

# SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

## GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL FACT SHEET

### The challenge: Building safe, connected communities in Glen Eira

Glen Eira is one of Victoria's most culturally diverse municipalities, with residents from more than 150 countries and over 40 per cent speaking a language other than English at home. It is also home to the highest Jewish population in Victoria, adding to the rich cultural and faith diversity of the area.

While this diversity is a strength, it also requires investment in programs and infrastructure that foster inclusion, belonging, and safety. Rising social isolation, mental health challenges, and family violence risks are impacting community wellbeing. Without strong partnerships and targeted funding, we risk widening gaps in social cohesion and safety.



### Our advocacy priorities

- 1. 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.
- 2. Strengthen social cohesion and inclusion:**
  - **Community safety upgrades:** Seeking \$650,000 total for upgrades to improve visibility and create more inviting public spaces (Queens Avenue underpass, Eat Street carpark, Carnegie Library laneway).
  - **Inclusive placemaking with Monash University YXX Lab:** Seeking \$200,000 to design safer, more inclusive public spaces using evidence-based principles, co-designed with the community.
  - **Prevent family violence:** Provide tailored, long-term funding for support services and primary prevention initiatives, including programs for fathers and culturally inclusive workshops.
- 3. Promote social cohesion, inclusion and wellbeing:**
  - **Wall-to-Wall mural trail:** Seeking \$250,000 to create a curated series of large-scale murals to activate blank or underused walls, celebrate local stories, and support creative industries.
  - **Foster inclusion:** Deliver inclusive social cohesion initiatives, such as *Upstander training* and *Welcoming Cities*.
  - **Support cohesion:** Support Glen Eira's inclusion in the Victorian Government's *Anti-Hate Taskforce* and back the *Local Empowerment Against Hate initiative*.
  - **Improve health and wellbeing:** Expand local health and wellbeing initiatives, including mental health, arts and cultural infrastructure, immunisation, and outreach to CALD and elder communities.
  - **Provide cost of living relief:** Expand community pantry and meal programs, and offer targeted subsidies for essential services.
- 4. Empower young people and address emerging risks:**
  - **Scale up school programs:** Expand school-based programs on vaping, gambling, and mental health first aid, and integrate prevention initiatives on gender-based violence and discrimination.
  - **Reduce gambling:** Implement harm reduction measures, support local campaigns like *Love Our Game*, and improve treatment and referral pathways.
- 5. A collective model to strengthen local responses to homelessness:** Seeking \$200,000 to establish a coordinated, place-based response to homelessness, aligned with the *Zero Project: Housing First Coordination*.

# OPEN SPACE

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GLEN EIRA  
CITY COUNCIL

### Policy outcomes sought

- Stronger, more connected communities where everyone feels safe and included.
- Reduced family violence and improved mental health through prevention and early intervention.
- Accessible, inclusive community infrastructure that supports participation and wellbeing.
- Sustainable funding and collaborative frameworks that empower councils to deliver for their communities.

### Why Government partnership is essential

Local government is on the frontline of social cohesion and safety challenges, but our capacity is limited by funding constraints and service gaps. Glen Eira City Council is committed to creating a safe, inclusive community, but we need State and Federal support to:

- Deliver programs that reduce isolation and strengthen community connection.
- Provide wraparound services for those at risk of family violence and mental health challenges.
- Ensure community infrastructure is inclusive, safe, and fit for purpose.

### Community impact

Investing in social cohesion and safety builds resilience, reduces harm, and strengthens community wellbeing. Inclusive programs and safe spaces help prevent crisis, ease demand on health and justice systems, and create a stronger, more connected Glen Eira for all.

### Key data and context

- **Cultural diversity:** Glen Eira is one of Victoria's most culturally diverse municipalities, with residents from more than 150 countries and over 40 per cent speaking a language other than English at home.
- **Jewish community:** Glen Eira is home to the largest Jewish population in Victoria, contributing to the municipality's rich cultural and faith diversity.

- **Social isolation:** Older residents and culturally and linguistically diverse communities are at higher risk of isolation and loneliness, requiring targeted programs to build connection.
- **Family violence and safety:** Incidents of family violence continue to rise across Victoria, placing pressure on local services and increasing demand for prevention and early intervention programs.
- **Mental health:** Demand for mental health support is growing, particularly among young people and vulnerable groups, with local services under strain.
- **Community infrastructure:** Many community facilities require upgrades to ensure they are inclusive, accessible, and safe for all residents.



To read the *Advocacy Priorities 2025–2026*, scan the QR code or visit [www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/advocacy](http://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/advocacy)



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