


# Community Safety & Crime Prevention **PARTNERSHIP PLAN**



Macedon Ranges Local Safety Committee - Striving for Safer Communities





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*Working in partnership to enhance  
the happiness, health and safety of  
residents, visitors and workers in the  
Macedon Ranges Shire*

# MESSAGES

## LOCAL SAFETY COMMITTEE CHAIR



The Macedon Ranges Shire is one of the safest and most attractive places in Victoria to live, work, visit and do business. Not everyone shares a high sense of wellbeing, safety, belonging and acceptance however and there are pockets of disadvantage. Sense of belonging and community connectedness are key areas for creation and maintenance of happy and safe communities.

This Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan, developed by the Local Safety Committee in partnership with Macedon Ranges Shire Council is a valuable tool for the community and will help all local groups, agencies and the community more broadly to work toward common goals and priorities.

Like many other areas in Victoria there are emerging challenges in the Macedon Ranges Shire including rapidly changing demographics, advancements in cyber communications, mental health and physical wellbeing, safety of children and women, safety in public places and social isolation to name some. Achievement of a happy, healthy and safe community depends heavily on all members of the community - whether they are actively involved in volunteering or whether they simply look out for their neighbours and support local events.

Council, police, health, welfare, education and other service providers in the Shire are fortunate to have an excellent working relationship and the Local Safety Committee of which I am Chair, is one of the many successful cross-sector partnerships in the Shire. We are all fortunate to be working with such a wonderful community and in such a beautiful part of the world.



**Donna Petrovich MLC**  
**State Member for Northern Victoria**

# MESSAGES

## Police Officer in Charge, Central Victoria Western Region



I am delighted to provide the foreword to this the Macedon Ranges Shire's first Community Safety and Crime Prevention Partnership Plan.

I would like to commend the Macedon Ranges' Local Community Safety Committee for the Plan's initiation and the Macedon Ranges Shire Council for coordinating and developing the Plan. I would also like to commend the local health, welfare, education and community groups and Victoria Police members who participated in the Plan's development.

The focus of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan on prevention is a sound one. Prevention is a far better option than addressing the issues after they have happened.

Development of safe and supportive environments for all citizens is an integral aspect of a healthy, productive and just society and Victoria Police work closely with local governments and the health and community sectors to prevent crime and develop places and spaces where people feel safe and secure in both public and private places and irregardless of age or background. The co-operation between these groups and the general community help us to build ongoing and lasting amenities for the entire community and allow us all to live in safer circumstances.

Congratulations to the Shire of Macedon Ranges on its Community Safety and Crime Prevention Partnership Plan.

**Superintendent Daryl Clifton**

**Division 5 (Central Victoria)**

**Western Region**

**Victoria Police**

## Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Mayor



Macedon Ranges Shire Council has a long history of partnerships and leadership within the community. Council is committed to optimising the physical and mental health and wellbeing of its community and assisting all citizens to feel part of a cohesive, inclusive and integrated community.

When Council was approached by the Local Safety Committee with the idea of producing a safety and crime prevention partnership plan Council was delighted to support the initiative and to provide the resources to ensure it became a reality.

Modern local government has an important role in the establishment of partnerships and alliances with other key local and state agencies, for the benefit of local communities. Within Macedon Ranges Shire there are excellent and long term linkages and partnerships established between local government, local health, welfare, education and police and a wide range of other community agencies, sectors and groups.

The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Partnership Plan has been developed with broad and extensive community consultation. I am proud of Council's partnership with the Local Safety Committee on this important initiative and commend this document to you.



**Councillor Henry McLaughlin**  
**Mayor**  
**Macedon Ranges Shire Council**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Macedon Ranges Shire Council would like to thank and acknowledge all who contributed to the development of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Partnership Plan. In particular we acknowledge the stakeholders and community members of the Macedon Ranges Shire who participated in consultations and workshops and provided their feedback and comments throughout development. Particular thanks are extended to the following organisations and community groups:

- » Department of Health
- » Department of Human Services
- » Central Victorian Health Alliance
- » Cobaw Community Health Service
- » Kindergarten parents
- » Kyneton Bendigo Health Care Group (Mental Health Services)
- » Kyneton & District Health Services
- » Macedon Ranges Health Services
- » Malmsbury Community Planning Group
- » Maternal Child Health and Positive Ageing Staff and Community
- » Mount Macedon District Business and Traders Association
- » Macedon Ranges Community Safety Committee
- » Macedon Ranges Shire Councillors
- » Romsey Business and Traders Association
- » St Luke's Anglicare
- » Tylden Community Planning Group
- » University of the Third Age, Kyneton
- » VicRoads
- » Victoria Police
- » Windarring Adult Training and Support Services
- » Young people in the OurS Youth program

## STEERING COMMITTEE AND ADVISORS

The Local Safety Committee members fulfilled the role of project Steering Committee and the Macedon Ranges Health Providers Group were additional advisors to the Plan. A number of individuals were members of both groups.

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# INTRODUCTION

This Plan is the first Community Safety and Crime Prevention Partnership Plan in the Macedon Ranges Shire (hereafter referred to as 'the Safety Plan'). The Safety Plan and its component parts and activities have been developed in partnership with key local agencies and communities. Monitoring and evaluation of progress will be conducted by the Macedon Ranges Shire Local Safety Committee in conjunction with partner agencies, Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Victoria Police.

The Macedon Ranges Shire is a safe and attractive place to live, work, visit and do business. Similar to many other areas in Victoria there are emerging challenges and issues including increasing traffic, changing demographics, advancement in cyber communication, mental health and physical wellbeing issues, family violence, negative attitudes toward women. A sense of belonging and feeling of acceptance is the key to creating happy, safe and connected communities.

The Macedon Ranges Shire Safety Plan focuses on the important areas and issues where the community can work together to protect and enhance a Shire that offers a great lifestyle and is safe, accessible, inclusive and connected for all. A Shire-wide Safety Plan is valuable in providing a unifying set of priorities and foci that can tap into established and new partnerships, activities and initiatives to address identified and emerging wellbeing and safety issues.

## VISION

The Vision for community safety and crime prevention in the Macedon Ranges Shire is that:

- » All individuals enjoy optimum levels of safety and wellbeing and feel part of a cohesive, inclusive and integrated community;
- » The community is strong, supportive and actively engaged in healthy lifestyles that include looking out for others;
- » The community has a sustainable, safe and well maintained physical and natural environment; and
- » The community is empowered to participate in decisions and programs that effect their safety and wellbeing.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a unifying document for a focus on community safety and crime prevention.
2. To apply a partnership approach to address identified priority areas.
3. To share community safety knowledge between agencies and enhance community awareness and access to programs and resources.
4. To identify and address gaps between service need and service availability which have a focus on safety and crime prevention.
5. To achieve a high level of happiness, health and safety in the Shire.

# PRIORITY AREAS

The following are the priority areas of the Macedon Ranges Shire Community Safety and Crime Prevention Partnership Safety Plan.

## 1. Safe Places and Spaces

- » Facilitating healthy lifestyles.
- » Planning, maintaining and protecting built and natural environments.
- » Safe roads and paths.

## 2. Friendly and Connected Neighbourhoods

- » Looking out for one another's welfare.
- » Strong social capital.
- » Sense of belonging and connectedness.

## 3. Safe and Secure Women

- » Preventing and responding to intimate partner violence.
- » Reducing inequity and negative attitudes towards women.

## 4. Mental and Physical Wellbeing

- » Assistance and support in a complex, rapidly changing society.
- » Telecommunication misuse and online risks and consequences.
- » Safeguarding children in public, at home and within organisations.
- » Elder abuse prevention and awareness.

## 5. Safety and Wellbeing

- » Fire and emergency safety.
- » Prevention of falls by older persons.
- » Home handyman injury prevention.
- » Dog bites and other animal injury prevention.
- » Farm accident prevention.
- » Prevention of horse-related accidents.

## 6. Alcohol and Licensing

- » Alcohol and Licensing
- » Reduce the harms of alcohol.
- » Ensure community wellbeing and amenity is not compromised.

# POLICY GUIDANCE

## Federal

A number of Federal Government policies relate to community safety and crime prevention, consistent with the present plan. They include:

- » National Crime Prevention Program;
- » Tough on Drugs StrAtegy;
- » Partnerships Against Domestic Violence; and
- » Stronger Families and Communities Strategy.

## State

The Victoria State Government's *Growing Victoria Together* Strategy recognises the importance of community safety and a number of State plans and policies on specific issues have been developed. Victorian Government policy, program and legislative developments aimed at improving safety and wellbeing include:

- » *A Fairer Victoria 2010*;
- » *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*;
- » *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*;
- » *Because Mental Health Matters: The Victorian Mental Health Reform Strategy 2009-2019*;
- » *The Victorian Women's Policy Framework 2008-11*;
- » *All of Us: Victoria's Multicultural Policy 2009*;
- » *A Right to Respect; Victoria's Plan to Prevent Violence against Women 2010-2020*; and
- » *Victoria's Alcohol Action Plan 2008 – 2013*.

The Victorian Local Government Act and the Victorian Health and Wellbeing Act give local governments the responsibility and duty to protect and enhance the wellbeing of their various communities.

## Macedon Ranges Shire Council

The Safety Plan is consistent with a number of Council's strategic level objectives including:

### **Council Plan 2009 – 2013**

- 1.2 Appropriate development enhancing our lifestyle and community.
- 1.3 A community that is safe to live in.
- 2.1 Engaged and connected community.
- 2.2 Improved quality of life for our community.
- 2.3 A healthy and creative community.
- 3.4 Infrastructure that meets community needs.

### **Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009 - 2013**

- 2.1f Support the health and wellbeing of the Shire's communities

- 2.1g Promote and support programs that address family violence and abuse
- 2.3d Increase information sharing and accessibility of information across council
- 2.3e Enhance communication between Council and Community
- 2.3f Create a more child friendly Shire
- 2.5b Reduce the negative health, economic and social impacts of problem gambling
- 2.5d Reduce substance abuse (alcohol and drugs) and smoking
- 3.1a Ensure public places and spaces feel safe and are well maintained
- 3.1b Maintain emergency management and emergency recovery plans and implement as necessary
- 4.2b Prepare a range of appropriate awareness campaigns that provide information on the benefits of healthier lifestyle choices to all sectors of the community
- 4.3c Investigate and respond to public nuisances that affect the amenity of individuals and the community

# PARTNERSHIPS

The modern, broader understanding of health and wellbeing and the wider obligations local governments now have, has created synergies within local governments and between a wide range of partner groups and agencies in the local community. Modern local government acts as a catalyst for change and has an important role in the establishment of partnerships and alliances with other key local and state agencies, for the benefit of local communities. Within Macedon Ranges Shire there are excellent and established linkages and partnerships between local government, local health, welfare, education and police and a wide range of other community agencies, sectors and groups.

Five strategic roles in community safety and wellbeing are shared across Council, health, education, welfare and police sectors. These are,

1. **Leadership and coordination:** fostering relationships with and between community groups, local agencies and with other municipalities to promote resource sharing and partnerships.
2. **Strategic planning and development:** understanding the changing needs of the community and strategically responding and planning for local initiatives, facilities and services.
3. **Service and program provision:** provision and management of a variety of services that are designed to respond to needs of the community.
4. **Community Education and Awareness:** All agencies conduct education, promotion and awareness programs for safety and community wellbeing.
5. **Advocacy:** Council in particular has an important role to play in representing the interests of its local community to other levels of government who are responsible for the provision of resources and services that impact on local health, safety and wellbeing.

## Local Government

Local government remains the closest level of government to the community and influences many of the things that determine how well people live through its social and strategic planning, environmental management, economic development, urban design and community service provision. Local governments are constituted under the Local Government Act 1989 and Councillors are democratically elected. The Act indicates that the primary objective of a Local Council is to endeavour to achieve *the best outcomes for the local community, having regard to the long term and cumulative effects of decisions*. To achieve this, a local council needs to have regard to the social, economic and environmental viability and sustainability of the local area and the overall quality of life of the people in the local community.

Community wellbeing is also a regulatory concept in the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 and under this Act local governments also have certain obligations to protect and enhance the health and wellbeing of its community<sup>1</sup>.

Community safety is a determinant of public health and safety is an established focus for Council management of assets and services. Many links are found between community safety and Council's strategies, policies and functions including:

- » Corporate planning;
- » Municipal public health planning;

1. Local Government Act 1989 Part 1A Section 3C. Victoria.

- » Capital works and asset management;
- » Transport and road safety;
- » Strategic land use;
- » Recreation and open space management;
- » Early years, youth and aged care;
- » Emergency management;
- » Risk management;
- » Community development; and
- » Local laws

## Police

The traditional view of the police role, which is reinforced by media and cinema, is that police fight crime by detection, investigation, arrest and prosecution. The reality of policing however is that their role also involves providing advice and mediation, giving of referrals, forming partnerships with community and reaching out to the community to enhance safety and prevent crime - in private places as well as public places. Police cannot 'fight' crime, or prevent crime on their own. A safe and secure community is therefore everyone's responsibility.

In Victoria there are four police regions, each managed by an Assistant Commissioner. Macedon Ranges Shire is located within the Western Police Region which is an area North and West of metropolitan Melbourne up to the New South Wales and South Australian borders. The Western Police Region comprises six smaller 'Divisions' under the management of a Superintendent. Macedon Ranges Shire is located in Division 5 of the Western Region. This Division includes the City of Greater Bendigo and the Shires of Macedon Ranges, Loddon, Mt. Alexander, Central Goldfields and Campaspe Shires. An Inspector is in charge of each 'Police Service Area', which corresponds to local government boundaries.

An inter-agency 'Local Safety Committee' is responsible for many safety initiatives in the Shire and provides linkages between different local sectors and organisations with a focus on health, wellbeing, safety and crime prevention. There are linkages between this Committee and others including the Shire's Health Providers' Group.

## Community Health and Welfare Providers

Macedon Ranges Shire has a range of health and welfare providers, including:

- » Macedon Ranges Shire Council (maternal child health, aged care services, inoculations, food premises inspections and others);
- » Kyneton District Health Service including a (non-emergency) hospital;
- » Cobaw Community Health Services;
- » Macedon Ranges Health Services; and
- » St Lukes .

# A SNAP SHOT OF THE SHIRE

Four of the largest community health service providers (Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Kyneton District Health Service, Cobaw Community Health Service and Macedon Ranges Health Services) work closely together under the umbrella of a local 'Quality of Care Plan'. Additionally, regular bi-monthly meetings and planning days are held with these and other peak health and welfare providers in the Shire. This ensures there continues to be a strong, coordinated and partnership approach to health and welfare in the Shire.

Other private health, welfare and wellness centres and medical, dental, allied health services and ambulance are located throughout the Shire. Access to some services however is difficult and transport to the larger hospitals, or for specialist services is lacking.

## Community

Many people who live in the Macedon Ranges Shire do so for life-style and quality of life reasons. It is not the cheapest place to live and it does not have the large critical mass of people that might achieve high variety in goods and services. New residents consistently say that it is the "rural lifestyle", the "beauty of the area" and desire "to be near family and friends" that attracts them to live in the Shire<sup>2</sup>. At community consultations, participants consistently say they love living in the Shire and describe why: it is near to the city - but not too near; it is visually beautiful; each town has its own charm and heritage feel; people feel safe; and, people believe it is a healthy place to raise children and to grow old.

Achievement of a happy, healthy and safe community depends heavily on all members of the community - whether they are actively involved in volunteering and community organisations, or whether they simply look out for their neighbours and support local events. Council, police, community health and the other service providers in the Shire are fortunate to be working with such a wonderful community.

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2. MRSC (2009) New Ratepayers Survey MRSC

## Geography and Character

The Macedon Ranges Shire is located 55 kilometres north-west of Melbourne with a major transport corridor comprising the Calder Freeway and Bendigo-Melbourne rail line running the length of the Shire. The southern part of the Shire nearest to Melbourne (Gisborne, Riddells Creek and Romsey) are semi-rural in character and have a significant commuter population who travel to Melbourne for work. The townships of Macedon, Mount Macedon and Woodend near the centre of the Shire are thriving communities. The northern part of the Shire (Kyneton, Malmsbury and Lancefield) is more truly rural and is characterised by agricultural enterprises including sheep and cattle grazing and broad-acre cropping. Various manufacturing operations are linked to the many wineries and specialty farms.

The climate of the Shire is mild compared to the areas south and north, due to its high elevation. The soil is rich and fertile and there are a number of important remnant indigenous flora and fauna regions located within the Shire. The area's Indigenous Custodians are the Dja Dja Wrung and Wurundjeri peoples.

The Shire's location near Melbourne, unique geological features, native and rural landscapes, intact heritage towns and historic gardens makes it a popular tourist and day trip destination. Tourism is an important and growing industry for the Shire. The equine industry is also a significant industry with many world class thoroughbred breeding and training establishments located together with a thriving recreational horse industry and large equine goods and services sector. The Shire also has many boutique farms, vineyards and gourmet producers and holds festivals, arts and cultural activities throughout the year.

## Population<sup>3</sup>

The Shire is relatively small with 19,532 rateable properties and a population of 38,360<sup>4</sup>. (Estimated resident population in 2008 was 40,939<sup>5</sup>.) Macedon Ranges Shire covers an area of 1,747.4 square kilometres. Average annual population growth is 1.2%<sup>6</sup> with growth in households higher at 2.2%. This reflects a growth of one and two person households in the Shire. Greatest growth is in the south and south east in the towns closest to Melbourne. Between 2001 and 2006, Gisborne had 3.5% growth per annum; Romsey 3.2% and Riddells Creek 2.3% growth per annum. Median age of residents in 2006 was 39 years, higher than the Victorian median age of 37 years. Characteristics of towns' populations vary considerably. In Mount Macedon for example, the median weekly income (2006 census) was \$1,475, while that of Kyneton was almost half that, at \$730, reflective of its high rate of over 64 year olds and persons on small fixed incomes. The Shire's overall population averages tend to be elevated by the extreme wealth of some areas. This has the effect of masking the socio-economic disadvantage that exists in pockets of the Shire.

3. A large collection of demographic information and data relating to the Macedon Ranges Shire, including at small area town level, has been compiled by Council. It is available on Council's web site [www.mrsc.vic.gov.au](http://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au) under the 'Shire Profile and Statistics' tab. References include:

Macedon Ranges Shire Council (2009) Demographic Profile Reports, Social Planning Unit

Macedon Ranges Shire Council (2009) Population Projection Reports, Social Planning Unit

Macedon Ranges Shire Council (2009) Older People's Future Service Needs in the Shire and Towns of the Macedon Ranges, Social Planning Unit.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council (2006) Children and Young People's Future Service Needs in the Shire and Towns of the Macedon Ranges, Social Planning Unit.

4. ABS Census 2006 'Place of Usual Residence' count

5. Department of Planning and Community Development Estimated Resident Population.

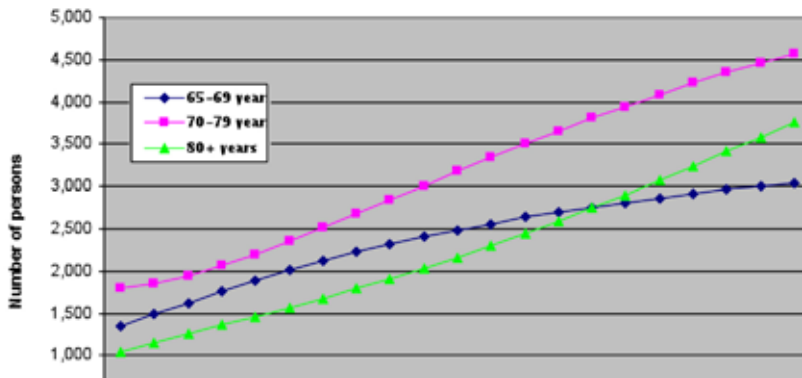
6. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2006 data. ([www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)) and Department of Planning and Community Development (2007) Victorian Population Bulletin Special Edition 2007

# A SNAP SHOT OF THE SHIRE

## Older People

At the 2006 Census, there were 2,832 residents aged 70 years or more. Number of older residents will rise significantly to 2026, particularly in the 70-79 and 80 years and over age groups. By 2026 it is expected that the number of older people in the Shire's population will more than double (Council Population Projections). Already the town of Kyneton has nearly one quarter of its population aged over 64 year. The better health and activity of older people means that an ageing of the population will not necessarily place a significant burden on the community, however needs will change and aged care services will need to expand to keep pace. An ageing population is expected to have many benefits including high levels of volunteerism and higher participation in community life.

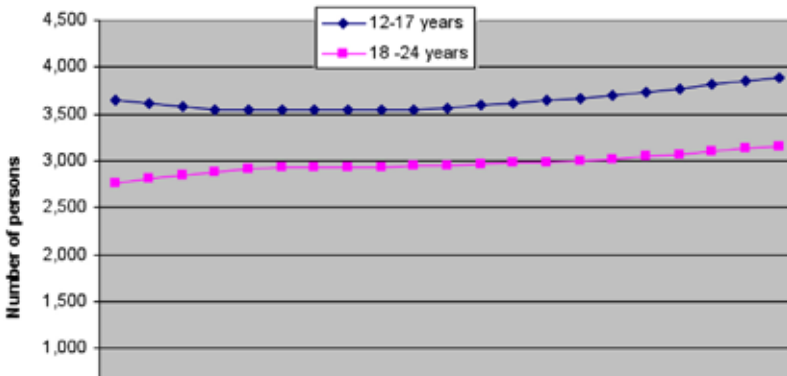
**Figure 1: Projected Population of Older People in Macedon Ranges, 2006 to 2026**



## Young People

Young people are an important part of the community. There were 6,404 12 – 24 year olds in the Shire at the 2006 Census. Modest growth is expected in the number of young people into the future. Between the ages of 18 and 24 years there is a significant drop in numbers as young people pursue further study, seek work or travel. There are few housing options for independent young people and no tertiary institution in the Shire. There is a selection of primary and secondary schools and a small TAFE. Largest numbers of young people live in the growth towns of Gisborne, Riddells Creek and Romsey. Transport options, especially in Romsey are very limited.

**Figure 2: Projected Population of Young People in Macedon Ranges, 2006 to 2026**



## Children

There are approximately 9,909 children aged 0 to 14 years in the Shire. In the foreseeable future the number of children in the Shire is expected to grow slowly. As a proportion of the population they will reduce.

Figure 3: Projected Population of Children in Macedon Ranges, 2006 to 2026

## Mid Age

Similar to the young and child demographics, individuals in the tax paying, childbearing age groups will remain relatively static and will increase in number slowly.

## Households

Small household size is becoming the norm. A large and growing proportion of all households comprise only one or two people. Nearly half the Shire's 13,596 households were small at the 2006 Census (47%) and this is expected to grow as the population ages. Reasons for the growth in small size households includes the Australia-wide trend for late partnering, an ageing population and delay in child bearing.

## Housing

Like many other regional and rural areas Macedon Ranges Shire has a history of housing development of predominantly large family homes on large lots. Continuation of this trend reduces diversity and choice in housing and is not reflective of the growth in small sized households and an ageing population which brings changing needs and greater incidence of disability as people enter frail age. Council has put in place measures to try and increase housing diversity in the Shire but there is still a shortage of small sized dwelling stock making it difficult for local people to downsize in the local area should they wish to. It also has the result of inflating prices of small dwellings as demand exceeds supply.

# HEALTH & SAFETY

## Health and Wellbeing

In comparison with Victoria, the health of the Macedon Ranges Shire community and its wellbeing status is relatively high. The Shire is perceived to be a very safe, crime free environment, encouraging active engagement in communal life, both during the day and at night. Strong rates of volunteerism and good internet access also help to ensure that residents feel part of a strong, connected and supportive community. Due to the high rates of commuting and dependence on private car ownership, residents express some dissatisfaction with their work-life balance and access to public transport<sup>7</sup>. The 2007 Community Indicators Survey found 49.8% of employed persons living in Macedon Ranges felt that they had a good balance of work and family compared to the Victorian average of 53.0%.

The Community Indicators Victoria statistics show Macedon Ranges to be high in almost all areas of wellbeing:

- » 60.9% of residents reported their health as excellent or very good (Victorian State average is 54.3%);
- » On the Australian Unity Wellbeing Index score (community connection), Macedon Ranges residents scored 75.0 (Victorian State average is 71);
- » The social support measure found 93.6% of persons in Macedon Ranges could definitely get help from friends, family or neighbours when they needed it (Loddon Mallee Region is 93.8%, no figures for Victoria.);
- » 84.3% of Macedon Ranges' people lived in households that had Internet access (of any form) at their dwelling (Victorian State average is 78.8%).

Based on five years of mortality and population data collected by the Department of Health between 2001 and 2005, average life expectancy for a female in the Macedon Ranges Shire is 83.6 years (rural Victorian females is 83.4 years and Victorian females, 84.7years). For males in the Shire, average life expectancy is 79.4 years (rural Victorian males, 78.5 years and Victorian males, 79.8 years)<sup>8</sup>.

A moderately higher proportion of adults, particularly males<sup>9</sup> in the broader Macedon Ranges community consume excessive amounts of alcohol on a weekly basis<sup>10</sup>, particularly amongst those who smoke<sup>11</sup>. While residents in the 18-24 year age group are relatively active, those in the 65+ age group were relatively inactive<sup>12</sup>. More than a quarter of males and a third of females are within their ideal body weight. However, with the exception of males in the 55-64 year age group, and females in the 18-24 year old age group, there is a relatively high prevalence of obesity within the community . Although adequate intake of fruit and vegetables is vital for good health, Shire residents report a relatively low consumption.

7. Department of Human Services, State Government of Victoria, Loddon Mallee Region (2003) Patterns of health, wellbeing and community strength p1 and feedback gathered during the community consultation process

8. Department of Health Life expectancy at birth: Victoria 2003 – 2007, Victoria [www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/le-03-07.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/le-03-07.htm)

9. Department of Human Services, State Government of Victoria, (2003) Patterns of smoking and alcohol consumption across Victoria p4

10. Ibid p3

11. Ibid p6

12. Department of Human Services, State Government of Victoria, Loddon Mallee Region (2003) Physical activity, healthy eating and overweight/obesity p2

13. Ibid p4

14. Ibid p5

## Crime

Macedon Ranges Shire's crime rate per 1,000 population remains considerably lower than for Victoria as a whole. Property crime has increased in the Macedon Ranges from the previous year. However, the rate per 1,000 population is still considerably lower than for the State. See in the Table below.

**Table 1: Crime Rates: Macedon Ranges Shire and Victoria, 2008/09.**<sup>15</sup>

| Crime Category                 | Rate per 1,000 population<br>2009/10 Macedon Ranges | % Change from<br>2008/09 Macedon Ranges | Rate per 1,000 population<br>2009/10 Victoria | % Change from<br>2008/09 Victoria |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Crimes against persons</b>  | 606.9   | -13.8                                   | 825.7   | 0.7                               |
| <b>Crimes against property</b> | 2,599.1   | 11.5                                    | 4,739.7                                       | -8.9                              |
| <b>Drug offences</b>           | 133.3   | -13.2                                   | 265.3   | -4.5                              |
| <b>Other crime</b>             | 521.2   | -40.2                                   | 834.8   | -2.0                              |
| <b>Total</b>                   | 3,860.5   | -5.0                                    | 6,665.6                                       | -6.4                              |

In 2009/10 in the Macedon Ranges Shire, 103 family violence incidents were reported to police. 20 incidents resulted in charges being laid by police<sup>16</sup>. Twenty-seven Family Violence Intervention Orders and Family Violence Safety Notices were applied for.

## Fear of Crime

Compared to residents elsewhere, Macedon Ranges Shire residents feel considerably safer in their community: A large majority (82%) of Macedon Ranges Shire residents feel safe or very safe when walking alone at night, compared to the Victorian average of only 66% feeling safe<sup>17</sup>.

15. Victoria Police, 2009/2010 *Statistical Report of Crime*, Corporate Statistics, Victoria Police

16. Victoria Police 2009/10 Crime Statistics: Recorded Family Incident Reports.

17. Community Indicators Victoria 2007

# PRIORITY AREA TABLES

| <b>1: Safe Places and Spaces</b><br><b>Objective: To ensure public places and neighbourhoods feel safe and are designed to enhance safety and prevent crime</b>  |   |  |  |   |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| GOAL   | ACTION  | PARTNERS   | BENCHMARK  | PROGRAMS<br>(not an exhaustive list)  |
| <p>The design of residential development contributes to collective health by meeting the social needs of the community and facilitating healthy lifestyles, community connections, sustainability and social interaction<sup>18</sup>. Children<sup>19</sup> and young<sup>20</sup> people need to have access to a safe, welcoming and caring environment in order to enhance their skills, development, identity and healthy participation in communal life. Older people benefit from having places to congregate and socialise, and from opportunities to participate in active or passive recreation. Well planned and maintained streets, neighbourhoods and public places reduce opportunities for crime, improve perceptions of safety and increase community participation. Safety and perceptions of safety in public places and neighbourhoods depends on a number of elements including the 'feel' of a place, sightlines, landscaping, type of activity, maintenance, lighting at night, lack of rubbish and graffiti in the area, who uses the space and whether there is natural surveillance and design features that make it feel safe.</p> <p>Safety of road users is a continuing concern in the Shire as traffic continues to increase and road design, maintenance and priorities remain largely out of the hands of local authorities. Someone is killed in a road accident in Macedon Ranges Shire about every 12 weeks on average. One person per week is taken to hospital and three people per week suffer injuries serious enough to require medical treatment<sup>21</sup>. Fatal injuries on Macedon Ranges Shire roads are spread across the age range. Of those killed 55% were aged between 30 and 59 years and 27% under 30 years. Risk of injury is spread across all modes of road travel. Drivers at highest risk of injury in Macedon Ranges Shire are 18 to 21 year old males and females. Of passengers greatest risk is to 16 to 21 year old males and females. Most at risk of injury as pedestrians were 13 to 15 year old females and 18 to 21 year old males. Cyclists most at risk are 13 to 17 year old males and females, and of motor-cyclists greatest risk of injury are among 22 to 49 year old males<sup>22</sup>.</p> | <p>Apply Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to new and existing spaces.</p> <p>Encourage active, multi use of public spaces</p> <p>Increase visibility of police on foot at peak times in peak use locations</p> <p>Place safety audit tools and urban design resources on Council's web site</p> <p>Ensure safety and security is considered in planning decisions and developments</p> <p>Implement the Community Access Infrastructure Audit recommendations as funds become available</p> | <p>Council</p> <p>Police</p> <p>Community interest and Advisory groups</p> <p>Community</p> <p>Retail and business sector</p> <p>Service sector</p> <p>Architects and developers</p> | <p>CIV 'feel safe walking alone at night' measure is higher</p> <p>Gender mainstreaming is adopted within Council and encouraged in other services</p> <p>More public buildings with disability access</p> | <p>Age Friendly Cities Project</p> <p>Local Community Planning Groups</p> <p>Public Art Program</p> <p>Arts and Cultural Programs</p> <p>Police Community Safety Program</p> <p>Urban Design, Strategic and Town Planning Programs</p> <p>'Friends of' public space environmental &amp; beautification groups</p> |

18. *Guidelines for Residential Subdivision in the Macedon Ranges Shire, Designing in Health and Wellbeing, 2005 p1 and p4*

19. *Family and Children's Services Strategy*

20. *Youth Strategy*

21. Macedon Ranges Shire Council (2008)

22. CrashStats (up to the end of 2005). VicRoads' data analysed for the five years 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2007. In the case of fatal crashes where numbers are smaller some of the analyses has been done over longer periods to allow more detailed patterns to emerge.

| 1: Safe Places and Spaces (Continued)   |  |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| GOAL  | ACTION   | PARTNERS  | BENCHMARK  | PROGRAMS<br>(not an exhaustive list)  |
| <p>To ensure graffiti is cleaned quickly and public places are kept clean and well maintained</p> <p>To enhance road safety for all road users</p> <p>To reduce the number of deaths and injuries on MR roads</p> <p>To enhance pedestrian and bike safety in the Shire</p> | <p>Increase use of the 'Graffiti Clean up Trailer' by community groups, businesses and Council for removal of graffiti in public spaces.</p> <p>Encourage private owners to clean graffiti quickly manner.</p> <p>Continue to lobby for improved local road maintenance and upgrades, in particular the Lancefield-Melbourne Road.</p> <p>Pursue cycle, vehicle and pedestrian infrastructure funding</p> <p>A multi agency local group is registered as a 'Community Road Safety Group'</p> <p>Raise schools' awareness of available programs, resources, funding opportunities and contact/access points</p> <p>Assist young people to obtain safe driving experience and habits</p> <p>Implement the Council footpath strategy and improve footpaths and cycle paths</p> <p>Regularly inform schools about setting down and picking up children at schools and bus stops safely.</p> <p>Respond to unsafe school drop and pick up practices and enforce parking regulations near schools.</p> <p>Ensure schools are informed beforehand about road works affecting them</p> <p>Investigate low cost sustainable solutions for better pedestrian lighting</p> <p>Investigate and scope new bike trails that connect key destinations</p> | <p>Council</p> <p>Community groups</p> <p>Police</p> <p>Retail sector</p> <p>Community</p> <p>Council</p> <p>Vic Roads Northern</p> <p>Police</p> <p>Road Safe Central</p> <p>Schools</p> <p>Department of Education and Early Childhood Development</p> <p>Community</p> | <p>Increase the use of the Graffiti Trailer</p> <p>Lack of graffiti in towns</p> <p>Reduction in the incidence of death and injury on MRS roads (Vic Roads data)</p> <p>Reduction in the number of traffic infringements (Police Statistics)</p> <p>Passing lanes are installed on the Melbourne-Lancefield Road</p> <p>Potholes and other road maintenance work is timely</p> | <p>Parks and Gardens maintenance program</p> <p>Public Place Litter Disposal Program</p> <p>Graffiti Clean Up Trailer</p> <p>Macedon Ranges Road Safety Strategy</p> <p>Footpath program</p> <p>L to P driving program</p> <p>Looking After Our Mates Program</p> <p>Fit to Drive Program</p> <p>Keys Please Program</p> <p>Kids on the Move</p> <p>Bike Ed</p> <p>Older drivers safety training</p> <p>Walking School Bus</p> <p>Victorian Community Road Safety Partnership Program</p> |

# PRIORITY AREA TABLES *(continued)*

| <b>2: Friendly and Connected Neighbourhoods</b><br><b>Objective: To develop and enhance friendly communities which are connected, tolerant, safe, active, confident and resilient.</b>  |   |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| GOAL  | ACTION  | PARTNERS   | BENCHMARK  | PROGRAMS<br>(not an exhaustive list)   |
| <p>To reduce social isolation, encourage diversity and celebrate difference</p> <p>To increase participation in community life and increase feelings of safety &amp; security</p> <p>To enhance the life style of more vulnerable members of the community</p> <p>To ensure enough informal meeting places and spaces</p> | <p>Positive ageing strategy actions</p> <p>Ensure recreation and cultural activities also cater to the needs of single people.</p> <p>Encourage dog friendly places.</p> <p>Linking children and older persons</p> <p>Linking older people with neighbours and support services</p> <p>Providing older people and those living alone with</p> | <p>Police</p> <p>Council</p> <p>Aged care services</p> <p>Aged accommodation</p> <p>All community members</p> <p>Community groups</p> <p>Neighbourhood Houses</p> <p>Central Victorian Health Alliance</p> <p>Primary Care Partnership</p> | <p>CIV Australian Unity Wellbeing Index score for connection improves and remains above the Victorian average.</p> <p>CIV Self reported health score improves and remains above the Victorian average.</p> | <p>Whole of Shire, integrated Positive Ageing Strategy</p> <p>Men's Shed Program</p> <p>Liveable and Just Toolkit</p> <p>Vulnerable persons Register</p> |

The number of people living alone in the Shire is increasing. In the more rapidly growing towns in particular, people may not know their neighbours which may mean fewer people **looking out for one another's welfare**. The population is also **ageing** which will give greater time for participation in community life, but may also result in greater incidence of loneliness and safety issues associated with greater frailty, and carer fatigue. Maintaining social connections is extremely important to people especially as they age as is access to community facilities, good footpaths and transport, affordable, low maintenance housing close to town centres, and access to health and community supports.<sup>23</sup>

Having close ties to family and friends and involvement in the broader community leads to better health and wellbeing, lower levels of crime, better education outcomes and greater access to community facilities<sup>24</sup>. Where social capital is high, individuals experience a sense of trust and belonging, understanding of others' issues, sense of mutual obligation and a desire to collectively address community challenges<sup>25</sup>. **Strong social capital** is built on solid social networks, activities and programs, together with the availability of locally based resources. While strong social capital enhances economic and physical health and wellbeing, low social capital and isolation are closely linked with physical and mental illness<sup>26</sup>. Part of reducing loneliness and maintaining community connections may include pet ownership. Many singles and elderly have dogs as their only companions and thus places should be dog friendly with provision for companion dogs.

Humans have a strong urge to preserve their self-esteem. Recent research has found that threats to social esteem and social status – feeling inadequate and not **valued by society** - are the root cause of almost all preventable ills of society. The affect of status-anxiety are finding expression in poor health choices, poor health outcomes, violence and anti-social behaviour. A statistically significant link has been found between inequality in a community and every health, crime and social problem for which statistics are kept. Countries with the greatest gap between rich and poor (greatest inequality) have highest levels of social, crime and health problems even when other factors are controlled for. These included the United States, United Kingdom and Australia. Even rich people in more equal societies such as Sweden, Norway, Japan and Spain - have better health outcomes compared to rich people in unequal societies. There is growing evidence of the enormous importance of looking after each other and ensuring everyone feels they belong and are valued members of the community<sup>27</sup>. Barriers to social connectedness include sexism, racism, homophobia and low tolerance of diversity and difference<sup>28</sup>. **Children and young people** need to feel included and their needs considered in place making and in broader community activities, including provision of safe informal and formal meeting spaces.

23. *The Senior News*, July 2010.

24. Department for Victorian Communities (2006) *Indicators of Community Strength: a framework and evidence*

25. Nelson, B. Kaborlian, L., and Carver, K (2003) *The Concord Handbook: How to Build Social Capital Across Communities*. The Concord Project, UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research, USA

26. Whiteford, H., Cullen, M., Baingana, F. (2005) *Promoting Mental Health, Concepts, Emerging Evidence*, Practice, WHO, 2005, 73

27. Wilkinson R. and Pickett K. (2009) *The Spirit Level*, Nottingham University Medical school

28. Comment made by health care worker during focus group

| 2: Friendly and Connected Neighbourhoods (Continued)  |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| GOAL  | ACTION  | PARTNERS  | BENCHMARK  | PROGRAMS<br>(not an exhaustive list)   |
| <p>To empower older people to seek assistance if feeling under pressure from others</p> <p>To provide youth spaces and be responsive to the needs of children and young people in the community</p> | <p>Increase the profile and provision of resources and services around elder abuse awareness, prevention and response</p> <p>Provide community and service provider education/forums/network development (these to be run in the next year)</p> <p>Provide youth spaces in towns and engage with youth to ensure their needs are included</p> | <p>COBAW community health</p> <p>MR Community Health Services Police, Council</p> <p>Emergency Accommodation and Support Enterprise Community</p> <p>Office for Senior Victorians Loddon Mallee Region GPs</p> <p>Pharmacists, hospital, other agency aged care services, nursing homes and hostels.</p> <p>Relatives and older people</p> <p>Women's Health Loddon Mallee Neighbourhood Houses</p> | <p>High level of participation and happiness among older residents and young people in the Shire</p> | <p>Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy</p> <p>Vulnerable persons Register</p> <p>Home and Community Care Service, MRSC</p> <p>MRSC Youth Service Programs</p> <p>Youth clubs</p> <p>Youth services</p> |

# PRIORITY AREA TABLES *(continued)*

## 3: Safe and Secure Women

### Objective: To Prevent Violence Against Women and Reduce Inequity and Negative Attitudes Towards Women

Around one in five Australian women report being subject to intimate partner violence at some time in their adult lives. Too often intimate partner violence (including that against males) is trivialised in society as being somehow less serious than violence committed in other contexts. Intimate partner violence however, diminishes and affects everyone, marrring not only relationships between men and women, but having long-term effects on their children and communities. Women are overwhelmingly more likely to be the victims of intimate partner violence<sup>29</sup> and to suffer associated health impacts. Women are three times more likely than males to be injured as a result of violence, five times more likely to require medical attention or hospitalisation and five times more likely to report fearing for their lives<sup>30</sup>. Intimate partner violence is the leading contributor to death, disability and ill-health in Victorian women aged 15–44 years<sup>31</sup>. Only about 40% of women report incidents of intimate partner violence and only about 20% of women report incidents of sexual assault to police<sup>32</sup>. All health providers in the Macedon Ranges Shire have identified family violence as a key area<sup>33</sup>. In 2008/09, 56 intervention orders were applied for in the Macedon Ranges Shire, 191 family violence incidents were reported to police and 45 incidents resulted in charges being laid by police<sup>34</sup>. State funding in Macedon Ranges Shire to assist those affected by intimate partner violence is enough to service only ten clients per year. Family violence is considerably to be considerably under-reported in the Shire

Accumulated evidence from around the world suggests that cultural, social and economic factors play an important role in attitudes to women. A significant underlying factor in negative attitudes and violence towards women is the unequal distribution of power and resources<sup>35</sup>. Women who have been exposed to violence have a greater risk of developing a range of health problems including stress, anxiety, depression, pain syndromes, phobias, somatic and medical symptoms. An estimated one in four Victorian children and young people have witnessed intimate partner violence<sup>36</sup>. Exposure of children to violence increases their risk of mental health, behavioural and learning difficulties in the short term, and of developing mental health problems later in life<sup>37</sup>. Violence against women and their children cost the Victorian economy \$3.4 billion in 2009<sup>38</sup>. Australian businesses are losing at least \$500 million per year because of the effects of intimate partner violence. Victims take about \$30 million per year in sick leave. Associated staff turnover costs a further \$6 million annually<sup>39</sup>.

Women and women living alone, particularly in the older age groups are a large and growing demographic in Australia. To a large extent the needs of this group are overlooked in service planning. Many older women have not had the opportunity to contribute to superannuation or the opportunity to work and save. Thus they are often living on very small fixed pension incomes. This demographic makes up a large percentage of people who play the pokies which may be a reflection of the lack of alternative passive and safe places for single, older women on limited means to go. Safer alternatives need to be provided as consumer safety is not a feature of the pokie machines and financial risk is high since machines are designed to take up to \$6,000 per hour (even on cent machines) in the suburbs, and twice that amount per hour at the casino<sup>40</sup>.

29. ABS (2003). Crime and Safety, Australia, 2002, Catalogue No. 4509.0, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra. And Bagshaw, D. & Chung, D. (2000). Gender politics and research: male and female violence in intimate relationships', *Women Against Violence: An Australian Feminist Journal*, Issue 8, pp. 4–23.

30. Statistics Canada (2003). Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile 2003, Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Ministry of Industry, Ottawa, Ontario.

31. VicHealth (2004) The Health Costs of Violence: Measuring the Burden of Disease Caused by Intimate Partner Violence, VicHealth, Melbourne.

32. Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006). *Personal Safety Survey*, Australia, ABS Catalogue No.4906.0.Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia.

33. Central Victorian Health Alliance

34. Victoria Police 2008/09 Crime Statistics: Recorded Family Incident Reports.

35. WHO (2002). World Report on Violence and Health. World Health Organization, Geneva. And OWP (2002). A Policy Framework: A Co-ordinated Approach to Reducing Violence Against Women, Women's Safety Strategy, Office of Women's Policy, Victorian Government.

36. Op Sit OWP 2002

37. Edleson, J. (1999). 'Domestic violence and children', *The Future of Children*, 9(3) Winter.

38. VicHealth (2004) The Health Costs of Violence: Measuring the Burden of Disease Caused by Intimate Partner Violence, VicHealth, Melbourne.

39. Henderson & Associates (2000). Impacts and Costs of Domestic Violence on the Australian Business Sector, Brisbane City Council.

40. Australian Productivity Commission (2010) *Inquiry into Gambling*, Australian Government.

| 3: Safe and Secure Women (Continued)   |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| GOAL   | ACTION   | PARTNERSHIPS   | BENCHMARK  | PROGRAMS<br>(not an exhaustive list)   |
| <p>To improve women's safety and wellbeing</p> <p>To support equal and respectful relationships between men and women and foster greater understanding of the issues</p> <p>To provide single, older people, especially women with safe places for inexpensive, passive leisure and socialising opportunities</p>                | <p>Apply 'gender mainstreaming'<sup>41</sup> to all policies, programs and practices</p> <p>Use the Vic Health planning framework<sup>42</sup> to guide actions to enhance women's safety and wellbeing in MRS.</p>  | <p>COBAW community health</p> <p>Macedon Ranges Community Health Services</p> <p>Police,</p> <p>Council</p> <p>EASE</p> <p>Community groups</p> <p>Office for Senior Victorians Loddon Mallee Region</p> <p>GPs, pharmacists, hospital, other agency aged care services, nursing homes and hostels.</p> <p>Relatives and older people</p> <p>Women's Health Loddon Mallee</p> <p>Neighbourhood Houses</p> <p>Libraries</p> | <p>Vic Health planning framework is in use within the Shire</p> <p>Gender equity and balance is a standard consideration in planning</p> <p>Gender equity is widely understood and practised in the Shire by all</p> <p>More places of alternate, passive and inexpensive recreation are in place that meet the needs of women – especially single women</p> | <p>Maternal Child Health Service</p> <p>Family Plans</p> <p>Vic Health Framework</p> <p>Charter of Human Rights</p> <p>White Ribbon day and events</p> <p>Strategic and Urban Planning</p> <p>Recreation and Cultural services</p>   |
| <p>To reduce risk and impact of family violence on children and families in our community</p> <p>To obtain better resources to assist those effected by intimate partner violence.</p> <p>To enhance cooperation and agreement between local agencies working together to assist those effected by intimate partner violence</p> | <p>Lobby State for an increase in resources to address violence against women and family violence.</p> <p>Ensure good linkages with Victoria Police family violence advisors</p> <p>Develop memorandums of understanding between relevant local agencies to enhance the limited services available</p> | <p>Community health agencies</p> <p>Police</p> <p>Council</p> <p>EASE</p> <p>Community</p> <p>GPs, pharmacists, hospital</p> <p>Women's Health Loddon Mallee</p> <p>Neighbourhood Houses</p>   | <p>More resources and community health after hours services for victims of family violence</p> <p>Increase access to emergency housing</p> <p>Increase in confidence and knowledge to report family violence</p>   | <p>Maternal Child Health Service</p> <p>Family Plans</p> <p>Family violence service Cobaw</p> <p>St Lukes</p> <p>Vic Health Framework</p> <p>Charter of Human Rights</p> <p>White Ribbon day and events</p> <p>VicHealth and Office of Women</p> <p>Municipal Association of Victoria, Leadership, Evaluation and Sustainability Network</p> |

41. Gender Mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting gender equality. Gender mainstreaming is "... the process of assessing implications for women and men of any planned action ... in any area and at all levels. ... to make women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension in the design, implementation ... so women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated." (UN Social and Economic Council (1997))

42. <http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/~media/ProgramsandProjects/MentalHealthandWellBeing/DiscriminationandViolence/PreventingViolence/framework%20web.aspx>

# PRIORITY AREA TABLES *(continued)*

## 4: Mental and Physical Wellbeing Objective: To enhance the mental and physical health, wellbeing and resilience of children, young people, men and women in the Macedon Ranges Shire

Communities, families and individuals are part of an ever more complex and fast paced society. Technology is evolving at a faster pace than strategies to minimise dangers, relationship patterns are becoming more diverse and work patterns and social mores are constantly changing, lower housing affordability and incomes not rising at the same rate as prices. New and complex challenges and pressures are exerted on young people including cyber communication and an increasingly sexualised culture<sup>43</sup> of which their parents have had little experience or wisdom to share. Adults too are experiencing an increasingly complex world. Modern **life pressures** can compromise the mental and physical wellbeing of individuals and communities. A safe, healthy and secure community is one that acknowledges life's stresses and challenges and seeks to assist and support each other.

**Internet and mobile phone technology** plays a large and important part in modern life, especially that of young people. The internet offers unparalleled entertainments, opportunities and knowledge. However, there are a growing number of concerning issues emerging which include cyber bullying, commission of criminal offences ('**sexting**'), identity theft, online security and financial and other scams. It is estimated **children and young people** spend an average 11 hours per week online in 2010 and one in five children regret or feel embarrassed about something they have done on the web<sup>44</sup>. 65% of Australian parents do not take any precautions to protect their children online. While two thirds are concerned about the safety of their kids online, more than 60% allow their children to surf the net unsupervised and unrestricted at home<sup>45</sup>. In general children have an ability to keep abreast of rapidly changing technology while their parents and the other adults in their lives lag behind. Risky use and poor understanding of the serious and far reaching consequences of online actions are increasingly areas of concern. Children and young people need skills, strategies and better understandings to protect themselves including against things they don't want to be involved in, issues of self-esteem and respectful relationships and the ability to say 'no'. Parents and carers may be unable, unwilling or ignorant of how to address concerns to protect their children. The responsibility for protecting children from online danger and educating them in responsible use of technology lies with the whole of society, not just the individual parents. Unwary or naive older cyberspace users may also need assistance and support to ensure they are not victims of scams and identity fraud.

In 2007, 40,260 notifications of **child abuse** were made to Child Protection Services in Victoria. Of these 28% (11,306) were actually investigated and 61% (6,940) 'substantiated'.<sup>46</sup> Fifteen children known to child protection died in 2007. If abused and neglected prior to the age of six years, children's brain development is likely reduced. Abused children suffer often life long effects and struggle to learn at school, may feel dislocated from friends and family and longer term consequences such as homelessness and crime often follow. Some people abused as children will turn to drugs and alcohol to escape reliving the fear and confusion resulting from the violence and neglect they have endured. For every child identified as abused or neglected it is estimated five more may be unidentified. Estimates go as high as 18 times more children abused or neglected than are identified in the statistics. In 2007, it was estimated that 177,000 children under the age of 18 were abused or neglected in Australia. The figure could be as high as 666,000 children and young people. Based on these numbers, best estimate of the cost of child abuse to the Australian community in 2007 was \$10.7 billion and could be as high as \$30.1 billion<sup>47</sup>. Prevention of abuse and support of all children and adolescents is important to a healthy and inclusive community.

Every person has the right to live safely and without fear of abuse, neglect, violence or exploitation. **Elder abuse** is expected to become more prominent due to increasing numbers of people aged 75 years and older and increasing numbers of people with dementia<sup>48</sup>. Any act which causes harm to an older person by someone they know and trust, is elder abuse. Abuse may be financial, psychological, physical, sexual or social and includes mistreatment and neglect. Integral to any 'empowerment model' of prevention is the education of older people themselves who need to be aware of the acts or omissions which may constitute elder abuse, their rights and the services available to assist them.

43. Toy MA, (2010). 'The Porn Identity' (the effects of raunch culture on shaping identities and mores) The Age, 19/4/10 p 9

44. Norton Online Family Report 2010 [www.symantec.com/norton/theme.jsp?themeid=norton\\_online\\_family\\_report](http://www.symantec.com/norton/theme.jsp?themeid=norton_online_family_report)

45. Microsoft (2010) Out Of Sight, Out Of Mind [www.microsoft.com/australia/presspass/post/Out-Of-Sight-Out-Of-Mind-Australian-Parents-Not-Doing-Enough-To-Protect-Children-Online](http://www.microsoft.com/australia/presspass/post/Out-Of-Sight-Out-Of-Mind-Australian-Parents-Not-Doing-Enough-To-Protect-Children-Online)

46. Office of the Child Safety Commissioner (2008) *Annual report of inquiries into the deaths of children known to Child Protection* Victorian Child Death Review Committee, Melbourne

47. Taylor, P., Moore, P., Pezzullo, L., Tucci, J., Goddard, C. and De Bortoli, L. (2008). *The Cost of Child Abuse in Australia*, Australian Childhood Foundation and Child Abuse Prevention Research Australia, Melbourne.

48. *Elder Abuse Prevention* <http://www.seniors.vic.gov.au/web19/osv/dvcovs/nsi/headingpagesdisplay/elder+-+abuse+-+prevention>

| 4: Mental and Physical Wellbeing (Continued)  |   |  |   |   |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| GOAL  | ACTION  | PARTNERSHIPS   | BENCHMARK   | PROGRAMS<br>(not an exhaustive list)  |
| To ensure vulnerable children, young people and their families are supported  | Vulnerable children, young people and families are linked effectively into relevant services.   | Macedon Ranges Shire Council Maternal & Child Health Service<br>COBAW community health<br>St Lukes<br>Australian Childhood Foundation  | Families experiencing concerns or parenting difficulties are supported<br>Vulnerable children and young people are supported  | Maternal Child Health Nurse<br>Family Plans<br>Supportive Parents Program<br>Live4Life Program  |
| To enhance the safety of children and young people in the care of organisations and programs  | Encourage all child based organisations to implement staff and organisational policies and procedures to accreditation standard   | Macedon Ranges Shire Council Maternal & Child Health Service<br>COBAW community health<br>St Lukes<br>Australian Childhood Foundation<br>Schools, kinder,, child care  | Staff and carers have greater awareness, empowerment and support through adoption of the safeguarding children program.   | Working with Children checks<br>Safeguarding Children Program   |
| To ensure bullying and depression is addressed and prevented effectively<br>To strengthen the safety and resilience of children and young people faced with bullying and depression   | Facilitate communication between the Shire's Government, Catholic and independent schools about strategies to prevent bullying, address mental health issues and share knowledge<br>Conduct forums to better inform about suicide prevention strategies<br>Establish secondary school clusters to discuss shared issues and provide support<br>Develop an holistic community health approach involving identification of broader underlying issues for young people | Council Youth Services<br>Victoria Police<br>Child Wise<br>Schools<br>Community Health Services<br>Neighbourhood Houses<br>Training organisations<br>Youth groups/ networks Youth organisations<br>Sporting/Recreation clubs<br>Youth groups/organisations/<br>Networks, resource officers   | That all youth and child sport, recreation and education services have Codes of Conduct in place addressing bullying and strategies in place for addressing bullying  | Protective Behaviours Program<br>MRSC full-time youth suicide prevention officer conducting the Live4Life Program   |
| To strengthen the capacity of parents, teachers and carers to address cyber safety, bullying, mental health and alcohol issues<br>To gain a better understand of the broader underlying issues contributing to inappropriate use of technology by students<br>To enhance the capacity of parents, teachers and carers to educate children on the dangers of cyber space & inappropriate or criminal use of technology | Council youth services to identify all key stakeholders and facilitate a joint meeting to map the way forward<br>Identify best practice in cyber safety initiatives<br>Use of existing local education forums to educate and inform parents<br>Support schools to better address the issues of cyber safety<br>Provision of cyber bullying education for senior primary school children<br>Prevent/ address the damaging impact of pornography on children          | Council's Youth Services<br>Cobaw<br>MRHS<br>Police<br>Secondary schools<br>Young people<br>Community Safety and Youth Workers<br>Education Department<br>Older adult organisations/ networks<br>Neighbourhood Houses Families experiencing concerns or parenting difficulties are supported<br>Vulnerable children and young people are supported | Young people and the community more broadly, have a good understanding of the safety risks and the social and legal implications of inappropriate use of technology and cyber space and know where to go to obtain assistance and further skill | School orientation programs<br>School welfare programs<br>Out of school youth services<br>WayOut, YakVic, MRSC Youth Unit and youth spaces<br>Youth Sport Clubs<br>Live4Life Program<br>Cobaw and MRHS Mental Health First Aid course<br>Cyber safety seminars and education events |

# PRIORITY AREA TABLES *(continued)*

| 4: Mental and Physical Wellbeing (Continued)  |  |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| GOAL  | ACTION   | PARTNERSHIPS  | BENCHMARK  | PROGRAMS<br>(not an exhaustive list)                                       |
| To empower adults and children to protect themselves in the online environment  | <p>Provide information to older adults about the opportunities and dangers of the internet and other new technology</p> <p>Identify best practice in cyber-safety initiatives</p>  | <p>Older adult organisations/ networks</p> <p>Neighbourhood Houses</p> <p>Libraries</p> <p>Elderly Citizen Clubs</p>  | <p>Information is widely available</p> <p>There is clear understanding of the online environment and its dangers</p> | <p>Live4Life Program</p> <p>Cyber safety seminars and education events</p> |
| To lobby cyber technology providers to provide easy-to-implement safety features on their networking sites and prominently list the risks and how to avoid them | <p>Make submissions and lobby telecommunications companies and authorities to improve cyber and telecommunications safety including provision of information about the pitfalls of having a mobile phone at point of purchase and warnings, education and safety features on networking sites are much more visible and easy to navigate</p> | <p>Council</p> <p>Police</p> <p>Schools</p>   | <p>Easy to find and 'up-front' warnings, education and safety features are on networking sites</p>                   | <p>Australian Communications and Media Authority Inquiry</p>               |
| To enhance the safety of the most vulnerable members of our community   | <p>Implementation the Community Register providing additional security and regular reassurance and well-being checks</p>   | <p>Council</p> <p>Police</p> <p>Friends, neighbours and relatives</p> <p>Neighbourhood Houses</p> <p>Elderly Citizen Clubs</p>  | <p>Community Register is established and working well</p>  | <p>Vulnerable Persons Register</p>   |
| To prevent abuse of the elderly and other vulnerable people through better provision of information and resources   | <p>Provide easier access to information, help and resources about elder abuse</p> <p>Conduct Elder Abuse Prevention sessions</p>   | <p>Council</p> <p>Police</p> <p>Community health services</p> <p>Other health, aged and disability services</p> <p>Neighbourhood Houses</p> <p>Libraries</p> <p>Elderly Citizen Clubs</p> <p>Women's Health Loddon Mallee</p> | <p>Elder abuse information is widely available and where to go for assistance</p>                                    | <p>Victorian Government Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy</p>                |

**5: Safety and Wellbeing**

**Objective: To prevent common forms of preventable injury**

Macedon Ranges Shire is one of the most **fire prone areas** in the State and was severely affected in the Black Wednesday bushfires of 1985 and had Redesdale fires on Black Saturday 2009. It is very important that all possible plans are in place and precautions are taken to ensure as far as possible the safety of residents on extreme weather days and in the event of an emergency. A large amount of work and planning is already in place and continues to be monitored and updated with partner agencies in the Macedon Ranges Shire.

Every year, around 300 Victorians die and around 20,000 are admitted to hospital due to **unintentional injuries** in the home. People aged over 60 years accounted for over 50% of these deaths and 60% of hospital admissions. **Falls** among older Victorians accounted for the majority of home injuries in 2005, including 19% of all deaths and 41% of all hospital admissions<sup>49</sup>. The main causes of falls are slippery surfaces and uneven floors, with protruding door thresholds, loose rugs and carpet runners, tangled power and phone cords also being hazardous<sup>50</sup>. **Home handyman injuries** are increasing as a consequence of the popularity of do-it-yourself home repairs, the cheap and easy availability of power tools and the increase of men in retirement. In Victoria every year there are approximately 2,000 serious injuries, 500 hospital admissions and 15 deaths from Do-It-Yourself injuries. Most injured are men 25 – 40 years but injury is also common in older retired men, especially those on medications, or who have balance problems<sup>51</sup>.

In Victoria in the three years 2005 to 2007 there were 3 deaths as a result of **dog bites**, and 1,445 hospital admissions and 4,885 emergency department presentations recorded for dog bite injuries. Of the hospital admissions 511 were children aged 0 to 14 years. Of the hospital presentations 57% of bites occurred in a private home with the family pet and 11% of bites occurred in a road or street<sup>52</sup>. In Macedon Ranges Shire each year there are approximately 8 reports of persons injured by dogs and 230 reports of dogs wandering. There are also 79 reports of animal (various types) attacks and 149 reports of feral and domestic stock wandering.

**Farms** can be dangerous places with over 150 people in Australia dying annually from farm injuries. Major causes of injury are tractors, mobile machinery, animals, vehicles, including motorcycles and ATVs, and toddler drowning. Children and older farmers are over represented in the statistics<sup>53</sup>. In Macedon Ranges Shire there are approximately 1,075 primary producer (farm) properties. Horse racing and recreational riding are among the most dangerous activities, with horse racing having the highest number of deaths per participants<sup>54</sup> and horse riding carrying a higher injury rate than motorcycle riding or car racing. On average, motorcyclists suffer an injury once every 7,000 hours while horse riders have a serious accident once every 350 hours<sup>55</sup>. Of all animals in Australia, the horse causes the most human deaths attributed to an animal.<sup>56</sup> The **race horse industry, recreational horse riding** and supporting equestrian services are a large part of the local economy of Macedon Ranges Shire.

| GOAL  | ACTION   | PARTNERSHIPS   | BENCHMARK  | PROGRAMS<br>(not an exhaustive list)  |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| To prepare for and enhance safety and wellbeing on extreme weather days | Continue to review and update the Municipal Emergency Management Plan<br>Develop an Integrated Fire Management Plan in partnership with key agencies and the community | Council<br>Police<br>MFB and CFA<br>State government<br>Health service providers<br>Child and aged care services<br>Whole of community | All Plans, systems and infrastructure is in place to maximise safety and wellbeing on extreme weather days | Municipal Emergency Management Plan<br>Municipal Neighbourhood Safer Places Plan<br>Municipal Fire Management Plan<br>Hot Day Out Centres<br>Arson Prevention Program |

49. Monash University Accident Research Centre  
 50. Archicentre (2008) Safe and Sound, A housing profile of Victoria's Older Population. Archicentre, Royal Australian Institute of Architects and Victorian Government  
 51. Routley V, Ozanne-Smith J. (1995) Prevention of injuries associated with Do-It-Yourself activities. Canberra: Monash University Accident Research Centre in Martin L. (2005) A review of do-it-yourself injury surveillance, incidence and prevention in Australia and internationally. University of Western Australia  
 52. Cassell E. and Ashby K. (2009) Hazard Edition No. 69, Summer 2009. Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit, Monash University.  
 53. Victorian Farm Safety Centre, University of Ballarat <http://www.ballarat.edu.au/vfed/vfisc/>  
 54. McCunney R J & Russo K P. (1984) Brain Injuries in Boxing (comparing boxing to other types of sport)  
 Hughston Sports Medicine Foundation <http://www.equiculture.com.au/page11.html>  
 National Coroners Investigation 2000 – 2006. Australia

# PRIORITY AREA TABLES *(continued)*

| 5: Safety and Wellbeing (Continued)  |   |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| GOAL   | ACTION  | PARTNERSHIPS   | BENCHMARK   | PROGRAMS<br>(not an exhaustive list)   |
| To reduce the incidence of trip and slip falls in the home   | Providers of in home services to older residents identify trip and slip hazards.<br>Information about eliminating trip and slip hazards is more accessible  | Council<br>Health care services<br>Police<br>Neighbourhood House   | MRS trip and slip faults = 31% of dwellings inspected<br>Vic = 26%            | Government Free Home Inspection Service<br>Council Home and Community Care service |
| To reduce the incidence of injury to people conducting home handyman projects<br>To reduce the incidence of injury on farms          | Support provision of safety information at points of sale<br>Support handyman and farm safety workshops and seminars  | Council<br>Health care services<br>Farmers<br>Local industry leaders<br>Retail and farm supply sector<br>Community | Reduction in the number of accidents at home and on the farm                  | Farm Safe Australia<br>Work Safe Australia<br>TAFE and other courses               |
| To reduce the incidence of injury to people by dogs<br>To reduce the incidence of injury from farm stock, feral animals and wildlife | To address incidents of dangerous, feral and at-large dogs promptly and humanely.<br>Promotion of responsible pet ownership<br>Provision of information about safe interaction with dogs<br>Provision of farm health and safety information<br>To provide information on safely and humanely dealing with sick and injured wildlife | Council<br>Farmers<br>Wildlife rescue volunteers<br>Community organisations<br>Police<br>Saleyards<br>Abattoirs    | Reduction in the number of reports of injury from dog bites and other animals | Responsible dog ownership program  |
| To reduce the incidence of horse related accidents   | Support the local horse industry in provision of safety information and safe practices in horse handling and riding   | Council<br>Local Racing Clubs<br>Local horse industry<br>Pony and horse riding clubs                               | Reduction in the number of horse related injury                               | Horse Safety Australia<br>Work Safe Racing Victoria                                |

**6: Alcohol and Licensing**  
**Objective: To reduce the harms of alcohol and ensure community wellbeing and amenity is not compromised**

Alcohol is a leading cause of death and disability in the community and is related to more than 60 different medical conditions including liver cirrhosis, cancer and mental health problems.<sup>57</sup> Alcohol is directly related to 14% of suicides and self-inflicted injuries and 13% of road traffic accidents. Annual effects of alcohol in Victoria include 759 alcohol-related deaths, 57 road deaths, 714 hospitalisations, 8,000 emergency department presentations and more than 4,700 ambulance attendances. Each year in Victoria 13,000 people seek treatment for alcohol problems.<sup>58</sup> Alcohol is strongly related to crime and disorder, family violence and child neglect. In one year in Victoria 16,500 drivers are convicted of drink and/or drug offences, 10,000–15,000 people are apprehended for public drunkenness, over 1,500 assaults occur in licensed premises, 37% of parents of children entering foster care have alcohol abuse problems and alcohol has a high prevalence rate in sexual assaults. Although alcohol has recently been linked to permanent brain damage in young drinkers, 64% of 18 to 24 year olds and 32% of 14 to 17 year olds binge drink. A large number of youth sport clubs sell alcohol as one of their primary sources of fund-raising. 13% of all Australian adults drink alcohol at risky levels long term and in the Macedon Ranges Shire, there is a higher proportion of adults (especially males) reporting the consumption of excessive amounts of alcohol on a weekly basis.<sup>59</sup>

Council can to a certain extent control density and placement of licensed venues by having clear guidelines, assessment criteria and benchmarks and a policy reflective of community wishes and aspirations. Clear policy helps to eliminate or minimise negative impacts of developments and proposals. The ability of supermarkets to now place alcohol in 100% of stores means it is very difficult for people with an alcohol problem to avoid the product. All these issues are important and need to be balanced with amenity issues.

| GOAL   | ACTION   | PARTNERSHIPS   | BENCHMARK  | PROGRAMS<br>(not an exhaustive list)   |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| To reduce the centrality that alcohol plays in the culture and activities of some sporting clubs<br>To reduce the negative modelling young people are often exposed to at sporting clubs in relation to alcohol consumption<br>To encourage sports clubs to develop inclusive and family friendly environments | Conduct seminars at clubs identified by police as high risk re alcohol consumption and risky behaviour<br>Provide incentives to clubs to participate in the 'good sports' program<br>Develop an Alcohol and Licensed Premises Policy | Council<br>Police<br>Sport clubs   | More local sport clubs are members of the Good Sports Program<br>Fewer clubs rely on alcohol for fundraising<br>A high density of packaged liquor licensed outlets in towns is avoided | Good Sports Program<br>Clubs' Codes of Conduct<br>AFL Victoria Policies and Codes of Conduct<br>AFL Victoria Quality Club Program<br>National Coaching Accreditation Scheme<br>Victoria Police Safe Parties Program<br>Guidelines for Parents of Teenagers |
| To develop a Shire-wide alcohol and liquor licensing policy that sets out Council's aspirations and intentions re alcohol and liquor licensing issues  | Develop a Macedon Ranges Shire Council Alcohol and Liquor Licensing Policy<br>Review Council by-laws re alcohol consumption in public places   | Council<br>Victoria Police<br>Community<br>Businesses and licensees<br>Department of Justice | An Alcohol and Licensing Policy is developed   | ICLEI/PIA/MAV Victorian Planners Guide   |

57. Rehm, J. Room, R. Graham, K., Monteiro, M., Gmel, G., Sempos, C.T. (2003), 'The relationship of average volume of alcohol consumption and patterns of drinking to burden of disease: an overview'. *Addiction*, vol. 98, no. 9, pp. 1209–1228.  
 58. Victorian Government (2008) *Alcohol Action Plan 2008–2013: Restoring the Balance*.  
 59. DHS (2003) *Patterns of smoking and alcohol consumption across Victoria*

# PRIORITY AREA TABLES *(continued)*

| 6: Alcohol and Licensing (Continued)  |  |  |   |   |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| GOAL  | ACTION   | PARTNERSHIPS   | BENCHMARK   | PROGRAMS<br>(not an exhaustive list)  |
| Assist licensed premises to meet their obligations and responsibilities and foster good relations | Develop and promote Liquor Accords in each town and encourage all license holders to participate<br>Conduct audits of local liquor licensed premises   | Council<br>Victoria Police<br>Community<br>Businesses and licensees                            | More active local Liquor Accords are in place<br>More licensees are members of the local Liquor Accord  | Local Liquor Accords  |
| To address the issue of alcohol use among young people  | Scope the extent of alcohol consumption, source of supply, peer pressure through a comprehensive secondary school survey.<br>Promote Safe Consumption through Safe Parties Program; Guidelines for Parents of Teenagers; Guide for hirers of public halls etc<br>Provide information and resources to enable parents to better understand their obligations related to under age alcohol consumption | Council<br>Police<br>Community<br>Schools<br>Youth organisations<br>Australian Drug Foundation | Shire wide youth alcohol survey<br>Less reports to police of excessive youth drinking<br>Parents are empowered and better understand their obligations related to under age alcohol consumption | Safe Parties Program<br>Live4Life Program<br>Study of all senior secondary school children's alcohol use - Macedon Ranges Shire study |

# APPENDICES

## Appendix 1: Members of the Local Safety Committee

| Name            | Address                                       |
|-----------------|---|
| Donna Petrovich | MLC, Member for Northern Victoria (Chair)     |
| Joan Donovan    | Councillor, Macedon Ranges Shire              |
| Greg Hough      | Inspector, Macedon Ranges Police Service Area |
| Lorraine Beyer  | Sustainable Communities Planner, MRSC         |
| Henry Bleeck    | Community Representative                      |
| Shane Brundell  | Crime Investigation Unit, Police              |
| Doug Dalgleish  | Business Community Representative             |
| Clay Drysdale   | Infrastructure Planning & Design MRSC         |
| Joe Grbac       | Youth, Police                                 |
| Jon Morley      | Education, Gisborne Secondary College         |
| Geoff Neil      | Traffic Unit, Police                          |
| Pauline Neil    | Youth Unit, MRSC                              |
| Geoff Owen      | Senior Sergeant in charge, Gisborne Police    |
| Gary Steadman   | Cobaw Community Health CEO (acting)           |

## Appendix 2: Stakeholders

A facilitated workshop of stakeholders was held on 24 September, 2009. Participants were:

| Name              | Organisation   |
|-------------------|--|
| Joan Donovan      | Councillor, MRSC   |
| Mario Fiorentino  | Police   |
| Lorraine Beyer    | Social Planner MRSC  |
| Kerry Haby        | Social Planning MRSC   |
| Peter Jones       | Parks Development MRSC   |
| Clay Drysdale     | Infrastructure Planning & Design MRSC                          |
| Duane Burt        | Strategic Planner MRSC   |
| Suzannah Bigolin  | Strategic Planner MRSC   |
| Graham Treadwell  | Recreation Development MRSC                                    |
| Lisa Delaney      | Executive Officer , Central Victorian Primary Care Partnership |
| Gary Steadman     | COBAW Health   |
| Deb Foster        | Macedon Ranges Health Services                                 |
| Sandra Rogers     | Macedon Ranges Health Services                                 |
| Shane Brundell    | Police   |
| Margarita Caddick | Workshop Convenor  |
| Mark Edwards      | Police   |
| Geoff Neil        | Police   |
| Pauline Neil      | Youth Services MRSC  |
| Lauraine Cameron  | Aged Services, MRSC  |
| Howard Bradfield  | Kyneton and District Health Services                           |
| Anne McLennan     | Community Wellbeing MRSC                                       |
| Joe Grbac         | Police   |

MRSC = Macedon Ranges Shire Council

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## Appendix 3: Development of the Plan

The development phase of the Safety Plan identified:

- » safety and crime issues in the Shire;
  - » issues of importance to the health, happiness and wellbeing of the community;
  - » existing programs and services;
  - » gaps between need and current focus and resources; and
  - » partnership opportunities.
1. Steering Committee and Advisors
    - » Members of the Macedon Ranges Local Safety Committee were the project Steering Committee and the Macedon Ranges Health Providers Group additionally advised development of the Plan.
  2. Literature review:
    - » A literature search was undertaken to identify what other Australian and overseas Safety Plans existed, what statistics and social indicators exist that could be used for benchmarking and evaluation, and what resources and information exist that could enhance local efforts and help to empower local residents and community.
  3. Service Mapping:
    - » Asset mapping helped to identify existing resources and programs within the local community and more broadly. These included:
      - i. organisations and individuals that could play a role in community safety;
      - ii. existing programs or projects that are related to community safety;
      - iii. existing tools that could assist; and identification of
      - iv. relevant reports and documents containing information or strategies related to community safety in the community.
  5. Stakeholder Consultation:
    - » Key issues and opportunities were identified at a facilitated workshop of the Community Safety Committee, and at a second facilitated workshop that included a broad range of council, police, health, welfare, education and other stakeholders. See Attachment 1 for more details.
  5. Community Consultation:
    - » Community consultation was conducted over April and May 2010 involving a cross section of community members including local community planning groups, members of business and tourism groups, maternal child health nurses, kindergarten parents, young people and older people.
  6. Draft Report
    - » circulated to stakeholders for final comments
    - » approval by Macedon Ranges Shire Council Councillors to publicly exhibit the report via Council's web site and service centres.
    - » community notified of the exhibition period
    - » exhibition feedback incorporated where appropriate
  7. Final Report

## Appendix 4: Issues Identified by Stakeholders

**Below is a summary of the issues identified by workshop participants as important for inclusion in the safety plan for the Shire:**

### SUMMARY ISSUES

#### Safe Places

1. Urban design to reduce crime, enhance safety and follow 'place making' principles
2. Amendments to planning scheme to give current guidelines and policies 'teeth'
3. Planner education, raising awareness in the development industry of safer design
4. Improving Council's ability to conduct capital works against guideline checklists for safety, crime prevention and disability access.
5. Providing diverse spaces for formal and informal gatherings and activities.
6. Urban Design for Crime Prevention, Safety Cameras.
7. Road Safety and Road Safety Strategy
8. Road Construction and Design

#### Friendly and Connected Neighbourhoods

9. There needs to be viable alternatives to pokie gambling that meets the needs of single, older women including their sense of safety and confidence to engage. Traditional sport and club activities are not for everyone.
10. We need greater acceptance of cultural diversity and all other types of 'difference'.
11. Lifestyle, Diversity

#### Safe and Secure Women

12. Family violence - co-ordinate referral process, identify and treat underlying causes.
13. Family violence, better access to refuges
14. Prevention of violence against women including supporting men to challenge negative attitudes and beliefs
15. Women's Safety

#### Mental and Physical Wellbeing

16. Youth drug and alcohol education, change the culture and driver education.
17. Child welfare and protection, linking universal and secondary service.
18. Child Safety
19. Child safe organisations, create an index of existing ones and link to them.
20. Education and protective behaviours pitched at child and parents.
21. Increase diversity responsiveness and decrease violence in the community.
22. Mental Health
23. More/better men's support programs.

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24. Mental Health, diversity and acceptance of difference.
25. Youth crime prevention
26. Young people needs need to be better catered for – more than just sport – they need space to hang out and feel valued and connected members of the community
27. Cyber and communication safety is a growing problem with serious criminal and mental health consequences
28. Cyber bullying for senior primary school children. Mental Health, diversity cultural etc.
29. Cyber communication issues including mobile phones.
30. How to intervene in the online world as a community.
31. Living safely with dementia.
32. Elder Abuse, how can we make older residents feel safe in the community.

## Alcohol and Licensing

33. Alcohol and liquor licensing – we don't have a policy like many other LGAs do
34. Alcohol and Liquor Licensing. Sports Club use of alcohol
35. Sports clubs culture is too often revolving around alcohol and providing poor role models
36. LLV/RSA. 'Good Sports' alcohol education. Implement to sports clubs – reduce violence.
37. Policy consistency.
38. Alcohol and liquor licensing, further develop liquor accord and banned patron's policy.
39. Family Violence and how alcohol and violence are related to crime.
40. Drink Driving-prevention and education

## Safety and Wellbeing

41. Extreme weather, TFB: safer places for refuge.
42. Road Safety, Through Accident Investigation
43. Drugs and Driving.
44. Injured Wildlife
45. Home handyman safety, hobby farmers safety with machinery etc

## Appendix 5: Issues Identified by Community

A cross-section of community views were obtained by attending regular group meetings in April and May, 2010 and by utilising previous consultations including the extensive positive ageing workshops and world cafes. Community members were asked about what they considered to be the safety and crime issues in the Shire and in their local area more broadly.

| Community Group                           | Summary Issues  |
|---|---|
| <b>Malmsbury Community Planning Group</b> | <p><i>Safe Places</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The train station has vandalism, cars get broken into, the timetable is often trashed and there is graffiti there.</li> <li>» There are boys and their families linked to the custody centre coming and going via the Malmsbury rail station so the train station needs a supervisor.</li> <li>» More bins are needed at the railway station. There is always a trail of rubbish from the shops to the train station.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Tylden Community Planning Group</b>    | <p><i>Safe Places</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Pedestrian activity around the school bus is confused and unsafe. The bus stop should be near the main school gate. Many out of town children use the school and come in by bus and car.</li> <li>» There is poor crossing safety between the hall and the shops</li> <li>» Commuters speed through in the mornings on their way to work</li> <li>» Too many accidents at Chanters Lane and Tylden/Woodend Rd. It needs more lighting. The morning sun dazzles drivers.</li> <li>» More lights needed on the outskirts of town to warn there is a town coming</li> <li>» There are three signs near one another saying 'Kyneton 9km', 'Kyneton 10km' and 'Kyneton 11km'. It is funny but it looks as though the 'authorities' are incompetent.</li> <li>» Town is getting much busier.</li> <li>» Some burglaries have happened at main road properties</li> </ul> <p><i>Friendly Neighbourhoods</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» It feels very safe and there is a high sense of community and looking out for each other in Tylden.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Disability Group</b>                   | <p><i>Safe Places</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Keep the heritage features whilst making the roads safer especially in Kyneton with the blue stone gutters and stone footpaths</li> <li>» More ramps, disabled access and public seating is needed</li> </ul>  |

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| Community Group              | Summary Issues   |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Older Persons</b>         | <p><i>Friendly Neighbourhood</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Safety is an issue for older residents living outside towns especially when their mobility becomes restricted and driving is no longer an option.</li> </ul> <p><i>Safety and Wellbeing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Living in the country, older people find it difficult to get out at night due to kangaroos on the road</li> <li>» Housing choice and downsizing is a focus in the Positive Ageing Strategy)</li> <li>» The Property Maintenance Service of Council focuses on the security and safety aspects of the older person's home. Services may include installation of ramps and hand rails, repair of doors and replacement of smoke alarms.</li> </ul> <p><i>Mental and Physical Wellbeing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» It is important that there be choice to downsize into town for older people on farms. This is very important. Houses that are aged friendly are also important and the housing needs to be safe and secure.</li> <li>» Safety is an important issue for all older people. Residents want to feel safe in the community and within the home</li> </ul> <p><i>Safe Places</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Safe road crossings are needed where people cross frequently e.g. access banks, pharmacist and community centres.</li> <li>» Pedestrian crossings need to be close to the shopping centres and there should be more safe crossing points in the shopping precinct.</li> <li>» Good footpaths allow older people to get around easily. Safe and wide footpaths are needed connecting shops and services. Smooth ramps needed at pedestrian stops.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Maternal Child Health</b> | <p><i>Safe and Secure Women</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Family violence is an issue. Maternal child health nurses have a new 'consultation framework' and training in family violence and assistance strategies. At the 4 week visit every mum is asked if there are any safety issues for them at home. If there is, a safety plan is put in place which includes practical things like contact points, safe places to go, second phones etc. About 1 in 9 mums will say they do have a problem at home.</li> </ul> <p><i>Safe Places</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Gisbus is fantastic. Kyneton is just starting and this is great. It also provides opportunities for locals to meet one another.</li> <li>» It is extremely dangerous at the Gisborne rail station when express trains go through at extreme speeds. For example the 5.30pm train. There are no warnings to stand back. There at least needs to be a sign at the station warning people to stand back when the express comes through. It almost sucks you into it if you are too near the platform line.</li> <li>» Householders need to be given information about how to handle people who come and knock on their doors – this is especially important for children who may be at home alone and for the elderly. It can be very intimidating and potentially dangerous.</li> <li>» Children riding bikes in the towns are unsafe.</li> <li>» There needs to be more driver awareness about bikes.</li> <li>» Often children ride with no helmets. They ride on footpaths with bikes and scooters and it is unsafe for them and pedestrians</li> <li>» Schools should have bike-ed programs</li> <li>» More footpaths need to be connected up between schools, health centres, kinders and shops to ensure pedestrian and pram safety.</li> <li>» More cycling and exercise tracks would encourage cyclists and walkers and would be safer for them.</li> </ul> |

| Community Group                                    | Summary Issues  |
|--|---|
| <b>Maternal Child Health</b><br><i>(continued)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Frequently there are terrifying speeds seen on the Calder Highway including by huge semi trailers and trucks. This is especially dangerous at twilight times.</li> <li>» There is hardly ever a police car seen, or anyone pulled up on the Calder Freeway.</li> <li>» The skate park in Woodend is a disgrace. There is rubbish left lying around, graffiti that never seems to be cleaned up and no seating for families who could then comfortably supervise their children.</li> <li>» The skate park only attracts teenagers and the one in Gisborne is particularly isolated. Is this safe for the children and the community generally?</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Kinder parents</b>                              | <p><i>Safe Places</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Lack of footpaths between kindergartens and primary schools. Currently mums with young children and babies have to walk on the road in Macedon and it is unsafe</li> </ul> <p><i>Road safety</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Gisborne is rapidly growing but not the resources so there will be problems in future</li> <li>» Kilmore Rd in Gisborne needs to be made safer and cars slowed. Have seen 2 deaths</li> <li>» Crossing needed at Aitken St near Fisher St for children to cross safely to the Gisborne PS and St Bridgets</li> <li>» Uncompleted footpaths and no crossing at Kilmore Rd for children and walking school bus</li> </ul> <p><i>Mental and Physical Wellbeing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Bullying at school and workplace including cyber-bullying</li> <li>» Please put bullying in the safety plan</li> </ul> <p><i>Child safety</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Need more social workers. Youth support services in Gisborne are lacking compared to Kyneton but the population of young people is high in Gisborne</li> <li>» More police and a 24 hr station at Gisborne is needed as the population is large and police can't respond quickly to crime</li> <li>» Drug and alcohol and mental illness are all problems</li> </ul> |
| <b>Young People OurSProject Safe Places</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» There are no places for girls to go and hang out with other girls. More places for girls to hang out and shops needed (Diva, Supre). There are lots of things for boys and for old people but not girls.</li> <li>» There should be picnic tables near the skate parks for parents to use to sit and supervise their younger children if they want to.</li> <li>» The bins are in the wrong place and so there is often a lot of rubbish in the skate park.</li> <li>» People urinate at the Woodend skate park.</li> <li>» There is rude graffiti that stays there for a long time. This puts nicer people off going there.</li> <li>» There is a mix of older and young children at the skate park – there should be some basic rules pasted up to bring some order into the skate park like 'give way to smaller children' etc</li> </ul>   |

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| Community Group                             | Summary Issues  |
|---|---|
| <b>Mount Macedon BATA</b>                   | <p><i>Friendly Neighbourhoods</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» There needs to be multi purpose infrastructure build so as to accommodate the needs of young people as a meeting place and better access to activities</li> </ul> <p><i>Safe Places</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Gisbus is fantastic</li> <li>» There should be footpaths in the main street at Macedon, especially linking the railway station to the town. There are not even visual guides for walkers in the town. People do walk and they want paths</li> <li>» There should be a curb and channel in Victoria St. Smith St dissolves at the edges when it rains. It is good the Margaret St is being fixed on the north side.</li> <li>» Difficult to park in the street and the elderly can't easily get from their car park to the shops</li> <li>» There is parking at the back of the shops but there is no signage so visitors don't know about it</li> <li>» It is hard for visitors as there are few signs such as where are the police and how to get from place to place. Often drivers get lost and go round and round. Signs need to also be larger.</li> <li>» Exit points and high danger areas on the roads need highlighting with better signage</li> <li>» The sign that says 'Fire Prone Town' should read 'Fire Prone Shire' it is not fair to single out a town</li> <li>» At Centenary Park there should be signage to show 'You are Here' and a map to help tourist navigate around</li> <li>» There is a lack of lighting in the town.</li> <li>» There are no lights at the Centenary Park toilets</li> <li>» There are some dangerous gum trees opposite the IGA supermarket</li> </ul> <p><i>Safety and Wellbeing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» There should be handyman safety demonstrations given especially chain saw safety and safe tree lopping as people have trees on their properties here and may not be experienced to know what they are doing</li> </ul> |
| <b>Romsey BATA and service club members</b> | <p><i>Safe Places</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The look of the town is very important as it gives pride, encourages good citizenship, reduces antisocial behaviour and encourages visitors to come and leave with a good impression.</li> <li>» Where can we go to get graffiti cleaned quickly in the town, signs erected and signs replaced promptly when they are damaged?</li> <li>» The big blocks in Romsey lead to unkempt gardens and yards which give a bad impression. People will stick a sheep in the back to keep the grass down and old cars and rubbish accumulate. There should be a few big blocks but not all of them should be big as people can't keep up with the maintenance.</li> <li>» Lack of adequate lighting is a big safety and image issue in Romsey. Where there is poor lighting there is always graffiti and rubbish. For example at the Lions Park and playground, rotunda, sports area and public toilets are very poorly lit which makes people feel wary and unsafe. Car park next to the hub is very dark.</li> <li>» The pine tree in the sports area is too old, and is dark and gloomy and should go.</li> <li>» The Sunbury-Lancefield Road is full of pot holes and very dangerous with no passing lanes for the whole of the road. People pass regularly over double lines to get past the slow traffic and we are told it won't be fixed until there are more deaths (VicRoad).</li> <li>» At the skate park there is broken glass, graffiti, rubbish and cars drive onto the grass around it which is unsafe. It gives a bad look to the entrance of the town and a bad image to young people.</li> </ul>   |

| Community Group   | Summary Issues  |
|---|---|
| <b>Romsey BATA and service club members</b><br><i>(continued)</i> | <p><i>Friendly Neighbourhoods</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» There is quite a lot of controversy about placing the men's shed near the primary school.</li> <li>» It would be good to see more police in the town and more responsive to invitations to attend groups like ours. We want the crime figures for Romsey so they can go in the Romsey Rag. We need to know.</li> <li>» Young people need to be encouraged to have pride in their town. How can we help them have pride and high level of responsible citizenship such as not chucking rubbish around.</li> <li>» There are no non-sporting activities for young people. Not all young people want to play sport and there is nothing for the others to do. A school in Romsey would give them some place to have social and other opportunities.</li> <li>» People walking their dogs on the tracks and parks have no idea that they need to pick up the droppings. It is terrible. There should be signs at the parks about dog owner responsibility. Some of the dog bag dispensers dotted along routes. Would be good and dog walkers need to be required to carry a plastic bag.</li> </ul> <p><i>Alcohol</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Sport clubs need to have less alcohol. We have seen 'last man standing' type of drinking games and so on. It is a bad look and a bad role model. It would be great to get the Good Sports Program into the clubs.</li> <li>» Functions and groups are unable to consume alcohol at all at the Romsey community hub. There should be the capacity for some access to alcohol at this venue as it makes groups and clubs go elsewhere for their get togethers and functions as well.</li> <li>» The new blanket restriction on liquor licensing is restricting regional produce. Wine producers have to pay \$100 per time to show/sell their wine at markets so they don't go any more.</li> </ul> <p><i>Mental and Physical Wellbeing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Older people need to understand about how scams and the like work. They need to be aware of scams, and not to give out their identity details and bank details etc.</li> </ul> |

# APPENDICES

## Appendix 6: Web based Resources

### 1. Safe Places and Spaces

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Designing and producing <b>people-friendly places</b> :<br>Australian Government website            | <a href="http://www.healthyplaces.org.au/site/">www.healthyplaces.org.au/site/</a>   |
| <b>Design of homes</b> suited to older residents and those with disabilities                        | <a href="http://www.buildforlife.com.au">www.buildforlife.com.au</a>   |
| <b>Age Friendly Cities</b>  | <a href="http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/Global_age_friendly_cities_Guide_English.pdf">www.who.int/ageing/publications/Global_age_friendly_cities_Guide_English.pdf</a>                             |
| <b>Safer Cities and Shires</b> Program  | <a href="http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/DOJsite.nsf/all+by+key/VCSCPS?opendocument">www.justice.vic.gov.au/DOJsite.nsf/all+by+key/VCSCPS?opendocument</a>   |
| <b>MRSC Road Safety Strategy</b>  | <a href="http://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Files/RoadSafetyStrategy20082012.pdf">www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Files/RoadSafetyStrategy20082012.pdf</a>   |
| Safety dropping and picking up <b>children at school</b>  | <a href="http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safetoschool">www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safetoschool</a>   |
| <b>Traffic Accident Commission</b>  | <a href="http://www.tacsafety.com.au">www.tacsafety.com.au</a>   |
| <b>VicRoads</b>   | <a href="http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au">www.vicroads.vic.gov.au</a>   |
| <b>Bicycle Victoria</b>   | <a href="http://www.bv.com.au/">www.bv.com.au/</a>   |
| <b>Road safety programs</b>   | <a href="http://www.mav.asn.au/saferoads">www.mav.asn.au/saferoads</a><br><a href="http://www.roadsafe.org.au">www.roadsafe.org.au</a><br><a href="http://www.police.vic.gov.au">www.police.vic.gov.au</a> |
| <b>Arrive Alive Program</b>   | <a href="http://www.arrivealive.vic.gov.au/">http://www.arrivealive.vic.gov.au/</a>  |
| <b>Crime statistics</b> for local postcode areas  | <a href="http://www.vicpolicenews.com.au/myplace.html">www.vicpolicenews.com.au/myplace.html</a>   |
| Do it yourself safety and <b>security audits</b> -': factories, houses, building sites, cars, bikes | <a href="http://www.neighbourhoodwatch.com.au/">www.neighbourhoodwatch.com.au/</a> Click tab 'Virtual Tours'   |
| <b>National - Towards A Safer Australia</b>   | <a href="http://www.ncp.gov.au">www.ncp.gov.au</a>   |

### 2. Friendly and Connected Neighbourhoods

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|---|--|
| <b>Age Friendly Cities</b>  | <a href="http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/Global_age_friendly_cities_Guide_English.pdf">www.who.int/ageing/publications/Global_age_friendly_cities_Guide_English.pdf</a> |
| <b>TravelSmart</b> Australia alternatives to travelling in private car including walking school bus.  | <a href="http://www.travelsmart.gov.au/schools/schools2.html">www.travelsmart.gov.au/schools/schools2.html</a>   |
| <b>Carers Victoria</b><br>Information, support, counselling and referral for carers of people with disabilities and illnesses including older people. Phone, email or walk in | <a href="http://www.carersaustralia.com.au/">www.carersaustralia.com.au/</a>   |
| <b>Office of Senior Victorians</b><br>Advisory service for older people relatives and friends on issues affecting older people. Phone, email or face to face.                 | <a href="http://www.cotavic.org.au/home">www.cotavic.org.au/home</a>   |
| <b>Residential Care Rights</b> for residents in Commonwealth funded aged care facilities. Phone, email or face to face  | <a href="http://www.era.asn.au">www.era.asn.au</a>   |
| <b>Disability Information Network Australia</b>   | <a href="http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dina/">http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dina/</a>  |

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| <b>Liveable and Just toolkit</b> for local government to address the social and equity impacts of climate change                           | <a href="http://www.liveableandjust.vlga.org.au">www.liveableandjust.vlga.org.au</a>   |
| The <b>Office of the Public Advocate</b> (OPA) provides legal guardianship and advocacy  | <a href="http://www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au/">www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au/</a>   |
| The <b>Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service</b><br>Legal assistance for Aboriginal people 24 hours   | <a href="http://www.vals.org.au/">www.vals.org.au/</a>   |
| The <b>Gay and Lesbian Switchboard</b><br>Telephone counselling, referral and information by trained gay, lesbian and bisexual volunteers. | <a href="http://www.actnow.com.au/Groups/Gay_and_Lesbian_Switchboard_Victoria.aspx">www.actnow.com.au/Groups/Gay_and_Lesbian_Switchboard_Victoria.aspx</a> |
| <b>Ethnic</b> Communities' Council of Victoria and services  | <a href="http://www.onlymelbourne.com.au/melbourne.php?id=346">http://www.onlymelbourne.com.au/melbourne.php?id=346</a>                                    |

### 3. Safe and Secure Women

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| <b>Planning framework</b> to guide actions to enhance women's safety and wellbeing   | <a href="http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au">www.vichealth.vic.gov.au</a>   |
| <b>A Right to Respect</b> ; Victoria's Plan to Prevent Violence against Women 2010-2020  | <a href="http://www.women.vic.gov.au">www.women.vic.gov.au</a>   |
| <b>Family violence service</b> at Cobaw (very limited resourcing)  | <a href="http://www.cobaw.vic.gov.au">www.cobaw.vic.gov.au</a>   |
| Women's <b>Domestic Violence Crisis Service</b> of Victoria. Point of contact for someone who wants to leave a violent partner. 24 hour support service<br>Ph 9322 3555, Toll Free 1800 015 188    | <a href="http://www.wdvcs.org.au/">http://www.wdvcs.org.au/</a>  |
| <b>Women's Information and Referral Exchange.</b><br>Free confidential information, support, counselling and referral for Victorian women. Phone, email or walk in.                                | <a href="http://www.wire.org.au/">www.wire.org.au/</a>   |
| <b>Immigrant Women's Domestic Violence Service.</b><br>Provides support, information and referrals to women and children whose origins are from countries where English is not the first language. | <a href="http://www.iwss.org.au/">www.iwss.org.au/</a>   |
| <b>Domestic violence resource centre</b> provides education and training, publications, consultation for workers, and referrals for those affected by family violence                              | <a href="http://www.dvrcv.org.au/">www.dvrcv.org.au/</a>   |
| <b>The Safe Women Project</b><br>women's safety in public places   | <a href="http://www.agd.nsw.gov.au/swp/swp.nsf/pages/swp_toc">www.agd.nsw.gov.au/swp/swp.nsf/pages/swp_toc</a> |

# APPENDICES

## 4. Mental and Physical Wellbeing

### *Child Wellbeing*

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Protective Behaviours Personal Safety Program</b>  | <a href="http://www.childwise.net/">www.childwise.net/</a>   |
| <b>Safeguarding Children Program</b> Standards and accreditation for organisations working with children and young people.                                      | <a href="http://www.accyo.org.au">www.accyo.org.au</a><br>Australian Council for Children and Youth Organisations.<br>Childhood Foundation               |
| <b>Working with Children checks</b>   | <a href="http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren">www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren</a>   |
| <b>Child Safe Organisations</b> , Community Services Ministers' Advisory Council discussion paper   | <a href="http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/reports/organisations/organisations.html">www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/reports/organisations/organisations.html</a> |
| Online learning for community sport and recreation to prevent and deal with discrimination, child abuse and <b>develop inclusive and welcoming environments</b> | <a href="http://www.playbytherules.net.au/">www.playbytherules.net.au/</a>   |

### *Bullying*

|   |  |
|---|--|
| AFL Victoria <b>Quality Club Program</b>  | <a href="http://www.aflvic.com.au/index.php?id=104">www.aflvic.com.au/index.php?id=104</a>   |
| AFL Victoria <b>Policies and Codes of Conduct</b>   | <a href="http://www.aflvic.com.au/index.php?id=8">www.aflvic.com.au/index.php?id=8</a>   |
| <b>Bullying in Schools</b>  | <a href="http://www.education.unisa.edu.au/bullying/">www.education.unisa.edu.au/bullying/</a>   |
| <b>National Safe Schools Framework</b> principles for a safe and supportive school environment  | <a href="http://www.dest.gov.au">www.dest.gov.au</a>   |
| <b>Bullying. No way!</b> for use by Australia's Government, Catholic and Independent school communities.  | <a href="http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au/">www.bullyingnoway.com.au/</a>   |
| <b>Safe Schools are Effective Schools</b>   | <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au">www.education.vic.gov.au</a>   |
| Department of Education and Early Childhood Development <b>DEECD</b>  | <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/safety/bullying/default.htm">/healthwellbeing/safety/bullying/default.htm</a>                                   |
| Association of <b>Independent Schools</b> of Victoria   | <a href="http://www.ais.vic.edu.au/">http://www.ais.vic.edu.au/</a>  |
| <b>Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide</b> including Student safety and risk management; Student care and supervision; Student code of conduct | <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/referenceguide/default.htm">www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/referenceguide/default.htm</a> |
| <b>National Centre Against Bullying</b>   | <a href="http://www.ncab.org.au/">http://www.ncab.org.au/</a>  |
| <b>Mental Health of Young People</b>  | <a href="http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4840.0.55.001?OpenDocument">www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4840.0.55.001?OpenDocument</a>                       |

### *Cyber and Telecommunications Safety*

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| <b>Internet safety</b> delivering interactive training to parents, carers and teachers through primary and secondary schools.  | <a href="http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/site/">www.thinkuknow.org.au/site/</a>   |
| Practical information about <b>internet safety</b> , including the technology being used by children and how you can reduce the risk of your child becoming a victim | Who's chatting to your kids?   |
| Victorian Department of Education & Training Schools <b>Online web site</b>  | <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/schoolsonline/default.asp">www.education.vic.gov.au/schoolsonline/default.asp</a> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Cybersmart</b> provides activities, resources and practical advice to help young kids, kids, teens and parents safely enjoy the online world. Part of the Australian Government's cybersafety program | <a href="http://cybersmart.gov.au/">http://cybersmart.gov.au/</a>   |
| <b>NetAlert</b> Australian Government providing a safe online environment for all families, especially children  | <a href="http://www.netalert.gov.au/">www.netalert.gov.au/</a>  |
| <b>Norton Online Family Report</b> insight into the online life of children and adults   | <a href="http://www.symantec.com/norton/theme.jsp?themeid=norton_online_family_report">http://www.symantec.com/norton/theme.jsp?themeid=norton_online_family_report</a> |
| <b>Block a phone bully</b>   | <a href="http://www.vmad.com/joomla/">http://www.vmad.com/joomla/</a>   |
| <b>Office of the Privacy Commissioner</b> - Internet and communications  | <a href="http://www.privacy.gov.au/topics/technologies">http://www.privacy.gov.au/topics/technologies</a>   |
| <b>Australian Competition and Consumer Commission</b> - Information for Consumers  | <a href="http://www.accc.gov.au/content/index.phpml/tag/ForConsumers/">http://www.accc.gov.au/content/index.phpml/tag/ForConsumers/</a>                                 |
| <b>Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE)</b>   | <a href="http://www.dbcde.gov.au/">http://www.dbcde.gov.au/</a>   |
| Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association - <b>Consumer Tips Portal</b>   | <a href="http://www.amta.org.au/pages/Consumer.Tips">http://www.amta.org.au/pages/Consumer.Tips</a>   |
| Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) - <b>Consumer &amp; Community Advice page</b>   | <a href="http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PUB_CONS_DIR">http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PUB_CONS_DIR</a>   |
| <b>Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO)</b>   | <a href="http://www.tio.com.au/">http://www.tio.com.au/</a>   |
| Australian Communications <b>Consumer Action Network</b>   | <a href="http://www.accan.org.au/">http://www.accan.org.au/</a>   |

### Help Services

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|---|--|
| National <b>mental health promotion</b> , prevention and early intervention for primary schools                                     | <a href="http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/">www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/</a>     |
| <b>Lifeline Counselling 24 hours</b> for anyone<br>Phone 13 11 14 counselling   | <a href="http://www.lifeline.org.au/centralvic">www.lifeline.org.au/centralvic</a>     |
| <b>Counselling to all Australian children.</b><br>Phone: 1800 55 1800.  | <a href="http://www.kidshelp.com.au/">www.kidshelp.com.au/</a>                         |
| Australian Child and <b>Adolescent Trauma, Loss and Grief Network</b>   | <a href="http://www.earlytraumagrief.anu.edu.au/">www.earlytraumagrief.anu.edu.au/</a> |
| <b>For teenagers</b> who are living with family violence  | <a href="http://www.burstingthebubble.com/">www.burstingthebubble.com/</a>             |
| Lists details of over 5,000 <b>services and service providers</b> around the country  | <a href="http://www.justlook.org.au/">www.justlook.org.au/</a>                         |
| <b>24 hour crisis support</b> counselling and ongoing help for victims, families and perpetrators in the child sexual assault area. | <a href="http://www.childabuseprevention.com.au/">www.childabuseprevention.com.au/</a> |
| <b>Protective behaviours</b> program to empower people of all ages and enhance personal safety                                      | <a href="http://www.childwise.net">www.childwise.net</a>                               |
| <b>Children's Protection Society</b> is responsible for a number of family support programs.  | <a href="http://www.cps.org.au/">www.cps.org.au/</a>                                   |

# APPENDICES

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|---|--|
| <b>Children's Welfare Association</b> of Victoria peak coordinating body for an extensive network of non government agencies  | <a href="http://www.cwav.asn.au">www.cwav.asn.au</a>                             |
| <b>Office of the Child Safety</b> Commissioner (Victoria)   | <a href="http://www.ocsc.vic.gov.au/">www.ocsc.vic.gov.au/</a>                   |
| The Australian Childhood Foundation <b>supports children and families</b> effected by abuse, family violence and neglect  | <a href="http://www.childhood.org.au">www.childhood.org.au</a>                   |
| <b>Residential care:</b> foster care, respite care for children with disabilities, shared family care, residential services for adolescents, learning centres for learning disabilities | <a href="http://www.ozchild.com.au">www.ozchild.com.au</a>                       |
| Secretariat of National <b>Aboriginal and Islander Child Care</b> national non government representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.    | <a href="http://www.snaicc.asn.au/">www.snaicc.asn.au/</a>                       |
| <b>National Children's and Youth Law Centre</b> provides individual legal information and advice for children and young people and other services                                       | <a href="http://www.ncylc.org.au/navabout.htm">www.ncylc.org.au/navabout.htm</a> |

## Relationships

|   |  |
|---|--|
| For fathers, mothers, grandparents and anyone else <b>caring for children</b>                                 | <a href="http://www.raisingchildren.net.au/">www.raisingchildren.net.au/</a>                   |
| Supporting positive and <b>respectful relationships</b>   | <a href="http://www.relationships.com.au/">www.relationships.com.au/</a>                       |
| <b>Mensline Australia</b> telephone counselling, information and referral for men with relationship concerns. | <a href="http://www.menslineaus.org.au/">www.menslineaus.org.au/</a>                           |
| <b>Seniors Rights</b> information and help service  | <a href="http://www.seniorsrights.org.au/">www.seniorsrights.org.au/</a>                       |
| Australian National <b>Disability Abuse</b> and Neglect Hotline   | <a href="http://www.disabilityhotline.org/index.html">www.disabilityhotline.org/index.html</a> |

## Elder Abuse

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|---|--|
| <b>Elder Abuse Prevention</b>             | <a href="http://www.seniors.vic.gov.au/web19/osv/dvcosv.nsf/headingpagesdisplay/elder+abuse+prevention">www.seniors.vic.gov.au/web19/osv/dvcosv.nsf/headingpagesdisplay/elder+abuse+prevention</a> |
| <b>Elder Abuse Prevention Association</b> | <a href="http://www.eapa.asn.au/">http://www.eapa.asn.au/</a>  |

## 5. Safety and Wellbeing

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| <b>Information and products</b>  | <a href="http://www.kidssafe.com">www.kidssafe.com</a><br><a href="http://www.greenweb.com.au/kidsafe">www.greenweb.com.au/kidsafe</a><br><a href="http://www.rch.org.au/chas">www.rch.org.au/chas</a>   |
| <b>Farmsafe Australia</b>  | <a href="http://www.farmsafe.org.au">www.farmsafe.org.au</a>   |
| <b>Worksafe Australia</b>  | <a href="http://www.worksafe.gov.au">www.worksafe.gov.au</a>   |
| <b>Responsible dog ownership</b> and dog bite prevention                                     | <a href="http://www.petnet.com.au">www.petnet.com.au</a>   |
| <b>Horse Safety Australia</b>  | <a href="http://www.horsesafetyaustralia.com.au/">http://www.horsesafetyaustralia.com.au/</a>  |
| <b>Work Safe Racing Victoria</b>   | <a href="http://www.racingvictoria.net.au/asset/cms/OHS%20PDF/Horse%20Stables%20and%20Track%20Riding%20Safety%20WorkSafe%20Publication.pdf">http://www.racingvictoria.net.au/asset/cms/OHS%20PDF/Horse%20Stables%20and%20Track%20Riding%20Safety%20WorkSafe%20Publication.pdf</a>  |
| 24 hour <b>wildlife rescue</b>   | <a href="http://www.wildlifevictoria.org.au/">http://www.wildlifevictoria.org.au/</a>  |
| Prevent brain, spinal cord and <b>other traumatic injuries</b>                               | <a href="http://www.thinkfirst.org">www.thinkfirst.org</a>   |
| <b>Injury Prevention</b>   | <a href="http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/rrhacs/ruralbranch.htm">www.dhs.vic.gov.au/rrhacs/ruralbranch.htm</a><br><a href="http://www.safetylit.org">www.safetylit.org</a><br><a href="http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc">www.cdc.gov/ncipc</a><br><a href="http://www.health.gov.au:80/pubhlth/strateg/injury/index.htm">www.health.gov.au:80/pubhlth/strateg/injury/index.htm</a> |
| Prevention of <b>sporting injuries</b> .   | <a href="http://www.smartplay.net">www.smartplay.net</a><br><a href="http://www.sport.vic.gov.au">www.sport.vic.gov.au</a>   |
| Safety information and <b>safety related activities</b> for children                         | <a href="http://www.ses.vic.gov.au">www.ses.vic.gov.au</a>   |
| Government <b>Free Home Inspection Service</b> for older persons and those with disabilities | <a href="http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/hous/reno.html">www.dhs.vic.gov.au/hous/reno.html</a>   |
| <b>Teens choice</b> to predict and prevent an injury   | <a href="http://www.smartrisk.ca">www.smartrisk.ca</a>   |
| <b>Water Safety</b>  | <a href="http://www.watersafety.vic.gov.au">www.watersafety.vic.gov.au</a>   |
| <b>Community safety initiatives</b>  | <a href="http://www.mfb.org.au">www.mfb.org.au</a>   |
| <b>Consumer Affairs</b> product safety information and links                                 | <a href="http://www.consumer.vic.gov.au">www.consumer.vic.gov.au</a>   |

## 6. Alcohol and Licensing

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| <b>Alcohol and other drug</b> information          | <a href="http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au">www.druginfo.adf.org.au</a>  |
| <b>Safe partying</b>                               | <a href="http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au/toolkits/safe_partying">www.druginfo.adf.org.au/toolkits/safe_partying</a>  |
| Victoria's <b>Alcohol Action Plan</b>              | <a href="http://www.health.vic.gov.au/drugservices/pubs/action_plan.htm">http://www.health.vic.gov.au/drugservices/pubs/action_plan.htm</a>                         |
| <b>National Alcohol Strategy</b>                   | <a href="http://www.health.gov.au/internet/alcohol/publishing.nsf/Content/nas-06-09">http://www.health.gov.au/internet/alcohol/publishing.nsf/Content/nas-06-09</a> |
| <b>Resources</b> and information alcohol and drugs | <a href="http://www.adf.org.au">www.adf.org.au</a>  |



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