THEME 10:

I love being part of my community – meeting people, getting involved and exploring different neighbourhoods. How will you help me stay connected, feel welcome and enhance my health and wellbeing?

Our ongoing work

We deliver and support a range of creative activities and events that provide opportunities for creative expression, social interaction, celebrating different cultures and champion local voices.

- Deliver a creative arts program at PRACC to enable the community enjoy performances and participate in programs locally.
- Deliver and support a diverse range of events and festivals across the City of Whittlesea, engaging people of all ages, backgrounds and interests, while celebrating our community, places and cultures.
- Facilitate engagement with the local disability community to find out what makes participation hard and support inclusive programs, events and activities across Council.
- Provide venue hire at PRACC to enable professional and community artists to showcase their work and nurture creative talent.
- Support community groups to produce local festivals that reflect the diversity of the municipality through an event permit program.
- Deliver programs and activities that help people connect with the community, explore heritage and develop their creative skills.
- Deliver a visual arts program including public art, annual art exhibition and creative workshops for people to express their voices.
- Facilitate the celebration of culture, history and the diverse interests in our community by recognising dates of significance through events and information sharing opportunities.
- Deliver first time parent groups and facilitate the delivery of community playgroups to foster local connections between families.

We promote lifelong learning by supporting education and skill development at every stage of life.

- Partner with local neighbourhood houses to deliver community education programs.
- Deliver library services to provide free access to books, technology, learning opportunities and social connections.
- Deliver the Community Leadership Program to empower local residents with the skills and knowledge to drive positive change and leadership in the community.
- Provide creative workshops and opportunities to encourage life-long learning.
- Deliver heritage, creative and educational programs at Ziebell's Museum and Farmhouse.
- Provide free WiFi at Council-owned and managed community centres and libraries to promote on-line connection and ease financial burden.

We empower the community to create and lead their own events and projects by providing support, resources and networks.

- Deliver a community grants program to support community-led, grassroot initiatives.
- Provide Council facilities for individuals and community groups to access safe, inclusive and well-equipped spaces that support social, cultural, recreational and educational activities.
- Partner with local environmental groups to run events to support the natural environment.
- Facilitate a network of local artists and creative practitioners for networking, collaboration and capacity building.
- Deliver an annual art exhibition to enable local artists to showcase their artworks.

- Partner and support community and sporting groups to provide programs to enhance health, wellbeing and participation opportunities.
- Partner with volunteering organisations to enhance community participation and extend the reach of community services.

Work to ensure everyone can access the programs, services and information they need to feel included and supported in their community.

- Deliver the Home and Community Care for Younger People (HACCPYP) Program to help people who want to live as independently as possible in their homes and community, but who are not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).
- Deliver programs and partnerships to build inclusive attitudes and support initiatives that strengthen the voice, participation and leadership of people with disabilities.
- Facilitate engagement with the local disability community to identify barriers to social participation and support the delivery of all abilities and specialist disability programs, events and activities throughout Council.
- Deliver community forums, newsletters and networking opportunities for people with a disability and carers.
- Facilitate the Whittlesea Community Futures alliance of local services providers to coordinate access to human and health services and advocate for local community needs.
- Partner with service providers to strengthen and simplify mental health referral pathways, ensuring people of all ages can access the support they need.
- Partner with services to provide health, support and housing information to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Provide access to showers, WiFi and computers at Council facilities and leisure centres for people experiencing homelessness.
- Provide flexible rate payment options to support community members experiencing financial hardship.
- Partner with all levels of government and community organisations to support initiatives that provide people with access to healthy, fresh and culturally appropriate food, such as mobile foodbanks, community gardens, grants and emergency food relief.

Community quote:

"When people are drawn into something from a place of fun, then barriers are reduced and people are open to other experiences."



Strategic Priority

SP39	Partner with First Peoples communities to co-design and deliver programs and activities at the Aboriginal Gathering Place and throughout the municipality that support social, physical, cultural, emotional and wellbeing needs.	HP DAP
SP40	Facilitate increased awareness and advocate about the risks of gambling harm in the City of Whittlesea.	HP DAP
SP41	Advocate and facilitate the expansion of local services to support individuals experiencing homelessness and those at risk.	HP DAP
SP42	Facilitate local services to improve access to fresh, healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate food; respond to food insecurity and promote healthy eating.	HP DAP
SP43	Advocate for and facilitate improved access to mental health services and partner to raise awareness and deliver preventative programs.	HP DAP
SP44	Support service providers to expand initiatives that promote inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in community life, employment and education.	DAP
SP45	Deliver a campaign to attract major festivals and events to the region to increase visibility and promote social cohesion.	HP DAP
SP46	Deliver a revitalisation program for the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre (PRACC) to enhance its role as a hub for performing arts and creative industries.	HP DAP
SP47	Facilitate greater community use and activation of Council-owned facilities to encourage a broader range of uses, participation across all life stages and improved accessibility for everyone in the community.	HP DAP
SP48	Deliver accessible precincts for people living with a significant disability and their carers, including enhanced facilities, sensory spaces and greater flexibility in utilising community facilities.	DAP
SP49	Partner with other Councils to renew the regional Library Services Agreement and to transition the service to a new entity as required by the *Local Government Act 2020.*	HP DAP
SP50	Deliver the West Wollert Community Centre providing kindergarten/early years rooms, maternal child health consulting rooms, a community hall, lounge and library space, meeting rooms and a community garden.	HP DAP
SP51	Deliver the Murnong Community Centre in Donnybrook providing kindergarten/early years rooms, maternal child health consulting rooms, a community hall, lounge and mini-branch library space and meeting rooms.	HP DAP

HP Health Plan DAP Disability Action Plan

Responsibility of others

Service or program by others	Who
Legislation, enforcement of human rights and other equity principles.	Human Rights Commission - Victorian and Federal Government
Direct service provision for family violence victim-survivors or affected family members and people using violence (with exception of Children & Family Services including Maternal Child Health Nurses).	Not for profit Victorian and Federal government funded bodies
Case management, direct outreach and funding or provision of emergency accommodation for people experiencing homelessness.	Victorian Government
Emergency/crisis response i.e. for mental health or alcohol or drug related episodes	Victorian and Federal Government
Delivering public housing, social and affordable housing	Victorian and Federal Government

