priorities for the
Health and
Wellbeing Plan**

2025–2029



Development of Yarra's Health and Wellbeing Plan

Victorian Legislative context for the health plan

In developing the Health and Wellbeing Plan we have regards for the following legislation:

Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

As part of developing the MPHWP every four years, local governments must include “an examination of data about health status and health determinants in the municipal district”. This has been done with the Yarra Health and Wellbeing Profile (see below – add link).

Victorian Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 2023-27

The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (VPHWP) is the state level plan for improving public health and wellbeing outcomes for all Victorians. When considering priority areas, we have been guided by the ten state priorities.



Gender Equality Act 2020

The Gender Equality Act requires Councils to undertake Gender Impact Assessments when developing or reviewing any policy, program or service that has a direct and significant impact on the public. We have undertaken a gender impact assessment

Victorian Climate Change Act 2017

The Climate Change Act requires councils to consider climate change in the development of the MPHWP, which aligns well with the priorities in the VPHWP.

Other State-level strategic documents

There are other strategic documents at the state level have also been taken into consideration:

- Local Government Act 2020
- Tobacco Act 1987
- Sport and Recreation Act 1972
- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006
- Ending Family Violence: Victoria's plan for change
- Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health: Key priorities 2017–2020
- Safe and Strong: A Victorian gender equality strategy
- Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018–2023
- Korin Korin Balit-Djak: Aboriginal health, wellbeing and safety strategic plan 2017– 2027
- Health 2040: Advancing health, access and care

Yarra Health and Wellbeing profile and snapshots

[Yarra's Health and Wellbeing Profile](#) provides a comprehensive overview of the health and wellbeing of the people living in the City of Yarra. The Profile has been used to identify evidence-based priority areas for the Health and Wellbeing Plan

Summary of findings

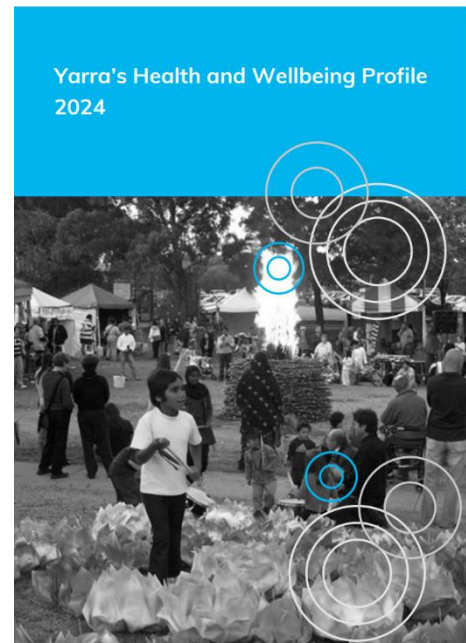
Yarra's community, on average, enjoys good health and wellbeing comparative to other metropolitan Melbourne areas and to Victoria. This is largely due to the higher socioeconomic position of the largely younger working population, and due to the medium density living with accessibility of health services, active transport infrastructure and daily living destinations.

However, Yarra is a city with embedded areas of socioeconomic divide. There are suburbs within Yarra that consistently showed poorer rates of socioeconomic, lifestyle, social and environmental factors across this Profile. There are also priority groups within Yarra that sometimes experience an unfair burden of poor health and wellbeing because of broader social issues and barriers.

The health and wellbeing summary snapshots

The summary snapshots provide a quick overview of the key themes emerging from data in the Health Profile:

1. [Alcohol and other drugs](#)
2. [Community safety](#)
3. [Mental and social wellbeing](#)
4. [Vaping and tobacco smoking](#)
5. [Domestic and family violence](#)
6. [Food security and food systems](#)
7. [Healthy housing](#)
8. [Climate resilience](#)
9. [Active community](#)
10. [Early years development](#)



The snapshots are also available in: [Vietnamese](#), [Arabic](#), [Traditional Chinese](#) and [Simplified Chinese](#)

Consultation and engagement

We received feedback from people across Yarra in three stages of community and stakeholder engagement in late 2024 to mid-2025. We have worked to ensure our engagement was as representative as possible and our diverse community had a voice.

Stage 1: Community engagement

In late 2024, we undertook broad community engagement through Your Say Yarra, our online consultation platform, and a social research project. Our broad community engagement received almost 1800 responses. We also spoke to 36 community-based stakeholder groups and Advisory Committees as well as 142 children and young people.

The top five priorities identified by the community in response to the survey were:

1. Early years development
2. Healthy housing
3. Community safety
4. Food relief
5. Family and gendered violence

Note: As the survey sought opinions over the phone and via the Yarra webpage, participants were not provided with the complete health profile or the one-page summaries. Accordingly, the available evidence base did not inform the responses, and they were based on subjective opinion and personal preference.

Stage 2: Community Working Group

We worked with independent consultants to recruit a representative sample of the Yarra community to form a Community Working Group (CWG). The 45 member CWG reflected the demographic make-up of the Yarra community. Our CWG attended four sessions to provide priorities, feedback and ideas to inform our Health and Wellbeing Plan

The top five priorities identified by the CWG were:

1. Family and gendered violence
2. Healthy housing
3. Mental and social wellbeing
4. Active community
5. Climate resilience

Stage 3: Health and Wellbeing Expert Reference Group

In early 2025, local stakeholders and experts were invited to join our Expert Reference group to share to their insights and perspectives on health and wellbeing priorities for the people who live in the City of Yarra.

Their insights are deeply valued by Council because they are based on expertise and a depth of experience in working with people in the local area over many years.

We ran two workshops (with activities for individual reflection and group discussions) and used an online whiteboard (Miro) to enable experts to contribute to the consultations between and during the workshops (whether in-person or online; see Figure 1).

Members of the Expert Reference Group included:

• Yarra Drug and Health Forum	• Australian Catholic University
• North Richmond Community Health	• Brotherhood of St Laurence
• Multicultural Centre for Women's Health	• Australian Catholic University
• North Richmond Community Health	• Ngaweeyan Maar-oo
• Cohealth	• Neighbourhood Justice Centre
• North West Melbourne Primary Health Network	• Thorne Harbour Health
• Access Health and Community	• North Eastern Public Health Unit
• Victorian Aboriginal Health Service	• Launch Housing
• Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations	• Women's Health in North

The top five priorities identified the Expert Reference Group were:

1. Mental and social wellbeing,
2. Family and gendered violence,
3. Healthy housing,
4. Food security and food environments, and
5. First Peoples health and wellbeing

Determining our priority areas

Summary of key themes community and stakeholder engagement

The message from community and stakeholder engagement was that the key focus areas of the health plan should include:

- Family and gendered violence
- Food environments and food security
- Climate resilience (including healthy housing)
- Mental and social wellbeing
- Active community

Furthermore, the Expert Reference Group strongly recommended that the health plan should include:

- A stand-alone priority area for First Peoples Health and Wellbeing
- Targeted approaches to improve health equity

These key focus areas have become the priority areas for the health plan.

Additionally, having regard for the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and being informed by evidence to show the high rates of smoking, vaping, drinking and drug-use in Yarra, we have included a priority area on:

- Reducing the harms from alcohol, other drugs, smoking and tobacco.

Overview of priorities and related strategies

