

Active Banyule Plan

2025–2030



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Introduction



Councillor Elizabeth Nealy
Mayor

Mayor Statement

I am proud to introduce the Active Banyule Plan 2025–2030, our roadmap for supporting a healthier, more active, and connected community. Participation in sport and recreation plays a vital role in enhancing physical and mental wellbeing, fostering social inclusion, and building stronger communities.

As a Council, we are committed to investing in facilities, programs, and partnerships that encourage everyone to participate in physical activities, regardless of age, ability, or background. By working together with our local clubs, community groups and service providers, we can create welcoming spaces and opportunities that inspire and support active lifestyles.

This Plan's vision is for **an active, happy, and healthy community with choice and opportunity to participate in sport and recreation that is meaningful to them.** We can't do it alone, together, we can make our community stronger, happier, and more active.



Acknowledgement of Country

Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as Traditional Custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region's history.



Banyule Diversity Statement

Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders.

We are committed to access, equity, participation and rights for everyone; principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.

Introduction to Active Banyule Plan 2025-2030

“Increasing physical activity through sport and recreation helps to improve the health and wellbeing of all Australians at all stages of life.”

Australian National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030

Sport, recreation and physical activity play a key role in the health and wellbeing of our community. Whether it’s playing competitive sport, walking in the park or being part of a dance group, research consistently highlights that being active, connecting with others and spending time in nature positively impacts our physical, mental and emotional health.

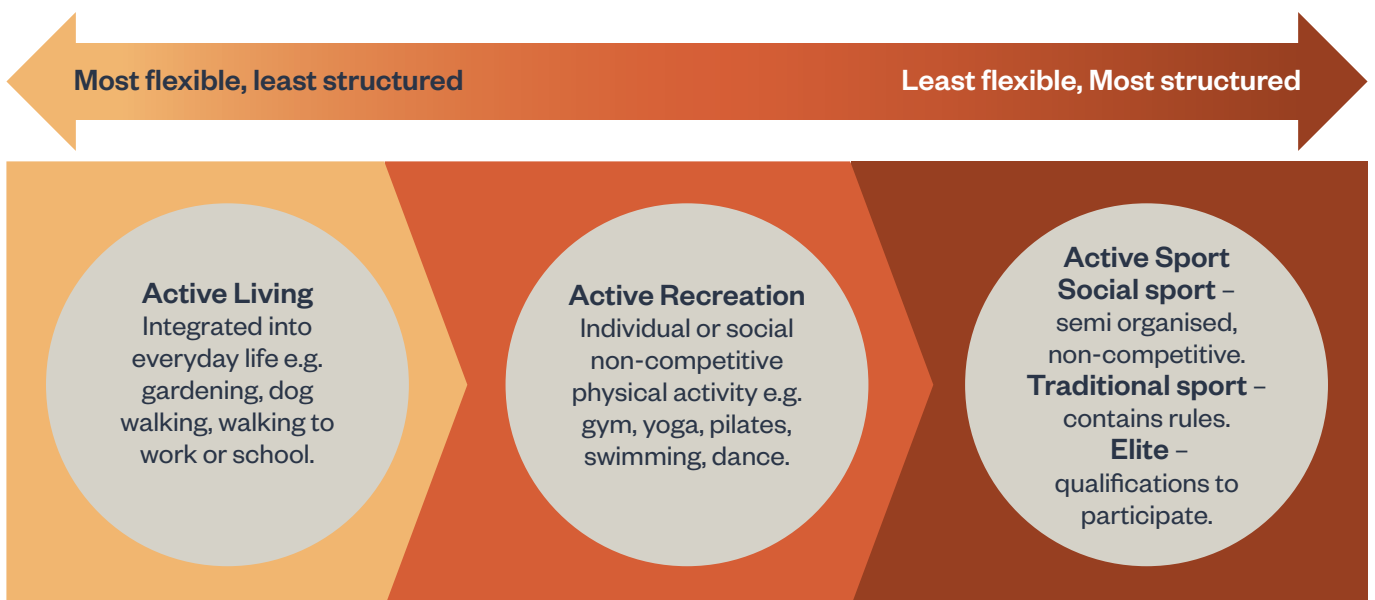
To support Banyule community members to embrace an active lifestyle, we have developed the **Active Banyule Plan 2025-2030**. A Plan that focuses on increasing participation in physical activity, sport and recreation across our community.

The Plan identifies key priorities, addresses barriers to participation, and explores futures opportunities to support increased participation and engagement in sport and recreation.

We want to facilitate an environment where all residents can be physically active in ways that are important to them, so everyone can live their healthiest, happiest and most fulfilled lifestyle.

What do we mean by Active Banyule?

Active Banyule recognises that sport and recreation exist along the continuum of physical activity. Our community will engage at different or multiple points along this continuum. This engagement will also shift and change over time.



Active Banyule Plan at a glance –

Active Banyule Plan Vision - An active, happy, and healthy community with choice and opportunity to participate in sport and recreation that is meaningful to them.

The Plan aims to:

- Address current and future needs and support active participation in sport and recreation.
- Actively promote physical activity, elevate community participation and prioritise inclusivity, accessibility and engagement.
- Build community connection, strategic partnerships and maximise utilisation of our sport and recreation facilities and resources.
- Forge collaboration with sporting clubs and community to cultivate a diversity of sports and recreation opportunities.

Key Focus Areas and objectives



Inclusive Participation

Everyone in our community has equitable access to diverse physical activity opportunities, ensuring increased participation across all ages, abilities and backgrounds.



Places and Spaces

Accessible multi-purpose facilities and open spaces that are well managed and enable the community to enjoy a wide range of activities and experiences.



Partnerships and Capability

Well governed clubs and organisations with strong leadership and connected networks, delivering participation activities that meet community needs. Effective partnerships and collaborations with Government, schools and community organisations to enhance local infrastructure and participation.

Key achievements from Banyule Sport & Recreation Plan 2017-2021

The previous Plan has led to significant achievements and positive outcomes, including enhanced access and inclusion at our sports facilities and increased capacity for clubs to offer more opportunities. These improvements have fostered greater participation and strengthened connections with our community and stakeholders.

Key achievements are highlighted below:

Facilities

Development and upgrade of high-quality sports facilities and infrastructure to support women's participation and create accessible, welcoming sports environments for everybody.

- 7 new sports pavilions.
- 10 upgrades to existing change and umpire facilities.
- 15 upgrades to sports fields lighting.
- 17 cricket wicket replacements.
- 11 tennis court resurfaces and lighting upgrades.
- 4 major sports field reconstructions.
- 1 upgraded bowls facility.
- New outdoor netball courts with roof at Macleod Nets Stadium.
- Five side soccer pitch at Malahang Reserve.

Policy, Plans and Programs

- Parkrun at Warringal Park with an average of 400 attendees per week.
- Women only swim nights at Olympic Leisure Centre.
- New online booking System (IMS) for sporting clubs to support self-service and seasonal allocation process.
- New Sporting Facilities User Guide and Allocation Policy to articulate process and expectations for use of seasonal sporting grounds and facilities.
- Delivery of online training, sports forums, and seminars to support sports club development, networking and capacity building.
- Creation of Women in Sport Network Night to highlight local leadership and achievements.

Partnerships

- Delivery of All Abilities programs in partnership with Disability Sports Victoria and local Banyule sporting clubs.
- Partnership with La Trobe University Sports Park Indoor Stadium, to give an average of 6400 hours annually to Banyule based sports clubs.
- Negotiation with State Government for development of 3 new sports fields and pavilions to support sporting clubs impacted by North East Link displacement.

Benefits of physical activity and recreation

Regular physical activity significantly benefits our physical, mental and social health, as well as providing benefits to the economy and environment.



Physical Health

- Regular physical activity promotes overall wellbeing, including mood, energy levels, and confidence.
- In adults, physical activity provides prevention and management of non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, cancer and diabetes (1). It also provides improved cognitive health, sleep and measures of body fat, as well as helping to maintain and improve blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar levels.
- In children and adolescents, physical activity promotes improved physical fitness, improved bone health, cardiometabolic health and reduced body fat. Physical activity also improves motor and cognitive development, encourages healthy growth and development of muscles (1).



Mental Health

- Regular physical exercise contributes to improving mental health and managing stress.
- Regular physical activity reduces symptoms of depression and anxiety, enhances brain health, improves our sleep and improves our overall wellbeing (1).
- Physical activity outdoors in nature has been associated with enhanced mood, improvements in attentional capacity, and cognitive capacity (5).



Social Connection & Reducing Loneliness

- The social aspect of sport and recreation fosters social connections and a sense of community. Riding bikes and walking locally provides additional opportunity for social interaction on the streets which can greatly enhance a sense of community and connection, improving mental wellbeing (4).



Economic Benefits

- Sport and recreation contribute to economic growth through providing employment opportunities and expenditure on services, goods, maintenance and venues (6).
- The global estimate of the cost of physical inactivity to public health care systems between 2020 and 2030 is about US \$300 billion (Approximately US \$27 billion per year) (3).



Environmental Benefits

- Active modes of transport such as walking and cycling help to reduce traffic congestion and protect the environment (6).
- Bicycle riding conserves roadway and residential space, thereby providing opportunities for less concrete and more plant life in urban areas (4).
- Bikes reduce the need to build, service and dispose of cars (4).

“Physical activity and recreation connect our family with other like-minded people. The social connection is just as important as the being physically fit.” *Active Banyule Survey Respondent*

Strategic Context

The following diagram illustrates the value and importance of the Active Banyule Plan to achieve Council and community aspirations and its integration with key plans and strategies of Council.



State and National Context and Trends – What else informs our Plan

There are several key pieces of policy and strategy at both State and Federal level that have helped inform this plan and support the key themes and focus areas for our Council. It is important that we align and integrate our practices and priorities with that of Government and related industries to maximise opportunities for partnerships, funding and programming as well as demonstrating needs and future focus with evidence and research.

Federal Government

National Preventative Health Strategy 2021- 2030

Vision - To improve the health and wellbeing of all Australians at all stages of life through prevention.

- Key focus for prevention – Increase physical activity.

Targets

- Reduce the prevalence of insufficient physical activity amongst children, adolescents and adults by at least 15% by 2030.
- Reduce the prevalence of Australians (≥15 years) undertaking no physical activity by at least 15% by 2030.
- Increase the prevalence of Australians (≥15 years) who are meeting the strength training guidelines by at least 15% by 2030.



Australia's Sport Participation Strategy – Playwell

Vision - Everyone has a place in sport

Priorities

- **Empowering people and organisations** - Building the capability of people and organisations to meet the needs of everyone involved in sport.
- **Driving lifelong involvement** - Foster a sporting environment that enables positive lifelong involvement in sport.
- **Activating places and space** - Creating, improving, activating and better managing places and spaces to ensure everyone can have safe and enjoyable sporting experiences.
- **Building connections** - Creating a connected and collaborative sport ecosystem that supports all organisations to provide quality sporting experiences.
- **Equitable access** - Prioritising equity and choice to ensure all Australians can access sport.
- **Transforming culture** - Transforming the culture of sport in Australia to create an environment where everyone can access safe, inclusive, welcoming and fun experiences.

National Sport Plan

Vision – Building healthy, active, connected communities and a thriving sports system

- Inclusion.
- Participation.
- High performance.
- Safety.
- International engagement.
- Economy and environment.



State Government

Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023

Vision - A Victoria free of the avoidable burden of disease and injury, so that all Victorians can enjoy the highest attainable standards of health, wellbeing and participation at every age.

10 priorities represent areas where sustained action can have the biggest impact on health and wellbeing.

Active living is one of these areas - Support everyone, at all stages of life, to live healthy, engaged and purposeful lives.

Key objectives

- Integrate healthy design principles into land-use planning to ensure improved health and wellbeing by increasing levels of physical activity through active transport modes, such as walking and riding.
- Improve safe access to parks, public open spaces and recreation opportunities in nature and provide opportunities for Victorians to connect with nature.
- Promote movement and reduce sitting time in workplaces, schools, at home and during leisure time.
- Increase participation in sport and active recreation, with a focus on Victorians who face barriers to participation.

Active Victoria Strategy (2022-2026)

Vision – To build a thriving, inclusive and connected sport and recreation sector that benefits all Victorians

The Victorian Government's Active Victoria Strategy (2022-2026) recognises that sport and recreation exist along the continuum of physical activity and that people will engage at different or multiple points along this continuum both formally and informally throughout their life. This contributes to active living.

- Increasing equitable participation in sport and active recreation.
- Delivering quality infrastructure that is accessible, respectful and inclusive.
- Building the capability of the sport and active recreation workforce.
- Implementing good governance practices to ensure a safe and sustainable sector.
- Supporting a pipeline of sporting events within the Victorian events calendar; and
- Encouraging Victorians to achieve success at the highest level through high performance.

Other Trends and Influences

- Casualisation of sport - Increase in unstructured and unorganised sport as well as different formats.
- Growth of Active recreation – non-competitive physical activity – participate in a way of their choosing.
- New pathways to sport.
- Increasing expectations for high quality facilities that can be accessed by everyone.
- Growth in community fitness gyms– functional fitness and fitness-based activities.
- Science and technology changing the game of sport.
- Rise of entertainment sports.
- Increased demand for intergenerational activities.
- Community expectations for shared use of sports facilities.
- Emerging sports – e.g. Pickleball.

Our Community - Who we are planning for

About Banyule - Location

The City of Banyule is located in Melbourne's north-eastern suburbs, between 7 and 21 kilometres from the Melbourne CBD. It is an established residential area with significant open spaces and parklands. There are seven precincts within Banyule and 21 suburbs that lay on a total land area of approximately 63 square kilometres. The Yarra River runs along Banyule's south border while the west is defined by Darebin Creek. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people are the traditional custodians of the land.

Location and amenity - Supporting active living

Banyule is renowned for its open spaces and plentiful parklands. Banyule residents greatly value the natural environment, green spaces and sense of community. There are 606 hectares of council-owned open space in Banyule, as well as substantial areas of parkland managed by Parks Victoria. These facilitate an active lifestyle and provide a wealth of opportunities for recreation.

Cycling and walking are popular recreational activities in Banyule, made enjoyable by the many kilometres of bicycle and pedestrian trails. In particular, the Yarra and Plenty Rivers and Darebin Creek Trail foster opportunities for people to get active in nature and enjoy being outside.

Banyule is well supported by a strong network of sports and leisure facilities including WaterMarc in Greensborough, Ivanhoe Aquatic and Leisure Centre, Olympic Leisure Centre in West Heidelberg, Macleod Recreation Stadium and NETS stadium in Macleod. A variety of quality sports fields, pavilions, tennis and bowling clubs facilitate active sports participation as well as informal recreation and social enjoyment.



What does our population look like?

Population



Predicted growth
26,531
from 2025 to 2046



The City of Banyule population forecast for 2025 is **134,866** and is forecast to grow to **161,397** by 2046

Gender



51.4%
Female



48.6%
Male

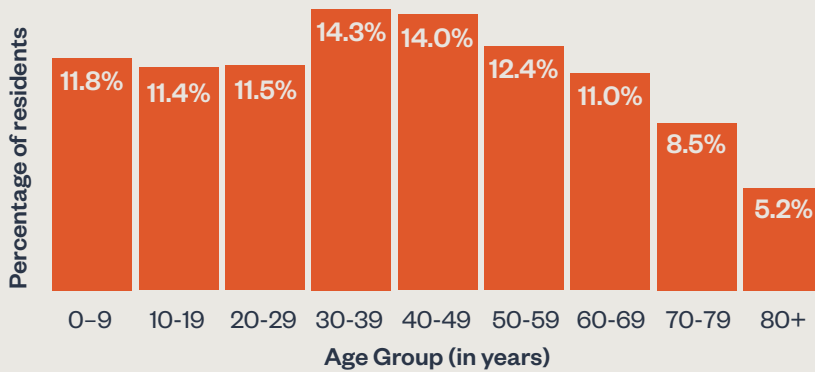
**this doesn't include gender diverse data for non-binary. The 2021 Australian Census included a non-binary sex option for the first time, but the results for this option are not yet fully released in the same way as male and female data.*

LGBTIQA+



11.5%

Age



Indigenous Status



871

First Nations

Country of birth



72.4%
Australia



24.5%
Overseas born

Long term health conditions



33%
Have one or more long term health conditions



16.5%
Self-reported disability



9.2%
Mental health condition

Sport & Recreation in Banyule

Banyule Council continues to provide high quality sport and recreation reserves and community facilities. The following table indicates a summary of what is currently available in Banyule.

The community spaces and clubs available in Banyule include:	
 26 Football Clubs (AFL)	 7 Neighbourhood Houses
 18 Cricket Clubs	 10 Community Halls
 7 Soccer Clubs	 17 Council Owned Tennis Facilities
 5 Baseball Clubs	 1 Privately Owned Tennis Facility
 16 Tennis Clubs	 2 Privately Owned Golf Course
 6 Bowls Clubs	 1 Council Owned Golf Course
 2 Council Managed Leisure Centres	 138 Playgrounds and Play spaces
 2 Externally Managed Leisure Centres	 1 Seniors Exercise Park
 1 Regional Athletics Track	 1 Croquet Club
 7 Bowling Facilities	 3 Libraries
 1 Outdoor Hockey Facility	 12 Senior Citizens Clubs
 606 Hectares of Council owned open space	 13 Scout Groups
 43 Sporting Reserves	 2 Girl Guide Groups
 39 Sport Pavilions	 11 Friends Groups active in Banyule Reserves
 Shared Trail Network including the Main Yarra Trail, Plenty River Trail, Banyule and Darebin Creek Trails	 Waterways and wildlife corridors, including Darebin Creek, Plenty River and Yarra River

Sport and Recreation Infrastructure – Future Provision - Challenges and considerations

With a lack of available open space in Banyule, developing new sports facilities and infrastructure is a significant challenge. As demand for sports grounds and multipurpose spaces continues to grow, Council will focus on maximising the use of existing facilities rather than creating new ones. This means adopting shared-use models, upgrading and repurposing current infrastructure, and ensuring facilities are adaptable to accommodate a range of activities and purposes.

Shared use agreements will support emerging sports and recreation activities and the continued growth of existing clubs. Additionally, fostering collaboration between clubs who are in membership decline or smaller will be essential for optimising resources and strengthening long term viability of community sporting clubs.

Partnerships with schools will also play a crucial role in addressing infrastructure challenges by exploring access to sports facilities outside of school hours. By working together, Council and local schools can create additional opportunities for community sport while maximising the use of existing assets.



Health & Physical Activity in Banyule

Physical inactivity is a significant risk factor for poor health. Engaging in any amount of physical activity will yield positive health benefits. This plan aims to promote increased physical activity to enhance health and wellbeing outcomes.

91% of Active Banyule Survey respondents rated physical activity as very important to their health and wellbeing

Health in Banyule

- Banyule residents rated their current physical health an average of 7.3 out of 10 (7).
- 29% of Banyule residents forecast that their physical health will get better in 12 months and 9% believe it will get worse (11).
- 50.8% of adults in Banyule are overweight or obese (11).
- 33.8% of adults were sedentary for an average of 8 or more hours per day in the last week, which is higher than the Victorian average of 27.9% (11).
- 23.9% of adults in Banyule are experiencing loneliness (7). Research indicates that loneliness can reduce the likelihood of individuals being physically active as well as being linked to poor physical and mental health (9).

“I will remain active, healthier and stronger to cope with everyday tasks if continuing to exercise.”

Active Banyule Survey Respondent



Physical Activity in Banyule

- Only 37.7% of adults in Banyule are meeting the recommended physical activity guidelines of at least 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per week (11).
- 15.1% of adults in Banyule do not do any moderate to vigorous physical activity (11).

Responses from the Active Banyule Survey indicate the following:

- Men in Banyule are significantly more likely to participate in competitive sports (19%) compared to women (14%). Men also show a higher tendency to engage in social sports (31%) than women (17%).
- A higher proportion of men (69%) engage in high levels of physical activity (5.5 to 10+ hours per week) compared to women (52%).

Responses from the Active Banyule Survey indicate the top 3 recreational activities in Banyule are:



Going to gym
or attending
exercise class



Participating
in recreational
activity –
walking



Playing sport –
competitive
or social

“I find that engaging in regular physical activity significantly enhances my wellbeing. Not only do I experience a noticeable improvement in my mood and energy levels after exercising, but I also feel more confident about my appearance.”

Active Banyule Survey Respondent



Sport Participation in Banyule

Data from the 2015-2023 Victorian Sports Participation Rates indicates the following:

- 17.8% of the total Banyule population playing sport in 2023.
- Sport participation rates in Banyule are ranked 5th highest LGA for metropolitan Melbourne.

2023-2024 data of sports clubs in Banyule indicates the following:

Type of sport and the number of players who play for a Banyule club:



This data represents the number of registered members for Banyule sports clubs. This doesn't include the number of casual players, which is much higher for sports like tennis and golf.

Sports Clubs & Volunteers

46%

of Active Banyule survey respondents are members of a sports club.

29%

of Active Banyule survey respondents currently volunteer at a sports club.



Sport Participation in Victoria

Data from the 2015-2023 Victorian Sport Participation Rates indicates the following:

- There were over 1 million Victorians playing sport in 2023. This includes combined participant data from Australian rules football, Basketball, Cricket, Football (Soccer), Gymnastics, Hockey, Netball, Sailing, Swimming, Tennis, Bowls, Golf, Cycling, Little Athletics, Rowing and Surf Lifesaving.
- The total number across the 16 sports was 1,117,077. This represents an overall participation rate of 16.9% of the population.
- There were 727,578 male Victorians playing sport in 2023.
- There were 389,499 female Victorians playing sport in 2023.
- Over 73% of males aged 5-14 were participating in sport .
- Over 52% of females aged 5-14 were participating in sport.



How we engaged with the Community to inform the Plan

We heard from a total of 716 residents, aged from 12-84 from every suburb in Banyule.

The following consultation and research informed the Active Banyule Plan 2025-2030:

- **Intercept survey - Active Banyule**

The Active Banyule Survey occurred between February to December 2024, involving three pop-up surveys in-person at various Council locations:

- Twilight Sounds Festival.
- Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub.
- Council's offices at 1 Flintoff St Greensborough and Greensborough Walk.

- **Targeted youth survey**

An additional youth specific survey that occurred as a follow up of the Active Banyule Survey.

- **Online survey link sent to all Banyule sporting clubs through Club Chat email news.**

- **Dedicated *Shaping Banyule* page on Council website and online survey.**

- **One (1) online workshop.**

- **Engagement with Banyule Population and Advisory Committees:**

- Disability and Inclusion Committee.
- Age-Friendly Advisory Committee.
- LGBTIQ+ Committee.
- First Nations Committee .

- **One (1) Internal staff workshop.**

- **Survey link sent to Banyule Leisure Members (Ivanhoe Aquatic and Olympic Leisure).**

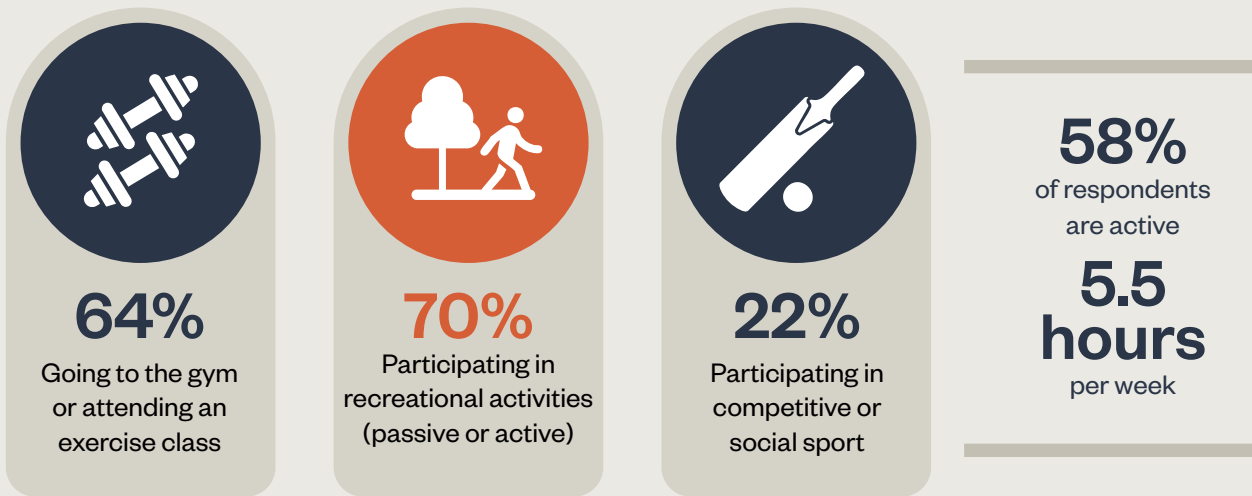
- **Banyule Futures Report 2024**

The Banyule Futures Project surveyed residents Banyule-wide on a variety of topics and included questions around active living and engaged 970 residents. Relevant data and feedback was drawn from this.



What we heard – Active Banyule Survey Results


The most common ways adults in Banyule like to stay active: *respondents could select more than one activity





Importance of Physical Activity


- 91% rated physical activity and recreation as important

When asked why it was important common themes from responses included:

 **General wellbeing:** Respondents note how physical activity promotes overall well-being, including mood, energy levels, and confidence.

 **Physical health benefits:** Physical activity is viewed as essential for maintaining physical strength, health, and fitness, especially as individuals age.

 **Mental health benefits:** Regular physical exercise is seen as crucial for improving mental health and managing stress.

 **Social benefits:** The social aspect of sport and recreation was recognised as it fosters social connections and a sense of community.

The top four barriers for physical activity participation:

*survey respondents could select more than one barrier

- 52% Lack of time / Limited access
- 41% Cost of participation
- 28% Programs do not suit needs and interests
- 27% Limited or no information about activities available

“Would love to be more physically active. But time poor as well as money poor.”

Active Banyule Survey Respondent

The most common suggestions to remove barriers:

- Low-cost membership fees and participation, as well as free activities to try and experience.
- Increasing the availability of programs, classes and activities.
- Improving the amenity and maintenance and facilities of local sports clubs, gyms, swimming pools and bike paths.
- Promoting inclusivity and diversity in sports clubs and activities.

“Have programs that support participation - low cost - accessible for everyone.”

Active Banyule Survey Respondent

“More information flyers on activities, programs etc instead of online focus of communication.”

Active Banyule Survey Respondent.

Perspectives on Sport and Recreation

Respondents were asked to rank their level of agreement statements regarding physical activity

Strong agreement:

- **85%** agree that *I value the social aspect of sport and recreation, connecting with friends and others.*
- **71%** agree that *participating in sport and recreation is important for my mental and physical health.*
- **70%** agree, that *I have access to good local sport and recreation places and facilities.*

Mixed views:

- **55%** agree that *I like to try new activities that keep me active.*

Low agreement:

- **23%** disagree that *I know what opportunities, competitions and/or programs are available locally and how to find them.*

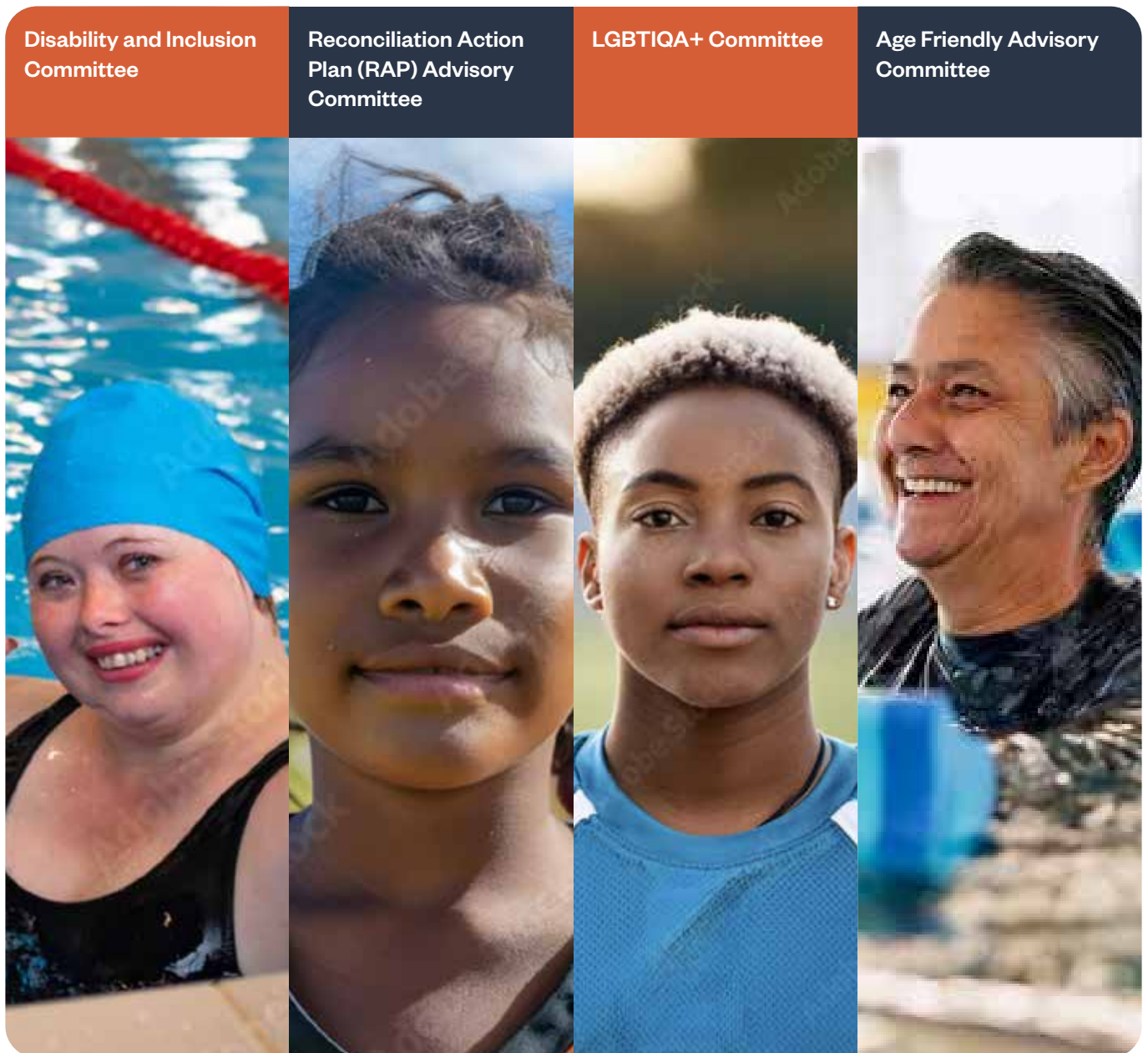
COVID-19 impact:

- Most respondents did not change their participation levels since COVID-19 lockdowns, with 34% neutral on both the increase in participation and the decrease in participation since COVID-19 lockdowns.
- 33% of respondents are more active since COVID-19 lockdowns, while 15% are less active.

What we heard – Population and Advisory Committee feedback

Some groups in our community face additional barriers to participation in sport, recreation and living an active life. Particularly, First Nations people, women and girls, people with disabilities, members of multicultural communities, low-income earners, members of LGBTIQ+ communities, and older adults.

As well as drawing on available research, Council sought feedback from the following Banyule Population and Advisory committees:



People with Disabilities

In Australia in 2022-23, 67% of people with disability participated in sport or physical activity once a week (11% less than the general population).



Barriers to participation can be:

- **Accessibility and environment:** lack of accessibility features in infrastructure and outdated facility designs that don't cater for the needs of people living with a disability.
- **Financial barriers:** Cost, fees, personnel assistance.
- **Fear of failure being judged:** Lack of confidence or fear that the sport or leisure activity won't be suitable for the needs of the individual with a disability.

Facilitators for participation

- **Accessible programing:** Sport and leisure programming that is specifically designed for individuals with a disability, e.g. all abilities teams at sports clubs and all abilities classes at leisure centres.
- **Accessible infrastructure:** Pavilions, leisure facilities and halls with accessibility standards including ramps, lifts and accessible toilets.
- **Support network:** Support from family, friends and staff or coaches and leisure centre staff.

Suggestions from Banyule Disability and Inclusion Committee

- Improve information and communication - Communication of events, activities and opportunities by sporting clubs is critical.
- Increase promotion of accessibility information – An increased display of the accessibility features for Council facilities, buildings, halls, sports pavilion to assist planning of their trips and participation.
- Come and Try activities - Council can support clubs to conduct participation days for people with a disability to experience the activities, understand basic rules and skills.
- Increase options for participation (i.e. a league for people with Downs Syndrome, or neurodiversity), so that people with a disability have access to the same physical and mental health benefits of exercise as able-bodied people.
- Remove financial barriers – Subsidies and other financial support where costs may be a barrier and impact ability to participate.



First Nations

In Australia in 2022-23, 78% of First Nations people participated in sport or physical activity once a week (9% less than the general population).



Barriers to participation can be:

- **Family commitments:** Time spent participating in sport and physical activity may be perceived as ‘selfish’ because it takes people away from family and community commitments and responsibilities.
- **Limited opportunities/facilities:** particularly in remote and some regional areas.
- **Transportation:** including a lack of public transport or ability to get transport to training and/or events,
- **Exclusionary behaviours from others:** Racism, discrimination, and vilification.

Facilitators for participation

- **Feeling safe and comfortable:** This includes cultural safety, family and community connectedness.
- **Culturally tailored programming:** Exercise programs which are facilitated in familiar and accessible locations for First Nations community members. Programs could include identification with and/or connection to First Nations cultures.
- **Group activities:** group community, or family activities, (e.g. fun runs, carnivals and community competitions) may be preferred, especially by First Nations women.

Suggestions from Banyule Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Committee

- **Community partnerships:** Strengthen relationships with Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal Gathering Place - Run programs and activities that focus on physical activity and improve health outcomes for First Nations Community members. This could include come and try activities, sports clinics, and utilising Olympic Park.
- **Cultural Safety:** Opportunities for Council to work cooperatively and in partnership with local clubs and sporting leagues to support inclusion initiatives as well as policies and training that address racism and discrimination barriers.
- **Equity of access:** Consideration of new opportunities to review community sites for maximise participation. Ensuring an equitable lens is applied to allocation of sporting facilities and infrastructure.



LGBTIQA+

Internationally, up to 80% of people have witnessed or experienced homophobia in sport.

Young LGBTIQA+ Australians are 50 per cent less likely to be part of a sporting club than non-LGBTIQA+ youth.



“I’m trans, doing any competitive sport stresses me out ... We need to work closely with sports providers to be more inclusive. Not sure how I will be treated when I go to an activity. Knowing there is a safe space would promote participation.”

Intercept Survey Respondent

Barriers to participation can be:

- **Exclusion:** Homophobia, transphobia and exclusionary behaviours.
- **Gendering in sport:** Sport has traditionally been very rigid in the way it sees men and women, and how it views what are appropriate ‘male’ and ‘female’ sports – which can be problematic for LGBTIQ+ people.
- **Environment:** Toilets and changing rooms at sports facilities can present as a major barrier.
- **Lack of awareness:** Whilst there is a basic awareness among stakeholders that there are issues relating to LGBTIQ+ people that have to do with participation, discrimination and homophobia in sport, there is a lack of expertise (and in some cases desire) to do what is required to address them.

Facilitators for participation

- **Inclusive Policies & Safe Spaces:** explicitly support LGBTIQ+ inclusion, including anti-discrimination measures, gender-neutral facilities, and clear reporting mechanisms for harassment.
- **Visible Representation & Allyship:** Promotion of LGBTIQ+ visibility through diverse role models, inclusive imagery in marketing, and partnerships with LGBTIQ+ organisations. Encouragement of allies and leaders to actively support inclusivity.
- **Flexible & Non-Gendered Participation Options:** Mixed-gender or non-binary categories, social and non-competitive formats, and flexible uniform policies can help accommodate diverse identities and preferences.
- **Education & Training:** Provide training for staff, coaches, and volunteers on LGBTIQ+ inclusion, cultural competence, and how to create welcoming environments for all participants.
- **Community Engagement & Consultation:** Regularly engaging with LGBTIQ+ individuals and groups to understand their needs and enabling the co-design of programs.

Suggestions from Banyule LGBTIQ+ Committee

Visibility: For example, Flying the rainbow flag at sports events and facilities to signal inclusion and reject phobic attitudes.

- **Strengthening partnerships:** LGBTIQ+ inclusion in sport is a journey involving individuals, clubs, leagues, and peak bodies. Council can lead and collaborate to drive progress. Investigate opportunities to strengthen partnerships with groups like Queer Sporting Alliance and other organisations excelling in LGBTIQ+ inclusion.
- **Education:** Investigate opportunities to educate parents, who aren’t obligated to foster inclusion but play a key role in shaping inclusive sports environments.
- **Inclusive programs and messaging:** Leveraging existing programs like Rainbow Roadmap and Proud to Play to support clubs in their inclusion efforts. Inclusive messaging also helps e.g. ‘every space for every person’ and ‘everybody welcome here.’



Older Adults

In Australia in 2022-23, 31% of older adults participated in a sport-related activity once a week (9% less than the general population).



Barriers to participation can be:

- **Physical Limitations:** Health issues such as arthritis, chronic pain, mobility problems, or limited flexibility can make certain physical activities difficult or uncomfortable for older adults.
- **Lack of Accessibility:** Inadequate access to appropriate facilities, such as poorly maintained paths, inadequate parking, or lack of age-friendly amenities, can discourage participation.
- **Cost:** High fees for gyms, fitness programs, or recreational activities can be a barrier for older adults, particularly those on fixed incomes.
- **Social Isolation:** Older adults who live alone or have limited social networks may not feel encouraged or have the opportunity to participate in group activities, which can decrease their interest in exercise.
- **Lack of Knowledge:** Limited awareness of suitable physical activities, or how to get started safely, can prevent older adults from taking the first step towards participation.
- **Transportation Issues:** Difficulty accessing transportation or having limited options to get to activity locations can create a significant barrier to participation.

Key facilitators for participation

- **Tailored Programs:** Offering activities specifically designed for older adults, such as low-impact exercises, balance classes, or walking groups, ensures programs are accessible and meet their physical abilities.
- **Social Connection:** Creating a social component within physical activities helps foster a sense of community, encouraging older adults to stay engaged and connected with others.
- **Accessibility:** Ensuring that facilities are easily accessible, with adequate parking, well-maintained paths, and disability-friendly amenities, makes it easier for older adults to participate.
- **Affordable Options:** Providing low-cost or subsidised activities ensures that financial barriers do not prevent participation.

Suggestions from Banyule Age-Friendly Advisory Committee

- Create a physical activity directory or database for the exercise programs and activities that are available for older adults in Banyule, so they know where the opportunities are.
- Increase promotion of the Support for Carers program for older adults who have a carer.
- Investigate opportunities for using gym spaces, community halls and sports club pavilions that are empty during the day for older adults' exercise classes.
- Investigate opportunities for links with local Friends Of groups as these groups provide outdoor physical exercise and social connection.



Young People

Banyule Council conducted a youth-specific survey in November & December 2024, tailored to residents aged 5-25, to increase our understanding of the needs of young people.



Some of the most popular physical activities for young people in Banyule:

- Basketball.
- Walking.
- Swimming.
- Going to the gym.

Other most popular activities were: Running, Soccer, Dancing & Tennis.

Most common barriers for young people to participate in sport and recreation activities:

- **Technology and screen time:** The increasing use of screens for entertainment, social media and gaming can lead to sedentary lifestyles and a preference for indoor, screen-based activities over physical activity.
- **Lack of motivation:** Some young people may struggle with motivation, especially if they don't see immediate results or find the activity unappealing. Disinterest or boredom can lead to decreased participation.
- **Lack of time:** School, homework, extracurricular activities, and social commitments can leave young people with little free time to engage in physical activities.
- **Social barriers:** Unwelcoming or exclusive club environments can deter young people from coming back due to feeling left out.
- **Financial constraints:** Cost of gym memberships, sports equipment and travel for competitions can deter participation for some young people, particularly those from lower-income families.

Key facilitators to participation:

- **Affordability:** Offering affordable programs or providing scholarships, discounts, or subsidised memberships can reduce financial barriers for young people.
- **Role Models and mentorship:** Having positive role models or mentors who demonstrate the benefits of physical activity can inspire young people to get involved.
- **Supportive environment:** Ensuring a welcoming, non-judgmental environment where young people feel comfortable trying new things without fear of failure or ridicule is key to encouraging participation.
- **Positive messaging:** Shifting the focus from competition and performance to personal growth, enjoyment, and overall wellbeing helps create a more inclusive and supportive atmosphere that encourages ongoing engagement.
- **Creating safe spaces:** Ensuring that young people feel safe and supported, especially in environments where they may be trying new activities or challenging themselves.

Suggestions from young people in Banyule:

- Increase promotion of the local opportunities and facilities available for young people.
- Promote the social connection and fun aspects physical activities, less focus on structured sport and competition.
- Support initiatives that reduce costs to encourage participation.
- Consider the importance of culturally appropriate spaces and teams, specifically for Somali young people, including a focus on Girls only teams.

Key themes from Research and consultation

From the analysis of the survey data and our consultation the following key themes have emerged which have helped inform the Action Plan.

Theme 1: Cost as a barrier to participation

- Rising living costs, financial pressures, and personal debt are making sport and recreation activities less accessible, as they are often seen as non-essential expenses.
- There is a strong demand for more affordable options, including lower-cost gym memberships, fitness classes, and free or low-cost programs, to increase access for all.
- Providing financial support through grants, subsidies, and discounted rates for low-income families, children, students, and seniors can help reduce cost barriers and promote equitable participation opportunities.

Theme 2: Maximising multi-use facilities

- Shared use of facilities such as pavilions, sports grounds, and community halls allows more groups to access spaces for social and physical activities. This makes better use of existing infrastructure and reduces the need for building new facilities and infrastructure.
- Extending operating hours—particularly in the evenings and on weekends—and increasing public access to sports centres, facilities and infrastructure can help remove barriers to participation.
- Greater flexibility in facility use and scheduling ensures programs align with community needs, encouraging higher participation and more inclusive access to sport and recreation opportunities.

“Increase flexible membership options, consider social sport over competition, increase access.”

Active Banyule Survey Respondent



“Sessions at times convenient for working parents. Adult classes/teams or exercise facilities at times when children’s sport is on, at the same location”.

Active Banyule Survey Respondent

Theme 3: Inclusive, fun, equitable and flexible participation

- There is a strong need for more inclusive activities and facilities, particularly for women, people with disabilities, individuals with health conditions, and older adults.
- Offering a diverse range of activities and flexible program formats is essential to accommodate different needs, abilities, and preferences.
- The physical environment plays a critical role in participation—barriers such as inadequate change rooms, lack of inclusive and accessible facilities, and limited disability-friendly and neurodivergent-friendly spaces must be addressed, particularly in sports clubs and community venues.
- Equitable access to facilities is key, requiring better sharing, consolidation, and multi-use approaches to maximise availability.
- There is a growing preference for fun, social, and unstructured activities, particularly among adults, highlighting the need for sporting organisations to adapt and offer more flexible, inclusive, and individualised participation options.
- Enjoyment, social connection, personal challenge, fitness, skill development, and overall wellbeing are the primary motivators for participation.



“Inclusive sports should be available at all levels and clubs”

Active Banyule Survey Respondent

Theme 4: Infrastructure as a key enabler of physical activity

- Enhancing bike trails, lanes, and paths—along with creating bike-friendly roads that connect to parkland tracks—will encourage active transportation and increase opportunities for walking and cycling.
- Well-maintained, accessible footpaths are essential for those using mobility aids, ensuring safe and comfortable walking and running experiences. Adequate lighting will also extend the hours available for physical activity.
- High-quality amenities and infrastructure in open spaces and parklands support residents in staying active, enjoying nature, and making the most of green spaces.
- Proper upkeep of sports and leisure facilities is crucial. Concerns about disrepair, limited access, and lack of maintenance highlight the need for improvements to ovals, swimming pools, and tennis courts and other sports infrastructure.



Theme 5: Strengthening sports clubs through training, support and governance

- Supporting clubs and community groups with the knowledge, skills, and resources they need will help them thrive while ensuring they remain welcoming, accessible, and inclusive.
- Community clubs are facing increasing governance requirements and operational complexities, often with fewer volunteers, highlighting the need for greater training and support.
- Leading by example and showcasing local clubs that demonstrate best practices will foster shared learning, inspire others, and promote continuous improvement across the sector.

“Provide training and incentives to clubs. It is about culture change - and this takes time, education and a sustained effort!”

Active Banyule Survey Respondent



Theme 6: Enhancing promotion and awareness of physical activity opportunities

- A lack of information is one of the top barriers to participation in physical activity for both men and women, with many residents wanting better awareness of local opportunities.
- While Banyule offers a wide range of activities, the gap lies in communication. There is a need for targeted marketing campaigns using social media, community newsletters, and local events to highlight available programs, success stories, and the benefits of participation, inspiring more people to get involved.

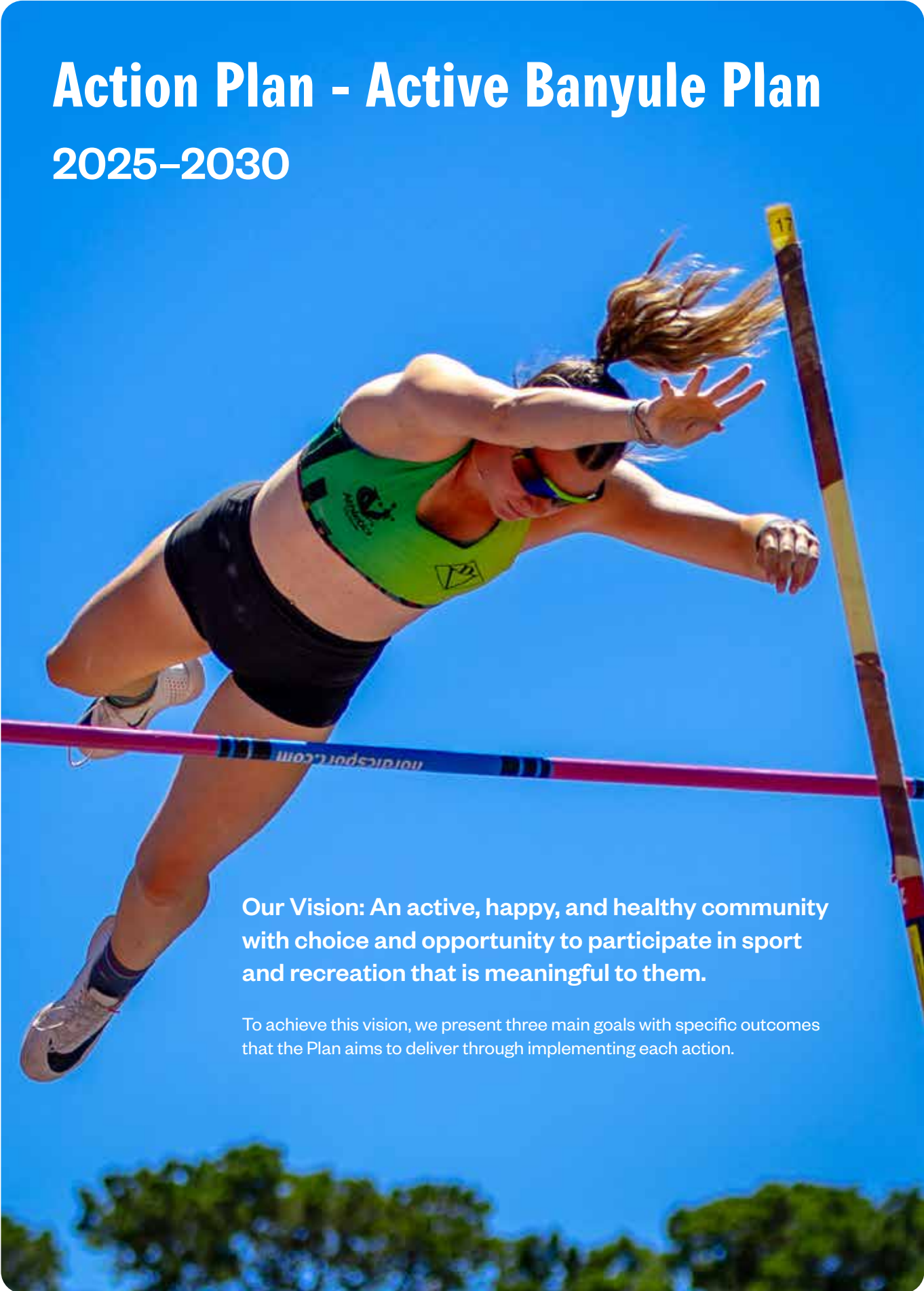
“Maybe a community directory accessing activities that are less strenuous than the team or competitive sports”

Active Banyule Survey Respondent

“More information flyers on activities, programs etc instead of online focus of communication.”

Active Banyule Survey Respondent

Action Plan - Active Banyule Plan 2025–2030



Our Vision: An active, happy, and healthy community with choice and opportunity to participate in sport and recreation that is meaningful to them.

To achieve this vision, we present three main goals with specific outcomes that the Plan aims to deliver through implementing each action.

Goal 1: Inclusive Participation

Everyone in our community has equitable access to diverse physical activity opportunities, ensuring increased participation across all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

Outcome	Actions	Timeframe	Responsible department
1.1 Policies and programs that actively promote and uphold our commitment to accessible, fair, and inclusive sport and recreation.	Implement Fair Access in Sport Policy Action Plan 2024-2028 to ensure equitable sports participation for women, girls and gender diverse people.	Ongoing	Healthy & Active Communities
	Review Sporting Facility User Guide and Allocation Policy. Focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to strengthen inclusion focus • Review of signage requirements and permissions at sports ovals • Fees and charges for seasonal allocations • Shared and joint community use • Review of assessment criteria, allocation criteria and incentives 	Short Term 1-2 years	Healthy & Active Communities
	Continue to partner with Disability Sports Australia to implement targeted programs specifically for people living with a disability to experience a range of sports and recreation activities such as the Abilities Unleashed Program.	Ongoing	Healthy & Active Communities
	Partner with our Leisure Centers to develop programs which increase physical activity participation for CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) communities such as women's only slide nights.	Ongoing	Healthy & Active Communities Olympic Leisure Centre Ivanhoe Leisure Centre NETS Stadium WaterMarc Banyule

Outcome	Actions	Timeframe	Responsible department
<p>1.2 Sports clubs, leisure centres, and community partners have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to deliver inclusive programs in welcoming and supportive environments.</p>	<p>Support and encourage clubs to access and utilise the variety of tools, training and resources that can assist clubs to be inclusive and welcoming. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainbow Ready Program - educating and guiding sports clubs to understand, embrace, and celebrate the diversity within the LGBTIQ+ community. • Sport for All - educating and guiding clubs with the support and skills to include people with disability when, where, and how they choose. • Sport Integrity Australia – tools and campaigns to take action against racism and help clubs develop anti-racism skillset. 	Short Term 1-2 years	<p>Healthy & Active Communities</p> <p>Community Impact</p>
	<p>Ensure our annual sports club forums seek to educate, celebrate and highlight inclusion in sport approaches and best practice.</p> <p>Conduct an annual review of the Banyule Sports Forum to ensure the content and information is relevant, engaging, and tailored to club needs.</p>	Ongoing	Healthy & Active Communities
	<p>Partner with Barrbunin Beek to develop regular physical activity programming and identify other opportunities for increased First Nations participation and engagement in physical activity.</p>	Short Term 1-2 years	<p>Healthy & Active Communities</p> <p>Barrbunin Beek</p>
<p>1.3 Participation is not limited by financial barriers, with targeted support and affordable pricing options ensuring inclusivity and equitable access for all.</p>	<p>Conduct a review of Sports Travel Subsidy and Equipment Grants to identify any gaps and ensure they are effectively supporting those with the greatest need.</p>	Medium Term 2-3 years	Healthy & Active Communities
	<p>Conduct a comprehensive review of fees, charges, and membership structures across all Council-owned leisure centres to ensure fair, equitable, and accessible pricing. This includes Ivanhoe Leisure Centre, Olympic Leisure Centre, and NETS Stadium Macleod.</p> <p>Explore the development of fee relief options for individuals experiencing financial hardship, ensuring these options are clearly communicated and promoted to maximise community awareness and uptake.</p>	Medium Term 2-3 years	<p>Healthy & Active Communities</p> <p>Banyule Leisure</p> <p>Corporate Services</p>
	<p>Conduct a review of Council-run leisure programs and events including Active April and This Girl Can to ensure they include a wide range of community members and enable disadvantaged groups to participate in free and low-cost leisure programs.</p>	Short Term 1-2 years	Healthy & Active Communities

Outcome	Actions	Timeframe	Responsible department
1.4 Our community is well-informed about the wide range of physical activity opportunities available locally.	Conduct a review of the Banyule Club Chat (sports newsletter) to ensure its content and information is relevant, engaging, and tailored to club needs.	Short Term 1-2 years	Healthy & Active Communities
	Develop and implement a communications and marketing campaign to inform residents about the wide range of free and low-cost physical activities available in Banyule.	Medium Term 2-3 years	Communications
1.5 The Banyule community has easy access to informal and unstructured sports and physical activity opportunities, which are widely embraced and enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.	Assess the feasibility of piloting a sports skills program in Council-run childcare centres to enhance physical literacy in young children and create pathways to community sport.	Long Term 4-5 years	Healthy & Active Communities Early Childhood
	Identify and assess emerging recreational activities by exploring trends and participation data to better understand their growing popularity and local demand.	Short Term 1-2 years	Healthy & Active Communities Community Infrastructure
	Explore options to deliver and facilitate informal play and recreational activities that maximise the natural outdoor environment and open space. Includes linking into National Parks Week and Nature Play Program.	Short Term 1-2 years	Parks & Open Spaces
	<p>Increase physical activity opportunities for older adults through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase promotion of the local, low-cost activities available specifically for older adults, such as classes at leisure centres, neighbourhood houses and senior's groups in Banyule. • Elevate the annual Banyule Seniors Festival Celebration to include the Older Adults Walk-a-thon event, to promote exercise awareness for older adults and promote local groups and clubs who deliver physical activities for older adults. 	Short Term 1-2 years	Age-Friendly Healthy & Active Communities
	Collaborate with Youth Services Team to identify programming and partnership opportunities that increase physical activity levels and improve mental and physical wellbeing of young people.	Medium Term 2-3 years	Healthy & Active Communities Youth Services
	Explore opportunities for pickleball participation in Banyule. This includes investigating sports facilities and dedicated pickleball courts.	Medium Term 2-3 years.	Healthy & Active Communities Age-Friendly

Goal 2: Places and Spaces

Accessible, multi-purpose facilities and open spaces to support a range of passive and active sport and recreation.

Outcome	Actions	Timeframe	Responsible department
2.1 Develop and implement a fair, strategic approach to facility and open space planning that aligns with community needs, participation trends, and future growth.	Review Banyule Tennis Strategy (2017-2026) to identify current and future needs of tennis in Banyule.	Short Term 1-2 years	Healthy & Active Communities
	Develop a Bowling Club strategy to identify current and future needs of Bowls Clubs in Banyule.	Medium Term 2-3 years	Healthy & Active Communities
	Implementation of adopted Masterplans to support planned and strategic approaches. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of Olympic Park Masterplan • Ivanhoe Sports Precinct Plan • Youth Space Plan 	Long Term 4-5 Years	Healthy & Active Communities Open Space Youth Services
	Conduct a review of the Aquatics Strategy (2026) to guide the future direction and decision-making around Banyule's four community owned aquatic facilities.	Short Term 1-2 years	Banyule Leisure
	Collect club participation data from clubs, associations and leagues and report to Council to help inform decision making and planning.	Every 2 years	Healthy & Active Communities



Outcome	Actions	Timeframe	Responsible department
2.2. Facilities and spaces support flexible and innovative uses and programming.	Increase community use of existing sports and community facilities by developing shared-use models, and by upgrading and repurposing infrastructure to support a broad range of activities and meet diverse community needs.	Medium Term 2-3 years	Healthy & Active Communities
2.3. Banyule consistently delivers and invests in welcoming, accessible, multi-use facilities that accommodate a wide variety of sports and recreational activities for all community members.	Review and update the Sporting Facilities Capital Works Policy to provide a clear, strategic framework for developing and upgrading facilities, ensuring alignment with community needs and long-term sustainability.	Medium Term 2-3 years	Healthy & Active Communities
	Continue to implement and develop pipeline priority of sporting capital works based on assessment of condition, current and future use and broader community need.	Annually	Healthy & Active Communities
	Undertake regular access audits of sports and recreation facilities to identify priorities for upgrades that address barriers and support inclusive use.	Every 2 years	Capital Works Community Impact
	Review Public Land Management consent process and criteria for sporting clubs to reduce 'red tape' and ensure best practice approaches to asset enhancements on public land.	Medium Term 2-3 years	Healthy & Active Communities Property and Strategic Planning
2.4 Walking and bike riding are strongly supported throughout Banyule with investment in high-quality infrastructure, enhancing the safety and accessibility of active transport options.	<p>Implementation of the Banyule Walking Strategy and the Banyule Bicycle Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2027 addressing key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major projects & advocacy • Network connectivity • Safe and inclusive design • Walking and cycling for all <p>This includes the delivery of Council's Local Bicycle Network routes; continuing advocacy to the State government for inclusion of safe, off-road bicycle and walking connections as part of all major projects and the delivery of bike parking at all Council facilities including playgrounds, sporting grounds and pavilions.</p>	Medium Term 2-3 years	Transport Planning & Projects

Outcome	Actions	Timeframe	Responsible department
<p>2.5 Community participation is enhanced by opportunities to build skills and confidence by increased awareness of local walking and bike riding routes, groups and events.</p>	<p>Develop a consistent and integrated approach to wayfinding and signage to support the community to travel safely and confidently within the municipality and further afield particularly by active modes.</p> <p>Develop and support initiatives and programs that provide opportunities for the community to develop skills, confidence and connection through walking and bike riding. This includes Ride2Work Day and active travel to school programs.</p>	<p>Short Term 1-2 years</p>	<p>Transport Planning & Projects</p>
<p>2.6 Banyule's parks, playgrounds, and green spaces are well-maintained, accessible, and welcoming, providing opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy being active outdoors.</p>	<p>Investigate opportunities to incorporate outdoor exercise equipment and physical activity experiences into existing parks, playgrounds and streetscape upgrades.</p>	<p>Medium Term 2-3 years</p>	<p>Parks & Open Spaces Economic Development</p>
	<p>Develop and implement communication strategies for sports fields to clarify usage times and access for activities like walking, dog walking and seasonal sport usage.</p>	<p>Medium Term 2-3 years</p>	<p>Healthy & Active Communities</p>
	<p>Increase promotion and awareness of dog-walking parks and areas in Banyule to better inform dog-walkers of suitable local locations.</p>	<p>Short term 1-2 years</p>	<p>Communications Local Laws</p>
	<p>Investigate the feasibility of running a community event which focuses on celebrating pets and the role they play in our health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Medium Term 2-3 years</p>	<p>Healthy & Active Communities Arts & Culture</p>
	<p>Review sports field maintenance and upgrade program, including drainage and irrigation.</p>	<p>Short Term 1-2 years</p>	<p>Healthy & Active Communities Sports field and Park Assets</p>



Goal 3: Partnerships and Capability

Well-governed clubs and organisations with strong leadership, robust systems, and connected networks for effective delivery of activities, ability to adapt to challenges, and meet community needs.

Outcome	Actions	Timeframe	Responsible department
3.1 Sustainable sports clubs have the systems, processes, and knowledge to succeed in financial management, operations, and participation, ensuring long-term growth and success.	Develop a good Governance program that includes: Assessment of current practices, checklists, tools, training, and support to empower clubs in meeting their obligations and responsibilities.	Medium Term 2-3 years	Healthy & Active Communities Governance Property
3.2 Increased participation and engagement in sports clubs, reflecting a thriving, active community.	Support inclusive, community-focused sport club initiatives through accessible facilities, funding support, promotion, and targeted programs for underrepresented groups, while celebrating success to foster pride and engagement.	Ongoing	Healthy & Active Communities Capital Works
3.3 Strong collaborative partnerships between the sporting community and Council, promoting mutual understanding of needs, challenges, and opportunities.	Conduct a yearly sports club survey to understand – challenges, opportunities, support needed from Council to enable effective club operation and optimum participation opportunities.	Short Term 1-2 years	Healthy & Active Communities
	Produce an Annual State of Sport Report to Council highlighting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation data • Programs and initiatives • Completed projects • Awards and recognition 	Short Term 1-2 years	Healthy & Active Communities
	Conduct events and networking opportunities that promote sharing of information and knowledge between sports clubs and Council. Includes Annual Women in Sport Night and Sports Forum.	Annually	Healthy & Active Communities
	Review how Banyule Council currently acknowledges and celebrates sports club volunteers and explore opportunities to enhance recognition and support.	Annually	Healthy & Active Communities

Outcome	Actions	Timeframe	Responsible department
3.4 Effective partnerships with state and federal governments that drive strategic planning and secure funding for sports infrastructure and activity programming.	Undertake an annual review of the sports capital works pipeline program and meet annually with the Victorian Government Department of Sport and Recreation to identify funding priorities and advocate for grant opportunities.	Annually	Capital Works Healthy & Active Communities
	Engage annually with leagues and associations to align with their strategic priorities, identify opportunities for clubs and organisations, and communicate relevant opportunities back to local clubs.	Ongoing	Healthy & Active Communities
3.5 Our neighborhoods offer diverse opportunities for social connection through participation in local physical activities fostering a sense of community and belonging	Explore opportunities for precinct-based networking and programs that connect sports clubs, schools, leisure centres, and community groups to strengthen collaboration and local engagement.	Medium Term 2-3 years	Healthy & Active Communities Community Partnerships
	Collaborate with Scouts clubs and Neighbourhood houses to support precinct-based activities, and promote these activities to the wider Banyule community	Short Term every 1-2 years	Healthy & Active Communities Community Partnerships
	Explore joint infrastructure investment opportunities where a clear business case, community benefits, and measurable returns to Council can be demonstrated.	Annually	Healthy & Active Communities Banyule Leisure
	Regularly communicate with schools on their sports Infrastructure projects to help identify Council advocacy priorities.	Annually	Healthy & Active Communities
	Support partnerships with local health and community service providers where shared wellbeing outcomes can be achieved. Includes local partners like Austin Health and Banyule Community Health, and State bodies like Vic Health and Vic Sport.	Annually	Community Partnerships

How we will measure and report success

Measuring the success of the Active Banyule Plan is essential to ensuring we achieve our vision of a healthier, more active community. Our approach to evaluation will be data-driven, inclusive, and aligned with our objectives. We will track participation rates, community engagement levels, infrastructure usage, and program outcomes to assess impact. Success will also be measured through stakeholder feedback, partnerships, and alignment with broader health and wellbeing indicators.

By continuously monitoring progress and adapting our strategies, we will ensure that the Plan remains responsive to community needs and delivers meaningful, lasting benefits.

To measure the success of the Plan and ensure we are achieving our goals, a progress report will be produced every 12 months to state which actions have been achieved, which are in progress and which not started. This report will be updated annually and made available for public viewing. This ensures we are tracking our progress and staying accountable for each action.

If needed, new priorities can be set based on data, feedback, and community needs to ensure the Plan stays relevant and effective. This approach keeps the Action Plan flexible and responsive to change.

Further to this, we will measure success through the following:

- Update our seasonal allocation forms to capture an increase in participation data for underrepresented groups, such as: First Nations, LGBTIQ+, Disability, Women and CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse).
- Collect data annually to track participation and engagement from sports clubs in forums and networks.
- Measure an increase in awareness of the physical activity opportunities in Banyule through surveying our groups, leisure centres and clubs for an increase in participation levels.
- Measure an increase in compliance with governance requirements by clubs and their obligations to Council in accessing facilities.
- Provide evidence of securing external grants to support infrastructure and programming.
- Report on the number of sports capital works projects delivered.
- Measure attendance numbers at come and try and programmed activities.
- Measure the number of people accessing financial support through grants, and subsidies.



Definitions

Term	Definition
Active Living	<p>Active living is a way of life that integrates physical activity into daily routines at work, school and home.</p> <p>Examples - Dog walking, gardening, walking to work.</p>
Active Recreation	<p>Active recreation can be defined as 'leisure time physical activity undertaken outside of structured, competition sport' (13).</p> <p>It provides participants with a wide range of benefits related to physical health, mental health and social interaction. While all activity types can provide these benefits, active recreation plays an important role because it allows people to participate in a way of their choosing at a time that suits them.</p> <p>This flexibility can help to overcome barriers to participation that exist for more structured activity types.</p> <p>The importance of active recreation is underscored by research that has shown that active recreation makes up at least 80% of all physical activity undertaken for all age groups, and up to 85% of physical activity undertaken for some female cohorts (14).</p> <p>Examples -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming • Going to Gym • Dancing
Sport	<p>A game, competition or activity requiring physical effort and skill with elements of competition or rules.</p>
Physical Activity	<p>Physical activity is any activity that involves moving your body. It includes everyday activities, physically active play, and organised sports and exercise.</p>

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How to contact your Council

For all enquiries or information about any Council services:

Telephone: **9490 4222**

Email: enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au

Website: banyule.vic.gov.au

Fax: **9499 9475**

If your hearing or speech is impaired, you can call us through the National Relay Service on **133 677** (TTY) or **1300 555 727** (ordinary handset) and ask for 9490 4222.

Postal Address:

PO Box 94, Greensborough 3088

Council Service Centres:

Greensborough: Level 3, 1 Flintoff Street

Ivanhoe: 275 Upper Heidelberg Road

Office Hours of Opening:

Greensborough: Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5pm

Ivanhoe: Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

Interpreter service:

If you need an interpreter, please contact TIS National on 131 450 and ask to be connected to Banyule Council on 9490 4222.

إذا كنتم بحاجة إلى مترجم، الرجاء الاتصال بالخط القومي لخدمة الترجمة الهاتفية TIS على الرقم 131 450. واطلبوا إيصالكم ببلدية بانيول على الرقم 9490 4222.

若你需要口譯員，請致電131 450聯絡TIS National，要求他們為你致電9490 4222接通Banyule市政廳。

Ako vam je potreban tumač, molimo vas, nazovite TIS National na broj 131 450 i zatražite da vas se spoji sa Vijećem općine Banyule na broj 9490 4222.

Αν χρειάζεστε διερμηνέα τηλεφωνήστε στην Εθνική Υπηρεσία Διερμηνέων Μεταφραστών στον αριθμό 131 450 και ζητήστε να σας συνδέσουν με τη Δημαρχία Banyule στο 9490 4222.

Se hai bisogno di un interprete chiama TIS National al numero 131 450 e chiedi di essere messo in comunicazione con il Comune di Banyule al numero 9490 4222.

Ако ви треба преведувач ве молиме јавете се на TIS National на 131 450 и замовете да ве поврзат со Banyule Council на 9490 4222.

如果你需要一名翻译，请打电话到国家电话翻译服务处 (TIS National) 131 450，再转接到Banyule市政府9490 4222

Haddii aad u baahan tahay mutarjum wac khadka qaranka oo ah TIS 131 450 weydiina in lagugu xiro Degmada Banyule tel: 9490 4222.

Nếu cần thông dịch, xin gọi cho TIS Toàn Quốc qua số 131 450 rồi nhờ họ gọi cho Hội Đồng Thành Phố Banyule theo số 9490 4222 giúp quý vị.

