

A Shared Approach to Safety in the City of Maribyrnong

2015-17

A partnership between Maribyrnong City Council and Victoria Police

Adopted 16 June 2015



VICTORIA POLICE



Foreword from the Mayor



The City of Maribyrnong has a proud history of working in partnership to promote health, wellbeing and safety within the community.

Council's community safety work is underpinned by the principle that everyone living in, working in and visiting the City of Maribyrnong has an equal right to feel and be safe.

The Shared Approach to Safety in the City of Maribyrnong 2015-17 recognises that tackling safety is a complex issue that requires an integrated, long-term approach that addresses the broad range of factors that contribute to experiences of safety within communities.

Encouragingly crime rates are generally decreasing in our city and there have been significant improvements in safety and wellbeing over recent years. We know however that some safety concerns within the municipality remain and in fact the critical issue of family violence is one that this municipality and the nation must address urgently.

The development and implementation of this shared approach to safety is an important part of our ongoing journey with Victoria Police and a wide range of other local partners towards building a safe, welcoming and well-maintained community for everyone in the municipality to enjoy.

Cr Nam Quach

Mayor



VICTORIA POLICE

Foreword from Victoria Police



Victoria Police is committed to working in partnership with local communities to make them safer. One of the most important aspects of police work is preventing crime and improving safety.

Pro-active crime prevention programs are a key focus for us at Maribyrnong and we seek to further develop links within Council, schools, local business and diverse community groups to reduce the incidence and impact of crime.

The involvement of Victoria Police in the *Shared Approach to Safety in the City of Maribyrnong 2015-2017* highlights the importance that we place on community partnerships to reduce crime and provide a safe place to live and work.

We look forward to building on our strong relationship with Maribyrnong City Council through this shared approach to safety.

Inspector Tony Long

Local Area Commander - Maribyrnong PSA

North West Metro Region | Westgate Division (ND2)

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1. Introduction

Maribyrnong City Council has had a long-standing commitment to community safety.

In partnership with Victoria Police, and other local organisations, Council is committed to developing a shared position and approach to improve actual and perceived safety in the municipality.

There have been varied responses and interventions to address safety and there is a recognised need to move away from single or short-term programmatic responses to a longer term, multi-faceted investment in people and place that cuts across levels of government and disciplines.

This strategy and related annual action plans will build on the extensive work already undertaken by Council, Victoria Police and other local partners and aims to provide a clear, integrated direction for community safety over 2015-17 and beyond.

1.1 Overarching Principle

In line with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Manifesto for Safe Communities, Maribyrnong City Council believes that everyone living, working or visiting the City has an equal right to health and safety.

Council is committed to ensuring that Community Safety is not something that is achieved for one section of the community at the expense of others and every effort will be made to ensure that the needs of all community members are considered.

1.2 What is Community Safety?

The Victorian Safer Communities Network (VSCN) characterises community safety as ‘community-wide participation in developing and delivering initiatives to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of populations at the local level in order to reduce the impact of unintentional injury, crime, violence and emergency situations on communities.’¹

Safety is a multifaceted issue; it is related to crime, but it also relates to physical, social, economic and natural environments.

The Maribyrnong City Council approach to community safety draws on both the social determinants of health framework and the attributes of safe communities outlined by the World Health Organisation’s *International Safe Community Framework*:

- An infrastructure based on partnership and collaborations, governed by a cross- sector group that is responsible for safety promotion in their community.
- Long-term, sustainable programs covering genders, all ages, environments, and situations.
- Programs that target high-risk groups and environments, and programs that promote safety for vulnerable groups.
- Programs that are based on the best available evidence.

¹ <http://www.vscn.org.au/international-safe-communities/>

- Programs that document the frequency and causes of injuries.
- Evaluation measures to assess their programs, processes and the effects of change.
- Ongoing participation in national and international Safe Communities networks.

1.3 Community safety in the City of Maribyrnong

Perceptions and actual experiences of safety have consistently been highlighted as a significant concern for community members, traders and visitors. We have found this across a range of different consultations, including the Council's annual community survey.

For detailed data and evidence please refer to Appendix A.

Despite increased efforts to improve safety and improved overall crime rates, poor perceptions of safety are still being reported in some areas.

While we know perceptions of safety don't necessarily reflect the actual levels of safety, we understand that it is often perceptions that have the greatest impact on how people feel about a place. Actual and perceived levels of safety are influenced by a multitude of factors and can be experienced differently across the population. For example, perceptions of safety are often poorer for people who are more vulnerable to harm, such as women, older people, people with a disability, newly arrived, immigrant and emerging communities, gender non conforming, gay and lesbian and trans communities and people who have been a previous victim of crime.

Over many years, innovative community safety strategies have been developed with the aim of enhancing the safety and wellbeing of the community as a whole while acknowledging that it also has a role in responding to the needs and experiences of particular 'at risk' groups, who are a valued part of our diverse community.

1.4 Why do we need a shared approach?

There is a recognised and evidence-based need to take a more long-term, multi-faceted investment in people and place. This approach moves away from some previous interventions to address safety which have focused on single or short-term programmatic responses. The shared approach involves all levels of government and professional disciplines, as well community organisations, business and our community, in a coordinated range of mutually reinforcing strategies to create safer environments for all.

1.5 Policy context

Council Plan 2013-17

This strategy has been developed in the context of the *Council Plan 2013-17*, which outlines Maribyrnong City Council's four-year strategic direction to achieve 'A diverse and vibrant city dedicated to community wellbeing through democracy, sustainable growth and opportunity for all.'

The Council Plan includes the *Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-17* which draws on the Victorian Department of Health's *Environments for Health Framework* and takes a social determinants of health approach. A key feature of the Council Plan is the inclusion of the following wellbeing outcomes:



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.



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.



Equity

Equitable access to quality resources that support individual and community wellbeing now and into the future.



Liveability

A city that has liveable places and community infrastructure that promotes social connections and improves quality of life for everyone



Environmental Sustainability

A city and organisation that implements environmentally sustainable policies, practices and procedures that protect the environment and promote the sustainable use of natural resources



Sustainable Transport

Accessible, affordable and safe transport options for all community members that encourage sustainable and active transport around the municipality.



Efficient workforce

An effective and efficient workforce that demonstrates engagement, innovation, accountability, transparency, good governance and sustainable economic practices that ultimately build and support municipal-wide wellbeing.

There are a wide range of determinants underlying our approach to community safety, meaning that most plans and policies across Council have some impact on community safety and wellbeing.

It is not the intention of this strategy to repeat the detail contained in other policies and frameworks, but they contain crucial links in terms of addressing both actual and perceived levels of safety:

- Municipal Strategic Statement
- Revitalising Braybrook Action Plan
- Gender Equity Strategy
- Emergency Management Plan
- Open Space Strategy
- Multicultural Policy
- Good Design Guidelines
- Footscray University Town Strategy
- Footscray Park Masterplan
- Footscray River Edge Masterplan
- Braybrook North River Precinct Masterplan
- Disability Policy and Action Plan
- Central West Braybrook Major Activity Centre Structure Plan
- Highpoint Masterplan
- Maribyrnong Strategy for Young People
- Ageing Well Strategy
- Housing Strategy
- Integrated Transport, Walking and Bicycle strategies
- Strategic Arts Framework
- Economic and Industrial Development Strategy
- Recreation Strategy and Sports Development Plan

Victoria Police Blueprint 2012 – 2015 (year 3)

The Victoria Police mission is to ensure a safe, secure and orderly society by serving the community and the law. The Victoria Police Blueprint is our strategic plan to guide our actions for the period 2012 to 2015. The strategy directs our community related actions in three key areas – Effective Police Service Delivery, Improving Community Safety and Working with our stakeholders. The Blueprint seeks to deliver a policing service which:

- is effective and efficient in meeting stakeholder needs and expectations
- is focused on the greatest harm so that individuals and communities feel and are safe
- works collaboratively and responds to stakeholder expectations.

Victoria Police Blue Paper: A Vision for Victoria Police in 2025

The increasing demand for police services, driven by an increase in calls to Triple Zero, an increase in reports of family violence and an increase in organised crime, has prompted Victoria Police to review and adapt the services they provide.

The Victoria Police Blue Paper sets out three proposed strategic directions to enhance public safety, and increase value for money for the Victorian community through its investment in Victoria Police:

- better matching of resources to demand by rethinking the traditional operating model
- improving capability through workforce reform and technology
- collaborating more closely through partnerships.

Victorian Government

Consideration has also been given to relevant Victorian Government directions, including:

- *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2011-2015*, which identifies public health priorities for Victoria, including:
 - alcohol and other drug use
 - injury prevention

- mental health promotion (including prevention of violence against women)
- *Parliamentary enquiry into the contribution of environmental design to prevention and public health in Victoria.*
- *Reducing the Alcohol and Drug Toll: Victoria's Plan.*
- *Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children.*

2. Framework for a shared approach to safety

2.1 Purpose

To develop a clear framework and set of strategies to implement a shared approach to safety and wellbeing in Maribyrnong.

2.2 Principles

1. Creating shared ownership and responsibility to address safety as a priority issue.
2. Integrated planning and delivery across multiple partners and disciplines.
3. Supporting community capacity and resilience, and building on the community's strengths and assets.
4. Engaging the community in a way that empowers them to be informed and to participate in being part of the solution.
5. Informed decision making based on the best available evidence.

2.3 Community safety priorities

Reducing harm from alcohol and other drugs

Visible use of drugs, drug dealing and public drinking all contribute negatively to perceptions of safety.

A harm minimisation approach aims to address alcohol and drug issues by reducing the harmful effects associated with their use. The three components of harm minimisation are demand reduction, supply reduction and harm reduction and when carefully balanced and applied can reduce the health and social effects resulting from drug and alcohol use in the community.

An effective approach to reducing harm from alcohol and other drugs takes a systemic, integrated approach rather than just focusing on individual behaviour change.

Preventing violence against women

Violence against women in Victoria is a leading contributor to ill health and premature death for all women aged 15-44.

Council is a recognised leader for its committed, long-term and innovative approaches to stopping violence before it occurs. It is crucial that we collectively respond to the underlying causes of violence

against women using the VicHealth *Preventing violence before it occurs* framework, World Health Organisation research and locally developed best practice evidence.

This strategy has been developed in the context of Council's commitment to a community where opportunities for success are equally available to men and women; where our mothers, daughters and sisters live free from the cycle of violence; where their thoughts, ideas and opinions are heard and respected and their choices and goals in life celebrated and supported.

Victoria Police also has a strong commitment to preventing violence against women and children and has established the Family Violence Command which will provide a central focus within the organisation to drive the next wave of reform and improvement in policing family violence, sexual assault and child abuse. This will be the first time in Australia that family violence has been given such a central focus within any police force.

Locally, a dedicated Family Violence Unit is based at the Footscray Police Complex to investigate family violence matters and support and assist victims. The team includes an experienced mental health practitioner to assist with contextualising and risk assessing the behaviours of perpetrators.

Promoting community connection and celebrating diversity

In a socially inclusive society people feel valued and their differences are respected. Social exclusion and isolation is a determinant of ill health and affects perceptions of safety.

When people feel that they are welcomed, entitled and belong to their community they are more likely to get involved in local activities, use public spaces and feel safe.

Proactively and positively engaging people and supporting and promoting interactions between different groups, including gender, sexuality, race, age, ability and class is critical in creating safe, diverse communities. Addressing poor perceptions of safety needs to occur in the context of different uses and interpretations of public spaces and should also acknowledge the difference between feeling uncomfortable and feeling unsafe.

Community consultations have demonstrated that overall there is a strong sense of community and that our community value on diversity and maintaining the unique character of different areas. However, not everyone feels well connected and many people are not involved in or aware of the wide range of services, activities and events currently offered within the municipality.

Creating and maintaining safe environments

The physical design of a community has the potential to enhance social inclusiveness. Designing facilities that encourage and support meeting, gathering and social interaction in communities can improve mental health and increase social networks.² This is particularly the case where design focuses on

² <http://www.healthyplaces.org.au/userfiles/file/Social%20Inclusion%20June09.pdf>

including groups who are usually marginalised, such as people with disabilities, breastfeeding mothers and parents with small children, young and older people and newly arrived communities.³

In a number of community consultations, the visual appearance of public and private amenity has been identified as impacting on neighbourhood pride and perceptions of safety. Unsafe environments are often synonymous with anti-social behaviour and fear of violence.

Factors associated with poor perceptions of safety include:

- poor street lighting
- lack of passive surveillance
- limited integration/connection of public places and transport routes
- opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour
- graffiti and poorly maintained amenity.

2.4 Partnerships

For the shared approach to safety to be effective, a range of partners need to be involved in addition to Council and Victoria Police. Partners include:

- Department of Justice
- Department of Health
- Women's Health West
- HealthWest PCP
- Cohealth (including HealthWorks)
- Victoria University
- The University of Melbourne
- Local traders and business
- Community organisations and groups.

Key networks include:

- Western Integrated Family Violence Committee
- Preventing Violence Together: Executive Governance Group
- Western Region Alcohol and other Drug Research Network
- Whole of Victorian Government Hotspots Project Network
- Maribyrnong Drug and Alcohol Network
- Needle and Syringe/Opioid Replacement Therapy Working Group
- Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Alcohol and Other Drug Network
- Westgate Precinct Safety and Security Working Group (Victoria Police)
- Highpoint Precinct Safety Committee Working Group (Victoria Police)
- CCTV Project Control Group.

3. Action planning 2015-2017

PRIORITY 1: REDUCING HARM FROM ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS (AOD)

GOAL	ACTIONS
<p>Minimise the impact of alcohol and other drugs on the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a municipal AOD policy and finalise the local liquor licensing policy. • Participate in the Whole of Victorian Government Hot Spots project in partnership with Melbourne University to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - undertake research to better understand the changing trends in alcohol and drug use within Maribyrnong - develop a strategy for a sustainable night time economy. • Provide alcohol free family events e.g. New Years Eve fireworks. • Provide support where required to local community health services, including cohealth (HealthWorks) in the delivery of relevant AOD programs and services. • Participate in local and statewide alcohol and drug forums and advocate on key issues as relevant e.g. Western Region AOD Research Network , Whole of Victorian Government HotSpots Project, Municipal Association of Victoria AOD Network. • Continue to deliver and review Council services that address issues with alcohol and drug use in Maribyrnong e.g. location of syringe collections, the provision of syringe disposal containers and planning regulation and enforcement. • Map existing local NSP services and advocate for improved service coverage in the inner west. • Establish the feasibility of facilitating a local liquor accord with Victoria Police. • Deploy the Maribyrnong Safer Communities Task Force to high visibility mobile and foot patrols of drug and alcohol hot spots, particularly in the Footscray CBD, Highpoint Shopping Centre and Braybrook. • Seek additional funding in partnership with other local organisations to address key drug and alcohol issues/hot spots.

PRIORITY 2: PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

GOAL	ACTIONS
<p>Prevent violence against women through supporting equal and respectful relationships between all men and women.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation and maintain Australian Breastfeeding Association accreditation. • Continue involvement in community campaigns including International Women’s Day and White Ribbon Day 16 days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence • Undertake internal work as outlined in the Maribyrnong Gender Equity Action Plan. • Increase participation of women and girls in all aspects of sporting clubs through the ‘She’s Game: Gender Equity in Sport’ project in local sporting clubs. • Deliver the Baby Makes 3 first-time parents program. • Partner with local organisations to support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respectful Relationships in Schools (Women’s Health West)

- Indian Communities Healthy Relationships (cohealth)
- Implement a pilot of the Victoria Police Maribyrnong Enhanced Family Violence Unit trial.
- Engage with partner agencies and groups to provide advice, support and assistance in relation to dealing with issues such as family violence (e.g. Sons of the West)

PRIORITY 3: PROMOTING COMMUNITY CONNECTION AND CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

GOAL	ACTIONS
<p>Build strong and safe communities through inclusion and participation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run festivals and events celebrating our diverse community, including: Midsumma, Wominjeka, Quang Minh Tet, East Meets West Lunar New Year, citizenship ceremonies, NAIDOC week and events for young people at Phoenix Youth Centre. • Provide opportunities for diverse groups, including women, young people and CALD communities, to participate in arts and culture and leisure activities e.g. Active Maribyrnong, Artsbox, Creative Pathways, Open Studios. • Lead the Friendly Neighbours program to promote community connection and safety, particularly for older people and vulnerable community members. • Explore opportunities to address safety concerns of young people and address youth disengagement by linking with the Maribyrnong Strategy for Young People. • Implement events and activities promoting activation of local places through the Footscray University Town initiative. • In partnership with Victoria University, consider other opportunities to address safety, particularly for young people, as part of the Footscray University Town initiative. • Increase pro-active police presence and connection through participation at community events to prevent anti-social behavior and enhance perceptions of safety. • Conduct Operation Kicking Goals – a joint Council / community / Police soccer tournament to be held in Braybrook focusing on engaging youth in healthy activities. • Install Little Africa Precinct banners. • Install the Little Saigon Welcome Arch. • Update the online heritage rail trail map.

PRIORITY 4: CREATING AND MAINTAINING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

GOAL	ACTIONS
<p>Design and provide public spaces that enhance safety and reduce anti-social</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure existing public spaces and newly designed infrastructure consider safety by using the Maribyrnong Good Design Standard and seeking Police input into planning (Crime Prevention Through Environment Design). • Ensure major private developments are also assessed against the Good Design Standard/Crime Prevention Through Environment Design criteria. • Deploy the Maribyrnong Safer Communities Task Force to high visibility

behavior and injury.

mobile and foot patrols in at risk community locations, particularly in the Footscray CBD, Highpoint Shopping Centre and Braybrook.

- Maintain the current Footscray CBD and Highpoint Precinct Safety and Security committees.
- Consider community safety as part of the development and implementation of key policies, programs and frameworks e.g. Community Infrastructure Plan, Open Space Strategy, Bicycle Strategy, Walking Strategy, SmartRoads transport plan.
- Maintain and monitor the existing CCTV network in the Footscray CBD.
- Work with the community and local traders to reduce graffiti, including through public art e.g. StreetWorks and the appointment of a new graffiti officer.
- Undertake repairs of the Nicholson Street Mall.
- Continue tree planting across the municipality to create greener spaces, keeping in mind safety considerations (including line-of-sight).
- Work with Victoria University to consider student safety, including lighting considerations and other safety measures along natural travel routes.
- Improve amenity of Churchill Avenue shopping strip.
- Address safety concerns as part of the Braybrook Community Centre playground upgrade.
- Consider safety as part of park upgrades, including Pipemakers and Footscray, with input from Victoria Police
- Upgrade the shared path along the Braybrook to Maidstone river trail.
- Consider safety and access as part of the public toilet strategy review.
- Implement community awareness raising activities that help the community avoid becoming victims of crime e.g. through the Victoria Police Business Security Kit and Residential Security Assessment Tool.
- Seek external funding opportunities to tackle current and emerging crime prevention issues.

4. Monitoring and evaluation

As part of the ongoing implementation of this strategy, Council and Victoria Police will co-chair a meeting of relevant stakeholders on an annual basis. This meeting will reflect on what has been achieved, what has worked and why and what this means for implementation in the following year.

Smaller meetings will also be held throughout the year to keep track of progress against actions under each priority area outlined above.

In mid 2017, before the next strategy is developed, an evaluation report will be produced outlining key achievements against the priority areas and actions and capturing overall changes as a result of the strategy.

APPENDIX A Research and statistics

1. Selected Local Area Survey Results about Health, Safety & Community⁴

ALCOHOL and OTHER DRUGS		Maribyrnong	Victoria	% greater or less than Victoria
2012 VicHealth Indicators Survey	% Adults who purchased alcohol in the last 7 days	40.3	36.3	11.1
2012 VicHealth Indicators Survey	7 day \$ spend on packaged liquor (of those purchasing)	38.0	45.0	-15.6
2012 VicHealth Indicators Survey	7 day \$ spend at a licensed premises (of those purchasing)	36.0	45.0	-20
Vic Population Health Survey 2011/12	% Adults who are current smokers	16.0	15.7	2
2012 Dept Health, 2010 Measures of Health Activity and Outcome	% Adult females who are current smokers	14.6	16.9	-13.7
2012 Dept Health, 2010 Measures of Health Activity and Outcome	% Adult males who are current smokers	24.0	21.4	12.2
Vic Population Health Survey 2011/12	% Male adults at short-term risk of alcohol-related harm	14.1	14.0	0.8
Vic Population Health Survey 2011/12	% Female adults at short-term risk of alcohol-related harm	31.7	22.9	38.5
Victorian Population Health Survey 2011/12	% Adults at risk or high risk of alcohol-related harm	49.3	45.3	8.9
2012 Dept Health, 2010 Measures of Health Activity and Outcome	Drug and alcohol clients per 1,000 population	6.3	5.3	18.9
2012 Dept Education and Early Childhood Devt. Adolescent Profiles	% 15-17 year olds who drank alcohol in the past 30 days	46.9	24.7	89.9
2012 Dept Education and Early Childhood Devt. Adolescent Profiles	% 15-17 year olds who smoked in the past 30 days	24.9	12.9	93.1
2012 Dept Education and Early Childhood Devt. Adolescent Profiles	% 15-17 year olds who ever - used marijuana	23.5	10.9	115.6
2012 Dept Education and Early Childhood Devt. Adolescent Profiles	% 15-17 year olds who ever - sniffed glue or chromed	4.9	7.8	-37.2
2012 Dept Education and Early Childhood Devt. Adolescent Profiles	% 15-17 year olds who ever - used other illegal drugs	4.0	3.0	33.4
PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN		Maribyrnong	Victoria	% greater or less than Victoria
2012 VicHealth Indicators Survey	% Adults who state that they would be prepared to intervene in a situation of domestic violence	88.2	93.1	-5.3
COMMUNITY, DIVERSITY AND ENGAGEMENT		Maribyrnong	Victoria	% greater or less than Victoria
2012 Dept Education and Early Childhood Devt. Adolescent Profiles	% Adolescents who do not have a trusted adult in life	34.3	30.7	11.8
2012 Dept Education and Early Childhood Devt. Adolescent Profiles, 2009	% Adolescents who do not have someone to turn to for advice when they have problems	17.0	13.9	22.4

⁴ Statistics downloaded from Statistical Data for Victorian Communities, City of Greater Dandenong <http://www.greaterdandenong.com/document/18464/statistical-data-for-victorian-communities> last accessed May 2015.

2008 DPCD Measures of Community Strength and Connection	% Adults who can get help from friends family and neighbours when needed	92.4	91.7	0.8
2012 VicHealth Indicators Survey	% Adults who volunteer at least once per month	33.9	34.3	-1.2
2012 VicHealth Indicators Survey	% Adults who had participated in citizen engagement activities in the previous year	53.1	50.5	5.2
2012 VicHealth Indicators Survey	% Adults who affirm their acceptance of diverse cultures	67.0	50.6	32.5
2007 CIV Survey	% Adults who feel themselves to be part of the community	64.9	70.7	-8.3
2006 Department for Victorian Communities	% Parents with school-aged children involved in activities at their children's school	74.4	na	
2007 CIV Survey	% Adults who agree that it is a good thing for a society to be made up of people from different cultures	91.7	89.3	2.7
2008 DPCD Measures of Community Strength and Connection	% Adults who feel that their's is an active community, where people do things & get involved in local issues/activities	44.2	66.6	-33.7
2008 DPCD Measures of Community Strength and Connection	% Adults who attended a local community event in the last 6 months	42.7	60.9	-30
2008 DPCD Measures of Community Strength and Connection	% Adults who are members of organised groups such as sports, church, community	52.7	63.9	-17.6
2008 DPCD Measures of Community Strength and Connection	% Adults who feel valued by society	48.7	54.4	-10.5
2012 VicHealth Indicators Survey	% Adults who are attended arts activities or events in the last 3 months	65.2	63.6	2.6
CRIME, SAFETY and AMENITY		Maribyrnong	Victoria	% greater or less than Victoria
2012 VicHealth Indicators Survey	% Adults who feel safe walking alone during day	95.5	97.0	-1.6
2012 VicHealth Indicators Survey	% Adults who feel safe walking alone during night	64.1	70.3	-8.9
2007 CIV Survey	% Adults Who Feel Safe or Very Safe Walking Alone in Local Area at Night	56.8	66.4	-14.5
2008 DPCD Measures of Community Strength and Connection	% Adults who feel safe on street after dark	46.3	64.3	-28
2012 Dept Education and Early Childhood Devt. Adolescent Profiles	Victims of crime against the person, per 1,000 adolescents, 2009/10	16.7	11.1	50.5
2012 Dept Education and Early Childhood Devt. Adolescent Profiles	Perpetrators of crimes against the person, per 1,000 adolescents, 2009/10	27.4	12.5	119.2
Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System (DEECD)	Rate of Crime where the victim was a child or young person per 1000 children and young people aged between 0-17) 2011/12	11.1	10.0	10.7
Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System (DEECD)	Rate of Crime where the offender was a child or young person per 1,000 children and young people) 2011/12	38.5	24.4	57.8
2008 DPCD Measures of Community Strength and Connection	% Adults who feel that their neighbourhood features 'good facilities and services like shops, childcare, schools, libraries'	77.7	79.3	-2.1
2008 DPCD Measures of Community Strength and Connection	% Adults who feel that their neighbourhood 'Is a pleasant environment, nice streets, well-planned, open spaces'	61.6	83.1	-25.9

2. Incidence of Crime⁵

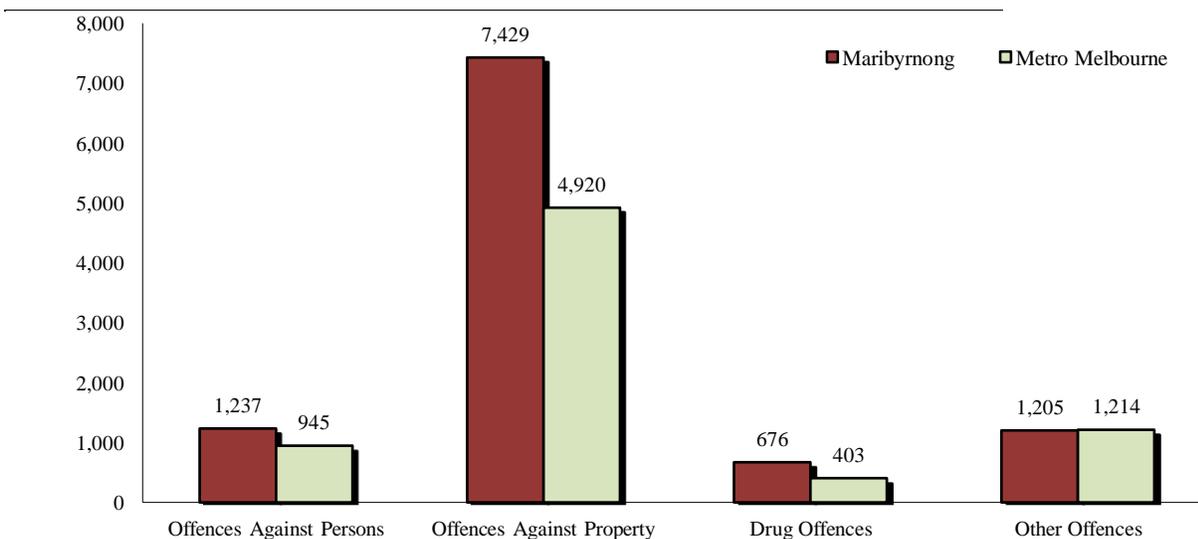
2.1 Rate of All Offences: 2004/5 to 2013/14

	Maribyrnong	Metro Melbourne
2004/05	15,866	7,869
2005/06	12,599	7,653
2006/07	11,445	7,690
2007/08	12,110	7,427
2008/09	11,940	7,291
2009/10	10,507	6,789
2010/11	11,085	6,506
2011/12	11,834	7,120
2012/13	10,230	7,141
2013/14	10,546	7,481

2.2 Per cent Change over past 9 years

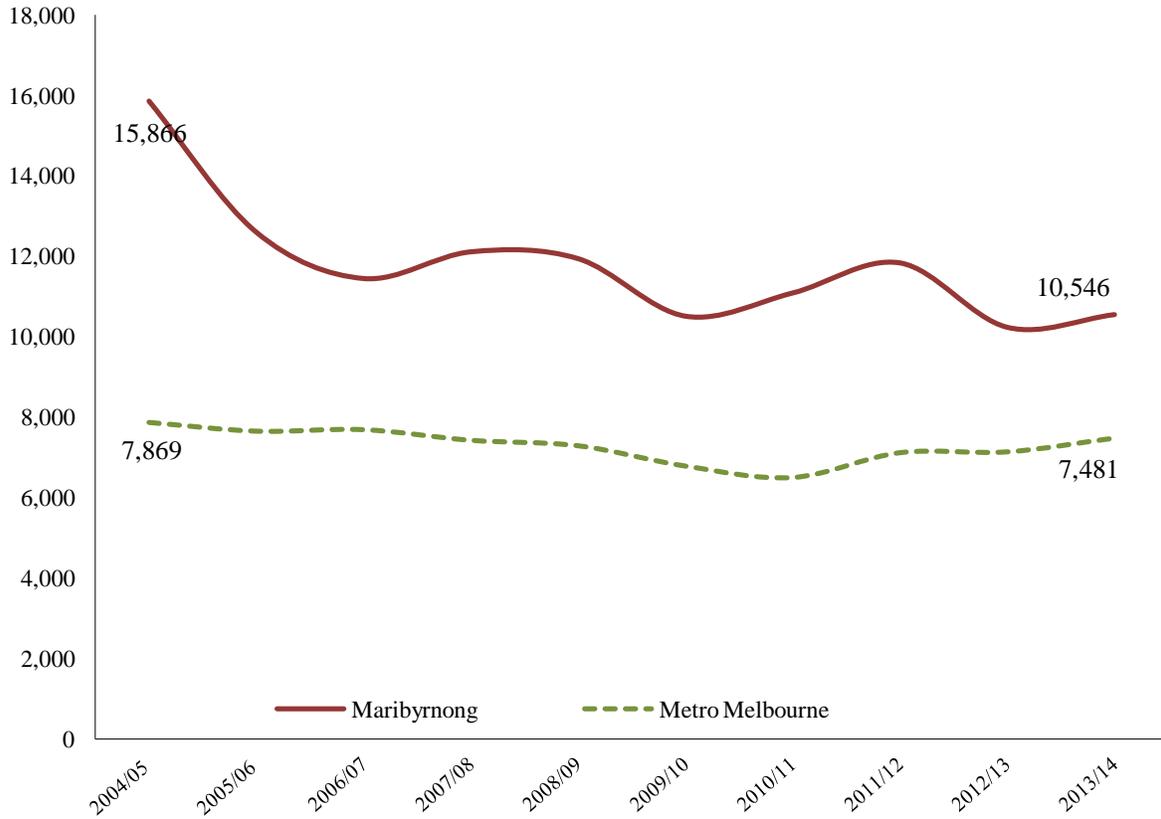
Maribyrnong	-33.5
Metro Melbourne	-4.9

2.3 Rates of offences per 100,000 population

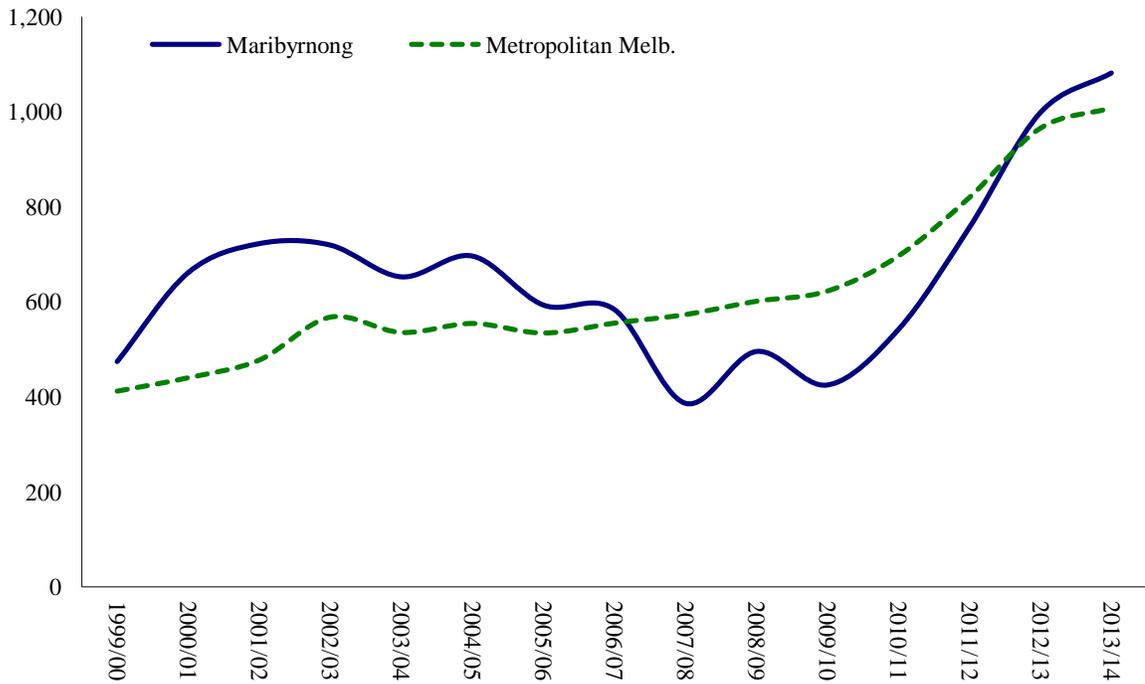


⁵ Statistics downloaded from Statistical Data for Victorian Communities, City of Greater Dandenong
<http://www.greaterdandenong.com/document/18464/statistical-data-for-victorian-communities> last accessed May 2015.

2.4 Violent offences recorded per 100,000 population



2.5 Rate of Police Callouts, Family Violence Incidents, 1999-2014: Maribyrnong & Metro Melbourne



3. Perceptions of safety

3.1 Selected findings from the Maribyrnong 2014 Annual Community Survey⁶

Overall

- Safety, policing and crime – identified by 12.7% of respondents in 2014, down very marginally on the 14.5% reported in 2013, but consistent with the longer term average for this issue. By way of comparison, the metropolitan Melbourne average for this issue was 5.0% in 2014.
- The higher than average proportion of respondents from Footscray, Maidstone and Seddon identifying safety, policing and crime as an issue.

Safety in public areas

- The perception of safety in public areas of Maribyrnong during the day increased marginally to 8.29 in 2014, and at night increased slightly to 6.39.
- The perception of safety “travelling on trains” (7.25) increased measurably in 2014.
- The perception of safety “in and around the Footscray CBD” (6.96 during day and 4.83 at night) all increased measurably in 2014.
- The perception of safety in and around Highpoint increased measurably and significantly in 2014 (up from 6.55 to 7.88), and the perception of safety in and around Braybrook Shopping Centre declined very marginally (down from 6.90 to 6.86).
- Safety, policing and crime appear to have had a negative impact on satisfaction with Council’s overall performance.

Sense of community

- Respondents reported a relatively positive sense of community, comprised of the following:
 - I / we have access to public transport that goes where I need to go (7.47)
 - Neighbourhood has a distinct character (7.41)
 - I / we have access to affordable and efficient public transport (7.10)
 - I / we can turn to the neighbours for help when needed (7.09)
 - People locally can be trusted (6.89)
 - I / we have access to adequate community services (6.88)
 - It’s an active community, people do things and get involved (6.77)
 - I / we feel part of the local community (6.76)
 - It’s easy to find out about activities services available locally (6.51)
 - It’s easy to find out about local activities and events (6.47)
 - There are opportunities to have a real say on issues of importance (5.84)
 - I / we volunteer locally (5.49)

Graffiti

- Respondents were solidly of the view that graffiti is a problem in Maribyrnong (6.32 down from 6.78) and that it is a crime (6.57 down from 6.95).
- Respondents were however also on average, strongly of the view that legal graffiti improves the appearance of public areas (6.92 up from 6.78) and that Council should encourage spaces for legal graffiti artists (7.40 down from 7.59).
- Respondents were on average very strongly of the view that cleaning graffiti should not be the responsibility of property owners (2.71 down from 4.39).

Violence against women

- Respondents rated the importance of “Council’s commitment to and activities to prevent violence against women before it occurs” at 8.75 out of a potential ten.

⁶ City of Maribyrnong Annual Community Survey 2014, undertaken by Metropolis Research Pty Ltd

4. Key themes from stakeholder and community consultation sessions

4.1 Stakeholder Roundtable – critical issues summary

Prevention violence against women

- Preventing violence against women and children/family violence
- Increasing notifications
- Violence against women – so much more is needed to be done
- Think about safety of women in all Council Planning
- Increasing notifications
- Violence against women – so much more is needed to be done
- Think about safety of women in all Council planning

Partnerships in Action

- Perception/People/Place activation – PPP
- Participation in public space and facilities
- Encouraging activities and outcomes that are realistic and achievable
- Taking opportunities and making the most of them
- Work in partnership

Reducing harm from Alcohol and Other Drugs

- Public safety – drinking and drug use creates violence in the community
- Reducing harms of drug use
- AOD use (Alcohol & Other Drugs)
- Clear welcome messages to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers
- Filling in the gaps – trends, data

Creating and Maintaining Safe Environments

- Perceptions of safety in the public realm – how do you/we make people aware or improve the public realm, to the point where people feel safer
- Poor design and inadequate facilities (can affect perception and anti-social behaviour)
- Fix up Footscray's Mall – more shops. Clean environment
- Young people don't feel safe in public spaces
- More opportunities to talk about domestic violence
- Engaging youth, schools
- Activating night life
- Clever design
- Making pedestrians feel safe – Lighting/Cleanliness
- Activation and design to improve perceptions of safety
- Poor amenity in shopping strips causes poor safety perception
- Quality and maintenance of the public realm
- Change perceptions of personal safety in the public realm
- Clear welcome messages to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers
- Talking about crime as influencing city design – activating spaces

Promoting Community Connection & Celebrating Diversity

- Feeling safe to walk, shop, socialise in the streets
- Perceptions, welcome/belonging
- Perception of Safety – activating space through placemaking
- Community building to address perceptions of safety
- Vulnerable children → disengaged youth → crime/anti-social
- Celebrating community and diversity by + with community
- Creating community champions
- Multiculturalism – work together, educate each other, set standards together, respect each other

4.2 Fostering an understanding of diversity