



# A healthy, inclusive and connected community

## Our community's aspiration

Everyone in Maroondah feels valued, welcome and respected, and has opportunities to thrive regardless of their background, identity, or circumstances. Community members experiencing vulnerability, marginalisation, or disadvantage have access to the support they need. Opportunities for social connection and to enhance health and wellbeing are encouraged.



## Our community said

Our community values the sense of community they feel in Maroondah, describing it as friendly, welcoming, inclusive and family-oriented. Having local friends and neighbours contributes to their sense of belonging.

People also value the growing diversity in Maroondah, as well as the variety of activities, services, programs and events on offer, particularly those for families, young people and seniors.

When thinking about their aspirations for the future of Maroondah, our community used words such as connected, inclusive, accessible, affordable, healthy, friendly, welcoming, caring, supportive, diverse, and respectful.

In working towards their aspirations for the future, our community would like to see a high priority placed on community support, particularly for residents experiencing vulnerability, marginalisation or disadvantage, people with a disability (and their carers), First Peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, families, young people, and seniors.

Our community would also like to see a focus on creating inclusive, welcoming and accessible places and spaces. They would like opportunities for people to come together to socially connect to build a stronger sense of community and belonging, as well as continuing to be embracing of diversity, and promoting health and wellbeing.

The Maroondah Community Panel identified opportunities for community and social connection, and enhancing health and wellbeing, as key priorities for the future. They believe that by creating inclusive, welcoming and accessible opportunities for participation, celebrating all cultures, groups and uniqueness, enabling equitable access to health and wellbeing services, and ensuring support is available for residents experiencing vulnerability, marginalisation or disadvantage, we will be able to create a future Maroondah where no one is left behind.



"It's friendly. People seem to care about the local area and each other."

"Continue to lead the way in inclusivity. Maroondah City Council, from what I can see, makes remarkable leaps forward for so many people ..."

"Provide opportunities for people to gather, create connections and pursue passions."

## The path ahead

To work towards a healthy, inclusive and connected community, Council will focus on:

- Providing inclusive and accessible places, spaces and facilities for active and passive recreation, community gathering and social connection.
- Providing inclusive, accessible and welcoming programs, services, initiatives and events that create opportunities for social interaction, promote wellbeing and build resilience.
- Promoting equity, respect and understanding to foster an inclusive community where everyone is welcome and valued.
- Partnering to support the needs of people in Maroondah who experience vulnerability, marginalisation or disadvantage.
- Partnering with the traditional custodians of Maroondah to acknowledge, celebrate and engage with Maroondah's First Peoples heritage, culture and communities.

## Measuring our progress

We will know we are making progress when we see:

- More residents reporting their health as very good or excellent.<sup>1</sup>
- Fewer residents with a long-term health condition.<sup>2</sup>
- More residents reporting their satisfaction with life as high or very high.<sup>1</sup>
- More residents reporting that they feel connected within the community.<sup>1</sup>



*Growing Through Adversity with Professor Lea Waters event.*

1. Victorian Population Health Survey  
2. Australian Bureau of Statistics