

Families, Health & Fairness: Care For People Policy



Photo by Kelly Sikkema

Yarra Greens Policies
September, 2020

We will ensure that equity, equality and diversity are embedded in policy, program development and services. All people regardless of their age, gender or background must have access to high quality, efficient, effective and accessible programmes and resources.

We commit to:

Children and families

- Ensure access to affordable child care in the City of Yarra's childcare centres, while advocating to the Federal Government for universally accessible and free child care.
- Ensure Yarra's maternal and child health centres are well resourced and accessible to all families.
- Support the development of new playgroups for socially and economically disadvantaged families, non-English speaking parents, and fathers.
- Ensure that LGBTIQ+ parents meet no barriers to accessing Council services and programmes, including childcare.
- Support Yarra residents to age in place with housing, programmes and services which meet their needs over their lifespan.
- Ensure children and young people from refugee families are assisted to access sporting and other recreational programmes in Yarra, and overcome cultural barriers.

Health

- Ensure that Yarra’s Public Health and Wellbeing Plan addresses social determinants of health including family violence, socio-economic status, employment status and housing type.
- Support the development of a physical activity strategy and the establishment of an active transport advisory committee to promote active transport for health and wellbeing.
- Continue to support community health centres in Yarra, in particular the Medically Supervised Injecting Room (MSIR) at North Richmond Community Health Centre.
- Actively support the Peacemaking Project facilitating community conversations in collaboration with the Neighbourhood Justice Centre to address local conflict in the vicinity of the MSIR.
- Reduce the harm from long-term on-street drug use and dealing in Yarra by advocating for State Government resources and services for affected communities.
- Continue to oppose new electronic gambling machines in Yarra, and advocate for a reduction in gambling machines and facilities in Yarra.
- Support community-building activities and social inclusion to reduce gambling harm.

Physical activity

- Ensure public spaces in Yarra are accessible and inviting to children and young people.
- Address the need to cater for women, non-binary and gender diverse sports players in Yarra’s recreational facilities.

- Ensure new sports and physical activity facilities meet the highest standards of environmental sustainability.
- Ensure children and young people from refugee families are assisted to access sporting and other recreational programmes in Yarra and overcome cultural barriers.
- Promote and enable physical activity in everyday life through safer bike and pedestrian routes.
- Design public spaces and buildings, and plan movement and access around the city to include preventative health measures and encourage physical activity.
- Update Council’s Walking Strategy to improve walkability in Yarra.

Equity

We will work with Yarra’s diverse communities towards racial justice by:

- Engaging with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation Council and the Yana Ngarnga advisory group in Council matters;
- Ensuring that disadvantaged migrants and refugees in Yarra have access to high quality, culturally appropriate support services;
- Advocating for police education around racial bias as a preventative measure regarding Aboriginal deaths in custody; and
- Maintaining regular two-way communication channels with Yarra’s public housing residents.

Photo by Luke Michael



Additionally, we will:

- Welcome refugees and people seeking asylum to Yarra, advocating for their rights and for an end to mandatory immigration detention.
- Advocate to the Federal Government for liveable income support for people seeking asylum, and oppose Federal funding cuts to funding for people seeking asylum.
- Support and empower women and gender diverse people to become leaders in Yarra.
- Promote respect for women and gender diverse people, and highlight the specific role of men in promoting gender equality.
- Work with the State Government and community organisations to address family violence and sexual assault, and ensuring this caters for women and people with diverse needs.
- Support and advocate for people with disabilities through the Disability Advisory Group.
- Ensure Council plays a key role in supporting residents accessing the NDIS.
- Ensure Council plays a key role in providing services to older residents through the introduction of aged care reforms.
- Increase advocacy for mandatory accessibility provisions in new housing.
- Ensure that Council services meet the needs of older LGBTIQ+ residents, and support Yarra's older LGBTIQ+ community through peer networks and advocacy opportunities.
- Support the LGBTIQ+ youth programmes, including the development of an LGBTIQ+ Youth Forum.
- Address the specific needs of trans, gender diverse and non-binary young people accessing Council's services, programmes and facilities.
- Ensure LGBTIQ+ representation on Yarra's key advisory groups.
- Advocate for and support a State Treaty process to recognise Aboriginal people's rights, address wrongs and redefine the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Victoria.
- Advocate and work with the State Government to ensure that Yarra residents can access a Centrelink office based in the City of Yarra on a permanent and ongoing basis.

Housing

We will advocate to the State Government to:

- Introduce mandatory accessibility provisions in new housing.
- Implement innovative housing options which enable independent living for people with disabilities, especially for young people currently in nursing homes.



Photo by Clay Banks

- Make housing more affordable for everyone.
- Build more new public housing.
- Establish a charter of rights for public housing tenants, including the establishment of a Public Housing Ombudsman.
- Maintain and upgrade existing public housing, ensuring that residents have enough space to live in and that amenities are in good, functioning order.
- Ensure that public housing residents have access to culturally and linguistically appropriate services in collaboration with Council and community organisations.

Additionally, we will:

- Promote the importance of significant open space in public housing estates.

- Oppose any selling-off, redevelopment or privatisation of public housing by the State Government, including the conversion of public housing into social housing.
- Promote tenant participation in decisions about public housing services.
- Advocate to move the function of Public Housing out of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and into a new Statutory Public Housing Authority.

Democracy

- Ensure that the community has the opportunity to contribute meaningfully towards key decisions about the future, including, where appropriate, through:
 - Participatory democracy processes, including participatory budgeting.
 - Deliberative models such as citizens' juries to address complex problems like parking and use of public space.
 - Minimise the number of items considered at confidential Council meetings.
 - Ensure that Council meetings remain accessible to all community members whether in person or through the livestream.
 - Increase engagement with marginalised communities to ensure the widest representation of voices to Council decisions.
- Enable participation by the whole community by ensuring that information about Council programs, services and opportunities for consultation are available in a range of formats and in all community languages.



Photo by Tom Rumble

To find out how you can get involved in with your local greens community, or to read our other policies, please visit:

greens.org.au/vic/lga/yarra

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