



**yarra.**  
FAMILY, YOUTH &  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

# 0-25 Years Plan 2018-2022.

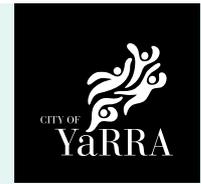




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## CHILD SAFE STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT



# Yarra City Council **Child Safe** Statement of Commitment

We are committed to being a **child safe** organisation and have a **zero tolerance** for child abuse.

We support and value all children and are committed to promoting and prioritising child safety throughout the City of Yarra.

We recognise our legal and moral responsibilities in keeping children and young people safe and have robust policies and procedures in place in order to meet this commitment.

We want children to thrive, be safe, happy and empowered, and are dedicated to ensuring children have a voice, their views are listened to and respected, and they are given opportunities to contribute to how we plan and deliver our services.



# Introduction

The City of Yarra has a rapidly growing population. This growth is forecast to continue with an estimated increase of more than 30% over the next twenty years. Yarra is an economically and culturally diverse municipality. Over one in five residents were born overseas and just under one in ten live in public housing, many of whom are living in economic hardship and with aspects of social disadvantage.

Approximately one in five residents of Yarra, or twenty-two percent, are aged under 25. Although as a proportion of the total population, the proportion of families with children living in the municipality is decreasing, the actual numbers of families with children continues to increase. In 2006 there were just over 7,000 households with children of any age living in the municipality. A decade later, this had increased by about 1,500 households to nearly 8,500 households with children.

In developing our 0 to 25 Plan, we are taking a life stage approach. This differs from our previous child and youth strategies where we developed separate plans for the early years, middle years and youth. The integrated plan reflects the continuous journey of families raising and caring for children and young people. It allows us to consider the relationship between each of the stages as well as considering specific strategies for children and young people of different ages.



We gained a huge amount of input from our children, young people and families about what is good about living in Yarra and how we could make Yarra a better place for children, young people and families to live. In analysing the consultation material, and guiding the overall development of the Plan, we used the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth's (ARACY) Nest framework<sup>1</sup>. The framework was developed through an extensive investigation into what children and young people need to experience a good life. The ARACY Nest framework promotes the following vision:

“ All children and youth are loved and safe, have material basics, are healthy, are learning and are participating and have a positive sense of culture and identity.”<sup>2</sup>

## Document Purpose

Yarra's 0 to 25 Plan will guide our priorities and actions over the next 4 years relating to children, young people and their families. This background document provides relevant contextual information that informed the development of the plan. It summarises the community consultation approach and findings as well as our approach to developing the 0 to 25 Plan.

<sup>1</sup> More information about ARACY's work and, in particular, the Nest framework, can be found here: <https://www.aracy.org.au/>

<sup>2</sup> Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth. (2014). The NEST action agenda: Technical document.

# Strategic priorities

## Our Vision

**“All children and youth are loved and safe, have material basics, are healthy, are learning and are participating and have a positive sense of culture and identity.”** The Nest, Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth.

### Council plans that support 0–25 Plan

- Council Plan 2017–2021
- Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015–2018
- Access and Inclusion Plan 2014–2017
- Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015–2018
- Neighbourhood Houses Strategy and Action Plan 2018–2021
- Yarra Libraries Strategic Plan 2017–2020
- Arts and Cultural Strategy 2016–2020

### Strategic Priority 1

**The diversity and uniqueness of children, young people and their families is welcomed and celebrated**

- 1.1. Increase opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and their families to engage in culturally safe services in Yarra.
- 1.2. Council services are responsive to culturally linguistic and diverse children, young people and their families.
- 1.3. Promote inclusive practices to address needs of LGBTIQ children, young people and their families.
- 1.4. Provide opportunities for promoting a positive sense of identity and confidence for children and young people.
- 1.5. Encourage community engagement that builds community harmony, social cohesion and celebrates Yarra's diversity.

### Strategic Priority 2

**Support children, young people and their families to be strong, resilient and resourceful**

- 2.1. Progress the work of Yarra Communities that Care.
- 2.2. Support parents raising children through provision of information, building skills, confidence and networks.
- 2.3. Strengthen engagement of parents in Council programs and services.
- 2.4. Strengthen referral pathways for vulnerable families to appropriate supports and services.

### Strategic Priority 3

**Services for children, young people and their families are coordinated, responsive and evidence based**

- 3.1. Contribute to local area planning to improve services for children, young people and their families.
- 3.2. Strengthen sector leadership in joint planning, advocacy and improve coordination of service delivery with local early years and youth service agencies.
- 3.3. Provide professional development opportunities for people working with children, young people and their families.
- 3.4. Progress the provision of evidence-based information and programs and commit to the evaluation of new initiatives.

## Strategic Priority 4

### Improve participation of children, young people and their families in learning, employment, education and training

- 4.1. Increase participation in 4 year-old kindergarten.
- 4.2. Contribute towards improving literacy and numeracy outcomes for children and young people.
- 4.3. Promote and support family engagement in learning for children and young people.
- 4.4. Contribute towards improved transitions of children and young people to school, training and further education.
- 4.5. Advocate and partner to create pathways for young people and parents into employment, education and training opportunities in Yarra.

## Strategic Priority 5

### Improve the health and wellbeing of children, young people and their families

- 5.1. Continue to emphasise the importance to families for the first 1000 days of a child's development.
- 5.2. Advocate for and encourage improved health outcomes for children and young people.
- 5.3. Promote positive mental health outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- 5.4. Contribute to the development and delivery of services responsive to the safety of children, young people and their families.

## Strategic Priority 6

### Strengthen inclusive and engaged communities through promoting participation of children, young people and their families

- 6.1. Improve access to and coordination of information about activities, events and services relevant to children, young people and their families.
- 6.2. Strategic priorities and strategies in Yarra's 0-25 Plan inform relevant Yarra Annual Community Grants programs.
- 6.3. Enable children, young people and their families to have a greater say in Yarra.

## Strategic Priority 7

### A child friendly city provides for everyone

- 7.1. Promote a built environment that is inclusive of the needs and aspirations of children, young people and their families.
- 7.2. Advocate for pedestrian and cycling friendly environments for children, young people and their families.
- 7.3. Advocate for a well-linked, equitable and functional open space network for children, young people and their families.
- 7.4. Promote the needs of families, children and young people in planning for new and existing open space.

## Nest Framework

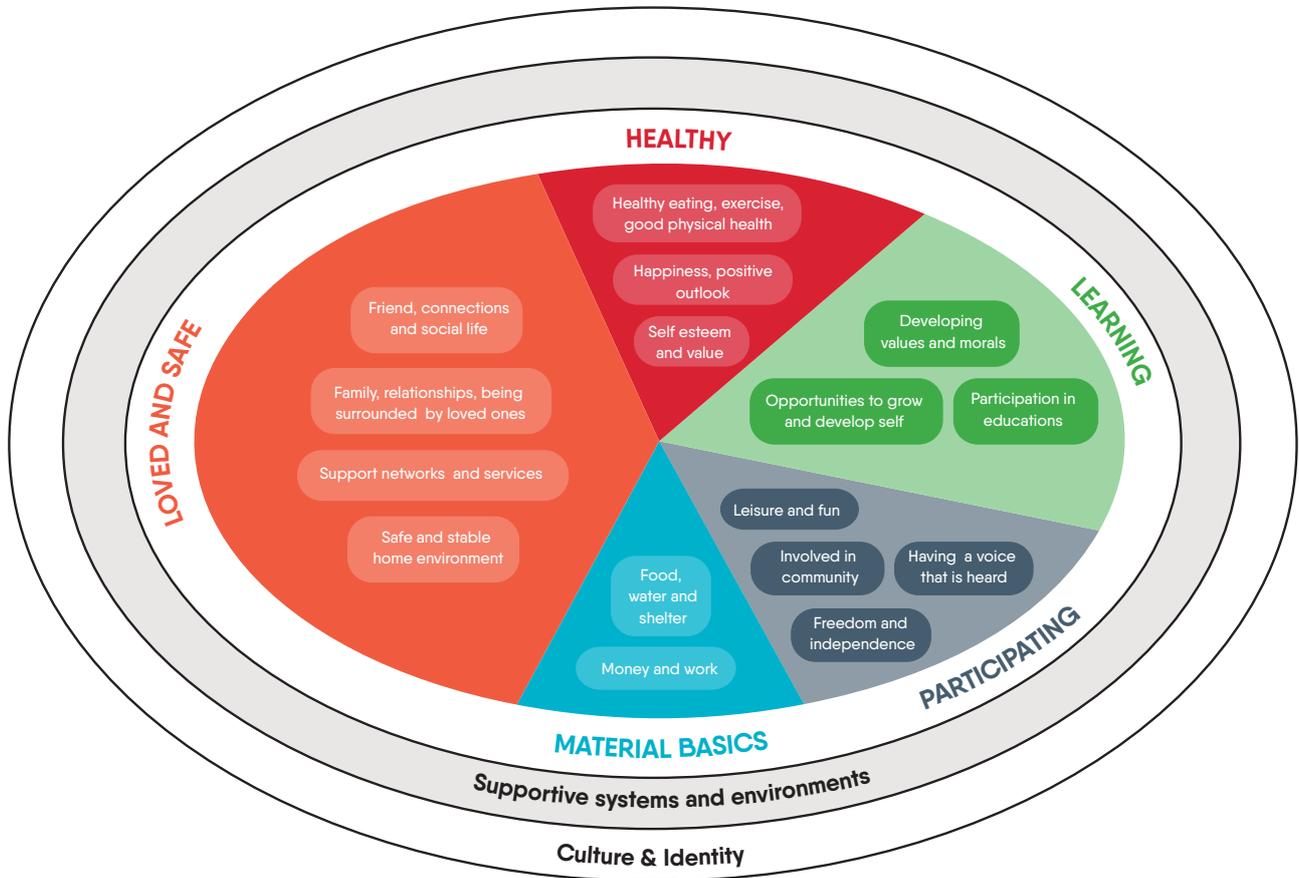
The Nest framework was developed by Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) as an outcome of extensive national research into health and wellbeing of children, young people and their families. The research project included consulting with 9,000 children and young people about what they need to live a good life.

The result is an evidenced-based national framework for child and youth well-being.

The Nest framework, below, represents this work and speaks directly to the experiences of children and young people. The original Nest framework comprised five action plan domains, underpinned by ‘supportive systems and environments’.

This was revised by ARACY in a subsequent version and ‘positive sense of culture and identity’ was included in the framework. Recognising that both themes are important to a child’s well-being and development, we have adapted the Nest Framework to include Culture and Identity but with the understanding that both act as wrap around themes encompassing and influencing the Nest domains. We have used the framework to guide the development of the 0-25 Plan.

### Areas and themes contributing to “a good life” NEST Framework



# How we developed the 0-25 Plan

## Development of our 0-25 Plan was informed by:

- **Demographic data** – understanding the demographic characteristics of children and young people living in Yarra and how this is changing.
- **Evidence and research** – understanding what research tells us about how the social and built environment influences children and young people’s development.
- **Community consultation** – listening to the views of children, young people and families about raising children and growing up in Yarra.

- **Review of existing plans and strategies** – reflecting and building on our achievements and progress of existing strategies for child and youth wellbeing.

Yarra Council is fortunate to have a number of community, service and education providers to support children and young people’s wellbeing and development. In developing the Plan we used feedback and insights from these groups.

The diagram below summarises the key milestones in the development of the plan. In developing the plan we sought extensive community feedback. Once we had collated the consultation material, we used the Nest framework to understand and analyse the feedback.



Engaged with children, young people and families

Consulted stakeholder groups

Conducted surveys

Group discussions

Consultation material reviewed by Council officers and external stakeholders

Analysis of data against NEST themes

Conducted second round of consultation to confirm, check, clarify and provide further opportunities to comment

Prepared first draft of the Plan

Reviewed material from second consultation stage and incorporated into the Plan

Final Plan considered by Council in July 2018.

Source: adapted from Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth. (2014). The NEST action agenda: Technical document.

# Yarra demographics

The City of Yarra is undergoing a period of considerable population growth. Yarra’s population is forecast to increase by about a third over the next two decades. To accommodate this growth, Yarra is becoming denser, with 85% of dwellings categorised as medium or high density. Yarra remains a diverse municipality. Nearly one in five residents were born outside Australia in countries where English is not the first language.

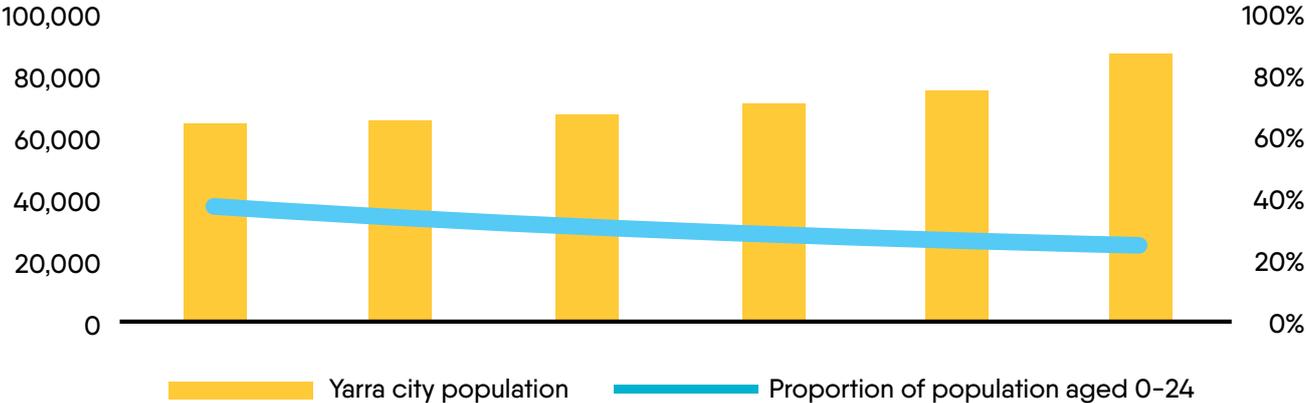
Yarra has a youthful profile, with a median age of 33. This is much lower than Greater Melbourne (37) and Australia (38).

Yarra is a municipality of economic and social extremes. Nearly two in five households have a weekly income of more than \$2,395 per week. In contrast, nearly one in ten households live in public housing, with many experiencing the effects of economic and social disadvantage.

As Yarra’s population grows so too does the number of families with children living in the municipality. In 2006, just over 7,000 families with children of any age lived in the municipality. A decade later, this had increased to nearly 8,500 households, representing an increase of 1,500 families. However most of the population growth is among childless households, and, as a proportion of the total population, children and youth in the municipality are declining.

About 22% of the Yarra population is aged under 25. Figure 1, below, shows how the number of children in Yarra gradually decreases as children age, until age 18. From age 18, the number of young people in Yarra steadily increases. This suggests some families of school-age children move out of Yarra, while newly independent adults move in.

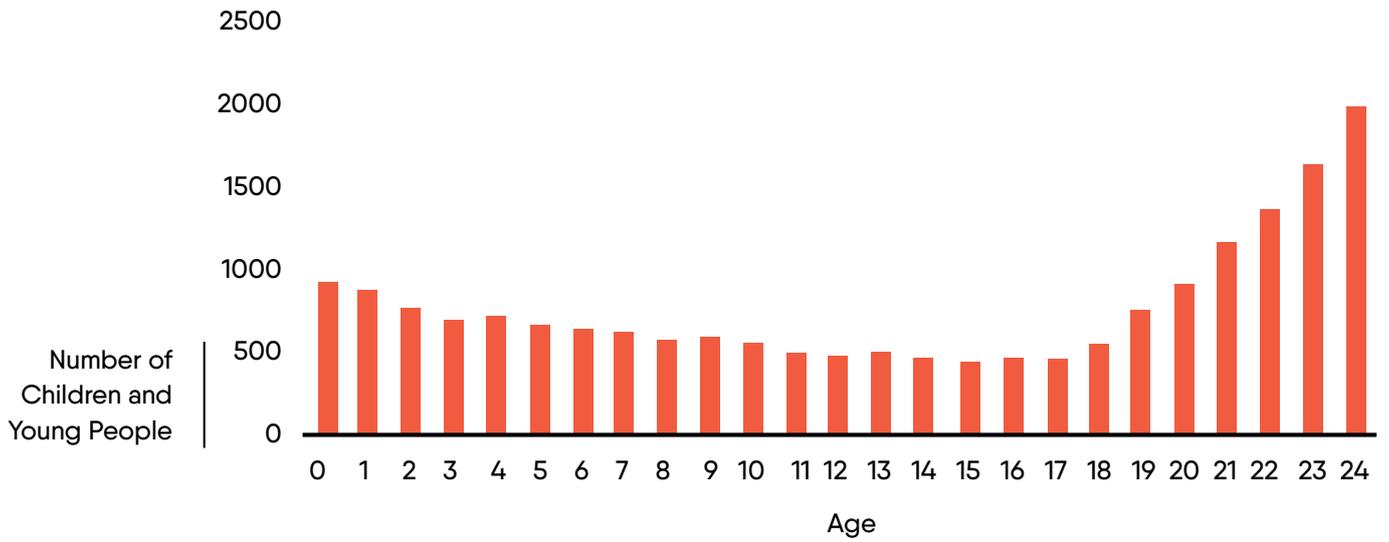
Figure 1: Yarra’s population growth



Data source: ABS Census (1991-2016), usual resident population

# Yarra demographics

Figure 2: Number of children and young people in Yarra



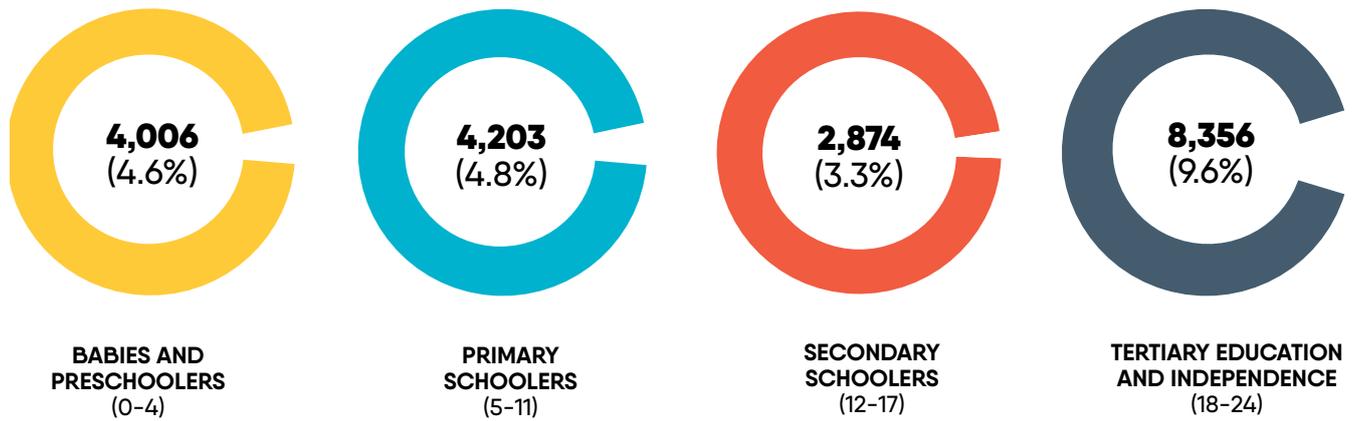
Data source: ABS Census (2016), usual resident population. Compiled by profile.id.



“ About 22% of the Yarra population is aged under 25. From age 18, the number of young people in Yarra steadily increases. ”

Figure 3 shows the proportion and number of children by each service year age group. The largest service year age group is young people aged between 18 and 24, comprising nearly 10% of Yarra’s population.

**Figure 3: Children and young people by service age group, number and proportion of the total population**



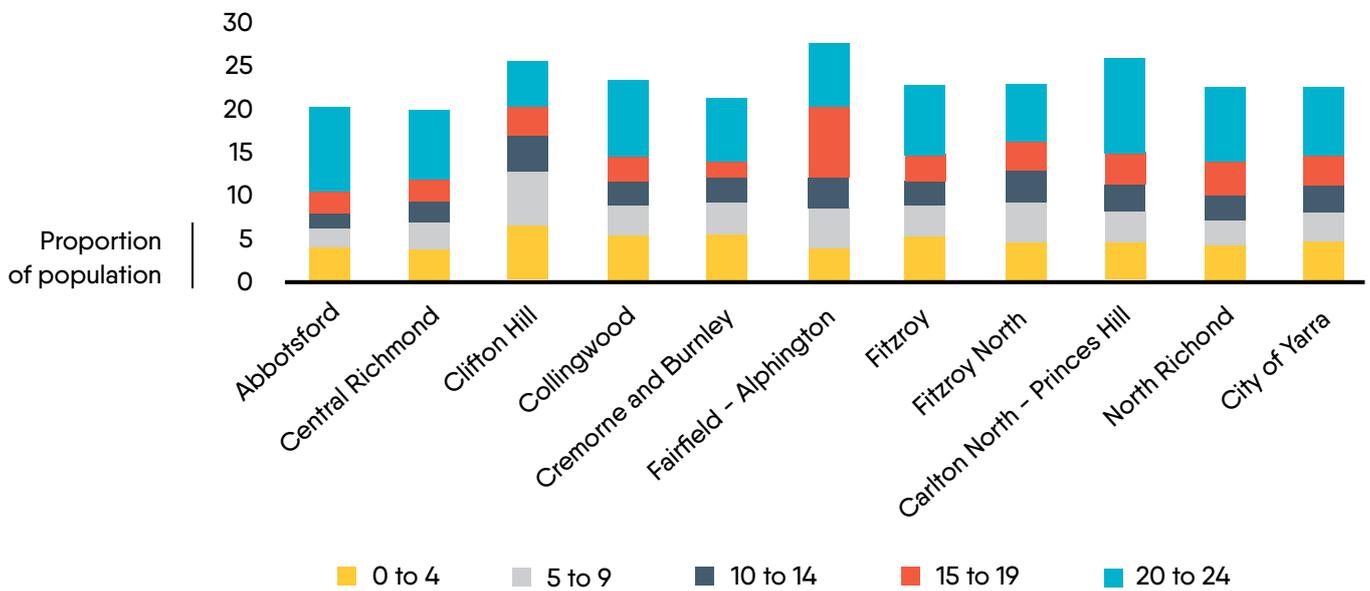
Data source: ABS Census (2016), usual resident population. Compiled by profile.id.



# Yarra demographics

Within the municipality, the proportion of children and young people by suburb varies significantly. Clifton Hill and Fairfield-Alphington have the largest proportion of children aged 14 and younger, comprising 17% and 14% of each suburbs' population respectively. In contrast, the suburbs of Abbotsford and Carlton North have much higher proportions of young people aged between 20 and 24. For instance, more than one in ten residents of Carlton North – Princess Hill are aged between 20 and 24.

**Figure 4: Yarra's children and young people by suburb**



Data source: ABS Census (2016), usual resident population



## Snapshot of Yarra's under 25 population

	PERCENT OF POPULATION AGED:		
	0-17:	18-24:	Total
<b>INDICATORS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE</b>			
Living in PUBLIC HOUSING	17%	8%	13%
Living in a CARLESS HOUSEHOLD	8%	22%	14%
Living in household earning less than \$650 PER WEEK	14%	15%	14%
Living in a small area categorised as SEIFA Decile 1 <sup>3</sup>	19%	8%	15%
<b>DIVERSITY</b>			
One or both parents BORN OVERSEAS	47%	48%	47%
Speaks another language and ENGLISH NOT WELL or at all	5%	2%	3%
<b>EDUCATION</b>			
FULL-TIME STUDENT	-	45%	-
Completed at least YEAR 11 OR EQUIVALENT	-	86%	-
<b>HOUSING</b>			
Living in HIGH DENSITY housing	27%	33%	30%
Living at the SAME ADDRESS as one year ago	75%	43%	62%
Living at the SAME ADDRESS five years ago	60%	21%	39%

Data source: ABS Census (2011, 2016), usual resident population

<sup>3</sup>The SEIFA index (Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage/Disadvantage) is derived from the relative proportions of 17 Census questions, such as low educational attainment and high unemployment.

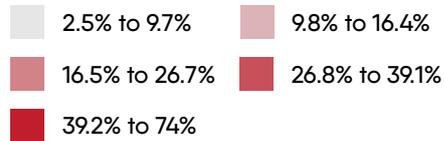
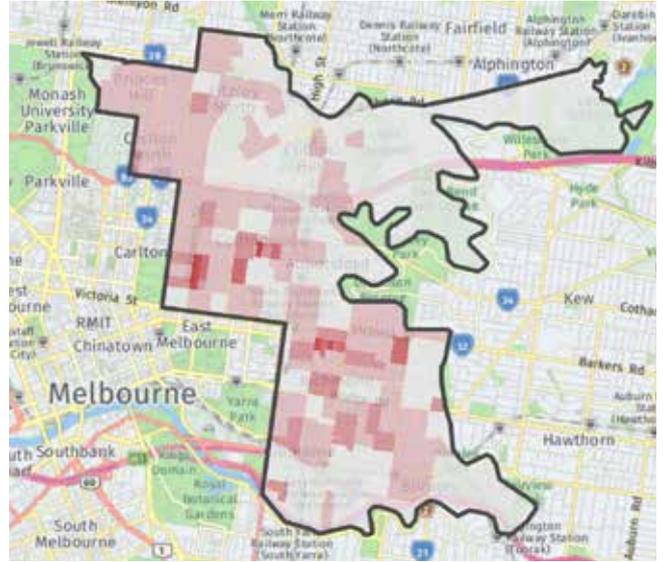
# Families with children

Yarra is a diverse, multicultural community. Nearly half of the residents aged under 18 years have at least one parent who was born overseas. About a quarter of children in this age group speak a language other than English and 1 in 20 do not speak English well or at all. Approximately 1 in 100 identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

Overall, about half of children aged under 18 live in medium density housing, such as townhouses and just over a quarter live in high density dwellings, such as apartments. The remainder live in detached houses. The number of families living in high density housing is increasing more rapidly than other housing types. For instance, in 2011, about 800 children aged under five lived in high density housing. In 2016, this had increased to nearly 1,200 children.

Nearly one in five people aged under 18 live in social housing and 14% live in households earning less than \$650 per week. This indicates that within Yarra there are significant pockets of social disadvantage. The pockets of low income households are clustered around areas of public housing, as the map below highlights.

**City of Yarra, Low income households (less than \$650 per week), 2016**



Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2016 (Enumerated data). Compiled and presented in atlas.id by .id.



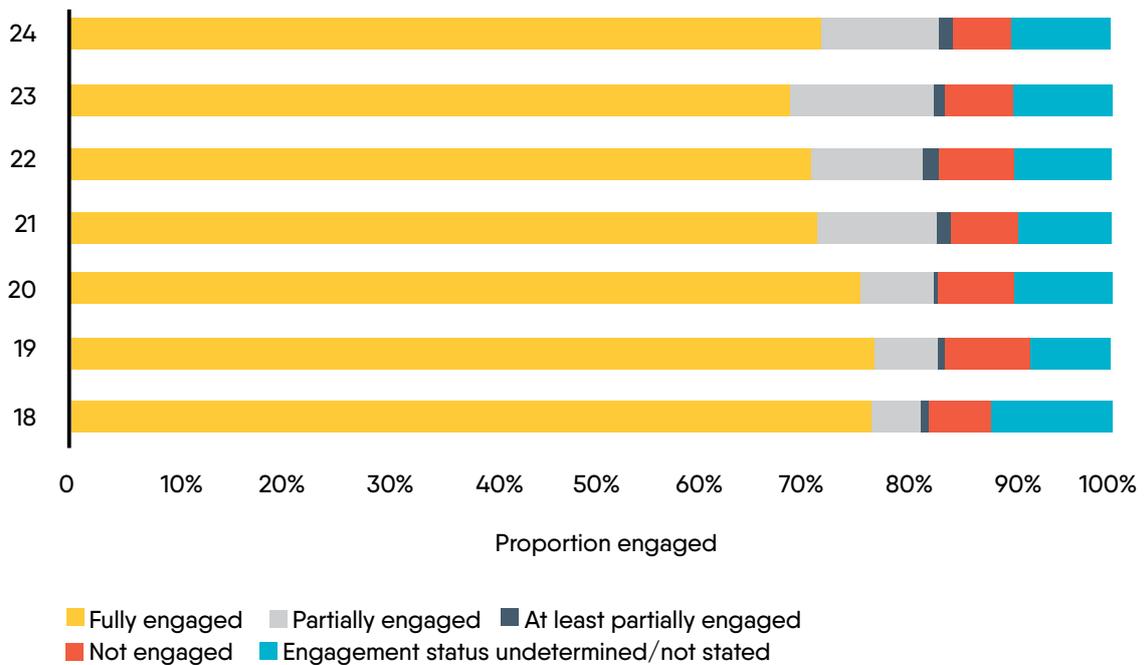
# Young people in Yarra

About 9,000 people living in Yarra are aged between 18 and 24. As many of these residents are new to Yarra, the demographic profile of these residents is notably different to the under 18 population. Compared with the under 18 population, this group is less likely to live in social housing or to have one or both parents born overseas. They are also a more transient population group with just one in five residents living in the same address as five years ago.

Overall, the group is well educated with 86% of 18 to 24 year olds having completed at least Year 11 or equivalent and nearly half are studying full-time. However, within this group, about one in 20 people are not engaged in employment, education or training.



**Figure 5: Engagement in education, training or employment**



Source: ABS Census (2016), usual resident population

# Consultation approach

## How did we consult?

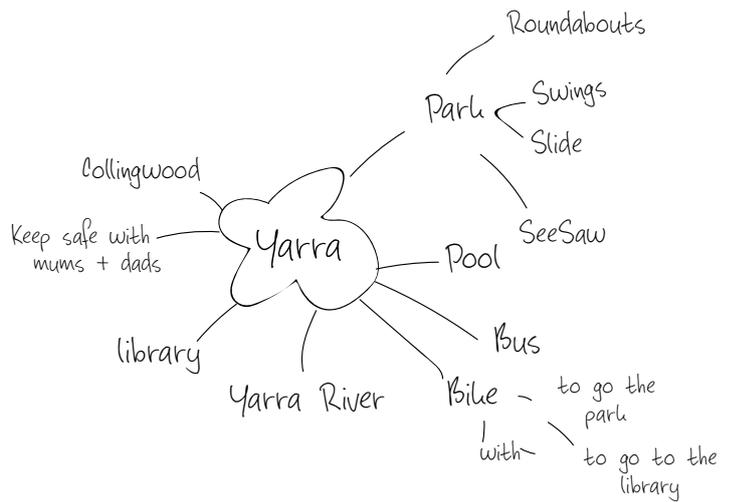
Our consultation activities were conducted over two phases. Our first consultation phase started during International Children’s Week (21–29 October 2017). We used a number of different approaches to talk to families, children and young people. This included:

- Activities at community events, such as International Children’s Week celebrations at Collingwood Children’s Farm.
- Running a variety of age appropriate activities at a number of settings, such as children’s centres, schools and several youth services and programs.
- Yarra also hosts a number of different advisory groups and committees. We used these groups to conduct some facilitated discussion with the members.
- An online survey through the ‘Have Your Say’ page hosted on Yarra’s public website inviting the community to share their views about raising children, or growing up, in Yarra. This was promoted through our services and on social media.

Our second consultation phase was conducted during early 2018 and involved undertaking more targeted consultation based on the findings from the first phase. During the second stage we utilised the assistance of the Project Reference Group to review the consultation material. As part of this phase we also:

- Held a data workshop with both internal and external stakeholders that aimed to analyse and better understand the consultation data.
- Conducted a more targeted survey for families.
- Conducted in-depth discussions with young people to explore the major themes that emerged during the first stage of consultation.
- Facilitated activities designed to encourage and support children’s comments in long day care centres.

## Children’s consultation, map used to facilitate children’s involvement



Source: Children’s consultation, Princess Hill

## What did we ask?

Our community consultation allowed us to understand community perspectives about growing up, or raising children, within Yarra. We asked three key questions to children, young people and families living in Yarra. These were:

- What do you like about Yarra?
- What worries or concerns you about raising children or growing up in Yarra?
- What could make Yarra a better community for children, young people & families?

In the second round of consultation we conducted a further survey for families with children living in Yarra. While the survey was for families with children of any age living in Yarra, the majority (87%) had at least one child aged between 0 and 4 years. The survey asked more specific questions about issues which had arisen during the first stage of consultation.

It sought to confirm the level of importance of some issues for families and to invite further comments from families we had already spoken to and families providing input for the first time.

Detailed discussions were also conducted with young people to explore the major themes that emerged in the first stage of consultation. Activities designed to encourage and support children's comments were facilitated in long day care centres as part of the second stage.

However, we recognise that the consultation participants are not perfectly representative of the general Yarra population. We also note that our Census data shows that some families with school-age children move out of Yarra. While we didn't speak to families who moved out of Yarra, evidence suggests that families tend to move away from inner urban areas during this life stage due to inadequate family-friendly housing stock, affordability and less child-friendly urban environments.

## Who did we ask?

We received a huge amount of input from the community with nearly seven hundred people contributing to the various consultation activities. Table 1 on page 18, shows the number of children, young people and adults who participated in each of the methods. People who participated in the consultation came from Yarra as well as neighbouring municipalities. This reflects the reach of our services and activities for children and young people.

Through our consultation activities we actively sought to reach more vulnerable members of the community. We attended activities and groups specifically catering to culturally and linguistically diverse families as well as groups for refugees and migrants. We were also pleased we heard from children and young people in relatively equal amounts to adults.



# Consultation approach

**Table 1: Consultation Summary – Phase one and two**

Consultation activities	Who we engaged	Total
<b>PHASE ONE CONSULTATION</b>		
Online survey	People raising children in Yarra (32)	52
	People growing up in Yarra (20)	
Events	Families or guardians completed survey (67)	80
	Community members completed survey (13)	
City of Yarra Services	Children and families attending long day care (16)	293
	Children attending Richmond kindergarten(28), Princes Hill kindergarten (22), Gold Street and Keele Street kindergartens (16)	
	OSHC - Students from Collingwood College and Richmond West Primary School (43)	
	First time mothers group – Nth Fitzroy Library (9)	
	Participants from several Youth programs and activities (76)	
	African women's group Collingwood Neighbourhood House (15)	
	Connie Benn Parents/Guardians (68)	
External Service providers	African women's English class at Collingwood Neighbourhood House (27)	71
	Services working with asylum seekers and refugees (15)	
	Yarra based service providers operating in the 0–25 space (29 Nov) 10 external participants + Yarra Council staff. (17)	
	Participants in the Hippy program (12)	
Schools	Children and families through surveying and focus group discussion	44
Advisory Groups	Members of YMAG (30)	61
	Representatives from long day care services (20)	
	YYAC 9 committee members (9)	
	Family Partnership Committee (2)	
<b>Total Phase one consultation</b>		<b>601</b>

**PHASE TWO CONSULTATION**

Youth Services	Young people (YYAC, YPLs, LIU) (29)	47
	Staff from schools / community organisations (4)	
	Yarra Youth Services (14)	
Gowrie Childcare Centre	Children aged 3 – 4 years	20
CWB Divisional meeting	Team leaders, coordinators, managers (counted as one)	1
Family, Youth & Children’s Services Branch - staff from across the branch (counted as one)		1
Families online survey		94
<b>Total Phase two consultation</b>		<b>163</b>
<b>Total phase one and two consultation</b>		<b>764</b>



# What we were told

We used the Nest framework to analyse and categorise the material we obtained through our consultations with children, young people and families. This section presents a summary of the consultation outcomes by Nest theme.

## Culture and identity

Children have told us that a feeling of belonging and a sense that any culture can live here are good things about the neighbourhood. Families and young people share a similar sentiment telling us that multiculturalism and the broad demographic in Yarra contributes towards making Yarra a good place.

Promoting respect and multiculturalism, celebrating and learning from different cultures, working with Aboriginal people and fostering connections between culturally diverse communities have been described by young people as important for making Yarra a better place.

Families told us that newly arrived families need more support for raising children. Improving translated materials and seeing people from different cultural backgrounds running services for children and families promotes acceptance, tolerance and supports recently arrived refugees. We were told by families that empowering and supporting families to come together and retain a sense of their culture will help to make Yarra a better place.

## Loved and safe

Consultation data tells us that feeling loved and safe is promoted by a community that is friendly, inclusive, feels supportive and has a sense of connectedness. Networks, programs and services provide important supports for children, young people and families along with opportunities for families to meet and connect with other families.

Parents, children and young people told us that many of their concerns focussed on feeling unsafe due to anti-social behaviours largely related to substance abuse and exposure to environments that feel unsafe. Rubbish and litter in the public domain and risk of coming into contact with syringes that have not been disposed of safely contribute towards feeling unsafe.

Young people also shared other concerns around peer pressure, discrimination and lack of support and acceptance from family. Developing personal resilience, having positive role models, a focus on the achievements of young people and opportunities to bring people together contributes towards making Yarra a better place for young people.



## Material basics

Families shared their concerns about the cost of services and in particular child care. Some families told us that access to free and affordable activities, cheap healthy foods or other types of support help families deal with the costs associated with raising a family in Yarra.

Improving access to basic services and goods and creation of more employment, training and education opportunities would help to make Yarra a better community for families and young people.

Children living in the public housing estates in Fitzroy and Richmond are concerned about having appropriate housing to suit the needs of large families. Children also told us that access to good food shops and transport contribute towards making good neighbourhoods.

## Learning

The consultation highlighted the importance of informal learning opportunities for families, young people and children in addition to formal learning opportunities such as school, long day care and kindergarten.

For young people, these include programs that focus on life skills and offer practical experiences. Families value support such as playgroups, story time sessions, information sessions, classes that improve parenting skills and toy libraries. Children also value classes where they can be active and learn such as dance classes and visits to the museum.

Improving access to child care and kindergarten programs was raised by many families as a concern and an important issue to address to make Yarra a better place for families.



**“Conversation starters like the Merri creek labyrinth, Indigenous mural down at Dight Falls etc. ... give a spark for me to talk about different things when I am out and about with the kids and engage in informal learning.”**

**– Parent, Family Survey**



# What we were told

## Healthy

Children, young people and families told us about the important contribution made by parks, playgrounds and open space towards health and wellbeing. Access to sporting facilities and programs and urban environments that promote physical activity are also highly valued.

Improving access to affordable medical care, health services and programs was raised by families and young people. Both young people and families told us about the need for more support and information around mental health and tackling substance abuse issues and the impacts. Young people also expressed a need for improved education on sexual health, queer sex education and more 'life skills' type programs and to de-stigmatise mental health supports. The need for support for young people with a disability was also raised. Children want to see facilities and play equipment that offer, adventure, exploration, fun and are challenging and appropriate for their age.

## Participating

Children cited lots of activities, events and things to do as contributing positively to their sense of participation in Yarra community. In addition to provision of more activities, some children told us that they would like more opportunities for input of their ideas and opinions and to seek out role models in the community.

Both families and young people told us that being involved and connected is important. This is achieved through events and activities that bring people together and strengthen connections. Access to information and knowledge about services/supports is a barrier to participation in services and supports for families and young people. Lack of access to youth friendly spaces where young people can explore their passions, interests and connect with each other was also identified as an issue by young people. Empowering young people to be more involved with others will support them to feel more connected.

**“So far everything is good and there are a lot of ways for the kids to play and educate them. But as a community if there was any community events once in a while. Where parents and kids can gather and have fun would be nice. It would be nice for the kids to play with other kids outside school and also for parents to get to know each other.” – Parent, Family Survey**

**“I like going to the park because it’s safe and there’s gates and it has child safety gates and fences, so babies can’t get in or out. I can’t reach it yet”. – Child, consultation activity in their education and care centre.**

**Children's consultation activities: "I like the slide at the park near my house"**



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Source: Children's consultation participant, Princess Hill



# What we were told

## Supporting Systems & Environments

Children told us that travel by foot, bike or public transport is important to them. Equally, places close to home like schools, shops and galleries along with streetscapes that have colour and decorations are seen positively by children. Young people want to be engaged in meaningful consultation that has tangible outcomes and to be included in program planning that is inclusive of all ages.

Families, young people and children all highlighted the importance of safe cycling and walking infrastructure and child friendly environments. This includes facilities and infrastructure such as toilets in parks, water fountains and street lights. The inadequacy of the range of services and programs was raised by some families who told us they want an increase in long day care that offers improved access, flexibility and quality.

**Children’s consultation activities: “I like that I can ride my bike to the pool”**



**“We need safe and dedicated active travel routes, these should connect schools to public services, pools, libraries, parks, community centres, shops. We need to have coordinated strategies to reduce traffic speed to 20km/h in residential zones, to enable vulnerable road users.”**  
– Parent, Family Survey

**“Post self-care/ self-love messages on YYS social media, posters at Youth Centre (positive msgs about looking after yourself) Continue keeping us included in the conversation through upskilling and supporting our dreams or help find out more about ourselves.”**  
– Young person on how we can promote mental health

# NEST vision, outcomes and priorities

## VISION

All children and youth are loved and safe, have material basics, are healthy, are learning and are participating and have a positive sense of culture and identity. The Nest, Australia Research Alliance for Children and Youth

## THE NEST THEMES

Culture & Identity	Loved & Safe	Material Basics	Learning	Healthy	Participating	Supportive Systems & Environments
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## WHAT WE WERE TOLD FROM CONSULTATION

Positive sense of identity	Healthy family relationships	Employment and training	Participation in 4 year old kindergarten	Active healthy families	Meaningful information	Child friendly neighbourhoods
LGBTIQ education and support	Family resilience	Economic participation	Parent education	Mental health and resilience	Involvement in child, family friendly & youth events	Safe pedestrian and cycling networks
Diversity and inclusion	Safe places and welcoming spaces		Transition to school	Drug and alcohol education	Social connectedness	Coordination of services
Services responsive and culturally safe for ATSI	Feeling safe & secure		Formal & informal learning opportunities	Sport and recreation facilities and programs	A greater say	Evidence based
Community engagement	Peer support		School attendance	Sexual health		Appropriate housing
	Domestic violence training and education		Youth employment, training and education	Good nutrition & healthy eating		
			Physical activity			

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (4 years) informed by consultation, research /evidence

The diversity and uniqueness of children, young people and their families is welcomed and celebrated.	Support children, young people and their families to be strong, resilient and resourceful.	Services for children and young people and their families are coordinated, responsive and evidence based.	Improve participation of children and young people and their families in learning, employment, education and training.	Improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people and their families.	Strengthen inclusive and engaged communities through promoting participation of children, young people and their families.	A child friendly city provides for everyone.
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## Annual Action Plan

## Why include indicators?

We included indicators in order to measure how children and young people in Yarra are faring in their health, wellbeing and development. They provide an indication of where Yarra is doing well and areas where we need to concentrate effort.

We have identified a range of indicators that fit within each of the Nest themes: Loved and Safe, Material Basics, Healthy, Learning and Participating. We did not identify indicators for Supporting Systems and environments because the theme concentrates on systems improvements such as improved collaboration and coordination of effort. ARACY included Culture and Identity as an overarching theme in the revised version of the NEST framework 2014. As part of their work, ARACY recognised that culture and identity permeates and influences all aspects of development. This is an important inclusion in the version of the NEST framework we have utilised for the 0-25 Plan because it speaks to the shaping of identity and diversity of Yarra's children, young people and their families. Appropriate indicators are currently being investigated for Culture and Identity.



## What data has been used in the indicators?

The indicators have been selected as they are all publicly available and data is updated on a regular basis. This encourages us to be transparent about how Yarra as an area is tracking across each of the six domains. Understanding how we are tracking allows us to improve our planning, collaboration and coordination of effort to tackle issues impacting on the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Yarra. There are some aspects of each domain where data is not currently collected at a local government level. For example, we know that forming strong social connections contribute to children and young people's overall sense of wellbeing. However, data about this is not widely available and we are not able to provide an indicator about this.

### Four main data sources have been used in this section. These are:

- **ABS Census of Population and Housing:** The Census is undertaken every five years and captures a range of data about people and the dwellings in which they live.
- **Australian Early Development Census (AEDC):** The AEDC is a population-based measure of how children in Australia have developed by the time they start their first year of full-time school. The instrument measures five key areas, or domains, of early childhood development: physical health, social competence, emotional maturity, and language and communication skills.
- **Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System (VCAMS) portal:** VCAMS contains data from a number of different government agencies about children and young people's health and well-being.
- **Communities that Care data:** Survey of children and young people conducted with local primary schools and selected secondary schools in the community.

## Loved and safe

The loved and safe domain includes aspects of children and young people's development in which data is not readily available. For example, data about children's social networks and recreational activities is limited. However, of the indicators selected, some concerning trends are apparent. Most notably, the proportion of children emotionally and socially developmentally vulnerable is higher than state averages. There is a similar pattern evident in other AEDC data used in other domains.

In terms of safety, the indicators present a mixed picture. While the family incident rate and the proportion of crimes where the child was a victim is lower than state averages, the number of property offences is almost double.

INDICATOR	YARRA	VICTORIA	SOURCE	NOTES
Percent of children linguistically developmentally vulnerable	10.6	8.0	AEDC	2015 Data
Percent of children developmentally vulnerable in more than one domain	13.1	8.7	AEDC	2015 Data
Family incident rate / 100 000 population	1,025	1,242	Crime Statistics Agency (CSA)	2017 Data
Property offences police reports/100 000 population	7,978	3,959	CSA	2017 Data
Mobility 0 to 17 population (same address one year ago)	75%	77%	ABS Census	2016 Data
Mobility 18 to 24 population (same address one year ago)	43%	66%	ABS Census	2016 Data
Crime where the victim was a child or young person (rate per 1000 children aged 0–17)	9.5	9.6	VCAMS Portal	2014/15 Data

## Material basics

There is limited data available to create indicators relating to access to material basics such as food, water and housing. Yarra does, however, have a higher proportion of children living in low-income households earning less than \$650 per week than across Victoria generally. This suggests that nearly one in six children are living in circumstances in which they are potentially vulnerable to accessing material basics.

INDICATOR	YARRA	VICTORIA	SOURCE	NOTES
Percent of children aged 17 and younger living in low-income households	14%	9%	ABS Census	2016 Data
Percent of children young people aged 18 to 24 living in low-income households	15%	13%	ABS Census	2016 Data
Percent of population unemployed	5.3%	6.6%	ABS Census	2016 Data
Percent of young people aged 18 to 24 not engaged in education, training or employment	6%	10%	ABS Census	2016 Data



# Learning

Indicators examining the well-being of our young people present a generally positive picture. The proportion of young people aged 18 to 24 who have completed at least Year 11 or equivalent is higher than the state average. However, learning indicators relating to school-age children present some challenges. Firstly, the proportion of children identified as being linguistically developmentally vulnerable, and being developmentally vulnerable in more than one domain, is higher than for Victoria. Similarly, the proportion of young children attending kindergarten is fewer than the state average.

INDICATOR	YARRA	VICTORIA	SOURCE	NOTES
Percent of children linguistically developmentally vulnerable	9.1	6.3	AEDC	2015 Data
Percent of children developmentally vulnerable in more than one domain	25.6	19.9	AEDC	2015 Data
Kindergarten participation rate	91%	98%	VCMAS Portal	2015 Data
Percent of children aged 5 to 17 who do not speak English well or at all	4%	4%	ABS Census	2016 Data
Percent of young people aged 18 to 24 Completed at least year 11 or equivalent	86%	84%	ABS Census	2016 Data



# Healthy

In two of the early childhood indicators, breastfeeding and attending ages and stages visit, Yarra children are, overall, ahead of their State counterparts. However, the data also shows that nearly one in three children do not attend the 3.5 year ages and stages visit. Similarly, AEDC data shows that 11.5% of children are physically developmentally vulnerable. This is notably higher than the rate for Victoria.

INDICATOR	YARRA	VICTORIA	SOURCE	NOTES
Percent of children physically developmentally vulnerable	11.5%	7.9%	AEDC	2015 Data
Teenage fertility rate (percent of 15 to 17 year olds with one or more children)	0%	0.2%	ABS Census	2016 Data
Percent of infants breastfed at 6 months	49%	35%	VCMS Portal	2015 Data
Percent of children attending the 3.5 year ages and stages visit	71%	66%	VCMS Portal	2015 Data
Percent of children in year 7 to Year 9 who are bullied	9%	18%	VCAMS Portal	2015 Data



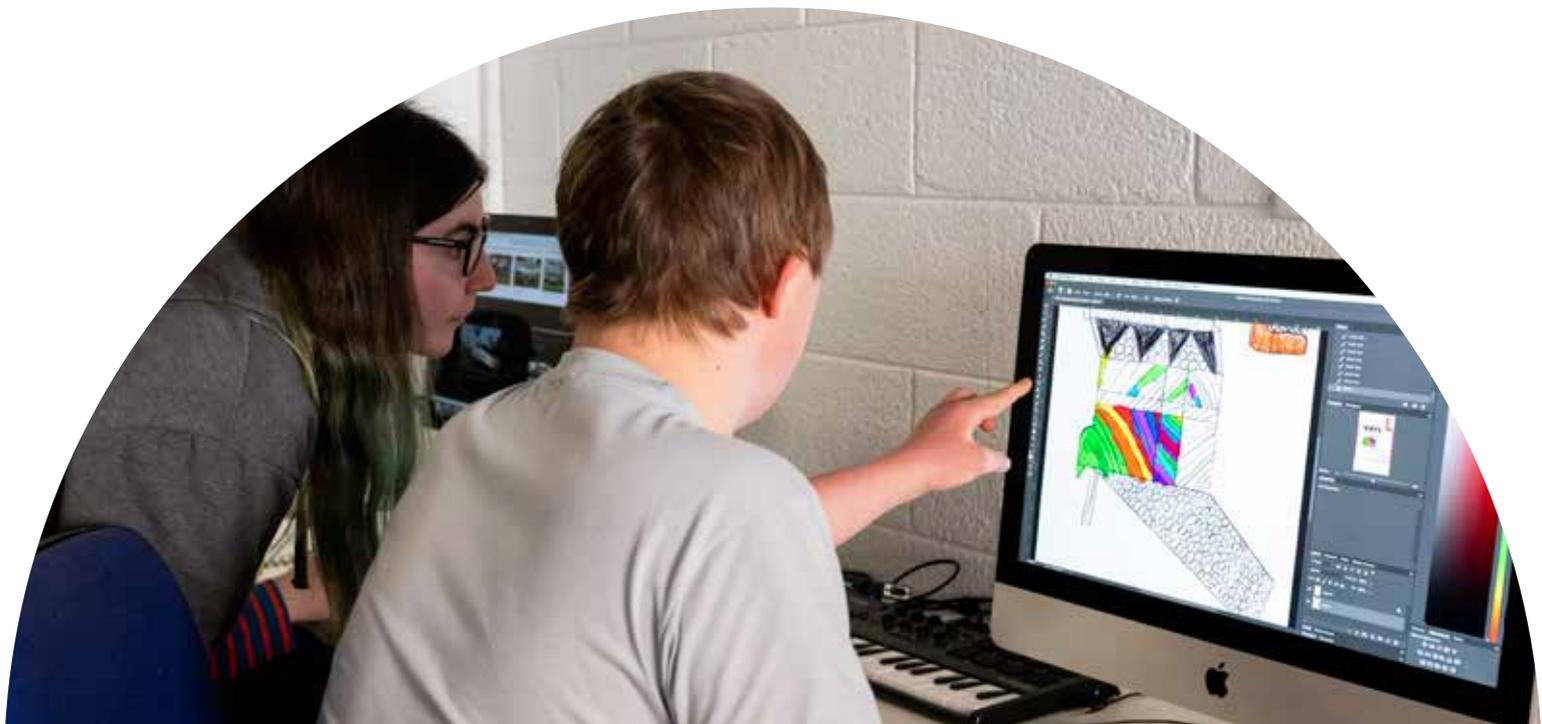
“ In two of the early childhood indicators, breastfeeding and attending ages and stages visit, Yarra children are, overall, ahead of their State counterparts. ”

# Participating

Compared to averages for Victoria, in certain indicators our young people are participating more in society. For example, nearly one in four are participating in volunteering work and just 6% of young people are not engaged in education, training or employment. However, this still means one in 20 young people, aged 18 to 24 years, are not engaged in education, training or employment.

School-age children in Year 6 have slightly fewer days absent from school than averages for Victoria. Year 10 children, however, average absentee rates increase to 21 days per year, which is slightly higher than the average for Victoria. 11.7 per cent of Yarra children are identified as having communications skills which are developmentally vulnerable compared to 7.6 Victorian average.

INDICATOR	YARRA	VICTORIA	SOURCE	NOTES
Percent of children communicatively developmentally vulnerable	11.7	7.6	AEDC	2015 Data
Average number of days absent per Year 6 FTE student	13	15	VCMAS Portal	2014 Data
Average number of days absent per Year 10 FTE student	21	20	VCMAS Portal	2014 Data
Percent of young people aged 18 to 24 participating in voluntary work	24%	19%	ABS Census	2016 Data



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**yarra.**

FAMILY, YOUTH &  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES



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