



YOUTHPLAN

2030+



Baseline FOR YOUNG PEOPLE





YOUTHPLAN

2030+

FIRST PEOPLE

The City of Whittlesea recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Willum Clan as the Traditional Owners of this place

YOUNG PEOPLE

Council acknowledges the children, young people, parents and practitioners who have shared their experience and views that have informed this Plan

EXPERT PANEL

Bernie Geary, former Commissioner for the Safety of Children and Young People

Carmel Guerra, CEO Centre for Multicultural Youth

Georgie Ferrari, former CEO Youth Affairs Council of Victoria

Dr Tim Corney, former Dean of Queens College, Melbourne University and Associate Professor, College of Arts and Education, Victoria University

ILLUSTRATOR

Jayla Caprio, 14 years old, the winner of the City of Whittlesea Baseline National Youth Week Art Competition 2017

Jayla's preferred medium is environmentally friendly texta

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I am very pleased to present **YOUTHPLAN2030+**.

This Plan reflects Council's commitment to valuing and celebrating our local young people, and is an example of Council's vision of supporting vibrant self-sustaining communities together.

Council recognises that young people are central to the development and delivery of the plan. We listened to young people, parents, carers and sector experts, and commissioned research to understand how young people in the City of Whittlesea are faring. All of this was brought together to inform *YouthPlan2030+*.

Engaging and supporting our young people is critical not just now, but into the future. *YouthPlan2030+* sets out the outcomes for young people that Council and other stakeholders will work towards. The Plan will guide Council's ongoing investment to achieve long term benefits for young people, their families and carers, and their communities.

Council continues to work towards a community that is inclusive, welcoming and safe for all young people. We want our young people to be proud of, and to feel valued by, their City.

**Mayor
Cr Kris Pavlidis
2017**

CONTENTS

1	THE STORY OF THIS PLAN	3
2	PROFILE	7
3	REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S ROLE	13
4	CITY OF WHITTLESEA'S WELLBEING OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND BROAD AREAS FOR ACTION	15
5	HOW WE WORK	37
6	ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT	38
	ATTACHMENT: RIGHTS BASED PRACTICE PRINCIPLES	39



1. THE STORY OF THIS PLAN

There are **42,743** young people aged 10 to 25 years in the City of Whittlesea, 20% of the population. By 2037 there will be **72,956** young people.¹ **YOUTHPLAN2030+** shaped by the voice of young people, provides a picture on how local young people are faring. It informs Council's role and guides investments to achieve the best possible outcomes for young people.

YouthPlan2030+ builds on previous work that has shaped and guided Council's role in relation to young people in the City of Whittlesea. Two key pieces of work are *YouthPlan2030*, developed in 2007, and *Connect: A municipal plan for children, young people and their families in the City of Whittlesea*.

YouthPlan2030 founded Council's approach to support young people and outlined the model of *Baseline for Young People (Baseline)*.¹ The *Baseline* model was designed to respond to the diversity and complexity of young people and to manage municipal growth. *YouthPlan2030* strengthened participatory and inclusive practices. This is evident in how young people are embedded in Council Plans and social and physical infrastructure planning.

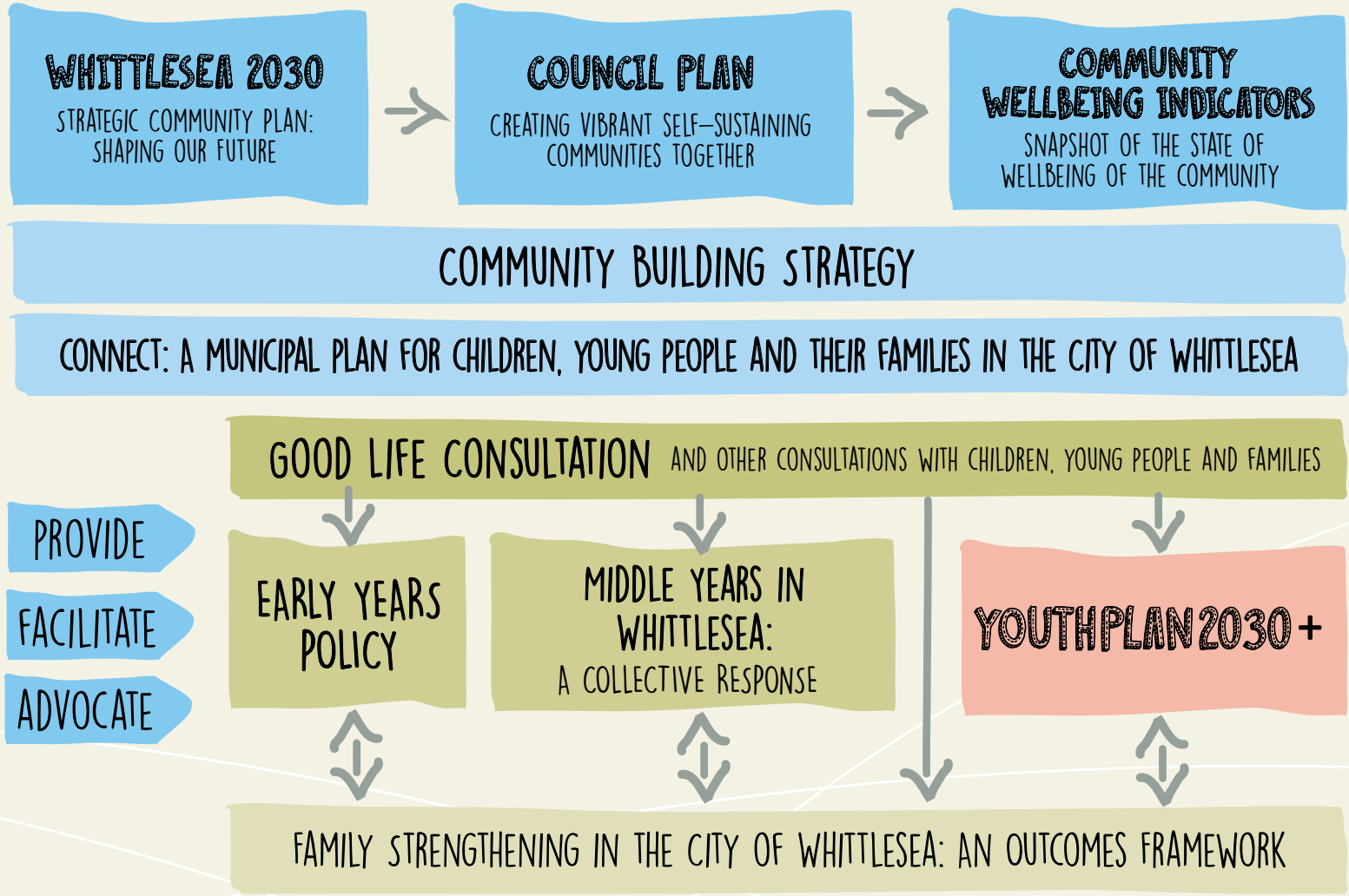
Connect: A municipal plan for children, young people and their families in the City of Whittlesea is a strategic plan for families, children and young people. It provides Council with a framework for integrated practice across the 0 to 25 age groups, their parents and carers.

Other key pieces of work relevant to young people and their families include *Middle Years in Whittlesea: A Collective Response: A municipal middle years strategy for the City of Whittlesea*, and *Family Strengthening in the City of Whittlesea: An Outcomes Framework*.

YouthPlan2030+ builds on this previous work and responds to community aspirations and circumstances outlined in *Shaping Our Future: Whittlesea2030 Strategic Community Plan* and *Community Wellbeing Indicators*. Its principles and approach are consistent with the *Community Building Strategy*.

¹ *Baseline for Young People* is Council's Youth Service. Core business is concerned with achieving wellbeing outcomes for young people. Strategic and service delivery focusses on prevention, early intervention and capacity building for all young people aged 10 to 25 years in the City of Whittlesea.

1.1 STRATEGIC CONTEXT



1.2 YOUTH PLAN 2030+

YOUTH PLAN 2030+ includes a *Wellbeing Outcomes Framework for Young People* outlining Council's goals for young people. It draws on a range of work including an expert panel review of council's role in youth services, a recent council service review, research, the Good Life Consultationⁱⁱ and other consultations. This Plan also presents data representing how young people in the City of Whittlesea are faring, that will be monitored over time.

Consistent with best practice, this plan applies knowledge of adolescent development to practice. It emphasises supporting young people in the context of their families and significant relationships, and within their daily settings.

YouthPlan2030+ strategically focuses actions and priorities to achieve the best possible outcomes for young people. It contains broad areas for action that will guide the development of biennial detailed Action Plans.

These Action Plans will detail Council's activities and programs and guide resource management.

The City of Whittlesea is in a unique stage of growth with strategic opportunities to secure long-term benefits and wellbeing outcomes for young people, their families and future communities. *YouthPlan2030+* aims to achieve the best possible outcomes by keeping young people in focus while managing this growth and responding to wider societal changes.

ⁱⁱIn 2016 the Council consulted children, young people, their families and service providers on the question *What makes a good life?*. The results have been applied to strategic planning for Council actions, and social and physical infrastructure of the city.

1.3 MEASUREMENT

The data contained within the Outcomes Framework provides a guide to how young people in the City of Whittlesea are faring.

YouthPlan2030+ and the resulting Action Plans will be measured by indicators of progress linked to the outcomes in this report.

Evaluation of actions within the Action Plans will provide an indication of the impact of the role and work of Council together with relevant stakeholders and will act as a measure of Council's progress in contributing to the broad outcomes for young people.

It should be noted that the outcomes contained within the *Wellbeing Outcomes Framework* are broad and many are beyond the responsibility and control of Council. There are many contributors that will influence these outcomes for young people.

'YOUTH WORK SAVES MONEY, AS IT PREVENTS THE SLIDE TOWARDS TERTIARY CRISIS I.E. CHILD PROTECTION AND THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM.'

(CITY OF WHITTLESEA, 2017)

2. PROFILE

The Wurundjeri Willum people are the original inhabitants and Traditional Owners of the land of the City of Whittlesea. The city is located 22 kilometres north of Melbourne's city centre and is 490 square kilometres in area.

In 2017, the estimated population is 209,118 people, this is forecast to grow to 353,910 by 2037. The 2016 Census data shows the median age of residents is 34 years compared to 37 years for Victoria. There are more children and young people aged 0 to 17 years, and more families with children compared with Victoria.³

DIVERSITY

The City of Whittlesea is one of the most culturally diverse Local Government Areas in Victoria. In 2016 the City of Whittlesea had:

- The second largest population of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people in Metropolitan Melbourne
 - 1,639 people identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander with a median age of 21 years
- 36% of all residents born overseas, compared to 34% for Greater Melbourne
 - 44% speak a language other than English at home
 - The most common languages spoken at home other than English are Macedonian (5%), Arabic (5%), Italian (5%), Greek (4%) and Punjabi (3%)³
- Third largest Asylum Seeker population in Victoria at 1,062 people
 - 37% being aged between 0 and 25 years old⁴
- 6% of residents reporting needing help in their daily lives due to disability.¹

CITY OF WHITTLESEA (POPULATION IN 2017)

POPULATION
IN 2017 

209,118

GROWING TO

353,910 BY 2037

2ND 

LARGEST POPULATION
OF ABORIGINAL OR
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
PEOPLE IN 

44% total 18,423

SPEAK ANOTHER
LANGUAGE
OTHER THAN
ENGLISH

MIGRANTS
FROM MORE THAN
140 COUNTRIES

6% NEED
DISABILITY
SUPPORT

1, 4, 11

YOUTHPLAN

2030+

7

2. PROFILE (CONT.)

FAMILIES

The 2016 Census shows 42% of households are made up of couples with children compared to 33% in Greater Melbourne.² In addition 12% of households in the municipality are single parent households, compared with 10% in Greater Melbourne.⁷

VULNERABILITIES IN FAMILIES

- Many households experience high financial stress, with 54% reporting (in 2016) that their rental or mortgage payments place heavy or moderate stress on their household finances⁷
- Parents report that they are time poor, due to long commutes to work, and traffic congestion⁸
- 2,868 incidents of family violence were reported to Police from July 2015 to June 2016. Of these incidents 38% had children present.²⁷

FAMILIES



54% HIGH FINANCIAL STRESS

10% HAVE RUN OUT OF FOOD

PARENTS REPORT THEY ARE TIME POOR

56 REPORTED INCIDENTS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE EVERY WEEK

YOUNG PEOPLE

Of the 42,743 young people aged 10 to 25 years in the City of Whittlesea in 2017, 49.7% are young women and 50.3% are young men.¹

VULNERABILITIES IN YOUNG PEOPLE


- In 2011, 13% of young people aged 15 to 24 in the City of Whittlesea were unemployed³⁶
- In 2016 to 2017, 336 babies were born to mothers aged 15 to 24 years in the City of Whittlesea⁹
- The 2011 Census shows the rate of young people disengaged from education and employment was 9%, compared to 8% for Victoria¹⁰
- In 2014, 68% of young people in the North Eastern region reported having a trusted adult in their life¹¹
- In 2014, 14% of young people in the North Eastern region showed high levels of depressive symptoms¹¹

'STRESS IS THE MAIN THING FAMILIES DISCUSS WITH ME.
(PRACTITIONER, GOOD LIFE CONSULTATION 2016)

- In Victoria, on average, one student in every Secondary school class has a problem with gambling¹²
- In Australia less than 1% of rental properties are affordable for a single person on Newstart or Youth Allowance.¹³

YOUNG PEOPLE

2017 THERE ARE
42,743
YOUNG PEOPLE
AGED 10 TO 25
LIVING IN THE CITY OF WHITTLESEA

BY 2037
THERE WILL BE  YOUNG PEOPLE
72,956 YOUNG PEOPLE
20% OF THE POPULATION


1, 9, 36

THE MEDIAN
AGE OF THE
ABORIGINAL
AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER
COMMUNITY
IS **21** YEARS


13% UNEMPLOYED


9% DISENGAGED
FROM EDUCATION
AND EMPLOYMENT

HIGHER BIRTH
RATES FOR
19 TO 24 YR OLDS

TOP
THREE
CONCERNS
1 BODY
IMAGE
2 STRESS
3  SCHOOL

19, 20

13%  HIGH
LEVEL STRESS

6%  LOW
LEVEL
 CONNECTION
TO ADULTS
AT HOME

11%  LOW
LEVEL
CONNECTION TO A PEER GROUP

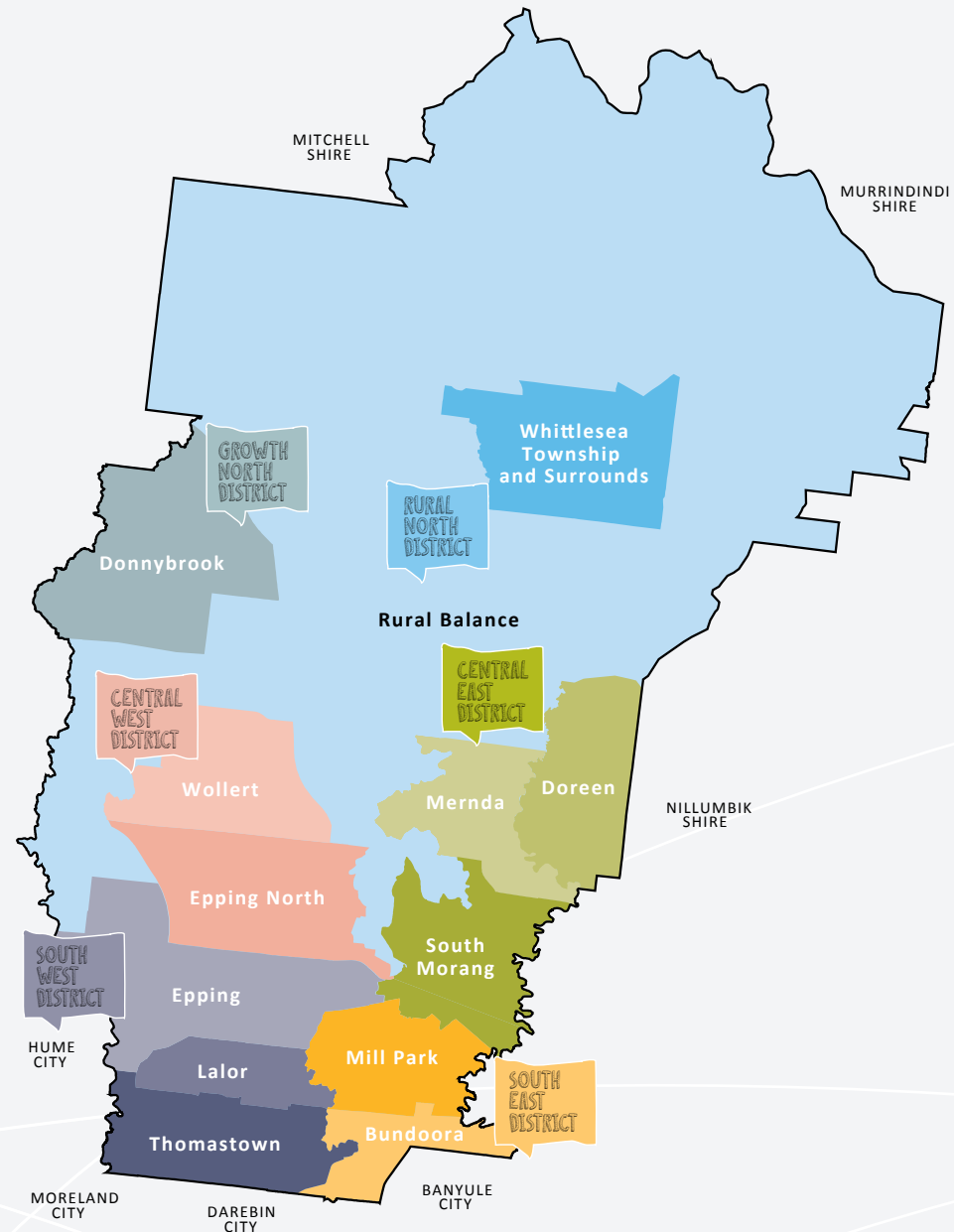
23%
YOUNG 
WOMEN
AND **12.5%**
YOUNG 
MEN
EXPERIENCE
DISCRIMINATION

20

TOP REASONS FOR
DISCRIMINATION:
GENDER
60%
RACE 52%
OTHER
20%

YOUNG PEOPLE IN PLACES

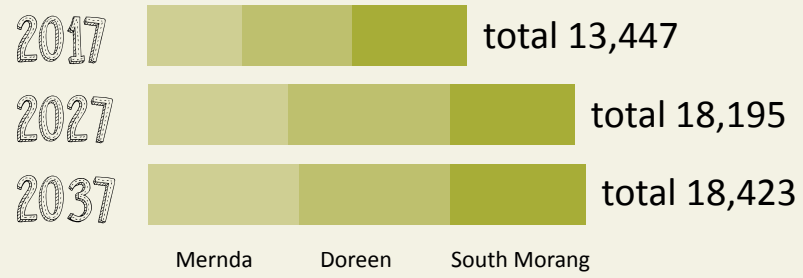
The majority of the population live in the established areas of Bundoora, Epping, Lalor, Mill Park, Thomastown, Whittlesea Township, and the current growth areas of Mernda, Doreen, South Morang and Epping North. Significant future growth is projected for Wollert, Epping North, and Donnybrook. The following shows where young people aged 10 to 25 years currently live, and where it is estimated that they will live in 2027 and 2037.



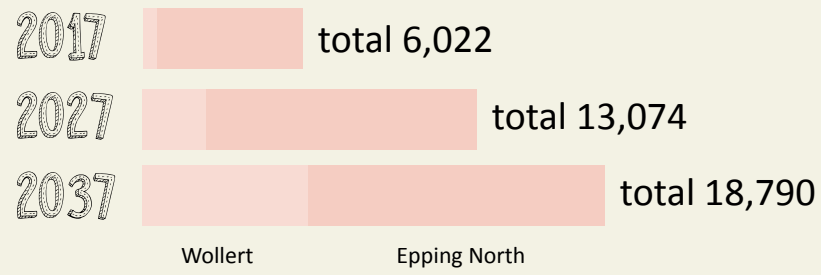
YOUNG PEOPLE IN PLACES



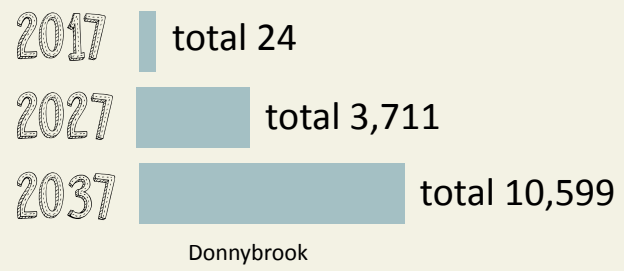
YOUNG PEOPLE



YOUNG PEOPLE



YOUNG PEOPLE

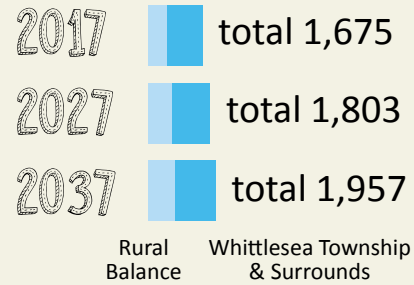


YOUNG PEOPLE IN PLACES

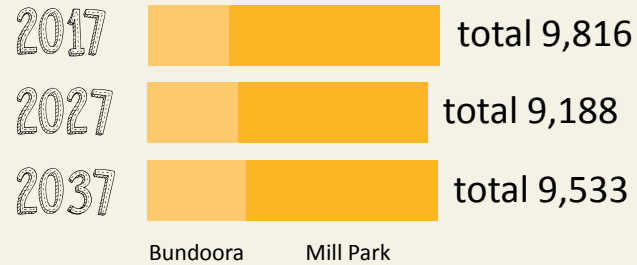
'IT TAKES 30 MINUTES TO TRAVERSE THE LAST 5 KILOMETRES FROM LALOR TO EPPING (LYNDARUM ESTATE) BY CAR IN AN EVENING. THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE FROM SEEING YOUR CHILD IN TIME FOR BED.'
(PARENT, GOOD LIFE CONSULTATION 2016)



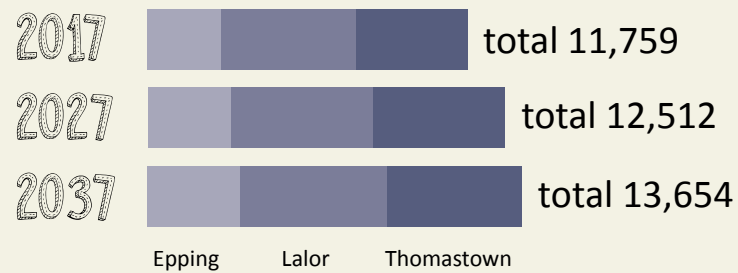
YOUNG PEOPLE



YOUNG PEOPLE



YOUNG PEOPLE



3. REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S ROLE

'YOUNG PEOPLE ARE CITIZENS WITHOUT A VOTE. ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP IS ENABLING RIGHTS. YOUTH WORKERS ENABLE YOUNG PEOPLE TO ENACT THEIR RIGHTS.'

(CITY OF WHITTLESEA, 2016)

Council engaged sector experts to review Council's role and practices in relation to young people. The review considered the question "how can Council support and improve the lives of 42,000 young people now, and 73,000 in 20 years time?" The review process was supported by research on national and international good youth work practice.

PANEL

Bernie Geary, former Victorian Commissioner for the Safety of Children and Young People

Carmel Guerra, CEO Centre for Multicultural Youth

Georgie Ferrari, former CEO Youth Affairs Council of Victoria

Dr Tim Corney, former Dean of Queens College, Melbourne University and Associate Professor, College of Arts and Education, Victoria University

FINDINGS

The Expert Panel endorsed practices that promote young people's wellbeing, and those tailored to respond to diversity, complexity and vulnerability. They also supported engaging young people in democratic processes, active citizenship and in planning, and emphasised the need for young people to see the results of their participation. The Panel endorsed work that ensures the social and physical infrastructure is designed to be inclusive of young people and their ages, stages and diversity.

The Panel also endorsed practice principles and approaches based on young people's:

- Rights^v
- Voice
- Strengths
- Stages of development
- Contexts and settings.

^vThe panel members were selected because of their extensive experience in working with, and for, the best interests of young people and their standing in the Youth Work sector.

^vRights based practice is detailed in the Attachment

3. REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S ROLE (CONT.)

The Panel proposed that Council continue to strengthen:

- The range of participatory and co-creation practices that engage young people in consultation and designing, leading and evaluating projects
 - Aligning services to the expressed needs, aspirations, interests and identities of young people
 - Capacity of young people in all their daily settings
 - The use of social media and online services to complement and enhance access to support for young people
 - Capacity of parents and carers to guide young people in all situations and settings
 - Partnerships and maximising universal service platforms
- Investment in working with schools
 - Local environments and conditions that enable young people to thrive
 - Young people's engagement in formal and informal learning and education, and lifelong learning
 - Advocacy to build a responsive service system to meet the needs of young people.¹⁷

'A GOOD LIFE FOR THE COMMUNITY
... IS INFLUENCED BY LEADERSHIP
AND A CULTURE OF RESPECT FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE.'
(PARENT, GOOD LIFE CONSULTATION 2016)

'A WIDE RANGE OF INTERRELATED FACTORS INCLUDING ... RELATIONSHIPS,
EMPLOYMENT, WEALTH, SLEEP, DIET, EXERCISE, RECREATION, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS,
EQUITY AND A SENSE OF BELONGING CAN INFLUENCE ONES WELLBEING.'
(VICHEALTH, 2015)

4. CITY OF WHITTLESEA WELLBEING OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

THE FRAMEWORK

The *City of Whittlesea Wellbeing Outcomes Framework for Young People* is informed by young people and the Youth sector, and builds on the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth's *The Nest Action Agenda*.

The framework sets out three Focus Areas consisting of key Domains with desired outcomes, that are central to the wellbeing of young people. Evidence, from and on, local young people is mapped to the Focus Areas and Domains indicating how young people are faring, and Broad Areas for Action.

The Wellbeing Outcomes Framework for Young People:

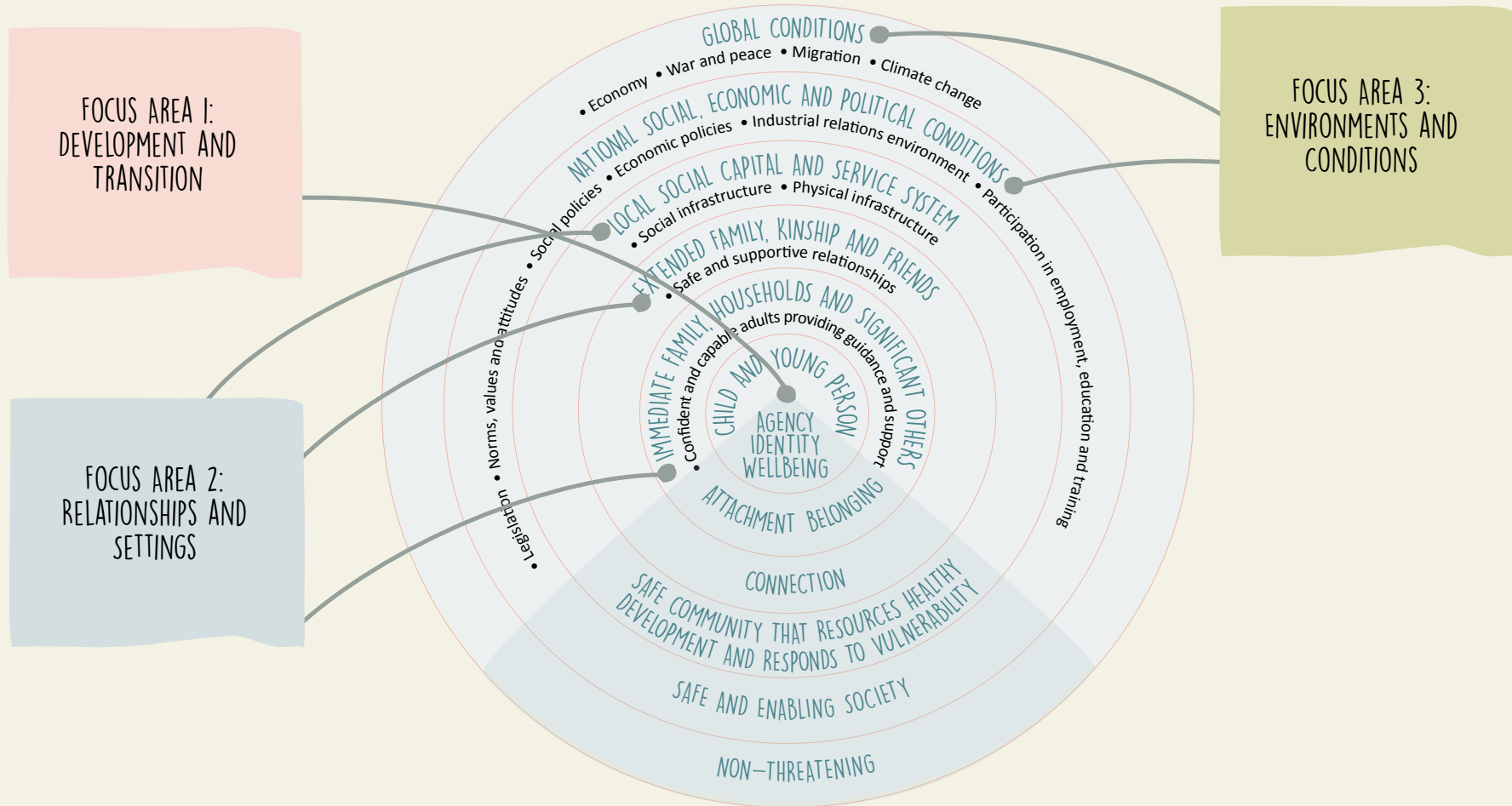
- Is driven by what young people are saying
- Delivers available data on the wellbeing of young people
- Identifies strengths and vulnerabilities
- Enables monitoring of how local young people are faring
- Guides identification of priority areas for action

4.1 YOUTH PLAN 2030 + LINKED TO AN ECOLOGICAL APPROACH

Links to Connect: A municipal plan for children, young people and their families

Council's integrated planning and practice framework for children, young people and their families, is outlined in *Connect: A municipal plan for children, young people and their families*. The Life Course Perspective outlines ages and stages of development, and the Ecological Perspective locates young people in the context of their family, community and wider society. The Focus Areas of *City of Whittlesea Wellbeing Outcomes Framework for Young People* link *YouthPlan2030+* to the Ecological Perspective.

YOUTH PLAN 2030 + LINKED TO THE ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE OF CONNECT



4.2 ELEMENTS OF THE WELLBEING OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

FOCUS AREAS

FOCUS AREA 1: DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSITION

Young people are challenged as they transition from child through adolescence to young adulthood, from dependence to independence, to defining themselves and their future aspirations. Domains include Agency, Identity, Health and Wellbeing.

FOCUS AREA 2: RELATIONSHIPS AND SETTINGS

Young people need guidance and support from parents, carers, friends, teachers and significant others. The settings where young people go about their daily lives, include home, school and the community. Domains include Resilient Families and Positive Relationships, Connected and Engaged and Respected and Safe.

FOCUS AREA 3: ENVIRONMENTS AND CONDITIONS

Young people are sensitive to environmental pressures and wider social and public conditions. These domains are concerned with the local, national and global circumstances and experiences that impact on young people. Domains include Material basics, and Social and Physical Infrastructure.

ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT

Adolescent development and transition is complex and multi faceted involving physical, emotional and social changes in all the domains of young people's lives. This section supports the alignment of practice to the ages and stages of adolescent development.

4.2 ELEMENTS OF THE WELLBEING OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK (CONT.)

DOMAINS, OUTCOMES AND HOW YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FARING

Data from young people, parents, carers, the sector and statistics are mapped against domains and outcome goals for young people. The outcomes express what we want to achieve for young people relating to eight domains.

How Young People are Faring indicates strengths and vulnerabilities in local young people and their settings.

The data reported in *How Young People are Faring* is predominantly drawn from the following sources:

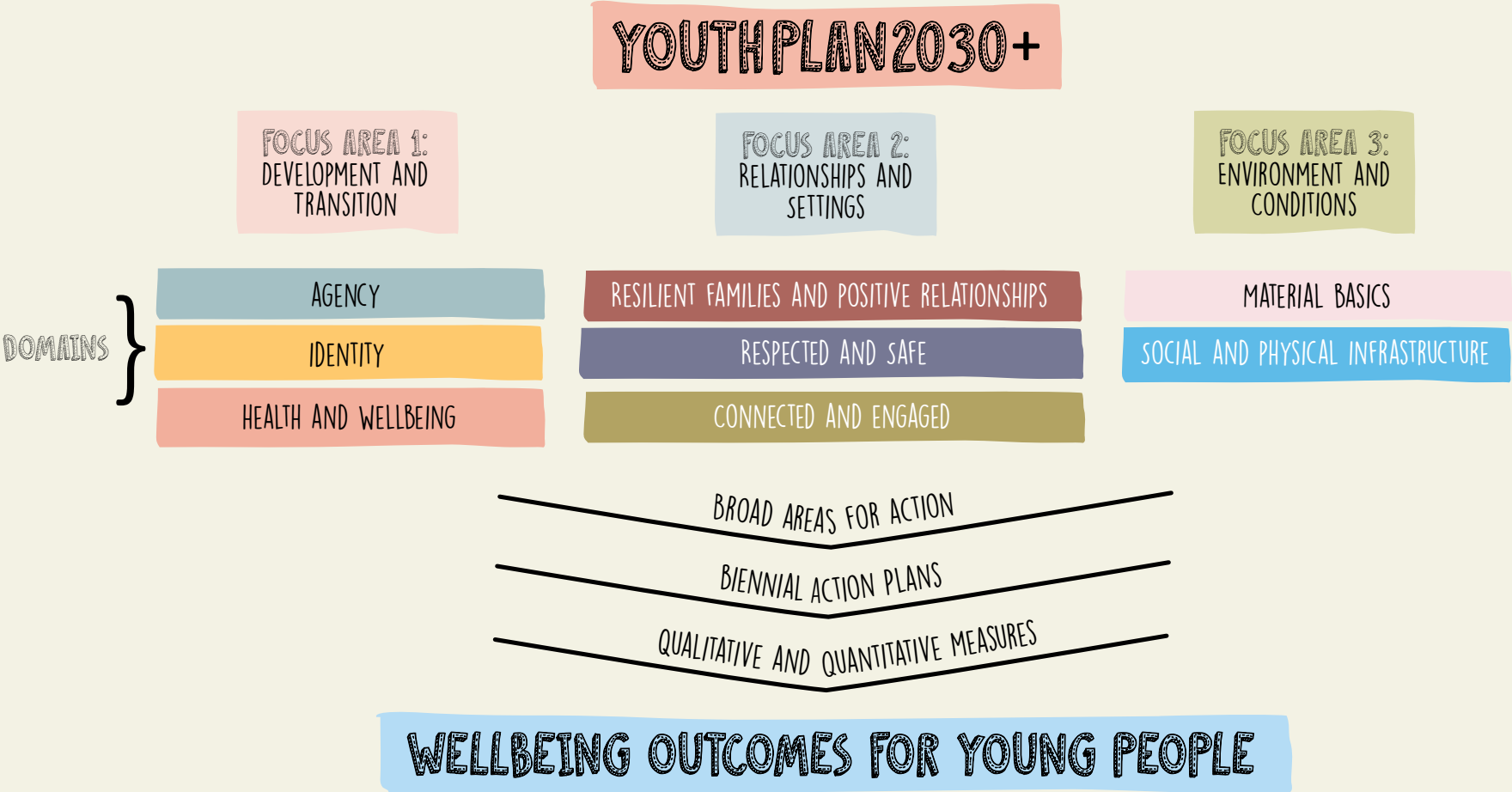
- The 2015 and 2016 *Whittlesea Middle Years Development Instrument*. This reports on children and young people 9 to 14 years old
- *The Mission Australia Youth Survey 2016: Whittlesea Results*. This reports on young people 15 to 18 years old
- The *City of Whittlesea Annual Household Survey 2016*, *City of Whittlesea Place Profiles* and *City of Whittlesea Wellbeing Indicators 2017*. These report on the overall population of the municipality.

BROAD AREAS FOR ACTION AND COUNCIL'S ROLE

This section reflects the analysis of the data by indicating priority areas for action within Council's roles as provider, facilitator and advocate:

- As provider Council delivers early intervention and preventative, strength based and culturally competent activities and programs for 10 to 25 year old young people, and their families
- As facilitator Council generates partnerships and service delivery collaborations. It creates linkages between agencies, across disciplines and (aged based) sectors
- As advocate Council provides leadership in advocating for the needs of local young people and to build the social and physical infrastructure of the municipality.

4.3 THE CITY OF WHITTLESEA WELLBEING OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK EMBEDDED IN YOUTH PLAN 2030+



4.4 WELLBEING OUTCOMES

AGENCY

Young people have the capacity for developmentally appropriate management of their circumstances, and responsibilities to make safe decisions and positive life choices, to determine their life goals, and to meet their aspirations and realise their full potential.



IDENTITY

Young people have a positive sense of self and identity, and are freely and safely able to explore and express all aspects of themselves including diverse gender, sexual and cultural identities.



RESILIENT FAMILIES AND POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Young people feel loved, nurtured and safe and have a sense of belonging within resilient families and households. They have trusted relationships with family, friends, and significant adults, have someone to turn to and access to support for all stages of their development.



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Young people are happy, and experience positive social, emotional, mental and physical health.

MATERIAL BASICS

Young people, and the families and carers that support them, are safe, and have financial, housing and food security, and access to employment and education.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD LIFE IS... 'CONNECTEDNESS TO MY COMMUNITY, WORK, HEALTH AND SAFETY OF MY FAMILY'
(YOUNG PERSON, GOOD LIFE CONSULTATION 2016)

RESPECTED AND SAFE

Young people's rights and dignity are upheld. Young people are safe at home, at school, at work, with friends and in intimate relationships, in the community and in public places.



CONNECTED AND ENGAGED

Young people are connected, engaged, socialising and participating in decisions that affect them. They are engaged in learning through pathways to formal education, and have opportunities for informal learning.



SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Young people have access to a full spectrum of services, and welcoming public places, spaces and facilities, that respond to their complex and diverse needs and supports their wellbeing.

4.5 YOUTH PLAN 2030 + FOCUS AREAS

FOCUS AREA 1: DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSITION

Young people are challenged as they transition from child through adolescence to young adulthood, from dependence to independence, to defining themselves and their future aspirations. The domains include Agency, Identity, Health and Wellbeing.

AGENCY ABLE TO DO THINGS

Young people have the capacity for developmentally appropriate **management of their circumstances and responsibilities**, have capacity to **make safe decisions, positive life choices**, to determine **their life goals**, and realise their full potential.

IDENTITY

Young people have a **positive sense of self and identity**, and **are freely and safely** able to explore and **express all aspects of themselves** including diverse gender, sexual and cultural identities.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Young people are happy, healthy, and **experience positive social, emotional, mental and physical health**.

ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT

As young people progress through adolescence **agency becomes increasingly important**. They form plans and aspirations and for their future. **Agency, is a measure of autonomy and independence**.

Self-identity is a key developmental goal. During adolescence young people acquire a new **awareness of themselves, who they are in the world**, and how they fit in. They experience dramatic personal, physical, social and emotional changes that impact on all aspects of their lives. **Positive self-image and body image are central to self-esteem**, confidence and the ability of young people to manage their relationships and circumstances.

Home, peers, school and community are critical settings for developing positive attitudes and behaviours. As young people gain autonomy they make decisions that have **lifelong effects on physical and mental health**.

AGENCY

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

YOUNG PEOPLE WANT

To love and be loved, to take care of themselves, their family and friends¹³

To make decisions and know where they fit in the world¹³

To have choices, and to achieve their goals and aspirations⁸

WHAT PARENTS WANT

- Young people to have a purposeful life and contribute to family and community⁸
- Young people to achieve their goals and find their independence⁸

WHAT THE YOUTH SECTOR SAYS

Young people:

- Are the experts on their lives
- Have the right to freedom of expression, and to be free from discrimination¹⁵
- Young people need to achieve independence and autonomy¹⁶
- They need to gain awareness of civic and community responsibility¹⁷
- Young people need to be considered in the context of rapid social change¹⁷

HOW YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FARING

- 66% of Year 5/6 students reported a high level of optimism, 24% reported a medium level of optimism¹⁸
- 62% of Year 7 students rated their assertiveness as high, 5% as low¹⁹
- 70% of Year 7 students report a high level of making responsible decisions¹⁹
- 82% of Year 7 students agree a little, or a lot, that they have goals for the future, 73% have important things to do in the future¹⁹
- 100% of 15 to 19 year old young people surveyed reported they intended to complete year 12²⁰
- 87% of 15 to 19 year old young people who were surveyed were planning to go to university²⁰
- 25% of 15 to 19 year old young people surveyed planned to travel overseas on a gap year²⁰
- 29% of 15 to 19 year old young people surveyed planned to get a job after completing school²⁰
- 62% of 15 to 19 year old young people surveyed feel very positive, or positive about their future, 8% feel negative or very negative²⁰

FOCUS AREA 1: DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSITION (CONT.)

IDENTITY

AA WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY AA

Young people want 'to find themselves', be self-defining and have a positive sense of self¹³

Young people want to belong and have respect and dignity as their 'authentic self'

Aboriginal young people say that the stories of their families are central to their identity and self-esteem

Young people are concerned about conflict, bullying and 'transphobic and homophobic people'⁸

WHAT PARENTS SAY

- Parents recognise that different cultures have different values⁸

WHAT THE YOUTH SECTOR SAYS

- Identity is important for the wellbeing of young people. They need safe opportunities to explore their identities¹⁵
- Young people need to be understood in the context of their peers, families and communities¹⁷
- Cultural identity is fundamentally important for Aboriginal, migrant and refugee young people¹⁷
- 'Race-based discrimination is a major driver of mental illness in Australia'¹⁶

HOW YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FARING

- 80% of Year 4 students reported a high level of self-esteem, 14% reported a medium level of self-esteem²¹
- 65% of Year 7 students reported a high level of self-esteem, 24% reported a medium level of self-esteem²⁵
- 84% of Year 4 students reported a high level of academic self-concept²¹
- 17% of Year 7 students reported they always liked the way they look, 32% sometimes, 7% never liked the way they looked²⁰
- 30% of 15 to 19 year old young people who were surveyed reported being 'extremely' or 'very' concerned about body image. 27% are 'somewhat' concerned about body image²⁰

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

Family and friends, good physical, mental and social health, are important for wellbeing⁸

Fun, happiness, relaxation, sleep, life balance, freedom from psychological harm, and being connected, are key to wellbeing⁸

Young people worry about family stress and conflict, bullying and discrimination⁸

Isolation is a concern for refugee young people¹³

WHAT PARENTS SAY

- Parents want their family to be happy, healthy and safe⁸
- Parents want time with their family, and financial and housing security⁸
- Bullying and negativity takes away from a good life⁸
- Parents say that young people need 'down time'⁸

WHAT THE YOUTH SECTOR SAYS

- 'Youth is a critical period of social and emotional development, and a time when young people face serious challenges that threaten lifelong mental wellbeing'²⁴
- 'Youth Work is concerned with the positive health and wellbeing of young people'²⁷
- Consistent, competent support is pivotal to healthy development²⁴
- Practitioners recommend that Local Governments promote:
 - Wellbeing
 - Support for families
 - Social inclusion and Social cohesion¹⁷

HOW YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FARING

- Top concerns for 15 to 19 year old young people surveyed in the City of Whittlesea were stress, concerns with school and study, and body image²⁰
 - 45% of Year 4 students described their general health as high, 11% described their general health as low²¹
 - 23% of Year 7/8 students reported not getting enough sleep, and 25% reported getting a moderate level of sleep²⁵
 - 28% of Year 7 students reported not eating breakfast¹⁹
 - 45% of Year 5/6 students reported a low level of anxiety, 31% reported a high level of anxiety¹⁸
- 13% of the total population in the City of Whittlesea were classified as having a high or very high level of psychological distress²⁶
 - 29% of Year 7 students reported high wellbeing, 29% medium wellbeing and 42% low wellbeing¹⁹
- 1 in 20 young people will have a Sexually Transmitted Infection at any time²⁷
- The birth rate for 15 to 24 year olds in the municipality is higher than metropolitan Melbourne²⁷
- 4% of both Year 4 and 7 students reported that they are overweight²¹

FOCUS AREA 1: DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSITION (CONT.)

KEY MESSAGES

Most young people in the City of Whittlesea are developing well, feel happy, healthy and confident about their future. They have aspirations to complete high school, go to university, to work, to contribute to others and to make the world a better place. However, measures of wellbeing appear to decline as students progress from primary school to secondary school, including the drop in levels in self-esteem, academic self-concept and the increase in **concern about body image**. As young people move through adolescence they report higher levels of inadequate sleep, poor eating habits and of being overweight.

Also of note are reports on indicators of mental health; psychological distress, stress and anxiety. With the onset of mental health problems peaking during adolescence, strengths based, targeted proactive strategies are important to avert onset and escalation.

BROAD AREAS FOR ACTION

PROVIDE co-created programs, community events, civic participation activities and social action projects in response to emerging challenges and aspirations. These include the opportunity for young people to:

- Explore and express their identity in safe environments
- Develop skills for healthy attitudes, life choices and relationships
- Engage and connect to culture and community
- Access information on physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health
- Promote active citizenship and civic engagement.

FACILITATE partnerships with young people, families and carers, schools and agencies. These include partnerships that:

- Promote practices, places and spaces that are inclusive and support young people to define and express their identities and needs

- Embed principles of equity, inclusion of diversity and cultural competence into policy, programs and practices
- Support and strengthen:
 - Programs that promote healthy transitions across the life course
 - Leadership programs.

ADVOCATE to build a social environment that promotes cohesion, embraces and celebrates diversity, and has zero tolerance for discrimination.

- For social and physical infrastructure that responds to the complex needs of young people, and enables healthy development and wellbeing.
- For a service system to deliver a full suite of preventative, early and crisis interventions and addresses priority areas and gaps, for example:
 - Youth mental health and wellbeing
 - Housing options for young people.

FOCUS AREA 2: RELATIONSHIPS AND SETTINGS

Young people need guidance and support from parents, carers, friends, teachers and significant others. The settings where young people go about their daily lives, include home, school and the community. Domains include Resilient Families and Positive Relationships (with peers and the community), Connected and Engaged and Respected and Safe.

RESILIENT FAMILIES AND POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEERS AND THE COMMUNITY

Young people feel loved, nurtured and safe and have a sense of belonging within resilient families and households. They have trusted relationships with family, friends, and significant adults, have someone to turn to and access to support for all stages of their development.

RESPECTED AND SAFE

Young people's rights and dignity are upheld. Young people are safe at home, at school, at work, with friends and in intimate relationships, in the community and in public places.

CONNECTED AND ENGAGED

Young people are connected, engaged, socialising and participating in decisions that affect them. They are engaged in learning through pathways to formal education, and have opportunities for informal learning.

ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT

Family, carers, friends, teachers and other significant adults are critical for positive development and providing supportive scaffolds for wellbeing. Young people need connection, reliability, stability, trust and safety to develop well. Young people are deeply sensitive to stressors and disturbances

in their environments, including financial stress on families, mental illness, isolation, conflict and family violence.

Disengagement is a response to cumulative factors across a number of domains of young people's lives. The experience of unfair treatment and discrimination breaches human rights, causes harm at the personal level, and generates

disharmony in the community. Research confirms that there is a link between discrimination and poor health and wellbeing outcomes. **Gender equity** is necessary to achieving better personal and social outcomes, and crucial to **prevent violence against women, children and young people**.

FOCUS AREA 2: RELATIONSHIPS AND SETTINGS (CONT.)

RESILIENT FAMILIES AND POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

WITH PEERS AND THE COMMUNITY

AA WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY AA

Family is central to wellbeing. It provides love, peace, belonging, care, guidance, protection and security¹³

Aboriginal young people say family provides emotional wellbeing¹³
Young people want time with family¹³

Newly Arrived young people feel vulnerable without their family¹³

Peer groups can sometimes be exclusive and harmful¹³
Young people need teachers to be respectful and fair¹³

WHAT PARENTS SAY

- Parents want time at home with their children and young people, and to give them great experiences⁸
- Parents value getting along, eating and going out together⁸
- Parents feel pressured with the cost of living, financial stress, working long hours, violence and in response to traffic congestion⁸
- Parents want their young people to have social opportunities⁸

WHAT THE YOUTH SECTOR SAYS

- Young people need to be seen in the context of their families, peers and communities¹⁷
- Young people need safety and stability at home¹⁷
- Young people need guidance from adults¹⁷
- Parents need to understand adolescent development¹⁷
- There is a need to invest in families and carers that support young people¹⁷

HOW YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FARING

- 88% of young people, aged 15 to 19 years who were surveyed, reported that family relationships are 'extremely important' or 'very important'²⁰
- 19% of young people, aged 15 to 19 years who were surveyed, reported their family's ability to get along as 'fair' or 'poor'²⁰
- 23% of young people, aged 15 to 19 years who were surveyed, reported being 'extremely concerned' or 'very concerned' with family conflict²⁰
- 76% of Year 7/8 students reported a high level of connection to adults at home, 6% reported a low level²⁵
- 56% of Year 7 students report they have quality interactive relationships with adults at school¹⁹
- 66% of Year 7 students report they feel it is very important to make friends¹⁹
- 68% of Year 7 students feel they belong to a peer group and 11% reported having a low level of connection to a peer group¹⁹
- 85% of young people, aged 15 to 19 years who were surveyed, reported friendships as being 'extremely or very important'²⁰

CONNECTED AND ENGAGED

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

Young people want to be part of the community and to make a difference¹³

Young people recognise that educational attainment is key to long-term prospects¹³

Young people recognise that employment provides income, personal and professional development, and a sense of responsibility¹³

Newly Arrived young people feel that jobs and sport provide access to mainstream culture, and enable friendships¹³

Aboriginal young people need connection to culture and to their country¹³

WHAT PARENTS SAY

- Parents want access to educational options for young people⁸
- Parents of Newly Arrived young people are concerned that their young people do not have enough informal engagement options⁸
 - Parents need a sense of community, belonging, ownership, and opportunities for civic engagement⁸

WHAT THE YOUTH SECTOR SAYS

- Active citizenship creates agency¹⁷
- Young people need life-long informal and formal learning opportunities¹⁷
 - Factors associated with disengagement include an unstable home, low educational attainment, joblessness within families and communities²²
- Young people need strong social and emotional foundations to thrive in a dynamic and skills driven market²²

HOW YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FARING

- 75% of Year 5/6 students reported a high level of peer belonging, 8% reported a low level of peer belonging²¹
- 57% of Year 7/8 students reported a high level of connection to adults in schools, 10% reported a low level of connection to adults in school²⁵
 - 21% of household respondents reported feeling part of the community²⁶
- 9% of young people aged 15 to 24 are not engaged in education or employment²⁶
 - 17% leave school early, compared to 9% of Victorians, reasons include not coping, failing, or school is 'too hard'³⁷
 - Youth unemployment grew from 9% in 2009 to 16% in 2015²²

FOCUS AREA 2: RELATIONSHIPS AND SETTINGS (CONT.)

RESPECTED AND SAFE

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

Young people want to freely express themselves, and to be safe and respected at home, school and in the community⁸

Friends provide companionship, someone to talk to, confidence in yourself, and inclusion²⁰

Young people reported that generally their suburb was friendly and welcoming, although some places felt unsafe e.g. public transport⁸

WHAT PARENTS SAY

- Parents want a sense of safety in public for all⁸
- Parents want a community where differences are appreciated and celebrated and not feared⁸
- Parents want an open community with equality, inclusion diversity and interaction between people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds⁸

WHAT THE YOUTH SECTOR SAYS

- Young people have the right to feel safe and to be safe¹⁷
- Practice need to respond to diversity in all young people²³
- Local Government needs to:
 - Promote social inclusion and cohesion
 - Tackle racism²³
- Youth Workers have a distinct expertise in understanding the behaviour of young people¹⁷

HOW YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FARING

- 21% of 15 to 19 year old young people who were surveyed experienced unfair treatment or discrimination²⁰
 - The reasons for their experience of unfair treatment or discrimination were based on gender 60%, race or cultural background 52%, sexuality 16%, and physical health or ability 12%²⁰
- 53% of 15 to 19 year old young people who were surveyed indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination²⁰
- 39% of Year 5/6 students and 34% of Y7/8 students reported being socially bullied by other students about every month¹⁸
- In 2015-16 there were 2,868 family violence incidents reported in the City of Whittlesea
 - Females made up the majority of victims (74%)
 - 70% of victimised women were ages 15 to 44 years
 - Children were present at 1,081 reported incidents²⁷
- 40% of households strongly agree that people in their neighbourhood are accepting of people from other cultures/religious backgrounds²⁶
- 68% of all residents felt somewhat or very safe in the public areas of Whittlesea during the day²⁶
- 33% of all residents felt somewhat or very safe in the public areas of Whittlesea during the night²⁶

KEY MESSAGES

Local consultation indicates that many families in the City of Whittlesea are tired, struggling and stressed. Parents report that they are time poor and challenged with work/life balance, often associated with both parents working and long work commutes in heavy traffic.

Many young people report that they are connected to peers, but evidence also shows an alarming number of young people who do not feel part of a peer group and experience isolation and bullying. Furthermore, local evidence shows there is a decline in quality relationships with adults as young people progress from primary to secondary school.

Young people have high aspirations. They recognise that education, training and employment are all fundamental to realising their aspirations, and life and career goals. Parents want the best possible education, training and employment opportunities for their young people. Some young people self-report a low level of engagement in education.

Some young people experience unfair treatment and discrimination based on gender, race and culture. Young women report they experience gender discrimination.

Local young people value the opportunity to contribute and make a difference in their communities.

FOCUS AREA 2: RELATIONSHIPS AND SETTINGS (CONT.)

BROAD AREAS FOR ACTION

PROVIDE evidence based programs, co-designed by young people that strengthen relationships with family, carers, peers and significant adults in the community in particular.

- Opportunities for young people to influence community and Council decisions, as:
 - Consultants in planning the social and physical infrastructure of the municipality
 - Drivers of initiatives identified by young people
- Programs that:
 - Guide and skill young people to be safe and respectful in all settings
 - Support parents to support young people to be safe and respectful in all settings
- Family strengthening strategies that:
 - Support parents and carers to understand adolescent development and transitions

- Create opportunities for parents, carers and young people to interact in settings that showcase the achievements of young people
- Provide affordable, all age, family friendly community events
- Opportunities for young people to participate in recreation and sport
- Programs that support young people to be safe online.

FACILITATE with young people, families and carers, schools and agencies, a culture of respect, valuing diversity and promoting social cohesion which includes the following:

- Responses to vulnerable young people:
 - With Whittlesea Youth Commitment facilitate programs that support young people at risk of disengagement
 - With schools opportunities to link expert providers of programs that support respectful relationships, and gender identity and sexual identity
- Engaging parents to connect to the school environment and community

- Supporting transitions; primary to secondary school, and secondary school to further study, training and employment
- Facilitating Life Long Learning.

ADVOCATE for the development of the service system, to include:

- Initiatives for the prevention of family violence that include improving understanding of the extent and the impact of family violence on young people aged 10 to 25 years in the City of Whittlesea
- Local resources to support young people who have experienced family violence
- Access to alternative education opportunities for young people not engaged in mainstream education.

FOCUS AREA 3: ENVIRONMENTS AND CONDITIONS

Young people are sensitive to environmental pressures and wider social and public conditions. These domains are concerned with the local, national and global circumstances and experiences that impact on young people. Domains include Material basics, and Social and Physical Infrastructure.

MATERIAL BASICS

Young people, and the families and carers that support them, are safe, and have financial, housing and food security, and access to employment and education.

SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Young people have access to a full spectrum of services, and welcoming public places, spaces and facilities, that respond to their complex and diverse needs and supports their wellbeing.

ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT

Young people need the absence of stress, and the presence of positive conditions and opportunities to be healthy and well. Household and personal unemployment, housing and financial insecurity impact on the wellbeing of young people, and limit their opportunities, including participation in school and social activities.

Newly Arrived young people can find it difficult to afford basic necessities, and can be excluded from community activities and opportunities to connect.

FOCUS AREA 3: ENVIRONMENTS AND CONDITIONS (CONT.)

MATERIAL BASICS

AA WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY AA

Young people value financial security, food security, employment and housing security⁸

Some young people are affected by financial stress and the absence of food at home⁸

Young people need safe, affordable housing close to public transport, employment, health, community and educational facilities¹³

Newly Arrived young people can find it difficult to afford basic things¹³

WHAT PARENTS SAY

- Some parents are concerned about basic needs including food, money, housing and jobs⁸
- Some parents struggle to make time for the family and to make ends meet⁸
- Money concerns impact on stress and limit family holidays and leisure options⁸

WHAT THE YOUTH SECTOR SAYS

- Research indicates that poverty impacts on educational outcomes²⁹
- Issues such as young people experiencing high levels of pressure at school, hunger, and missing school, are concerns needing government policy responses³⁰

HOW YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FARING

- 6% of the overall labour force is unemployed²⁶
- 12% of the overall labour force in the municipality is underemployed²⁶
- 53% of households report moderate or heavy housing payment stress in the past 12 months²⁶
- 12% of households ran out of food and could not afford to buy more in the past 12 months²⁶
- On average in 2015/16, \$679 was lost to poker machines for every adult living in the City of Whittlesea³¹
- 4% young people were 'very' or 'extremely' concerned about gambling²⁰
- 42% of households fully own their own home, 37% are purchasing their home, and 19% are renting their home²⁰
- 20% of Year 5/6 students reported that cost was a barrier to participating in preferred after school activities¹⁸
- What prevents students from doing activities after school includes having to go straight home, being too busy, and the cost of the activity²⁰

SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

Young people want access to services for support and wellbeing, recreation and leisure options, and all age events²⁰

Newly Arrived young people want access to learning, sports and work opportunities²⁰

Young people want access to physical infrastructure including public transport, parks, playgrounds, pools and sports facilities⁸

WHAT PARENTS SAY

Parents want:

- Infrastructure for the growing population including health and support services for all age, programs for young people, and family events⁸
- For the municipality to have a balance between housing, industry and green spaces⁸
- Venues at no or low cost for families to meet⁸
- Quality parklands, open space, good public transport, safe bike and walking tracks⁸

WHAT THE YOUTH SECTOR SAYS

- Young people and their families need access to services, employment, parks and facilities¹⁷
- Young people need access to inclusive social and physical infrastructure, prevention and intervention services, mental health services and opportunities for social connections¹⁷
- Young people need safe and welcoming places¹⁷
- Newly Arrived families need opportunities to connect⁸

HOW YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FARING

- 67% of residents believe it is very easy to access doctors²⁶
- 24% of residents believe it is very easy to access mental health services in the municipality²⁶
- 65% of households rate libraries as very important to the community²⁶
- 79% of Year 5/6 students reported that there were safe places in their community to hang out with friends¹⁸
 - 27% of households strongly agree there are good cycling facilities²⁶
- 71% of households visited open spaces monthly²⁶
- 18% of households strongly agree there are good walking facilities²⁶
- 54% of households believe it is very easy to access secondary schools, and 37% of households believe it is very easy to access tertiary education²⁶
- 67% of households rate sports facilities as very important to the community²⁶
- 80% of households live within 400 meters of a local bus stop, and 7% within 800 meters of a train stop, and 3% live within 600 meters of a tram stop²⁶

FOCUS AREA 3: ENVIRONMENTS AND CONDITIONS (CONT.)

KEY MESSAGES

Young people say that material basics impact on their lives and that what stops a good life is 'No money, no job, no food', 'No family holiday', and 'Not being able to spend time together as a family'.

The nature, quality and design of social and physical infrastructure in the municipality are critical in supporting the development of young people and for supporting families. The range of services and the design of public places needs to be inclusive of young people.

'PREVENTATIVE PROGRAMS PROVIDED IN THE FORMATIVE YEARS, HELP YOUNG PEOPLE DEVELOP RESILIENCE AND MAY HELP ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH RELATED MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY RATES.'
(VICHEALTH AND CSIRO, 2015)

BROAD AREAS FOR ACTION

PROVIDE the environment and conditions that enable young people to develop well. Ensure the design of public places and spaces are inclusive of gender age and diversity. Support young people:

- To engage in social action
- To be involved in the planning, design and evaluation of the social and physical infrastructure.

FACILITATE with partners:

- Access to support for Newly Arrived young people
- The promotion of gender equity and non-discriminatory attitudes, policy and practices, and healthy lifestyles
- The development of social enterprise projects that benefit young people
- The promotion of awareness of the impact of gambling on young people
- The development of the social and physical infrastructure to support the healthy development of all young people
- Work that contributes towards the City of Whittlesea becoming an all-age friendly city.

ADVOCATE with partners:

- For the development of a service system that includes mental health services, and responds to material vulnerabilities
- For an integrated comprehensive service system for all ages
- For access to affordable and quality fresh food
- To increase locally accessible employment, education and training opportunities
- For affordable and appropriate housing for young people, with particular attention to social housing, supported housing, housing for young women, and crisis housing
- For housing developments with affordable housing close to public transport, employment opportunities, health, community and educational facilities.
- To provide and maintain natural and open spaces, and facilities that enable family activities.

5. HOW WE WORK

Consideration and responses to young people are embedded in all the business of Council. This is evident in the Council Plan and cross Council policies, plans and strategies.

Baseline for Young People is Council's dedicated Youth Service. **Baseline** provides, facilitates and advocates for, and with, young people.

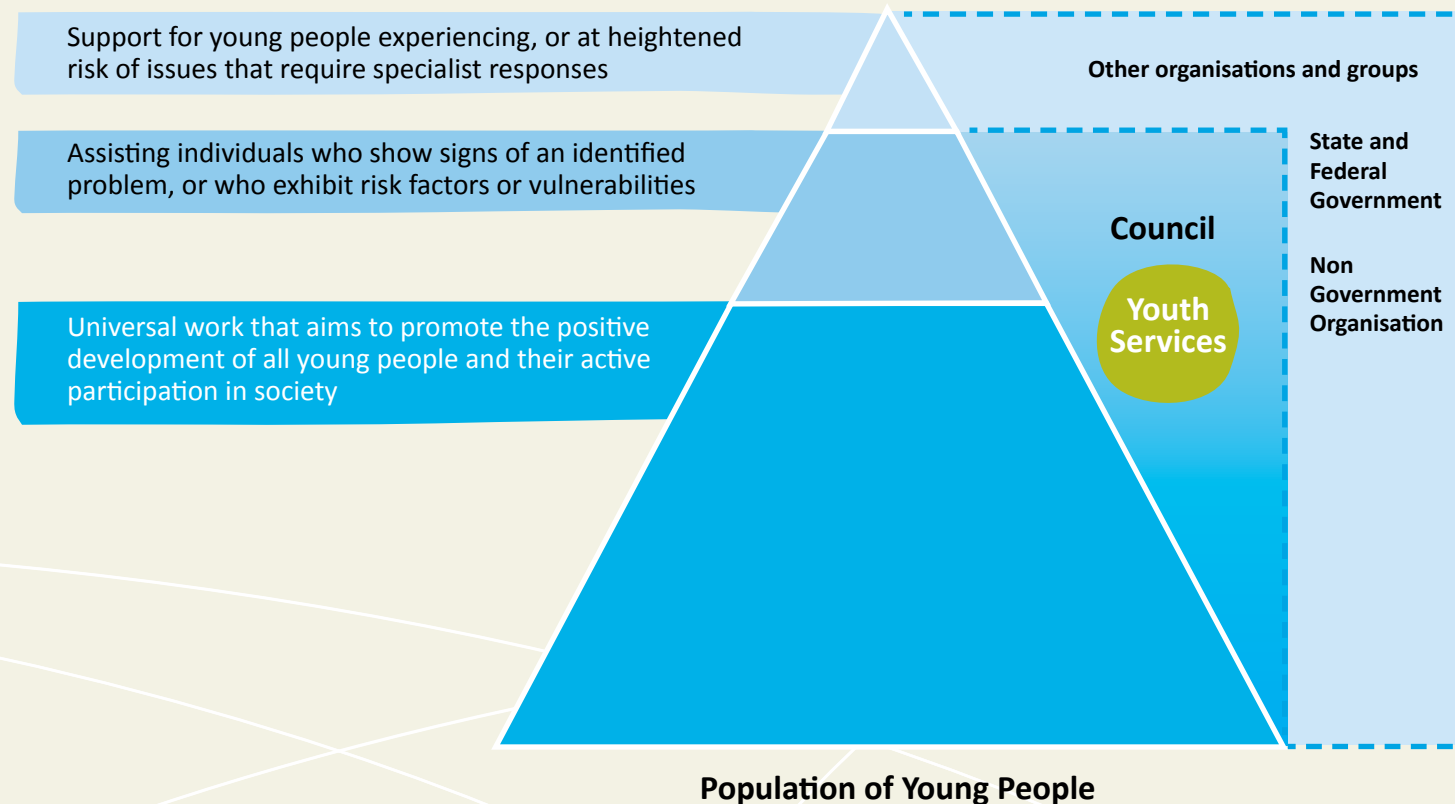
Baseline service delivery is based on:

- Continuously improving an understanding of young people, their current context, strengths and challenges, and anticipating future impacts including monitoring how young people are faring
- Targeting all young people and those who are vulnerable and isolated in established, new, and growing areas
- Participatory strategies
 - Co-creating and co-designing with young people
 - Consultation and engagement
 - Capacity building and leadership
- Preventative and strengths based work
 - Population and issue based portfolios that enable expert responses to the diversity and complexity of young people
 - Local Area Work that enables **Baseline** to meet local needs, and the geographic reach of the city
 - Partnerships that complement, lever and amplify benefits for young people
- Identifying gaps in the service system, advocating and facilitating responses
- Maintaining all of Council responses
 - Ensuring young people continue to be considered in all aspects of Councils business
 - Embedding young people in the development and renewal of the social and physical infrastructure
 - Promoting economic development that increases benefits to families and households
- Using social media as a promotion, communication, information and engagement tool
- Advocating to other levels of government.
- Periodically reviewing **Baseline's** service model to align to emerging demands and projected population growth.

6. ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

This diagram illustrates the role of Council in relation to young people in the context of the intervention spectrum and wider service system.

ROLE OF COUNCIL



ATTACHMENT: RIGHTS BASED FRAMEWORK PRACTICE PRINCIPLES

The Children, Youth and Families Act⁴⁰

This was passed by the Victorian parliament in 2005 and came into effect in 2007. It requires a Charter for children and young people in care in Victoria, to provide a framework for promoting the wellbeing of children and young people.

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition: Australian definition of Youth Work⁴¹

- A practice that places young people and their interests first
- A relational practice, where the Youth Worker operates alongside the young person in their context
- An empowering practice that advocates for, and facilitates a young person's independence, participation in society, connectedness and realisation of their rights.

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria: Victorian Youth Sector Code of Ethical Practice⁴²

The Code of Ethical Practice is based on Human Rights and includes the four core principles of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*:

- Non-discrimination
- Child's best interests
- Right to life, survival and development
- Right to be heard.

Youth Policy: Building Stronger Youth Engagement in Victoria: Youth Engagement Charter

- Recognise and respect the culture and connection to land as a right of Aboriginal young people
- Respect the rights of all young people to participate in decisions that affect their lives
- Ensure respect, transparency and integrity underpin all aspects of youth engagement.

¹ id (2017). *City of Whittlesea Population Forecasts*. Accessed August 2017: <http://forecast.id.com.au/whittlesea>

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³ id (2017). *City of Whittlesea Social Atlas*. Accessed August 2017 www.atlas.id.com.au/whittlesea

⁴ Data supplied by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection Accessed September 2017

⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017). *2016 Census of Population and Housing: Whittlesea QuickStats Profile*. Accessed September 2017

⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017). *2016 Census of Population and Housing: Whittlesea QuickStats Profile*. Accessed October 2017

⁷ City of Whittlesea, (2016). *Annual Household Survey 2016 Municipal Report*. Accessed September 2017. <https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/about-us/our-city/research-reports/>

⁸ City of Whittlesea (2016) *What makes a Good Life Consultations*. Department Family Children and Young People.np

⁹ City of Whittlesea. MCH data, Expedite system. Accessed August 2017

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¹² Responsible Gambling Victoria website. (2017) *Infogram on Young People and Gambling*. Accessed August 2017: <https://www.responsiblegambling.vic.gov.au/awareness-and-prevention/for-parents/young-people-and-gambling>

¹³ Anglicare's Rental Affordability Snapshot: Accessed August 2017. <https://probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2016/04/housing-affordability-young-people-worsening/>

¹⁴ City of Whittlesea (2013) Connect background paper: *What Young People are Saying 2012*, Department Family Children and Young People

¹⁵ City of Whittlesea (2016) *Evidence Summary of Good Youth Work Practice*, Research Unit & Department Family, Children and Young People

¹⁶ VicHealth Mental 2015 *VicHealth Mental Wellbeing Strategy 2015 -2019*, VicHealth promotion Foundation, Melbourne

¹⁷ City of Whittlesea, 2017, *Renewing YouthPlan2030, Youth Services review criteria and outcomes*, Department Families, Children and Young People

¹⁸ Social Research Centre & Human Early Learning Partnership (2015a). *MDI [Middle Development Instrument] Year 5/6 report. School District and Community Report: Whittlesea*. Accessed October 2017: https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/46a98a_9773330035fc4000971471d163829bc9.pdf

¹⁹ Social Research Centre & Human Early Learning Partnership (2017a). *MDI [Middle Development Instrument] Year 7/8 report. School District and Community Report: Whittlesea*. Accessed October 2017: https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/46a98a_9773330035fc4000971471d163829bc9.pdf

²⁰ Mission Australia (2016) *Youth Survey 2016: Key and emerging issues: Data breakdown for City of Whittlesea*, Victoria, Research and Evaluation, Mission Australia

²¹ Social Research Centre & Human Early Learning Partnership (2017b). *MDI [Middle Development Instrument] Grade 4 report. School District and Community Report: Whittlesea*. Accessed October 2017. https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/46a98a_f6a1ec1fcb6f44af8a881515a32d0241.pdf

²² VicHealth & CSIRO (2015) *Bright Futures: Megatrends impacting the mental wellbeing of young Victorians over the coming 20 years*, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, Melbourne.

²³ United Nations Children's fund (2016) *The State of the World's Children: A fair chance for every child*, United Nations

²⁴ City of Whittlesea, (2007) *YouthPlan2030*, Department Family, Children and Young People

²⁵ Social Research Centre & Human Early Learning Partnership (2015b). *MDI [Middle Development Instrument] Y 7/8 report. School District and Community Report: Whittlesea*. Accessed October 2017: https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/46a98a_9773330035fc4000971471d163829bc9.pdf

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³¹ Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation webpage accessed Friday 18 August 2017: <https://www.responsiblegambling.vic.gov.au/awareness-and-prevention/for-parents/young-people-and-gambling>

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³⁵ Youth Central. Accessed October 2017. <http://www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/file/51141/download>

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YOUTHPLAN

2030+