



Brimbank
City Council

Learning is a way to create positive economic and social change. It helps people to feel fulfilled, maintain and find jobs, build caring and strong communities and add to quality of life. Brimbank City Council, through its Lifelong Learning Strategy and with its partner organisations and members of the community, wants to achieve better learning outcomes throughout the Brimbank area.

It will create new approaches and partnerships, improve different ways people can access learning, and lead, encourage, and support people in Brimbank to participate in learning on a daily basis over their lifetime.

Brimbank City Council created its first Community Learning Strategy in 2010: the Brimbank Community Learning Strategy 2010-2013. The Strategy provided a way for the council to support better learning outcomes for the Brimbank community. Since then, strategies have continued to be developed to support Lifelong Learning in Brimbank.

This Lifelong Learning Strategy supports learning in all life stages and is a long-term approach for Council and its partners, to improve the social and economic outcomes of individuals and the community.

Lifelong and Life wide Learning

Lifelong learning is learning that happens throughout our life. It helps people become more adaptable and respond to change by building their skills and knowledge. Lifelong learning supports both individual success and strengthens the community.

Life wide learning is learning that can happen at the same time in different places. For example, the home, in the community, at your workplace or with some of the organisations you deal with. It can be both formal and informal.

Lifelong and life wide learning aims to:

- Enable everyone to do well and increase quality of life
- Ensure people in the community feel included
Improve health and wellbeing
- Support people to better understand and adapt, as their life changes
- Create a more involved community

The goal of the Brimbank Lifelong Learning Strategy is to guide the Council's actions to improve learning in Brimbank by:

- Enabling the community to lead change and control in their lifelong learning in every stage of their lives
- Raising awareness and building a culture of lifelong and life wide learning across Brimbank
- Understanding the community's priorities for better learning opportunities, for people of all different ages of life, in Brimbank
- Creating community groups to work together on lifelong and life wide learning
- Providing help and resources where needed, to ensure learning and education is equal for everyone in Brimbank





The Brimbank Lifelong Learning Strategy is supported by Brimbank's Social Justice Charter which commits Council to the principles of access, equity, community participation and human rights. It does this by addressing issues of disadvantage, building upon community strengths, and supporting fairness and human rights outcomes.

For the Brimbank Lifelong Learning Strategy this means that everyone in the area has the right to great learning opportunities wherever they live, and understands that some people may need more support to access that right.

For example, more support may be needed for children in out of home care to equally access their educational rights.

About lifelong learning in Brimbank

While there have been improvements in learning participation and outcomes in Brimbank such as:

- From 2011 to 2016 qualification levels for Brimbank residents has increased for Bachelor or Higher degrees, advanced diploma and diploma, and vocational education
- The percentage of the population with no qualification has decreased over this same time
- Almost 57% of the Brimbank community speaks a language other than English at home, which is important for jobs of the future

We still have some challenges:



Kindergarten participation rates are lower than across Victoria



The percentage of children starting school considered developmentally vulnerable, remains higher than the average in Victoria. This result continues to increase for Brimbank



In 2015, Brimbank had a lower number of year 3, 5, 7, and 9 students at or above the Australian minimum standard for literacy, compared to Victoria



Compared to Victoria, Brimbank had a higher number of disengaged young people in 2006, 2011 and 2016 (ABS Census data)



Since March 2015, the unemployment rate in Brimbank has been higher than the rate for Victoria. Young people are especially experiencing this situation in Brimbank



Brimbank adults are almost three times as likely not to have attended formal schooling than the Victorian average

How you can participate

- We want to know what is really important to our community, so please share your honest thoughts and insights, as this is what is really valuable to us
- Please bring your ideas for how we can improve learning opportunities for people like you, and the wider Brimbank community
- Ensure you allow plenty of time to arrive to the workshops, as we have a lot to cover