

**21.09 COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

19/01/2006  
VC37

**21.09-1 Overview**

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Community services include the areas of health, aged, child, youth and family services. The City of Boroondara is responsible for facilitating the provision of a broad range of services to the community. Services are also provided by other agencies and by private organisations.

Within the context of the importance of community service provision Council's 1998 -2001 Corporate Plan sets as one of its key mission statements to;

*"facilitate the provision of social and physical services which respond to the community's needs."*

The vast majority of community facilities are located within residential areas. If not properly managed these uses can affect the amenity and character of Council's residential areas.

Community services are developed and funded by all three tiers of government and by the private sector. One of the unintended outcomes of this can be fragmentation at the service delivery level.

Community services are generally well distributed across the City, although there are certain areas that do not enjoy the same degree of accessibility. Compared with metropolitan Melbourne, Boroondara is relatively advantaged with respect to key socio-economic indicators such as average household income, education levels and so forth. However, there are parts of the City that are socio-economically disadvantaged and a key issue for Council is to ensure that its resources are effectively targeted and distributed to ensure equitable outcomes. Council has prepared a "Community Support Strategy" (1997) to address this issue.

The "Community Support Strategy" notes that many of Council's facilities have not been upgraded or refurbished on a periodic basis. The Strategy addresses various concerns which relate to the age and condition of many community facilities, and suggests some priorities about the type, nature and location of future community facilities.

Private and public sector education and health services are two of the largest components of the community services sector, with the private sector component forming a significant part of the City's economy. The intense concentration of education institutions within the City, particularly private schools, distinguishes Boroondara regionally from other municipalities.

In total there are 58 primary, preparatory and secondary schools in the City together with 8 special development schools, Swinburne University of Technology, Swinburne College of Technical and Further Education, Hawthorn Institute of Education and the University of the Third Age. These facilities draw from broad regional and international catchments. The main impediment to the further development and growth of these education facilities is a lack of space to expand.

The health sector, is of great significance in the City and comprises approximately 15 hospitals, 20 nursing homes and 900 private medical and other health related practices. Once again, the expansion of such facilities is difficult because of their impact on surrounding areas.

The alternative health sector is a growing one, thriving on the high levels of disposable income found within the City.

**21.09-2 What are the community issues?**

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The location of community facilities and services need to be distributed on an equitable basis according to need.

The development and use of community facilities needs to be encouraged, but also needs to be managed so as to support the amenity or character of the surrounding residential areas.

The provision of multi-functional community centres may be an important trend in the future.

The development and retention of the education and health sectors are important to the economy and local welfare of the City.

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## **Objectives, strategies and implementation**

### **Objectives**

- To ensure that all members of the Boroondara community have appropriate and equitable access to community facilities according to their need.
- To ensure that community facilities complement and enhance residential areas.
- To retain the City of Boroondara as a regional centre for education and health services.
- To ensure that community facilities are used to their full potential and provide a range of services to all user groups.

### **Strategies**

- Locate community infrastructure to accommodate multi-purpose trips.
- Ensure residents have access to community facilities according to need.
- Provide disability access to community facilities.
- Minimise the impact of community facilities on their surrounding areas.
- Continue the vital role of education and health facilities in order to provide the best education and health care for the community.
- Encourage the sharing of resources and joint development of community facilities, including local primary, secondary and tertiary education institutions.

### **Implementation**

These strategies will be implemented by:

### **Policy and exercise of discretion**

- Encouraging the location of community activities in or around commercial centres and in areas which have good access to public transport.
- Applying local policy (Discretionary Uses in Residential Areas Policy at Clause 22.04) to ensure community facilities are located, operated and designed so that their impact on surrounding residential areas is minimised.
- Applying local policy (Institutional Uses Policy at Clause 22.06) to plan for the future of major educational institutions through the preparation of Master Plans.

### **Zones and overlays**

- Applying the Development Plan Overlay to all institutions in the City to require Master Plan preparation.

### **Other actions**

- Implementing the Community Support Strategic Plan and develop an Access and Equity Policy.
- Implementing the Community Disability Access Policy to ensure new community buildings provide appropriate disability access.
- Implementing the adopted outcomes of Council's Swinburne Connections Project Campus Community Interface, Cultural Hub.
- Implementing the City of Boroondara Community Support Strategic Plan, Leisure Facilities Strategy and Open Space Policy to encourage the multi-purpose use of facilities, where appropriate.

### **Reference documents**

City of Boroondara Community Support Strategy, 1997

City of Boroondara Culture and Arts Policy and Strategic Plan, 1996

City of Boroondara Discretionary Uses Code, 1997

City of Boroondara Leisure Facilities Strategy, 1997

City of Boroondara Economic Policy, 1997

City of Boroondara Swinburne Connections Project Campus Community Interface, Cultural Hub

City of Boroondara Disability Access Policy, 1997