

Birth to 25 Children, Youth and Family update September 2019

**Welcome to our Birth to 25 –
Children, Youth and Family
Strategy update for 2019.**

The strategy was developed in 2017 to enable a holistic approach from birth to early adulthood across all areas of Council. This update tracks our progress for the first year of the strategy, outlines our key achievements and identifies focus areas for the future.

There is some incredible work being done by Council in this area and I look forward to seeing how we continue to adapt, grow and improve our services for our families and young people in the future.



Cr Steve Stefanopoulos
Mayor, City of Stonnington



Key achievements

We have:

- > Changed the way families book sessions at our occasional care centre in Winter Street, Malvern to make it easier for people to use care when they need it.
- > Secured funding from the Victorian Government for our Supported Playgroups program for families who require additional support and may be otherwise unlikely to access community based playgroups.
- > Provided free access to the Prahran Aquatic Centre for children and young people from the nearby Horace Petty Estate.
- > Made our library services more accessible through community outreach programs that aim to increase literacy levels in vulnerable children and young people.
- > Partnered with Star Health to deliver the *Tuning into Kids* program where nurses and MCH staff work together to provide parents with skills in recognising, understanding and responding to children's emotions.
- > Facilitated resilience surveys with over 7,000 young people in Stonnington to map social and emotional needs and inform future service provision and program planning.

Focus areas for the future

As well as continuing to deliver high quality programs and services to our community, we will:

- > Expand library services into community spaces, such as Prahran Square, maternal and child health services and Horace Petty Estate.
- > Ensure families and young people are consulted on Council strategies that impact them, in particular how we deliver playground and recreation programs and projects.
- > Continue to engage with families at the Horace Petty estate in Prahran through community lunches aimed at increasing the participation of children in our programs.
- > Expand our Young Leaders Program to encourage young entrepreneurs in Stonnington.
- > Co-locate Middle Years and Youth Services with other community organisations at the Grattan Gardens Community Centre in Prahran.
- > Deliver parent and family education sessions that focus on developing, health, wellbeing and resilience in young people.
- > Conduct a pilot program at our maternal and child health services trialling free drop-in sessions and other changes to increase flexibility for families.





The Prahran Child and Youth Community Wellbeing Hub (The Hub) and Prahran Aquatic Centre work together to provide children and young people from the Horace Petty housing estate access to the pool over the summer holidays.



Feature story

Staying cool at the pool

Program workers at The Hub take groups of children to the pool on days during the holidays and evenings that are too warm for the scheduled soccer program. Approximately 40-50 children accessed the program over the summer school holiday period through both the 2018 and 2019 summer holidays.

Families with a health care card can also receive four family passes per year, providing improved access to key community facilities for vulnerable families, children and young people.



Themes



Thriving families



Strengthening community wellbeing and partnerships



Responsive and sustainable



Advocacy and planning

24

families in supported playgroup programs

50

children attended language and literacy programs

7,702

students completed a resilience survey

56%

of commitments from our Child Safety Action plan completed

141

families attending Winter Street Occasional Care Centre

