

A Fair Hobsons Bay for All

2019–23

Evaluation summary

This document summarises the evaluation of A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2019-23, Council’s first integrated social policy. Findings will inform the update of the policy to be completed in 2023.

The aim of the policy is to ensure that equity and fairness are embedded in all of Council’s decisions and activities. The Policy incorporates Council’s Disability Action Plan, which is required under the *Disability Act 2006*. It also helps to meet requirements for an integrated Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2019-23 is focused on a range of ‘priority populations’ that are at higher risk of social disadvantage within Hobsons Bay. These include (but are not limited to) the following groups.



Children and Young People (0-25 years)



Older People (55 years and over)



People from CALD backgrounds



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples



People living with a disability



Women and girls



LGBTIQIA+ communities

Evaluation method and results

A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2019-23 was adopted by Council in October 2019. Council officers have completed an evaluation of the policy to measure progress and inform the next iteration. The evaluation focuses on the actions achieved, community survey feedback and outcomes of internal workshops.

1. Review of Action Plan Progress and Achievements

Of 67 actions in the policy, **94 per cent** have been completed or partially completed, a significant achievement given the impacts of the pandemic. Key achievements have been published each year in Council’s Annual Report, focusing on improvements to the built, social, economic, and natural environments supported by the policy (see examples below).



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

A review was conducted to identify and map missing footpath links for prioritisation of construction works in future years.



SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

Delivered the Accessible Beaches program, which provide increased access through beach matting and beach wheelchairs and walking frames.



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Upgrade works were completed to improve quality of open space, including at Curlew Community Park, P.A. Burns Reserve and Armstrong Reserve.

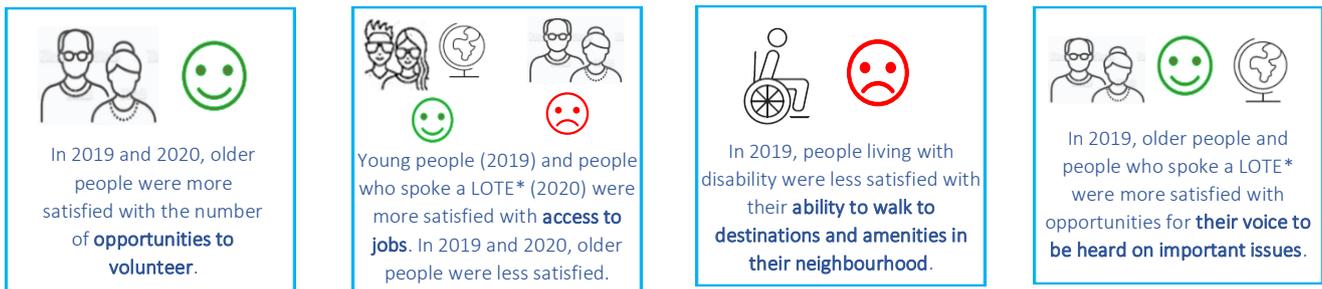


ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Business training and capacity building delivered for priority populations, with focus on digital literacy, entrepreneurship and use of new technology.

2. Analysis of Annual Community Surveys

Council's Annual Community Survey has been used to measure various 'Indicators of Change'. Analysis identified some statistical differences in satisfaction levels between priority populations and the broader community. Please note that the 2021 and 2022 Surveys were not analysed due to changes in providers, sample sizes and questions.



NOTE: There were no significant differences found between men and women. Surveys did not collect information on LGBTIQ+ communities.
* LOTE = Language other than English

3. Implementation review

Council's review of the implementation of A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2019-23 identified the following:

What worked well?

- High-level themes
- Assigning lead teams and departments
- Regular check-in and collaboration

Key challenges?

- COVID-19 pandemic
- Competing priorities
- Limited flexibility with action plan

Areas for improvement?

- Cross-reference to other plans
- Include 'business as usual' actions
- Closer links to budget and business planning cycles

Key recommendations

The following key recommendations emerged from the evaluation:

- Legislation** - Continue to incorporate Council's Disability Action Plan within A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2023-27.
- Consultation** - Test themes, objectives and strategies through targeted consultation with priority populations.
- Implementation** - Introduce flexible approach, including short/long-term actions and 'business as usual' activities.
- Monitoring** - Maintain the working group and consider annual workshop to address emerging issues.
- Evaluation** - Consider new data sources for indicators to complement the Annual Community Survey.

Next steps

The following next steps will be undertaken to develop A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2023-27:



More information

Please contact the Social Planning Team on 1300 179 944 or at socialplanning@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au for more information.