

YOUTH AND EARLY YEARS GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL FACT SHEET

The challenge: Supporting young people and families in Glen Eira

Glen Eira is experiencing growing demand for services and programs that support children, young people, and families. Rising mental health challenges, youth disengagement, and cost-of-living pressures are impacting wellbeing and access to opportunities. Early years services are under strain, and families need more support to ensure children thrive.

Without targeted investment and strong partnerships, we risk increasing vulnerability and reducing life outcomes for our youngest residents.



Our advocacy priorities

- 1. Expand youth mental health and wellbeing support:** Strengthen support for local, accessible mental health services for young people, including outreach programs, early intervention initiatives, and partnerships with schools and community organisations.
- 2. Strengthen youth engagement and pathways:** Strengthen support for programs that address youth disengagement, promote education and employment pathways, and provide safe spaces for young people to connect and participate in community life.
- 3. Build a community hub in Elsternwick:** Seeking \$2 million to plan a new integrated facility for families and children, combining the Elsternwick Family and Children's Centre with tailored support services.

4. Support families and vulnerable groups:

Strengthen support for tailored programs that assist families experiencing financial stress, cultural and linguistic barriers, and other vulnerabilities, ensuring equitable access to services and opportunities.

Policy outcomes sought

- Improved mental health and wellbeing for young people through local, accessible support.
- Increased youth engagement and participation in education, employment, and community life.
- High-quality early years services and infrastructure that meet growing demand.
- Stronger, more resilient families supported by inclusive programs and services.

Why government partnership is essential

Local government plays a critical role in supporting young people and families, but our capacity is limited by funding constraints and service gaps. Glen Eira City Council is committed to delivering programs and facilities that strengthen wellbeing and opportunity, but we need State and Federal support to:

- Provide accessible mental health and engagement programs for young people.
- Upgrade early years infrastructure and expand maternal and child health services.
- Ensure families have access to inclusive, tailored support during times of need.

Community impact

Investing in youth and early years services builds resilience, reduces vulnerability, and improves life outcomes. Strong early years foundations and youth engagement programs prevent crisis, ease demand on health and justice systems, and create a stronger, more connected Glen Eira for all.

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CITY COUNCIL

Key data and context

- **Population growth:** Glen Eira's population of children and young people is increasing, placing pressure on early years services and youth programs.
- **Early years demand:** Families require greater access to maternal and child health services and high-quality early years programs to support development and wellbeing.
- **Youth mental health:** Demand for mental health support among young people is growing, with local services under strain and gaps in early intervention.
- **Youth engagement:** Disengagement from education and employment is a growing concern, requiring programs that provide positive pathways and safe spaces for young people.
- **Family support:** Cost-of-living pressures and cultural barriers are impacting families' ability to access childcare, education, and support services, increasing vulnerability.
- **Community infrastructure:** Many early years facilities need upgrades to meet accessibility and capacity requirements and provide inclusive environments for children and families.

To read the *Advocacy Priorities 2025–2026*, scan the QR code or visit www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/advocacy



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