February / March 2022

yarranews



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Message from the Mayor

Hi everyone

I'm very excited to be representing you as Yarra



Mayor for the year to come, it's a real honour. I have heaps I hope to achieve for the Yarra community, and I'm looking forward to working with my fellow councillors, staff and you (!) in achieving these goals.

Our community has been through a tough two years. While it's not over yet, there is plenty to be hopeful for and I have no doubt our resilient community will continue to support one another. One of the most important ways you can protect yourself and others is to receive your COVID-19 vaccine booster shot. More information about how to access a booster can be found on page 16. On page 4 and 5, meet our latest Community Award winners. These local legends have given so much and make me proud to be a member of the Yarra community.

We continue our focus this year on the climate emergency. You'll see it in action on the streets, with our new e-scooter trial, along with our new electric vehicle charging stations – read about both on page 8.

Lastly, municipal monitor Mr Yehudi Blacher commenced his 6-month appointment at Yarra Council in December, to support good governance and provide regular reports and recommendations to the Minister for Local Government. For more details on the role of the municipal monitor please head to our website.

All the best for the year to come, and please reach out if you've got ideas for the future of Yarra!

Cr Sophie Wade Mayor City of Yarra

Wurundjeri Acknowledgement

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra.

We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra.

We pay our respects to Elders from all nations and to their Elders past, present and future.

Stay connected with Yarra

- Online at yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Have your say on projects at yoursayyarra.com.au
- Follow us on Facebook or Instagram (@cityofyarra) and Twitter (@yarracouncil)
- Register for our fortnightly e-news at yarracity.vic.gov.au/yarralife

For the latest updates or changes to our services due to COVID-19, visit **yarracity.vic.gov.au/coronavirus**

On the cover: We caught up with Fatuma Muhudin and Raghda Adams, our Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year.



Playing it safe by the water

A visit to the pool is a must for many of us at this time of year. At our public pools your safety is our number one priority.

Yarra's aquatic facilities have been awarded a Platinum Pool accreditation by Life Saving Victoria, meaning we have achieved the highest standards in aquatic safety and risk management.

Yarra Leisure Lifeguard and Duty Manager Teleah Hayes explains how we manage your safety.

What measures do we have in place to keep people safe when using our pools?

"Our pools are very controlled environments. Unlike rivers and oceans, we can control the temperature, make sure they are hazard-free and warn users of the pool's depth.

"Our lifeguards are highly trained in scanning techniques and complete annual Pool Lifeguard qualifications. We also regularly practice our rescue, first aid and resuscitation skills."

Top water safety tips from our lifeguards

- swim in a supervised area, whether at a local pool or between the flags at a beach
- never swim alone
- read safety signs before entering the water
- speak to a lifeguard if you are a weak swimmer or have a medical condition so that they can look out for you
- stay in your depth look at safety signs
- avoid alcohol when swimming
- make sure children under 5 are always within arm's reach
- children under 10 should always be actively supervised by a responsible adult (person over 16).

Fancy a dip at one of our local pools? Find a pool near you at **leisure.yarracity.vic.gov.au/locations**



Meet our community heroes

Each year, we honour the everyday heroes who make significant contributions to the community with the Yarra Community Awards.

The challenges and community contributions during the pandemic have been significant and we are incredibly grateful and proud of how our community have supported each other.

Thank you to everyone who submitted a nomination for the 2021 awards. We had so many fantastic nominees! It's always uplifting and inspiring to learn more about the projects and people within our community.

Citizen of the Year Fatuma Muhudin

Fatuma has made an outstanding contribution to community wellbeing through her work with Belgium Avenue and Collingwood Neighbourhood Houses. Fatuma lives and breathes volunteering. Her passion for sharing culture and connecting people is contagious.

Fatuma is known for seeking out those in her community who are isolated or vulnerable and encouraging them to connect with others and find their voice. During lockdowns Fatuma led and supported community-building initiatives including food security programs, community activities and events, homework clubs and supports for families exposed to domestic violence.

Young Citizen of the Year Raghda Adam

16-year-old Raghda has been a driving force in the establishment of Richmond Youth Hub. Raghda is passionate about social justice and has become an advocate for young people in Yarra. She has been an invaluable liaison between young people, the community and the services located at the youth hub.

"The youth centre is important to me because it is kind of like a second home," said Raghda "after school I go and it's like another safe place and safe zone to debrief throughout the day. I am just grateful to have a place like that to attend."

Community Initiative of the Year

The Community Compost Group

Michelle Edwards (pictured) leads a small group of volunteers to manage this popular shared compost system located in Rushall Garden, Fitzroy North.

The group does a significant amount of work to manage the program and help those who don't have the space or capacity at home to turn their food waste into useable compost.

"It's a great, supportive community of people who love looking after the environment and growing their own food," said Michelle "we always have bigger plans year on year of what we want to do to improve the local environment... it's just a really encouraging, inspiring group of people to be around."

These are just a few of our fantastic winners! Visit **yarracity.vic.gov.au/ awards2021** to see the full list of award recipients.



Fatuma Muhudin



Raghda Adam



Michelle Edwards



Events and COVID-19

Some events may change due to COVID-19. Confirm event dates at **yarracity.vic.gov.au/** events

Please make sure you are following current COVID-19 guidelines, and:

- wear a mask if you are unable to maintain physical distance
- please do not attend an event if you are feeling unwell.

What's on

Kent Morris: Cultural Reflections – Up Above and Unvanished

On now until Sunday 27 February 2022 Richmond Town Hall

Kent Morris' art practice reveals the continuing presence and patterns of Aboriginal history, culture and knowledge in the contemporary Australian landscape, despite ongoing interventions.

yarracity.vic.gov.au/kentmorris

Soundwaves

Every Sunday in February 2022 1pm to 5.30pm Fitzroy Swimming Pool, Fitzroy

Soundwaves is coming back to the cool blue waters of Fitzroy pool!

Yep, groovy beats and delicious eats will transform our lovely pool into the best summer hangout spot in the inner city.

yarracity.vic.gov.au/soundwaves

Music in Exile at Curtain Square

Sunday 13 February 2022 6pm to 8pm Curtain Square, North Carlton

Performers include Ajak Kwai, whose soulful music is infused with funky afro-beats representing the depth and richness of her South Sudanese roots. Camille el Feghali is fusing classical Arabic music with experimental soundscapes.

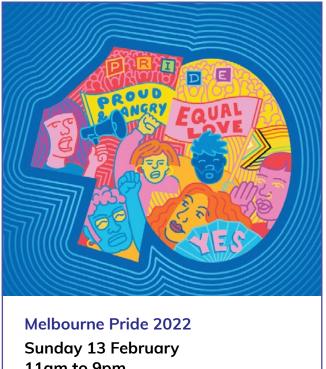
yarracity.vic.gov.au/musicinexile

Johnston Street Fiesta

Saturday 26 February and Sunday 27 February 2022

Celebrate the heritage, tradition, music and food from the world's many Spanish speaking countries. The street will be lined with delicious food stalls along with live entertainment and dancing.

hispanicfiesta.com.au



11am to 9pm Smith and Gertrude Streets, Fitzroy



Melbourne Pride is coming to Yarra!

It's been 40 years since the decriminalisation of homosexuality in Victoria. To commemorate the anniversary, we're teaming up with Midsumma for a one-day street festival in the heart of Yarra.

A celebration of LGBTIQA+ culture and history, the festival will showcase live music, circus performances, community stalls and more.

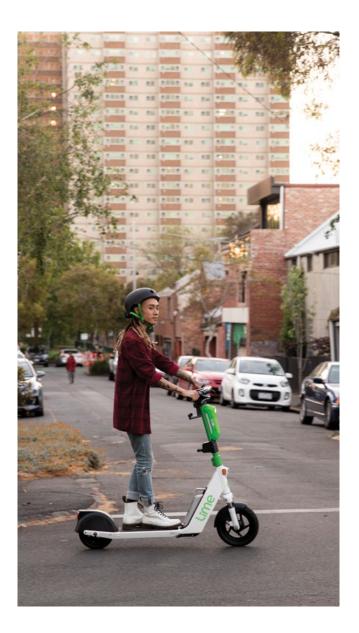
The area is the perfect backdrop for Melbourne Pride, known for its rich history in supporting and advocating for the LGBTQIA+ communities.

Yarra has strong historical ties to the LGBTQIA+ community. In addition to the many iconic LGBTIQA+ bars and shops in the area, former Fitzroy councillor Ralph McLean is noted for becoming Australia's first openly gay mayor in 1984. Our nowiconic bronze "Courage" statue was erected in 2014 in Whitlam Square in Fitzroy to honour Ralph's courage and the entire LGBTQIA+ community. Queer community advocate and Collingwood local Dean Arcuri will be part of the entertainment on Pride Day, with a giant rainbow mohawk in tow.

"It's so significant to be able to celebrate this way and so openly," he said.

"There's such a huge legacy of advocacy and inclusion, and in Yarra, it's just massive. So being able to remind people of the history of the area and why we celebrate is so important to me."

For more information about Melbourne Pride visit **midsumma.org.au**



E-scooters roll out in Yarra

A new mode of active transport has come to the streets of Yarra, with the roll-out of e-scooters for hire.

Residents and visitors can rent the purpose-built e-scooters, which provide a safe, accessible, and eco-friendly way to travel.

The e-scooters can be operated across the City of Yarra, City of Melbourne and City of Port Phillip over the next 12 months.

Lime and Neuron Mobility will deliver the trial in conjunction with the councils.

Fast charging stations come to Collingwood

Electric vehicle charging is now easier and more convenient with the switch-on of two new electric vehicle fast-charging stations at Collingwood Library.

We've launched the fast-charging station in collaboration with Evie Networks, with funding from the Federal Government's Future Fuels Fund.

The station is powered by 100 per cent renewable energy and will provide electric vehicle owners with up to 50km of driving range in only ten minutes of charging.

The charging stations help support sustainable transport options in the municipality and play an important role in encouraging more residents and businesses to purchase an electric vehicle – a sustainable move that helps reduce carbon emissions.

Learn more at **yarracity.vic.gov.au/** charging

Rides within the three municipalities will be made possible by downloading the Lime and Neuron apps.

E-scooters are allowed to travel up to a maximum speed of 20 km/h on bicycle lanes, shared paths and low speed roads, and will not be allowed on footpaths.

The trial is part of the Victorian Government program to understand how e-scooters can be safely incorporated into the community for the long term.

Find more details at **yarracity.vic.gov.au/** escooters



The Yarra Energy Foundation helped Lighthouse Foundation go solar.

Solar support for local not-for-profit

We worked with the Yarra Energy Foundation (YEF) to empower our community to go solar.

For every 100-kilowatts of solar installed through the Yarra Solar Program, 1-kilowatt has been donated to a local community organisation.

Not-for-profit Lighthouse Foundation received a 4-kilowatt solar energy system through the program after nearly 100 Yarra residents installed solar.

Lighthouse Foundation work with young people who find themselves homeless, at risk of homelessness or in out-of-home care. They provide them with a home, a sense of family and around-the-clock individually tailored care.

Eight out of 10 young people who complete the program do not return to homelessness.

Kaitlyn Spears, Marketing and Community Manager at Lighthouse Foundation, says "The savings from reduced electricity costs will contribute to our groundbreaking work." "By increasing our capacity to generate electricity from the sun, we can boost energy independence."

YEF receives funding from Yarra Council to deliver a number of projects and initiatives.

The Yarra Solar Program is now run by the Metro Community Power Hub, led by the YEF. Find out more at **mcph.org.au**

Want to up your climate action?

Get involved in the National Sustainable Living Festival by joining one of our online events:

- Take climate action through the foods you choose with Shannon Martinez Tuesday 15 February 7 to 8pm
- Climate action cook along with Open Table Thursday 17 February 6.45 to 8pm
- Energy efficiency for renters Tuesday 22 February 7 to 8pm

Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/ climateaction

Keeping carers connected

We're looking for carers in need of some digital assistance.

Yarra is providing carers with free tech support and equipment. This will help carers stay connected with digital information, resources and people.

Participants have the choice of taking home a HP Chromebook, Samsung tablet or Apple iPad with a free start up WiFi SIM. We've also started one-on-one training and support for carers.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with participants saying that they are using their devices to:

- connect with family via Zoom
- do online shopping and banking
- access audio books and magazines
- stream music and videos
- book vital services like doctors and NDIS appointments.

As one carer said: "Having access to a laptop and the internet has allowed my partner and I to stay in touch with family and friends and for me to have 'time off' – what a great program!"



Yarra Mayor Cr Sophie Wade visits the library out-of-hours.

Bookworms rejoice! Out-ofhours library access is here

Wish you could spend more time at the library? Great news! Yarra Libraries' Open Library project has launched at Richmond Library, allowing members access to the library outside of opening hours.

Library members who have gone through an induction process can enter the branch anytime between 8am and 10pm – including on public holidays. Members can access the branch by scanning their membership card on a new security panel, allowing them to enter the building.

The service will be expanded to Bargoonga Nganjin North Fitzroy Library in early 2022.

Richmond Library is the first library in Australia to adopt this technology to provide this service.

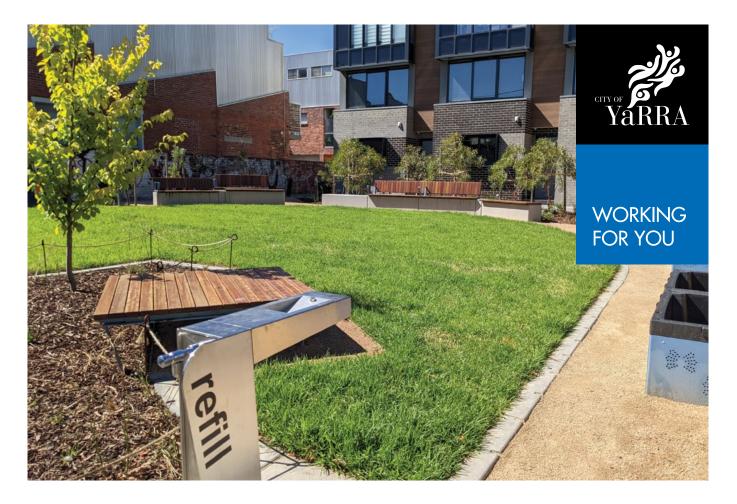
Find out more at **yarracity.vic.gov.au/ libraryhours**

Interested?

We're looking for carers who:

- Are under 25 years old, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community members, speak a language other than English, care for people with dementia or are part of the LGBTIQA+ community.
- Are experiencing significant carer stress.

For more information, contact Michele Watson on **9205 5555** or email **info@yarracity.vic.gov.au**



A new green space in Reid Street

We've been working for you to build a new park in Fitzroy North.

The small reserve, located at 14 Reid Street Fitzroy North, is designed to be a relaxed communal space with plenty of seating and trees that will provide shade. Planters and trees on the south end of the park aim to give it privacy from the road.

It includes plenty of native trees and plants to provide a habitat and attract native insects and birds.

We used community feedback and ideas to design the space, which also features:

- A golden elm to provide a cool space in summer and allow the sun through in winter.
- An irrigated lawn area for play or picnics.
- Urban agriculture planters for local community planting.

• A bin to help encourage responsible pet ownership and ensure the space stays clean.

Find out more about how we designed the new park at **yoursayyarra.com.au/** reidstreet

The new park on Reid Street aligns with the Strategic Objectives in our Council Plan 2021–25.

The four-year plan aims to ensure that our green open spaces will bring our community together, manage growth, protect our unique character and focus on people and nature.

Find out more at **yarracity.vic.gov.au/** councilplan



News in brief

Aboriginal Lives Matter mural

Pay a visit to Peel Street park in Collingwood to discover a new major public artwork by emerging artist Ky-ya Nicholson-Ward, a proud Wurundjeri, Dja Dja Wurrung, Nguarai Illam-Wurrung, German and Irish woman.

The artwork identifies the cultural importance of the area to the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people and outlines the local context of the Black Lives Matter movement. It acknowledges the ongoing challenges faced by members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Find out more at **yarracity.vic.gov.au/** aboriginallivesmatter

Yarra Council carbon neutral for 10 years

Yarra has recently received our carbon neutral certification under the National Carbon Offsetting Standard for another year. It brings us to a decade of a continuous certification as a carbon neutral council!

This means that certified carbon offsets have been purchased to cover any residual

emissions produced by Yarra Council, bringing our overall emissions to net zero.

Yarra was the first local government in Victoria to achieve this accreditation.

Find out more about how we're taking climate action at **yarracity.vic.gov.au/** climateaction

Footy season is here!

It's been a blast welcoming fans back to Victoria Park for the 2022 AFLW season. If you're heading to a game, here's some things you need to know:

- Car parking at Victoria Park is very limited. We would recommend catching the train or cycling if possible.
- In the lead-up to games some parts of the ground may be closed to the public while they are prepared.
- Please don't bring your dog.
- AFLW games aren't BYO. They're licensed events just like AFL games.
- Please follow COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.

For more information visit **yarracity.vic.gov.au/aflw**



Caring for kitty

For many, cats make the perfect pet. Cute and affectionate (when they want to be) independent and aloof (when they don't), our feline friends are great pets for people of all ages.

Although cats can be great companions, they can cause issues for our native wildlife or other cats.

Did you know?

- Domestic cats kill around 230 million native animals each year in Australia (Wildlife Research, 2000).
- Cats are more likely to get into fights, catch viruses or be hit by a car if they are allowed to roam at night.

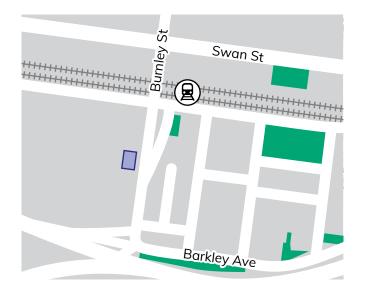
Visit **yarracity.vic.gov.au/wildlife** to find more ways that you can help protect Yarra's native plants and animals. To make sure your cat is living its best life and is as safe as possible, we've put together some tips for responsible pet ownership:

- Don't let your cats stay out at night. They can kill wildlife and fight with other cats. Keep them indoors, or make sure your yard is secure.
- There are ways you can ensure your cat stays at home while still giving them plenty of space. Why not try an outdoor cat enclosure attached to your house, or look at cat-proofing your fence?
- Make sure your cat has been de-sexed before it is registered with us – this is compulsory in Yarra. It reduces the chance of fighting with other cats and stops unwanted kittens.
- Make sure your cat is microchipped and registered with us by the time its three months old. This also needs to be renewed before 10 April each year.

Thinking outside the box

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increase in online purchases. This means an increase in cardboard.

To help manage your cardboard, we have a few tips:



Take your flattened cardboard to the Burnley drop off

We have a free drop off point for clean and dry cardboard at 440 Burnley Street, Burnley. This is available for all Yarra residents. Please be considerate of staff when you visit the drop off centre.

Since we introduced the drop off point in March 2021, we have accepted an average of 2.5 tonnes of extra cardboard a week.



Look out for a blue bin at your apartment building

We have been trialing a separate collection service for cardboard at 50 apartment buildings and units across Yarra.

We are currently in the process of reviewing and expanding the trial. This will determine whether we can provide this service to more apartment buildings in the future.

Be sure to drop off your cardboard in your blue-lid cardboard bin if you have one and stay tuned for more information.



Flatten your cardboard at home completely

By flattening cardboard and other recyclables, you can save up to 60% of the space in your yellow-lid recycling bin.

Do you have other excess recycling besides cardboard?

Find out what you can recycle at the Clifton Hill Depot at 168 Roseneath Street, Clifton Hill at **yarracity.vic.gov.au/dropoff**

Your Councillors

To find your Ward visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/councillors

Langridge Ward

- Cr Stephen Jolly stephen.jolly@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Cr Anab Mohamud anab.mohamud@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Cr Gabrielle de Vietri gabrielle.devietri@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Melba Ward

- Cr Edward Crossland, Deputy Mayor edward.crossland@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Cr Herschel Landes herschel.landes@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Cr Claudia Nguyen claudia.nguyen@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Nicholls Ward

- Cr Bridgid O'Brien bridgid.obrien@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Cr Amanda Stone amanda.stone@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Cr Sophie Wade, Mayor sophie.wade@yarracity.vic.gov.au

To contact your councillors, call **9205 5055**, send a letter to **c/o PO Box 168**, **Richmond VIC 3121**, or email with their address above.

Council meetings

Meetings may be held online or in person depending on COVID-19 restrictions.

Before attending a meeting, please visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/meetings for details. All meetings are live streamed at yarracity.vic.gov.au/webcast

All meetings begin at 7pm:

- Tuesday 15 February
- Tuesday 8 March
- Tuesday 29 March
- Tuesday 19 April

Information from this edition in your language. For more information please call **9280 1937** and quote **REF 19,146**.

本期内容中文简介。

本期的《Yarra News》介绍了2021年社区奖获得者以及他 们如何帮助Yarra居民的相关内容。为了使废纸板回收更 为容易,我们还刊登了废纸板回收方法。您还可以了解自 己是否有资格接种 COVID-19 疫苗加强剂。如欲了解更多 信息,请致电9280 1937并报上查询参考编号19,146。

Πληροφορίες από αυτή την έκδοση στη γλώσσα σας.

Σε αυτή την έκδοση του Yarra News, διαβάστε για τους νικητές του Community Award για το 2021 και μάθετε πώς βοήθησαν τους ανθρώπους που ζουν στη Yarra. Μάθετε πώς μπορείτε να διαχειριστείτε τα απόβλητα από χαρτόνι, ώστε να είναι ευκολότερο να ανακυκλωθούν και να μάθετε αν δικαιούστε να κάνετε ενισχυτικό εμβολιασμό για το COVID-19. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες καλέστε το **9280 1934** και τον αριθμό αναφοράς προσφοράς 19.146

معلومات حول هذ الإصدار بلغتك.

في هذا الإصدار منYarra News ، اقرأ عن الفائزين بجوائز المجتمع لعام 2021 واكتشف كيف ساعدوا سكان Yarra. تعرَّف أيضًا على كيفية التعامل مع نفايات الورق المقوى بحيث يسهل إعادة تدويرها، واقرأ معلومات تُعرِّفك ما إذا كنت مؤهلاً للحصول على جرعة معززة للقاح كوفيد-19. لمزيد من المعلومات، اتصل على **1930 9280** واطلب الرقم الداخلى 19,146.

Thông tin trong ấn bản này bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị. Trong ấn bản này của Yarra News, hãy đọc về những người đoạt giải thưởng cộng đồng năm 2021 của chúng tôi và tìm hiểu cách họ đã giúp những người sống ở Yarra. Tìm hiểu cách xử lý rác giấy thùng các-tông để tái chế dễ dàng hơn và tìm xem liệu quý vị có hội đủ điều kiện để chích liều vắc xin COVID-19 bổ sung hay không. Để biết thêm thông tin, hãy gọi **9280 1939** và trích dẫn số tham chiếu 19,146

Le informazioni di questa edizione nella vostra lingua.

In questa edizione di Yarra News, leggete come i vincitori dei premi del Community Award del 2021 hanno offerto assistenza alle persone che abitano a Yarra. Imparate come gestire i rifiuti di cartone in modo che siano più facili da riciclare e inoltre scoprite se siete eleggibili a ottenere la terza dose del vaccino anti COVID-19. Per ulteriori informazioni chiamare il numero **9280 1931** e quotare il numero di riferimento 19.146.

Información de esta edición en su idioma.

En esta edición de Yarra News, le acerca de nuestros ganadores del premio de la comunidad del 2021 y descubra cómo ayudaron a personas que viven en Yarra. Aprenda a gestionar los residuos de cartón para facilitar el reciclado y descubra si es elegible para una dosis de refuerzo de la vacuna contra el COVID-19. Para más información, llame al **9280 1935** e indique el número de referencia 19.146





Get boosted Yarra! When can I get my COVID-19 booster?

COVID-19 third dose (boosters) are available to anyone aged 18 and over who had their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine **three** or more months ago.

This means...

- If you received your second dose before October 2021, you can get your third dose now
- If you received your second dose in October 2021, you can get your third dose now
- If you received your second dose in November 2021, you can get your third dose in February
- If you received your second dose in December 2021, you can get your third dose in March

You can get a COVID-19 third dose from:

- a Victorian vaccination centre
- pharmacy
- GP, or
- Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO)

Eligible people will receive the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine as their third dose. You can get either Pfizer or Moderna as your third dose regardless of which COVID-19 vaccine you received initially.

You can also get a third dose if you have completed an initial vaccination course overseas with a COVID-19 vaccine recognised by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Book your third dose online and find out more at **coronavirus.vic.gov.au** or call the Coronavirus hotline on **1800 675 398**