Theme 1: Friendly and safe
A community where people feel connected and safe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic objective</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Support the community in becoming healthier and more physically active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Increase opportunities for social connection by designing services and programs that facilitate participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Build a community where people feel safe in both public and private spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Deliver high-quality contemporary community services that are good value for money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Support other organisations in contributing to community wellbeing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategic indicator reference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic indicator reference</th>
<th>1.1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic objective</td>
<td>Support the community in becoming healthier and more physically active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic indicator</td>
<td>Increase in proportion of the population engaging in adequate exercise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Victorian Population Health Survey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall progress to date for Strategic Indicator 1.1 in 2013/14 is as follows:

- The latest data from the Victorian Population Health Survey below is from 2011. At this time Moonee Valley achieved a higher rating than the statewide rating.
- The National Physical Activity Guidelines for Australians define adequate exercise as regular exercise of either 30 minutes or more a day, or at least three times a week.
- Council surveys the community on this issue through the Annual Community Survey. The combination of indicators of exercise daily or more than three times a week in the Annual Community Survey provide progress data for Moonee Valley on adequate exercise. Over the last four years, the number of residents engaging in adequate exercise dropped by one per cent. This result is not statistically significant and fluctuations are most likely due to sample variation.

### Victorian Population Health Survey – indicator of proportion of the population engaging in adequate exercise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Moonee Valley rating</th>
<th>Statewide rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>66.9 per cent</td>
<td>63.9 per cent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Annual Community Survey – indicator of people engaging in adequate physical activity (including exercising for 30 minutes a day daily or three times a week or more)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Moonee Valley percentage for people exercising three times a week or more</th>
<th>Moonee Valley percentage for people exercising daily</th>
<th>Percentage of three times or more and Daily (i.e. meeting the physical activity guidelines)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>34 per cent</td>
<td>27 per cent</td>
<td>61 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>32 per cent</td>
<td>28 per cent</td>
<td>60 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>34 per cent</td>
<td>29 per cent</td>
<td>63 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>34 per cent</td>
<td>28 per cent</td>
<td>62 per cent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategic indicator reference

1.2

Strategic objective
Increase opportunities for social connection by designing services and programs that facilitate participation

Strategic indicator
Improvement in rating of sense of community

Source
Annual Community Survey

Overall progress to date for Strategic Indicator 1.2 in 2013/14 is as follows:

- Moonee Valley received an equal rating to previous years on the indicator of sense of community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Moonee Valley rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>6.9 out of 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>6.9 out of 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>6.7 out of 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategic indicator reference 1.3

Strategic objective
Build a community where people feel safe in both public and private spaces

Strategic indicators
Progress towards accreditation as a World Health Organization Safe Community
Improvement in community feeling ‘safe or very safe’ when walking alone in the local area and home alone during the day

Source
VicHealth Indicator Survey

Overall progress to date for Strategic Indicator 1.3 in 2013/14 is as follows:

- The latest data available for the VicHealth Indicator Survey was in 2011 where Moonee Valley achieved a high rating.
- Council surveys the community on the perception of safety in Moonee Valley through the Annual Community Survey. Moonee Valley received the same result in the rating for perceptions of safety in your street and a slightly lower rating for perceptions of safety in your local area in the Annual Community Survey over the last three years. This result is not statistically significant and fluctuations are most likely due to sample variation.

VicHealth Indicator Survey – perceptions of safety

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Moonee Valley rating – people who feel safe or very safe when at home alone during the day (percentage that felt safe or very safe)</th>
<th>Moonee Valley rating – people who feel safe or very safe walking alone in local area during the day (percentage felt safe or very safe)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>97.8 per cent</td>
<td>97.2 per cent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annual Community Survey of the indicator ‘On a scale of 0 (very unsafe) to 10 (very safe), how safe does your household feel in the following areas in the City of Moonee Valley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Perception of safety in your street</th>
<th>Perception of safety in your local area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>7.9 out of 10</td>
<td>7.6 out of 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>7.8 out of 10</td>
<td>7.5 out of 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>7.9 out of 10</td>
<td>7.7 out of 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Strategic indicator reference**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic objective</th>
<th>Deliver high-quality and contemporary community services that are good value for money</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic indicator</strong></td>
<td>Above inner metropolitan council average satisfaction with family support, elderly support and disadvantaged support services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Source</strong></td>
<td>Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall progress to date for Strategic Indicator 1.4 in 2013/14 is as follows:

- Moonee Valley received a lower rating than the Inner Metropolitan average in family support and disadvantaged support services in the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.
- Moonee Valley received an equal rating to the Inner Metropolitan average in elderly support services in the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.
- Overall there is no statistically significant change in the survey results, and the fluctuation is most likely due to sample variation.

### Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey – indicator of Family Support Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Moonee Valley rating</th>
<th>Inner metropolitan Average rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey – indicator of Elderly Support Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Moonee Valley rating</th>
<th>Inner Metropolitan Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey – indicator of Disadvantaged Support Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Moonee Valley rating</th>
<th>Inner Metropolitan Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategic indicator reference 1.5

Strategic objective
Support other organisations in contributing to community wellbeing

Strategic indicator
Satisfactory rating of relationship quality by community organisations

Source
Council Survey of community organisations

Overall progress to date for Strategic Indicator 1.5 in 2013/14 is as follows:

- No data is available as there was no survey in place to gather the data.
- Council worked towards developing the survey to collect this data.
- Data will be available for 2014/15.
Key achievements

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan


Council’s vision, as outlined in the Health Plan, is to shape a healthy city that works together to sustain good health, respond to new and emerging issues and promote equitable health outcomes. The four key themes of the Health Plan are:

• Healthy places
• Safe and connected communities
• Healthy people
• Governance and partnerships

For each year of the Health Plan, an annual action plan is developed. The action plan for 2013/14, the Health Plan’s first year of operation, contained a total of 82 actions to address the strategies designed to improve the health of the Moonee Valley community. Of these actions, 75 were on track, which in percentage terms is 91 per cent, and indicates a good start for the Health Plan.

Highlights from its first year of implementation are listed below.

• Core strategies of the Health Plan, including a sustainable city and a local planning policy on gaming are being incorporated into the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme through the standard statutory processes to guide future planning decisions.
• The Count Me In wellbeing project was developed as a result of partnerships formed at the 2013 Community Safety Forum. The project is focusing on bullying in Moonee Valley primary schools, in particular on strategies that promote mental and emotional wellbeing in children and young people.
• Reclaim the Game – sports edition built on a successful Responsible Gambling Awareness Week event held in 2013 to counter the effects of sports betting advertising on young people. The 2014 event focused on sports clubs and their role in promoting responsible gambling.
• The Australian Safe Communities Foundation accepted Moonee Valley’s request to apply for Pacific/Australian Safe Community Accreditation. The application was submitted, and Moonee Valley is the first Australian community to be assessed for this accreditation.

The Health Plan Evaluation Framework was shortlisted for a National Impact Measurement Award in February 2014. Moonee Valley City Council was one of only four finalists in the ‘Corporate/Government category’ alongside NAB, Penrith City Council and Santos GLNG.

Moonee Valley’s Health Profile

• Moonee Valley is diverse, with 23 per cent of residents born in a non-English speaking country, which is higher than the Victorian average of 20 per cent, and 30 per cent speak a language other than English at home.
• Current life expectancy figures in Moonee Valley are 79.8 for males and 85.7 for females.
• There has been an increase in the percentage of residents walking or cycling to work.
• Gaming remains an issue for Moonee Valley. Losses in the local area are 43 per cent higher per adult than the Victorian average and Moonee Valley has a higher density of gaming machines.
• Twenty-seven per cent of residents do not meet the Australian Physical Activity guidelines for the minimum levels of physical activity required to gain a health benefit. The research shows that the rate of males (37 per cent) not meeting the guidelines for physical activity is higher than for females (21 per cent).
• The community needs to eat more fruit and vegetables, with 41 per cent of residents not meeting fruit and vegetable consumption guidelines.
• Forty-five per cent of residents are overweight or obese, with higher rates of obesity in males.
• Moonee Valley has a high percentage of 15 to 17-year-olds that smoke, recorded at 33.4 per cent.
Avondale Heights Early Years Centre

In March 2014, Mayor Cr Jan Chantry and The Hon. Wendy Lovell MLC, Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development officially opened the new Avondale Heights Community Precinct Early Years Centre.

The construction of this centre was a $2.475 million project, funded by Council with the support of the Victorian Government.

This brand-new community facility includes a dual preschool, Maternal and Child Health consulting suites and a beautifully landscaped children’s play area.

The new early years centre will allow families to access a variety of services in the one location, including library services and community programs next door at Avondale Heights Library and Learning Centre.

This project was undertaken as part of stage 2A of the Avondale Heights Community Precinct Vision and Master Plan, which was adopted by Council in May 2012.

The completion of the centre is an exciting step towards Council’s long-term vision for the Avondale Heights Community Precinct, which is to create a vibrant, all-ages community hub with a neighbourhood focus.

Future projects for the precinct include a piazza, an outdoor youth space and a café/kiosk.
Grants for the community

Annual Community Grants Program

The Annual Community Grants Program demonstrates Council’s commitment to supporting the development and capacity of its residents and community groups with limited fundraising capacity in the encouragement of an engaged, connected and diverse Moonee Valley community.

The program supports community groups to deliver activities and projects in Moonee Valley that will enhance wellbeing, to promote a clean, green and beautiful, vibrant, diverse and sustainable community.

In total, 89 grants were awarded to the value of $246,240 for projects to be undertaken during 2014. This included:

- Fifty-four social support grants to the value of $49,800, with an average allocation of $922 (compared to the maximum awardable amount of $1,000).
- Fourteen community development grants to the value of $52,440, with an average allocation of $3,746 (compared to the maximum awardable amount of $4,000).
- Eleven arts, culture and event grants to the value of $27,000, with an average allocation of $2,454 (compared to the maximum awardable amount of $5,000).
- Five sustainable environment grants to the value of $12,000, with an average allocation of $2,500 (compared to the maximum awardable amount of $3,500).
- Four partnership grants to the value of $105,000 per annum for three years (2014–16) were awarded to the Caroline Chisholm Society, the Maribyrnong and Moonee Valley Local Learning and Employment Network, Playgroup Victoria and Wintringham Specialist Aged Care.

Social support grants are provided to small groups run by volunteers, where residents meet regularly and share information and resources. Social support grants are for providing agreed social and recreational activities. The following groups received funds to support their 2014 activities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Support Grant recipients</th>
<th>Received amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avondale Anklebiters Playgroup</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avondale/East Keilor Senior Citizens Club</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver St Playgroups</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black River Macedonian Fishing Group</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boeing Reserve Playgroup</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canterbury St Stables Playgroup</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circolo Pensionati Italiani Di Airport West</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circolo Pensionati Italiani Di Ascot Vale</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circolo Pensionati Italiani Di East Keilor and Avondale Heights</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circolo Pensionati Italiani Di Niddrie</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circolo Pensionati Italiani Di North West Essendon</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Support Network (ECC Cafe)</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country Women's Association</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dads North West</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrean Foundation for Culture and Settlement</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essendon and District Diabetes Support Group</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essendon Legacy Widow's Club</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essendon Nth Primary School Playgroup</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essendon Parkinson's Support Group</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essendon Playgroup</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essendon Probus Club</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essendon Retired Men's Social Tennis Club</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essendon Retired Person's Garden Club</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essendon Senior Citizens Club</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essendon Quilters</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flemington Association</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flemington Chinese Golden Age</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flemington Kensington Community Lunch</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Support Grant recipients</th>
<th>Received amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greek Community of Keilor and Districts</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek Elderly Citizens Club</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek Pensioners and Elderly Citizens</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Club of Avondale Heights</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek Senior Citizens Club of Airport West and Districts</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian Pensioners Group of Keilor</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAYYO Oromo Women's Group</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keilor Activities for Older Adults</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keilor East Scottish Country Dance Group</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Rd Playgroups</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macedonian Senior Citizens Group</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macedonian Women's Senior Citizens Group</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moonee Ponds Japanese Playgroups</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moonee Ponds Toastmasters</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moonee Valley Interfaith Network</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multicultural Skills Exchange Group for Women</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niddrie Seniors Walking Group</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Essendon Uniting Church Craft Group</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Citizens of Ascot Vale and Districts</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkville Women's Hockey Club</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors Friendship Group</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St John's Friendship Group</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strathmore Heights Greek Senior Citizens Club</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Coterie</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Probus Club of Essendon Central</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The United Probus Club of Strathmore</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Young Eritrean Mother’s Group</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total for Social Support Grants** $49,800
### Partnership Grant recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Recipients</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Chisholm Society</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maribyrnong and Moonee Valley Local Learning and Employment Network</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgroups Victoria</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wintringham</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for Partnership Grants</strong></td>
<td><strong>$105,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$105,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$105,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$315,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Community Development Grant recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Recipients</th>
<th>Grant activity</th>
<th>Received amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ascot Vale Leisure Centre</td>
<td>Free self-defence sessions held at community organisations throughout Moonee Valley</td>
<td>$3,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avondale Heights and East Keilor Residents’ Association</td>
<td>Information session for older people focused on falls prevention</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Chisholm Society</td>
<td>Distribution of educational work packs, including books, puzzles, colouring books and pencils</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doutta Galla Aged Services</td>
<td>Setting up a Men’s Shed program in Avondale Heights, with a particular focus on engaging the culturally and linguistically diverse community</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farnham St Neighbourhood Learning Centre</td>
<td>Development of culturally appropriate course materials to support the Family Inclusive Language and Literacy Support project</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flemington Eagles Soccer Club</td>
<td>Classes on safety, health and nutrition and a workshop with local police</td>
<td>$3,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregory Lodge</td>
<td>Creating community connections through an intergenerational music program</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner North-West Blue Light Foundation</td>
<td>Encouraging young women in Flemington to learn about themselves and their community, and build relationships with each other</td>
<td>$3,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interchange Western</td>
<td>The Glue Pot Camp – a camp helping children with disabilities and their siblings stick together</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moonee Valley Golden Age Women’s Network</td>
<td>Moonee Valley Senior Women’s Friendship Connect</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multicultural Sudanese Centre Inc</td>
<td>Mental illness and awareness program for elders</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skateboarding Australia</td>
<td>Skateboarding hub encouraging young people to increase physical activity through skateboarding</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese Women’s Association of North-West Region</td>
<td>Community safety and wellbeing workshops</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Oromo Women’s Association</td>
<td>‘Time to Take Action’ – an awareness-based program focused on physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing</td>
<td>$3,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for Community Development Grants</strong></td>
<td><strong>$52,440</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Arts, Culture and Events Grants recipients
Grant activity
Received amount

Arts, culture and event grants are for arts, culture or heritage activities that encourage the development of, and participation in, Moonee Valley's cultural life.

- **Caroline Chisholm Society**: An oral history of Caroline Chisholm Society $500
- **Flemington Rotary**: Chinese and Italian Music and Food Autumn Festival $5,000
- **Essendon Choral Society**: 35th anniversary concert at the Clocktower Centre $3,000
- **Essendon Historical Society**: Commemorative tile project at Courthouse Museum $500
- **Essendon Symphony**: A children's concert at the Clocktower Centre $4,000
- **Grace Notes Choir**: Choir Eisteddfod competition $400
- **Moonee Valley Brass Band**: Community concert at Clocktower Centre $4,000
- **SMITH Theatre Company**: *Peter Pan* pantomime. Workshops and performance series $5,000
- **St George's Anglican Church**: Restore historic organ $3,600
- **St Thomas's Church**: Digitisation of church records $500
- **Union Road Traders**: Event celebrating Union Road shopping strip's 160th anniversary $500

**Total for Arts, Culture and Events Grants** $27,000

Sustainable Environment Grant recipients
Grant activity
Received amount

Sustainable environment grants support projects that address the causes of environmental damage or enhance the environment in Moonee Valley.

- **Airport West Childcare**: 'Ecopop' solar-powered self-sustainable garden $3,500
- **Avondale Heights Community Garden**: 'Frog Bog': Increasing biodiversity and water quality $3,500
- **Essendon Retired Persons Garden Club**: 'Sustainable Flower' Open Day $2,500
- **Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek**: Moonee Ponds Creek – Horseshoebend revegetation and biolink project $2,000
- **Friends of Maribyrnong Valley**: Promotional brochures to support group and projects in Maribyrnong Valley parklands $500

**Total for Sustainable Environment Grants** $12,000
Community Support Grants Program

In addition to the annual community grants program, this year Council commenced a review of its Community Grants program which resulted in a new grant stream being added, Community Support Grants. The Community Support Grants program recognises individuals and groups that provide valuable services to the community that enhances lives and connects people.

The Community Support Grant categories are:

- Community Initiative Support Grants. Grants up to $300 are available for the personal development of individuals.
- Community Capital Support Grants. Grants up to $10,000 are available for incorporated not-for-profit organisations that provide services to the community to enhance social inclusion, health, mental health and wellbeing, community safety, community participation, sport and recreation.

These grants were awarded for the first time in March 2014 with a second round awarded in June 2014. This year the Community Support Grants funding totalled $247,484 and was provided to 48 recipients.

Grant recipients for round one were as follows:

### Community Initiative Support Grant recipient

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant activity</th>
<th>Received amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time to Share Widow and Widowers Group To fund annual insurance for the use of Niddrie Hub</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keilor East/Airport West Uniting Church Creative Living Centre Hire of rooms at Milleara Integrated Learning and Development Centre for craft and social activities program</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Natalie Gibson Attendance at 2014 Board Builder Conference</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total for Community Initiative Support Grants** $900

### Community Capital Support Grant recipient

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant activity</th>
<th>Received amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absolutely Awetistic Arts Associations Funding for promotion and hosting of two free-entry art exhibitions in 2014 to promote positive awareness of autism and intellectual disability</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre The installation of skylights, carpet and a new office desk at the centre</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maribyrnong Sports Club Incorporated Upgrade of the canteen kitchen exhaust fan and ventilation</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strathmore Bowls Club Installation of a new sun shelter and the replacement of three existing sun shelters</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moonee Valley Toy Library – Avondale Heights Branch Acquisition of shelving for Avondale Heights Toy Library</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moonee Ponds Bowling Club Installation of a disabled toilet at the club</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Road Traders Association Installation of the Black Caviar horseshoe plaque in the Union Road Walk of Fame, erection of bronze sculpture of Black Caviar outside the library, and promotion of Union Road in partnership with Destination Melbourne and Tourism Victoria</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total for Community Capital Support Grants** $43,500
Grant recipients for round two were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Initiative Support Grant recipients</th>
<th>Grant activity</th>
<th>Received amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avondale Heights Greek Pensioners and Elderly Citizens Club Incorporated</td>
<td>Club excursion</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper Street 3-Year-Old Program – Parents and Friends Committee</td>
<td>Purchase of outdoor play equipment</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cvetan Veljanovski</td>
<td>Excursion for Macedonian senior citizens group</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Williams</td>
<td>Attendance at international toy conference in Seoul</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Hatherley</td>
<td>Participation at Australian Short Course Swimming Championships 2014</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essendon Maribyrnong Park Ladies Cricket Club</td>
<td>Individual player sponsorship and support</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milica Stojanouska</td>
<td>Wellbeing events for Macedonian women's senior citizen group of Avondale Heights, Moonee Valley and Districts</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stefonos Kotsakostas</td>
<td>Events for the Greek elderly citizens club of Moonee Valley</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for Community Initiative Support Grants</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$2,400</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Capital Support Grant recipients</td>
<td>Grant activity</td>
<td>Received amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accademia Letteraria Italo-Australiana Scrittori (A.L.I.A.S)</td>
<td>Contribution to the Italo-Australian literary competition</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberfeldie Baptist Church</td>
<td>Purchase of defibrillator</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberfeldie Sports Club</td>
<td>Clifton Park improvements</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airport West Early Learning Cooperative</td>
<td>Shaded playspace – installation of shade sails</td>
<td>$9,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avondale Heights Community Garden Inc.</td>
<td>‘Smells like roses’ accessible outhouse</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avondale Heights Football Club</td>
<td>Construction of coaches’ viewing box</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avondale Heights Soccer Club</td>
<td>Fencing and seating improvements</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Keilor Sporting Club</td>
<td>Replacement of freezer in kitchen</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Keilor Sustainability Street Inc.</td>
<td>Asphalt access laneway to East Keilor community garden</td>
<td>$9,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essendon Doutta Stars Football Club Inc.</td>
<td>Replacement of carpet and linoleum floor at Doutta Stars Sports Club at Buckley Park, Essendon</td>
<td>$9,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre</td>
<td>Contribution to Switched on Students program</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC Strathmore</td>
<td>Installation of 4 x team shelters at Strathnaver Reserve, Strathmore (2 shelters – home and away) per soccer field</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flemington Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>Spring Carnival flags and decorations for Racecourse Road</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Steele Creek</td>
<td>Urban Ecology and Climate Change program – guest speakers</td>
<td>$1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek Community of Keilor</td>
<td>Equipment upgrade</td>
<td>$1,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keilor Hostel for the Aged Association Inc.</td>
<td>Purpose-built meeting and activities shed for male and female residents</td>
<td>$8,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maribyrnong Parks Bowls Club Inc.</td>
<td>Alterations to external toilet block to provide disability access</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maribyrnong Park Sports Club Inc.</td>
<td>Installation of artificial turf – Maribyrnong Park pavilion</td>
<td>$4,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moonee Valley Football Club</td>
<td>Installation of permanent electronic scoreboard and timekeeper’s box at Ormond Park, subject to Council approval of location</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicola Caputa (Circolo Pensionati Italiani Di Niddrie)</td>
<td>Contribution to equipment purchases</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West Wolves Rugby League Club Inc.</td>
<td>Frank Murphy electronic scoreboard project</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Obedience Dog Club</td>
<td>Erection of Colorbond garage to house heavy dog-training equipment, subject to approval by Council of location</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North-West Aquatic Swimming Club Inc.</td>
<td>Contribution to the funding of specific disability equipment for the Speciality Club program for junior swimmers with a disability</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probus Club of Keilor East Combined Inc.</td>
<td>Purchase of amplifier and public address system</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress Kindergarten (Ascot Vale Progress Kindergarten Association)</td>
<td>Solar hot-water service</td>
<td>$8,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Olympics Australia, Victoria, Melbourne West</td>
<td>Funding to hold a Special Olympics Regional Athletics Games in the Melbourne West region</td>
<td>$1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Aidan’s Preschool Centre</td>
<td>Contribution to improved use of space including creation of indoor/outdoor play area</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strathmore Community Garden Inc.</td>
<td>Installation of a shelter at community garden</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strathmore Tennis Club</td>
<td>Repair and replacement of court sprinkler system</td>
<td>$8,437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toni Caripoli (Circolo Pensionati Italiani)</td>
<td>Contribution to club events</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for Community Capital Support Grants</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$200,684</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recreation Capital Works Funding Scheme

The objective of Council’s Recreation Capital Works Funding Scheme is to:

- Distribute capital funding to a broad cross-section of community groups to address areas of identified need.
- Promote the development of partner relationships between local government and sport and recreation organisations.
- Assist Council in the identification of changing community needs and gaps in service provision.

Council awarded grants to the following recipients in 2013/14:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant recipients</th>
<th>Grant activity</th>
<th>Received amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avondale Heights Tennis Club</td>
<td>Sports field lighting</td>
<td>$7,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moonee Ponds Bowls Club</td>
<td>Sports field lighting</td>
<td>$29,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airport West Street Christopher’s Cricket Club</td>
<td>Picnic benches</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essendon Bowls Club</td>
<td>Shading and gazebo</td>
<td>$7,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for Recreation Capital Works Grants</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$49,042</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Council plans to continue the grants review process in 2014/15 to achieve further improvements, ensuring this program is more streamlined and accessible to all in the community.

Draft Disability Action Plan 2014

The Draft Disability Action Plan is one of three Council action plans which provide for practical implementation of Council’s Diversity, Access and Equity Policy, and is a requirement under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Services Act 2006.

This Draft Disability Action Plan builds on Council’s previous work and provides a whole-of-Council framework to continue to achieve an inclusive community within the City of Moonee Valley.

The Draft Disability Action Plan has been organised into the four themes highlighted in Moonee Valley’s Diversity, Access and Equity Policy:

- Fostering respect and celebrating diversity
- Inclusive activities and events
- Creating accessible places and spaces
- Leadership and representation

The development of an updated Disability Action Plan 2014-23 was a major activity undertaken over the 2013/14 period. It was the product of extensive consultation with more than 100 residents, including people with a disability, Councillors, Council’s Disability Reference Group members and staff. Council will consider the final version in 2014/15.
Other key actions in 2013/14 relating to supporting people with a disability are listed below:

- Council produced a short documentary film, Opening Doors, in partnership with Wild@heART Community Arts. The film examines the challenges and success of building an inclusive community from the perspective of three young people with a disability. The film’s launch was a free community event as part of International Day of People with Disability in December 2013.
- To mark World Autism Awareness Day on 2 April 2014, Council lit up the Clocktower Centre, a well-known landmark in Moonee Ponds, as part of the ‘Light It Up Blue’ global initiative to raise awareness of autism.
- Council’s Aged and Disability Services department was the successful tenderer to operate the Crown Street Stables as a social enterprise café that would provide training and employment opportunities for people with a disability.
- Disability awareness training sessions were delivered to all Council direct-care staff in July 2013. The two-hour sessions introduced participants to the idea that the disadvantage experienced by people with a disability is caused by environmental and attitudinal barriers, rather than bodily limitations.
- Council conducted a focus group to seek community feedback on its telephone system from the perspective of people with a disability.
- Distribution continued to grow of the Disability Services newsletter, with an additional 50 people receiving it via email and an additional 20 community organisations receiving it by mail.
Healthy Ageing Strategy

The Healthy Ageing Strategy provides a strategic direction and actions for Council to support healthy and active ageing, and to improve people’s experience of ageing. Council is committed to working together with the community (residents, community groups, allied health, leisure providers, local businesses) to make Moonee Valley a great place to age, where older people can stay healthy and active, and where their participation and contribution to the community are valued and encouraged.

During 2012-17, Council will focus on implementing eight strategic goals, including developing Moonee Valley into an age-friendly city, engaging older people in community life, providing high-quality information and services to older residents, increasing the range of activities and support provided to older residents, providing accessible transport to senior residents, and advocating for the needs of senior residents to State and Federal Governments.

Council will apply a life-stages approach and take into account the various needs and aspirations of people as they age. Council will prioritise active and healthy ageing, including both in how the services are structured and delivered, and in the type and range of services offered. Services now aim to be more individually focused and to build on a person’s strengths to assist them to remain in control of their wellbeing for as long as possible.

In 2013/14, the key achievements of the Healthy Ageing Strategy Year Two Action Plan were:

- Continued partnership development with allied and community health services, ethno-specific agencies and mainstream providers of services to older adults.
- Implementation of a diverse range of activities, social self-help and peer-support programs. Overall, there was a 30 per cent increase in programs available to older residents.
- The expansion of community dining rooms to six locations around the municipality, including the availability of culturally appropriate meals such as Halal foods. The new dining rooms were in the following locations: Ascot Vale Neighbourhood Centre, Kellaway Neighbourhood Centre, Niddrie Community Hub, Avondale Heights Library and Learning Centre, Doutta Galla Youth Club Hall and Flemington Neighbourhood House.
- Council volunteers contributed 6,339 hours of service to seniors in the community.
- The successful advocacy for additional Home and Community Care (HACC) funding of $363,293.82 for delivery of community meals.
- Development of the Flemington Men’s Shed.
- Expansion of the Moonee Valley Seniors Festival from one event to 17 varied activities across the municipality, providing for a range of interests and targeting a broader range of seniors.
- Council continued its partnership with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) to kick-start a campaign of Change Your Clock, Change Your Smoke Alarm Battery 2014. 100 free smoke alarm batteries were offered to those who are Commonwealth Health Care cardholders without family, friends or neighbours to assist them to change their smoke alarm battery.
- Four new shopping runs to Niddrie shopping precinct, Essendon Fields, La Manna and DFO were introduced as part of the community transport service.
- Community bus trips provided assistance to more than 25,000 clients.
- Outreach activities were coordinated with 11 community education and information sessions delivered to 465 clients. The outreach activities offered HACC clients and their carers’ opportunities to find out more about a range of support services, learn about healthy ageing and active life with a disability, as well as share their experiences.
Flemington Family Inclusive Language and Learning Support (FILLS) Program

The FILLS program was created in partnership with local schools and service providers with an objective to combat disengagement in education. The program provides whole-of-family tuition in literacy, numeracy and homework support to students in both primary and secondary school, as well as their parents. By supporting parents’ learning, the program helps them to understand the school system in Australia, the work their children are being given at school, and how to help them with it.

At the beginning of 2014, FILLS was successfully handed over from the Maribyrnong and Moonee Valley Local Learning and Employment Network (M and MV LLEN) to Moonee Valley City Council. This transition ensured that the program had a sustainable future and highlighted the fact that local government recognised the importance of such programs. The M and MV LLEN has continued to support the program as a partner organisation.

The FILLS Program provides free education support for highly vulnerable members in the community at Flemington Community Centre. A core objective is to provide support for newly arrived and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities in Moonee Valley.

In 2013/14, an information technology hub was made available to students, enabling them to have access to the internet and complete computer-based homework.

At the commencement of the school year in 2014, 100 students enrolled for the FILLS program, which is the highest enrolment and attendance of any program run at the Flemington Community Centre. Parents have reported that their children have demonstrated an increased engagement in education.

Regular student attendance at the program varied between 20 and 40 students each week, with students coming from various local schools such as Debney Meadows, Flemington and St Brendan’s primary schools, as well as Mt Alexander Secondary College.

Fifteen parents also enrolled in the program, with weekly attendance varying between three and 12. A major barrier to parents attending was the lack of childcare. In response, Council employed a regular childcare worker by the end of Term 2.

Over the year, 45 volunteer tutors were engaged and regular training sessions were run to ensure the program is effectively tutoring students and meeting their needs.
Youth Services

Youth Services provides a range of programs, individual support and events that engage with the diverse groups of young people across Moonee Valley. Programs and services are delivered out of the Wilson Street Youth Centre and Niddrie Youth Hub as well as partnering with other local facilities such as Avondale Heights Library and Learning Centre, Wingate Avenue Community Centre and Flemington Community Centre.

Youth Services also works alongside secondary schools to build relationships with students and teachers to promote resilience, peer-support strategies and help-seeking behaviours.

Major programs, services and activities that occurred in 2013/14 are as follows:

Youth engagement

Amplify Project

Amplify aims to engage with young people connected to the Ascot Vale and Flemington communities through arts-based programming, activities and projects.

The Amplify Project has four key focus areas:

- To offer young people the opportunity to advise and take part in the direction and decision-making involved with programs and projects targeted at youth.
- To create valuable opportunities for young people to showcase and celebrate their skills and achievements.
- To support established arts-based groups operating in and delivering services to the Flemington and Ascot Vale communities.
- To deliver one large-scale arts-based project per year.

Niddrie Youth Hub is being utilised by young people for multi-media studio space, and is the home of the Moonee Valley FReeZA Committee -'The Avenue'. Two showcase evenings were held at the Niddrie Youth Hub and the Flemington Community Centre where young people, as well as youth arts-based groups, were able to showcase their skills to friends, family and the broader community.

As well as this, a number of young performers were involved in the annual Moonee Valley Festival, showcasing their talents from the festival’s youth stage.

Regular activities provided throughout the year as part of Amplify included:

- a weekly Thursday drop-in at Flemington Community Centre, which offers a variety of activities
- a hip-hop dance program across the Flemington and Ascot Vale community centres
- a hip-hop/rap music program run by Group 120 at the Ascot Vale Community Centre

L2P Mentor Program

L2P is a VicRoads initiative that assists young learner drivers who face significant barriers to getting on-the-road driving experience. Learner Driver’s are matched with fully licensed community volunteers who have undertaken a selection and training process. Using a sponsored vehicle, the learner and volunteer mentor go driving once a week, working towards their goal of 120 hours of mandatory driving experience.

L2P incorporates free professional driving lessons for the learner driver to ensure they have basic driving skills and knowledge before being matched with a mentor driver. To date the program has seen 89 learners receive on-the-road driving experience with more than 2,000 driving hours been achieved and 28 participants successfully gaining their Probationary Licence.

Online services

Council is committed to innovative approaches to engage with young people, particularly through social media. To date, Facebook has been the best platform for engagement as a response to the way young people and communities interact with each other. Council is continuing to develop alternative platforms for engaging with young people in the future.
Youth leadership

The Moonee Valley Youth Foundation is a partnership between Council and the Bendigo Bank that facilitates a grant program that is ‘for youth, by youth’. The program aims to facilitate opportunities for young people by providing youth-led and youth-driven activities, which also increase their connection to the Moonee Valley community. The program develops leadership, planning, management and decision-making skills.

In 2013/14 three grants were awarded:

- **Achieve your Dream in 2014** received $2,500 to promote positive awareness of autism and disability through several art exhibitions.
- **Project Kenya – Target 100** received $2,750 to develop the participants’ leadership, project management and organisation skills through raising awareness of the Embulbul community in Kenya at this years’ Moonee Valley Festival.
- **The Young Men’s Leadership and Personal Development Program through Football** received $2,500 to provide participants with the opportunity to develop athletically and personally in a positive, supportive and safe environment.

Other leadership projects involved local community partnerships, such as The Whitten Project and Western Chances, which provided diverse groups of young people with the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and talents to benefit their local community.
Youth participation

Youth Voice Committee

The Youth Voice Committee is a group of five dedicated young people who provide Council with advice on services to support young people. The Youth Voice Committee has become increasingly involved in decision-making when it comes to programs and services for young people within Moonee Valley, including:

- organisation of the Youth Summit
- assessment of grant applications from other young people as part of the Youth Foundation
- assessment of nominations for the Youth Voice Reward and Recognition Award
- providing advice and support to the Youth Advisory Forum on Council plans and strategies

Youth Voice Reward and Recognition Award

Council recognises local young people for outstanding achievement or community service through the Youth Voice Reward and Recognition Award. This award is presented at Council and includes a prize of a $150 voucher. The Youth Voice Committee determines award winners from nominations received. In 2013/14, two awards were provided to local young people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award recipient</th>
<th>Award activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sue Hyoun Beck</td>
<td>Fundraising for 20 young people to attend the National Youth Conference in Sydney in January 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaney Wheeler</td>
<td>Volunteering at Step Off! Hip Hop dance event as photographer assistant, music assistant and usher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Avenue Committee

The Avenue Committee (formerly known as the FReeZA Music Reference Group) has been working to reinvigorate the local music scene in Moonee Valley and inspire young people. The committee organised four major events in 2013/14 – the Battle of the Bands competition, The Avenue Goes Acoustic and National Youth Week Live Gig and the Fling Fest youth film festival. The committee consists of eight young people, who through their work develop event management and marketing skills.
Youth Summit

The Youth Summit was held on 9 May 2014 at the Clocktower Centre with 114 young people participating. Through this forum, young people were provided with a meaningful opportunity to contribute to municipal-wide planning for youth services. Each year the summit is facilitated by the Youth Voice committee, which meets regularly with Council officers throughout the year to undertake a range of projects. The Youth Summit this year included presentations on body image, sexual and gender diversity and safety online. This was followed by interactive table discussions. The feedback received from the activities and discussions will inform the development of Council’s next Youth Engagement Plan.

Youth Advisory Forum

The Youth Advisory Forum provides Council with another formal mechanism for listening to young people's views and enables participation in Council decision-making and future planning on youth policies and programs. The forum met twice in 2013/14 with 11 young people participating alongside Councillors, Council staff and community youth service providers.

Youth wellbeing

Council offers individual support services to young people who might be experiencing difficulties in their lives and require assistance. The services provided are:

- counselling
- case management
- early intervention, education and engagement

Council works closely with student wellbeing coordinators at the various schools in the municipality and other youth service providers to assist young people who may need to access these services.

In 2013/14, Council provided short-to-medium-term counselling and case management to 60 young people using a variety of approaches.

Council also linked a number of young people with a variety of other services, including employment, housing, education, obtaining a driver’s licence, court attendance and skill development.
Flemington Neighbourhood Renewal

Flemington Neighbourhood Renewal is a partnership between Moonee Valley City Council, State and Federal governments, service providers and the local community that works in a collaborative and consultative manner to listen, plan, coordinate and deliver local solutions in Flemington. The project responds to high levels of disadvantage experienced in the Flemington community, and is funded by the State Government as part of a statewide program.

Council has achieved a number of positive outcomes for the community through the renewal program. These include increased participation in learning activities and an improvement in employment outcomes, social connectedness, and community participation and governance. An action plan was implemented to respond to community-identified needs and is the basis for all decisions and actions for the renewal program. It forms the central planning and reporting tool, driving decision-making, and outlines projects to be jointly implemented by all stakeholders.

Key achievements in 2013/14 included:

**The 360 Turn Around Project**

Council and the Department of Human Services fund the 360 Turn Around Project. Partner agencies include Cohealth, Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre, Moonee Valley Legal Service, Jesuit Social Services, New Hope Foundation, Wingate Avenue Community Centre, Victoria Police and Women’s Health West.

The 360 Turn Around Project is a place-based initiative responding to violence against women and will be working with communities across the Flemington and Ascot Vale Housing estates.

Initiatives completed over the year included a leadership program for eight local residents, a women’s only event to introduce the project to key communities, a family safety forum with more than 80 people attending, and a youth leadership program with nine young people participating.
You the Man – youth leadership program

The 360 Turn Around Project also includes a youth leadership program to engage with a cross-section of young people living in and around the Flemington area. The main objectives of the leadership role involve promoting 360 Turn Around activities to other young people on the Flemington housing estate. The ages of the leadership group range from 15 to 26, with four males and five females participating. All members are of Horn of African background. The leadership group meets on a weekly basis, with its work leading up to a performance of ‘You the Man’ in August 2014, a 35-minute play professionally performed by one actor featuring five male characters whose lives are impacted by violence committed by other men around them.

Community Safety Action Plan

The Community Safety Action Plan was developed by the Community Safety Project team to identify, plan, develop and deliver community safety initiatives collaboratively across the Flemington and Ascot Vale Housing estates. The Community Safety Project team is part of the broader Flemington Neighbourhood Renewal governance structure and meets bi-monthly. Partners in delivering this project include Victoria Police, Department of Human Services and Wingate Avenue Community Centre.

Key projects developed as part of the plan included collaborative crime prevention strategies, organising community safety forums across both housing estates and walk-arounds with residents and services to identify key issues.

RoadSTART – pilot adult migrant driver education program

Funded through the Victorian Government with significant support from Council, RoadSTART is an inspirational pilot project that is helping to teach newly arrived migrants and refugees to drive, whilst supporting social connectedness and promoting access to training and employment. The program enlists local volunteers, including residents from nearby public housing estates, to supervise adult learner drivers in driving experience sessions. All volunteers are trained in safe driving practices and teaching techniques by the RACV and provided with access to safe vehicles for sessions.

In 2013/14, 31 learner drivers participated in the program with more than 650 hours of supervised driving sessions taking place. Seven participants of the RoadSTART program received their Victorian driver’s licence.

East West Link

Following the announcement of the proposed East West Link Tollway, the Flemington Neighbourhood Renewal Board identified the significant impact the tollway will have on the local community and infrastructure. The board undertook a number of activities to ensure local residents were informed of the proposal and developed a submission to the Assessment Committee based on consultation with more than 400 residents. Council held an information session at the Flemington Community Centre in September 2013 where interpreters were provided to help better convey the complex information associated with this State Government project and the associated impacts on the community.

Career Link

The Career Link program was established in October 2013 to provide employment and training support for residents living on the Flemington public housing estate who were experiencing barriers to entering and maintaining employment. The service provides individualised services to local residents, including a weekly drop-in program.

Career Link includes a resource library, with up-to-date information regarding current training opportunities at local and accredited providers, and job vacancies to assist local residents gain employment. Staff are available to provide general advice and support, career planning advice, and referral and employment application assistance.

Eighty-six residents were supported through the Career Link program with 27 employment outcomes and 18 training outcomes. Areas of interest included childcare, community services, hospitality and the protective services division within Victoria Police.

Employment-themed workshops were delivered to 29 residents on resume writing, interview skills and specific employment areas, including children’s services and protective services.

Readiness Radar

In partnership with Wingate Avenue Community Centre and Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre, Flemington Neighbourhood Renewal developed a series of tools, the Readiness Radar that can be utilised to identify individual skills in language, literacy, numeracy and computers and appropriately match them with local employer requirements. The toolkit includes an assessment across language, literacy, numeracy and computer proficiency to identify their skill level in each area on a four-level scale from initial to advanced. The toolkit has been prepared ready to assess a minimum of 20 individuals in Term 3 2014.
Flemington Community Centre

Flemington Community Centre delivers an extensive range of programs covering art, sewing, dance, exercise, music, and sport. The centre delivers a wider range of programs, projects, events and services to meet the needs of a very diverse user group. In the last year, more than 76,000 people went through the centre to attend a program or event, participate in a community celebration or seek out some information.

On average, 23 programs were delivered weekly per term and family activities held over eight weeks of school holidays. Programs often only charge a gold coin donation to attract the widest audience and reduce barriers to participation. A core focus for the centre over the last 12 months was improving and extending services for children and youth.

Key highlights for 2013/14 included:

- An average of 30 young people attended the weekly Youth Open House recreation program.
- An average of 50 children attended the weekly after-school activities.
- More than 250 children participated in the school holiday activities at the end of each term.

In 2013/14 new programs were also developed at the centre to break down barriers, respond directly to community demand or to generate an income to subsidise other activities within the centre. Over the last year, new programs included the FILLS program; boot camp; shake, rattle ‘n’ roll – toddler exercise program; master the art of cooking and pickling and preserving.

A calendar of events was delivered with events held most months. Events are based upon specific cultural celebrations, dates of recognition or specific issues of importance to the community. Highlights this year at the centre are listed below:

- The contributions of volunteers celebrated through the hosting of an end-of-year function attended by more than 70 volunteers.
- Cultural Diversity Week, which was recognised in partnership with local Chinese and Italian communities at the Autumn Food and Music Festival attended by 500 people.
- The local Somali community hosted a shared celebration of Refugee Week through providing lunch and entertainment for more than 50 people.
Bowes Avenue Community Centre

Bowes Avenue Community Centre offers a range of social, recreational, educational and community supported activities to strengthen community participation and engagement for all residents of Moonee Valley.

The programs include a range of fitness classes, as well as other sessions like meditation and stress management, quilting, sewing, card making, cooking and computer classes.

The centre also offers music classes for preschool-aged children and after school activities, as well as school holiday programs for primary school students.

In 2013/14, after seeking feedback from the community, the centre extended its range of programs to include:

- After-school activities, which were offered in Term 4 2013, adding to the centre’s well-established school holiday activities.
- Art and craft activities for families with younger primary school-aged children and a watercolour still-life painting workshop for teenagers.
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) awareness training, gardening and social media classes for beginners.
- Skill-sharing workshops for community members to attend as well as, in some instances, facilitate, such as dancing, charades, bingo, speaking Italian, table tennis, bocce and some very popular cooking classes.

Promotion of the centre and its programs was achieved through the distribution of more than 1,500 quarterly term flyers in addition to the school holiday and after-school flyers.

With the expansion of the programs offered at Bowes Avenue Community Centre in 2013/14, the average participation rate increased to 1,500 attendances for each term in the latter half of the financial year.
Neighbourhood centres

Council provided five recreation facilities specifically aimed to engage with older residents, people with a disability and their carers. Facilities include, Kellaway Avenue Neighbourhood Centre, Burley Griffin Community Centre, Niddrie Community Hub, Nancye Kirchner Neighbourhood Centre and Ascot Vale Neighbourhood Centre.

In 2013/14, more than 50 groups and clubs used the centres regularly for senior citizen club activities, educational programs, hobby groups, carer support groups, Neighbourhood Watch meetings and Healthy Ageing programs.

Council also provided a community meals lunch program in the dining rooms of three of the neighbourhood centres: Ascot Vale, Kellaway Avenue and Niddrie Community Hub. The community transport service provided transport options for activities and programs at these centres.

Community Safety Program

In the development of MV2035 Community Vision, residents identified the importance of community safety. In keeping with this aspiration, Council developed a Community Safety program. The Community Safety program identified three priority areas:

• innovative and responsive service delivery
• quality evidence collection and dissemination
• sustainable and productive partnerships

Key achievements in 2013/14 are listed below:

• In partnership with Victoria Police, Metro Trains, Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) and Council on the Ageing (COTA), Council held seven safety information sessions for seniors.

• As part of Community Safety Month, Council ran a poster competition with local schools.

• Council applied for accreditation as a Safe Community (Pacific/Australian Safe Community) within the Pan Pacific Safe Communities Network.

• The Household Safety Plan was developed. This plan is a comprehensive resource and personal template for all Moonee Valley households. Council aims to reach out to all new residents.

• The White Ribbon campaign was promoted across Council sites and a breakfast was held with presenter Phil Cleary. Council’s community safety officer became an official White Ribbon ambassador.

• In addition to White Ribbon Day, Council’s efforts to address violence against women were significantly extended with a range of new initiatives to supplement ongoing efforts in other Preventing Violence Against Women (PVAW) programs. These initiatives included Council-funded programs 360 Turn Around at Flemington Housing Estate and Safe from Harm at Ascot Vale Housing Estate. These programs aim to deliver localised responses to improve community action to prevent violence and promote access to support services.

• Council staged the second annual Community Safety Stakeholder forum. The theme was Alcohol and other Drugs. The forum assembled representatives from 18 key partner agencies from areas such as justice, law enforcement, legal and health services, emergency response, education and community to promote sharing of information and facilitating the development of collaborative programs for community safety.
## Aged and Disability Services

### Home and Community Care

The Commonwealth and State governments fund the Home and Community Care program (HACC) provided by Council. The HACC program funds a range of services to support people to stay active and independent and living at home for as long as possible. The HACC target group is defined as:

- older frail persons who require support with activities of daily living
- younger people with moderate, severe or profound disabilities
- the carers of those as detailed above

Volunteers provide valuable support to Council to enable the delivery of the HACC program.

The HACC program consists of:

### HACC Services 2013/14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Service recipients</th>
<th>Service provided</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessment of clients</strong></td>
<td>3,830</td>
<td>4,412 hours of service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council provides eligible residents with a holistic assessment that takes into account the person’s needs and the needs of the family. An Assessment Officer is assigned to assess the person’s needs and develop a care plan, or refer people to appropriate services.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Home Care</strong></td>
<td>1,755</td>
<td>41,629 hours of service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Home Care service provides in home domestic support to assist people to maintain a safe, healthy home environment. Tasks may include domestic assistance, meal preparation and assistance with shopping.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personal Care</strong></td>
<td>769</td>
<td>26,453 hours of service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Personal Care service aims to provide a range of personal care tasks to eligible residents who require assistance with showering, grooming, dressing and general physical hygiene. Support is also available for grocery shopping and attending medical appointments.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Respite Care</strong></td>
<td>208</td>
<td>9,638 hours of service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Respite Care service assists and supports carers of the frail aged and people of any age with an intellectual or physical disability to have a break from their caring responsibilities.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Home Maintenance</strong></td>
<td>920</td>
<td>4,171 hours of service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Maintenance assists clients to maintain a safe and secure home environment. A range of support is available, including installation of smoke detectors, ramps, rails, hand-held showers and heavy cleaning.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Meals</strong></td>
<td>584</td>
<td>76,899 meals provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home delivered meals are available to support the nutritional requirements of older people, and those with a disability who have difficulty in preparing a meal for themselves. Meals are also provided in a community, café style setting at a number of Council’s neighbourhood centre dining rooms.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Healthy Ageing Programs (Planned Activity Groups)</strong></td>
<td>569</td>
<td>11,937 hours of service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council provides a diverse range of healthy ageing programs, which aim to build on the physical capacity of older adults and those with a disability, as well as improve general wellbeing and social connectedness. The program includes exercise classes, group activities and outings.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carer Support Flexible Respite</strong></td>
<td>57 volunteers</td>
<td>6,339 hours of service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council provides a range of community-based and facility-based activities targeting people who are the carers of someone who is frail aged or with a disability. These programs include Social Connections, Morning Music and the Men’s Art program.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carer Support (in-home and out-of-home)</strong></td>
<td>500</td>
<td>2,097 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council provided a range of interactive and informative respite sessions to eligible HACC clients and carers to those who are socially isolated. These programs include Social Connections, Morning Music and the Men’s Art program.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total number of volunteers assisting the HACC Program**

| Total number of volunteers | 52 | 764 hours |

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Home-care packages
Council offers home-care packages to frail older residents who require support to stay living in their homes. The packages are individually planned and tailored to the complex care needs of each client.

The packages may include a combination of domestic assistance, personal care, meals, minor home maintenance, shopping, transport, social outings, escorts to appointments, respite, and referral to other services. Council delivered 360.75 hours of care to 55 people through these packages.

Community Safety Register
Council and Victoria Police have developed a Community Safety Register, which is designed to connect and support residents at risk. The register is a confidential database of residents over 50 years of age who have consented to participate. The register is administered by volunteers who contact these residents on a regular agreed cycle or during adverse weather to minimise risk to health and wellbeing. In 2013/14, Council supported 103 residents at risk.

Men’s Sheds
Moonee Valley Men’s Sheds are fully equipped workshops that provide opportunities for men to develop a broad range of technical skills in a supportive and social environment. Guidance is available from technical experts, and activities include personal projects, designing, making or repairing various items, one-off projects for local community needs and designing and making craft items for sale or donation.

The program is available to Moonee Valley residents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men’s Sheds</th>
<th>Number of regular participants</th>
<th>Focus of program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aberfeldie Men’s Shed</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Social isolation, mental health issues and chronic disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flemington Men’s Shed</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Social isolation, mental health issues and chronic disease</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Council provided a range of services and information to assist older people and people with a disability to improve and maintain their health and wellbeing.

MetroAccess Program
Council Aims To Build Community Capacity And Support people with a disability to participate in civic life. Council runs the MetroAccess Program to achieve this purpose, with funding from the Department of Human Services. The objectives of the program are to:

- Mobilise and support people with a disability to optimise participation in the life of their local community.
- Build and strengthen the community’s capacity to provide support to people with a disability and their families.
- Facilitate integrated local community planning and coordination which engages and involves people with a disability and their families, disability service providers and community organisations.
- Work with existing disability support providers to enhance their capacity to provide relevant and appropriate supports in the community.
- Improve access to information about relevant services and community activities to people with a disability in their communities.

Key achievements under this program included:

- Successful tender application to activate the Crown Street Stables, including plans to develop a social enterprise café that aims to provide training and employment opportunities for people with a disability. The café will officially open in 2014/15.
- Produced a short documentary film, Opening Doors in partnership with Wild@heART Community Arts. The film profiles three young people with a disability and raises awareness about the challenges and successes of building an inclusive community.
- Delivered a free community event to launch the Opening Doors film at Village Cinemas Airport West, as part of Council’s celebrations for International Day of People with Disability.
- Engaged with the community as part of the development of the Disability Action Plan, including hosting two public forums, conducting a survey and producing a consultation report.
- Delivered the Light Up the Clocktower event on 2 April 2014 (World Autism Awareness Day) to raise awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Produced and disseminated the Disability Services newsletter quarterly to provide information on services, programs and events relating to disability in Moonee Valley.
- Organised a community and stakeholder focus group to better understand the experience of people with a disability when contacting Council.
- Delivered disability awareness training to Council staff.
Planned Activity Groups

Council provides a diverse range of healthy ageing programs, which aim to build on the physical capacity of older adults and those with a disability, as well as improve general wellbeing and social connectedness. The program includes exercise classes, group activities and outings.

In 2013/14, the Planned Activity Group (PAG) activities offered were 24 regular sessions per week, which included regular exercise programs, art painting workshops at the Men’s Sheds, cooking-for-one classes and knitting sessions. There were also some one-off events, such as the Christmas light tours and the Christmas dinner and supported visits to the Carols in Queens Park evening, and monthly sessions of Vic’s Flicks Movies and the Morning Music Roadshow.

Five neighbourhood centres also provided elderly support services to 50 regular user groups.

Council provided the following planned activity group disability programs to 153 residents, with funding from the Department of Human Services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability programs</th>
<th>Number of visits</th>
<th>Hours of service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disco Inferno is a dance party for people with disabilities aged between 18 and 40 years. The program runs four times a year.</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Night Live is a program for residents aged between 13 and 40 years and provides a social activity in a setting outside the home. Activities during the program include; playing table tennis and other games, listening to music, watching movies, reading etc.</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventures R Us school holiday program is for primary school aged children with Autism spectrum disorder, in partnership with the Western Autistic Primary School.</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>1,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>2,616</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The aim of the disability programs is to provide a range of community-based and facility-based activities to young people with a disability. This year 153 residents took part in the program.
Family and Children’s Services
Council is committed to supporting, coordinating, planning and delivering local early years services to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and their families.

Municipal Early Years Plan
The Municipal Early Years Plan (MEYP) plays a key role in setting the strategic direction for children and families across Moonee Valley. Council, together with the Moonee Valley Early Years Reference Group (EYRG) has been developing the next MEYP. To date, the MEYP has provided a framework for the delivery of programs from birth to eight years and the Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) from 12 to 25 years. The next MEYP is being broadened and will focus on children up to 12 years of age. This extension bridges a gap and provides an opportunity to support a policy continuum from birth to early adulthood across Moonee Valley through linking the MEYP and YES. Engaging with children, families and key early years services has formed the basis of the next MEYP. The draft will be distributed later in the year for further public consultation prior to adopting the next Moonee Valley Early Years Plan.

Maternal and Child Health service
The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) service welcomes families with children from birth to six years of age, supporting them through the critical early years of a child’s life. Information is shared, assessment and advice is provided and importantly connections are fostered within the local community, tailored to the particular needs of the individual’s family. MCH is an integrated service working in partnership with other early year’s service providers to support families to receive targeted support. In Moonee Valley, MCH operates from 10 locations.

Parenting programs
In 2013/14, 50 new parent groups formed, each receiving seven sessions. Evening sessions continued to be held for each parent group, inviting fathers to attend, learn about baby massage and socialise with other parents. This format is well attended and received, and fathers appreciate being included.

A dads’ playgroup commenced in March 2014. There are 15 fathers registered for the group, and attendances range from 4 to 10 each week.
Key ages and stages assessments
The community welcomed 1,524 new babies to Moonee Valley, and the MCH nurses conducted 12,717 key ages and stages assessments, as well as providing 1,899 additional consultations and 3,816 telephone consultations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key ages and stage assessments</th>
<th>Number of MCH consultations in Moonee Valley</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home visit (in first 10 days)</td>
<td>1,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 weeks old</td>
<td>1,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 weeks old</td>
<td>1,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 weeks old</td>
<td>1,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 months old</td>
<td>1,361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 months old</td>
<td>1,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year old</td>
<td>1,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 months old</td>
<td>1,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 years old</td>
<td>1,159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5 years old</td>
<td>938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assessments</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,717</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enhanced Maternal and Child Health service
The Enhanced Maternal and Child Health service assists families experiencing social isolation, maternal mental health and coping with parenting. In 2013/14, 103 families received assistance at some stage during the year.

The Nursery Equipment program is funded by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) and provides cots, car seats and prams for families who do not have the capacity to ensure a safe sleeping environment or travelling mode for their newborns. One hundred families received funding through this program.

Family Support Services
Family Support Services strives to enhance quality of life for children and families through their access and participation in local initiatives and community-based services. Council’s Family Services provides in-home support, telephone-intake referral and advice for children aged 0–17 and their families, as well as on-site consultation at local neighbourhood services.

In 2013/14, Family Support Services provided assessment, advice and support to 413 families, which equates to 5,189 hours of service to the community to address a wide range of issues including child behaviour management, social isolation, family violence, mental health and substance abuse.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Support Services</th>
<th>Service recipients</th>
<th>Hours of service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Intervention Services</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>2,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Family Services</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>2,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>413</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,189</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Childcare
Education and care for children up to 13 years of age is provided by qualified educators in a variety of home-based and facility-based settings. Childcare includes:

- Long day care is a centre based education and care program operating for a minimum of 48 weeks per year and 10.5 hours per day. The programs are primarily aimed at children from 0 to 6 years of age and the majority of services incorporate an integrated kindergarten program.

- Occasional care is a centre based education and care program primarily aimed at children from 0 to 6 years of age. Care is on a casual basis for up to 15 hours per week. Programs operate either during school terms or for a minimum of 48 weeks per year.

- Family Day Care provides education and care for small groups of children up to 13 years of age in the family home environment. Family day care can offer care during standard hours, evenings, before/after school, during school holidays and in some cases overnight and weekends.

Council owns and operates five childcare facilities to provide occasional day care and long day care services to the community and administers the family day care program.
In 2013/14, Council's childcare services supported a total of 1,447 children from 1,098 families, as indicated in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Childcare service</th>
<th>Number of children supported</th>
<th>Number of families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shuter Street Occasional Care</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flemington Community Centre Occasional Care</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milleara Integrated Learning and Development Centre</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flemington Street Childcare</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hopetoun Childcare</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strathmore Childcare</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Day Care</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,447</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,098</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Also during this financial year, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development undertook rigorous assessments of four Council-managed childcare services, namely, Flemington Street Children’s Centre, Strathmore Children’s Centre, Milleara Integrated Learning and Development Centre for Children and Family Day Care.

In accordance with the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010, services were rated against the following seven areas of the National Quality Framework:

- Educational program and practice
- Children’s health and safety
- Physical environment
- Staffing arrangements
- Relationships with children
- Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
- Leadership and service management

Council received a rating of ‘Exceeding the National Quality Standard’ in all areas.

Another initiative in 2013/14 was the participation of Council’s Family and Children’s Services department in a research project in early learning. The project was in partnership with the Melbourne Graduate School of Education and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

The three-year Victorian Advancing Early Learning Study is focused on:

- developing and testing improved pedagogical teaching practice for educators
- enhancing learning outcomes for all children, particularly those who are the most vulnerable
- engaging with families to enhance their children’s learning
- applying an integrated approach to working with families across children’s services, maternal and child health services, and family services

**Universal Access**

The Universal Access initiative aims to improve educational outcomes by providing additional hours of education for children in the early years. All kindergartens operated by Moonee Valley City Council provided this model of service delivery in 2013/14, which enabled four- and five-year-old children to attend 15 hours of kindergarten programs per week. The initiative also enabled the development and delivery of a variety of models giving greater choice to parents about the type of program available for children.

**Kindergarten**

Children aged four years by 30 April in the year prior to formal schooling are encouraged to attend a year of kindergarten. Quality early educators provide play-based educational programs that assist children in gaining skills and knowledge in their journey of lifelong learning. Council manages and coordinates a central registration service for kindergarten, allocates places across the City of Moonee Valley and directly manages 12 sessional kindergarten centres. Some kindergartens also offer three-year-old programs. In 2013/14, the kindergarten enrolments were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of program</th>
<th>Number of children enrolled in program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three-Year-Old</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten (Four-Year-Old)</td>
<td>538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>778</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inclusion support
Council works to improve the access and participation of children with additional needs in early-education programs. Council works in partnership with a range of early-childhood professionals and organisations to provide advice, assessment, consultation, programs and referrals to specialists and services for families. In 2013/14, Council provided tailored support for families and assessed 209 children with additional needs.

Playgroups
Playgroups provide an avenue for children from birth to six years to enhance play, communication and socialisation whilst providing a supportive environment for their carers.

More than 980 families were supported in a playgroup environment in 2013/14 within the City of Moonee Valley.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of playgroups</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of playgroups sessions</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families attending playgroups</td>
<td>985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children attending playgroups</td>
<td>1,081</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A number of supported playgroups have been developed to provide enhanced support to vulnerable groups including grandparents, dads, Vietnamese young mums, and children with a disability and their carers.
Grandparents’ playgroup

Following the success of the first Moonee Valley grandparents’ playgroup established in Essendon, another grandparents’ playgroup was established in 2013/14 in Avondale Heights at the Rhonda Davis Children’s Centre. Council established the group in partnership with Playgroup Victoria, in response to the increasing trend of grandparents caring for their grandchildren on a regular basis. Once a week during school terms, up to 12 dedicated grandparents and 14 grandchildren come together to share their stories. Playgroups provide an opportunity for social connection, where members can meet other children and grandparents in their local area, and where the grandchildren can learn through play in a child-friendly space.

Environmental Health

Infant and School Immunisation program

Council’s Infant and School Immunisation program is part of a statewide immunisation scheme, which aims to protect and minimise the spread of diseases in infants and school-aged children. The program is ongoing and continues to achieve a high immunisation rate within the Moonee Valley community.

The immunisation service is promoted through brochures and Council’s Maternal and Child Health Services. All vaccinations administered are promptly recorded in the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR), which enables Council to maintain a reminder program for parents of children turning one and four years of age.

In 2013/14, 5,600 vaccinations were administered to young children attending five locations throughout the municipality. The following table indicates the high immunisation rate that is maintained in Moonee Valley as of 30 June 2014:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Percentage fully immunised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 months to less than 15 months</td>
<td>92 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 months to less than 27 months</td>
<td>92 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 months to less than 63 months</td>
<td>91 per cent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A secondary school immunisation program is also provided to all 14 secondary schools throughout the municipality to administer recommended vaccinations. During 2013/14, 6,721 vaccinations were administered to years 7, 9 and 10 students for the human papillomavirus, chickenpox and adolescent diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough.
### Year Vaccine Number of vaccines administered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Number of vaccines administered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Human Papillomavirus</td>
<td>2,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Chickenpox</td>
<td>1,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Human Papillomavirus</td>
<td>1,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Adolescent diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough</td>
<td>1,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,721</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Food safety

Council is responsible for monitoring local food businesses to ensure compliance with the requirements of the *Food Act 1984*. This is achieved by conducting assessments of premises, obtaining food samples and investigating food related complaints.

#### Food sampling program

Council ensures that a range of food samples is submitted for analysis. For the 2013/14 financial period, 133 food samples were submitted including ready-to-eat meals from nursing homes and childcare centres. Of these only 4 per cent of food samples were non-compliant and required follow-up action.

### Food safety inspections

All businesses that prepare food for sale are required to be registered with Council under the *Food Act 1984*. There are more than 700 businesses within the City of Moonee Valley that require regular monitoring. Council conducted more than 1,300 inspections of food premises to ensure food safety standards were maintained across the municipality.

Members of the public are able to report suspected poor practices regarding food businesses to Council. Council responded to 116 community requests during the 2013/14 period.

### Tobacco education and enforcement services

Council is responsible for administering the requirements of the *Tobacco Act 1987* and its amendments. Education visits are conducted to advise tobacco retailers, licensed premises and eating establishments of their responsibilities. In an effort to reduce under-age smoking, Council also participates in test purchasing surveillance of tobacco retailers.

In 2013/14, Council conducted 98 education visits to various outlets and 56 test-purchasing visits to tobacco retailers.
Events

Live music

Council continued to provide live music events in 2013/14 for young people. Through The Avenue Presents group (part of the Moonee Valley Avenue Committee) music events were promoted that provided platforms for local musicians, showcased national acts and provided opportunities for The Avenue members to build upon their skills in developing and delivering high-quality events.

Battle of the Bands is a local music competition with the finalist proceeding to the ‘Push Start’ statewide regional heats. It was held at Kellaway Community Hall and had a ‘Day of the Dead’ theme. Playing before 75 young people, Great John Himself, a local band, was the winner from a number of acts from diverse musical genres such as acoustic, folk and heavy metal. This competition launched Great John Himself and the band is continuing to establish its profile within the Melbourne music scene.

Niddrie Youth Hub hosted an event entitled The Avenue Goes Acoustic that attracted close to 50 young people. With a focus on acoustic music, the event showcased local singer songwriters and instrumental acts.

During Youth Week 2014, The Avenue Presents held The Live Gig event at The Ukrainian Hall on 5 April 2014 with artists The Jungle Giants, Allday, Chiefs, Lunatics on Pogosticks, Scott Boyd and Great John Himself, the Battle of the Bands finalist. The Live Gig attracted a record crowd of 650 young people. The Avenue and the Youth Voice Committee volunteered with production, stalls, security, stage management and artist liaison on the day, providing members with additional skills development.

Also this year, an additional category for anti-bullying themed films was included as a result of Council’s community partnership with Bully Zero Australia. The Anti-Bullying Award was given to Out of Bounds, which was directed by Amelia Trickey.

Step Off! dance competition

Step Off! provides artistic and recreational opportunities for young people who are seeking an avenue for artistic expression via dance as a positive and social activity for mental health and wellbeing.

From its origins as ‘Get Krump’d’ in 2005, Step Off! has grown significantly each year, requiring regular venue changes to accommodate the growing audience. As a result, since 2011, the Dallas Brooks Centre in East Melbourne has been the home of Step Off!, and on 12 April 2014, the venue hosted a record crowd of more than 1,300 people, including more than 450 dancers and 36 dance crews from across Melbourne.

The event is an all-ages, drug and alcohol, smoke-free event that was held during National Youth Week.

White Ribbon Day

A breakfast was held to promote speaking out against violence towards women with presenter Phil Cleary at Council’s Transfer Station on 27 November 2013.

Children’s Week

Children’s Week is a national program held every year in late October to celebrate the right of children to enjoy childhood. On 25 October 2013, Council supported almost 1,500 preschool-aged children and adults to participate in a range of fun-filled interactive theatre concerts at the Clocktower Theatre. The Flying Bookworm Theatre Company delivered three successive interactive stories on stage, including The Bear Hunt, Three Little Pigs and Billy Goats Gruff.

National Playgroup Week

On 26 March 2014, hundreds of families came together for a ‘picnic in the park’ to celebrate National Playgroup Week. This year, Moonee Valley Council’s Family and Children’s Services staff partnered with Maribyrnong and Brimbank councils, together with Playgroup Victoria, to celebrate this annual event.
The free event for all families and children was held at Coulson Gardens, near the banks of the Maribyrnong River. This was the scene for lots of activities including African drumming, face painting, story times and music fun for both children and adults. The giveaways were a huge success, together with the free massages for parents who could take some time out to relax on the hot autumn day. At the picnic in the park, Moonee Valley families celebrated with the 25,000 families and 40,000 children across Victoria who use playgroups each year.

Moonee Valley Seniors Festival

The Moonee Valley Seniors Festival offered a wide range of free events and activities throughout October 2013. The key events were:

- five Healthy Ageing expos for the theme keeping safe, with presentations from Victoria Police and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade
- Men’s Shed official Up-Cycling shop launch and open day
- grandparents and grandchildren morning tea and activities
- Talk, Tour and Tea function at the Incinerator Gallery
- Elizabeth Chong cooking demonstration
- free exercise classes
- free movie session
- digital art project, Growing old is mandatory – growing up isn’t, at the Clocktower Centre

In total, 17 events were held across the month with more than 1,000 people attending. The seniors festival fulfilled the values of Council's Healthy Ageing Strategy by promoting healthy-ageing opportunities and offering health-focused events.

Community Chef and the Bendigo Bank sponsored the festival with support from the Westfield Shopping Centre, Airport West.

Annual Volunteer Service Recognition Lunch

On 14 May 2014, as part of National Volunteers Week, Council organised a lunch to recognise and thank the many volunteers who provide their unpaid assistance to enable Council to deliver many of its services to the Moonee Valley community.

At the lunch, a presentation was provided on engaging volunteers with a disability, and there was a welcome to country, a youth dance performance and a local Spanish musician entertaining the 140 volunteers, councillors and staff in attendance.
Theme 2: Green, clean and beautiful
A sustainable environment for future generations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic objective</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Protect and enhance the quality and health of local waterways for conservation and community enjoyment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Make the city more attractive through maximising opportunities for greening the public realm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lift the level of functionality and sustainability of the municipality’s infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Continually improve current waste diversion rates through community education and other initiatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Protect and enhance the quality and scale of open space for conservation and community enjoyment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategic indicator reference 2.1

Strategic objective
Protect and enhance the quality and health of local waterways for conservation and community enjoyment

Strategic indicator
Number of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) treatments installed

Source
Council

Overall progress to date for Strategic Indicator 2.1 in 2013/14 is as follows:

- Moonee Valley completed an additional five WSUD treatments, bringing the cumulative total of Council-implemented WSUD projects to 44.
- Council delivered a vegetated swale at Napier Park and bio-retention swales at Bowes Avenue, Parkside Avenue, Haldane Road and Lincoln Road.
- Council is progressing well with its stormwater quality improvement targets of 20 per cent in 2020 having achieved 11.2 per cent best practice stormwater quality across the municipality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Water Sensitive Urban Design treatments installed during the financial year</th>
<th>Number of WSUD treatments installed in Moonee Valley</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>0 (design work only)</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategic indicator reference 2.2

Strategic objective
Make the city more attractive through maximising opportunities for greening the public realm

Strategic indicator
Increase in community satisfaction with the performance of Council in delivering attractive parks, gardens, open space, streetscapes

Source
Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey

Overall progress to date for Strategic Indicator 2.2 in 2013/14 is as follows:

- Moonee Valley received a lower rating from the community than in previous years for the indicator of delivering attractive parks, gardens, open space and streetscapes in the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.
- Note that in 2012 and 2013 the wording of the indicator was slightly different – providing and maintaining attractive and user friendly parks and open spaces that are accessible to all.
- The change in the survey result is not statistically significant and the fluctuation is most likely due to sample variation.

Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey – indicator of performance of Council in delivering attractive parks, gardens, open space, streetscapes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Moonee Valley rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013¹</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012²</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey – indicator of performance in providing and maintaining attractive and user friendly parks and open spaces that are accessible to all

²Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey – indicator of performance in providing and maintaining attractive and user friendly parks and open spaces that are accessible to all
Strategic indicator reference 2.3

Strategic objective
Lift the level of functionality and sustainability of the municipality's infrastructure

Strategic indicators
Increase in satisfaction with the performance of Council in maintaining local infrastructure
Above inner metropolitan council average satisfaction with local roads and footpaths

Source
Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey

Overall progress to date for Strategic Indicator 2.3 in 2013/14 is as follows:

- Moonee Valley received a lower rating than the inner metropolitan average in the indicator local streets and footpaths in the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.
- The change in the survey result for local streets and footpaths is not statistically significant and the fluctuation is most likely due to sample variation.
- 2014 was the first year of data collection for the indicator of maintaining local infrastructure in the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Moonee Valley rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Moonee Valley rating</th>
<th>Inner metropolitan average rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategic indicator reference 2.4

Strategic objective Continually improve current waste diversion rates through community education and other initiatives

Strategic indicator Proportional progress towards target of 65 per cent kerbside waste diversion from landfill

Source Council

Overall progress to date for Strategic Indicator 2.4 in 2013/14 is as follows:

- Moonee Valley achieved a lower kerbside waste diversion from landfill rate (waste diversion) than in the past three years.
- The waste diversion rate achieved by Council has increased significantly from 15.4 per cent in 2003/04, reached a peak of 50 per cent in 2010/11 and has declined slightly since this time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Moonee Valley – kerbside waste diversion from landfill rate (percentage)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>46.4 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>47.2 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>49.4 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>50.0 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>47.3 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>44.2 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>43.7 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>44.6 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>41.4 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004/05</td>
<td>33.0 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003/04</td>
<td>15.4 per cent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategic indicator reference 2.5

Strategic objective
Protect and enhance the quality and scale of open space for conservation and community enjoyment

Strategic indicator
Increase in community satisfaction with the quality and diversity of open-space assets (including parklands, conservation areas, streetscapes)

Source
Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey

Overall progress to date for Strategic Indicator 2.5 in 2013/14 is as follows:

- Moonee Valley added this indicator to the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey – indicator of quality and diversity of open-space assets (including parklands, conservation areas, streetscapes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Moonee Valley rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Achievements

Capital Works program
The Capital Works program provides for the renewal, maintenance and upgrade of existing assets and the building of new assets to deliver infrastructure that meets the needs of the community.

Through this program, Council invested $20.4 million on 167 infrastructure capital works to benefit the Moonee Valley community. Projects were delivered in the areas of early years and other community facilities, open space, roads, transport and drainage networks. Significant capital works projects included:

- The completion of a new Avondale Heights Early Years Centre. The centre includes a dual preschool; Maternal and Child Health consulting suites and a landscaped children’s play area.
- The completion of major improvements and building extensions to the Airport West sports pavilion.
- The completion of change room modifications to the Maribyrnong Park sports pavilion to comply with Australian Rules guidelines.
- The completion of internal alterations to the Flemington and the Sam Merrifield Libraries to improve amenities and services at the libraries.
- The completion of roof and drainage works and improvements to the computer room at the Flemington Community Centre.
- The completion of floodlight installations at Aberfeldie Park and Canning Reserve.
- The completion of a new Rosehill Skate Park and BMX complex at Keilor East.
- The completion of air-conditioning improvements to the Milleara Children’s Learning and Development Centre.
- The completion of alterations to the Flemington Children’s Centre, increasing the capacity from 33 places to 55 places, as well as improving the administration, staff areas and outdoor space areas.
- The completion of modifications to the Civic Centre Citizens Services area to improve planning and building service enquiries.
- The commencement of the new Strathnauer Reserve Sports Pavilion, which is scheduled to be completed in October 2014.

Open space
- Napier Park Master Plan implementation, Strathmore – the formation of the open-channel earth swale traversing the park was completed. Stormwater run-off will now be captured to irrigate the parkland.

Local roads
- Council upgraded 38 local roads covering 94,300 square metres, which is 3 per cent of the local road network, for an amount of $3.3 million.

Transport
- Council invested in infrastructure renewal and making improvements to shared paths (on-road and off-road).
- Council invested in integrated transport, road safety and green travel initiatives.
- Council completed seven major traffic management works across the municipality in Clarendon Street, Clarks Road, Eglinton Street, Fawkner Street, Lincoln Road, Milfay Avenue and Victory Parade.

Drainage
- Afton Street, Essendon West, Conservation Park Wetland Outfall – Construction of outfall drain to the Maribyrnong River to meet water authority requirements.
- Moorna Drive, Airport West – Completion of Stage 2 to improve the capacity of the existing stormwater drain and alleviate flooding in this area.
- Tasman Avenue, Strathmore – Completion of drainage works to alleviate flood impacts on downstream properties.
- Bio-retention swales were constructed at the reserve adjoining 47 Parkside Avenue, Weather Station Reserve on Bowes Avenue and the reserve at the rear of 96A Haldane Road and Lincoln Road.

Key drainage design projects delivered through Council’s Capital Works program included:
- Heritage Street/Hutcheson Street, Moonee Ponds
- Clifton Street, Essendon West

These projects will commence in 2014/15.

Streetscapes
- Military Road, Avondale Heights received new public lighting installations within the newly indented parking area south of Davis Avenue.
**Water Sensitive Urban Design**

Water Sensitive Urban Design is a holistic approach to the planning and design of urban development that aims to minimise impacts on the natural water cycle and protect the health of aquatic ecosystems. It promotes the integration of stormwater, groundwater, wastewater and atmospheric water management to create liveable and greener water sensitive cities.

The Water Sensitive Urban Design guidelines provide residents and developers with a guide to delivering projects like rainwater tanks, greywater systems, rain gardens, wetlands, swales and porous paving, all of which are designed to prevent pollution from entering local waterways.

In 2013/14, Council invested in the following key projects to embed water sensitive urban design into Council and community infrastructure:

**Council policy – Amendment C108**

Amendment C108 introduced a Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) policy into the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme that articulates how stormwater is to be managed in future planning applications. Council adopted Amendment C108 in August 2013 and the amendment was implemented into the Planning Scheme on 13 March 2014.

Under the new policy, planning applicants will need to take into consideration onsite stormwater treatment into the design of a development using such measures as rainwater tanks, stormwater harvesting and re-use, rain gardens and porous pavements. As part of the planning permit process for building and works, applicants are required to submit WSUD details and a WSUD Maintenance Program. Council has excluded minor buildings and works from the WSUD provisions, including for developments of less than 50 square metres and fences.

The policy implemented recommendations from Council’s Water Strategy and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) guidelines.

This new policy will help applicants and the community better understand how a proposal will be considered, and how they will need to address water sensitive urban design matters in their proposal at an early stage to contribute towards an improvement of the health and ecology of Moonee Valley’s waterways and environment.
The policy applies to all land in the municipality, where a planning permit application is made for:

- new buildings
- extensions to existing buildings which are 50 square metres in floor area or greater
- a subdivision in a commercial zone

Specifically, the policy:

- Required that applicants consider the WSUD treatments at the planning stage of development so that they do not need to be retrofitted into the design.
- Provided clarity that the WSUD measures must achieve the performance measures specified in the policy.
- Required applicants to demonstrate compliance by submission of a rating assessment, enabling Council to more easily ascertain compliance.
- Required a consistent set of permit conditions to cover construction impacts, to ensure that the measures are properly designed and shown on the endorsed plans, and to ensure that systems are appropriately operated and maintained.

Since the policy was introduced on 13 March 2014, approximately 330 planning permit applications were received. Of these, 250 applications have been assessed and conditioned to make amendments to comply with the new policy.

To support residents and developers to incorporate WSUD the following actions were taken:

- WSUD Compliance Guidelines booklet, information and fact sheets were published on the Council website.
- Ongoing engagement with and strengthening of Council’s relationship with CASBE (Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment – under the auspices of Municipal Association of Victoria) occurred.
- Planning processes and procedures were put in place to review all new planning applications, including new planning permit conditions, further information requirements and pre-application forms, and convening an internal Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Panel to consider and review new applications. In addition, a monitoring system is currently under development, an officer was appointed to support the new process, and a number of internal training sessions for staff were conducted.

Maribyrnong Park Lake Water Sensitive Urban Design

Council commenced capital works to retrofit water sensitive urban design that will improve water quality at the park:

- Converted the lake into a large rain garden to treat stormwater prior to it entering the Maribyrnong River.
- Commenced connecting stormwater into the rain garden surrounding the rotunda. This will treat stormwater entering the Maribyrnong River and provide a body of water within the park. This project is underway and will be completed in 2014/15.

Airport West Green Spine Project

Council is committed to protecting and enhancing the green spaces that currently exist in Airport West as part of the Green Spine project.

With the support of the State Government’s Office of Living Victoria, Melbourne Water and City West Water, and after consultation with the community, the Airport West Green Spine project was developed for the linear park that runs along the Airport West easement between Parer Road and Fraser Street.

The project aims to:

- Create a community-focused design that improves the parkland through features such as barbecues, fitness stations, plantings, playspace, rideable surfaces for skaters and scooters, shelters and seating.
- Develop a design for the harvesting, cleaning and re-use of local stormwater, which could include the creation of water features such as seasonal creek beds, ponds and underground water storage. Such treatment of the stormwater will not only help keep the park green, it will remove contaminants from road and other surface run-off. This offers great benefits to downstream waterways such as Steele Creek and the Maribyrnong River.
- Improve the quality of local waterways.
Napier Park Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse Project

Napier Park is the only open space within Moonee Valley classified primarily as having a nature conservation character, which reflects the relatively small areas of remnant vegetation in Moonee Valley outside of the waterway corridors. The park is approximately 4.1 hectares and is bounded by Woodland Street, Napier Street, Glenbervie Road and Noble Avenue in the suburb of Strathmore.

Thomas Napier bequeathed Napier Park to the community in the 1920s under the proviso that the landscape character of the park, including the indigenous river red gums, was preserved and protected.

In 2013/14, the Napier Park Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse Project was completed. The project was designed to replicate the overland flow of water by directing a stormwater catchment of 16.3 hectares through a vegetated swale into a 114 kilolitre underground tank. The vegetated swale removes pollutants and facilitates infiltration. The collected water is then re-used throughout the park using a novel, first-of-its-kind distribution system to re-establish natural soil moisture levels and reflect the natural wetting regime for river red gums.

The harvested stormwater protects a significant and protected community of vegetation called Plains Grassy Woodland and is one of the few examples in Melbourne of the pre-European vegetation of this area.

In 2014/15, additional planting will be undertaken.

Glenbervie Road Flood Mitigation Project

In 2013/14 project planning and the design was completed for the Glenbervie Road Flood Mitigation Project. The project will reduce flood risk and free up capacity in the existing Council drainage infrastructure.

Furthermore, the project will improve the quality of stormwater run-off being discharged to Five Mile Creek. In accordance with Council’s water sensitive urban design (WSUD) principles, a rain garden incorporated within the Glenbervie Road central median will treat road run-off in the vicinity, prior to its discharge into the existing drainage system.

Construction works are to be undertaken during the 2014/15 financial year and will be jointly funded by Council and Melbourne Water as part of the Living Rivers program.

When completed, the project will have reduced the flood risk to a number of residential properties in the Glenbervie Road vicinity, improved capacity in the existing Council drainage infrastructure and improved the quality of stormwater run-off being directed to Five Mile Creek.

Swales

In 2013/14, water quality improvement efforts focused on protecting properties from flooding by improving drainage, as well as protecting and enhancing the quality and health of our local waterways.

This was achieved through the construction of four bio-retention swales. Bio-retention systems, also known as rain gardens or swales, are vegetated filters that pond stormwater and slowly filter it to provide high levels of stormwater treatment in a relatively small footprint. Bio-retention involves the use of biological processes to treat stormwater, while facilitating conveyance and retention of the stormwater.

The swales were built at the following locations:

- Reserve adjoining 47 Parkside Avenue
- Weather Station Reserve on Bowes Avenue
- Reserve rear of 96A Haldane Road
- Lincoln Road
City Sustainability Policy

The City Sustainability Policy takes the environmental knowledge Council has gained over the past ten years and brings it forward into the design and policy development of the city. It is this difference that will enable greater progress towards achieving Council’s targets in the coming years. After extensive consultation on the proposed policy, Council adopted the new City Sustainability Policy on 27 August 2013. The policy positions it sets out will incorporate sustainability into all of Council’s services which will help Moonee Valley become a better place to live and work.

The policy links Council’s sustainability, liveability, and community goals under four themes:

• Urban Ecology – linking the biodiversity, waterways, climate and urban forest goals.
• Living Locally – linking the open space, transport, business and community-building goals.
• Your Home and Workplace – linking the building design, transport and gardening goals.
• Valuing our Resources – linking the greenhouse, water, waste and business goals.

The policy supports new and evolving trends, systems, technologies and community approaches in urban development. Some of these include:

• Complete Streets – returning Moonee Valley’s smaller streets to providing for people, not just cars.
• Urban Forest – supporting wildlife, preventing urban heat and helping residents stay active.
• Green Building – implementing controls to require better design for environment and people.
• Green Business – providing support for emerging re-use, sharing, and sustainable services.
• Smart City – providing support for digital real-time information from, between and to community.
• Urban Agriculture – growing food in front yards, backyards and open space.
Waste and Resource Recovery Plan

Council’s vision of a clean, green and safe community is underpinned by the services Council provides. An efficient waste management and resource recovery system delivers local amenity, environmental performance and health and wellbeing to the community. It is a core activity of Council, providing an essential service to residents, community organisations and businesses.

The Waste and Resource Recovery Plan 2014–18 was developed following workshops and consultation with staff, councillors and the community and was adopted by Council on 27 May 2014. The plan sets Moonee Valley's direction for waste and resource recovery to meet the community’s needs for the next four years. Its guiding principles are to:

- minimise waste generation
- increase re-use of materials
- increase recovery of materials for recycling
- reduce waste to landfill
- maximise contracts
- improve service efficiencies

The strategy's action plan for the next four years focuses on six strategic objectives activities within Council’s control or responsibility.

In 2013/14, in accordance with the action plan, Council:

- Continued to encourage home composting through the community education program (My Smart Garden program and engagement of schools through regular Teachers Environment Network (TENS) meetings).
- Continued education to reduce the amount of recyclables in the landfill bin [bin stickers, website, truck advertising, environment forum on Waste (Feb 2104)].
- Continued education to reduce contamination of the recyclables bins through the ‘Get it right on bin night’ and bin inspection campaign.
- Required developers of new multi-unit dwellings to submit a waste management plan in accordance with the new guidelines.
- Implemented the on-demand white goods service (‘Kids off the Kerb’ – collection from Transfer Station and free home collection).
- Continued hard waste sorting trials to develop a long-term recovery solution.
- Ensured data reporting was aligned with the new state database (use of Victorian Litter Action Alliance Local Litter Measurement Tool and attendance at the State Government’s database training sessions).
Ascot Vale Housing Estate Household Recycling Project

This project successfully introduced a permanent household recycling service to the residents living at the Ascot Vale Housing Estate. Like many public housing estates in Victoria, the Ascot Vale Housing Estate did not have access to a household recycling service that 95 per cent of Victorians take for granted.

The project established a ground-breaking model using targeted and broad-ranging community engagement conducted by the Wingate Avenue Community Centre (WACC) to the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and lower socio economic status (SES) groups on the estate.

The community education program was rolled out by a team of local educators recruited from the estate, who taught the importance of recycling to the AVHE residents. Once the bins were in place at the various recycling points on the estate, the recycling service commenced and in the first six months:

- 57 per cent of all recyclables were recovered from the general waste stream
- 50 tonnes of recyclables or 60 kilograms per household was recovered from the estate
- garbage was reduced by nearly eight tonnes
- residents recycled glass and paper particularly well, recovering almost 70 per cent of these materials
- a cleaner community was achieved as a result

As well as the establishment of an effective recycling service, other outcomes from the project included a strengthened social cohesion on the estate, a greater sense of belonging to the wider community and increased employment opportunities for local residents working on the project.

Council was recognised for achieving outcomes for the estate residents and the wider community by winning the Community Award and the Premier’s Recognition Award in the Premier’s Sustainability Awards for 2013. The State Government provided major funding, and Council partnered with the Wingate Avenue Community Centre to deliver the project.
Master Plans

Maribyrnong River Master Plan

As the city undergoes growth and residential population continues to rise, there are increased demands on the parklands that will require a substantial improvement in amenity and function.

The purpose of the Maribyrnong River Master Plan is to successfully negotiate this change by providing a clear vision for the future design, development and management of the study precinct. This study precinct or area covers the eastern frontage of the river within the City of Moonee Valley from the Raleigh Street Bridge to Riverside Park, with a particular focus on the Holmes Road intersection and surrounding land.

The master plan, which seeks to improve the open space and connectivity of the precinct has been further realised through the design development of the Boulevard road realignment, which will provide additional open space along the Maribyrnong River to develop improved pathways and river frontage. The following stages were completed in 2013/14:

- Riverside Park playspace – Stage 1

  Council has a key role in supporting play throughout the city’s public open spaces. As well as being fun, playing enables children to develop great skills and interact with one another, with adults and with their environment. Open and landscaped parks with natural elements and the freedom to engage in unstructured play provide children and young people with different sensory experiences and unique opportunities to explore, be active and socialise.

  The Riverside Park upgrade was launched with the construction of the timber pirate ship, the 'Black Sapphire'. This ship has been designed to spark the imagination of young children, as they explore the decks, tunnels and nautical-themed play elements within the ship. The ship has been constructed with hardwood timbers and sand softfall to provide a bespoke piece of play, which sits naturally in its riverside setting. Its official launch with the community will happen in August 2014.

  The second stage to be completed in 2014/15 will include further upgrades to the playspace with equipment for older children, realigned car park with swale, picnic facilities, pathways and planting.

- Additional works to improve water quality through water sensitive urban design included:
  - Rain garden Stage 1 – The lake was converted into a large rain garden to treat stormwater prior to it entering the Maribyrnong River. The project provides a new ecosystem in the park and increases urban ecology whilst providing educational opportunities for the importance of treating stormwater and protecting local waterways.
  - Rain garden Stage 2 – the project is underway and will be completed in 2014/15. Stage 2 connects the stormwater into the rain garden surrounding the rotunda. This will treat stormwater entering the Maribyrnong River and provide a body of water within the park.
Aberfeldie Park Master Plan

Aberfeldie Park is the major sporting reserve in Aberfeldie at 17.8 hectares and occupies a prominent position along the Maribyrnong River. It contains sporting pavilions, paths, sports ovals, an athletics centre, playgrounds, outdoor fitness equipment, picnic facilities and plantings.

The development of the new master plan involved consideration of the recommendations in the Community Facilities Plan and Maribyrnong River Master Plan, extensive consultation with the community and stakeholders, and a review of the previous master plan for the park.

After a period of public consultation on the draft plan, Council adopted the final Aberfeldie Park Master Plan on 22 October 2013, which establishes a long-term vision for Aberfeldie Park and will guide its future development.

Specific recommendations in the plan included:

- upgrades to the pavilion
- additional planting
- Improvements to topography and drainage
- provision of wetlands and swales
- upgraded playspaces and fitness stations
- wayfinding signage
- upgraded dog, car parking and pedestrian facilities
Fairbairn Park Master Plan

Fairbairn Park in Ascot Vale is situated alongside the Maribyrnong River and, at 25.7 hectares in area, is the major open space reserve in Ascot Vale. It caters for both informal recreational use and organised sporting use. The park contains pavilions and clubrooms, shared paths, sports ovals, playgrounds, picnic facilities, plantings and the Riverside Golf and Tennis Centre.

The development of Fairbairn Park’s new master plan involved consideration of the recommendations in the Community Facilities Plan and Maribyrnong River Master Plan, extensive consultation with the community and stakeholders, and a review of the previous master plan for the park.

After a period of public consultation on the draft plan, Council adopted the final Fairbairn Park Master Plan on 24 September 2013, which establishes a long-term vision for Fairbairn Park and will guide its future development. Specific recommendations in the plan included:

- consolidation of two existing pavilions into one purpose-built central pavilion
- improvements to entrances and pathways
- improvements to traffic flow and car parks
- additional plantings
- upgraded playspaces
- upgraded picnic areas
Tree Management Strategy 2013-17


The Tree Management Strategy 2013-17 outlines how the city’s tree population will be managed. It also provides priorities and direction for the staged upgrade of the city’s street trees and will help residents, local businesses, developers and those working with Council to understand the vision, policies, actions and procedures relating to Moonee Valley’s tree population.

The Tree Management Strategy will:

- incorporate sustainability and urban ecology principles
- respond to predicted climate changes and manage the associated risks
- develop a sustainable maintenance regime
- further develop neighbourhood character
- protect and enhance local street amenity, in accordance with the Complete Streets philosophy
- recognise the importance of a healthy and diverse tree population as an intergenerational resource
- incorporate water sensitive urban design principles – water strategy and Council water sensitive urban design guidelines
- recognise the economic, social and physiological value of the city’s tree population
- contribute to creating green, accessible, aesthetically pleasing and safe public spaces
- create neighbourhoods with shared interests
- identify and address gaps in current data, planning and operational policies relating to the city’s tree population

The strategy includes an action plan that will be undertaken to deliver the strategy in future years.

Street Tree Planting

Ten-Year Tree Planting Program

The City of Moonee Valley has 43,636 street trees with a balance of both native and exotic species.

To deliver the aims of the Tree Management Strategy, Council implemented the 10-Year Tree Planting Program. This year, Council implemented year five of the program.

In 2013/14, key achievements included:

- 2,962 total trees planted across the municipality
- 855 trees planted in 32 streets as part of the 10-year tree planting program.
- 427 trees planted in 10 streets as part of a total street-tree upgrade
- 701 trees planted in 44 streets as part of Council’s resident request program
- 677 trees planted outside individual properties as part of Council’s resident request program

Open Space Tree Planting

Neighbourhood and Local Parks Greening Program

This program involves the continued planting of trees throughout neighbourhood and local parks to ensure a net gain in open space tree populations, as well as the continued upgrade of minor park assets.

In 2013/14, 86 trees were planted in the following reserves:

- Bent Street Reserve, Moonee Ponds
- Brisbane Street Reserve, Ascot Vale
- Collier Reserve, Strathmore Heights
- Garnet Street Reserve, Keilor East
- Pascoe Reserve, Essendon
- Strathaird Reserve, Strathmore

Works included tree and shrub plantings and pathways to improve community access.
Urban Forest Greening Program

Council reserves contain ageing trees approaching their Safe Useable Life Expectancy. While the Significant Tree Protection program helps to protect and maintain our existing large mature trees, the Urban Forest Greening program ensures the continued upgrade of those trees deemed unsafe and no longer viable.

The following parks and reserves were part of the Urban Forest Greening program in 2013/14:

- Boeing Reserve, Strathmore
- Buckley Street median strip, Moonee Ponds
- Kingston Avenue Reserve, Ascot Vale
- Salmon Reserve, Strathmore
- Woodlands Park, Strathmore

In total, 216 trees were planted in these parks and reserves.

Significant Tree protection Program

As a result of the recent drought affecting Victoria, Council has made it a priority to protect Moonee Valley’s significant trees.

In 2013/14, actions undertaken to protect trees as part of this program were:

- 228 elm trees treated for Elm Leaf Beetle infestation.
- Sanitation pruning of large plane trees in Mt Alexander Road and Nicholson Street median strips.
- Pruning of large sugar gums from high-voltage powerlines in Salmon Reserve and the Woodland Street easement.

All street tree planting and open space planting resulted in 2,962 total trees planted across the municipality.

Conservation Program

In 2013/14, key achievements included:

- 6,684 indigenous plants planted to support conservation reserves, and enhance natural bushland areas and urban ecology.
- 75 conservation events held, including 19 educational walks and 47 community activities.
- 530 metres of erosion control material installed on Steele Creek and Moonee Ponds Creek.
- 283 square metres of rain gardens were maintained.
- JH Allan Reserve threatened grassland conservation area – ecological burn across 1,300 square metres was conducted to reduce biomass and increase inter-tussock spaces for wildflowers and *Pimelea spinescens* management.
- Extensive program of ongoing monitoring, weed control and enhancement planting of conservation areas.
- Protection of remnant vegetation via Stormwater Harvesting and Reticulation project completion in Napier Park.
Sustainable waste services

Waste collection is one of the most visible of Council services and the focus continues to be on managing the city’s waste by the most sustainable method possible. In 2013/14, Council achieved a household waste diversion from landfill rate of 46 per cent, which is a minor decrease on the previous year’s diversion rate.

This lower percentage rate can be attributed to a combination of a higher amount of landfill waste; fewer recyclables collected and increased garden waste. The actual amount of diverted waste collected of 20,277 tonnes was higher by one per cent compared to last year.

The waste figures over the last five years are detailed in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial year</th>
<th>2009/10</th>
<th>2010/11</th>
<th>2011/12</th>
<th>2012/13</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landfill</td>
<td>22,003</td>
<td>22,326</td>
<td>22,284</td>
<td>21,807</td>
<td>23,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycle</td>
<td>13,792</td>
<td>13,588</td>
<td>13,180</td>
<td>12,223</td>
<td>12,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden</td>
<td>5,928</td>
<td>8,774</td>
<td>8,543</td>
<td>7,257</td>
<td>8,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total waste</td>
<td>41,723</td>
<td>44,689</td>
<td>44,007</td>
<td>41,287</td>
<td>43,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total waste diverted</td>
<td>19,720</td>
<td>22,362</td>
<td>21,723</td>
<td>19,480</td>
<td>20,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage diverted</td>
<td>47 per cent</td>
<td>50 per cent</td>
<td>49 per cent</td>
<td>47 per cent</td>
<td>46 per cent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Despite the increase in landfill waste in 2013/14, Council continued introducing initiatives to make it easier for residents to recycle while at the same time undertaking community awareness activities to promote the benefits of and options for recycling.

Key initiatives included:

- **Get It Right on Bin Night**
  Council continued to work in partnership with the State Government, Sustainability Victoria and Melbourne’s 30 metropolitan councils in a new education campaign to improve household recycling rates in metropolitan Melbourne. The campaign educated residents on how to recycle and promoted the benefits of recycling. Council distributed brochures and an education kit to residents, provided advertising on local radio and online, and translated educational material into languages other than English.

- **Renew collection**
  Council continued to offer residents the Renew collection service four times a year. Council has committed to providing a reuse recycling option for residents for household items that do not fall within the kerbside waste service.

- **Transfer Station**
  Council purchased a cardboard compactor to allow a greater volume of cardboard to be recycled from the site, which reduced energy use and greenhouse emissions. In addition, Council continued to provide e-waste/television and polystyrene recycling services at the Transfer Station for the community. The Transfer Station continues to explore alternative methods of recycling to reduce waste to landfill.

- **Kerbside contamination education**
  Council provided sustainable waste messages on the new fleet of landfill, recycling and garden waste collection vehicles to educate the community.
Lighting the West bulk street lighting project

In 2013/14, Council commenced procurement and planning for the $2.3 million Lighting the West bulk street-lighting project in partnership with Wyndham, Maribyrnong and Hobsons Bay councils. The project will be implemented over three years. Lighting the West will remove 1,700 tonnes of carbon dioxide from the Moonee Valley municipality and save more than $120,000 every year.

Road Asset Management Plan

The Road Asset Management Plan (RAMP) is one of four asset management plans identified in the Asset Management Strategy for development and review.

The regular review of asset management plans is important for Council to maintain core maturity asset management accreditation as part of the Municipal Association of Victoria's Step Asset Management Program.

In 2013/14 Council completed a review of the RAMP. After a two-month period of community consultation on the draft plan between March and May, Council adopted the final Road Asset Management Plan 2014–17 on 24 June 2014. The adoption of the plan provides a clear direction for road asset management for the next four years and commits Council to road and footpath renewal expenditure of approximately $7 million per financial year.

Facilities Asset Management Plan Building Hierarchy

As part of the Facilities Asset Management Plan (FAMP), work has commenced on developing a hierarchy of the criticality of Council-owned buildings. The purpose of this is to establish the significance and priority of a given building to Council’s services and community against a range of weighted criteria and risk management factors.

In 2013/14, Council completed the gathering of information to identify the criticality of all of Council's buildings and their fit for purpose. This project will continue in 2014/15 to classify all buildings according to four levels of criticality and also the adequacy of existing facilities. This information will provide a valuable resource in the planning for all services and it is fundamental in the review of Council’s Community Facilities Plan and long-term building renewal program.

Asset management maintenance (drainage and roads)

council is responsible for the maintenance, repair, reconstruction and rehabilitation of local roads. Council completed road maintenance works to ensure that the local road network is maintained to standards suitable for all users. Service targets were met and maintenance completed on local roads, footpaths, shared paths and drainage.

Key achievements in 2013/14 included:

- 15,384 square metres of footpath repaired
- 10,590 road inspections
- 12,173 square metres of road infrastructure repaired
- 4,429 drainage pits cleaned
- 50,868 metres of drainage pipes cleaned
- 116 drainage pits repaired
- 1,198 requests for service undertaken

Council has continued to implement processes aimed at ensuring overall amenity and safety around construction sites for the broader community. Council has identified and issued repair orders for damaged assets around building sites, including footpaths, nature strips, kerb and channels, trees, signs, stormwater drains, laneways and the road pavement, as well as ensuring activities are undertaken with appropriate construction management practices.
## Environment events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Number of volunteers</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Tree Day</td>
<td>28 July 2013</td>
<td>Aberfeldie Park</td>
<td>57 volunteers for two hours</td>
<td>1,000 plants planted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean Up Australia Day</td>
<td>2 March 2014</td>
<td>9 community sites and 7 school sites</td>
<td>1,273 volunteers providing 2,546 volunteer hours</td>
<td>220 kg of rubbish collected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Environment Day</td>
<td>5 June 2014</td>
<td>Napier Park</td>
<td>170 students from Strathmore Primary and High schools</td>
<td>Raised awareness of water sensitive urban design, urban ecology and litter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Theme 3: Sustainable living

Clear direction for growth and development of the city

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic objective</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ensure there is clear direction for growth and proactive management of development in the city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Facilitate the provision of a broad range of safe, accessible and sustainable transport modes across the municipality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Encourage housing development that is environmentally sustainable and caters for our diverse existing and future population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Enhance the look and feel of the city through good design</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategic indicator reference | 3.1
---|---
Strategic objective | Ensure there is clear direction for growth and proactive management of development in the city
Strategic indicator | Proportional progress towards completing strategies for all activity centres and incorporating them into the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme
Source | Council

Overall progress to date for Strategic Indicator 3.1 in 2013/14 is as follows:

- Two structure plans were implemented into the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme, which represents proportional progress towards incorporating activity centre strategies.
- North Essendon and Keilor Road Structure Plans were gazetted into the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme on 10 April 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of designated activity centre areas in Moonee Valley</th>
<th>Number of Structure Plans for activity centres under development and review</th>
<th>Number of Structure Plans for activity centres implemented into the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Moonee Valley has six designated activity centres and one neighbourhood activity centre including:

- Moonee Ponds
- Airport West
- North Essendon
- Keilor Road, Niddrie
- Racecourse Road, Flemington
- Union Road, Ascot Vale
- The Essendon Junction area is a nominated neighbourhood activity centre.
Strategic indicator reference 3.2

Strategic objective
Facilitate the provision of a broad range of safe, accessible and sustainable transport modes across the municipality

Strategic indicators
Above inner metropolitan council average satisfaction with traffic management and parking
Increase in the proportion of people reporting that they 'can easily get to places when needed'

Sources
Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey
Annual Community Survey

Overall progress to date for Strategic Indicator 3.2 in 2013/14 is as follows:

- Moonee Valley received a lower rating than the inner metropolitan average in the indicators of traffic management and parking in the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.
- Moonee Valley received a lower rating than in previous years on the indicator of people reporting that they 'can easily get to places when needed'.
- There was no significant change in any of the survey results relevant to this strategic indicator, and the fluctuation is most likely due to sample variation.

Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey – indicator of traffic management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Moonee Valley rating</th>
<th>Inner metropolitan average rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey – indicator of parking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Moonee Valley rating</th>
<th>Inner metropolitan average rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annual Community Survey – indicator of proportion of people reporting that they 'can easily get to places when needed'

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Moonee Valley rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>75.6 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>79.2 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>75.9 per cent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Encourage housing development that is environmentally sustainable and caters for our diverse existing and future population

Increase the number of planning applicants incorporating environmentally sustainable development solutions

Council

Overall progress to date for Strategic Indicator 3.3 in 2013/14 is as follows:

- Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) was implemented into the Planning Scheme through Amendment C108 on 13 March 2014.
- From 13 March 2014, 250 applicants were conditioned to apply environmentally sustainable development solutions before receiving planning permits.
- Prior to 13 March 2014, Council worked with residents and developers to apply environmentally sustainable development solutions on a voluntary basis, however there is no progress data available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of planning applicants</th>
<th>Number of planning applicants since Amendment C108 was implemented into the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme</th>
<th>Number of planning applicants incorporating environmentally sustainable development (WSUD) solutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>1,146 received</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overall Progress to date for Strategic Indicator 3.4 in 2013/14 is as follows:

- Moonee Valley received an equal score with the inner metropolitan average in the indicator of appearance of public areas.

### Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey – indicator of appearance of public areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Moonee Valley rating</th>
<th>Inner Metropolitan Average rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Moonee Valley Planning Scheme Amendment C134 – New Municipal Strategic Statement

The Moonee Valley Planning Scheme is the legal instrument in accordance with the Planning and Environment Act 1987 that guides all Council’s decisions on land use planning and development. It is reviewed to ensure that it is up to date and can address key issues such as population growth.

Council’s Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) in the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme outlines Council’s strategic and policy position on sustainable environment, housing, built environment, activity centres, economic development, transport, and social and physical infrastructure.

In accordance with legislation that specifies a review of the MSS every four years, Council reviewed the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme in 2012/13 and 2013/14.

This planning scheme review focused on Council’s planning policy, and in particular the Municipal Strategic Statement. The planning scheme review made a number of recommendations and actions, many of which were implemented through Amendment C134. Amendment C134 is the formal process for implementing these planning controls into the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme. Additional actions are implemented through other strategic work currently underway ie Amendment C140 (Gaming Policy) and Amendment C117 (Keilor Road and North Essendon Structure Plans) or would require further strategic work to implement.

Amendment C134 directly implements many of the actions of the planning scheme review by:

- Replacing the existing Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) with a new MSS that provides for updated and new objectives and strategies to better respond to the land use planning issues facing Moonee Valley.
- Removes local planning policy Residential Development of Four or More Storeys and merges relevant sections in the MSS.

Council undertook the following actions this year to finalise the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme Review to ensure that the planning scheme provides clear direction for growth and development, and responds to current and emerging issues facing the municipality:

- Community consultation was conducted on both the Planning Scheme Review and Amendment C134 (which formally implements majority of the review) from 7 November 2013 to 13 December 2013.
- The Planning Scheme Review was sent to the Minister for Planning on 3 February 2014 in accordance with direction 5 of Section 12B of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.
- The Panel Hearing for Amendment C134 was held on 3 April 2014.
- Council adopted Amendment C134 on 24 June 2014.
- Amendment C134 was sent to the Minister for Planning for approval on 30 June 2014.
Moonee Valley Planning Scheme Amendment C117 – Keilor Road and North Essendon Structure Plans

Keilor Road and North Essendon are both designated activity centres in the State Government’s most recent planning document, Plan Melbourne.

Council adopted the Keilor Road and North Essendon Structure Plans and Design Guidelines in 2011. Amendment C117 is the formal process for implementing these planning controls into the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme.

The amendment included the following changes to the planning scheme:

- The rezoning of select land within the Keilor Road Activity Centre – and in particular along Keilor Road – from residential to commercial.
- The rezoning of select land within the Keilor Road Activity Centre from industrial to commercial.
- The introduction of a design and development overlay to implement the findings of the Keilor Road and North Essendon Built Form Guidelines.

After considering a Planning Panels Victoria report on Amendment C117, Council adopted the amendment on 25 June 2013 and sent it to the Minister for Planning, who approved it on 17 March 2014. After its gazettal, Amendment C117 was implemented into the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme on 10 April 2014.

Council now has greater weight in terms of making decisions on planning permit applications in these activity centres. In particular, the introduction of the design and development overlay provides better guidance in terms of design outcomes, and the rezonings will give better effect to the land use directions of the structure plans.

Moonee Valley Planning Scheme Amendment C121 – Essendon Airport Overlays

Commonwealth Law under the Airports Act 1996 protects Essendon Airport’s airspace and it is the responsibility of a developer or landowner to ensure that any proposed development does not penetrate the prescribed airspace.

The Moonee Valley Planning Scheme did not make reference to this requirement, so Amendment C121 was prepared in accordance with the National Airport Safeguarding Framework provision to put an overlay in place to ensure that building height does not adversely affect the operations and safety of the airport.

Council prepared the design and development overlays (DDO8 and DDO9), which formed the basis of Amendment C121 and applied height controls to land affected by flight paths around Essendon Airport.

Council adopted Amendment C121 on 23 July 2013 after considering the report from the panel appointed by the Minister for Planning to hear submissions on the proposed amendment. The Minister for Planning approved the amendment on 26 June 2014.

Amendment C121 will now facilitate greater control of development that may impact on the prescribed airspace and operations of Essendon Airport. It will ensure that property owners are aware of the requirements when they buy property in the area, and before they start any development, as a planning permit would be required for any buildings and works over a prescribed height.
Moonee Valley Planning Scheme Amendment C137 – new residential zones

The State Government introduced new residential zones into the planning system in mid-2013. Councils were given until 1 July 2014 to implement the new residential zones, or the Minister for Planning would apply a default General Residential Zone across the municipality.

Council determined on 28 January 2014 that it would use a process set up by the Minister for Planning called a Standing Advisory Committee, which provided advice on the suitability of the residential zones and the method proposed to introduce the zones into the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme. The aim of this process was to assist councils in applying the new residential zones by 1 July 2014.

Council prepared draft Amendment C137 (New Residential Zones), and consulted on this draft amendment from mid-March to mid-April 2014. Consultation included information sessions with the community and an interactive online map, which was used for the first time. Following this, the Standing Advisory Committee held a public hearing to hear submissions in relation to the new residential zones.

Although Council has decided on its preferred application of the residential zones to its municipality and formally articulated them in its draft Amendment C137, the Minister for Planning announced in June 2014 that those councils that were involved in the Standing Advisory Committee would have the default General Residential Zone applied on 1 July 2014, as an interim measure.

The outcome of the Standing Advisory Committee process will be reported to the community when it is available.

Complete Streets

Council is the first local government in Victoria to adopt the Complete Streets philosophy into its city design and development. The Complete Streets principles sit within the City Sustainability Policy, adopted by Council on 27 August 2013.

Complete Streets is a philosophy where streets are designed for people, not just cars. It applies liveable street design, which the community uses as destinations and which provides access and experiences for all people, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. It is an effective way to apply the sustainability and liveability goals that the Moonee Valley community has told Council it seeks, which came through Council’s consultation for MV2035 and for the City Sustainability Policy.

The philosophy will be progressively applied in Moonee Valley by adopting the Complete Street Guidelines for Urban Street Design and piloting ‘shared zones’. Council commenced planning for Complete Streets with an interdisciplinary working group of staff that will take into consideration the needs of the environment, engineering, transport, urban design and planning. The Complete Streets working group has outlined current and future opportunities where the principles can be applied.
Streetlife

Moonee Valley’s local shopping precincts are important to the strength of its economy. Retail is the municipality’s highest employer generating 5,355 jobs or 17.5 per cent of total jobs, many of these employees live locally and a significant number of retail jobs are in small, independently owned businesses.

Council plays an important role in supporting the long-term sustainability of Moonee Valley’s local shopping precincts through revitalisation to ensure they remain the heart of the community, protecting local jobs and providing a meeting place where locals and visitors want to visit.

In 2013/14, Council, with funding from the State Government, undertook the Streetlife project, which was designed to engage the community, small business and trader associations to share their ideas for how they want to see local shopping precincts develop in Moonee Valley. The project set out to achieve the following objectives:

- Bridge the gap between business and community expectations for Moonee Valley’s local shopping precincts by providing a communication channel to assist traders in identifying changing consumer demand.
- Encourage the local community to have more ownership of its local centres and understand the importance of supporting local businesses.
- Inspire local business and trader associations to think more creatively and broadly when marketing and promoting their centres, which may not necessarily use traditional methods.
- Identify three pilot place-making projects involving the community and traders to activate the street.

The project consisted of extensive community consultation and a series of local workshops that were undertaken during March and April 2014. The consultation included setting up blackboards in each of the four identified local shopping precincts, namely, Moonee Ponds, Niddrie, Flemington and Ascot Vale for a period of three weeks and people were encouraged to write on the boards their views about what worked well and what could be improved in the precincts. In addition, postcards and posters were distributed to a wide variety of businesses within each precinct to obtain their feedback, and a short online survey was also conducted.

The workshops delivered in each of the four identified shopping precincts were open to both the community and local business traders, were interactive and consisted of a walking tour of the shopping precinct and a group discussion facilitated by well-renowned international placemaker David Engwicht.

The common outcome from the consultation and workshops was that each of the precincts would benefit from place-making to highlight the distinctive characteristics of their particular shopping strip centres. Three community-driven pilot projects delivered place-making outcomes for Flemington, Ascot Vale and Niddrie.

Overall, the project was considered a success. A total of 98 community and business members participated in the project and of those participants 91 per cent were satisfied with the outcomes.

The results of the project were that:

- local business traders became more aware of their local community needs
- local business traders and the community became more informed and knowledgeable about place-making principles
- local business traders and the community became inspired and motivated to make positive changes and implement projects to improve their local shopping precincts
- relationships were further developed and/or strengthened between Council, business and the community

Feedback from the Streetlife project will inform future place-making in Moonee Valley.
**Municipal Parking Strategy**

The management of parking is critical to achieving high levels of amenity, good accessibility and continuing sustainability.

The Municipal Parking Strategy provides a long-term strategic direction to transition Moonee Valley to a more sustainable city. The strategy provides Council with eight strategic tools to manage parking pressures:

- Parking Demand Management Framework
- Kerbside Road Space User Hierarchy
- Parking Permit Policy
- Parking on Narrow Streets Management Framework
- Moonee Valley Planning Scheme
- Local Area Traffic Management Precincts
- Parking Enforcement Operational Guidelines
- Municipal Parking Strategy Implementation Plan

Key achievements in 2013/14 were:

- Implementation of the Narrow Streets Program, in line with the Parking on Narrow Street Framework, to restore ‘normal road rules’ to these streets and improve access, parking availability, and safety.
- Implementation of parking changes to approximately 130 streets, in line with the Parking Demand Management Framework and the Kerbside Road Space User Hierarchy, to improve access, parking availability, and safety for the community.
- Implementation of the Parking Permit Policy, which reduced the number of parking permits by 40 per cent and the number of second visitor parking permits held by dwellings by 80 per cent. Such measures are designed to encourage the community to utilise other transport modes and reduce their reliance on private vehicle use.
- Development of a draft parking management plan to address the main parking issues for the Fletcher and St Therese’s precincts.
Affordable Housing Action Plan

Affordable housing was identified as a key issue in Moonee Valley in the Next Generation 2035 Community Vision, and in response the Affordable Housing Action Plan was developed and adopted by Council in July 2013.

The action plan identified projects to work towards more affordable housing, including partnering with and engaging with other levels of government, housing providers, community organisations and the community.

Key actions in 2013/14:

- Council held a workshop in October 2013 to examine housing issues in Moonee Valley and explore how Council can work with its partners to support affordable housing outcomes in the municipality. Approximately 22 people attended from housing associations, providers, community organisations and Council, and a report was produced from the workshop detailing key discussion points.

- Wintringham and Port Phillip Housing associations presented to a public forum at Council in February 2014, giving the Moonee Valley Councillors an opportunity to learn about the work of two key housing associations in the municipality and affordable housing issues facing the community.

- Council undertook a number of advocacy activities related to affordable housing through letters and submissions to Senator Jan McLucas, the Senate Inquiry on Affordable Housing and to Lionsville in its application to the National Rental Affordability Scheme.

Through this work, Council is continuing to work with its partners to improve access to safe, secure, appropriate and affordable housing in the City of Moonee Valley.

The next annual action plan relating to affordable housing has been developed and will be finalised and implemented in 2014/15.

Moonee Valley Planning Scheme Amendment C131 – Licensed Premises Policy

Council has long recognised the impact that some activities associated with late-night licensed venues can have on surrounding residents and the wider community. Aside from issues of safety and alcohol-fuelled violence, the most common problems in the City of Moonee Valley relate to noise and negative amenity impacts.

As the population and number of licensed venues within the City of Moonee Valley increase, it is important that appropriate mechanisms are in place to ensure that new licensed premises do not exacerbate existing amenity problems.

Council considered the best way to manage and reduce the negative impacts associated with any future increase in the number of licensed venues was to develop a local planning policy covering such matters.

A licensed premises policy was developed in 2012 and after stakeholder and community feedback, Council commenced the formal process of including the policy in the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme as Amendment C131. This amendment was subject to further consultation and a State Government panel was appointed to hear the submissions.

After considering the panel’s report, Council adopted Amendment C131 on 27 August 2013 and the Minister for Planning approved it in October 2013. The amendment was formally included in the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme on 31 October 2013.

With Amendment C131 in place, the Licensed Premises Policy enables Council to:

- identify appropriate locations and trading hours for licensed premises
- effectively manage the amenity conflicts between licensed premises and other uses
- establish an appropriate mix of licensed premises relative to other commercial, retail and residential uses
- encourage good venue design for licensed premises
- provide reasonable commercial opportunities for the trading of licensed premises

Council can now seek appropriate information with any application for new or expanded licensed premises, and the policy provides Council with the tools and decision guidelines to make effective decisions about such premises.
Moonee Valley Planning Scheme Amendment C136 – Neighbourhood Character Overlays for Ascot Vale

On 21 August 2012, Council adopted the Moonee Valley Character Study that identified nine areas within the municipality that displayed exemplary character and were predominantly intact in terms of their consistent built form. It was considered, therefore, that they warranted planning controls in the form of neighbourhood character overlays to preserve their distinctive qualities.

Four of the nine areas were included in Amendment C128, which applied a neighbourhood character overlay to protect them and was adopted by Council on 23 April 2013. Two of the areas became part of heritage studies. The planning controls for one area were considered sufficient as an existing overlay limits subdivision. The two remaining significant areas located in Ascot Vale were included within the Union Road Activity Centre Structure Plan boundary and were proposed as sub-precincts within the Activity Centre Zone as part of Amendment C119 to the planning scheme.

However, on 23 July 2013, Council resolved to abandon Amendment C119, which left the two Ascot Vale areas unprotected. Consequently, Amendment C136 was prepared, which specifically sought to apply neighbourhood character overlays to the Munro Street and St Leonards Road areas in Ascot Vale. Council adopted Amendment C136 on 25 February 2014, the Minister for Planning approved it on 28 May 2014 and it was formally implemented into the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme on 5 June 2014.

Building Encroachments and Projections Impacting Public Space Policy

In response to an emerging trend of developers maximising site coverage leading to building encroachments beyond title boundaries, Council developed the Building Encroachments and Projections Impacting Public Space Policy.

The policy is designed to protect public assets and infrastructure. The policy provides guidance to Council on regulation of building encroachments and projections in public space, including a right of way, road reserves and other Council freehold land.

The policy consists of guiding principles and public interest criteria that are applied to the assessment of development proposals where there may be encroachment issues.

The policy ensures that better design options and more sustainable developments are delivered within Moonee Valley whilst ensuring public assets are not compromised or burdened by any encroachment into Council land.

The policy was adopted by Council at its meeting on 27 August 2013.
Statutory and strategic planning services

Council provides advice to the community on land use planning and development and the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme. This service includes advice on when planning permit applications are required, what needs to be considered when applying for a permit and the information to be provided with planning applications.

Advice is provided to the community and developers on:

- appropriately located housing growth in line with the community’s needs into the future
- providing a diverse, affordable and accessible range of housing
- identification and protection of heritage buildings and places, and heritage overlays
- protection of neighbourhood character
- encouraging built form that contributes to a healthy and safe environment
- the provision of open-space areas
- protecting the environment, and river and creek corridors and waterways
- promoting sustainable transport choices
- making better use of Moonee Valley’s physical and community infrastructure
- implementing environmentally sustainable design solutions including water sensitive urban design (WSUD)
- interpreting the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme and the relevant zones and overlays

In 2013/14, Council reviewed its internal planning application processes to align with the newly legislated fast track process introduced by the State Government, named VicSmart, which is aimed at fast-tracking straight forward and minor planning applications for both homes and commercial premises. Planning applications that meet the criteria must be decided within 10 business days.

The new VicSmart process will supersede Council’s current non-compulsory existing fast-track process, which allows for a seven-day turn-around time.

Examples of applications that were fast-tracked included minor building or works like small extensions, fences in a heritage overlay area, swimming pools, garages or carports, advertising signs and two-lot subdivisions. These applications were exempt from advertising and objector appeals.

In addition to over-the-counter service at the Civic Centre, which continued to be popular for viewing plans and receiving planning applications, Council also provides a dedicated planning query phone line to provide advice and information on zoning, heritage, planning processes and development options for land use. In 2013/14, Council responded to approximately 43,000 phone calls, of which 14,000 were attended to through the dedicated query phone line.

In the 2013/14 financial year, further improvements were made to the online advertising initiative introduced in 2012/13. The online advertising period was increased from four weeks to six weeks to allow residents more opportunity to consider applications. Other improvements included providing residents with regular updates on all existing and proposed major developments, such as the Moonee Valley Racing Club development.

As part of its statutory obligation, Council assessed planning permit applications against the Planning Scheme requirements, which include state and local policy guidelines.

A summary is provided below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning applications</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development applications</td>
<td>1,146³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subdivision applications (statement of compliancy and certifications)</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total applications received</td>
<td>1,410</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning application decisions</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development applications</td>
<td>1,066⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subdivision applications (statement of compliancy and certifications)</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of decisions made within 60 days</td>
<td>620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total decisions by Council</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

³127 of applications were Heritage applications
⁴982 decisions was made under delegation
### Other planning approvals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decisions resulting in demolition consent</td>
<td>444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape plans and requests for changes to existing plans via Secondary Consent</td>
<td>701</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Planning decisions referred to VCAT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VCAT decisions</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of VCAT decisions in Council’s favour</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Statutory Planning services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-application meetings (development applications)</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-application meetings (heritage applications)</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Internal panels to review applications and obtain specialist input

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number of Panel Meetings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Panel</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Developments Panel</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Council also provided advice on a range of externally funded development and infrastructure works, with the aim of ensuring the best outcomes for Council and the community. This included providing engineering advice on planning permits, checking and approving development engineering plans to ensure compliance and construction supervision of infrastructure that will be handed over to Council for future ownership.

During 2013/14, key developments constructed and various stages handed over to Council included:

- Valley Lake Estate – Stage 9B
- Ascot Chase – Stages 3–5 (ongoing)
- Valley Lake Estate – Stage 6

In addition, Council managed the approval and construction of numerous smaller-scale projects such as stormwater drains, right of ways and paths that were transferred to Council from private developments.

Another new initiative established by Council in the 2013/14 financial year was environmental sensitive design, which extensively involved water sensitive urban design (WSUD). During the year, the WSUD guidelines, general information and fact sheets were produced to support compliance with the policy. Prior to the policy’s introduction, Council worked with the community to incorporate WSUD on a voluntary basis.

In 2013/14 Council also requested (under general provisions in the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme) that all development applications for buildings of four storeys or more provide an environmentally sustainable development (ESD) statement or sustainable management report (SMP) report. This provides information to Council as to how the development proposes to respond to sustainable building initiatives in the following areas:

- Indoor environment quality – daylight, internal comfort, natural ventilation.
- Water efficiency – efficient fixtures and fittings, reduction of use of mains water, re-use of water.
- Stormwater management – minimising watercourse pollution, maximising stormwater capture, implementation of WSUD treatment measures.
- Transport – provision of adequate bicycle parking, provision of showers and lockers, Green Travel Plan.
- Urban ecology – maintaining enhancing the site’s ecological value, creating resident amenity, encouraging biodiversity areas.
- Innovation – encourage enhancement of best practice sustainable design standards, new technology, and good passive design approach.
- Construction and building management – provision of a Building User’s Guide to ensure occupants can manage and maintain ESD initiatives efficiently.
Engineering services

Asset protection

The majority of building works within the municipality require construction materials to be moved to and from properties. Such work has the potential to damage Council assets around the building site such as (but not limited to) footpaths, vehicle crossings, parking bays, nature strips and trees planted in them, kerb and channels, signs, stormwater drainage facilities, laneways and the road pavement.

Council has developed a process to ensure that Council assets within the road reserve are protected or repaired if damaged. To that end Council issues asset protection permits to property owners during building construction works in the municipality.

In 2013/14:

- 922 asset protection permits were issued
- 97 sites required rectification works to Council’s assets, which were undertaken by the owner to the value of $289,836
- 57 sites required enforcement action from local laws to restore Council’s assets to the required standard
Integrated Transport Plan

Council has developed an Integrated Transport Plan to manage future transport issues facing the municipality. The Integrated Transport Plan aims to:

- reduce the need to travel, number of trips and travel lengths
- reduce congestion and manage private and heavy vehicles
- reduce environmental impact and improve the look and feel of the city
- improve transport safety
- create a more inclusive society

The plan provides the strategic framework to guide Council decision-making, and addresses transport issues in five areas:

**Walking**

Council will improve pedestrian connectivity within Moonee Valley and to neighbouring municipalities and build new pedestrian links.

**Cycling**

Council will improve cycling safety and upgrade cycling routes to provide access to a sustainable form of transport that helps to reduce traffic congestion.

**Public transport**

Council will improve geographic coverage of public transport in Moonee Valley, plan for additional routes and advocate to the State and Federal Governments for new routes and improved service timelines.

**Traffic and parking**

Council is committed to reducing long-term traffic congestion, and creating a hierarchy of road use to use the roads more effectively for all forms of transport.

**Land use and community transport**

Council is committed to planning and developing public transport routes around current and future activity centres, to support sustainable economic growth.

Key actions in 2013/14 included:

- Wayfinding signage was installed at North Essendon and Keilor Road. Vinyl wraps for plinths were used to decrease costs and make it easier to update the signage in the future.
- Tactiles and new hardstands were installed at 31 bus stops to comply with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.
- A new bus stop was installed on Fullarton Road.
- Pedestrian crossings at the Moonee Ponds Junction were upgraded, which made it easier for people with a wheelchair to navigate.

Council will commence reviewing the Integrated Transport Plan and develop a discussion paper in 2014/15, with community consultation on the discussion paper scheduled to take place in 2015/16.
Craigeburn Rail Corridor Walking and Cycling Route

A key action in the Walking and Cycling Strategy is to develop a walking and cycling route by connecting local streets along the Craigeburn Rail Corridor from Essendon Station to Newmarket Station.

This project aims to promote local trips and connections to public transport. It will also connect to the CBD and potentially to routes being developed along the Craigeburn Rail Corridor in Moreland and Hume and make it easier for people to walk or ride a bike by providing a convenient and safe option for those who do not feel comfortable travelling on busy streets.

After extensive community consultation on the options for improving walking and cycling along the Craigeburn Rail Corridor, the majority of respondents supported making improvements for walkers and cyclists along the corridor from Essendon to Newmarket.

Council noted the feedback and gave its in-principle support for the proposed route subject to further consultation with some residents, VicRoads and a bus company on the concept plans at its meeting in May 2013.

In 2013/14, an Independent Road Safety Audit took place, which involved further community consultation. All outstanding issues were resolved resulting in strong support for the route from the community and State Government.

Council approved the revised Craigeburn Rail Corridor Walking and Cycling Route which has the principal route on the west side of the rail line and a complementary route on the east side at its meeting on 25 March 2014.
Local Area Traffic Management studies

As part of the Municipal Parking Strategy, 22 local area traffic management (LATM) precincts have been identified within Moonee Valley for the development of traffic management and parking management plans. The LATM priority and implementation program was based on an evaluation ranking of individual roads in Moonee Valley in terms of reactive and proactive criteria.

Following the ranking process, the Fletcher and St Therese’s LATM precincts were identified for their plans to be developed in the 2013/14 financial year.

After extensive community consultation, traffic surveys, site inspections and investigations, traffic management plans for both precincts were finalised.

The objectives of the plans included reducing the incidence and potential for vehicle and pedestrian crashes in the areas, improving the safety of local streets by reducing traffic speeds and discouraging through traffic from using these local areas. The plans included the development of a range of proposals designed to increase safety and address traffic concerns raised by the community, while maintaining adequate levels of accessibility for local residents, local businesses and emergency services.

The plans will be submitted to Council for adoption in early 2014/15.

Urgent traffic investigation works

Throughout the financial year, Council receives requests to investigate traffic management issues. Council investigated and implemented 189 various traffic management works and investigations in Moonee Valley in order to create a safer road environment, reduce vehicle speeds and volumes, increase pedestrian and cyclist safety and improve the utilisation of existing car parking spaces.
Northwest 4

NorthWest 4 is a community road safety group that investigates, supports and develops programs to encourage behaviour change, particularly in young drivers.

The group consists of Moonee Valley, Hume, Moreland and Darebin councils working together with community members to reduce the over-representation of young people in fatalities and crashes and improve the safety of vulnerable road users such as cyclists.

The specific objectives for this road safety program are to:

- Support and develop behaviour change programs for young people aged 17 to 25 within the NorthWest 4 region.
- Increase participation and uptake of road safety programs promoted by NorthWest 4.
- Develop partnerships between Council, Victoria Police and other relevant partners that will influence and encourage behaviour change to reduce incidence of serious injuries to young drivers aged 17-25.
- Investigate and develop opportunities to deliver road safety messages to young people within their networks and social networks.

In 2013/14, the following actions were undertaken for this program:

- A funding application to continue the program in 2014/15 was submitted and was successful.
- Each council within the group distributed bike lights to disadvantaged groups. In Moonee Valley, members of the Men’s Shed received free bike lights. The Men’s Shed also conducted bicycle repairs and provided bikes to residents at the Flemington Housing Estate.
- Northwest 4 provided nine Fit2drive workshops across the four councils, with 420 year 11 students participating from Moonee Valley.
- Three 'Cyclewise' sessions were provided to raise awareness of cycling safety.
- A mobile phone awareness campaign was delivered, which included Roadmode and new texting laws promoted at youth events, on websites and through social media.
- Two Moonee Valley sporting clubs each held a 'Looking After Our Mates' safety workshop to which a total of 80 people attended.
- Hoon promotions continued, with the Hoon brochure being distributed to residents in streets where speed trailers were located. Speed trailers were placed in a total of 41 streets and 1,789 brochures were distributed.
Walking School Bus

The Walking School Bus program (WSB) is an initiative led by Council in which two adult volunteer leaders accompany a group of children who walk to school.

The benefits delivered by the WSB program include:

- improving children’s overall health
- improving children’s road safety skills
- developing their physical and social skills
- building friendships
- gaining a sense of independence
- decreasing traffic congestion around schools
- reducing greenhouse gas pollution
- strengthening relations between the community and Council

Council audits the routes to ensure safety for the children, and recruits and trains volunteer leaders from Moonee Valley schools and the Moonee Valley community to accompany children to school safely.

In 2013/14:

- 20 new adult recruits completed training and commenced as walking volunteers on the WSB program, taking the total number of volunteers to 134
- 58 new children registered for the program, taking the total to 650 children now walking to school
- two new schools commenced the WSB program – St John Bosco’s and Our Lady’s of Nativity

Council also worked with Victoria Walks, a walking health promotion charity, to audit and plot the route to St Monica’s Primary. Victoria Walks promoted one of Council’s WSB routes as a successful community safety initiative.

Essendon Traffic School

The Essendon Traffic School offers educational sessions to children from kindergarten to year three. It is a safe place for children to practice riding bicycles and learning about road rules on a mini road set up with road signs, railway bells and traffic lights. These sessions complement school safety and transport education programs.

The traffic school is also open Saturday mornings and is available for private party hire on evenings and weekends.

In 2013/14, a new ticket booth was built and two additional toilets installed, which have created a much-needed amenities upgrade for the children and teachers attending the traffic school.

In this financial year:

- 178 education classes were held for a total of 5,340 children
- 255 private parties were held
- 1,909 people attended during private hire

Moonee Valley City Council has operated the Essendon Traffic School since 2002, and it runs as a not-for-profit community facility.
Walk to School in November

Council received funding of $10,000 from VicHealth to participate in the Walk to School in November event, which is designed to raise awareness of the physical, environmental and social benefits of active transport (walking to school) and encourage children to walk to and from school more often.

Parents and children were encouraged to start walking to and from school on the first day of November and keep it up each school day throughout the month.

Approximately 3,500 students from 16 Moonee Valley primary schools participated in the Walk to School in November event. Debney Meadows Primary School secured top spot in the western metropolitan region for the highest number of kilometres walked in the month. Eighty-three students from Debney Meadows Primary School took part in the competition, completing 2,682 walks totalling more than 1,900 kilometres.

Council also held a forum for parents of school-aged and preschool children on 16 October 2013 with special guest Associate Professor Paul Tranter from University of New South Wales Canberra to examine the health issues for children and parents associated with time commitments that all families face when sending their children to school.