

Our Great City

Greater Dandenong City Council provides over 100 services to improve the quality of life of all residents. The Community Vision and Council's strategic objectives are outlined in the Council Plan 2021–25 and the Annual Budget. The delivery of services is measured by a set of service performance indicators and measures.

These services include:

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES	HEALTH AND WELLBEING	YOUR HOME	SPORT AND LEISURE	ROADS AND SAFETY	COMMUNITY
Youth services 	Disability services 	Planning permits 	Sportsgrounds 	Roads and footpaths 	Libraries 
Kindergartens 	Home maintenance 	Building permits 	Swimming pools 	Car parks 	Volunteering 
Maternal and child health 	Home and community care 	Pet registrations 	Leisure centres 	Street lighting 	Theatre and the arts 
Playgroups 	Meals on wheels 	Rubbish and recycling 	Parks and gardens 	School crossing supervision 	Grants 
Immunisation 	Food safety 	Graffiti removal 	Festivals and events 	Emergency management 	Community centres 



Our Community Profile

Housing



2,366 residents are homeless
(15 per 1,000 residents)



House prices rose by **33%**
in the decade to 2024



Median house price in 2021 was
10.3 times the average
household income

(Source: Census ABS 2021)

Languages spoken



69% of residents (compared
to 29.1% in Victoria) speak
languages other than English
including Vietnamese, Khmer,
Mandarin, Cantonese, Greek,
Punjabi, Sinhalese, Arabic and
Dari



14.2% have limited fluency in
spoken English

(Source: Census ABS 2021)

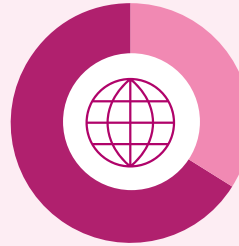
Disability



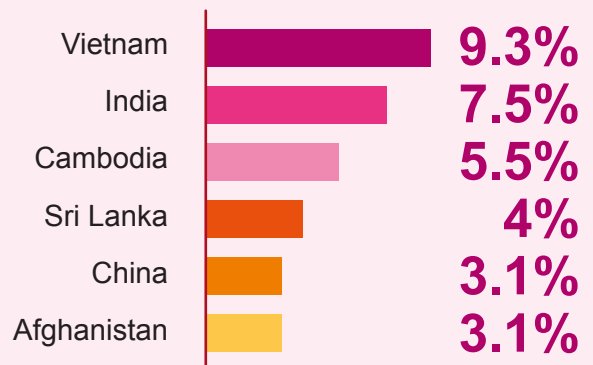
7.7% of people are living with
a disability

(Source: Census ABS 2021)

Country of birth



The proportion of residents
born overseas is **61.4%**
compared to **31.6%**
in Victoria



(Source: Census ABS 2021)

Employment



The City of Greater Dandenong
supports **114,506** jobs



The unemployment rate is **6.4%**
compared to 4% in Victoria

(Source: Remplan)

Population

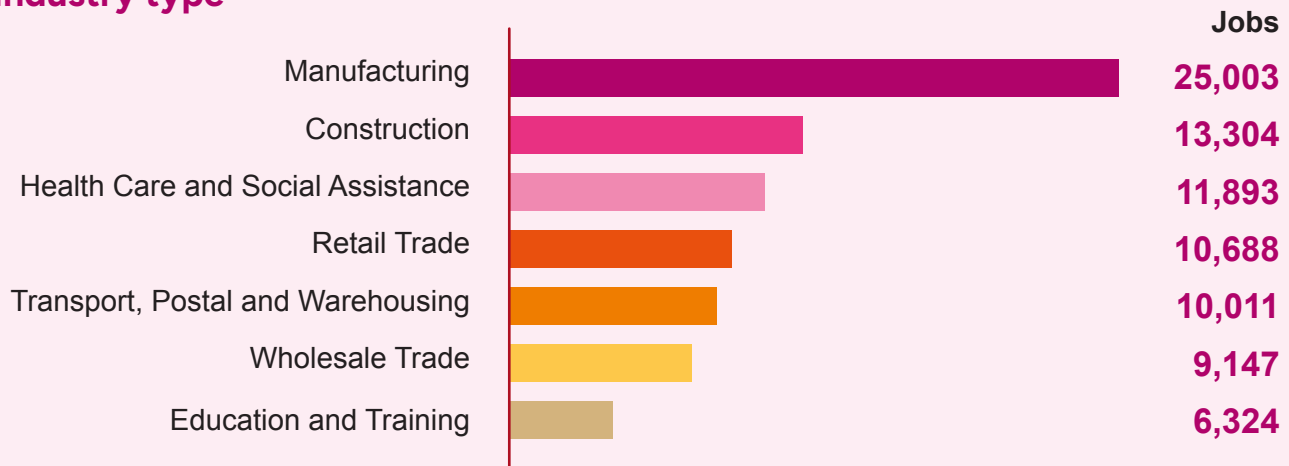


167,000 residents
(Source: ABS 2023)

615 residents are of Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander heritage

(Source: Census ABS 2021)

Industry type



(Source: Remplan)

Education



44.2% of residents 15+ hold a higher education qualification

8.1% of residents aged 20–24 left school before completing Year 11



13.2% of residents aged 20–24 are not in paid work or education

(Source: Census ABS 2021)

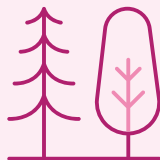
Infrastructure



35 sports reserves

5 leisure facilities

235 parks and land reserves totalling 555 hectares of open space



61 bushland areas



1,151km of footpaths

Health and wellbeing



17% of residents rate their health as fair or poor, slightly less than the metropolitan level of 20%



17% are obese



20% of adults did not do any moderate or vigorous physical activity in the previous week



11.8% of residents had run out of food, and not been able to afford more, at some time in the previous 12 months in comparison to the metropolitan average of 7.5%



33% of residents indicated that they were lonely, more than the metropolitan result of 23.5%

(Source: 2023 Population Health Survey)

Council's spending in 2024–25



\$60.61 million

Capital works



\$34.76 million

Buildings, roads, drains
and traffic management



\$27.80 million

Waste and cleansing



\$25.88 million

Community facilities,
parks, sport and recreation



\$22.45 million

Planning, building and
regulatory services



\$19.06 million

Family, children and youth



\$15.95 million

Library, arts and
cultural services



\$13.95 million

Health, aged and
community services



Community Vision

In 2021 the City of Greater Dandenong created a new community vision which expressed their aspirations and hopes for the future of the municipality. This vision was developed through extensive broad consultation including workshops, surveys, pop up installations and online activities.

As required by the *Local Government Act 2020*, a deliberative engagement process was then undertaken, and the Greater Dandenong People's Panel was formed. This panel of 31 residents and business owners, representative of the community's diversity, were asked to consider the outcomes of the broad community consultation phase and background information provided by Council, to develop a new vision and principles. They spent three and a half days deliberating and reviewed all of the community engagement outcomes, heard from guest speakers from local businesses and community groups, and discussed current and future challenges for our city.

The final vision created by the panel reflects the aspirations of the community and the principles outline what Council should focus on to help achieve this.

Our community's vision for 2040 is:

The City of Greater Dandenong is a home to all. It's a city where you can enjoy and embrace life through celebration and equal opportunity.

We harmonise the community by valuing multiculturalism and the individual. Our community is healthy, vibrant, innovative and creative.

Our growing city is committed to environmental sustainability. Welcome to our exciting and peaceful community.

To complement the vision and further define what the community would like to see Greater Dandenong be in 2040, six principles were developed. These principles are:

1. Safe and peaceful community
2. Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities
3. Sustainable environment
4. Embrace diversity and multiculturalism
5. Mind, body and spirit
6. Art and culture

This vision and its accompanying principles influence Council's key strategic direction and the priorities that are set for each financial year. The results of this project informed the planning stages of the Council Plan 2021–25, Annual Plan and other key strategic documents across Council.

In 2024 the vision was reviewed by the Community Panel formed to develop the new Council Plan 2025–29. The community feedback received during the extensive Council Plan consultation activities reflected the intent of the vision and its principles as created in 2021 and the panel agreed this was still reflective of the hopes and aspirations of our community.



Strategic Objectives

Council's strategic objectives form the Council Plan 2021–25 and reflect the hopes and aspirations of the community as expressed in the community vision and accompanying principles:

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city
- A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts
- A city of accessible, vibrant centres and neighbourhoods
- A green city committed to a sustainable future
- A city that supports entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes
- A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.



Year in Review

Message from our Mayor and CEO

2024–25 has been a year of meaningful progress and proud achievements for Greater Dandenong City Council. Together, we've advanced key projects, strengthened our commitment to delivering high-quality services, and laid a strong foundation for the future of our city.

Our newly elected Council, with eight returning Councillors and three new representatives, endorsed a new Council Plan, setting our priorities and directions for this Council term. The new plan is the result of thousands of pieces of community feedback and has a strong focus on community outcomes and impacts. Together we will continue to build on the accomplishments of this year.

We achieved a surplus operating result of \$30.9 million, reflecting responsible financial management and a commitment to delivering value for our community. We invested \$60 million in infrastructure, including new community facilities, recreation spaces, roads and footpaths.

Big achievements in 2024–25 included:

- Over 69,000 people engaged through festivals and events, more than 820,000 visitors welcomed to our libraries, and an impressive 82% reduction in Council emissions.
- Starting construction of the new Dandenong Wellbeing Centre – our largest infrastructure project to date. Replacing Dandenong Oasis, this once-in-a-generation investment will be a cornerstone of community health and wellbeing.
- 99% completion of the Keysborough Community Hub which will be open to the public in September.
- 75 transport infrastructure projects were delivered and/or advocated for.
- \$1.7 million in State Government funding announced for path works following the completion of the Progress Street Level Crossing Removal. This funding will be received in 2025-26.



A major source of pride has been our community satisfaction score, which rose to 7.5 out of 10. This was the highest result across metropolitan Melbourne in 2025, and the equal-highest result ever recorded by our survey company.

Satisfaction with most areas of Council performance was notably higher than the metropolitan average, including overall satisfaction with the customer service experience (6% higher in Greater Dandenong), planning and development (5% higher), overall performance (4% higher), governance and leadership (4% higher), and services and facilities (3% higher).

These results reflect a very strong level of community satisfaction with the performance of the Greater Dandenong City Council. In addition to assessing our performance across a range of areas, this survey provides insights into ways to improve service delivery.

This year we also saw significant funding commitments from the Federal Government on a range of projects, including:

- \$1.6m for CCTV upgrades in Noble Park and Dandenong
- \$1.5m Federal Government announcement for the establishment of a Dandenong Employment Hub
- \$1.44m on upgrades to parks and sporting facilities
- \$900,000 Federal Government announcement for Ross Reserve upgrades including female-inclusive change rooms and amenities
- \$400,000 Federal Government announcement for sports field lighting at Fotheringham Reserve.

These funding commitments are a result of strong and strategic advocacy work and we look forward to seeing these projects come to fruition.

Our city was honoured with a number of awards this year, including:

- The HOME24 exhibition, celebrating themes of migration, belonging, and creativity, won the 2024 Victorian Multicultural Award for Excellence in the Arts and was shortlisted for the Public Galleries Association of Victoria Awards.
- Springvale Snow Fest received an Honourable Mention in the 2025 National Local Government Awards, continuing to attract tens of thousands of visitors annually.
- The EventConnect Project, which streamlined event application processes, won the LGPRO 2025 Customer Experience Award.
- South East Leisure, our leisure facility operator, earned three major accolades at the 2025 Aquatic and Recreation Victoria Awards.

These achievements reflect the hard work and dedication of our Councillors and staff, who continue to work tirelessly for our community.

Our achievements this year show what's possible when we work together with purpose and passion. Together, we are making Greater Dandenong a place we're proud to call home.



Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti



CEO, Jacqui Weatherill

Message from our Junior Mayor

Hello City of Greater Dandenong. I am Aaya, a 12 year old student from a local school in Keysborough and your Junior Mayor of 2025 and it's an absolute pleasure to introduce myself to you all.



What do you love about the City of Greater Dandenong?

I love this city because of its diversity, creativity, and care for children. We celebrate festivals like Diwali and Ramadan, which highlight the richness of our multicultural community and provide valuable opportunities for everyone to learn about different cultures and religions. The City of Greater Dandenong is the most diverse city in all of Victoria. I also love how much creativity and care is shown towards children. There are many activities designed for us, especially during school holidays, such as ice skating, volleyball tournaments and family-friendly events like the Keysie Big Picnic and the Little Day Out.

Why I wanted to be Junior Mayor

When I first heard about the Junior Mayor election at our Junior Civic Leaders Club, I was really excited! I saw it as an amazing opportunity to help kids, not just at my school, but all across Greater Dandenong. Later that week, I wrote a 100-word statement about encouraging kids to spend less time on devices and more time playing outside and being social. Our principal selected two of the four school captains to move forward, and I was one of them! I worked hard on my speech, and when I presented it, I was thrilled to be voted Junior Mayor. I couldn't wait to start making a difference in the City of Greater Dandenong.

What does it mean to you that Greater Dandenong is a child friendly city?

The City of Greater Dandenong is a child-friendly city because it provides a wide range of festivals, school holiday programs, and outdoor facilities. The idea of having a Junior Mayor and allowing them to contribute to the Council's decision-making shows just how much Greater Dandenong values us kids. This year, we had the Keysie Big Picnic, which was a fantastic experience for children and their families. It featured concerts, food trucks, and fun activities for everyone. Every school holiday, our community hosts programs for kids, including coding workshops, volleyball tournaments, and arts and crafts activities for young people.

How would you like to make a difference in the City of Greater Dandenong?

As Junior Mayor, I want to encourage kids to get out and about again, off their devices and outside, exploring the outdoors with their friends. In my speech, I talked about the need for free facilities that help kids get active and play outside. When my parents were young, they didn't come home to tablets and phones, they came home, knocked on their neighbour's doors, and asked them to come play outside. They'd spend the whole afternoon outside together until it got dark. Kids in our community need that same kind of freedom and fun. That's why I'm here, to help make that change.

