



Engaging and responsible council

Mental Health

Coburg

Our ask:

Fund and deliver a Mental Health and Wellbeing Local in Coburg.

Planning funding for 20 Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals, including one in Coburg, was announced by the Victorian Government in 2022 and was funded in the 2023/24 State Budget. Funding and delivering the Coburg Mental Health and Wellbeing Local will provide an accessible and local service for people in Melbourne's north that will reduce travel, waiting and referral barriers.

Significant mental health challenges face the community, with more than one in four adults experiencing anxiety or depression. In Merri-bek, mental health conditions are the most commonly reported long-term health condition. According to 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics data, 11 per cent of residents reported living with a mental health condition, compared with the Victorian average of 8.1 per cent.

Mental health promotion and early intervention is critical to preventing the onset and escalation of common mental health conditions. Merri-bek City Council, in partnership with local service providers, community organisations and regional networks, plays a key role in delivering place-based responses that support community wellbeing.

This includes a broad suite of initiatives such as family violence prevention, youth engagement programs, Maternal and Child Health services, community development and social connection programs, advisory committees that elevate lived experience, and arts and cultural initiatives that foster belonging and inclusion.