

# Safe and Secure Action Plan

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An Action Plan of the 2021-2025 Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

2022-2026



City of  
KINGSTON

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## Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Kingston recognises the Bunurong people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the municipality is a part. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who call Kingston home. Their enriched knowledge and wisdom of our land and waterways is an essential part of the culture of our community.

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## Introduction

Everyone has a right to feel safe and a responsibility to contribute toward a safer community. It is an essential factor of people's health and wellbeing and their participation in community life. Kingston Council's Safe and Secure Action Plan 2022-2026 outlines the strategic activities that Council will undertake to improve safety and security for the community.

Particular population groups are more at risk of poorer safety outcomes because of factors such as socio-economic status, age, gender, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, isolation, disability, addiction, illness or a history of prior criminal offences. They may experience safety concerns that others in the community do not; or be disproportionately impacted by safety concerns that affect all of us.

While Kingston is a relatively safe community, ongoing work is required to maintain and improve local safety. Council is well placed to take a leading role in addressing safety and security due to its strong partnerships and collaborative approach in working with the community, community organisations and the State Government. Many activities implemented across Council have a positive impact on safety and security, such as: developing the capacity of community groups; facilitating community connections; advocating on behalf of the community; building safe public spaces; enforcing safety regulations; and preparing Emergency Management Plans.

The Safe and Secure Action Plan 2022-2026 is one of multiple Council strategies aimed to improve safety in Kingston. It contributes towards the delivery of the City of Kingston Council Plan 2021-2025 and the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025.

## Safety and Security in Kingston

GUIDED BY THE COMMUNITY VISION AND COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025

### **Community Vision:**

Kingston is a resilient, inclusive and diverse community. We are building the most liveable and sustainable city in Victoria.

We champion and nurture our green and open spaces creating a safe, healthy environment.

Our shared legacy connects our community, embracing innovation, making Kingston the place to live.

### **Council Plan 2021-2025**

The Safe and Secure Action Plan is strategically guided by the Council Plan 2021-2025 and aligns as follows:

Strategic Direction: 5 Safe

Strategic Objective: 5.1 Our community will feel safe, and be safe, in all aspects of their lives.

- Strategy:
- 5.1.1 Design an environment and infrastructure that promotes better safety and accessibility
  - 5.1.2 Support safe travel through various modes of transport
  - 5.1.3 Improve feelings of safety across Kingston’s diverse community
  - 5.1.4 Strive to provide an environment free from all forms of family violence
  - 5.1.5 Foster caring attitudes and a safe environment for native wildlife and domestic animals
  - 5.1.6 Provide a well maintained and clean environment for residents.

GUIDED BY KINGSTON’S PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2021-2025

The PHWP 2021-2025 provides an overarching strategic direction that identifies key health and wellbeing priorities for Kingston. The Safe and Secure Action Plan 2022-2026 will engage in delivering actions that are primarily aligned with Goal 2 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025, and the following objectives:

**Objective 2.1** Improve safety in the home and community

**Objective 2.2** Improve feelings of safety in the home and community

**Objective 2.3** Reduce prevalence of family violence

The Safe and Secure Action Plan 2022-2026 will be delivered by actively engaging and collaborating with key internal and external stakeholders and by working with other Council action plans to ensure a holistic approach to its implementation is achieved. It will share outcomes, challenges and learnings and contribute to audit and evaluation process following the implementation of actions.

The action plans that have direct alignment and operate on the same four-year cycle are listed below:

**Figure 1:** Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and aligned Action Plans



## PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2021-2025: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Kingston's PHWP 2021-2025 provides a strategic direction for Council's actions to improve the health and wellbeing of the community. The goals and objectives of the PHWP outline how we will all work towards addressing these factors, in which many actions will contribute positive outcomes to more than one objective.

The goals and objectives are outlined below, with the objectives relevant to this Plan identified:

PHWP Goal / Objective	This Action Plan
<b>1. A healthy and well community</b>	
1.1 Increase participation in physical activity	
1.2 Increase healthy eating	
1.3 Improve mental wellbeing	
1.4 Reduce harm from alcohol and other drugs, smoking and gambling	
<b>2. A safe and secure community</b>	
2.1 Improve safety in the home and community	✓
2.2 Improve feelings of safety in the home and community	✓
2.3 Reduce the prevalence of family violence	
<b>3. A kind and connected community</b>	
3.1 Increase participation in community activities and volunteering	
3.2 Reduce social isolation and loneliness	
3.3 Reduce discrimination	
3.4 Increase inclusion, respect and belonging	
<b>4. A liveable community</b>	
4.1 Increase preparedness and resilience for the impacts of climate change	
4.2 Increase the availability of social and affordable housing	
4.3 Increase participation in the workforce and local economy	
4.4 Increase the accessible and equitable supply of facilities, services and activities	
4.5 Increase access to and improve amenity of open spaces and the natural environment	
<b>5. An informed and empowered community</b>	
5.1 Improve provision of accessible health and wellbeing information, programs and services	
5.2 Increase participation in lifelong learning and education	

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## Action Plan

The Safe and Secure Action Plan 2022-2026 is developed to improve community safety and is in line with the key goals and objectives of the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025.

Community safety in this Action Plan includes safety in the home and the community, the community's feelings of safety and living free from family violence.

Factors such as gender, cultural background and age can influence people's feelings of safety. Kingston's Health and Wellbeing Profile shows that most of the population (96%) feel safe walking in their local area during the day; however only 60% feel safe at night, with males (79%) feeling safer than females (41%).

Police data shows that the total number of criminal incidents (8,930) between June 2019 to June 2020 increased by 1.8% and family violence incidents (1,693) increased by 7.3% (only about 25% of family violence incidents are reported to the police).

More males were alleged victims of criminal incidents (39%), more females were alleged victims of family violence (74%), and males were more likely to be the alleged offender of both criminal (77%) and family violence (75%) incidents.

Some populations are more at risk of experiencing family violence including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, young women, pregnant women, women with a disability, and women experiencing financial hardships.

Children aged 0-4 years have the greatest overall risk of drowning. People from CALD communities are almost twice as likely to drown.

The community and our partner organisations have identified the safety priorities during a series of community consultation sessions during November 2021 to January 2022. The community spoke about the importance of reducing crime through environmental design, the need of promoting Kingston is a safe place to live, play and work and increase women safety through education, advocacy, and campaigns.

The actions listed in this plan aim to deliver priorities identified by the Kingston community and supports the implementation of the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. The Safe and Secure Action Plan 2022-2026 responds to priority 2 'A Safe and Secure Community' and objectives 2.1 & 2.2 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. These objectives will be met via the Actions below, outlined in a framework of four principles that are based upon the [Australian Institute of Criminology's 'National Crime Prevention Framework'](#) to ensure a holistic approach to improving safety is undertaken.

## Objective 2.1 Improve safety in the home and community

Principle 1: All people in Kingston are entitled to be safe and are responsible for their own and other's safety.	
Action	Lead and Partners
Implement Kingston's Preventing Family Violence Action Plan. For example, increase community understanding of the types and causes of family violence.	Social Development
Support recruitment and provide governance training for community groups who improve the amenity and safety of public spaces.	Social Development Open Space
Make home safety and security planning information accessible. For example, apply an intersectional lens to information on ways to improve home safety; and develop a communications plan to promote this information to the community.	Social Development Victoria Police
Promote information for staying safe in the community, including vehicle security, personal safety, business safety, and online safety. For example, work with Victoria Police and share resources to educate the community about different aspect of safety via social media, posters, flyers, community safety information sessions etc.	Social Development Libraries Kingston Business Victoria Police
Encourage community to report crimes to appropriate authorities. For example, promote understanding of the functions of various authorities and their reporting mechanisms, such as the Victoria Police Assistance Line on 131444.	Social Development Victoria Police
Implement Kingston's Gambling Action Plan to reduce the criminal and social harms resulting from gambling and increase gambling-free social connection opportunities, such as the Chelsea Twilights program.	Social Development
Principle 2: All people in Kingston are included and are connected to social networks that enhance their safety.	
Action	Lead and Partners
Assist Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) to increase the participation of community members in their activities.	Social Development Neighbourhood Watch
Implement the Kingston Youth Strategy to support the safe inclusion and participation of young people (12-25years). For example, provide space and opportunities for young people to meet and form friendships and connections.	Youth Services

Implement Kingston's Multicultural Action Plan to provide opportunities for the safe participation of culturally diverse people. For example, supporting activities that celebrate cultural diversity week.	Social Development
Implement Kingston's Reconciliation Action Plan to provide opportunities for the safe participation of Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander people. For example, supporting the Gathering Place.	Social Development
Implement Kingston's Positive Ageing Action Plan to provide opportunities for the safe participation of older people. For example, organise the annual Seniors Festival to connect seniors.	Social Development
Implement Kingston's Disability Action Plan to provide opportunities for the safe participation of people with disabilities. For example, work in partnership with local business groups to increase employment opportunities for people living with disabilities.	Social Development
Provide functionality on Kingston's website for community groups to promote their group, volunteer opportunities and events i.e. Kingston's website has a dedicated page for community groups to promote events and volunteer opportunities.	Social Development Communications
Encourage social connection by supporting Kingston's volunteer community groups with community grants and volunteer development support. For example, Council will facilitate grant writing workshops for volunteers.	Social Development
Continue to support the social inclusion of isolated elderly residents with practical assistance, such as providing taxi vouchers and the community bus for eligible community members to stay connected with their community.	Social Development
Principle 3: Services in Kingston support the community to prevent, respond and recover from crime and emergencies.	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead and Partners</b>
Promote Community Safety grant opportunities to the community, including Kingston's Community Grants program. For example, promote the annual Department of Justice Community Safety grants program to local eligible organisations and groups.	Social Development
Support Emergency Services to communicate safety messages to the Kingston community. For example, disseminate safety messages to Kingston community groups via Council's existing networks and social media.	Social Development
Support Victoria Police to identify and prosecute graffiti offenders through Council's graffiti removal and CCTV program. For example, provide information captured by Kingston's CCTV cameras to Victoria Police.	Infrastructure

Support Victoria Police operations and investigations by providing access to Kingston's public CCVT footage.	Infrastructure
Partner with Victoria Police and other relevant organisations to respond to safety concerns in Kingston. For example, coordinate Council and Police responses to resident concerns regarding people consuming alcohol on children's play equipment.	Social Development Victoria Police
Enforce local laws on illegal dumping in Kingston i.e., install temporary CCTV cameras to monitor illegal dumping sites and issue 'notices to comply' to offenders.	Statutory Education and Compliance
Support the maintenance of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) and emergency prevention, preparedness, response, relief and recovery.	City Assets
Educate the Kingston community about compliance with local laws. For example, display signs that communicate local laws in appropriate locations.	Statutory Education and Compliance
Maintain and promote foreshore Emergency Markers throughout Kingston. For example, provide information about Emergency Markers on Kingston's website.	Social Development Foreshore Crew
Facilitate advisory groups to inform and plan for a Safe and Secure Kingston, such as the Community Safety Advisory Committee.	Social Development

## Objective 2.2 Improve feelings of safety in the home and community

Principle 4: Kingston's public spaces enhance feelings of safety.	
Action	Lead and Partners
Design and maintain community facilities, public places, and open spaces using safer design principles to promote personal safety and public confidence in neighbourhoods.	Infrastructure Open Space Public Places
Implement Kingston's Graffiti Action Plan to manage graffiti across Kingston. For example, coordinate the prevention and removal of graffiti and partnerships with Victoria Police to identify offenders.	Social Development Infrastructure
Implement Kingston's Lighting Policy to increase feelings of safety at night.	Infrastructure
Implement Kingston's Arts and Cultural Strategy and Public Art Policy to contribute towards creating safer environments through art. For example, work with artists to beautify Kingston streets and spaces via art projects such as mural walls.	Kingston Arts
In response to community concerns, partner with Victoria Police Proactive Unit to conduct safety and security assessments of identified locations and seek funding opportunities to implement recommendations.	Social Development Victoria Police
Implement Kingston's Road Safety Strategy. For example, work with schools to provide road safety education and encourage students to travel by foot or bike.	Traffic Management
Contribute to the activation of public spaces by implementing Kingston's Healthy and Well Action Plan. For example, maintain public spaces to create a safe environment for physical activity that brings people together and increases informal surveillance.	Social Development
Implement Kingston's CCTV camera program in compliance with legislation and Council Policy. For example, seek funding to install additional CCTV cameras in locations identified by Victoria Police as crime hot-spots, and operate the cameras in adherence with privacy legislation.	Infrastructure

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# Background Information

## Legislative and policy context

The Safe and Secure Action Plan 2022-2026 was developed with regard to the national and state plans, strategies, frameworks and guidelines listed below:

### NATIONAL

- [National Crime Prevention Framework](#)

### STATE

- [Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023](#)
- [Victorian Crime Prevention Strategy](#)
- [Safer Design Guidelines for Victoria](#)
- [Victorian Disability Abuse Prevention Strategy](#)
- [Ending Family Violence – Victoria’s Plan for Change](#)
- [Victorian Road Safety Strategy](#)
- [Emergency Management Act 2013](#)

## Data and demographic profile

Collation and analysis of data and demographics from a variety of sources such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, VicHealth and the Crime Statistics Agency Victoria informs the development of the PHWP and Safe and Secure Action Plan.

This is presented in the City of Kingston Health and Wellbeing Profile and is available on Kingston Council’s website: [www.kingston.vic.gov.au](http://www.kingston.vic.gov.au)

## How we developed this action plan

The Safe and Secure Action Plan 2022-2026 was developed in consultation with the Kingston community, Emergency Service providers, Council staff and the Community Safety Advisory Committee.

The following community engagement activities were undertaken to inform the development of the Plan:

- Kingston Council’s 2020 Health and Wellbeing Survey
- *Your Kingston Your Say* Community Survey
- *Your Kingston Your Say* Ideas Wall
- Discussions with internal Council staff and departments
- Consultation with key stakeholders

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- Community group consultations
  - Discussions with Community members at Community Pop- Ups
  - One on one conversations with people aged 55+

The purpose of engagement was to consult with the community, emergency services, health and wellbeing organisations and Council staff to understand community experiences, needs and wants in relation to the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan objectives.

#### FEEDBACK

Public feedback on the draft Safe and Secure Action Plan 2022-2026 was sought in **May 2022**.

#### ADOPTION

The Safe and Secure Action Plan 2022-2026 was adopted by Council on **xxx**

### How we will implement this action plan

The implementation of the Safe and Secure Action Plan 2022-2026 will be overseen by Kingston Council's Social Development team in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders.

### How we will monitor this action plan

Progress reports on the implementation of actions will be provided to Council and the community on an annual basis.



City of  
**KINGSTON**



1230 Nepean Highway,  
Cheltenham, VIC 3192  
PO Box 1000, Mentone, VIC 3194



1300 653 356



131 450



info@kingston.vic.gov.au



kingston.vic.gov.au