

Thriving Communities

Inclusion and Equity Strategy 2026–30



This strategy sets out how Council will remove barriers and create fairer opportunities so all residents can participate fully in community life. It brings together previous plans for disability, ageing well, children, youth and families, cultural diversity and social justice into one clear approach, continuing a focus on priority groups while recognising overlapping opportunities to better support our community.

This will be achieved by

Equitable services, programs and activities

Ensure Council services, programs, events, and information are inclusive, accessible and responsive to community needs.

A well-planned, accessible and liveable community

Facilitate the growth and continued development of accessible, connected and safe neighbourhoods where people can live, work and play easily and sustainably.

An inclusive and empowered community

To facilitate a just and equitable community by celebrating diversity, promoting community involvement, facilitating participation in decision making, and encouraging communities to act on their own initiative.

A safe and equitable workplace

To create an equitable, welcoming and safe workplace for a diverse team of employees and volunteers.

Leadership, collaboration and advocacy

To take a collaborative approach to promote an equitable and just community through leadership, strategic partnerships and advocacy on behalf of, and with, the Cardinia Shire community.

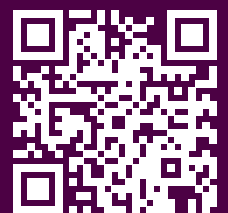
Benefits for our community

- Improved access to Council services, programs, events and information for all community members.
- More accessible and inclusive places, spaces and events that remove barriers to participation.
- Greater equity in access to activities, services and opportunities across the shire.
- Increased sense of belonging and inclusion for people at higher risk of experiencing barriers to participation.
- One clear framework that addresses overlapping needs together, so you and your family can easily view work undertaken by Council.

Have your say

To view the full documents online and complete the full survey please scan the QR code or visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

You can request printed copies of the strategy and survey by emailing mail@cardinia.com.au or provide your feedback by calling **1300 787 624**.



More information

1300 787 624 | cardinia.vic.gov.au | mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au



Translating and Interpreting Service
131 450 (ask for 1300 787 624)



Volunteer Strategy

Supporting our volunteers.
Strengthening our community.



Volunteers are at the heart of community life in Cardinia Shire. They manage halls and reserves, run sporting clubs, restore bushland, support neighbourhood houses and more.

This strategy sets out how Council will promote, support, recognise and govern volunteering. It responds to feedback around challenges faced by our volunteers such as an ageing volunteer base, burnout, cost-of-living pressures and administrative burden of volunteer roles.

This will be achieved by

Inclusive and accessible participation

Making it easier for everyone in Cardinia to find and take part in volunteering opportunities.

Modernisation and flexibility

Designing roles that fit busy modern lives and reducing unnecessary process and red tape.

Quality governance and safety

Providing a single clear process so volunteering is safe and well-managed for everyone.

Valued and measured impact

Stronger everyday recognition and better ways to capture the contribution volunteers make.

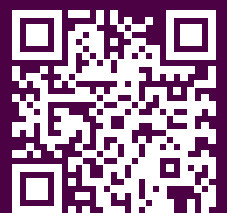
Benefits for our community

- More inclusive and accessible opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to get involved in volunteering.
- Stronger, more equitable and sustainable clubs, committees and community groups.
- Volunteers who feel valued, supported and recognised for their contributions.
- Better support for organisations to attract, support and retain volunteers.
- Stronger community connections, participation and belonging across Cardinia Shire.

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Thriving
Communities
Council Plan



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