



Social Inclusion

FOCUS AREA

Our vision for social inclusion in Maroondah:

In 2031, Maroondah will be an inclusive, accessible and equitable community where all people can participate, feel connected and experience a sense of belonging.

We will work towards social inclusion in Maroondah by prioritising:

- > **Accessibility**
- > **Equity**
- > **Community participation**
- > **Sense of belonging**
- > **Community Infrastructure**
- > **Vulnerable Communities**
- > **Homelessness**
- > **Volunteering**
- > **Digital literacy**

The research tells us

A socially inclusive community enables all members of the community to fully participate and contribute to social, economic and cultural life in a welcoming and safe manner.

Being socially included means that: people have the resources, opportunities and capabilities they need to participate in education and training (learn); participate in employment, unpaid or voluntary work including family and carer responsibilities (work); connect with people, use local services and participate in local, cultural, civic and recreational activities (engage); and influence decisions have impact them (voice).

Research shows that social connection and participation can assist with good mental health, reduce psychological distress and help to maintain overall health and wellbeing.

Lone person households comprise one in four (23%) Maroondah households.

Our community said...

Maroondah is seen as a friendly and inclusive community. Social inclusion is seen as currently supporting health and wellbeing needs in the community through available opportunities for acceptance, belonging and support.

Key areas of need included supporting and community members with a disability and elderly people, increasing community connection, addressing homelessness and supporting vulnerable people and those living alone.

There is a strong desire to ensure that all community members have access to services, facilities and connection opportunities where everyone can feel valued and empowered.

