



Wellbeing and Liveability Snapshot Report 2015

Malcolm Roberts-Palmer
Senior Social Policy and Research Officer
Social Policy and Partnerships
malcolm.roberts-palmer@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

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Overview

Supporting our community into the future

The diverse and vibrant community that makes up the City of Maribyrnong is undergoing significant change and expansion.

The population of the city overall is expected to grow by 80 per cent over the next 25 years with one suburb, Footscray, forecast to experience a massive increase of 170 per cent during that time.¹

Associated changes and challenges must be well managed if Council is to achieve its objective of protecting the community's wellbeing. The Council Plan 2013-2017 takes into account prevailing conditions as well as those forecast for the future. It underpins our aim of giving all residents of the city the opportunity to reach full potential in their lives. We will do this by continually improving our physical, social, natural, cultural and economic environments.

We want to develop a community that scores high on indicators of **wellbeing and liveability**.

Wellbeing reflects such aspects of community life as health, education, diversity, safety, prosperity and social inclusion.

Communities rated as particularly **liveable** are those where the urban environment enhances wellbeing. We can achieve this through demanding excellent commercial and residential design and by ensuring that everyone has access to high-quality, readily accessible services and facilities – from schools and sporting facilities, to parks and gardens, child care and public transport.

The **Wellbeing and Liveability Snapshot Report** keeps track of our progress towards such goals, and compares the City of Maribyrnong with eight other inner-metropolitan municipalities: Darebin, Hobsons Bay, Moonee Valley, Moreland, Melbourne, Port Phillip, Stonnington and Yarra.

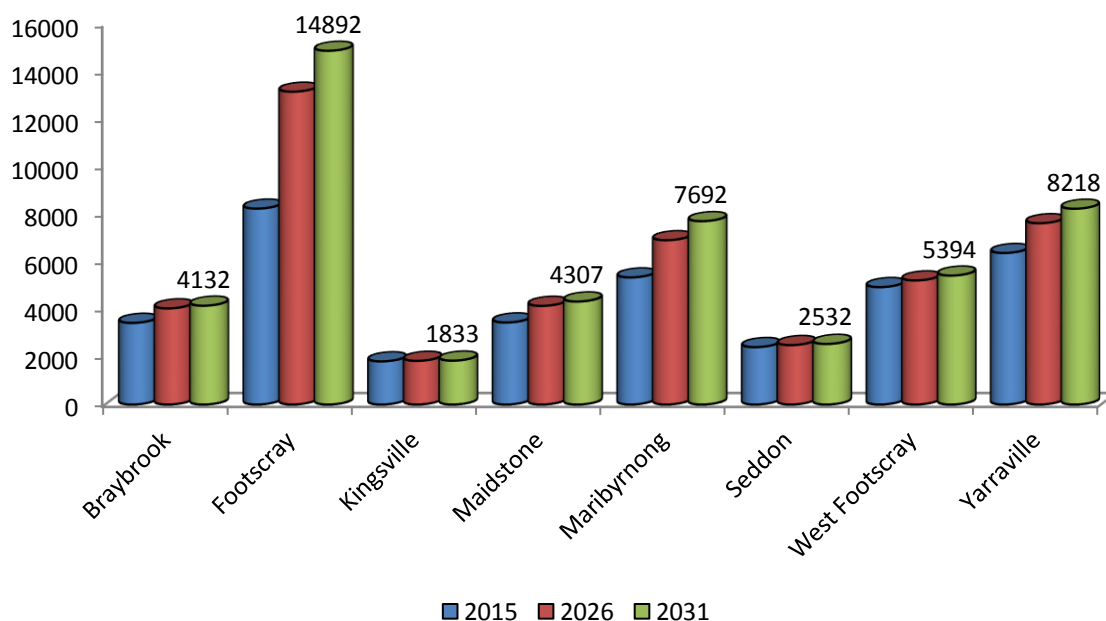
The report covers the seven Wellbeing Outcomes contained in the Council Plan:

- **Well Planned City** - Well planned neighbourhoods, city design and development that are attractive and provide safe and accessible public spaces for all.
- **Cultural Vibrancy** - A city that respects, celebrates and protects the history and diversity of our heritage, cultural precincts, the arts and community spaces.
- **Economic Prosperity** - Economic activity that supports local investment, local employment and access to income as well as pathways to education and training.
- **Equity** - Equitable access to quality resources that support individual and community wellbeing now and into the future.
- **Community Harmony** - A strong sense of community built on diversity of gender, age, culture, ability, lifestyle and faith and that supports social inclusion and community decision making.
- **Liveability** - A city that has liveable places and community infrastructure that promotes social connections and improves quality of life for everyone.
- **Sustainable Transport** - Accessible, affordable and safe transport options for all community members that encourage sustainable and active transport around the municipality.

Well-planned city

The large population expansion and associated residential development expected in the City of Maribyrnong over the next 15 years provide welcome opportunities for economic growth and innovation.ⁱⁱ However, such change will also bring challenges, and Council is working to ensure that both affordable housing and adequate open spaces are available, as well as effective transport options and other infrastructure essential to a healthy and vibrant community.

City of Maribyrnong Suburbs Forecast Dwellings 2015-2031



The municipality's main future residential developments include:

- Footscray Activity Centre – 7000 dwellings
- Maribyrnong Defence site – 6000 dwellings
- Highpoint Activity Centre Maribyrnong – 2000 dwellings
- Kinnears Site Footscray – 1350 dwellings
- Bradmills Site Yarraville – 1300 dwellingsⁱⁱⁱ

Council will manage these changes through a range of plans including:

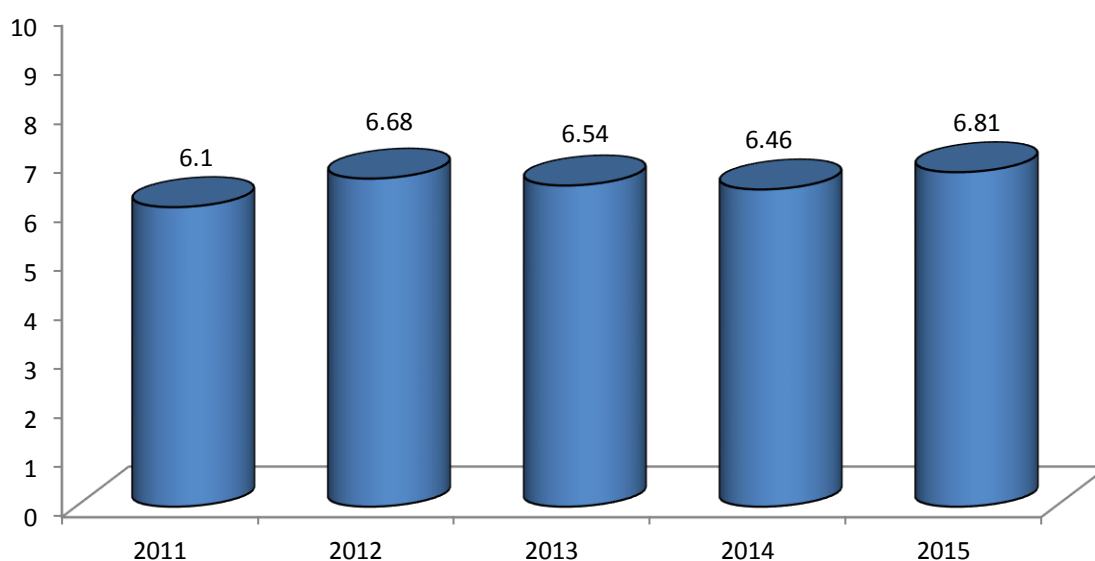
- **Footscray Structure Plan and Amendment C125:** With a special focus on the Footscray Train Station redevelopment, this also covers housing, retail and business development in the suburb. It ensures a balance between open space requirements and high-density development.^{iv}
- **Highpoint Activity Centre Structure Plan:** This centre will provide residential development and community infrastructure as well as open spaces. It will support business, retail and leisure activities to create a civic hub well served by public transport.^v
- **Planning Amendment C63 – Bradmill Precinct Yarraville:** Shops, a library and a medical centre will support medium and high-density residential development at this centre, which is linked to McIvor Reserve by a central open space corridor.^{vi}
- **Good Design Standard: Better neighbourhoods streetscapes and homes:** This aims to improve housing quality by encouraging key players, including architects and Council's planning department, to discuss options.^{vii}

Street trees

More than 28,000 trees already grow in the City's 900-plus streets, and Council plans to plant another 11,000 by 2023. The community welcomes trees, which not only improve the general sense of wellbeing but also help reduce the effects of pollution. Residents can ask Council to install trees or to replace them if they are damaged by storms or vandalism.

Council has a 10-year program that covers tree planting in every street, and it also works on tree-planting projects for major undertakings such as roads and other developments, both commercial and residential.^{viii}

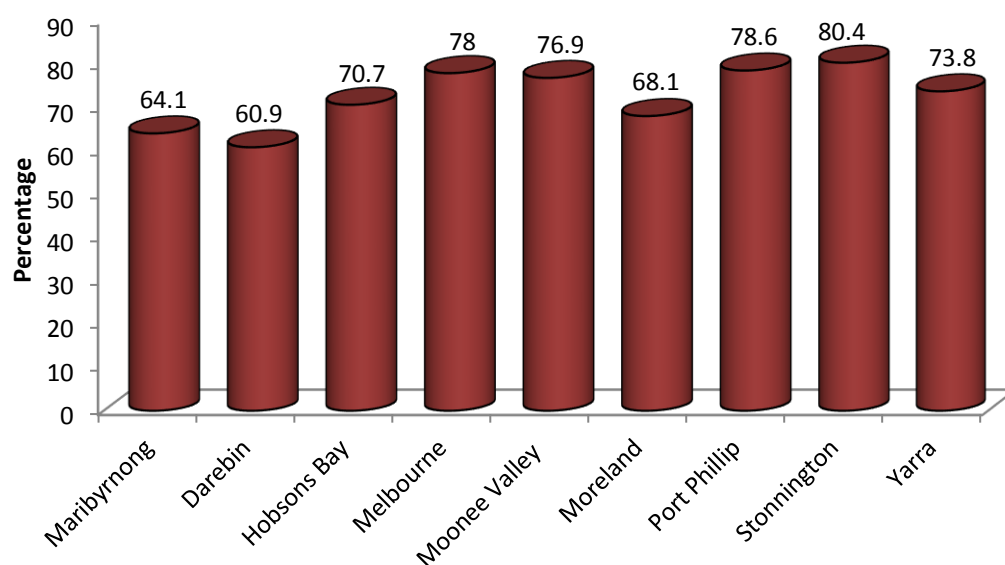
Satisfaction with the provision of street trees in the City of Maribyrnong



Community safety

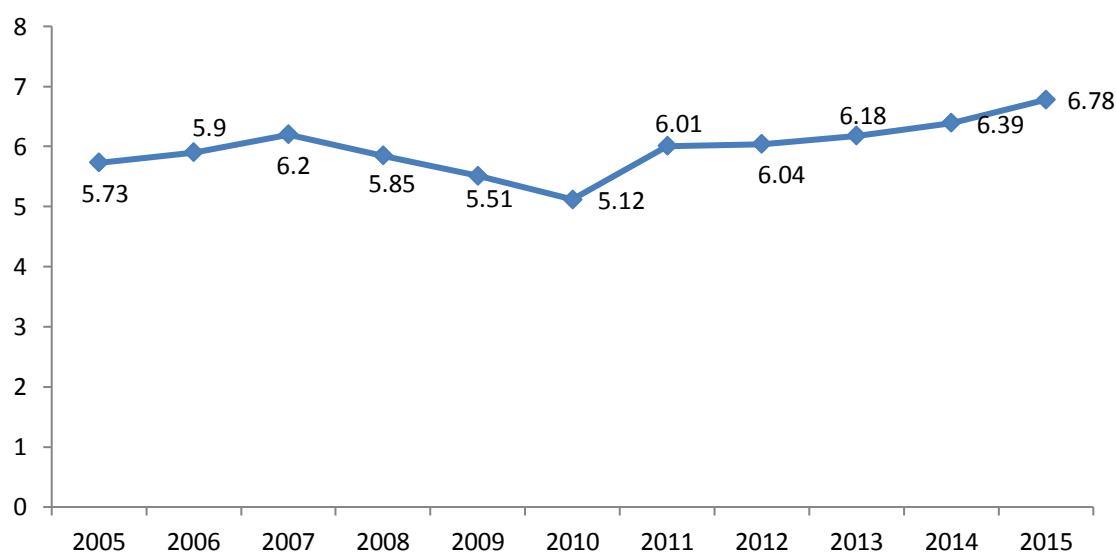
Safety is a concern for many people throughout the inner metropolitan region, and those living in Maribyrnong feel less safe, particularly at night, than those in other areas.^{ix} The 2015 Annual Community Survey found these concerns were rising.^x Council is responding to this issue with a Community Safety Strategy that has been established in partnership with Western Region Police. CCTV cameras have also been installed in the Footscray CBD area.

Perceptions of Safety - Walking Alone During the Night



VicHealth Indicators Survey 2011

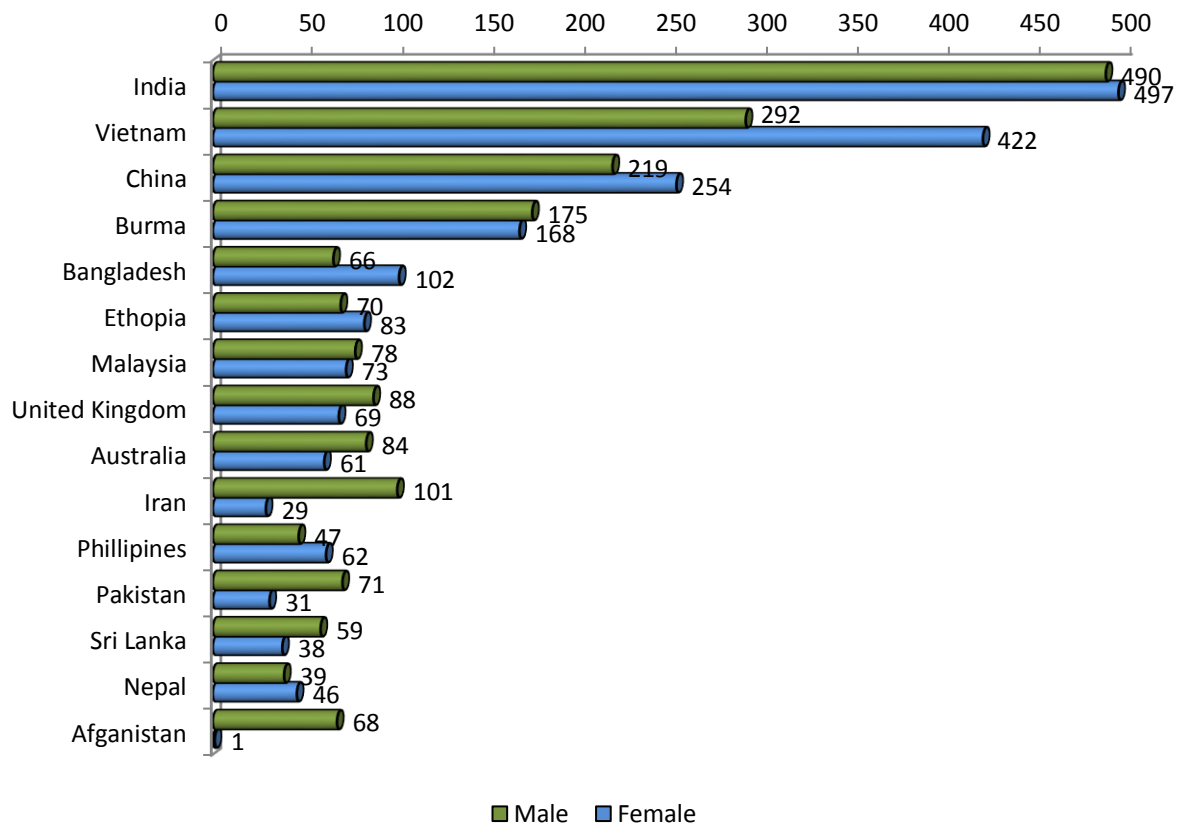
Perceptions of Safety in Public Areas of the City of Maribyrnong at Night



Cultural vibrancy

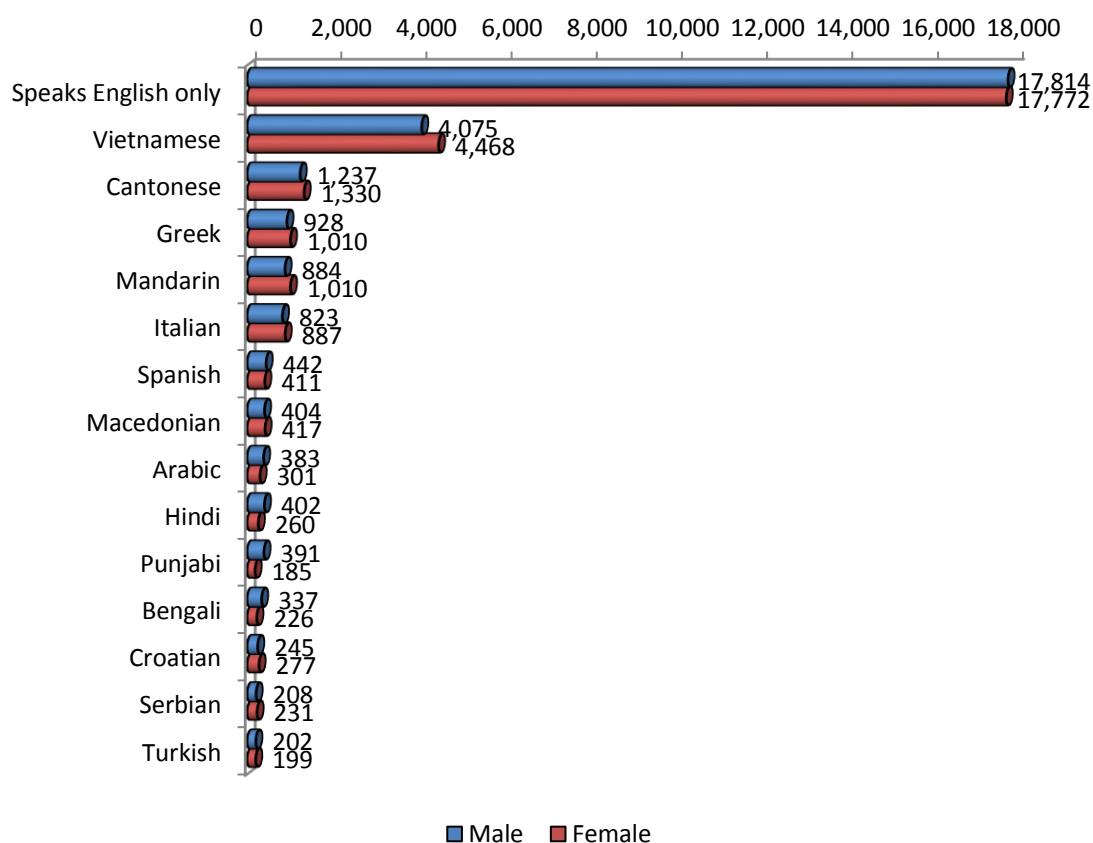
Close to half the population – 43 per cent – of the City of Maribyrnong was born overseas. Between 2010 and 2015, we welcomed 4,907 permanent new arrivals, with particularly high numbers coming from India.^{xi} All contribute to and enhance our vibrant community, whose diversity is reflected in the fact that more than 100 languages are spoken in the city. The longstanding influence of migrants from Vietnam, Greece and Italy is still apparent, but other cultural groups speaking Mandarin, Hindi and Punjabi are now emerging.^{xii}

Top 15 Countries of Birth (Settlement) by Gender in the City of Maribyrnong 2010-2015



Department of Social Services, Settlement Reporting Facility 2015

Top 15 Languages Spoken by Gender in the City of Maribyrnong



ID Community Profile based on Census 2011

Council proudly supports multiculturalism and promotes and celebrates cultural diversity through programs and events including:

- The **Multicultural Policy and Action Plan 2012-2017**: Underpins plans to establish partnerships with different cultural groups.^{xiii}
- The **City of Maribyrnong Strategic Arts Framework and Plan 2012-2016**: Outlines Council's vision to develop a thriving centre of diverse and sustainable arts practice.
- **Festivals Community Grants Program**: In 2014-15, Council supported 15 local festivals including the Big West Festival, East Meets West New Year Festival, the Wominjeka Indigenous Concert and the Jazz out West (part of Melbourne International Jazz Festival).^{xiv}
- **Community festivals**: Including Fireworks in Footscray Park New Year's Eve event, Australia Day celebrations, Festive Season Program, Twilight Movies in the Parks Series and the Stony Creek Music Festival.^{xv}
- **Annual grant funding** to local art organisations, including Footscray Community Arts Centre, Women's Circus and Western Edge Youth Arts.
- **StreetWORKS**: An anti-graffiti initiative that engages young illegal graffiti makers and provides access to the professional street art scene.
- **F5 Footscray in Transition**: Captures the changing face of Footscray over a five-year period.
- **Artsbox**, public art space next to Footscray Library that provides an innovative arts space for artists in residence.^{xvi}

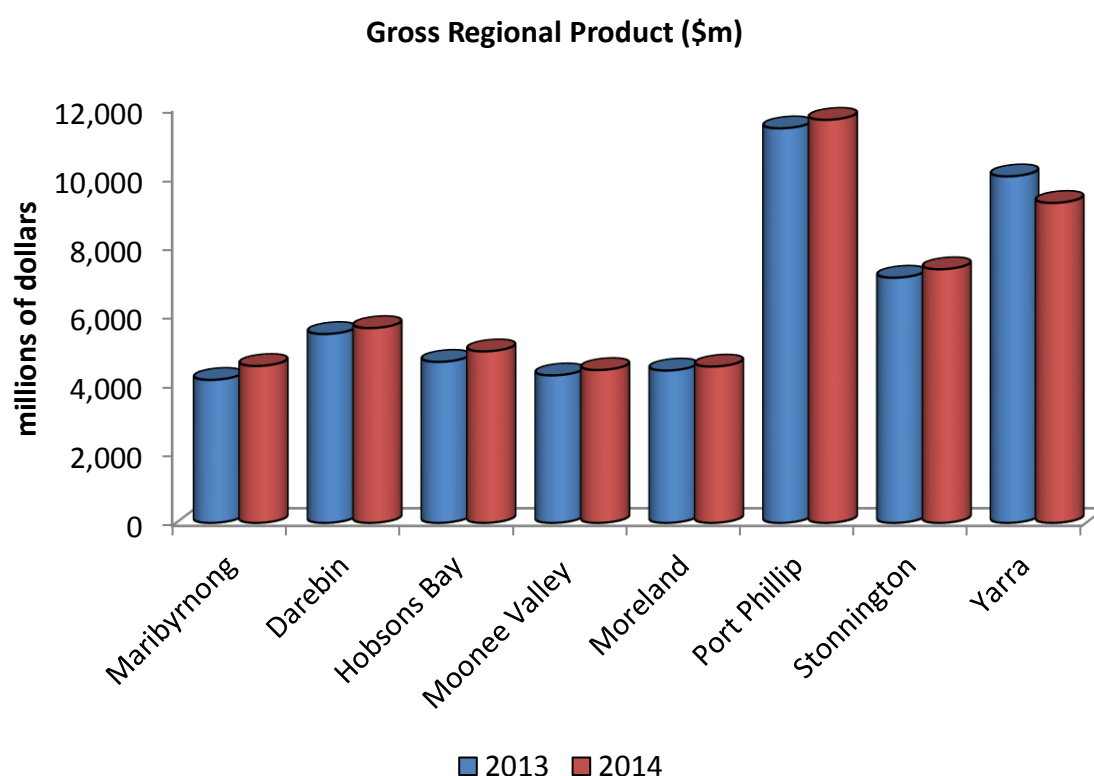
Economic Prosperity

Gross Regional Product

A local economy's net wealth is measured by the Gross National Product (GRP), which reflects changes in employment, productivity or the kinds of industries in an area.

In 2014, Maribyrnong's GRP was \$4,547 million, an increase of 6.3 per cent over the previous year. This is lower than the GRP of all the other inner-metropolitan municipalities, but Maribyrnong also has the smallest population.^{xvii}

Port Phillip has the highest GRP (\$11,433 million in 2013), followed by Yarra with \$10,041 million.



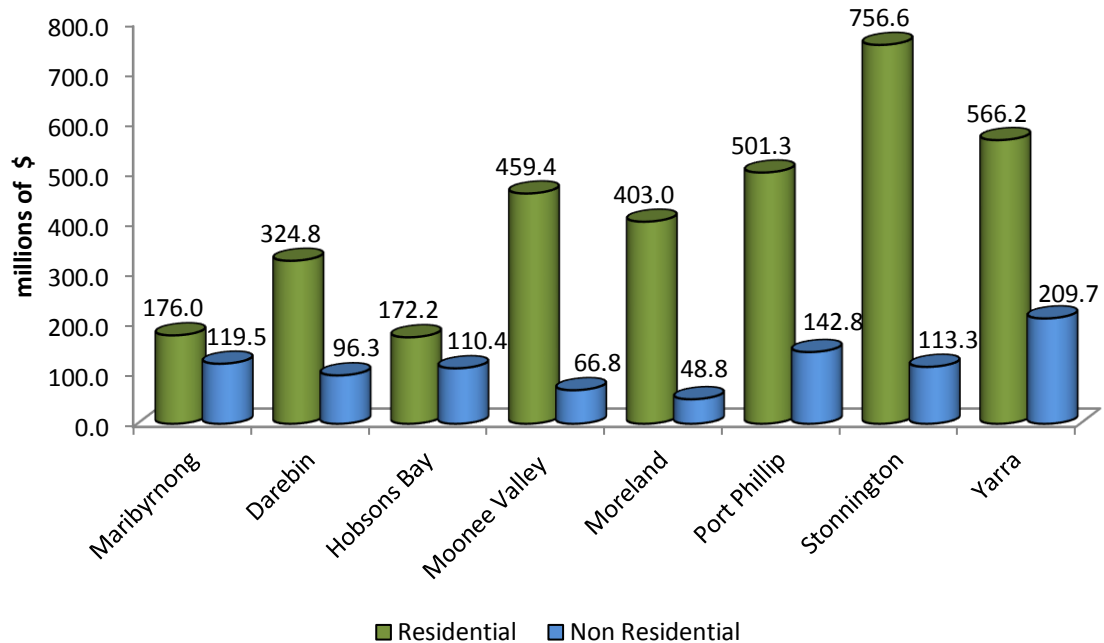
ID Economic Profile and Remplan for City of Yarra 2015

Building approvals

Building approvals, particularly in the non-residential sector, can vary greatly over time and reflect different stages in the community. A high rate of building approvals may indicate a growth area with a construction-led economy; a low rate may indicate a settled area with established infrastructure, or an area with little growth. It should be remembered that construction may take several years from the date of approval.

In 2013-14, the City of Maribyrnong had \$176 million in residential development and \$119 million in non-residential development. This is lower than some of the other inner metropolitan councils. Stonnington had the highest rate, with \$756 million in residential building approvals in 2013-14, followed by Port Phillip with \$501.3 million. It is anticipated that residential development will continue to increase in the City of Maribyrnong compared with other inner metropolitan municipalities.^{xviii}

Building Approvals 2013-14 (\$m)



ID Economic Profile 2014

Note: This dataset is not adjusted for inflation

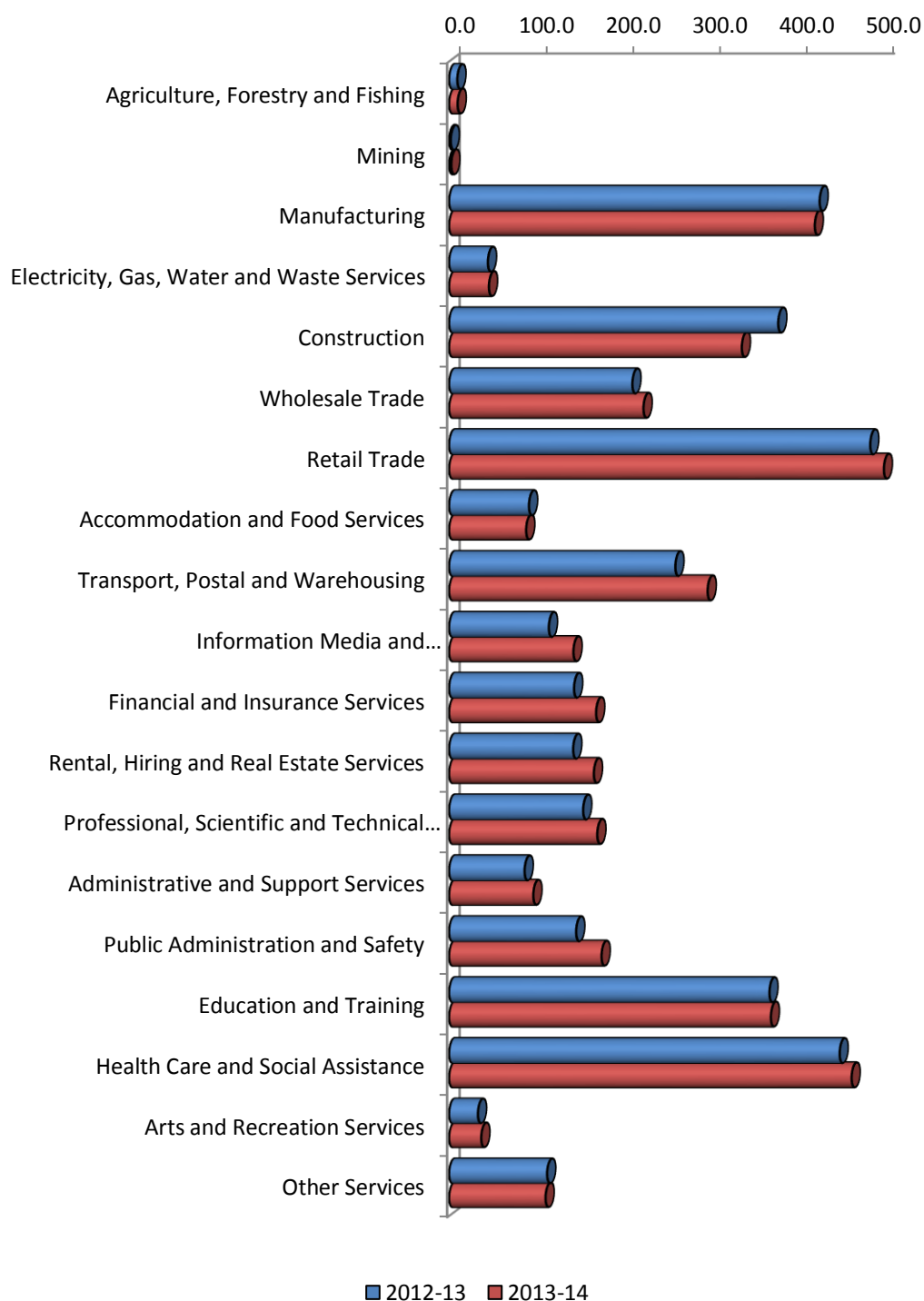
Value add

The “value add” of an industry sector shows how well that sector increases the value of its inputs. It gives a more refined measure of business productivity than output (total gross revenue) because some industries that have high levels of output also require large amounts of input expenditure.

In the City of Maribyrnong, the biggest value adds are found in health care and social assistance, retail trade and manufacturing.^{xix}

Construction, retail, and the health and social assistance sectors all increased their value adds between 2012-13 and 2013-14. Value adds decreased in manufacturing, mining and transport.

Value Add for City of Maribyrnong (m\$)



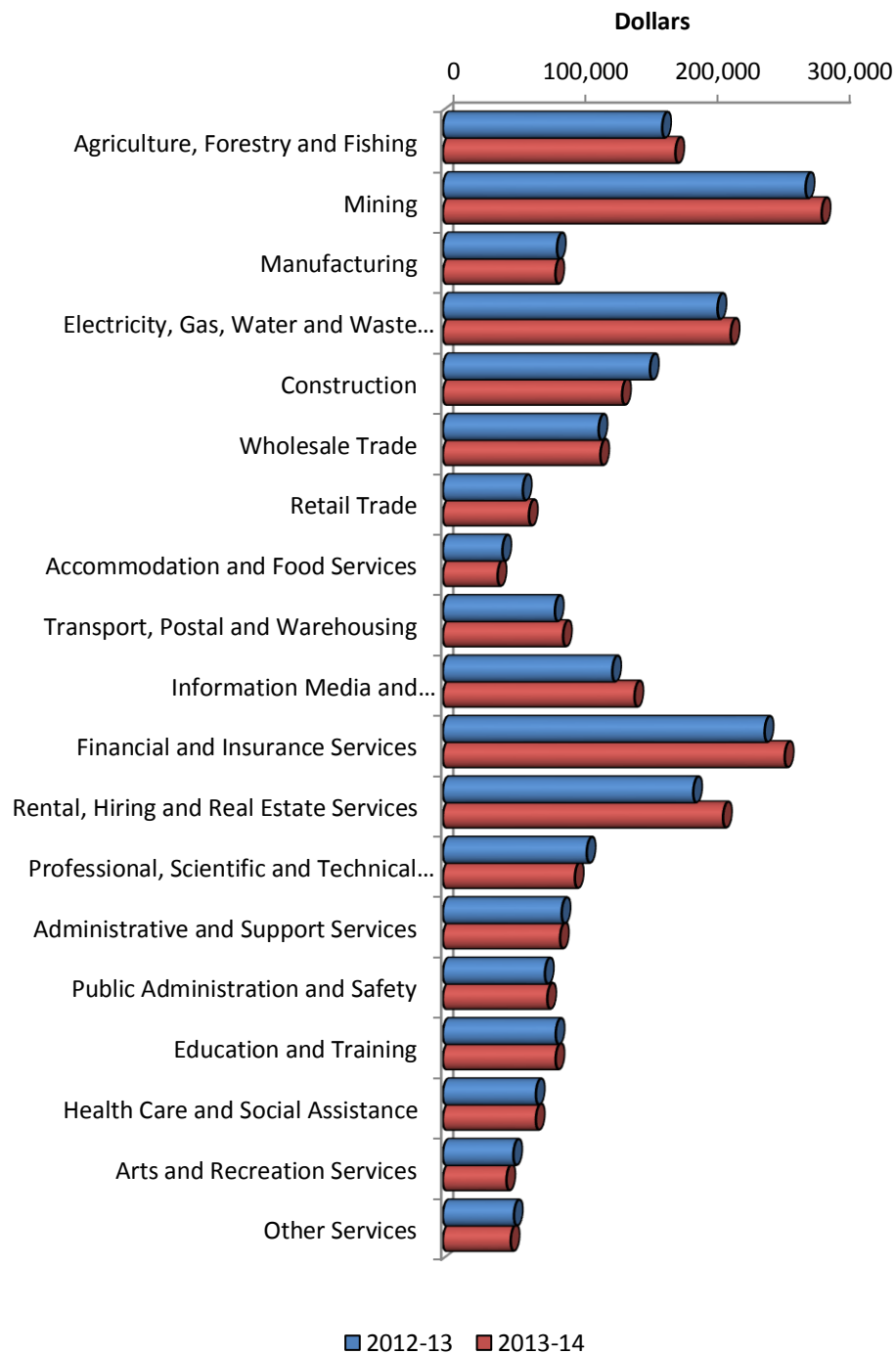
ID Economic Profile 2015

Worker productivity

Dividing an industry's value add by the number of employees shows the worker productivity for that industry. The retail trade is one sector that employs a lot of people, but is not highly productive per worker. Others, such as mining, employ fewer people but generate high levels of productivity.^{xx}

In Maribyrnong, worker productivity has increased in construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, financial and insurance services, rental, hiring, real estate services and administrative and support services. However, it has decreased in some other sectors such as mining, retail trade, and accommodation and food services.

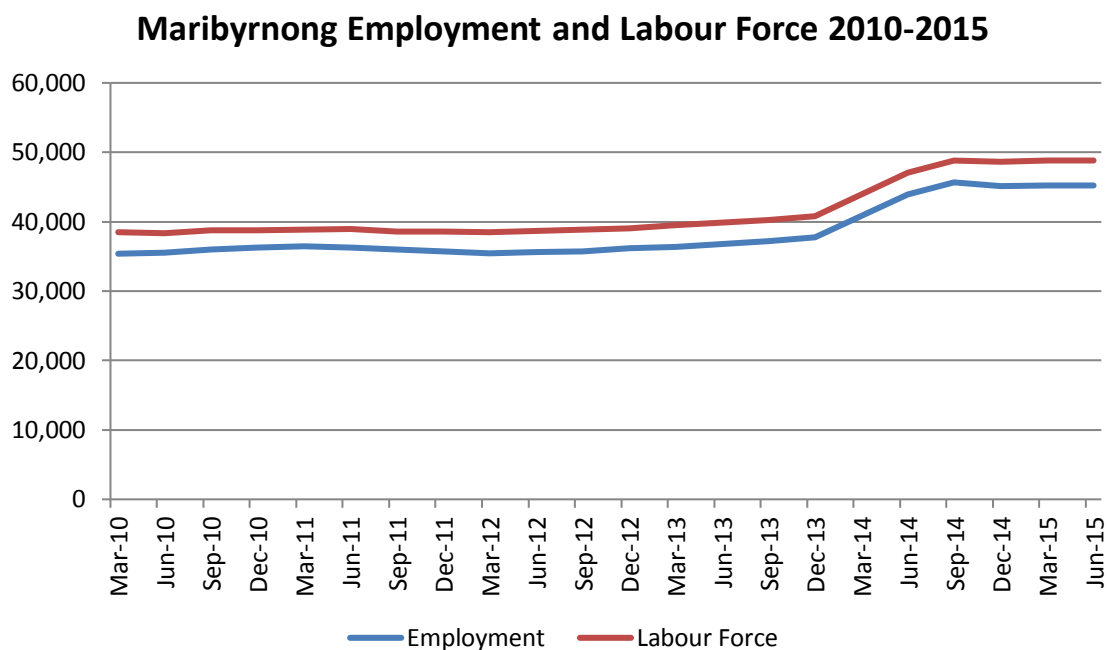
Worker Productivity per sector in the City of Maribyrnong



ID Economic Profile 2015

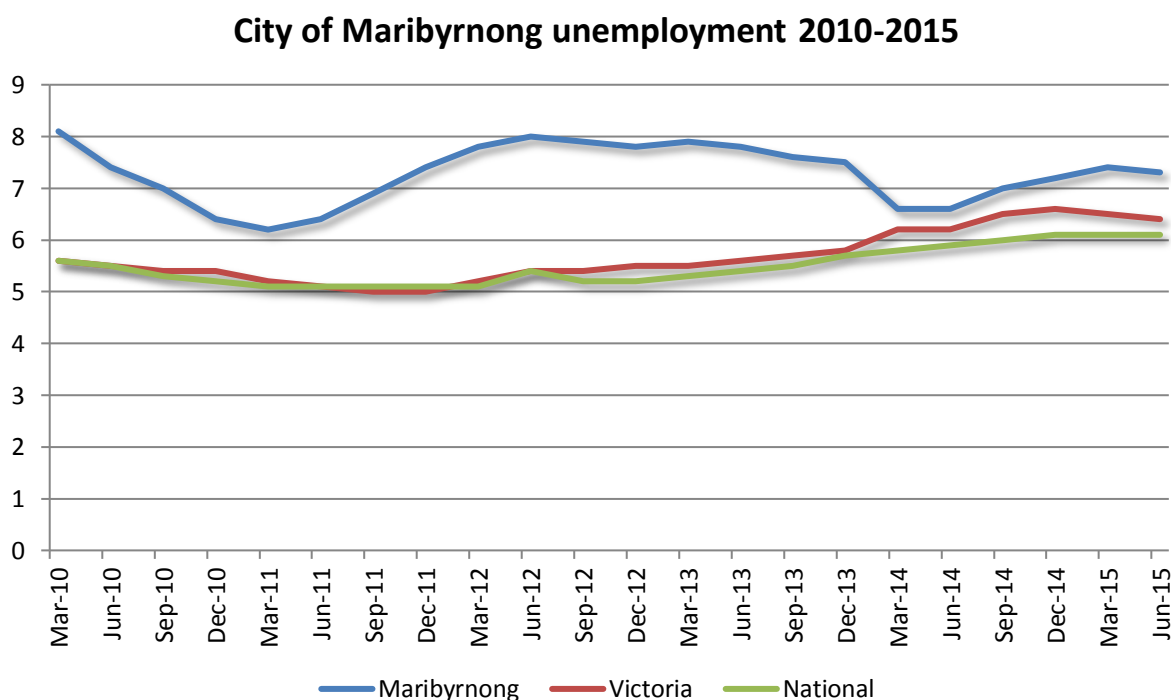
Employment

A significant increase in labour market participation in the municipality in 2014-15 has been matched by an increase in employment. In June 2015, there were 48,787 people in the labour market and 45,246 were employed.



Department of Employment Small Area Labour Markets Data September 2015

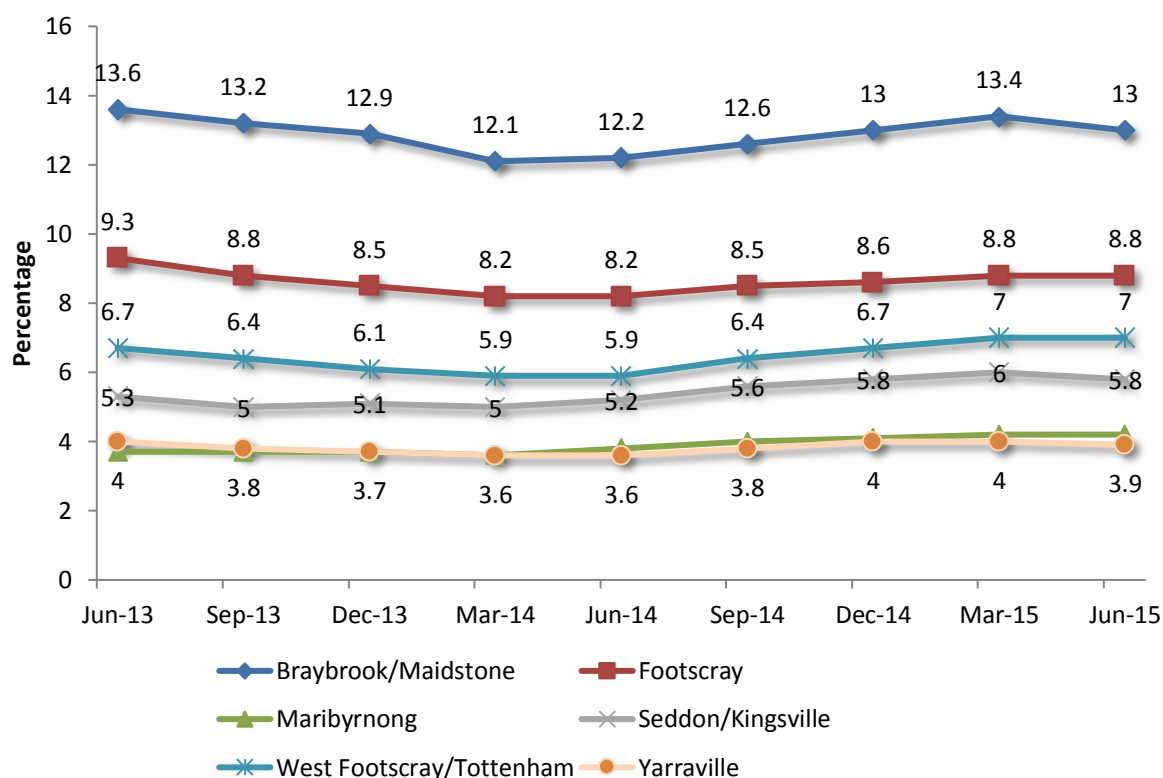
However, unemployment is also on the rise, in line with increases in Victoria and nationally. In June 2015, unemployment in Maribyrnong was 7.3 per cent, higher than the Victorian (6.4 per cent) and national (6.1 per cent) figures.^{xxi}



Department of Employment Small Area Labour Markets Data September 2014

Levels of unemployment vary significantly throughout the city. Braybrook, which consistently has the highest rate, had 13 per cent unemployment in June 2015. In the suburb of Maribyrnong it was 4.2 per cent, and in Yarraville 3.9 per cent.^{xxii}

Unemployment in City of Maribyrnong Suburbs 2013-15



Department of Employment Small Area Labour Markets Data June 2015

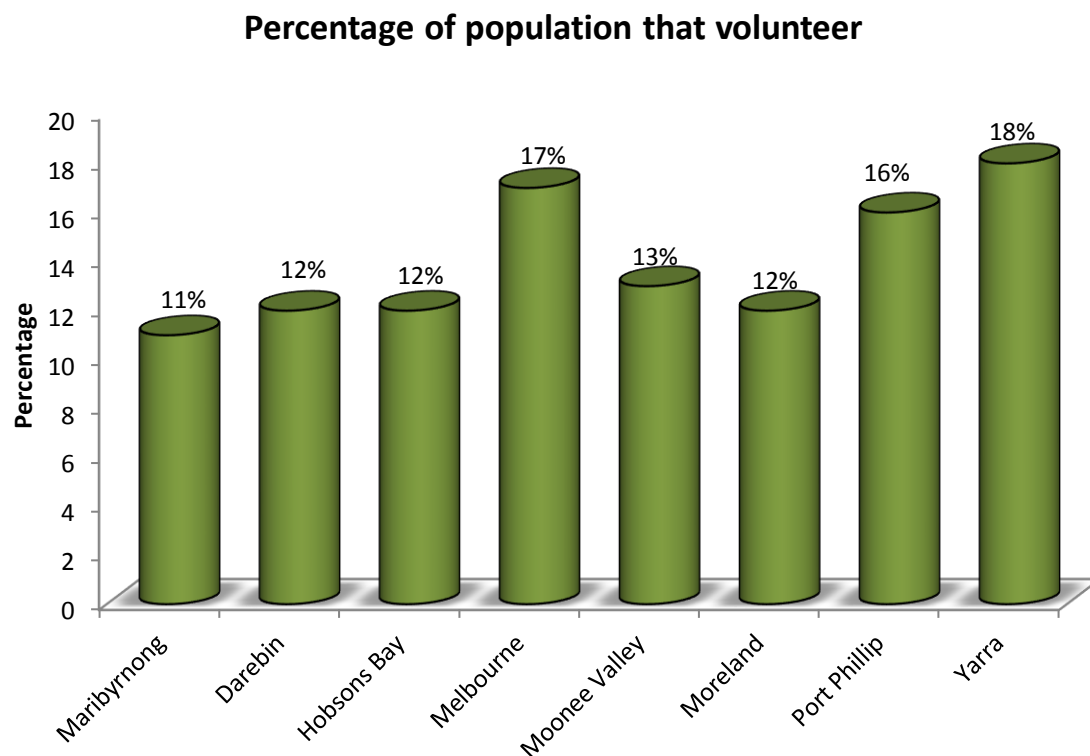
At Maribyrnong Council, we are strongly committed to economic development and are working to improve productivity and employment opportunities. Key elements of our approach include:

- Our 10-year **Long Term Financial Strategy**: Focuses on infrastructure and service investment, including a major projects program of \$300 million.^{xxiii}
- The **Maribyrnong Industrial and Economic Development Strategy**: Sets a direction for economic development, promotes local opportunities for employment and guides the retention and development of industry related land.^{xxiv}
- The **Revitalising Braybrook Project**: Seeks to enhance the health and wellbeing of the Braybrook community through improved services, facilities and opportunities.
- The **Revitalising Braybrook Action Plan 2013-2015**: Supports employment and training programs including the Maribyrnong and Moonee Valley Local Learning and Employment Network, which will place public housing tenants into jobs.^{xxv}
- A partnership with Victoria University promotes the **Footscray University Town** with the aim of developing Footscray as an educational, research and development hub for the western region of Melbourne.^{xxvi}

Volunteering

Volunteering is an important part of community life, with benefits both for those who help and those who are helped. It engages residents, builds social cohesion, and improves overall health and wellbeing.

In purely economic terms, volunteering contributes millions of dollars in labour and services to the community each year. It also develops skills and can pave the way to paid employment.



ABS Census 2011

Equity

Health and wellbeing

The level of physical health in a community not only indicates the level of general wellbeing but is also often a reflection of socio-economic factors. Three particularly significant indicators of wellbeing are:

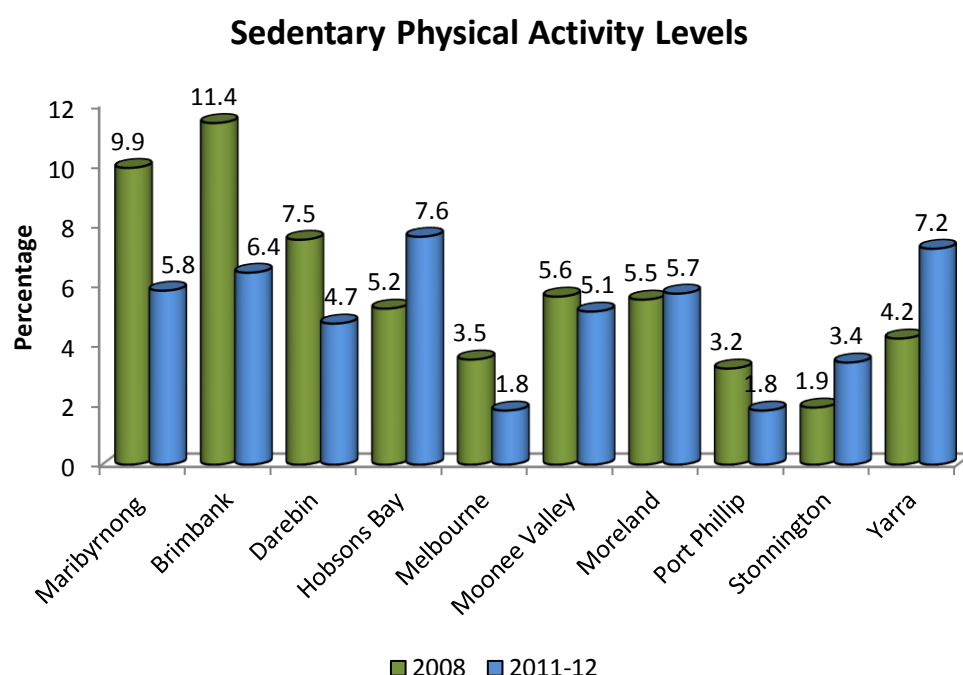
- sedentary physical activity;
- overweight and obesity;
- type 2 diabetes.

We compare results from the 2008 Population Health Survey with the 2011-12 Victorian Population Health survey.

Sedentary physical activity levels

Between 2008 and 2011-12, the percentage of people in Maribyrnong who had only low levels of physical activity declined. This was also the case in a number of other

municipalities, though not all. Brimbank has been included in this analysis because of the significant reduction it has achieved, with levels dropping from 11.4 per cent to 6.4 per cent.^{xxvii}



Victorian Population Health Survey Report 2008 and 2011-12

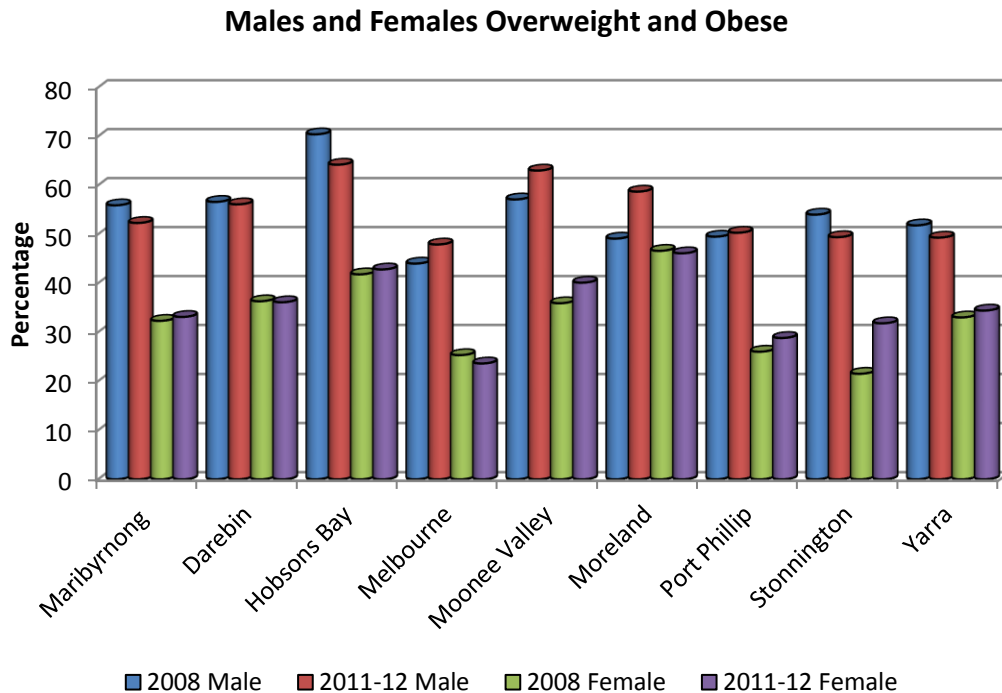
The Victorian Population Health Survey 2011-12 found that men who were smokers and had an income of less than \$40,000 a year were those most likely to lead sedentary lives. For women, low levels of education and high levels of psychological distress were two of the key determinants.^{xxviii}

Males and females overweight and obese

Overweight and obesity affects more men than women in all the inner metropolitan municipalities.^{xxix}

In the City of Maribyrnong, the number of overweight and obese men declined slightly from 2008 to 2011-12. However, the numbers of overweight or obese women increased, as they also did in Hobsons Bay, Moonee Valley, Stonnington and Yarra.^{xxx}

Five of the inner metropolitan municipalities recorded increases in overweight and obesity levels in men, with the most significant increase in Moreland.



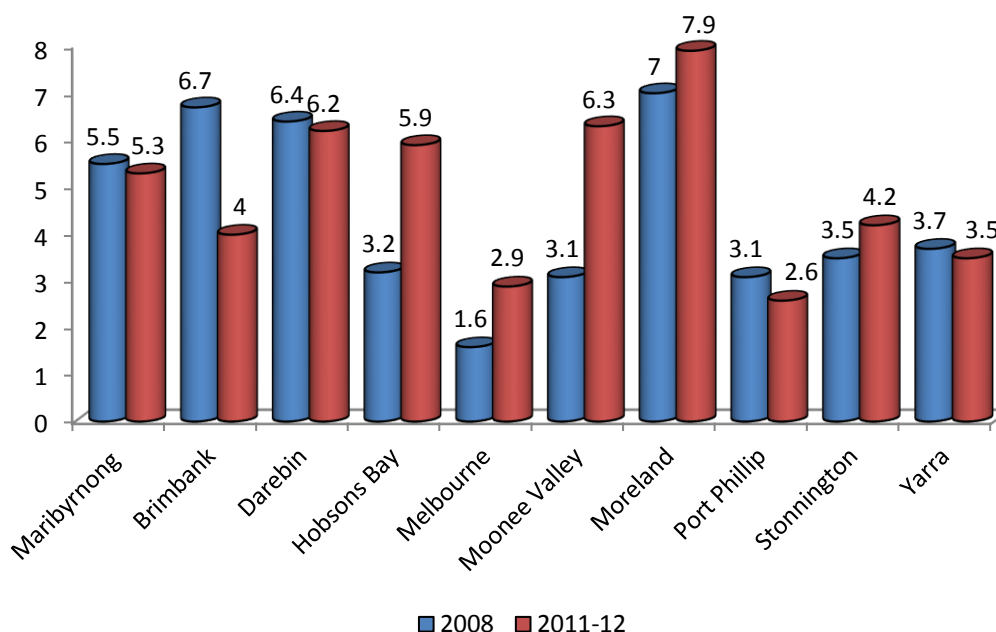
Victorian Population Health Survey Report 2008 and 2011-12

Type 2 diabetes

The prevalence of type 2 diabetes in Maribyrnong decreased slightly between 2008 and 2011-12, as it did in several other municipalities including Darebin and Port Phillip. Brimbank, which had improved levels of physical activity, also had a significant decrease in type 2 diabetes, dropping from 6.7 per cent in 2008 to 4 per cent in 2011-12.

Many municipalities had increases in type 2 diabetes in the same time frame, including Hobsons Bay and Stonnington.^{xxxi}

Prevalence of Type 2 Diabetes



Victorian Population Health Survey Report 2008 and 2011-12

In the City of Maribyrnong, we encourage the community to join in local sports, leisure and recreation activities. Our Active Maribyrnong program promotes health and wellbeing by a range of measures including:

- **Get Active! Expo:** A free program of sports clinics, events and 'come try days'.
- **Spring into Summer Series:** Including 12 free programs for Pilates, group fitness and Parkrun, with 500 registered participants.
- **Maribyrnong/Moonee Valley Community Cricket Club:** A modified sevens version of the game involving both junior and open-age groups, male and female.
- **Parkrun:** A weekly five-kilometre running series attracting 85 people a week on average.
- **CALD Swim Night:** A weekly event with 125 participants from Maribyrnong CALD communities.
- **All Girls Auskick Program:** A six-week program, which has had 44 participants.
- **Junior Netball Program:** Five teams with 40 members playing at RecWest in Braybrook.

xxxii

Council also supports other Active Maribyrnong events including:

- 2014 **National Cyclo Cross Series** Round 1.
- The **Maribyrnong Gift** professional running event.
- The 2014 **Victor International Badminton Series**.
- **Run for Hope**, a charity event that raises funds for Pink Hope to support women at risk of breast and ovarian cancer.^{xxxiii}

Health programs for men and women include:

- **Sons of the West:** A men's health program developed in partnership with the Western Bulldogs including weekly health seminars and physical activity sessions.^{xxxiv}
- **She's Game: Everyone Wins at Maribyrnong:** Funded by Macedon Ranges North Western Melbourne Medicare Local, this aims to increase the safe participation of women and girls in local sports.^{xxxv}

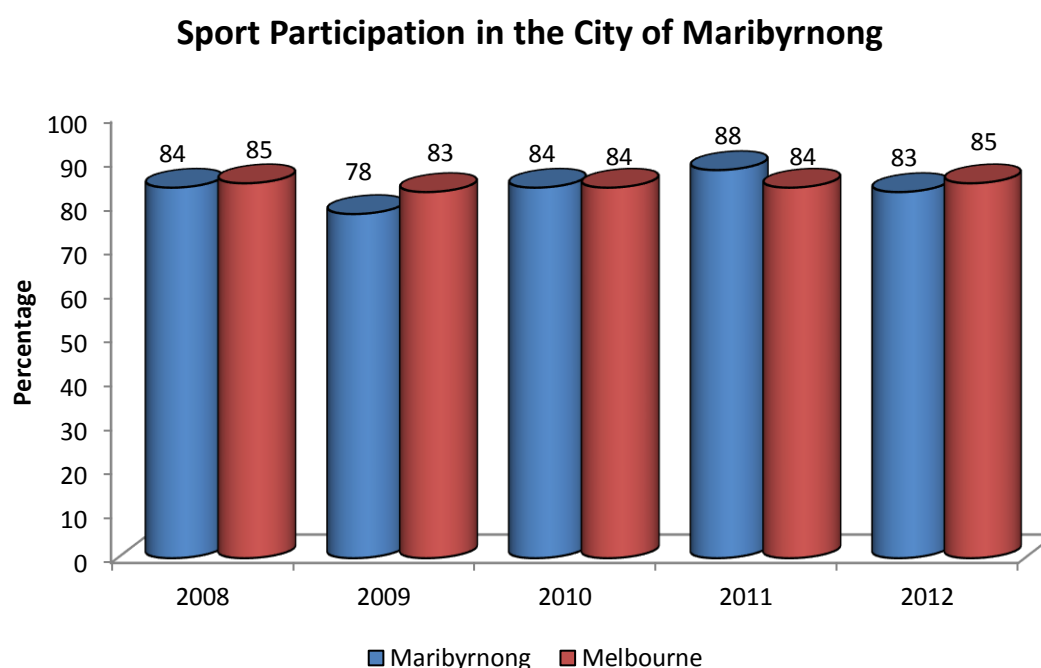
A number of Council facilities support health and recreation. For example, the Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre has 2,615 members and 3,471 swim school memberships. It had 1,029,159 casual visits in the past year, a significant increase on the 700,000 reported in 2012.

The Active Maribyrnong Guide outlines the activities and facilities available to residents; 8000 copies guide have been distributed.

Sport participation

Maribyrnong has consistently high levels of sport participation, comparable to those found in Greater Melbourne.^{xxxvi}

Sporting facilities in the municipality are used by 55 sports clubs covering AFL football, soccer, tennis, cricket, baseball, hockey and martial arts.



A study by the Centre for Sport and Social Impact at La Trobe University found that community football clubs are three times more effective than work, education or other community groups for developing social networks.^{xxxvii}

Children and youth

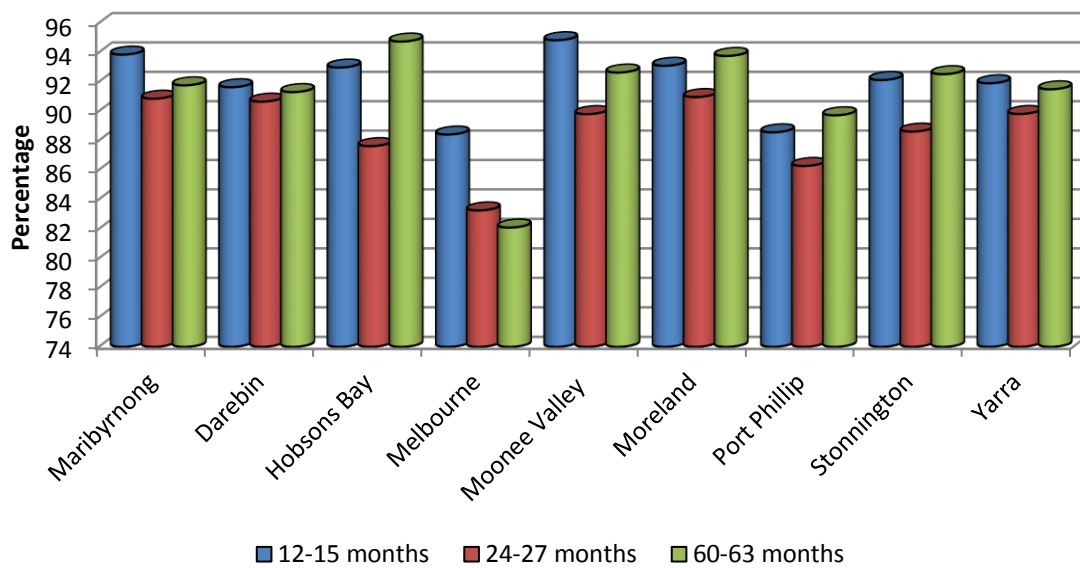
Child immunisation

Public immunisation programs significantly avert preventable disease and local government plays an important role in this, as required by the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*.

In the City of Maribyrnong, immunisations are given by maternal and child health nurses at two, four, 12 and 18 months. The six-month immunisation is available at open group sessions or from a GP.

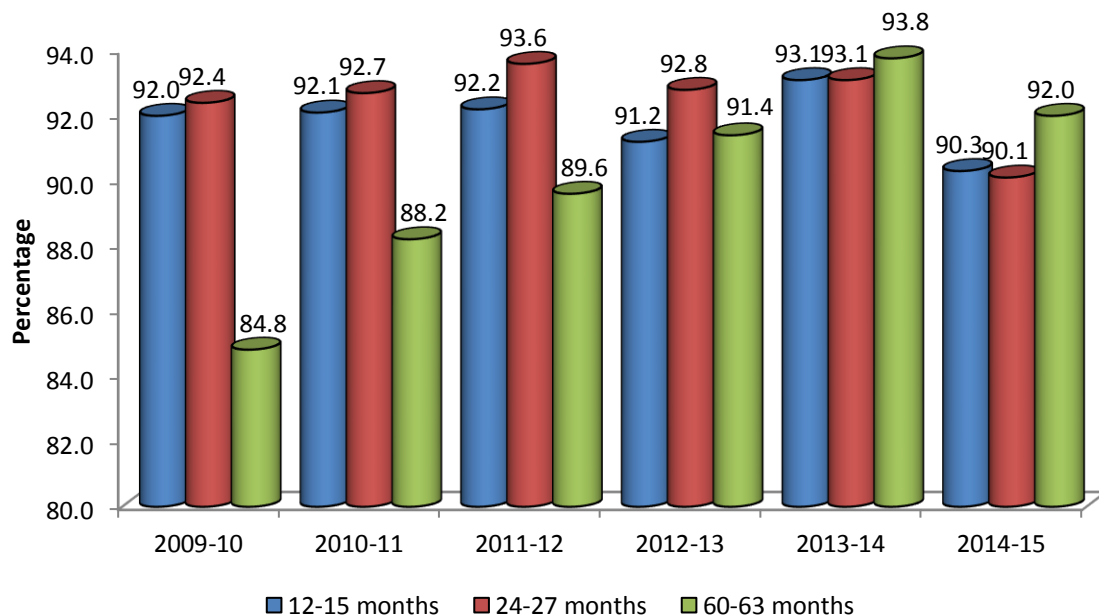
Despite fluctuations in rates, Maribyrnong maintains a consistently higher level of fully vaccinated children than the other inner-metropolitan municipalities. More than 90 per cent of infants are vaccinated. Only Hobsons Bay and Moreland have similarly high levels.^{xxxviii}

Percentage of Children Fully Vaccinated in 2015



Department of Human Services June 2015

Percentage of Children Fully Vaccinated in the City of Maribyrnong - Time Series



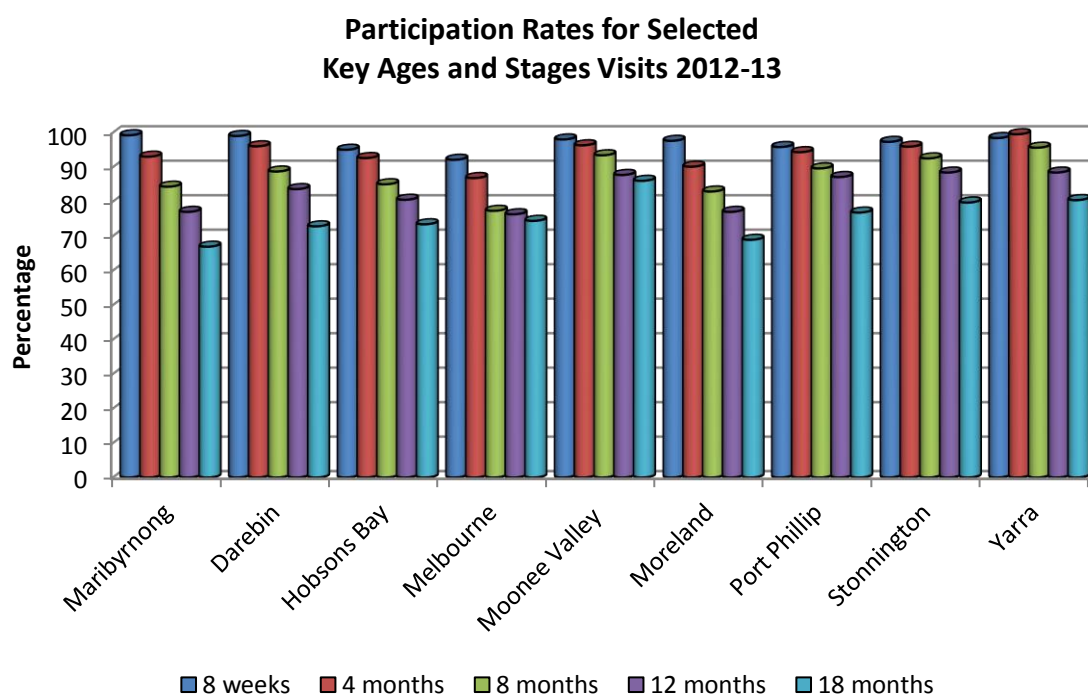
Victorian Department of Education and Training 2015

Key Ages and Stages visits

The Victorian Department of Education and Training recommends 10 Key Ages and Stages (KAS) consultations for children from birth to three and half years.

Council co-ordinates free maternal and child health services for all families with children from birth to school age. An enhanced home visiting service is also available for vulnerable families experiencing domestic violence, homelessness and depression.^{xxix}

Maribyrnong has the highest participation rate in the inner-metropolitan region for KAS visits at eight weeks. Participation for the other visits declines in all municipalities, with Maribyrnong coming last for visits at 18 months.^{xl}



Victorian Department of Education and Training Maternal and Child Health Services Annual Report 2012-13

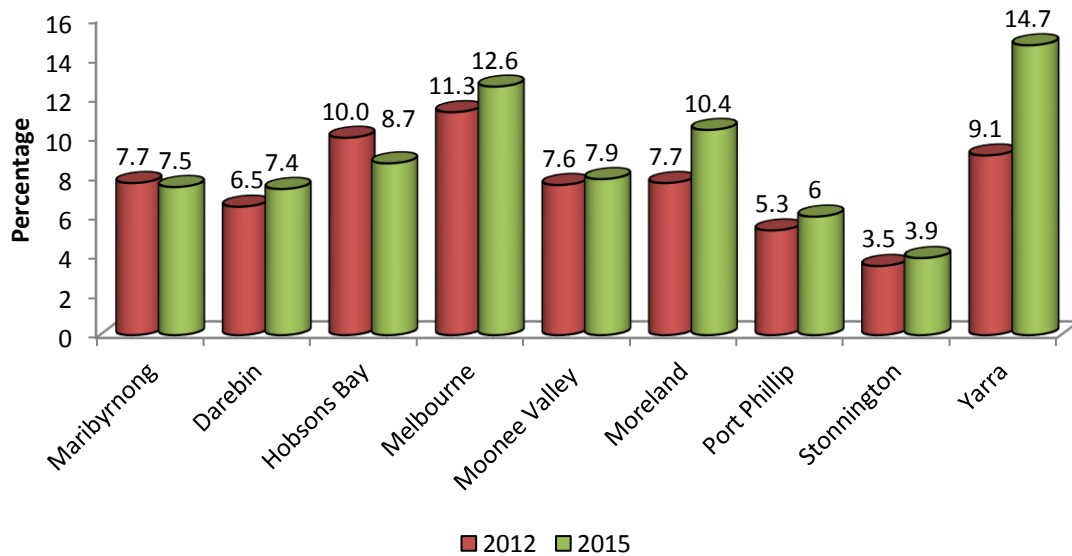
Developmentally vulnerable children

The Australian Early Development Census measures how young children are developing in different communities in five key areas:

- Physical health and wellbeing;
- Social competence;
- Emotional maturity;
- Language and cognitive skills (school based);
- Communication skills and general knowledge.

The proportion of children in the municipality considered developmentally vulnerable in two or more domains decreased between 2012 and 2015, in the City of Maribyrnong. However, it increased in Darebin, Melbourne, Moreland, Port Phillip, Stonnington and Yarra.^{xli}

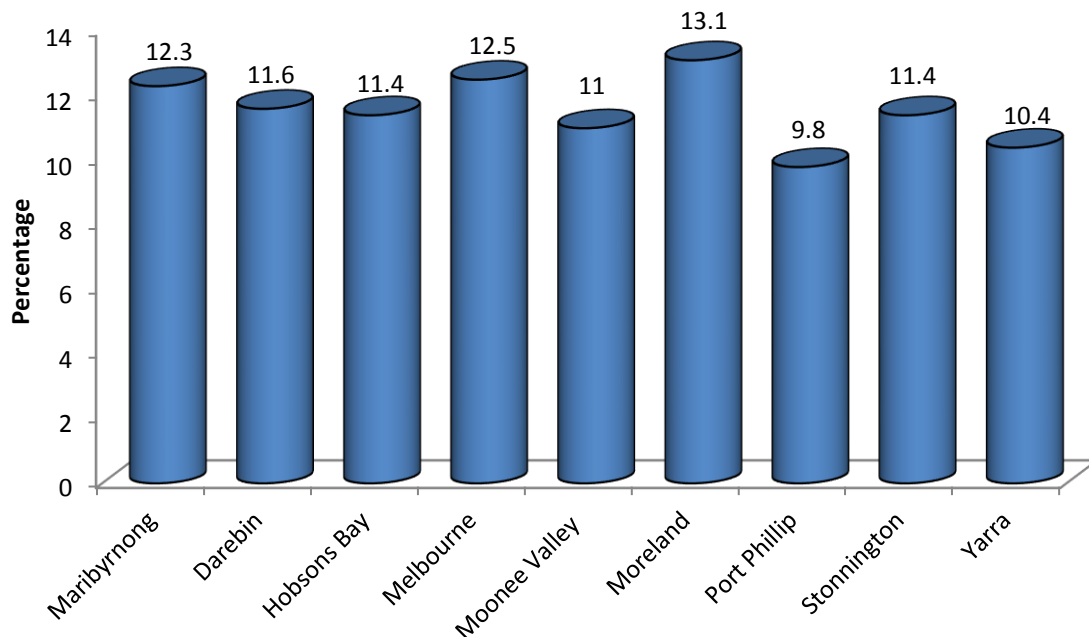
Children Developmentally Vulnerable in Two or More Domains



Australian Early Development Census 2012 and 2015

Despite the improved scores, more parents in Maribyrnong report concerns with their children's speech or language on entry to primary school than in Hobsons Bay, Darebin or Stonnington.^{xlii}

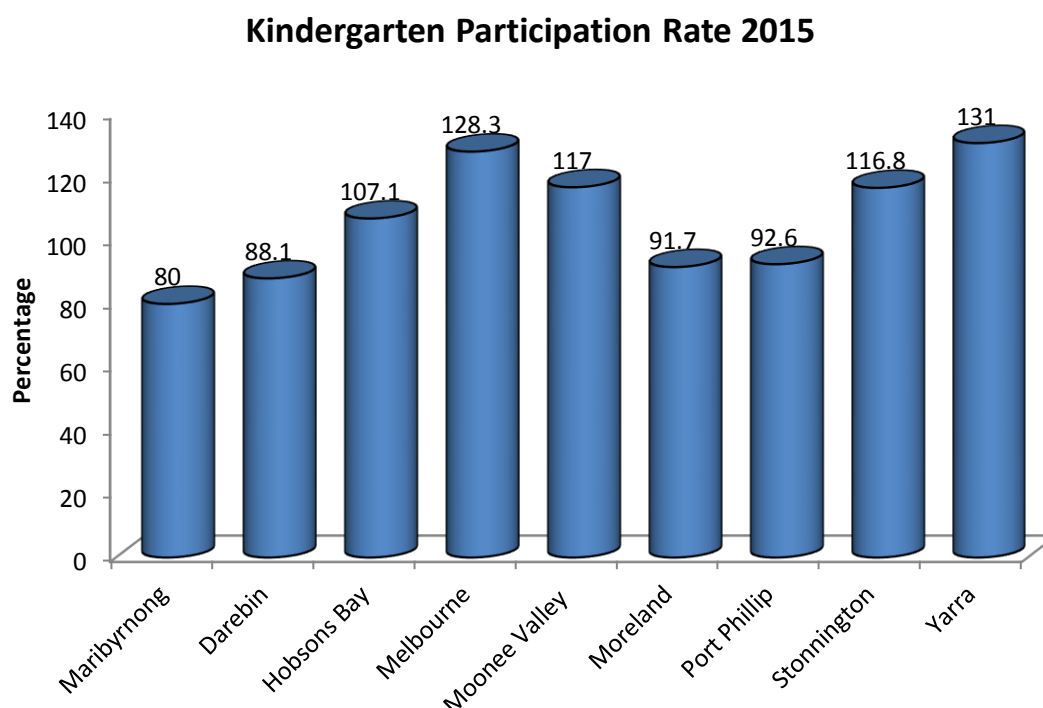
Proportion of children whose parents report one or more concerns with child speech or language on entry to primary school



Victorian Department of Education and Training 2015

Kindergarten participation rate

Another good indicator of child wellbeing is the number of children who attend kindergarten. In Maribyrnong, 80 per cent of three-year-olds go to kindergarten, which is the lowest rate in the inner-metropolitan municipalities. Yarra scores highest with 131%.^{xliii} (Note: According to the Victorian Children and Adolescent Monitoring System, rates of more than 100 per cent arise because of data analysis techniques and are particularly evident when there are small populations involved).^{xliiv}



Victorian Department of Education and Training Victorian Children and Adolescents Monitoring System (VCAMS) 2015

Council collects its own statistics for kindergarten participation for four-year-olds in the city. These show that in 2012, 90 per cent of children had a kindergarten place. In 2014, it was 88 per cent. In 2012, 91 per cent were placed in their first preference. In 2014, it was 89 per cent.

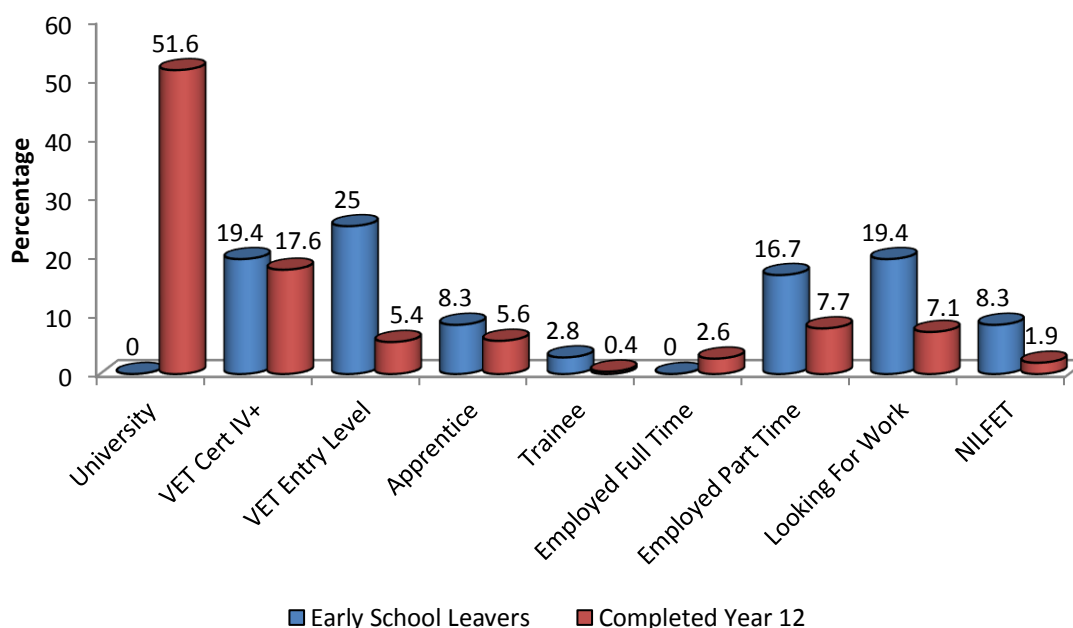
Council strategies for children include:

- The **Maribyrnong Strategy for Children**: Includes views from more than 700 children on what makes the City of Maribyrnong a good place to live.^{xlv}
- **Engaging Children in Decision Making: A Guide for Consulting Children**: Includes best practice principles and guidelines for consulting with specific groups of children and accords with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Sections 15 and 38 of the Victorian Charter for Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006. It was developed in partnership with Ballarat, Brimbank, Melton and Wyndham City Councils, the Western Metro Department of Education and Training, and Kuranjang Primary School.^{xlvi}

Destination of school leavers in the City of Maribyrnong

Access to education and training opportunities is a key indicator of equity, particularly for early school leavers.

Destination of School Leavers in the City of Maribyrnong



Department of Education and Training On Track Report 2014 (NILFET is not in the labour force, education or training)

Close to half of those who complete Year 12 in the City of Maribyrnong go to university. Early school leavers are more likely to be doing a VET certificate IV or Entry Level, or apprenticeship or traineeship.

The food, hospitality and tourism sectors account for the largest proportion of early school leavers – 18.8 per cent. Only 7.8 per cent of those who complete Year 12 are in these sectors, which are more likely to employ people in part time or casual contract positions. This was also reflected in the survey, with 16.7 per cent of early school leavers employed part time compared with only 7.7 per cent of those who had completed Year 12.^{xlvii}

The Maribyrnong Strategy for Young People 2014-2018 was developed by Maribyrnong City Council and the Maribyrnong Alliance for Young People, which is made up of 17 youth focused organisations. A key priority is to develop and promote free and accessible learning supports such as homework clubs, tutoring programs and study spaces.

Housing

The forecast increase in population and residential development brings the promise of significant economic growth, but it also makes housing less affordable, both for renters and for those seeking to buy.

As a consequence, there is a high level of rental and mortgage stress. Rental stress is defined by the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling as households in the lowest 40 per cent of incomes that pay more than 30 per cent of their gross income on rent.^{xlviii}

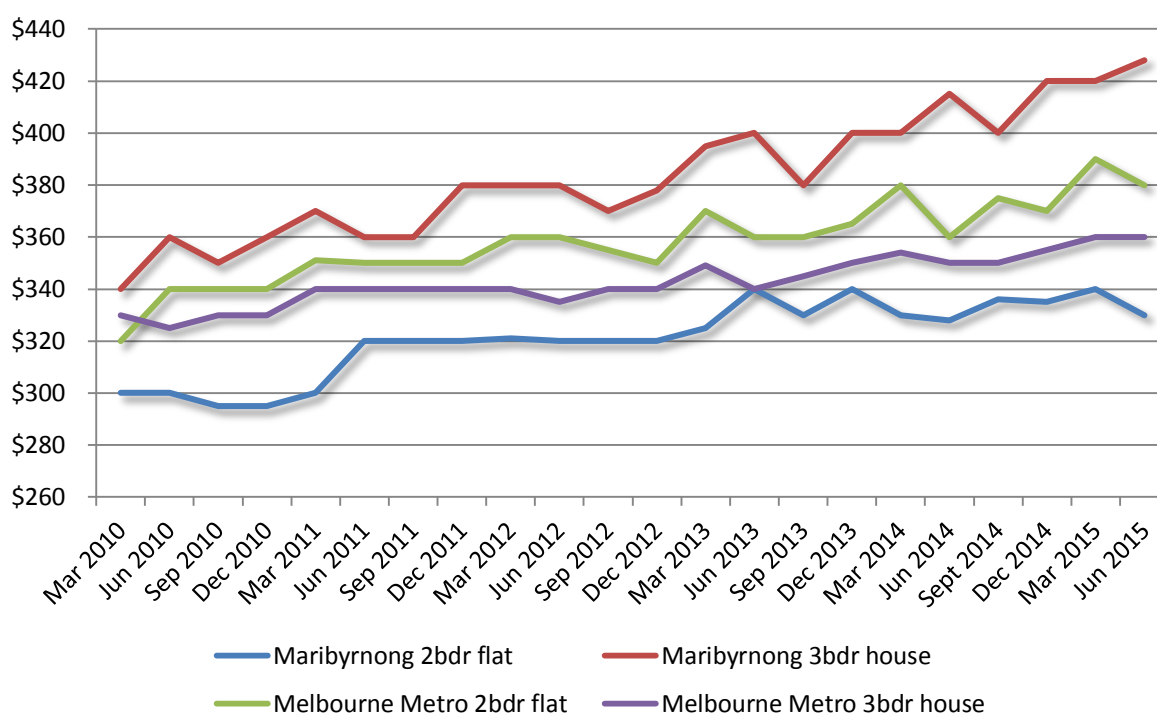
Braybrook, where many residents are on income support or in unskilled occupations, has the highest level of rental stress (29.4 per cent), followed by Footscray and West Footscray (both on 28.9 per cent).^{xlix}

In the City of Maribyrnong, 6.2 per cent of housing is classified as social housing with the highest level, 19.3 per cent, in Braybrook. By comparison, Greater Melbourne has 2.9 per cent.ⁱ

Rooming houses have become the de facto form of affordable housing and are often used by people on low incomes such as women experiencing domestic violence, students, refugees and people with disabilities. In March 2015, there were 48 registered rooming houses in the City of Maribyrnong and most probably a number of illegal ones. The Council's role is to assess these houses, under Victorian health and building regulations, for safety and security.ⁱⁱ

Apartments are much less expensive to rent than houses in Maribyrnong. In June 2015, the median two-bedroom flat rental was \$330 a week, which is less than the \$380 paid in metropolitan Melbourne. However, the median three-bedroom house price is \$428 for the City of Maribyrnong and \$360 for metropolitan Melbourne.ⁱⁱⁱ

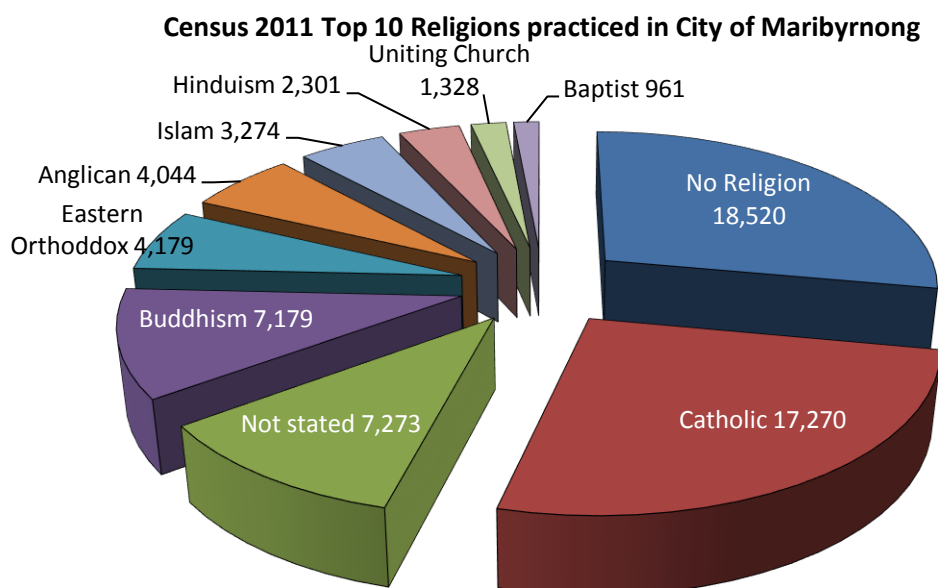
Median Rent in the City of Maribyrnong compared to Metro Melbourne



Victorian Department of Human Services June 2015

Community Harmony

Religion



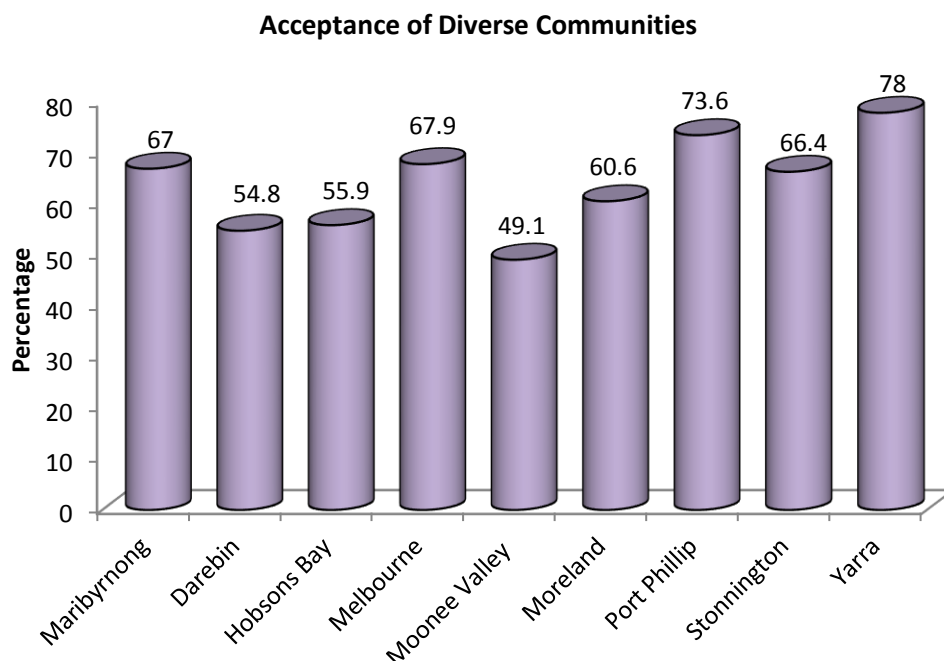
ID Community Profile based on Census 2011

The different religions and faiths practised in the municipality reflect a high level of diversity and community harmony. The Catholic, Anglican and Uniting churches are strongly represented but the influence of Vietnamese, Indian, Middle Eastern and African cultures means that Buddhism, Islam and Hinduism are also prominent.

The single biggest group, more than a quarter of the population, say they have no religion.

Maribyrnong City Council participates in the Brimbank and Maribyrnong Interfaith Network. It aims to build trust between communities of different faiths and beliefs and is open to all religious groups in both municipalities.

Acceptance of diverse communities



Vic Health Indicators Survey 2011

The City of Maribyrnong has the fourth highest level of acceptance of diversity in the inner-metropolitan communities.^{liii}

Council strongly supports diversity through a range of measures including:

- The ***Human Rights and Social Justice Framework 2013-2016***: Emphasises cultural rights, freedom of expression and equality and outlines support for the right to self-determination and recognition of Indigenous Australians.
- The ***Multicultural Policy and Action Plan 2012-2017***, the ***Disability Policy and Action Plan 2012-2015*** and the ***Indigenous Policy 2013-2015 and Reconciliation Action Plans***: Support our commitment to diversity and recognise the importance of different communities.
- **Gender Equity Statements**: Promote gender equality and acceptance of gender diversity.
- Membership of the **GLBTIQ Western Region Councils' Working Group**, which aims to identify issues and barriers affecting people in GLBTIQ communities and promote social inclusion and community pride.

Liveability

Libraries

The city's five libraries are greatly valued by the community, and were ranked in the top 10 of important council services in the 2015 Annual Community Survey.

The new library at Braybrook, part of the \$12.5 million Braybrook Community Hub, joins those in Footscray, Maribyrnong, West Footscray and Yarraville to provide services including:

- Public lending of recreational and educational books, magazines, audio-visual and other materials, including collections in 12 community languages, children's material, items for

the print disabled, and special collections including local studies, genealogy and automotive manual collections.

- Free public access to internet and other word processing/office facilities.
- Outreach service to housebound members of the community and residential care providers, including the Maribyrnong Detention Centre.
- Literacy programs.
- Information Technology provision and training.

The libraries have formed partnerships with other local organisations for projects such as the 100 Story Building, which helps marginalised children develop their literacy skills and sense of belonging.

Over 31,000 people belong to the libraries. Between them, in 2014-15, they were responsible for 718,740 loans of materials and more than 19,000 attended programs for children or adults.

Community Centres

Council runs community centres at Braybrook, Maidstone and Maribyrnong and supports other community facilities such as the Footscray Community Arts Centre, RecWest Braybrook and RecWest Footscray, West Footscray Neighbourhood House and the Yarraville Community Centre.

The three community centres provide a range of activities including:

- Language and learning programs such as language and computer classes;
- Health and wellbeing programs including cooking and yoga;
- Children's programs including playgroups;
- Arts and craft programs from calligraphy to cake decorating;
- Braybrook Community Garden and Braybrook Men's Shed.

Between January and November 2014 the three community centres had approximately 220,000 visits, and 13,446 people took part in activities and programs, an average of 1,279 each month.^{liv}

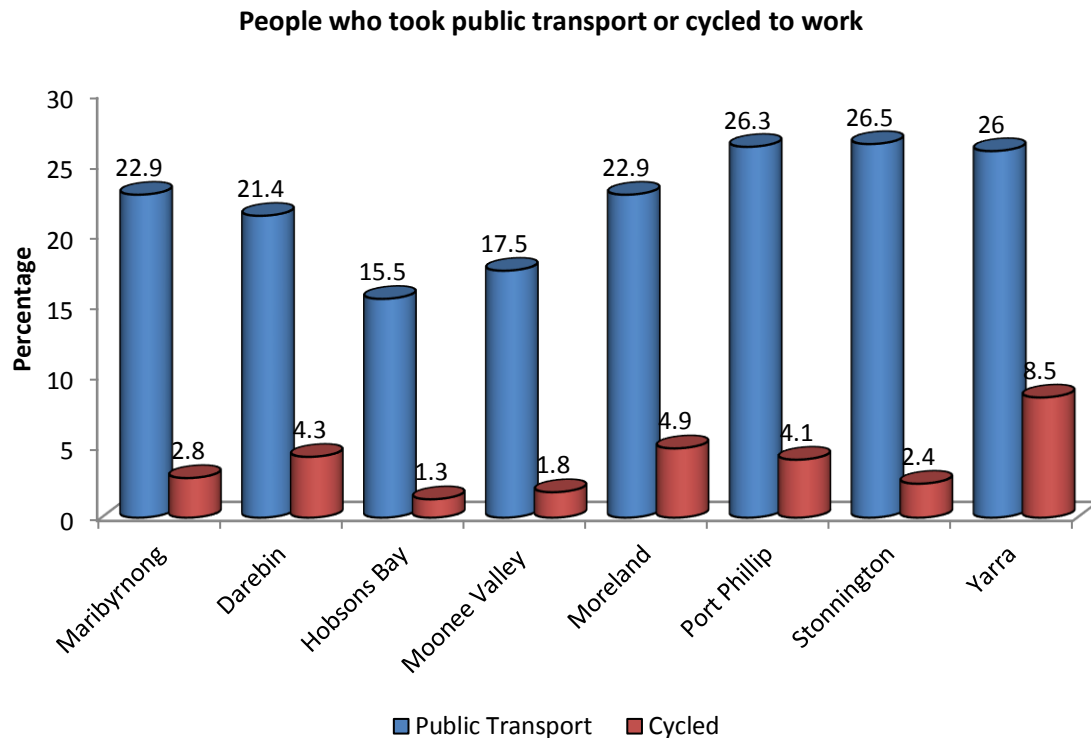
Participation was affected by the closure of Braybrook Community Centre and the establishment of a temporary facility as part of the development of the new \$12.5 million Braybrook Community Hub. This opened in March 2015, offering Braybrook's first library, an integrated early years centre, sports pavilion, community and social spaces, meeting rooms and café. Council funded most of the redevelopment with the Victorian Government contributing \$3.4 million.

Sustainable Transport

Travel to work

Only a small proportion of residents cycle to work, although the city has 20 kilometres of bike paths. Maribyrnong rates fifth in the group for cycle participation, with 2.8 per cent riding to work; Yarra has a clear lead with 8.5 per cent^{lv}.

In Maribyrnong, 22.9 per cent of people take public transport to work.



ID Community Profile based on Census 2011

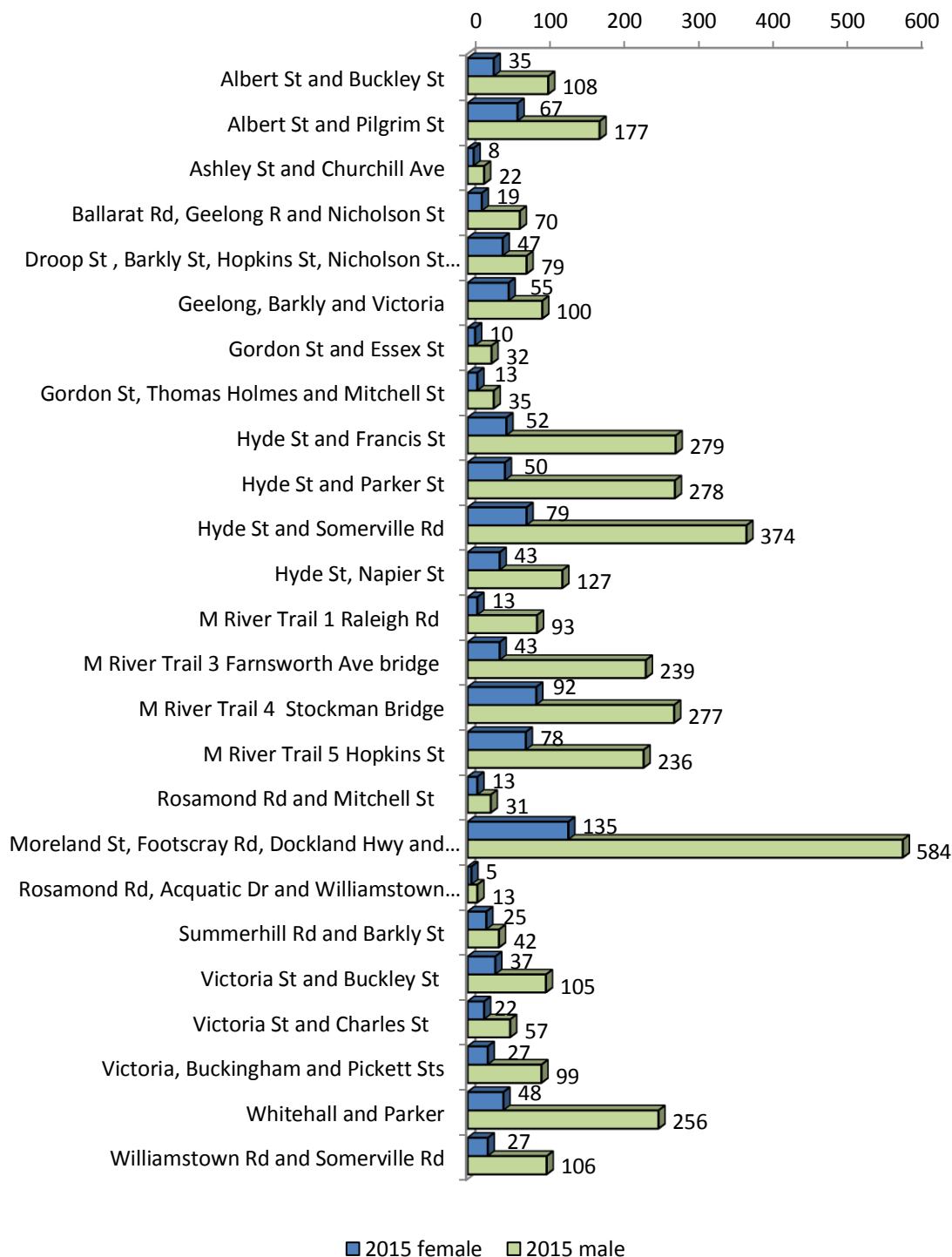
Council aims to increase the number of people who cycle through a range of measures including:

- ***Maribyrnong Integrated Transport Strategy 2012*** and ***Maribyrnong Bicycle Strategy 2014***: Cover such things as traffic management upgrades, resurfacing roads and developing traffic-protected cycling routes, which have been shown to encourage more women to ride.
- Erection of more than 300 signs to help bike riders navigate.
- Allocation of \$1.2 million in 2014-15 to help improve cyclist safety.^{lvi}

Annual Bike Count

The 2015 Annual City of Maribyrnong Bike Count shows that some routes are much more frequently used than others. Popular routes include Moreland Street Footscray, Hyde Street and Somerville Road Footscray, and Whitehall and Parker Street Footscray. More men than women ride bikes in the City of Maribyrnong, something Council's Bike Strategy is keen to address.^{lvii}

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