

GOAL: A CITY FOR PEOPLE



A city for people welcomes all. It is accessible, affordable, inclusive, safe and engaging. It promotes health and wellbeing, participation and social justice. A city for people has political, religious and intellectual freedoms that nurture a rich and dynamic culture. It respects, celebrates and embraces human diversity. People of all ages and abilities feel secure and empowered. City planning puts people, families and community at the forefront.

Melbourne is home to people of diverse backgrounds, cultures, gender, sexualities, ages and family structures. This richness is one of our city's greatest strengths. Nearly half of the population was born in a non-English speaking country, and 38 per cent speak a language other than English at home (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011).

We're proud to be one of Australia's most diverse cities, one that welcomes and upholds the rights of refugees and asylum seekers. The municipality also comprises a number of large universities, attracting nearly 40,000 international students who contribute to the youthful and multicultural fabric of the community (City of Melbourne, Tertiary Student and Education Profile, 2016).

Melbourne is a hub for services, education, entertainment and business. Our city is renowned for having a thriving food culture, and a growing local food economy. Melbourne also boasts world-class open spaces that people of all ages and abilities can enjoy.

Approximately 140,000 residents live in the municipality. Some 900,000 people – including residents, workers, students and visitors – access the city everyday for work or play, making Melbourne a hub for economic and cultural activity.

The next chapter of Melbourne's development will require more careful planning, as the residential population is expected to grow to more than 220,000 and the combined daily city population (including visitors and workers) to about 1.2 million in the next 10 years (City of Melbourne, 2017). Our changing population, including more families with children, means the city will need to keep pace with evolving needs for a variety of services and infrastructure.

Like many cities, Melbourne faces a number of challenges. The cost of living and housing is rising, digital innovation is changing the way people behave and connect with each other, more people are living alone and people are working longer hours. Lifestyles are increasingly sedentary, with rising rates of obesity, chronic illnesses such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes and mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression. The city also faces increasing challenges around alcohol and drug use, and reported incidences of violence against women are increasing every year.

Furthermore, climate change impacts such as different rain fall patterns and hotter temperatures are leading to reduced food supply and increased food prices. Lack of access to healthy food is likely to become increasingly persistent in the future.

Not everyone faces these challenges on equal footing. The social, economic and environmental conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, play and age are influenced by a number of factors (World Health Organisation, 2017). Factors such as low income, age, gender, disability and background can contribute to inequities in social status and wellbeing.

In addition, the rising cost of essential items, such as food, clothing, housing, transport and health services puts further pressure on people already experiencing disadvantage. This can lead to people facing increased risk of social isolation, mental illness, health problems and housing insecurity or homelessness. These challenges will be exacerbated by Melbourne's significant population growth. While our population is expected to stay relatively youthful, there will also be a growing number of older people with specific needs.

People need to feel that they belong – to one another, to friends and families, and to their wider community. Belonging is primal, and fundamental to people's health and wellbeing. People also need to feel safe and be able to participate in the cultural life of their community and to express their identities.

The City of Melbourne has a complex role to play in supporting not only our residential population, but also those who commute into the city for work or to access services. This is particularly the case as rising social inequality means more people are priced out of the city.

Melbourne, as a city for people, will need to ensure it remains a liveable, healthy and vibrant city, one that:

- Welcomes people from all walks of life so they feel safe, and can participate fully in their community.
- Supports people to have access to appropriate housing, education, healthy food, and spaces for recreation and community services.
- Adapts to meet the needs of a growing, changing population.
- Supports better life opportunities and outcomes for all, particularly the vulnerable.
- Fosters physical, psychological and social resilience in individuals and communities.

Given this, the City of Melbourne's specific focus over the next four years can be summarised by the following outcomes and priorities.

THE OUTCOMES WE WILL WORK TOWARDS IN 2017-21

- People feel welcomed and included.*
- People are safe.*
- People are supported to find pathways out of homelessness.*
- Melbourne's housing meets the diverse needs of its population.
- People are healthy and well.*
- Children and families have access to quality early years programs.

* Also a health and wellbeing priority.

How we'll measure success

Our key indicators are in bold text.

CITY OF MELBOURNE INDICATORS

- The number of projects funded through community grants programs that are aimed at increasing participants' connection to their community.
- The number of affordable housing units in City of Melbourne projects.

MUNICIPAL INDICATORS

- An increase in community support for diversity.
- **Residents' self-reported sense of wellbeing.**
- The rate of crimes against people.
- The rate of family violence recorded by police.
- The rate of ambulance attendance for alcohol related intoxication in the municipality.
- The rate of ambulance attendance for illicit drug misuse in the municipality.
- The proportion of people who feel safe (by day).
- The proportion of people who feel safe (by night).
- **The number of people sleeping rough on our streets.**
- The number of affordable housing units negotiated through development planning.
- A decrease in the proportion of people who experience food stress.
- The proportion of residents who produce and consume their own food.
- An increase in the proportion of adult residents who consume enough fruit and vegetables to meet daily dietary requirements.
- The proportion of adults who get adequate physical exercise.
- The Australian Early Development Index score for the municipality.

What we'll do in 2017–21

WE WILL PROVIDE	RELATED FM 2026 PRIORITIES
Opportunities to celebrate cultural diversity.*	2.7 An inclusive city
A review of the options for housing in the municipality taking into account the needs of a diverse population.*	2.4 Affordable for all to live
WE WILL PARTNER TO	RELATED FM 2026 PRIORITIES
Improve community safety through crime prevention with Victoria Police, business and resident groups.*	4.1 A safe and flexible city
Create and maximise use of recreation spaces.*	2.5 Quality public spaces
Ensure early years programs deliver quality outcomes for children and families by working with service providers.	5.1 Lead in early learning
Support people sleeping rough to access the services they need.*	2.9 Support the homeless
WE WILL FACILITATE	RELATED FM 2026 PRIORITIES
Integrated service provision for people experiencing homelessness.*	2.9 Support the homeless
Opportunities for the community to participate in activities that improve their health and connection to the community.*	2.2 A healthy community
Opportunities for international students to acquire leadership skills, integrate in and contribute to the wider community.*	2.7 An inclusive city
Ongoing education and promotion regarding urban agriculture and access to healthy food.*	1.2 Adapt for climate change 1.6 Capture the sustainability benefits of urban density

* Also a health and wellbeing priority.

WE WILL ADVOCATE FOR:	RELATED FM 2026 PRIORITIES
Increased access, inclusion and participation of all people in public spaces, programs and services irrespective of ability, background, class, gender and orientation.*	2.1 A great place to be
Promotion of gender equity and prevention of violence against women and children including in the home.*	2.1 A great place to be 2.8 A family-friendly city

* Also a health and wellbeing priority.