

Attachments

Council Meeting

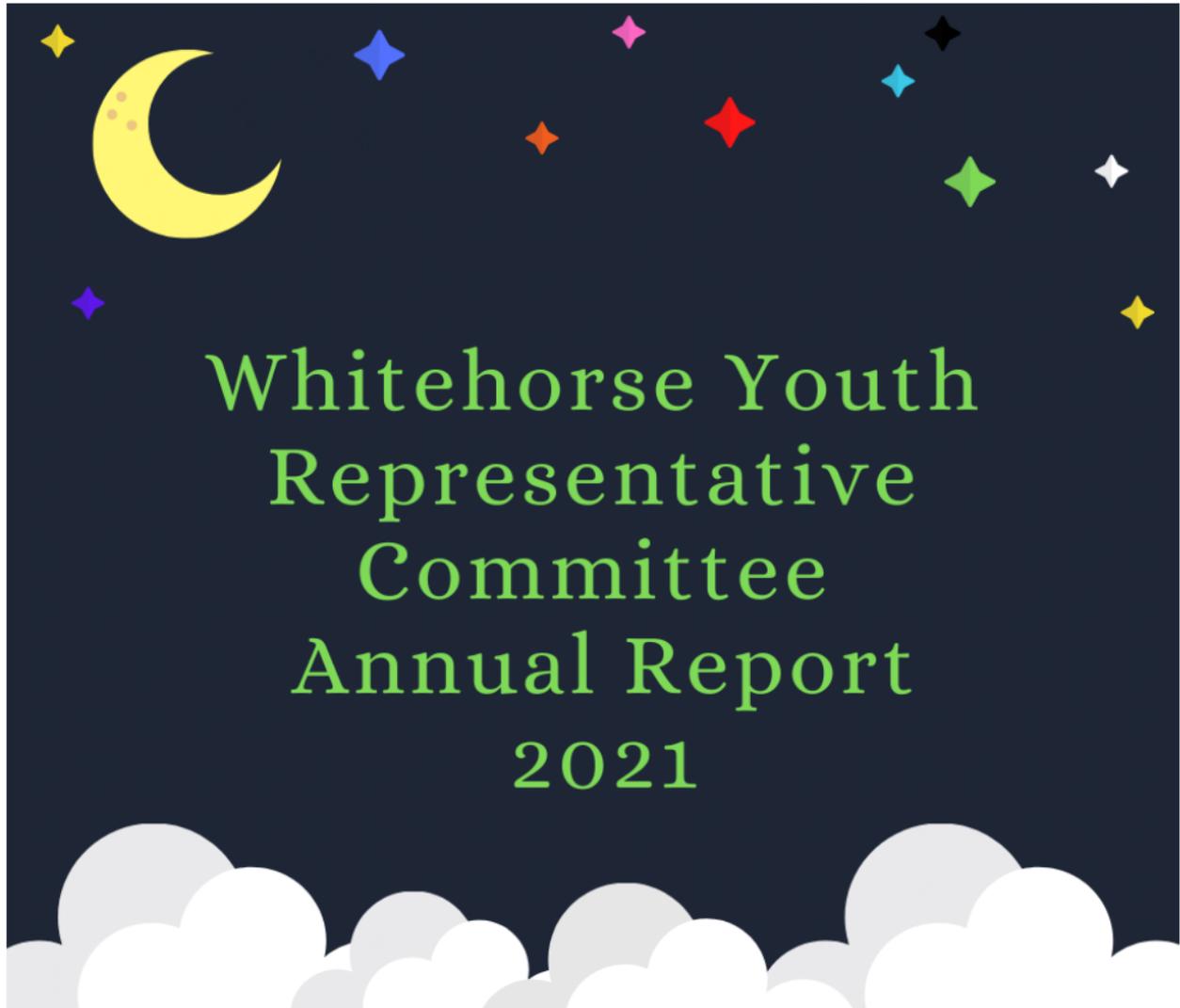
Monday 28 March 2022

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11.1 Whitehorse Youth
Representative Committee
(WYRC) 2021 Annual Report

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Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee 2021

Meet the Members *Written by Abdullah Ayaz*

Introduction

2021 enchanted a newfound sense of hope and encouragement for us in contrast to the preceding year. The committee of Whitehorse has presented a countless number of opportunities to the community. The Whitehorse Youth Representative Council had taken the initiative to open doors by housing in-person events and gatherings. These events have helped give a voice to the youth of Whitehorse signifying what WYRC stands for.



Daniel J Ware



Elvis Yang



Michelle Tan



Shania Desouza



Abdullah Ayaz



Noor Ayaz



Ian Desouza



Lavinia Tjangdjaja



Jessica Chung



Lalita Aiman



Christina Yu



Alexander Srbinovski

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Background of Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee

Written by Elvis Yang

The Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee (WYRC) is a group of young volunteers aged 12-25 who aim to voice for all young people across the Whitehorse City and contribute to Whitehorse City Council to help them discuss youth issues. The group meets fortnightly at Youth ConneXions in Box Hill and online due to Covid when necessary.

AIM

The main purpose of WYRC is to provide a pathway for youth voices in the Whitehorse community to be heard by the City Council. Our primary aims are:

- Gathering important youth issues raised by youth people and report them to council
- Offering youth people, a way to connect themselves with their peers by developing events.
- Educating youth in the Whitehorse community on important youth issues.
- Offering the young people of Whitehorse a place that they can get involved in, share their ideas and boost their creativity.

BENEFIT

As a member of WYRC, you will be able to collaborate with ambitious young people from different backgrounds under a 'Family like' environment. There a lot of benefits and skills that come with being a member of WYRC including:

- Improve public speaking skills
- Leadership qualities
- Communication skills
- Problem solving
- Certificates are offered with different training programs.
- Event management experiences
- A precious chance to meet new people and engage like-minded friends.
- Chances to attend venues, forums and public events as a youth representative from Whitehorse.

RECRUITMENT

Young people aged 12-25 who have a connection to the City of Whitehorse through residence, education or work can apply for a place on the committee. Recruitment is advertised widely in the community from November to January via Seek.com, Whitehorse News, schools, and youth services social media channels. Candidates attend an interview where goals, expectations and responsibilities of being a member are discussed. This is done via a formal process, which is designed to provide real-world experiences for young people to experience life skills specifically the employment process.

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Induction and Meeting with the Mayor *Written by Christina Yu*

The 2021 induction was held online on February 17th instead of in person due to the pandemic restrictions. We made the most of the situation connecting for the first time together on the screen and beginning our exciting year together. One the key first tasks was to brainstorm our Group Agreement that would contain the values, responsibilities, and commitments we wanted to make to each other and to the committee given our standing as representatives of young people within the Whitehorse community. We then had some fun with icebreaker activities to get to know each other and went through our Induction Manuals that covered all aspects of the WYRC. We then brainstormed 2021 events and ideas and made some preliminary plans for the year.

A fortnight later on March 3rd was our first meeting at the Nunawading Civic Centre with Frank Perrone (Youth Services Team Leader) and Cr Andrew Munroe (Mayor of the day). Frank formally explained how the committee’s work fitted into the broader context within Youth Services at Whitehorse City Council and how it benefited young people across Whitehorse. We took an extensive tour through the Civic Centre and Council Chambers with Cr Andrew Munroe to understand the role of the Council and the work they do for the community, and how our role as volunteers served the Council and local community. We also had discussions with Cr Andrew Munroe about important youth issues, which was awesome.



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Training 2021

1. Event Management – The Push *Written by Alexander Srbinovski*

On May 5th 2021 the WYRC worked with 'The Push' to develop the skills necessary for the 'Reach the Peak' summit and other committee initiatives. The Push is an Australian youth music organisation and registered charity based in Melbourne. At the forefront of emerging trends, 'The Push' delivers a range of programs that are responsive to Australia's future music industry leaders, artists and audiences.

The event management workshop carefully explained how to create, plan, and manage events effectively and efficiently. By using a four-stage formula, we were able to use problem-solving and goal-orientated techniques to plan our event. Firstly the 'Initiation' stage where we learned about event conceptualization, identification, scope, purpose, objective, venue location, and budgeting for an event. The initiation stage enabled the committee to learn how to research for an event before event preparation. Goal setting and comprehension were two other important aspects associated at the initial stage. Once the critical factors of the event design and task delegation were completed, then moved on to the second stage.

At the second stage, 'Planning' proceeded to teach us how to prepare and plan for an event. We learnt how to organise and delegate tasks amongst a group to achieve an overarching objective. The workshop broke down this stage of how to plan in the pre-announcement stage. This stage factored in how to communicate with potential partners and event caterers, contact venues, a create risk plans and a plan of action to ensure the safety of eventgoers. Once the pre-announcement stage is completed, we then proceeded to learn about the post-announcement stage. At this stage, the committee learnt how to advertise and market the event to the community. Then we proceeded to learn how to finalise event planning and scheduling to ensure preparation can proceed to the third stage, event implementation.



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At this stage, the planning and conceptualisation methods we learnt previously, were implemented to present the event to the community. We learnt how to organise the proceedings of an event and set up the event for the patrons attending the event. Including learning about logistics and performance art management. This stage was critical in learning how to practice testing the event to ensure that any areas that needed tidying were done before event commencement.

In the final stage titled 'Post Event', we were taught how to engage with attendees. The we were informed about post-event report writing, and how to conduct a staff debrief. The immensely important workshop provided the WYRC committee with the skills to deliver an event that positively impacted the community on October 4th, 2021. The professionalism and kindness demonstrated by 'The Push' was incredible.

2. Youth Affairs Council of Victoria – Advocacy

Written by Lavinia Tjangdjaja

On the 24th January, WYRC and FReeZA committee members attended the online YacVic Youth Advocacy Training where Committee members of the WYRC were inspired to create change within our community. Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic) is the peak body and leading policy advocate for young people and the youth sector in Victoria.

During this training session, we explored the different facets of advocacy and leadership, which allowed us to identify various solutions and strategies that we could employ in the future in order to solve social issues in our community. Using real-life case studies and examples, we were also encouraged to consider the many stakeholders of certain issues and how to engage these stakeholders in order to raise awareness. Overall, this training session allowed us to reflect upon our own advocacy journeys whilst also encouraging us to envisage how we can improve our public advocacy.

3. Marketing and Promotion – The Push *Written by Noor Ayaz*

On the 12th May, Aarti from 'The Push' housed a training session on another critical focus, 'Marketing and Promotions.' This was essential to run through as it incorporated a vast variety of beneficial marketing strategies for events. It was informative and was conveyed with a constructive approach. With the Youth forum around the corner, we contributed and shortlisted the most strategic tactics to implement at the event. Aarti's experiences steered us to the conclusion that a social media presence is vital to best promote events. After thoroughly discussing various platforms, we established that Facebook would be the most tactful way to showcase the events to a substantial audience. Thanks to Aarti's incredible expertise on this subject matter, we had a thorough understanding of how to execute marketing and promotion strategies for events such as the Youth Forum.

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4. Social Media Officer *Written by Christina Yu*

On the 19th April Georgia Paterakis, Council's Social Media Lead delivered training to our WYRC and FReeZA Social Media Coordinators. There were 3 SMC's from each committee. The aim of the training was to explore creating and publishing content for Youth ConneXions Social Media accounts to promote Youth Service, and committee related activities and events. This included posting content, scheduling tips, permissions and operating Facebook business manager. SMC's complete the training so they understand Council's processes around posting on social media including the associated risks. The six volunteers take on the SMC role in addition to being a general member on their respective committee. The SMC create visuals using the Canva program and learn about Council approval processes. This initiative is awesome and appreciated and they are each a great asset to their committees in delivering important initiatives and events throughout the year.

5. First Aid Training *Written by Christina Yu*



Unfortunately, we were not able to run and host a face to face training this year due to pandemic restrictions. However, we were able to organise this important training online. Young people from both our WYRC and FReeZA volunteer Committees completed the St Johns Workplace Level 2 First Aid training over select online course sessions across November and December. First Aid is a vital skill for our members as they go onto participate in various conferences, activities, events, or in any environment, and can possibly mean the difference between life and death in an emergency. The training through course content on how to deal with numerous first aid emergencies. It was perfect for those wanting a refresher or gaining their certificate for the first time with a mix of theory using modern technology and practical activities to understand CPR and treating injuries. Upon completion, everyone earned their Provide First Aid certificate which included CPR.

6. Consultation and Community Engagement *Written by Noor Ayaz*

On the 13th of April, Renee Andresson from Council's Community Development Department facilitated 'Consultation and Community Engagement' training to the Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee. Community engagement is a process whereby individuals and groups are provided a space to voice their thoughts on decisions or actions that may affect or interest them. Renee covered topics across many aspects such as the way we could empower individuals and to generate ideas which could be implemented towards making change for a better community. Renee encouraged us to communicate our concepts and ideas. We were provided with advice on leadership on how we can enhance our experience and that of others no matter what the setting (whether at home, school, workplace or in the community).

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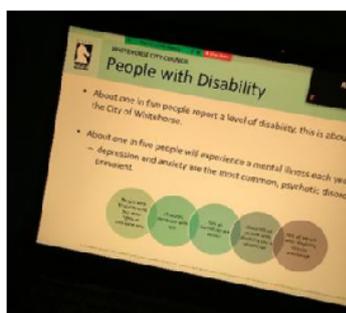
7. Disability Awareness *Written by Lavinia Tjangdjaja*

On April 6th 2021, the WYRC attended a disability awareness training with Metro Access Development Officer, Maureen D’Arcy. During the disability awareness training, we were able to appreciate the diversity of Whitehorse Council such that 1 in 5 individuals within the community report having a disability. Despite the number of individuals with disabilities in our community, we were shocked to learn about the prominence of discrimination against individuals with disabilities such that they are less likely to be employed and complete secondary education. The training session helped to deepen our understanding of the life experience of a person with disabilities, and sparked our motivation to make our community more accessible for individuals with disabilities. Our discussion around the Disability Discrimination Act also allowed us to understand the laws surrounding discrimination against disabled individuals. Learning about the many ways to engage young disabled individuals for youth events helped us reassess how we approached individuals with disabilities for our youth events. As a result, for future youth events, we aim to raise awareness and make our events as accessible and welcoming as possible.

8. Council Events *Written by Christina Yu*

On April 13th the WYRC attended Council online event training with Hannah Milne (Council Festivals Team). During this training, the WYRC learned about the various events run by the Whitehorse City Council, as well as the aims and purposes of these events. The committee also learnt about the multiple steps that were involved in planning events. Council events discussed included Spring Festival and Global Fiesta. Hannah took us through an extensive training session exploring the various aspect of event management including risk assessments.

Due to the pandemic, the WYRC were ultimately unable to host in-person events in 2021. Nevertheless, the knowledge obtained from the training will be valuable for the WYRC members as they embark on future work, study or leadership activities.



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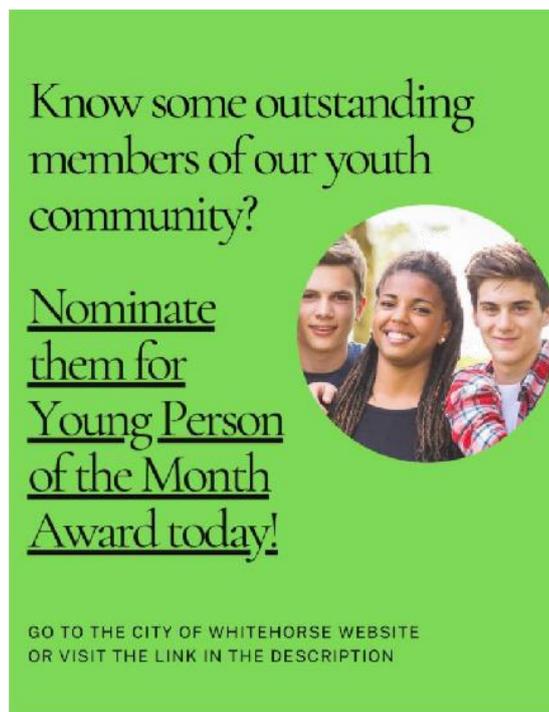
Young Person of the Month *Written by Lalita Aimen*

The Whitehorse City Council's Young Person of the Month award is an award that acknowledges young people from the ages of 12 to 27 for their remarkable achievements and for making exceptional contributions to the Whitehorse Community. This could be in areas of Sport, Arts & Culture, Education, Music, or any form of community involvement. An adult or peer who has witnessed their achievements and contributions to the community can nominate young people for the award. Winners receive a feature article in Whitehorse News and likely appearances on the Council's social media pages.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, schools, community, and co-curricular activities were closed for part of the year. This resulted in a drop in the nominations received. We strongly believe in the award in recognising young people for their efforts and achievements and intend to continue promoting the award on our social media channels.

Increasing the awareness of the award to send in nominations has been one of our long-running goals at the WYRC. The first was allowing young people to nominate themselves (while still listing a referee) to hopefully increase the number of nominations. Also, due to COVID-19 making it hard for participation in the community, we allowed personal achievements to have more importance in the reviewing process.

Selecting the nominee is a great responsibility and a pleasure to reward a young person who has made an impact through their contributions and achievements. Once all nominations have been received for the month, and after some discussion and feedback, the committee votes to decide the recipient of the award. Every year many young people have made many contributions and put in lots of effort into what they do, so we would like to congratulate and acknowledge them.



[HTTP://WWW.WHITEHORSE.VIC.GOV.AU/
YOUNG-PERSON-AWARD](http://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/young-person-award)



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Consultations – Youth Plan Consultation Ideas Development

Written by Shania Desouza

The Municipal Youth Plan consultation strategy is created by the Whitehorse Council and is designed to consult young people on how we can engage young people to find out what their issues are and how council can best support them.

The WYRC met with Youth Services staff member Renee to discuss the following five questions to assist council create a consultation strategy.

1. How should we consult with local young people about their issues?
2. How can we best learn about what the important issues are for young people in Whitehorse? –
3. How can we ensure that the hardly reached, diverse and marginalised voices are heard?
4. What types of consultations should we be doing? And how should we be doing them?
5. How do we make the process meaningful and engaging for young people?

The consultation strategy was constructed with the intention of providing the young people of Whitehorse with a space to voice their concerns and suggestions and as a result, it was of great importance to us that we meet with a diverse group of people. To achieve this, methods such as youth hubs, social media pages and in-person conversations were suggested as they were deemed the most effective way of getting responses.

To hold ourselves accountable and make sure that the plan was not just a tokenistic gesture, it was also decided that the data collected would be made public and the progress made would be documented on Council social media pages. We hope that this will also encourage more young people to take part in this initiative by demonstrating to them the immense value we place on their perspectives and recommendations.

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Whitehorse News Articles *Written by Shania Desouza*

Whitehorse City Council publishes the Whitehorse News each month online and delivers it to over 60 000 households in Whitehorse as well as public facilities such as libraries. In addition to local news, community information and Councillor reports, there are two pages dedicated to youth information including the Young Person of the Month, Youth ConneXions activities and Creative Youth Competitions.

This year, WYRC members have had the opportunity increase awareness, especially among the older demographic, about important youth issues and experiences. Articles were published about international students and their struggles during COVID-19, 'The Importance of Staying Digitally Connected during Lockdown', 'Social Media and its Impact on Self Esteem' and information regarding 'Getting a Job'.

The importance of staying digitally connected during lockdown

Beyond the pandemic, parents and guardians were often worried that teenagers were spending too long glued to their mobile phones and computers. However, with the multiple lockdowns in Whitehorse, it can be a breath of relief that young people are able to navigate the online world and connect with peers digitally.

Social distancing and online learning can lead to a feeling of isolation, particularly in youth, who are often reluctant to go to school or to spend time with friends. Being isolated can be difficult, leading to anxiety and a decline in mental health.

According to the 2011 (Facing with COVID-19 Report (Skout et al., 2021), 53 per cent of the 14-22 year old respondents have agreed



In these difficult periods, young people are creative through video chat, playing multiplayer video games, quizzes and creating dance videos on social media together. These fun activities provide a welcome distraction to the physical distancing requirements. What this is not a sign-off for young people to be on their phones all day. It is a good reminder for parents and guardians to be more lenient around the use of technology under these unprecedented times.

Resources for parents and guardians:
Reach out: www.youthservices.com.au
Safety: www.safety.gov.au/en-issues/covid-19
Resources for young people:
Youth ConneXions: www.whitehorsecity.gov.au/youth-conneXions
headspace: headspace.org.au
Helpline: www1311.org.au or 13 11 14

that social media was highly important to stay connected with family and friends, 43 per cent of the respondents agreed that social media affected their sleep and anxiety. With the ability to navigate online, more young people are decreasing the stigma around mental health and are making use of services online to identify their mental health concerns and reach out for support.

International students and their struggles during COVID-19

Written by Joshua, a member of the Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee

COVID-19 has been the talk of the year, impacting millions of lives worldwide.

A large portion of people that were most affected by COVID-19 in Australia were international students, with some key challenges being loneliness, financial issues and mental health.

Apart from being away from family and loved ones back in their home countries, they, like everyone else, were isolated and had to adjust to the new situations that stripped them of their previous social life.

Many students faced financial issues and were forced to either rely on family support, their scholarship, or go home.

A University of Technology Sydney report found that 61 per cent of students lost their jobs due to the lockdown and, out of those, only 15 per cent found new ones.

Further, more than half (54 per cent) reported that they were experiencing financial difficulties. There was a consequent rise in students living with anxiety.

If you know an international student, reach out to them and check up on them. A simple text message or call could mean the world to them.

For the full article, visit the committee website at www.whitehorsecity.com.au

Youth ConneXions is Whitehorse Council's youth information, support and referral centre based at Box Hill Central Shopping Centre. The centre offers a comfortable and supportive environment for young people aged 12-25, to find information and seek assistance on a range of issues.

More information:
www.whitehorsecity.gov.au/youth-conneXions

Maintaining a steady stream of articles proved to be especially challenging throughout the year. It is important to continue using the platform we've been afforded to improve education about pressing youth issues and find a way to do so in a more effective and efficient manner. A couple of ideas that may help achieve this include:

1. Utilising the Youth Services social media pages to reach out to young people and invite creatively express their opinions on issues that concern them.
2. Organising monthly prompts and inviting young people to send in short responses to be featured in the Whitehorse News. This could be in the style of op-ed column.

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WYRC Youth Issues Survey *Written by Ian Desouza*

It is the strong belief of the 2021 Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee that engaging with the community is the best way to cause meaningful change. This year, in order to collect authentic opinions about the experience of young people in Whitehorse and the broader community, we established the Whitehorse Youth Issues Survey, a 5 minute questionnaire covering the 4 issues we focused on at the committee this year: healthy relationships, the LGBTQIA+ community, social media & body image and international students. In regard to the issue of healthy relationships, our aim was to understand the relationships and associated problems that existed within the community. We also wanted to understand the experience of LGBTQIA+ and international students, how comfortable they felt within the community and the challenges they faced because of being different and the CoVID-19 pandemic. Finally, our focus on social Media & body image arose out of a recognition that young people are often dismissed in their issues with body image and that it is important to understand this matter in order to create a healthier and happier community.

The survey is currently ongoing and as of the time this report is being written, it is in the process of being released to the public. We hope to collect as much data as possible from this survey to assist us understand the variety of problems faced by young people in Whitehorse and the issues most important to them. To increase interest and participation in the survey, we allocated \$500 of the budget toward gift cards that will be randomly given to ten participants which we believed would increase participation in the survey. Currently, we would like for the survey to continue to accept responses throughout 2022 and hopefully in successive years, the survey acting as a tool to engage the community and the data as a guide for the areas of focus of the future.



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NewKind Conference *Written by Michelle Tan*

On 24th to 26th November 2021, a WYRC Committee member attended in the Newkind Social Justice Conference. Change makers, thought-leaders, community representatives, academics, activists, students, and social entrepreneurs convened to explore, discuss, and reflect how we can promote, empower, and create positive, impactful social change.

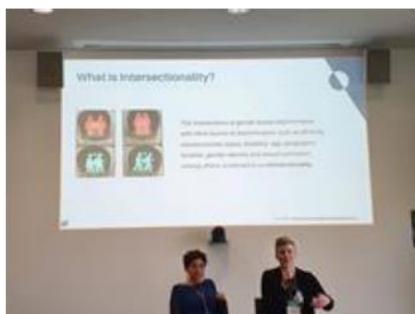


The key theme in Newkind was intersectionality. Topics discussed ranged from gender justice, racial justice, economic justice, environmental justice, intersectional feminism, and socio-economic justice. This united and cohesive approach allowed delegates to form a wider understanding of issues across disciplines and sectors.

After reporting a summary back to the committee, WYRC would like to seek greater engagement with causes that will enable and support youths to live to their full potential, such as:

- The transfer of inter-generational cultures (especially from CALD communities) to preserve a multicultural City of Whitehorse
- Breaking unconscious bias and pre-conceived notion of gender and race
- Educating on the importance of intersectionality. This can create a positive influence on the flexibility and choice of their future studies and/or career pathway
- Addressing mental health issues
- Supporting climate change action

The Newkind Conference shed deep insights into the struggles that others in society face, and raises new perspectives on how to empower and address issues that have we have been facing and will be facing in the future.



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Environmental Sustainability Youth Action Group Concept

Written by Michelle Tan

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change announced 'Code red for humanity'. In the same year, COP26 urged countries and businesses to limit global warming. Climate change is undeniable. Environmental damages are already occurring with increased frequency, with Australia experiencing the unforgettable bushfires in 2020.

More than ever, action should be taken to prevent the threat and effects of climate change. As global citizens and change makers, the WYRC is proposing to form an Environmental Sustainability Youth Action group. Collaboration and guidance from the Whitehorse Sustainability team would be beneficial. This establishment of this group would encourage youths to develop their understanding on local and global issues, communication and public speaking skills, leadership skills, greater knowledge on council operations, and create an environment to foster their passion to tackle climate change.

Activities may include:

- Creating content for educating public on climate change
- Having climate change conversations with peers and public on climate change
- Group activities such as litter picking walks and habitat restoration
- Educational workshops for the youth community
- Group discussions

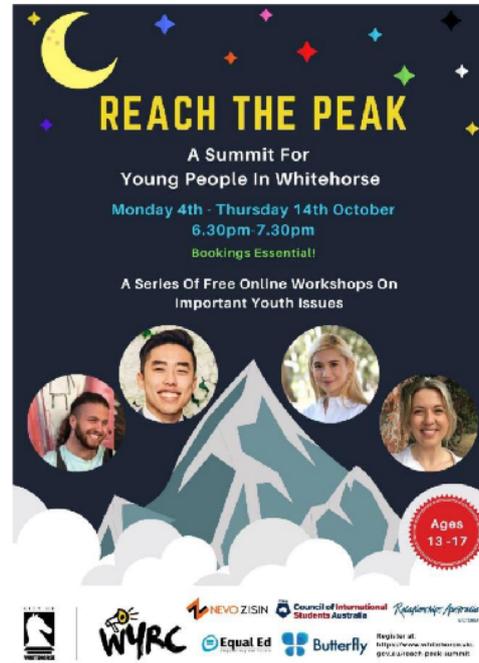
Currently, the Glen Eira City Council have established a Youth Climate and Sustainability Action Group which demonstrates the opportunity for Whitehorse City Council to contribute to the sustainability space for youths. Action on climate change cannot wait.



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Reach the Peak – WYRC Annual Youth Summit *Written by Jessica Chung*

In light of the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdowns, our initially planned 2021 in-person annual summit event was switched to an online forum, similar to the virtual forum we held in 2020. This year, our summit was titled 'Reach the Peak', and it aimed at providing young people in Whitehorse aged 12 - 25 the opportunity to participate in a series of interactive and engaging workshops, which shed light upon important issues that many young members of our community may be struggling with. Rather than holding the forum on a single day as per tradition, we decided to break up the summit into five workshops, starting from Monday 4th October, and spanning across two weeks. By breaking up the summit into multiple short



workshops, we were hoping to render the content more accessible to those who may not have been available for one particular day, and to avoid the eyestrain and daylong physical inactivity that may have occurred had the summit lasted for an entire day.

The themes for this year's summit were Health and Wellbeing, Diversity and Inclusion, and the issues we focused on included education, international students, youth activism, relationships and body image. In our first workshop, Jeffery Lai, Founder and Managing Director of Equal Ed, spoke to us about how to identify ambitions, set meaningful goals and reach our potentials. Our second workshop welcomed Belle Lim, National President at the Council of International Students Australia, who gave us an in-depth understanding of the experiences and issues that international students face, and how to support these peers of ours. Nevo Zisin, our third workshop's speaker, taught us about how we can become involved in activism, exploring topics such as empowerment, imposter syndrome, self-confidence, self-care and community care. In our fourth workshop, Lucille Hart, Learning Experience Coordinator at Relationships Australia Victoria, delved into the important topics of gender equality, respectful relationships, and how to build resilience and self-care.

For our fifth and final workshop, Nicki Isaacs from The Butterfly Foundation presented about the role that social media can play on our sense of self-esteem and body confidence, whilst teaching us about how to have a safer and more positive online experience.

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Thanks to our amazing guest speakers, we as a committee, alongside the youth who participated in the workshops, were able to gain incredible insight into these important issues. Following the summit, we became better equipped, both as individuals and as a community, in understanding certain issues that affect our youth, and how we may be able to best support our community and ourselves. This summit event also provided our committee with a valuable opportunity to develop our organisational, leadership and communication skills, through the initiative required to organise the logistics of the event, contact our guest speakers, manage the budget and publicise the event. Overall, the 2021 'Reach the Peak' summit was a wonderful experience for WYRC and the Whitehorse community, one where we were all able to learn and develop ourselves tremendously.



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Social Media and Body Image Report *Written by Elvis Yang*

Body image is defined as a feeling state created by numerous factors. It can also influence how we engage with the world. This year, 'Social Media and Body Image' was identified as one of the important youth issues to focus on. Nowadays, many young people are dissatisfied with their bodies, feel a loss of self-esteem and this can lead to serious health concerns for teens such as:

- **Bulimia Nervosa:** Individuals with this disorder are also very dissatisfied with their bodies and have extreme concern with body weight and shape.
- **Depression:** In many instances, individuals with depression often have a distorted view of themselves and believe they are less attractive than they really are.
- **Body Dysmorphic Disorder:** This is a disorder of 'imagined ugliness.' What individuals with this disorder see in the mirror is a grossly distorted view of what they actually look like. Often, these individuals will spend hours examining, attempting to conceal, or obsessing over their perceived flaws. Some people spend thousands of dollars on plastic surgery to improve their bodies.

Social media however may also influence youth people from the following aspects such as:

- Media exposure contributes to body dissatisfaction and Body Dysmorphic Disorder. Social media is unfortunately shaping our concept of beauty.
- People always compare them with images displayed in the media, which will let them feel more depression on their bodies.

These issues have been further discussed in our Summit Youth Forum and we provided a workshop delivered by Nicki from The Butterfly Foundation to educate youth people regarding these issues. The aim of this workshop is to explore the role that social media plays on body confidence and self-esteem. It aims to strengthen young people's media literacy and empower young people, though the way they use and view social media platforms and offering a safer, more positive online experience.

Apart from this forum, the WYRC 2021 had planned to consult with young people and organisations to create a report about the issues with body images and deliver a presentation to Council.



With intermittent lockdown, the WYRC 2021 team have arranged a series of trainings and presentations successfully. However, there are some works still not fully finished, especially for the body image issue. So, we decide to handling over our work to date to the WYRC 2022 to continue and complete. Wish all the best to them.

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Conclusion *Written by Daniel Ware*

Even though 2021 was a year again impacted by COVID-19, lockdowns and many disruptions across society - both locally and globally - the Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee 2021 was able to continue serving its role in the community. It certainly has not been an easy year, with the Committee meeting both virtually and physically at different times throughout the year. The ability of the Committee and its members to endure and still contribute despite this has been incredible.

Despite these challenges, the WYRC has been able to maintain its presence as an important body for our local young people, receiving important training, voting on the Whitehorse Young Person of the Month award, and running a successful Reach the Peak Summit even after transitioning to a virtual event on relatively short notice.

The Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee of 2021 would like to thank Jac, Lynn and Zoe for their contributions and support throughout the year. Without them, the WYRC would not be what it is.

We would also like to thank the Council for its continued support of the WYRC and its work and look forward to seeing what the WYRC can do in 2022.



11.2 Whitehorse Kindergarten
 Infrastructure Service Plan
 (KISP)

Attachment 1 Whitehorse Kindergarten KISP DRAFT

11.2 – ATTACHMENT 1. Whitehorse Kindergarten KISP DRAFT



Education
and Training

Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan

City of Whitehorse

11.2 – ATTACHMENT 1. Whitehorse Kindergarten KISP DRAFT

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. REFORM CONTEXT

In an Australian first, the Victorian Government has committed to implement Three-Year-Old Kindergarten for all children over a 10-year roll-out with a total investment of almost \$5 billion, including \$1.68 billion to support the infrastructure expansion required for the reform. This reform will add another year of universal funded kindergarten so that, by 2029, all children in Victoria will have access to two years of play-based learning through a funded kindergarten program.

1.2. PURPOSE OF KISPS

Three-Year-Old Kindergarten will require a large expansion of kindergarten across the State. The Government has invited all 79 Victorian Local Governments to have input into the Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP) for their Local Government Area (LGA).

Each KISP has to estimate the growth in demand for kindergarten within the LGA. The KISPs will help all kindergarten providers meet demand and provide a clear picture of infrastructure need across the State.

While a KISP is not a funding document and does not define required infrastructure projects or commit any party to funding specific projects, it is expected that future investment requests through Building Blocks and funding decisions about Local Government and not-for-profit projects should reference or align where possible with the relevant KISP.

1.3. HOW TO USE THE KISP

Each KISP contains estimates of future kindergarten supply of, and demand for, Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places against existing enrolment capacity. Not-for-profit and for-profit providers can use these estimates to inform their plans to expand kindergarten programs, establish new services or invest in new or extended facilities.

For example, KISPs provide demand estimates in terms of where, when and how much demand for kindergarten places will grow in an LGA. KISPs also estimate where and how many kindergarten places providers can accommodate in existing facilities before an area needs new infrastructure to meet demand. The estimates can be used to inform decisions about where and when expansions of kindergarten program capacity and the construction of new or extended facilities are needed to meet demand growth.

Note As actual demographics and other demand factors as well as those factors driving supply may deviate from current projections, it will be necessary for the KISP to be reviewed and if necessary amended on an annual basis. In this way, the KISP will always be based on the most current and reliable data. In June 2021 Whitehorse Council commissioned a project to develop a comprehensive kindergarten infrastructure strategy for the municipality which updates a similar strategy developed in 2011. The 2021 strategy will be incorporated into the Whitehorse KISP on the first 12 month review.

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Where there is an agreed KISP for the LGA, the Local Government and not-for-profit kindergarten providers seeking investments or when agreed to co-investments through the Building Blocks Capacity Building stream must refer to, and align their proposed project with, the infrastructure need identified in the KISP.

1.4. STRUCTURE OF THE KISP

Each KISP consists of the following sections:

- **Section 1:** A short introduction to the Three-Year-Old Kindergarten reform and the KISP.
- **Section 2:** A map of existing and planned Early Childhood Education and Care service locations.
- **Section 3:** Local knowledge and context relevant to the expansion of kindergarten services.
- **Section 4:** Funded kindergarten demand estimates.

1.5. DISCLAIMER

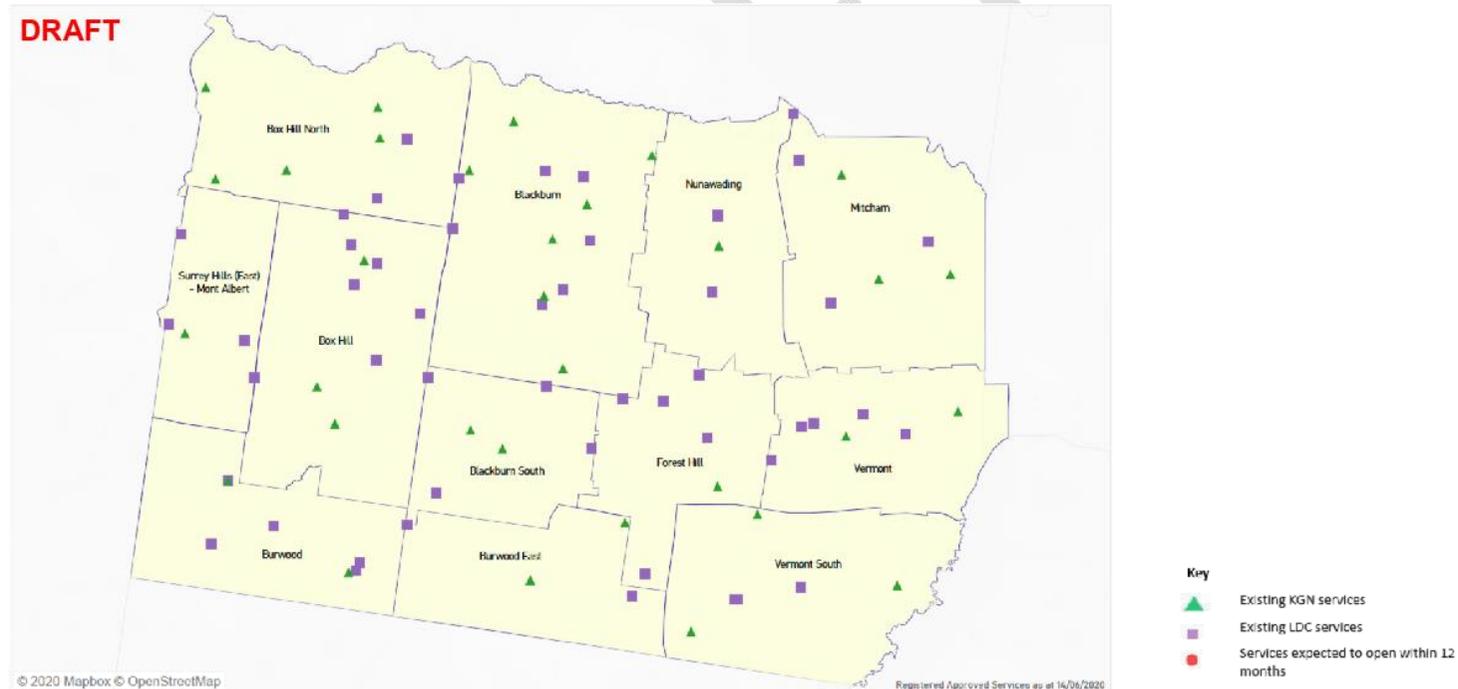
All data presented in this document are estimates only and are based on the best information available to the Department and Local Government at the time. They are published on an as-is basis and are for informational purposes only. They are subject to adjustment in response to market forces and as new data and other relevant information becomes available. The data may under- or over-estimate both total demand in a given location or year and the capacity for new demand to be met by providers. As a result, operational and business decisions should not be made solely based on this document. Any use of this data is solely at the risk of the user. The Department and Local Government accept no responsibility for any loss or damage, either direct or incidental, that may result from the use of the data.

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2. MAP OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SERVICES IN CITY OF WHITEHORSE

The map below shows the distribution of currently operating and new services that are planned to open in the future in the LGA and across its communities.

This map has been prepared using Departmental data, from both the National Quality Agenda IT System (NQAITS) and the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA). Where applicable, this map has been refined by the Whitehorse City Council and the Department to capture other services that are planned to open in the future.



3. WHITEHORSE LOCAL CONTEXT

3.1 PURPOSE

Local, place-based knowledge and context play an important role in supporting the implementation of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten across Victoria.

3.3 KEY CONSIDERATIONS

3.3.1 Assumptions used in modelling future unmet demand for kindergarten places

The assessment of the sufficiency of the current supply of kindergarten places in Whitehorse to meet future demand for funded 3 year old and 4 year old places (over the next 10 years) is a relatively complex project. Such an assessment relies on an analysis of current and historic data and the overlay of a set of assumptions to develop a model of what the future supply and demand of kindergarten places will look like. The following points outlines some of these complex issues:

- Population Projections and the impact of COVID. The population projections used in this report are from the Victorian Government's Victoria in Future population projections (VIF 2019).

The projections for the change in the number of the 0-5 year old cohort for the past 5 years has generally not reflected the local experience. The projections assumed a relatively stable number of children in that cohort which will slowly rise by approximately 18% over a 15 year period to 2031. However local birth notification data is showing an actual decline of a 17% decline in the total number of births recorded since 2016 and with no clear future change in the trend yet evident.

Secondly, it is too early to assess whether the current pandemic will further suppress annual births recorded as well as the number of children migrating into and out of the municipality each year. Overseas students contribute to the number of children born into the municipality each year and it is not clear if the pandemic will have an impact on the number of overseas students settling in the municipality each year. If this turns out to be the case then the demand factor in the projections provided may be overstated.

- Family preference (agency) in selecting their preferred type of funded kindergarten service for their child/ren. The two key types of funded kindergarten services are sessional or traditional kindergarten services and secondly integrated kindergarten in long day care centres.

At present, the majority of enrolments in four-year-old kindergarten are at sessional based kindergarten services rather than long day care services, at a ratio of 62:38. While no studies have been undertaken to ascertain the basis for the higher levels of enrolment through sessional kindergarten places, anecdotal evidence suggests this may be due to parental preferences, with a number of factors likely to be at play:

- Higher cost of attending integrated child care centre places.
- Perception of quality differences in education provided.
- Local convenience.

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- Governance structure of services (parent managed sessional kindergartens as opposed to corporate based management structures)
- Stronger associations between sessional kindergarten centres and preferred primary schools.
- Stronger community feel of sessional kindergartens

While the ratio is very slowly moving to a more equitable distribution of enrolments between the two service types, the growth in the provision of kindergarten places lies almost entirely with integrated kindergarten services. The KISP estimates have been developed using a 'sector agnostic' approach, with an assumption that existing capacity in both sessional and long-day-care settings can be utilised to address new kindergarten demand. This does not factor in existing preferences within the municipality for sessional kindergarten services. Should existing preferences remain, and long-day-care capacity is not utilised to the extent that has been modelled, it is possible that unmet demand may be higher than estimated. It is hoped that over time as KISP's are reviewed that more sophisticated modelling considering preference in model assumptions can be applied in the future.

- Operational Service Models. At this stage it remains difficult to precisely determine how kindergarten services will stage their progression from an initial 5 hours of 3 year old kindergarten service in 2022 to 15 hours in 2029. The KISP estimates are based on a relatively smooth transition over the period. However, financial sustainability factors may influence the transition (i.e. bring forward or push back depending on the circumstances).
- Maximising licensed place availability into operational service models. The KISP estimates are based on broad assumptions about service efficiency (i.e. how many children can be accommodated within each service). There are two key impediments that may impact a kindergarten service offering their theoretical maximum number of kindergarten places to the community. The first impediment relates to financial sustainability. A kindergarten service will generally structure its service modelling on its confidence that it will be able to attract sufficient children to fill x number of /groups and secondly, that it can attract the appropriate number of qualified staff to educate and manage each group.
- Kindergarten services often have an ideological view on what it defines as quality pedagogy. Those views may limit the number of children that the kindergarten service will support (ie qualitative factors overriding quantitative factors). If the number of kindergarten places actually offered by services is less than those estimated in the KISP, this would have the result of reducing estimated supply, and potentially increasing unmet demand. Kindergartens on School Sites: There are currently 5 kindergartens that have been co-located on school sites within Whitehorse that are managed by the respective school councils. The state government has advised Council that there is currently no strategic plan available to assess whether any of the remaining 43 primary schools are capable to accommodate a kindergarten service in the future if the opportunity arose.
- Council infrastructure: There are now 21 sessional kindergartens located on council controlled land. (A further six are located on church owned and controlled land and the remaining 5 operate on DET owned land). The majority of the stock of sessional kindergarten facilities are located on small house blocks and were built in the 1960s through to the mid 1970s. The majority of these facilities were constructed using cheap building materials and following simple single room design. These buildings are now approaching an average 50 years of age and will reach a point where they require rebuilding to modern standards and conveniences.

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- Private Infrastructure: As mentioned above, there has been significant investment in the construction of new larger long day care centres in the municipality in the past 4 years. During that time total long day care places have increased from approximately 2,550 to 4,350 (approx 70% increase). The total 3yo and 4yo places funded (integrated) kindergarten places in the 49 child care centres is 2,200 based on effective full time use. However about 75% of all places are part time use and that expands the number of funded kinder places that can provided in the future. A further 8 integrated kindergarten facilities are expected to commence operations in 2022. While planning applications exist for additional long day care centres in the future, it is too early to ascertain what impact the current impact will have on service demand. Hence it is too early to predict whether supply for this sector will continue to grow, stabilise or contract.

[3.3.2 ASR Research Report](#)

In 2021, Whitehorse Council commissioned ASR Research to undertake an independent review of the impact of the government's kindergarten reforms on the capacity of the existing kindergarten facilities across the municipality.

The report was completed in early 2022. The findings which generally align with this KISP are detailed later in this section.

[3.3.3 Whitehorse Population](#)

As of June 2019, Whitehorse had an estimated resident population of 178,739. The City of Whitehorse has a lower proportion of pre-schoolers and higher proportion of people at post retirement age than Greater Melbourne.

The City of Whitehorse is located 12 to 22km East of Melbourne CBD. The major features of the city include the large technology precinct in the Tally Ho area, the Melbourne campus of Deakin University, Box Hill Institute and Box Hill Hospital. The three major activity centres are Box Hill, Forest Hill Chase and the Nunawading mega mile. Whitehorse also has several smaller neighbourhood shopping centres scattered around the municipality.

The areas attract a range of ages to the municipality, and although local government boundaries are often irrelevant to young people, they are hubs for recreational and educational activity for the city.

Key findings:

- Whitehorse has a lower proportion of pre-schoolers and a higher proportion of people at post retirement age than greater Melbourne.
- Box Hill TAFE and Deakin University invite a high proportion of 18–24 year olds into the municipality, in particular for Box Hill and Burwood.
- There is a large proportion of international students in the municipality, and it is likely they are from predominantly Asian backgrounds.
- Most children aged 0–4 (making up 5.4% of the population, at 8,822 people) are found in Mitcham, followed by Nunawading and Blackburn North.
- Most children aged 5–11 (which make up 8.0% of the population, at 12,958) are found in Vermont, closely followed by Blackburn North and Mont Albert North.
- Those aged 12–17 (which make up 7.0% of the population, at 11,285) are mostly found in Blackburn North, Vermont and Mont Albert.

11.2 – ATTACHMENT 1. Whitehorse Kindergarten KISP DRAFT

- Whitehorse’s indigenous population is 358 (0.2% of the population). 0–4 year olds make up 8.7%, 5–14 years make up 18.2% and 15–24 make up 19.8% of that indigenous population group.

3.3.4 Whitehorse Population Forecasts

By 2036 it is expected that the population as a whole will increase, particularly in the older age groups. Source: Population and household forecasts, 2016 to 2041, prepared by id (informed decisions)

As described above, different areas within the City of Whitehorse have different functions based on both area of development and proximity to education and employment opportunities. Box Hill, Box Hill North, Box Hill South, Burwood, and to a lesser extent, Nunawading and Mitcham attract large numbers of young adults based on the location of tertiary education institutions and access to employment. Mont Albert, Mont Albert North and Surrey Hills are attractive areas for mature families, while Vermont, Vermont South and Burwood East are expected to experience a net migration loss in the early part of the forecast period as children leave home to establish new households elsewhere.

The variety of function and role of the small areas in the City of Whitehorse means that population outcomes differ significantly across the LGA. Couple families with dependents are forecast to increase by 5,410 households, to comprise 32.7% of all households in 2036, compared to 34.8% in 2016.

Figure 1: Key Demographics for the City of Whitehorse

	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041
Population	169,641	185,300	198,791	210,027	220,039	229,324
Avg annual growth rate (5yrs)	1.5%	1.8%	1.4%	1.1%	0.9%	0.8%
Households	63,026	69,034	74,582	79,274	83,563	87,523
Change in households (5yrs)	3,224	6,008	5,548	4,692	4,289	3,960
Avg household size	2.64	2.62	2.61	2.59	2.58	2.57

As mentioned earlier, one key statistic that is relevant to this assessment of the supply and demand of kindergarten places in Whitehorse is the falling trend in births recorded across the municipality. In 2007/08, the municipality recorded 2,035 births. In 2020/21 the municipality recorded 1,528 births despite the higher base population. The decreasing trend has been noted for the past 5 years and is viewed to be related to economic factors including housing affordability and the number of young overseas students living in the municipality. That said, it is difficult to assess how the current COVID19 pandemic will affect the future numbers recorded in the municipality.

At this stage, the number of funded kindergarten places remains strong and consistent with figures recorded over the past decade (ie About 1,850 places +/- 50 places). That situation may change in the coming years unless children migrating into the municipality offset the decreased new birth numbers.

3.3.5 Whitehorse Early Years 0 – 4 year olds

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Mitcham has the highest number of children under the age of four (1,137), while Mont Albert has the lowest number of children under the age of four (235). As can be seen in figure 2 below, under four year olds as a percentage of the population, make up from 3.6% of the population in Burwood and 3.9% in Vermont South, to Mitcham (7.0%), Nunawading (6.7%), Box Hill North (5.9%) and Vermont (5.9%) which all have the highest parentage of 0–4 year olds.

Figure 2: Number of 0–4 year olds in the municipality by suburb

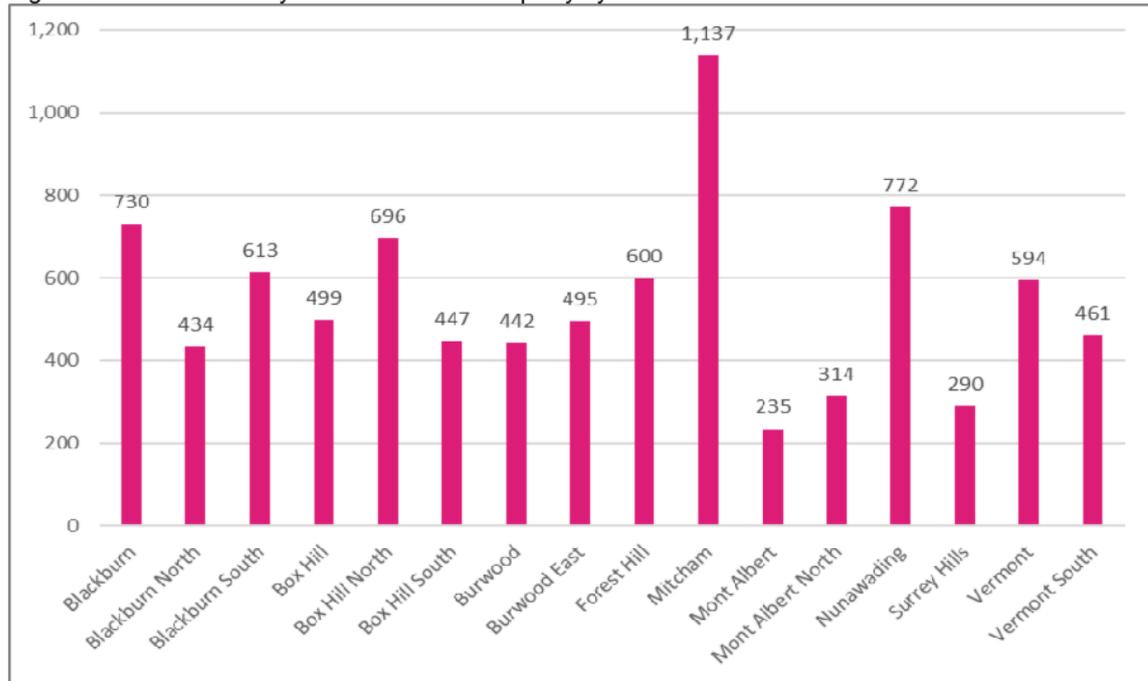


Figure 3: Total number of young people in Whitehorse (2016) and forecast (2031)

	2016	2031	Chg	2041	Chg
0-4	9,640	11,406	18.3%	12,136	6.4%
5-9	9,865	10,875	10.2%	11,617	6.8%
10-14	9,455	10,820	14.4%	11,665	7.8%
15-19	10,853	14,684	35.3%	15,590	6.2%

3.3.6 Whitehorse Family type and housing

Between 2011 and 2016, the number of households with children increased by 1,792 households or 3.0%. The total number of couples with children increased by 1,574 households, whilst the total number of single parents with children increased by 218 households. The breakdown can be seen in the figure 8, below.

As stated earlier, birth notifications have been trending downwards since 2016, from 1,844 down to 1,528 in 2021.



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[3.3.7 Migration in and out of the Whitehorse](#)

Migration, or residential mobility, together with births and deaths are significant components of population change. The movement of people into, and out of an area directly influences the characteristics of the population and the demand for services and facilities. Migration is the most volatile component of population change and can be affected by changing housing and economic opportunities such as housing affordability issues or the job market.

There are three main types of migration in Australia, overseas migration, between-state migration, and within-state migration. By far the most common form of migration is within-state, and largely involves moves between neighbouring and existing urban areas where moves are often short. Overseas migration has been significantly impacted by COVID-19 due to border closures, the impacts of which are yet to be properly understood.

Prior to 2020, the City of Whitehorse experienced a strong growth in population born from China. Its population increased by more than 65% between 2011 and 2016. While most young people in Whitehorse were born in Australia; China and India are the most common places of birth for those born outside of Australia and in those aged under 25, there are greater numbers in the ages between 15 and 24. This trend generally reflects the high numbers of international students attending tertiary institutions in the municipality.

Figure 4: Place of birth for under 25 year olds

	0-14	15-24
Australia	22,961	13,972
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	909	4,015
India	375	706
Malaysia	263	626
England	227	224
New Zealand	210	227
Sri Lanka	77	360
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	93	330
Singapore	154	139
Korea, Republic of (South)	101	192

Most people who moved into the municipality by far, came from overseas at 17,803 persons. Next they came from out of Victoria, then Boroondara, Monash, Manningham and Knox. Most people who moved out of the municipality moved interstate, followed by Maroondah, Boroondara, Knox and Manningham.

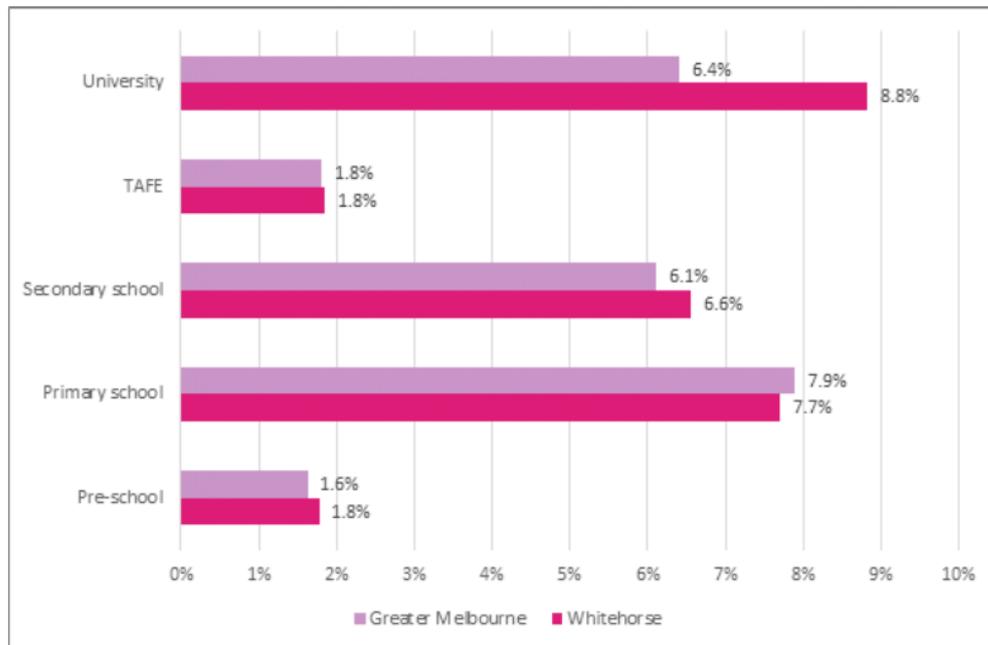
[3.3.8 Vulnerable in one or more domains](#)

According to the Australian Early Development Census 2018, the percentage of children developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains is 13.3%, less than the Victorian average of 19.9%.

11.2 – ATTACHMENT 1. Whitehorse Kindergarten KISP DRAFT

[3.3.9 Education](#)

More than one quarter (27.8%) of residents currently attend an educational institution. Whitehorse has a higher proportion of residents that attended University, compared to Greater Melbourne – at 8.8% compared to 6.4% for the metropolitan region. 84.1% of persons lived in households that had Internet access of any form at their dwelling, compared to the Metropolitan Melbourne and Victorian State averages of 81.7% and 79.6% respectively.



[3.4 KISP & ASR Research Estimates for Unmet Demand for Kindergarten Places in Whitehorse](#)

Over the period of Government's kindergarten reform (2022-2029), there are five sectors of the municipality where there is potential projected unmet demand for sessional kindergarten. This indicates where the number of children forecast cannot be accommodated in existing sessional facilities when two years of 15 hours is implemented. Using DET assumptions around incremental service roll-out from five hours in 2022 to 15 hours by 2029, this unmet demand is identified to become an issue in:

1. North East Sector (Nunawading & Mitcham): in 2025/26 unmet demand is projected at 23 places rising to 165 places in 2029 (3 small or 2 large kindergarten rooms).
2. North West Sector (Box Hill, Box Hill North and Mont Albert and Mont Albert North) : in 2025/26 unmet demand is projected at 30 places rising to 146 places in 2029 (3 small or 2 large kindergarten rooms).
3. South West Sector (Surrey Hills, Box Hill South and Burwood): in 2025/26 unmet demand is projected at 33 places rising to 111 places in 2029 (2 small or 2 large kindergarten rooms).
4. South East Sector (Vermont & Vermont South): in 2026 unmet demand is projected at 40 places rising to 62 places in 2029. (1 large kindergarten room)

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5. South Sector (Blackburn South, Forest Hills and East Burwood): in 2026/7 unmet demand is projected at 15 places rising to 46 places in 2029. (1 small kindergarten room)

As pointed out above, the key driver for unmet demand is the timing of when the full 15 hours of funded kindergarten is offered for 3-year-old children during the roll-out period.

Note, it is difficult to align specific geographical areas between the two documents as the data source for geographical areas is not identical and provides for discrepancies. While the KISP uses a numerical range to project unmet demand, the overall implications regarding unmet demand in the respective sectors of the municipality are similar between the two reports.

3.4.1 Additional Findings of the ASR Research Report (Jan 2022)

- The majority of Council owned sessional kindergarten sites contain only 1 main activity room (82% of all facilities - 18 facilities).
- Only 21% of Council's sessional kindergarten facilities are rated either very good or good in terms of being fit for purpose (i.e. meets current program/service delivery needs in either a fully efficient and effective manner or an acceptable manner). Approximately 37% are rated fair (i.e. meets most current program/service delivery needs and some inefficiencies and ineffectiveness present). Approximately 42% of Council's sessional kindergarten facilities are rated poor in terms of being fit for purpose (i.e. limited ability to meet current program / service delivery needs).
- Of even greater concern is that over two thirds (70%) of Council's sessional kindergarten facilities are rated as either poor or very poor in terms of being fit for future use (i.e. either has limited ability to meet current program/service delivery needs or is critically deficient and does not meet current program/service delivery and is neither efficient nor effective).

3.5 References

- City of Whitehorse Community Profile <http://profile.id.com.au/whitehorse>
- City of Whitehorse Community Atlas <http://atlas.id.com.au/whitehorse>
- City of Whitehorse Population Forecast <http://forecast.id.com.au/whitehorse>
- Australian Bureau of Statistics: <http://www.abs.gov.au/>
- Australian Early Development Census: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer>
- Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System (VCAMS) Indicators <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/research/Pages/vcamsindicator.aspx>

4. FUNDED KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT ESTIMATES BETWEEN 2021-29 FOR CITY OF WHITEHORSE

4.1 PURPOSE

As Three-Year-Old Kindergarten is rolled-out and Victoria's population grows, demand for both Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places will increase significantly. While additional capacity will be needed to meet this demand, this will vary across the State and over time, due to differences in the capacity of existing services, growth trends and sector composition.

To identify where, when and how many additional kindergarten places are expected over the roll-out in the City of Whitehorse, Whitehorse City Council and the Department have developed:

1. A summary of the current provision of kindergarten within the LGA (**Section 4.3**).
2. An approach to optimising the utilisation of existing services and infrastructure through 'change management' strategies that Whitehorse City Council and the Department will support to help meet additional demand in the LGA (**Section 4.4**).
3. An estimate of the Three and Four-Year-Old kindergarten places that cannot be met through existing services for the 2021-29 period, taking into account the additional demand that can be accommodated by optimising utilisation of existing services and infrastructure through point 2, above (**Section 4.5**).

Local Government and providers can use these published estimates to inform reform implementation activities such as service planning, kindergarten program expansion, infrastructure investments and Building Blocks funding applications in alignment with future demand over the 10-year roll-out.

4.2 METHODOLOGY

The estimated Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places used in the following sections were informed by:

- Estimates developed by the Department which draw on a range of inputs, including population forecasts, current enrolments and results from the Kindergarten Capacity Assessment Program (KCAP), conducted in 2019.
- The estimated capacity of new services that are planned to open in the LGA (Section 2)
- Local knowledge and context provided by the Local Government (Section 3) that explains particular issues and trends in their area.
- The approach to optimising utilisation of existing services in the LGA (Section 4.4), and
- Other sources, such as modelling undertaken by Local Governments and local data.

The KISP measures a service's capacity to deliver funded kindergarten in terms of the number of children it could enrol in Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten. The number of funded kindergarten

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places is different from a service’s licensed or approved places, which count the number of children permitted to attend the service at any one time under the license. Many services can enrol more children in their funded kindergarten program(s) than they have licensed places for because they can run more than one kindergarten program per week. Kindergarten places are therefore a more accurate measure of service kindergarten capacity than licensed places.

Three-Year-Old Kindergarten places have been presented as 15-hour places so they can be easily compared to Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places. Moreover, when Three-Year-Old Kindergarten is fully rolled-out in 2029, every three-year-old child will have access to 15-hours of kindergarten.

From 2023 all providers will have flexibility to determine how many hours of funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten they deliver per week, with a minimum of five hours and a maximum of 15-hours funded pro-rata. It is expected that hours offered will vary. Given this variation, **it is important to be aware that during the transition to all three-year-old children receiving 15-hours of funded kindergarten per week in 2029, the 15-hour places presented in this report may represent multiple three-year-old places that individually receive less than 15-hours of kindergarten per week.**

These estimates have been developed at an LGA and community level to show the overall forecast and variation within an area. The KISP defines community at the Statistical Area Level 2, which is medium-sized areas which represent a community that interacts socially and economically, with a population range of 3,000 to 25,000 people, and an average population of about 10,000 people.

4.3 SUMMARY OF CURRENT KINDERGARTEN PROVISION

The figures below provide a summary of current kindergarten provision within the LGA and provide relevant context for the estimates of demand for funded kindergarten places included in Section 4.5. The data included in this section are largely drawn from:

- The Kindergarten Capacity Assessment Program (KCAP), collected between June and October 2019.
- The Department’s Kindergarten Information Management System (KIMS), as at 2019.
- The Department’s Quality and Regulatory Division (QARD) monitoring data, as at 2019.
- The National Quality Agenda IT System (NQAITs), as at April 2020.
- The Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System (VCAMS), as at 2018.

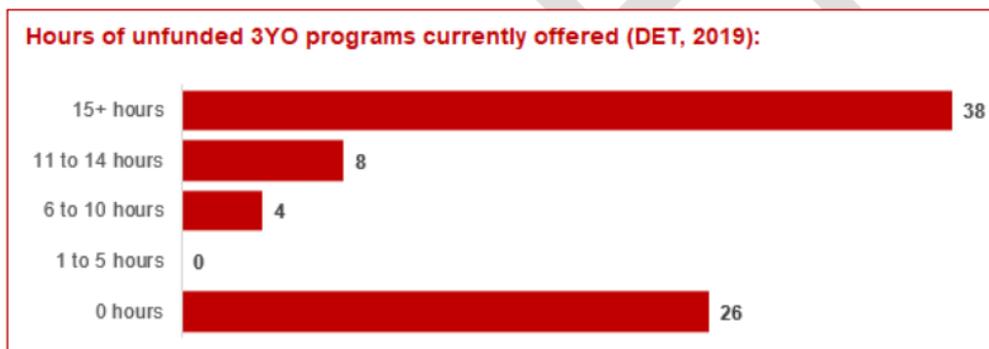
Please note that, because these sources were collected at different points, this may result in slightly different totals appearing in the below data.

Number of services by service type (NQAITs, 2020)	
Stand-alone kindergartens	35
Long day care centres	46

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Percentage of services by management type, LGA level (NQAITs, 2020)	
Type	Percentage
Local Government	5%
Private not for profit	47%
Private for profit	37%
Other	11%

Current kindergarten offering	
Four-Year-Old Kindergarten participation rate (VCAMS, 2018):	89%
Number of services that offer a funded kindergarten program (DET, 2019):	76
Number of services that offer an unfunded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten program (DET, 2019):	50



4.4 APPROACH TO OPTIMISING THE USE OF EXISTING SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Change management strategies to optimise existing services and infrastructure

Children can often be accommodated through existing spare places and by services ‘unlocking’ unused capacity. As the experience of providers in the 2020 Three-Year-Old Kindergarten roll-out LGAs shows, while the optimisation of existing services can be challenging, it is highly time- and cost-effective compared to building new capacity through infrastructure projects. It also helps target infrastructure investment to the places that need it most and avoids over-supplying the local market.

The Department will support providers and services to maximise their kindergarten places through the following change management activities and practices:

- Increasing the capacity of any Local Government operated services by:
 - Running additional programs.

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- Using different timetables, including running 7.5-hour days.
- Changing the delivery model, such as introducing rotational models or mixed-age groups.
- Having degree-qualified kindergarten teachers leading integrated kindergarten programs in long day care settings.
- Encouraging and supporting other providers and services in the LGA to undertake change management.

The Department has estimated how many Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places can be accommodated through existing services in the LGA (**Table 1**). Both parties are committed to helping providers and services offer these kindergarten places before progressing to funded infrastructure solutions to meet demand. This commitment is reflected in the LGA and community level estimates below (**Table 2** onwards), which assume that demand will be met first through existing services and second through additional infrastructure. Note that in some cases the number of kindergarten places that can be offered through existing services may exceed demand for kindergarten places.

Table 1: [Range of] total estimated funded kindergarten places that can be offered by optimising existing services and infrastructure across the LGA, between 2021-29 (presented in 15-hour equivalent places)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Estimated existing supply of kindergarten places*	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,300
Total three and four-year-old places that can be accommodated by optimising existing services**	4,300 – 5,717	4,300 – 5,717	4,300 – 5,717	4,300 – 5,717	4,300 – 5,717	4,300 – 5,717	4,300 – 5,717	4,300 – 5,717	4,300 – 5,717

*This may be higher than current three and four-year-old enrolments as it includes any spare places that are currently available or could be generated by making some minor adjustments to programming approaches.

**The likely expansion of services and kindergarten places in response to population growth (i.e. growth in demand not generated by the Three-Year-Old Kindergarten Reform that would likely occur) is not accounted for in these estimates.

4.5 AGREED ESTIMATES OF DEMAND FOR FUNDED KINDERGARTEN PLACES THAT CANNOT BE MET THROUGH EXISTING SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The below estimates (**Table 2** onwards) have been developed by Whitehorse City Council and the Department to illustrate the estimated:

1. Total number of Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places expected over the roll-out period.
2. Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by optimising existing services and infrastructure over the roll-out period.



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These estimates have been developed to reflect that the increase in demand for Three-Year-Old Kindergarten places will be gradual.

In estimating how many Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places cannot be accommodated by existing services and infrastructure, Whitehorse City Council and the Department have taken into account any new places that will be made available through planned expansions of existing services or new services, into estimates of existing supply, where this information is available. This may include Local Government owned services being developed and planned Kindergartens on School Sites.

These estimates do not, however, estimate how and when the broader sector will expand to meet the additional demand for kindergarten places that are estimated over the roll-out period.

Infrastructure need in the LGA and its local communities is indicated by the bottom rows of the tables in this section (**Table 2** onwards): 'Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services'. For example, if the number of kindergarten places for the LGA or a community is above zero in this row, it means that the area is estimated to need additional infrastructure (noting that further optimisation which avoids the need for additional infrastructure may be possible). Any type of provider – Local Government, not-for-profit or for-profit – can build this additional infrastructure. If this row shows all zeros, it means that there is no estimated need for additional infrastructure in the area.

Local Government and not-for-profit kindergarten providers must refer to the estimates in this section or if alternative data is provided in the local government context section with that data when applying through the Building Blocks Capacity Building Grants stream for Government funding. Under this stream, projects must be in a community where there is infrastructure need as shown in the community's table of estimated demand for kindergarten places (i.e. there are numbers in the bottom row above zero). Projects in LGAs or communities where demand can be met through existing services (i.e. the bottom row shows all zeros) are not eligible for funding under this stream.

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LGA estimates

Table 2: [Range of] estimated three and four-year-old kindergarten places between 2021-29 (presented in 15-hour equivalent places)

LGA level estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	2,002	3,113	3,295	3,444	3,576	3,760	3,922	4,276	4,744
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0 - 25	0 - 90	3 - 182	30 - 256	124 - 486	333 - 802

Community estimates

Table 3-14: [Range of] estimated three and four-year-old kindergarten places between 2021-29 (presented in 15-hour equivalent places)

Blackburn estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	353	537	560	577	592	612	632	652	674
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Blackburn South estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	127	183	190	196	201	208	215	228	264
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 - 7

Box Hill estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	183	313	342	369	395	429	455	523	598
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0 - 6	0 - 31	0 - 65	0 - 91	62 - 159	136 - 234

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Box Hill North estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	196	272	286	297	307	321	341	395	444
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 - 48	0 - 97

Burwood estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	199	302	332	359	385	415	442	469	522
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0 - 7	0 - 33	3 - 63	30 - 90	57 - 117	111 - 171

Burwood East estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	70	96	106	115	124	136	146	193	234
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Forest Hill estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	148	217	228	238	246	258	267	281	322
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0 - 3	0 - 15	0 - 24	5 - 38	46 - 79

Mitcham estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	188	270	286	299	310	326	338	391	440
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0 - 12	0 - 23	0 - 40	0 - 51	0 - 104	40 - 153

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Nunawading estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	155	236	251	263	274	290	300	321	366
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 - 5

Surrey Hills (East) – Mont Albert estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	96	161	168	172	176	182	187	191	201
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Vermont estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	171	369	376	380	383	389	398	408	418
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Vermont South estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	116	159	169	177	184	194	201	224	261
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 - 20	0 - 57

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5. AUTHORISATION

The [name and title of DET executive] of the Department of Education and Training and the Chief Executive of Whitehorse City Council endorse this Kindergarten Services and Infrastructure Plan (KISP) for City of Whitehorse by signing on / /

This KISP is not intended to create legal relations or constitute a legally binding contractual agreement between the parties. The parties may review this KISP in 2024 to publish a new version that will replace the previous version.

Signed for and on behalf and with the authority of Whitehorse City Council

.....
Signature

.....
Witness Signature

Name:

Title:

Address:

Signed by [name and title of DET executive], Department of Education and Training

.....
Signature

.....
Witness Signature

Name:

Title:

Address: