



ACCESS TO SERVICES



FAMILY SUPPORT

CURRENT SITUATION

Mitchell Shire has a current population of around 47,000¹ and is one of the fastest growing councils in Victoria². In the next 25-30 years, our population is expected to grow to over 270,000³.

Although we are only at the beginning of our rapid growth, our communities are already experiencing limited access to human services⁴. Residents are frequently required to travel to services, and are increasingly having to seek services out of the municipality. This is difficult for many families, with almost a third of households in Mitchell Shire having access to only one car or no motorised vehicle at all⁵.

Our community's lack of access to services is evident, as Mitchell Shire is presenting with some of the most alarming family violence and child protection statistics in Victoria. As a Shire that comprises of rural and urban areas, and that is experiencing rapid population growth and social change, without intervention, these rates will continue to worsen.

FAMILY VIOLENCE STATISTICS

- > Mitchell Shire has a higher rate of family violence than all of the councils located in and around Melbourne (2,275.2 per 100,000 population)⁶.
- > Mitchell Shire's family violence rate is almost double the Victorian average of 1,242.4 persons per 100,000 population⁶.
- > Mitchell Shire's family violence rate has increased since 2012 to 2017 by over 57%⁶.
- > Over one third of family violence incidents in Mitchell Shire in the last year had children present⁷.
- > Out of all crimes against the person, property and deception offences and other offences in Mitchell Shire in the last year, just under one third were related to family violence⁷.
- > The rate of Mitchell Shire residents presenting to the emergency department as a result of family violence per 100,000 population is 12.3 persons⁸.

CHILD PROTECTION DATA

- > Mitchell Shire has a higher rate of child protection reports (43.05% higher), investigations (60.25% higher), substantiations (97.99% higher) and applications issued (92.93% higher) than Metropolitan Melbourne⁴.

MORE INFORMATION.

Advocacy and Community Services

(03) 5734 6200

**MITCHELL
SHIRE COUNCIL**



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3. Potential Development Sequencing Northern Growth Corridor. (2016). Final Version, PATCH design and plan, (calculated on new figure of 17 dwellings/ha).
4. Interface Council Group Human Services Gap Analysis. (2017). Final Report, Version 7.3. [Accessed 9 Jan. 2018].
5. Profile.id.com.au. (2018). Car ownership, Mitchell Shire, profile.id. [online] Available at: profile.id.com.au/mitchell/car-ownership [Accessed 9 Jan. 2018].
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7. Crimestatistics.vic.gov.au. (2018). Family Violence Related Offences. Requested data, received and viewed 18 Jan 2018.
8. Crimestatistics.vic.gov.au. (2018). Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset, Crime Statistics Agency Victoria. [online] Available at: crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/family-violence-data-portal/family-violence-data-dashboard/victorian-emergency-minimum-dataset [Accessed 9 Jan. 2018].



ACCESS TO SERVICES



FAMILY SUPPORT

Mitchell Shire Council is seeking a commitment from the State and Federal Governments to increase prevention and early intervention services to families, increase family violence counselling services and crisis support and to build a family violence support hub within Mitchell Shire

THE ASK

TO REDUCE FUTURE RATES OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AS OUR POPULATION RAPIDLY GROWS, MITCHELL SHIRE REQUIRES PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION SUPPORT SERVICES FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN.

THE ASK CONSISTS OF THREE PARTS:

1. CHILDREN AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

\$500,000 per annum for an additional three full time Family Support and Outreach Officers to work directly with children and families.

2. INCREASED FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICES AND CRISIS SUPPORT

\$450,000 per annum for increased crisis support across Mitchell Shire for immediate service response, through an additional five specialist family support workers.

3. FAMILY VIOLENCE SUPPORT HUB

State Government has commitment to establishing 17 Family Violence Hubs across Victoria over the next four years. This will increase access to specialised services and support for vulnerable women, children and families. As our current rate of family violence is significantly higher compared to Melbourne and surrounding councils, there is a strong need for a Family Violence Hub to be located within Mitchell Shire boundaries.

THE BENEFITS

1. CHILDREN AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Increased children and family support services within Mitchell Shire will enable the growing community to access services locally, address issues of disadvantage. The services will take a holistic approach to children and family support, including addressing co-morbidity issues of family violence, mental health, alcohol and other drugs, socio-economic issues and homelessness.

2. INCREASED FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICES AND CRISIS SUPPORT

Increased crisis funding for family violence will provide the resources to respond to family violence incidents in a timely manner, and provide support pathways reducing further risk and/or the occurrence of another incident.

3. FAMILY VIOLENCE SUPPORT HUB

The allocation of a Family Violence Hub located within Mitchell Shire boundaries will address limited support services and provide opportunities for referral pathways and educational programs for vulnerable women, children and families.