



# Health and social services

## Strategic objective

**Increased access to services and social support close to home.**

## Domain overview

Health and social services play a vital role in supporting the health and wellbeing of local residents. Health and social services provide a safety net when things go wrong, whether it's for an individual, family or whole community experiencing a natural disaster. The needs of the community are regularly assessed to ensure services can be available to support those who need them, including the most vulnerable members of the community.

## About health and social services

Data about health and social services in Cardinia Shire identifies:

- Lower rate of general practitioners per 1,000 population compared with Victoria and the lowest rate in the south eastern region.
- Slightly lower rate of dental service sites, allied health services and pharmacies compared to Victoria.
- In 2020, healthcare and social services account for 3.3% of registered businesses, compared to 6% in Victoria.
- Healthcare and social services employees account for 10% of people in Cardinia Shire.
- The majority of health and social services are concentrated in Pakenham, Koo Wee Rup and Emerald, with some also located in Bunyip and Gembrook.

## Health and social services liveability indicators

- Social Infrastructure Index by SA1



## The role of health and social services in our COVID-19 recovery

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for health and social services has never been more important. However, due to social distancing restrictions many services have been limited or not able to operate at all. Some new and better ways of working and delivering services have also been taken forward into the recovery phase.



## The role of health and social services in addressing climate change

Health and social services deliver actions that reduce emissions and the community's vulnerability to the stresses and shocks attributed to the adverse effects of climate change. Through health and social services, information and support can be provided directly to residents, vulnerable demographic groups, businesses, and industrial stakeholders. Social vulnerability is exacerbated in times of disaster, extreme weather and pandemic. The role of health and social services is therefore critical to addressing climate change.



## Links to Cardinia Shire Council Plan

- 1.1 Plan for, and support the delivery of, accessible health and social services that address critical gaps in provision.
- 1.4 Facilitate a partnership approach to create safer communities.
- 1.5 Work closely with the community to deliver programs that build community resilience, relating to a pandemic or other disasters.
- 2.1 Advocate, plan for and deliver accessible community infrastructure and services that address community need.
- 3.1 Partner with community, business and industry to take action on, and adapt to, climate change.

## When thinking about the future of health and social services the following issues are relevant:



- Attracting new services to fill identified gaps.
- Providing services that are inclusive and accessible.
- Recommendations from the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System.
- Development of the new Pakenham Community Hospital.
- 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.
  - 5.1.2 Support a network of vibrant neighbourhood activity centres.
  - 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.
  - 5.3.3 Support not-for-profit community services to build social capital and stronger communities.
  - 6.2.1 Mitigate exposure to natural hazards and adapt to the impacts of climate change.