

Frankston Youth Action Plan

2022-2026



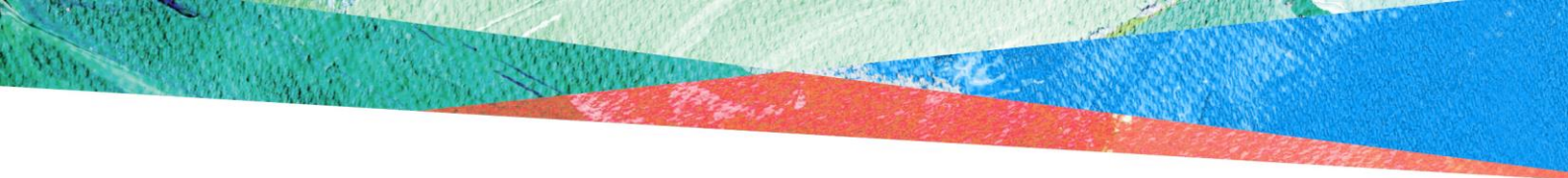
Lifestyle Capital of Victoria





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Welcome to Frankston

Frankston City Council acknowledges the Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters in and around Frankston City, and value and recognise local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, heritage and connection to land as a proud part of a shared identity for Frankston City.

Council pays respect to Elders past and present and recognises their importance in maintaining knowledge, traditions and culture in our community.

Council also respectfully acknowledges the Bunurong Land Council as the Registered Aboriginal Party responsible for managing the Aboriginal cultural heritage of the land and waters where Frankston City Council is situated.





Summary

Our Role in the Community

Frankston City Council's Youth Services team plays a significant role in working across the municipality with a large number of diverse young people, with varying needs and backgrounds. Our role in the community is to engage, support, and connect our young people, in order to empower them by helping to build their capacity and support networks, with a focus on early intervention.

Council promotes young people's health, social inclusion, skill development and leadership, with an emphasis on youth participation. This provides young people with opportunities to be involved in the development and delivery of youth programs and events, ensuring they are meaningful and specific to the interests and needs of the young people we work with. This leads to more effective engagement of our young people, providing them with opportunities to contribute positively to their communities through youth participation.

In partnerships with stakeholders in the community such as schools, education and employment providers, local businesses, Victoria Police and other support service providers, council delivers a diverse range of programs, events and services designed to build the confidence and resilience of young people. Our goal is to provide opportunities that improve their health and wellbeing, build strong social and support networks, and ultimately empower them to achieve their potential.

Purpose of Our Plan

The purpose of the Frankston Youth Action Plan 2022-2026 is to act as the guiding strategy that steers the direction of how Council will collaborate with the community, youth service delivery partners and other key stakeholders, to work with, support, and provide opportunities to our young people. It is part of a suite of action plans that responds to the key outcomes and priorities of the

Frankston City Council Plan, and Health and Wellbeing Plan.

The safety of our young people is our highest priority, which is why our plan has been developed alongside our Child Safe Policy, which we actively inform, implement and promote in the Frankston community. We have also considered Victoria's youth strategy 2022-2027 'Our Promise, Your Future', in the development of our plan and how we respond to the needs and priorities of young people in Frankston.

The Frankston Youth Action Plan 2022-2026 will:

- Identify the current and future needs of young people (12-24 years) within Frankston City
- Plan services, programs and facilities for our young people
- Build on existing initiatives and identify opportunities to support young people
- Provide opportunities for youth participation and advocacy on behalf of our young people

Our Planning Approach

The Youth Action Plan 2022-2026 is developed through analysis of current approaches to youth development in a local government context, as well as review of the current Council Plan, Health and Wellbeing Plan, and other key strategies at council. These plans detail future outcomes and priorities that contribute to the long term Community Vision.

Community engagement with our young people and other key stakeholders is a significant part of the consultation process, and along with the relevant data, provides a level of insight that will ensure our plan is robust and responsive to the specific needs of young people in Frankston. A series of in-depth interviews, consultations, and questionnaires have been undertaken, gathered and collated into draft themes, identifying five key priorities. Aligned with each priority is a list of

actions which will guide the work that council undertakes over the life of the Youth Action Plan to ensure young people within the municipality are receiving the full range of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. Research data and feedback from our community consultations have been gathered and collated, and will ultimately shape our Frankston Youth Action Plan 2022-2026.

Development of the Frankston Youth Action Plan 2022-2026 is guided by:

- Key council plans and policies
- Community feedback and research data
- Our current commitments
- Victoria's youth strategy 2022-2027 'Our Promise, Your Future'

Frankston City Snapshot

Frankston City is situated on the eastern shore of Port Phillip Bay, about 40 kilometres south of Melbourne central business district and is home to an estimated 2021 population of 140,809. The municipality covers an area of about 131 square kilometres from Seaford Wetlands in the north, to Frankston South in the south and the Western Port Highway in the east. The western boundary of the city is made up of 11 kilometres of coastline.

Frankston City is a predominantly residential municipality in Melbourne's outer southern suburbs. The City features well established residential areas, recent growth areas such as Carrum Downs, Skye, Sandhurst and Langwarrin, and rural residential areas such as Langwarrin South. Frankston City has experienced significant population growth in areas such as Karingal, Frankston Heights and Frankston North developing in the 1960s and 1970s and Carrum Downs and Langwarrin developing in the 1980s through to the present.

It is the major retail, employment, cultural, professional and administrative services centre for Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs and the

Mornington Peninsula. Major institutions include Monash University, Chisholm Institute of TAFE, and Frankston Hospital (Peninsula Health). Frankston Central is one of nine nominated Metropolitan Activity Centres, offering the outer southern Melbourne region major health, education, arts and retail precincts that make Frankston City it a desirable place to work and live.

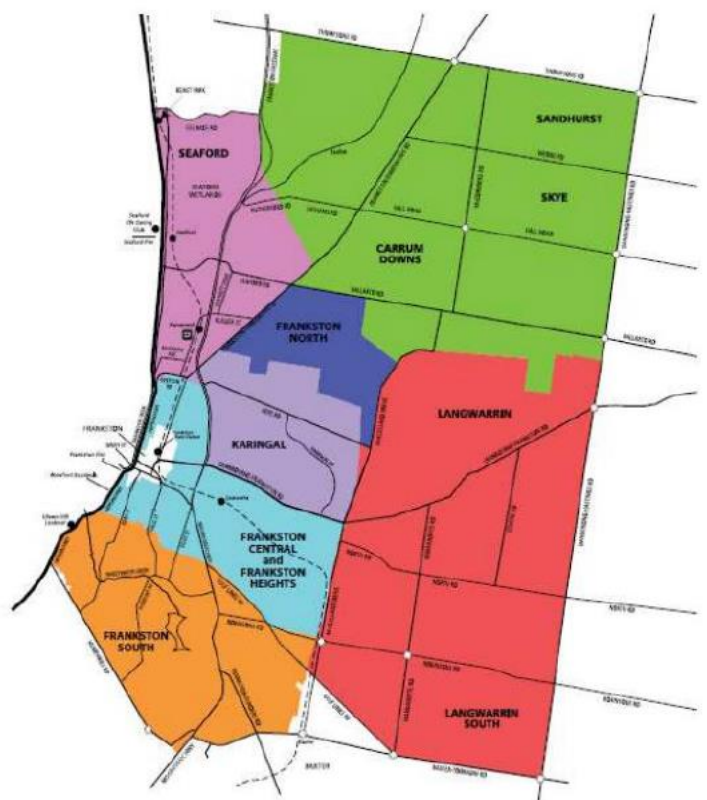
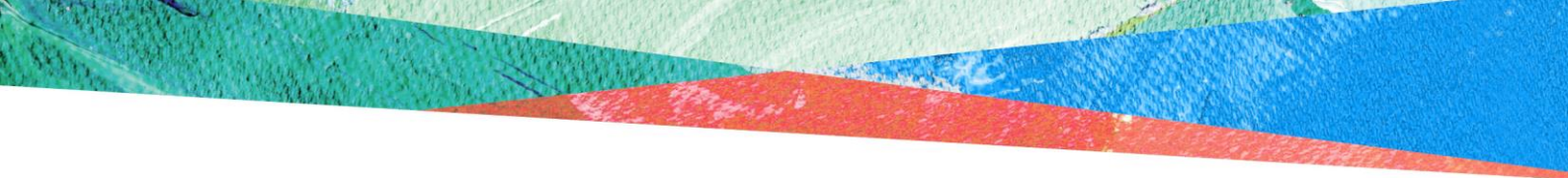


Image: City of Frankston Ward Map

Demographic Snapshot

Population

In 2021 there were an estimated 20,657 young people aged between 12-24 years residing in Frankston City, representing approximately 15% of the total population of 140,809. This number is expected to grow to 24,838 by 2041.



In 2021, 1.3% of Frankston City's population was of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent compared to 0.7% in Victoria. While Frankston City had a higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, it is important to note that this varied across the City. Proportions ranged from a low of 0.7% in Frankston South to a high of 2.7% in Frankston North.

Disability

In 2021, 9,014 people (or 6.5% of the population) in Frankston City reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability. This compares with 5.1% in Victoria. ABS 2018 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) found that 10% of people aged 15-24 years in Victoria had some level of disability, compared to 17% of all people in Victoria. 5.9% of young people in Victoria aged 15-24 years had a severe or profound disability and need help with one or more core activities, compared to 13.8% of all people in Victoria.

The SDAC considers that a person has a disability if they have at least one of a list of limitations, restrictions or impairments, which has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least 6 months and restricts everyday activities. It is important to note that these numbers underestimate the total number of people living with disability, including those who do not require daily assistance.

Young Carers

There are more than 235,000 young carers in Australia, and although many describe caring as a positive experience, health and wellbeing can be seriously impacted when the support they receive is inadequate. Undertaking a caring role often comes with barriers that can affect a person's capacity to study, work and engage in opportunities for social and community connection. Financial support may assist in reducing barriers to attendance, achievement and participation in education, although access to services that are responsive to their specific support needs are

paramount to both improve educational engagement and wellbeing (endnote).

As of 2018, Frankston was ranked in the top 15, out of 65 local government areas in Victoria for Carer Payment and Carer Allowance for recipients under 25 years (DSS Payment Demographic Data for Young Carers 2018). In Victoria, the majority of young carer recipients are aged between 21-24 years (74%), with nearly 5% being indigenous, although this figure likely underestimates the total numbers, as it is common for Aboriginal and Torres Strait carers to provide unpaid care. In 2016, of all young people in Frankston aged 15-24 years, 877 (5.3%) provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability.

Income

In 2016, 18.8% of Frankston City's total households were classed as low income (less than \$650 per week) compared to 18.2% in Victoria. While Frankston City had a higher proportion of low-income households, this varied across the City. Proportions ranged from a low of 5.2% in Sandhurst to a high of 29.9% in Frankston Central. The five areas with the highest percentages were:

- Frankston Central (29.9%)
- Frankston North (28.7%)
- Karingal (22.1%)
- Seaford (21.7%)
- Frankston Heights (19.5%)

Socio-economic Disadvantage

The SEIFA index of relative socio-economic disadvantage is an aggregate measure of general disadvantage derived from 2016 Census data. The SEIFA score for Victoria in 2016 was 1010. This information highlights the five most disadvantaged areas within Frankston City:

- Frankston North (823.0)
- Frankston Central (931.1)

- Karingal (955.5)
- Carrum Downs (979.0)
- Frankston Heights (987.6)

Education

Analysis of the highest level of schooling attained by the population in Frankston City in 2016 compared to Victoria shows that there was a higher proportion of people who had left school at an early level (Year 10 or less) and a lower proportion of people who completed Year 12 or equivalent. Overall, 29.8% of the population left school at Year 10 or below, and 46.4% went on to complete Year 12 or equivalent, compared with 23.6% and 54.4% respectively for Victoria.

In 2016, 14.5% of Frankston City's population aged 15 years and over had a university qualification (Bachelor degree or higher), compared to 24.3% in Victoria. While Frankston City had a lower proportion of people with a university qualification, this varied across the City. Proportions ranged from a low of 6.3% in Frankston North to a high of 24.6% in Sandhurst. In 2016, 23.6% of Frankston City's population aged 15 years and over had a trade qualification, compared to 16.9% in Victoria. While Frankston City had a higher proportion of people with a trade qualification, this also varied across the City. Proportions ranged from a low of 18.4% in Sandhurst to a high of 27.7% in Langwarrin.

Employment

Youth unemployment is an issue of concern for the community. Young people aged 15 to 24 years are particularly vulnerable to unemployment, since the age group represents a transition from education to work, with generally higher unemployment rates than other age groups in most areas. In 2016, 13.9% of Frankston City's labour force aged 15 to 24 years were classed as unemployed compared to 15.2% in Victoria.

JobSeeker and Youth Allowance rates are a good indicator of the socio-economic disadvantage and impact of COVID-19 in an area, with 5.4% of the

Frankston City population receiving assistance, compared to 4% of Greater Melbourne. Frankston North is seeing significant higher rates of recipients (10.4%), when compared to both Greater Melbourne and all other areas in Frankston.

While Frankston City had a higher rate of unemployment in the 15 to 24 year age group, this rate varied across the City. Proportions ranged from a low of 5.6% in Langwarrin South to a high of 27.3% in Frankston North. The five areas with the highest unemployment rates were:

- Frankston North (27.3%)
- Seaford (17.2%)
- Karingal (16.7%)
- Frankston Heights (14.5%)
- Frankston Central (14.2%)

Disengaged Youth

The data looks specifically at the 15-24 year old age group, during a time when people are generally expected to be starting out in life, in either employment, full-time study, or a combination of both. Those aged 15-24 years who do not fall into either of these categories, having not been successfully engaged in either the employment or education systems, are a particularly vulnerable group. In 2016, 10.4% of Frankston City's population aged 15 to 24 years were not employed or attending an education institute compared to 8.2% in Victoria.

While Frankston City had a higher proportion of 'disengaged youth', it is important to note that this varied across the city. Proportions ranged from a low of 4.3% in Langwarrin South to a high of 24.7% in Frankston North. The five areas with the highest percentages were:

- Frankston North (24.7%)
- Karingal (14.3%)
- Carrum Downs (11.7%)

- Seaford (12.8%)
- Frankston Central (10.4%)

Housing and Homelessness

Homelessness rates in Frankston City are on the rise, with rough sleeping being the fastest growing form of homelessness. There were 546 people in Frankston City who were classified as being homeless on Census night in 2016, up 14.8% from 465 in 2011. This is higher than the Victorian average increase of 10.3%.

It is estimated that rough sleeping represents only 7% of all homelessness in Australia. The majority live in temporary or insecure situations that are not necessarily visible, such as couch-surfing, living in overcrowded dwellings and sleeping in cars.

In Australia, the main reasons for being homeless are lack of affordable housing, escaping family violence, poverty and financial hardship, relationship and family breakdowns and mental or physical illness and addiction (Australia Institute of Health and Welfare).

Rapidly rising housing costs, inadequate supplies of social and affordable housing and other financial pressures are pushing people into housing stress and increasing their risk of homelessness. It's estimated that 2,852 households (5.4%) of all households have an unmet need for affordable housing in Frankston City (id. Housing Monitor, 2016).

Young people are overrepresented in the Victorian homeless population and over 26% of those experiencing homelessness, being under 25 years. This means that approximately 220 young people are experiencing homelessness at any point in time in the FMP region.

Frankston has historically seen increases in the rates of women, young people and children experiencing homelessness from 2017-2018. These trends are unfortunately continuing at an even higher rate post COVID-19.

The steepest increases in homelessness from 2017-2018 in Frankston included:

- Children (aged 0-9) increasing by 33.9%,
- Youth (aged 10-19) increasing by 18.4%.
- Women (aged 30-39) increasing by 5.2%
- Women (aged 60+ years) increasing by 12%

Family Violence

Escaping family violence can result in and heighten the risk of homelessness. Family violence impacts all family members, however evidence based research shows that it is a gendered issue with the majority of victims being women and their children, and the majority of perpetrators being men.

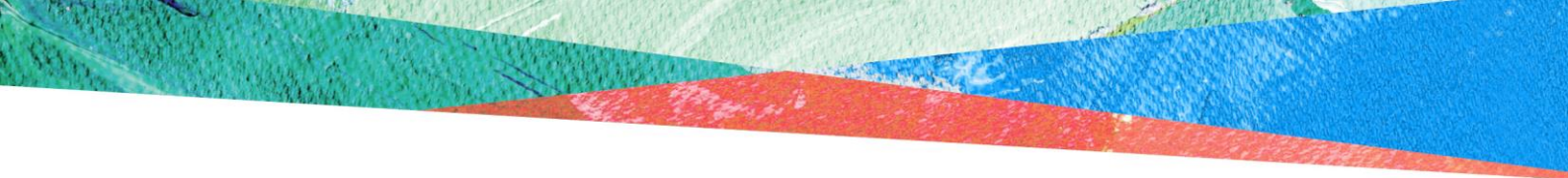
Frankston City has the highest rate of family violence incidents in Metro Melbourne (Crime Statistics Agency). Based on reporting in March 2021, there were 2,091 family violence incidents with female victims in Frankston City, compared to 709 incidents with male victims. Breaching a family violence order is one of the top five criminal offences in Frankston City, and females are four times more likely to be a victim of intimate partner violence than men (Crime Statistic Agency).

Drugs and Alcohol

When it comes to alcohol and drug-related ambulance attendances for young people (0-24 years) from 2011 to 2020, there has been a consistently higher rate of ambulance attendances for 'all substances' compared to Victoria. The rate has increased in Frankston every year except for 2016-2017 (decreased slightly by 0.5%), and the highest increase in the rate was from 2012 to 2013 (+22.4%), followed by an increase of 19.6% between 2015 and 2016. The rate has increased by almost 5% from 2019 to 2020, and has seen a 104% increase from 2011 to 2021.

Physical Activity

Participation in physical activity has known health benefits, including reduced risk of chronic disease



and improved mental wellbeing. 51.2% of people aged 18 and over in Frankston met physical activity guidelines (Victorian Population Health Survey), with 46.1% of women and 57.6% of men. According to the Victorian Population Health Survey, sufficient levels of physical activity are 150 minutes or more of moderate-intensity physical activity (such as walking) or 75 or more minutes of vigorous physical activity and doing muscle strengthening activities on at least two days on a regular basis over one week. While 41.8% of people in Frankston City report that they engage in 30 minutes or more of physical activity four or more days per week, 19.6% engage in no physical activity during the week.

Between 2015 and 2021, data shows that only 21.5% of Victorians 15-17 years met the guideline of 60 minutes of physical activity every day (AusPlay National Survey), similar to the Australian average of 21.7% for this age group. In 2020-2021, 91.6% of young people aged 15-17 and 65.5% aged 18-24 did not meet physical activity guidelines. In 2018, only 1 in 4 (24%) students engaged in the recommended minimum of 60 minutes of physical activity each day (Victorian Student Health and Wellbeing Survey).

Nutrition

Frankston City enjoys an enviable location that lends itself to healthy and active lifestyle opportunities. However there is a proportion of the population experiencing above Victorian average levels of poor health and wellbeing as a result of preventable chronic diseases. A healthy diet is considered to be one that is high in fruit and vegetables and low in saturated fats, added salt

and added sugar. The Australian Dietary Guidelines recommend eating a minimum of two serves of fruit and five serves of vegetables per day per adult. In Frankston, only 7.7% of people are meeting these guidelines for vegetable consumption and 41.5% for fruit consumption (Victorian Population Health Survey 2017). 52.7% of young people aged 15-17 and 54.6% of those aged 18-24 had inadequate fruit and vegetable consumption (ABS National Health Survey 2020-2021).

59.7% of people in Frankston City are considered to be overweight and 27.7% of people are considered to be obese. Almost one quarter (24.9%) of those aged 5-17 years were overweight or obese in 2017-18 (17% overweight and 8.1% obese). The rates were similar for males and females, and have remained stable over the previous 10 years. There was a large increase for those aged 18-24 years, with 38.9% overweight or obese in 2014-15 compared with 46.0% in 2017-18. 67% of students met fruit intake guidelines, with 13% meeting vegetable intake guidelines (Victorian Student Health and Wellbeing Survey).

Our Priorities

Priority 1: Safe Places in Our Community

We will provide safe, accessible, fit-for-purpose spaces that encourage our young people to connect with us and discuss issues that may be impacting their physical, mental or emotional wellbeing.



Priority 2: Health and Wellbeing

We will empower our young people by offering guidance and support, through programs and a referral service to address their specific support needs, including housing, alcohol and other drugs, nutrition, physical and mental health.



Priority 3: Education and Employment

We will work closely with schools, and other education and employment providers to identify opportunities whereby we can support our young people to engage in education and prepare for employment.



Priority 4: Inclusion and Accessibility

We will proactively connect with those who may be at-risk or have barriers to engagement, to ensure that young people with diverse needs and backgrounds have equitable access to facilities, services and programs.



Priority 5: Youth Participation and Engagement

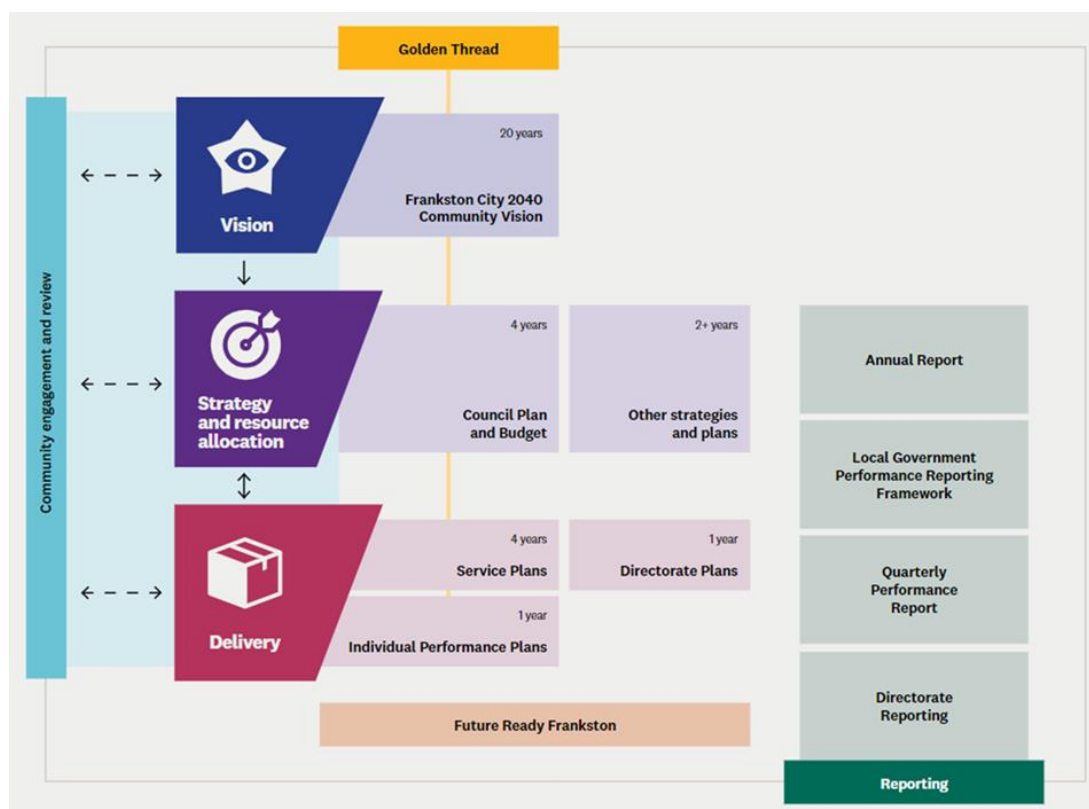
We will empower young people to have a voice by providing opportunities for them to have a real impact in their community and on council decision-making, ensuring they are well represented.



These five key Priorities each contain a range of objectives, which are broken down into actions to be achieved through our service delivery. For each action, a lead team who is responsible for the delivery of the action has been identified, however most actions will require coordinated collaboration between a range of stakeholders and service providers. In addition, each action has a timeframe for delivery enabling ongoing measurement, monitoring and reporting to occur.

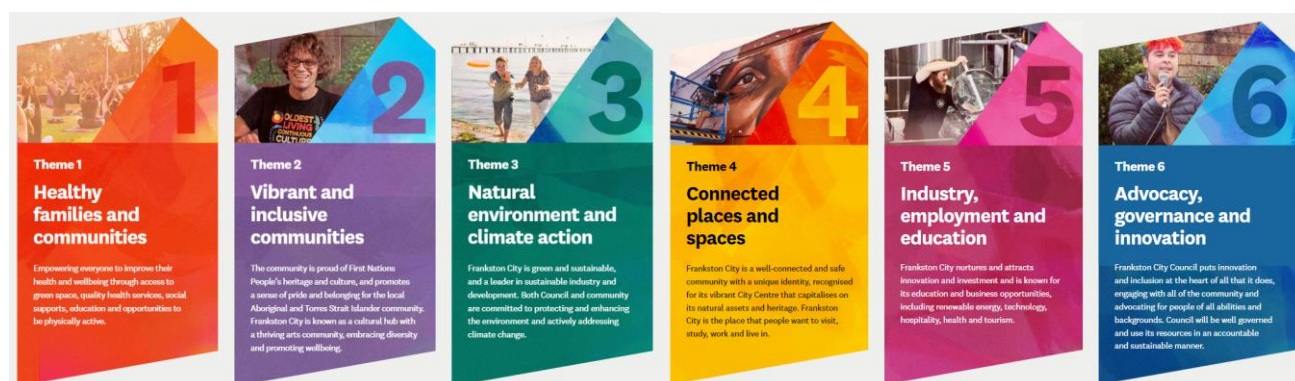
Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework of Council sets out the guiding approach that enables Council to deliver the necessary services to achieve the vision of Council.



The Community Vision:

The Frankston City Community Vision 2040 is our community's long-term vision and aspirations for the future of our City. The Community's vision has been developed by the community for the community and will guide Council's strategic outlook until 2040. The Community Vision forms part of Council's strategic planning framework, the short-term and long-term priorities that have shaped the 2021–25 Council Plan and Budget and will guide future Council planning across the next 20 years.



The Council Plan:

Our Council Plan sets out the four year vision for the city and the outcomes Council wants to achieve over that period. These outcomes align with key focus areas identified in the Frankston City Community Vision 2040. Our Council Plan identifies key priorities and initiatives aimed at working towards the six future outcomes that will set the strategic direction for Frankston City.



These six key community outcomes are captured through 20 strategic priorities that will play a significant role in the lives of young people and guide the City of Frankston towards its goal of becoming the Lifestyle Capital of Victoria.

One of Council's key priorities are to value and support young people, with initiatives such as engaging young people to support their educational outcomes, advocating for programs and support to reduce harms from family violence, gambling, alcohol and other drugs, and encouraging active and healthy lifestyles for people of all abilities. Council will also focus on increasing accessibility of services to enhance social inclusion and mental wellbeing, with a commitment to working with schools and disengaged young people to build relationships and awareness, and to empower them to choose respectful relationships. We will consult with the community to better understand community needs and program design, and provide referral services through youth services. Council will prioritise engagement with our community in communication and decision-making, and will provide climate emergency response and leadership. We will also work to increase travel option that are connected, accessible, smart and safe, as well as local employment, education and training opportunities for all people.

The Health and Well Being Plan:

The Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021–2025 is Frankston City Council’s strategic plan for how we will work with our partners over the next four years to create well planned and liveable environments with healthy, strong and safe communities so everyone has the equal opportunity to enjoy good health and wellbeing at every stage of life.

Our health and wellbeing priorities

Priority 1

Building healthy and active communities

- 1.1 Improve opportunities for walking, cycling and active travel
- 1.2 Improve access to public open spaces, play spaces and recreation facilities
- 1.3 Improve access to inclusive club sports and active recreation activities
- 1.4 Improve healthy eating and food security to support good nutrition across the life course

Priority 2

Building fair and inclusive communities

- 2.1 Partner and advocate to reduce health inequities, poverty and disadvantage
- 2.2 Partner and advocate to improve equitable access to education, employment and housing
- 2.3 Strengthen relationships to support Aboriginal self-determination and reconciliation

Priority 3

Increasing mental wellbeing and resilience

- 3.1 Support opportunities to build social inclusion and community connection
- 3.2 Increase volunteering and community participation
- 3.3 Foster social cohesion and community harmony

Priority 4

Strengthening climate action for community wellbeing

- 4.1 Increase awareness of the health impacts of climate change
- 4.2 Strengthen response to public health threats and emergencies for vulnerable communities
- 4.3 Support healthy and sustainable homes, buildings and public spaces

Priority 5

Strengthening gender equality and respectful relationships

- 5.1 Build partnerships to prevent family violence, violence against women, and elder abuse
- 5.2 Strengthen equitable, safe and respectful relationships
- 5.3 Create gender equitable workplaces, services and programs

Priority 6

Building safe communities

- 6.1 Create safe public spaces through Council policy, planning and design
- 6.2 Build partnerships that change cultures and reduce harms from alcohol and other drugs and gambling
- 6.3 Create smoke free communities

Our Services

Frankston City Council offers a range of programs, services and support for young people through the Youth Services team. Our role in the community is to engage, support, and connect our young people in order to empower them by providing opportunities for youth participation, and to build their capacity and support network. This is achieved through a diverse range of programs and initiatives:

Youth Hangouts provide young people with a safe and inclusive drop-in space for social connection and support through recreational activities and workshops, services including:

- Recreational activities
- Connection and support from youth workers
- Referrals and information about services
- Education and employment support
- Training opportunities and life skills
- Provision of hot/cold food and drink
- FREE access to Wi-Fi, PCs and printing

Sites are located at seven locations across the municipality, including Frankston Central (Youth Central), Frankston North, Frankston South, Karingal, Seaford, Carrum Downs, and Langwarrin.

The What Bus is essentially a youth centre on wheels, providing youth outreach and support services to the Frankston municipality. Our bus is custom fitted with gaming facilities, laptop stations, giant games and much more. The 'What Bus' can be found at the local foreshore, skate parks, the Youth Hangouts, community centres, schools, shopping centres, and other youth hotspots. Our youth workers are able to provide information and advice, games and activities, a safe space to hang out at events, and proactive outreach support to young people in the Frankston municipality.

Grade 6 Transition Program aims to assist young people with the transition from Primary to Secondary school through exploration of strengths, support people and opportunities available to them throughout their high school experience. The importance of seeking support and the idea of Year 7 as a time for exploration and discovery are discussed.

The What Program aims to empower students by exploring various topics and opportunities, connecting them to community, and raising awareness of local programs and support that allow them to pursue their passions and aspirations, while providing ongoing support in response to current challenges and needs. This is done through engaging and interactive workshops, with the ability to tailor sessions to the specific student needs identified by the school and their young people. This targeted approach will ensure sessions are purposeful, relevant, and engaging regardless of year level and specific cohort needs. Youth Services also offer brief information sessions are engaging and interactive sessions offering an overview of the programs, supports and events offered by Frankston Youth Service.

Holiday Programs offer a range of interactive activities that are designed with, and for, young people aged 12-24 years to have fun, gain new skills, social connections and support from youth workers.

L2P Learner Driver Mentor Program is a community-based program providing on road driving experience to learner drivers who would otherwise find it difficult to accrue the minimum amount of experience required. With the assistance of experienced volunteer mentor driving supervisors, Council coordinates this program in the City of Frankston. This is a free service for eligible young people to help them gain the necessary skills to obtain their probationary license.

Project-Y is a collaborative of local stakeholders and youth service providers working together to connect with and support young people who may be disengaged from education and employment by providing them with wraparound support, positive connections to their local community, and guidance towards a path that will allow them to pursue their passions and aspirations. We also provide advocacy and support to young people at Frankston Children's Court with local services.

Peninsula Pride is a Queer Straight Alliance program, which aims to raise awareness, promote diversity, eliminate stigma and discrimination, and improve the overall mental health of LGBTIQ+ young people. Peninsula Pride "Under the Rainbow" is a partnership with Headspace Frankston, providing LGBTIQ+ young people and allies, aged 12 -17 years, a safe space for support and social connection.

Youth Steward Program provide young people aged 17-24 years, with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with Frankston Youth Service by providing support and assistance to our youth workers in planning and facilitating our youth programs and events.

Frankston Youth Council are a youth action and advocacy group made up of young people aged 12-24 years, who live/work/study within the Frankston municipality and come from a range of different backgrounds, with varied life experiences, with opportunities to:

- Provide advocacy and feedback to Council
- Plan and organise projects and initiatives
- Volunteer at events within the community
- Hear from guest speakers in community
- Participate in training and consultations



Image: Frankston Youth Councillors 2022

NexGen Advisory program provides opportunities to young people aged 12-24 years to 'have their say' by offering guidance and advise to the Frankston Youth Services team. This feedback ultimately informs the event and program development and service delivery.

Fresh Entertainment (FReeZA) is a team of young people aged 12-24 years, who collaborate to create and deliver youth events for the Frankston community, while developing skills relating to event and project management, music performance and production, audio engineering, song writing, photography, graphic design, video production, marketing and promotion. Members are able to build social and professional networks, with opportunities to pursue various pathways. Events include but are not limited to Open Mic Nights, music competitions, local band showcases, as well as art and culture exhibitions.

Our Facilities

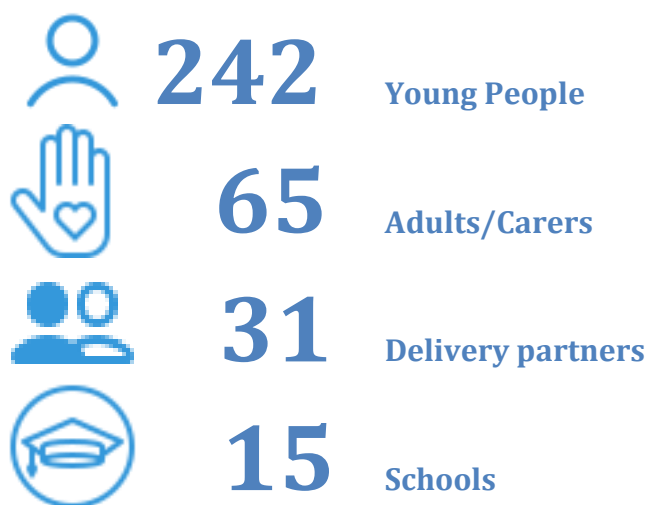
Frankston City Council offers a range of programs, services and support for young people through the Youth Services team. Our role in the community is to engage, support, and connect our young people in order to empower them by providing a range of facilities available for young people in Frankston City, including the following facilities and assets, which Council manage on behalf of the community:

- 427 reserves
- 74 sports grounds
- 7 youth drop-in centres
- 1 mobile youth bus
- 3 libraries (Frankston, Carrum Downs and Seaford)
- 5 youth recreational areas and skate parks (Carrum Downs, Seaford, Langwarrin, Frankston North and Frankston)
- 2 leisure and aquatic centres, Peninsula Aquatic Recreation Centre (PARC) and Pines Forest Aquatic Centre
- Multiple free Wi-Fi locations

Our Plan

Initial Community Consultations

The initial community engagement for the Youth Action Plan 2022-2026 commenced in April 2020. Through in-depth consultations with our community, including our delivery partners and local youth service providers, schools and wellbeing teams, volunteers who work specifically with young people, council's Youth Services team and other internal stakeholders, parents and carers, and a diverse group of young people with varying needs and backgrounds, where a range of needs were identified. After two rounds of community consultations, we received feedback from:



Once our research data and information was gathered and collated into draft themes, five key priorities were identified. As the COVID-19 pandemic escalated, the development of our Youth Action Plan was temporarily halted to allow Frankston Youth Services to respond to the additional support needs required for our young people during an extremely challenging time. Our second round of community consultations for our plan occurred in July-August 2022.

Emerging Opportunities

- Improving access to employment readiness programs for youth that are hard to reach and engage, while providing them with opportunities to gain work skills and experience
- Exploring life skills programs that empower and promote independence in young people, including how to manage finances and prepare meals

- Working with partners to expand mental health programs to include vulnerable students from upper primary school
- Making use of existing technology and building on networks to ensure support services and programs are highly visible and accessible to families and young people with barriers, including young parents and carers
- Continuously reviewing service delivery in light of evolving issues, through experiences and lessons learnt during community crises, such as COVID-19
- Opportunities to improve perceived and actual community safety and connection through partnerships and the provision of community-focused initiatives and events, especially after hours
- Improving health and wellbeing by providing more spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation activities
- More opportunities for social connection and to provide support to our young people in safe and inclusive environments

What Our Young People Said

The feedback was collated into themes as follows:

Opportunities to stay connected - Our young people consistently expressed the need to participate in more activities that are free and/or affordable. The cost of events and food can mean they are excluded. They enjoy and appreciate access to drop-in centres and the mobile youth bus, which provide them with a safe place to “hangout”. They are seeking more opportunities to stay connected where they can access the support of youth workers.

Safety in public spaces - Young people express a concern regarding the need to feel safe in public spaces, including on transport and at night. Our young people are looking for safe places for them in the community, including after hours. They are also

prioritising safe places for the homeless, even if it is just “a bed for the night”. They are seeking spaces where they can connect and talk to youth workers.

Access to outdoor spaces and indoor facilities

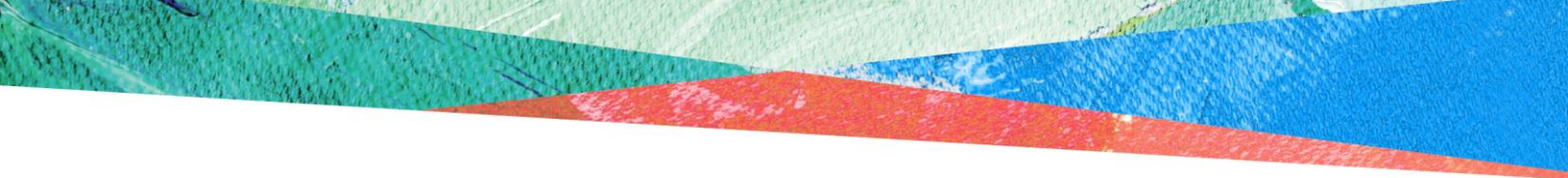
Young people are seeking more inclusive, youth-friendly outdoor spaces and access to indoor spaces and facilities for sport and recreational activities. The need for protection of skate parks and other youth-specific spaces to ensure amenities such as toilets, drinking fountains and other facilities are not damaged and therefore unavailable.

Mental health and wellbeing - A common concern was expressed regarding youth mental health in general, particularly around the impacts of COVID-19. Our young people expressed they felt more anxious and an increased need to stay connected to fight boredom and feelings of social isolation. They are also concerned about the use and impacts of alcohol and drugs, including vaping, seeking further education and support services.

Education and employment - Our young people expressed a need for additional support to stay in school and connected to education, with access to alternative, affordable options such as TAFE courses. They are seeking more support around transitioning to adulthood and employment, including programs aimed at dealing with “real life” issues such as tax, bills, budgeting, and available services and support. There was concern expressed around the lack of opportunities to gain skills and employment, and emphasized a need to have positive role models in their lives.

Visibility and accessibility of services - Our youth are seeking more information about support services that are available and how they can access them. They expressed a need to increase the visibility of services via channels that are accessible and specific to young people.

Youth participation and engagement - Young people value the ability to be and express themselves in unstructured ways. They are seeking programs that provide these opportunities, while



connecting with others in a social setting. They are looking for ways to “have their say” and more community-focused initiatives, such as clean-ups and fundraisers. They are highlighting the need for more youth events and celebrations, with opportunities to showcase their work and talent.

What Our Adults/Carers Said

Social isolation and opportunities for growth - Our carers and volunteers expressed concern regarding youth isolation and the need to provide employment opportunities for young people in the local community. They identified a need to break intergenerational hardship by providing more support and programs that teach young people life skills, to build their capacity so complete daily tasks, such as “minor repairs on their cars”.

Youth participation and provision of basic needs - The community has stressed the importance of hearing from young people in order to get their input and provide them with the support they require to help improve current circumstances. We need to ensure that our young people who are “doing it tough” are supported with basic needs, such as food and shelter.

Opportunities to improve health and wellbeing - Parents and carers in the community are prioritising education and raising awareness around mental health, as well more accessible and responsive mental health support services. They have expressed the need to reduce exposure to and harms caused by alcohol and other drugs, through awareness programs and support. They are also seeking more facilities and opportunities for young people to participate in sport and physical activity in open spaces.

Safe and inclusive spaces in the community - Parents and carers are seeking safe and inclusive places for our young people in the community, where they can come together, enjoy themselves and have access to the support they require. Addressing safety on the streets when it is dark is a

high priority, with opportunities for more programs and events after hours.

What Our Delivery Partners Said

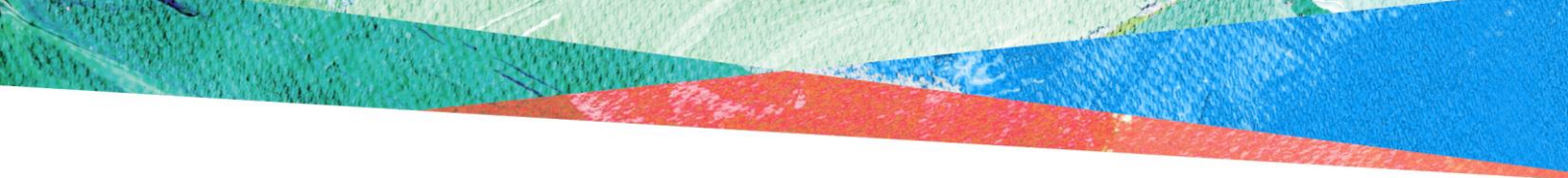
Education and Employment - The City of Frankston comprises pockets of advantage alongside entrenched disadvantage. Amongst the disadvantaged, youth engagement in education and employment is one of the biggest concerns. These concerns are likely to be exacerbated by COVID-19. The response from services needs to be holistic with consideration for health and psychological needs, in partnership with businesses and education providers.

Health and wellbeing - Young people face barriers to consuming a healthy diet such as cost, access and availability of healthy options. There is a need to increase preventative approaches to mental health through education programs for young people and their families. Further collaboration of services is required for the continued improvement of support and opportunities for young people.

Increasing access to alcohol and drug support through assertive outreach to combat barriers caused by long waitlists. Increasing access to alcohol and drug, as well as sexual health education programs throughout our schools. There is a need to ensure that those working with our youth have relevant ongoing training to help identify and respond appropriately to proactively provide early intervention and safety planning where possible.

Advocacy - Continued lobbying from council and other groups to provide funding support in order to gain additional resources that activate change. Educating the community to reduce the stigma associated with homelessness, and having support services on the streets to help shift negative public perception of our youth.

Engagement - There is a need to engage more creativity with our young people using mediums that are specific to young people, such as technology (e.g. via apps). Engaging with our vulnerable youth, while collaborating with other



local services to provide wrap-around support and referrals.

Inclusion and accessibility - Young people who don't have funding to participate in clubs, sports, or arts based activities often congregate in public spaces and hotspots, such as shopping centres. Young people need spaces that are designed to suit their specific interests and needs.

Specialist services such as education, housing, mental health and transport providers can be expensive and therefore not accessible to young people. There is the need for inclusion and accessibility to assist in supporting young people and reducing social stigma.

What Our Schools Said

Collaboration to promote health and wellbeing - There is a need for collaboration between education and health providers, as well as community, to ensure young people have access to

support services that are available to them. We must also collectively explore opportunities to expand on mental health programs, possibly to include upper primary aged students, where mental health issues are presenting at an earlier age.

Accessibility and support - It is important that we offer guidance and empower young people to make good choices for their own futures. There is a need to make support services more visible and accessible through online resources and social media platforms that young people can access. Assistance for parents and families is required through increased education and support from community agencies.

Participation and engagement - We should explore opportunities to encourage young people to be more politically active and explore creative ways to engage with all levels of government, in order to gain a better understanding and have a greater influence on issues impacting young people.

Actions and Objectives

Priority 1: Safe Places in Our Community

Young people make up approximately 15% of our community, consisting of residents, students, consumers, workers, visitors, and leaders, together helping to shape the future of our municipality. It is essential that we are able to provide safe places for our young people to learn and develop, gain support, connect with others, and reach their potential.

We will provide safe, accessible, fit-for-purpose spaces that encourage our young people to connect with us and discuss issues that may be impacting their physical, mental or emotional wellbeing.

OBJECTIVE		ACTION		TEAM	TIMEFRAME
1.1	To provide young people easy access to welcoming community spaces that are fit for purpose and appealing.	1.1.1	Undertake a review of all council drop in centre facilities to ensure they are safe and accessible, appealing, socially inclusive youth friendly spaces that are fit for purpose and meeting community needs.	Youth Services Social Policy and Planning Community Development Projects/ Diversity and Inclusion Libraries and Learning	2022 - 2023
1.2	To provide young people access to programs that target identified community needs.	1.2.1	Review the current programs and evaluate their ongoing effectiveness. Develop a program, services and events plan that incorporates the impacts of COVID-19. Explore further opportunities for young people to co-design projects and/or programs that specifically target identified needs.	Youth Services Social Policy and Planning	2022 - 2023
		1.2.2	Support the ongoing delivery of regular free and/or affordable events and activities where possible.	Youth Services	2022 - 2026
		1.2.3	Develop a communications plan to actively promote safe and inclusive spaces provided through Youth Service programs and events, through a variety of channels to increase visibility and accessibility in the community.	Youth Services	2022 - 2023
1.3	Contribute to increasing/promoting	1.3.1	Work proactively with delivery partners to connect with and provide wrap-around support to young people through outreach, activations	Youth Services Community	2022 - 2026

	sense of safety in the community.		and events at local youth hot spots, including after hours.	Safety Network	
				Social Policy and Planning	

Priority 2: Health and Wellbeing

It is essential that we continue to work in collaboration with our partners and fellow youth service providers to improve the physical and mental health outcomes of young people across the municipality.

We will keep young people informed and improve accessibility to support, through programs and a referral service to address their specific support needs, including housing, alcohol and other drugs, nutrition, physical and mental health.

OBJECTIVE		ACTION		TEAM	TIMEFRAME
2.1	Promoting youth mental health and wellbeing through collaboration with delivery partners, to empower young people to speak up and seek professional support.	2.1.1	Explore further opportunities to collaborate with mental health and education providers to promote mental health awareness and support programs via social media and other channels to increase visibility and accessibility.	Youth Services Mental health service and education providers Community Development Projects	2022 - 2026
		2.1.2	Ensure council staff are equipped to inform, support, and provide referrals to young people around mental health, through ongoing training, and awareness of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System.	Youth Services Mental health service and education providers Community Development Projects	2022 - 2026
		2.1.3	Work with education providers to explore opportunities to expand mental health and resilience programs, including to upper primary school students (E.g. Grade 6 Transitions, The What Program).	Youth Services Schools and education providers Mental health service and education providers	2022 - 2023

OBJECTIVE		ACTION		TEAM	TIMEFRAME
		2.1.4	Collaborate with stakeholders to provide early intervention and wrap-around support in response to suicide/deaths affecting young people in Frankston.	Social Policy and Planning	2022 - 2026
				Community Development Projects	
				Youth Services	
				FMP Youth Suicide Postvention Protocol	
				Community Development Projects	
		2.1.5	Collaborate with stakeholders to provide early intervention and wrap-around support to young people experiencing issues around housing and homelessness in Frankston.	Social Policy and Planning	2022 - 2026
				Youth Services	
				Youth2 Alliance	
				Housing Support Services	
				Social Policy and Planning	
2.2	Improve the physical outcomes for youth within the municipality.	2.2.1	Explore and advocate for improved access to affordable recreational activity for our vulnerable/at-risk youth, including more indoor options (E.g. Sporting, Skating).	Youth Services	2022 - 2026
				Community Development Projects/ Diversity and Inclusion	
		2.2.2	Identify and develop inclusive options for recreational activity access for young people, including those with a disability.	Recreation	2022 - 2026
				Youth Services	
				Community Development Projects/ Diversity and Inclusion	

OBJECTIVE		ACTION		TEAM	TIMEFRAME
2.3	Improve nutritional outcomes for youth within the municipality.	2.3.1	Continue to review and incorporate healthy eating into Youth Service programs and events.	Youth Services Peninsula Health Schools and education providers Social Policy and Planning Community Development Projects	2022 - 2026
2.4	Improve access to support and services for alcohol and other drug related harms.	2.4.1	Explore and build on opportunities to collaborate with key stakeholders to educate and support young people around harms associated with alcohol and other drugs.	Youth Services Schools and education providers Social Policy and Planning AOD Support Services Victoria Police	2022 - 2026
		2.4.2	Work with stakeholders to provide resources and raise awareness of harms associated with vaping/smoking.	Youth Services Schools and education providers Social Policy and Planning Victoria Police	2022 - 2026
2.5	Improve education and training in family violence issues and support.	2.5.1	Work with delivery partners to develop and deliver resources and support around family violence and healthy relationships to both schools and young people.	Youth Services Community Development Projects/ Family Violence	2022 - 2026

OBJECTIVE			ACTION	TEAM	TIMEFRAME
		2.5.2	Ensure council staff are equipped to offer guidance, support, and referrals around family violence, and are receiving ongoing training and support.	Schools and education providers	2022 - 2026
				Victoria Police Youth Services Community Development Projects/ Family Violence	

Priority 3: Education and Employment

Our young people are seeking guidance and support to stay connected in education and ‘real life’ skills to assist in their transition to adulthood and employment.

We will work closely with schools, and other education and employment providers to identify opportunities whereby we can support our young people to engage in education and prepare for employment.

OBJECTIVE			ACTION	TEAM	TIMEFRAME
3.1	Provide opportunities to encourage and support our young people to engage in education and prepare for employment.	3.1.1	Work with delivery partners to improve access to employment readiness programs for youth that are disengaged.	Youth Services Economic Development Family Health Support Services	2022 - 2023
		3.1.2	Work with schools and educational institutions to provide improved access to information about life after school and support services available.	Youth Services Schools and education providers	2022 - 2023
		3.1.3	Facilitate workshops designed to assist with building skills in resume writing, job application and preparation for an interview.	Youth Services Economic Development Family Health Support	2022 - 2026

OBJECTIVE		ACTION		TEAM	TIMEFRAME
				Services	
		3.1.4	Work with local businesses to identify opportunities for work experience, traineeships, and internships.	Youth Services Economic Development Family Health Support Services Local business	2022 - 2026
		3.1.5	Work with education and employment providers, and other stakeholders to promote and provide grants to young people with barriers in order to support their education and career aspirations.	Youth Services Community Programs/ Grants Schools, education and employment providers Services working with at-risk young people	2022 - 2026
3.2	Provide positive role models that inspire and encourage our young people to make good choices.	3.2.1	Work with educational institutions, business and other stakeholders to explore ways to connect young people with relatable, positive role models from the local area.	Youth Services Community Development Projects/ Family Violence Schools and education providers	2022 - 2023
		3.2.2	Work with educational institutions, business and other stakeholders to explore ways to provide young people with mentoring through programs.	Youth Services Community Development Projects/	2022 - 2023



OBJECTIVE			ACTION	TEAM	TIMEFRAME
				Family Violence	
				Schools and education providers	

Priority 4: Inclusion and Accessibility

Access to community infrastructure, services and programs needs to be equitable and inclusive for all young people within the municipality. Some young people require additional support needs and it is important to ensure they are included and have a sense of belonging.

We will proactively connect with those who may be at-risk or have barriers to engagement, to ensure that young people with diverse needs and backgrounds have equitable access to facilities, services and programs.

OBJECTIVE			ACTION	TEAM	TIMEFRAME
4.1	Educate and where possible provide access to technology to enable improved connectedness.	4.1.1	Engage with young people to explore opportunities to ensure access to technology is not a barrier to participation.	Youth Services	2022 - 2023
				Social Policy and Planning	
				Libraries and Learning	
		4.1.2	Provide information to educate parents and young people around technology and cyber security.	Youth Services	2022 - 2023
4.2	Advocate for funding of youth initiatives and support.	4.2.1	Advocate for youth homelessness initiatives and funding with local stakeholders through Youth2 Alliance.	Schools and education providers	2022 - 2023
				Youth Services	
				Social Policy and Planning	
		4.2.2	Work with delivery partners to establish opportunities for funding and support, and continue to address youth homelessness in Frankston (E.g. Project-Y, Youth2 Alliance).	Youth Services	2022 - 2026
				Youth2 Alliance	2022 - 2026
				Housing Support	

OBJECTIVE			ACTION	TEAM	TIMEFRAME
				Services	
				Social Policy and Planning	
		4.2.3	Work with clubs and other stakeholders to promote and provide grants to young people with barriers in order to support their social connection and participation in recreational activities.	Youth Services	2022 - 2026
				Community Programs/ Grants	
				Clubs and community groups	
				Services working with at-risk young people	
4.3	Proud and resilient young people who are empowered and inclusive.	4.3.1	Actively increase support and awareness of LGBTQIA+ young people within the local community.	Youth Services	2022 - 2026
				Community Development Projects/ Diversity and Inclusion	
		4.3.2	Work with schools and educational institutions to explore ways to further deliver and expand resilience programs to address bullying.	Youth Services	2022 - 2026
				Schools and education providers	
4.4	Support recently arrived young people.	4.4.1	Work with educational institutions to identify opportunities to support international students.	Youth Services	2022 - 2026
				Community Development Programs	
4.5	Celebrate and support the diversity of culture within our community.	4.5.1	Develop programs and/or events that promote, educate and celebrate cross-cultural diversity.	Youth Services	2022 - 2026
				Community Development Projects/ Reconciliation	
				Community Development Programs	

OBJECTIVE			ACTION	TEAM	TIMEFRAME
		4.5.2	Ensure council staff receive ongoing training to enable culturally sensitive programs and support, including to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.	Youth Services Community Development Projects/ Reconciliation	2022 - 2026

Priority 5: Youth Participation and Engagement

The ability to freely express their ideas and contribute to the way the community is shaped is a vital role for the young people of Frankston City in building their future and a truly livable city they are proud of. There is a need to build capacity and opportunities for participation, allowing our young to have their say.

We will empower young people to have a voice by providing opportunities for them to have a real impact in their community and on council decision-making, ensuring they are well represented.

OBJECTIVE			ACTION	TEAM	TIMEFRAME
5.1	Encourage and celebrate the success of our young people.	5.1.1	Encourage, support and celebrate participation through youth celebrations and awards.	Youth Services	2022 - 2026
		5.1.2	Support the ongoing role of our youth leadership groups, including Youth Council and Fresh Entertainment.	Youth Services	2022 - 2026
5.2	Providing opportunities for young people to be involved in council decision-making.	5.2.1	Ensure community engagement is reaching and hearing from our young people, and that relevant learnings are considered and applied where possible.	Youth Services Community Engagement	2022 - 2026
		5.2.2	Work with Youth Council, and other youth groups to build capacity to be able to identify and contribute to addressing the needs within the community.	Youth Services Youth Council	2022 - 2026
5.3	Provide opportunities for young people to volunteer within the community.	5.3.1	Work with Youth Council and other stakeholders in the community to identify volunteer opportunities and initiatives for young people, and develop a plan to promote these opportunities.	Youth Services Community Strengthening	2022 - 2023
5.4	Provide opportunities for young people to express and be themselves in unstructured ways.	5.4.1	Explore opportunities to provide programs and events, both face-to-face and online, to enable young people to participate and connect socially.	Youth Services	2022 - 2023



Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

The Manager Community Strengthening and Coordinator Youth Services are responsible for implementing, monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the Youth Action Plan 2022-2026. This Plan will be monitored and reviewed at the end of each financial year, based on progress and newly available data, and reporting will be conducted annually by Frankston City Council to ensure delivery of the Youth Action Plan is on track.

Frankston Youth Services will manage and coordinate the delivery of the Plan, ensuring actions are achieved within specified timeframes through:

- Strengthening existing service delivery
- Implementation of new initiatives
- Collaboration with young people, internal and external delivery partners

The Youth Action Plan will inform the way we work with young people and delivery partners over the next four years. It is the start of an ongoing conversation with young people and the youth and community sectors about how we will collaborate to improve the futures of our young people.



**FRANKSTON CITY
COUNCIL**

30 Davey Street
Frankston VIC 3199
Australia

PO Box 490
Frankston VIC 3199

Phone 1300 322 322

frankston.vic.gov.au