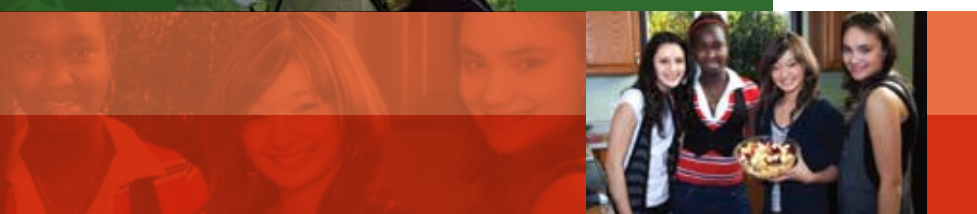
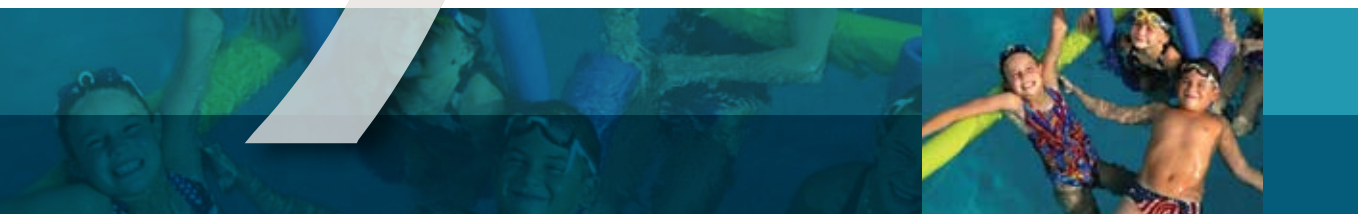




HUME CITY COUNCIL **COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY** 2009-2013

Hume City
A World Health Organisation
International Safe Community








Hume City Council

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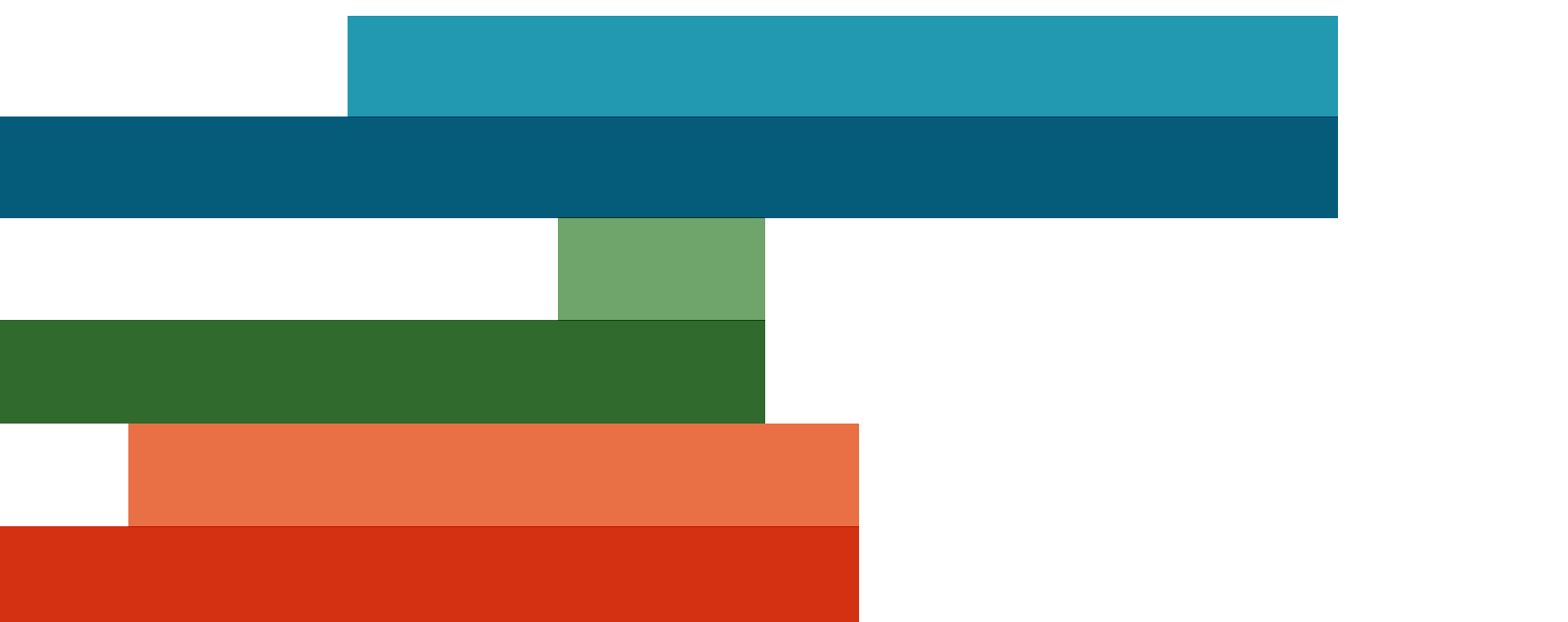
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HUME CITY COUNCIL
**COMMUNITY
SAFETY
STRATEGY**
2009-2013

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FOREWORD FROM THE MAYOR

I am pleased to introduce Hume City Council's strategy for creating a Safe Community for all who live, work and play. Hume is a International World Health Organisation accredited Safe Community and I am proud of our high standing in the International community.

Council recognises the important relationship between safety, health and wellbeing of the community. A range of innovative strategies have been adopted by Council and will be implemented from now until 2013. Reducing the risk of injury in Hume is an important service to the Community and Council takes a leadership role in the promotion of safety.

The Hume Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce have overseen the process of developing this strategy and endorse the collaborative approach undertaken by Council to achieve a Safe Community from now and into the future.

Priorities for Council to achieve a Safe Community include the reduction of injury to children and young people, rejection of violence, support for our priority populations, crime prevention and safe urban design and improved transport safety for all.

Hume City Council takes an innovative approach to Community Safety and I commend the Hume Community Safety Strategy 2009 - 2013 to you. I look forward to working with the community to achieve our vision of a Safe Community

Cr Jack Ogilvie

Hume City Council

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SAFE CITY TASKFORCE

After ten years as the Chair of the Social Justice and Safe City Task Force I am pleased to reflect on the progress towards achieving the vision of an active harmonious Safe Community. This strategy articulates the next steps so everyone who lives, works or visits is able actively take part in our community without fear or risk of injury.

I would like to thank everyone for their past as well as their future support as Hume people and organisations work together to achieve common goals. Hume's businesses are dynamic, energetic and demonstrate social responsibility and give freely to make this a great and safe place. There is universal commitment to a fair go and making this a place of opportunity for all. Hume will continue to live up to its reputation for setting a vision, doing the hard work and making a difference.

I look forward to working with the community, organisations, Government and Council to delivering the outcomes of this Strategy.

Frank McGuire

Chair of the Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce





1 COMMUNITY SAFETY IN HUME

1.1 Introduction

A Safe Community enables all individuals living, working or visiting Hume to participate in the community without fear or risk of injury. It is a community which creates an environment based on cooperation and partnership across all sectors of the community. It is free from discrimination and violence. It is socially inclusive, respectful and has a strong sense of pride. It also has low rates of intentional and unintentional injury and crime, while exhibiting high rates of community participation and social inclusion.

Since February 1996 Council has been designated as a World Health Organisation (WHO) International Safe Community. This International accreditation demonstrates Council's commitment to Safety Promotion and Injury Prevention across the municipality. Hume is currently the longest serving member of the International Network of Safe Communities outside Sweden.

Hume was first designated in 1996, and was redesignated as an International Safe Community in 2006 by the New Zealand Certifying Centre, Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand. Hume City Council, the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion, and Monash University Accident Research Centre agreed to:

“Implement an ongoing program of injury control. This initiative will cover the whole community including people in all age groups, all environments and all situations. The parties agree to document and evaluate their efforts and to actively spread their experiences nationally and internationally”

The Hume Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce established in 1999, as a high level interagency group which identifies and supports the development of initiatives that promote safety and social justice. The Community Safety Strategy complements the Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce Charter and Statement of Priorities 2009 – 2013.

A Safe Community is characterised or enables:

- > **Health and wellbeing;**
- > **Participation;**
- > **Safe environments;**
- > **Enjoyable surroundings;**
- > **Pride;**
- > **Partnerships to strengthen the community and reduce injury and crime.**

This strategy is dedicated towards achieving Hume City Council's *Social Justice Charter 2007* outcomes of equal rights, reducing economic and social inequality and enabling participation. It complements the work of the Family and Children Services Strategy and the Road Safety Action Plan 2009 - 2012 and Youth, Transport, Walking and Cycling Strategies currently under development. The Municipal Public Health Plan also considers and responds to similar social determinants of health.

This Strategy is Municipal wide and seeks to complement and to be integrated across Council and the community. The Strategy will be reviewed annually and be evaluated at the conclusion of the Strategy against the Key Performance Indicators.

1.2 Hume City Profile

Hume City is located on Melbourne's north-west fringe. The total population in 2008 was 162,260 with a projected growth of 238,251 by 2030. Hume is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Melbourne.

Hume City residents are relatively younger in age compared with the metropolitan Melbourne, with a higher proportion of 'family households'. The population characteristics of Hume include a higher number of young people but a smaller number of people over the age of 65 compared to metropolitan Melbourne. It is expected that the general population age will increase and therefore keeping older people safe, active and healthy in their homes will be an important priority. By 2016 it is forecast the aged population (65+) will increase from 8.7% in 2009 to 11.4%.¹

By 2030, Hume's population of 36,843 young people aged 10 to 24 years of age is expected to grow to 50,863, 22.1% of the population. The Youth Disengagement rate in Hume is 11.9% compared with Melbourne Statistical Division of 7.4%. Between 2001/02 to 2007/08 Hume experienced high rates of youth accessing mental health services compared to the Victorian rate. Hume has a higher proportion of young people aged between 15 and 19 who are not engaged in fulltime study or employment. However, Apprenticeship and Vocational Training Enrolments are higher than the Melbourne and Victorian average.²

In 2006, Hume had the 3rd largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of the 31 metropolitan Local Government Areas. Nearly two-thirds of the which are under 25 years of age. A mix of culturally and linguistically diverse individuals creates a vibrant community. Hume City is the 9th most culturally diverse municipality in Victoria. In 2006, 29.2 % of the population were born overseas and 24.9% were from non-English speaking backgrounds. There is a continuing demand for culturally and linguistically diverse settlement services with 6,009 new arrivals to Hume between 2004 and 2009.³

Hume is currently ranked 4th most disadvantaged of the Local Government Areas in Melbourne.⁴ Residents in Hume are below the metropolitan Melbourne average for school retention, employment and for achieving a tertiary education.⁵ The average income in 2006 was \$553.00 compared in the metropolitan Melbourne weekly average of \$647.00. The Unemployment rate at the end of 2008 was 6.6%, compared with the Melbourne Statistical Division of 4.3%. Currently over one third of Hume residents (36.2%) work within the municipality with the majority of Hume residents traveling to work in a vehicle (84.2%), and only 8.1% utilise public transport.

This dynamic population creates some complex Community Safety issues. Statistics demonstrate that Hume has below both the Victorian and Metropolitan Melbourne averages for people who feel safe alone at night, during the day, and walking around the Municipality. Despite this, recorded offences for crime against the person and crimes against property are lower in Hume compared to the Victorian and Metropolitan averages. Family Violence however is significantly higher with 934 recorded incidents per 100,000 population, compared to the Victorian average of 578 incidents.⁶



1.3 Responding to the Community

Consultation for the development of the Community Safety Strategy 2009 – 2013 has included a Community Safety Survey of Hume residents in 2008, meetings with key stakeholders and community groups across Hume. This process has highlighted a number of gaps in community participation and a need for Council to continue to seek the communities input in achieving the goal of a Safe Community.

The survey respondents suggestions to reduce crime and improve safety included both proactive approaches as well as enforcement strategies. Proactive actions include 'better lighting', bike path and walking tracks and recreational services for young people. The majority of respondents sought greater Police presence and some thought increased penalties would deter 'dumping of rubbish' and hooning.

The Community Survey 2008 sought community views on their perceptions of safety, perceptions of crime, how to reduce crime and improve safety. Despite improvements in community safety across Hume, specifically the reduction in crime statistics and road accidents, the community had fairly negative perceptions of safety in Hume. Most of the respondents believed that compared to five years ago, the safety levels had worsened and road safety has either remained the same or worsened.⁷

Respondents were asked where they felt most safe. 'At home' rated the highest, followed by 'leisure centres and facilities'. 'Train stations, roads or streets, parks and open spaces' were identified as places in which the community felt the least safe.

Community Indicators Victoria (CIV) demonstrates Hume is below the Victorian average for perceptions of safety; in 2007, 96% of the Victorian community felt safe during the day, but only 93.1% of Hume residents. At night time the Victorian average for feeling safe at night time was 66.5%, however for Hume it was 58.4% felt safe at night.⁸

A sense of belonging and connection to the community is an important predictor of the perception of safety. The average community score for a person living in Hume was 67.1, compared with the Victorian average of 70.7. Positively, 94.3% of the adult population felt they could get help from friends, family or neighbours when needed, compared to metropolitan Melbourne at 92.4%.

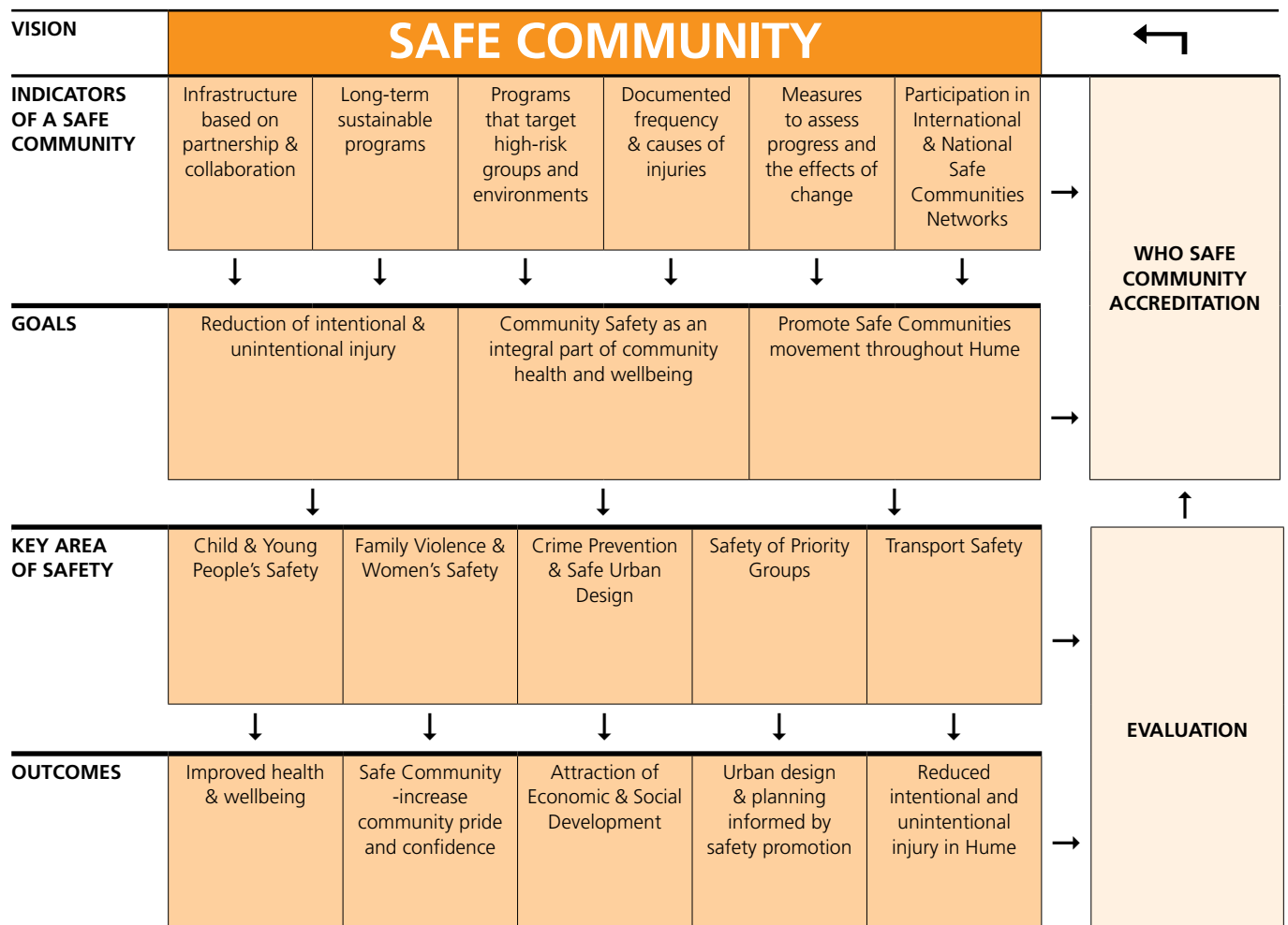
Hume is slightly (3%) below the average for reported offences against the person across Victoria. In Hume there were 798 reported offences per 100 000 population in 2006-07, compared with 822 per 100 000 for the whole of Victoria. Property crime in Hume is slightly (5%) above the State average, with 5762 per 100 000, compared with 5482 per 100,000 in Victoria.⁹

There is an apparent inconsistency between perception and recorded statistics, which can have a negative impact on rates of community participation, inclusion, health and wellbeing. Council will seek to address poor perceptions of safety; to increase the communities understanding of what causes some people to feel unsafe and factors that lead to criminal, anti-social or destructive behaviour.



2 COMMUNITY SAFETY FRAMEWORK

The Framework outlines the strategic approach Council will take towards Community Safety throughout the municipality. This Framework integrates the actions required to achieve the vision of a Safe Community, and fulfil the obligations of accreditation as a World Health Organisation International Safe Community, with local programs being implemented to improve community safety for all people in all settings across Hume.





2.1 Council's Vision of a Safe Community

Council's vision is to be recognised as a leader in achieving social, environmental and economic outcomes with a common goal of connecting our proud community and celebrating the diversity of Hume.

The Hume City Plan 2030 outlines Council's commitment to Community Safety.¹⁰ Between 2009 to 2030, Council has a vision to enhance safety and perceptions of safety and to coordinate community actions to reduce crime. By 2030, Hume aims to enhance safety in all public areas, including roadways and activity centres.¹¹ Within this vision, Council is committed to working together with the community to improve health and safety and those who live, work and play in Hume City. As endorsed by the Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce, the Community Safety Strategy proposes Hume's Vision for a Safe Community as follows:

Hume City will be an active harmonious safe city where everyone who lives, works or visits participates responsibly without fear or risk of injury.

In the *Council Plan 2009 – 2013*, Health, Safety and Wellbeing has been identified as a strategic objective. Council aims to plan, provide and/or advocate for services that enable Hume residents of all ages to pursue a healthy and safe lifestyle that contributes to overall wellbeing.

The Community Safety Strategy outlines Councils' approach to developing a Safe Community; it also provides the opportunity for multilateral partnership with local organisations to achieve wider social outcomes beyond Council's influence. Council has an important leadership role in helping to create a Safe Community; however it cannot achieve this vision in isolation. Partnership with key stakeholders, with a shared responsibility for the outcomes is essential.



2.2 Safe Community Indicators

The WHO International Safe Community Accreditation is achieved through satisfactorily meeting key Indicators. These include broadly based partnerships working through priority groups to reduce the incidence and impact of injuries for all people in all settings, include high risk groups and places; utilise injury surveillance data to prioritise, design and evaluate interventions; and sharing knowledge through local, national and international networks. Hume is due for re-accreditation in 2011 and Council will be required to report against the six Safe Community Indicators to the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion.

2.3 Goals

The following goals have been developed to help meet Council's vision of a Safe Community by 2030. Each Goal has a Key Performance Indicator that will be considered either as part of the annual implementation plan or as part of the evaluation that will occur at the conclusion of this strategy.

The reduction of intentional and unintentional injury

Injury has a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of the community. Most injuries can be prevented by identifying their causes and reducing the community's exposure to them.¹² Creating safe environments to prevent unintentional injury is currently a Victorian State Government priority.¹³

Key Performance Indicator:

Decrease in unintentional and intentional injury

Community Safety is understood as an integral part of community health and wellbeing

There is a dynamic socio-ecological relationship between an individual, their physical and social environment and their health and wellbeing.¹⁴ Overall, community safety is a determinant of an individual's health and wellbeing, as well as the health of the population.

Key Performance Indicator:

Increase in the population who recognise safety as an integral part of their health and wellbeing

To promote Safe Communities movement throughout Hume

The Safe Communities movement and the Hume WHO International Accreditation demonstrate Council's commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of the community through a focus on injury prevention and community safety promotion.

Key Performance Indicator:

Increase in awareness of Hume's WHO International Safe Community Accreditation

2.4. Key Areas of Safety

The five Key Areas of Safety are:

- > Children and Young People's Safety
- > Family Violence and Women's Safety
- > Crime Prevention and Urban Design
- > Safety of Priority Groups and
- > Transport Safety

The areas of safety acknowledge that a comprehensive community safety strategy requires a life course approach. In each safety area the Strategies are grouped into themes which help to define and characterise each approach to creating a Safe Community. There is a need for an integrated and multifaceted approach to improving the safety and wellbeing of the community:

Information

Strategies which use an educational or informative approach. These include a mix of individual and population targets, with the aim of raising awareness, highlighting issues and thereby empowering the community to understand what promotes their safety, health and wellbeing.

Participation and Opportunity

Includes specific activities, initiatives and programs which require active facilitation, involvement or support from Council and which seek to engage and connect with the community.

Partnership and Advocacy

To help build the capacity of a wide range of sectors across Hume through partners. These strategies aim to achieve outcomes for the community and to advocate for structural and dynamic change.



3 KEY AREAS OF SAFETY

There are five key areas of safety which are informed by the social determinants of health and specific population groups at risk, in addition to prominent community safety issues throughout Hume. These five areas of safety are also aligned with current National and State health priorities¹⁵ and the objectives of A Fairer Victoria¹³.

3.1. Children and Young People's Safety

- > In 2006 there were 11,070 children aged 0 to 4, and 17,219 children aged 5 to 11
- > By 2031, Hume's population of young people aged 10 to 24 years of age is expected to grow to 51,761, increasing from 35,002 in 2006

The safety of children and young people is paramount to the future development of Hume. Their contribution to community life is valuable and Council seeks to support and encourage active participation of children and young people to enhance the community safety of Hume.

3.1.1 Child Safety

- > Injury is the leading cause of death for children aged 1 to 14 years, and is the second most common reason for admission to hospital.¹⁷ From 2000 – 2002, 56 children died in Hume as a result of an injury.¹⁸
- > Young children aged from 0 to 4 years account for more than half of all unintentional child injury deaths

Child safety is an important determinant of health. Every child has the right to feel safe, be protected from exploitation, violence or abuse, and to fully participate in family, community and social life.¹⁹

In 2007 80,000 Victorian children were treated in hospital as a result of an injury. This equates to 8 children in every 10 aged 0 to 12 years of age.

Major areas of preventable injuries include the following:

- > Falls: which relate to surfaces, structures, furniture and playground safety
- > Poisoning: household and farm chemicals, and medication
- > Fire, burn, scald injury: due to hot water and drinks scalds
- > Dog bite injury
- > Hand and finger entrapment injuries
- > Injury from fixed architecture glass and glass furniture
- > Drowning, suffocation/strangulation
- > Driveway run over deaths²⁰

Child safety can be categorised into developmental ages and stages. The healthy and progressive development of a child is associated with increasing but managed risks as the child learns and discovers more about her or his environment. This increasing and rapid development is associated with increased risks in the home and surrounding environment. To prevent injury to infants and children, safer environments and products are needed for those who care for young children. This includes parents, child and health care workers and teachers.²¹

The Community Safety Strategy and Council's Family and Children's Services support a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) child friendly environment approach; one in which children are nurtured through safe and supportive environments which create opportunities for recreation, social interaction, learning, cultural expression, psychological development and the promotion of the highest quality of life for its young people.²²

3.1.2 Young People's Safety

- > Hume has a young population relative to other metropolitan Local Government Areas, with 29.4% of persons under the age of 18 years, compared to 22.8% for metropolitan Melbourne
- > Between 2005 and 2007, there were 73 casualty crashes in Hume involving young drivers aged between 18 and 21
- > Under-age drinking is strongly associated with increased risk of injury and violence²³
- > Young people are significantly over-represented both as victims and as offenders of crime. In 2007/08 there were 1887 alleged offenders aged between 15 and 24 years.²⁴

As young people grow and develop during adolescence there is an increase in independence and the rapid forming of identity. Concurrently, young people begin to experiment, take risks and this is associated with an increase in injuries.

The period of rapid change and development is characterised by the development of new skills, such as learning to drive, entering the workforce, the increasing need for peer acceptance, and the potential exposure and experimentation of drugs and alcohol. Subsequently, young people are over represented for unintentional injury.²⁵

In 2007, more than 60,000 young people were treated in hospital as a result of an unintentional injury. This equates to 8 in every 100 young people. During this year, males were overrepresented for all hospital treated injuries.²⁶ Injuries as a result of hit/struck/crush were the most common Emergency Department presentation followed by falls. Transport injuries account for a quarter of Hospital Admissions in this age group. Rates of death increase rapidly from the age of 15 years to 18 years for transport related deaths. Hospitalisation from road trauma for males in 2001-02 was 2.5 times the rate for females.²⁷ The most common activities at the time of being injured were sports, working for an income and leisure.²⁸

Young people are consistently over represented in crime statistics both as victims and as offenders.²⁹ Crimes against the person have increased from 992.4 in 2006/07 to 1,098.7 in 2007/08 (per 100 000 population persons aged 15-14 years). The most common alleged offences experienced by young people in Hume during 2007/08 were assault, theft and justice procedures. An increase in risk taking behaviour, peer pressure and popular cultures, may be contributing factors to pushing boundaries, bullying and harassment, risky behaviours and experimentation leading potentially to poor health and wellbeing outcomes for some young people.³⁰ Poor perceptions of young people strongly feature in the 2008 Community Safety Survey.

Under-age drinking is strongly associated with increased risk of injury and violence, and is a strong contributor to poor perceptions of young people. In addition, bullying and harassment experienced by young people may have lasting effects on health and wellbeing. It is estimated that 1 in every 4 Australian students will be a victim of bullying.³¹

The Community Safety Strategy seeks to identify and address the main intentional and unintentional injury risks to young people. While young people are over-represented in a number of areas of safety, this strategy will concentrate on areas which complement other Council Strategies.

Child and Young People Safety Strategies:

Information

- > Highlight the community safety issues for young people including the risks of injury due to drugs and alcohol, the prevalence of bullying and harassment
- > Promote injury prevention and safety promotion to local sports and leisure organisations to prevent injury to participants and spectators

Participation and Opportunity

- > Continue to provide interactive parent and guardian child safety sessions and other safety promotion initiatives
- > Actively engage and consult with young people to seek opportunities to improve community perceptions of young people and provide alternatives to risk taking and anti-social behaviour

Partnership and Advocacy

- > Resource the community to raise awareness of child safety and to highlight the preventable nature of child injury
- > Collaborate with Primary and Secondary schools to prevent bullying and harassment, emphasising programs that promote positive values of respect for peers, teachers and the community
- > Engage with key stakeholders including the local police and judicial services to reduce youth crime recidivism and support effective diversionary programs

Key Performance Indicators

- > Reduction in the number and severity of injuries sustained by children and young people
- > Increase in the number of parents and care givers who attend a Child Safety session through the Babies in Hume program

Strategic Linkages

- > Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce
- > Maternal and Child Health Services
- > Schools and Educational institutions
- > Victorian Police and Judicial Services

3.2 Family Violence & Women's Safety

- > Hume currently has the second highest incidence of reported Family Violence in Victoria;³²
- > 1 in 5 women experience sexual assault.³³ In 2006 Hume's female population was 74,515 which equates to 14,903 victims of sexual assault in Hume alone;
- > For women aged between 15 and 44, the greatest burden of disease is intimate partner violence;³⁴
- > The economic cost to Australia each year is approximately \$13.6 billion, this figure is expected to rise to \$415.6 billion by 2021;³⁵

All women have the right to live in a Safe Community free from the fear of violence and crime. Council is committed to tackling Family Violence and working towards a Safe Community for all. Council seeks to promote the importance of respectful and equal relationships in all settings.

As a determinant of mental health and wellbeing, violence against women is a violation of human rights. It has long-term effects on the health of families and the community. It has been recognised both nationally and internationally that violence against women requires urgent attention to prevent its damaging effects on society.³⁶ Family Violence also has a lasting effect on the health and wellbeing of children and young people who may witness or be victims.

The Hume Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce is committed to the prevention of violence against women and has identified Family Violence as its number one priority. A recent forum hosted by the Taskforce identified the following key actions for Council:

- > Increase school based education around healthy relationships
- > Increase and/or expansion of Men's services and involvement in prevention

A recent VicHealth study revealed that intimate partner violence leads to more ill health and premature death in women than any other risk factor such as obesity, smoking or high blood pressure³⁷. It is the most common form of violence against women.³⁸

The prevention of Family Violence and the pursuit of a Safe Community for all women is the responsibility of all sectors of the community. This includes workplaces, homes and in the broader community. Hume City Council plays a pivotal role in role-modelling safe and equitable treatment of women, and the rejection of assault and Family Violence.

Family Violence & Women's Safety Strategies:

Information

- > Lead a social marketing campaign to promote healthy and respectful relationships and to reject cultures of violence
- > Build awareness of the causes and far reaching impact of violence on the community's social cohesion and pride through White Ribbon Day and Say No to Violence campaigns

Participation and Opportunity

- > Continue to provide a leadership role in the development of workplace policies and procedures to ensure all workplaces in Hume are safe for women
- > Develop and undertake a women's safety checklist for Council and community facilities to improve the safety of the built environment for women

Advocacy & Partnership

- > Mobilise Hume sport and recreational organisations, schools and community groups, to value diversity and to take a zero tolerance approach to violence
- > Partner with schools to develop educational resources and programs to enable young people to develop healthy relationships

Key Performance Indicators

- > Decrease in the incidence of Crime Against the Person and Family Violence
- > Increase in marketing materials which positively promote and identify respectful relationships

Strategic Linkages

- > Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce
- > Hume Domestic Violence Network
- > Northern Family Violence Strategic Network
- > Victorian Government Office for Women
- > Victoria Police

3.3 Crime Prevention and Safe Urban Design

- > From 2006/07 to 2008/09 there was an overall reduction in crime in Hume of 4.9%³⁹
- > Hume residents report feeling less safe at night and during the day than Metropolitan Melbourne or Victorian residents⁴⁰
- > Hume is ranked 9th fastest growing municipality, with the 5th largest growth, in Victoria⁴¹
- > Melbourne 2030 emphasises the creation of a Safer City through improved applications of design principles, grouping of activities, and better planning for police and emergency services in new centres⁴²

Crime prevention is “any public or privately based initiative or policy aimed at reducing or eliminating criminal behaviour, violence and fear of crime or violence in the community”⁴³. Council will adopt a multi-agency approach to crime prevention and partner with law enforcement agencies, community services and intergovernmental agencies to reduce crime and increase perceptions of safety in Hume. Two broad approaches to crime prevention are ‘opportunity reduction’ and ‘social prevention’. An ‘opportunity to prevent crime’ approach can be defined as “the practice of shaping the physical features of settlements to create places for people and to make high-quality connections between places and building for safe movement of people”⁴⁴.

Social prevention seeks to address the underlying determinants of crime and the early contributors to disadvantage that potentially lead to criminal and anti-social behaviour. This includes strategies to reduce social isolation and marginalisation, while also promoting law-abiding behaviours.⁴⁵ The Hume community identified a number of characteristics in the 2008 Community Safety Survey, which lead to feeling unsafe in the built environment. These included poor lighting, cleanliness, rubbish, graffiti, and feeling unsafe at train and bus stations.

Hume supports a ‘social prevention’ approach to crime that involves the whole community, encourages ownership of the solutions and can be formulated and adapted for the local communities needs. High levels of participation in community-orientated activities is associated with reduced levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.⁴⁶ The need for this approach is supported by the lower than average community indicator for ‘community connectedness’ within Hume.⁴⁷

Hume is responsible for many of the services to the community, including urban planning and design, economic development, social and community development, which impact on community safety.⁴⁸ A Safe Community is one that is characterised by well-designed and maintained urban environments.

Working towards the creation of safer places in Hume requires a multifaceted approach to planning; this includes the physical environment in combination with community development and a participatory approach to the use of public spaces.⁴⁹ This approach promotes the building of community relationships as much as it focuses on good urban design and planning. An effective approach to preventing violence in the community can be the creation of genuinely shared public spaces that cross cultural boundaries and emphasise integrated cultural activities and civic partnership.⁵⁰ The Hume Global Learning Centre provides an excellent example of this.

Crime Prevention and Safe Urban Design Strategies

Information

- > Enhance community pride and confidence through social marketing activities to promote Hume City as a safe place to live, work and play
- > Emphasise that the human element is part of urban design and planning by promoting consultation and awareness of the needs and cultures of users

Participation and Opportunity

- > Consider the redevelopment of urban design and structure plans to include Safer Design Guidelines
- > Ensure public spaces are more lively through a combination of increased enforcement of crime and traffic violations, special events and multiculturalism

Partnership and Advocacy

- > Continue to work in partnership with the local Police and community partners in assisting to keep the community of Hume safe
- > Promote and reinforce pedestrian use of public space and including people in local decision-making

Key Performance Indicators

- > Reduction in crime against the person and against property
- > Increase in positive perceptions of safety
- > Establishment of Community Safety Audits for Council Facilities

Strategic Linkages

- > Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce
- > Victoria Police
- > Broadmeadows Central Safe
- > Broadmeadows Community Neighbourhood Renewal
- > New and established Developers in Hume
- > New and established Businesses and Industries

3.4 Priority Populations

- > In 2006 there were 898 Indigenous residents in Hume
- > Hume is home to a diverse community with over 43,074 residents born overseas
- > In 2009 there were 21,267 Hume residents over the age of 60.

The *Hume City Council Social Justice Charter 2007* demonstrates Council's long-standing dedication to the pursuit of a fair and just community. A community in which barriers to participation are minimised, there is mutual understanding and respect for diversity and difference.⁵¹ Priority populations in Hume are defined as those which may be vulnerable due to particular defining characteristics leading to an increased risk of injury. In this strategy, the Indigenous community, older people and people with a disability, newly arrived migrants and the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse community are defined as priority populations. These actions will complement the commitments to improve social justice outcomes for these priority populations made in the relevant *Social Justice Charter Action Plans 2007/09 - 2009/10*.

3.4.1 Profile on safety – Indigenous population

- > Rates of serious and fatal injury are much higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population and represents a significant burden of disease
- > Injuries were responsible for more than 17,000 hospital separations in 2002/03
- > In 2002 Injury was the underlying cause of death for 15.6% of all Indigenous deaths, compared to 5.6% for non-Indigenous deaths

Compared to metropolitan Melbourne, Hume has a high Indigenous population with 898 Indigenous residents.⁵⁵ The Indigenous population are three times more likely to die as a result of an injury, compared to non-Indigenous population.⁵⁶ These injury statistics may reflect the often stressful life circumstances and health inequalities experienced by many Indigenous people, which may lead to higher rates of suicide, family violence, crime against the person and drug and alcohol problems.

Council has an important role to not only address intentional and unintentional injury but to also preserve cultural safety. This can be defined as the provision of an environment in which people do not experience assault, or a challenge to their identity of who they are or what they need.⁵⁷

3.4.2 Profile on safety – Older People and People with a Disability

- > In 2001, 444 people aged between 55 and 75+ sustained a serious fall in Hume⁵⁸
- > Falls account for approximately one-third of hospitalised injury, and one-fifth of all fatal injury⁵⁹. In 2002, 55% of injury deaths for older people were attributable to falls.⁶⁰
- > It is estimated that 1 – 5% of older people living in the community will be victims of elder abuse⁶¹
- > Hume has the highest percentage of people aged between 0 – 64 years with a severe disability (3.9%)⁶²

Older people have the right to live confidently and safely in their community. Issues specific to the older community include living safely at home, the prevention of falls and injury and elder abuse.⁶³ There are implications of ageing for safety, which can impact on maintaining an active and independent lifestyle. Injuries at this life stage can have serious and lasting impacts on the quality of life older people lead in the community.

In 2006 7.4% of the Hume population were aged between 65 and 84 years of age, and 0.6 % were aged over 85. Australia has an ageing population and the percentage of people over 65 will increase over time. In 2002, 55% of injury deaths were due to falls, followed by suicide at 12% of cases and transport related also 12% of cases.⁶⁴

In Hume City, there is an estimated 16,206 people living with a disability. Disabilities are spread across all ages, but are most prevalent among those aged 30-59.⁶⁵ Residents of Hume who have a disability are particularly vulnerable members of the community and Council seeks to promote their safety, health and wellbeing.⁶⁶

3.4.3 Profile on safety – Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Community

- > 29.3% of Hume residents were born overseas. Turkey, Iraq, United Kingdom, Italy, Lebanon and New Zealand make up some of the over 145 countries of birth
- > From 2004 to 2009 there were 6,009 new migrant arrivals to Hume. The majority of new arrivals to Hume were from Iraq, India, Turkey, Lebanon and Sri Lanka and represented more than ten different religions and faiths
- > 36.2% of residents speak a language other than English at home
- > According to Community Indicators Victoria, community acceptance of diverse cultures in Hume is lower than the Metropolitan Melbourne and Victorian average

Newly arrived migrants and people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds often experience complex community safety issues. These issues may take the form of discrimination, racism, and barriers to accessing services and the broader community. Council has an important role in facilitating a positive cultural environment, one that enables residents to feel their language and culture belong in the broader community. An increased sense of belonging is associated with a decrease in social and health inequalities, improved quality of life and life expectancy.

Priority Populations Strategies

Information

- > Investigate and develop activities to promote injury prevention and safety promotion with the Indigenous community
- > Initiate the development of a Hume Housing and Surrounds Safety Checklist for older people and people with a disability
- > Survey the older population of Hume to further identify barriers to their safety and wellbeing

Participation and Opportunity

- > Encourage Hume residents to maintain a healthy, active and independent life free from elder abuse and with suitable safe guards to preserve dignity
- > Build the capacity of the community to respond to environmental risks in public spaces, facilities and the urban environment
- > Promote Neighbourhood Day to encourage social cohesion and community connectedness

Partnership and Advocacy

- > Facilitate opportunities to increase knowledge and skills of safety promotion and injury prevention among Leaders within priority populations
- > Continue to support the implementation of the Seniors Registry to enable confident living for older Hume residents
- > Partner with faith based organisations and groups to promote the benefits of a culturally diverse community

Key Performance Indicator

- > Percentage reduction in injury in older people
- > Percentage increase in the number of older people participating in Living Stronger

Strategic Linkages

- > Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce
- > Victoria Police
- > Community organisations and services

3.5 Transport Safety

- > From 1995 to 2008, there were 201 cyclist and pedestrian deaths on Hume roads
- > For June 2008 – 2009, there were 9 fatal collisions in Hume, 1166 Collisions, 86 people taken to hospital, and 46 people admitted to hospital
- > In 2006, Hume was ranked the 16th highest of the 79 Municipalities for the number of people killed in road crashes
- > 70.4% of respondents to the Hume Community Safety Survey considered that road safety had either stayed the same or worsened

According to the Victorian Government survey into Community Perceptions of Road Safety 2008, the key areas in which Victorians would like to see Road Safety investments made included: safer roads and physical-road infrastructure; improved driver education and training programs; and additional police on the roads.⁶⁷ Similarly, Council's Road Safety Action Plan 2009 - 2012, seeks to address these areas including the following issues identified in the 2008 Community Safety Survey: traffic congestion, car parking, hoons and public transport.⁶⁸

The Community Safety Strategy seeks to complement Council's Road Safety Action Plan 2009 - 2012 by focusing on the community development initiatives, rather than the built transport environment. The health benefits of active transport, including walking and cycling, are well documented and Council seeks to promote and support these activities. Since 2001, there has been an increase in both walking and cycling in Hume.⁶⁹ Council will endeavour to ensure these vulnerable road users are protected. Perceptions of safety increase when places and spaces are well utilised by walkers and cyclists.⁷⁰ Council also acknowledges the health, transport flow and environmental benefits of promoting safe walking and cycling throughout the Municipality.

Hume has a growing Public Transport network. The increase in Hume's size and community characteristics, warrant accessible and safe public transport options. Barriers to public transport usage are often community safety related; for example location of stops and stations, lighting and accessibility. Train Stations were identified in the 2008 Community Safety Survey as a place in which most respondents felt unsafe.

Transport Safety Strategies

Information

- > Promote and support safe road behaviours to newly arrived refugees and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Community
- > Investigate opportunities for additional public transport options for vulnerable road users
- > Encourage schools and parents to promote road safety awareness from early childhood through to secondary school

Participation and Opportunity

- > Continue to support young driver safety through Council's Annual Road Safety Grants and associated programs
- > Promote the benefits of active transport for both the communities health and wellbeing, and for the environment

Advocacy & Partnership

- > Support programs and initiatives that promote the safe use of roads, public transport and pedestrian safety
- > Investigate the viability of optional evening bus stops for Hume residents

Key Performance Indicators

- > Reduction in pedestrian and cyclist injuries
- > Increase in the number of students participating in the Keys Please Program

Strategic Linkages

- > Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce
- > Hume Road Safety Multi Agency Team
- > Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce
- > VicRoads
- > RoadSafe North West
- > Victorian Police



4 ACHIEVING A SAFE COMMUNITY

This Strategy aims to achieve specific and measurable outcomes which are improved health and wellbeing, increased community pride and confidence, attraction of social and economic development, safe urban design and planning and an overall reduction of intentional and unintentional injury. These outcomes and the proposed evaluation measures are:

Improved Health and Wellbeing

Community safety is an important indicator of overall health and wellbeing. The measurement of this outcome is modelled on data from Community Indicators Victoria (CIV). These indicators enable measurement of community progress and wellbeing.

Key Performance Indicator:

- > Percentage increase in health and wellbeing across the community

Increase in community pride and confidence through a Safe Community

Community pride and confidence will also be measured through CIV, with a specific focus on community connectedness and perceptions of safety. A community which is confident in their local environment, and are not restricted by poor perceptions of safety, exhibit higher community pride and connectedness.

Key Performance Indicator:

- > Percentage increase in community connectedness, citizen engagement and perceptions of safety

Attraction of Social and Economic Development

A community which is based on cooperation, partnership and is socially inclusive, is free from discrimination and violence, and is a community in which people choose to live and work. This has a positive impact on business opportunities, local employment and the economy. Employment creation is positively associated with reduced crime and violence in the community.⁷¹

Key Performance Indicator:

- > Percentage increase in local employment, apprenticeships and vocational training

Urban design and planning informed by safety promotion

Hume is responsible for many of the services to the community, including urban planning and design, which impact on perceptions of safety. Creating safer places in Hume requires a multifaceted approach to planning and the creation of genuinely shared public spaces. Community safety tools or Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CEPTED) Guidelines will enable reportable consideration of safety promotion and Injury prevention.

Key Performance Indicator:

- > Increase use of community safety tools at Council Facilities

Final Report

At the conclusion of this Strategy in 2013, the final report will consider the Key Performance Indicators for the Outcomes and the Goals detailed above to assess the progress towards achieving a Safe Community and to inform the future direction for Community Safety in Hume.



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