Fairfield City
Celebrating diversity

Fairfield Conversations

We would like to acknowledge the Cabrogal of the Darug Nation who are the Traditional Custodians of this land.

We also pay respect to the elders, past and present, of the Darug Nation.

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ACCESS AND INCLUSION

Access and inclusion makes communities liveable for everyone

In Fairfield, according to the 2016 ABS Census of Population and Housing stats:

- 15% of the population were living with a disability in 2012
- 8,615 residents received a disability support pension
- 13,000 had a mobility parking permit in 2016
- 12% of residents are providing unpaid care
- 9,067 received carer payments

The **Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017** provides a four-year plan of actions to make Fairfield City more inclusive for people with disability, building on the work already done and meeting the requirements of the NSW Government's Disability Inclusion Act 2014, through four key focus areas:

1. Encouraging positive community attitudes and behaviours;
2. Creating liveable communities;
3. Supporting access to meaningful employment and
4. Improving access to services through better systems and processes.

Emerging Issues:

- Not all people with a disability will be provided with an NDIS package for care. Residents that previously received support, will need to access mainstream services.

- CALD residents with a disability have additional barriers to obtaining services and expressing their needs. They may not identify that there is support available. Organisations may need to consider how to provide services, ensuring easier access and inclusion for CALD communities.

- No funding for sector support after June 2018.

Solutions require:

Implementation of Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

Forum to provide information on NDIS, its services, eligibility and information inclusive of CALD communities.

Establishing a pool of volunteer bus drivers.

Identified Priorities are:

1. Communities understanding about NDIS processes and systems needs addressing.

2. Increase knowledge about services for clients (children, young people and adults) previously accessing disability services due to NDIS planning decisions.

3. Increase knowledge in CALD communities about NDIS.

4. Increase knowledge in the community about what NDIS services are available.

5. Increase knowledge and skills on how to make NDIS plans reflect the need of participants.

6. Increase ability of NDIS participants and advocates to manage client centred funds.

7. Recruitment of new volunteer bus drivers to support social outings.

8. Advocate for funding and/or services to provide sector support and capacity building for services after June 2018.

9. Increase knowledge about availability of other community buses availability in Fairfield.

10. Need for translated resources and access to language aide programs to ensure information is accessible to all of the community.

ADDICTION

Repeated involvement in an activity despite the harm it may cause. A habit that becomes a compulsion

Types of addictions can include but are not limited to:

- Smoking (nicotine)
- Illicit Drugs e.g. Cocaine, Ice (Crystal Methamphetamine), Marijuana, Ecstasy
- Legal drugs e.g. (caffeine)
- Alcohol
- Prescription/over the counter drugs e.g. OxyContin, sleeping tablets
- Gambling
- Sex/intimacy
- Pornography
- Shopping
- Food
- Exercise
- Internet/social media

Addiction is identified when the need to use/do (habit) stops being a choice and becomes something a person HAS to do (compulsion).

- People who have developed an addiction may not be aware that their behaviour is out of control and causing problems for themselves, their families and others.

- The impact of an addiction can vary for each individual with addiction linked to mental health issues such as depression and anxiety, violent behaviour, relationship breakdowns, financial issues, job loss, issues with crime, major health deterioration and even death.

Solutions require:

Partnerships amongst service providers to research, advocate, provide community education and seek funding for addiction related issues.

Identified Priorities are:

1. Increase opportunities for information to be available to the community concerning addictions, what they are and information on where to get help.

2. Support or advocate for further research about addiction and how it can be addressed.

3. Lack of information on the support available at Centrelink to people with addictions.

4. Increase the collaboration between services to assist addicts.

5. Increase awareness and enforcement of non-smoking rules in parks, outdoor dining areas and public spaces.

6. Advocate for more beds to reduce long wait times for rehabilitation.

7. Increase the promotion about the impact of addiction, and the benefits of early intervention.

8. The need for timely support to families impacted by addiction to minimise the long term impact on children.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION

Keeping our community safe

According to the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOSCAR), the rates of most crimes in Fairfield City have been stable, or decreasing, over the past five years.

Domestic and family violence ranks as the fourth most common offence in the Fairfield LGA.

Work has gone into addressing perceived under reporting from non-English speaking residents over the past five years, so higher reporting rates for this offence are a sign of increasing awareness on the issue of domestic and family violence by the community.

Some of the projects undertaken over the past four years by stakeholders to improve community safety included:

1. Strengthened community participation and connection to develop crime prevention resources, improve perception of safety and increase activity in public spaces;
2. Safety audits of public places to identify ways of improving safety and preventing crime;
3. Established a T-Way Committee, bringing together stakeholders to address criminal and antisocial behaviour on the T-Way;
4. Continuing to support initiatives for women and children escaping domestic violence;
5. Reforming services to reduce domestic, family and sexual violence.

Solutions require:

Partnerships amongst service providers to:
- Research, advocate, provide community education and seek funding for community safety and crime prevention strategies.
- Work collaboratively to address and increase resources for domestic violence programs targeting intergenerational and cultural issues.

Hold an expo to promote services that are available to assist victims of domestic violence.

Develop partnerships between schools and NGO's to work collaboratively to support young people 'at risk' before 'punitive' measures are taken.

Identified Priorities are:

1. Young people at risk of an increase in offending behaviours and youth violence in schools.

2. Impact of theft and fear by those affected by ICE.

3. Lack of transition programs for ex-offenders especially young people.

4. Need for better education on cyberbullying, crime statistics and mental health.

5. Lack of opportunities for service providers to have conversations on how to address DV.

6. More support services needed to assist older people experiencing elder abuse.

7. Lack of education in the community and through social media on DV.

8. Lack of local youth leadership programs that enable youth to speak on issues such as DV, consent and bullying.

9. Need for acknowledgement on the impact of intergenerational parenting on DV. Lack of specialised DV services to work with other services to support families break the cycle.

10. Improved promotion of services available to assist clients experiencing DV.

11. Acknowledgement of the impact of gambling on family relationships and its link to DV.

12. ack of a holisitic approach to DV encompassing:
Perpetrators behaviour change programs; access to information; legal information and support; elder abuse; suicide prevention; gambling/ addiction; alcohol and drug addiction.

13. Increase Elder abuse awareness, prevention and intervention programs.

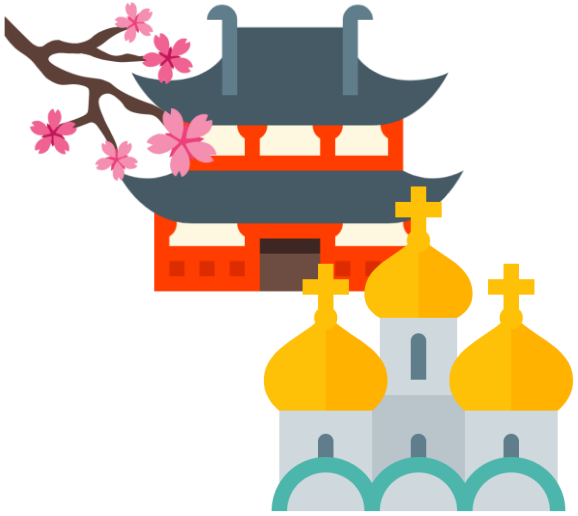
CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Appreciating the differences in individuals

Stats from ABS 2016 Census of Population and Housing show Fairfield's Cultural Diversity:

Fairfield is home to a vibrant, multicultural community, with a proud history of welcoming new immigrants to Australia.

• 59.4% of residents were born overseas.
• Dominant birthplaces are Vietnam, Cambodia, Iraq and Italy with Syria becoming an emerging birthplace.
• Fairfield has the highest percentage of people speaking a language other than English in Australia (70.7%).
• Over 140 languages are spoken with the dominant languages spoken: Vietnamese (20.4%), Assyrian/Aramaic (10%), Arabic (7.9%), Cantonese (4.3%), Khmer (3.6%) and Spanish (3.1%).
• 21.6 % of residents speak English not well or not at all (increase of 4,686 persons from 2011).
• Religion: Roman Catholic (28.1%), Buddhism (20.7%), Islam (5.9%), Assyrian Coptic (3.8%)
• Fairfield LGA is the most disadvantage area in the metropolitan Sydney area (SEIFA). (2011)
• Since January 2016, 80% of the people arriving to Fairfield City have arrived through the Humanitarian Program.
- From 1 January 2012 to 1 June 2017 (five years) Fairfield had 11,819 humanitarian entrant arrivals
- Humanitarian entrants are eligible to settlement services for the first five years
- Some challenges faced by newly arrived humanitarian entrants include learning English, gaining employment, finding appropriate and affordable housing, and social isolation.



Solutions require:

Partnerships amongst service providers to research, advocate and seek funding for services and activities for culturally diverse residents.

Collaboration by services in the implementation of the Fairfield City Settlement Action Plan aimed to improve service delivery for humanitarian entrants and vulnerable migrants.

A community information expo for new arrivals with interpreters to overcome language barriers.

Identified Priorities are:

1. Increase opportunities for residents from CALD communities to meet new people and make new friends- through activities, events and localised programs.

2. Seek funding for a language aide program to increase access to interpreters or bilingual educators.

3. Increase networking/ partnerships between agencies to address language barriers.

4. Need for new approaches and creative ways to engage CALD families at different life cycle stages.

5. Need for increased access to additional English languages opportunities for all, in recognition that 510 hours is not enough.

6. Need for organisations to build their capacity to work with young people from refugee backgrounds.

7. Increase awareness around mental health issues associated with settlement.

8. Increase opportunities for service provision and activities to engage new arrivals within the community.

9. Need for financial support for spouses on visas.

10. Increase knowledge about gambling issues within newly emerging communities.

11. Lack of appropriate office accommodation for refugee settlement services such as MYAN and Legal Aid.

12. eed to explore affordable and inclusive meeting places for emerging communities to enhance peer support and self-reliance.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Learning and earning

Employment

In 2011, 10,305 people aged 18 to 24 years living in Fairfield City were employed, of which 51.3% were working full time and 40.4% part time (Population and Housing, ABS 2011). 10.9% of Fairfield City's population aged 15 to 24 years were not employed or attending an education institute compared to 8.1% in Greater Sydney.

In 2011, 7.7% of Fairfield City's labour force aged 55 years and over were classed as unemployed compared to 4.4% in Greater Sydney. In 2011, 7.7% of Fairfield City's labour force aged 55 years and over were classed as unemployed compared to 4.4% in Greater Sydney.

NB 2016 Census data is not yet released in this area.

Education

In Fairfield City, 48% of people aged over 15 years had completed Year 12 schooling or equivalent (Population and Housing, ABS 2011). Overall, 39.6% of the population left school at Year 10 or below, and 48.2% went on to complete Year 12 or equivalent, compared with 27.3% and 60.0% respectively for Greater Sydney.

26% of people in Fairfield City attended an educational institution.

Solutions require:

The community to work together to provide additional language assistance to increase refugees' access to gain employment and access education to improve outcomes.

Employment providers and community services to work together to increase pathways to employment.

An employment expo that identifies pathways to employment, bridging programs and how to gain recognition of prior learning and skills.

Development of a strategy to increase employment options for people with a disability in the area.

Identified Priorities are:

Education

1. Impact locally of changes to TAFE and pathways for young people to further education

2. More English language programs needed to enable people to better participate in education and employment.

3. Increase awareness and access for seniors to education such as senior colleges.

Employment

1. Need to advocate for more English classes to reduce current language barriers to employment.

2. Build skills and capacities of young people and people with a disability to address unemployment.

3. Lack of recognition of overseas skills.

4. Increase tailored interventions for refugee job seekers with work experience and addressing barriers such as drivers licence and social isolation.

5. Increase awareness about programs to bridge transition from university to employment and raise awareness if more programs are required.

6. Increase transition programs for young offenders.

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Improving outcomes for all

Families in Fairfield City require support in regard to:

- Intergenerational issues/conflict
- Changing family dynamics
- Domestic Violence
- Carers
- Parenting
- Disability support
- Financial Stability
- Housing
- Health
- Early childhood development
- Ageing

Evidence tells us that a person's life successes, health and emotional wellbeing have their roots in early childhood. We know that if we get it right in the early years, we can expect to see children thrive throughout school and their adult lives. Families need support to ensure the best outcomes.

Fairfield has a low SEIFA Index, meaning it is a disadvantaged area on a range of socio-economic indicators. Fairfield has higher than average poker machine revenue indicating high gambling rates

Over 52% residents speak another language at home.

There are higher than average numbers of youth not engaged in education or work. In 2011 10.9% of Fairfield's 15- 24 years were not employed or attending education.

There is a lack of affordable housing in the area.

Solutions require:

Promotion of issues for families such as children's milestones, obesity, mental health, youth and issues around violence, sexual health and financial management and raising the issue of men's health.

Increased community education programs around issues impacting families.

Identified Priorities are:

1. Increase awareness about the benefits of early identification and intervention for children with additional needs by the community and GPs.

2. Increased parenting skills programs required, particularly those delivered in community languages.

3. Coordinated approach to ensure the needs of single parent families in the area requiring support are met.

4. Build community awareness and knowledge on programs available that address obesity.

5. Addressing the needs of an increase in people (children, young people and adults) experiencing trauma and its impact on families.

6. Need for better environments to increase communication about sexual health between youth and adults.

7. Increase community initiatives that address youth violence in schools.

8. Increasing financial management skills and knowledge for young people.

9. Build awareness around men's health issues.

10. Build awareness that suicide can occur at any stage during the family life cycle.

11. Need to increase awareness and education in the community about mental health issues and the associated stigma around mental health.

12. Families need support to access the information they need (ie services that can provide support) in a timely manner.

13. New humanitarian entrants require timely access to services and service providers that understand their unique issues.

14. Lack of affordable and inclusive meeting places for emerging communities to enhance and encourage wellbeing.

GAMBLING

To risk things of value for a possible return

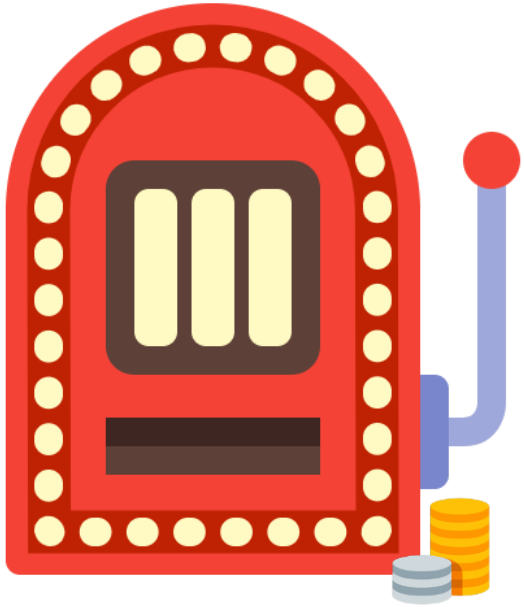
In 2015, Fairfield LGA, the area identified by LGNSW as the area with the highest level of risk of gambling harm in Sydney, provided over 9% of all the tax revenues from gaming machines across NSW. This was generated by 4% of the machines in NSW located in an area containing 2.65% of the NSW population.

According to 2016 data, there are currently 18 hotels and 20 clubs operating 3,836 Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs) across the LGA. In the 2015 period, EGM density in NSW (EGMs per 1,000 adults) was 15.8. In the Fairfield LGA, EGM density was 1.5 times this amount at 24.6 EGMs per 1,000 adults.

EGM gambling in hotels and clubs accounts for more than 50% of Australia's gambling expenditure and the Productivity Commission (2010) have noted that EGMs account for "around 75 to 80% of 'problem gamblers'.

Fairfield City Council has a policy that accepts gaming as a recreational activity for some but acknowledges that it is an activity that also results in harm for some people, their families, employers and the community. Council's policy does not support any additional EGMs for Fairfield LGA.

While Fairfield makes up approximately 2.6% of NSW's population, the area's overall EGM profit represented 7.6% of the profit of hotel and club EGMs across NSW in 2012, and increased to 7.9% in 2015. In real value terms, there was a 10% increase in net profit for Fairfield between 2012 and 2015.



Solutions require:

Solutions require acknowledgement that gambling impacts all parts of society and that community awareness is required to address its impact.

Collaboration is required to investigate the social aspect of gambling and address social isolation with other social activities.

Self-exclusion programs need to be promoted in different languages.

Campaigns and community education about addictions.

Identified Priorities are:

1. Build awareness for refugees and others to understand the risks involved in introducing some people including refugees, to clubs (poker machines).

2. Ensure people who do not speak English are aware of Self-exclusion programs.

3. Raise awareness of the range of impacts of gambling on all aspects of a person's life.

4. Encourage participation in events/ activities and promote these opportunities to increase activities that don't involve poker machines.

5. Creating awareness raising campaigns around addictions, similar to white ribbon.

6. Addressing criminal activity in Cafes with illegal gambling.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

A place to call home

Facts on housing in Fairfield City:

• Increase in average household size in 2016 to 3.29 (up .06%).
• Median Weekly payment 2016 is $350 per week (up 25% since 2011).
• According to the Rent and Sales Report 120 (June 2017 http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/428576/ R-and-S-Report-No-120.pdf) the median rent for a 3 bedroom house was $460 per week and $350 for a 2 bedroom unit.
• Increase in housing shortage and affordability means many families are at risk of being homeless.
• An increase in refugees to the area has put stress on housing availability. More than 6,000 refugees have now been settled in Fairfield.

Affordable housing is housing that is appropriate for the needs of a range of very low to moderate income households and priced so that these households are also able to meet other basic living costs such as food, clothing, transport, medical care and education.

As a rule of thumb, housing is usually considered affordable if it costs less than 30 percent of gross household income.

http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au/centre-for-affordable-housing/about-affordable-housing

Solutions require:

Partnerships amongst service providers to research, advocate and seek funding for tenancy support and housing affordability.

Investigate alternate solutions to affordable housing and investigate European models, SSI Flat Pack, partnering with "big Thinkers" to address supply.

Identified Priorities are:

1. Need to reduce long waiting lists for social housing and explore alternative options.

2. More options of affordable housing needed.

3. Increased promotion of requirements of landlords and rights of tenants to ensure appropriate maintenance of dwelling.

4. Awareness raising needed about the housing crisis, the need for more affordable housing and impact on residents.

5. Increasing knowledge in the CALD community about their legal rights and tenancy.

6. Building a knowledge base and the capacity of young people to know how to secure and maintain tenancies.

7. More specific accommodation needed for youth with mental illness.

8. Lack of diversity in housing with a need for bigger housing sizes (4 + bedrooms) to accommodate larger families.

9. Increase knowledge of tenants' rights around subletting and rental bonds. This is especially prevalent in the renting of granny flats and renting out of bed rooms to multiple individuals.

RECREATION AND LEISURE

Things we do for fun

Solutions require:

Promotion of the availability of recreation and leisure activities and facilities.

Increase the provision of sports offered through grant writing workshops and sport development resources for the community.

Partnerships amongst service providers to better promote existing services available for the community in recreation and leisure and to support emerging groups to establish further recreation and leisure activities.

Raise awareness about local networks, such as Bikes groups for people and groups who are isolated.

Increase opportunities for people with disability to engage in affordable recreation and also in sports.

Marketing campaign to promote recreation services and activities.

Identified Priorities are:

1. Lack of information on the recreation services and activities available to the community.

2. Lack of female participation in sport and centre based activities.

3. Lack of awareness on council venues and booking processes for community groups.

4. Increase the knowledge of sporting groups on applying for funding.

Fairfield Conversations

Fairfield City Council 2017