

Re-imagining the Olympic Leisure Centre

We are seeking:

1. To partner with the State Government to support and deliver on the community co-design for the Olympic Leisure Centre in West Heidelberg.
2. A State Government investment of \$15 million (half the total project cost) over five years.



The community co-design outcome:

The two-storey facility takes advantage of the whole site by positioning itself more centrally. It allows access from multiple points encouraging pedestrianisation of the site. The building stitches together the urban realm surrounding the building.

A generous central foyer on both ground and level one anticipates informal gatherings and around this central social space are the buildings core functions: aquatic, gymnasium, community multi-purpose and sports.



Re-inventing Olympic Leisure Centre

This is an opportunity to re-invent the Olympic Leisure Centre as a much-needed community hub. This project will have a lasting positive impact for local residents and help promote social cohesion and wellbeing in a suburb where many residents are vulnerable or disadvantaged.

Background

The Olympic Leisure Centre, built as part of the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Village precinct, is rundown and needs to be upgraded.

The Centre is operating well below industry standards. The pools are almost at the end of their life and don't meet child safe standards.

The single indoor court does not comply with current standards.

The surrounding area is beset by antisocial behaviour and the current design creates hidden corners around the Centre.

Locals say they don't feel safe to walk in the area at night.

Until the site is redeveloped, the situation will continue to deteriorate.



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This project will have a lasting positive impact for local residents and help promote social cohesion and wellbeing in a suburb where many residents are vulnerable or disadvantaged.

Community need

While the community is changing, the Heidelberg West-Bellfield area in the Olympic Village precinct remains one of the most disadvantaged communities in Australia and has the highest level of disadvantage in Banyule.

Heidelberg West has long been a place of settlement and has high levels of cultural diversity, including a large Somali community.

Substantial recent investments in the area include the new community health service in Olympic Village and the reopening of Olympic Village Primary School. However, there are still few public spaces for the community to meet or socialise.

The local library is a weekly mobile service and Olympic Adult Education operates across six different sites because there is no suitable local facility.

Proposed design

The new design for the Olympic Leisure Centre answers the community's most pressing infrastructure, public space, and safety needs. The design is influenced by the historic site and the diverse, multicultural community and includes:

- A two-storey community building
- A 25-metre, 4-lane lap pool and a smaller 'learning' pool, spa and sauna
- Gym, weight and equipment rooms
- A sports court hall with viewing gallery, bleachers and court-side storage to enable events
- Rock-climbing wall
- More car and bike parking
- Multiple community spaces including a function room, commercial kitchen, large roof terrace and meeting rooms.

The surrounding area will have a revitalised landscape to extend leisure activities across the whole site. The design will open up outdoor spaces to discourage antisocial behaviour.

An opportunity for outsized impact

Because of the central location, the Olympic Leisure Centre project promises to have a large positive ripple effect on the Olympic Village area. It will also improve physical connection and service offerings between the existing Olympic Village businesses and Banyule Community Health Service.



Members of community co-design team



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Michele Purtle
Advocacy Lead
Banyule City Council

✉ Michele.Purtle@
banyule.vic.gov.au

☎ 0419 397 290

🌐 banyule.vic.gov.au

¹ <https://profile.id.com.au/banyule/seifa-disadvantage-small-area>