

Education



Strategic indicator

Increase access to and participation in local education and training.

Domain overview

Access to education plays a vital role in promoting health and wellbeing, providing a sense of community, and enhancing future financial security. Modern and contemporary learning environments support quality education, continuous learning, enhanced employment opportunities, social connection and better health outcomes.

Links to Cardinia Shire Council Plan 2021-25

- 4.3 Improve local learning and employment pathway opportunities through strategic partnerships.

About education

Data about education in Cardinia Shire identifies:

- Lower rates of year 12 completion at 52%, compared to Victoria at 60%.
- Higher rates of vocational qualifications at 24%, compared to Victoria at 17%.
- Lower rates of university qualifications at 19%, compared to Victoria at 29%.
- There are 30 kindergartens, and 44 schools in Cardinia Shire, (31 ps) (17 ss).
- 9.4% of children are developmentally vulnerable, compared to 19.9% across Victoria.
- There is one TAFE campus in Pakenham and the closest university is in Berwick.
- Registered training organisations operate locally, offering nationally recognised training course and qualifications in many industries.
- There are 2 libraries, Pakenham and Emerald, and a mobile library stopping 12 locations.
- There are 7 community centres and neighbourhood houses.
- The University of the Third Age provide adult learning and social connections in Pakenham and Emerald.
- 36% of households are within 800m (straight line) of a government primary school.

Education liveability measures

- Education Infrastructure Index includes access to childcare, out of hours school care, Government primary schools and Government secondary schools.
- Percentage (%) households located within 800 meters of a primary school.
- Primary school availability: 1,400 households per primary school.
- Secondary school availability: 2,550 households per secondary school

Social justice and equity statement

Some groups in the community face unequal barriers to reaching their highest achievable health, social and economic outcomes. The Liveability Plan recognises the need to direct efforts for improving health, wellbeing and liveability in a way that addresses inequities through social justice.

Equity refers to providing resources based upon the circumstances and characteristics of the people involved, to ensure the same opportunities for all. Social justice removes barriers so that people can enjoy the same opportunities without reliance on external support. Social Justice and Equity action areas include:

- Equitable and accessible places, services, programs and activities
- A well-planned, accessible and liveable community.
- A safe and equitable workplace.
- An inclusive and empowered community.
- Leadership, collaboration and advocacy.

The role of education in addressing climate change

Building community awareness of climate change and skills to reduce personal risks of harm from climate events, helps build preparation and resilience, when extreme weather or a climate disaster occurs. Opportunities to deliver climate-resilient education, focused on preparation, adaptation and mitigation strategies are vital and can be delivered throughout the community, across all age groups.

Schools, libraries, community groups, local council and community services all play a role in delivering clear and engaging climate-resilient education, focused on individual and systems-level adaptation and mitigation strategies. There is also a need to continue awareness raising that climate change is a serious problem.

Climate-health impacts on education

There are disparities between different groups to remain healthy and well during extreme weather conditions and climate disasters. People with language barriers, low literacy skills or people who do not participate in community activities, are more likely to miss climate-health messages and emergency management information that protects the community from illness, injury and death.

When thinking about the future of education, the following is relevant:

- A growing proportion of families and older residents who require diverse education opportunities across the lifespan, including informal learning programs.
- Building capacity and capability of organisations to provide traineeships and workplace learning opportunities within the region.
- A need to expand education and awareness around climate change adaptation and mitigation actions including energy choices.
- An increasingly diverse population, with a need to strengthen cultural literacy across the Shire through representation, education, events and communications.
- Attracting and advocating for formal local tertiary education options.
- Advocating for funding, infrastructure and workforce solutions for the delivery of education across the life span, including 3-year-old kindergarten.
- An increasingly diverse community with the need to ensure education options are inclusive and adaptable.
- Population growth resulting in larger and newer schools