



THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

MUNICIPAL EARLY YEARS PLAN 2018–22

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Greater Geelong acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of the lands in our region the Wathaurong People and pays respect to the Elders past present and emerging.

FOREWORD BY THE MAYOR



Our *Municipal Early Years Plan 2018-2022* outlines how we can improve the health and wellbeing of children aged 0-8 and their families across the Greater Geelong region over the next four years.

With a rapidly increasing population, it's important we continue to provide the services and support for

this growing number of families to help children achieve their full potential.

There's a number of different areas we will focus on including advocacy, funding high-quality services, facilitating partnerships and planning infrastructure and services.

The Greater Geelong region is a wonderful place to bring up children. This plan ensures we can continue to improve on our liveability and the support we offer all families.

We will continue to work in partnership with stakeholders to deliver services including maternal and child health, kindergartens, school holiday programs and leisure and recreation facilities, enhancing the lives of children and families in the region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Harwood'.

Cr Bruce Harwood
Mayor City of Greater Geelong (2018)



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our *Municipal Early Years Plan 2018–22* aims to improve the health and wellbeing of children aged 0–8 years in the City of Greater Geelong.

The plan is important for the high number of children and families living in our municipality now, as well as those we expect will join us in the next four years. It incorporates feedback from the community engagement process used to develop our clever and creative vision, focusing on what is valued by our community and aspirations for the future.

The plan has four themes to guide the practice of early years services over the next four years. These bring together an understanding of our population, the early years' service system, government policies and funding and community aspirations for the next four years.

OUR FOUR THEMES:



Supporting families to help children achieve their full potential;



Promoting high-quality, innovative services;



Providing early and sustained support for those who need it most;



Providing accessible and inclusive services.



INTRODUCTION

Our Municipal Early Years Plan 2018–22 aims to improve the health and wellbeing of children aged 0–8 years in the City of Greater Geelong.

An agreement between the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Department of Education and Training underpins early years planning in all Victorian councils. In this agreement, local government is recognised as a leader for all early years services in the municipality, as well as an important organisation with a broader role to play in building communities.

There is a large population of children and families currently living in the City of Greater Geelong. Forecast population growth should see this increase significantly over the next four years.

While we don't control all the factors affecting the lives of families and children, we do have a close connection with them through:

- the services we provide;
- the organisations we partner with;
- the work we do with other levels of government to represent our community and seek the resources for children and families.

The plan therefore focuses on areas of influence and actions that we can most impact.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



TOTAL POPULATION – FROM 2016 TO 2036¹

- 238,605 in 2016
- 282,038 in 2026
- 325,779 in 2036

IN 2016:

- 15,301 children aged 0–4 years
 - 6.4 per cent of the population
 - fourth largest municipality in Victoria
 - expected increase of 3,297 by 2036;
- 14,835 children aged 5–9 years
 - 6.2 per cent of the population
 - expect an increase of 4,037 by 2036;
- Suburbs which are expected to increase by more than 100 children of 0–4yrs by 2036 are:²
 - Armstrong Creek;
 - Mt Duneed;
 - Marshall and Charlemont;
 - Curlewis;
 - Lovely Banks and Batesford;
 - Herne Hill and Fyansford.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION³

One per cent of the municipal population identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander through the

Australian Bureau of Statistics census. The census is usually regarded as showing less than the numbers who live in the municipality. There has been a significant increase from 1,789 in 2011 to 2,411 in 2016.

CULTURE AND LANGUAGE DIVERSITY⁴

There is a significant variation in the social and economic circumstances of people living in our region. We need to consider these differences when planning for services. Information about these variations can be viewed through the community profile at geelongcity.vic.gov.au and is shown in statistics such as the *Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas* (SEIFA) and the Australian Early Development Census.

Eleven per cent of our population speak a language other than English at home, with the following being the most frequently spoken languages:

- Italian;
- Croatian;
- Mandarin;
- Persian/Dari;
- Macedonian.

The greatest change in languages spoken between 2011 and 2016 was an increase in Mandarin, Persian/Dari and Punjabi speakers, and a small reduction in Italian.

In terms of cultural diversity, our top five ancestries for population were:

- English (108,784 people or 28.4 per cent);
- Australian (101,773 people or 26.6 per cent);
- Irish (37,278 people or 9.7 per cent);
- Scottish (32,518 people or 8.5 per cent);
- German (12,555 people or 3.3 per cent).

FAMILY TYPES

- 31,365 people living in coupled families with dependents (43.1 per cent of households);
- 11,767 people living in one parent families, with dependents (16.2 per cent of households);
- 977 people living in other families (1.3 per cent of households).

NEED FOR ASSISTANCE⁵

- 207 children aged 0–4 years of age needed assistance due to a severe or profound disability (1.4 per cent of the age group, compared to 1.1 per cent for Greater Melbourne);
- 660 children aged 5–9 years of age needed assistance due to a severe or profound disability (4.6 per cent of the age group, compared to 3 per cent for Greater Melbourne).

AGE GROUPS⁶

Greater Geelong has a fairly even spread of people across all age groups, with 'Parents and Homebuilders (35–49 years)' making up the largest segment of the population.



SERVICE AGE GROUP (YEARS)	NUMBER	%	GREATER MELBOURNE %
Babies and Pre-Schoolers (0 to 4)	14,347	6.1	6.4
Primary Schoolers (5 to 11)	19,725	8.5	8.5
Secondary Schoolers (12 to 17)	16,658	7.1	6.7
Tertiary Education and Independence (18 to 24)	21,579	9.2	10.0
Young Workforce (25 to 34)	29,642	12.7	16.3
Parents and Homebuilders (35 to 49)	44,278	19.0	21.1
Older Workers and Pre-Retirees (50 to 59)	29,764	12.8	11.9
Empty Nesters and Retirees (60 to 69)	27,484	11.8	9.3
Seniors (70 to 84)	23,488	10.1	7.7
Elderly (85 and over)	6,460	2.8	2.0
Total	233,425	100.0	100.0

¹ .id the population experts, 2017, population and household forecasts.

² .id community, 2017, City of Greater Geelong; population and age structure map, <https://forecast.id.com.au/geelong/population-age-structure-map> (accessed on 6 June 2018).

³ Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011 and 2016 (Usual residence). Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.

⁴ SEIFA 2016, Census Quick snapshot Geelong, http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/203?opendocument (accessed on 6 June 2018).

⁵ City of Greater Geelong Community Profile 2016, Need for assistance with core activity, <https://profile.id.com.au/geelong/assistance> (accessed on 4 June 2018).

⁶ City of Greater Geelong Community Profile 2016, Service Age Groups, <https://profile.id.com.au/geelong/service-age-groups> (accessed on 4 June 2018).

COUNCIL'S ROLE IN THE EARLY YEARS

As a local government we will work in partnership with families, children and stakeholders to support and provide coordinated services and programs within the community. We will continue to lead and advocate for services that support children to reach their full potential through innovative services and activities. We will do this through:

Advocating to state and federal government to attract the services and infrastructure we need to support our growing population and support vulnerable members of our community;

Funding high-quality and coordinated services for all children in the community, in partnership with others;

Supporting and developing early years professionals in their knowledge, skills and practice;

Facilitating partnerships that result in an integrated approach to delivering services and building relationships with families across the early years;

Planning infrastructure and services to meet the needs of all children and families.



COUNCIL'S DIRECT DELIVERY OF EARLY YEARS SERVICES: FAMILY SERVICES

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

The City provides the universal maternal and child health (MCH) service across Greater Geelong to all families with children up to the age of six years. Families can access support for their child's development through key age stage visits with a MCH nurse. During these visits families have access to information, guidance, support in a range of areas such as breastfeeding, nutrition, growth and development. MCH nurses will also make referrals to other support services.

OUTREACH

In addition to the universal MCH program, The City provides an enhanced maternal and child health service. This service is designed to support children and families with additional needs in the form of targeted actions and interventions.

Further supports offered through the Outreach team include; a parenting assessment and skill development service (PASDS), *Stronger Families*, and Integrated Family Services which provide a more intensive level of support.

The Outreach team is comprised of multidisciplinary professionals such as MCH nurses, social workers, and early parenting educators.

EARLY YEARS MANAGEMENT – KINDERGARTEN

The City operates a number of stand alone sessional and integrated kindergarten programs under the Early Years Management model. As an early years manager we aim to promote a long term vision towards a more integrated and sustainable early childhood strategy. Through building strong and effective governance and facilitating partnership arrangements with key stakeholders we hope to maximise the participation of all eligible children across the municipality.

EARLY START KINDERGARTEN

Early Start Kindergarten (ESK) provides eligible three year old children with 15 hours of funded kindergarten per week. Children eligible for this program must be three years of age and have had contact with Child Protection or children who are Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islanders.

EDUCATION AND CARE

We operate a range of quality child care options across Greater Geelong. These include integrated child and family centres, long day care centres and stand-alone kindergartens. In addition to these centre based services we also provide family day care and school holiday programs.

LONG DAY CARE

City Learning and Care centres provide centre based long day education and care programs for children from birth to 6 years. They are located across the municipality. The hours of operation support both working and non-working families.

FAMILY DAY CARE

Family day care (FDC) is a long day care service operated from a qualified educators home. Children are provided with an individual program that supports their educational, emotional, physical, and social development in a safe, stimulating small group environment.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

The School Holiday Program is a fun, inclusive and flexible program designed for children 5–12 years of age who are attending Primary School. A range of activities and experiences are on offer every day that build upon your

child's skills, knowledge and understanding as well as their curiosity and imagination. Professional and qualified staff are on hand to help children build their cooperation skills, respect and independence, all the while ensuring they enjoy their holidays in a safe, fun and welcoming environment.

PLAYGROUP

The state government provides funding for The City to deliver supported playgroups across Greater Geelong. Children and families who may benefit from extra ideas about how to use everyday opportunities and activities to enhance their child's early literacy and learning in the home, will be supported by facilitators to gain skills and confidence to encourage this learning. An important focus is on parent child interactions.

PARENTING PROGRAMS

The City is funded by the state government to deliver parenting programs to Greater Geelong and the western region. This service aims to strengthen parenting skills and family relationships by ensuring that parents have access to high quality parenting information, skills training and support. A variety of programs supporting parents from early childhood through to the teenage years are available each term across the municipality. These parenting programs are both one off sessions with key note speakers and programs that run for 4–6 weeks with a parenting facilitator guiding the training.

BEST START

Best Start is an early years initiative to support early years services to provide the best possible environment, experiences and care for children from birth to age eight. Best Start partnerships use local data and community knowledge to identify those who are experiencing vulnerability at their sites. Communities and service providers collaborate to address issues as they are experienced at a neighborhood or regional level. Best Start develops a logic model and devises strategies and actions to test through plan, do, study, act cycles. These trial cycles can then influence systemic change and achieve the Best Start outcomes.



PARKS AND GARDENS

TREE UNIT

The City's *Urban Forest Strategy* focuses on community engagement programs that include community tree planting days. An outreach program engages with local primary school children in learning activities about urban forests and each child is given a tree to plant.

BOTANIC GARDENS

The Botanic Gardens provide a free, safe, child friendly environment for the community. This is complimented by the all abilities playspace and recreational facilities in surrounding Eastern Park. The gardens deliver public programs including activities for children through school education programs, and nature focused school holiday programs for families. Public program events including the Big Play Day and Botanic Gardens Day which are family friendly with activities designed to encourage engagement in nature. The gardens education program supports professional development through the City's Nature Play Network, introducing playgroup facilitators to learning opportunities for families and professional development for teachers.

LEISURE AND RECREATION SERVICES

The City recognises that the provision and management of leisure, sports and aquatic facilities plays an important role in maintaining personal quality of life and as a result contributes to overall community wellbeing. Families have a range of options provided through the leisure and recreation services to participate with their children in activities that promote health and wellbeing as well as specifically water safe practices.

WEBSTARS SWIM SCHOOL

Webstar's Swim School provides lessons for children from six months of age at Leisurelink, Bellarine Aquatic and Sports Centre, Splashdown and Waterworld with qualified Instructors. Using the Royal Lifesaving Society of Australia's Swim and Survive Program, children learn water safety and survival skills and develop stroke techniques.

SCHOOL SWIMMING LESSONS

Leisurelink, Bellarine Aquatic and Sports Centre (BASC), Splashdown and Waterworld run lessons for over 50 schools in the Geelong and Bellarine region, providing water safety, survival skills to children in the local community.

AQUATIC FAMILY FUN

A wide range of aquatic activities to keep children entertained including waterparks, splashpads, waterslides and aquatic inflatables, aquatic fun activities suited for toddlers through to teenagers.



CRÈCHE AND OCCASIONAL CARE

Fully registered crèches are located onsite at each of the leisure centres catering for children from six weeks to school age allowing parents/guardians the ability to focus on their health and wellbeing whilst their children are cared for in a safe and nurturing environment.

KIDS FITNESS PROGRAMS

Leisure and recreation programs for children include: junior soccer, gymnastics and toddler play at BASC. Children are taught by qualified coaches assisting children to learn agility, co-ordination social interaction, and skills and drills, in a fun, safe social environment.

EVENTS

The City coordinates a series of child and family events based on significant national days and weeks, such as Children's Week and National Playgroup Week. This meets a key priority in supporting activities to improve social connections in our community.

DIRECT PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The City provides a range of infrastructure that supports children and families across Greater Geelong. This includes outdoor play spaces, bike paths, kindergarten and playgroup facilities, libraries and sport and leisure centres. We're also responsible for the planning and development of new infrastructure for children and families, which includes the building of integrated children's centres.

Over 95 City buildings accommodate children's services in:

- 6 long day care centres;
- 5 integrated child and family centres;
- 30 kindergartens;
- 15 maternal and child health centres;
- 15 community centres/halls – playgroups;
- 9 leisure centres – swim lessons, children's sport and recreation programs, etc.
- 13 cultural centres/public libraries – story-time sessions, children's educational programs.



PARENTING SERVICES MAPPING

The City undertakes a direct role in gathering and maintaining information about the parenting programs available across Greater Geelong. This is done in collaboration with agencies and organisations across the municipality who provide parenting services. The parenting services mapping will ensure that programs are not duplicated and provide agencies with information to strategically plan programs and provide support to those who need it most.

INTEGRATION OF SERVICES

The City takes a proactive role in establishing and supporting the development of integrated child and family centres across the municipality. These centres are designed to house a range of services, such as; child care, kindergarten, maternal and child health, playgroups, parenting support, allied health services and early intervention services.

In addition to physical infrastructure that supports integration. We're committed to developing integrated service systems. This includes partnerships between stakeholders, relationships with families, shared program delivery and connections with the community.



OUR CLEVER AND CREATIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

“By 2047, Greater Geelong will be internationally recognised as a clever and creative city-region that is forward-looking, enterprising and adaptive, and cares for its people and environment.”

An extensive community engagement process took place in 2017 to develop a 30-year community vision for our region.

Representing the voices of more than 16,000 members of our community, *Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future* is a guide for all levels of government, community organisations, businesses and anyone wanting to make a genuine contribution to our city-region.

This engagement process was used to inform our *Municipal Early Years Plan 2018-22*.

Included are samples of feedback collected during the engagement process, organised according to the community aspiration it helped inform.

As many of these themes are relevant to improving the health and wellbeing of children and their families, we have included them as influences in the development of our plan.

GREATER GEELONG: A CLEVER AND CREATIVE FUTURE – ASPIRATIONS



A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities



People feel safe wherever they are



An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community

COUNCIL PLAN 2018–22

IMPROVE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY

KEY PRIORITIES

- Showing leadership in gender equity, diversity and family violence prevention;
- Improving safety in our community;
- Promoting healthy eating and supporting active living;
- Creating healthy environments in children's settings.

COMMENTS

"A safe environment for our kids and their kids to grow up in."

"Child friendly cities are safer cities."

"Safe family-friendly environment."

"A thriving community (that) people want to call home. They feel included as there are activities for all age groups. Plenty of open areas to encourage outdoor family activities."

A MORE INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE COMMUNITY

KEY PRIORITIES

- Improving our engagement with our culturally diverse population;
- Supporting activities that improve social connections in our community;
- Improving access to facilities and programs for people of all abilities;
- Advocating for inclusive, multicultural activities and respect for cultural diversity.

COMMENTS

"My vision for Geelong is to see more places for families to go and see, and say Geelong is a fantastic town to be in and live."

"My hope for the Geelong region is that it will be a place where my children want to live and bring up their families."

"Increased disability and child/young person friendly access."

ORGANISATIONAL LEADERSHIP, STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE

KEY PRIORITIES

- Communicating and engaging more effectively with the community, in areas of need;
- Using data and analytics to make better decisions;
- Making our processes more effective and efficient;
- Leading major local organisations in collaborative projects

COMMENTS

"A vibrant, eclectic, safe creative, prosperous and family friendly community."

"More activities and engagement for children and young people."

OUR PLAN FOR 2018–22



THEME ONE: SUPPORTING FAMILIES TO HELP CHILDREN ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

We recognise the shared role that families and the community play in helping children achieve their full potential. Engaged parenting and positive early experiences build a good foundation for healthy adults and have been shown to reduce ill health and poor social outcomes in later life.

WHAT YOU TOLD US

You want a safe environment for children to grow up in and a family-oriented culture.

STRATEGY	ACTION
Provide quality early-childhood services that prepare children to achieve their full potential.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide training opportunities for our service teams to make sure they are delivering current, evidence-based information to families.• Deliver services that meet or exceed quality standards.
Make support services available and accessible to families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliver parenting support programs.• Develop understanding of early years services within the municipality by undertaking service mapping.



THEME TWO: PROMOTE HIGH-QUALITY, INNOVATIVE SERVICES

We want to support early years professionals to deliver high-quality, integrated services across the municipality. This will only be possible if we work collaboratively with the broad range of different organisations offering early years services in our region.

WHAT YOU TOLD US

You value access to quality services, health services and a strong sense of community.

STRATEGY	ACTION
Work together with other service providers to achieve better outcomes for children and families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Embedding a culture of collaboration across early years services including; Family Support agencies, Child Protection services, The Orange Door, Community Health services and Inclusion Support services.• Build infrastructure that supports collaborative (integrated) service delivery, including maintenance and refurbishment of facilities to meet growing needs of communities.
Embrace new ideas and better ways to work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify business improvement activities that promote best practice service delivery models.• Build partnerships for agreed action, and continuous improvement.



THEME THREE: PROVIDE EARLY AND SUSTAINED SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

Evidence from international research shows that interventions in the early years can improve lifelong outcomes for children and reduce the impact of disadvantage. We therefore need to focus on improving access to services and support for vulnerable children and their families.

WHAT YOU TOLD US

You value living in a community that supports vulnerable community members and has clean, safe and fun environments for everyone.

STRATEGY	ACTION
Early childhood services know how to respond and reduce harm related to family violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify and access family violence learning and development programs.Implement the City's Family Violence policy.
Children with the highest need are identified and offered support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Actively seek opportunities to connect families to all levels of service.Improving access, participation, and engagement through supporting mechanisms that promote information sharing to better plan for the wellbeing of children in out of home care through active collaboration with DHHS, Community Service organisations, DET, MCH, kindergarten and Early Childhood services.



THEME FOUR: PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE SERVICES

We live in a diverse community and, as such, need to make sure that our services are accessible and inclusive of all children and their families. Our aim is to work with other services to strengthen knowledge and improve responsiveness to cultural and other accessibility issues.

WHAT YOU TOLD US

You value living in a community where there is community vibrancy, diversity and inclusiveness.

STRATEGY	ACTION
designed with families to be culturally safe and responsive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Foster relationships between early years services and culturally diverse families, to make sure our services are safe and responsive to their cultural needs.Develop and deliver cultural awareness events and experiences.
Early childhood services are accessible and inclusive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide training opportunities to our service teams to meet the diverse needs of our community.Support families and children to have equal access to programs and services.

WHAT STATISTICS TELL US

THEME 1: SUPPORTING FAMILIES TO HELP CHILDREN ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

- Kindergarten attendance is higher than the Victorian average;
- School achievement levels are close to Victorian average;
- 92 per cent of children are fully immunised by five years of age, which is close to the Victorian average.



THEME 2: PROMOTE HIGH QUALITY INNOVATIVE SERVICES

- There are more than 500 early years services within the municipality, and links with schools and other services;
- In 2014, 93.6 per cent of year three students met national standards in literacy, compared to 94.6 per cent in Victoria;
- More than 84 per cent of our children report being connected to their school, compared to 85.7 per cent in Victoria.

THEME 3: PROVIDE EARLY AND SUSTAINED SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

- When children in our region started full-time school in 2015, 17.8 per cent were 'developmentally vulnerable' in one or more areas (see Appendix 1). The Victorian and Australian averages are higher (19.9 per cent and 22 per cent respectively), however this figure still equates to 5,364 children in our region.
- In 2011, the rate of children aged 0–17 years in out-of-home care in Greater Geelong was 6.3 per cent (per 1000 children), which was higher than the Victorian average of 4.6 per cent.
- In 2011, the rate of children aged 0–17 years on Child Protection orders in Greater Geelong was 7.9 per cent (per 1000 children), compared to 5.2 per cent in Victoria.

THEME 4: PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE SERVICES

- One percent of the municipal population identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in the year 2016, Australian Bureau of Statistics Census. There was a significant increase – from 2,010 to 2,713 in total – from 2011 to 2016.⁷
- In 2016, 207 children aged 0–4 years (1.4 per cent), and 660 children aged 5–9 years (4.6 per cent), needed help in their day-to-day lives due to a disability. These percentages are slightly higher than the Melbourne average (1.1 per cent and 3 per cent respectively).

⁷ .Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Quick Snapshot, http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/203?opendocument (accessed on 4 June 2018).

GOVERNMENT POLICY

National, state and local government policy and planning influences how we support children and families in our municipality.

Following is a list of the policies and frameworks taken into account to formulate this plan:

NATIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING

National Quality Framework	Provides national standards for all services, which are assessed by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Agency.
National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education	An agreement between national and state governments to fund a minimum 15 hours of kindergarten for all children in Australia.
Jobs for Families Childcare Package	A financial package available for families to support them in accessing employment, volunteering or education. Additional payments are available for families experiencing hardship, or those caring for children with additional needs.

STATE AND LOCAL POLICY AND PLANNING

<i>Early Childhood Reform Plan, The Education State</i> Department of Education and Training, May 2017	Comprehensive policy statement which outlines a shared approach to policy for the early years. This plan includes funding and policy guidelines for maternal and child health, kindergartens, parental involvement and transitions for children between services. Policy includes both infrastructure and service funding commitments.
Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework Early Year Management Framework	A framework guiding the practice and curriculum of professionals in early years services and setting standards for high quality care and transition to school. Sets out the background and context of Early Years Management and provides detailed operational information.
Supporting Children and Families in the Early Years: a Compact between the Department of Education and Training, Department of Health and Human Services and Local Government (represented by the Municipal Association of Victoria)	An agreement between state and local governments, which recognises the important role local government plays in connecting with families and planning for early years services at the local level, including through the maternal and child health service.

Continued on the next page

<i>Roadmap to Reform: strong families, safe children</i> State of Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services, April 2016	Comprehensive policy focused on the needs of vulnerable children and their families and ensuring that mainstream services, including early years, are accessible and meet the needs of vulnerable children.
<i>Ending Family Violence – Victoria’s plan for change</i> State of Victoria, Department of Premier and Cabinet 2017	The Victorian Governments primary prevention strategy to stop violence before it happens
<i>Early Childhood Agreement for Children in Out of Home Care</i> Victorian Government, DHHS, DET, MAV & ELLA	The <i>Early Childhood Agreement for Children in Out-of-Home Care</i> aims to support the development and wellbeing of young children in OoHC.

MUNICIPAL POLICY AND PLANNING

<i>City of Greater Geelong Council Plan 2018–22</i>	The plan sets out our City’s vision and identifies strategic directions, priorities and strategies to ensure the Geelong region remains the best place to live, today and into the future.
<i>Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future</i>	This vision will guide us to be a city-region that is forward looking, enterprising and adaptive, caring for its people and environment.
<i>City of Greater Geelong Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan</i>	This plan guides us to ensure the health and wellbeing of the local communities forms part of our work.
<i>City of Greater Geelong Disability action plan 2014–17</i>	This plan provides guidance in addressing access and inclusion issues within the municipality.
<i>City of Greater Geelong Multicultural Action Plan</i>	This plan provides strategic direction and guidance to the City to think, plan and deliver an inclusive response to the diverse needs of an increasing culturally diverse population.

IMPLEMENTATION



As well as guiding our actions over the next four years – from 2018 to 22 – this plan will be shared with other Organisations delivering services to children and families within the municipality. Actions will be incorporated into our annual business plan, and the City will measure and report on achievements annually.

APPENDIX 1

ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENSUS DOMAINS

The Australian version of the Early Development Instrument consists of approximately 100 questions across five key domains, which are closely linked to child health, education and social outcomes. The domains are:

- physical health and wellbeing
- social competence
- emotional maturity
- language and cognitive skills (school-based)
- communication skills and general knowledge.

For each of the five domains, children receive a score between zero and ten, where zero is most developmentally vulnerable.

Australian Early Development Census results are reported as percentage of children who are considered to be 'developmentally on track', 'developmentally at risk' and 'developmentally vulnerable' on each domain.

These domains have been shown to predict children's later outcomes in health, wellbeing and academic success.

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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