

Early Years Plan

2021 – 25





'I like splashing in the water at the beach with my family'

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BACKGROUND RESEARCH and SUPPORTING DATA

1 Foreword

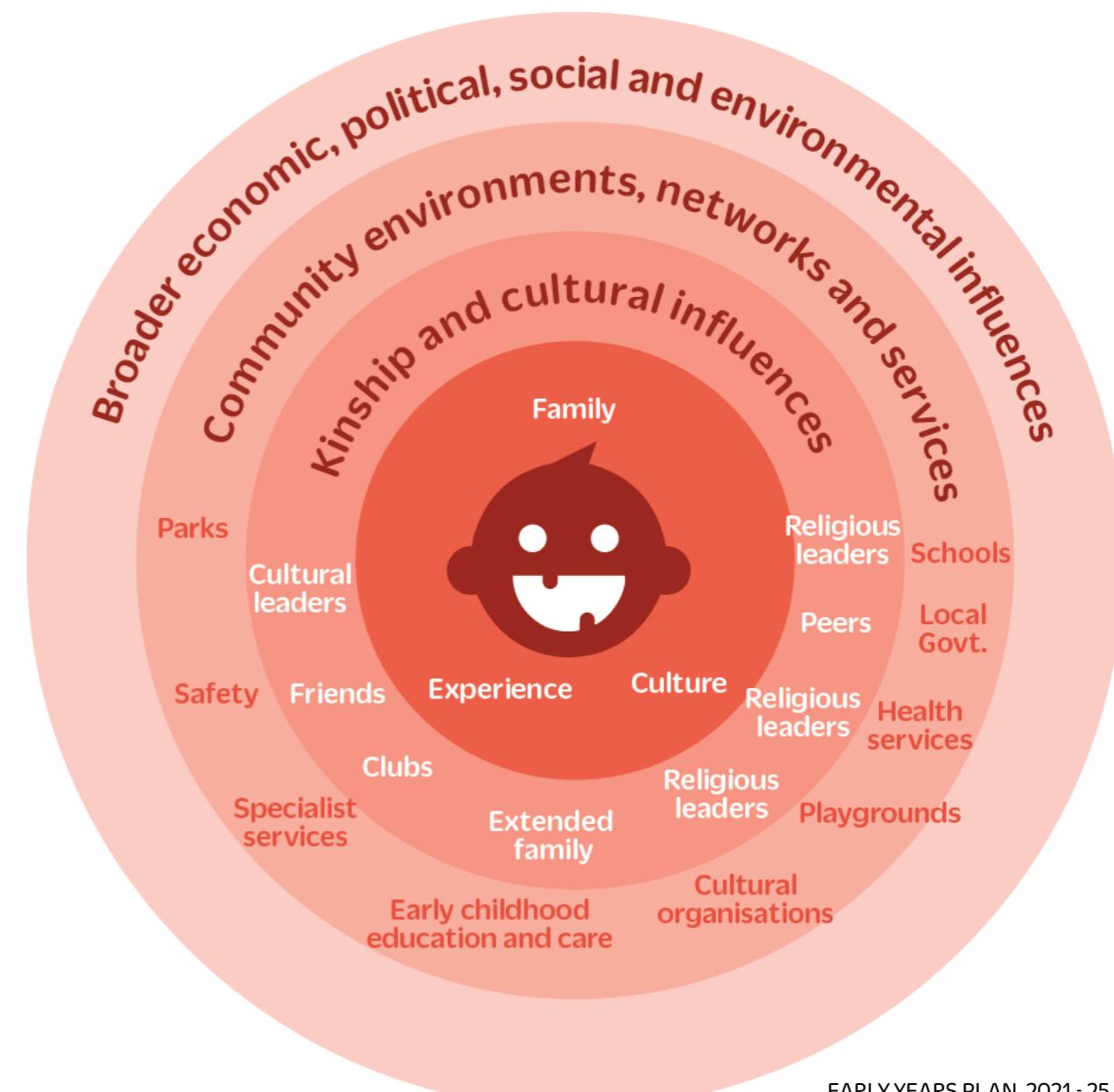
'Every child needs at least one person who is crazy about them', but in addition to that one person, children also need a network of support - as do their parents, and their families.

They need a service system and broader socio-political environment that facilitates positive parent-child interactions and attachments, high-quality care and learning experiences in all environments and timely, appropriate and effective support when problems arise.

If, as a nation, we truly prize children, then we need to work collectively to ensure that the social and economic circumstances of their families and communities - particularly during the antenatal

period and the early childhood years - do not compromise their health and well-being, and do not limit who they are, and who they can become.

Childhood is a stage of life where investment has the greatest return and opportunities to intervene have the greatest impacts. A municipality that has a focus on children (in the third tier of influence illustrated above) is one that benefits all members of the community.





2 Executive Summary

Childhood is the stage of life where opportunities to intervene can have the greatest impacts - a municipality with a focus on children is one that benefits all members of the community.

This Municipal Early Years Plan (MEYP) is a whole-of-community, whole-of-system, local area plan for the development and coordination of early years programs, activities and other local community development processes that impact on children and their families.

The MEYP provides an overview of the Surf Coast Shire's early years population and the service system supporting it, considers sector developments, and draws heavily on community engagement and service provider input.

In order to best represent gaps and needs, the findings are analysed and presented in four localities: Anglesea/Aireys Inlet/Lorne, Deans Marsh/Moriac/Winchelsea, Torquay, and Bellbrae Bells Beach/Jan Juc. Issues that are common to each locality are identified as municipal priorities.

In general, the MEYP finds that the Surf Coast Shire early years population is well served by the existing service system. But if a single improvement focus were to be chosen, prioritising the roll-out of 15 hours of funded 3 year old kindergarten would not only improve developmental outcomes for children, but also help to mitigate a shortage of affordable childcare.

Unlike many other MEYPs, this plan identifies strategic issues requiring collaboration with other departments and service providers to resolve, rather than operational actions just for the attention of the Early Years team.

Municipal issues/priorities (identified as a high priority in each locality) are:

1. shortage of affordable childcare
2. rollout of funded 3 year old kindergarten (State government initiative)
3. attraction and retention of qualified and experienced early years staff
4. incomplete and unsuitable (for young children) bike and footpath networks
5. underdeveloped and unsuitable (for young children) playgrounds
6. insufficient activities and events for young children
7. limited access to swimming pools and swimming lessons
8. limited information available regarding services and referral pathways
9. risk of increased incidence of domestic abuse and family violence
10. kindergarten services are disconnected and difficult to access and navigate

Unique issues/priorities identified for the Anglesea/Aireys Inlet/Lorne locality are:

- 30% of pre-school children are classified as developmentally 'at risk' or 'vulnerable', and
- lack of affordable housing

'Limited access to General Practitioners' is the sole unique issue identified for the Deans Marsh/Moriac/Winchelsea locality.

Unique issues/priorities identified for the Torquay locality are:

- limited access to General Practitioners
- facilities are inaccessible to young children, and
- insufficient services and programs to support children's health, wellbeing, and development

Unique issues/priorities identified for the Bellbrae/Bells Beach/Jan Juc locality are:

- limited access to General Practitioners
- facilities are inaccessible to young children
- lack of reliable public transport, and
- inappropriate and over development

The following chapter (3), classifies these issues and identifies possible solutions.

- all early years' stakeholders, including the G21 Geelong Region Alliance, the Department of Education and Training, the Department of Health, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, and local families and communities, have parts to play in resolving the issues identified in this report. Whilst Council's overarching responsibility is to:
 - lead the coordination and implementation of the MEYP
 - promote the MEYP to all key stakeholders as a strategic document to inform their annual plans and budgets
 - develop partnerships and encourage stakeholders to commit to the success of the MEYP (including assuming leadership roles where appropriate)
 - speak on the behalf of the community and collaborate with service providers to advocate for needed services and funding, and
 - convene and support an 'Early Years Reference Groups', whose role would be to provide detailed insights and advice, and guide early years planning and development (including MEYP implementation)

Finally, in researching the MEYP, the three things families value most about living in the Surf Coast Shire are community, environment, and lifestyle. Therefore the Council Plan should continue to recognise the importance of these elements - and include appropriate family-friendly strategies to nurture, maintain, and improve all three.

3 Classification of issues and development of responses

Key issues from the research and data section of this report are gathered below.

Responses and their rationale are classified in the following sub-sections:

11. Municipal issues

1. the 'top3 things' identified by community survey are community, environment and lifestyle
2. numerous 2018-22 MEYP actions are uncompleted and must be carried forward
3. insufficient qualified and experienced staff resources to deliver early years services
4. increased incidence of domestic abuse and family violence
5. population changes may affect the estimates in the Surf Coast KISP, triggering an out-of-cycle review

12. Sector issues

1. roll-out funded three year old kindergarten, including
 - introduction of operational efficiencies
 - early childhood workforce
 - infrastructure capacity
2. effective application of School Readiness Funding
3. information sharing and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management reform
4. future expansion of the kindergarten Central Registration and Enrolment Scheme



15. Anglesea/Aireys/Lorne issues

1. shortage of affordable childcare
2. insufficient organised activities and events for children
3. incomplete and unsuitable playgrounds
4. limited access to swimming pools and lessons
5. small early years population and cohort growth, held back by a lack of affordable housing
6. difficulty obtaining service information and referrals
7. 30% of children are classified as developmentally 'at risk' or 'vulnerable'



16. Deans Marsh/Moriac/Winchelsea

1. inequitable access to early years facilities and services
2. level of disadvantage in Winchelsea
3. shortage of affordable childcare
4. limited information and promotion of available services
5. underdeveloped parent education and playgroup programs
6. unsatisfactory communication and collaboration between providers
7. limited access to swimming pools and lessons
8. insufficient organised activities and events for young children
9. shortage of experienced/qualified educators and relievers
10. shortage of general practitioners



17. Torquay issues

1. incomplete and unsuitable bike and footpath network
2. shortage of affordable childcare
3. insufficient organised activities and events for young children
4. 15% of children (and increasing) are classified as developmentally 'at risk' or 'vulnerable'
5. underdeveloped and unsuitable playgrounds
6. limited access to swimming pools and lessons
7. difficulty finding and obtaining service information
8. unsatisfactory communication and collaboration between service and program providers (including primary schools)
9. insufficient services and programs to support the health, wellbeing and development of children
10. insufficient open space maintenance
11. limited access to community facilities for young people
12. shortage of general practitioners



18. Bellbrae/Bells Beach/Jan Juc issues

1. limited access to swimming pools and lessons
2. incomplete and unsuitable bike and footpath network
3. shortage of affordable childcare
4. insufficient local events and activities for children
5. underdeveloped and unsuitable playgrounds
6. over-development (town planning)
7. difficulty obtaining information and referrals regarding services and programs
8. insufficient priority given to environment protection
9. inadequate public transport (including train services)
10. shortage of general practitioners
11. limited access to community facilities for young children
12. forecast early years population decline, influenced by a shortage of affordable housing



4 Municipal Issues

The following issues have a common thread across all localities and throughout the background research and data analysis, and are therefore classified as 'municipal issues', and will be addressed as such:

1. Shortage of affordable childcare
2. Rollout of funded 3 year old kindergarten (State government initiative)
3. Attraction and retention of qualified and experienced early years staff
4. Incomplete and unsuitable (for young children) bike and footpath networks
5. Underdeveloped and unsuitable (for young children) playgrounds
6. Insufficient activities and events for young children
7. Limited access to swimming pools and swimming lessons
8. Limited information available regarding services and referral pathways
9. Risk of increased incidence of domestic abuse and family violence
10. Kindergarten services are disconnected and difficult to access and navigate.

Municipal issue 1 - shortage of affordable childcare

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Work with other agencies and providers to lead the conversation to solve the wider issue of childcare shortage, especially for children under 3 years old	<p>Family Day Care is an effective child care service effective child care that is in demand and does not require capital investment, but its availability is limited by a shortage of providers and educators (amongst other factors). Alternative and accessible child care options including, Occasional Care, may improve the choice and availability for families, especially for children under the age of 3 years.</p> <p>Note both Family Day Care and Occasional Care are managed by the Commonwealth Government with increasing regulations and constraints.</p>	Develop and implement a strategy to increase the availability and capacity of childcare across the Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years service providers Council's role: develop and champion strategy 	2021	Reduction in waiting lists
Establish place based Early Years Reference Groups (EYRG)	In the past place based Early Years Reference Groups representing professionals in the sector met quarterly to problem solve issues facing the local community. These professional networking meetings ceased in 2018 and have been disrupted by COVID.	Set up place based Early Years Reference Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Providers Council's role: facilitate the meetings 	2022	Place based meetings twice a year
Develop a clear understanding of current and future child care needs	<p>A clearer understanding of supply and demand in a changing market will enable further planning and incentivise service providers.</p> <p>It is noted that integrated early years services are favoured by the community and identified as best practice by the sector.</p>	Develop and promote a Childcare Service Plan to quantify, identify, and incentivise further solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare service providers Council's role: develop and promote a Child Care Service Plan 	2023	Council report: 2023

Lag measure: community satisfaction with the availability of affordable childcare $\geq 90\%$

Municipal issue 2 - rollout of funded 3 year old kindergarten

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Accelerate the rollout of funded 3 year old kindergarten	<p>It is acknowledged that an additional year of kindergarten improves developmental outcomes for children (particularly important in the Anglesea/Aireys/Lorne locality and to a lesser extent, Torquay), and additional kindergarten hours will also assist with a shortage of affordable childcare.</p> <p>The State government is progressively rolling out funded 3 year old kindergarten, commencing in the Surf Coast Shire in 2022 with 5 hrs/week/child and increasing to 15 hrs/week/child by 2029 - accelerating this rollout will improve several identified issues</p>	<p>Develop and implement a plan to accelerate the rollout of funded 3 year old kindergarten in the Surf Coast Shire based on demand and financial analysis</p> <p>Promote the benefits of kindergarten for 3 and 4 year olds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DET Kindergarten Service providers <p>Council's role: champion, develop, and facilitate an accelerated rollout plan</p>	2021	Hours of funded 3yo kinder/child: 5hrs by 2022 10hrs by 2023 15hrs by 2025
Foster a culture of flexibility, cooperation, and responsiveness amongst service providers	The Surf Coast Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP) indicates sufficient infrastructure to accommodate 3 year old kindergarten, provided change management activities and practices are undertaken to maximise utilisation	Incorporate solutions into the above plan			
Attract and retain qualified and experienced early years staff	A shortage of qualified and experienced early years staff is an identified issue, the introduction of funded 3 year old kindergarten and additional child care services will exacerbate the problem	Refer to issue 3: 'attraction and retention of qualified and experienced early years staff'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DET Kindergarten Service providers 	2021	Refer to issue 3
Regularly review the Surf Coast Kindergarten Infrastructure and Service Plan (KISP)	The Surf Coast KISP currently indicates sufficient infrastructure to accommodate 3 year old kindergarten, but notes that numerous factors may alter that finding. A KISP for the Surf Coast Shire was developed in 2020.	Review the Surf Coast KISP to ensure the currency of demand estimates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DET Kindergarten service providers <p>Council's role: initiate KISP review</p>	2022	KISP review: 2023

Lag measure: 15 hours of funded 3 year old kinder/child broadly available by 2025

Municipal issue 3 – attraction and retention of qualified and experienced early years staff

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Take maximum advantage of the Department of Education and Training (DET) 'Working together to build Victoria's Early Childhood Education Workforce' strategy and funding	<p>DET acknowledges an existing early years workforce shortage that will be worsened by the rollout of funded 3 year old kindergarten, and in response is developing a broad-reaching strategy to 'support the attraction, retention, and quality of the early childhood workforce' (including \$174M to fast-track early childhood teaching courses, and deliver scholarships and free TAFE training)</p> <p>A workforce shortage is already evident in the Surf Coast Shire and contributing to the top 3 municipal issues identified in this report - collaborating with DET and taking maximum advantage of their funded program could efficiently assist in mitigating the local problem.</p>	<p>Collaborate with DET to promote and take maximum advantage of their program to build workforce capacity</p> <p>EY Management to familiarise with the above Workforce Strategy and promote to workforce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DET • Service providers <p>Council's role: maximise municipal take-up</p>	2021	Extensive local promotion of DET programs and funding
Develop a Sustainable Workforce Plan (SWP) identifying the necessary resources and actions to meet forecast demand	<p>Acknowledging a growing shortage of qualified and experienced staff, a municipal Sustainable Workforce Plan will quantify the local need and identify options and crucial resources necessary to close the gap.</p> <p>The DET 'Working together to build Victoria's Early Childhood Education Workforce' program and funding may assist with resourcing the SWP.</p>	<p>Develop and implement a Sustainable Workforce Plan, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting an early years career in the Surf Coast • supporting students to transition to the workforce • reviewing comparable working conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DET • Service providers <p>Council's role: develop and promote a municipal SWP</p>	2022	Council report: 2022

Lag measure: early years workforce positions filled within 2 months of advertising, by 2025

Municipal issue 4 – incomplete and unsuitable (for young children) bike and footpath networks

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Plan to improve bike and footpath networks	<p>This report identifies numerous shortcomings and issues regarding the existing bike and footpath networks (including connectivity gaps and missing links; insufficient safety features such as traffic calming devices, road crossing controls, and lighting; and a shortage of amenity features such as drinking fountains, and toilets).</p> <p>Council's Engineering Services department are currently developing a 'Safer Cycling Strategy' and reviewing the 'Pathway Strategy', therefore it makes sense to feed the MEYP findings into activities that are already underway</p>	Channel MEYP data and findings into the 'Safer Cycling Strategy' being developed, and the 'Pathway Strategy'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Council <p>Council's role (Engineering Services): strategy development and review</p>	2021	Completed strategies include MEYP and community inputs
Seek guidance and feedback from impacted stakeholders	<p>This report and the supporting community survey data provides some detail regarding the issues and possible solutions to improving Council's bike and footpath networks.</p> <p>However further community engagement is recommended in order to properly understand the specifics.</p> <p>Representative panels have proven to be an effective mechanism for gaining these insights and therefore, impacted stakeholders should be consulted</p>	Community to provide feedback to 'Safer Cycling Strategy' (currently being developed), and the 'Pathway Strategy' (currently under review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Council <p>Council's role: stakeholder engagement</p>	2021	Feedback sought from community

Lag measure: Improvement in community satisfaction with bicycle and footpath networks by 2023

Municipal issue 5 – underdeveloped and unsuitable (for young children) playgrounds

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Plan to improve playgrounds	<p>The MEYP identifies numerous shortcomings and issues regarding existing playgrounds (including a lack of options for younger children, and a shortage of amenities such as shade, toilets, drinking water, and fences (if considered appropriate)).</p> <p>Council's Social Infrastructure Planning department are currently reviewing the 'Playground Strategy', therefore it makes sense to feed the MEYP findings into an activity that's already underway</p>	<p>Channel MEYP data and findings into the review of the 'Playground Strategy' (currently underway)</p> <p>Seek feedback from the Parent Advisory Groups and other impacted stakeholders such as children , youth and community groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Council Parent Advisory Groups <p>Council's role Social Infrastructure Panning community engagement</p>	2021	Strategy review includes MEYP inputs

Lag measure: Improvement in community satisfaction with playgrounds by 2023

Municipal issue 6 – insufficient activities and events for young children

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Develop and deliver a calendar of affordable, organised activities and events for families and children	<p>The MEYP identifies children in the Anglesea/Aireys/Lorne locality (and Torquay to a lesser extent), who are developmentally 'at risk' or 'vulnerable'. Refer to 11.2 'Local priorities - Anglesea/Aireys/Lorne'; identified solution - 'improve availability of affordable activities and events for young children'.</p> <p>In addition, data from both the 'Community engagement' and 'Service provider' surveys identify a shortage of activities and events for children.</p> <p>Collaborating with the community and other agencies to 'own' and deliver a calendar of affordable, organised activities and events for families and children (focussing on the development, health and wellbeing of children) contributes to addressing these issues.</p>	<p>Collaborate with the wider community and other agencies to develop, 'own', and deliver a calendar of affordable organised activities and events for families and children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Early years' service providers Parent Advisory Groups <p>Council's role: facilitate and promote the development of an annual calendar</p>	2022	Issue of an annual calendar of activities and events for families and children

Lag measure: Increasing attendance at scheduled activities and events

Municipal issue 7 – limited access to swimming pools and lessons

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Advance the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre project	<p>Feasibility studies and the funding formula for the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre project have now been confirmed, and Council has endorsed the project's commencement.</p> <p>Although the MEYP identifies other aquatic solutions, the strong and consistent sentiment displayed in community engagement shows support for a new aquatic centre in Torquay.</p>	<p>Deliver the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre project as planned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National government • State government • Council • Community <p>Council's role : project management and funding</p>	2021	Achieve separately identified project milestones
Consider ways to improve access to aquatic facilities for people living outside of Torquay	<p>The MEYP identifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a significant and increasing number of children in the Anglesea/Aireys/Lorne locality who are developmentally 'at risk' or • 'vulnerable' in the physical health and wellbeing domain • 'insufficient activities and events for young children' as a municipal issue (refer above), and • numerous existing private and publicly operated pools either within the municipality or within reasonable commuting distance access to could be improved and promoted <p>It is also noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Winchelsea Swimming Pool is scheduled for renewal in 2023, and • Council's 'Sports Facilities' Business Improvement review identifies numerous options that could be leveraged to improve accessibility 	<p>Maximise community use of privately operated swimming pools</p> <p>Improve access, and develop and promote appropriate programs and lessons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private swimming pool operators <p>Council's role: provide information for community</p>	2021	Increased utilisation of privately operated swimming pools
		<p>Consider relevant Business Improvement review recommendations when scoping the renewal of the Winchelsea Swimming Pool</p>	<p>Council's role: Winchelsea Swimming Pool develop and promote appropriate programs and asset management</p>	2022	Increased utilisation of the Winchelsea Swimming Pool

Lag measure: Increase in the number of children who can competently swim by 2023

Municipal issue 8 – limited information available regarding services and referral pathways

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Encourage the development and growth of productive relationships and partnerships between service providers and community	<p>Both the ‘Community engagement’ and ‘Service provider’ survey results (from all localities), identify the difficulties of discovering information regarding available services, navigating the early years systems, and accessing referral pathways.</p> <p>In most cases, quality information exists, but finding and accessing it is more challenging than it needs to be.</p>	Convene an annual forum of early years’ service providers and professionals (Early Years Reference Group - EYRG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service providers <p>Council’s role : convene plan annual forum</p>	2022	Annual forum
Improve information resources and navigation systems to improve accessibility, and better inform families about available early years services, programs, facilities, and events	The expansion and promotion of Parents Education programs is a recommended solution, it’s noted that these programs have the potential to not only assist with this issue, but also contribute to reducing the incidence of children at developmental risk (refer to chapter 5: Local priorities – Anglesea/Aireys/Lorne).	Review resources, pathways, and navigation systems from a client’s perspective and develop and implement an improvement plan Utilise Council website and software Parent Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service providers <p>Council’s role: map and communicate service pathways</p>	2022	Report to Early Years forum: 2022
Establish and improve referral pathways for connecting families to services and supports				2022	Increased participation in Parent Education programs by 2023
Expand and give greater emphasis to Parent Education programs			<p>Council’s role: expand and promote parent education programs</p>		

Lag measure: Improvement in community satisfaction with access to information and referral pathways by 2023

Municipal issue 9 – risk of increased incidence of domestic abuse and family violence

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
<p>Leverage government reforms and priority areas to focus attention and resources on addressing increasing rates of family violence.</p> <p>Council policies, procedures and practice effectively identify, assess and manage family violence and child wellbeing and safety risk</p> <p>Develop a shared understanding (both internally and externally) of family violence and its causes.</p>	<p>Family Violence Reforms</p> <p>The Victorian Government's Family Violence Reform Rolling Action Plan sets out key priority areas to guide the delivery of the Roadmap to Reform: Strong Families Safe Children platform. Current priority areas include the implementation of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) framework and Information Sharing Schemes, and primary prevention of family violence. It makes strategic sense to leverage this momentum to focus attention and resources on addressing this issue.</p> <p>Family Violence and the COVID-19 Pandemic</p> <p>An increasing body of evidence points to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on family violence. Prior to 2020, family incidents reported to police were increasing both locally and state wide.</p> <p>In the Surf Coast Shire, Council Officers have more recently witnessed a rise in non-physical violence and coercive control behaviours. This concerning trend has also been illustrated in national data, suggesting that for many the pandemic coincided with the onset or escalation of violence and abuse.</p>	<p>Embed MARAM framework and Information Sharing Schemes into Council policies, procedures and practices, and champion its use across the sector</p> <p>Focus on primary prevention strategies that address the drivers of family violence through embedding evidence-based resources into programs</p> <p>Present MEYP data and findings to groups responsible for developing/reviewing documents such as Gender Equity Action Plan, Surf Coast Access and Inclusion Plan.</p> <p>Identify and access family violence learning and development programs to ensure early childhood professionals know how to respond to, and reduce harm related to, family violence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community DHHS Service providers <p>Council's role: champion responses to increased rates of family violence, through promotion of primary prevention strategies and the use of the MARAM framework and Information Sharing Scheme by service providers in the municipality</p>	2021	<p>MARAM framework embedded in processes and procedures</p> <p>Primary prevention resources utilised.</p>

Lag measure: Reduced incidence of domestic abuse and family violence by 2022

Municipal issue 10 – kindergarten services are disconnected and difficult to access and navigate

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Streamline the enrolment process	<p>Both the ‘Community engagement’ and ‘Service provider’ survey results (from all localities), indicate that kindergarten services are disconnected and difficult to access and navigate.</p> <p>The Surf Coast Shire has received funding to implement an online Kindergarten Central Registration and Enrolment Scheme for the kindergartens it operates.</p>	Online Parent portal software upgrades to make enrolment and communication easier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Council’s role : advocate for improvements enrolment systems and parent portal 	2022	Annual parent survey
Improve communication channels and messaging	Communication and information regarding services is required to be clear and accessible across all channels	Review website content and access to information across a number of channels			

Lag measure: Improvement in community satisfaction regarding kindergarten access and system navigation by 2023

9 What this means for council and key stakeholders

9.1 All stakeholders

It must again be emphasised that all early years' stakeholders, including service providers, the G21 Geelong Region Alliance, the Department of Education and Training, the Department of Health, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, and local families and communities, have parts to play in resolving the issues identified in this report.

In addition, service providers (including Council) are encouraged to use the information available in the MEYP to develop service plans, annual budgets, and to plan for the future.

9.2 Council's role

Council has the principal responsibility to:

- lead the coordination and implementation of the MEYP within available resources
- promote the MEYP to all key stakeholders as a strategic document to inform their annual plans and budgets
- develop partnerships and encourage stakeholders to commit to the success of the MEYP (including assuming leadership roles where appropriate)
- speak on the behalf of the community and collaborate with service providers to advocate for needed services and funding, and
- convene and support an 'Early Years Representative Committee', whose role would be to provide detailed insights and advice, and guide early years planning and development (including MEYP implementation)

9.3 Challenges

Challenges associated with resolving the identified issues centre around resourcing.

Many of the identified solutions may require future budget allocations and external funding and will need to be planned accordingly – the dates identified with the issues are therefore indicative and may need to be revised.

In light of this, Council will need to review how it can best lead the sector to address the challenges.

A Business Improvement style review is recommended as the next step to Council determining its future leadership role and the mix of early years services it provides.

Appendix One - LOCALITY PRIORITIES

5 LOCALITY PRIORITIES - ANGLESEA/AIREYS INLET/LORNE

The following specific issues are a high priority for the Anglesea/Aireys/Lorne locality:

1. 30% of children are classified as developmentally 'at risk', or 'vulnerable'
2. Lack of affordable housing (prohibiting for young families)

Anglesea/Aireys Inlet/Lorne issue 1 – 30% of children are classified as developmentally 'at risk', or 'vulnerable'

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Improve access to affordable childcare	Refer to Municipal issue 1: shortage of affordable childcare. The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) measures the development of children in their first year of school. Early influences in a child's life, particularly child care, kindergarten, and other socialising activities and events may have a positive effect on their outcomes (and AEDC classification)				
Expedite the rollout of funded 3 year old kindergarten	Refer to Municipal issue 2: rollout of funded 3 year old kindergarten. The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) measures the development of children in their first year of school. Early influences in a child's life, particularly child care, kindergarten, and other socialising activities and events may have a positive effect on their outcomes (and AEDC classification)				
Improve availability of affordable activities and events for young children	Refer to Municipal issue 6: insufficient activities and events for young children. The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) measures the development of children in their first year of school. Early influences in a child's life, particularly child care, kindergarten, and other socialising activities and events may have a positive effect on their outcomes (and AEDC classification)				
Work with service providers and agencies to promote the importance of the early years	Childhood is the stage of life where opportunities to intervene can have the greatest impacts. Understanding and belief in this philosophy must be shared by service providers, communities, families, and carers. Refer to Municipal issue 8, and the recommendation to convene an annual 'Early Years forum'	Develop and implement a plan to promote the importance of the early years	Early years service providers Council's role: refer to early years forum	2022	Consistent messaging by all early years service providers
Focus School Readiness Funding (SRF) on this locality	The State government provides needs based School Readiness Funding to kindergartens to support learning and development outcomes. SRF plans should be aligned to respond to this issue	Align SRF plans to respond to domains where children are most at risk	DET Kindergarten providers Council's role: liaise with kindergartens to ensure correct alignment of SRF plans	2022	2022 SRF plans align with domains where children are most at risk

Lag measure: <15% of Anglesea/Aireys/Lorne children classified as developmentally 'at risk' or 'vulnerable' by 2023

Appendix One - LOCALITY PRIORITIES

Anglesea/Aireys Inlet/Lorne issue 2 – lack of affordable housing (prohibiting for young families)

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Recognise and address the lack of affordable housing in the Council Plan	<p>The lack of affordable housing is evident all along the coast, and is most pronounced in this locality. In this context, the affordable housing shortage contributes to an ageing population, societal imbalance, and effectively a cap on the early years population, which in turn limits service development and availability.</p> <p>The lack of affordable housing adversely affects entire communities, not just the early years, and it's for this reason that the issue should be recognised and addressed by the Council Plan.</p>	Refer MEYP findings to, and recognise and address the lack of affordable housing in the Council Plan	State government Property owners Developers Chambers of Commerce Council	2021	Issue identified and addressed in the 2021 Council Plan

Lag measure: improved availability of affordable housing by 2023

Appendix One - LOCALITY PRIORITIES

6 LOCALITY PRIORITIES – DEANS MARSH/MORIAC/WINCHELSEA

'Limited access to General Practitioners' is the sole unique issue identified for the Deans Marsh/Moriac/Winchelsea locality.

Deans Marsh/Moriac/Winchelsea issue 1 – limited access to General Practitioners

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Work with the G21 Primary Care Partnership (G21 PCP) to develop a plan to attract and retain General Practitioners (GPs)	A shortage of GPs is possibly a municipal issue, but was not identified as such in the Anglesea/Aireys/Lorne locality. A shortage of GPs affects the entire community, including families and the early years. The G21 Primary Care Partnership exists to improve primary care outcomes in the G21 region and is best placed to address this issue.	Develop and implement a plan to attract and retain General Practitioners	G21 Primary Care Partnership Council' role: refer issue to G21 PCP	2021	Development of a plan to attract and retain General Practitioners by 2022

Lag measure: Improvement in availability of General Practitioners by 2023

Appendix One - LOCALITY PRIORITIES

7 LOCALITY PRIORITIES - TORQUAY

The following specific issues are a high priority for the Torquay locality:

1. Limited access to General Practitioners
2. Facilities are inaccessible to young children
3. Insufficient services and programs to support children's health, wellbeing, and development

Torquay issue 1 – limited access to General Practitioners

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Work with the G21 Primary Care Partnership (G21 PCP) to develop a plan to attract and retain General Practitioners (GPs)	Refer to Deans Marsh/Moriac/Winchelsea issue 1: limited access to GPs. Work with the G21 Primary Care Partnership (G21 PCP) to develop a plan to attract and retain General Practitioners (GPs)				

Lag measure: Improvement in availability of General Practitioners by 2023

Torquay issue 2 – facilities are inaccessible to young children

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Plan to improve access to facilities for young children	The MEYP finds that some facilities in Torquay are inaccessible for young children. This needs to be considered when the Access and Inclusion Plan is developed for the Surf Coast Shire.	Channel MEYP data and findings into the review of the Surf Coast Access and Inclusion Plan	Community Council Facility owners Council's role :develop the Access and Inclusion Plan	2021	Strategy review includes MEYP and EYRG inputs

Appendix One - LOCALITY PRIORITIES

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Seek guidance and feedback from an 'Early Years Reference Group (EYRG)'	<p>This report and the supporting community survey data provides some detail regarding facility access for young children.</p> <p>However further community engagement is recommended in order to properly understand the specifics.</p> <p>Representative panels have proven to be an effective mechanism for gaining these insights and therefore, the formation of an 'Early Years Reference Group' is recommended to consider this and other 'issues'.</p> <p>Refer to Municipal issues 4, 5, and 6</p>	Convene an EYRG, whose role would be to inform and advise early years planning and development (including MEYP implementation)	Community Council Council's role: convene and support EYRG	2022	EYRG formation: 2022

Lag measure: Improvement in access to facilities for young children by 2023

Torquay issue 3 – insufficient services and programs to support children’s health, wellbeing and development

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Clarify the extent of this issue and develop an appropriate response.	<p>This issue has arisen from the community engagement survey for the Torquay locality, however the service and facilities overview in the same chapter contradicts the survey results. 'Insufficient activities and events for young children' and 'limited information available regarding services and referral pathways' are separately identified as municipal issues and may be the underlying issues.</p> <p>Further analysis is required to determine the extent of this Torquay issue</p>	Meet with EYRG to determine the extent of this issue and develop an appropriate response	Early Years service providers Community Council's role: facilitate an appropriate response	2022	Analysis undertaken: 2022
Seek guidance and feedback from an 'Early Years Reference Group (EYRG)'	<p>This report and the supporting community survey data provides detail regarding services and programs that support children’s health, wellbeing and development.</p> <p>However further community engagement is recommended in order to properly understand the specifics.</p> <p>Representative panels have proven to be an effective mechanism for gaining these insights and therefore, the formation of an 'Early Years Representative Committee' is recommended to consider this and other 'issues'.</p> <p>Refer to Municipal issues 4, 5, and 6</p>	Convene an EYRG, whose role would be to inform and advise early years planning and development (including MEYP implementation)	Community Council Council's role: convene and support EYRC	2022	EYRG formation: 2022

Lag measure: Improvement in community satisfaction with playgrounds by 2023

Appendix One - LOCALITY PRIORITIES

8 LOCALITY PRIORITIES – BELLBRAE/BELLS BEACH/JAN JUC

The following specific issues are a high priority for the Bellbrae/Bells/Jan Juc locality:

1. limited access to General Practitioners
2. facilities are inaccessible to young children
3. lack of reliable public transport, and
4. inappropriate and over development

Bellbrae/Bells Beach/Jan Juc issue 1 – limited access to General Practitioners

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Work with the G21 Primary Care Partnership (G21 PCP) to develop a plan to attract and retain General Practitioners (GPs)	Refer to Deans Marsh/Moriac/Winchelsea issue 1: limited access to GPs. Work with the G21 Primary Care Partnership (G21 PCP) to develop a plan to attract and retain General Practitioners (GPs)				

Lag measure: Improvement in availability of General Practitioners by 2023

Bellbrae/Bells Beach/Jan Juc issue 2 – facilities are inaccessible to young children

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Plan to improve access to facilities for young children	The MEYP finds that some facilities in Bellbrae/Bells Beach/Jan Juc are inaccessible for young children. Council's Community Strengthening department are about to review the Surf Coast Access and Inclusion Plan, therefore it makes sense to feed the MEYP findings into an activity that's already underway	Channel MEYP data and findings into the review of the Surf Coast Access and Inclusion Plan	Community Council Facility owners Council's role (Community Strengthening): strategy review	2022	Strategy review includes MEYP and EYRG inputs

Appendix One - LOCALITY PRIORITIES

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Seek guidance and feedback from an 'Early Years Reference Group (EYRG)'	<p>This report and the supporting community survey data provides some detail regarding facility access for young children.</p> <p>However further community engagement is recommended in order to properly understand the specifics.</p> <p>Representative panels have proven to be an effective mechanism for gaining these insights and therefore, the formation of an 'Early Years Reference Group is recommended to consider this and other 'issues'.</p> <p>Refer to Municipal issues 4, 5, and 6</p>	Convene an EYRG, whose role would be to inform and advise early years planning and development (including MEYP implementation)	Community Council Council's role: convene and support EYRG	2022	EYRG formation: 2022

Lag measure: Improvement in access to facilities for young children by 2023

Bellbrae/Bells Beach/Jan Juc issue 3 – lack of reliable public transport

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Recognise and respond to the lack of reliable public transport in the Council Plan	<p>A lack of reliable public transport is evident all along the coast, but is only recognised as an issue in this locality.</p> <p>The lack of reliable public transport particularly affects families and children but is an issue for the entire community.</p>	Refer MEYP findings to the Age Friendly Transport Plan, and to the Council Plan	State government Bus operators Community Council's role: advocate for improved public transport	2022	Issue identified and addressed in the 2021 Council Plan

Lag measure: Improved public transport by 2023

Appendix One - LOCALITY PRIORITIES

Bellbrae/Bells Beach/Jan Juc issue 4 – inappropriate and over-development

Recommended solution(s)	Rationale	Strategy/action	Key stakeholders	Start date	Lead measure(s)
Council Plan inclusion	Although repeatedly mentioned in survey results, this issue is not directly relevant for the early years, other than ensuring that the Council Plan continues to value community, environment, and lifestyle (priorities identified by the MEYP)	Refer findings to Council Plan development	Community State government Council	2021	Issue identified and addressed in the 2021 Council Plan

Lag measure: Appropriate planning controls

9 WHAT THIS MEANS FOR COUNCIL AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS

9.1 All stakeholders

It must be emphasised that all early years' stakeholders, including service providers, the G21 Geelong Region Alliance, the Department of Education and Training, the Department of Health, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, and local families and communities, have parts to play in resolving the issues identified in this report.

In addition, service providers (including Council) are encouraged to use the information available in the MEYP to develop service plans, annual budgets, and to plan for the future.

9.2 Council's role

Council has the principal responsibility to:

- lead the coordination and implementation of the MEYP within available resources
- promote the MEYP to all key stakeholders as a strategic document to inform their annual plans and budgets
- develop partnerships and encourage stakeholders to commit to the success of the MEYP (including assuming leadership roles where appropriate)
- speak on the behalf of the community and collaborate with service providers to advocate for needed services and funding, and
- convene and support place based 'Early Years Reference Groups, whose role would be to provide detailed insights and advice, and guide early years planning and development (including MEYP implementation)

9.3 Challenges

Challenges associated with resolving the identified issues centre around resourcing.

Many of the identified solutions may require future budget allocations and external funding and will need to be planned accordingly – the dates identified with the issues are therefore indicative and may need to be revised.

In light of this, Council will need to review how it can best lead the sector to address the challenges.

A Business Improvement style review is recommended as the next step to Council determining its future leadership role and the mix of early years services it provides.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH and SUPPORTING DATA

10 EARLY YEARS PLANNING

10.1 What is a Municipal Early Years Plan (MEYP)?

MEYPs were formalised by the Municipal Association of Victoria in 2006 to guide a whole-of-community, whole-of-system approach to building community strength and addressing the underlying causes of inequity and vulnerability of children and families.

By definition, a MEYP:

- is a local area plan that provides a strategic direction for the development and coordination of early years programs, activities and other local community development processes that impact on children and their families
- engages and communicates with local communities
- acts as a catalyst for consistent multi-agency planning across a municipality - where all local partners work towards agreed outcomes within their respective roles
- encompasses the universal, targeted and intensive service systems, as well as broader programs and activities such as health promotion and environmental planning
- considers new and emerging programs funded by the state government of the day
- delivers improved social and economic outcomes for the community, and
- identifies council's leadership role across early years programs (not just those activities directly delivered by council).

A MEYP is NOT an action plan solely for Council, but rather a reference document for all local agencies and organisations that impact on the journey of a child.

A MEYP is not a statutory requirement.

10.2 Surf Coast Shire MEYP

The Surf Coast Shire Council acknowledges the crucial importance of adopting an effective and relevant MEYP and therefore, further to the above points, the Surf Coast Shire MEYP has been designed to:

- focus on the life journey of children 0-9 years of age
- be place based (focussing on 4 'localities')
- hear and understand community needs and aspirations for the early years
- consider sector developments and opportunities
- develop partnerships with key stakeholders around key issues that our children and families are faced with on a regular basis, and
- plan for infrastructure development that supports early years including public places and parks

Once adopted, Council will play the lead role in the promotion and coordination of the Surf Coast Shire MEYP and will:

- ensure that all relevant stakeholders and partners are committed to the success of the MEYP and its objectives, and
- speak on the behalf and in partnership with the community and service providers to advocate for services to be provided locally for those who need them

10.3 Report structure and development methodology

The following graphic illustrates the methodology used to develop the Surf Coast Shire MEYP, and describes the report structure:



10.4 Community engagement

Strong community engagement informed the development of the MEYP.

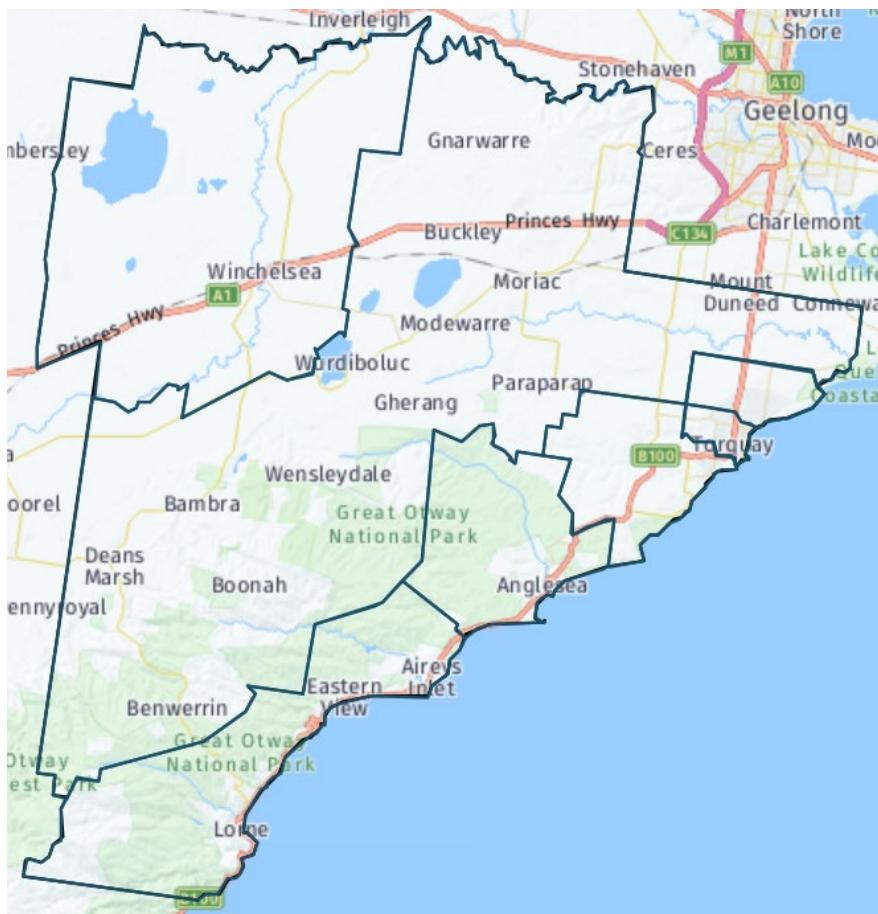
Parent/guardian and service provider surveys were conducted during the latter months of 2020. Survey links were direct emailed to parents/guardians with a child receiving any of the services listed in this report, and to service providers. Survey links were also posted on Council websites, and advertised in print and social media. Kindergarten children drew pictures of what's special to them about the surf coast. Disengaged, vulnerable, and disadvantaged families were directly engaged by service staff.

As a result, 298 parent/guardian, and 27 service provider surveys were returned, representing return rates of approximately 20% and 50% respectively. These return rates provide for a high level of confidence in the accuracy of the data collected (95% confidence of a +/-5% margin of error).

Survey results have been filtered by locality, and are comprehensively represented in those sections of the report.

It's believed that although COVID-19 restrictions significantly delayed the community engagement phase of this project and dictated its predominantly on-line nature, they did not adversely affect the reach or accuracy of the data.

11 ABOUT THE SURF COAST SHIRE



11.1 Location

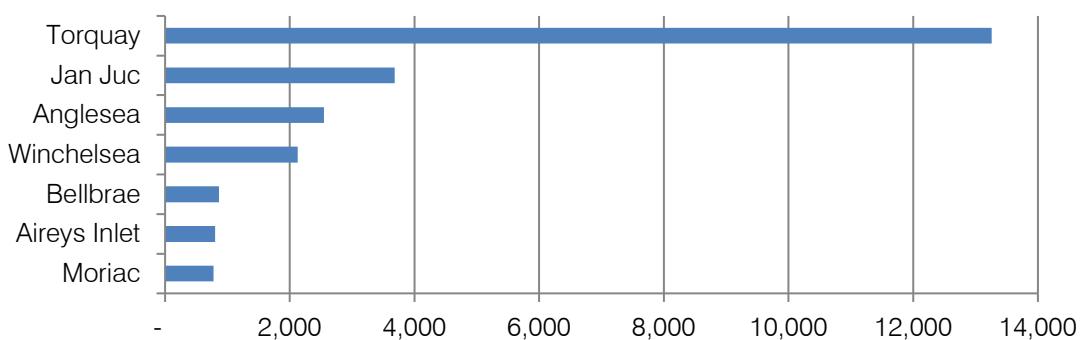
The Surf Coast Shire, with its beaches, bushland and rural environment, is located in south-western Victoria, 120km from Melbourne, 21km south of Geelong and close to the Geelong Ring Road. It is an appealing destination for holidaymakers and international visitors, or those looking to make a permanent sea change.

Surf Coast townships have a keen sense of community, unique identities, and a strong desire to protect and nurture the environment. There is also a significant rural population including farming and rural-based residential communities.

11.2 Population

The Surf Coast Shire continues to be one of the fastest growing municipalities in Victoria, with the permanent population forecast to rise from 33,381 in 2020 to 45,717 by 2036 (forecast.id March 2020). The populations of the main towns are shown below:

Township populations



The combined populations of Torquay and Jan Juc account for almost 60% of the Shire's population.

The greatest population growth in the Shire over the past 20 years has been focused in Torquay and Jan Juc. While most of the Shire's growth in housing development is expected to continue in Torquay, particularly to the north and west of the township, Winchelsea is recognised as the secondary growth centre within the Shire, with residential dwelling numbers forecast to increase by 43% by 2036.

Ongoing population growth in the Shire is based predominantly on two factors – the attractiveness of a coastal lifestyle to young families, and the significant demand from retirees moving from Melbourne and Geelong.

Managing anticipated growth in the permanent population, as well as the ongoing temporary increases in populations during peak periods, is critical due to the impact such growth will have on local communities, infrastructure and environments.

11.3 Change in demographics

The influx of more affluent residents, including 'sea changers' migrating from Melbourne, has seen the socioeconomic landscape of the Shire change considerably over the years. With more people in the highest income quartile – and fewer in the lowest – the Surf Coast Shire has become one of the least disadvantaged municipalities in Victoria. However, this Shire-wide result masks smaller areas of disadvantage. Similarly, rising house prices and decreases in affordable rentals limit the opportunity for young families to move to or live in the Shire.

11.4 Age composition

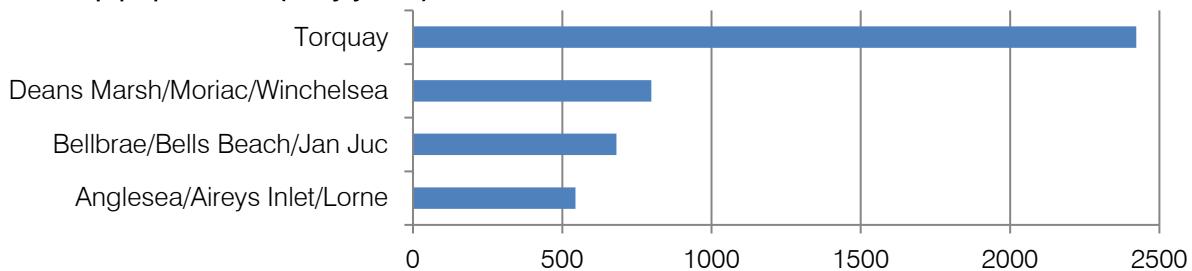
The age distribution in the Shire is unusual for a regional municipality, encompassing strong family growth as well as a higher than average ageing population (note that the smaller coastal towns attract fewer families and are ageing more rapidly). This distribution presents an opportunity for intergenerational interaction and for providing places that meet both segments of the community's needs - whether through play space design, or community facilities that offer services for both ageing and the early years.

Generally, communities with a good cross-section of ages are able to maintain a broader range of services and facilities. Cross-generational support and volunteering is also strengthened.

11.5 Early years population

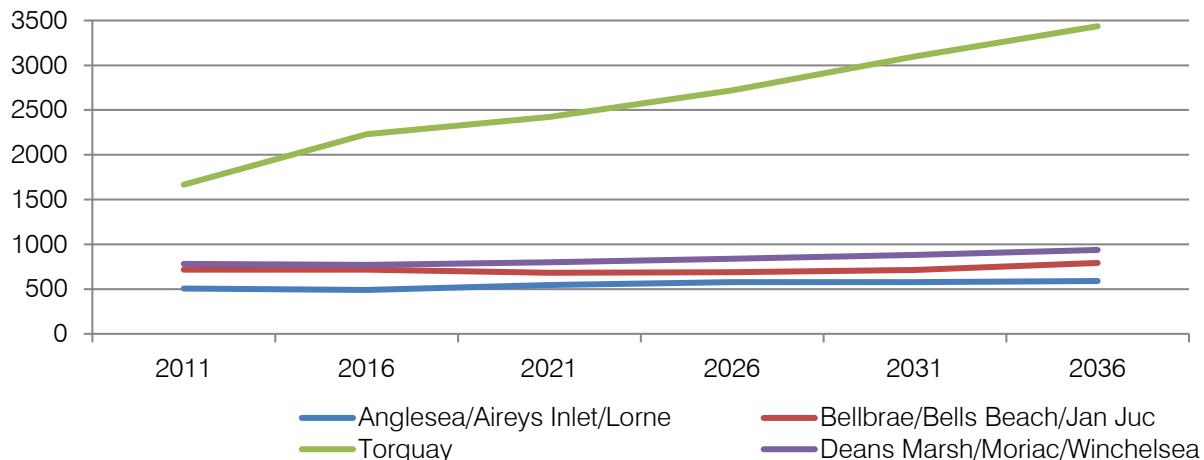
In 2019, there were 4,447 children aged 0 to 9 years living in the Surf Coast Shire, distributed as follows:

Township populations (early years)



There are 2,376 children aged between 0 to 9 years living in Torquay, accounting for 15.0% of the population. This large number significantly influences the municipal average, raising the figure for early years children in the Surf Coast Shire to 13.3% of the population.

Forecast early years population growth by area



Surf Coast's early years population is forecast to continue to increase, driven by very strong growth in Torquay, while the number of young children will remain mostly static in other areas.

Issues regarding population demographics are specifically addressed in the 'locality' sections of this report.

11.6 Family composition

The average number of children per Surf Coast family is 1.9 (for families with children). The composition of Surf Coast families compares to state and national averages as follows:

Family composition	Surf Coast		Victoria		Australia	
	Nr	%		%		%
Couple family without children	3,205	41.1		36.5		37.8
Couple family with children	3,685	47.2		46.3		44.7
One parent family	842	10.8		15.3		15.8
Other family	71	0.9		1.8		1.7
Total	7,803					

Compared to state and national averages, the Surf Coast Shire has a statistically significant:

- greater number of resident families without children, and
- lesser number of one parent families

11.7 Education

Preschool and primary school enrolments in the Surf Coast Shire (as a percentage of the early years population) compare to state and national averages as follows:

Education	Surf Coast (S)		Victoria		Australia	
	nr	%	nr (000)	%	nr (000)	%
Preschool	594	17.6%	95	16.8%	348	15.3%
Primary - Government	2,001	59.1%	314	55.7%	1,315	57.8%
Primary - Catholic	494	14.6%	103	18.2%	381	16.7%
Primary - other	295	8.7%	52	9.2%	231	10.2%
	3,384		564		2,275	

Public primary school enrolments are noticeably higher than the state and national averages, pointing to a sparsity of private school options (only available in Torquay).

Surf Coast Shire's pre-school enrolments are higher than the state and national averages, reflecting a younger cohort than average.

11.8 Developmental health and wellbeing of children starting school

The Australian government's Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) measures the development of children in Australia in their first year of full-time school. Data is collected and reported across the following 5 key domains:



Physical health and wellbeing - children's physical readiness for the school day, physical independence and gross and fine motor skills

Social competence - children's overall social competence, responsibility and respect, approach to learning and readiness to explore new things

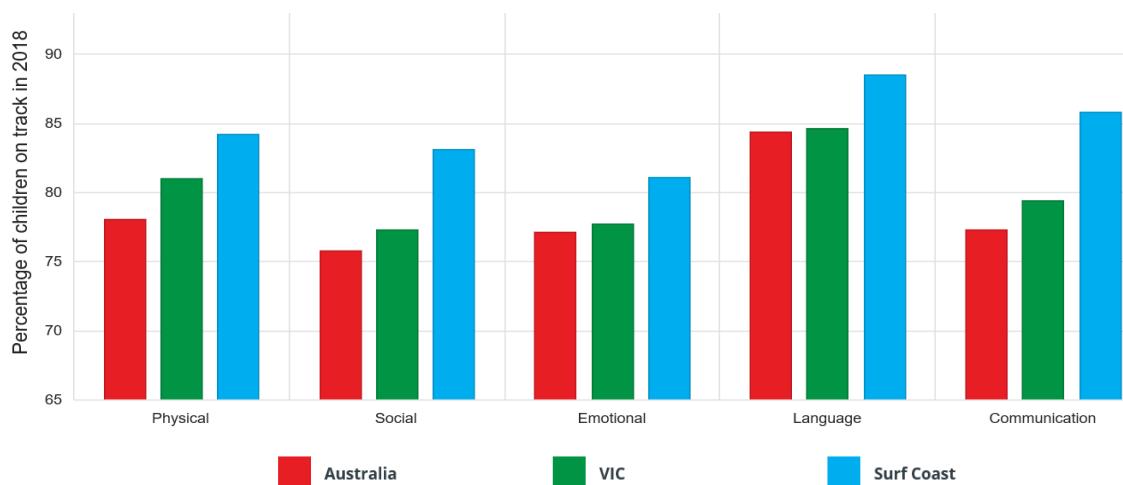
Emotional maturity - children's pro-social and helping behaviours and absence of anxious and fearful behaviour, aggressive behaviour and hyper-activity and inattention

Language and cognitive skills (school based) - children's basic literacy, advanced literacy, basic numeracy and interest in literacy, numeracy and memory

Communication skills and general knowledge - children's communication skills and general knowledge based on broad developmental competencies and skills measured in the school context

Children 'on track' in 2018

The following chart shows that the percentage of Surf Coast children who were developmentally on track in 2018, is significantly greater than the State and National averages across all 5 key domains:



But these good overall results hide significantly poorer local outcomes, particularly in the Anglesea-Aireys-Lorne area. This issue is addressed specifically in the 'Anglesea-Aireys-Lorne' section of this report.

11.9 Section 3 issues

No issues are identified, instead, this section provides context and a municipal overview, details and priorities are identified in the 'locality' sections of this report.

12 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

12.1 Community engagement survey results - top 3 things

Community engagement conducted during the latter months of 2020 identified the following top 3 things that make the Surf Coast Shire are great place to live in now:

Anglesea-Aireys-Lorne	Deans Marsh-Moriac-Winchelsea	Torquay	Bellbrae-Jan Juc
Beach	Beach	Beach	Beach
Community	Community	Community	Community
Natural environment	Lifestyle	Natural environment	Lifestyle

The top 3 things identified in each locality are remarkably similar - Council has a clear responsibility for maintaining 'community' outcomes and a shared responsibility with other agencies for maintaining environment and lifestyle outcomes.

12.2 Superceded MEYP

Outstanding items from the 2018-22 Surf Coast Municipal Early Years Plan are as follows (the greyed out rows signify ongoing actions that have become operational matters and no longer need to be represented in the MEYP):

Key focus areas and related actions	Progress/comment
Partnerships - We will:	
Maternal and Child Health	
Collaborate with DHHS on initiatives such as roll out of Family Violence Reforms (including Family Violence and Child Information Sharing Schemes, Multi Agency Risk and Assessment Management Framework) and implementation of Sleep Settling Model of Care	Carry forward into new plan
Continue partnership with Carrington Health to support ongoing delivery and funding for Baby Makes 3	Ongoing, operational
Collaborate with local health services (ie. Barwon Health, Colac Area Health, Hesse Health and Great Ocean Road Health) to ensure timely and appropriate service delivery to families	Ongoing, operational
Continue to work closely with Barwon Child Youth and Family to provide flexible, responsive services to clients (eg. Early Childhood Early Intervention, family support, smalltalk supported playgroups)	Ongoing, operational
Kindergarten	
Liaise with Department of Education and Training to deliver funded three-year-old kindergarten in 2022	Roll out ongoing - carry forward into new plan
Build connections between early years managers related to securing School Readiness funding in 2021	Ongoing, carry forward into new plan
Early Years Community Development	
Work with Barwon Child Youth and Family to facilitate more supported playgroups across Surf Coast	Ongoing, carry forward into new plan
Facilitate connections between our township-based early years reference groups	Ongoing, carry forward into new plan
Strengthen relationships with Integrated Family Services providers to improve outcomes for families experiencing vulnerabilities	Ongoing, carry forward into new plan
Promote community partnerships, focused on a mix of flexible services, via the availability of accessible spaces at KMCC and Torquay Children's Hub	Ongoing, carry forward into new plan

Key focus areas and related actions	Progress/comment
<p>Build a partnership with Barwon Child, Youth & Family (BCYF) to deliver a Place Based Response in Torquay in 2020. This would be delivered by a Child and Family Practitioner, funded through BCYF.</p>	Completed for Torquay, expand into other towns (and share relevant data)
<p>The concept of Integrated Family Services (IFS) Community Hub (CH) Drop-in Services is aligned with recommendations of the Roadmap for Reform to provide visible, accessible services in local communities which are responsive to the needs of children, young people and families. IFS CH Drop-in Services provide an information and referral service for families experiencing challenges and requiring support with parenting issues</p>	
Programs and infrastructure - We will:	
Maternal and Child Health	
Review and monitor DHHS Sleep Settling Model of Care	Ongoing, operational
Kindergarten	
Develop and implement a plan to deliver funded three-year-old kindergarten in 2021	Ongoing planning underway - deliver in 2022
Upgrade play spaces by consulting and working with kindergarten parent advisory groups	Ongoing, carry forward into new plan
Re-assess the session models offered in consultation with the families utilising the service	Ongoing, operational
Early Years Community Development	
Lead and facilitate participation in Children's Week across Surf Coast	Ongoing, operational
Investigate ways of enhancing our existing programs (eg installing Bush Kindergarten fire pits)	Ongoing, operational
Thriving in a changing world - We will:	
Care Programs (Family Day Care, Occasional Care)	
Improve education and care options in smaller communities by promoting recruitment of Family Day Care Educators in Anglesea, Aireys Inlet, Fairhaven and Moriac	Ongoing, carry forward into new plan
Early Years Community Development	
Advocate for gender equity and participate in working groups focused on preventing violence against women and children	Ongoing, carry forward into new plan
Promote the quality of our early year's education, care and parent education programs via a marketing plan	Ongoing, operational
Review our existing services and introduce changes (eg all-day kindergarten sessions) that meet changing family needs	Ongoing, operational
Support children's development and empower parents/carers by enabling access and participation in programs focused on helping them to thrive (eg supported play groups, HIPPY - Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters, smalltalk)	Ongoing, carry forward into new plan
Promote opportunities for intergenerational learning and support via programs that enable children to engage with older citizens in the community	Ongoing, carry forward into new plan
<p>Items identified as 'Ongoing, operational' will be delivered as routine business activities and will not be carried over as priorities in this new MEYP.</p>	

12.3 Operational risk register

The following early years risks are identified in the Surf Coast Shire Enterprise Risk Register (19 April 2021 amendment):

Ref	Risk type	Risk description	Risk consequence	Inherent rating	Current rating	Residual rating	Existing control
48	Operational	Maintaining a high quality and compliant early years service that meets community needs	EY services don't meet community needs. Fines and penalties. Loss of reputation and increased cost	8	3	3	Regular review. Compliant processes and procedures. Internal and external audit
75	Operational	Inadequate infrastructure for the provision of early years services	Inability of children to access education and care. Waiting lists for child care services	8	6	6	Lobby and advocate. Review KISP in 2023. Apply for RDAP and State Children's Capital Program funding. Monitor birth rates and demand. Monitor changes to relevant Government policies
148	Operational	Availability of qualified, trained and experienced early years staff	Inability to provide required service levels	10	6	6	Monitor application numbers and birth rates to ensure appropriate staff numbers. Recruitment strategy/workforce planning including traineeships and scholarships
140	Strategic	Failure to report or protect a child from abuse or neglect	Failure to report or protect is a criminal offence	25	16	12	Self assessment of Council activities

The risk of availability of qualified, trained and experienced early years staff (Ref 148), is a current and real risk experienced by all service providers (public, community and private), and intensified by the introduction of funded 3 year old kindergarten.

The risk of inadequate infrastructure (Ref 75) is found to be currently not applicable - refer to the Surf Coast Shire Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan.

The risk of maintaining high quality and compliant early years services that meet community needs (Ref 48), is ongoing and operational and is not specifically addressed in this report.

Similarly, failure to report or protect a child from abuse or neglect (Ref 140), is an ongoing strategic risk and is not addressed in this report.

12.4 Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP)

The Victorian Government is committed to providing 15 hours of funded kindergarten for every 3 year old by 2029, but this pledge will require a large expansion across the State.

Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plans

To provide clarity across the sector and to prioritise preparations, the Department of Education and Training (DET) has invited all Local Government Areas to agree on a municipal Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP).

Each KISP provides supply and demand estimates for 3 and 4 year old kindergarten places against existing enrolment capacity. Kindergarten providers can use KISP estimates to inform their plans to expand programs, establish new services, or invest in new or extended facilities – the Government will use KISP estimates to plan for future co-investments.

Co-investment

The Government wants to co-invest in kindergarten projects at the right time, and while a KISP is not a funding document and doesn't define required infrastructure projects or commit any party to funding specific projects, it is expected that future investment requests will align with the relevant KISP.

Where there is an agreed KISP, providers seeking co-investments through the Building Blocks Capacity Building stream must refer to, and align their proposed project with the infrastructure need identified in the KISP.

Surf Coast Shire KISP

3 year old funded kindergarten will be introduced progressively in the Surf Coast Shire commencing in 2022 when 5 hours per child per week is made available. Based on the modelled rollout which assumes the introduction of numerous operational efficiencies, the Surf Coast KISP

forecasts that unmet demand (and therefore infrastructure expansion), will not materialise until 2029, and then in the Torquay and Winchelsea Statistical Areas (7 unmet places in each). In the meantime, it's recommended that any Building Block grant applications should focus on the 'Improvement' and 'Inclusion' streams of the fund.

Note that the Surf Coast KISP may be reviewed in 2023, or soon if there's been a change that significantly affects the estimates.

12.5 Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 is a significant health crisis which has resulted in major social and economic disruption across the world.

Demographics

In Australia, the closure of borders (both external and internal) will have impacts on the size and distribution of future population growth. At a local level, the impacts on population growth and demographics outcomes will be felt differently.

Forecast.ID predicts:

- a negative impact on local jobs, resident vulnerability, and birth rates (generalising that peri-urban areas with high levels of fertility and forecast births will be more impacted than other areas), offset by
- a positive impact on intrastate migration - as more flexible working conditions allow families to prioritise lifestyle and decide to work remotely from their former holiday homes (absentee property ownership on the Surf Coast is about 40%, providing ample potential for this outcome, notwithstanding the rising costs of housing)

An unusual increase in enrolments in Lorne and Anglesea kindergartens suggests an increase in families working from former holiday homes.

It must be noted that if this trend continues, the estimates made in the abovementioned KISP may change significantly and trigger an out-of-cycle review of the KISP.

Family violence

Victorian crime statistics suggest a link between the COVID pandemic (social isolation and financial difficulties) and a significant increase in the incidence of family violence, based on trends over the past five years.

In the Surf Coast Shire, Council Officers have witnessed a rise in coercive control behaviours, such as limiting access to money, and monitoring communication and activity - giving the perpetrator power over their partner. Whilst not a crime in Australia, this behaviour can be a warning sign for domestic abuse and family violence.

12.6 Municipal issues

1. the 'top 3 things' identified by community survey are community, environment and lifestyle
2. numerous 2018-22 MEYP actions are uncompleted and must be carried forward
3. insufficient qualified and experienced staff resources to deliver early years services (exacerbated by the rollout of funded 3yo kindergarten)
4. increased incidence of domestic abuse and family violence
5. population changes may affect the estimates in the Surf Coast KISP, triggering an out-of-cycle review

13 ABOUT THE SECTOR



13.1 Sector development (reproduced from 'Growing up in G21' document)

During the ten year period from 2010 to 2020, there has been significant change in policy, planning and delivery of services for children and families across Victoria. The following timeline highlights some of the key changes:

- 2006 **ABS Census year** that provided much of the data for the 2010 report
- 2008 **NAPLAN**, the National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy established
- 2009 **Maternal and Child Health Framework** developed
- 2009 **Victorian Early Years Development Framework** released
- 2010 Publication of **Early Childhood Community Profiles** by the state Education Department – these profiles, one for each local government area in Victoria, provided a comprehensive overview of available data relating to early years
- 2011 ABS Census year
- 2011 **Early Start Kindergarten** program ensuring two years of kindergarten for key groups commences
- 2012 **National Quality Standards** – Universal Access established
- 2013 **Universal access to 15 hours** of kindergarten for four year olds
- 2013 **NDIS Act passed** and Barwon trial commenced
- 2014 **Roadmap to Reform in Out of Home Care** developed
- 2014 **Communities that Care** program commences in the region
- 2015 **Royal Commission into Family Violence** completed, including 277 recommendations
- 2016 **Road Map to Reform, strong families, safe children** published
- 2016 ABS Census year
- 2016 **NDIS ECEI** program rolled out nationally
- 2017 **Child Safe Standards** become operational
- 2017 **Family Safety Victorian and Orange Door** established
- 2017 **Supported Playgroups** – policy and funding guidelines published
- 2017 **Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse** final report published

2017	Early Years Compact established between the Department of Education and Health & Human Services
2017	Child and family violence Information Sharing Schemes established
2017	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM) established
2018	Expansion of Enhanced Maternal & Child Health Program
2018	Changes to the reporting of crime statistics relating to family violence, to reflect the extent of family violence more accurately (making historical data analysis problematic)
2018	Most recent AEDC data collection period
2019	Review of the Victorian Child Safe Standards completed
2019	School Readiness Funding program commences

This table highlights the dynamic nature of the early years sector. The drive to increase the quality of services, expand access, and strengthen the workforce, is evident in the past and now.

13.2 Current sector priorities

Current, relevant sector priorities include:

Victorian government:

Funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten

The Victorian Government has committed to providing funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten to all children by 2029. This reform will add another year of funded kindergarten so that all children in Victoria will have access to two years of play-based learning through a universal kindergarten program.

3 year old kindergarten is being introduced progressively in the Surf Coast Shire commencing in 2022.

Building the early childhood workforce

More than 4,000 new early childhood teachers will be needed as Three-Year-Old Kindergarten is rolled out across the state.

The Victorian Government is seeking to build workforce capacity by fast-tracking early childhood teaching courses, funding scholarships, and providing free TAFE training.

Building infrastructure capacity

The Victorian Government's Building Blocks grants program aims to ensure that sufficient kindergarten infrastructure capacity is available to meet forecast demand. Modelling suggests that unmet demand will not appear in the Surf Coast Shire until 2029 (refer to the Surf Coast Shire Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan), therefore Surf Coast service providers seeking funding to assist with the delivery of 3 year old kindergarten should focus on 'improvement' stream grants.

School Readiness Funding

From 2021, the Victorian government will provide 'needs based' School Readiness Funding to kindergartens to support children's learning and development outcomes.

On-going funding will be available to all kindergarten settings (including long day care), and for both three and four-year-old children in funded kindergarten programs. Approved providers must submit an annual School Readiness Funding Plan aligned with the priority areas of:

- communication (language development)
- wellbeing (social and emotional), and
- access and inclusion.

Information sharing and MARAM reforms

The Victorian government is progressing 3 information sharing reforms that aim to improve the state's collective service response to family violence, and promote the wellbeing and safety of children

The Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS) and the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) enable authorised organisations and services to share information to promote the wellbeing or safety of children, and facilitate assessment and management of family violence risk.

The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) framework sets out the responsibilities of stakeholders in identifying, assessing and managing family violence risk across the broader service system.

Prescribed organisations (including Councils) must align their policies, procedures and practice to effectively identify, assess and manage family violence and child wellbeing and safety risk; and ensure consistent use of MARAM across the sector.

Kindergarten Central Registration and Enrolment Scheme

Central Registration and Enrolment:

- simplifies access and provides a single point of contact for families to apply for multiple kindergarten services in their area
- helps ensure children secure a place that best suits their needs, and
- allows local government to establish strong links with support services to identify and engage children and families who may need more support

The Surf Coast Shire has received funding to implement an online Kindergarten Central Registration and Enrolment Scheme for the kindergartens it operates. However the state-wide vision is for CRES providers to deliver registration for most funded kindergarten programs (including external service providers).

Consideration should be given to expanding the Surf Coast Shire CRES to improve accessibility to kindergarten, set the next generation up for success, and to fulfil Council's role to develop the wellbeing of the municipal community.

Municipal Association of Victoria:

The MAV is the peak local government association in Victoria, and therefore their early years priorities are closely aligned with Council's and include:

- Universal access to early childhood education and care funding campaigns
- Early years infrastructure planning and funding
- Promoting the importance of early years and the role of local government in the planning and provision of early years services and facilities (including Municipal Early Years Plans), and
- Maternal and Child Health

13.3 Sector issues

1. roll-out of funded 3 year old kindergarten, including
 - introduction of operational efficiencies
 - early childhood workforce
 - infrastructure capacity (population changes may affect estimates, refer to KISP)
2. effective application of School Readiness Funding (refer to priority areas identified in the 'locality' sections of this report)
3. information sharing and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) reforms
4. future expansion of the kindergarten Central Registration and Enrolment Scheme

14 SERVICE SYSTEM OVERVIEW



14.1 The child's journey

The following graphic illustrates some typical service touch-points experienced during a child's journey through the early years:

0-1 years	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-9 years
Parent education programs					
Baby makes 3 program					
Sleep settling program					
Maternal and Child Health Universal Service (key age and stage visits)					
Playgroup (community based, parent led)					
Long day care (not for profit and private providers)					
Family day care service					
	Occasional care service				
			3 year old kindergarten	4 year old kindergarten	Primary school
Maternal and Child Health Enhanced program (vulnerable and at risk clients)					
Allied Health specialists (Speech pathologist, Occupational Therapists, Dieticians, Pediatrician)					
Early Childhood Early Intervention services					
Family Support services					
Child FIRST/Orange door					
Child protection					

There are a broad range of early years services available for children and families from pregnancy to 12 years. These services support families, provide children with high-quality early childhood programs, and facilitate a smooth transition across the service system and beyond.

The services support the health, development, wellbeing and learning of children and are operated by Council, community and public and private organisations. The service directions support an integrated approach to service provision. In strengthening partnerships, we are well placed to work toward an integrated approach that provides better outcomes for the community.

Universal services and supports are aimed at the broader community and are accessible to all, including through outreach. Their main goal is to increase protective factors and reduce risks for child development, provide support for optimal family and community environments for all children and provide early identification and referral for children and families who may require more targeted or intensive services.

Targeted services (also known as secondary services) target children and families or communities who have a higher need or higher risk than the general population. The joint aims are to minimise the effect of risk factors for children and to build protective factors and resilience. Importantly, the services and supports work to reduce inequalities in outcomes between groups of children. Priority and increased access to universal services is one form of targeted support.

Intensive services (also known as tertiary services) are individually tailored responses to a particular child and family situation that is highly stressful and may be ongoing. These services aim to prevent or reduce the risks to children and build parent skill and capacity. These services may include intensive whole-of-family services, specialists and treatment programs for parents. Diverse families require varying levels of support at different times.

In a truly **integrated system**, there are pathways from universal service to more targeted and intensive services, but also from higher-end services back to universal platforms.

The following early years services and infrastructure are currently available in the Surf Coast Shire:

14.2 Universal services

Universal services and supports are aimed at the broader community and are accessible to all, including through outreach. Their main goal is to increase protective factors and reduce risks for child development, provide support for optimal family and community environments for all children and provide early identification and referral for children and families who may require more targeted or intensive services. The availability of universal early years services is summarised below, followed by an overview of each service, and provider details listed in Chapter 14:

Universal services and supports	Anglesea	Aireys Inlet	Bellbrae	Bells Beach	Deans Marsh	Jan Juc	Lorne	Moriac	Torquay	Winchelsea
Maternal and Child Health	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Immunisation	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Toy library	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Playgroup	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Long day care	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Family day care	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Occasional child care	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Out of school hours care	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kindergarten	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kinder Gym	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Art, culture, dance	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Primary school	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Library	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Community centre	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Leisure and recreation	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Playground	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swimming pool	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
General practitioner	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Hospital	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓

Maternal and Child Health

Council provides a free Maternal and Child Health service to postnatal women and children from birth to school age.

The ‘universal’ Maternal and Child Health service focuses on the health and wellbeing of children at key ages and stages in their development, and is provided from rooms in Anglesea, Deans Marsh, Lorne, Moriac, Torquay, and Winchelsea.

Maternal and Child Health Nurses also facilitate first time parents groups, and provide an enhanced home visiting program to assist families in need with extra support and guidance.

24/7 advice and support is available via a telephone hotline.

The Maternal and Child Health service is funded by Council and the Department of Health.

Immunisation

Council provides free childhood immunisation sessions for all vaccines that are listed on the National Immunisation Schedule. Council immunises about 30% of infant and pre-school children in the municipality, the other 70% are immunised by GP’s and medical centres.

The Environmental Health team provide monthly infant and pre-school immunisation sessions at Anglesea, Lorne, Moriac, Torquay, and Winchelsea.

Council’s immunisation service is funded by Council and the Department of Health.

Parent Education

Parent Education programs enable parents to develop their parenting skills, so they are better equipped to support their children’s development. Parent education promotes the use of positive parenting practices, such as using positive language and the importance of family routines. It also encourages nurturing behaviour and increases parents’ knowledge of child development and communication styles.

Surf Coast Shire Early Years and Youth departments provide an annual calendar of free education and support sessions (and special events) for parents and carers, however a major opportunity exists to expand parent education programs and give them higher emphasis.

Toy Library

Toy libraries promote the importance and value of play by providing a range of quality fun and educational toys, games, puzzles and activities for local families to borrow or hire for a minimal fee. There are four volunteer-run toy libraries operating in the municipality, situated in Anglesea, Lorne, Torquay and Winchelsea.

Toy libraries are funded by fees and grants.

Playgroup

Community playgroups provide an opportunity for parents and young children to come together in a fun, safe, and relaxed environment. They provide an opportunity for children to play, explore and develop their social skills. Adults attending playgroup get a chance to meet other people going through similar experiences, ease the isolation that can come with caring for young children and find out about local community, health and support services.

Surf Coast Shire hosts a number of active community playgroups, operating in Aireys Inlet, Anglesea, Freshwater Creek, Jan Juc, Lorne, Moriac, North Torquay, Torquay and Winchelsea.

Supported playgroups

Supported playgroups are a targeted service. The aim of supported playgroups is to improve the learning, development, and wellbeing outcomes of children from birth until they start primary school.

Supported playgroups provide opportunities for parents to learn about local services, to meet with other parents for support and friendship and to build social support networks in the communities in which they live.

A free, facilitated playgroup delivering the ‘smalltalk’ program currently operates in Torquay and Winchelsea.

Kindergym

KinderGym is a Gymnastics Australia program specifically designed for 2–5 year old pre-schoolers and their parents. Council is currently the sole endorsed KinderGym provider in the municipality; however parents, clubs and private providers can become endorsed KinderGym leaders.

Council’s KinderGym program is led by qualified and experienced instructors, and aims to improve the confidence, co-ordination and social skills of children through equipment based, structured, movement programs (which include tumbling, balancing, ball-games and a variety of other fun activities).

Kindergym is available in Torquay only, and is partially funded by participants and subsidised by Council.

Family Day Care

Family Day Care is for children aged between six weeks and 12 years of age, and is usually provided in the home of an educator. Regulations allow educators to care for up to 4 children under five years of age, and up to 3 school aged children.

Family Day Care is regulated under the National Quality Framework and must be delivered by an approved provider as part of an approved service. Council offers an approved family day care service, with a part-time Coordinator based in Torquay; however services are available throughout the municipality.

The Family Day Care service is funded by user fees, the Commonwealth Child Care Subsidy, and Council. There is currently unmet demand for the family day care service, limited by the number of registered educators.

Long Day Care

Long Day Care is centre based child care provided by professional staff where babies and children up to school starting age (but centres may also offer services to children attending primary school), can be cared for while their parents work, study, or have regular time off for other commitments.

Long day care services operate under the National Quality Framework, and are provided in approved centres, usually during normal business hours.

Council has previously determined not to offer long day care services, leaving that instead to numerous private providers located in Torquay and Winchelsea. Privately run services can be located on the Child Care Finder Website.

Outside School Hours Care

Outside School Hours Care is primarily for school-age children, to attend before and after school hours and during school holidays (providers may also offer services to children who don’t attend school, usually preschool-age siblings of school-age children).

Outside school hours care programs are provided by private providers in school facilities in Anglesea, Aireys Inlet, Bellbrae, Jan Juc, Lorne, Moriac, Torquay and Winchelsea.

Occasional Care

Occasional Care is a centre-based form of child care, regulated under the National Quality Framework, that provides families with the flexibility to place their pre-school children (from 12 months to six years of age) in an early childhood learning environment on days and hours that suit their needs (including at short notice and in emergencies).

The Council program allows parents to leave their children in care for one session per week - morning and afternoon sessions (both 4 hours) are available at two centres in Torquay.

Occasional care services are also provided by the Anglesea, Lorne, and Winchelsea community houses, and by private providers in Torquay.

Council's Occasional Care service is funded by user fees, the Commonwealth Child Care Subsidy, and Council.

In Home Care

In-home care is a flexible form of child care which enables families with unusual work, location, or complex care requirements to access approved child care in their own home.

Families are matched with qualified educators by an in-home care service provider (or broker), who organises the placement and then monitors the arrangement on an ongoing basis.

In-home care service providers are responsible for ensuring that the carers registered with them have the appropriate knowledge, skills and experience to provide families with a high quality care experience.

Educators set their own in home child care rates and brokers charge a commission. The Child Care Subsidy is available to families that qualify.

There are numerous private in-home care providers in the Surf Coast Shire.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is a pre-school educational program regulated under the National Quality Framework and delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher, and is an important component of a child's transition from home to school. Kindergarten programs are based on playing, singing, practical activities such as drawing, and social interaction. Kindergarten is not compulsory, but research shows that children who go to a kindergarten program are more independent and confident, and are more likely to make a smooth transition to primary school – and it has even greater benefits for children who need extra support or are in vulnerable circumstances.

Funded kindergarten for four-year-olds is universally available in long day care centres, schools and sessional or 'standalone' kindergarten facilities. Funded kindergarten for three-year-olds is being progressively introduced across the state. From 2022, all three-year-olds will have access to five hours of funded kindergarten per week and this will increase up to the full 15-hour program by 2029.

Council currently offers three-year-old and funded four-year-old programs at kindergartens in Anglesea, Jan Juc, Lorne, Torquay, and Winchelsea. There is a growing number of privately operated kindergartens in the municipality (particularly in Torquay).

Children's Week

Children's Week is an annual national event celebrated in October. A diverse range of events and activities are organised at National, State and Local levels. These focus the attention of the wider community on children, their rights and achievements. Children's Week celebrates the right of children to enjoy childhood, it is also a time for children to demonstrate their talents, skills and abilities.

Council runs various free activities across the shire during Children's Week.

Primary schools

Primary schools aim to provide children from 5 to 11 years of age fundamental skills in reading, writing, and mathematics - and to establish a solid foundation for learning. There are 13 primary schools in the Surf Coast Shire operated by the Department of Education and Training, and private providers.

Library

Nowadays modern libraries may be defined as places to get unrestricted access to information in many formats and from many sources. But in addition, libraries are increasingly becoming community hubs where programs are delivered and people engage in lifelong learning.

The Torquay library and Surf Coast mobile library are both operated by the Geelong Regional Libraries network on behalf of Council.

The Torquay library is the only 'bricks and mortar' library in the Surf Coast Shire, it caters for the early years cohort with an appropriate print and multimedia collection, and regular events and activities.

The Surf Coast mobile library visits Aireys Inlet, Anglesea, Deans Marsh, Lorne, and Winchelsea communities according to a weekly timetable.

Playgrounds

A playground is typically an outdoor place specifically designed for children's play. Modern playgrounds are all-inclusive and often include features that help children develop physical coordination, strength, and flexibility - as well as providing enjoyment and supporting social and emotional development.

Common in modern playgrounds are play structures that link many different pieces of equipment.

There are currently at least 67 community playgrounds distributed across the municipality, 52 are owned and operated by Council, the remainder are owned and operated by others (including GORCC, Parks, and privately).

Community centres

There's strong evidence that the built environment can help people of all ages and backgrounds to develop and maintain healthier lifestyles. Community facilities that are located near to homes and each other - and ideally within cycling or walking distance - enhance opportunities for physical activity, wellbeing, sports participation, community interaction and social cohesion.

There are currently 15 Council owned community centres distributed across the municipality.

Sport reserves, nature reserves and parks

Similar to community centres, there's strong evidence that reserves and parks can help people of all ages and backgrounds to develop and maintain healthier lifestyles.

There are countless reserves and parks distributed across the municipality, 442 are owned and operated by Council, many are owned and operated by others (including GORCC, Parks, and privately).

Sport and nature reserves and parks may incorporate:

- paths and trails
- playgrounds
- family facilities such as BBQs and shelters, and
- skate parks and bike tracks, etc

Swimming pools

Community swimming pools offer an accessible and affordable means of social interaction, relaxation and stress relief for people of all ages and abilities. Importantly for the early years, community swimming pools assist children to increase their water awareness, learn about water safety, and learn how to swim.

Council currently operates a cold-water, outdoor, seasonal swimming pool located on Barwon Terrace, Winchelsea. Facilities include a toddler's pool with water play equipment, a 10m learner's pool, family change rooms, and pleasant grounds.

It's noted that Council has recently committed to closing a funding shortfall, and to build the long awaited Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay.

There are also numerous privately operated swimming pools in the municipality (and just outside of the municipality), offering learn to swim, squad, lap, recreational swimming and water-play.

General practitioners

There are 12 General Practitioners/Medical Centres operating within the municipality including at Aireys Inlet, Anglesea, Jan Juc, Lorne, Moriac, Torquay, and Winchelsea. There are also numerous General Practitioners located within close proximity to the Surf Coast Shire.

Hospitals

There are several public and private hospitals either within or in close proximity to the Surf Coast Shire, providing general hospital, maternal, immunisation and other early years health services.

Public hospitals are located in Geelong, Lorne and Winchelsea. Private hospitals are located in Geelong and Waurn Ponds.

Note that construction of the Surf Coast Community Hospital is scheduled to commence in 2022, for completion in 2024. It's anticipated that the hospital, situated in Torquay, will feature a full range of paediatric and allied health services, and be operated by Barwon Health.

14.3 Targeted services

Targeted services (also known as secondary services) target children and families or communities who have a higher need or higher risk than the general population. The joint aims are to minimise the effect of risk factors for children and to build protective factors and resilience. Importantly, the services and supports work to reduce inequalities in outcomes between groups of children. Priority and increased access to universal services is one form of targeted support.

Targeted early years services that are available in the Surf Coast Shire are listed and described below:

Targeted services	Surf Coast Shire
Enhanced Maternal and child health	Council
Early Childhood intervention services	Barwon Child Youth and Family
Inclusion support program	DET
Pre-school Field officer	DET
Kindergarten inclusion support	Barwon Child Youth and Family
Pregnancy/early parenting services and family support	Barwon Health
Facilitated playgroups	Barwon Child Youth and Family
Community health/respite services	Barwon Health (Carer Gateway services)
Child FIRST/Orange door	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

Enhanced Maternal and Child Health

The Enhanced Maternal Child Health program is part of Council's Maternal and Child Health service, and is offered to families at risk of poor outcomes as an extension of the Universal Maternal and Child Health program. The enhanced program provides targeted support in the form of flexible actions and interventions in addition to the universal program.

Early Childhood intervention services

Early Childhood Intervention Services support children with a disability or developmental delay and their families. The aim is to work in partnership with families to optimise the child's development and outcomes, by providing:

- specialist services to meet the individual needs of the child and support them in their natural environments and everyday experiences and activities
- support to access universal services, and
- parents and families with knowledge, skills and support

Applications for Early Childhood Intervention Services are managed by Intake teams across the state, and funding is provided by the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Services are provided by non-government agencies and the Government's Specialist Children's Services teams.

Inclusion support program

The Inclusion Support Program is designed to assist child care providers to include children with additional needs in mainstream services, so that these children can learn and develop alongside their peers.

The program provides tailored advice, support, and funding to address inclusion barriers.

Providers are able to access this program via the Victorian Inclusion Agency.

Pre-School Field Officer

Pre-School Field Officers:

- work closely with Early Childhood Educators in kindergarten settings to deliver programs that ensure the positive participation of all children, particularly those with additional and diverse needs, and

- provide support, resourcing and practical advice to assist Educators and link families into services available for children with developmental concerns and broader child and family supports.

Pre-School Field Officer support is requested by Educators with parental/guardian consent; and the roles are fully funded by the State government.

Kindergarten inclusion support

The Kindergarten Inclusion Support program is designed to support the inclusion of children with a disability, developmental delay, or complex medical need, into four-year old community kindergarten programs.

The program enhances the learning and development of individuals by responding to their abilities, interests, strengths, and needs.

The Kindergarten Inclusion Support program is provided in addition to the existing resources available to kindergartens, and is funded by the Department of Education and Training.

Pregnancy/early parenting services and family support

Early parenting services are available for families with children from pregnancy to 4 years of age, who have been assessed as needing additional intensive parenting support to build skills, capacity, and confidence in caring for their infant/toddler.

Services are focused on building parenting capacity and skills, enhancing the parent-child relationship, and strengthening a family's link with their community. Early parenting centres offering day stay services, residential services, and group based programs are also available.

Referrals to Early Parenting services are usually from Maternal and Child Health services, General Practitioners, Child FIRST and Child Protection.

Facilitated playgroups

Facilitated playgroups support families with particular needs and are often targeted at specific demographics, such as young parent families, or CALD families, or families with a shared experience or concern. Families in these groups are also often vulnerable, facing stressful life circumstances alongside low social support and economic pressures.

Facilitated playgroups are guided by a trained early childhood educator, and have a dual-focus on supporting the development and wellbeing of both children and their parents - they provide opportunities for parents to meet and share experiences, and for children to play, learn and socialise.

Facilitated playgroups offer an option for families that may not be able to effectively engage with, feel included in, or benefit from parent-led community playgroups.

Community health/respite services

Respite care is when someone gives a primary carer a break by looking after their child (who may have a disability or other additional needs), on a regular or irregular basis.

Respite care can be provided informally by family or friends, by respite care services, or by accessing community recreational activities.

Caring can be stressful and emotionally and physically tiring – taking a break can be good for parents, families, and the child.

Child First/Orange door

The Orange door supersedes Child FIRST as the entry point to family services. The Orange Door is the new, free access point for adults, children and young people who are experiencing or have experienced family violence, and families who need extra support with the care of children.

Anyone should contact The Orange Door if:

- someone close to you is hurting you, controlling you or making you feel afraid
- you are a child or young person who doesn't have what you need to be OK

- you are worried about the safety of a friend or family member
- you need more support with the care of children
- you are worried about the safety of a child or young person
- you need help to change your behaviour and stop using violence in your relationships

14.4 Intensive services

Intensive services (also known as tertiary services) are individually tailored responses to a particular child and family situation that is highly stressful and may be ongoing. These services aim to prevent or reduce the risks to children and build parent skill and capacity. These services may include intensive whole-of-family services, specialists and treatment programs for parents. Diverse families require varying levels of support at different times.

Intensive early years services that are available in the Surf Coast Shire are listed and described below:

Intensive services	Surf Coast Shire
Child protection	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

Child protection

The Victorian Child Protection Service is specifically targeted to those children and young people at risk of harm or where families are unable or unwilling to protect them.

Meeting the needs of children and making sure they are safe in the family is a shared responsibility between individuals, the family, the community and the government. When adults caring for children do not follow through with their responsibilities, are abusive or exploit their positions of power, then child protection is empowered to investigate the concerns and intervene to protect the child legally when required.

(Reporting of child abuse is mandatory. You should make a report to Child Protection if you have formed a reasonable belief that a child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm as a result of abuse or neglect and their parent has not or is unlikely to protect them from harm of that type).

14.5 Section 6 issues

It can be seen that a complete range of universal, targeted, and intensive services are available in the Surf Coast Shire, however access and availability varies according to location. As expected, children and families are very well catered for in Torquay, and to a lesser extent in the smaller towns and villages (a function of population density and location).

This issue of service availability is addressed specifically in the 'locality' sections of this report.

15 LIST OF UNIVERSAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES IN THE SURF COAST SHIRE

Maternal and Child Health

Council facility/service

- Kurrambee Myaring Community Centre - 12 Merrijig Drive, Torquay
- Torquay Children's Services Hub - 27 Grossmans Road
- Anglesea Kindergarten - 1 McMillan Street
- Lorne Community House - 16 Mountjoy Parade
- Moriac Preschool - 7 Clerke Court
- Winchelsea (Hesse Rural Health Building) - 8 Gosney Street

Immunisation

Council facility/service

- Kurrambee Myaring Community Centre - 12 Merrijig Drive, Torquay
- Torquay Children's Services Hub - 27 Grossmans Road
- Moriac Maternal and Child Health Centre - 7 Clerke Court
- Anglesea Kindergarten - 1 McMillan Street
- Lorne Maternal and Child Health Centre - 16 Mountjoy Parade
- Winchelsea Maternal and Child Health Centre - 8 Gosney Street

Toy Library

Community operated

- Torquay Toy Library, 27 Grossmans Rd
- Anglesea Platypus Toy Library, 1 McMillan St
- Lorne Toy Library, 16 Mountjoy Pde
- Winchelsea Community House Toy Library, 30 Hesse Street

Playgroup

Community operated

- Aireys Inlet, Aireys Inlet Community Hall, Great Ocean Rd, Aireys Inlet
- Anglesea, Anglesea Kindergarten 1 McMillian St, Anglesea
- Freshwater Creek Steiner School and Kinder, 52 McIntyres Road, Freshwater Creek
- Bob Pettit Reserve Club Rooms, Jan Juc
- Lorne, Lorne Community House, 16 Mountjoy Parade, Lorne
- Moriac Community Hall, Newling Reserve, Moriac
- KMCC, 12 Merrijig Drive, Torquay
- Torquay Children's Services Hub, 27 Grossmans Road, Torquay
- Winchelsea, St Thomas Anglican Church, 27-29 Barwon Terrace, Winchelsea

Supported playgroups

Council facility/service

- Torquay: Torquay Children's Hub - 27 Grossmans Road
- Winchelsea: Helen Kininmonth Pre-School, Winchelsea Church Community Hall, 30 Hesse Street

Kindergym**Council facility/service**

- Surf Coast Sport and Recreation Centre, 77 Beach Road, Torquay.

Family Day Care**Council facility/service**

Administration - Kurrambee Myaring Community Centre, Torquay

- FDC available throughout the municipality

Long Day Care**Privately operated**

Childs Play Torquay, 1 Pintail Drive, Torquay

Elements Child Care and Early Learning Centre, 15-17 Falcon Drive, Torquay

Torquay YMCA Early Learning Centre, 35 Legacy Drive, Torquay

Goodstart Early Learning, 86 Beach Rd, Torquay

Guardian Childcare & Education, 3 - 5 Attunga Drive, Torquay

Little Groms Early Learning, 88 Geelong Road, Torquay

The Hive Early Learning Centre, 78-80 Beach Rd, Torquay

Southern Cross Montessori, 21 Henty St, Torquay

Torquay Early Learning Centre, 25 Grossmans Rd, Torquay

Butterfield House Child Care and Kindergarten, 240 Great Ocean Road, Jan Juc

Winchelsea Early Learning Centre, 63 Hesse St, Winchelsea

Outside School Hours Care

Government operated

Camp Australia - St Therese Primary School Torquay, 50 Grossmans Road, Torquay

Camp Australia - Christian College Geelong Surf Coast Campus, 248 Great Ocean Rd, Torquay

Camp Australia - Lorne-Aireys Inlet P-12 College, 6 Great Ocean Road, Aireys Inlet

Kelly Club Lisieux Catholic Primary School, 90 South Beach Rd, Torquay

Torquay Primary Combined, Grossman's Rd, Torquay

Torquay YMCA Early Learning Centre, 35 Legacy Drive, Torquay

Bellbrae PS TheirCare, 50 School Rd, Bellbrae

Anglesea Primary School, 5 Camp Rd, Anglesea

Moriac Primary Combined, 785 Hendy Main Rd, Moriac

Winchelsea Primary School, 60 Main Street Winchelsea Primary School, Winchelsea

Occasional Care

Council facility/service

- Torquay Children's Hub, 27 Grossmans Road
- Kurrambee Myaring Community Centre, 12 Merrijig Drive, Torquay

Community operated

- Anglesea Community House
- Lorne Community House
- Winchelsea Community House

In Home Care

Private provider

There are numerous private in-home care providers in the Surf Coast Shire.

Kindergarten

Council facility/service

- Anglesea Kindergarten, Anglesea Community Hub, 1 McMillan Street, Anglesea
- Helen Kininmonth Pre-School, Winchelsea Church Community Hall, 30 Hesse Street
- Jan Juc Pre-School, Bob Pettitt Reserve, 10-11 Wattle Court, Jan Juc
- Kurrambee Myaring Kindergarten, 12 Merrijig Drive, Torquay
- Lorne Pre-School, 32 Smith Street, Lorne
- Torquay Kindergarten, Torquay Children's Hub, 27 Grossmans Road, Torquay

Private provider

Butterfield House Child Care and Kindergarten, 240 Great Ocean Road, Jan Juc
 Childs Play Torquay, 1 Pintail Drive, Torquay
 Elements Child Care and Early Learning Centre, 15-17 Falcon Drive, Torquay
 Goodstart Early Learning, 86 Beach Rd, Torquay
 Guardian Childcare & Education, 3 - 5 Attunga Drive, Torquay
 Little Groms Early Learning, 88 Geelong Road, Torquay
 Southern Cross Montessori, 21 Henty St, Torquay
 The Hive Early Learning Centre, 78-80 Beach Rd, Torquay
 Torquay Early Learning Centre, 25 Grossmans Rd, Torquay
 Torquay YMCA Early Learning Centre, 35 Legacy Drive, Torquay
 Freshwater Creek Steiner Kindergarten, 52 McIntyre Rd, Freshwater Creek
 Moriac Kindergarten, 7 Clerke Court, Moriac

Primary schools

Government operated

- Aireys Inlet Primary School, Anderson Street, Aireys Inlet
- Anglesea Primary School, 85 Camp Road, Anglesea
- Bellbrae Primary School, 50 School Road, Bellbrae
- Deans Marsh Primary School, 30 Lorne Road, Deans Marsh
- Moriac Primary School, 785 Hendy Main Road, Moriac
- Mount Duneed Regional Primary School, Williams Road, Mount Duneed
- Lorne Aireys Inlet P-12 College, Anderson Street, Aireys Inlet
- Torquay P6 College, 45-55 Grossmans Road, Torquay
- Torquay Coast Primary School, 25 Stretton Drive, Torquay
- Winchelsea Primary School, 60 Main Street, Winchelsea

Privately operated

- Freshwater Creek Steiner School, 52 McIntyres Road, Freshwater Creek
- Lisieux Catholic Primary School, 90 South Beach Road, Torquay
- St Therese Catholic Primary School, 50 Grossmans Road, Torquay

Library

Council facility/service

Surf City Plaza, Cnr of Beach Road and Surf Coast Highway, Torquay

Mobile library sites:

- Aireys Inlet
- Anglesea
- Deans Marsh
- Lorne

- Winchelsea

Community centres

Council facility/service

- Aireys Inlet Community Centre, Anderson Roadknight Reserve, Aireys Inlet
- Anglesea & District Community House, Anglesea McMillan Precinct, Anglesea
- Deans Marsh Community Hall, Deans Marsh Recreation Reserve, Deans Marsh
- Freshwater Creek Community Hall, Freshwater Creek Recreation Reserve, Lorne Community House (Fig Tree House), Lorne Fig Tree Community Precinct, Lorne
- Modewarre Community Centre (Bluestone), Modewarre Hall and Recreation Reserve
- Moriac Community Centre (Newling Park), Newling Reserve, Moriac
- Torquay Spring Creek Community House, Price Street Precinct, Torquay
- Surf World Museum & Community Hall, Surf City Plaza, Torquay
- Winchelsea Community House, Winchelsea Shire Hall and Tea Rooms, Winchelsea
- Torquay Town Centre Community Hub, Torquay Central Shopping Precinct, Torquay
- Community and Civic Precinct Council Office, Community and Civic Precinct, Torquay
- Kurrambee Myaring Community Centre, Torquay
- Eastern Reserve Community Centre, Eastern Reserve, Winchelsea

Swimming pools

Council facility/service

Barwon Terrace, Winchelsea

Privately operated

- Torquay Swim School, 35 Baines Cres, Torquay
- TORQ SWIMMERS, Peppers The Sands, Sands Boulevard, Torquay
- RACV Torquay Resort One Lifestyle, RACV Torquay Resort, 1 Great Ocean Rd, Torquay
- Anglesea Fitness Centre, 105 Great Ocean Rd, Anglesea
- Lorne Sea Baths, 81 Mountjoy Parade, Lorne

General practitioners

Privately operated

- Surf Coast Home Doctor, Torquay
- Surfcoast Medical Centre, 100 Surf Coast Hwy
- Torquay Medical Health and Wellness Clinic, 94 Geelong Rd
- Tristar Medical Group Torquay, 2/136 Geelong Rd
- The Quay Family Healthcare, 13/222 Fischer St
- Torquay Central Medical Centre, 7-8/8 Gilbert St
- Karuna-Maya Medicine Tree, 22 Princes Terrace, Jan Juc
- Anglesea Medical, 3 McMillan St
- Aireys Inlet Medical Centre, 37 Great Ocean Rd

- Lorne Medical Centre, 230 Mountjoy Parade
- The Quay Family Healthcare, 806 Hendy Main Rd, Moriac
- Winchelsea Medical Clinic, 7/31 Willis St, Winchelsea

Hospitals

Government operated

- Hesse Rural Health, 8 Gosney St, Winchelsea
- Great Ocean Road Health - Lorne, Albert St, Lorne
- Barwon Health, 59 Sydney Parade, Geelong

Privately operated

- St John of God Geelong Hospital, 80 Myers St, Geelong
- Epworth Geelong, 1 Epworth Place, Waurn Ponds

16 Anglesea/Aireys/Lorne



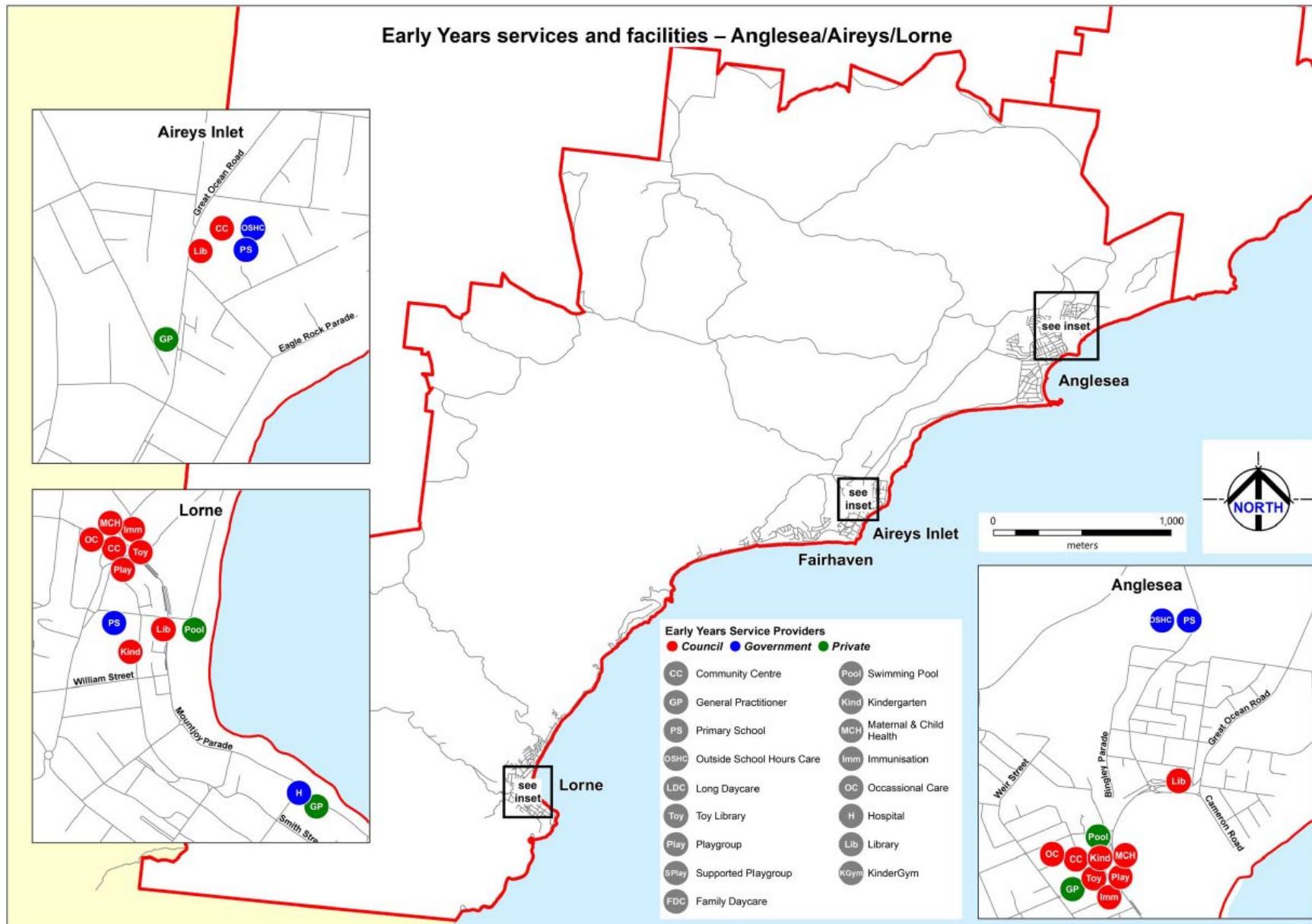
16.1 Situation

Situated along the southwest coastline of the Surf Coast Shire, this locality includes the townships of Anglesea, Aireys Inlet, and Lorne and the villages of Fairhaven, Moggs Creek, Eastern View and Big Hill. The locality covers 258km² and the population is 5,470 giving a population density of 0.21 persons per hectare - however the population, along with services and facilities, is predominantly concentrated in the larger townships.

The resident population is ageing and relatively advantaged. There's a very high percentage of absentee property owners and a shortage of stock contributing to elevated prices. High property prices tend to exclude young families starting out, diminish the early years population, and indirectly affect service availability.

Key issue(s) - shortage of affordable housing (particularly in Lorne)

16.2 Services and facilities - locality overview



With the exception of accessible childcare, the Early Years appear to be adequately catered for in Anglesea and Lorne (consistent with stakeholder engagement).

There are fewer services and facilities in Aireys Inlet, however statistically, Aireys Inlet has one of the smallest early years populations in the municipality - and Anglesea's resources are in close proximity.

Council is the predominant provider of services and facilities in this locality, and this is unlikely to change until there's a significant increase in the early years population (and demand).

Key issue(s) -
shortage of affordable child care

16.3 Statistical snapshot

Alert	Criteria	Locality	Trend	Surf Coast	Victoria	Comment	Source
	Early years population (Nr and %) (2021)	532 9.7%	steady	4,384 13.1%	N/A 12.5%	The early years cohort represents a relatively small percentage of the overall population, and this trend is set to continue	Profile.id
	Early years population growth (10 year forecast)	0.6% pa		1.9%		Population and cohort growth are both low, barriers to growth include unaffordable housing and an ageing population	Profile.id
	Births (2020)	30	steady	359	N/A	The actual birth rate is relatively static, and this trend is forecast to continue	Birth notices
	SEIFA index (2016)	1,067	increasing	1,077	1,010	This locality enjoys a relatively high level of socio-economic advantage, which is gradually improving over time	Profile.id
	Breastfeeding rate (2019/20)	73%	decreasing	62.9%	51.4%	The overall breastfeeding rate appears to be reducing slightly, but still compares very favourably with the municipality and the state	MCHN
	MCH attendance rate – 4 week KAS visit (2018/19)	100%	increasing	93.5%	76.3%	The MCH attendance rate compares very favourably with the municipal and State rates, and has improved over time	MCHN
	Immunisation rate (2018)	N/A	increasing	94.0%	93.5%	The immunisation rate is gradually increasing and compares favourably with the state (NB; data is only available at the municipal level)	AIR
	Kindergarten participation rate (2020)	104%	steady	103.5	92.1	The kindergarten participation rate compares favourably with the state and is relatively steady	Remplan KCAP AEDC
	Kindergarten places – forecast unmet demand (2021)	0	steady	0	N/A	Victoria is introducing funded 3 year old kindergarten. Forecasts indicate that there's sufficient capacity in this locality to meet the reform demands	KCAP KISP

		Locality	Trend	Surf Coast	Victoria	Comment	Source	
		70%	decreasing	84.2%	81.0%	Measures physical health & wellbeing. Cause for concern, significantly less than municipal and state averages and trending down	AEDC	
		70%	steady	83.1%	77.3%	Measures social competence. Cause for concern, significantly less than municipal and state averages	AEDC	
		72%	steady	81.1%	77.7%	Measures emotional maturity. Cause for concern, significantly less than municipal and state averages	AEDC	
		70%	decreasing	88.5%	84.6%	Measures language & cognitive skills. Cause for concern, significantly less than municipal and state averages and trending down	AEDC	
		Communication on-track (2018)	79%	steady	85.8%	79.4%	Measures communication skills and general knowledge. Cause for concern, significantly less than municipal and state averages	AEDC

Discussion

SEIFA index Officers have observed pockets of disadvantage in Anglesea and Aireys Inlet, that are 'less connected' with the community

Alerts 1-2 The early years population in this locality, at just 9.7%, is the lowest in the municipality - and very high housing prices and a lean long term rental market mean that this trend is set to continue for the foreseeable future. The lack of affordable housing is the single biggest factor deterring young families from a 'seachange', effectively capping the early years population and ironically, limiting service expansion and availability.

Alerts 3-7 The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) measures the development of children in Australia in their first year of full-time school. It's alarming that in a relatively advantaged community, about 30% of children in the Anglesea/Aireys Inlet/Lorne locality have been classified by the AEDC as either 'at risk' or 'vulnerable', and that trend appears to be worsening for physical health and wellbeing, and language and physical skills. Remedies for better preparing children for school may include improved childcare, access to 3 year old kindergarten, and improved socialisation and development opportunities.

Key issue(s)

The following key issues are derived from the statistical data:

1. small early years population and cohort growth, held back by a shortage of affordable housing
2. 30% of children are classified as developmentally 'at risk' or 'vulnerable'

16.4 Community engagement results

The following survey results have been filtered for the 'Anglesea/Aireys Inlet/Lorne' locality.

Respondents

46

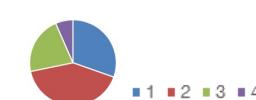
Relationship to child/ren

100% parent/guardian



Primary carer?

Children in home



Age of children



Informal assistance

The following non-professional people help me to provide for the health, wellbeing, and development of the child/children in my care:

My immediate family (partner and/or other children)



My extended family (grandparents and/or other relations)

My community (neighbours and/or friends)

█ Child-minding (1 day per week or less) █ Child-minding (2 to 4 days per week)
█ Child-minding (5 days per week or more) █ Occasional or emergency assistance when requested
█ Transporting █ Advice and mentoring

Primary carers rely heavily on immediate and extended families and the community, for assistance with child-minding and occasional care. 42% of respondents believe that the assistance they receive is inadequate and that improved childcare availability would be greatly beneficial.

Information and support

Service and program providers are connected, knowledgeable of other providers, and make appropriate referrals for me when necessary

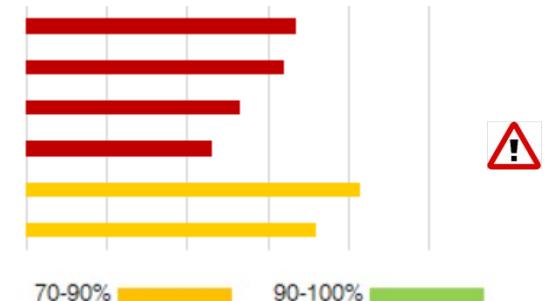
It's easy for me to get information about services and programs regarding children and families in my local area

Sufficient services and programs are available in my local community to support my child's health, wellbeing, and development

Sufficient local events and activities are conducted in my community to support my child's health, wellbeing, and development

I'm confident that I could access information and support regarding family violence if I needed it

I'm confident that I could access information and support regarding disability if I needed it



Survey responses indicate concerns regarding the availability of 'local events and activities for children' and 'services and programs', and dissatisfaction with 'referrals and provision of information regarding services and programs'.

Professional services and support

Services and supports	Service accessed by respondent at:							Precis of verbatim comments			
	Anglesea	Aireys	Fairhaven	Freshwater Crk	Jan Juc	Lorne	Torquay	Satisfied with service quality	Satisfied with service accessibility	Satisfied with service affordability	
Maternal and child health	53%				31%	16%		96%	90%	100%	Provide information/app regarding available services and activities. Focus on parent's mental health. Increase Anglesea availability
Immunisation	49%	8%			32%	11%		100%	95%	100%	
Parent education	33%				33%	33%		63%	43%	83%	Provide information/app regarding available services and activities.
Toy library	78%				22%			86%	71%	86%	
Playgroup	57%	29%			14%			50%	40%	100%	Offer COVID-safe playgroup
Long day care					20%	80%		88%	67%	88%	Improve childcare availability and affordability
Family day care		8%	25%		8%	58%		100%	75%	86%	Improve childcare availability
Occasional day care	29%				65%	6%		100%	45%	91%	Improve childcare availability
Out of school hours care	60%	20%			20%			100%	100%	100%	
Kindergarten	57%				5%	33%	5%	100%	93%	67%	Improve availability and affordability. Gender balance in teachers.
Kinder gym						100%		100%	0%	0%	Improve availability
Art, culture, dance	50%		50%					50%	25%	50%	Gymnastics/dance @ Anglesea/Aireys
Primary school	56%	19%			25%			91%	100%	100%	Improve teacher gender balance
Library	24%	29%			18%	29%		100%	77%	100%	Branches in Anglesea and Lorne. Increase story time accessibility
General practitioner	60%	11%			26%	3%		96%	91%	95%	Access to bulk billing
Specialist medical supports	33%				33%	33%		0%	0%	0%	Improve availability

Survey responses show gaps in the availability of services and supports outside of Torquay, verbatim comments mention a shortage of childcare and kindergarten services.

Community facilities

Facility	Most popular facility	Next most popular facility	Respondents that use the facilities (Nr)	Respondents that use the facility daily (Nr)	Respondents that use the facility weekly (Nr)	Respondents that find the facility suitable for their needs (%)	Precis of verbatim comments
Playground	Anglesea	Lorne	68	12	37	100%	Upgrade playgrounds for small children (Lorne in particular), including shade
Nature reserve	Anglesea	Lorne	38	8	23	96%	
Paths and trails	Anglesea	Lorne	36	15	9	100%	Extend/upgrade bike tracks and footpaths (Lorne in particular) - pump track?
Sports reserve (oval/courts)	Lorne	Anglesea	20	0	13	100%	Install/upgrade suitable oval/court surfaces in Aireys Inlet
Community centre/ community hall	Lorne	Aireys Inlet	11	0	5	100%	Introduce activities for kids at community centre/halls
Swimming pool	Lorne/Torquay		8	0	2	67%	Facilitate swimming lessons (at sea baths, or Mantra in Lorne)
Surf lifesaving club	Anglesea	Fairhaven/Lorne	4	0	0	100%	

Playgrounds, paths and trails, and nature reserves are the most commonly used community facilities by families with young children. Survey respondents are generally satisfied with facilities in the locality, however the following verbatim comments are noted: underdeveloped and unsuitable playgrounds (including shade), incomplete and unsuitable bike tracks and footpaths, and limited access to swimming pools and lessons.

The built environment

There are sufficient accessible facilities in my community to support my child's health, wellbeing, and development

It's safe for my family to walk or ride to places such as a park, school, a friend's house, or work

I feel safe to be out in my community, day or night



Survey responses clearly identify traffic volume on the Great Ocean Road as the reason for not feeling 'safe to walk or ride'. Verbatim comments include 'extend/upgrade bike tracks and footpaths' (including improved connectivity/linkages, traffic calming devices, safer road crossings, and improved lighting).

Activity

I know what to do to ensure the health and wellbeing of my family, and I'm able to put this into action



My family has enough time each day to be physically active

There are enough places to go and things to do in my community to keep my family and me physically active

Verbatim comments regarding the above 3 statements include 'insufficient organised activities and events'.

Survey responses indicate that 'the top 3 things that make Surf Coast Shire a great place to live NOW' are:

Beaches, Community, Natural environment

Survey responses indicate that 'the top 3 things that would make the Surf Coast Shire an even better place to live in NOW' are:

More childcare (day care, occasional care, and FDC), a local swimming pool and lessons, more organised activities, and playground improvements

Survey responses indicate that 'the top 3 things that would make the Surf Coast Shire a great place to live in 5 YEARS TIME' are:

More childcare (day care, occasional care, and FDC), affordable housing, more organised activities, a local swimming pool and lessons

Key issue(s)

The following key issues are clearly understood from the community engagement results:

1. shortage of affordable childcare (long day care, family day care, occasional care, etc)
2. insufficient activities and events for young children
3. incomplete and unsuitable (for young children) bike tracks and footpaths (including connectivity/linkages, traffic calming devices, safer road crossings, and improved lighting)
4. underdeveloped and unsuitable (for young children) playgrounds (including shade and fences, if appropriate)
5. limited access to swimming pools and lessons

16.5 Service provider engagement findings

Survey results have been filtered for the 'Anglesea/Aireys Inlet/Lorne' locality.

Respondents

3

Provider type



■ Public ■ Private not for profit

Services provided



■ Maternal and child health ■ Play group ■ Family day care ■ Allied health ■ Toy Library ■ Occasional care ■ Kindergarten

Respondent's role



■ Nurse ■ Administrator ■ Teacher

Service collaboration

Respondent regularly connects and collaborates with the following services:	at:			Satisfied with service provided	Service could be improved	Precis of verbatim comments
	Anglesea	Lorne	Torquay			
Maternal and child health	67%	33%		100%		
Immunisation	50%	50%		100%		
Parent education	50%	50%		100%		
Toy library	50%	50%		50%	50%	
Playgroup	50%	50%		50%	50%	
Long day care	100%				100%	Increase capacity/spaces
Family day care	33%	67%		67%	33%	Increase capacity/spaces
Occasional day care	50%	50%		50%	50%	Increase capacity/spaces
Out of school hours care						
Kindergarten	50%	50%		100%		
Kinder gym						
Art, culture, dance						
Primary school		100%		100%		
Library		100%		100%		
General practitioner	50%	50%		50%	50%	
Specialist medical supports						

Survey responses indicate concerns regarding childcare capacity, the availability of toy libraries and playgroups, and 'the availability of general practitioners'.

Service challenges



■ Insufficient client volume
■ Attracting and retaining staff
■ Legislative compliance
■ Sector reforms
■ Infrastructure limitations
■ Competition
■ Fluctuating client volume

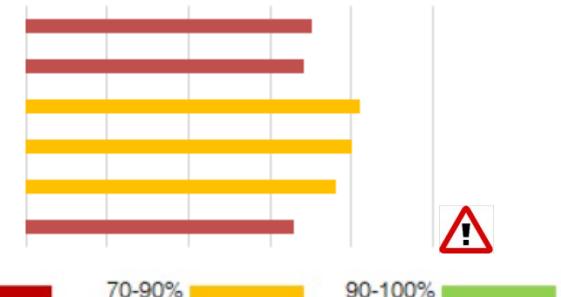
Verbatim comment - 'Lorne needs families with young children to make services viable (particularly kindergarten)'.

Observation

Lorne needs families with young children to make services viable, but Lorne's ageing resident population coupled with elevated property prices deter young families. Affordable housing in Lorne may address this conundrum.

Information and support

Sufficient services and programs are available to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children



Information and support regarding family violence is readily available
Information and support regarding disability is readily available

Sufficient local events and activities are conducted to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children

Legend: 0-70% (alert) 70-90% 90-100%



Verbatim comments supporting the above statements include 'more local events and activities for children', 'better connection and communication between service and program providers', and 'more services and programs to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children'.

Community facilities

Facility	Most popular facility	Next most popular facility	How often do you use the facility?	Respondents that find the facility suitable for their needs (%)	Improvement suggestions
Community centre/hall	Lorne		Annually	100%	
Nature reserve	Lorne		Weekly	100%	
Sports reserve	Lorne		Fortnightly	100%	
Playground	Anglesea	Lorne	Daily	100%	

Service providers generally report that the community facilities they use are suitable for their needs, and don't require improvements.

The built environment

There are sufficient accessible facilities in the Surf Coast Shire to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children



Verbatim comments supporting the above statements include 'make facilities more accessible to young children'.

Survey responses indicate that ‘the top 3 priorities currently impacting early years (and required responses)’ are:

Improve childcare availability and affordability, improve playgroup availability, affordable housing

Survey responses indicate that ‘the top 3 things that would make the Surf Coast Shire a better place for families and young children to live, in 5 YEARS TIME’ are:

Improve childcare availability and affordability, improve playgroup availability, improve/upgrade playgrounds

Key issue(s)

The following key issues are understood from the service provider survey results:

1. shortage of affordable childcare (long day care, family day care, occasional care, etc)
2. insufficient playgroup availability
3. underdeveloped and unsuitable playgrounds (including more physically challenging)
4. lack of affordable housing (particularly in Lorne)

16.6 Anglesea/Aireys/Lorne issues

The key locality issues, drawn from Sections 16.1 to 16.5 inclusive, are:

1. shortage of affordable childcare (occasional care, family day care, and long day care)
2. insufficient organised activities and events for children (focussing on the development and health and wellbeing of children)
3. incomplete and unsuitable (for young children) bike and footpath networks (including connectivity/linkages, traffic calming devices, safer road crossings, and lighting)
4. underdeveloped and unsuitable (for young children) playgrounds (including options for younger children, shade, and fences if appropriate)
5. limited access to swimming pools and lessons
6. small early years population and cohort growth, held back by a lack of affordable housing
7. difficulty obtaining service information and referrals (what is available in the community, referral pathways connecting families to services and supports, and service collaboration)
8. 30% of children are classified as developmentally 'at risk' or 'vulnerable'

17 Deans Marsh/Moriac/Winchelsea



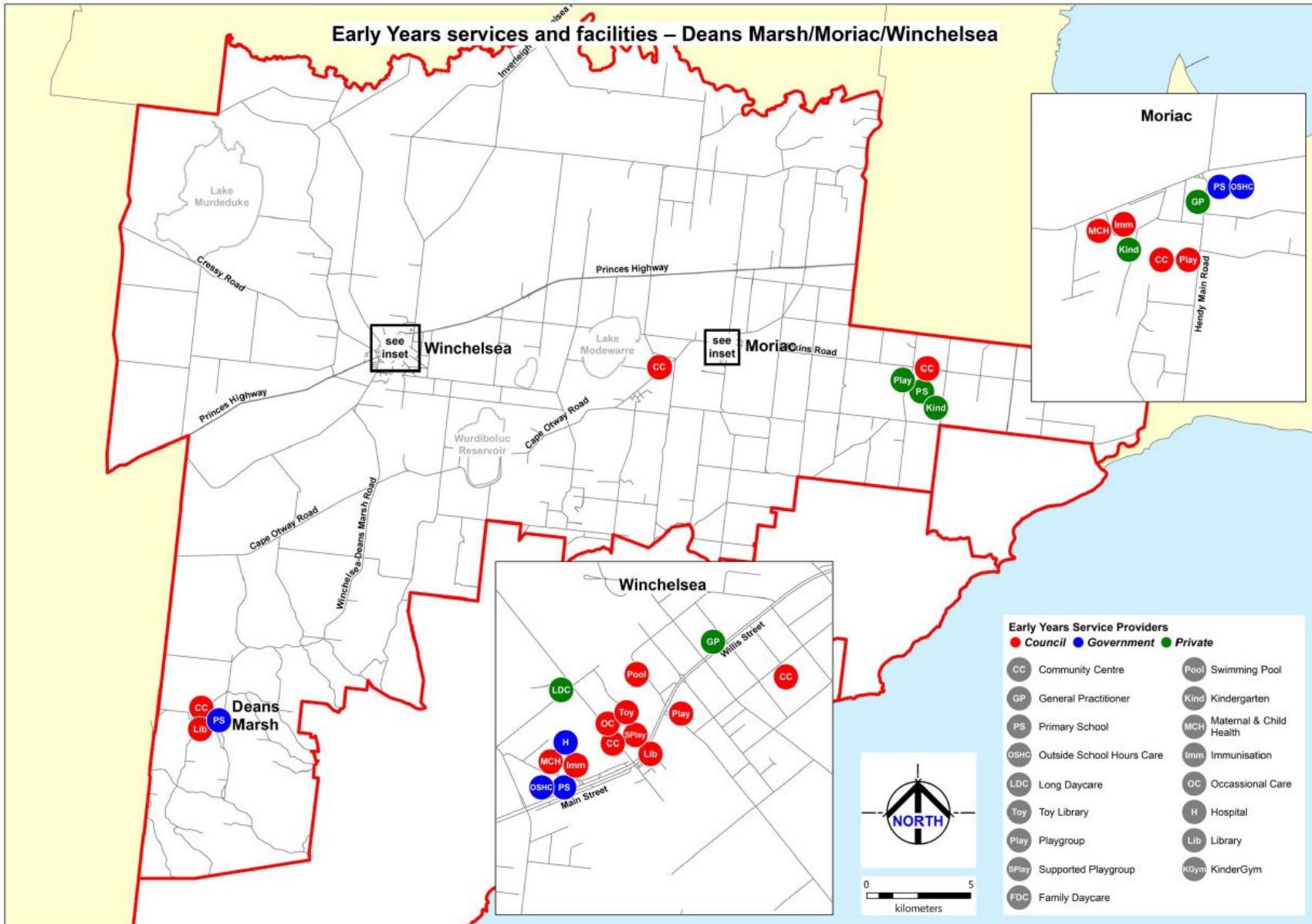
17.1 Situation

Comprising the rural hinterland of the Surf Coast Shire, this locality includes the township of Winchelsea and the villages of Deans Marsh, Moriac, and Freshwater Creek. The population of the 1,191km² locality is 6,818 - giving a population density of just 0.06 persons per hectare. The population is predominantly concentrated in Winchelsea - early years services and facilities are available in Winchelsea, Moriac, and Freshwater Creek.

Council has designated Winchelsea as an area for growth - it's attractive to young families due to its lower-cost housing and rural lifestyle. However, many Winchelsea residents work in larger nearby towns and prefer to enrol their children in services nearer to their workplace (childcare, kindergarten, schools).

Key issue(s) - equitable access to services

17.2 Services and facilities - locality overview



The Early Years are adequately catered for in Winchelsea, Moriac, and Freshwater Creek, by public and private service providers.

However, with the exception of these towns and Deans Marsh, there are few early years offerings elsewhere in the hinterland.

It could be argued that services and facilities are underrepresented in this locality, given that the early years population (numerically and as a %) and its forecast growth, is second only to Torquay.

Council is the predominant provider of services and facilities in the locality.

Key issue(s) - equitable access to services and facilities

17.3 Statistical snapshot

Alert	Criteria	Locality	Trend	Surf Coast	Victoria	Comment	Source
	 Early years population (Nr and %) (2021)	790 11.6%	 increasing	4,384 13.1%	N/A 12.5%	The early years cohort (numerically and as a %) is second only to Torquay, and is forecast to increase	Profile.id
	 Early years population growth (10 year forecast)	1.1% pa		1.9%		Cohort growth is second only to Torquay, and predominantly due to the arrival of young families in Winchelsea	Profile.id
	 Births (2020)	50	 steady	359	N/A	The birth rate in this locality is relatively static, despite peaks and troughs at the township level.	Birth notices
	 SEIFA index (2016)	954	 increasing	1,077	1,010	Winchelsea is relatively disadvantaged compared to other Australian towns, but this is improving over time	Profile.id
	 Breastfeeding rate (2019/20)	67%	 decreasing	62.9%	51.4%	The breastfeeding rate compares favourably with the municipality and the state, but may be declining over time	MCHN
	 MCH attendance rate – 4 week KAS visit (2018/19)	100%	 steady	93.5%	76.3%	The MCH attendance rate compares very favourably with the municipal and State rates, and is steady	MCHN
	 Immunisation rate (2018)	N/A	 increasing	94.0%	93.5%	The immunisation rate is gradually increasing and compares favourably with the state (NB; data is only available at the municipal level)	AIR
	 Kindergarten participation rate (2020)	107%	 steady	103.5	92.1	The kindergarten participation rate compares favourably with the state and is relatively steady	Remplan KCAP AEDC
	 Kindergarten places – forecast unmet demand (2021)	0	 decreasing	0	N/A	Victoria is introducing funded 3yo kindergarten. Forecasts indicate that there's currently sufficient capacity in this locality, but that unmet demand will arise in 2028	KCAP KISP

Alert		Locality	Trend	Surf Coast	Victoria	Comment	Source	
		89%	increasing	84.2%	81.0%	Measures physical health and wellbeing. Significantly better than municipal and state averages and trending up	AEDC	
		84%	decreasing	83.1%	77.3%	Measures social competence. Similar to the municipal and better than the state averages, but trending down	AEDC	
		81%	decreasing	81.1%	77.7%	Measures emotional maturity. Similar to the municipal and better than the state averages, but trending down	AEDC	
		91%	increasing	88.5%	84.6%	Measures language and cognitive skills. Significantly better than municipal and state averages and trending up	AEDC	
		Communication on-track (2018)	90%	increasing	85.8%	79.4%	Measures communication skills and general knowledge. Significantly better than municipal and state averages and trending up	AEDC

Discussion

- Alert 1 Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) measures the relative level of socio-economic disadvantage and/or advantage based on a range of Census characteristics including occupation, employment, income and education levels, housing, internet access, etc.
- In 2016, Winchelsea had the highest level of disadvantage in the municipality and was amongst 23% of the most disadvantaged areas in Australia (other areas in the locality including Deans Marsh and Moriac are at the other end of the scale).
- Winchelsea's SEIFA index is adversely affected by a lower proportion of people holding formal qualifications, leading to a higher percentage of non-professional employment and part time work, and therefore lower income households.

Key issue(s)

- level of disadvantage in Winchelsea

17.4 Community engagement results

The following survey results have been filtered for the 'Deans Marsh/Moriac/Winchelsea' locality.

Respondents

31

Relationship to child/ren

100% parent/guardian

Primary carer?



Children in home



Age of children



Informal assistance

The following non-professional people help me to provide for the health, wellbeing, and development of the child/children in my care:

My immediate family (partner and/or other children)



My extended family (grandparents and/or other relations)

My community (neighbours and/or friends)

Primary carers rely heavily on extended and immediate families (and much less on the community), for assistance with child-minding and occasional care. Only 10% of respondents believe that the assistance they receive is inadequate, most were positive and many joked 'that another day in the week would be helpful'.

Information and support

Service and program providers are connected, knowledgeable of other providers, and make appropriate referrals for me when necessary

It's easy for me to get information about services and programs regarding children and families in my local area

Sufficient services and programs are available in my local community to support my child's health, wellbeing, and development

Sufficient local events and activities are conducted in my community to support my child's health, wellbeing, and development

I'm confident that I could access information and support regarding family violence if I needed it

I'm confident that I could access information and support regarding disability if I needed it



Legend: 0-70% (alert) | 70-90% | 90-100%



Survey respondents would like to see improved availability of all services and supports outside of Torquay, and better communication and information provision.

Professional services and support

Services and supports	Service accessed by respondent at:							Precis of verbatim comments			
	Bellbrae	Freshwater Crk	Jan Juc	Lorne	Modewarre	Moriac	Torquay	Winchelsea	Satisfied with service quality	Satisfied with service accessibility	Satisfied with service affordability
Maternal and child health				32%	9%	59%	93%	85%	100%		More home visits. Better location in Winchelsea
Immunisation			6%		31%	13%	50%	100%	100%	100%	Promote schedules
Parent education					50%	25%	25%	100%	100%	100%	
Toy library						50%	50%	100%			
Playgroup	17%	17%		17%		50%	100%	100%	50%		
Long day care						17%	83%	83%	100%	67%	Improve affordability and accessibility
Family day care	33%			33%	33%		100%	100%			Improve affordability and accessibility
Occasional day care						17%	83%	100%	100%	100%	
Out of school hours care						17%	83%	100%	100%	100%	
Kindergarten	8%	8%		62%		23%	100%	100%	80%		Improve communication
Kinder gym											
Art, culture, dance											
Primary school	17%			33%		50%	86%	100%	80%		Greater support for children with learning difficulties
Library						25%	75%				Improve access (Moriac)
General practitioner			9%		18%	73%	83%	100%	100%		Improve availability
Specialist medical supports											

Survey respondents are generally satisfied with professional services and support in the locality. Verbatim comments include 'improve affordability and availability of child care', and 'improve availability of GPs'.

Community facilities

Facility	Most popular facility	Next most popular facility	Respondents that use the facilities (Nr)	Daily (Nr)	Weekly (Nr)	Monthly (Nr)	Respondents that find the facility suitable for their needs (%)	Precis of verbatim comments
Playground	Winchelsea	Moriac	33	3	12	7	76%	Improve/upgrade (including shade)
Nature reserve	Moriac	Winchelsea	9	1	3	2	20%	Improve/upgrade (including seating)
Paths and trails	Winchelsea	Lorne	11	4	1	0	63%	Improve/upgrade/maintain path and trail networks
Sports reserve (oval/courts)	Moriac	Winchelsea	8	1	3	1	80%	Improve maintenance, install lighting
Community centre/ community hall	Moriac	Modewarre	5	0	1	0	50%	
Swimming pool	Winchelsea	Torquay	9	0	1	0	0%	Improve/upgrade Winchelsea pool, and revise opening hours to improve accessibility
Surf lifesaving club	Anglesea		1	0	0	0	0%	

Playgrounds, paths and trails, and nature reserves are the most commonly used community facilities by families with young children. Survey respondents are not particularly satisfied with facilities in the locality, the following verbatim comments are noted: improve/upgrade/maintain nature reserves, paths and trails, playgrounds, and sports reserves; and improve/upgrade the Winchelsea pool and its accessibility.

The built environment

There are sufficient accessible facilities in my community to support my child's health, wellbeing, and development

It's safe for my family to walk or ride to places such as a park, school, a friend's house, or work

I feel safe to be out in my community, day or night



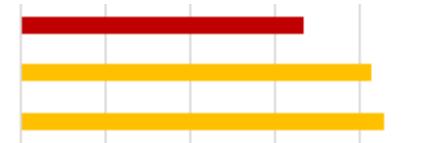
Survey responses echo the findings of the previous question regarding facilities. No insights were provided regarding walking or riding safely.

Activity

There are enough places to go and things to do in my community to keep my family and me physically active

My family has enough time each day to be physically active

I know what to do to ensure the health and wellbeing of my family, and I'm able to put this into action



Responses to the above 3 statements may indicate the need for 'more organised activities and events'.

Top 3 things that make Surf Coast Shire a great place to live NOW:

Beach (overwhelmingly), Community, Lifestyle

Top 3 things that would make the Surf Coast Shire an even better place to live in NOW:

More children's activities, a local swimming pool and lessons, improve playgrounds, and improve/extend footpaths

Top 3 things that would make the Surf Coast Shire a great place to live in 5 YEARS TIME:

Improve roads and footpaths, improve/extend public transport (including train service), improve community facilities

Key issue(s)

The following key issues are understood from the community engagement results:

1. inequitable access to facilities (and services) - incomplete and unsuitable bike tracks and footpaths, underdeveloped and unsuitable (for young children) playgrounds, parks and nature reserves
2. shortage of affordable childcare (long day care, family day care, occasional care, etc)
3. insufficient activities and events for young children
4. limited access to swimming pool and lessons
5. limited communication and information available regarding services
6. shortage of General Practitioners

17.5 Service provider engagement findings

Survey results have been filtered for the 'Deans Marsh-Moriac-Winchelsea' locality.

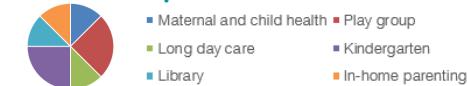
Respondents

5

Provider type



Services provided



Respondent's role



Service collaboration

Respondent regularly connects and collaborates with the following services:	at:				Satisfied with service provided	Service could be improved	Precis of verbatim comments
	Freshwater Crk	Moriac	Torquay	Winchelsea			
Maternal and child health	25%	25%	50%	67%			
Immunisation			100%	100%			
Parent education	50%		50%	50%	50%	50%	
Toy library			100%		100%		
Playgroup	50%		50%		50%		Improve/expand buildings and grounds
Long day care			100%	100%			
Family day care				100%			
Occasional day care			100%				
Out of school hours care			100%				
Kindergarten	33%		67%		50%		Improve/expand buildings and grounds
Kinder gym							
Art, culture, dance							
Primary school	50%		50%	100%			
Library	100%				100%		
General practitioner			100%				
Specialist medical supports							

Survey responses suggest an opportunity to improve parent education, playgroup, and kindergarten (facilities).

Service challenges



Verbatim comments - 'There may be insufficient facilities in Moriac and Winchelsea, particularly to cater for the rollout of funded 3yo kindergarten and growth'. Note that these comments are contrary to the findings of the Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan.

Observation

Parent/guardians are satisfied with services and supports but dissatisfied with community facilities – Service providers believe the opposite.

Either way, the sparsity of the hinterland population presents challenges for the equitable provision of services and community facilities

Equitable access to services and facilities is a challenge.

Information and support

Sufficient services and programs are available to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children



Service and program providers are connected, knowledgeable of other providers, and make appropriate referrals when necessary

Sufficient information about services and programs for children and families is available

Information and support regarding family violence is readily available

Information and support regarding disability is readily available

Sufficient local events and activities are conducted to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children

Legend: 0-70% (alert) 70-90% 90-100%



Verbatim comments supporting the above statements include 'more local events and activities for children', 'better connection and communication between service and program providers', and 'more services and programs to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children'.

Community facilities

Facility	Most popular facility	How often do you use the facility?			Respondents that find the facility suitable for their needs (%)	Improvement suggestions
		Daily (Nr)	Weekly (Nr)	Monthly (Nr)		
Community centre	Winchelsea	1			100%	
Nature reserve	Freshwater Crk		1		100%	
Sports reserve	Moriac		1		100%	
Playground	Moriac		1		100%	
Paths and trails	Freshwater Crk			1	100%	

Service providers report that the community facilities they use are suitable for their needs, and don't require improvement.

The built environment

There are sufficient accessible facilities in the Surf Coast Shire to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children

There are enough places to go and things to do in the Surf Coast Shire to keep families physically active



Verbatim comments supporting the above statements include 'the hinterland has fewer facilities for children than Torquay', and 'develop an Early Years hub in Winchelsea (comprising childcare/kindergarten/playgroup/MCHN/toy library/etc)'.

Survey responses indicate that 'the top 3 priorities currently impacting early years (and required responses)' are:

Improve early years facilities and infrastructure, improve communications (including referral pathways, service networking, and promotion), resolve availability of experienced/qualified Educators and Relievers

Survey responses indicate that 'the top 3 things that would make the Surf Coast Shire a better place for families and young children to live, in 5 YEARS TIME' are:

Develop an Early Years Hub in Winchelsea, improve/extend walking and bike paths, improve/upgrade playgrounds and sportsgrounds

Key issue(s)

The following issues are understood from the service provider survey results:

1. inequitable access to facilities and services
2. unsatisfactory communication and collaboration between service providers (including referral pathways, service networking, and promotion)
3. underdeveloped parent education and playgroup programs
4. shortage of experienced/qualified Educators and Relievers
5. insufficient activities and events for young children

17.6 Deans Marsh/Moriac/Winchelsea issues

The key locality issues, drawn from Sections 17.1 to 17.5 inclusive, are:

1. inequitable access to early years facilities and services (including bike tracks and footpaths, playgrounds, parks and nature reserves)
2. level of disadvantage in Winchelsea
3. shortage of affordable childcare (long day care, family day care, occasional care, etc)
4. limited information and promotion of available services
5. underdeveloped parent education and playgroup programs
6. unsatisfactory communication and collaboration between service providers (including referral pathways, service networking,)
7. limited access to swimming pools and lessons
8. insufficient organised activities and events for young children
9. shortage of experienced/qualified Educators and Relievers
10. shortage of General Practitioners

17 Deans Marsh/Moriac/Winchelsea



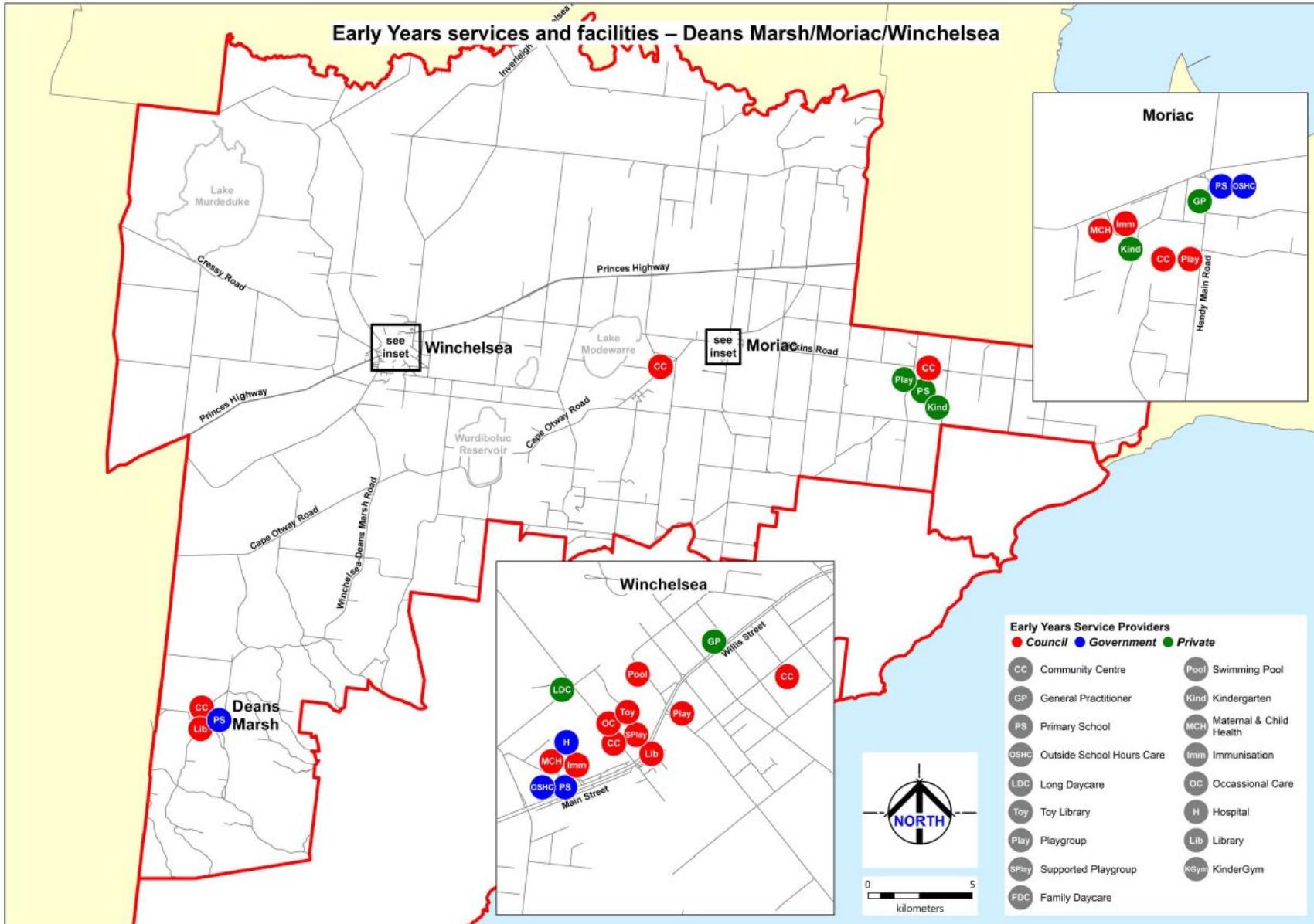
17.1 Situation

Comprising the rural hinterland of the Surf Coast Shire, this locality includes the township of Winchelsea and the villages of Deans Marsh, Moriac, and Freshwater Creek. The population of the 1,191km² locality is 6,818 - giving a population density of just 0.06 persons per hectare. The population is predominantly concentrated in Winchelsea - early years services and facilities are available in Winchelsea, Moriac, and Freshwater Creek.

Council has designated Winchelsea as an area for growth - it's attractive to young families due to its lower-cost housing and rural lifestyle. However, many Winchelsea residents work in larger nearby towns and prefer to enrol their children in services nearer to their workplace (childcare, kindergarten, schools).

Key issue(s) - equitable access to services

17.2 Services and facilities - locality overview



The Early Years are adequately catered for in Winchelsea, Moriac, and Freshwater Creek, by public and private service providers.

However, with the exception of these towns and Deans Marsh, there are few early years offerings elsewhere in the hinterland.

It could be argued that services and facilities are underrepresented in this locality, given that the early years population (numerically and as a %) and its forecast growth, is second only to Torquay.

Council is the predominant provider of services and facilities in the locality.

Key issue(s) - equitable access to services and facilities

17.3 Statistical snapshot

Alert	Criteria	Locality	Trend	Surf Coast	Victoria	Comment	Source
	 Early years population (Nr and %) (2021)	790 11.6%	 increasing	4,384 13.1%	N/A 12.5%	The early years cohort (numerically and as a %) is second only to Torquay, and is forecast to increase	Profile.id
	 Early years population growth (10 year forecast)	1.1% pa		1.9%		Cohort growth is second only to Torquay, and predominantly due to the arrival of young families in Winchelsea	Profile.id
	 Births (2020)	50	 steady	359	N/A	The birth rate in this locality is relatively static, despite peaks and troughs at the township level.	Birth notices
	 SEIFA index (2016)	954	 increasing	1,077	1,010	Winchelsea is relatively disadvantaged compared to other Australian towns, but this is improving over time	Profile.id
	 Breastfeeding rate (2019/20)	67%	 decreasing	62.9%	51.4%	The breastfeeding rate compares favourably with the municipality and the state, but may be declining over time	MCHN
	 MCH attendance rate – 4 week KAS visit (2018/19)	100%	 steady	93.5%	76.3%	The MCH attendance rate compares very favourably with the municipal and State rates, and is steady	MCHN
	 Immunisation rate (2018)	N/A	 increasing	94.0%	93.5%	The immunisation rate is gradually increasing and compares favourably with the state (NB; data is only available at the municipal level)	AIR
	 Kindergarten participation rate (2020)	107%	 steady	103.5	92.1	The kindergarten participation rate compares favourably with the state and is relatively steady	Remplan KCAP AEDC
	 Kindergarten places – forecast unmet demand (2021)	0	 decreasing	0	N/A	Victoria is introducing funded 3yo kindergarten. Forecasts indicate that there's currently sufficient capacity in this locality, but that unmet demand will arise in 2028	KCAP KISP

Alert		Locality	Trend	Surf Coast	Victoria	Comment	Source	
		89%	increasing	84.2%	81.0%	Measures physical health and wellbeing. Significantly better than municipal and state averages and trending up	AEDC	
		84%	decreasing	83.1%	77.3%	Measures social competence. Similar to the municipal and better than the state averages, but trending down	AEDC	
		81%	decreasing	81.1%	77.7%	Measures emotional maturity. Similar to the municipal and better than the state averages, but trending down	AEDC	
		91%	increasing	88.5%	84.6%	Measures language and cognitive skills. Significantly better than municipal and state averages and trending up	AEDC	
		Communication on-track (2018)	90%	increasing	85.8%	79.4%	Measures communication skills and general knowledge. Significantly better than municipal and state averages and trending up	AEDC

Discussion

- Alert 1 Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) measures the relative level of socio-economic disadvantage and/or advantage based on a range of Census characteristics including occupation, employment, income and education levels, housing, internet access, etc.
- In 2016, Winchelsea had the highest level of disadvantage in the municipality and was amongst 23% of the most disadvantaged areas in Australia (other areas in the locality including Deans Marsh and Moriac are at the other end of the scale).
- Winchelsea's SEIFA index is adversely affected by a lower proportion of people holding formal qualifications, leading to a higher percentage of non-professional employment and part time work, and therefore lower income households.

Key issue(s)

- level of disadvantage in Winchelsea

17.4 Community engagement results

The following survey results have been filtered for the 'Deans Marsh/Moriac/Winchelsea' locality.

Respondents

31

Relationship to child/ren

100% parent/guardian

Primary carer?



Children in home



Age of children



Informal assistance

The following non-professional people help me to provide for the health, wellbeing, and development of the child/children in my care:

My immediate family (partner and/or other children)



My extended family (grandparents and/or other relations)

My community (neighbours and/or friends)

Primary carers rely heavily on extended and immediate families (and much less on the community), for assistance with child-minding and occasional care. Only 10% of respondents believe that the assistance they receive is inadequate, most were positive and many joked 'that another day in the week would be helpful'.

Information and support

Service and program providers are connected, knowledgeable of other providers, and make appropriate referrals for me when necessary

It's easy for me to get information about services and programs regarding children and families in my local area

Sufficient services and programs are available in my local community to support my child's health, wellbeing, and development

Sufficient local events and activities are conducted in my community to support my child's health, wellbeing, and development

I'm confident that I could access information and support regarding family violence if I needed it

I'm confident that I could access information and support regarding disability if I needed it



Survey respondents would like to see improved availability of all services and supports outside of Torquay, and better communication and information provision.

Professional services and support

Services and supports	Service accessed by respondent at:							Precis of verbatim comments			
	Bellbrae	Freshwater Crk	Jan Juc	Lorne	Modewarre	Moriac	Torquay	Winchelsea	Satisfied with service quality	Satisfied with service accessibility	Satisfied with service affordability
Maternal and child health				32%	9%	59%	93%	85%	100%		More home visits. Better location in Winchelsea
Immunisation			6%		31%	13%	50%	100%	100%	100%	Promote schedules
Parent education					50%	25%	25%	100%	100%	100%	
Toy library						50%	50%	100%			
Playgroup	17%	17%		17%		50%	100%	100%	50%		
Long day care						17%	83%	83%	100%	67%	Improve affordability and accessibility
Family day care	33%			33%	33%		100%	100%			Improve affordability and accessibility
Occasional day care						17%	83%	100%	100%	100%	
Out of school hours care						17%	83%	100%	100%	100%	
Kindergarten	8%	8%		62%		23%	100%	100%	80%		Improve communication
Kinder gym											
Art, culture, dance											
Primary school	17%			33%		50%	86%	100%	80%		Greater support for children with learning difficulties
Library						25%	75%				Improve access (Moriac)
General practitioner			9%		18%	73%	83%	100%	100%		Improve availability
Specialist medical supports											

Survey respondents are generally satisfied with professional services and support in the locality. Verbatim comments include 'improve affordability and availability of child care', and 'improve availability of GPs'.

Community facilities

Facility	Most popular facility	Next most popular facility	Respondents that use the facilities (Nr)	Daily (Nr)	Weekly (Nr)	Monthly (Nr)	Respondents that find the facility suitable for their needs (%)	Precis of verbatim comments
Playground	Winchelsea	Moriac	33	3	12	7	76%	Improve/upgrade (including shade)
Nature reserve	Moriac	Winchelsea	9	1	3	2	20%	Improve/upgrade (including seating)
Paths and trails	Winchelsea	Lorne	11	4	1	0	63%	Improve/upgrade/maintain path and trail networks
Sports reserve (oval/courts)	Moriac	Winchelsea	8	1	3	1	80%	Improve maintenance, install lighting
Community centre/ community hall	Moriac	Modewarre	5	0	1	0	50%	
Swimming pool	Winchelsea	Torquay	9	0	1	0	0%	Improve/upgrade Winchelsea pool, and revise opening hours to improve accessibility
Surf lifesaving club	Anglesea		1	0	0	0	0%	

Playgrounds, paths and trails, and nature reserves are the most commonly used community facilities by families with young children. Survey respondents are not particularly satisfied with facilities in the locality, the following verbatim comments are noted: improve/upgrade/maintain nature reserves, paths and trails, playgrounds, and sports reserves; and improve/upgrade the Winchelsea pool and its accessibility.

The built environment

There are sufficient accessible facilities in my community to support my child's health, wellbeing, and development

It's safe for my family to walk or ride to places such as a park, school, a friend's house, or work

I feel safe to be out in my community, day or night



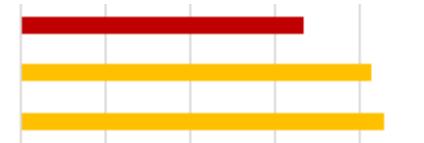
Survey responses echo the findings of the previous question regarding facilities. No insights were provided regarding walking or riding safely.

Activity

There are enough places to go and things to do in my community to keep my family and me physically active

My family has enough time each day to be physically active

I know what to do to ensure the health and wellbeing of my family, and I'm able to put this into action



Responses to the above 3 statements may indicate the need for 'more organised activities and events'.

Top 3 things that make Surf Coast Shire a great place to live NOW:

Beach (overwhelmingly), Community, Lifestyle

Top 3 things that would make the Surf Coast Shire an even better place to live in NOW:

More children's activities, a local swimming pool and lessons, improve playgrounds, and improve/extend footpaths

Top 3 things that would make the Surf Coast Shire a great place to live in 5 YEARS TIME:

Improve roads and footpaths, improve/extend public transport (including train service), improve community facilities

Key issue(s)

The following key issues are understood from the community engagement results:

1. inequitable access to facilities (and services) - incomplete and unsuitable bike tracks and footpaths, underdeveloped and unsuitable (for young children) playgrounds, parks and nature reserves
2. shortage of affordable childcare (long day care, family day care, occasional care, etc)
3. insufficient activities and events for young children
4. limited access to swimming pool and lessons
5. limited communication and information available regarding services
6. shortage of General Practitioners

17.5 Service provider engagement findings

Survey results have been filtered for the 'Deans Marsh-Moriac-Winchelsea' locality.

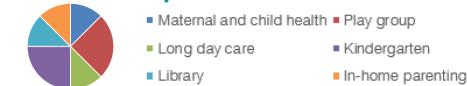
Respondents

5

Provider type



Services provided



Respondent's role

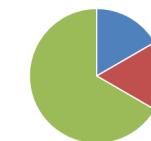


Service collaboration

Respondent regularly connects and collaborates with the following services:	at:				Satisfied with service provided	Service could be improved	Precis of verbatim comments
	Freshwater Crk	Moriac	Torquay	Winchelsea			
Maternal and child health	25%	25%	50%	67%			
Immunisation			100%	100%			
Parent education	50%		50%	50%	50%		
Toy library			100%		100%		
Playgroup	50%		50%		50%		Improve/expand buildings and grounds
Long day care			100%	100%			
Family day care				100%			
Occasional day care			100%				
Out of school hours care			100%				
Kindergarten	33%		67%		50%		Improve/expand buildings and grounds
Kinder gym							
Art, culture, dance							
Primary school	50%	50%		100%			
Library	100%				100%		
General practitioner			100%				
Specialist medical supports							

Survey responses suggest an opportunity to improve parent education, playgroup, and kindergarten (facilities).

Service challenges



Verbatim comments - 'There may be insufficient facilities in Moriac and Winchelsea, particularly to cater for the rollout of funded 3yo kindergarten and growth'. Note that these comments are contrary to the findings of the Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan.

Observation

Parent/guardians are satisfied with services and supports but dissatisfied with community facilities – Service providers believe the opposite.

Either way, the sparsity of the hinterland population presents challenges for the equitable provision of services and community facilities

Equitable access to services and facilities is a challenge.

Information and support

Sufficient services and programs are available to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children



Service and program providers are connected, knowledgeable of other providers, and make appropriate referrals when necessary

Sufficient information about services and programs for children and families is available

Information and support regarding family violence is readily available

Information and support regarding disability is readily available

Sufficient local events and activities are conducted to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children



Legend: 0-70% (alert) 70-90% 90-100%

Verbatim comments supporting the above statements include 'more local events and activities for children', 'better connection and communication between service and program providers', and 'more services and programs to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children'.

Community facilities

Facility	Most popular facility	How often do you use the facility?			Respondents that find the facility suitable for their needs (%)	Improvement suggestions
		Daily (Nr)	Weekly (Nr)	Monthly (Nr)		
Community centre	Winchelsea	1			100%	
Nature reserve	Freshwater Crk		1		100%	
Sports reserve	Moriac		1		100%	
Playground	Moriac		1		100%	
Paths and trails	Freshwater Crk			1	100%	

Service providers report that the community facilities they use are suitable for their needs, and don't require improvement.

The built environment

There are sufficient accessible facilities in the Surf Coast Shire to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children

There are enough places to go and things to do in the Surf Coast Shire to keep families physically active



Verbatim comments supporting the above statements include 'the hinterland has fewer facilities for children than Torquay', and 'develop an Early Years hub in Winchelsea (comprising childcare/kindergarten/playgroup/MCHN/toy library/etc)'.

Survey responses indicate that 'the top 3 priorities currently impacting early years (and required responses)' are:

Improve early years facilities and infrastructure, improve communications (including referral pathways, service networking, and promotion), resolve availability of experienced/qualified Educators and Relievers

Survey responses indicate that 'the top 3 things that would make the Surf Coast Shire a better place for families and young children to live, in 5 YEARS TIME' are:

Develop an Early Years Hub in Winchelsea, improve/extend walking and bike paths, improve/upgrade playgrounds and sportsgrounds

Key issue(s)

The following issues are understood from the service provider survey results:

1. inequitable access to facilities and services
2. unsatisfactory communication and collaboration between service providers (including referral pathways, service networking, and promotion)
3. underdeveloped parent education and playgroup programs
4. shortage of experienced/qualified Educators and Relievers
5. insufficient activities and events for young children

17.6 Deans Marsh/Moriac/Winchelsea issues

The key locality issues, drawn from Sections 17.1 to 17.5 inclusive, are:

1. inequitable access to early years facilities and services (including bike tracks and footpaths, playgrounds, parks and nature reserves)
2. level of disadvantage in Winchelsea
3. shortage of affordable childcare (long day care, family day care, occasional care, etc)
4. limited information and promotion of available services
5. underdeveloped parent education and playgroup programs
6. unsatisfactory communication and collaboration between service providers (including referral pathways, service networking,)
7. limited access to swimming pools and lessons
8. insufficient organised activities and events for young children
9. shortage of experienced/qualified Educators and Relievers
10. shortage of General Practitioners

18 Torquay /Torquay North



18.1 Situation

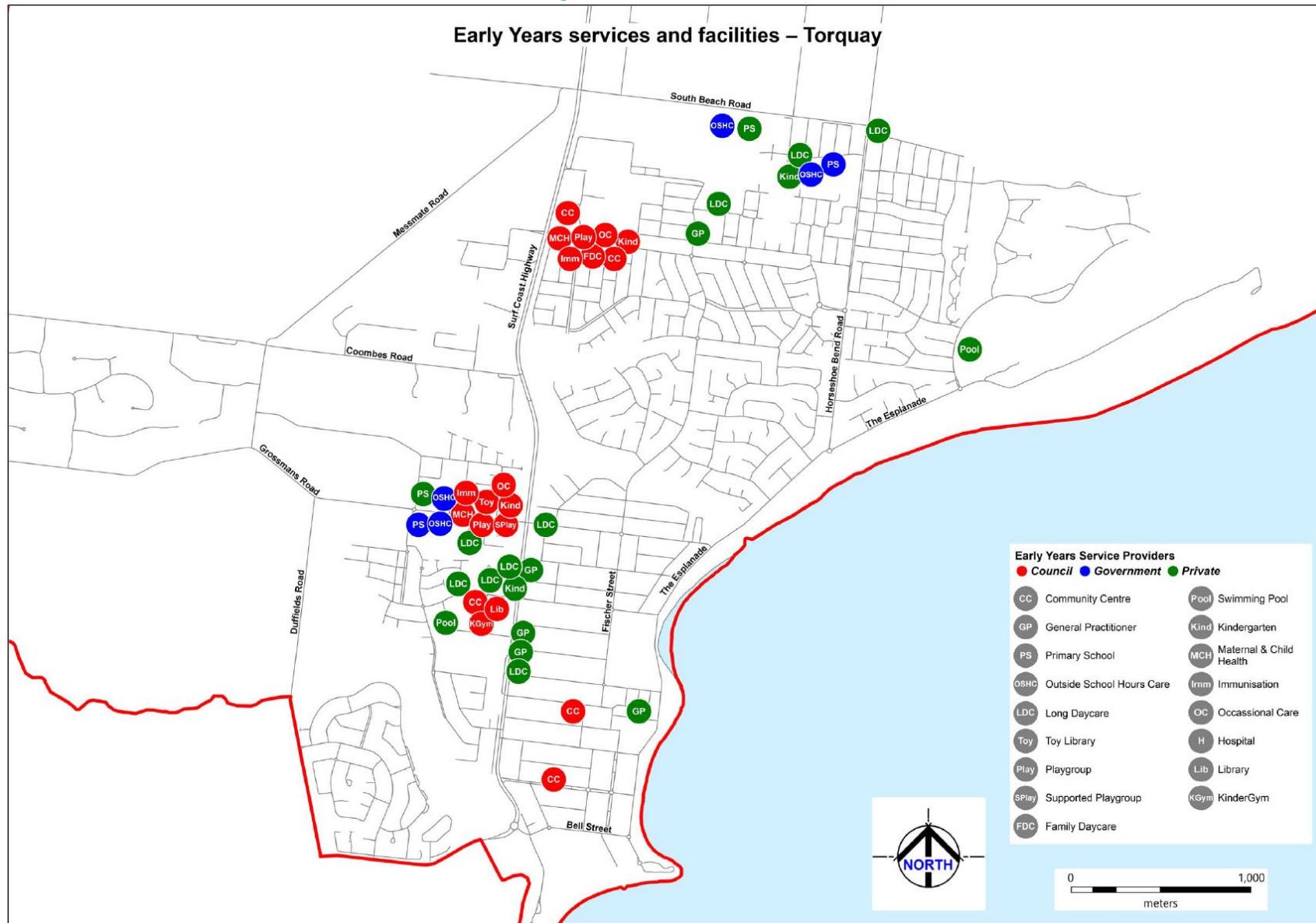
Situated on the coast in the southeast corner of the Surf Coast Shire, this locality incorporates Torquay, Old Torquay, and West Torquay. The locality covers just 34km² and the population is 15,790 giving a population density of 4.61 persons per hectare, at least 5 times greater than most other Surf Coast localities and a significant point of difference. But it should be noted that future growth is dependent on the outcome of the State Government Distinctive Areas and Landscapes project (DAL), and is therefore uncertain.

The resident population is ageing and relatively advantaged. There's a very high percentage of absentee landowners and a shortage of stock contributing to elevated property prices particularly near the beach (although more modestly priced houses are still currently available that may suit young families).

The Surf Coast Shire's population and business growth is occurring mainly in Torquay. Many families travel to Torquay for work and to use the early years services and facilities in the town, elevating demand.

Key issue(s) - None identified

18.2 Services and facilities - locality overview



The Early Years are very well catered for in Torquay. For example, the recently authorised KISP confirms sufficient kindergarten capacity for the next 10 years.

Torquay's population and business density means that early years services and facilities are all within easy reach, although traffic volumes throughout and an incomplete bike and footpath network create access hazards.

The private sector is well established as an early years service provider, whilst Council is the main provider of facilities in the locality.

Key issue(s) - under developed and unsuitable bike and footpath networks

18.3 Statistical snapshot

Alert	Criteria	Locality	Trend	Surf Coast	Victoria	Comment	Source
	 Early years population (Nr and %) (2021)	2,375 15%	 increasing	4,384 13.1%	N/A 12.5%	Torquay has the largest early years population numerically and as a %, although the % is forecast to drop as the population ages	Profile.id
	 Early years population growth (10 year forecast)	2.8% pa		1.9%		Torquay's early years population is forecast to increase by 2.8% annually, compared to 3.6% for the total population	Profile.id
	 Estimated births (2020)	233	 increasing	359	N/A	Torquay is the only locality showing an increasing birth rate (greatly affected by movements in and out of the municipality)	Birth notices
	 SEIFA index (2016)	1,091	 increasing	1,077	1,010	This locality enjoys a very high level of socio-economic advantage, which is further improving over time	Profile.id
	 Breastfeeding rate (2019/20)	70%	 increasing	62.9%	51.4%	The breastfeeding rate compares very favourably with the municipality and the state, and appears to be improving	MCHN
	 MCH attendance rate - 4 week KAS visit (2018/19)	87%	 decreasing	93.5%	76.3%	MCH attendance is better than the State rate, but less than the overall municipal rate and maybe declining	MCHN
	 Immunisation rate (2018)	N/A	 increasing	94.0%	93.5%	The immunisation rate is gradually increasing and compares favourably with the state (NB; data is only available at the municipal level)	AIR
	 Kindergarten participation rate (2020)	118%	 steady	103.5%	92.1%	The kindergarten participation rate compares favourably with the state and is relatively steady	Remplan KCAP AEDC
	 Kindergarten places – forecast unmet demand (2021)	0	 decreasing	0	N/A	Victoria is introducing funded 3yo kindergarten. Forecasts indicate that there's currently sufficient capacity in this locality, but that unmet demand will arise in 2028	KCAP KISP

		Locality	Trend	Surf Coast	Victoria	Comment	Source
		82%	decreasing	84.2%	81.0%	Measures physical health & wellbeing. Cause for concern - trending down significantly, but currently better than the state average	AEDC
		83%	decreasing	83.1%	77.3%	Measures social competence. Cause for concern - trending down, but currently better than the state average	AEDC
		79%	decreasing	81.1%	77.7%	Measures emotional maturity. Cause for concern - trending down, but currently better than the state average	AEDC
		89%	decreasing	88.5%	84.6%	Measures language and cognitive skills. Cause for concern - trending down, but currently better than the state average	AEDC
		83%	decreasing	85.8%	79.4%	Measures communication skills and general knowledge. Cause for concern - trending down significantly, but currently better than the state average	AEDC

Discussion

- Alert 1 The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) attendance rate (measured by the 4 week KAS visit) is lower than the municipal average and may be trending down. The MCH program supports children, mothers, fathers, carers and families with an emphasis on health promotion, prevention, parenting, developmental assessment, early detection and referral and social support. Program attendance may have a positive influence on a child's future outcomes.
- Alerts 2-6 The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) measures the development of children in Australia in their first year of full-time school. 15-20% of children in the Torquay locality have been classified by the AEDC as either 'at risk' or 'vulnerable', this is better than the State average but it's concerning that the scores in all 5 domains are trending down. Remedies for better preparing children for school may include improved childcare, access to 3 year old kindergarten, and improved socialisation and development opportunities.

Key issue(s)

1. Maternal and Child Health attendance rate is less than the municipal rate and decreasing
2. 15% of children (and increasing) are classified as developmentally 'as risk' or 'vulnerable'

18.4 Community engagement results

The following survey results have been filtered for the 'Torquay' locality.

Respondents

135

Relationship to child/ren

100% parent/guardian



Primary carer?

Children in home



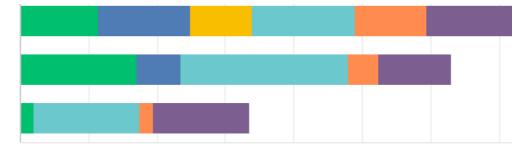
Age of children



Informal assistance

The following non-professional people help me to provide for the health, wellbeing, and development of the child/children in my care:

My immediate family (partner and/or other children)



Child-minding (1 day per week or less) Child-minding (2 to 4 days per week)
Child-minding (5 days per week or more) Occasional or emergency assistance when requested
Transporting Advice and mentoring

My extended family (grandparents and/or other relations)

My community (neighbours and/or friends)

Primary carers rely heavily on immediate and extended families (and less on the community), for assistance with child-minding and occasional care. 25% of respondents believe that the assistance they receive is inadequate and that improved childcare availability and/or child minding/babysitting services would be greatly beneficial.

Information and support

Service and program providers are connected, knowledgeable of other providers, and make appropriate referrals for me when necessary

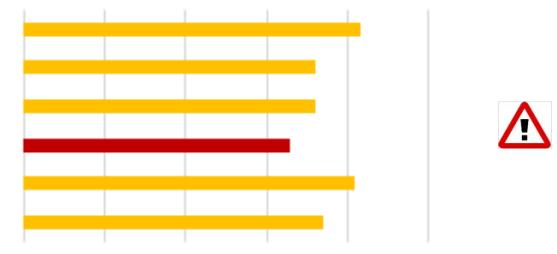
It's easy for me to get information about services and programs regarding children and families in my local area

Sufficient services and programs are available in my local community to support my child's health, wellbeing, and development

Sufficient local events and activities are conducted in my community to support my child's health, wellbeing, and development

I'm confident that I could access information and support regarding family violence if I needed it

I'm confident that I could access information and support regarding disability if I needed it



Legend: 0-70% (alert) ■ 70-90% ■ 90-100% ■

Survey results indicate concerns regarding insufficient events and activities for children. Verbatim comments suggest 'parent groups at parks and playgrounds', and 'improved information provision (including Council's website)'.

Professional services and support

Services and supports	Service accessed by respondent at:					Precis of verbatim comments		
	Anglesea	Bellbrae	Fairhaven	Jan Juc	Torquay			
						Satisfied with service quality	Satisfied with service accessibility	Satisfied with service affordability
Maternal and child health				100%	96%	99%	100%	
Immunisation	1%			99%	100%	100%	99%	
Parent education		6%		94%	90%	89%	100%	Supported Mother's Group at 6 and 12 months, Mums and bubs socialisation sessions
Toy library				100%	93%	100%	100%	Increase stock
Playgroup	8%		33%	58%	100%	100%	100%	Return asap (post COVID), and for older children
Long day care				100%	95%	98%	79%	Improve availability and affordability
Family day care	11%			89%	100%	83%	83%	Improve affordability and availability
Occasional day care				100%	100%	100%	100%	Improve affordability and availability
Out of school hours care				100%	100%	100%	75%	
Kindergarten	2%		7%	91%	97%	100%	89%	Full day rather than part day places, occasional care before and after kinder, improve kinder/parent communication
Kinder gym				100%	100%	100%	89%	Return asap (post COVID), make available for all ages, improve affordability
Art, culture, dance				100%	89%	88%	88%	More options (including singing)
Primary school	6%		6%	88%	100%	100%	100%	
Library				100%	98%	98%	100%	More child friendly activities, improve space for prams and activities
General practitioner	2%	0%	2%	96%	99%	94%	97%	Improve availability generally, more female GPs, lower costs
Specialist medical supports				100%	100%	100%	89%	Hospital in Torquay

Survey respondents are generally very satisfied with the professional services and support provided in the locality. However, verbatim comments include 'improve availability and affordability of child care and kindergarten (including more full day kindergarten places)', and 'improve availability of GPs'.

Community facilities

Facility	Most popular facility	Next most popular facility	Respondents that use the facilities (Nr)	Daily (Nr)	Weekly (Nr)	Monthly (Nr)	Respondents that find the facility suitable for their needs (%)	Precis of verbatim comments
Playground	Torquay	Torquay	121	27	86	8	79%	Upgrade playgrounds, including shade and toilets (especially Quay Reserve). Needle-like grass plants are dangerous. Quay 2 'rocket' has a dangerous spot
Nature reserve	Torquay	Torquay	67	12	39	13	91%	Install toilets (especially where there are already BBQ facilities)
Paths and trails	Torquay	Torquay	66	34	26	2	80%	Maintain/upgrade paths and trails. Install toilets. Upgrade Spring Creek bike park, install bridge over Spring Creek near park
Sports reserve (oval/courts)	Torquay	Torquay	44	2	34	8	81%	Playing surface maintenance (drainage at Quay Reserve)
Community centre/ community hall	Torquay	Torquay	10	0	8	0	88%	
Swimming pool	Torquay	Torquay	21	0	16	3	53%	Swimming lesson availability, community pool in Torquay
Surf lifesaving club	Torquay	Jan Juc	10	0	6	3	67%	Torquay SLSC is not community-friendly

Playgrounds, paths and trails, and nature reserves are the most commonly used community facilities by families with young children. Survey respondents are moderately satisfied with facilities in the locality and the following verbatim comments are noted: improve/install toilets at playgrounds, nature reserves, and strategically along paths and trails; and improve accessibility to swimming lessons.

The built environment

There are sufficient accessible facilities in my community to support my child's health, wellbeing, and development

It's safe for my family to walk or ride to places such as a park, school, a friend's house, or work

I feel safe to be out in my community, day or night



Survey responses echo the findings of the previous question regarding facilities. Verbatim comments include 'provide a community swimming pool to support children's health, wellbeing, and development', 'improve public space lighting to help people feel safe in their communities', and 'improve/extend the bike and footpath network (including improved connectivity/linkages, traffic calming, safer road crossings, and improved lighting) to allow families to feel safe to walk and ride'.

Activities

I know what to do to ensure the health and wellbeing of my family, and I'm able to put this into action

My family has enough time each day to be physically active

There are enough places to go and things to do in my community to keep my family and me physically active



The above results suggest that respondents are generally able to ensure the health and wellbeing of their families, despite busy lifestyles.

Top 3 things that make Surf Coast Shire a great place to live NOW:

Beach (overwhelmingly), Community, natural environment, and parks and playgrounds

Top 3 things that would make the Surf Coast Shire an even better place to live in NOW:

A local swimming pool and lessons, more activities and events, more/improved bike and footpaths, and improve/extend playgrounds

Top 3 things that would make the Surf Coast Shire a great place to live in 5 YEARS TIME:

A local swimming pool and lessons, more/improved bike and footpaths, less development, and improved educational outcomes (K-12)

Key issue(s)

The following key issues are understood from the community engagement results:

1. shortage of affordable childcare
2. insufficient organised activities and events for young children
3. incomplete and unsuitable (for young children) bike and footpath networks (including connectivity/linkages, traffic calming devices, safer road crossings, toilets, and lighting)
4. underdeveloped and unsuitable (for young children) playgrounds (including toilets, shade, and fences if appropriate)
5. limited access to swimming pools and lessons
6. limited information regarding available services (including Council's website)
7. shortage of General Practitioners

18.5 Service provider engagement findings

Survey results have been filtered for the 'Torquay' locality.

Respondents

15

Provider type



■ Public ■ Private not for profit ■ Private for profit

Services provided



■ Maternal and child health ■ Long day care ■ Kindergarten ■ Allied health
■ Occasional care ■ Family day care ■ Library

Respondent's role

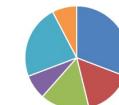
■ Nurse ■ Administrator ■ Teacher

Service collaboration

Respondent regularly connects and collaborates with the following services:	at: Anglesea Torquay	Satisfied with service provided	Service could be improved	Precis of verbatim comments
Maternal and child health	100%	100%	0%	
Immunisation	25%	75%	100%	0%
Parent education		100%	100%	0%
Toy library		100%	100%	0%
Playgroup				
Long day care	100%	100%	0%	
Family day care	100%	100%	0%	
Occasional day care	100%	100%	0%	
Out of school hours care	100%	100%	0%	
Kindergarten	100%	100%	0%	
Kinder gym				
Art, culture, dance	100%	100%	0%	
Primary school	100%	67%	33%	Improve communication/collaboration
Library	100%	80%	20%	Improve services/facilities for children
General practitioner	100%	100%		
Specialist medical supports	100%	100%		

Verbatim comments suggest opportunities to 'improve communication/collaboration by Primary Schools', and 'improve library services/facilities for children'.

Service challenges



■ Attracting and retaining staff ■ Infrastructure limitations ■ Competition
■ Sector reforms ■ Fees

Verbatim comments - 'the greatest challenges for service providers are attracting and retaining suitably qualified staff, and Council competing unfairly with the private sector (subsidised service)'.

Observation

Service provider and community engagement survey results both indicate a high level of satisfaction regarding the professional services and support available in this locality.

Information and support

Sufficient services and programs are available to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children
 Service and program providers are connected, knowledgeable of other providers, and make appropriate referrals when necessary
 Sufficient information about services and programs for children and families is available
 Information and support regarding family violence is readily available
 Information and support regarding disability is readily available
 Sufficient local events and activities are conducted to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children



Survey results indicate a need to improve information sharing. Verbatim comments include 'more local events and activities for children', 'better connection and communication between service and program providers', and 'more services and programs to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children'.

Community facilities

Facility	Most popular facility	Next most popular facility	How often do you use the facility?			Respondents that find the facility suitable for their needs (%)	Precis of verbatim comments
			Daily (Nr)	Weekly (Nr)	Monthly (Nr)		
Community centre/hall	Torquay		1	1	1	100%	
Nature reserve	Torquay	Torquay	0	9	1	67%	Improve maintenance, install toilets
Sports reserve	Torquay	Bellbrae	0	1	2	67%	Improve maintenance, more dog litter stations
Playground	Torquay	Torquay	0	2	2	100%	Install toilets
Paths and trails	Torquay	Torquay	1	3	0	100%	

Service providers have indicated that the built community facilities they use are suitable for their needs, but that 'open spaces require improved maintenance'.

The built environment

There are sufficient accessible facilities in the Surf Coast Shire to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children



There are enough places to go and things to do in the Surf Coast Shire to keep families physically active



Verbatim comments support the above statements and suggest the need to 'make facilities more accessible to young children'.

Survey responses indicate that 'the top 3 priorities currently impacting early years (and required responses)' are:

Mental health and wellbeing, networking and collaboration between service providers, service affordability

Survey responses indicate that 'the top 3 things that would make the Surf Coast Shire a better place for families and young children to live, in 5 YEARS TIME' are:

Community swimming pool, improve childcare affordability and availability, networking and collaboration between service providers

Key issue(s)

The following key issues are understood from the service provider survey results:

1. unsatisfactory connection/communication/collaboration between service and program providers (including Primary Schools)
2. insufficient local events and activities for children
3. insufficient services and programs to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children
4. unsatisfactory open space maintenance
5. limited access to community facilities for young children
6. limited access to swimming pools and lessons
7. shortage of affordable childcare

18.6 Torquay issues

The key locality issues, drawn from Sections 18.1 to 18.5 inclusive, are:

1. incomplete and unsuitable bike and footpath networks (including connectivity/linkages, traffic calming devices, safer road crossings, toilets, and lighting)
2. shortage of affordable childcare
3. insufficient organised activities and events for children
4. 15% of children (and increasing) are classified as developmentally 'as risk' or 'vulnerable'
5. underdeveloped and unsuitable playgrounds (including toilets, options for younger children, shade, and fences if appropriate)
6. limited access to swimming pools and lessons
7. difficulty finding and obtaining service information
8. unsatisfactory connection/communication/collaboration between service and program providers (including Primary Schools)
9. insufficient services and programs to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children
10. insufficient open space maintenance
11. limited access to community facilities for young children
12. shortage of General Practitioners

19 Bellbrae/Bells Beach/Jan Juc



19.1 Situation

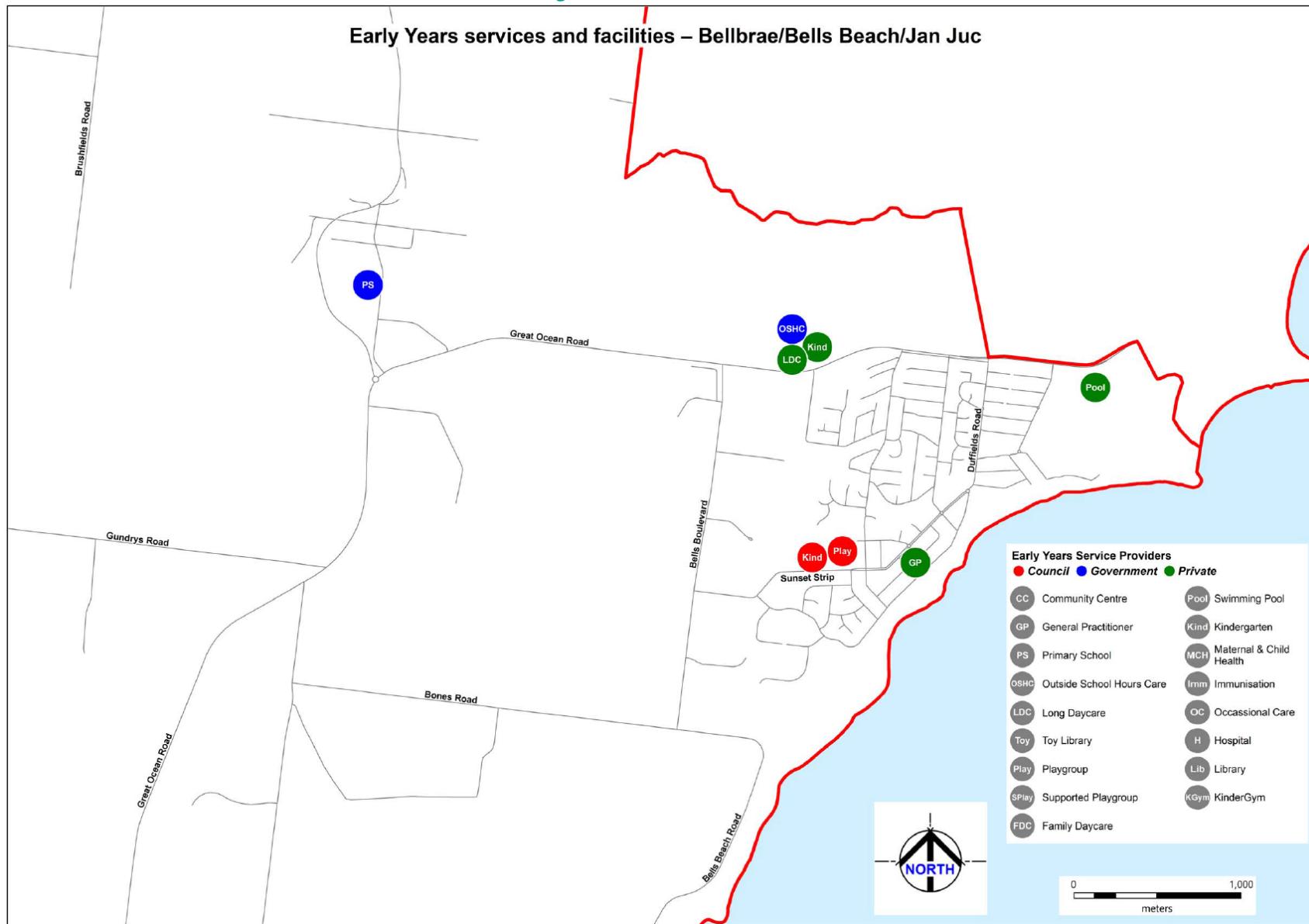
Situated adjacent to Torquay, in the southeast corner of the Surf Coast Shire, this locality includes the township of Jan Juc, and the neighbourhoods of Bellbrae and Bells Beach. The locality covers 68km² and the population is 5,303 giving a population density of just 0.78 persons per hectare - however the population, along with services and facilities, is predominantly concentrated in Jan Juc and Bellbrae (and in nearby Torquay).

The resident population is younger than the rest of the municipality but nevertheless ageing, and relatively advantaged. Tightly held housing stock contributes to elevated property prices, which tend to exclude young families starting out, evidenced by the lowest forecast early years population growth in the municipality.

The position of this locality, next to Torquay and within easy commuting distance of other major centres means that families have relatively easy access to services and facilities.

Key issue(s) - None identified

19.2 Services and facilities - locality overview



With well positioned services and facilities in its own locality and with Torquay located nearby, the Early Years are well catered for in Bellbrae/Bells Beach/Jan Juc.

However, traffic volumes on the busy Great Ocean Road and an incomplete bike and footpath network create access hazards.

The private sector is well established as an early years service provider, whilst Council is the main provider of facilities in the locality.

Key issue(s) –
incomplete and unsuitable (for young children) bike and footpath network

19.3 Statistical snapshot

Alert	Criteria	Locality	Trend	Surf Coast	Victoria	Comment	Source
	Early years population (Nr and %) (2021)	687 13%	decreasing	4,384 13.1%	N/A 12.5%	The early years cohort currently represents a relatively high percentage of the overall population, but this distribution is forecast to have the greatest decline of the four localities	Profile.id
	Early years population growth (10 year forecast)	0.4% pa		1.9%		Early years growth is the lowest of the 4 localities and less than total population growth	Profile.id
	Estimated births (2020)	56	steady	359	N/A	The actual birth rate is relatively static, this trend is forecast to continue (estimated due to inability to separate from Torquay data)	Birth notices
	SEIFA index (2016)	1,093	increasing	1,077	1,010	This locality enjoys the highest level of socio-economic advantage in the municipality, and this is further improving over time	Profile.id
	Breastfeeding rate (2019/20)	70% (est)	increasing	62.9%	51.4%	Breastfeeding rates for this locality are included in Torquay's figures, which compare favourably with the municipality and the state	MCHN
	MCH attendance rate - 4 week KAS visit (2018/19)	87% (based on Torquay rate)	decreasing	93.5%	76.3%	The attendance rate is included in the Torquay figures, and is better than the State rate, but less than the overall municipal rate	MCHN
	Immunisation rate (2018)	N/A	increasing	94.0%	93.5%	The immunisation rate is gradually increasing and compares favourably with the state (NB; data is only available at the municipal level)	AIR
	Kindergarten participation rate (2020)	118%	steady	103.5	92.1	The kindergarten participation rate is included in Torquay's figures, and compares favourably with the municipality and the state	Remplan KCAP AEDC
	Kindergarten places – forecast unmet demand (2021)	0	decreasing	0	N/A	Victoria is introducing funded 3yo kindergarten. Forecasts indicate that there's currently sufficient capacity in this locality, but that unmet demand will arise in 2028	KCAP KISP

Alert		Locality	Trend	Surf Coast	Victoria	Comment	Source	
		91%		84.2%	81.0%	Measures physical health and wellbeing. Significantly better than municipal and state averages and trending up	AEDC	
		91%		83.1%	77.3%	Measures social competence. Significantly better than municipal and state averages and trending up	AEDC	
		94%		81.1%	77.7%	Measures emotional maturity. Significantly better than municipal and state averages and trending up	AEDC	
		96%		88.5%	84.6%	Measures language and cognitive skills. Significantly better than municipal and state averages and trending up	AEDC	
		Communication on-track (2018)	94%		85.8%	79.4%	Measures communication skills and general knowledge. Significantly better than municipal and state averages and trending up	AEDC

Discussion

- Alerts 1-2 The early years population in this locality, at 13%, is the second largest in the municipality - but a shortage of housing and a growth rate less than that of the total population means that the cohort is forecast to decline statistically.
- Alert 3 The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) attendance rate (measured by the 4 week KAS visit) is lower than the municipal average and may be trending down. The MCH program supports children, mothers, fathers, carers and families with an emphasis on health promotion, prevention, parenting, developmental assessment, early detection and referral and social support. Program attendance may have a positive influence on a child's future outcomes.

Key issue(s)

The following key issues are derived from the statistical data:

- forecast early years population decline, influenced by a shortage of affordable housing
- Maternal and Child Health attendance rate is less than the municipal rate and decreasing

19.4 Community engagement results

The following survey results have been filtered for the 'Bellbrae/Bells/Jan Juc' locality.

Respondents

42

Relationship to child/ren

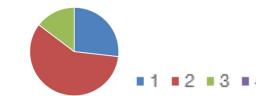
95% parent/guardian



Primary carer?

Yes ■ No

Children in home



Age of children

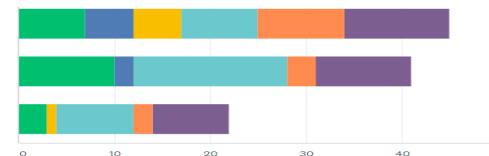


It's observed that of the 4 localities analysed, only this one had respondents other than the parent/guardian complete the survey.

Informal assistance

The following non-professional people help me to provide for the health, wellbeing, and development of the child/children in my care:

My immediate family (partner and/or other children)



My extended family (grandparents and/or other relations)

My community (neighbours and/or friends)

Child-minding (1 day per week or less) ■ Child-minding (2 to 4 days per week)
Child-minding (5 days per week or more) ■ Occasional or emergency assistance when requested
■ Transporting
■ Advice and mentoring

Primary carers rely heavily on immediate and extended families (and less on the community), for assistance with child-minding and occasional care. 27% of respondents believe that the assistance they receive is inadequate but didn't clearly articulate the additional assistance needed to cope. Two respondents identified that more available kindergarten, childcare, and support groups would be beneficial.

Information and support

Service and program providers are connected, knowledgeable of other providers, and make appropriate referrals for me when necessary

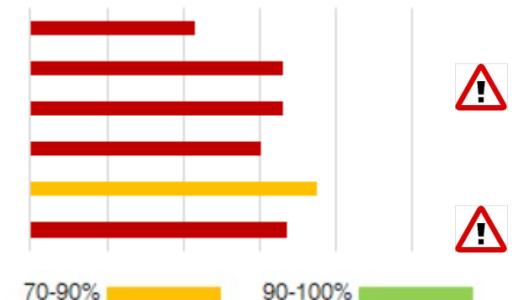
It's easy for me to get information about services and programs regarding children and families in my local area

Sufficient services and programs are available in my local community to support my child's health, wellbeing, and development

Sufficient local events and activities are conducted in my community to support my child's health, wellbeing, and development

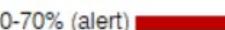
I'm confident that I could access information and support regarding family violence if I needed it

I'm confident that I could access information and support regarding disability if I needed it



Legend:

0-70% (alert)



70-90%



90-100%



Survey results suggest the need for 'improved referrals and provision of information regarding services and programs', 'more local events and activities for children', 'improved availability of services, programs, and information'.

Professional services and support

Services and supports	Service accessed by respondent at:				Precis of verbatim comments			
	Anglesea	Bellbrae	Jan Juc	Torquay	Satisfied with service quality	Satisfied with service accessibility	Satisfied with service affordability	
Maternal and child health		18%	82%		79%	83%	100%	Improve manner. Provide more support early on, and correct contemporary information.
Immunisation			38%	62%	100%	95%	100%	
Parent education			20%	80%	50%	100%	100%	Update and promote information, provide more classes
Toy library			0%	100%	100%	67%	100%	Improve accessibility (hrs)
Playgroup			67%	33%	100%	100%	100%	
Long day care		6%	6%	88%	92%	92%	36%	Improve affordability and accessibility
Family day care		33%		67%	100%	67%	67%	Improve affordability and accessibility
Occasional day care				100%				Improve affordability and accessibility
Out of school hours care		50%		50%	100%	100%	100%	
Kindergarten	5%		84%	11%	100%	88%	50%	Introduce before and after kinder care and funded 3yo kinder, improve affordability, introduce child progress reports
Kinder gym		13%		88%	100%	100%	83%	Provide mid-week sessions
Art, culture, dance				100%	100%	100%		
Primary school	69%	8%	23%		78%	88%	100%	Bellbrae PS overcrowded; improve learning, inclusion, and outdoor facilities; provide school buses
Library				100%	92%	100%	100%	Torquay library not big enough, improve parking
General practitioner	4%		38%	58%	91%	86%	85%	Improve accessibility
Specialist medical supports				100%	100%	67%	50%	Improve accessibility and affordability

Survey respondents are generally satisfied with the professional services and support provided in the locality. However, verbatim comments include 'improve affordability and availability of child care and kindergarten', 'introduce before and after kinder care', and 'improve availability of GPs'.

Community facilities

Facility	Most popular facility	Next most popular facility	Respondents that use the facilities (Nr)	Daily (Nr)	Weekly (Nr)	Monthly (Nr)	Respondents that find the facility suitable for their needs (%)	Precis of verbatim comments
Playground	Jan Juc	Torquay	55	10	31	6	96%	Improve/upgrade playgrounds, including shade, toilets, and drinking water (esp Grossmans Ridge)
Nature reserve	Jan Juc	Torquay	38	7	18	4	93%	Plant more trees
Paths and trails	Jan Juc	Torquay	45	5	25	3	96%	Improve/upgrade paths and trail network, including road crossings. Another bike park
Sports reserve (oval/courts)	Jan Juc	Torquay	23	5	10	4	90%	
Community centre/ community hall	Torquay		6	0	4	0	75%	Improve/upgrade facilities
Swimming pool	Torquay	Winchelsea	13	0	11	0	20%	Improve/upgrade pool facilities; new community pool. Improve swimming lesson availability
Surf life saving club	Jan Juc	Torquay	6	0	1	1	100%	

Playgrounds, paths and trails, and nature reserves are the most commonly used community facilities by families with young children. Survey respondents are generally satisfied with facilities in the locality, however the following verbatim comments are noted: improve/upgrade playgrounds (including shade, toilets, and drinking water), improve/upgrade bike tracks and footpaths (including road crossings), and improve accessibility to a swimming pool and lessons.

The built environment

There are sufficient accessible facilities in my community to support my child's health, wellbeing, and development

It's safe for my family to walk or ride to places such as a park, school, a friend's house, or work

I feel safe to be out in my community, day or night



It's noted that the verbatim comments 'improve/extend the bike and footpath network' (including connectivity/linkages, traffic calming, safer road crossings, and lighting) are associated with enabling families to feel 'safe to walk and ride to places'.

Activities

I know what to do to ensure the health and wellbeing of my family, and I'm able to put this into action

My family has enough time each day to be physically active

There are enough places to go and things to do in my community to keep my family and me physically active



The above results suggest that most respondents are able to ensure the health and wellbeing of their families, despite busy lifestyles.

Top 3 things that make Surf Coast Shire a great place to live NOW:

Beach (overwhelmingly), Community, Lifestyle, and natural environment

Top 3 things that would make the Surf Coast Shire an even better place to live in NOW:

More activities and events, a local swimming pool and lessons, less development, and improve/extend playgrounds

Top 3 things that would make the Surf Coast Shire a great place to live in 5 YEARS TIME:

A local swimming pool and lessons, improve/extend public transport (including train service), environment protection, and improve/extend footpaths and bike trails

Key issue(s)

The following community priorities are clearly evident from the survey results:

1. limited access to swimming pools and lessons
2. incomplete and unsuitable (for young children) bike and footpath network (including road crossings)
3. shortage of affordable child care (including before and after kinder care)
4. insufficient local events and activities for children
5. underdeveloped and unsuitable (for young children) playgrounds (including shade, toilets, and drinking water)
6. over-development
7. difficulty obtaining information and referrals regarding services and programs
8. insufficient priority given to environment protection
9. inadequate public transport (including train services)
10. shortage of General Practitioners

19.5 Service provider engagement findings

Survey results have been filtered for the 'Bellbrae-Bells Beach-Jan Juc' locality.

Respondents

1

Provider type

Public

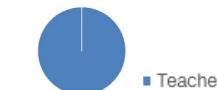
Services provided



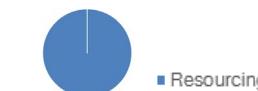
Service collaboration

Respondent regularly connects and collaborates with the following services:	at: Jan Juc Torquay	Satisfied with service provided	Service could be improved	Precis of verbatim comments
Maternal and child health				Nil commentary
Immunisation				
Parent education				
Toy library				
Playgroup				
Long day care				
Family day care	100%			
Occasional day care				
Out of school hours care				
Kindergarten				
Kinder gym				
Art, culture, dance				
Primary school				
Library	100%	100%		
General practitioner				
Specialist medical supports				

Respondent's role

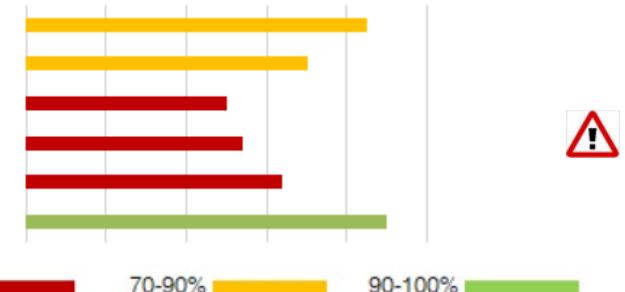


Service challenges



Information and support

Sufficient services and programs are available to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children
 Service and program providers are connected, knowledgeable of other providers, and make appropriate referrals when necessary
 Sufficient information about services and programs for children and families is available
 Information and support regarding family violence is readily available
 Information and support regarding disability is readily available
 Sufficient local events and activities are conducted to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children



The survey response suggests a need to 'improve the provision of information regarding services and programs, family violence and disability'.

Community facilities

Facility	Most popular facility	Next most popular facility	How often do you use the facility?	Respondents that find the facility suitable for their needs (%)	Precis of verbatim comments
Sports reserve	Jan Juc	N/A	Monthly	100%	Nil

The built environment

There are sufficient accessible facilities in the Surf Coast Shire to support the health, wellbeing, and development of children
 There are enough places to go and things to do in the Surf Coast Shire to keep families physically active



There were no survey responses to indicate 'the top 3 priorities currently impacting early years'.

There were no survey responses to indicate 'the top 3 things that would make the Surf Coast Shire a better place for families and young children to live, in 5 YEARS TIME'.

Key issue(s)

There was only one respondent to the Service Providers survey in this locality, unfortunately that's insufficient to identify representative and statistically valid issues. Nevertheless, the sole respondent's survey responses are respectfully reproduced above (less verbatim comments).

19.6 Bellbrae/Bells Beach/Jan Juc issues

The key locality issues, drawn from Sections 19.1 to 19.5 inclusive, are:

1. limited access to swimming pools and lessons
2. incomplete and unsuitable (for young children) bike and footpath network (including road crossings)
3. shortage of affordable child care
4. insufficient local events and activities for children
5. underdeveloped and unsuitable playgrounds (including shade, toilets, and drinking water)
6. over-development (town planning)
7. difficulty obtaining information and referrals regarding services and programs
8. insufficient priority given to environment protection
9. inadequate public transport (including train services)
10. shortage of General Practitioners
11. limited access to community facilities for young children
12. forecast early years population decline, influenced by a shortage of affordable housing