

Faith communities

Our Diverse Communities

Banyule residents represent more than 40 different faith groups, including:

- Christianity 44.5% (Greater Melb. 40.1%)
- Islam 2.4% (Greater Melb. 5.3%)
- Buddhism 1.9% (Greater Melb. 3.9%)
- Hinduism 1.8% (Greater Melb. 4.1%)

30% of First Nations people in Banyule identify as Christian.

In 2023, 69.5% of Banyule residents believed multiculturalism makes life better in their neighbourhood.

Faith communities often have well established support networks and community leaders often play a crucial role in sharing information about community health and wellbeing.



In 2020-21, 18% of the 'religious belief' or 'activity' discrimination complaints received by the Victorian Equal Opportunities Commission were related to employment.

LGBTIQA+ people



Our Diverse Communities

- In 2023, 11.5% of Banyule residents identified as LGBTIQA+
- Banyule residents rate the community 8 out of 10 for being inclusive of LGBTIQA+ people.

- 58% of LGBTIQA+ people in Victoria report unfair treatment based on sexual orientation
- 77.7% of trans and gender diverse Victorians report unfair treatment based on gender identity.
- 33% of LGBTIQA+ Victorians from multicultural backgrounds report unfair treatment based on cultural identity of heritage.

80% of LGBTIQA+ Victorians report having witnessed or experienced homophobia on the sports field.

- 36.4% report recent experiences of social exclusion.
- 32.7% report verbal abuse.
- 22.6% report harassment such as offensive gestures.



24% of young Victorian LGBTIQA+ people have experienced homelessness.

24% of LGBTIQA+ adults experience high or very high levels of psychological distress, compared with 14.5% of cisgender heterosexual adults.



Low income households

Our Diverse Communities

In 2021, there were 13,144 residents living in 6,998 low income households (less than \$800 per week), with the largest group being 70 to 74 year olds.

Increasing numbers of people aged 65+ are living in low income households.

There are low income households across every suburb in Banyule with higher concentrations in the West and North West precincts.

Across Banyule:

- 7.6% of households experience mortgage stress.
- 22.7% experience rental stress.



Housing insecurity and housing affordability have greater impacts on low income households. For example, moving out of a community to meet housing needs impacts a household's social and service system connections and overall health and wellbeing.



- 2.4% of Banyule residents experience food insecurity.
- Banyule relief agencies report a significant and ongoing increase in requests for food parcels and emergency relief presentations.

Multicultural communities

Our Diverse Communities

- 24% of Banyule residents are born overseas.
- 22% use a language other than English at home.
- 3% or 3,595 Banyule residents experience difficulty speaking English.



The top five non-English languages spoken at home in Banyule are:

- Mandarin
- Italian
- Greek
- Cantonese
- Arabic

- Banyule's Chinese, Indian, Malaysian and Sri Lankan communities are increasing.
- Banyule has the 3rd largest Somali community in Victoria.

Residents who speak a language other than English are more likely to have a Bachelor or higher degree, and experience higher rates of unemployment.

- 8 out of 10 people believe our community is welcoming and inclusive for people of diverse cultural backgrounds.
- Only 6% of Banyule residents ages 18+ years think multiculturalism does not make life better in their area.



6.4% of Banyule residents aged 18+ years, experienced racism in the last 12 months.

The main barriers to accessing supports in Banyule include low awareness and understanding of available services, complex systems, language barriers and cultural relevance or competence.

People with disability

Our Diverse Communities

- In 2023, 16.5% reported having a disability.
- That's around 22,000 Banyule residents.

In Banyule, 6% of people with disability need for assistance with their daily living tasks.



Working aged people with disability are more likely to be unemployed (10%) compared to those without a disability (4%).

Generally, households that include a person with disability have lower incomes.

- Banyule residents rate the community 8 out of 10 for being inclusive of people with disabilities.
- 71% of people with disability participate in social activities.
- 19% of people with disability experience social isolation.



- 36% of people with disabilities do not feel satisfied with their local community.
- 15% of Banyule residents with disability experience discrimination, abuse or social exclusion.

Refugees and people seeking asylum

Our Diverse Communities

Since 2000, Banyule has welcomed more than 600 people from 77 different ethnicities through the Humanitarian Visa program.



One in six migrants reported discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, or skin colour in the previous year.

1 in 5 refugees/asylum seekers face discrimination after arrival in Australia. This has significant impact on health and mental wellbeing.

Approximately 4,000 – 6,000 refugees settle in Victoria each year. An estimated 11,000 – 20,000 people seeking asylum live in the Victorian community on bridging visas, whilst awaiting determination of their refugee status.

Asylum seekers are among the most disadvantaged people living in Victoria, with limited Commonwealth Government support. Access to a Medicare card depends on visa type and visa conditions.



On average, 9 in 10 asylum seekers who arrive in Australia by boat are found to be refugees and granted protection visas.