



# Living local

## Moreland City Council Health Profile

**December 2020**

### **Contents**

Overview .....	2
Key insights .....	3
Community infrastructure .....	4
Measure: Access to social infrastructure.....	4
Access to everyday needs.....	6
Measure: Average distance to closest activity centre .....	6
Measure: Number of daily living destinations present within 1,600m .....	7
Access and affordability of health services .....	8
Measure: Access to health services (hospitals & general practitioners).....	8
Data sources.....	9

## Overview

Neighbourhoods are the places where we live, spend time with our family and friends, access shops and services and connect with our community. Providing active, walkable and vibrant places that meet our daily needs are critical in supporting community health and wellbeing.

Neighbourhood walkability affects health through its impact on physical activity and social capital.

People are more likely to walk for recreation or exercise if they live in neighbourhoods that are within a walkable distance of destinations, have well connected streets and higher residential densities.

Participating in 30 minutes of walking on average a day can lower the risk of heart disease, stroke, and diabetes by 30–40% (National Heart Foundation, 2019). Research by Healthy Active by Design shows:

- Living within close proximity (400-800m) of a mix of destinations is associated with higher levels of active transport (walking and cycling) across all age groups;
- People with access to main-street centres are over 7 times more likely to walk for over an hour each week;
- People living within 1600m of a convenience store, shopping centre or newsagent are 2 times more likely to walk regularly (Heart Foundation, 2017).

The Victorian Government's long-term planning strategy 'Plan Melbourne' aims to create a more inclusive, vibrant and healthy city through 20-minute neighbourhoods. This concept is all about 'living locally' - giving people the ability to meet most of their daily needs within a 20-minute walk from home, with access to safe cycling and local transport options (State Government of Victoria, 2020). Creating well-designed neighbourhoods that are connected through a mix of land-uses, housing types and access to quality public transport, supports healthier communities.

### Moreland context

Moreland's suburbs vary in terms of urban form, social infrastructure, health services and access to daily living destinations. There is a clear difference between northern and southern suburbs within the municipality. Hadfield, Oak Park and Gowanbrae all have moderate to low levels of accessibility to social infrastructure, in comparison to Brunswick, Brunswick East, Brunswick West and Coburg that all have very high levels of accessibility. Social infrastructure includes community centres, culture and leisure facilities, early years facilities, education facilities, health and social services, and sports and recreation, and it is important to note that many of these community facility types are not owned by Council.

Daily living destinations includes supermarkets, public transport stops, and convenience, allowing people to meet their daily needs locally. Parts of Glenroy, Hadfield, Oak Park, and Gowanbrae are lacking multiple daily living destinations within 1,600m of homes.

There is also a clear North-South divide in terms of accessibility of health services (hospitals and general practitioners) with portions of Fawkner and Glenroy having moderate accessibility, and portions of Gowanbrae and Oak Park having low levels of accessibility.

This brief shows the difference in local living for northern and southern suburbs in our municipality, which correlates with areas of relative socio-economic disadvantage (refer to the Healthy Livelihoods brief). There is a need for more in-depth research on urban form, community facilities and daily destinations for population groups to ascertain the best response for addressing these differences and their impact on health for Moreland's community.

In summary, key issues include:

- Lower accessibility to social infrastructure in Hadfield, Oak Park and Gowanbrae.
- Multiple daily destinations for everyday needs lacking in parts of Glenroy, Hadfield, Oak Park and Gowanbrae.
- Lower accessibility to health services in northern suburbs of Moreland.

## Key insights

### Community infrastructure

- Moreland scores 9.4/15 on the Australian Urban Indicator Social Infrastructure Index, which is a composite measure of the average distance to different community infrastructure items including community centres, culture and leisure facilities, early years facilities, education facilities, health and social services, and sports and recreation.
- Moreland performs higher on this index than Moonee Valley (8.5/16) and Darebin (9/16) but slightly lower than Maribyrnong (9.5/16).
- Mapping from the Australian Urban Observatory indicates that Brunswick, Brunswick East, Brunswick West, and Coburg have high levels of accessibility to social infrastructure, whereas Hadfield and Oak Park only have moderate levels of accessibility, and Gowanbrae has relatively low accessibility.

### Access to everyday needs

- In Moreland, the average distance to the closest activity centre is over 1km at 1,193m. This is farther than neighbouring Moonee Valley (967m) and Maribyrnong (1,144m) but closer than Darebin (1,232m).
- The average distance varies greatly by suburb: Brunswick (632m), Brunswick West (867m), Fawkner (879m), and Coburg (950m) are all considered walkable, whereas Hadfield (2,489m), Pascoe Vale (2,106m), and Oak Park (1,675m) have farther average distances to the closest activity centre.
- Moreland has an average of 2.8 daily living destinations (supermarkets, public transport stops, and convenience) within 1,600m of dwellings. This is equal to the average number of daily living destinations in nearby Darebin and Maribyrnong.

### Access and affordability of health services

- There is a clear North-South divide in terms of accessibility of health services (hospitals and general practitioners).
- Brunswick, Brunswick East, and Brunswick West have very high accessibility of health services whereas portions of Fawkner and Glenroy have moderate accessibility, and portions of Gowanbrae and Oak Park have low levels of accessibility (AURIN 2014).

## Community infrastructure

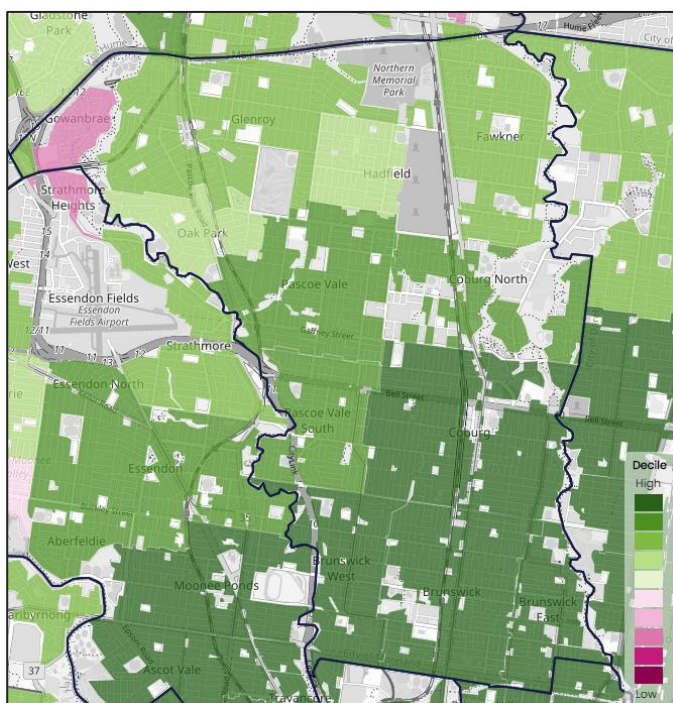
### Measure: Access to social infrastructure

Moreland scores 9.4/16 on the Australian Urban Observatory Indicator Social Infrastructure Index, which is a composite measure of the average distance to different community infrastructure items including community centres, culture and leisure facilities, early years facilities, education facilities, health and social services, and sports and recreation. It is important to note that many of these community facility types are not owned by Council. Also, while access (travel time) is one important consideration for social infrastructure, specific facilities have various service catchments, with many extending beyond the local neighbourhood or 20-minute walk catchment. Moreland performs higher on this index than Moonee Valley (8.5/16) and Darebin (9/16) but slightly lower than Maribyrnong (9.5/16).

Mapping from the Australian Urban Observatory indicates that Brunswick, Brunswick East, Brunswick West, and Coburg have high levels of accessibility to social infrastructure, whereas Hadfield and Oak Park only have moderate levels of accessibility, and Gowanbrae has relatively low accessibility.

Table. Social infrastructure index

Suburb	Index Score (/16)	Percentile
Brunswick	11.4	98
Brunswick East	10.8	96
Brunswick West	10.1	94
Coburg	11.2	97
Coburg North	8.1	82
Fawkner	7.6	77
Glenroy	7.9	79
Gowanbrae	3.3	27
Hadfield	7	70
Oak Park	6.2	62
Pascoe Vale	8.6	86
Pascoe Vale South	8.7	86
<b>Moreland</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>90</b>



Source: Australian Urban Observatory – Social Infrastructure

Table. Social infrastructure index by LGA

LGA	Moreland	Moonee Valley	Darebin	Maribyrnong
Index score (/16)	9.4	8.5	9	9.5

Source: Australian Urban Observatory 2018



#### PANDEMIC

Access to community infrastructure has become increasingly important throughout the pandemic. The shift to live locally has highlighted certain areas do not have equal access to social infrastructure that benefits health. By creating more connected environments and communities it allows for living locally.



#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Changes to the climate will impact upon the quality and durability of community infrastructure. The cost of maintaining community infrastructure is forecast to increase due to

climate change. Most of Council's community facilities are long lived and require significant on-going investment for maintenance and renewal activities.



#### URBAN CHANGE

Council must plan for the increased future demand in community infrastructure in an approach to balance community expectations and desired service standards within Council's financial capacity. Much of Council's existing community infrastructure was planned and developed in a different era and had led to a mismatch between the location of current community facilities and future growth locations. Providing contemporary community services from existing facilities can be a challenge, and modification and improvements are necessary to meet current building regulations and standards.

## Access to everyday needs

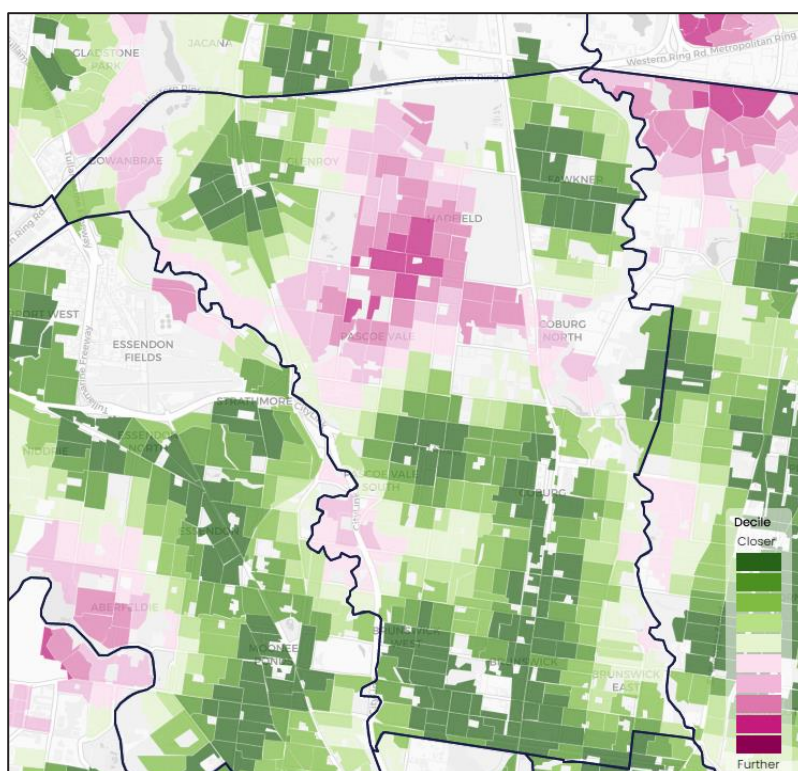
### Measure: Average distance to closest activity centre

Research suggests most people will not regularly walk distances greater than 800m to 1km to destinations such as shops and services, especially if bulky purchases need to be carried (Gunn, King et al. 2017; Gunn, Mavoa, et al. 2017), and therefore distance to the closest activity centre is an important indicator for walkability.

In Moreland, the average distance to the closest activity centre is over 1km at 1,193m. This is farther than neighbouring Moonee Valley (967m) and Maribyrnong (1,144m) but closer than Darebin (1,232m). The average distance varies greatly by suburb: Brunswick (632.4m), Brunswick West (867m), Fawkner (879m), and Coburg (949.8m) are all considered walkable, whereas Hadfield (2,489.4m), Pascoe Vale (2,105.6m), and Oak Park (1,675.1m) have farther average distances to the closest activity centre.

**Table.** Average distance to closest activity centre by suburb

Suburb	Average distance
Brunswick	632m
Brunswick East	1099m
Brunswick West	867m
Coburg	950m
Coburg North	1,573m
Fawkner	879m
Glenroy	1,266m
Gowanbrae	1,772m
Hadfield	2,489m
Oak Park	1,675m
Pascoe Vale	2,105m
Pascoe Vale South	1,211m
<b>Moreland</b>	<b>1,193m</b>



Source: Australian Urban Observatory 2018

**Table.** Average distance to closest activity centre by LGA

LGA	Moreland	Moonee Valley	Darebin	Maribyrnong
<b>Average distance</b>	1,193m	967m	1,232m	1,144m

Source: Australian Urban Observatory 2018

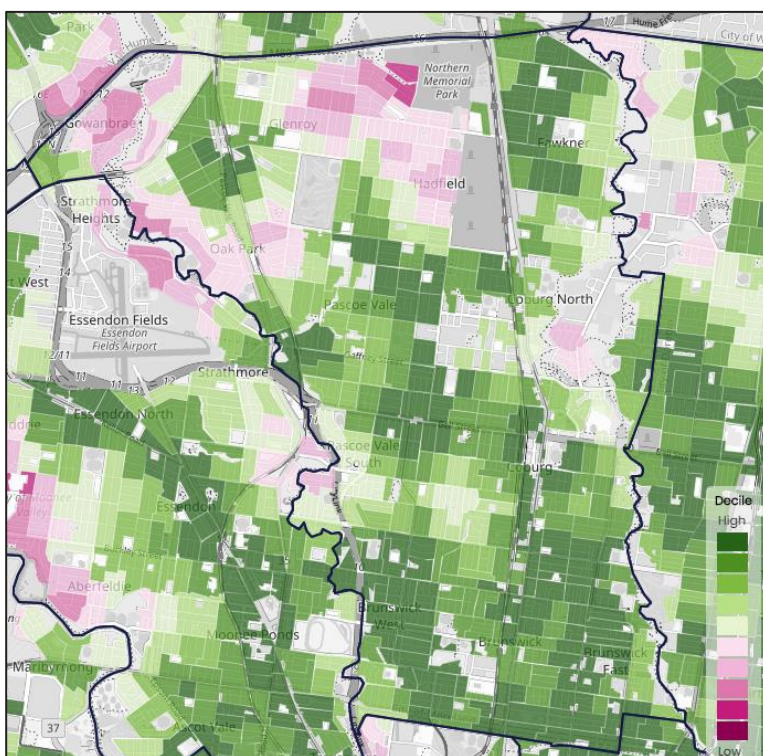
## Measure: Number of daily living destinations present within 1,600m

According to the Australian Urban Observatory, daily living destinations includes three types of destinations: supermarkets, public transport stops, and convenience, which together allow people to meet their daily needs locally.

Moreland has an average of 2.8 daily living destinations (supermarkets, public transport stops, and convenience) within 1,600m of dwellings. This is equal to the average number of daily living destinations in nearby Darebin and Maribyrnong.

**Table.** Number of daily living destinations present within 1,600m by suburb

Suburb	Average number of daily living destinations (0-3)
Brunswick	2.9
Brunswick East	2.9
Brunswick West	2.9
Coburg	2.8
Coburg North	2.8
Fawkner	2.8
Glenroy	2.6
Gowanbrae	2.3
Hadfield	2.5
Oak Park	2.4
Pascoe Vale	2.9
Pascoe Vale South	2.8
<b>Moreland</b>	<b>2.8</b>



Source: Australian Urban Observatory 2018

**Table.** Number of daily living destinations present within 1,600m by LGA

LGA	Moreland	Moonee Valley	Darebin	Maribyrnong
Average number of destinations	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8

Source: Australian Urban Observatory 2018



### PANDEMIC

Living locally during the pandemic has become increasingly significant for many as restrictions on movement and services were enforced.



### URBAN CHANGE

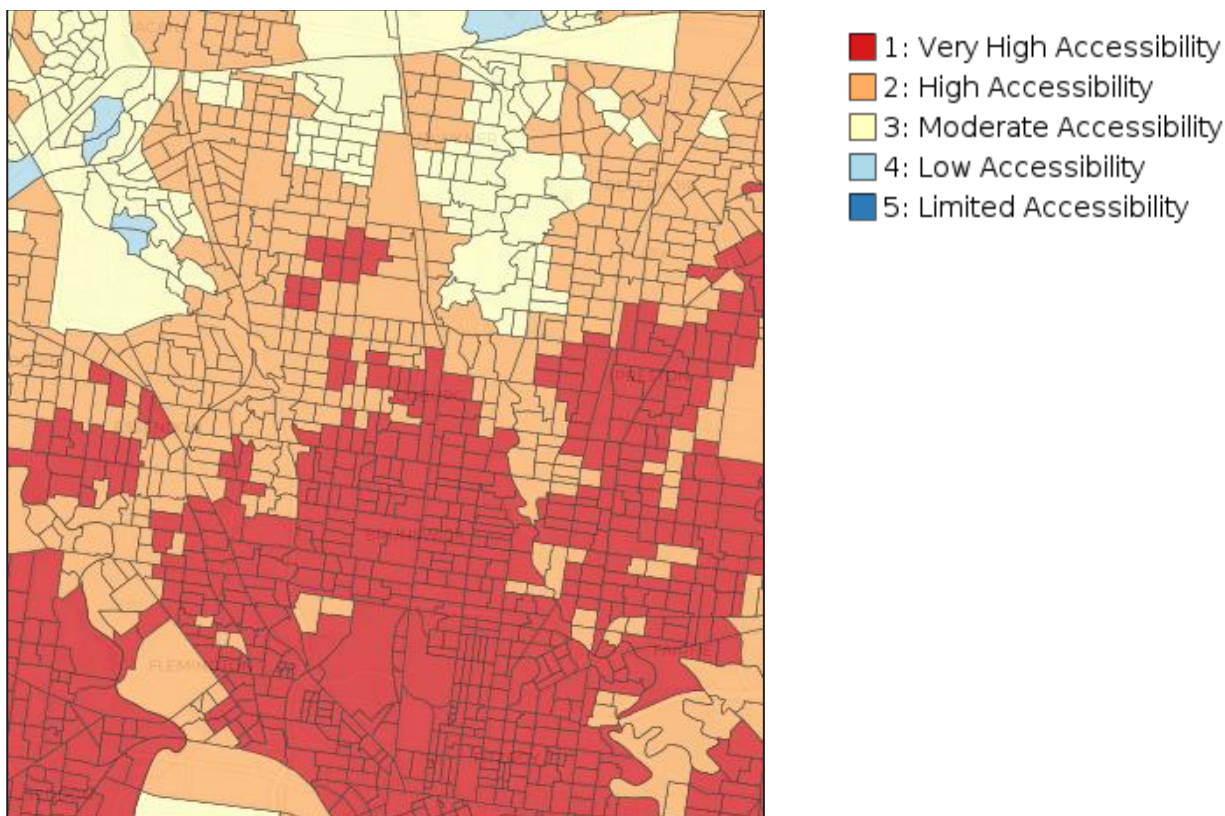
Living locally is central to how Moreland's neighbourhoods are designed, enabling residents to be able to meet most of their everyday needs within a 20-minute walk, cycle or short public transport trip from home. Keeping Activity Centres vibrant by facilitating a range of uses, retaining employment and making sure the right services are in the right spot while also managing amenity impacts and community expectations, is essential for a growing and changing population.

## Access and affordability of health services

### Measure: Access to health services (hospitals & general practitioners)

The Metropolitan Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (Metro ARIA) dataset provides data on ease of difficulty people face accessing health services (hospitals and general practitioners). Findings are classified into five accessibility levels graded from low to high (AURIN 2014).

There is a clear North-South divide in terms of accessibility of health services (hospitals and general practitioners). Brunswick, Brunswick East, and Brunswick West have very high accessibility of health services whereas portions of Fawkner and Glenroy have moderate accessibility, and portions of Gowanbrae and Oak Park have low levels of accessibility (AURIN 2014).



Source: AURIN Map, Metro Health ARIA 2014



#### CLIMATE CHANGE

People who live with chronic conditions are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Heat stress, bacterial infections, asthma attacks and respiratory complications are all set to increase in frequency with current climate projections. This increased need for health services to monitor these conditions will mean that having ease of access and ensuring affordability, especially for priority groups, is essential to adapting to climate change.



#### PRIORITY GROUPS

People who identify as LGBTQIA+ experience much higher rates of discrimination when using health services. 25.2% of LGBTQIA+ people had been discriminated against by a doctor, nurse or other staff member at a hospital or doctors surgery, whereas non-LGBTQIA+ people's rate of discrimination was 9.8% (Victorian Agency for Health Information, 2017).



## Data sources

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For a full list of references, please refer to the [Moreland Health & Wellbeing Profile 2020](#)

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### **Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN)**

AURIN is an initiative of the Australian Government under the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) and associated programs.

The most recent data is 2014.

### **Australian Urban Observatory**

The Australian Urban Observatory is a digital platform that transforms complex urban data into easily understood liveability maps across Australia's 21 largest cities. The Observatory maps key liveability indicators found to be associated with health and wellbeing and provides a clear understanding of the liveability of cities.

The most recent data is 2018.

### **Victorian Agency for Health Information 2017**

Safer Care Victoria and VAHI were created as a part of government reforms to improve quality and safety across Victoria's public healthcare system.