

Child and Youth Framework

2021-2031



Banyule
City Council



Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as traditional custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past, present, and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region's history.

Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages, and genders. We are committed to access, equity, participation, and rights for everyone: principles which empower, foster harmony, and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.



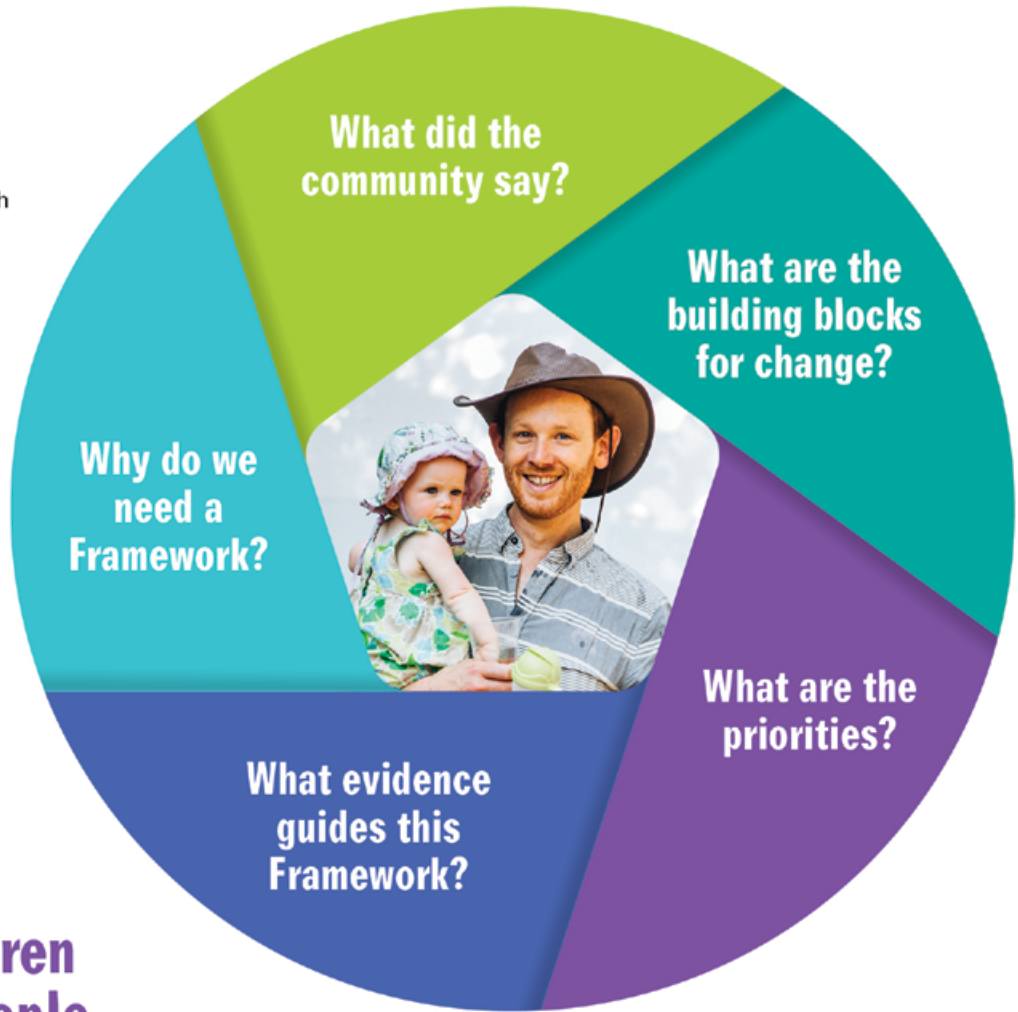
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What is the Child and Youth Framework?

The Child & Youth Framework is Banyule's commitment to supporting children and young people from pre-birth to 24 years. The Framework describes a long-term approach to supporting better outcomes for children and young people and responds to these key questions:



What do children and young people need to live a good life?

Children and young people are experts in their own lives and have valuable insight into what is needed for them to live well.

Community consultation demonstrates there is a strong alignment between what children, young people and their families say they need and the six NEST conditions for a good life. Banyule children, young people and their families say they need:

- Families, friends and pets to support them
- Great places to learn and develop skills needed for life and employment
- Engaging and enriching places in the community to play, create, explore their interests and passions, and connect with people
- Strong connections to nature and a healthy natural environment
- Opportunities and resources
- Support to have a voice, to participate in democracy and to give back to the community
- Mental health and wellbeing support
- Opportunities to build resilience and help to navigate the challenges of different life stages

What do we want to achieve?

'The Nest' is a national action plan to improve the wellbeing of Australian children and young people. Created by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth using evidence, input and guidance from the leading thinkers, service providers, policy experts and advocates across Australia, The Nest action agenda sets out necessary actions based on prevention, early intervention, evidence and a commitment to children and young people being at the centre of all policy and services.

In line with The Nest action plan, we want to create conditions whereby "all children and youth are loved and safe, have material basics, are healthy, are learning and participating and have a positive sense of culture and identity."

The Nest action plan lists six key elements that children and young people need to lead a good life:



To realise this vision, Council believes we need to:

- Understand and support state, federal and international priorities.
- Strengthen local supports available to children, young people and their families.
- Work alongside children, young people and their families.

“One of my ingredients is happiness”



“A sprinkle of fun”



“Good food, sunshine, family, friends, love”

Why do we need a Child and Youth Framework?

Children and young people represent 25% of the Banyule population, that is approximately 40,000 residents. In 2020, Banyule was home to:

8,500
children aged five
and under

23,000
primary and secondary
school students

8,600
young adults aged
up to 24 years



Children and young people matter

Children and young people are unique, active Banyule citizens:

- They are key members of our community and various cultural communities.
- They contribute to the rich fabric of our society.
- They are creative thinkers and problem solvers who contribute valued thoughts on issues both big and small.
- They are change-makers and can make the world a better place.



Upholding the rights of every child and young person matters

Children and young people have the same general human rights as adults, plus additional rights because of their unique needs. The Convention on the Rights of the Child outlines their rights and responsibilities, appropriate to their age and stage of development, and acknowledges their status as individuals and as members of a family and a community.



Childhood and adolescence matters

This is the time when we can support children and young people to get a great start to life. Childhood and adolescence are critical periods where enormous physical, behavioural, cognitive, and emotional growth and change occurs. Because this period is marked by unique needs at different stages and transition periods, children and young people require a nuanced approach to best support them to thrive.



Communities for children and young people matter

Because children and young people grow up in a community, their growth and development are influenced by the strengths and deficits in their community. Access to adequate social support, connectedness, diversity and inclusion help them belong and connect, and accelerate the development of essential life skills and a positive identity. Communities can help children and young people enjoy recreation, socialise, learn, pursue their interests and hobbies, connect with the natural environment and contribute to the community.



Diversity matters

Children and young people add value to our diverse community. Like adults, children and young people are a diverse group. They differ in where they live, their ancestry, education, employment and health status, and they have different interests and abilities. By acknowledging and understanding this diversity, communities can appreciate the lived experience and views of children and young people and can better respond to their needs, enabling them to realise new possibilities for a better future.



Prevention and early intervention matters

“We in Banyule are a thriving, sustainable, inclusive and connected community. We are engaged, we belong, and we value and protect our environment.” - Banyule Community Vision 2041

Achieving this Banyule Community Vision 2041 requires targeted investment in children and young people. A growing field of evidence demonstrates this is not only a cost-effective strategy, it also leads to better social and economic outcomes for individuals and communities.



Families, parents, and carers matter

Children and young people grow up in families.

Nurturing relationships and secure attachment in the context of a family has a powerful influence on the growth and development of children and young people. Families provide many supports that children and young people need to thrive; these include love, nurturing, a home, connection, safety, learning and opportunities. To help raise their children, families need support from their networks and community. The extent to which families are positively linked with extended families, friends, community institutions, services, and other supports helps parents in their role and addresses some of the constraints on optimal parenting.



What evidence guides this Framework?

In addition to The Nest vision of the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, this Framework is underpinned by a broad and growing field of research.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Feedback from our community indicates that five of the seventeen UNSDG's are a priority:

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



13 CLIMATE ACTION



National Action Plan for the Health of Children and Young People: 2020-2030

Because families and quality parenting are critical in supporting children and young people, support for parents and care givers is a priority.

Wungurilwil Gagapduir: Aboriginal Children and Families Agreement (2019)

Because fostering safe, resilient, thriving, culturally rich and strong Aboriginal families and communities is important, progressing the Banyule Reconciliation Action Plan is a priority.

State of Victoria's Children Report

Whilst most children and young people in Victoria are faring well, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the health and wellbeing of children and young people. Monitoring and responding to the health and wellbeing needs of children and young people is a key priority.

Victorian Health and Wellbeing Plan and the Victorian Health and Wellbeing Plan for Young People

Local Government has a responsibility to respond to the priorities of the Victorian Health and Wellbeing plans. Ongoing alignment based on local demographics is also a priority.



What does Council do for Children and Young People?

For the benefit of all residents, Council commits to improving the liveability of Banyule. We do this by:

- Supporting strong, healthy, and inclusive communities
- Promoting environmental sustainability
- Creating and maintaining great places and spaces
- Supporting participation through engagement and advocacy
- Providing efficient services and good governance

Council has a strong focus on providing services and programs for children, young people, and their families. We provide:



Maternal and Child Health Service
New parent playgroups
Supported playgroups
Early childhood facilities
Preschool central registrations



Citizen activities
Sports and recreation facilities
Parks and open spaces
Festivals and events



Banyule Youth Services
Health and social inclusion
Skill development and leadership
Arts and cultural expression
Specialist referral services

Building blocks for change

This Child and Youth Framework is underpinned by a set of principles that outline the way in which we intend to work.



Life stages

We will develop three implementation plans to achieve these goals - The First 1000 Days Plan, The Children's Plan, and The Youth Plan. We will also pay attention to key transition points, understanding that children and young people move between 'life stages' in diverse ways and at different ages.



Guided by evidence

We will adopt a sustainable long-term approach, using the growing body of evidence on what works to inform our actions.



Accountability

We will identify pathways to achieve our goals and use signposts for success such as quality, quantity, and participation. We will routinely measure the impact of what we have done and who benefited, and look for ways to do things better.



Working with partners

Council is committed to working in partnership with children and young people to make positive change. We acknowledge and value the range of supports available to children and young people and commit to working with families, governments, organisations, networks, and other partners to align with and complement the work.



Respecting culture

Banyule is home to people with a diverse range of ancestries from around the world. It is important we recognise, respect and value the cultural knowledge, customs, and traditions of all people, in particular the traditional owners and custodians of Banyule lands, the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung. Supporting the rights of all people to provide advice and participate in council planning and decision-making will lead to better outcomes for all children and young people in our community.



What are the priorities Council will invest in?

Environments that support children and young people

We will strengthen the built and natural environment, such as leisure centres, sporting facilities, libraries, shops, skate parks, bike trails, playgrounds, urban forests, and open spaces. We will create networks of physical resources children and young people need to live well.



Places for children and young people

Our Commitment:

We will improve the range of accessible, high quality community infrastructure and public spaces used by children and young people of all abilities, making these facilities and spaces welcoming and open to a diverse range of uses.



A healthy natural environment

Our Commitment:

Council has a goal to be a carbon-neutral community by 2040. We will support children and young people to lead initiatives that contribute to this goal.



Material basis

Our commitments:

We will create a resilient network of local agencies that support families in need and provide ready access to material necessities.

We will support children and young people to explore philanthropic and community building activities.

Social Support and Services

Because relationships, connections and services are essential, we will invest in programs and services that help children and young people thrive.



Learning support

Our Commitments:

We will provide community-based learning opportunities to develop the skills, talents and interests of children and young people.

We will support young people in developing work skills and employment pathways.



Relationship support

Our Commitments:

We will provide services and programs that support families as they raise children and young people.

We will help families develop and maintain safe, respectful, and secure attachments with children and young people.

We will work collaboratively to address family violence and increase child safety in our community.



Opportunities to participate

Our Commitments:

We will support children and young people to express their views in a range of community engagement activities and forums and ensure their views are considered in the decision-making process.

We will partner with children and young people to plan community festivals, events, and activities.

Emotional supports

Children, young people and their families value positive mental health and wellbeing. They believe that inclusion, access, respect, diversity, acceptance, and community spirit should be fostered from an early age.



Cultural support

Our Commitments:

We will raise the level of cultural competence in our workforce.

We will implement the Reconciliation Action Plan.

We will work with children and young people to celebrate what is culturally relevant to them.



Support equality

Our Commitments:

We will help children and young people to discuss and address inequalities.

We will support children and young people to experience equal standing in the community by recognising and celebrating their contributions and achievements.



Support resilience

Our Commitments:

We will support the development of life skills.

We will promote prevention and early intervention partnerships that build lifelong resilience in children and young people. This includes universal and specialist health and education support, improving outcomes for children and young people with additional needs and addressing the impacts of COVID-19.

We will provide individual support and capacity-building activities for young people in alignment with the Banyule Youth Summit recommendations.

Who will oversee the implementation of this Framework?

A strong team of professionals and residents forms Banyule's Child Youth and Family Committee. It is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this Framework and monitoring progress towards the Framework goals. The Committee provides feedback from services and community members, and makes recommendations for future action. The Committee's Terms of Reference can be viewed on Council's website.

Implementing the Framework

The Child & Youth Framework will be actioned through three implementation plans: The First 1000 Days Plan, The Children's Plan, and The Youth Plan. To assess our effectiveness, we will continue to consult with the community, assess outcomes and monitor relevant data.







How to contact your Council

For all enquiries or information about any Council services:

Telephone: **9490 4222**

Email: enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au

Website: www.banyule.vic.gov.au

Fax: **9499 9475**

If your hearing or speech is impaired, you can call us through the National Relay Service on **133 677** (TTY) or **1300 555 727** (ordinary handset) and ask for 9490 4222.

Postal Address:

PO Box 94, Greensborough 3088

Council Service Centres:

Greensborough: Level 3, 1 Flintoff Street

Ivanhoe: 275 Upper Heidelberg Road

Office Hours of Opening:

Greensborough: Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5pm

Ivanhoe: Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

Interpreter service:

If you need an interpreter, please contact TIS National on 131 450 and ask to be connected to Banyule Council on 9490 4222.

إذا كنتم بحاجة إلى مترجم، الرجاء الاتصال بالخط القومي لخدمة الترجمة الهاتفية TIS على الرقم 131 450، واطلبوا إيصالكم ببلدية بانبول على الرقم 9490 4222.

若你需要口譯員，請致電131 450聯絡TIS National，要求他們為你致電9490 4222接通Banyule市政廳。

Ako vam je potreban tumač, molimo vas, nazovite TIS National na broj 131 450 i zatražite da vas se spoji sa Vijećem općine Banyule na broj 9490 4222.

Αν χρειάζεστε διερμηνέα τηλεφωνήστε στην Εθνική Υπηρεσία Διερμηνέων Μεταφραστών στον αριθμό 131 450 και ζητήστε να σας συνδέσουν με τη Δημαρχία Banyule στο 9490 4222.

Se hai bisogno di un interprete chiama TIS National al numero 131 450 e chiedi di essere messo in comunicazione con il Comune di Banyule al numero 9490 4222.

Ако ви треба преведувач ве молиме јавете се на TIS National на 131 450 и замовете да ве поврзат со Banyule Council на 9490 4222.

如果你需要一名翻译，请打电话到国家电话翻译服务处 (TIS National) 131 450，再转接到Banyule市政府9490 4222

Haddii aad u baahan tahay mutarjum wac khadka qaranka oo ah TIS 131 450 weydiina in lagugu xiro Degmada Banyule tel: 9490 4222.

Nếu cần thông dịch, xin gọi cho TIS Toàn Quốc qua số 131 450 rồi nhờ họ gọi cho Hội Đồng Thành Phố Banyule theo số 9490 4222 giúp quý vị.