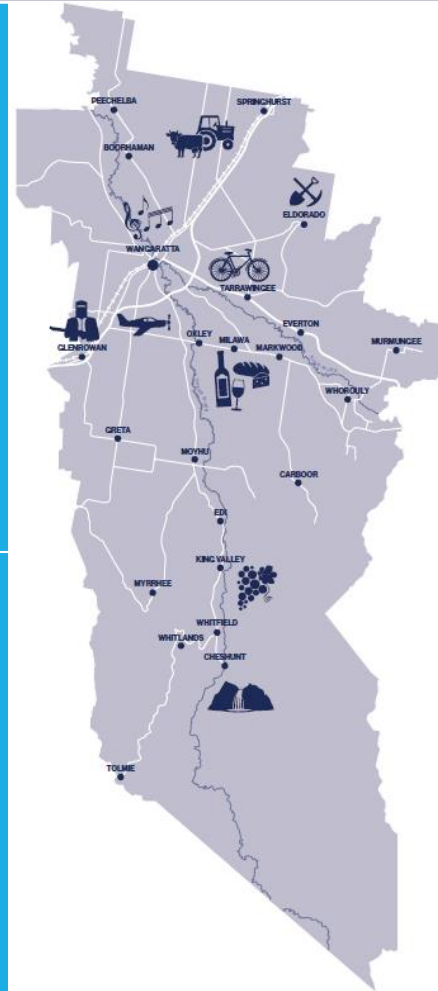


# RESPOND WANGARATTA

Celebration Event  
25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025

Community led local solutions for  
healthy children



Rural City of  
Wangaratta

gateway  
health

People living well



Northeast Health  
Wangaratta



# Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we stand and pay our respect to the Elders, past present and future, for they hold the memories, the traditions and the culture of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

# Tonight

- Introductions
- Summary of the three Group Model Building workshops held 2023
- Celebrate achievements since previous workshops

# Photography notice

By attending this event, you consent to being photographed.

These images may be used for promotional purposes.

If you would prefer not to be photographed, please notify event staff or contact us to ensure your preferences are respected.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation

# Meet the RESPOND Partnership Group

## Meet the RESPOND Partnership Group

- Gateway Health
  - Felicity Kennedy, Clare Schultz and Sarah Nevin - Health Promotion Coordinators
  - Meg Scolyer - Health Promotion Practitioner Lead
- Rural City of Wangaratta
  - Kirsty Barnes - Community Wellbeing Officer
- Northeast Health Wangaratta
  - Katrina Ginnivan - Health Promotion Officer

## Who is in the room?

- Please briefly introduce yourself and your connection to the community.



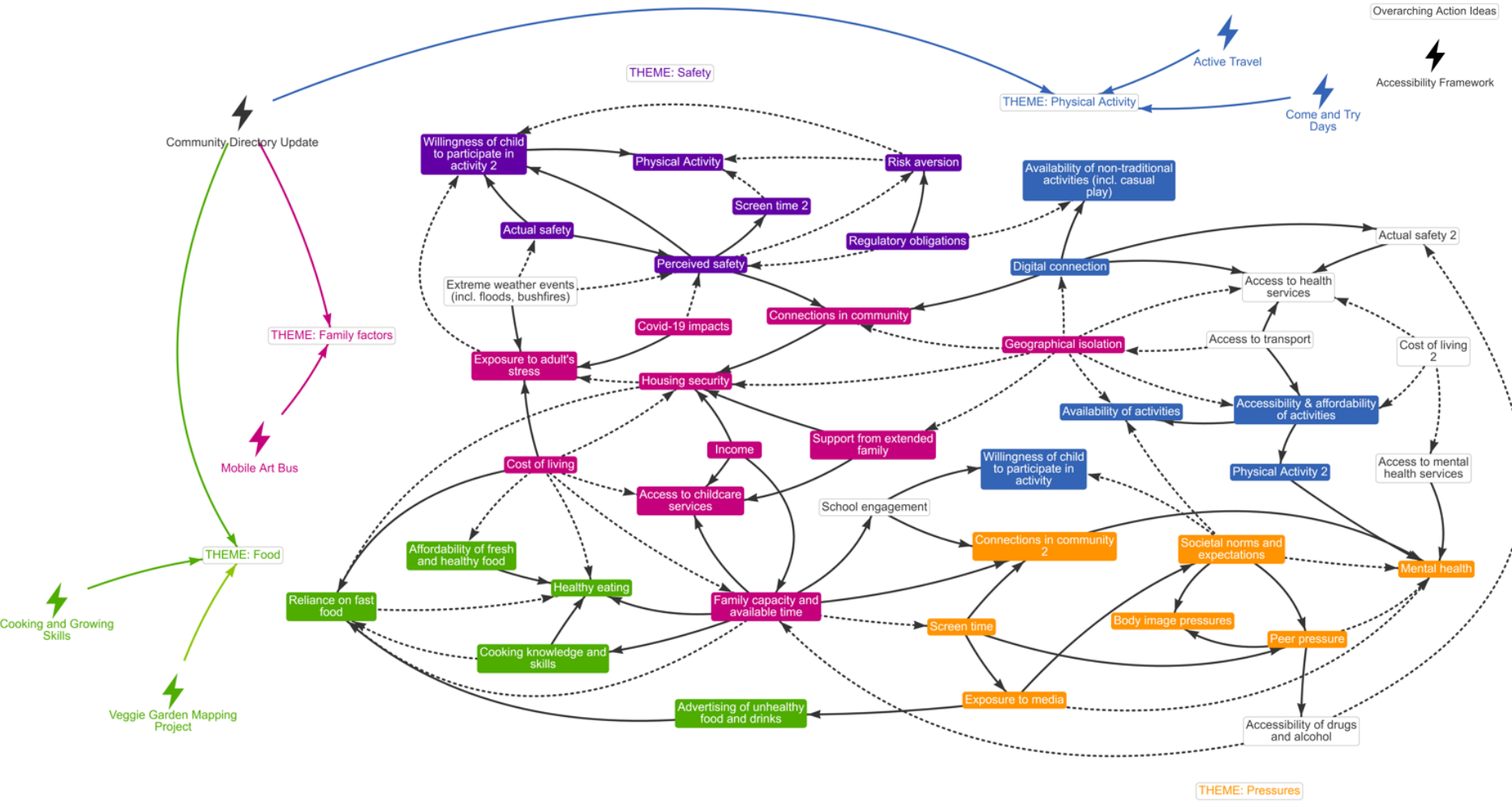
# Aim of RESPOND Wangaratta

- A Deakin University research project to create a shared community response to support and maintain children's health and wellbeing.
- Two key strategies:
  - Engage with our community to identify the factors that impact our children's health and wellbeing.
  - Empower the community to lead actions which improve the health and wellbeing of children and the wider community.



What are the factors that influence the health and wellbeing of children in our community?



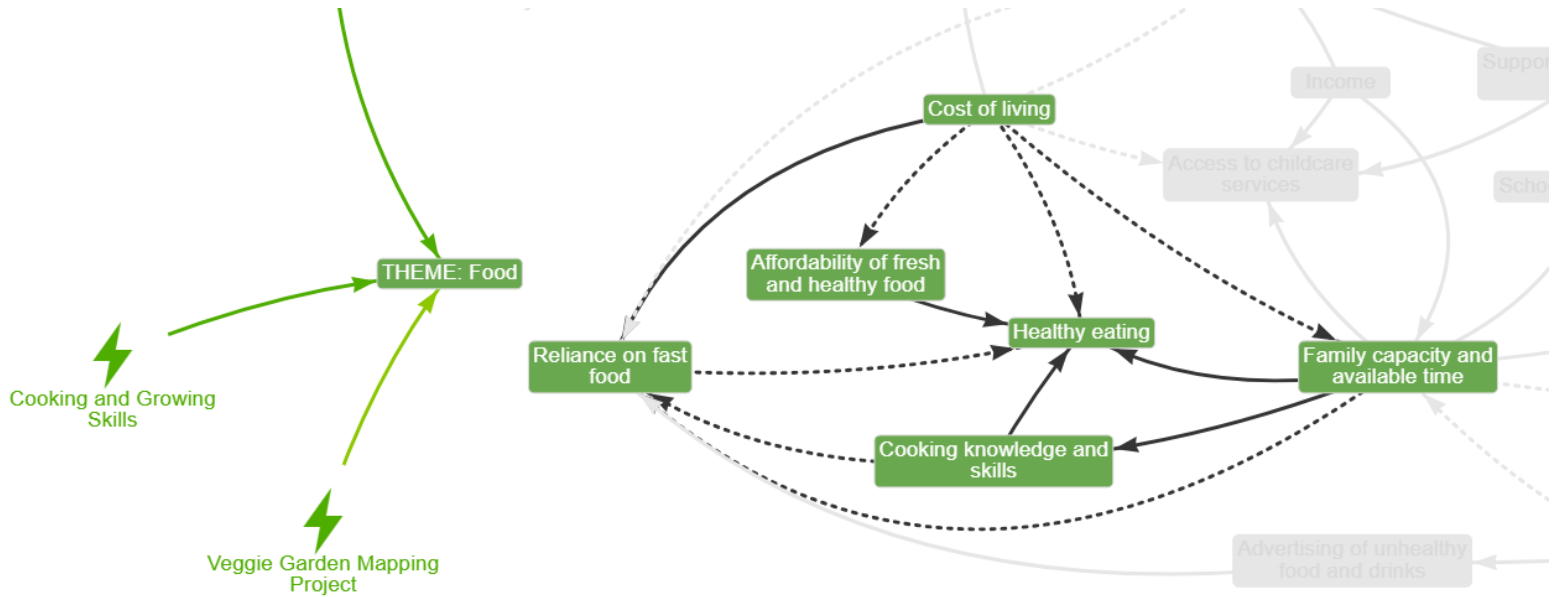






<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKlyZlqRX7M>

# Theme: Food



# Cooking/growing activities

Rosemarie ran two cooking sessions at Whitfield PS - using produce from the garden. Kids really enjoyed the sessions and some cooked the recipes at home with their families.

We made a video of students doing cooking and growing activities at Whitfield Outside School Hours Care. It will be shared with other services and used to support the Vic Kids Eat Well program.

Community food maps promoted and updated  
<https://www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au/Residents/Community-Projects/Community-Food>



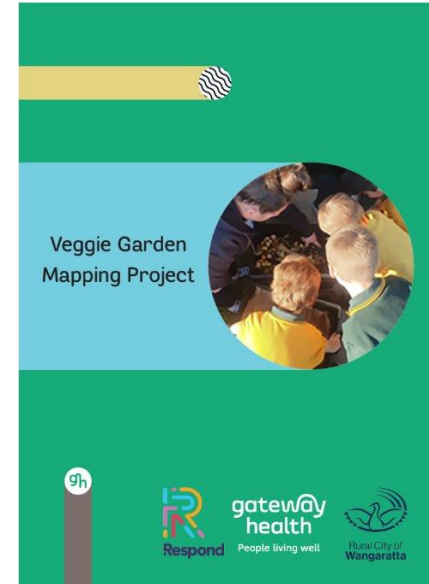
# Veggie Garden Mapping Project

Led by Gateway Health and supported by Bunnings Wangaratta, Northeast Health Wangaratta, Rural City of Wangaratta

Mapped locations and status of veggie gardens in educational and community-based settings

Key goals:

1. to understand veggie garden usage, challenges, and enablers
2. to explore opportunities for community engagement, knowledge sharing, and supporting food security initiatives.



# Results

- 6 early childhood services reported to have a veggie garden in use
- 16 schools reported to have veggie gardens, about half of these are in use
- 10 community-based organisations reported to have gardens in use
- Successes: strong community partnerships, volunteer involvement, curriculum integration, student engagement, community involvement, donations,
- Challenges: lack of time, resources maintenance. Gardens struggle without sustained volunteer support and funding

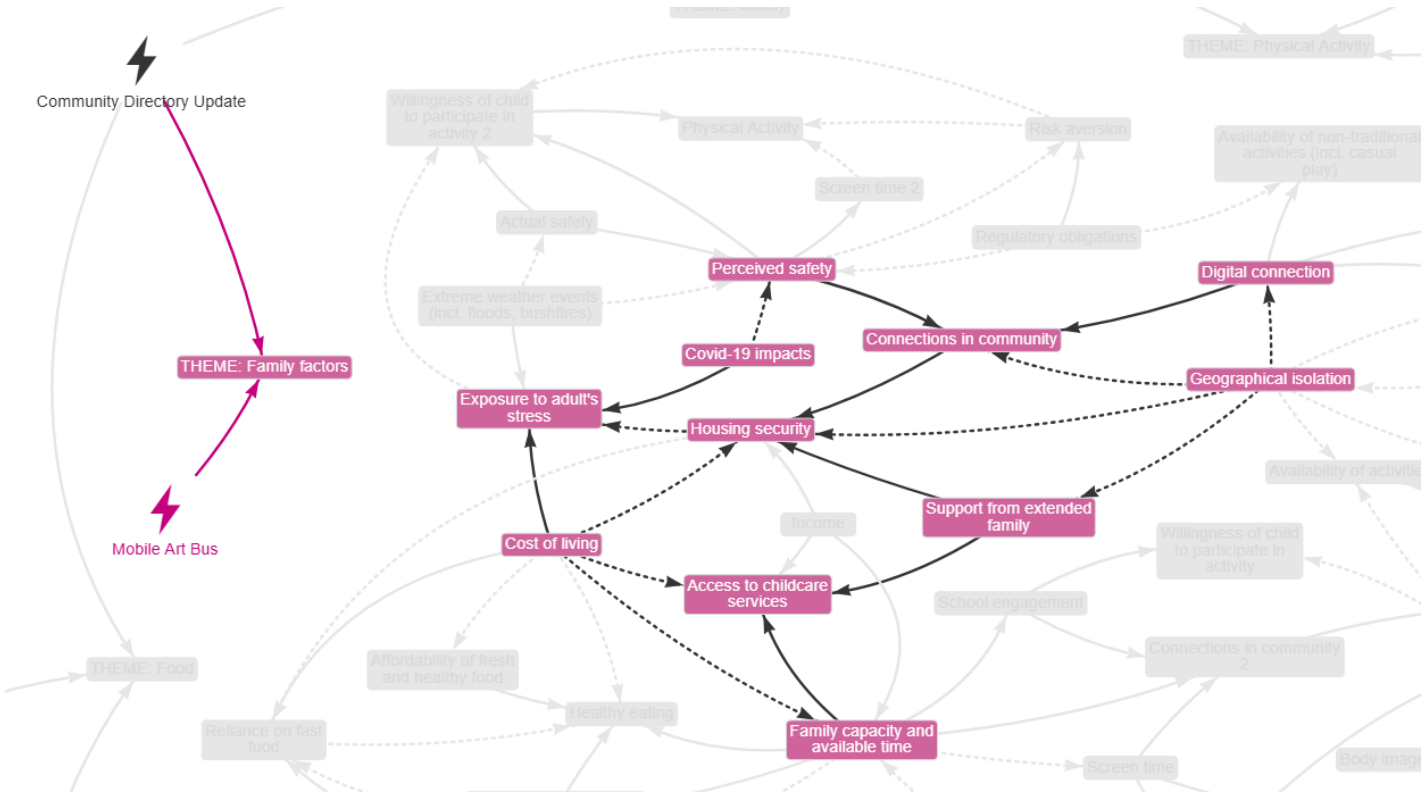


# Outcomes

- Partnership with Bunnings Wangaratta to offer veggie garden resourcing
- Distribution of funding and resources to early childhood services and schools to support their veggie gardens
- Future support includes cooking workshops, gardening support, opportunities for using and sharing produce



# Theme: Family Factors



# Mobile Recycled Art Bus Workshops

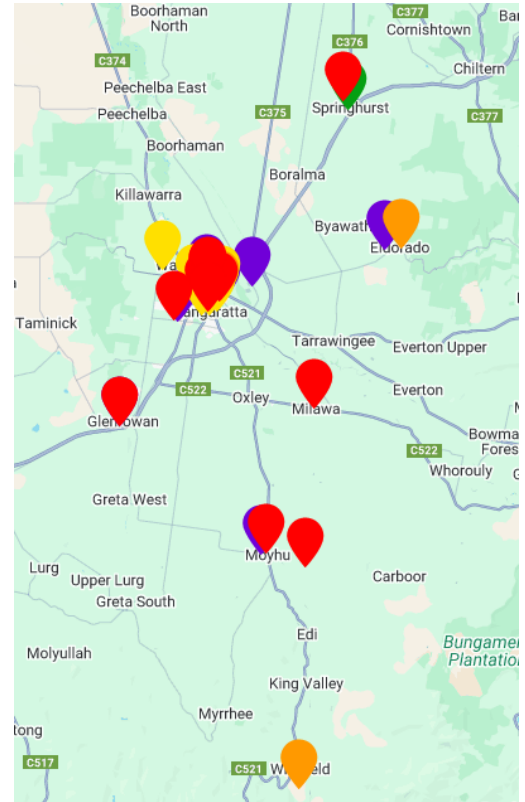


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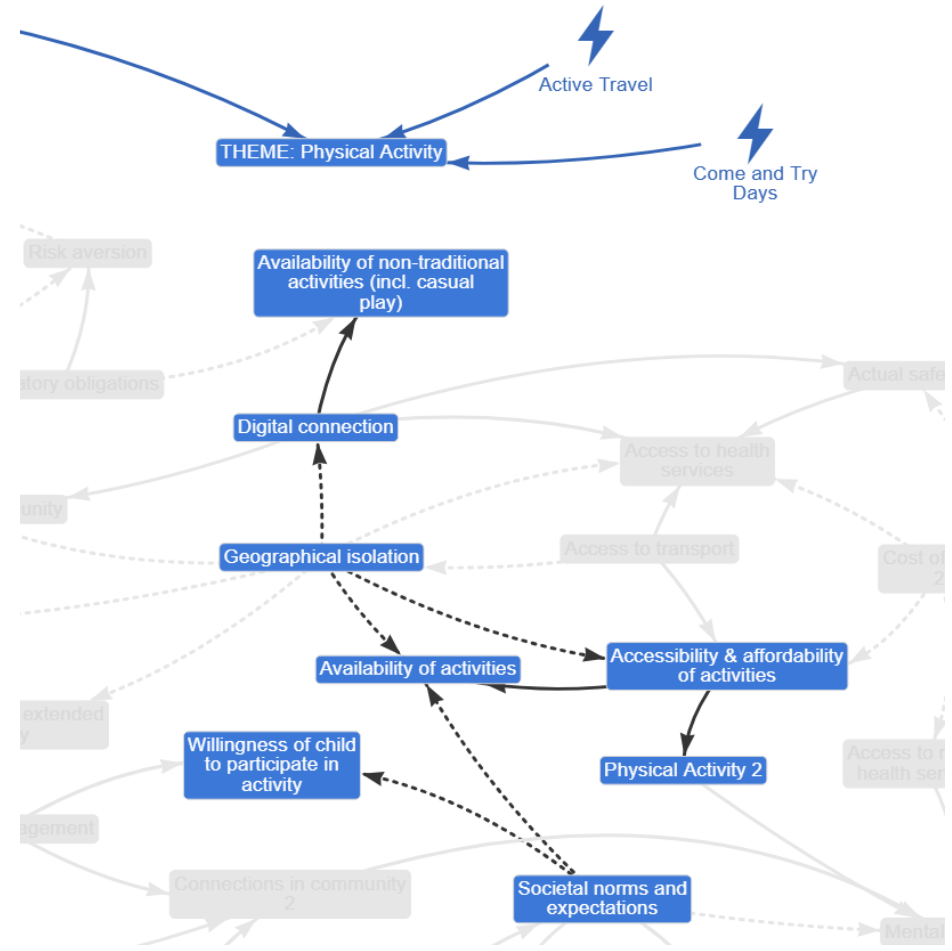


# Community Directory

- The Rural City of Wangaratta is updating the Community Directory on Council's website. The new Directory will be a place for the community to find out the clubs, groups and organisations available in the Rural City of Wangaratta.
- The new directory is now live on Council's website: <https://www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au/Residents/Community-Directory>
- We are linking in with the Grit & Resilience program



# Theme: Physical Activity



# Active Footpaths Project

- Funded through VicHealth Local Government Partnership program action: *Increasing active travel for children and young people*
- Project pilot rolled out at Appin Park Primary School in 2023, then rolled out at Wangaratta West Primary School in 2024 and Oxley Primary School in 2024-2025.
- Students designed artwork with messaging to encourage their peers to walk, ride, scoot or skate to school. The artwork has been installed as stickers on footpaths and/or signs along fences.



# Come and Try Days

## Recreation Reimagined 'Come and Try Day' in October 2023

Representatives from 14 local clubs showcased their offerings and were interactive in their displays for people to come along and have a try.

## Youth Sport and Recreation Expo 2024

The Rural City of Wangaratta Youth Council held a Sport and Recreation Expo focussing on opportunities for young people to become more active and engaged, with 22 clubs and groups represented.

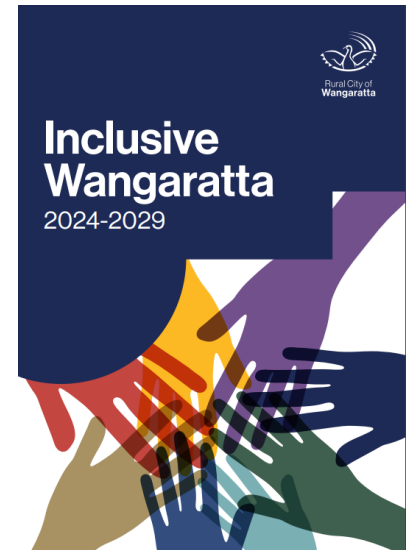


# Accessibility Working Group - ensuring RESPOND activities are accessible for everyone!

RESPOND accessibility draft checklist developed to support accessibility/inclusion for everyone in our community. Piloting with Respond projects – examples.

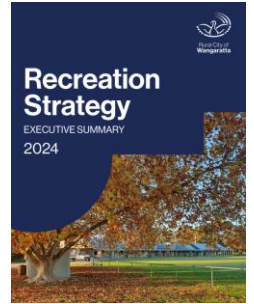
Input to the Rural City of Wangaratta Draft Inclusive Wangaratta Plan – supporting diversity and inclusion!

'Storytelling project idea' to share local people's stories of places and spaces that are safe, welcoming and inclusive. Will be working with the Grit & Resilience Program on this.



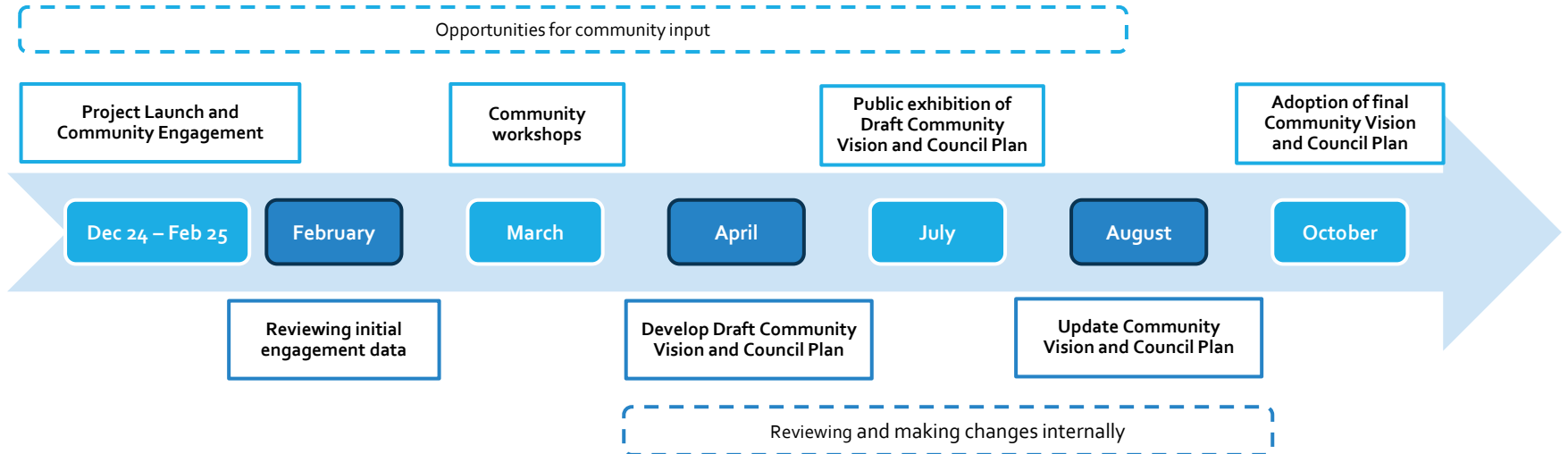
# Other impacts/small wins!

- Improvements to local hockey facilities included as an action in the Council Recreation Strategy (advocacy using the Respond report!).
- Youth Hub has been established at the Yarrunga Maternal Child Health Centre (vegetable garden set-up with support from Bunnings!)
- Gateway Health and other agencies are on the working group for the Council Municipal Early Years Plan (and Council Plan!)
- Respond findings and summary report will be used to inform plans above as well as agency plans



# Have your say – Council Plan

- All Councils in Victoria are required to complete a new Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) every 4 years.
- Register your interest to attend a community workshop on Connect Wangaratta:  
<https://connect.wangaratta.vic.gov.au/council-plan>



# Have your say – Municipal Early Years Plan

- A Municipal Early Year Plan (MEYP) is a local area plan designed to provide a strategic direction for the development and coordination of early years programs, activities and other local community development processes that impact on children aged 0 – 12 years and their families.
- MEYPs identify council's role across early years programs – not just those activities directly delivered by council, but also in their partnerships with community, and with assisting the community to understand what the overall early year system looks like.
- We are looking for feedback from the community on what programs are available, where they think they need support, and to understand what that looks like.
- A survey is open now on Connect Wangaratta: <https://connect.wangaratta.vic.gov.au/meyp>

**Municipal Early Years Plan**





# Partnerships and Connections



Pangerang  
Community Hub



Northeast Health  
Wangaratta



People living well



Rural City of  
Wangaratta



Respond



DEAKIN  
UNIVERSITY



VicHealth



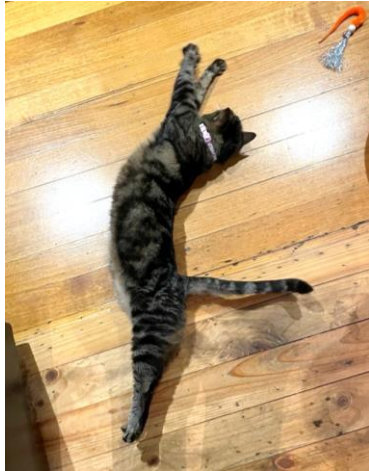
- Bunnings Wangaratta
- Make Mend Grow



# Thank you!

- To our amazing community leaders, partners, agencies and supporters
- RESPOND has facilitated many new partnerships and community connections for all our agencies
- Final report to come out soon
- Advocacy! Great resources on the Gateway Health website from Wodonga Advocacy workshops as well as the Public Health Advocacy Institute.

# Dinner!



Stand up &  
stretch!



Delicious dinner!