

COMMUNITY CAPACITY STRATEGIC PLAN

2021–24

ONKAPARINGA



KAURNA ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Kurna Nation and its people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land in the area now known as the City of Onkaparinga.

We recognise that this local living culture has developed over tens of thousands of years and that in today's contemporary context, Kurna and other Aboriginal people are actively engaged in community life and bring their rich cultural heritage to the strong, vibrant communities we strive for.

We remember Kurna people's spiritual relationship with country when we make decisions about our region and that the protection of places of importance to Kurna culture has an impact on the wellbeing and prosperity of Kurna and other Aboriginal people.

We recognise our leadership responsibility to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, local businesses, and service agencies by actively engaging in a shared journey towards reconciliation.

Our work here includes encouraging more inclusive and culturally mindful communities through reconciliation and other initiatives that support Kurna and other Aboriginal people to actively engage with community life.

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INTRODUCTION

We are committed to supporting our communities to be involved in local matters and work together to make life better.

This includes working towards community connectedness, developing skills, and providing opportunities for people to participate in and influence community life.

To us this is 'community capacity' and it is important because a strong, vibrant community is one that works together, shares resources, and is optimistic about the future.

Our approach

Our approach to building community capacity is based on social justice and community development principles. We strive to enable happy, healthy and rewarding lives for all people.

This includes:

- providing places and spaces for community connection, activity and skill development
- valuing local leadership and involvement in decision-making
- improving social equity and quality of life.

We co-design and deliver community capacity building initiatives with community members and other stakeholders. We facilitate community development projects that enable and encourage active participation, leadership and contribute to improving peoples' lives.

Safe places and spaces for community gathering are fundamental to quality of life. Our wide range of community facilities are important resources. They enable community capacity building by helping people to develop the

confidence, connections and knowledge to become more active participants in community life. They provide forums for social connection, collaboration and learning.

The free/low cost initiatives and programs available via our facilities (and in our open spaces) are integral to broad community participation.

We have a strong volunteering culture in our region, with over 26,000 volunteers formally recognised via the 2016 Census. The extraordinary contribution of time, energy and skill that our volunteers make are crucial to our region.



Priority populations

While our work considers the needs and aspirations of all, we also consider social equity.

This drives us to work within our role to address inequities and challenges that are often experienced by certain cohorts of our

community. We refer to these cohorts as our priority populations and they include:

- People on a low income
- Young people
- Older people
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Culturally and linguistically diverse people
- People with a disability
- New and emerging citizens.

Our plan

This Strategic Plan contributes to our Community Plan vision of Strong, Vibrant Communities and themes of People, Place and Prosperity. The key focus of this plan aligns closest to the People theme.

The Community Capacity Strategic Plan has been developed from the findings of community engagement as well as research across the community services sector.

The plan comprises outcomes and actions under six key result areas:

- Enhance social connection and wellbeing
- Foster equity and celebrate diversity
- Activate community infrastructure
- Support local activity
- Leverage community strengths
- Engage in purposeful partnerships.



COMMUNITY CAPACITY ACTION PLAN

ACTION PLAN

People

Key result areas	OUTCOME	What we will continue doing	What we will do differently
Enhance social connection and wellbeing	<p>Strong local interest-based groups and networks</p> <p>Increased levels of participation in community activities</p> <p>People are connected, resilient, safe and living well</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for people to connect through involvement in activities such as networks and community groups • Promote opportunities for community participation, particularly better use of council publications and online platforms • Support and deliver activities that build the capacity and promote the value and contribution of volunteers • Support community activity and collaboration to build resilience in preparedness for times of crisis, emergency and recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase support for communities in new urban development areas to build relationships via community development initiatives • Ensure a strong community voice on matters and decisions that affect them • Increase support for community initiatives which equip residents to create meaningful connection and promote wellbeing through food, in particular community gardens and associated programs • Engage with volunteers to clarify what supports will facilitate their ability to volunteer effectively, noting they are looking for more than skill development and recognition
Foster equity and celebrate diversity	<p>An inclusive and collaborative community</p> <p>Services and resources are accessible and focussed where they are needed most</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities are actively engaged in community life and have support to live well</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with communities to share stories, recognise and celebrate diversity through initiatives that strengthen and enhance community inclusiveness • Remove barriers to support equitable access to services and programs • Support the provision of culturally appropriate programs and initiatives that improve outcomes for diverse communities • Work in partnership with the Neporendi Aboriginal Forum Inc. to achieve their strategic objectives • Advocate to government for increased service provision in our region, including health, education, domestic violence, anti-poverty, aged care, homelessness, social housing and public transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement collaborative approaches for addressing issues including low income, anti-poverty, homelessness and affordable housing, that align with and recognise the valuable support provided through churches and non-government community service providers • Develop our approach to working with CALD communities, in particular new citizens • Develop a Reconciliation Action Plan • Explore ways to increase recognition and community involvement in our citizenship ceremonies, focusing on shared stories and celebration of diversity

COMMUNITY CAPACITY ACTION PLAN

Place

Key result areas	OUTCOME	What we will continue doing	What we will do differently
Activate community infrastructure	<p>Safe and inclusive places for people to connect</p> <p>Volunteer Management Committees are well equipped to run facilities and work in a coordinated manner towards shared aims</p> <p>People are proud of our community facilities and they are well utilised</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement our Community Facility Guidelines focusing on service delivery, facility location and design • Continue to support community centres via our Community Centres Management Model • Work with facility managers to identify opportunities for shared community spaces and collaborative approaches • Support volunteer management committees to deliver safe, welcoming and well-managed programs to encourage social activity • Support community groups to adopt quality frameworks and provide governance support to overcome challenges regarding legislative requirements, volunteer management and recruitment, funding and skill building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure longer-term accommodation for our successful OYEH (Onkaparinga Youth Enterprise Hub) service • Expand the accessibility and use of our community facilities through improved online promotion, enquiry and booking processes • Review the long-term plan for community centres including analysis of centre programming
Support local activity	<p>A diverse range of fun, healthy and affordable opportunities</p> <p>Community capacity building initiatives are responsive to local considerations and citizen-led wherever possible</p> <p>Easy access to local information that supports participation in community life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support free/low cost community led initiatives and events that build skills and relationships and address local issues • Provide information on supports available to our communities and how to access them as well as advocating for increased services in our region • Build on our Community Facilities Coordination Model by delivering locally responsive community capacity initiatives through our District Reference Groups • Continue co-designing our community capacity initiatives with the people intended to benefit from them • Provide leadership, learning and skill development opportunities • Provide grants and other supports to encourage and celebrate volunteering and community-led projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapt community facility management models as required to meet the changing needs and complexities of our communities • Consider the outcomes and recommendations from our active ageing and youth service reviews to complement existing delivery models • Increase the recognition and celebration of diverse contributions to our community, particularly the sharing of skills, knowledge and resources by our volunteers and students

COMMUNITY CAPACITY ACTION PLAN

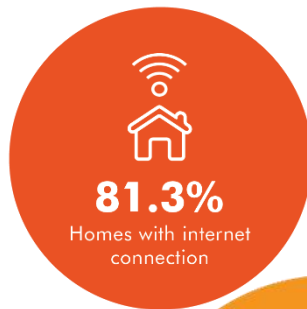
Prosperity

Key result areas	OUTCOME	What we will continue doing	What we will do differently
Leverage community strengths	<p>Community strengths are actively recognised, valued and enhanced</p> <p>Increased levels of community contribution, including volunteering</p> <p>Strong community voice, ownership and leadership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for volunteering, social enterprise, active citizenship and participation in decision making • Build on local strengths through developing partnerships and pathways into education, employment, volunteering, life transitions and other life choices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse volunteering trends to enable the adoption of suitable training and supports
Engage in purposeful partnerships	<p>A broad range of service delivery and planning partners</p> <p>Funding from a broad range of external sources</p> <p>Partner to address low levels of high school completion and high youth unemployment rates in our region</p> <p>Essential services are readily available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with formal education providers where appropriate, to accredit programs we deliver • Engage in strategic funding partnerships to deliver programs and leverage community outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify new partnerships to respond to community needs and aspirations in a collaborative and coordinated manner • Work with partners and networks to explore, understand and strengthen our food systems to promote food security for our residents

WHO WE ARE

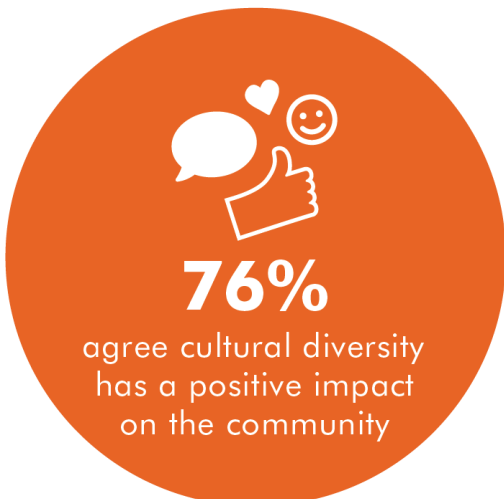
We are a growth council with our population expected to increase to around 212,000 in 2036. A snapshot of our demographics highlights our diversity.

Source: City of Onkaparinga, Community Profile/Social Atlas, idcommunity



WHAT OUR COMMUNITY SAYS

Our 2019 Community Survey was completed by 1042 residents. The responses we received provide valuable information about how people feel about their local community.



CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

We undertake community engagement, research and data analysis to understand our communities and how to best respond within the role of local government to current and anticipated circumstances. The key challenges and opportunities we face in developing the capacity of our communities are outlined in this section.

Priority matters

Population growth

We are a growth council with our population expected to increase from around 173,000 people in 2020 to around 212,000 people in 2036¹.

This growth will be accommodated via urban development in previously undeveloped areas and the further densification of existing suburbs. These new residents will need good access to all forms of housing including social and affordable housing, facilities, essential services, open space and other opportunities such as employment and recreation.



Wellbeing

Local government’s role in public health and healthy active lifestyles can be used to encourage people to be more active and make better dietary choices, which can contribute to tackling obesity.

In our region, only 4.4 per cent of people eat the recommended daily vegetable intake (five or more serves per day) and 47.4 per cent eat the recommended daily fruit intake (two or more serves per day)².

Our legislated Regional Public Health Plan links closely to our community capacity initiatives, particularly around the wellbeing factors of healthy eating and being actively engaged in community life.

In alignment with our Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan, our role in supporting the active participation of people across our region is crucial in creating lifestyles that are healthy, and lead to sustainable wellbeing.

Social connection

Positive relationships and strong community connections are integral to wellbeing and a high functioning community.

Many people are more isolated than they would like to be, particularly some of our older population.

Along with age, factors that can contribute to isolation include geographic location, disability, health, income level and cultural background. We have seen higher incidence of social isolation as a result of the recent health pandemic, COVID-19.

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Living arrangements can also impact social connection and 12 of our suburbs have a higher proportion of lone person households than the Greater Adelaide average.

Homelessness

Between 2011 and 2016 the rate of homelessness has significantly increased across our region by 7.6 per cent.

In 2016 the rate of homelessness was 29.2 persons per 10,000 population³(0.29 per cent).

Disadvantage and low income households

Our council area is highly diverse in terms of socio-economics and relative advantage. Our central north and southern districts have scores on the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) scale that are considerably lower than Greater Adelaide, indicating higher levels of disadvantage.

20 per cent of households in our region are defined as being low income household with weekly household incomes less than \$650 (21 per cent in Greater Adelaide)⁴.

Our region has a higher proportion of households experiencing housing stress in both the mortgage and rental markets than the Greater Adelaide region.

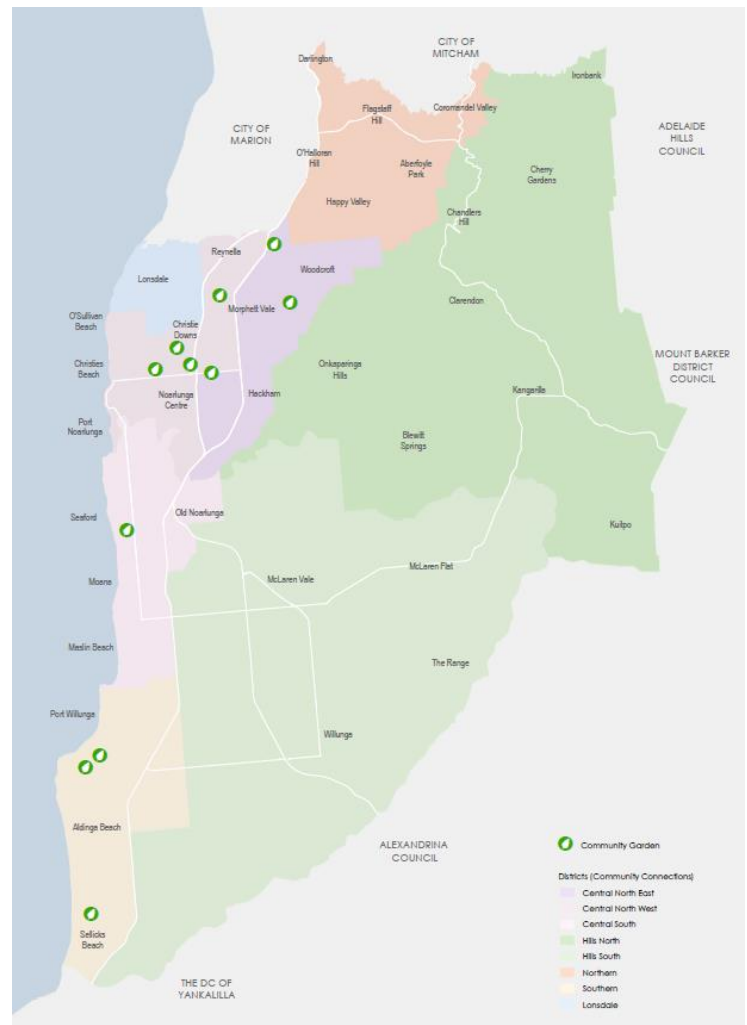
People on a low income and experiencing disadvantage often experience other difficulties such as food insecurity and instability in their housing arrangements.

Community Gardens and programs

Edible gardening is recognised as an emerging opportunity for our region to improve health and wellbeing as well as a contributor towards addressing food security.

We partner with and support a range of community programs which seek to enable residents to learn new skills, share their learnings with others and create meaningful connection through food, for example Magic Harvest and Breakfast to Dinner programs.

We currently provide for 11 community gardens on council land (map below), noting there are an additional eight community gardens provided by community groups, churches and schools.



Ageing population

The size of our older population is increasing and there is a focus on ageing in the home and community setting at the state and federal government levels.

Into the future we will need to have more services for the older population in our region with a focus on enabling people to stay in their homes as long as possible, while maintaining access to their social and support networks.



Low levels of high school completion

A relatively high proportion of students in our region do not complete secondary school education and 17 per cent of our young people are unemployed (on par with Greater Adelaide)⁵, however we have some pockets where youth unemployment is much higher than Greater Adelaide.

Operating within our role to improve equity in these matters across our communities is important to current and future prosperity of our region. This includes programs and services that are free/low cost, welcoming to everyone, encourage lifelong learning and explore possibilities relating to social enterprise.

Digital divide

Over 81 per cent of households in our region have internet connection, slightly higher than across Greater Adelaide (80 per cent)⁷.

While there is still a need to maintain some traditional modes of communication, we are seeing an increase in demand for support from people needing to use digital methods, in particular to apply for state and federal government payments and services. This has become a function of our libraries but also has potential impact on our community facilities, especially in our community centres.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has seen many communities quickly move to online platforms, including changes to how they access services and receive information.

Volunteering

Over 26,000 people are engaged in volunteering in Onkaparinga and past trends suggest this number will increase as our population grows⁸.

There are however a range of existing and emerging barriers to volunteering including new expectations of volunteers regarding roles and activities, administrative burdens, physical disability, language barriers and lack of resources to support the management of volunteers.

Our support and recognition of volunteers and community organisations needs to consider/respond to these expectations. Focus in this area is needed to ensure we maintain high levels of volunteering across our city.

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Essential services

Essential services are those which are vital to a person's health and welfare.

Services which are local and responsive to community are a priority of our region, as identified by 60 per cent of respondents in our recent community survey⁶.

Demand and accessibility to existing essential services is impacted by the emergence of high-density housing and rapid developments of urban sprawl.



Cultural diversity

Cultural understanding and acceptance throughout the wider community is important in working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities and achieving improved wellbeing outcomes.

In our region, 66 per cent of respondents of our recent 2019 community survey agreed that their local community was accepting of people from different backgrounds. 69 per cent of respondents agreed Aboriginal heritage is an important part of the local community⁷.

Initiatives that encourage cohesion and build relationships between cultural groups are integral to managing local community matters.

Disability access and inclusion

People with disability are often excluded from various aspects of community life. The potential of their capacities and abilities is not fully realised due to not being able to participate equitably.

We have an opportunity to improve quality of life for people with disability via the development of our legislated Inclusive Communities Action Plan.

Building the capacity of our communities to increase accessibility and demonstrate inclusive practices is a shared responsibility across both these plans. It is critical that we align the principles of our work to ensure our initiatives are accessible and inclusive to all and targeted where they are needed most.



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Diverse community characteristics

The availability and quality of community facilities differs across our council area, as do our communities themselves.

This means there is a need for localised approaches to addressing facility needs and access to community capacity building initiatives.

Our district model provides a framework for this localised planning and delivery recognising particular community strengths.

Focussing on people first ensures a holistic approach that recognises and celebrates our diversity, for example gender specific initiatives and a focus on our LGBTQI community.

Active citizenship

In the City of Onkaparinga, 80 per cent of people are proud of where they live, but only 31 per cent of people think they could change something about it. 80 per cent of people felt they have something to contribute to their local community¹⁰.

Generally, we are experiencing reduced participation in government processes. This can be due to financial stress, lack of time, age, disability/mobility, lack of personal relevance, but also a lack of faith that participation will result in positive change.

There are increasing expectations on local government to provide opportunities for active citizenship and new ways of involving people in making decisions on local matters. Within our role we can advocate for changes to broader policy matters as raised by our communities and facilitate opportunities for local influence.



TIMELINE

This strategic plan is intended to be reviewed again in 2024.

We will monitor our progress against the outcomes on an annual basis.

References

- 1 South Australian Monitoring and Surveillance System (SAMSS), SA Health. Indicators for the City of Onkaparinga, June 2019
- 2 forecast.id.com.au/Onkaparinga3 Australian Bureau of Statistics. Census of Population and Housing; Estimating homelessness, 2016
- 3 Australian Bureau of Statistics. Census of Population and Housing; Estimating homelessness, 2016
- 4 City of Onkaparinga, Community profile, Individual Income 2016 , .idcommunity
- 5 City of Onkaparinga, Community profile ,Social Atlas, Youth Unemployment Rate 2016
- 6 City of Onkaparinga, Community Profile, Volunteer Work , 2016 , .idcommunity
- 7 City of Onkaparinga, Community Profile, Internet Connection, 2016, .idcommunity
- 8 City of Onkaparinga, Community Profile, Volunteer Work , 2016 , .idcommunity
- 9 City of Onkaparinga, Community Survey 2019