



yarra.
FAMILY, YOUTH &
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

0-25 Years Action Plan 2018-2019.





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Strategic Priority One

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

	Actions	Strategy	Council
1	Collaborate with relevant local organisations to improve service responsiveness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and their families.	1.1	Facilitate/Partner
2	Engage with representatives in culturally and linguistically diverse communities to support the planning, promotion and delivery of programs targeting children, young people and their families.	1.2	Facilitate/Partner
3	Collaborate, consult and partner with stakeholder organisations to increase responsiveness of programs and services for LGBTIQ children, young people and their families.	1.3	Facilitate/Partner
4	Participate in 'Free to Be Me' Gender Equity pilot project conducted by Access Health and Community at Yarraberg Children's Centre.	1.3	Facilitate/Partner
5	Identify opportunities for children and young people to build a positive sense of identity through arts, music, sports and other relevant programs.	1.4	Plan/Provide
6	Undertake accessibility and inclusion audits of service settings across Family, Youth and Children's Services facilities.	1.4	Provide
7	In partnership with Wurundjeri Council, develop and embed child friendly 'Acknowledgement of Country' in services and programs.	1.5	Facilitate/Partner
8	Investigate the use of different forms of media to promote stories and achievements of children and young people from diverse cultural communities.	1.5	Provide
9	Family, Youth and Children's Services to collaborate on the preparation of an annual calendar of events that celebrates the diversity and uniqueness of children, young people and their families in Yarra.	1.5	Facilitate/Partner



Strategic Priority Two

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

	Actions	Strategy	Council
10	Continue to promote, support and model parent–child attachment and to identify and refer families showing poor attachment to relevant services and supports.	2.1	Provide
11	Deliver relevant parent education programs that target the needs of all families.	2.2	Provide
12	Provide opportunities for family social events in children’s service settings.	2.2	Provide
13	Investigate intergenerational programs and initiatives that strengthen community connections between children, young people and older people.	2.2	Plan
14	Investigate opportunities to partner with schools in offering relevant initiatives or programs that seek to strengthen family connections important to the health and wellbeing of children and young people.	2.2	Plan
15	Continue to encourage and support families to read, sing and rhyme with their babies and children.	2.3	Provide
16	Continue to engage parents in the work of Yarra Youth Services and raise awareness and understanding of local youth services.	2.3	Provide
17	Continue to link vulnerable children, young people and their families requiring additional support to appropriate services such as Enhanced Maternal and Child Health, Family Support and Smalltalk.	2.4	Provide



Strategic Priority Three

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

Actions	Strategy	Council
18 Investigate areas of identified need in the Australian Early Development Census and other relevant data to improve service responsiveness.	3.1	Plan
19 Enhance utilisation of 'Patchwork' (online service coordination tool).	3.2	Facilitate/Partner
20 Coordinate delivery of council programs and activities for children and young people across school holidays to provide better services.	3.2	Facilitate/Partner
21 Improve capacity of council's centralised waitlist system to include more external long day care and kindergarten services.	3.2	Provide
22 Council to provide leadership in promoting take up of 'Kids Matter' training across the early years' service sector in Yarra.	3.3	Advocate
23 Continue to deliver and enhance early years' services conferences, case coordination and Yarra Youth Providers Network.	3.3	Provide
24 Continue to provide specialist training in family violence to frontline staff on the identification and response to family violence.	3.3	Provide
25 Collect, collate and review data to support evaluation.	3.4	Plan
26 Continue to provide programs that are evidence-based.	3.4	Provide



Strategic Priority Four

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

	Actions	Strategy	Council
27	Review council's kindergarten service model to support participation in the program.	4.1	Plan
28	Identify the barriers to participation in kindergarten and develop local responses.	4.1	Plan
29	Encourage and provide early identification, appropriate intervention and referral for children with additional needs.	4.2	Provide
30	Promote community grants that support improved learning outcomes for children and young people.	4.2	Provide/Advocate
31	Partner with schools, Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network (INLLEN) and other relevant agencies to support young people's engagement with education, training and employment.	4.4	Facilitate/Partner
32	Utilise and promote resources developed as part of the 'Joining the Dots' project to inform successful transition to school for children and young people.	4.4	Provide
33	Continue the delivery of Experience Yarra program to provide work experience opportunities for young people across Yarra.	4.4	Provide
34	Investigate current transition practice in Yarra for children and young people, e.g. transition from first time parents group to playgroup, kindergarten to primary school and primary school to secondary school.	4.4	Facilitate/Partner
35	Continue to deliver a range of life skills and mentoring programs.	4.4	Provide
36	Investigate 'school exclusion' in Yarra to identify strategies that support young people to re-engage with school.	4.4	Advocate/Plan
37	Continue to provide paid employment opportunities for young people in Yarra Youth Services.	4.4	Provide
38	Investigate provision of traineeships at council for young people and parents.	4.5	Plan
39	Continue to participate in and support regional youth employment initiatives.	4.5	Facilitate/Partner
40	In partnership with BSL pilot a project targeting vulnerable parents seeking access to employment, education and training at the Connie Benn Centre.	4.5	Plan/Provide

Strategic Priority Five

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

	Actions	Strategy	Council
41	Continue to promote positive early home learning environment for babies and children through provision of information, modelling and in-home support.	5.1	Provide
42	Continue to support mothers experiencing perinatal anxiety and depression through the provision of evidence-based parent information and support program ('Mother's Matter Too') and other relevant specialist support services.	5.1	Provide
43	Continue to promote and support breastfeeding for all babies including piloting specialist breastfeeding service.	5.1	Provide
44	Support the development and delivery of initiatives that promote increased physical activity for children, young people and their families.	5.2	Facilitate/Partner
45	Pilot initiatives that increase participation of children and young people up to 14 years old in leisure programs.	5.2	Provide
46	Promote family friendly information resources on age-appropriate physical activities.	5.2	Provide
47	Continue to promote unstructured and/or incidental outdoor play.	5.2	Provide
48	Advocate to the Victorian Department of Education and Training to facilitate access to school facilities after hours.	5.2	Advocate
49	Promote healthy eating in simple and consistent messages to children, young people and their families.	5.2	Provide
50	Provide culturally sensitive sexual health program, information and referral for young people.	5.2	Provide
51	Continue to deliver SMART generation in schools to reduce underage alcohol use.	5.2	Facilitate/Partner
52	Continue to identify and refer children, young people or families who are experiencing physical and mental health issues to appropriate services and supports.	5.2	Provide
53	Improve partnerships with key stakeholders to raise awareness of mental health.	5.3	Facilitate/Partner
54	Promote safe use of online platforms for children, young people and their families.	5.4	Advocate
55	Continue to support children's safety by identification, support, referral and/or notification of abuse or neglect.	5.4	Provide
56	Investigate the piloting of family violence prevention programs or initiatives.	5.4	Plan

Strategic Priority Six

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

Actions	Strategy	Council
57 Improve information relevant to Family, Youth and Children's Services on council's public website.	6.1	Provide
58 Continue to develop online parent portal.	6.1	Provide
59 Investigate tools and methods for improving access to information for children, young people and their families.	6.1	Plan
60 Continue to provide opportunities for babies, children and their families to participate in playgroups.	6.1	Provide
61 Support community or neighbourhood-based events that foster links between children, young people and their families.	6.1	Facilitate/Partner
62 Continue to provide youth led grants program through Council's Annual Grants Program.	6.2	Provide
63 Continue to implement youth participation model to inform our work with young people.	6.3	Provide
64 Investigate opportunities for children, young people and their families to be involved in the planning and delivery of community-based activities and events.	6.3	Plan
65 In partnership with children and young people, investigate opportunities to promote their civic participation.	6.3	Plan
66 Explore and implement strategies in schools that enhance children's civic participation.	6.3	Plan
67 Continue to support and develop the role of the Family Partnerships Committee, Yarra Youth Advisory Committee and the Early Years Reference Group.	6.3	Provide
68 Embed participation of children and young people in Council led community consultation.	6.3	Plan



Strategic Priority Seven

A child-friendly city provides for everyone

Actions	Strategy	Council
69 Encourage design that promotes child-friendly neighbourhoods.	7.1	Plan
70 Seek external funding and project partners to map child and family safe cycling and pedestrian networks.	7.2	Plan Advocate
71 Work with relevant bicycle user organisations and training providers to promote bike safety and responsible cycling behaviour for children and young people.	7.2	Advocate
72 Embed participation of children and young people in relevant city planning consultation and decision making processes.	7.4	Plan





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