# Cardinia Shire Liveability Plan 2017-29

## Cardinia Shire’s Liveability Health Plan 2017-2029 identifies the top seven health and social priorities impacting the overall health and wellbeing of the municipality. Harm from tobacco, alcohol, drugs and gambling is one of these seven priority areas.

## What is harm from tobacco, alcohol, drugs and gambling?

Tobacco smoking is the leading preventable cause of death and disease in Victoria. People who smoke are at a higher risk of developing cancer, lung disease, heart disease and poor circulation which can lead to amputation. The drinking culture has seen the detrimental effects of harmful levels of drinking health and the social and economic impacts across communities. Recreational drug use can affect a person’s physical and emotional wellbeing. Broader impacts of drugs can include negative consequences on your social life, family, work, and financial situation.

Since the introduction of electronic gaming machines into local hotels and clubs in Victoria in 1991, communities have seen significant impacts on family, friends and employers from those who have a serious gambling problem. With digital technology, online gambling is becoming the fastest growing gambling sector.

## What we know for Cardinia Shire

### Adult tobacco use

* 18% of adults are current smokers, compared to 13% of Victorians[[1]](#footnote-1)
* 17% of adults who smoke are daily smokers, compared to 10% of Victorians1
* 20% of expectant mothers’ smoke during their pregnancy, compared to 11.5% of Victorians[[2]](#footnote-2)
* Cardinia has the third highest rate of Lung Cancer in the South East region[[3]](#footnote-3)

### Adult alcohol and drug use

* The percentage of drug and alcohol clients per 1,000 population is 10.4%, significantly higher than the Victorian measure of 5.8%[[4]](#footnote-4)
* The percentage of parents who reported an alcohol or drug related problem in the family is 5.2% compared to the Melbourne metropolitan average of 3.1%[[5]](#footnote-5)
* Contact with hospitals, ambulance or treatment provider occurs on average six times a day for drug or alcohol misuse across the municipality[[6]](#footnote-6).
* 10% of adults living in rural areas of Cardinia Shire report that drug use negatively impacts them or their household, compared to 6% living in growth areas[[7]](#footnote-7)
* Overall Cardinia Shire has a higher rate compared to Victoria for:
* Illicit drug and pharmaceutical drug related emergency department presentations
* Illicit drug and Amphetamine related episodes of care with treatment providers
* Cardinia Shire has the third highest rate in the South East Melbourne region of prescriptions dispensed for opioid medications3
* The proportion of the adult population with an increased lifetime risk of alcohol related harm is 62%, higher than the Victorian measure of 59%1
* The proportion of the adult population at increased risk of alcohol-related injury on a single occasion is 43% comparable to the Victorian measure of 42.5%1.
* 7% of adults living in rural areas of Cardinia Shire report that alcohol use negatively impacts them or their household compared to 5% living in Growth area7

### Youth tobacco use

* The percentage of 15-17 year olds who smoked in the past 30 days is 19%, higher than the Victorian measure of 13%10.
* Lifetime cigarette use in Year 10 is high (21% of students), progressively increasing from Year 6 (3% of students)9

### Youth alcohol and drug use

* 56.5 per cent of 15-17 year olds in Cardinia Shire reported drinking in the past 30 days, almost double the Victorian average of 24.7%[[8]](#footnote-8).
* More recent research identified that alcohol consumption among youth is high across different year levels with parents being the main suppliers9:
* 22% of Year 6 students
* 36% of Year 8 students
* 52% of Year 10 students.
* Almost one fifth (19%) of Year 10 students identify they binge drink[[9]](#footnote-9)
* 14% of Year 10 students report having used marijuana compared to the Victorian average of 11%[[10]](#footnote-10)
* 5% of Year 10 students report having recently used marijuana (past 30 days)9
* 7% of 15-17 year olds have used illicit drugs compared to the Victorian average of 3%10
* For illicit drug use, youth aged 15 to 24 represented half the numbers of residents from Cardinia Shire presenting at emergency departments and requiring ambulance attendance, 53% and 52% respectively6.
* Rates of presentation to emergency departments for harm caused by illicit drug use amongst young people aged 15 to 24 was double that of the Victorian average6

### Electronic Gaming Machines (EGM’s)

* Cardinia Shire has 325 licensed EGM’s across five venues[[11]](#footnote-11)
* $27 million ($27, 045,323.57) was lost by players on these EGM’s during 2016/17[[12]](#footnote-12)
* Losses on EGM’s in Cardinia increased by 8% between 2015/16 and 2016/17 compared to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria, both of which recorded a decrease in losses of 0.5% and 0.3% respectively. See Table 1 below.
* It is estimated that 1.5% of Cardinia’s population has a severe gambling problem similar to 2% of the Victorian population10. Social research also identified that 2% of households across the municipality report that gambling negatively impacts them or their households7

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|  | Cardinia Shire | Melbourne metro. | Victoria |
| Venues | 5 | 315 | 502 |
| Number of licensed EGM’s | 325 | 18,801 | 26,365 |
| EGMs per 1,000 Adults: 2016/2017 | 4.5  | 5.2  | 5.5 |
| EGM Gambling Losses 2016/2017 | $27.0 million | $2,047 million | $2,610 million |
| EGM Gambling Losses per day | $74,097 | $5,607,910 | $7,149,397 |
| Losses per Adult 2016/2017 | $375  | $562  | $542 |
| % Change in Losses in year 2016/2017 | 8.0 % | -0.5 % | -0.3% |
| % Change in Losses[adjusted for Inflation] | 5.7 % | -2.7 % | -2.4% |

Table 1: Source: Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) 2017

# Contact us

For more information contact Social and Community Planning on 1300 787 624 or email mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au.

1. Victorian Population Health Survey 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Social Health Atlas 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. South East Melbourne Primary Health Network Needs Analysis 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Department of Health and Human Services, Local Government Profile, 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. School Entrant Health Questionnaire, 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Turning Point, AOD Stats, 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Cardinia Shire Council, Social Research, 2014/15-2015/16 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Cardinia Profile, 2012 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Communities That Care Research Report Cardinia, 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Social Statistics, City of Greater Dandenong [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Source; Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation, 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. This is recorded as Net EGM. The "Monthly Net Electronic Gaming Machine Expenditure" amount recorded by VCGLR is based on data that may not have been fully audited to date. The data is audited on an ongoing basis during each financial year to produce the annual net expenditure amount appearing above. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)