

# Priority area

## Safety



Safety is about being and feeling safe. It's about protecting people from danger and preventing harm where there are known hazards or risks to personal safety.

### What we know for Cardinia Shire

#### Perceptions of safety

- 18% of adults living in rural areas identified crime or safety issues negatively impacted them or their household, compared to 20% living in the growth areas.
- 29% of adults living in rural and growth areas identified dangerous driving negatively impacted them or their household.
- 82% of adults living in rural areas believe their area is a safe place to live at night, compared to 74% living in the growth areas.
- 88% of adults living in rural areas believe their area is a safe place to live during the day, compared to 80% living in the growth areas.
- 5% of adults living in rural areas would like to see less vandalism/graffiti in their estate, compared to 14% living in growth areas.
- 12% of adults living in rural areas would like to see less antisocial behaviour/'hoon' driving in their estate, compared to 8% living in growth areas.

#### Crime

- Overall, Cardinia Shire has the seventh highest rate (per 100,000 population) of crime recorded in the Southern Metropolitan Melbourne region (total of 10 Local Government Areas).
- An average of 19 criminal offences are recorded per day across the municipality (total of 6,866 throughout the year). Of these:
  - 57% relate to property and deception offences. This includes property damage, burglary and theft.
  - 17% relate to justice procedure offense. This includes breaches of orders.
  - 16% relate to crimes against the person. This includes assault, harassment and sexual offense.
  - 6% relate to drug offense.
  - 4% relate to other offenses.

#### Road safety

- In the period 2011-15, 26 fatal accidents occurred; 12 on local roads and 14 on arterial/freeway roads, resulting in 32 deaths.
- In the period 2011-15, 351 serious injury accidents occurred; 139 on local roads and 212 on arterial/freeway roads, resulting in 411 persons seriously injured.

#### Injury

- Between July 2012 and June 2015 there were 5,768 hospital admissions and 21,126 presentations to emergency departments due to injury among residents of Cardinia shire.
- Of the 5,768 admissions to hospital for injury;
  - 92% were for unintentional injury
  - 6% for intentional injury
  - 2% for injuries of other or undetermined intent
- Of the 21,126 presentations to emergency departments the majority were for unintentional injury (60%).
- The average rate for avoidable deaths from suicide and self-inflicted injuries (persons aged 0-74) is 16.1 per 100,000 population, significantly higher than the Greater Melbourne measure of 9.6 .

#### Natural hazards

Cardinia Shire has vast and varying geographical regions, and as such almost all hazards that affect a community are present in the Shire (Cardinia Shire Council, 2015). This includes bushfires, grassfires, floods, storms and heatwaves. Typically, the 'Hills' areas of Gembrook, Cockatoo, Emerald and surrounds are at risk of bushfire while those suburbs which lie south of the Princes Highway are located in a flood-prone area.

Community consultation was undertaken to establish the hazards that the community perceived to be the greatest risk to their community. Floods and fires were identified as the main natural hazards that were of concern to the community;

- Flood is the number one concern for those in Kooweerup
- Flood was rated as the second major concern for Maryknoll after bushfire
- Bushfire was rated as the main concern for the community of Emerald
- Storm was considered to be in the top five priorities for these communities
- Heatwave was also a concern to communities (CSC, 2015, p. 29)

### Cardinia Shire Liveability Plan 2017-29

Cardinia Shire's Liveability Plan 2017-2029 identifies seven health and social priorities impacting the wellbeing of Cardinia Shire residents. These are identified as the long term goals within the plan.

#### Contact us

For more information contact Social and Community Planning on **1300 787 624** or email [mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au).

Year prepared: 2017 For a list of data sources or a copy of this information please contact Social and Community Planning