

CITY OF  
MONASH

CITY OF MONASH

MUNICIPAL  
EARLY YEARS  
PLAN

2009-2012

## Contents

Mayor's Foreword .....	1
City of Monash Planning Documents .....	3
Background to Municipal Early Years Planning .....	5
Children's Services in the City of Monash.....	10
The Key Characteristics of the City of Monash .....	15
Impacting Issues .....	21
Development of MEYP 2009-2012.....	24
Review and Evaluation .....	27
MEYP Action Plan.....	31
Breastfeeding .....	33
Immunisation .....	34
Maternal & Child Health Service .....	36
Sun Protection .....	38
Physical Activity .....	39
Oral Health .....	42
Reading, Writing & Numeracy .....	45
Kindergarten .....	48
Injury Prevention.....	51
Parenting Support.....	53
Monash Community Profile.....	60
Summary Of Consultation .....	63

## Mayor's Foreword

It is exciting to bring you this, Council's second Municipal Early Years Plan (MEYP). This Plan will focus on families with children 0-12 years of age. Worldwide research is providing us all with the knowledge that the early years are very important in the overall development of our future adult citizens. All levels of government are recognising that fact and acting on it.

The critical opportunity that presents itself in the first few years of a child's life, to shape development to ensure that children become healthy positive young people and then adults, who achieve their full potential, is now recognised as an important underpinning of social planning.

There is strong research based evidence that highlights the importance of the early years, which has gained the national and international attention of politicians, economists, sociologists, paediatricians and psychologists, as well as the early year's sector. Increasingly this is reflected in children's services policies worldwide, including Australia and Victoria. The new policy developments aim to provide interventions that lead to positive outcomes for families and their children.

The early childhood literature provides substantial evidence that:

- The early years are crucial in setting the stage for later life;
- Young children develop through their relationships with others;
- Children's development is shaped by the balance between risk and protective factors; and
- Supporting families effectively requires a comprehensive, coordinated family-centred service system.

This plan is based on results and information provided by surveys sent to families and children's services, including primary schools, in Monash and focus groups drawn from across the municipality. Council also went out and asked the children what they liked and disliked about living in Monash and what made them feel safe. The overarching answer, from both parents and early childhood professionals, to the question "What do we want for our children?" was "We want them to be safe, happy and healthy". So in terms of what Council can do to support families to have children who are safe, happy and healthy, there are a number of strategies including utilising the expertise of service providers and Council staff as well as utilising a document published by the Department of Human Services titled, *Strategies for Improving Outcomes for Young Children*. A catalogue of evidence based interventions. (2007).

The strategies contained in the Monash Early Years Plan include:

- Breastfeeding;
- Immunisation;
- Maternal & Child Health service (MCH);
- Sun protection;
- Physical activity;
- Oral health;
- Reading, writing & numeracy;

- Kindergarten (preschool);
- Preventable injury; and
- Parenting support.

By implementing the MEYP over the next three years, Council will be supporting Monash families with raising their children and providing them with a child and family friendly community in which to live and grow.

This Plan will be posted on Council's website with updates provided over the next three years as new research is made available and new initiatives are implemented.

Council looks forward to contributing to the continuing development of a community that is willing to explore new ways of supporting the children to be safe, happy and healthy.

**Cr. Paul Klisaris**  
Mayor

## City of Monash Planning Documents

### Council Plan

Council's major planning document is the City of Monash *Council Plan 2006-2010 – Monash – A thriving community*. It is the key strategic document guiding Monash City Council's planning, development allocation of resources and delivery of services. The Council Plan sets the vision and parameters for the MEYP.

The key Strategic Objectives in the Council Plan that inform the MEYP development are:

#### Strategic Objective 1: An Inclusive and Connected Community

*“An inclusive and connected community will ensure that members of the Monash community participate and contribute freely to their community, embrace diversity, ensure equitable access and strengthen links between individuals and the community.”*

#### Strategic Objective 2: A Supportive Community

*“A supportive community will enable the provision of quality community services with a particular focus on the aged, children, youth and families for service provision and coordination as well as the long term viability of sporting recreational and cultural activities.”*

#### Strategic Objective 4: A Liveable City

*“A liveable city will enable the community of the City of Monash to enjoy a healthy, safe and attractive place to live, where lifestyle, recreation and creativity enrich the lives of the community through appropriate and effective infrastructure, open space and development.”*

### Monash 2012: A Strategy For the Future (2006 Update)

In this document Council outlines its vision, goals and strategies across ten major themes.

In relation to family and children's services, Council's goal is to support its families and young people to thrive and succeed by:

- Strengthening coordination and cooperation between services for children, families and young people, including multi-purpose infrastructure development;
- Lobbying State and Federal Government for increased funding for early childhood services particularly for capital improvements to facilities;
- Supporting initiatives that promote the integration of early childhood services; and
- Continuing to support young people through community education and early intervention programs.

The MEYP is part of Council's total planning framework and sits along with the following Council plans that have been developed to support Council's commitment to all residents. These include:

- ❖ **Monash Municipal Public Health Plan 2007-2010**
- ❖ **Indigenous Framework and Action Plan 2007-2011**
- ❖ **Disability Access and Inclusion Framework and Action Plan 2007- 2008**
- ❖ **Multicultural Framework and Action Plan 2006 – 2008**
- ❖ **City of Monash Recreation Services Strategic Plan: 2006-2010**
- ❖ **Creative Community. Monash Arts and Cultural Development Strategy 2007-2010**

## **Background to Municipal Early Years Planning**

### **Early Year's Research**

The results of recent research have proved that what happens to children in the early years has consequences right throughout the course of their lives. There are many opportunities to intervene and make a difference to the lives of children and young people. The evidence shows the most effective time to intervene is early childhood, including the antenatal period. Two streams of research have led to these results, the ecological perspective and the economic perspective.

For young children the antenatal, family and social environments are critical because children develop through their relationships with others and social environments have an especially large impact on development, (Hertzman 1999). The younger the child the more vulnerable is the brain to environmental influences.

For families their immediate community and wider social environments are critical. The support a family receives from their extended family and/or community is vital. Other factors that impact on family functioning and support good developmental outcomes include:

- How well their basic needs (income, employment, housing) are met
- Their social connectedness
- Access to quality services and facilities including child care, preschool and kindergarten
- Family friendly workplace arrangements to facilitate the achievement of a balance between work and family commitments.

For children and families alike, development is shaped by the ongoing interplay among sources of risk or vulnerability on the one hand, and sources of resilience or protection on the other (Shonkoff and Phillips, 2000).

From the economic perspective intervening early makes economic sense. Cost benefit studies have shown that prevention and early intervention are cheaper and more effective than treatment. (Heckman, 2000).

The implications of these streams of research have had a major influence on policy development throughout the world as well as setting the direction of both the Australian and Victorian governments in early childhood policy.

### **Australian Commonwealth Government**

The National Agenda for Early Childhood (2004) recognised early childhood as a critical period of physical, emotional, intellectual and social growth. It recognised that the way we as a society respond to the needs of young children can have a profound impact on

their development and life pathways. This in turn has consequences for the economic and social growth of Australia as a whole.

The current Commonwealth government's agenda for early childhood and children's services focuses on providing Australian families with high quality, accessible and affordable integrated early childhood education and child care. The agenda has a strong emphasis on connecting with schools to ensure all Australian children are fully prepared for learning and life. Investing in the health, education, development and care of Australian children benefits children and their families, Australian communities and the economy, and is critical to lifting workforce participation and delivering the government's productivity agenda.

In December 2007, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to a partnership between the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to pursue substantial reform in the areas of education, skills and early childhood development, to deliver significant improvements in human capital outcomes for all Australians. A Discussion Paper seeking comment and submissions on a national quality framework for early childhood education and care was released in October 2008. The direction of this Discussion Paper is to bring into line state regulations with the Commonwealth accreditation process and to bring in all forms of early childhood services under this umbrella. Consultations with stakeholders are continuing.

### **Victorian State Government**

State governments are responsible for the licensing of early childhood services and in Victoria the State takes responsibility for the policy and supports for early childhood education programs for 4 year olds. The state government is moving towards a more integrated approach to children's services with the creation of the Office for Children, the development of the State wide Master Plan linking all the Municipal Early Years Plans and provision of capital funding for children's centres providing kindergarten, long day child care, MCH and other related services. The need to link universal and secondary early childhood services was highlighted in the Victorian Government's *Children First* policy in order to improve the outcome for children and their families.

### **Victoria's plan to improve outcomes in early childhood**

In March 2007 the Department of Premier & Cabinet released *Victoria's plan to improve outcomes in early childhood*, one of Victoria's proposals to the Council of Australian Governments under the National Reform Agenda. This is an integrated reform package that will drive sustained improvements in early childhood outcomes.

The plan identified four key policy directions:

- • Improving antenatal care;
- • Strengthening the health, development and learning of 0-5 year olds;
- • Enhancing provision of early childhood education and care services;
- • Improving the early years workforce.

A series of actions have been designed in response to each of these four policy directions to develop an integrated, high quality and accessible early childhood service system. The plan outlines a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to the provision of early childhood services from pregnancy through to primary school transition. The plan encompasses four areas of change which reinforce the ongoing commitment of the Victorian Government to providing children with the best start in life, making sure that they are born healthy and equipping them with skills for life and learning. The four areas are:

- Setting the stage for later life;
- Developing through relationships with others;
- Reducing disadvantage;
- Every child, every chance.

The State government in early 2008 released a series of Discussion Papers, one of which is of vital importance to the future direction of Early Childhood Services in this state. It is the Blueprint for Early Childhood Development and School Reform Discussion Paper. The key areas that are addressed in the Discussion Paper are:

- Partnerships with parents and communities;
- System development and reform;
- Workforce reform.

One of the strategies proposed in this paper is the continued integration of pre-school and child care.

### **Integration of Services**

Recent developments in a range of municipalities towards the integration of early childhood services, have taken place around the concept of Early Childhood/Community/Family Hubs. The Victorian Government has a commitment to the inclusion of long day care, preschool and MCH in Hubs. There are examples of the development of hubs in the City of Monash:

- The development at Bestchance Child and Family Care;
- The development of the Clayton Community Centre.

The evidence base for the development of Community Hubs emerges from both local and international research and local practice experience. The concept of service integration, especially in the provision of service for children, has received much attention in recent years. Research undertaken across both the developed and developing world suggests that where services for children work together; the outcomes for families are significantly beneficial.

Another aspect of integration of services is the development of local networks of services and stakeholders with the intention of developing a shared understanding by the participants of the local children's services culture. This enables more effective communication and referral pathways for residents. The role of the Coordinator Children's Services Support and Planning at the City of Monash has been instrumental in

achieving this through the development of new initiatives including training and important sharing of information between local children's services.

Three recent Policy Briefs developed by the Centre for Community Child Health provide evidence supporting the advantages of the development of integrated services from the perspective of service delivery and management and also service programming taking into account the care and education needs of the child and access of parents to a truly supportive service system. One of the implications identified by Policy Brief No 12 "Towards an Early Years Learning Framework" is that the framework should seek to blend the traditionally separate early childhood care and education functions into a seamless service, (Centre for Community Child Health 2006, 2007 and 2008).

### **Policy Issues that will impact on children's services in the near future**

The main policy issues that will impact on children's services in Victoria in the next few years will be:

- The results of the Review of the State government Children's Services Regulations which are due to be implemented in May 2009, of critical importance will be staff: child ratios, group sizes and staff qualifications. These regulations will impact on kindergarten, child care, Family Day Care and Out of School Hours Services.
- The implementation of the recently released State government Blueprint for Early Childhood Development and School Reform Discussion Paper.
- The development of the National quality framework for Early Childhood Education and Care.
- The Australian government policy to increase the number of hours for four year old children attending preschool to 15 hours per week. This is a complicated reform which will have major ramifications for teaching hours, infrastructure, and supply of adequately trained staff to meet demand and will impact differently in each of the states, depending on their current system and resources.
- The move towards the creation of a national curriculum from the early years onwards through to secondary school.
- The demise of ABC Learning Centres will result in very significant changes to the ownership of ABC childcare services and a possible review of the mode of delivery and planning of childcare Australia wide.

## **The Role of Local Government**

Local government in Victoria has played a major role in initiating and developing the children's services system and securing Federal and Victorian Government funding for programs such as MCH, kindergarten and childcare. This has led to both state and federal governments giving increased recognition to the key role that local government plays in planning and service development.

At the local government level, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) has an expectation that all Victorian Councils will develop Municipal Early Years Plans (MEYP) covering three-year periods.

A MEYP is a local area plan designed to provide strategic direction for the development and coordination of early childhood education, care and health programs, activities and other local developments that impact on young children in a municipality. Monash City Council has taken the decision to base the 2009-2012 MEYP on services for children aged 0-12 years.

The MEYP will be a guide to Council for the long term planning, development and evaluation of children's programs, activities and facilities across all council departments. It will enable Council to make informed decisions and maximise its resources. The plan will also serve as a basis for negotiation with government on resources and policy issues.

The MEYP will clearly articulate Council's role in service and infrastructure provision, planning, advocacy and community capacity building. (*Municipal Association of Victoria. Municipal Early Years Planning (MEYP) Framework. Council Action for Early Years Change. June 2006*).

In a paper identifying the rationale and recommendations for municipal early years planning, Lynne Wannan, Director, Office for the Community Sector, argues that:

*“Local government, even when not the main provider has the greatest capacity to systematically improve children's services delivery, coordination and integration at the local family and community level.”*

When local government supports and resources the system of early childhood services, the capacity of services to play an effective community building role, progressing the child development, family and community strengthening goals of each sphere of government is enhanced.” (*Wannan, L (Oct 2002) Local Governments “Fostering child development, supporting families, building community” WWW Communications*)

## **Children's Services in the City of Monash**

The Municipal Early Years Planning process has influenced much of what Council has done over recent years. In the first City of Monash MEYP, 2005-2008, there were five goals identified for children's services in the municipality:

- For families with young children to have appropriate services and activities both available and easily accessible within the City of Monash;
- To maximise the community and service system's knowledge of services and activities for families and children 0-6 years in Monash;
- To enhance family participation in, and connection to, a supportive community;
- To maximise long term health and safety outcomes for children and their families; and
- To maximise development and educational potential for children.

One of the initiatives achieved in 2006/07 was for Council to provide the funding for the position of Coordinator, Children's Services Support & Planning. This position was filled in December 2006. Since this time children's services staff, and Maternal & Child Health staff have participated in a number of activities to support those goals, including:

- Participation at Council festivals to promote family and children's services;
- A Children's Services banner for festivals and events was designed and produced;
- Providing information to Monash families by distributing a children's services brochure;
- Regular networking/meetings for preschool teachers including preschool staff working in long day care services;
- Participating in the planning and development of an annual preschool staff conference;
- Exploring training opportunities for early childhood staff in the municipality;
- Guest speakers and activities organised for Children's Week (October) that were available for children, parents, early childhood staff, and playgroups;
- Regular linkages/meetings with community service organisations and government, including MonashLink, Bestchance Child & Family Care, Department of Human Services – Preschool Field Officer, Children's Services Advisers;
- Supporting early childhood services, by assisting them in a variety of ways including submission writing techniques;
- Employing a temporary Preschool Dental Health Support Officer to work with early childhood services on a project to support the development of nutrition and oral health policies within their services; and
- Successfully applying for funding from Dental Health Services Victoria to provide a "Smiles 4 Miles" program in Ashwood, Chadstone, Clayton and Oakleigh.

Other initiatives include the following activities that support the key outcomes for children and families living in Monash:

- Postnatal and infant development through the Council's Maternal & Child Health (MCH) service;
- Avoidance of preventable disease through the immunisation program;
- Social and emotional development through early childhood services, such as preschools, (including the Central Enrolment Scheme for preschools), childcare centres, occasional care centres and playgroups;
- Promoting healthy teeth and gums through the preschool dental health program;
- Supporting adequate exercise and physical activity through both the Monash playgrounds and Monash Aquatic & Recreation Centre (MARC);
- Parent promotion of child health and development through new mum's groups held at MCH centres and seminars and workshops for parents including fathers;
- High quality early education and care experiences available to families including adequate supports to meet needs of families with children with a disability supported by the Inclusion Support Program;
- Early identification of child health needs through support networks and partnerships between council services, community service organisations and both Federal and State Governments; and
- Communities that enable parents and children to build connections and draw on informal assistance through Council's early childhood staff and services, MCH, Family Day Care and attendance at local festivals and events.

The Municipal Early Years Plan has provided a framework for the City of Monash to support the development of a strong and supportive community that enables parents to be confident and capable and where children who are safe and healthy, continue to develop, learn and achieve wellbeing. Over the past years, activities and interactions have been implemented so as to achieve the goals and objectives of the MEYP.

This second Monash MEYP has been developed based on a more recent analysis of demographics and statistics where they have been available. Consultations have taken place with the community to identify the aspirations and concerns of children, families and service representatives in the City of Monash that has resulted in the development of an action plan based on strategies identified as providing children with the best start in life.

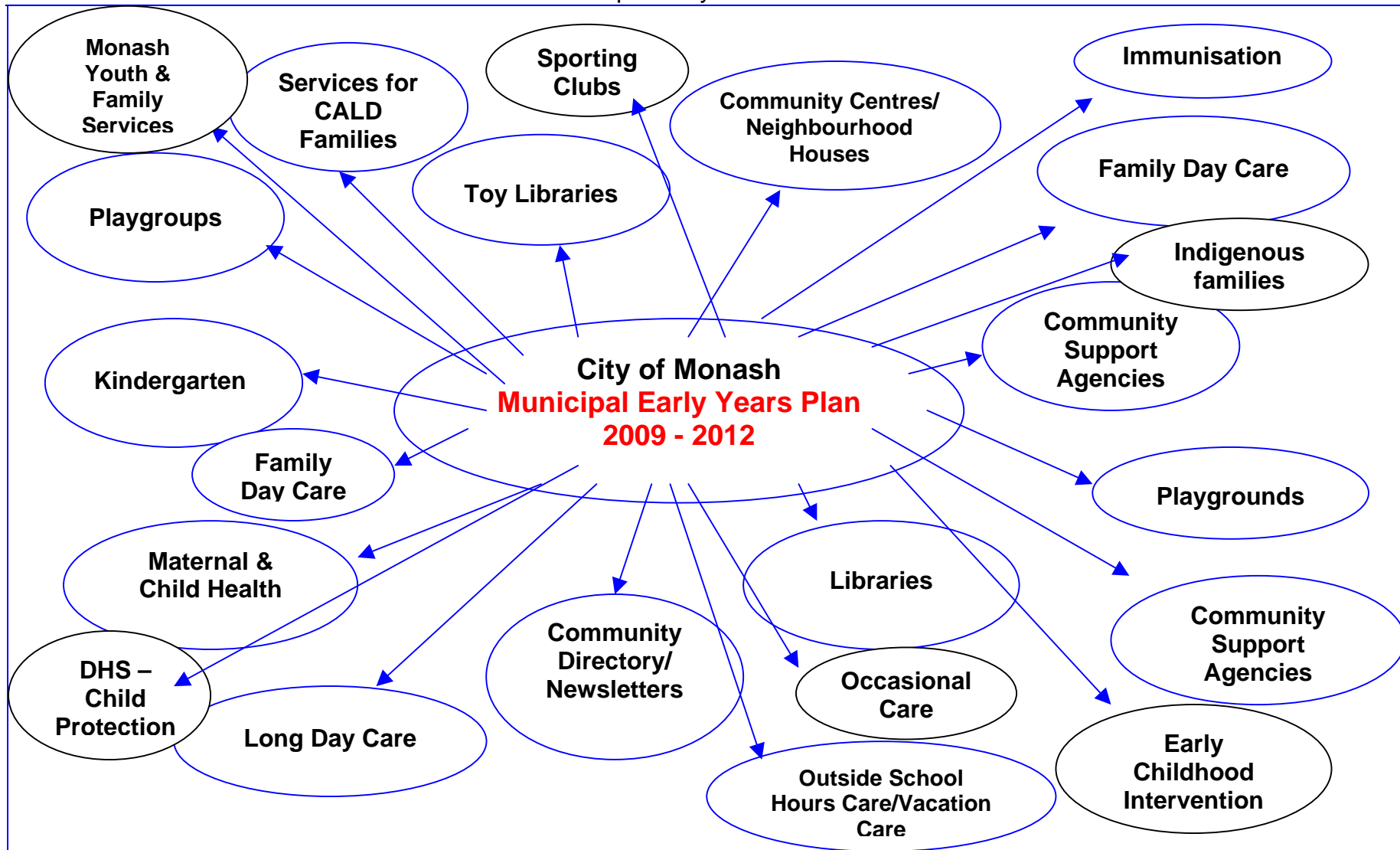
## **The Current Service System in Monash**

The formal service system comprises three main types:

1. Primary/Universal services – These services are available to all children and populations, there is no labelling or stigmatisation involved, and therefore they are more effective at reaching at risk children, these have been found to be more beneficial for the most disadvantaged children and families, (CCH Policy Brief No 4 Services for young children and families). Examples of such services are kindergarten, child care and MCH.
2. Secondary or targeted services have the capacity to provide intervention before symptoms or disorders become entrenched, which is particularly important in conditions where results of treatment are inconsistent or treatment services are over stretched. Examples of such services are counselling, family support and Pre-school Field Officer services.
3. Tertiary or treatment Services have the capacity to resolve some acute problems as well as to tackle the most difficult chronic conditions and can make a difference. Examples of such services are child protection, mental health and drug abuse services.

There are services of all three types in Monash, some of these are provided directly by Council, others are provided by community based organisations, some by private providers and others by the state government. Most of the treatment services, although provided for Monash residents, are regionally based and are located outside the municipality.

The following schematic diagram shows the Council's community services that will contribute to the achievement of the Monash Early Years Program. This is followed by a table listing services, the number of such services existing in Monash and an indication of the providers of the services. More details can be found in the 2009 Community Directory of the City of Monash.



Municipal Early Years Plan 2009 -2012

---

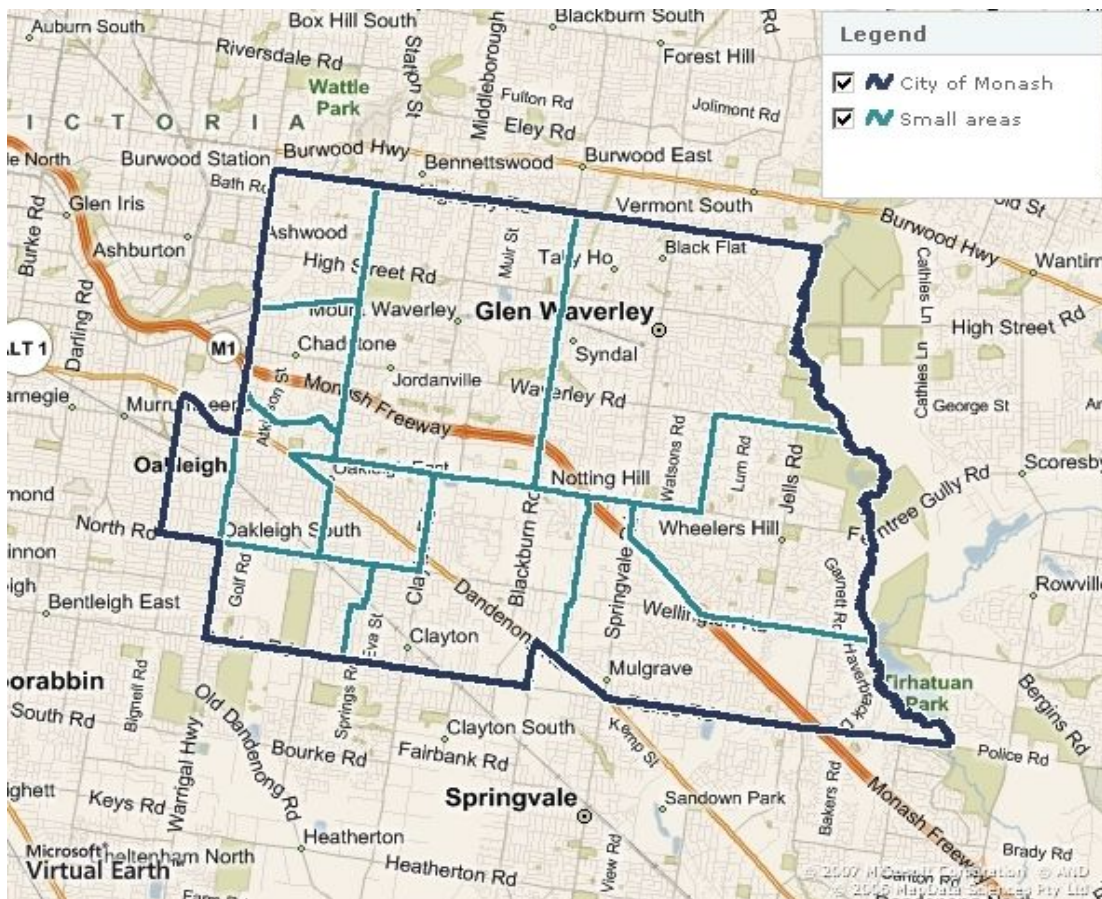
<b>Services</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Service Type</b>	<b>Provider</b>
Maternal & Child Health Centres	9	Universal	Council
3 Year old Kinder Programs	33	Universal	Community and Cluster managed services
4 Year old Kinder Programs	38	Universal	As above
Long Day Care Centres	33	Universal	1 Council, plus a range of community based, private and work based providers
Family Day Care	1	Universal	Council
Primary Schools	48	Universal	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Catholic and independent
Outside School Hours	35	Universal	Managed by schools
Vacation Care	15	Universal	Council, Monash University, Primary Schools
Playgroups	25 Locations	Universal	Covering all suburbs
Parks	12	Universal	Managed by Council
Playgrounds	128	Universal	127 managed by Council and 1 managed by Parks Victoria,
Types of Sports Available	45	Universal	Community managed sporting clubs
Libraries	5	Universal	Council managed, 5 branches
Storytime	At each library	Universal	
Occasional Childcare	9	Universal	Neighbourhood houses, Occasional care Co-op (4 locations), bestchance & Uniting Church.
Early Intervention Services	7	Secondary	Range of providers and Council provides inclusion support services
Immunisation Sessions	7 – Daytime 1 - Night	Universal	Council and General practitioners (Council 43%)
Toy Libraries	4	Universal	Neighbourhood house and community.
Neighbourhood Houses/Community Centres	10	Universal	Community based and church based providers.
Special Developmental Schools	2	Secondary	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, and community.
Cheshire Centre	1	Secondary	Community managed

## The Key Characteristics of the City of Monash

The City of Monash is located in Melbourne's south eastern suburbs 13 to 24 kilometres south east of the Melbourne GPO.

Monash is bounded by the City of Whitehorse to the north, the City of Knox to the east, the Cities of Greater Dandenong and Kingston to the south and the Cities of Glen Eira, Stonnington and Boroondara to the west. The City includes the suburbs of Ashwood, Burwood (part), Chadstone (part), Clayton, Glen Waverley, Hughesdale, Huntingdale, Mount Waverley, Mulgrave, Notting Hill, Oakleigh, Oakleigh East, Oakleigh South (part) and Wheelers Hill.

The City's boundaries are Highbury Road to the north, the Dandenong Creek to the east, Police Road, Dandenong Road, Westall Road and Centre Road to the south and Warrigal Road, North Rd, Poath Road and Dandenong Road in the west.



The City of Monash is diverse in its culture and characteristics, which make it a vibrant place to live. Overall, there has been a slight increase in children aged 0-11 years of age showing in the 2006 Census data, compared to 2001 data, with the highest increases being in Clayton and Oakleigh South, but generally across the suburbs there is very little change.

**City of Monash demographic data (as provided by Australian Bureau of Statistics)**

Comparing the 2006 ABS Census collection with that of 2001, overall the total population of Monash has grown from 155,061 to 160,033 a difference of 4972. The 0-4 population has grown by 341 and the 5-11 year population has diminished by 75. Compared with the age structure of the Melbourne statistical division Monash has a smaller percentage of children in both age cohorts.

Analysis of the country of birth of the population of Monash with that of the Melbourne Statistical division shows that there are a larger proportion of people born overseas as well as a larger proportion of people from a non English speaking background. Overall 39.7% of the population was born overseas and 34% were from a non-English speaking background, compared with 29% and 22% respectively for the Melbourne statistical division. The dominant non-English speaking country of birth in Monash was China where 8.3% or 8,300 of the overseas born population were born.

Compared with other Victorian municipalities, Monash has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest proportion of overseas born residents, the following table demonstrates this:

LGA	Greater Dandenong	Brimbank	Melbourne	Monash	Maribyrnong	Manningham
% overseas born	51.5%	43.3%	42.2%	<b>39.7%</b>	38.8%	34.1%

Monash has the highest percentage of overseas born in the Eastern Metropolitan Region.

**From where and when did Cultural & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people come?**

The Small Area Analysis of the 2006 Census data identifies the highest concentrations of the CALD population as being:

- Born in North East Asia (8% of the total Monash population) and live mainly around Clayton and Glen Waverley. These people tend to be recent arrivals with more than 60% having settled in Australia since 1996.
- People born in North Africa and the Middle East comprising 1.5% of the total Monash population; over 60% of these arrived in Australia before 1991. Highest concentrations born in this region are located at Wheelers Hill, Mulgrave and Glen Waverley.
- Persons coming from North West Europe making up 5% of the population and 80% came prior to 1991; the highest concentrations tend to be located at Mt. Waverley, Glen Waverley, Wheelers Hill, also Mulgrave, Oakleigh and Oakleigh South.

- Persons coming from Southern and Eastern Europe making up 8% of the total Monash population and 85% came here prior to 1991; areas of highest concentration are Hughesdale, Chadstone, Oakleigh, Oakleigh East, Oakleigh South and Clayton.
- People born in Sub-Saharan Africa making up 1.4% of the Monash population, 35% of this group have settled in Australia since 2001, these are mainly from South Africa and Mauritius. The highest concentrations of these people live at Chadstone, Ashwood, Burwood, Oakleigh East, Glen Waverley, and Wheelers Hill.
- 9.5% of the Monash population have arrived since 2001; areas of highest concentration are Clayton, Notting Hill, Glen Waverley, Hughesdale, Oakleigh and Chadstone. 6.2% of the population over the age of 5 years are not fluent in English; they are concentrated in Chadstone, Huntingdale, Oakleigh, Oakleigh East, Mulgrave and Glen Waverley.

Implications of these findings are the need to plan for service delivery and coordination for children and families in these groups, advocate for appropriate levels of access to ESL classes, reduce social isolation and develop appropriate communication strategies.

### Indigenous population

The identification of indigenous population in an area is dependent upon those persons that identify themselves as indigenous. According to the 2006 Census 333 indigenous persons were identified in Monash, 76 of these were children between the ages of 0-12 years, this is an increase of almost 12% from the previous 2001 Census where the number of identified indigenous persons was 292, and is 12.9% of the indigenous population identified in the Eastern Metropolitan Region, (total 2,576 identified).

**Distribution of the ATSI population in the Eastern Metropolitan Region (2006 census)**

LGA	ATSI Population	% of ATSI Population
Boorondara	167	6.5%
Knox	482	18.7%
Manningham	116	4.5%
Maroondah	337	13.1%
<b>Monash</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>12.9%</b>
Whitehorse	296	11.5%
Yarra Ranges	845	32.8%
Total	2,576	100%

To put this into context the indigenous population of Victoria increased from approximately 25,000 in the 2001 Census to 30,000 in the 2006 census.

The major planning implications for this growing population is to strengthen service delivery and invite participation, to promote and celebrate the indigenous culture and to strengthen the organisational capacity within Family and Youth Services to reach out to the indigenous community, (City of Monash Indigenous Framework and Action Plan 2007-2011).

## **Transport**

Monash has a lower percentage of households with one car or less than the Melbourne Statistical division. Suburbs with higher percentages of households with one car or less are Clayton/Notting Hill, Oakleigh, Oakleigh East/Huntingdale and Chadstone. There is a range of transport options as Monash is dissected by a number of major transport routes:

- The Monash Freeway which joins up to City Link and the Eastern Arterial;
- It is crossed by a grid of major roads going N/S and E/W;
- Two railway lines pass through, the Glen Waverley line finishing at Glen Waverley and the Dandenong line passes through to the South; and
- Bus routes pass through in all directions and link in with railway stations, shopping centres and Monash University.

## **Low Income Households**

The number of households in Monash which have an income of less than \$500 per week is 17.4%. This is slightly less than that recorded for the Melbourne Statistical Division, 7.4% of the households have a weekly income of less than \$249 per week, which is slightly more than Melbourne Statistical Division. Those suburbs with the highest percentage of households with a weekly income of less than \$249 per week are Clayton/Notting Hill, Chadstone, and Ashwood/Burwood, these suburbs also have the highest percentages of households with a weekly income of less than \$500 per week.

## **No Qualifications**

Nearly 43% of Monash respondents to the Census had no qualifications, this is less than Melbourne Statistical Division at 45.9%. Suburbs in Monash recording the highest percentage of no qualifications were Oakleigh South, Oakleigh East/Huntingdale, Mulgrave, Oakleigh, and Clayton/Notting Hill.

## **Unemployed**

Just 5.6% of Monash respondents were unemployed, this compares with 5.4% for Melbourne Statistical Division. The highest percentage within Monash was in Clayton/Notting Hill (there could be a student effect here), followed by Chadstone, Oakleigh East/Huntingdale and Chadstone.

## **Internet Access at Home**

Monash has a higher percentage of respondents with internet access at home (66.3%) than Melbourne Statistical Division (61.0%). The lowest levels of internet access at home are recorded at Oakleigh South, Chadstone, Oakleigh East/Huntingdale and Clayton/Notting Hill.

### One parent families

Nearly five percent of Monash one parent families have children less than 15 years old, compared with 7.5% in the Melbourne Statistical Division. Those suburbs with the highest percentages of such families tend to be located in Chadstone and Ashwood/Burwood, which corresponds to the areas with the highest percentage of government housing rentals in Monash.

### SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage

The ABS provides an Index of relative disadvantage across all areas in Australia. It is calculated on the census data with the highest scores being allocated to the least disadvantaged and the lowest scores allocated to the more disadvantaged suburbs. While Monash is ranked at number 66 out of 80 local governments (LGAs) and therefore is among the least disadvantaged LGAs, the suburban breakdown provides a variable picture with Chadstone, Clayton, Notting Hill and Oakleigh South being the most disadvantaged in Monash (see Attachment 2 for details).

### SEIFA scores and ranking of surrounding LGAs

LGA	SEIFA score	Ranking in Victoria
Boroondara	1142	80
Stonnington	1130	78
GlenEira	1088	73
Whitehorse	1066	70
<b>Monash</b>	<b>1036</b>	<b>66</b>
Kingston	1028	62
Greater Dandenong	914	7

**Monash Early Childhood Community Profile 2006.** (Developed by the Department of Human Services.)

Information on this profile is largely based on the 2001 Census data and other data contained in it has been collected up to 2005 only and it provides information for the age cohort of 0-8 years. So there are limitations in its usefulness for this MEYP. However, it will be possible for it to be updated when a new edition of the Community Profile becomes available.

Issues worth noting are:

- Breast feeding rates for children in the first three and six months of life in Monash have been consistently lower than the Metropolitan average from 2001 until 2005 where improvement is evident. Figures for 2007-08 indicate that there has continued to be improvement in the percentage of babies fully breastfed at both 3 and 6 months, although the average figure for Monash comes in lower than the regional average at both the 3 and 6 month stage as well as on discharge from hospital, (Annual Report of MCH Eastern Region 2006/07).

- MCH participation in Monash for the initial home consultation has been consistently higher than metropolitan Melbourne from 2001 to 2005, but the percentage of children seen at the 3.5 year check has been consistently lower than the metropolitan region for the same period. One issue that may have impacted on this is the increase in birth notifications and the subsequent demands on the MCH service where decisions have been made to give priority to new born and younger babies.
- There has been very good improvement in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children remaining active in the MCH service in the last 2 years.

Based on 2004-2005

- The percentage of children aged 12 to 15 months who were fully immunised in Monash (C) was 91.5%. This was similar to the percentage of children in this age-group fully immunised in Metropolitan Victoria and less than the percentage fully immunised in Rural Victoria.
- Monash (C) was ranked 40 out of 78 LGAs on the percentage of children fully immunised in this age-group. A rank of 1 was assigned to the LGA with the highest percentage of children fully immunised.
- The percentage of children aged 72 to 75 months who were fully immunised in Monash (C) was 84.3%. This was less than the percentage of children in this age-group fully immunised in Metropolitan Victoria and less than the percentage fully immunised in Rural Victoria.
- Monash (C) was ranked 59 out of 78 LGAs on the percentage of children fully immunised in this age-group. A rank of 1 was assigned to the LGA with the highest percentage of children fully immunised.
- From 2001–2005 Monash had an increasing percentage of children enrolled in kindergarten (an increase from 86.5% in 2001 to 106.6% in 2005).
- Monash had consistently lower days of absence from government primary schools in Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 than was recorded for the rest of Victoria.
- Reading assessment of children at Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 is consistently higher than that recorded for the rest of Victoria.

Based on 2005:

- The rate of child protection re-notifications among children aged 0 to 8 in 2004-05 in Monash (C) was 26.7%. This is less than the rate of re-notifications in Metropolitan Victoria and less than the rate of re-notifications in Rural Victoria.
- Monash (C) was ranked 64 out of 77 LGAs on the rate of child protection re-notifications in this age group. A rank of 1 was assigned to the LGA with the highest rate of child protection re-notifications.
- There were 8.3 hospital separations per 1,000 children aged 0 to 8 in Monash (C). This is greater than the rate of hospital separations for asthma in Metropolitan Victoria and greater than the rate of hospital separations for asthma in Rural Victoria.

- Monash (C) was ranked 19 out of 70 LGAs in terms of the rate of hospital separations for asthma. A rank of 1 was assigned to the LGA with the highest rate of hospital separations.
- There were 12.8 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in Monash (C). This is less than the rate of hospital separations for gastroenteritis in Metropolitan Victoria and less than the rate of hospital separations in Rural Victoria.
- Monash (C) was ranked 34 out of 47 LGAs in terms of the rate of hospital separations for gastroenteritis. A rank of 1 was assigned to the LGA with the highest rate of hospital separations. LGAs with less than 5 hospital separations were not assigned a rank.

Additional data will become available on the developmental status of young children in Monash when the Australian Early Development Index data collection is rolled out over all of Australia. This is planned to happen in 2009/10. This data will be analysed to produce results on the following domains:

- Physical health and well being;
- Social competence;
- Emotional security;
- Language and cognitive skills;
- Communication skills and general knowledge.

The analysis is reported suburb by suburb in each municipality.

### **The Impact of Population Forecasts**

While the overall population of Monash is expected to increase up until 2016 by 13,588, population forecasts with regard to 0-4 year olds are consistent with low fertility rates and predict a decrease in this group from 2001 to 2016. Increases have been forecast for Clayton-Notting Hill, Glen Waverly, Mulgrave and Wheelers Hill. However it should be noted that overall forecasts for this age group across Australia have not been reliable in recent years and are not consistent with MCH records. Population forecasts for the 5-11 year old age group are similarly expected to decrease up until 2016, although substantial increases are expected in Mulgrave, Ashwood-Burwood.

### **Impacting Issues**

#### **Anecdotal information from key agencies in Monash**

Contact was made with a number of community agencies serving Monash with particular attention on the more disadvantaged areas. The aim of this was to identify issues that are not apparent in data collections such as ABS statistics, but which impact on the lives of young children and their families in Monash.

There are a number of community agencies that provide regular material aid and emergency relief in the form of food, food vouchers, clothing and other necessities to

families in Monash. Some of the neighbourhood houses and community centres have store cupboards and distribute day old bread on certain days of the week to needy families. There are families, in particular those that are on low, fixed incomes, who struggle to make ends meet, but cope because they are able to access the supports that are in place.

There are also a range of families who often present at parenting programs who struggle with child rearing due to the fact that they themselves came from dysfunctional families and had no role models on which to base their child rearing practices. Often this is combined with low income, disability and family violence. The children from these families are those that will benefit most from regular attendance at universal services.

Agencies are expecting that with a forecast of greater economic down turn in 2009, there will be an influx of more middle class families seeking assistance that will be struggling to understand the system and will also be very vulnerable.

### **Impact of the Global Economic Crisis**

It is clear that the local Victorian economy is already feeling the impact of changed economic circumstances, however it is early days in the downturn of activity and it is not possible to accurately assume the impact on the City of Monash. We can assume that there will be an increase in unemployment and that this will impact on the stability of family life and on the options that will be available. It will have an impact on the ability of families to meet high mortgage payments and the cost of daily living, including their children's education and care. As the community agencies have identified, those individuals and families that have never had cause to use the emergency relief, financial counselling and housing options, will have difficulty not only in accepting their need, but also in locating the avenues for care and support.

### **The Impact of Poverty on Early Childhood Development**

Following is a recent Policy Brief prepared by the Centre for Community Child Health at the Royal Children's Hospital, which addresses this issue.

“Children born into disadvantaged environments are more likely to experience compromised childhoods, unless interventions and supports are provided to offset the effects of poverty. This means that some children will have less opportunity to experience simply being a child.”

“The experience of poverty can form a cycle within families and communities. If the cycle of poverty is not broken, society will ultimately bear the social and economic burden of disadvantaged communities who are unable to positively contribute to the wider community.”

“Strategies designed to increase resilience against the experience of poverty have achieved success for both children born into poverty and their families.” (Policy Brief No 14 2009, Centre for Community Child Health).

## **Development of MEYP 2009-2012**

### **Consultation with the community**

Parent surveys were developed and distributed to all children's services in the municipality in order to get a wide variety of responses from parents, to the question, "What do we want for our children?" They were sent to all preschools, childcare centres and outside school hour's programs. Coordinators and teachers across 119 children's services were asked to distribute them to a minimum of five families each. Surveys were also sent to playgroups utilising 25 locations in Monash. There was a 26% return rate from families to the surveys, assuming all services distributed them.

Surveys were also distributed to all of the professional staff in the services and all primary school principals asking the same question, "What do we want for our children?" There was a 28% return rate from early childhood professionals and 67% return from school principals.

Focus groups were also held around the same question. These focus groups have included:

- Early childhood professionals;
- Maternal & Child Health nurses;
- Council management staff;
- Library Youth Services Coordinators;
- Playgroup parents;
- Preschool Teachers and Childcare Coordinators; and most importantly;
- three groups of Outside School Hours children.

Attachment three details a summary of parents and service providers that were involved in the consultations.

### **Key themes identified from surveys and focus groups:**

The overwhelming feedback from all focus groups and surveys was the underlying theme of, "We want our children to be *safe, happy and healthy*". These themes dominated all discussions and survey responses.

Across all of the focus groups and consultative surveys, there were a wide range of positive comments about the children's services in the municipality. The universal services - maternal and child health, kindergarten, immunisation, libraries and story time at the libraries were given particular support by most respondents. Playgroups and occasional childcare services were also rated highly by parents, as were playgrounds, which were seen to be good places for children's activities.

Also mentioned were those agencies that provide a variety of services to families across the health sector – General Practitioners (GPs), hospital emergency services, family support and education.

As ‘safe’ was a frequent response from the surveys and focus groups, the children were also asked where they felt safe and their overwhelming response, along with home and parents, was school and with their teachers.

<b>What did the children say? (Verbatim)</b>
<b>We want:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Places to go with the animals;</li><li>• More safety islands on the roads to slow down cars;</li><li>• A theme park;</li><li>• To have bedroom set up properly, so that you can sleep properly;</li><li>• Nickelodeon World; and</li><li>• More parks.</li></ul>
<b>We love:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Being part of ‘Neighbourhood Watch’;</li><li>• Local sporting clubs;</li><li>• Having a say in what’s happening and that’s making a difference;</li><li>• Always having something to do;</li><li>• Love the bike track;</li><li>• The library;</li><li>• Play centres;</li><li>• Swimming and the wave pool;</li><li>• At the park with Dad;</li><li>• At the shops with Mum;</li><li>• On the train with a grown-up; and</li><li>• Their family.</li></ul>

Apart from some major distractions like Nickelodeon World and a theme park, the activities children want and love do require attention and intervention by Council, to ensure they are maintained and supported so children can be safe, happy and healthy. Council has always, and will continue, to play a major role in supporting those activities that children have identified as being what they want and love to do.

### **Analysis and conclusion**

High priority has been given to early childhood policy development at both the Australian and state government levels and the links have been made to local government through

the development of Municipal Early Years Plans. Local government is increasingly seen as the planner and coordinator of policy at the local level. The focus on prevention and early intervention places emphasis on increasing the competency and reach of universal services at the local level. This is an important area for focus in the development of the 2009-2012 Plan.

Of particular note is the intention of the Australian government to increase the hours of pre-school or kindergarten for all 4 year old children to 15 hours per week. This will impact not only on infrastructure, but also on the ability to provide accommodation for programs for 3 year old children in stand alone centres. A focus on community consultation, connectedness and the development of a child and family friendly city will be important in implementing policy change.

Significant changes in early years' policy and in the economy will take place over the next 3-4 years that will require continual monitoring of the implications locally. It will be important to upgrade data on this plan when it becomes available, to consider the impact on local infrastructure and on the way services will interact. It will be important to consider strategies for improving the resilience of children whose families are vulnerable and who will bear the greater impact of economic down turn.

Consultations with families, children and various service groups in the community clearly indicated the aspirations of wanting children to be safe, happy and healthy. It will be important to unpack the meaning of these aspirations and apply them to the planning process across all services and in the creation of a safe community.

Although Monash is a less disadvantaged area in terms of the overall statistics and comparative data, there are issues to watch:

- The increasing indigenous population and the implications for inclusiveness in service planning and delivery;
- The increasing new arrivals from non-English speaking countries, the need for their welcome and support within Monash;
- The more vulnerable families in Monash – low income households, recent arrivals, those with no qualifications, those unemployed, families with low levels of internet access at home, and one parent families are located in the most disadvantaged areas of Monash. There are implications for service planning, access and developing community connectedness for these groups.

Monash Early Childhood Profile, although based on outdated data, does provide guidance to the development of focus for the improvement of outcomes for universal services in Monash.

## **Review and Evaluation**

The aim of the MEYP is to achieve positive outcomes for children by bringing together parents, health, education and community services with government at the local level. It is anticipated that the MEYP will be a catalyst to better meet the needs of all young children from 0 to 12 years of age within the community, with a focus on engaging with those who are vulnerable, at risk and not currently using services.

During 2009 there will be further focus groups convened to examine the implementation of the MEYP and to further inform the continued development of the plan.

## References

A Blueprint for Early Childhood Development and School Reform Discussion Paper Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, 2008.

City of Monash Council Plan 2006-2010 – Monash – A thriving community.

City of Monash Council Plan 2006-2010 – Monash – A thriving community.

City of Monash Community Profile 2006 and 2001 Enumerated Census Information, Profile.id

City of Monash Population and Household Forecasts 2001-2021, Profile.id.

City of Monash, Indigenous Framework and Action Plan 2007-2011

City of Monash, Disability Access and Inclusion Framework and Action Plan 2007- 2008

City of Monash Multicultural Framework and Action Plan 2006 – 2008

Community Directory of the City of Monash, 2008

Heckman J.J. (2000) Invest in the Very Young. Chicago, Illinois: Ounce of Prevention Fund and the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy Analysis.

Hertzman, C. (1999). Population health and human development. In Keating, D.P. AND Hertzman, C.(Eds). Developmental Health and the Wealth of Nations: Social, Biological and Educational Dynamics. New York: The Guilford Press.

Municipal Association of Victoria. Municipal Early Years Planning (MEYP) Framework. Council Action for Early Years Change. June 2006.

(Wannan, L (Oct 2002) Local Governments “Fostering child development, supporting families, building community” WWW Communications

National Agenda for Early Childhood (2004), Australian Government.

National quality framework for Early Childhood Education and Care, Australian Government, 2008.

Monash Early Childhood Community Profile 2006, developed by the Department of Human Services Victoria.

Outcomes-based early childhood intervention for young children with developmental disabilities and their families. Tim Moore. 2007

Policy Briefs “Early Childhood and the Life Course”, “Services for Young Children and families: an integrated approach”, “Early Years Care and Education” and “The Impact of Poverty on Early Childhood Development” Centre for Community Child Health 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009

Strategies for Improving Outcomes for Young Children. A catalogue of evidence based interventions. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (2007)

Shonkoff J.P.and Phillips D.A. (Eds) (2000). From Neurones to Neighbourhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development. Committee on Integrating the Science of Early Childhood Development, National Research Council and Institute of Medicine. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

Victoria's plan to improve outcomes in early childhood, Office for Children, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development 2007.



CITY OF  
MONASH

# ATTACHMENTS

# **Attachment One**

## **Municipal Early Years Plan**

### **Action Plan**

## **MEYP Action Plan**

In the development of the MEYP it was recognised that it is important to collect data from a range of different sources in order to build up the most accurate picture of the 0-12 population of Monash and their families. Use has been made of sources of existing data as well as generating data through surveys, focus groups and meetings of key stakeholders.

The 2008-2011 MEYP has been formulated using an outcomes based approach to the planning and support of children's services in this municipality. Tim Moore, Centre for Community Child Health, has described the reasons for adopting an outcome based approach to planning and service delivery:

- *“First, we cannot expect to achieve positive outcomes if we are not clear what outcomes we want.*
- *Second, the services we provide are less likely to be effective. We will be unable to judge the efficiency of the service we provide, and may persist with approaches and goals that are not achieving anything.”*

*“Adopting an outcomes based approach involves the following areas:*

- *Identify the outcomes sought;*
- *Translate these outcomes into specific objectives;*
- *Select strategies for achieving these objectives;*
- *Translate the strategies into specific activities or programs;*
- *Identify indicators to measure the progress made;*
- *Deliver the services and activities;*
- *Monitor the delivery of services and activities;*
- *Evaluate the impact of services and activities; and*
- *Review the outcomes, strategies and service delivery.”*

*(Outcomes-based early childhood intervention for young children with developmental disabilities and their families. Tim Moore. 2007)*

The first step in adopting an outcomes based approach is to ask the question, *What do we want for our children?* The resulting statements are likely to be broad: most communities will have aspirations for their children that exceed the results that are currently measurable. (Moore, 2007)

Given the findings of the consultations, the overall vision for the Municipal Early Years Plan 2009-2012 is:

**For the children of Monash to be safe, happy and healthy**

**Strategic Objectives selected to achieve this vision are:**

- For Monash City Council to work towards a built and natural environment that is child and family friendly;
- For Monash City Council to promote a healthy lifestyle for families and children;
- For Monash City Council to foster a sense of community and connectedness across the municipality; and
- For Monash City Council to support parents with raising their children.

**The following key headings have been developed to maximise opportunities to support safe, happy and healthy childhood development:**

- Breastfeeding;
- Immunisation;
- MCH Services;
- Sun Protection;
- Physical Activity;
- Oral Health;
- Reading, writing & numeracy;
- Kindergarten;
- Preventable injury;
- Parenting Support.

*(Strategies for improving outcomes for young children. A catalogue of evidence based interventions. Department of Human Services.)*

Attachment One describes the MEYP Action Plan under the key headings.

## Breastfeeding

**Aim:** Mothers are supported to breastfeed their babies and young children for up to six months of age and beyond.

**Objectives:** Breastfeeding is promoted as the optimal nutrition for all infants.

To provide breastfeeding women with guidance, support and education especially during the early weeks.

**Rationale:** Current National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommendations are for sole breastfeeding until six months of age, and continuation of breastfeeding until age two or beyond with appropriate complementary feeds (NHRMC, 2003)

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
Breastfeeding continues to be promoted and supported by the MCH Service with early identification of problems and referrals made to appropriate services.	Breastfeeding rates are maintained and improved, in particular for the older age groups.	2% increase per annum	MCH	Ongoing	Within current budget
The MCH Breastfeeding Service to continue to provide additional support to women with breastfeeding issues.	All mothers experiencing difficulties are supported.	The MCH Breastfeeding service is fully utilised	MCH	Ongoing	Within current budget
Information on breastfeeding is provided to early years' services in the City of Monash to promote breastfeeding in the community. This includes resources in other languages.	Information provided to early years services in Monash.	Updated annually	MCH	Early 2009	Within current budget

## Immunisation

**Aim:** For children to have a full complement of available vaccinations to prevent disease.

**Objectives:** To increase the proportion of children being immunised.  
To increase vaccination rates of four year old children in particular.

To increase parent's knowledge of the benefits of vaccination to their children.

**Rationale:** Immunisation is a successful and cost effective intervention for preventing disease, Childhood immunisation, in particular, has been recognised as one of the most significant public health achievements. (The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 1999).

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
Increase promotion of Council's immunisation service, schedules and times, etc, to families, including CALD families, at MCH, preschools, childcare centres, family day care and council festivals and events.	Promotional brochures provided regularly to services. Liaison with Children's Services staff to ensure brochures in variety of languages are available for festivals and events and at the Migrant Resource Centre – currently 43% of Monash children attend Council immunisation sessions.	Material provided annually and to any new child & family services	Environmental Health; Children's Services; MCH; FDC.	Ongoing	Within current budget
Maximise opportunities for families to access service by regular review of most appropriate times and venues.	Reviews conducted annually to enable planning for following year.	Service plan consistent with data returned.	Environmental Health	Ongoing	Within current budget

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
Pilot family evening sessions four times per year to encourage take-up of four year olds being vaccinated – children’s activities provided.	Increase four year old vaccination rate from 89%.	2% increase per annum	Environmental Health; Children’s Services; MCH.	Ongoing	Within current budget
Liaise with preschools and childcare centres to discuss potential for piloting four year old vaccination outreach service.	Early childhood network meetings attended to discuss feasibility of outreach service.	One meeting attended per annum	Environmental Health; Children’s Services.	June 2009	Budget implications
Organise liaison with DEECD in relation to schools encouraging families to have children fully immunised before they accept their enrolment for school.	Majority of 40 Monash primary schools enforcing vaccination policy at enrolment time.	One meeting per annum	Environmental Health. Children’s Services.	June 2009	

## Maternal & Child Health Service

**Aim:** For all families with young children from birth to six years of age have universal access and participation at the MCH service to enhance family health and connectedness in the community.

**Objectives:** To promote healthy outcomes for all children and families.  
To enhance family capacity through consultation and participation.  
To recognise the diversity of need in the community.

**Rationale:** High quality antenatal care is seen as a fundamental right of all women to safeguard their health and that of their infants (WHO, 1994) .

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
Explore service provisions and options required for establishment of a sleep/settling service for parents with young babies operated in conjunction with the MCH service and the community.	Proposal completed for sleep/ settling service for families with babies in the City of Monash	Data collected to support proposal	MCH Coordinator	Dec 2009	Budget required to be determined
Promote 18 month, 2 year and 3 ½ year MCH assessments through local early years services. Information provided in other languages to encourage participation of CALD families.	Increased participation at older key ages and stages visits.	2% increase per annum	MCH Coordinator; Children’s Services.	Ongoing	Within current budget

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
Continue active promotion of 'Dads on Deck' and family inclusive practice through the active participation of fathers at parent groups and CPR sessions and the provision of 'Dads on Deck' forums annually.	Improved participation of fathers of young children at MCH service. Data collected to provide evidence of participation.	Data collected annually	MCH Coordinator; Children's Services.	Ongoing	Within current budget
Explore and develop new educational forums for families in partnership with 'New Family Connections' group comprising Monash Council, MonashLink and bestchance Child & Family Care.	Additional workshops/training planned and provided with New Family Connections partners including presentation of conference papers on New Family Connections activities.	Three additional workshops and one conference presentation per annum	MCH Coordinator; Children's Services.	Ongoing	Within current budget

## Sun Protection

**Aim:** For families using outdoor facilities to be protected from the harmful effects of exposure to the sun.

**Objectives:** To increase the amount of shade provided at playgrounds.

To encourage children’s services to minimise children’s exposure to the sun.

To increase parent’s awareness of the harmful effects of too much sun on children’s skin.

**Rationale:** Exposure to sunlight is the main cause of the various forms of skin cancer. Exposure to sunlight in childhood is a key determinant of skin cancer risk in adulthood (Whiteman, Whiteman & Green, 2001; Armstrong, 2004).

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
Assess existing shade opportunities at public playgrounds with a view to including additional tree plantings where required.	Additional tree plantings identified for budget consideration.	Playgrounds included in tree planting schedule	Recreation Services; Infrastructure Services.	Annually	Within current budget
Consideration of shade sails to provide sun protection at public playgrounds where natural protection is not viable.	Additional shade sail structures identified for budget consideration.	At least one shade structure per year	Recreation Services	Annually	Capital budget implications
For ‘SunSmart’ information to be provided to parents, including for CALD families, regarding the harmful effects of the sun through MCH visits and attendance at festivals and events.	‘SunSmart’ Information sourced from Cancer Council of Victoria and distributed at MCH centres and festivals and events.	Information provided at five events including ‘Walk in the Park’	MCH Children’s Services	Ongoing	Within current budget

## Physical Activity

**Aim:** For families to maximise their use of recreational facilities in order to improve their long term health outcomes.

**Objectives:** To encourage family & children’s services to incorporate utilising parks and playgrounds in their programs.  
 To increase parent’s awareness of the benefits of increasing physical activity for the whole family.  
 To encourage parents/grandparents to take children to the playgrounds by providing seating close to equipment.  
 To encourage parents to participate in groups engaging in physical activities.

**Rationale:** Low physical activity is likely to have a long-term impact as a result of reduced levels of fitness and has been shown to affect cardiovascular risk factors such as elevated blood pressure and impaired glucose response in children as young as 12 years of age (Baranowski et al, 1992). Promoting physical activity and reducing sedentary activity at an early age is therefore important for improving children’s fitness and reducing the prevalence of overweight and obesity in Australian children.(Timperio, Salmon and Ball, 2004)

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
Include information in relation to suitable walking paths for people with prams in “ <i>Monash on Foot</i> ” guide.	Information collected.	Information included in next available print run	Recreation Services	2010	Within current budget
Promotion of informal/formal walking groups formed by playgroup parents.	Playgroup parents participating in walking groups.	Two playgroups per year	Children’s Services	Ongoing	Within current budget
Encourage preschools to form walking groups of parents and children at pick up time.	Promotion of informal walking groups formed and encouraged by preschool staff.	Promotional information provided annually	Children’s Services	June 2009 Ongoing	Within current budget
Ensure information about	Regular information provided	One	Recreation Services; Children’s Services;	Ongoing	Within current

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
more formal physical activities happening in the local communities for parents and children is communicated regularly through newsletters, the local media, etc.	in newsletters, local press, <i>Sportscene</i> and Monash Bulletin.	article/newsletter per term	MCH.		budget
Encourage sporting clubs to have policies on inclusion for all children.	Discussions held, where applicable, with sporting clubs.	More sporting clubs with inclusion policies and junior development policies advertised	Recreation Services ( <i>Sportscene</i> ); Children's Services; Metro Access.	Ongoing	Within current budget
Encourage schools, outside school hours programs/vacation care, preschools and childcare centres to use local parks and playgrounds for sporting activities.	Information on the use of local parks and sports grounds provided to all services used by children and families.	More children's services using local amenities	Recreation Services; Children's Services; Metro Access.	Ongoing	Within current budget

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timelines</b>	<b>Potential Costs</b>
Explore the availability/viability for encouraging more schools to open their facilities, to community groups, for a variety of physical activities.	Data collected to identify utilisation of school facilities by community groups. Strategies identified and developed to support discussion with schools and community groups. One meeting per annum with DEECD.	Increased utilisation of school facilities by community groups if required	Recreation Services; Children's Services.	June 2009	Within current budget

## Oral Health

**Aim:** For families to recognise the importance of oral health for their children.

**Objectives:** To encourage children's services to participate in activities promoting oral health in children.

To increase parent's awareness of the benefits of maintaining their children's oral health.

To increase the number of children visiting a dentist before the age of five years.

**Rationale:** Dental caries (tooth decay) remains one of the most common childhood diseases in the world. This problem is particularly acute in children from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
Target selected communities with information and programs to support families with their children's oral health.	Early childhood services in Ashwood, Chadstone, Oakleigh & Clayton to be provided with resources to support ongoing oral health in first two years and subsequently across the municipality after that.	Eight early childhood services in each year	Preschool Dental Health; Children's Services.	Ongoing	Within current budget
Work with Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV) to improve information and knowledge to children's services and families including tooth brushing techniques.	Regular meetings and training opportunities taken up with DHSV.	All services offered information for basic oral health techniques	Preschool Dental Health; Children's Services.	June 2009	Within current budget

Municipal Early Years Plan 2009 -2012

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
Support playgroups by developing resources with them to promote the message for oral health as 54% of five year old children accessing the School Dental Service in Victoria have experienced dental caries.	Surveys and focus groups held with playgroup parents.	Resources developed and distributed	Preschool Dental Health; Children's Services.	June 2009	Within current budget
Work with preschools and childcare centres to promote healthy eating and oral health through "Smiles 4 Miles" program, newsletters and articles.	Continue "Smiles 4 Miles" program, expanding to include childcare centres. Four newsletters and articles published.	Two newsletters or articles published per year	Preschool Dental Health; Children's Services.	Ongoing	Within current budget
MCH promote and discuss oral health at key ages and stage visits and provide educational handouts. Information provided in other languages.	Information collected and provided to MCH for parents.	Information provided to parents	Preschool Dental Health; MCH.	Ongoing	Within current budget
Support local dentists wishing to promote oral/dental health in the community	Brochure produced annually listing dental practices offering no/low cost first visits for children.	'Show bags' provided to dentists to distribute to children returning brochures	Preschool Dental Health; Children's Services.	June 2009	Within current budget
Develop 'road show' to take to children in early childhood centres – to encourage healthy	Pilot oral health 'road show' to preschools and childcare centres working	'Road show' taken to 10 preschools and	Preschool Dental Health; Children's Services.	June 2009	Within current budget

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timelines</b>	<b>Potential Costs</b>
<p>nutrition, tooth brushing and visits to the dentist.</p> <p>Source and provide appropriate information for CALD families around the importance of oral health, to Migrant Resource Centre and children's services.</p>	<p>with staff, children and parents.</p> <p>Information collected in English and appropriate CALD languages.</p>	<p>childcare centres annually and evaluated</p> <p>Information sourced and distributed to children's services and MRC</p>	<p>Preschool Dental Health; Children's Services.</p>	<p>June 2009</p>	<p>Within current budget</p>

## Reading, Writing & Numeracy

**Aim:** For children to be given the best foundation for future learning.

**Objectives:** To encourage children's services to utilise their local library.  
To increase parent's awareness of the benefits of reading to their children.  
To encourage families to increase their use of library facilities and services.

**Rationale:** Poor reading skills not only have a detrimental effect on students' academic trajectory, they also have been associated with behavioural and emotional problems, such as aggressive behaviour and poor self-concept. (Good et al, 1998 as cited in Persamoleri, 2006)

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
Provide library promotional material to parents utilising other council services, eg Immunisation, childcare, family day care.	Material collected and distributed.	Information provided to all services and then as required	Library Services; Children's Services; Environmental Health; FDC.	Ongoing	Within current budget
Explore options of providing additional funding to allow the employment of a Youth Services Librarian to allow staff to increase their existing outreach services to family and children's services in the municipality.	Data collected to assess need for additional outreach services.	Outreach program commenced if required	Library Services	July 2010	Subject to budget approval. Approximately \$30,000 per annum including oncosts (pro rata for part-time)

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
Encourage early childhood centres to use more pictorial information for parents with low-literacy skills and newly arrived CALD children and families.	Increased awareness of programs and services available for all children and families including Makaton, Compic, etc.	All centres have access to a wide range of information and resources	Children's Services	Ongoing	Within current budget
Encourage children's services staff, including staff working with children aged 5-12 years, to attend professional development on pictorial based communication programs.	Information provided to all children's services staff on upcoming training and events to support active communication with children & families. Needs analysis survey conducted to assess training needs.	Increased attendance at training and use of appropriate equipment	Children's Services	Ongoing	Within current budget
Additional Storytime sessions provided for parents of children 0-12 months old to encourage parents to read to their children from birth.	Sessions commenced and evaluated.	Weekly storytime sessions provided to parents with children 0-12 months old	Library Services	June 2010	Subject to budget approval Approx \$4800 per branch per year

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
<p>Offer additional Storytime sessions in various languages for CALD families.</p> <p>The MCH service, in conjunction with Library Victoria, actively promotes communication and reading. A book is provided to parents at the 2 year old visit and will be extended to parents at the 4 month old visit. This is a State Government strategy.</p>	<p>Sessions commenced and evaluated.</p> <p>Books continue to be provided to parents.</p>	<p>Additional Storytime sessions provided for CALD families in most popular languages, eg Cantonese, Mandarin, Arabic, etc</p> <p>Books continue to be provided to parents</p>	<p>Library Services; Children’s Services.</p> <p>MCH</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>If monthly, equals minimum \$1,100 per language per annum</p> <p>Within current budget</p>

## Kindergarten

**Aim:** For all children and families to have access to a funded 4 year old kindergarten program.

**Objectives:** To encourage families to access local kindergarten programs.  
 To provide easily accessible enrolment processes for kindergarten services.  
 To support local kindergarten committees of management with the maintenance of buildings.  
 To offer support to both committees of management and staff in kindergartens.

**Rationale:** There are positive social, emotional, cognitive and linguistic effects for children who attend kindergarten (Fleer et al, 2006). Participation in quality early learning experiences has been shown to promote positive outcomes for vulnerable children and has thus been identified as an early intervention by many programs and studies (National Research council, 2003). In view of the high kindergarten participation rates in Victoria, emphasis should be on improving the quality of parent and community inclusion, especially among disadvantaged groups and improving the quality of programming across kindergartens.

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
Support all trained and untrained kindergarten staff by offering networking opportunities.	Survey conducted to assess need.	Networking opportunities provided at least three times per year if required	Children's Services	June 2009	Within budget
Support staff by providing information regarding professional development and training opportunities.	All information and training opportunities provided by email to all kindergarten programs in a timely manner.	Current information provided to all children's services staff	Children's Services	Ongoing	Within current budget

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
Support committees of management with networking opportunities, information sessions and committee to committee mentoring opportunities.	Committees are invited to participate in events. Survey current needs at each session.	At least three networking and support sessions per year, organised either by Council or in conjunction with Kindergarten Parents Victoria (KPV)	Children's Services	Ongoing	Within budget
Support kindergarten enrolment process for three year olds as well as four year old children.	Work with Monash Preschool Association to develop policy and procedures for new process.	Three year olds included in central enrolment process by 2010	Children's Services	January 2009	Within budget
Provide opportunities for networking with staff from stand alone kindergartens and kindergarten staff working in childcare centres and private schools.	Staff from a variety of settings are networking and sharing information across the whole sector.	Opportunities provided at least three times per year	Children's Services	Ongoing	Within budget

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timelines</b>	<b>Potential Costs</b>
<p>Continue to provide timely response to requests for maintenance from kindergartens and childcare centres in Council owned buildings.</p> <p>As part of Council's asset management strategy, review the program for refurbishment of children's services buildings.</p>	<p>Records kept and maintained to ensure timely responses.</p> <p>Priority list formulated and amended as required.</p>	<p>Maintenance issues responded to appropriately and timely – issues followed up on a monthly basis</p> <p>Asset management prioritised and carried out</p>	<p>Children's Services; Infrastructure Services.</p> <p>Children's Services; Infrastructure Services.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>December 2009</p>	<p>Within budget</p> <p>Subject to Capital Budget considerations</p>

## Injury Prevention

**Aim:** For all children and families to have access to safe public facilities.

**Objectives:** To encourage community participants to report unsafe buildings and equipment in public spaces.  
To provide families with 'safety' information.

**Rationale:** Injury in childhood is the most frequent cause of death for Australian children aged one to 14 years and the second most common reason for admission to hospital. The safety of babies and toddlers depends largely on their home and childcare environments and the attitudes and behaviours of the adults who care for them regularly. (Mercy et al, 2003)

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
Continue regular safety inspections of playgrounds, parks and ovals.	Records kept of maintenance requirements.	Council open spaces inspected regularly and maintained	Infrastructure Services	Ongoing	Within current budget
Continue regular inspections of council owned kindergartens and childcare centres.	Regular safety inspections carried out.	Annual reviews	Infrastructure Services	Ongoing	Within current budget
Injury prevention is discussed by MCH at each key age and stage visit and new parents groups. Information is also provided in a variety of languages.	Resources are available in community languages. Continue injury prevention practices	Resources distributed as required	MCH	Ongoing	Within current budget

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
Source and provide 'safety' information to MCH, FDC, kindergartens, childcare centres, outside school hours and vacation care for centres and home and for CALD families.	Information sourced in English and CALD languages.	Information provided to all children's services	Children's Services	Ongoing	Within current budget
Support collaboration between MCH, preschools & childcare services, FDC to offer information and occasional checks on child restraints for parents.	Information sourced and distributed to centres for families. Write article for New Family Connections newsletter.	Child restraint checks offered at least twice per year including at ' <i>Walk in the Park</i> '	Environmental Health; Children's Services; MCH; FDC.	July 2009	Within current budget
Support any changes to State laws to lowering speed limits outside childcare and preschool locations to 40 kmh.	Support provided as required.	Letters and other expressions of support	Transport & Infrastructure Planning; Children's Services.	2011	Within current budget

## Parenting Support

**Aim:** For all children and families to have a sense of connection to their community.

**Objectives:** To reduce isolation for families, including Indigenous and CALD families.  
 To encourage both formal and informal meeting places for parents/families.  
 To support positive parenting practices.  
 To encourage parents to participate in community activities.

**Rationale:** Jennifer Bowes in her paper on parent education and support programs (Bowes, 2000) makes the comment,: “In the design of the programs and their evaluation, there is a surprising lack of attention to the social support links of parents and ways to build social networks. Too often, it seems, families are seen as isolated units without ties to extended family or friends. All too often these social ties are missing for families with young children. The demands of child rearing without support from others as well as a lack of involvement of outsiders who are in a position to observe what is happening in a family, is what many families are lacking and this isolation can raise the likelihood of abuse. Assisting the development or strengthening of social networks involving parents would seem to be a legitimate activity for programs to achieve their aims.”

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
Explore options for supporting current and future playgroups including training opportunities.	Conduct surveys and focus groups to gauge support requirements. Discussions with Playgroup Victoria and community agencies to explore and develop options.	Two training sessions held per annum	Children’s Services	Ongoing	Within current budget

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
Support current multicultural playgroups and explore options for the development of further multicultural playgroups in conjunction with Multicultural Resource Centre (MRC).	Discussions held with MRC to assess needs of community CALD groups.	One Additional multicultural playgroups established and supported	Children’s Services; Community Development; MCH.	Dec 2009	May require budget for part-time support worker
Support development of Cultural Respect Training and other avenues of providing information to children’s services staff in order to increase inclusion of children from an Indigenous background in their services.	Discussions held with local Koori Early Childhood Field Officer. Training sessions organised for a variety of service staff.	Training sessions held at least annually. Indigenous Kit of resources available for use by children’s services staff	Children’s Services; Community Development.	Ongoing	Within current budget
Support inclusive practices in early childhood services for families with children with additional needs.	Data maintained so needs can be met within the children’s services.	Support provided as requested from all children’s services	Children’s Services	Ongoing	Within current budget
Explore/investigate the specific needs of families from new and emerging/refugee communities.	Strategies developed to support these families.	Identified actions implemented	Community Development; Children’s Services.	June 2009	Within budget

Municipal Early Years Plan 2009 -2012

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
Encourage and advocate for partnership development and engagement with key community agencies and organisations including ethnic and multicultural organisations in planning and addressing the needs of children 0-12 - and also in the implementation of the Plan.	Bi-annual meetings with community agencies convened. Strategies explored and developed.	Identified actions implemented	Community Development; Children's Services.	June 2009	Within current budget
Explore options for developing a presentation showcasing City of Monash children's services to be shown at venues where parents congregate (eg immunisation sessions, storytime at libraries, festivals and events and early childhood centres).	Content discussed and developed. Presentation compiled.	Presentation produced and shown at appropriate venues	Children's Services; Community Development; Public Relations.	December 2009	Within current budget
Develop similar presentation in pertinent community languages.	Content discussed and developed. Presentation compiled.	Presentation produced in community languages and shown at appropriate venues	Community Development; Children's Services.	December 2009	Within current budget
Explore the development of a website to showcase early years	The development of a Child & Family	Website developed	Community Development;	2010	Subject to budget allocation

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
<p>services to provide families with information in relation to parenting groups/courses, children's services, secondary services, community activities etc.</p> <p>Where feasible, provide seating at kindergartens and playgrounds to provide informal meeting places for families.</p> <p>Organise parenting training groups (eg sleep settling, toddler behaviours, asthma/anaphylaxis training, positive parenting, good nutrition, CPR, etc).</p>	<p>services website to be updated annually.</p> <p>Develop a survey of areas around children's centres to identify a need for seating.</p> <p>Information gathered regarding appropriate sessions available for parents.</p>	<p>Seating provided at kindergartens, playgrounds, parks and ovals for families to utilise</p> <p>Information put on website and promoted and supported with advertising, venues etc</p>	<p>Children's Services.</p> <p>Recreation Services; Urban Design.</p> <p>MCH; Children's Services.</p>	<p>2011</p> <p>2011</p>	<p>Subject to budget allocation</p> <p>Subject to budget allocation</p>

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
Utilise two places in Family Day Care supported playgroups for families assessed as experiencing difficulty in attending mainstream playgroups.	Discussions held with Enhanced MCH and Monash Youth & Family Services (MYFS) to discover need.	Places utilised by two families referred by Enhanced MCH or MYFS	FDC Coordinator; MCH; MYFS.	January 2009	Within current budget
Utilise opportunities for providing local newspapers with information for parents/children.	Opportunities developed to promote children's services and activities through local papers and Monash <i>Bulletin</i> .	Provide information to local newspapers and Monash <i>Bulletin</i> twice per year	Children's Services; MCH Coordinator; FDC Coordinator; Public Relations.	Ongoing	
Regular forums held or attended with internal & external staff working with families and children.	Opportunities recorded for liaising with family services staff. Discussion of outcomes for such meetings.	At least two forums facilitated each year	Children's Services; MCH; FDC Coordinator; MYFS; External family & children's services staff.	July 2009	Within current budget
Review the children's services section of the Council website to ensure it is family friendly.	Websites from other local Councils reviewed. Information collected for website.	Website reviewed and amended	Public Relations; Children's Services.	June 2009	Within current budget
Chinese speaking New Mother's Group conducted for new parents	Offer education, support and social	Held quarterly	MCH		Within current budget

Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility	Timelines	Potential Costs
<p>and grandparents.</p> <p>Support Neighbourhood Renewal (Ashwood &amp; Chadstone) initiatives for families and children.</p> <p>Explore options around expanding vacation care programs in City of Monash</p>	<p>contacts to women from Chinese culture.</p> <p>Family and Children’s services staff included in pertinent family &amp; children’s services projects.</p> <p>Information gathered from parents to assess need for additional vacation care programs</p>	<p>Participate as required</p> <p>Options identified and proposals developed</p>	<p>MCH; Children’s Services.</p> <p>MYFS</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Decembert 2009</p>	<p>Within current budget</p> <p>Possible budget implications</p>

## References

Department of Human Services. 2006 *Strategies for improving outcomes for young children. A catalogue of evidence-based interventions.* (References included in this publication.)

**Breastfeeding** – Page 9 – National Health and Medical Research Council (2003) *Dietary guidelines for children and adolescents in Australia incorporating the infant feeding guidelines of Health workers.* National Health and Medical Research Council

**Immunisation** – Page 35 – Centre for Disease Control (1999) *Ten Great Public Health Achievements – United States, 1900-1999* MMWR Mortal Weekly. Pp 241-243

**Maternal & Child Health Services** – Page 45 – World Health Organisation (1998) *World Health Day. Safe Motherhood. Improve the quality of maternal health services* (WHO 98.8). Geneva World Health Organisation.

**Sun Protection** – Page 53 – Armstrong. B (2004) *How sun exposure causes skin cancer: an epidemiological perspective*, in Hill D English DR and Elwood M. *Prevention of Skin Cancer.* Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht.

**Physical Activity** – Page 63 – Baranowski T, Bouchard C, Bar-Or O, Bricker T, Heath G andf Kimm SYS (1992) *Prevalence and cardiovascular benefits of physical activity in youth.* *Medicine and Science for Sport and Exercise.* Vol 24 pp. s237-247

Timperio A, Salmon L and Ball K (2004). *Evidence based strategies to promote physical activity among children, adolescents and young adults: review and update.* *Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport.* Vol 7 No 1 pp 20-29

**Oral Health** – page 70 - Department of Human Services. (2006) *Strategies for improving outcomes for young children. A catalogue of evidence-based interventions.* Department of Human Services. (2006)

**Reading, Writing and Numeracy** – Page 88 – Persampieri M, Gortmaker V, Daly EL, Sheridan SM and Mc Curdie M (2006) Promoting parent use of empirically supported reading interventions: Two experimental investigations of child outcomes. *Behavioural Interventions* Vol 21 pp 31-57

**Kindergarten** – Page 111 - Department of Human Services. (2006) *Strategies for improving outcomes for young children. A catalogue of evidence-based interventions.* Department of Human Services. (2006)

**Injury** – Page 142 – Mercy J, Sleet D and Doll L (2003) *Applying a developmental approach to injury prevention.* *American Journal of Health Education.* Supplement, Vol 34, No 5, pp S.6 – S.12

**Parenting Support** – Page 153 – Bowes J (2000) Response of parents to parent education and support programs. A review of evaluation research on some key USA programs (Conference Paper. *Family Futures: Issues in Research and Policy.* 7<sup>th</sup> Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference

# **Attachment Two**

## **Monash Community Profile**

**Monash Community Profile  
Families and Children**

	Ashwood/ Burwood	Chadstone	Clayton/ Notting Hill	Glen Waverley	Hughesdale	Mt Waverley	Mulgrave	Oakleigh	Oakleigh East/ Hunting- dale	Oakleigh South	Wheelers Hill	Monash	Melb
<b>Population</b>													
Total	7793	7334	16883	38315	6501	30331	16267	6866	7278	4688	19686	161938	
Children 0-4	6.3%	5.4%	4.7%	4.4%	7.1%	5.0%	5.3%	6.5%	6.0%	5.1%	4.5%	5.1%	6.3%
Children 5-11	7.4%	6.0%	4.7%	8.1%	8.3%	7.5%	7.3%	8.2%	6.8%	7.5%	7.3%	7.3%	8.8%
<b>Total Overseas Born</b>	31.3%	43.5%	57.0%	42.3%	34.8%	39.8%	38.4%	33.2%	42.8%	34.7%	38.0%	39.8%	29.0%
CALD	24.7%	38.9%	52.8%	35.7%	29.6%	26.8%	33.1%	27.9%	38.3%	28.8%	31.5%	34.0%	22.0%
<b>Language Spoken at Home (Top 3)</b>													
Chinese	7.5%	11.3%	18.6%	16.3%	6.1%	8.9%	6.3%	5.4%	7.6%	4.3%	9.9%	11.1%	4.0%
Greek	4.3%	8.8%	6.7%	2.8%	14.1%	6.3%	9.5%	14.0%	11.1%	12.2%	6.2%	6.9%	3.2%
Italian	2.0%	3.9%	3.4%	1.3%	2.8%	1.9%	4.4%	4.0%	8.6%	4.0%	4.0%	3.0%	3.3%
Speak English only	67.6%	51.0%	35.4%	56.5%	60.7%	65.8%	54.1%	58.8%	48.6%	59.4%	60.1%	56.6%	68.0%
Non-English total	28.0%	44.7%	55.1%	39.2%	36.1%	30.5%	41.0%	36.5%	47.9%	36.6%	35.9%	38.8%	26.5%
<b>Indigenous Population</b>	0.2%	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	

Municipal Early Years Plan 2009 -2012

	Ashwood/ Burwood	Chadstone	Clayton/ Notting Hill	Glen Waverley	Hughesdale	Mt Waverley	Mulgrave	Oakleigh	Oakleigh East/ Hunting- dale	Oakleigh South	Wheelers Hill	Monash	Melb
<b>Cars per household 1 vehicle or less</b>	44.50%	45.70%	58.10%	36.90%	52.30%	38.60%	32.50%	49.00%	48.20%	45.40%	26.10%	40.40%	45.7%
<b>Low Income Households - Less than \$500 per week</b>	21.5%	24.0%	29.2%	15.3%	19.6%	15.6%	16.5%	19.7%	21.2%	20.5%	12.4%	17.4%	17.9%
<b>Low Income Households - Less than \$249 per week</b>	9.2%	10.9%	16.8%	6.0%	8.1%	5.7%	5.3%	7.5%	8.3%	7.5%	4.5%	7.4%	7.3%
<b>No Qualifications</b>	40.1%	43.3%	43.8%	40.3%	43.4%	41.0%	46.7%	43.4%	46.1%	46.0%	43.9%	42.7%	45.9%
<b>Unemployed</b>	4.7%	7.3%	12.2%	5.2%	4.8%	4.4%	4.9%	5.8%	7.6%	4.9%	3.9%	5.6%	5.4%
<b>Access to Internet at home</b>	63.3%	60.6%	61.5%	71.0%	63.3%	67.2%	62.6%	62.7%	61.1%	58.2%	72.3%	66.3%	61.0%

Municipal Early Years Plan 2009 -2012

	Ashwood/ Burwood	Chadstone	Clayton/ Notting Hill	Glen Waverley	Hughesdale	Mt Waverley	Mulgrave	Oakleigh	Oakleigh East/ Hunting- dale	Oakleigh South	Wheeler's Hill	Monash	Melb
<b>One Parent Families- children under 15</b>	6.7%	7.7%	5.9%	4.8%	6.4%	4.5%	5.1%	4.6%	5.7%	5.9%	3.3%	4.8%	7.5%
<b>Couples with children under 15</b>	30.8%	24.6%	24.8%	30.0%	34.4%	27.5%	26.8%	35.2%	28.3%	27.5%	27.4%	28.6%	31.8%
<b>Government Housing Rentals</b>	7.2%	9.1%	2.3%	0.5%	2.5%	0.8%	1.5%	2.1%	0.9%	2.5%	0.3%	1.8%	2.7%
<b>SEIFA Index (low = disadvantage)</b>	1038	994	984	1080	1029	1078	1034	1032	1020	1016	1094	1053	
<b>Ranking of Index in Monash</b>	8	2	1	10	5	9	7	6	4	3	11		

ABS Data 2006/ID The City of Monash Community Profile

# **Attachment Three**

## **Summary of Consultation**

## Summary Of Consultation

The following consultation was undertaken during the development of the MEYP.

- Parent surveys were sent to over 100 children's services in Monash for distribution to parents. These services included:
  - Long day child care centres (32)
  - Family day care (1)
  - Occasional child care (5)
  - Out of school hours care (24)
  - Preschools (31)
  - Playgroups (26)
- Surveys were sent to all primary school principals in Monash (41).
- Surveys were sent to local sporting clubs with junior programs.
- Staff surveys were sent to all early childhood service in Monash, these included:
  - Long day child care centres (32)
  - Family day care (1)
  - Occasional child care (5)
  - Out of school hours care (24)
  - Preschools (31)
- Two forums were held for staff working in preschools and child care services.
- Discussions with the two main child and family support agencies in Monash - Bestchance Child & Family Care and Connections.
- Meetings with two playgroups that invited a Council officer to attend and discuss children's services – St Barnabas and Burton Street playgroups.
- Council staff from many service areas were invited to participate in meetings and discussions during the development of the MEYP. These included staff involved in the provision of maternal and child health services, immunisation, family day care, recreation services, library services, youth and family services, preschool dental health, asset services and infrastructure planning.
- Interviews with children at three out of school hours programs, two long day child care centres and three preschools.