



Horsham Rural City Council
EARLY YEARS PLAN
2019 – 2023

Draft for Public Comment

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Recognition of Our Land's Traditional Owners

Horsham Rural City Council recognises the five Traditional Owner groups of this land: the Wotjobaluk, Wergaia, Jupagulk, Jaadwa and Jadawadjali people.

Horsham Rural City Council

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1. [Message from the Mayor](#)

Horsham Rural City Council recognises the importance of creating a healthy, safe, learning environment for the development of our children. The Horsham Rural City Council Early Years Plan 2019-2023 demonstrates our commitment and recognition of our role as a key partner, in the ongoing delivery in the early years sector to enable children and their families to thrive now and in the future.

I believe our region is a great place to raise children and offers many benefits to families. However, I also recognise the challenges that living in a regional city can create for families and it is these challenges that the Horsham Rural City Council Early Years Plan 2019-2023 aims to address.

Council is committed to continuing the good work already underway in the early years sectors including working with key partners to provide kindergarten, after school care, school holiday programs and leisure and recreation facilities, but will work to continually improve and ensure community needs are being met.

Collaboration and partnership is critical to the successful delivery of this Plan and Horsham Rural City Council is dedicated to working with key partners to deliver on the actions within this Plan and ensure our children are provided with the best opportunity for a happy and healthy life.

2. [Executive Summary](#)

The purpose of the Municipal Early Years Plan is to provide children and their families with the best possible foundation for life success.

Horsham Rural City Council (Council) understands the importance of early years. While the Municipal Early Years Plan (MEYP) is not a statutory requirement, Council fully embraces the Plan and uses it as a key tool in setting the strategic direction for delivery in the early years sector of Horsham Rural City.

As part of the development of the MEYP, comprehensive data analysis was undertaken with a range of sources including assistance from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. This data was used to create a profile of Horsham's children and can be viewed in the document: **Horsham's children 2019 – A Data Snapshot (Appendix C)**.

This data was a key component in developing the key themes for action. Stakeholder engagement was also conducted including the establishment of the Early Years Network, Stakeholder 1:1 interviews, a community survey and children's competition. As a result, from these the following key themes were identified (in no particular order):

- Creating quality service and support
- Language, literacy and learning
- Advocating for children and families

This plan contains a series of actions for each key theme formulated during the Early Years Network Workshop. These are actions Council will undertake to improve the early years outcomes for our community over the next four years.

Council is committed to working collaboratively with partners and the community to deliver these action to ensure the most effective and sustainable outcome.

This is a living document and will be reviewed annually and updated as required.

3. Purpose of a Municipal Early Years Plan

The purpose of the Municipal Early Years Plan is to provide children and their families with the best possible foundation for life success.

Horsham Rural City Council (Council) understands the importance of early years. As such, despite a Municipal Early Years Plan (MEYP) not being a statutory requirement, Council fully embraces the Plan and uses it as a key tool in setting the strategic direction for delivery in the early years sector of Horsham Rural City.

Early Years, for the purpose of this Plan, is defined as the age group 0-12 years old. Investment at this early stage in life has the greatest opportunity for impact and benefit – delivering social and economic benefits to children, families and the community now and into the future.

The MEYP acknowledges the systems approach, in that each of the social, built, economic and natural environments can influence a child's development in learning, health and wellbeing.

It sets the strategy for Council for the next four years and is developed and delivered in collaboration with a suite of Partners. For the first time, the HRCC Early Years Plan 2019-2023 will be used in conjunction with a data snapshot, which outlines the profile of a child in **Horsham's children 2019 – A Data Snapshot (Appendix C)**.

4. Council's role in Early Years – what we currently do

Council currently works in partnership with a range of stakeholders to provide the following:

Planning and coordination

Council currently provides:

- Service planning and development
- Funding of roles related to Early Years including: Manager of Community Services and Emergency and Co-Ordinator of Youth and Early Years to oversee early years services, programs and facilities
- Development and delivery of strategic plans that include elements of delivery across the early years sector including the Municipal Early Years Plan and:

HRCC Council Plan	Goal 1.4: Develop the municipality as a desirable place to live, work and enjoy for people of all ages and abilities
HRCC Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021	The Health and Wellbeing Plan greatly influences early years outcomes. Key priorities of this Plan are: Increasing healthy eating and active living, reducing harmful alcohol and drug use, Improving mental health, Preventing family violence, Improving sexual and reproductive health, Strengthening education and economic development. The objectives of Improving early years outcomes are: Objective 1: Improve opportunities for participation and connection with services for parents. Objective 2: Improve learning and development of young children aged 0-6 years.

Youth Strategy	The Youth Strategy targets youth aged 10-25. (By defining early years as 0-12, Council ensures a strategy for all early years and youth)
Open Space Strategy	In development at time of writing but outlines Council's vision regarding provision of open space based on the principles of equity, accessibility, health and wellbeing, sustainability, participation, safety, adaptability, efficiency
Social Infrastructure Plan	A consultant has been appointed at the time of writing to develop this Plan. This Plan will provide evidence-based strategic directions to determine priorities for the planning, provision and development of social infrastructure over the next 20 years.
Community Inclusion Plan	In development at time of writing but demonstrates Council's commitment to being proactive in meeting the needs of people with a disability and their families.
Child Safe Policy	Horsham Rural City Council is committed to the establishment of Council as a child safe organization. It has a Child Safe policy that applies to all Councillors, staff, volunteers, contractors, sub-contractors and individuals involved in HRCC services or activities.

These plans and policies were used in the development of this Plan.

Service provision

Council currently provides:

- Funding and delivery of maternal and child health services
- Funding of Enhanced Family Connection Officer role and Youth Services Planning & Engagement Officer role
- Funding of library service
- Immunisation program

Facility planning

Council currently provides:

- Kalkee Road Children and Community Hub
- Kindergarten facilities used by HDKA (Bennett Road, Natimuk Road, Green Park, Natimuk Preschool)
- Horsham Library - which provides early years programs
- Horsham Aquatic Centre Facilities - which provides learn to swim programs, creche, after school care and School Holiday Care
- Sporting facilities, open spaces and playgrounds. This will be shaped by the Open Space Strategy and the importance of Council's role in this space is highlighted by feedback from the Early Years Community Survey in which ~20% of respondents described better playgrounds for all ages being required.

Advocacy

Council is committed to providing quality services and support for children and their families to ensure they achieve the best health, wellbeing and development outcomes. It is imperative that children in Horsham RC are not disadvantaged because of their location and have access to the same services as their metropolitan counterparts. As such, a key role of Council is:

Advocating to State and Federal government for increased resources, services and infrastructure our community needs to improve early years outcomes for all.

Strengthening community capacity

Council is currently involved in:

- Facilitation and support of community events, festivals and community engagement opportunities.

The importance of this area was reflected by ~one third of respondents to the Early Years Community Survey describing lack of family friendly activities as an issue.

5. Development of the Horsham Early Years Plan

The development process contained a number of elements to ensure the key themes and actions developed were responding to and relevant to the community needs as displayed by data but also as outlined by the community and other stakeholders. Given the complexity of the early years sector, it was also necessary to consider the political context that would influence the key themes and actions across the next four years.

Data Review

The first step in the process was a series of data analysis to determine how children and their families are currently faring in Horsham RC. A number of sources were reviewed and analysed working closely with Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

Analysing relevant data ensured, the development of key themes was data driven. The document - **Horsham's Children 2019 – A SNAPSHOT** outlines key indicators and provides a summary of the data relevant to the Plan (**Appendix C**).

Policy Context

National, State and Local government policies influence how we support our children and families in Horsham Rural City. The following is a summary of key policies that were considered when developing the Plan:

National Government Policy

- Universal access to quality preschool program (including funding of 4yo kinder)
- The Early Years Learning Framework –Belonging, Being and Becoming - part of the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)

State Government Policy

- Early Childhood Reform Plan
- Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework Early Year Management Framework
- Supporting Children and Families in the Early Years: a Compact between the Department of Education and Training (DET), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Local Government (represented by the Municipal Association of Victoria). The objective of this Compact is to strengthen the collaborative relationship between these departments and local government in the planning, development and provision of early services.

Some funding directives from state government include:

- School readiness funding will be introduced into the system in 2019.
- Funding development of early childhood facilities to be co-located at government primary schools.
- Reform funding for non-government schools to encourage more to offer a kindergarten program, particularly in low socioeconomic areas
- Funding for MCH – expand the enhanced MCH service, additional MCH visit for those women and children who are at risk of, or are experiencing, family violence, attract new MCH nurses into the Service,
- Funding of 3 year old kindergarten for Victorian children. Horsham is nominated for commencement in 2023, to have access to at least 5 hours in a kindergarten program delivered by a teacher. This will then progressively scale up to reach a full 15-hour program by 2029.

Local Government Policy

Local governments are legally bound under Victoria’s Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 to actively enact, promote and support the human rights of adults and children in service provision, policy, and practice.

Infrastructure Review

In the timeframe of this Plan, perhaps the most critical change is the funding for three year old kindergarten. Initially, the Victorian Government has said the program will be introduced as 5 hours and then work up to 15 hours.

As such, an Infrastructure Review was conducted to determine Council’s capacity to assist in delivery of this program.

Council currently provides five buildings for use by Horsham and District Kindergarten Association (HDKA) to provide kindergarten to the community. It provides:

- Bennett Road (refurbished in 2016)
- Natimuk Road
- Green Park (refurbished in 2016)
- Natimuk Preschool
- Kalkee Road Children’s HUB

In 2014 an audit was conducted that sees all buildings (with the exception of the HUB which was opened in 2018) as in acceptable condition for the duration of this Plan. See below for findings (and see Appendix A for building rating descriptions):

Facility Name	Address	Building rating	Built/ Acquired	Useful remaining life	Year of refurbishment
SESSIONAL KINDERGARTENS					
Bennett Rd	1H Bennett Road, Horsham	4	1959	20	2016
Nati Rd	48 Natimuk Road, Horsham	4	1963	24	N/A
Green Park	20 Williams Road, Horsham	5	2003	64	2016
Kalkee Rd Children's HUB	24/28 Kalkee Road, Horsham	1	2017	N/A	N/A
Nati Rd Preschool	2 Regent Street, Natimuk	3	1977	38	N/A

Two other buildings that have historically been in an early years service include the Maternal Child and Health Nurse building on Bennett Road and the Roberts Avenue Kindergarten. Below are the audit findings for these buildings.

Facility Name	Address	Building rating	Built/ Acquired	Useful remaining	Year of refurbishment
Unused building previous in early years service					
Roberts Avenue	23 Roberts Avenue	8	1950	1	N/A
Bennett rd MCHN	1J Bennett Road	3	1980	41	N/A

The Roberts Avenue building is not in an acceptable condition for the use of kindergarten services and the Maternal Child and Health Nurse building would require renovation work and an assessment regarding its size and how many children could be educated in the space.

In terms of capacity, there is currently 67 full days available for three year olds at private childcare providers and space for approximately seven (7) single sessions at the Kalkee Rd Children’s HUB. This review is set in the context that no major population change is expected across the next 0-10 years. It also assumes no change in delivery model to 4year old or 3 year old kindergarten programming.

Therefore, a move to delivery of a 15-hour program will require additional infrastructure. In order to outline the specific infrastructure requirements, it is necessary to first perform a review on the delivery model of 3-year-old kindergarten classes and how they will run in regards to timing. This, in turn, will inform the infrastructure requirements regarding the number of class rooms required to deliver this program.

Service Provider Environment

Appendix B outlines all childcare, kindergarten and primary school providers in Horsham RC.

Childcare (0-5 years) is delivered by private providers and most offer a kindergarten program in their 4-5 year old room. The affordability of private provider centres is largely dictated by the childcare subsidy program offered by the Federal Government. However, the requirements of this subsidy can mean childcare remains inaccessible to vulnerable families (including those with health care cards and those whose primary caregiver does not work).

Horsham & District Kindergarten Association (HDKA) is the sole provider in Horsham of sessional 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten. It is these sessional programs that are run from the buildings provided by HRCC. An ongoing concern in this service delivery model is that funding is committed to annually and therefore poses an inherent difficulty in strategic planning in this area. The delivery model of HDKA is more accessible to vulnerable families (with health care cards recognised) however, it can be inaccessible to working families who are unable to accommodate the logistics that a five-hour kindergarten session requires.

It is clear there is currently no one model of delivery that addresses accessibility for all families. Therefore, to realise an inclusive and accessible 3-year-old kinder program, all providers in this space would need to take part. A key action in this Plan will be a working group investigating the delivery model of an inclusive, accessible 3-year-old kindergarten program.

Stakeholder Engagement

The key to successful development and delivery of the Plan is collaboration with Stakeholders. A Stakeholder mapping exercise was conducted and an engagement strategy formed around this.

A series of 1:1 stakeholder interviews were conducted and an Early Years Network formed. A Workshop was held to brainstorm the actions in this plan around the key themes. Stakeholders included:

Horsham & District Kindergarten Association (HDKA)	Department of Education and Training (DET)
Goodstart Early Learning	Horsham Library
Community Kids Horsham Early Education Centre	Holy Trinity Lutheran College
GreenLeaves	Ss Michael and John's Primary School
Uniting Wimmera	Wimmera Health Care Group (WHCG)
Murdoch Children's Research Institute	LLEN
Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Cooprative	Wimmera PCP
YMCA	
Victoria Police	

Stakeholders who were contacted but unable to attend were:

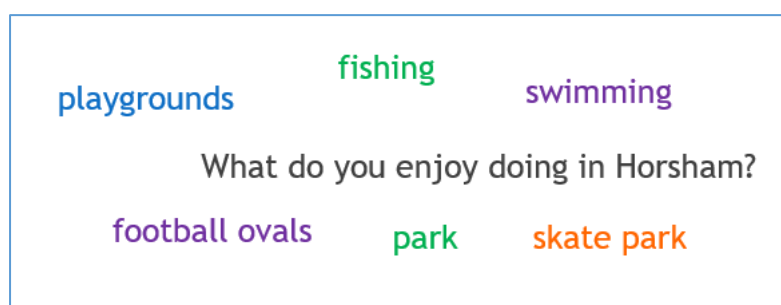
DHHS	Horsham West Primary School
Horsham Primary School (298, Rasmussen)	Laharum Primary School
Natimuk Primary School	Horsham Special School

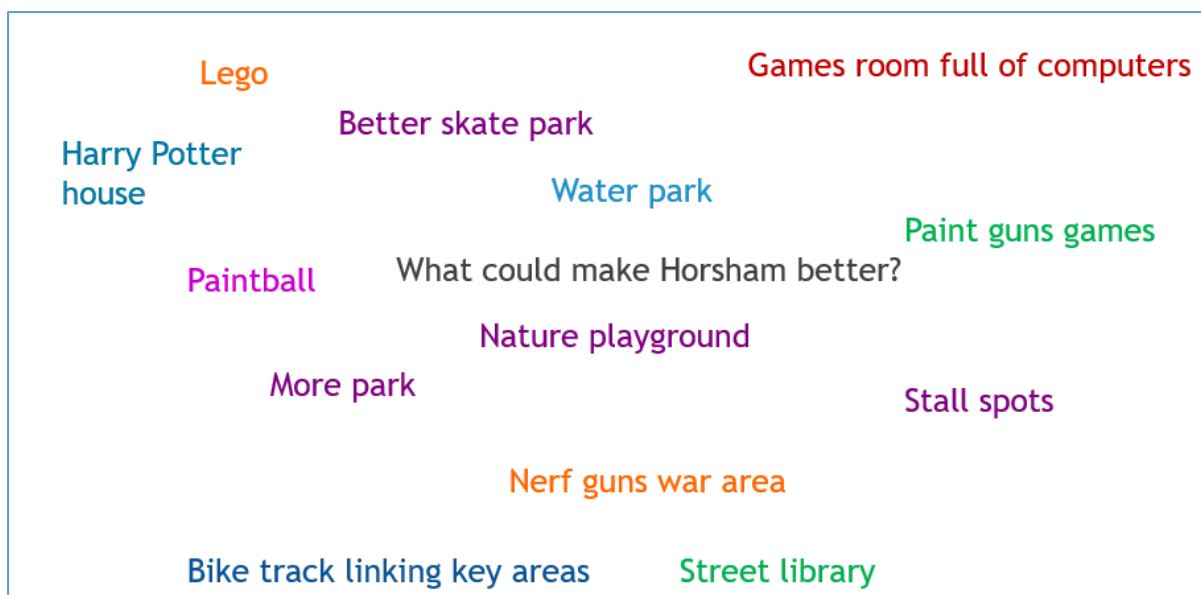
Community Engagement

Council understands the importance of involving children in decision-making and as such, the Community engagement was two-fold – the use of an Early Years Community Survey and a Children's Competition.

Children's Competition

The Competition was centered on two questions, and whilst there were only seven entries, the feedback as used and will be fed into the Open Space Strategy as well as the Early Years Plan. The feedback is outlined below:





Early Years Community Survey

The Survey was performed electronically and delivered to the early years network for distribution through their network channels and also via the HRCC Facebook page. The Strategic Projects Officer also attended playgroups and an immunization session. There were 73 responses in total and feedback included:

What are the most important priorities for early years?

1. Families can access health care and Ensuring finances and transport are not barriers for families to access services.
2. Schools can meet the needs of children and families
3. Children have access to parks and safe spaces to play outdoors

For Professionals working with children and/or their families: What three priorities do you think are most important for improving outcomes for children aged 0-12 in Horsham?

1. Parental/Family support
2. Availability and access to health services
3. Social connection opportunities

6. Key Themes and Actions

Data analysis, stakeholder engagement and policy context were all taken into account to develop the key themes and actions. The key themes have been identified as:

- Creating quality service and support
- Language, literacy and learning
- Advocating for children and families

Council undertakes a number of different roles in the delivery of actions. These include delivery, facilitating, partnering or advocating. These roles are outlined in the actions, as are the relevant

Partners. Collaborating with Partners is an integral part of success in this Plan’s delivery as no one agency is responsible for early years outcomes.

1. Creating quality service and support

Why is this a priority?

The community says:

- 53% of survey respondents (professionals working with children &/or families) identified parental/family support as a key priority for early years in Horsham.
- Majority of survey respondents stated lack of services and/or information (regarding services and activities) as a key area for improvement.
- Majority of 1:1 meetings saw early years staffing as a key issue in the Wimmera.

What is already being actioned this space?

Health and Wellbeing Plan	Action 25: Utilise the KRCCH setup to strengthen link between Maternal Child and Health Nurses (MCHN) with other service providers and supporting transition between service providers
	Action 26: Provide and promote a range of spaces for parents to meet and provide info that supports and connects parents (HUB and open spaces)
By Five WSM Early Years Project	Young parents group: A Horsham working group has commenced around the priority to action innovate approaches to engaging with young parents.

Actions:

Objective	Action	Role of Council	Partners	Indicator	Timing
To better support parents, particularly those experiencing vulnerability.	Implement parent support programs with focus on new delivery approaches.	Partner	Centre for Participation, Library, Uniting Wimmera, Goolum Goolum	Annual parent program delivered and effectiveness measured.	2019-2023
	Support different approaches to increase parents knowledge of the Early Childhood Education and Care models available including relevant government subsidies	Partner	Childcare private providers, HDKA, Early Years Network	Program delivered	2020

To better inform parents on services and support available	Deliver a collaborative early years communication strategy utilising My Community Directory	Deliver / Partner		Communication Strategy developed	2021
	Investigate establishing a Parent Advisory Group to engage parents in consultation and planning processes	Deliver	Early Years Network	Decision made by Early Years Network	2019
Streamline processes to make it easier for families	Deliver a Central Enrolment service for kindergarten (Subject to funding).	Deliver	MCH, Kinder, Playgroup, Schools	Central Enrolment Process in place and being used as the sole source of enrolment	2020
To attract and retain quality staff for the early years sector.	Establish working group to look at innovative ways to increase and retain quality staff in the early years sector and relevant health services in Horsham	Partner	Early Years Network	Working group established. Careers expo annually (EY Speaker) careers people at schools engaged.	2020
	Increase awareness in secondary schools of early years as a career option.	Partner	By Five	Careers Expo attended	2019-2023
Strengthen partnerships and collaboration in the early years sector	Establish ongoing Early Years Network to enhance collaborative approach to EYP actions and promotions	Deliver	All / By Five	Early Years Network meets regularly	2019
	Support families to access and navigate early years services	Facilitate	Early Years Network	Website information up to date	2020

2. Language, literacy and learning

Why is this a priority?

The data says:

- Speech and language concerns on school entry 2017 (%)21.4 vs VIC 14
- 38 children are deemed vulnerable regarding social competence domain “responsibility, respect, approach to learning” (AEDC 2018)
- Horsham had an 88.3% kindergarten participation rate in 2017.

- The state government will be funding up to 15hours of 3 year old kindergarten in a roll out from 2023 – 2029.

The community says:

- 37% of survey respondents saw “Schools can meet the needs of children and families” as a key priority for early years.
- Affordable and accessible childcare and kindergarten options was in the top four themes identified by survey respondents as an area for improvement.

What is already being actioned this space?

Health and Wellbeing Plan	Action 27: Develop principles of 0-6years programs within council operated areas e.g. KRCCH, Town Hall, Aquatic Centre, Indoor Stadium, Library
	Action 28: Partner with organisations to conduct a review of outcomes/benefits/relevance of current services.
BY FIVE WSM Early Years project	Early Years Transition: A Horsham working group has commenced work to action the priority of development of strong relationships between school and ECEC in order to facilitate improvement in transition.

Actions:

Objective	Action	Role of Council	Partners	Indicator	Timing
To equip parents with the necessary tools to participate in their children’s learning	Deliver education programs for parents with focus on new delivery approaches.	Partner	Early Years Network	A program targeted at parents delivered annually	2020
	Increase parents engagements in literacy programs (e.g. 1000 books, Let’s Read) and develop their skills and confidence to read more to their children	Partner	Early Years Network	A literacy program targeted at parents delivered	2020
To ensure children in Horsham have access to funded 3 year old kinder.	Establish Working Group to investigate <i>3yo Kinder by 2023</i> with focus on universal access.	Deliver / Partner	HDKA, Childcare providers, DET, YMCA	Working Group established and operational	2019
	Gather data for kindergarten including attendance/participation to ensure kinder is accessible to all.	Deliver / Partner	HDKA, DET, Childcare providers	Data gathered annually	2019-2023

	Upon proposal from 3yo kinder working group - Conduct infrastructure Review	Deliver	DET, HDKA, Childcare providers, HRCC Building group	Infrastructure Proposal completed	2021

3. Advocating for children and families

Why is this a priority?

The data says:

- A recent national survey showed regional Australia was in desperate need of investment to improve staff levels and hospital facilities
- The Australian Medical Association Rural Health Issues Survey 2019 revealed rural doctors believed more staff and workable rosters was the most critical priority for improving rural-health outcomes.

The community says:

- Majority of survey respondents stated a lack of services and difficulty in accessing services as key areas for improvement.
- The equal top priorities identified in the survey were; “Families can access health care” and “Ensuring finances and transport are not barriers for families to access services”.

Objective	Action	Role of Council	Partners	Indicator	Timing
To ensure Horsham children are not disadvantaged because of their location	Create an Early Years Advocacy Paper	Deliver / Partner	DET, Early Years Network	Advocacy Paper developed	2020
	Act as TeleHealth Early Years Champion	Deliver	Wimmera PCP	Championed TeleHealth in a range of arenas.	Ongoing
	Advocate for health screening to occur earlier	Deliver	Early Years Network	Advocated for health screening in a range of mediums.	Ongoing

7. Implementation and Review

Council will work collaboratively with partners to deliver the Early Years Plan and thereby, the best possible outcomes for the children of Horsham RC and their families.

The Early Years Network will meet a minimum of twice a year and be used as the key forum to report on progress and align priorities. (Sub working groups will be developed as required to focus on particular areas of action).

An annual review will occur for the duration of the Plan reporting into the Executive Management Team and the Early Years Network.

In addition to the Indicators outlined for each action, the HRCC Early Years Plan 2019-2023 will be monitored and evaluated by the data and sources contained in **Horsham's Children 2019 – A SNAPSHOT (Appendix C)**. Final evaluation measures include (but are not limited to):

Indicator	Source	Target	Available
Percentage of Children vulnerable in each AEDC domain	AEDC	Downward trend	2021
Percentage of Children vulnerable in one and two or more domains	AEDC	Downward trend	2021
4 year old kindergarten participation rate	LGA Profile - DET	100%	Annually
Increase MCHN Attendance for children aged 2 years	MCHN Annual Report	90%	Annually

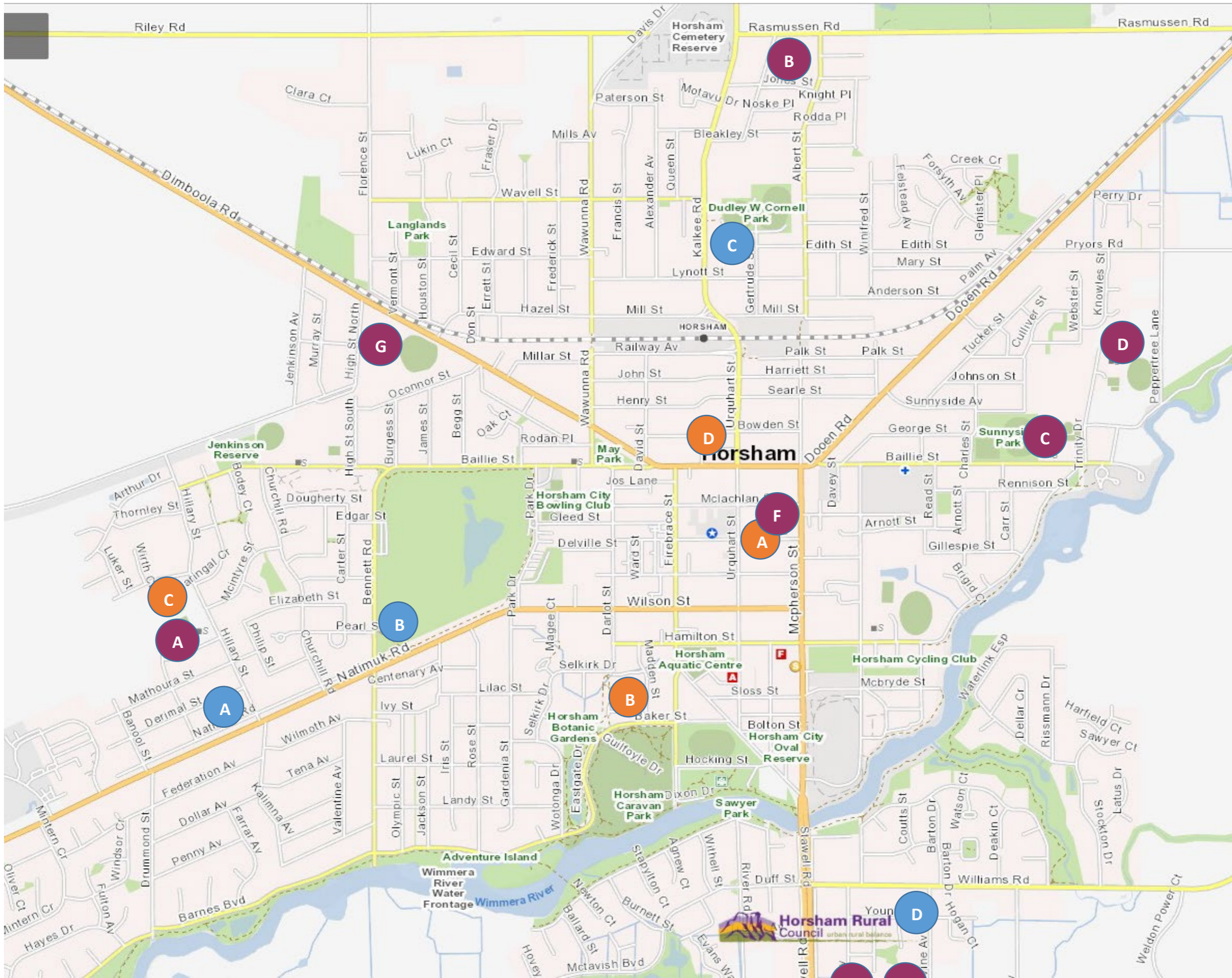
Appendix A: Explanation of Building Condition Rates used by HRCC

Condition Rating	Description
0	New building or component recently rehabilitated to new condition
1	As new condition, no visible signs of wear and tear or defects
2	In excellent condition with only very slight condition decline (obviously no longer new)
3	In very good condition with some early signs of wear and tear commensurate with age and use.
4	In good condition with some obvious signs of wear and tear but no evidence of deterioration
5	In fair condition, minor evidence of deterioration of the elements which could potentially shorten life
6	In fair to poor condition with evidence of minor isolated failure in an element which will reduce future life, maintenance costs high.
7	In poor condition with evidence of minor isolated failure in an element which will reduce future life, maintenance costs high
8	In very poor condition with evidence of multiple failures and the inability of the element to continue to satisfactorily provide the original intended purpose
9	In extremely poor condition with significant evidence of failure of the element and failure to provide design and purpose
10	Total failure of the element, extreme risk in leaving asset in service

Appendix B: Map and Summary of Early Years – Childcare Centres, Kindergartens and Primary Schools

	Facility Name	Address	Service Description	Service Operator	Age group	Operating Hours
CHILDCARE CENTRES						
A	Horsham Community Childcare Centre	9 Roberts Ave, Horsham	LDC with integrated 4yo kinder	Uniting Care Wimmera	0-5	Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm
B	Goodstart Early Learning Horsham	10 Madden Street, Horsham	LDC with integrated 4yo kinder	Goodstart	0-5	Mon - Fri 6.30-6.30
C	Green Leaves Early Learning Horsham	44 Hillary Street, Horsham	LDC with integrated 4yo kinder	Green Leaves	0-5	Mon - Fri 6.30-6.30
D	Community Kids Horsham Early Education Centre	138 Baille St, Horsham	LDC with integrated 4yo kinder	Community Kids	0-5	Mon - Fri 6.30-6.30
SESSIONAL KINDERGARTENS						
A	Natimuk Rd	48 Natimuk Road	4yo sessional kinder	HDKA	4-5	Mon-Fri 8.50-1.50
B	Bennett Rd	1H Bennett Road	4yo sessional kinder	HDKA	4-5	Mon-Fri 8.50-1.50
C	Kalkee Rd Children's HUB - Wombat Room - Possum Room - Possum Room - Wallaby Room	24/28 Kalkee Road, Horsham	<u>4 & 3yo sessional kinder</u> 4yo Mon-Fri 9am-2pm 4yo Mon, Tues, Thurs 8.30-1.30pm; 3yo Tues 9am-2pm, Fri Fri 9-midday or 9am-2pm LDC Mon, Wed, Thurs	HDKA	4-5	Refer to service description
D	Green Park - Casuarina Room - Acacia Room - Acacia Room	20 Williams Road	<u>4 & 3yo sessional kinder</u> 4yo Mon-Fri 8.30-1.30 4yo Tues-Fri 9am-2pm 3yo kinder mon 9am-2pm	HDKA	4-5 3-4	Refer to service description
E	Natimuk Preschool	2 Regent Street	4yo Sessional kinder	HDKA	4-5	Refer to service description
	Laharum Preschool	1574 Northern Grampians Road, Wartook		Not in use as of 2019		

	Facility Name	Address	Service Description
	PRIMARY SCHOOLS		
A	Horsham West Primary School - West Campus	24 Hillary Street, Horsham VIC 3400	Primary School
B	Horsham Primary School, Rasmussen Campus	2B Rasmussen Rd, Horsham VIC 3400	Primary School
C	Horsham Primary School, 298 Campus	38 Baillie St, Horsham VIC 3400	Primary School
D	Holy Trinity Luthran College	25 Trinity Drive, Horsham	P-12
E	Horsham West Primary School - Haven Campus	4362 Henty Hwy, Haven VIC 3401	Primary School
F	Ss Michael and John's Primary School	7 McLachlan St, Horsham VIC 3400	Primary School
G	Horsham Special School	17 High St N, Horsham VIC 3400	P-12
H	Natimuk Primary School		Primary School
I	Laharum Primary School		Primary School
	Occasional Care		
	Horsham Aquatic Centre		
	After School Care		
	Horsham Aquatic Centre		
	School Holiday Program		
	Horsham Aquatic Centre		
	Green Leaves Early Learning Horsham*	*For siblings of enrolled children	



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Appendix C: Horsham’s Children 2019 – A SNAPSHOT

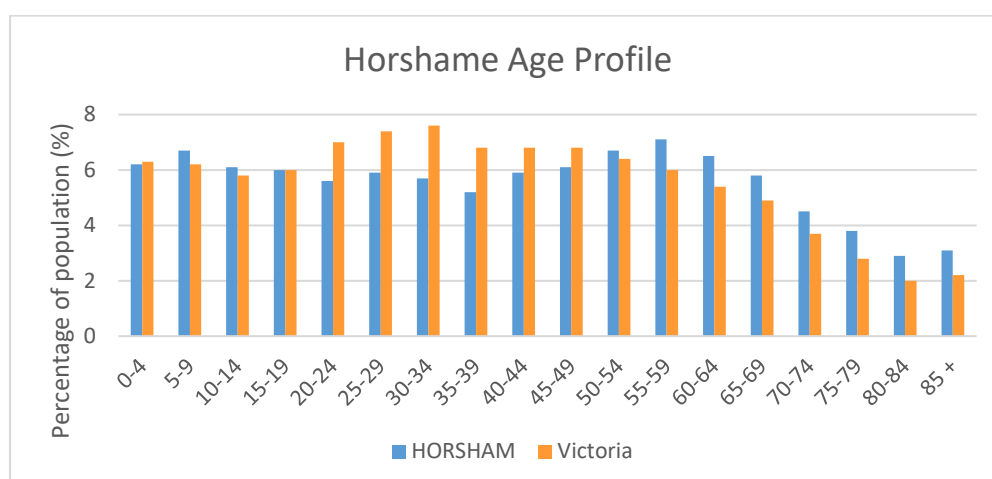
Horsham Rural City Council understands the importance of early years in establishing the foundation for life success. Investment at this early stage in life has the greatest opportunity for impact and benefit for, not only the child, but to the community in general.

Horsham’s Children 2019 – A SNAPSHOT, provides an insight into how children are faring in Horsham RC. Municipal Early Years Plans are place-based and acknowledge the importance of being data driven to ensure the EYP is responsive to the individual municipality needs. This snapshot acknowledges the systems approach, in that each of the social, built, economic and natural environments can influence a child’s development in learning, health and wellbeing. As Council has an oversight into each of these areas, it can play a unique role in facilitating partnerships to achieve the best outcomes for the community. As such, data across these areas has been compiled to outline the profile of children in Horsham.

This Snapshot has been used to inform HRCC’s EYP to ensure it is data based and best positioned to support Horsham’s children to succeed in life.

HORSHAM (RC) POPULATION

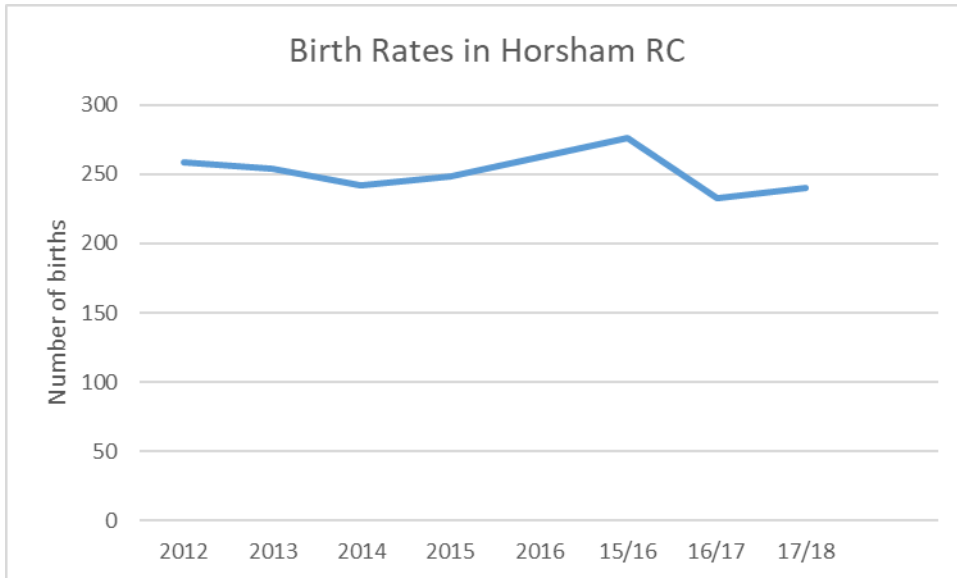
- Total population in 2017 - 19,889 people (A)



Total Population of Horsham RC in 2031 - 21,793. Estimated population change to be 9.6% (B)

Number of Population per age group (change in population)			
Year			
Age (years)	2016	2021	2031
0-4	1,218	1,359 (+149)	1,419 (+121)
5-9	1,316	1,310 (-6)	1,433 (+ 125)
10-14	1,190	1,293 (+103)	1,370 (+140)

Birth rates in Horsham have fluctuated between 2000 and 2017 as seen below. However there has been an increase of 12% across this period vs the birth rate in non-metro Victoria of 28%.

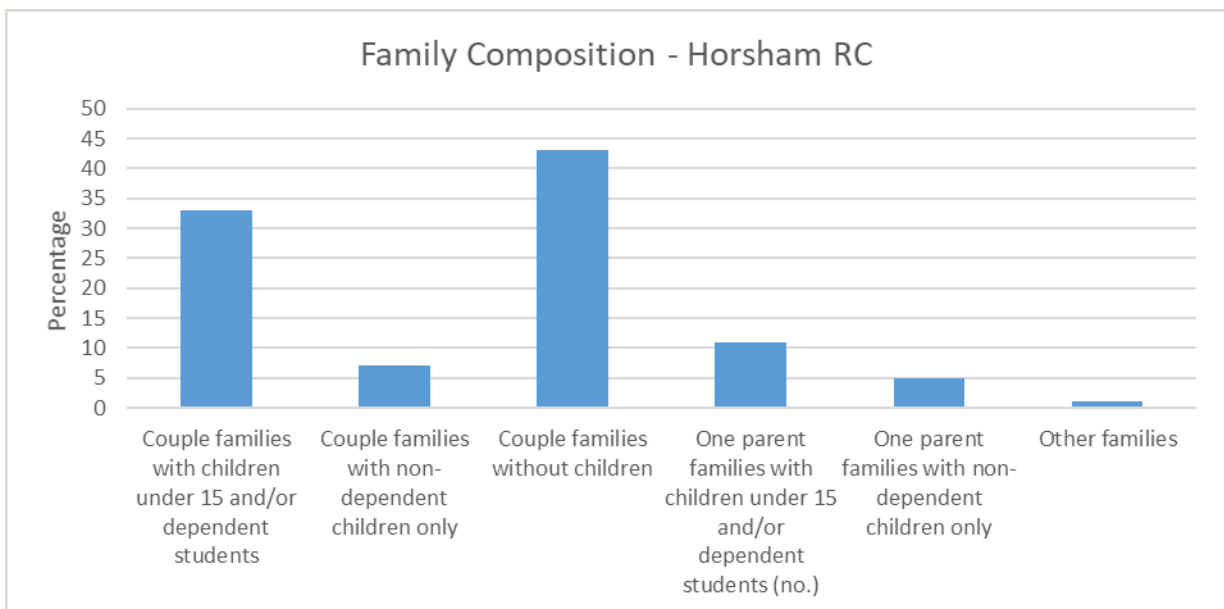


(2012 – 2016 ABS, 15/16 – 18/19 YTD MCHN Database)

The 2017 birth rate in the age group 15-19 years is double that of non-metro Victoria at 6% of births. This has however, decreased by 14% since 2000.

What do Horsham families look like?

Horsham family composition has remained relatively constant from 2011 to 2016 with an approximate 2% increase of families with children (both couple and one parent). The family composition is quite similar to the Victorian average, however, there is slightly more one parent with children under 15 years old in Horsham. (A)



Culturally and linguistically diverse communities

The cultural and linguistic diversity in Horsham is significantly less than the Victorian average. However, Horsham has continued to see a steady increase in population cultural diversity that live and/or work here even since the last Census. This signifies the importance for social connection

opportunities as it could be isolating for families new to the area. Evidence shows social Isolation can lead to or exacerbate poor health, including mental health.

Birthplace of parents: 2011 to 2016 (A) Both parents born in Australia 86.4% to 79.6%

1.5% of the population identify as ATSI (vs VIC 2.8%). Approximately, 15% of the ATSI population is aged 0-4years and approximately 15% aged 5-9 years. (However, these statistics should be interpreted with caution as 5% of respondents selected “not stated”.)

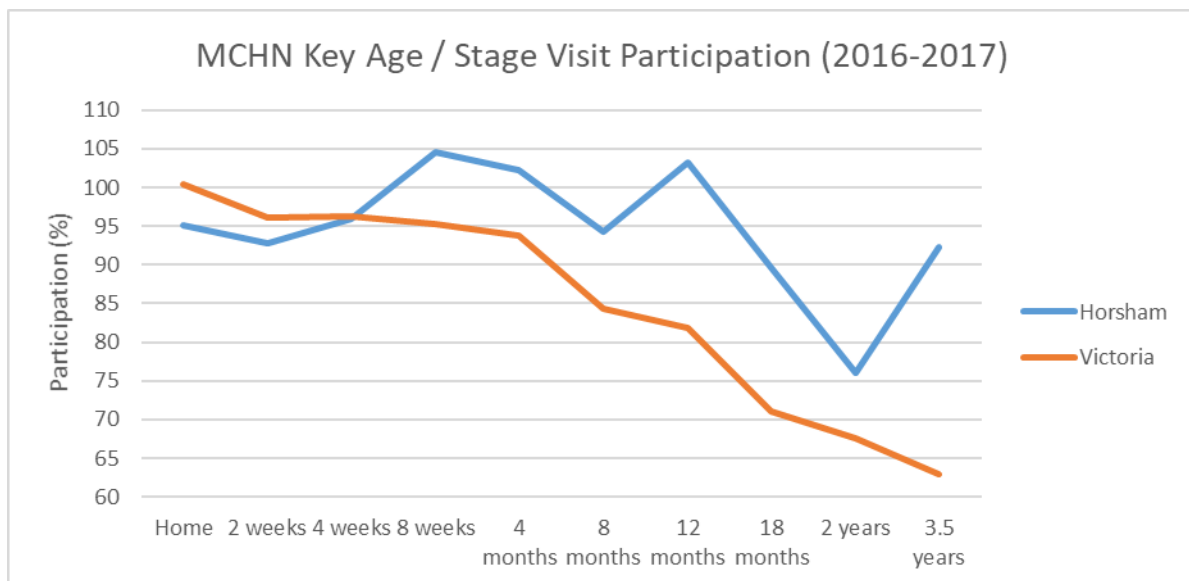
(A)

How healthy are our children?

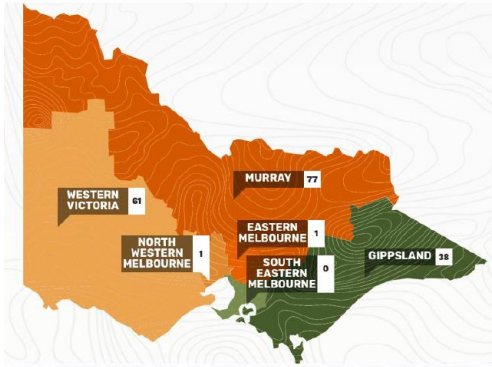
The health and wellbeing of children is critical in their development and establishing the foundation to succeed in life.

Immunisation Rates at 5 years. 98.18% vs VIC 95.3% (C)

MCHN Key age/stage visit participation: Horsham is above 90% for the first 12 months and above 75% 18 months to 3.5 years. There is a general downward trend of participation as age increases (also reflected in Victorian average figures).



Women who smoked during pregnancy: 25.2% vs VIC 11.4% (D)



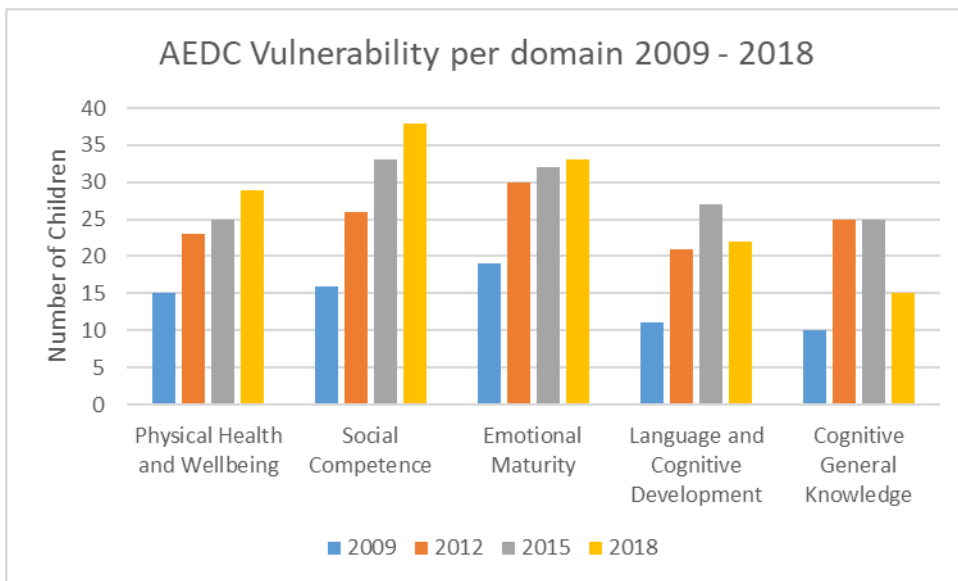
The Wimmera has experienced a significant issue in GPs. This remains an issue and is a key advocacy item for HRCC.

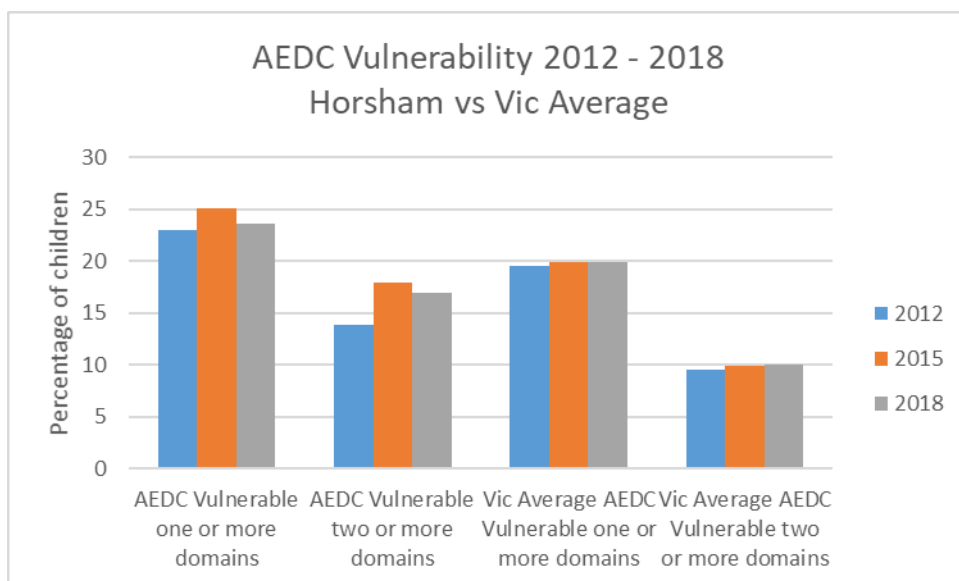
EDUCATION READINESS

Speech and language concerns on school entry 2017 (%) (A) 21.4 vs VIC 14

31 Children identified by teachers as requiring further assessment in 2018 (e.g. medical and physical, behavior management, emotional and cognitive development). This is the same number as in 2015 and almost double that in 2012.(E)

The development of Horsham children:





FAMILY EXPERIENCES

Family experiences, living conditions and the sociodemographic experiences of the family all heavily influence a child's health, wellbeing and learning throughout life.

Some environmental factors:

Teenage (15-19yo) Fertility Rate per 1000 female population – third highest local government area in the state. 27.1 vs 10.4 (F)

Horsham has consistently had the highest rate of family violence incidents in the Grampians Region (2011 to 2016). Since 2012, Horsham has consistently been the top 10 worst performing Local Government Areas across the state. (G)

In general, Children are present in 1 out of every 3 family violence cases reported to police (H)

Children who were subject to care and protection orders was more than double the Victorian average. 11.5* to vs 5.4* (*Rate per 1,000 children aged 0-17 years) (I)

27 children whose parents reported having high levels of family stress in past month. (I)

Teacher's response to the question: Would you say that this child is regularly read to/encouraged in his/her reading at home – 89.8% said true. (E)

COMMUNITY

Being part of a community can have a positive effect on mental health and emotional wellbeing. This in turn influences positive parenting and child development leading to more positive outcomes for families. Horsham Rural City Council has a strong commitment to social connection and open space and priorities are outlined in the Horsham Rural City Health and Wellbeing Plan.

It is increasingly recognized that a person's health may be affected by where they live. Living in neighbourhoods with low levels of pollution and with easy access to shopping facilities, basic

services, good parks, play spaces and affordable transport can have a positive influence on the lives of family.

Perceptions of neighbourhood – people are willing to help each other 83.5% vs 63% (VicHealth Survey 2015)

Perceptions of neighbourhood – this is a close-knit neighbourhood 76.5% vs 45.3%

Data References for Early Years Plan

A - ABS Census

https://itt.abs.gov.au/itt/r.jsp?RegionSummary®ion=23190&dataset=ABS_REGIONAL_LGA2017&geoconcept=LGA_2017&datasetASGS=ABS_REGIONAL_ASGS2016&datasetLGA=ABS_REGIONAL_LGA_2017®ionLGA=LGA_2017®ionASGS=ASGS_2016

https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/LGA23190

B – Victoria in Future

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/land-use-and-population-research/victoria-in-future-2016>

C - Australian Immunisation Register - Coverage Report LGA by age group (Age calculated as at 30SEP17)

D - (2009-2011) *Social Health Atlas of Australia, Victorian Local Government Areas, May 2016 Release, PHIDU 2016*

E – AEDC Data

F Victoria Women's Health Atlas, Women's Health Grampians, *Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System (VCAMS), 2012*

G – *Women's Health Grampians*

(H) Victoria Police 2015, 'Crime statistics 2013/14', Victorian Government, retrieved 3rd September 2015, https://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?Document_ID=782

(I) - Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System (VCAMS), accessed via the VCAMS Portal online August 2016 at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/research/Pages/vcamstableau.aspx> p133 PCP profile.