

Improving active travel to schools

VicHealth and MAV Walking and Bike Riding Partnership

23 August 2023

Indigenous Acknowledgement

I would like to respectfully acknowledge the Traditional owners of the land on which we are all meeting, and pay my respects to their Elders, past and present.

In my case, I am speaking to you from the lands of the Gundungurra people, halfway between Sydney and Canberra in NSW.

As an organisation representing all Victorian councils, on behalf of the MAV I also wish to acknowledge the Traditional owners from across the state.

I would also like to acknowledge and welcome any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people online/in the audience today."

Improving active travel to schools - Agenda

- Welcome and Indigenous Acknowledgment
- VicHealth Partnership and resources
- Department of Education Active schools case studies
- Highlights of previous seminars
- City of Wyndham case studies
- Why Gender Matters in Active Travel to School
- Questions
- Close at noon

Context

- Walking and Riding is a current MAV focus
- Many health, wellbeing, environmental and equity benefits from walking and riding with low-cost mobility even more important with rising cost of living
- Delighted to be working in partnership with VicHealth as part of the Victorian Local Government Partnership
- Previous webinars, plus advocacy materials available on [MAV/walking-and-bike-riding-resource-hub](https://www.mav.vic.gov.au/walking-and-bike-riding-resource-hub)
- Particular focus today on children and how we can encourage active travel to school through infrastructure, engagement and other supports. Plus some important perspectives you may not have considered such as gender.

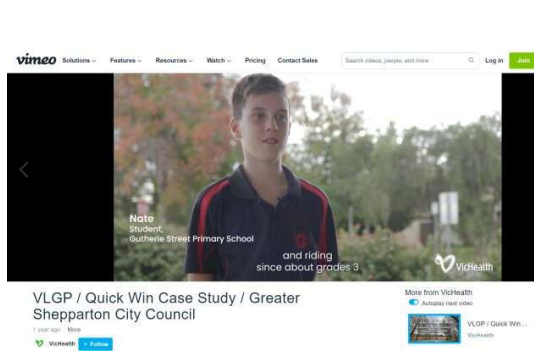
VicHealth support for improving active travel to schools

Kate Lowsby, Lead Local Government Partnerships

23 August 2023

VicHealth Local Government Partnership

The VLGP provides a new way of working with local governments across Victoria to create locally driven, place-based, systems approaches through supporting the planning and delivery of Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plans 2021-2025.



Active travel project

Greater Dandenong City Council
Sarah Fowler (Project Coordinator), Kate Beveridge (Children's Services Development Officer) and Martin Holden (Coordinator Strategic Transport)

Our most exciting story of change and most significant achievement
The most exciting story of change to come out of the 'Active Travel' project, is children how keen to be involved in supporting this work and have been excited to create a local campaign to increase active living in Greater Dandenong City Council looking forward to working with the children next year to increase active travel.

Our outcomes, benefits and next steps
The local logo and slogan will be used in social media, interviews, videos and animations for the 'Active Travel' campaign in March 2023. Interviews with students from the 2022 Children's Advisory Committee and Keysborough Gardens Primary School will be created to launch during the March campaign.

Our involvement of children and young people
An 'Active Travel' campaign will be launched across the month of March 2023. This campaign has been co-designed with children from the SAC Leadership group at Keysborough Gardens PS (pilot school) and students from the Children's Advisory Committee in the Greater Dandenong City Council. Council has been working closely with students and staff from Keysborough Gardens Primary School throughout 2022, with the school developing strategies to encourage 'Active Travel'.

Workshops were also delivered at the Children's Forum 2022 (Oct) to design a local logo and slogan to be used for the March 2023 'Active Travel' campaign. A local graphic designer was hired for the Children's Forum to help turn the beautiful drawings and artwork from the children into a meaningful local logo. Please see local logo below.



Kids call for active transport options

March 24, 2023 • BY Tim Bottoms

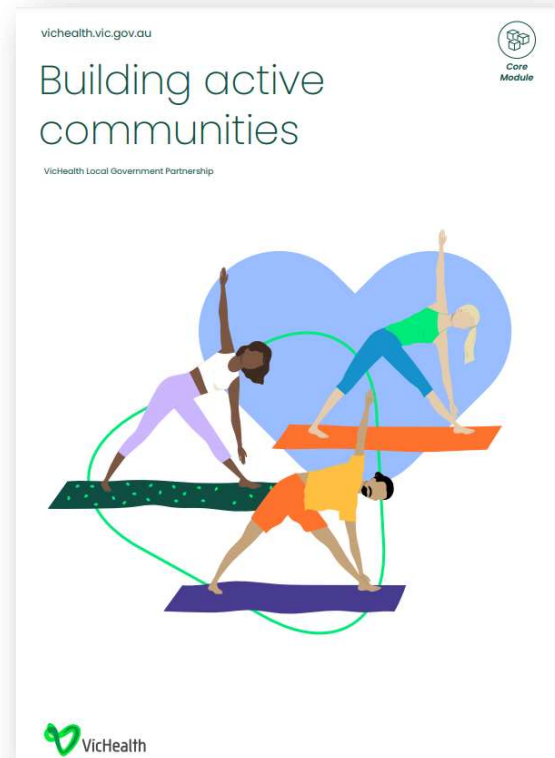


Team effort: Beewington Primary School's leadership team is a continuous group of students in grades 4, 5 and 6. Photo: TIM BOTTOMS



Building Active Communities

Local government health promotion module

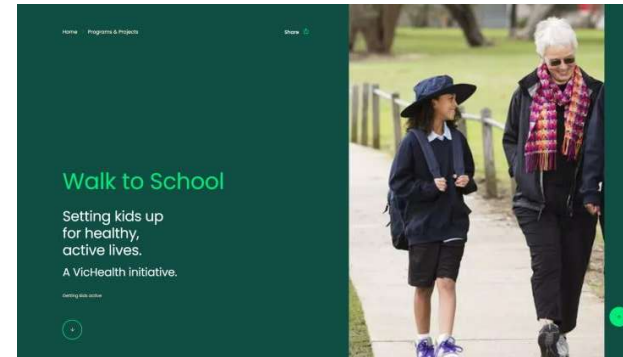


Impact stream: <i>Increasing active travel opportunities for children and young people</i>	8
Implementation actions	
<i>Quick win: Deliver a month-long walking and bike riding to school program</i>	11
<i>Quick win: Run a Walk to Kinder Day campaign</i>	18
<i>Step up: Deliver a year-round walking and bike riding to school program</i>	22
<i>Step up: Apply an equity approach to walking and bike riding to school</i>	25
<i>Step up: Create a plan to make walking fun for young children</i>	30
<i>Ambitious: Deliver school neighbourhood walking and bike riding infrastructure projects</i>	38
Option A: <i>Open streets</i>	39
Option B: <i>Drop-off zones</i>	42
<i>Ambitious: Support young children to develop bike skills</i>	46

Walk to School webpage

Resources available online

- Council comms kit
- Downloadable asset pack
- Worksheets and resources for schools and parents
- Walk to School Tip Sheet for promoting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures
- Video case studies



Framing walking & bike riding resource

- Message guide containing evidence-based recommendations that help to build public support for more walking and bike riding measures.
- The guide is written for walking and bike riding advocates and allies who want to create more consistent, compelling and effective narratives on this issue.



Tools & resources

- **Building Active Communities module**
<https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/our-work/fast-track-councils/building-active-communities>
- **Walk to School resources and council comms kit**
www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/programs-and-projects/walk-to-school# councils
- **Framing Walking & Bike Riding Messaging Guide**
www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/-/media/ResourceCentre/VBM-Framing-Walking-Bike-framing---message-guide.pdf?la=en&hash=FFC180B06C5C26E8EACECA7AB2BBF9BE62B9EEF0
- **Kids Co-designing Healthy Places**
www.kidscodesigninghealthyplaces.com.au/
- **MAV Walking & Bike Riding Hub**
<https://www.mav.asn.au/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/transport-infrastructure/walking-and-bike-riding-resource-hub>
- **City of Greater Shepparton video case study**
<https://vimeo.com/710201711>

Contact the VicHealth Local Government Development team
lgp@vichealth.vic.gov.au



OFFICIAL

Department of Education - Active Schools case studies

**Kasturi Shanahan, Senior Policy Officer, Physical Activity and
Healthy Eating, Department of Education**

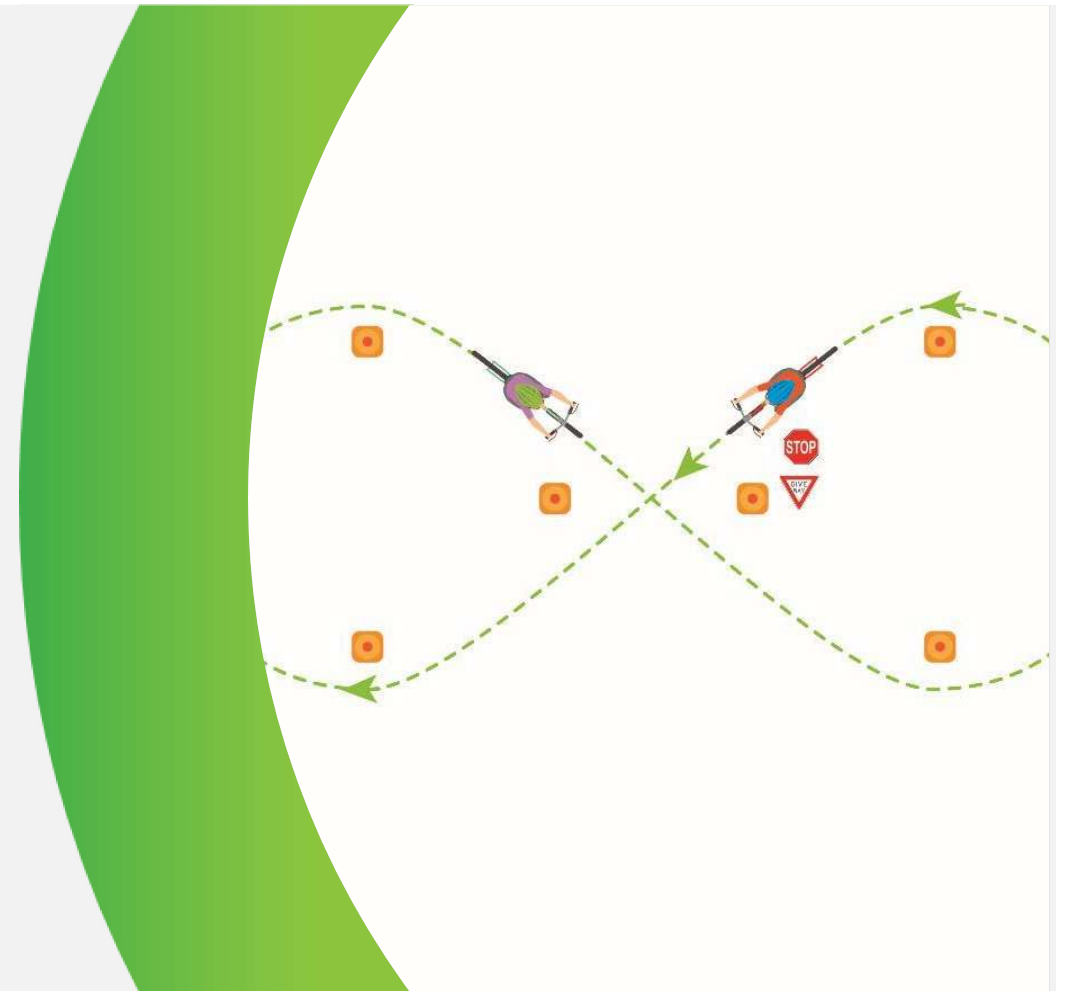
**Kathy Tessier, Project Director - Active Schools, Australian Council
for Health, Physical Education and Recreation,
(ACHPER) Victoria**

23 August 2023

Bike Ed Resources

- Unit outlines and lesson plans
 - Learning activities
 - Teaching supplement
- Worksheets and guides
- Website
- Videos
 - Animated videos
 - Safety demonstration video
 - Hazard videos

Bikeed@roads.vic.gov.au



Merri-Bek Open Streets



20% average increase in bike riding

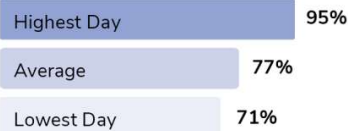


20% average decrease in driving



82% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that children could walk and ride safely within the Open Street areas

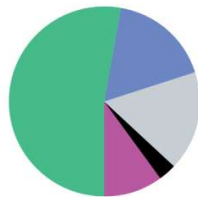
77% of students walked, rode or scooted to school



170 cars left at home across the three trials

90% of parents and local residents want to see Open Streets continue at their school

- 53% Daily
- 17% Monthly
- 17% Weekly
- 3% Yearly
- 10% Never



Car traffic down

74%

on some neighbouring streets compared to a normal school day



Merri-Bek E-cargo Bike Trials

- 83 free four week trials
- Partnership with subscription service Lug & Carrie
- 45% conversion rate
- 70% women
- 60% previously drove, 98% own at least one car
- Previously 6% rode to school, 78% now likely to continue riding the school run
- 41% used their bike once or more a day, and another 33% used it 2-3 times a week.



Wellington Shire - 'active travel portfolio'

VicRoads Community Road Safety

Bike Ed Training

Bike Ed Trailers (2) and Bikes (24)

Bike Ed Challenges - 10 challenges annually

Rural Cluster Bike Ed Program - Rural schools working together to deliver bike ed program

Safe Routes to School Program - 16 out of 30 schools completed

TAC Community Road Safety Grants

Wellington Bike Ed Framework - Teacher resource on how to incorporate into classroom curriculum

Wellington Active Travel Website

Road Safety Education Program - From Early years to Secondary School (Safe Systems Approach)



Bicycle Victoria

Ride 2 School Program - Linked all W2S schools with Hands Up Count

Footpath Decals (stop look listen think)

Category	Total	Total
RED	11	11
YELLOW		
TRUCK	1	1
SILVER	57	57
BLACK	3	3
GREEN	2	2
WHITE	10	10
BLUE	22	22
ORANGE		
BIKES		
MOTORBIKE		
PEDESTRIAN		
Other		
Total	103	103

But my most favourite was...

St Patrick Primary School – Stratford

“The grade six teacher is really keen for the kids to make a presentation outlining some dangerous walking or riding areas in Stratford...”

<https://www.facebook.com/WINNewsGippsland/videos/vb.157108927693208/973713569366069/?type=2&theater>

<https://fb.watch/fGvbIT16Lf/>





Wellington Urban Paths Plan

- Infrastructure and Social strategy
- High community engagement
- Data informed planning
- Footpath Framework which identified what footpaths will be built
 - Focus on creating footpath network to community nodes
 - Closed gaps
 - Safety and accessibility
- Engagement focusses on framework, strategy outcomes and consideration and any missed paths
- Increased annual capital budget (approx. \$1.5M)

Insights

- **Strategy - Be clear about what you are trying to do and why**
- **Engage – internally and externally, use a variety of techniques, ongoing**
- **Use data and evidence – before, during and after**
- **Values Based messaging – how you tell your story, focus on persuadables**
- **Pilots and trials – adapt and learn**
- **Collaborate – connect people and programs**
- **Time – build, maintain momentum, but don't rush**
- **Learn – share approaches that work (and those that don't!)**
- **Safer Local Roads and Streets is coming! - \$2 million per council**



Active Travel to Schools in Wyndham

Infrastructure, Access, Communication & Engagement

Presented by Dean Ellis – Co-Ordinator Transport Planning &
Dianne Johnson – Sustainable Transport Officer

<https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/activetravel>

New Schools – Siting & Development



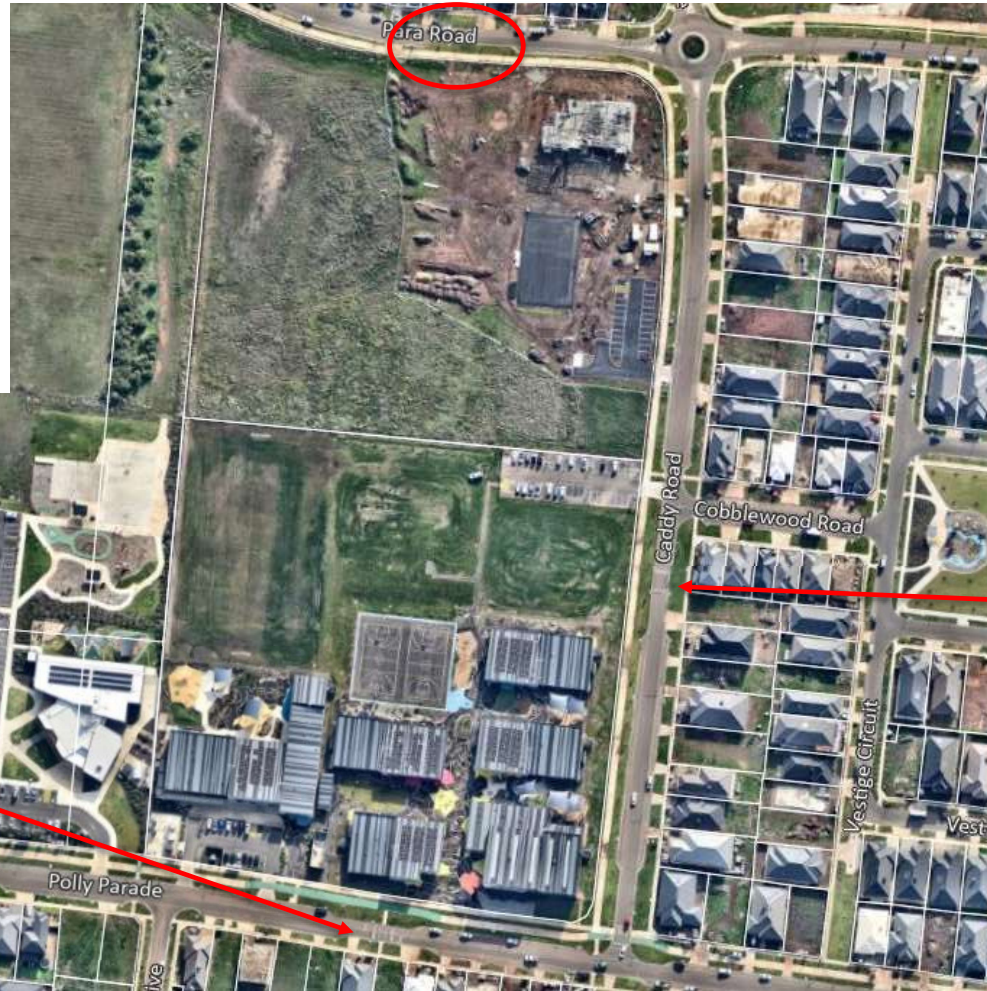
Non-Government School Site

Government School Site

New Schools – Siting & Development

2023 – Nearnung Primary School & Warringa Park School specialist campus opens

2024 - St Teresa of Kolkata Catholic Primary School opens



Infrastructure Changes – Safer Active Travel

Relocated school crossing based on changing demand and safety issues

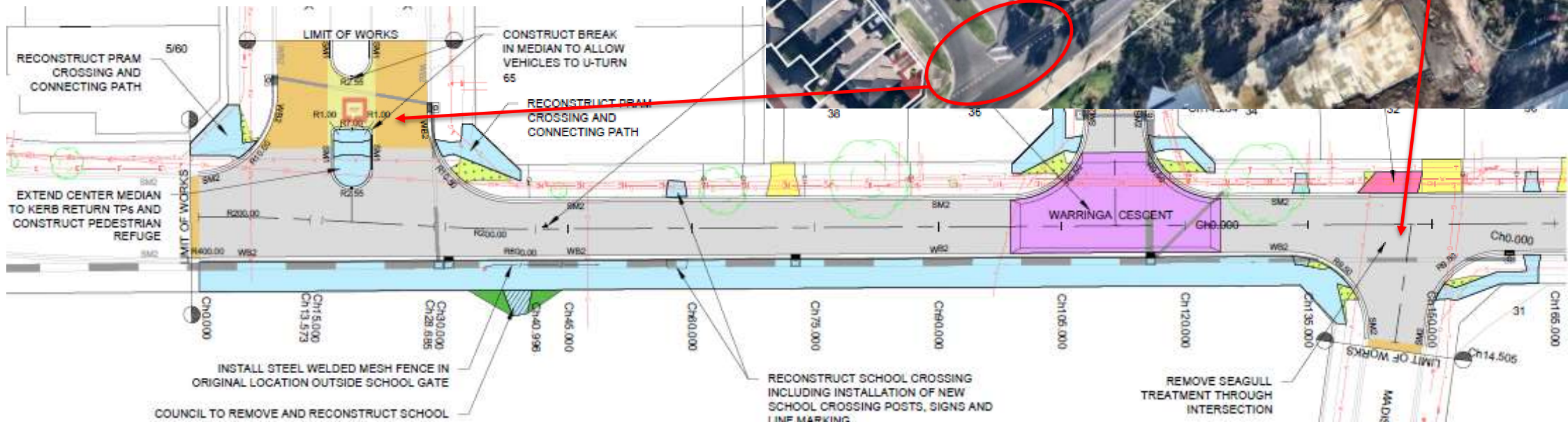


New school crossing installation on recently constructed road



Infrastructure Changes – Safer Active Travel

Using Road Reconstruction Projects to improve footpath crossings



School Engagement

Invite Mayor/Crs to attend events

Prizes, ad-hoc items ie: stickers, postcards

Attending events ie: Ride2School, Colour Fun Runs

Different Approaches tailored to each school



School Engagement

Stickers vs
temp tattoos
– variety of
offerings

Use of
language:
stencilling
not graffiti!

Stencils
vs
decals

School to
design
stencils



Junior Active Travel Leader

Based on a program run in England

Choose a bike & helmet to the value of \$700

Promote active travel through events, assemblies

Receive water bottle, vest, work book, zipper pull



Collaborations – IPC Health

Arts in Active
Travel Project

Year 6
students

Clay work
Figures –
fired &
claymation

Create a
Claymation,
participate in
podcast



Collaborations – Dr Cranky



*BREAKS
Program*

*Bicycle
Recycling*

*Engaging
parents as
volunteers*

*New skills for
kids & adults*



Information & Contact Us

Webpage: <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/activetravel>

Dean Ellis

Co-ordinator Transport Planning

E: dean.ellis@wyndham.vic.gov.au

Ph: 9742 0790

Dianne Johnson

Sustainable Transport Officer

E: Dianne.johnson@wyndham.vic.gov.au

Ph: 8734 2655 or M: 0436 477 393

Why Gender Matters in Active Travel to School

MAV and VicHealth Walking and Riding – Active travel to School - 23
August 2023

Presentation Overview

- Gender Equality Act 2020
- Gender Impact Assessments
- What can council do?
- Further considerations for families and children
- Recap



Gender Equality Act

- March 2021
- Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector
- Defined entities: councils, state government departments, universities, health services



Gender Impact Assessments

- GIA to be completed when developing or reviewing a policy, program or service
- Direct and significant
- Policy: legal policy, strategies and plans
- Program e.g. grant programs, infrastructure development, budget bids and proposals
- Services e.g. transport, school crossing supervisors, recreation and public facilities

Summary of GIA steps

1. Define the purpose of the policy, program or service and who it most affects
2. Understand the evidence
3. Options analysis
4. Recommendations



Define the Purpose and Who it Most Affects

- People of different genders experience public spaces differently
- Different children may use different modes of transport to get to school
- Changes in family structures
- Metropolitan vs rural
- Mobility and accessibility



Understand the Evidence

- Hear from those that are most affected
- What existing data do you have and what do you need to collect?
- External data sources
- Gender disaggregated data
- Collect and analyse data by gender



What Can Council Do?

- Transport and infrastructure policies, programs and services where a GIA is required
- Sphere of influence is large
- Understanding issues and listening to community
- Footpaths and bike routes
- School crossings and supervisors
- Perceptions of safety



Further Considerations for Families and Children

- Not all children are the same
- Being aware of unintentionally reinforcing stereotypes
- Inclusive images that are representative of the community



Recap

- Legislative requirements to complete GIAs
- People of different genders are impacted by active transport in different ways
- Council has lots of opportunities to create change
- Connect with colleagues across council and community to hear from those most affected

Thank You

Bonnie Coogan

Community Strengthening Policy
Officer

bcoogan@mav.asn.au

0438 166 714



Questions?