Education

Domain overview

Access to education plays a vital role in promoting health and wellbeing, providing a sense of community, and enhancing future financial security. Modern and contemporary learning environments support quality education, continuous learning, enhanced employment opportunities, social connection and better health outcomes

About education

Data about education in Cardinia Shire identifies:

- Lower rates of year 12 completion at 45%, compared to Greater Melbourne 59%.
- Higher rates of vocational qualifications at 25%, compared to Greater Melbourne at 15%.
- Lower rates of university qualifications at 24%, compared to Greater Melbourne at 37%.
- There are 28 kindergartens, 29 primary schools and 15 secondary schools in Cardinia Shire.
- There is one TAFE campus in Pakenham and the closest university is in Berwick.
- There are libraries in Pakenham and Emerald, and mobile library stops in 12 other locations.
- There are 8 community centres and neighbourhood houses.
- There is a University of the Third Age (U3A) located in Pakenham and Emerald.

Education liveability indicators

- Primary school proximity: 80% dwellings located ≤ 880m from a government primary school.
- Primary school availability: 1,500 dwellings per government primary school.
- Primary school access: measured as a pedshed; calculated as the ratio of area within 1.6km street network buffer to the area within a 1.6km Euclidian (as the crow flies) buffer around a neighbourhood activity centre. The higher the ratio, the higher the pedestrian access (≥0.60 is desirable).
- Primary school traffic volume exposure: measured as a ration: total length of roads carrying >3,000 vehicles/day to the total length of roads carrying ≤ 3,000 vehicles/day within a 1.6km street network buffer around a primary school. The higher the ration, the higher the traffic volume exposure (≤0.50 is desirable).
- Secondary school availability: number of dwellings per government secondary school (6,500 dwellings).

Cardinia

The role of education in our COVID-19 recovery

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, schools and community education facilities have been closed and many classes and programs have been delivered online. The pandemic has had an impact on many young people's mental health, resulting in their ability to learn being impaired. There is also evidence showing an increase in non-attendance across secondary schools which may decrease educational attainment and transitioning to tertiary education. Due to working from home, schools are not seeing kids every day which may pose child safety risks and flow-on impacts on child protection services.

Schools and community education facilities are an important place for social connection and provide people with the opportunity to gain qualifications and skills for future employment.

The role of education in addressing climate change

Education is critical to addressing climate change. It increases knowledge among the younger generations, highlights the urgent need for climate action, encourages changes in behaviour and promotes new ways of thinking. Education, informed decision making, and environmental awareness plays a key role in the capability of individuals and communities to effectively mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Links to Cardinia Shire Council Plan

4.3 Improve local learning and employment pathway opportunities through strategic partnerships.

When thinking about the future of education the following issues are relevant:

- An increase in connectivity to the virtual world, and the use of digital and online resources, as well as varying degrees of digital literacy and preferences.
- How to deliver 3-year-old kindergarten with the limitations of available infrastructure and workforce shortages.
- Change management for the roll-out of 3-year-old kinder, with changes to traditional hours of kindergarten.
- Schools and education providers adapting to and supporting the growing cultural diversity of Cardinia Shire residents.
- Population growth resulting in larger and newer schools, creating pressure on the system.
- Attracting a university / higher education campus into the shire.
- COVID-19 has created a need for additional wrap around support for many students during peak transition times, as this is when students are most vulnerable.
- Opportunities for continuous learning into adulthood.
- Plan Melbourne 2050 policies such as:
    - 1.2.3 Support the provision of telecommunications infrastructure.
    - 2.2.5 Require development in growth areas to be sequenced and staged to better link infrastructure delivery to land release.
    - 3.3.4 Locate schools and other regional facilities near existing public transport and provide safe walking and cycling routes and drop-off zones.
    - 5.3.1 Facilitate a whole-of-government approach to the delivery of social infrastructure.
    - 5.3.2 Create health and education precincts to support neighbourhoods.
    - 6.2.1 Mitigate exposure to natural hazards and adapt to the impacts of climate change.