



WELCOME TO GREATER MELBOURNE

VitalSigns[®]

2017



Greater Melbourne *Vital Signs* 2017 takes the 'pulse' of our city. It provides a snapshot of its health and vitality and identifies the things to celebrate and the issues we face as we all create a sustainable and resilient city.

In August 2017, the 'The Economist' ranked Melbourne as the world's most liveable city for the seventh year in a row. We celebrate our city's culture, healthcare, education and stability. We also recognise that we face challenges now and into the future.

The goal of Greater Melbourne *Vital Signs* 2017 is to promote discussion on the key issues that affect the lives of all people who live and work here. We hope this report will help charities, other foundations and not-for-profit organisations, policy advisors and our local communities to identify where together we can make the most difference. We hope this report encourages innovative solutions to our challenges. Greater Melbourne *Vital Signs* will help us plan our grant making to address high priority community issues.

LORD MAYOR'S CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation is Australia's oldest and largest community foundation. It inspires philanthropy throughout Melbourne and the wider community, and creates positive social change through its support of charitable organisations delivering innovative, effective programs.

We are Australia's largest community foundation

Established in 1923, the Foundation connects people, ideas and funding meet the challenges and needs of the people of Melbourne now and into the future.

Vital Signs is an international program, begun in Canada in 2001, that measures the health and vitality of communities and builds community engagement around core issues of liveability. Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation is a member of the international *Vital Signs* network. This is our second *Vital Signs* report.

OUR GREATER MELBOURNE AREA

This *Vital Signs* report focuses on information and data for the 'Greater Melbourne' area. The Greater Melbourne area includes 31 local government areas stretching from the Yarra Ranges to Wyndham and the Mornington Peninsula to Whittlesea. If Greater Melbourne data is not available, we have used local government, state or national data.

POPULATION

Greater Melbourne is home to 4.73 million people. It is Australia's second largest city, spread across 9,993 square kilometres. By 2026, our population is expected to reach 5.59 million. With 34 per cent of its inhabitants born outside of Australia, Greater Melbourne is rich in cultural diversity. Nearly 1.5 million people speak a language other than English when at home. Our population is ageing, with one in every four people aged 55 and older. By 2051, one in every three people will be 55 and older. With 453 people per square kilometre, Greater Melbourne has a moderately high population density similar to some of larger US cities, but less than the world's megacities London, Tokyo or New York.

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
The foundation for the Melbourne community

For more information visit:
lmcf.org.au

For more information, go to:
lmcf.org.au/MelbVitalSigns

IF MELBOURNE WERE A GROUP OF 100 PEOPLE WE WOULD BE



GREATER MELBOURNE VITAL SIGNS 2017 REPORT CARD

HOMELESSNESS & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

WHAT WE NEED TO IMPROVE:



82,724 homes and potential rental properties are vacant



0.7 per cent of private rental properties are suitable for a household living on income support payments

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- No Poverty
- Gender Equality
- Sustainable Cities and Communities

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

WHAT WE CAN CELEBRATE:



95 per cent of children in Victoria attend preschool



82 per cent of young people finish Year 12

WHAT WE NEED TO IMPROVE:



13.5 per cent of young Victorians aged 15-24 are unemployed



Australia's scientific literacy has fallen by three percentage points

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- No Poverty
- Quality Education
- Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Reduced Inequalities
- Responsible Consumption and Production

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

WHAT WE CAN CELEBRATE:



Water use has dropped 22 per cent from ten years ago



Melbourne's foodbowl has the capacity to grow 82 per cent of the city's vegetables and 41 per cent of its total food needs



Our air quality has improved



Rooftop solar use is rapidly increasing as installation costs fall and grid electricity prices rise

WHAT WE NEED TO IMPROVE:



Victoria's per capita greenhouse gas emissions are around four times the global average



By 2050, the foodbowl's capacity to meet the city's total food needs could halve



40 per cent of waterways are under stress

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Zero Hunger
- Clean Water and Sanitation
- Affordable and Clean Energy
- Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Responsible Consumption and Production
- Climate Action
- Life Below Water

HEALTHY & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

WHAT WE CAN CELEBRATE:



87 per cent of children are in good health



95 per cent of residents participate in or attend arts and cultural activities

WHAT WE NEED TO IMPROVE:



Twenty per cent of people reported experiencing discrimination



Only 46 per cent of residents are physically active

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- No Poverty
- Reduced Inequalities
- Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Climate Action

SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2017, the *Vital Signs* program connected with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. These goals set targets for sustainable economic, social and environmental development by 2030.

HOMELESSNESS & AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Access to safe, affordable housing that meets the diverse needs of a community is a key measure of a successful city.

Today, with its rapidly growing population, record housing prices and limited rental accommodation, Melbourne is facing a major challenge in housing access and affordability. Home ownership is now out of reach for many Melburnians, with more people now renting for longer. This creates stronger competition for rental properties, which affects lower income households with less capacity to compete in the market. More households are reporting housing 'stress', and struggle to pay their rent or mortgage. On average, Melburnians are spending more than one quarter of their incomes on rent. All sectors need to work together to solve this issue.

THE MEDIAN PRICE OF A PROPERTY ACROSS GREATER MELBOURNE IS NOW

\$566,000

AN INCREASE OF 19 PER CENT IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS



A home is now more than seven times the average annual income in Victoria, up from five times the average income in 2001.



It is also estimated that 82,724 homes and potential rental properties are vacant in Greater Melbourne.

NOT ENOUGH RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

In a rental market snapshot taken during April 2017, 0.7 per cent of private rental properties advertised in Greater Melbourne were suitable for a household living on income support payments.

Affordable housing for households on income support payments.

City	Affordable Housing
Greater Brisbane	12.3%
Greater Adelaide	3.7%
Greater Perth	3.0%
Greater Melbourne	0.7%
Greater Sydney	0.0%

Across Greater Melbourne, cheaper housing is often located in areas with higher levels of crime and lower levels of access to services and employment. This can entrench disadvantage.



PEOPLE LOCKED OUT OF THE HOUSING MARKET ALTOGETHER are left homeless



An April 2017 survey found only one property in Greater Melbourne that was affordable for a single person on Newstart Allowance.

MORE PEOPLE ARE HOMELESS TODAY

The number of improvised dwellings increased 31 per cent across Greater Melbourne between 2011 and 2016, compared to five per cent in regional Victoria.



Since 2012, the number of older women who are 'couch surfing' has increased by 83 per cent. There has also been a 75 per cent increase in older women sleeping in their cars presenting at homelessness services.

More than half of those accessing homelessness services are UNDER THE AGE OF 25

MORE SOCIAL HOUSING NEEDED



Despite growing demand, the stock of public and community housing continues to decline as a proportion of all housing in Victoria. Public and community housing accounts for three per cent of all dwellings, down from four per cent in 2006.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY VICTORIA

Habitat for Humanity is increasing the supply of affordable housing by building new homes for families and individuals earning low-incomes or experiencing housing stress. The organisation is currently building its 60th home and is on track to reach their goal of building 100 new homes for low income individuals and families by 2022.

Habitat for Humanity relies on the support of volunteers and donors, as well as philanthropic and corporate partners, to provide labour and building materials at a reduced rate or at no cost. The new homeowners also contribute to their new home by providing 500 hours of 'sweat equity.'

habitat.org.au/vic

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT



Melbourne is a vibrant student city, with more than 1290 primary and secondary schools teaching 700,000 young people.

One of the great education cities of the world, it is home to seven universities, attracting one-third of Australia's international students.

We know that equal access to education is important at all stages of life. The challenge is to ensure that everyone, young or old, can gain skills and experience to meaningfully participate in the workforce and their community, and have purposeful lives. Quality early learning is essential for all children to ensure they have the 'building blocks' for future learning. Equally, feeling connected to school, completing Year 12, and building our scientific literacy is important. Right now, the report card on our education system is mixed. With today's rapidly changing workplace, we need to identify new and emerging approaches to workforce participation. Australia also has an ageing population, with many older people keen to keep learning and working.

THE IMPORTANT EARLY YEARS



One in five preschool children are vulnerable in at least one of the following attributes:

- Physical health
- Social competence
- Emotional maturity
- Language/cognitive skills
- Communication skills/general knowledge



Attending kindergarten for 15 hours a week gives most children a stronger start at school. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds may benefit from more hours or more regular attendance.



95 per cent of Victorian children attend preschool and the number of hours children attend is increasing. In 2015, 70 per cent of pre-school aged children attended a program for 15 hours or more compared with 29 per cent in 2012.

TESTING SKILLS AT SCHOOL



Although Australia's scientific literacy 'score' is above the OECD average, it has been in decline since reliable testing commenced; falling three percentage points since 2006.

AUSTRALIA'S SCIENTIFIC LITERACY HAS FALLEN

MOST STUDENTS COMPLETE YEAR 12

MOST YOUNG PEOPLE COMPLETE YEAR 12 AND COMPLETION RATES ARE INCREASING

82 per cent of 20-year olds have completed Year 12 or its equivalent. This compares with completion rates below 55 per cent for those born prior to 1965.

NEW GRADUATES STRUGGLE IN JOB MARKET



One-third of new bachelor degree graduates seeking full-time employment were unable to find a position within four months of completing their course.

OLDER WORKERS STILL WORKING

Workforce participation for 60-64 year olds has steadily increased since the late 1990's. It is more than double the participation rate of 1985.

MORE PEOPLE AGED 60-64 ARE WORKING THAN EVER BEFORE



MELBOURNE'S FUTURE JOB MARKET



It is estimated that two-thirds of children entering primary school today will work in jobs that do not yet exist. Key skills for the future job market include problem-solving, critical and creative thinking, and STEM skills.



SCARF COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

Scarf provides training in hospitality to young refugees, asylum seekers and migrants who face complex barriers to employment. Scarf partners with Melbourne's best hospitality venues to deliver programs that include hands-on training, mentoring from industry professionals and paid work experience.

scarfcommunity.org

The Scarf team provides training in restaurants on nights that they are closed. This offers young people the opportunity to build skills and experience within a supported environment, and the experience of working in a commercial restaurant environment. 70 per cent of graduate trainees find work within six months of finishing Scarf's training program.

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY



We are all dependent on the natural systems that support us. How we manage and protect these systems determines their sustainability as well as our own.

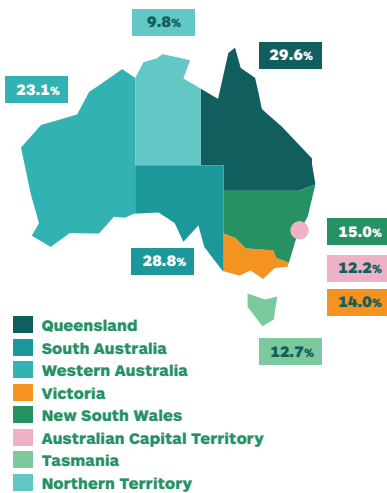
For Melbourne to thrive, so that we can live and work here sustainably, now and into the future, we need to move toward a low carbon economy. To achieve this, we must reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, support more sustainable production and consumption, and adapt to a changing climate. A sustainable food system provides access to healthy, affordable food for all people and protects the capacity of future generations to feed themselves. By reducing the impact of human populations on our waterways we can protect aquatic ecosystems and restore the health of degraded rivers and bay areas.

HIGH GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Victoria's per capita greenhouse gas emissions are among the highest in the world. Victoria produces approximately 20 tonnes per person while the global average is around five.

RESIDENTIAL SOLAR POWER

Rooftop solar systems have been installed on 14 per cent of homes in Victoria. Installations are rapidly increasing as solar prices fall and grid electricity prices rise.



MELBOURNE'S AIR QUALITY IS GOOD



Melbourne's air quality is better than or comparable to other similarly sized cities, and has improved significantly in recent decades.

OUR WASTE IS GROWING

Local councils collected 2.1 million tonnes of household garbage, recyclables and green waste, the equivalent of 359 kg per person.



44 per cent of this waste is recovered and recycled, saving 8,000 megalitres of water and more than 463,000 tonnes in greenhouse gases.

Over one-third of the average household garbage bin in Melbourne is food waste. Two-thirds of this food could have been eaten, and was 'avoidable'* waste.

* Unavoidable food waste includes fruit skins, egg shells, bones, tea bags and coffee grounds. All other food waste is categorised as 'avoidable'.



MELBOURNE'S FOODBOWL IS SHRINKING

Melbourne's city fringe foodbowl is an important source of fresh food for the city; producing around 47 per cent of the vegetables grown in Victoria. It has the capacity to grow 82 per cent of Melbourne's vegetables and 41 per cent of its total food needs.

Melbourne's foodbowl is under pressure from climate change, population growth and urban development. By 2050, urban sprawl could reduce the capacity of the foodbowl to meet Greater Melbourne's food needs to 18 per cent.

WATER QUALITY IN PORT PHILLIP BAY AND CATCHMENTS

The Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay Report Card monitors the health of the bay and its catchments. Samples from 102 catchment sites and eight marine sites in 2016 were assessed. 40 per cent were under 'considerable stress' or 'severe stress'.

Water Quality in Port Phillip Bay and Catchments



WATER USE REDUCING



The introduction of water restrictions in response to water shortages and drought has been largely supported by Melbourne's residents. Water use has dropped 22 per cent from ten years ago.



VICTORIAN ECO INNOVATION LAB

Melbourne's abundance of fresh food includes a great variety of fruit and vegetables grown within or on the city's fringe. Victorian Eco Innovation Lab (VEIL) The University of Melbourne has mapped Melbourne's food growing areas as part of its Foodprint project analysing our city's food consumption and cataloguing what food is being grown in the city's foodbowl.

Foodprint has also identified vulnerabilities in Melbourne's food supply to ensure we can continue to supply locally grown food to our rapidly expanding population.

veil.msdl.unimelb.edu.au/projects/current/foodprint-melbourne

HEALTHY & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



Community plays an important role in our wellbeing, providing a sense of place, purpose and belonging. A healthy and resilient community is inclusive and welcoming, with high levels of participation, and a sense of belonging in community life.

As our ageing population continues to grow, we need to create age-friendly communities that address the social isolation and disadvantage often experienced by older people. Equally, we need to support social initiatives that encourage and welcome participation by younger people and people from culturally diverse backgrounds. Climate change poses new challenges to our social and environmental health. We know it also disproportionately affects marginalised members of our community, including people who are older, or unemployed or from culturally diverse backgrounds. Community resilience depends on social cohesion, where all people can participate in work, recreation, arts and cultural life, building relationships and skills, and developing mutual acceptance and understanding.

CHILDREN ARE IN GOOD HEALTH



Most children in Greater Melbourne are reported to be in good physical and emotional health. 87 per cent of children up to 13 years of age have 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' health, slightly below the Victorian average of 89 per cent.

FEWER ADULTS REPORT GOOD HEALTH

In Greater Melbourne, and across Victoria, **24 per cent of adults said they had been diagnosed with depression or anxiety at some point in their lives.** This increase is up from 19 per cent in 2011.



AGEING CAN BRING LONELINESS, ISOLATION



At least one in ten people aged over 60 experience isolation and loneliness.

Loneliness and social isolation significantly increases the risk of ill health and death. The chances of premature death increase for those experiencing loneliness by 26 per cent and for those experiencing social isolation by 29 per cent.

DISCRIMINATION IS INCREASING



Across Australia, **discrimination based on skin colour, ethnic origin or religion has increased. 20 per cent of people reported experiencing discrimination, up from 15 per cent in 2015.** Reports of discrimination are the highest since 2007.

MANY MELBURNIANS ARE NOT GETTING ENOUGH EXERCISE

'Sufficient' physical activity is described as **150 minutes of moderate exercise or 75 minutes of vigorous exercise per week for people aged 18-64.** Thirty minutes of moderate exercise each day is recommended for people aged 65 and over.



In Greater Melbourne,

ONLY 46 PER CENT

of adults had engaged in 'sufficient' levels of physical activity.



On average, **27 per cent of city residents** participated in sport compared to **40 per cent of regional Victorians.**

MOST PARTICIPATE IN THE ARTS

Community participation in the creative arts is high across Victoria with **48 per cent of people creatively contributing,** similar to the national average.



Visual arts and crafts were the predominately explored medium with **31 per cent of people engaged in the visual arts compared with only nine per cent involved in theatre and dance.**

Attendance rates were much higher than active participation. **72 per cent of people attended at least one art form.** An additional 22 per cent of people engaged with the arts solely through literature.



GATHER MY CREW

Knowing you have the support of family and friends during a time of crisis or trauma is both comforting and reassuring. Gather My Crew helps organise this support through an innovative, web-based program. The simple online tool featuring a schedule and calendar, assists people by developing a support 'crew' of family and friends and lists the help required.

Help is very practical and can consist of everyday activities such as school drop-off and pick-ups, household cleaning, provision of meals, and assistance with medical appointments.

gathermycrew.org.au



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DISCLAIMER:

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information at the time of publication, new data or circumstances may have an impact on its accuracy. Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation is not liable for any loss suffered through the use of any information contained in this report.

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation wishes to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and celebrate our events on, the People of the Kulin Nation. We pass on our respects to their Ancestors and Elders, both past and present. We acknowledge their tireless work in continuing their traditional lore and practices, and their commitment to protecting their traditional land and waterways.