



# Active for Life Recreation Strategy 2010-25

(Reviewed 2019)



Interpreter service

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MANNINGHAM

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# 1.0 Introduction

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## 1.1 Background

In 2010, we developed the first *'Active for Life' Recreation Strategy (2010-25)*, which identified the vision for a healthy, more active community.

Since the implementation of the Recreation Strategy in 2010, we have invested millions of dollars into sporting and recreation infrastructure across our municipality. This has included major upgrades to Aquarena Aquatic and Leisure Centre, a synthetic soccer pitch at Park Road Reserve, the construction of shared trails, and most recently the construction of a brand new five court multi-use stadium at Mullum Mullum Reserve.

Furthermore, significant investment into football and cricket has been made, through delivering pavilion upgrades at a range of reserves (including female friendly facility upgrades), as well as major investment into drainage and irrigation infrastructure on sports fields. This investment has resulted in 100% conversion to drought tolerant grasses at all turf sports fields.

There have been a number of other achievements since 2010, including the development of a suite of walking brochures and an increased investment into programming initiatives that aim to encourage health and wellbeing within our community.

The sport and recreation landscape has also changed since 2010. Increasing demands on volunteers and an ageing population has influenced our strategic approach to sport and recreation. This has also been accompanied by an increasing population, which has led to significant participation growth in organised sport. National sport and health strategies are focusing on increasing physical activity participation levels, and population density, diversity and obesity levels continue to be key influences in this sector.

With the significant number of achievements arising from the previous Action Plan, coupled with a changing sport and recreation landscape, a major review of the Recreation Strategy has been undertaken. The review has ensured the Recreation Strategy meets the contemporary needs and requirements of our Council and our community.

The review of the Recreation Strategy has resulted in the development of new priority areas, which have influenced the development of a refreshed Action Plan. It is important to note that this review serves as an appendix to the existing Recreation Strategy. This Strategy document should be read in conjunction with the previous Recreation Strategy developed in 2010, to provide further context around sport and recreation within Manningham.

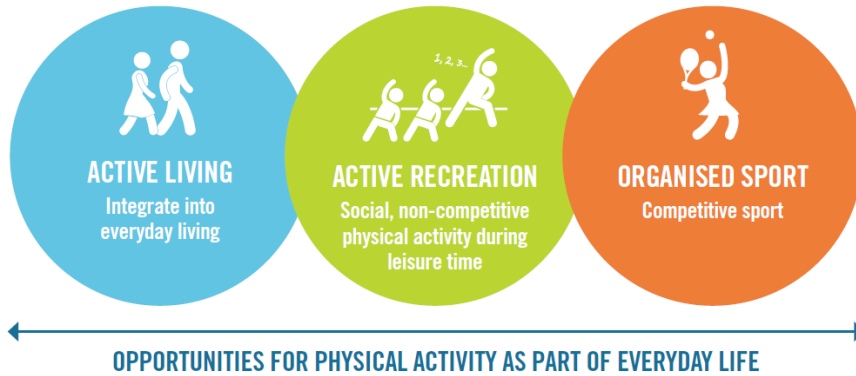
## 1.2 Defining the Scope

The Recreation Strategy considers three key areas to enable an increase in physical activity. These are Active Living, Active Recreation and Organised Sport. Each area can be defined as the following:

- **Active Living** - The ability to incorporate physical activity into our daily lives, including walking and cycling for short trips such as to and from school and work, and walking to the park and shops.
- **Active Recreation** - Encompasses physical activities that are non-competitive in nature such as walking, riding, playing, swimming, going to the gym, and health and wellbeing classes.
- **Organised Sport** - Sporting activities that are run under the auspice of a peak body.

Figure 1: Participation in physical activity

## PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION AS PART OF EVERYDAY LIVING, ACTIVE RECREATION AND ORGANISED SPORT



### 1.3 Council's Role in Recreation

As the closest level of government to the community, we contribute significantly to local sport and recreation participation through policy, planning, programming and facility provision. We aim to increase physical activity within our local community through:

- Facility planning, development and management;
- Strategy and policy development;
- Development and promotion of equitable participation opportunities;
- Increasing capacity for community participation; and
- Partnerships, collaboration and advocacy.

### 1.4 Methodology

To inform the review of the Recreation Strategy, we have considered:

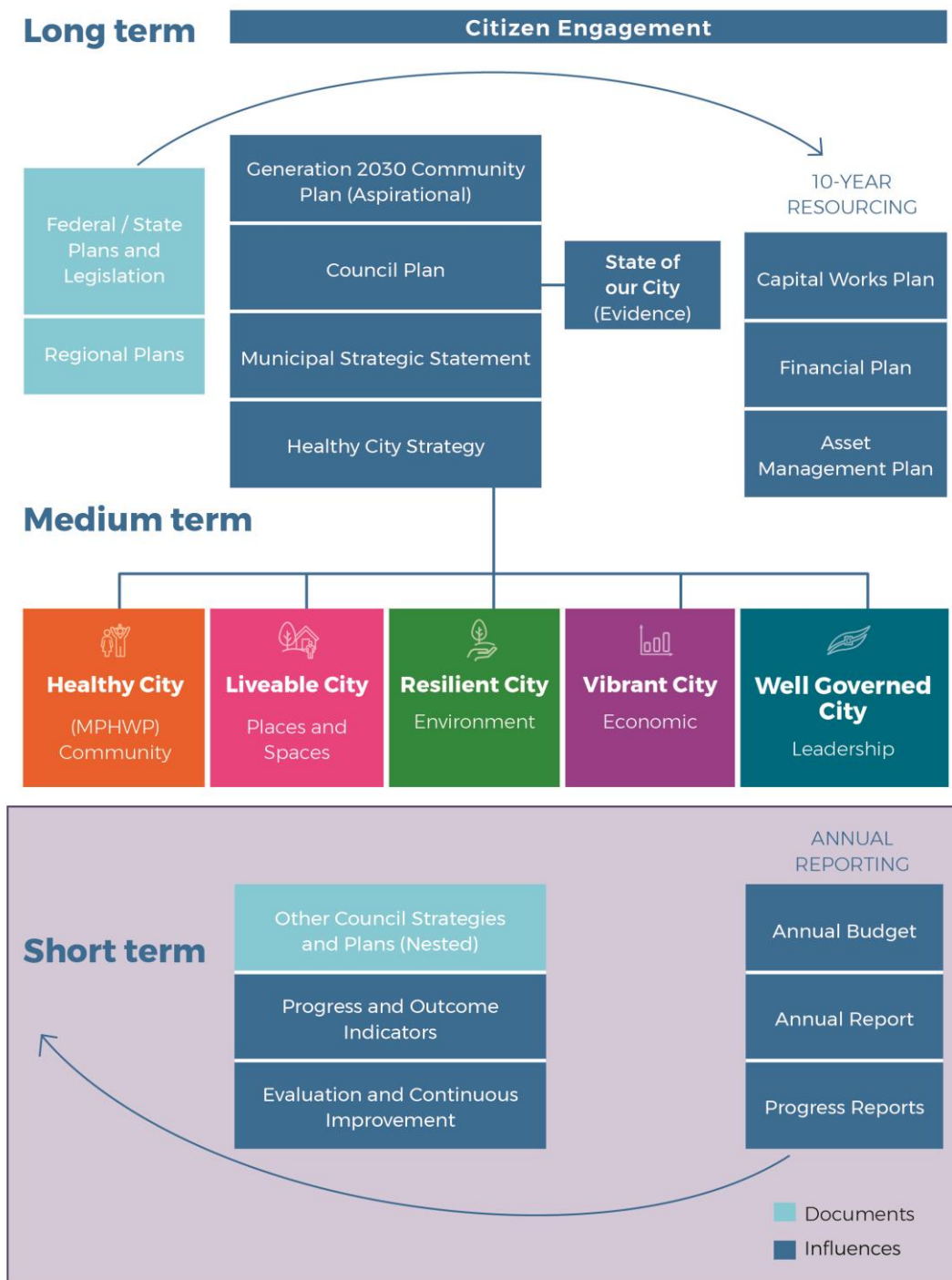
- Local, state and national strategic context of the Recreation Strategy;
- Local demographic data, as well as forecast population figures;
- Past, current and projected future organised sport participation in local sporting clubs;
- Local, state and national participation trends in active recreation;
- Review of current facility provision and projected facility gaps;
- Emerging trends;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Community feedback.

# 2.0 Planning Framework

## 2.1 Organisational Context

Our business is developed and delivered within an Integrated Planning Framework (figure 2). The Framework demonstrates how our plans and strategies work together to deliver outcomes under five themes. The Recreation Strategy supports delivery of a *Healthy City*. Other key strategies include the *Healthy City Strategy 2017-21* and the *Open Space Strategy 2014*.

Figure 2: Council's Integrated Planning Framework



## 2.1.1 Council Plan

Priorities listed within the Recreation Strategy strongly correlate with the *Council Plan 2017-2021*. The Council Plan aligns our services to achieve the vision of *A Liveable and Harmonious City*, which is supported by the Council Plan's Themes and Goals (figure 3). Although the Recreation Strategy touches on all the themes, it specifically aligns with the *Healthy Community* and *Liveable Places and Spaces* Themes.

Figure 3: Council Plan themes

Themes	Goals
<b>Healthy Community</b> 	<b>1.1</b> A healthy, resilient and safe community  <b>1.2</b> A connected and inclusive community
<b>Liveable Places And Spaces</b> 	<b>2.1</b> Inviting places and spaces  <b>2.2</b> Enhanced parks, open space and streetscapes  <b>2.3</b> Well connected, safe and accessible travel  <b>2.4</b> Well utilised and maintained community infrastructure
<b>Resilient Environment</b> 	<b>3.1</b> Protect and enhance our environment and biodiversity  <b>3.2</b> Reduce our environmental impact and adapt to climate change
<b>Vibrant And Prosperous Economy</b> 	<b>4.1</b> Grow our local business, tourism and economy
<b>Well Governed Council</b> 	<b>5.1</b> A financially sustainable Council that manages resources effectively and efficiently  <b>5.2</b> A Council that values citizens in all that we do



## 2.1.2 Healthy City Strategy

The *Healthy City Strategy 2017-21* aims to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of our community. A requirement under the *Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, the Strategy guides our strategic direction for a *Healthy Community*.

The Recreation Strategy has been reviewed in the context of the Healthy City Strategy and is critical to assist in delivering on many of the focus areas and priorities outlined in Figure 4 below.

**Figure 4:** Healthy City Strategy focus and priorities

<b>Inclusive and harmonious</b>	An inclusive, diverse community
	Generation friendly
<b>Healthy and well</b>	Healthy mind
	Healthy lifestyles
	Quality service system
<b>Safe and resilient</b>	A safe community
	A resilient community
<b>Connected and vibrant</b>	Creative community
	Sense of place
	Involved community

### 2.1.3 Manningham Open Space Strategy

The *Open Space Strategy 2014* is a ten year plan that sets priorities and guidelines for the protection, development and use of public open space in our municipality. The Open Space Strategy has been developed to achieve the goals outlined in Figure 5.

The *Open Space Strategy* divides our municipality into 15 precincts and identifies a range of strategic projects. These projects focus on ensuring access to a variety of key parcels of open space for our community, critical linkages across our municipality and a variety of strategic land purchases that are required to ensure future access to open space for our growing population.

The implementation of the *Open Space Strategy* is critical to our ability to be able to successfully deliver on the actions and intended outcomes of the Recreation Strategy.

**Figure 5:** Open Space Strategy vision, goals and objectives



## 2.1.4 Other Council Plans, Strategies and Documents

The Recreation Strategy considers a number of other Plans, Strategies and documents including:

- Aquarena Aquatic and Leisure Centre Master Plan (2006);
- Bicycle Strategy (2013);
- Bushland Management Strategy (2012);
- Eastern Regional Trail Strategy (2018);
- Green Wedge Action Plan (2020);
- Melbourne East Sport and Recreation Strategy (2016-2026);
- Walk Manningham Plan (2011-20); and
- Yarra River Corridor Concept Plan (2019).

## 2.1.5 Consolidation of Council Strategies

The Recreation Strategy has included the consolidation of the following strategic documents:

- Highball Infrastructure Plan (2013-23);
- Horse Riding Strategy (2002); and
- Tennis Strategy (2003).

The above strategies and plans have been incorporated into the Action Plan and are now considered superseded.

## 2.2 State Context

The Recreation Strategy considers the strategic direction from the State Government, with a particular focus on the *Active Victoria – A Strategic Framework 2017-21*. The Framework focuses on enhancement in the following strategic areas:

- Meeting demand;
- Broader and more inclusive participation;
- Additional focus on active recreation;
- Build system resilience and capacity;
- Connect investment in events, high performance and infrastructure; and
- Work together on shared outcomes.

VicHealth has also released the *Physical Activity Strategy 2018-23*. This Strategy aims to increase the number of Victorians who are physically active, with a particular focus on children aged 5-12 years, young people aged 12-17 years as well as women and girls. Promoting physical activity is one of the five strategic imperatives identified for action to improve the health of all Victorians in *VicHealth's Action Agenda for Health promotion 2019-23*. In 2013 VicHealth set a goal of getting 300,000 more Victorians engaged in physical activity by 2030. Since then VicHealth has introduced a number of strategies, these include This Girl Can – Victoria, working with Councils and Schools on the 'Walk to School' initiative, funding Victoria Walks programs, supporting the Victorian Government's Change Our Game initiative and researching into the populations' changing needs and expectations of physical activity.

## 2.3 National Context

The *National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework 2011* has been developed to provide a consistent approach to developing policies that support participation at all levels of government. The Framework focuses on a number of key areas, with relevant areas for Local Government including:

- Participation;
- System sustainability;
- System alignment and collaboration;
- Helping to meet broader objectives; and
- Research and data review.

In its National Sports Plan: Sport 2030, Sport Aus states their target is to have 15% more Australians participating in at least 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per week by 2030.

The Recreation Strategy has also considered the Department of Health's *Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines*, which outlines recommended levels of physical activity for each life stage. Below are the recommendations around physical activity intensity, with the full recommendations including strength and flexibility found within the Guidelines.

- Children Birth to 5 years
  - Infants (Birth to one year) - 30 minutes of interactive supervised tummy time progressing to crawling spread throughout the day.
  - Toddlers (1 to 2 years) - at least 180 minutes of energetic play a day.
  - Pre-schoolers (3 to 5 years) - at least 180 minutes a day, of which 60 minutes is energetic play.
- Children and Young People aged 5-17 years
  - Accumulate 60 minutes or more of moderate to vigorous physical activity per day
- Adults aged 18-64 years
  - Accumulate 150 to 300 minutes of moderate or 75 to 150 minutes of vigorous intensity physical activity, or an equivalent combination of both each week.
- Older Adults 65 years and older
  - Accumulate at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity preferably on all days (where able).

## 3.0 Key Research

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Since the development of the Recreation Strategy in 2010, our community has changed. Population growth, multiculturalism, sport participation rates and housing density are just some of the areas that have experienced change. It is important to understand our current community from both a local and state perspective to inform the Recreation Strategy's Action Plan.

### 3.1 Manningham Community

- A total of 116,255<sup>1</sup> (2016) people call Manningham home, of which 48.4% are males and 51.6% are females.
- We have one of the most diverse communities in metropolitan Melbourne, with 40% of the population in 2016 born overseas. This is compared to the Greater Melbourne average of 34%.
- 42% of the community speak a language other than English at home, compared to the Greater Melbourne average of 32%.
- In 2016, 5,844 people, or 5% of Manningham's population, reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability.
- We have a low level of disadvantage within the community. In 2016, the average SEIFA score across the municipality was 1066, well above the Greater Melbourne average of 1,021. Only 15% of LGAs recorded a higher index score.
- Park Orchards recorded the lowest level of disadvantage at 1,125, followed by Wonga Park with 1,111, and Warrandyte and Warrandyte South with 1,110.
- Other suburbs including Templestowe (1,085), Donvale (1,082) and Templestowe Lower (1,064) also recorded scores above the Greater Melbourne average.
- Despite still recording scores above the Greater Melbourne average, Doncaster (including Doncaster Hill) recorded the lowest SEIFA score within the municipality with 1,037, followed by Bulleen with 1,047 and Doncaster East with 1,054.
- Medium to high density housing continues to be a key feature of the Doncaster Hill area, although the number of medium to high density within the municipality (24%) is lower than the Greater Melbourne Average (33%).
- We also have a higher median age of 43 compared to the Greater Melbourne average of 36.
- 46% of the community are either overweight or obese, including a higher proportion of females who are overweight at 27.2%, compared to the State average of 24.6%.
- 17.8% of our community are classified as inactive; they engage in less than 30 minutes of physical activity a week, which is below the state average of 18.9%.
- We are below the state average for '*adequate exercise*', considered as at least half an hour of physical activity on 4 or more days per week, with 38.2% of our population achieving this compared to 41.3% of Victoria.

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<sup>1</sup> It is noted that the Estimated Resident Population of Manningham in 2018 was 125,508. The 2016 Census figure has been used in this Strategy to ensure accuracy and consistency with other statistics listed in section 3.1.



## 3.2 Active Recreation

The *VicHealth Indicators Survey (2015)* identifies that 70% of participation in physical activity in our City is attributed to active recreation, with the remaining 30% attributed to organised sport.

The three most common activities – walking, fitness/gym, and jogging/running – make up 44% of all recorded active recreation activity in Victoria (*Active Victoria, A Strategic Framework, 2017-21*). These three activities are also the highest participated activities in our City (walking (51.9%), jogging or running (12.7%), and gym or fitness (10.5%)).

It is noted that the Australian Sports Commission AusPlay report *Women and Girls Participation (2017)* concluded that women are just as active and participate as frequently as men, it is just that female participation is focused on active recreation as opposed to organised sport.

This is supported by *AusPlay Data (2019)* which indicates that participation in active recreation across Victoria is higher in females, with 43.7% of females 15 years and over participating in non-sport related activities only, compared to 22.5% of males. This is underpinned by the following activities:

- Walking (57.6% of females in Victoria participating compared to 35.2% of males);
- Fitness/Gym (40% females and 31.8% males); and
- Swimming (16% females and 12.8% males).

In addition to the above, activities such as yoga (9.8% females and 1.2% males) and pilates (7.7% females and 0.8% males) also have significantly higher rates of female participation compared to males.

Whilst facilities that accommodate organised sport can be used for active recreation (such as sports fields), our community halls, indoor centres and Neighbourhood Houses play an integral role in this space. Programming opportunities are also made available for the community through our aquatic centre Aquarena and indoor stadium facilities.

Walking and active travel are a key focus area for VicHealth, supporting the creation of a culture and environment that normalises active travel and encourages short neighbourhood trips to be active.

## 3.3 Organised Sport

The *VicHealth Indicators (2015)* identify that 30% of participation in physical activity in our City is attributed to organised sport.

Further supporting the notion that males participate in organised sport at higher levels than females is the *AusPlay Data (2019)*, which suggests that across Victoria, 29.8% of males aged 15 and over are participating only in organised sport, compared to 8.3% of females. This is supported by local data which identifies that 61.1% of organised sport participation in our City is by males (2016-17).

Netball remains the highest participated sport for females in our City, followed by basketball and gymnastics, with male participation highest in basketball, AFL and cricket.

2016-17 data indicated that our City experienced a high level of junior participation, with 66.5% of participants falling within the junior category. Senior participation (21.1%) and master's participation (11.5%) followed.

Furthermore, Doncaster East recorded the highest level of organised sport participation in 2016-17 with 18.4% of participants residing in the suburb. All other suburbs ranged between 13% and 7.4%.

Participation growth continues, with 13.8% growth recorded between 2014-15 and 2016-17. This growth is attributed to a number of factors including increasing popularity, population growth or changes in the structure of competition delivery. Growth is particularly prevalent in clubs that offer participation opportunities for females. Clubs with strong junior programs are also crucial as participation in the junior years paves the way for people to be active into adulthood. Despite overall participation growth, there continues to be an identified trend of participation decline in teenagers, with the *Active Victoria Framework* noting significant falls in participation in late teenage and early adult years.

The ongoing participation growth within sporting clubs needs to be sustainably managed. It is important that Council assists clubs in developing techniques to sustainably grow their club, which can result in less impact on Council's facilities.

Governance within community sport has experienced change, with associations and clubs becoming more professional. Volunteer led community sports associations are being replaced by organisations with more professional structures and formal governance systems in light of community expectations and legislative requirements. This is due, in part, to the increasing requirements of the sector, and also as a result of time pressures on potential volunteers. The same is true of the volunteers required to administer local sporting clubs and as such we must be cogniscent of the need to provide high levels of support to local sporting clubs and volunteers, particularly with more legislative requirements being placed on sporting clubs (e.g. Child Safe Standards).

### **3.3.1 Future Facility Requirements**

As our population continues to grow, so does participation in our local sporting clubs. Ongoing participation growth, whilst positive, places pressures on our existing sporting infrastructure. This leads to significant capacity issues which results in participation constraints.

To ensure our facilities cater for current and future demand, an analysis has been undertaken to determine the number of facilities required now and into the future, based on current and forecast participation figures. This analysis, coupled with various State Sporting Association facility strategies, has identified that by 2036, the following sports will require additional facilities to cater for demand within our municipality:

- AFL;
- Baseball;
- Cricket;
- Netball; and
- Soccer.

The Recreation Strategy Action Plan includes actions that focus on assessing facility provision, including upgrades to existing facilities to increase capacity, policies to govern usage and mapping open space that can be flagged for possible future organised sport infrastructure. This includes analysis of current and potential future Joint Usage Agreements for use of school land. It is also noted that there will, eventually, be a time where Council's sporting facilities reach maximum capacity, with no further opportunities to build new facilities. Actions have been developed to further explore this scenario through Council policy, maintenance practices as well as partnerships for sustainable growth.

### 3.3.2 Social and Modified Sport

VicHealth, through their *Teens and Sport Report (2018)*, noted that 9 out of 10 Australians aged 12-17 do not meet the Australian Physical Activity Guidelines of 60 minutes of physical activity every day. The Report notes that participation in sport decreases due to a number of factors including:

- Sport increasingly becomes less about what motivates them;
- Sport requires a greater commitment of time, financial resources and family support;
- Places on teams are competitive and opportunities become more limited; and
- Sport is competing for time with adolescents' other interests and commitments, such as education, employment and screen time.

The Report suggests modified versions of sports can assist with addressing the decline in teenage participants, whilst also considering social interaction as a priority.

Further to this, the *AusPlay Data* suggests that the main barrier for adult and older adult participation in sport and physical activity is people being time poor. It also notes that negative factors such as expense and competitive environments also act as barriers.

Social sport is becoming an increasingly popular alternative to organised sport amongst the community, given it is less competitive and has a strong focus on social outcomes in an informal setting. Social sport options also aim to address the time barrier and retain social and community connectedness as people age. VicHealth research has revealed that "People want to take part in social and unstructured sport and physical activity that is flexible and fun and fits into their busy lives. This is particularly true for people who are less physically active." (*Physical Activity Strategy 2019-2023*)

'Physical health or fitness', 'fun & enjoyment' and 'social reasons' are the three main motivators for older peoples' participation according to AusPlay's *A Focus on Older Australians' Participation in Sport and Physical Activity (2018)*. Modified versions of sports, such as 'walking sports' are starting to be offered which provide a lower impact version of the sport whilst offering the above three outcomes and helping to limit injury and work within individuals' health parameters, which are key barriers for older adults.

Social sport, active recreation and play are a Focus Area for VicHealth's Physical Activity Strategy 2019-23. VicHealth has funded the development of some modified/ social sport programs to inspire women and girls to be more active through sport, working towards better gender equality and take on greater leadership roles in sport. Their success outcome will be a greater number of people who are less active participating in social versions of sport and active recreation. Sport Aus has developed grants for State Sporting Associations to adapt their programs to better suit older Australians. Various Sporting Associations are continuing to introduce social/ casual and modified variations of their respective sports, including, but not limited to:

- 3x3 Basketball;
- AFL 9s;
- Barefoot Bowls (Lawn Bowls);
- Bowling with Babies (Lawn Bowls);
- Cardio Tennis;
- Football Fives (Soccer);
- Rock Up Netball;
- Social Sixes (Cricket);
- J-Ball (Hockey) and

- Walking Sports, ie Netball, Basketball, Soccer.

Given the potential participation growth in this area, the provision of infrastructure and access to facilities to support social sport is likely to be a future challenge. It does however provide an opportunity to address declining participation in teenagers, as well as encouraging more adults, including older adults, to participate in sport.

## 4.0 Strategic Direction

Figure 6: Recreation Strategy strategic direction



### 4.1 Vision

The development of the Recreation Strategy in 2010 resulted in the creation of a Vision to guide the strategy's objectives, priority areas and action plan. The Vision has been retained and is designed to achieve two key themes within our Council Plan:

- **Healthy Community** – Through supporting access to services and facilities to improve health and wellbeing; and
- **Liveable Places and Spaces** – Through well maintained facilities that are designed for all.

### 4.2 Objectives

When developing the Recreation Strategy in 2010, we identified four key objectives for future recreation provision within the municipality. These are:

1. To increase participation in recreation in Manningham;
2. To ensure the community has diverse recreation choices in Manningham;
3. To provide great places for people to recreate in Manningham; and
4. To inspire people to participate in recreation in Manningham.

The Recreation Strategy provides a strong basis for us to fulfill our commitment for Manningham residents to be healthier in mind and body, with a community that is 'Active for Life'.



## 4.3 Priority areas

The priorities within the original Recreation Strategy have been reviewed and refined down to four key areas of focus for 2019-2025, which are designed to achieve the objectives and respond to participation trends.

### 4.3.1 Priority Area 1 - Provide flexible, multi-use and durable spaces for recreation to meet the needs of a growing community.

Spaces will be created to be versatile in their use. Single-use facilities do not provide a future-proofed investment for the community and as such we will develop facilities that can be utilised (or readily adapted) for a broad range of activities and accessible by all (including male/female participation, people with a disability and older adults). Facilities will be designed with life-cycle cost in mind, meaning they will be able to be utilised for long periods of time each week by multiple groups, maximising the community return on investment and minimising maintenance costs and down-time.

The increasing popularity of social competitions will continue to place pressure on facility provision and will be considered when developing future multipurpose facilities.

Further, our policies will be developed to reflect the contemporary views of the community and to increase usage of facilities.

With the increasing population density in key areas of our City, there is a growing number of people who will rely on public open space more than ever before due to limited, if any, backyard space. This trend is driving the need for an increase in the number of quality open spaces in the growth areas. The demand on these open spaces for community use will be far greater than we have previously experienced, with higher community expectation and a higher level of usage. This increase in population density is also placing significant demand on structured sporting facilities within certain sections of our municipality.

### 4.3.2 Priority Area 2 - Collaborate with key partners and organisations

Building partnerships with schools, community organisations, Local and State Sporting Associations as well as local clubs will strengthen opportunities for physical activity and help to achieve a healthy and active community.

Many local schools provide facilities that are utilised by the community. Similarly, schools are also a key user group of our facilities in terms of open space, sporting reserves, cross country trails and play spaces. We have a range of Joint Usage Agreements (JUA) currently in place with a variety of schools, however there are a number of school facilities which are capable of being used for organised sport that currently have no formal usage agreement in place. An analysis of these opportunities will be undertaken to determine a demonstrated need to continue existing JUAs and explore the development of additional JUAs as required.

Furthermore, collaborative partnerships with Local and State Sporting Associations will assist in the development of facility planning, including on a regional scale, as well as developing sustainable models for participation growth within local clubs.

A range of partnerships will also be fostered and developed with activity providers across other key stakeholder groups such as VicHealth and other government agencies, to provide high quality outcomes that enable community participation in sport and recreation.

Partnerships will be developed with a range of active recreation providers, including neighbourhood houses, University of the Third Age and other groups that provide active recreation opportunities as part of their programming. This will enable community members to be active through options outside of organised sport and through all stages of life.

### **4.3.3 Priority Area 3 - Foster an environment of inclusion**

Our community is rich in diversity with 39.8% of our community born overseas. Whilst we have an ageing population, we are also a very family-oriented community and in addition, we have many people who live in share households or single dwellings. Furthermore, female participation in sport is increasing. A significant increase of 23% was recorded between 2014-15 and 2016-17 across 18 sports in our City, with this growth anticipated to continue.

Our population is also ageing, with the 2016 Census identifying that 27% of our population is aged 60+. It is important to ensure facilities can accommodate our ageing population, including implementing universal design and dementia friendly concepts. It is also important to develop participation opportunities for older adults to engage in physical activity, with consideration made to social and community connectedness. This extends to other groups including our CALD community and people with a disability and their carers, where participation opportunities can help reduce social isolation.

We will support our diverse residents to lead active lifestyles by providing community facilities, open spaces and facilitating programs that are inclusive for all ages, genders, sexuality, cultures, faiths, and for people of all abilities.

### **4.3.4 Priority Area 4 - Build capacity for our community**

We will deliver and/or facilitate a number of programs to attract residents to parks and open space, encouraging them to participate in a physically active lifestyle. We recognise that these initiatives are useful in kick-starting activity, however support is required for community groups and sporting clubs to provide programs, to ensure that physical activity and recreation activities are sustained. We play a role to build the capacity and capability of the local community by:

- Providing knowledge and training;
- Helping to develop pilot programs;
- Extending existing programs;
- Assisting/encouraging the community and clubs to apply for community grants; and
- Developing and retaining partnerships with community groups and sporting clubs.

Building the capacity of our local community groups and sporting clubs will have a positive impact on new initiatives and will ensure the sustainable growth and delivery of quality programs for our community.

## 5.0 Action Plan

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The following Action Plan is segmented under the four priority areas. Key outcomes have been developed for each priority area, with the actions responding to issues, opportunities and trends identified through research and consultation with key stakeholders.

It is noted that the action plan provides high level actions to guide Council investment into sport and recreation and where possible, does not recommend specific capital works projects. Similarly, the action plan aims not to mention individual sport and recreation activities, where possible. Many actions are high level in nature and whilst the actions may cover a variety of sports/recreation activities, those sports/activities are not specifically mentioned. It is however acknowledged that a small number of actions required the specific sport to be mentioned.

The Action Plan is segmented under the four priority areas:

1. Provide flexible, multi-use and durable spaces for recreation, to meet the needs of a growing community;
2. Collaborate with key partners and organisations;
3. Foster an environment of inclusion; and
4. Build capacity for our community to participate in sport and leisure.

## Priority Area 1 - Provide flexible, multi-use and durable spaces for recreation to meet the needs of a growing community

OUTCOME	ACTION	MEASURE	TIMEFRAME
<b>1.1 - Quality indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities to meet the needs of active recreation and organised sport participation.</b>	1) Review the masterplan undertaken in 2006, for the outdoor areas of Aquarena, to determine future usage and facility provision, including car parking and outdoor pools.	Review of masterplan complete.	Short to Medium
	2) Review the aquatic needs of the community and plan for any future indoor development requirements, with consideration to indoor dry programmable spaces.	Review undertaken and any future developments identified planned for.	Ongoing
	3) Review options regarding management of Aquarena at the end of the current contract term.	Options reviewed and preferred option identified.	Medium to Long
<b>1.2 - An expansive municipal-wide shared trail network that is heavily utilised by the community.</b>	1) Prioritise the delivery of the shared trail network in accordance with the adopted Principal Pedestrian Network and Principal Bicycle Network, with consideration to relevant strategies, to accommodate walking, cycling and, where appropriate, horse riding.	Prioritisation list developed	Short to Medium
	2) Advocate for land to offset any potential loss of land as a result of the North East Link project.	Number of advocacy opportunities undertaken.	Ongoing
	3) Collaborate with relevant land managers to advocate for the maintenance and enhancement of linear parks that are not managed by Council.	Number of advocacy opportunities for maintenance and enhancement undertaken.	Ongoing

OUTCOME	ACTION	MEASURE	TIMEFRAME
<p><b>1.3 - Appropriate access to quality outdoor organised sporting infrastructure that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• caters for growing clubs and participation trends;</li> <li>• meets the needs of a growing population;</li> <li>• accommodates mixed use;</li> <li>• accommodates the continued growth in social sport; and</li> <li>• provides for a diverse range of interests and opportunities.</li> </ul>	1) Develop an assessment criteria for prioritisation of sporting facility infrastructure development.	Assessment criteria developed.	Short to Medium
	2) Review Council's Seasonal Sports Pricing Policy for sportsfield playing surfaces and update to ensure equity amongst users, with consideration to Council's Community Infrastructure Plan.	Renewed Policy developed.	Short to Medium
	3) Develop a Policy for the allocation and use of seasonally allocated sporting infrastructure.	Completion of Policy.	Short to Medium
	4) Review and update Council's Outdoor Sports Infrastructure Guidelines, incorporating club financial contributions towards sporting infrastructure developments.	Renewed Policy developed.	Short to Medium
	5) Investigate opportunities to meet the sporting facility needs of current and future residents by developing a plan that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifies current and projected future usage of facilities to determine the number of future facilities required;</li> <li>• Creates greater optimisation of existing facilities through reviewing allocation processes, Council policy and maintenance practices;</li> <li>• Identifies possible upgrades to existing infrastructure to increase capacity, including synthetic surfaces;</li> <li>• Maps existing and identify possible future Joint Usage Agreements for use of school land, including highball stadiums and sports fields (if need exists);</li> <li>• Identifies possible future land purchases and usage agreements for private land (if necessary).</li> </ul>	Completion of Plan.	Ongoing
	6) Incorporate facilities into master plans that consider the needs of social and modified sport competitions, including incorporating multipurpose principles into facility design.	Facilities incorporated into masterplans.	Ongoing



OUTCOME	ACTION	MEASURE	TIMEFRAME
1.4 - All residents, especially those living in higher density areas, have access to quality passive and active open spaces.	1) Advocate for open space that can cater for active recreation within the development and planning of new residential areas, where appropriate.	Number of opportunities undertaken to advocate for every residential development to have active recreation spaces undertaken.	Ongoing
	2) Purchase/acquire targeted land to increase open space and active recreation provision for the community in higher density areas, in accordance with the Open Space Strategy and where appropriate.	Land purchased to ensure open space provision consistent with the recommendations of the Open Space Strategy 2014.	Ongoing
	3) Plan open spaces to maximise opportunities for active recreation, organised sport and encourage active travel and longer duration stays including the provision of supporting infrastructure, where appropriate.	Number of opportunities included in open space planning, where appropriate.	Ongoing
1.5 - Ensure facility provision for a diverse range of active recreation opportunities.	1) Maintain existing public use open space infrastructure to a high standard, and plan for the provision of new infrastructure to encourage active recreation, where appropriate.	Existing facilities maintained to an appropriate level.	Ongoing
		Construction of new facilities, where appropriate.	
	2) Advocate for the provision of facilities to cater for youth, females, older adults and other under represented groups (including people with a disability and CALD) within future developments, where appropriate.	Number of opportunities undertaken to advocate for inclusive facilities.	Ongoing
	3) Engage with Parks Victoria to determine the need to develop a mountain bike facility at Candlebark Park.	Parks Victoria engaged and need identified.	Medium to Long
4) Consider the viability of providing appropriate infrastructure, including indoor programmable spaces such as meeting rooms/office space, to build the capacity of sport and recreation organisations to enhance their service delivery within Manningham.	Development of infrastructure considered.	Medium to Long	

OUTCOME	ACTION	MEASURE	TIMEFRAME
<b>1.6 - Quality indoor stadium facilities to meet the needs of active recreation and organised sport participation.</b>	1) Review the indoor sporting needs of the community and plan for any future development requirements, with particular focus on a master plan at Donvale Indoor Sports Centre and Manningham Templestowe Leisure Centre.	Review undertaken and master plans developed (if required).	Short to Medium
	2) Monitor participation rates and review the requirements for any additional indoor facility needs and, if required, undertake a feasibility study.	Participation rates monitored and feasibility study undertaken, if required.	Ongoing
	3) Upgrade and maintain existing council owned and/or operated stadiums to ensure they meet the required use.	Ongoing maintenance and upgrades undertaken as per condition audits.	Ongoing
	4) In consultation with the user groups and schools, review the ongoing requirements and partnerships of Joint Usage Agreements (JUA) at Park Orchards, Anderson Creek, Templestowe Heights and Doncaster (as a key indoor facility located in Precinct one of Doncaster Hill) Primary Schools.	Review undertaken and list of preferred JUAs identified.	Medium to Long
	5) Consolidate current stadium management contracts and undertake a tender process for their management and operation at the conclusion of the current contracts terms.	Tender process complete and contract awarded.	Medium to Long

## Priority Area 2 - Collaborate with key partners and organisations

OUTCOME	ACTION	MEASURE	TIMESCALE
2.1- Highly effective partnerships resulting in increased facility provision for the community.	1) In conjunction with Tennis Victoria and tenant clubs, develop a guiding document that aims to review the current provision of tennis courts in the municipality and inform the future direction and requirements for the sport, including upgrades to existing facilities and assessment of club health. Consideration should be made to engaging other Councils to incorporate a regional approach should the appropriate opportunity arise.	Completion of document.	Short to Medium
	2) Collaborate with other local Councils and actively participate in the Melbourne East Region Project Steering Group (MERPSG), for improved provision of active recreation and sporting infrastructure, including continued investment into data collection.	Attendance at MERPSG meetings.	Ongoing
		Participation data collected biennial.	
3) Engage with key agencies, such as Schools and Parks Victoria, that provide open space and facilities within the municipality to ensure ongoing community use.	Key agencies engaged and usage of open space maintained.	Ongoing	
2.2 - Strengthen key partnerships, to enhance the provision of physical activity opportunities, particularly in active recreation and organised sport.	1) Optimise partnerships with health and leisure providers, including sporting associations, to facilitate a range of inclusive initiatives across the municipality to engage all sectors of the community in a variety of physical activities, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of health/physical activity programs in schools, neighbourhood houses and within the community;</li> <li>• Activation of open spaces for key target demographics;</li> <li>• Delivery of casual participation opportunities such as Rock Up Netball and Walking Basketball;</li> <li>• Support Council and State Government led initiatives.</li> </ul>	Partnerships and programs included in the Active Participation Plan (action 4.2.1).	Ongoing
	2) Partner with relevant groups to facilitate a suite of physical activities such as walks, fun runs, cycling, tai chi and dog-friendly activities.	Activities and partnerships incorporated into the Active Participation Plan (action 4.2.1).	Ongoing

OUTCOME	ACTION	MEASURE	TIMESCALE
<b>2.3 - Strategic collaboration with key sporting organisations to enhance participation opportunities in active sport, with particular focus on increasing participation by under represented groups.</b>	1) Advocate to local and state sporting associations to develop and enhance opportunities that foster inclusive participation.	Number of opportunities undertaken to advocate for inclusive participation	Ongoing
	2) Support local and state sporting associations and the local community to establish new sports activities/clubs as demand arises and suitable facilities are identified.	Support provided, as required.	Ongoing
	3) In partnership with state and local sporting associations, in collaboration with local sporting clubs, develop an approach to inform sustainable growth of sporting clubs, with particular focus on sports with high participation including basketball, netball, AFL, cricket, soccer and tennis.	Approach placed into Active Participation Plan (action 4.2.1).	Medium to Long
	4) Assist Paddle Victoria in the implementation of actions within the Regional Paddle Sports Centre Feasibility Plan (RPSCFP).	Actions from RPSCFP implemented.	Medium to Long
<b>2.4 - A strategic approach to external partnerships, advocacy and funding.</b>	1) Retain active involvement in the planning for the proposed North East Link project through advocating for the offset of lost/occupied open space, replacement and upgrade of open space/sporting facilities within the precinct, and assistance for impacted clubs/groups.	Active involvement in project retained.	Ongoing
	2) Apply to relevant funding providers for external funding for key projects that will enhance participation opportunities and facility provision in Manningham.	Number of grants applied for, as need and opportunity arises.	Ongoing
	3) Participate in, and contribute to the strategic direction of sports specific partnerships in the Eastern Region (e.g. State Sporting Association facility planning documents etc.).	Ongoing strategic contribution provided.	Ongoing
	4) Encourage and support clubs and groups to apply for small grants both internal and external to Council, including through Council's Community Facilities Capital Works Funding Program and Community Grant Program.	Support provided to community groups, as required.	Ongoing

## Priority Area 3 - Foster an environment of inclusion

OUTCOME	ACTION	MEASURE	TIMESCALE
<b>3.1 - Improved access to Manningham's organised sport and active recreation opportunities, to encourage participation by all members of the community.</b>	1) Promote a diverse range of sport and recreation programs and facilities to the community, with consideration to utilising innovative communication streams, including promotion in easy English and multiple languages.	Promotion / communication portals included in Active Participation Plan (action 4.2.1).	Ongoing
	2) Develop and implement a social and behavioural change program within sporting clubs and recreation groups, which focuses on mental health, leadership and cultural change around key social issues.	Program developed and implemented.	Ongoing
	3) Develop and implement inclusive practices within Council sports and recreation policies which includes gender equity and child safe standards.	Inclusive practices are included within each policy review (where applicable).	Ongoing
	4) Support the delivery of the Manningham Safe, Respectful and Inclusive Sporting Club Pledge.	Support provided for the program delivery.	Ongoing
	5) Consider ways to reduce barriers for participation in active recreation and organised sport by the community.	Strategies to minimise barriers to participation included within Active Participation Plan (action 4.2.1).	Medium to Long
<b>3.2 - Provide facilities that cater for all.</b>	1) Ensure accessibility audits of priority Council-owned sporting assets are undertaken.	Audit undertaken and assessment placed in infrastructure plan.	Short to Medium
	2) Advocate for all future facilities to be designed and constructed with multi purpose and universal design principles incorporated.	Inclusive design principles included in all facilities, where appropriate.	Ongoing

## Priority Area 4 - Build capacity for our community to participate in sport and leisure

OUTCOME	ACTION	MEASURE	TIMESCALE
4.1 - Support the development of well governed, sustainable sporting clubs.	1) Provide pro-active direction and support to Manningham based sport and recreation clubs and groups to implement capacity building initiatives through a range of mediums, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer training programs on key sustainability topics;</li> <li>• Advocacy for inclusive club environments;</li> <li>• Distribute resources relating to club sustainability and ensuring resources are easily accessible to clubs and groups;</li> <li>• Identification of funding opportunities (Council provided and other agencies) and grant writing support;</li> <li>• Club health checks, to determine current health of clubs.</li> </ul>	Support mechanisms included within the Active Participation Plan (action 4.2.1).	Ongoing
	2) Support volunteerism within local sport and recreation groups through recruitment and retention strategies, with a particular focus on promotion of the Manningham Volunteer Resource Service (MVRS).	MVRS promoted.	Ongoing
	3) Investigate innovative techniques to communicate with clubs and groups to promote Council led initiatives and key information relating to club sustainability.	Communication techniques investigated.	Ongoing
4.2 - A community that is inspired to spend time in their local parks, reserves and leisure centres.	1) Develop a Council wide initiative (Active Participation Plan) that aims to increase the health and wellbeing of the community through participation and promotion of organised sport and active recreation activities.	Initiative developed.	Short to Medium
	2) Activate Council's open space through promotion of availability and programs.	Availability and programs promoted.	Ongoing
	3) Investigate people counting technologies and strategies within park/open space developments, as appropriate, in order to gather baseline utilisation data and measure the impacts of capital/operational initiatives.	Investigation complete and number of opportunities identified.	Ongoing



OUTCOME	ACTION	MEASURE	TIMESCALE
4.3 – A community that values active transport.	1) Strategically promote opportunities for the community to engage in active transport.	Number of active transport opportunities promoted.	Ongoing
	2) Support a range of targeted initiatives that promote opportunities for active transport.	Support provided for active transport opportunities.	Ongoing
4.4 – A community that is connected to, and engaged with the natural environment.	1) Partner with aligned community groups to promote active use of the natural environment.	Number of partnerships created with aligned groups.	Ongoing
		Use of natural environment promoted.	

## 6.0 Monitoring and Review

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The Recreation Strategy will be reviewed annually to determine the progress of the Action Plan. Measures within the Action Plan will be used to determine this progress. Actions with financial resources required are subject to our annual budget process. This process will be considered when measuring the success of the respective action.

## 7.0 Data Sources

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1. **Active Victoria – A Strategic Framework for Sport and Recreation in Victoria 2017-2021** [sport.vic.gov.au/publications-and-resources/strategies/active-victoria-strategic-framework-sport-and-recreation](http://sport.vic.gov.au/publications-and-resources/strategies/active-victoria-strategic-framework-sport-and-recreation)
2. **AusPlay – Participation Data for the Sport Sector** [https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/762136/34648\\_AusPlay\\_summary\\_report\\_accessible2.pdf](https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/762136/34648_AusPlay_summary_report_accessible2.pdf)
3. **AusPlay Focus – Older Australians’ Participation in Sport and Physical Activity 2018** [https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/762119/AusPlay\\_Focus\\_Older\\_Australians\\_Participation.pdf](https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/762119/AusPlay_Focus_Older_Australians_Participation.pdf)
4. **AusPlay Focus – Women and Girls Participation** [https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/757511/ASC\\_AusPlay\\_Focus\\_on\\_Women\\_and\\_Girls\\_Participation\\_Final.pdf](https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/757511/ASC_AusPlay_Focus_on_Women_and_Girls_Participation_Final.pdf)
5. **AusPlay National Survey – State/Territory Results** <https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/research/ausplay/results>
6. **Australia Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines** [www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/pasb](http://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/pasb)
7. **Australian Bureau of Statistics (Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation 2013-14)** [www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4177.0](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4177.0)
8. **Community ID (Manningham)** <https://profile.id.com.au/manningham>
9. **Health and Human Services – Inequalities in the Social Determinants of Health and what it means for the Health of Victorians** <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-07/VPHS-2014-inequalities-social-determinants.pdf>
10. **Inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation 2015** [https://changeourgame.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/39025/inquiry\\_into\\_women\\_and\\_girls\\_in\\_sport.pdf](https://changeourgame.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/39025/inquiry_into_women_and_girls_in_sport.pdf)
11. **National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework 2011** [www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/nsarpf#Principles](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/nsarpf#Principles)
12. **Sport Aus – Sport 2030** [https://www.sportaus.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/677894/Sport\\_2030\\_-\\_National\\_Sport\\_Plan\\_-\\_2018.pdf](https://www.sportaus.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/677894/Sport_2030_-_National_Sport_Plan_-_2018.pdf)
13. **Sport Participation in Australia (Clearinghouse for Sport) 2019** [www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/knowledge\\_base/sport\\_participation/community\\_participation/sport\\_participation\\_in\\_australia](http://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/knowledge_base/sport_participation/community_participation/sport_participation_in_australia)
14. **Social Sport (Clearinghouse for Sport) 2018** [www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/knowledge\\_base/sport\\_participation/Sport\\_a\\_new\\_fit/social\\_sport](http://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/knowledge_base/sport_participation/Sport_a_new_fit/social_sport)

15. **VicHealth – Teens and Sport**  
[www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/-/media/FundingOpportunities/Growing-Participation-Sport/Teens%20in%20sport%20summary.pdf](http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/-/media/FundingOpportunities/Growing-Participation-Sport/Teens%20in%20sport%20summary.pdf)
16. **VicHealth Indicators Survey 2015 – Manningham LGA Profile**  
[https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/-/media/VHIndicators/Middle-metro/Vic161\\_Manningham\\_indicator\\_v5.pdf?la=en&hash=59466F7F6C8E89B129C7F4F75315E559FC76D0B9](https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/-/media/VHIndicators/Middle-metro/Vic161_Manningham_indicator_v5.pdf?la=en&hash=59466F7F6C8E89B129C7F4F75315E559FC76D0B9)
17. **VicHealth Physical Activity Strategy 2018-23**  
[www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/-/media/ResourceCentre/PublicationsandResources/Physical-activity/VicHealth-Physical-Activity-Strategy.pdf?la=en&hash=D2922172FD7F63A662FC267FD5603AD8EBF32DE4](http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/-/media/ResourceCentre/PublicationsandResources/Physical-activity/VicHealth-Physical-Activity-Strategy.pdf?la=en&hash=D2922172FD7F63A662FC267FD5603AD8EBF32DE4)
18. **VicHealth Physical Activity Strategy 2019-2023**  
[www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/publications/physical-activity-strategy](http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/publications/physical-activity-strategy)
19. **VicHealth Action Agenda for health promotion 2013-23**  
[www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/publications/action-agenda-for-health-promotion](http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/publications/action-agenda-for-health-promotion)

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