WHITEHORSE INDOOR SPORTS PLAN

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS REPORT - APPENDICES

APRIL 2025

CITY OF WHITEHORSE

Prepared by Otium Planning Group Pty Ltd
www.otiumplanning.com.au

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SPORT + LEISURE + COMMUNITIES

Otium Planning Group Pty Ltd

Head Office:
Suite 19, Waterman Workspaces
Level 1, 678 Victoria Street
Richmond VIC 3121
ABN: 30 605 962 169
Phone: (03) 9046 2316
Email: info@otiumplanning.com.au
Web: www.otiumplanning.com.au

Local Office:
Contact: Kate Maddock, Managing Director
Phone: 0419 316 540
Email: kate@otiumplanning.com.au
or
Contact: Ben Bainbridge, Associate
Phone: 0481 176 287
Email: ben@otiumplanning.com.au

Otium Planning Group has offices in:

• Auckland • Brisbane • Cairns • Melbourne • Perth • Sunshine Coast • Sydney

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Otium acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal, Torres Strait and South Sea Islander peoples of this nation. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which our company is located and where we conduct our business. We pay our respects to ancestors and to Elders, past, present and emerging. Otium is committed to national reconciliation and respect for Indigenous peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas, and their rich contribution to society.

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Appendix 1: Design Standards

Design Principles

The following design principles have been developed to help inform the future design of the sports. It will be used to guide the future prioritisation framework.

- **Accessible and Inclusive:** Sport and active recreation facilities will be universally designed and inclusive, fostering participation in sport and active recreation by all our community, across all life stages, genders and cultures.
- **Diverse and Equitable:** Sport and active recreation facilities will offer a diverse mix of facilities, programs and experiences. Council will provide an equitable distribution of sport and active recreation precincts across the municipality.
- **Safe and Welcoming:** Sport and active recreation facilities and programs are designed to be visible, open and welcoming to the community, creating a safe place for girls and women to participate.
- **Multi-Use:** Sport and active recreation facilities will be multi-use, offering several activities, programs and experiences for users.
- **Connected:** Sport and active recreation facilities connection across our communities and our unique natural environment.
- **Sustainable:** Sport and active recreation facilities will be designed and operate efficiently, whilst being well managed and maintained.

Design Standards

Please note that the facility standards are supported by preferred facility design guidelines for specific sports.

Table 1: Indoor Multi-Sports Courts Facility Standards

Planning Consideration	Local	District	Regional	State/National
Level of participation/ competition	• Local sport and recreation competition providing for junior to senior players. • Supports one to two sports. • Year-round use.	• Local to regional level sport and recreation competition providing for junior to senior players. • Supports multiple sports. • Year-round use.	• Local to elite (top tier) level sport and recreation competition and events. • Provides an athlete development pathway. • Hosts local finals. • Hosts Tier 1 and 2 level events including local and regional	• Elite level sport and recreation competition and high performance/specialist training and events for sport. • High-performance centres provide world-leading training and administration facilities to develop, attract and retain the best talent

Planning Consideration	Local	District	Regional	State/National
			sports and community events and expos. • Year-round use.	among athletes, coaches and support staff across multiple sports. • Hosts Tier 1, 2 and 3 level events including local and regional sports and community events, expos and concerts for Australian and international artists. • Year-round use.
Location, size and distribution provision	• Services multiple suburbs such as a ward boundary. • Approximately 10-minutes' drive time. • 40,000 – 70,000 catchment population. • Building footprint 4,000-6,000m2. • Site area (1ha).	• Services the entire local government area. • Approximately 20-minutes' drive time. • 70,000 – 100,000 catchment population. • Building footprint 8,000-10,000m2. • Site area 1-2ha.	• Services multiple local government areas. • Approximately 30 minutes' drive time. • 100,000 – 150,000 catchment population. • Building footprint 12,000m2+. • Site area 2-3ha. • Located within the largest population catchment.	• Services multiple local government areas. • Approximately one-hour drive time. • 100,000 – 150,000 catchment population. • 12,000-15,000m2+. • Site area 3-4ha. • Located within the largest population catchment.
Quality and design standards	• 1-2 indoor courts. • No show court. • Courtside seating only. • Front of house with reception, foyer, first aid room and 2 change rooms, toilets. • Kiosk and small lounge. • Merchandise space. • Car parking. • Universal access for all community members with consideration to ramps and/ or chair lifts.	• 3-4 indoor courts. • Show court with 500 seats that supports sports team events. • Courtside seating. • Front of house with administration, reception, foyer, first aid room/medical rooms and 2-4 change rooms, toilets. • Kiosk and small lounge. • Merchandise space. • Function room. • Car parking. • Universal access for all community members with consideration to ramps and/ or chair lifts.	• 5-8 indoor courts. • Show court on multi-purpose courts with 1000+ seats that can support regional sport and entertainment events. • Courtside seating. • Front of house with administration, reception, large foyer, first aid room/medical rooms and 4+ change rooms, toilets. • Café, bar and large lounge. • Merchandise space. • Function room. • Car parking.	• 8+ indoor courts. • Separate show court / concert arena with 5000+ seats that can support Tier 1 sport and entertainment events. • Surrounding courtside seating. • Front of house with administration, reception, large foyer, first aid room/medical rooms and 4+ change rooms, toilets. • Café, bar and large lounge. • Merchandise space. • Function room. • Green room. • Car parking.

Planning Consideration	Local	District	Regional	State/National
		• Provided in highly visible locations with good vehicular access. • Shaded car parking areas and bus drop-off areas. • Connected to public transport. • Complements other (community/ private) community services/ programs. • Provides room for facility expansion with population growth.	• Universal access for all community members with consideration to ramps and/ or chair lifts. • Provided in highly visible locations with good vehicular access. • Shaded car parking areas and bus drop-off areas. • Connected to public transport. • Complements other (community/ private) community services/ programs. • Provides room for facility expansion with population growth. • Considers co-location opportunities, especially with aquatic and leisure facility, district and regional outdoor sports precincts. • Consider outdoor public access courts (e.g. 3 x 3 courts at BSEC) associated with indoor stadium.	• Universal access for all community members with consideration to ramps and/ or chair lifts. • Provided in highly visible locations with good vehicular access. • Shaded car parking areas and bus drop-off areas. • Connected to public transport. • Complements other (community/ private) community services/ programs. • Provides room for facility expansion with population growth. • Considers co-location opportunities, especially with aquatic and leisure facility, district and regional outdoor sports precincts. • Considers commercial co-location opportunities.

Appendix 2: Facility Inventory

Facility Inventory Overview

A facility inventory has been prepared detailing the type and condition of indoor sports facilities, their roles and functions, and whether they are fit for purpose based on current industry and respective indoor sports facility standards. The inventory is supported by facility inspections and audits.

An electronic copy of the detailed facility inventory has been provided separately and includes a description of facilities, identifies key stakeholders using facilities, occupancy levels of facilities, asset condition and fit-for-purpose ratings. A summary is provided in the table on the next page.

The inventory has used the following capacity and rating systems to assess a court's capacity level and sports field infrastructure condition and whether it is fit for purpose.

The court usage (training and competition) and capacity levels have been assessed and categorised as follows:

- Low – Occupancy up to 40%
- Moderate – Occupancy 40-60%
- High – Occupancy 60-80%
- Very High – Occupancy 80% or above.

The following rating system was used to assess the quality of sports facility infrastructure:

- Poor—The Serviceability and condition of the asset are heavily impacted, requiring replacement to meet sports industry and facility standards.
- Moderate – Obvious deterioration of the asset and major improvements needed to meet sport and facility standards.
- Good – Some superficial deterioration of assets and minor improvements needed to meet sport industry and facility standards.
- Very Good – New asset or recently redeveloped to meet current sport industry and facility standards.

Current Supply

The following table shows the ownership, hierarchy, usage level and condition assessment for each of the sites. The location of each site is shown in the maps following the table. Please note that about 30 sites were inspected and assessed.

Table 2: Facility Inventory

Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
1	Antonio Park Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Karate) Other Recreation (Dance, Fitness - Aerobics)	NA	1 (Not full sized) basketball	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2	Aqualink Box Hill*	Council	Local/ District	Badminton (Local) Basketball (Local) Futsal (Local) Martial Arts (Local) Netball (Local) Volleyball (District)	Very High	3 indoor multi-sport courts 3 outdoor covered netball courts 1 group fitness room used for martial, arts yoga etc	Timber	Average	Competition	Good	Very Good	Good
3	Blackburn Calisthenic College	Private	District	Calisthenics	Very High	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
4	Blackburn High School	School	Local	Basketball Futsal Netball	Very High	1 basketball sized court	Timber	Good	Good	Very good	Very good	Very Good
5	Blackburn Karate Club	Private	District	Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
6	Blackburn Lake Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Futsal	Very High	1 basketball sized court	Timber	Average	Good	Good	Very good	Good
7	Blackburn Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Martial Arts (Taekwondo) Futsal Netball (Training)	Very High	1 basketball sized court	Timber	Average	Good	Good	Very good	Good
8	Bounce Indoor Trampoline Park	Private	District	Other Sport (Trampolining, Dodgeball, Kindergym, Slam Dunk, Parkour)	NA	1 multi-purpose space	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
9	Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre	Private	Local/ District/ Regional	Cricket (Indoor) (Regional) Futsal (District) Netball (Social) (Local) Volleyball (Local) Emerging Indoor Sport (Pickleball) (Regional)	Very High	6 (3 netball /3 competition compliant futsal)	Synthetic courts and futsal rubber courts	Very Good	Competition	Very Good	Good	Good
10	Box Hill High School	School	Local	Basketball Futsal	Very High	2 basketball courts	Timber	Very Good	Competition	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
11	Box Hill North Primary	School	Local	Fencing	NA	Multi-purpose room only	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
12	Box Hill Senior Secondary College*	School	Local	Basketball Netball (Training)	Very High	1 basketball court	Timber	Average	Competition	Good	Average	Good
13	Box Hill South Family Centre	Private	Local	Martial Arts	NA	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
14	Aqualink Nunawading	Council	Local	Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	1 Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
15	Burwood East Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Taekwondo) Emerging Indoor Sport (Cheer and Other)	NA	2 studio halls	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
16	Burwood Heights Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Taekwondo) Emerging Indoor Sport (Cheer and Other)	NA	1 basketball court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
17	Deakin University Stadium	School	Local	Badminton Basketball Futsal Netball Table Tennis Emerging Indoor Sport (Pickleball) Other Sport (Dodgeball)	Very High	2 netball courts	Timber	Good	Competition	Very Good	Very Good	Good
18	Eastern Cheer Dance Academy	Private	District	Emerging Indoor Sport (Cheer)	Very High	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
19	Eastern Gymnastics Club	Private	District	Gymnastics	Very High	2 gymnastics rooms with range of	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
						gymnastics facilities						
20	Eley Park Community Centre	Council	Local	Table Tennis Other Recreation (Dance, Disability Programs, Fitness - Yoga, Exercise, Pilates, Meditation)	High	1 studio hall	Vinyl	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
21	Emmaus College	School	Local	None (School Use Only)	NA	1 basketball court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
22	Forest Hill College*	School	Local	Basketball	Very High	2 basketball courts	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
23	Forest Hill Uniting Church	Private	Local	Martial Arts (Karate) Other Recreation (Dance, Fitness - Aerobics)	NA	Small multi-purpose hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
24	Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Burwood	Private	District	Martial Arts (Jiu-Jitsu)	NA	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
25	Hardrock Climbing Company	Private	District	Emerging Indoor Sport (Sport Climbing)	NA	Not known	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
26	Healthways Recreation Centre	Private	Local	Other Sports (Ten Pin Bowling) Other Recreation (Dance, Fitness)	NA	10 bowling lanes, 3 lane 25m pool, gym	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
27	Hung Gar Yau Shu Martial Arts	Private	Local	Martial Arts	NA	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
28	Kerrimuir Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Judo, Karate)	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
29	Kingswood College	School	Local	Basketball Futsal	Low	1 basketball court	Futsal rubber courts	Very Good	Good	Good	Very Good	Average
30	Koonung Secondary College	School	Local	Basketball Other Recreation (Fitness)	Very High	1 basketball court, 1 gymnasium	Timber	Good	Good	Good	Good	Average
31	Laburnum Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	1 basketball sized court	Timber	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average

Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
32	Livingstone Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
33	Mahoneys Reserve Sports Pavilion Hall	Council	Local	Badminton Table Tennis	Mode rate	1 small table tennis hall	Synthetic vinyl	Average	Training	Average	Average	Average
34	Melbourne Badminton Centre	Private	Regional	Badminton	Very High	9 courts	Synthetic vinyl	Very Good	Competition	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
35	Mitcham Badminton Centre	Private	Regional	Badminton	Very High	12 badminton courts	Synthetic vinyl	Very Good	Competition	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
36	Mitcham Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Karate) Netball	High	1 half sized multi-purpose court/space	Timber	Good	Good	Good	Good	Average
37	Mont Albert Primary School	School	Local	Basketball	High	1 basketball court						
38	Mount Scopus Memorial College	School	Local	Other Recreation (Dance and Fitness)	NA	2 volleyball courts; indoor pool. The Besen Theatre	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
39	Mullauna College	School	Local	Basketball Table Tennis (Coaching)	High	2 basketball courts	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
40	St Peters Anglican Church	School	Local	Martial Arts	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
41	Nunawading Basketball Centre	Council	Regional	Basketball Martial Arts (Taekwondo)	Very High	5 basketball courts, 1 room used for martial arts	Timber	Good	Good	Good	Good	Average
42	Nunawading Christian College	School	Local	Volleyball	NA	1/2 basketball court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
43	Nunawading Community Hub	Council	Local	Badminton Basketball Fencing Other Recreation (U3A Sport Program)	Very High	1 indoor court available for full court and half court hire, or 3	Timber	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good

Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
						badminton courts.						
44	Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club	Council	District	Gymnastics	Very High	2 spaces	Spring Floor	Good	Average	Average	Poor	Average
45	Old Orchard Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Netball Table Tennis Other Recreation (Dance)	High	1 basketball sized court	Vinyl	Poor	Average	Average	Poor	Poor
46	Orchard Grove Primary	School	Local	Basketball Netball Table Tennis	High	1 basketball court	Timber	Good	Training	Good	Good	Good
47	Our Lady of Sion College	School	Local	No community use	Low	1 basketball court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
48	Parkmore Primary School (at Forest Hill Secondary College site)	School	Local	No community use	Low	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
49	Presbyterian Ladies College	School	District	Gymnastics	NA	3 indoor courts and gymnastics hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
50	Pure Allstars Cheerleading & Dance	Private	District	Emerging Indoor Sport (Cheer and Other)	High	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
51	Rangeview Primary School	School	Local	Basketball	NA	1 (not compliant basketball court)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
52	Roberts McCubbin Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	1 court + gym	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
53	Slater Reserve Stadium	Council	Local	Basketball Netball Table Tennis	Very High	2 basketball sized courts (run-offs not compliant)	Timber	Good	Good	Good	Good	Average
54	Sportlink*	Council	Local/ District	Badminton (Local) Basketball (District) Martial Arts (Local)	Very High	4 indoor courts and 4 outdoor	Timber	Average	Good	Good	Good	Good

Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
				Futsal (District) Netball (District) Table Tennis (Coaching) (Local) Volleyball (District) Emerging Indoor Sport (Pickleball) (District) Other Recreation (Dodgeball, Dance, Fitness) (Local)		covered netball courts						
55	St Edwards Anglican Church	Private	Local	Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
56	St Francis Xavier Primary School	School	Local	No community use	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
57	St James' Primary School	School	Local	No community use	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
58	St Johns Parish Durkin Hall	School	Local	Fencing	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
59	St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South	Private	Local	Other Recreation (Tai Chi)	NA	1 studio hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
60	St Philips Primary School	School	Local	No community use	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
61	St Scholastica's Primary School	School	Local	No community use	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
62	St Timothy's Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
63	Surrey Hills Primary School	School	Local	No community use	NA	1 basketball court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
64	Timezone and Zone Bowling Forest Hill	Private	Regional	Other Sports (Ten Pin Bowling)	NA	24 bowling lanes	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
65	Urban Climb Blackburn	Private	Regional	Emerging Indoor Sport (Sport Climbing)	Very High	Indoor climbing walls	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Map Ref.	Site Name	Ownerships	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Current Sports Played	Usage Level	Current Sports Court Configuration	Sports Court Surface Type	Sports Court Compliance	Lighting Standard	Lighting Condition Rating	Building Condition Rating	Building Fit-For-Purpose Rating
				Other Recreation (Yoga)								
66	Vermont Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Netball (Training) Table Tennis	NA	1 basketball	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
67	Vermont Secondary College	School	Local	Basketball Futsal Martial Arts (Karate) Netball (Training) Table Tennis	NA	1 basketball	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
68	Wattle Park Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Futsal Martial Arts (Karate) Other Sports (Handball - Training)	High	1 basketball court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
69	Weeden Heights Primary School	School	Local	Martial Arts (Karate) Other Recreation (Yoga)	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
70	Whitehorse Club	Private	Local	Fencing Other Sports (Bocce Indoors)	NA	Multi-purpose room and indoor bocce 2 rinks	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
71	Whitehorse Primary School	School	Local	Basketball Futsal Martial Arts (Karate)	NA	1 basketball sized court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
72	Century Indoor Cricket Centre	Private	Local	Cricket (Indoor) training	NA	4 indoor training nets	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
73	Kando Martial Arts Club	Private	Local	Martial Arts	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
74	Mitcham Aikido School	Private	Local	Martial Arts	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
75	Whitehorse Shotokan Karate-Do Australia	Private	Local	Martial Arts	NA	Multi-purpose room	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Appendix 3: Council Facilities Occupancy Schedules

Nunawading Basketball Centre Occupancy Table

TIME SLOT	MONDAY					TUESDAY					WEDNESDAY					THURSDAY					FRIDAY					SATURDAY					SUNDAY				
Off Peak Time	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6.30-7.00am																																			
7.00-7.30am																																			
7.30 – 8.00am																																			
8.00-8.30am																																			
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2.30-3.00pm																																			
3.00-3.30pm																																			
3.30-4.00pm																																			
Peak Time	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
4.00-4.30pm																																			
4.30-5.00pm																																			
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9.30-10.00pm																																			
10.00-10.30pm																																			
10.30-11.00pm																																			

Key:

Basketball - Competition		Basketball – Development Programs		Basketball - Training	
Basketball - School Competition (approx. 50 participants)		Basketball - Academy			

Sportlink Occupancy Schedule Indoor Courts

TIME-SLOT	MONDAY				TUESDAY				WEDNESDAY				THURSDAY				FRIDAY				SATURDAY				SUNDAY			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Off-Peak Time																												
8.00am – 9.00am																												
9.00am - 10.00 am																												
10.00am – 11.00am																												
11.00am – 12noon																												
12noon 1.00pm																												
1.00pm – 2.00 pm																												
2.00pm – 3.00 pm																												
3.00pm – 4.00 pm																												
Peak Time																												
4.00pm - 5.00pm																												
5.00pm - 6.00pm																												
6.00pm - 7.00pm																												
7.00pm - 8.00pm																												
8.00pm - 9.00pm																												
9.00pm - 10.00pm																												
10.00pm – 11.00 pm																												

Key:

Basketball		Netball		Volleyball	
Indoor Soccer		Other			

Sportlink Occupancy Schedule Outdoor Courts

TIME-SLOT	MONDAY				TUESDAY				WEDNESDAY				THURSDAY				FRIDAY				SATURDAY				SUNDAY			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Off-Peak Time																												
8.00am – 9.00am																												
9.00am - 10.00 am																												
10.00am – 11.00am																												
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3.00pm – 4.00 pm																												
Peak Time																												
4.00pm - 5.00pm																												
5.00pm - 6.00pm																												
6.00pm - 7.00pm																												
7.00pm - 8.00pm																												
8.00pm - 9.00pm																												
9.00pm - 10.00pm																												
10.00pm – 11.00 pm																												

Key:

Basketball	Netball	Other

Aqualink Box Hill Occupancy Schedule

TIME-SLOT	MONDAY			TUESDAY			WEDNESDAY			THURSDAY			FRIDAY			SATURDAY			SUNDAY		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Off-Peak Time																					
7.00am-8.00am																					
8.00am – 9.00am																					
9.00am – 10.00am																					
10.00am – 11.00am																					
11.00am - 12 noon																					
12 noon - 1.00pm																					
1.00pm - 2.00pm																					
2.00pm - 3.00pm																					
3.00pm - 4.00pm																					
Peak Time																					
4.00pm - 5.00pm																					
5.00pm - 6.00pm																					
6.00pm - 7.00pm																					
7.00pm - 8.00pm																					
8.00pm - 9.00pm																					
9.00 pm – 10.00pm																					
10.00pm - 11.00pm																					

Key:

Basketball		Netball		Volleyball	
Indoor Soccer		Other			

Slater Reserve Occupancy Schedule

TIME SLOT	MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
Off Peak Time														
8.00am-8.30am														
8.30am-9.00am														
9.00am-9.30am														
9.30am-10.00am														
10.00am-10.30am														
10.30am-11.00am														
11.00am-11.30am														
11.30am-12.00pm														
12.00pm-12.30pm														
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1.30pm-2.00pm														
2.00pm-2.30pm														
2.30pm-3.00pm														
3.00pm-3.30pm														
3.30pm-4.00pm														
Peak Time														
4.00pm-4.30pm														
4.30pm-5.00pm														
5.00pm-5.30pm														
5..30pm-6.00pm														
6.00pm-6.30pm														
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7.30pm-8.00pm														
8.00pm-8.30pm														
8.30pm-9.00pm														
9.00pm-9.30pm														
9.30pm-10.00pm														
10.00pm-10.30pm														
10.30pm-11.00pm														

Key:

Basketball		Netball		School Group - NCC	

Mahoneys Reserve Occupancy Schedule

TIME SLOT	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Off Peak Time							
9.00am-9.30pm							
9.30am-10.00am							
10.00am-10.30am							
10.30am-11.00am							
11.00am-11.30am							
11.30am-12noon							
12noon-12.30pm							
12.30pm-1.00pm							
1.00pm-1.30pm							
1.30pm-2.00pm							
2.00pm-2.30pm							
2.30pm-3.00pm							
3.00pm-3.30pm							
3.30pm-4.00pm							
Peak Time							
4.00pm-4.30pm							
4.30pm-5.00pm							
5.00pm-5.30pm							
5.30pm-6.00pm							
6.00pm-6.30pm							
6.30pm-7.00pm							
7.00pm-7.30pm							
7.30pm-8.00pm							
8.00pm-8.30pm							
8.30pm-9.00pm							
9.00pm-9.30pm							
9.30pm-10.00pm							
10.00pm-10.30pm							

Key:

WAC Carpet Bowls		ICC Table Tennis		Balwyn United Table Tennis Club		WAC Table Tennis		WAC Badminton	
HP Badminton		St Johns Table Tennis Club		Forrest Hill Ladies Badminton		ESCTTA Table Tennis		Eastern Badminton	
Hall Cleaning		Badminton		DPL Table Tennis		DPC TABLE TENNIS Association			

Nunawading Community Hub Occupancy Schedule

TIME SLOT	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Off Peak Time							
8.30am-9.00am							
9.00am-9.30pm							
9.30am-10.00am							
10.00am-10.30am							
10.30am-11.00am							
11.00am-11.30am							
11.30am-12noon							
12noon-12.30pm							
12.30pm-1.00pm							
1.00pm-1.30pm							
1.30pm-2.00pm							
2.00pm-2.30pm							
2.30pm-3.00pm							
3.00pm-3.30pm							
3.30pm-4.00pm							
Peak Time							
4.00pm-4.30pm							
4.30pm-5.00pm							
5.00pm-5.30pm							
5.30pm-6.00pm							
6.00pm-6.30pm							
6.30pm-7.00pm							
7.00pm-7.30pm							
7.30pm-8.00pm							
8.00pm-8.30pm							
8.30pm-9.00pm							
9.00pm-9.30pm							
9.30pm-10.00pm							
10.00pm-10.30pm							

Key:

Basketball		U3A - Licence		U3A - Outside of Licence - until end of 2024	
Badminton				Whitehorse Chevaliers (Fencing)	

Eley Park Community Centre Occupancy Schedule

TIME SLOT	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
4.00pm-4.30pm							
4.30pm-5.00pm							
5.00pm-5.30pm							
5.30pm-6.00pm							
6.00pm-6.30pm							
6.30pm-7.00pm							
7.00pm-7.30pm							
7.30pm-8.00pm							
8.00pm-8.30pm							
8.30pm-9.00pm							
9.00pm-9.30pm							
9.30pm-10.00pm							
10.00pm-10.30pm							

Key:

Eastern Suburbs & Churches Table Tennis Association	

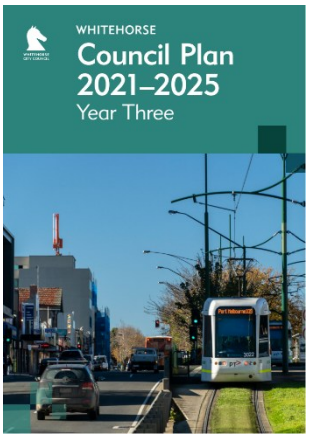
Please note that Eley Park Community Centre runs social recreation programs during 8am to 4pm from the studio hall.

Appendix 4: Strategic Review Paper

This Strategic Review Paper reviews the strategic directions the Council has made to the provision of indoor sports facilities in the City of Whitehorse and identifies relationships with other recreation strategies including State Government and State Sporting Association facilities plans.

1.1 City of Whitehorse Strategies

City of Whitehorse Council Plan 2021-2025



The City of Whitehorse Council Plan 2021-2025 provides eight strategic directions for how Council will deliver on the Whitehorse 2040 Community Vision for the five-year period. This framework is used to inform how Council adapts to change, long-term financial planning and resource capability and determine project priorities.

Strategic Direction 4 – Our Built Environment, Movement and Public Places includes objectives and strategies relevant to the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan:

- Objective 4.1. Assets, facilities and urban design of a quality that provides the highest levels of utility and enhances the connection between the built, natural, heritage and social environments.
- Objective 4.2. Foster development that has access to a range of facilities, services and amenities to meet future community needs.
- The Indoor Sports Plan is also strategically aligned with the Draft Whitehorse City Council Integrated Council Plan 2025–2029, ensuring consistency with broader municipal objectives and priorities.

Draft Whitehorse City Council Integrated Council Plan 2025–2029

The Indoor Sports Plan is also strategically aligned with the Whitehorse City Council Integrated Council Plan 2025–2029, ensuring consistency with broader municipal objectives and priorities.

The below strategic directions and objectives are relevant to the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan:

Strategic Direction 1 - Community

- Objective 1.3: A healthy and active community.

Strategic Direction 2 - Built

- Objective 2.2 Community facilities and shared spaces are well used.
- Objective 2.3: Sustainable planning and infrastructure to respond to population change.

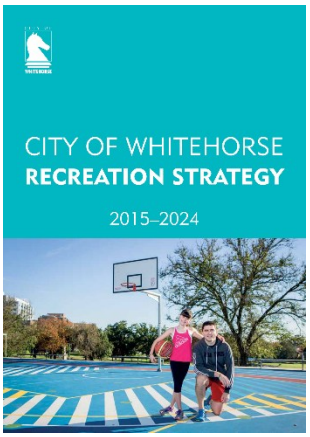
The Whitehorse Health and Wellbeing Plan (2025–2029)

The Whitehorse Health and Wellbeing Plan (2025–2029) supports the Council Plan by guiding Council's efforts and resources toward achieving health and wellbeing goals over four years, contributing to the long-term Whitehorse Community Vision 2040.

The objectives that relate to this Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan are:

- Seek further opportunities to roll out gender equality initiatives in Sports Clubs and the broader community in Whitehorse.
- Collaborate with local sports clubs and other community groups to increase community participation.
- Seek opportunities to open up and diversify use of Council spaces and facilities for multi-use, e.g. on-demand lighting, casual use sports infrastructure.

Whitehorse Recreation Strategy 2015-2024



The Recreation Strategy is designed to serve as a guiding framework for the Council's planning and development of recreation and sports services and facilities until 2024. This plan is due for review.

The strategy's main purpose is to ensure the community has access to resources that promote active, healthy lifestyles and overall wellbeing. The strategy aims to achieve this through several key objectives:

- The strategy seeks to encourage residents, families, and visitors to engage in regular physical activity by making it easier to integrate movement into daily routines.
- It outlines a strategic approach to planning future recreation facilities and services, ensuring they meet the evolving needs of the community.
- By providing direction on the development of facilities, the strategy supports efforts to help people lead healthier lives through recreation and physical activity.
- The strategy establishes clear guidelines regarding the type and level of support the Council should offer to recreation and sports, ensuring resources are allocated efficiently.
- It sets out specific short, medium, and long-term actions, creating a timeline for implementation and a structure for monitoring progress.

In relation to this Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan, the consultation revealed challenges for indoor and outdoor court sports in Whitehorse, particularly a need for more court space and facilities meeting indoor sports facilities guidelines.

Participation in basketball has grown, and while the city has access to school courts, many did not meet competition standards. Opportunities to address court shortages exist through regional partnerships, such as with Knox Regional Sports Park. Additionally, netball clubs face challenges with outdoor court conditions. A feasibility study was recommended to assess demand and long-term facility needs, with a focus on regional collaboration. This feasibility study was completed in 2020 and is summarised below.

1.2 Whitehorse Indoor Sports Strategies

Whitehorse Indoor Sports Feasibility Study 2020

The Whitehorse Indoor Sports Feasibility Study was prepared with data collected in 2018 and 2019. The Study requires a review because indoor sport participation has significantly changed following the global COVID-19 pandemic. This Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan 2024 will build on the 2020 Study, reviewing the key findings and recommendations and considering current 2024 participation data and trends and use of indoor sports facilities.

Key findings:

- Additional sports facilities are desirable to meeting existing and future participation for an increasingly diverse population and to provide for an increasing number of sports that are played indoors.
- There is a good diversity of indoor sports availability within Whitehorse that provided across a range of small and large indoor sports facilities. These include at Council facilities, school facilities and private facilities.
- Some large footprint sports such as indoor hockey and handball are not played in Whitehorse.
- There is little or no capacity in the current facilities during peak times to provide for either additional sports or an expansion of the competitions played.
- Some Council and school facilities are nearing the end of their useful life and require renewal to meet current building or sports requirements.
- A strong focus on sharing of indoor sports facilities needs to continue, however at a club competition level some sports (such as table tennis, badminton and indoor cricket) need dedicated facilities, potential in partnership with the private sector.

Key investment priorities:

- Upgrade existing Council facilities that require renewal and provide more courts.
- Explore opportunities for a multi-use community facility to include table tennis in central Box Hill.
- Advocate to encourage community use, when partnerships with schools propose upgrades to indoor sports courts.

Recommendations:

- Council to adopt the key investment priorities.
- Undertake further exploration and feasibility work at each of the preferred sites. These sites include Nunawading Basketball Centre, Sportlink, Aqualink Box Hill, Slater Reserve Stadium, Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club and a new facility in central Box Hill.
- Commence concept design of Sportlink in consultation with the Whitehorse Netball Association and Sportlink stakeholders.
- Undertake a Master Plan for East Burwood Reserve.
- Actively seek Federal, State and other funding opportunities.
- Include these preferred development sites in Council's long term financial plan and relevant Council Capital Works Plans.

The Council has made the following progress in delivering these recommendations:

- The Council adopted the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Feasibility Study and in doing so the key investment priorities.
- A Master Plan has been prepared for East Burwood Reserve that recommends six additional courts at Nunawading Basketball Centre (total of 11 courts recommended). A Feasibility Study is being prepared concurrently with this Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan.
- The outdoor netball courts at Sportlink have been covered to increase the capacity of these courts for netball and other sports. No further design or asset management works have been undertaken at the venue.

- A Master Plan is being prepared at Walker Park that is considering the future of Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club stadium.
- A Feasibility Study into a new table tennis facility is being prepared concurrently with this Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan.

East Burwood Reserve Master Plan 2023

The East Burwood Reserve Master Plan 2023 supersedes the 2001 Master Plan. The Master Plan recommends:

- Prepare a Business Case for the redevelopment of the Nunawading Basketball Stadium.
- Subject to the outcome of the Business Case, redevelop the Nunawading Basketball Stadium to a new 11-court complex with car parking in an under croft.

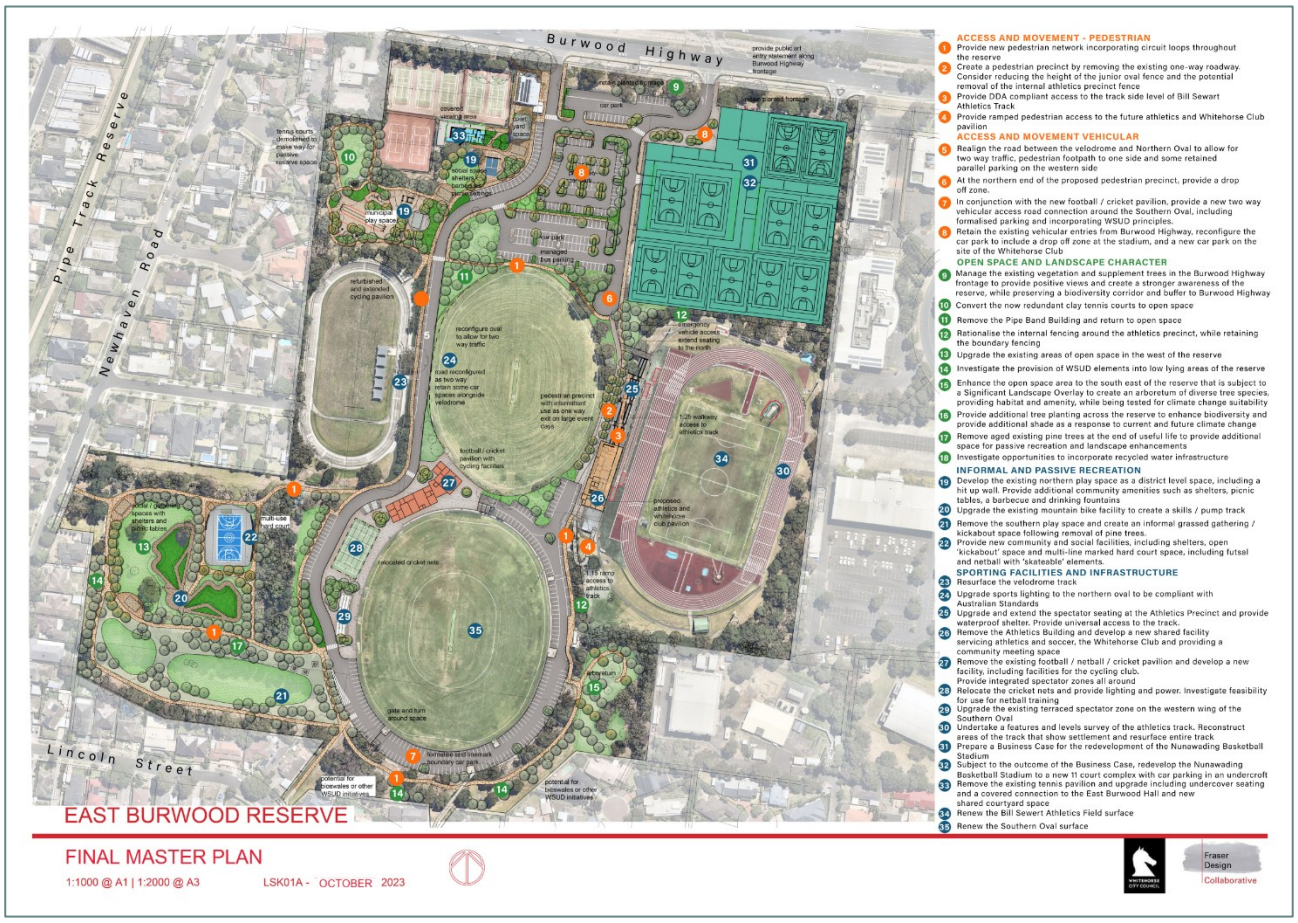


Figure 1: East Burwood Reserve Master Plan

Mahoneys Reserve Master Plan 2024 (In Progress)

The Mahoneys Reserve Master Plan is currently in development. The Northern Pavilion Hall is useutilised seven day a week from 9.00am to 10.00pm by more than 330 older adults playing table tennis, badminton, and carpet bowls. The research and engagement findings have found the hall to be an inadequate size for the larger user groups.

Walker Park Reserve Master Plan 2024 (In Progress)

The Walker Park Reserve Master Plan is currently in development. The Nunawading Gymnastics Centre is utilised seven days a week for beginner to level 2 gymnastics programs. The research and engagement findings have found the facility to be in poor condition and inadequate for supporting Level 3 and above gymnastics programs.

Forest Hill College Master Plan 2024 (In Progress)

The Forest Hill College Master Plan is currently in development. The focus of the master plan is to develop sporting facilities to support the school and community sport use. There is an existing two court stadium at the College. These courts are heavily used by the school and community sport by Nunawading Basketball. The research and engagement findings has found a need for additional courts and proposes a new four court multi-sport stadium.

1.3 Regional Strategies

Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy 2022-2032

The Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy has been developed to support and guide seven councils and stakeholders in the Eastern Metropolitan Region in the planning and delivery of regional-level sport and recreation facilities and shared recreation trails for the next 10 to 20 years.

The first Strategy was developed in 2016 and has been subsequently updated in 2022. The updated Strategy prioritises a network approach to collaboration within the require with the establishment of four strategic pillars:

- A balanced network of regional sport and recreation facilities.
- Knowing and understanding the region.
- A collaborative approach to regional planning, policy development and advocacy.
- Shared resources and support for regional sport and recreation.

The Strategy identifies continued investment in co-located, multi-purpose facilities to create efficiencies for project partners, with the regional sport and recreation facility network creating participation and pathway opportunities that cross local government boundaries.

Key strategic directions relevant to the Indoor Sports Plan include:

- Progress the develop of established regional facility priorities.
- Address gaps in existing regional facility provision.
- Plan for emerging and under-represented sports and recreation activities.
- Create regional facility development opportunities in partnership with schools and other land managers.
- Consider and plan for the impacts of urban development on the regional sport and recreation facility network.

The Strategy identifies the following key infrastructure priorities relevant to the Indoor Sports Plan:

- East Burwood Reserve Master Plan, including Nunawading Basketball Centre.
- Sportlink Facility Development Planning.

The Strategy identifies the following emerging trends relevant to the Indoor Sports Plan:

- Facility capacity is becoming an issue for sport within Whitehorse.

- Demand for indoor sports such as gymnastics and table tennis require consideration within Whitehorse and across the regional network.
- Partnership opportunities with schools should be considered at a regional level.

1.4 State Government Strategies

The following table summarises State Government strategies relevant to indoor sports provision and future funding approaches.

Active Victoria

Active Victoria is the Victorian Government's strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria. The framework aims to reset the sector following the COVID-19 global pandemic, build on the existing foundations for the State to be recognised as the nation's sporting capital and to deliver a more active Victorian population.

The vision of Active Victoria is to build a thriving, inclusive and connected sport and active recreation sector that benefits all Victorians.

The framework includes 12 key directions:

- Increase and promote opportunities so Victorians can participate in ways that suit them.
- Target efforts towards individuals and communities who participate less.
- Improve community sport and active recreation infrastructure coordination to better meet demand, with a focus on areas and populations who need it most.
- Deliver inclusive, multi-use and sustainable community sport and active recreation infrastructure.
- Attract and retain a skilled sport and active recreation workforce (paid and unpaid).
- Promote more financially sustainable organisations that reduce duplication and inefficiencies in service delivery.
- Implement frameworks to create safe and inclusive sport and active recreation settings.
- Build insights through better use of evidence and data.
- Develop a world-leading suite of major stadium and state facilities.
- Connected and co-ordinated pathways exist to pursue sport at the highest level.
- Invest in state infrastructure that can host international and regional events and support event content that boosts the Victorian economy.
- Partner to maximise leverage from investment in Victoria's major events.

The Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan will need to respond to the strategic directions outlined above, and directly align with the identified need to increase participation and deliver multi-use sustainable community sporting infrastructure to seek State Government funding.

Fair Access Policy

The Fair Access Roadmap outlined by the Victorian Government aims to develop a state-wide foundation for gender equitable access to, and use of, community sports infrastructure for women and girls.

There is a significant gap in both the participation of women and girls in sport and recreation and an identified gender imbalance in leadership positions across all levels of the Victorian sporting and recreation industry:

- Only 9% of women and girls participate in sport across all ages compared to 17% of men and boys (AusPlay, 2021).
- Only 21% of girls aged 0-14 years participate in organised sport and active recreation outside of school hours three times a week (AusPlay, 2021).
- There has been a decline of 22,000 women and girls' participation after COVID-19 where men and boys' participation rose by over 20,500 participants in 2021 compared to 2019 (VicHealth Sports Participation in Victoria 2015-2021).
- 29% of executive positions and 33% of board positions were held by women in State Sporting Associations (Inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation 2015).
- 28% of women have considered leaving their club due to inequitable treatment (State of Play Survey 2022-2023, Change Our Game).
- Women are 2.5 times more likely to report feeling unwelcome at their sporting club compared to men.
- Of people who played community sport, women were less likely than men to agree that club facilities were shared equally.
- Many Victorian women and girls don't have access to the best courts or grounds, have facilities of lesser standard, or are relegated to less convenient competition and training times.

Local Governments have an obligation to gender equality, not only under State Government legislation but also under Commonwealth legislation. The State and Commonwealth Government legislation includes:

- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic).
- Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic).
- Gender Equality Act 2020 (Vic).
- Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cwth).

The Commission for Gender Equity in the Public Sector was established after the *Gender Equity Bill 2019 (Vic)* passed in February 2020. The Commission supports the Public Sector Gender Equity Commissioner in overseeing the implementation of the Gender Equity Act 2020 and promoting gender equity in the public sector workforce and the broader Victorian community.

Local Government Authorities are required to complete Gender Impact Assessments and submit these to the Commission for Gender Equity. The Commission reports on progress made towards delivering on the *Gender Equity Act 2020*.

The Victorian Government initiated an Inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation which resulted in key monumental changes in the sector. The changes included establishing a Victorian Office of Women in Sport, followed by the Female Friendly Sport Infrastructure Guidelines (2017) and funding program and then the Change Our Game Initiative. These resources were developed to support LGAs to engage better and provide for women and girls in sports.

Following the Inquiry and Change Our Game funding program, the Victorian Government in 2022 released the Fair Access Policy Roadmap. The Fair Access Policy 'RoadMap' includes the following six principles:

1. Community sports infrastructure and environments are genuinely welcoming, safe, and inclusive.
2. Women and girls can fully participate in all aspects of community sport and active recreation, including, as a player, coach, administrator, official, volunteer and spectator.
3. Women and girls will have equitable access to and use of community sport infrastructure.

4. Women and girls should be equitably represented in leadership and governance roles.
5. Encourage and support all user groups who access and use community sport infrastructure to understand, adopt and implement gender-equitable access and use practices.
6. Prioritise access, use and support all user groups who demonstrate and ongoing commitment to gender equitable access and use of allocated community sport infrastructure.

The City of Whitehorse has adopted the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy Fair Access Policy. This policy aligns with the six principles outlined in the Fair Access Policy Road Map.

1.5 State Sporting Association Strategies

Badminton Victoria Strategic Plan 2021-2025

The Badminton Victoria Strategic Plan 2021-2025 includes strategic directions for engaging participants and volunteers, supporting the talent pathway and aims to ensure badminton clubs are sustainability, support inclusion and deliver events.

Basketball Victoria Facility Master Plan 2017

The Basketball Victoria Facility Master Plan identified the key facility requirements to meet future basketball participation needs. The priority for the Melbourne East Region at the time was to develop the State Basketball Centre at the Knox Regional Sports Park. This has since been achieved.

The 2017 Master Plan recommendations for the City of Whitehorse are:

- An additional two courts are needed at Nunawading Stadium.
- An additional 2 to 3 courts in the Box Hill/Burwood East area.

Calisthenics Victoria Strategic Plan 2023-2026

The Calisthenics Victoria Strategic Plan identifies having access to a state-wide network of accessible and suitable facilities that meet the needs of calisthenics is a key strategic direction.

The proposed new home of calisthenics is the Karralyka Centre in Ringwood. The facility would include administration space for Calisthenics Victoria and studio and performance space for programs, competitions and events.

Football Victoria – State Football Facilities Strategy to 2026

The Strategy aligns the development of soccer facilities to Football Federation Australia's Whole of Football Plan, stating: *Footballers need space to play. Whether it's a full-sized synthetic pitch, a rooftop Futsal court or a local park for social games, facilities are fundamental to football's future health and popularity. The provision of good quality facilities to football's participants will be a critical focus.*

The Strategy includes an investment logic map that identifies the benefits of soccer, the issues the sport is currently facing and solutions. These include the strategies and facilities needed and changes that need to be made. The Strategy's focus is primarily on outdoor soccer field requirements.

The Strategy recommends Football Victoria (FV) targets the development of new pitches and lighting at new schools being built throughout the state. The FV strategy states that some sites identified are not appropriate nor being planned for soccer facilities.

FV acknowledges in the Strategy that Local Governments are "significant champions of football in Victoria" and seeks to partner with councils in regional planning and development project.

The Strategy identifies Whitehorse as requiring five full size soccer pitches. Due to the landlocked nature of Whitehorse, the provision of synthetic pitches and access to futsal courts and competitions will be important to facilitate participation growth.

Gymnastics State Facilities Strategy 2021 - 2030

The Gymnastics State Facilities Strategy provides priorities for improving gymnastics provision across Victoria, with a focus on the additional floor space needed in each LGA.

The additional floorspace required is calculated based on the projected population increase for 0–14-year-olds and the Gymnastics Victoria participation target of 10% of the 0–14-year-old population (current participation in Melbourne East is 7.3%).

Based on this assessment, Gymnastics Victoria is aiming to increase participation from 14,809 to 20,673 between 2021 and 2030, requiring an increase in gymnastics floorspace from 26,878 square metres to 35,440 square metres.

Based on the recommended floorspace for a regional level gymnastics facility (1,200 – 1,600 square metres floorspace), the equivalent of an additional five regional-level facilities will be required in the Melbourne East region.

Netball Victoria Statewide Facilities Strategy (2016)

The Netball Victoria Statewide Facilities Strategy identifies a shortfall of indoor and outdoor netball facilities needed across Victoria to meet future participation demand.

In the Eastern Region, Netball Victoria have determined a surplus of 50 dedicated outdoor courts, deficit of 35 outdoor multi-lined courts and deficit of 18 indoor courts.

The deficits in court numbers were not found to be even across the region, with Monash, Boroondara and Whitehorse all having significant deficits across indoor and outdoor court numbers. Whitehorse had a deficit of 17 courts.

Volleyball State Facilities Strategy (2018)

The Volleyball State Facilities Strategy includes strategic directions for: Partnering in new indoor sports facilities development, broadening the participation base and to adopt a regional approach.

The Strategy recognises the Croydon Aquahub and Oakleigh Recreation Centre regional hubs for the Metropolitan Eastern Region.

Since this strategy was developed, regional volleyball facilities have been developed in Manningham (Mullum Mullum Stadium) and Maroondah (Maroondah Nets).

Table Tennis Victoria Strategic Plan 2024

The Table Tennis Victoria Strategic Plan seeks to build a community for all Victorian where anyone is able to participate and achieve their aspirations through table tennis.

A key strategic direction under ‘connecting people with table tennis’ is to develop strategies to grow the affiliated facility footprint, venue capacity, and operational sustainability.

1.6 Key Findings of Strategic Review

There is strategic support for providing indoor sports facilities in Whitehorse

Local Government must provide equitable access to indoor sports facilities and services

Peak Sporting Bodies seek additional access to indoor sports courts in Whitehorse to grow participation

City of Whitehorse strategic plans support the provision of indoor sports facilities and programs as an ingredient to improving community health and wellbeing

The Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan align with the Council's strategic commitments to recreation facilities that are of high standard and foster access to a range of services and amenities that meet future community indoor sport's needs, as outlined in the Council Plan 2021-2025, Community Vision 2040 and the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25.

These Council strategic documents emphasise improving community health and wellbeing (Theme Seven of Community Vision 2040) as a key outcome for providing indoor sports facilities.

The strategies also provide a framework for planning infrastructure, programs, and services to enhance community benefits. The Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan will deliver recommendations based on sound evidence-based to meet the current and future indoor sports needs, promoting a more active community.

The Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan will inform a review of the Whitehorse Recreation Strategy. The plans will integrate with other strategic plans of Council including Council's Financial Plan, Asset Plan, Council's Four-Year Budget, Revenue and Rating Plan, Workforce Plan and Community Engagement Policy.

The Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan will build on the findings of the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Feasibility Study 2020.

Following the adoption of this Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan and consideration of supporting feasibility studies into the Nunawading Basketball Centre Redevelopment and a regional table tennis centre, the Council will consider including priority projects in its long-term financial plan and relevant Capital Works Plans.

Local Government must provide equitable access to indoor sports facilities and services

Local Government is legally obliged to provide equitable access to sporting infrastructure under State and Federal Government legislation.

The Fair Access Policy Roadmap guides councils in the development of fair access policies. This strategy will consider the approaches and measures to delivering the six principles outlined in the roadmap. The City of Whitehorse has endorsed the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy (MERSRS) Fair Access Policy.

Peak Sporting Bodies seek additional access to indoor sports courts in Whitehorse to facilitate future participation growth and programming

Strategic Plans for badminton, calisthenics, and table tennis include actions that support developing pathways to participate through accessible facilities that meet the needs of the sport and have the capacity to grow competitions, programs and use.

State Facilities Plans for basketball, football (soccer), gymnastics, netball and volleyball identify a shortfall of indoor sports courts and that existing facilities are at capacity. Since these strategies, there have been new indoor sports facilities constructed in the Metropolitan Eastern Region that service the Whitehorse community. These include the Mullum Mullum Stadium (Manningham), Maroondah Nets (Maroondah) and State Basketball and Gymnastics Centre (Knox).

Appendix 5: Facilities Review Paper

This Facilities Review Paper reviews the indoor sports facilities provision in the City of Whitehorse.

1.7 Indoor Sports Facility Planning Framework

A planning framework with facility hierarchy and facility design standards has been designed for indoor sports facilities. The framework is informed by hierarchy definitions from State and Federal Government and peak sporting bodies sports facility guidelines.

This hierarchy is applied to current and future indoor sports facilities. This hierarchy is supported by design standards (refer to **Appendix 1**).

The design standards are scaled for local to district to regional to State/National level participation and competition standards. The preferred facility design guidelines from indoor sports have helped inform and complement the design standards. Contemporary sports facility design standards complement the design standards including design guidelines for making spaces for girls and women, transgender and gender diverse people, and universally accessible places. Importantly, new indoor sports facilities are constructed as multi-sport courts (**Note**, netball court dimensions are the largest standard and can accommodate all indoor sports court dimensions i.e. basketball, volleyball, futsal and badminton.)

Indoor Sports Facility Hierarchy

International: International facilities are the highest-level facilities, capable of hosting international events and competitions and national competition games. These facilities promote elite sport competitions and games and provides entertainment.

International facilities have very specific requirements which vary depending on the sport they service, the spectator seating and amenity required for the capacity of the venue, including corporate suites to public seating areas. They are venues that include a high level of technology including large electronic scoreboards, lighting and sound systems for entertainment purposes. They are normally provided for by State and Federal Governments, national sporting organisations and professional sporting clubs. These venues have a separate show court/concert arena with 5000+ seats and support Tier 1 sport and entertainment events. An example is John Cain Arena that hosts Australian and NBL games, Super Netball games, the Australian Open and Australian and International artists.

State/National: A facility with the ability to host state/national competitions and events or to serve as a state/national performance training hub for one or more sports codes. They are destinations for sport and recreation and events and deliver social and economic benefits to the wider regional/country region. This facility is 3-4ha in size and provide for more than eight local community sports courts. An example is the State Basketball Centre that has 12 sports courts and a show court with seating for 3,100 spectators.

Regional: A facility with the ability to provide for regional or municipal catchment. They can host regional competitions, serve as a regional high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes or provide community participation opportunities for a high number of people across municipal boundaries. Regional spaces and places are often the primary centre of co-located, multi-sport and active recreation facilities within a regional catchment. This facility is 2-3ha in size and provide for five to eight local community sports courts and some have seating of up to 1000 seats. Examples include Sportlink and Nunawading Basketball Centre. Sportlink has four indoor courts and four covered outdoor courts that has three and supports multiple sports local competitions.

District: A facility with the ability to organised community sport participation opportunities for a catchment of one to three suburbs. They provide multiple courts and opportunities for a number of teams/ competitors/ participants within a district to participate. This community facility is 1-2ha in size and provide for three to four local community sports courts. An example is Aqualink Box Hill that has three and supports multiple sports local competitions.

Local: A facility that provides organised community sport participation opportunities for a local neighbourhood or community catchment. This community stadium is approximately 1ha in size and provides for one to two local community sports courts. They are generally overflow and training venues. An example is Blackburn High School which has a single court and is used for basketball training and junior-level competition and social netball.

1.8 Current Supply Analysis

The City of Whitehorse has a range of indoor sports facilities that support regional and local domestic sports teams and competitions. These facilities are managed by the City of Whitehorse, schools and private providers.

A facility inventory has been prepared detailing the type and condition of indoor sports facilities, their roles and functions, and whether they are fit for purpose based on current industry and respective indoor sports facility standards. The inventory is supported by facility inspections and audits.

The catchment maps on the following pages support the inventory and show that most indoor sports have provision of regional, district and local facilities that service all of the Whitehorse community. However, with the population growing so too is participation growth and these facilities are nearing capacity.

Provision Assessment

Within the City of Whitehorse:

- There are 75 indoor sports facilities that provide for the full range of indoor sports including badminton, basketball, calisthenics, cheer, combat sports, dance, fencing, futsal, gymnastics, netball, table tennis, pickleball and volleyball.
- When applying the hierarchy across the indoor sports facilities network, there are eight regionals (red squares), four district (blue squares) and 62 local facilities (green squares).
- These facilities are owned and managed by Council (nine), schools (44) and private providers (22).
- Nine Council facilities that host domestic indoor sports competition and social competition play across several sports including basketball, netball, volleyball, futsal, badminton, table tennis and emerging sports like pickleball. These facilities are Aqualink Box Hill (3 courts), Eley Park Community Centre (Hall), Mahoneys Reserve Sports Pavilion Hall (Hall), Nunawading Basketball Centre (5 courts), Nunawading Community Hub (1 court), Nunawading Gymnastics Centre (2 halls) Slater Reserve Stadium (2 courts), Sportlink (4 indoor courts and 4 outdoor covered courts) and Whitehorse Club (Hall and 2 indoor bocce rinks). These facilities are generally in good serviceable condition and attract high use (80+% occupancy rate).
- Forty-four school facilities with indoor court(s) that are available for community use. These facilities are being used after school hours for community sport training and competition. This use is primarily by basketball clubs, combat sports providers and social futsal programs. There are potential school indoor sports facility development projects proposed in Whitehorse. These include Box Hill Senior Secondary College, Forest Hill College and Kooning Secondary College and Mullane College. The Presbyterian Ladies College is in the progress of building a new sports facility that includes a three indoor court stadium, a gymnastics hall and multi-purpose rooms that could be used for cheer or martial arts activities (due for completion in early 2025).

- Twenty-two private indoor sports facilities. Key facilities include: two private district standard badminton facilities, four private district standard gymnastics, cheer facilities, two private climbing facilities including one of Australia's best speed climbing walls, and The Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre draws participants from a regional area. It is highly used for social and competitive indoor cricket, futsal, netball, basketball, volleyball and pickleball.
- Given the high indoor sports participation in the eastern suburbs there are a number of regional indoor sports facilities in neighbouring municipalities that are servicing Whitehorse residents. These include the State Basketball Centre (Knox), Dandenong Stadium and Springers Leisure Centre (Greater Dandenong), Mullum Stadium (Manningham), Boroondara Sports Centre (Boroondara), Waverly Indoor Stadium (Monash) and Maroondah Nets (Maroondah).
- Nunawading Basketball Centre, Slater Reserve Stadium and Aqualink Box Hill courts are non-compliant on side and end run-offs.
- Sportlink indoor courts are compliant, however show deterioration and will require renewal in short term. The facility is a multi-sport facility hosting basketball, netball, and futsal and emerging sports like pickleball.
- The new Nunawading Community Hall court and studios are in excellent condition and are well used by U3A and a variety of other sport and recreation groups such as fencing.
- The Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Centre located at Walker Park is in average condition and requires renewal or relocation.
- There are development plans for additional courts on the following Council facilities: Aqualink Box Hill (additional two courts), Nunawading Basketball Centre (additional five/six courts) and Sportlink (additional one court).
- There are Master Plans at Walker Reserve and Mahoneys Reserve that will impact future use of the Nunawading Gymnastics Centre and Mahoneys Reserve Pavilion Hall respectively.
- There are school indoor sports facility development projects proposed in Whitehorse. This includes at Box Hill Senior Secondary College, Forest Hill College and Koonung Secondary College. The Presbyterian Ladies College is in the progress of building a new stadium with three indoor courts and gymnastics hall.
- Melbourne East Basketball Association and Table Tennis Victoria are in discussions with Haven Group for the potential development of three indoor sports courts and seven to nine table tennis courts at Forest Hill Chase shopping centre.

Facility Inventory

The detailed facility inventory is provided in **Appendix 2** and includes a description of facilities, identifies key stakeholders using facilities, occupancy levels of facilities, asset condition and fit-for-purpose ratings. A summary is provided in the table on the next page.

The inventory has used the following capacity and rating systems to assess a court's capacity level and sports field infrastructure condition and whether it is fit for purpose.

Usage Rating

The court usage (training and competition) and capacity levels have been assessed and categorised as follows:

- Low – Occupancy up to 40%
- Moderate – Occupancy 40-60%
- High – Occupancy 60-80%

- Very High – Occupancy 80% or above.

Condition Rating

The following rating system was used to assess the quality of sports facility infrastructure:

- Poor—The serviceability and condition of the asset are heavily impacted, requiring replacement to meet sports industry and facility standards.
- Moderate – Obvious deterioration of the asset and major improvements needed to meet sport and facility standards.
- Good – Some superficial deterioration of assets and minor improvements needed to meet sport industry and facility standards.
- Very Good – New asset or recently redeveloped to meet current sport industry and facility standards.

Current Supply

The location of each site is shown in the following maps. Please note that about 30 sites were inspected and assessed. The 30 sites chosen were private (commercial and privately owned sites) sites that support regional activity or basketball and table tennis, school (education) sites that support local community use and Council owned sites.

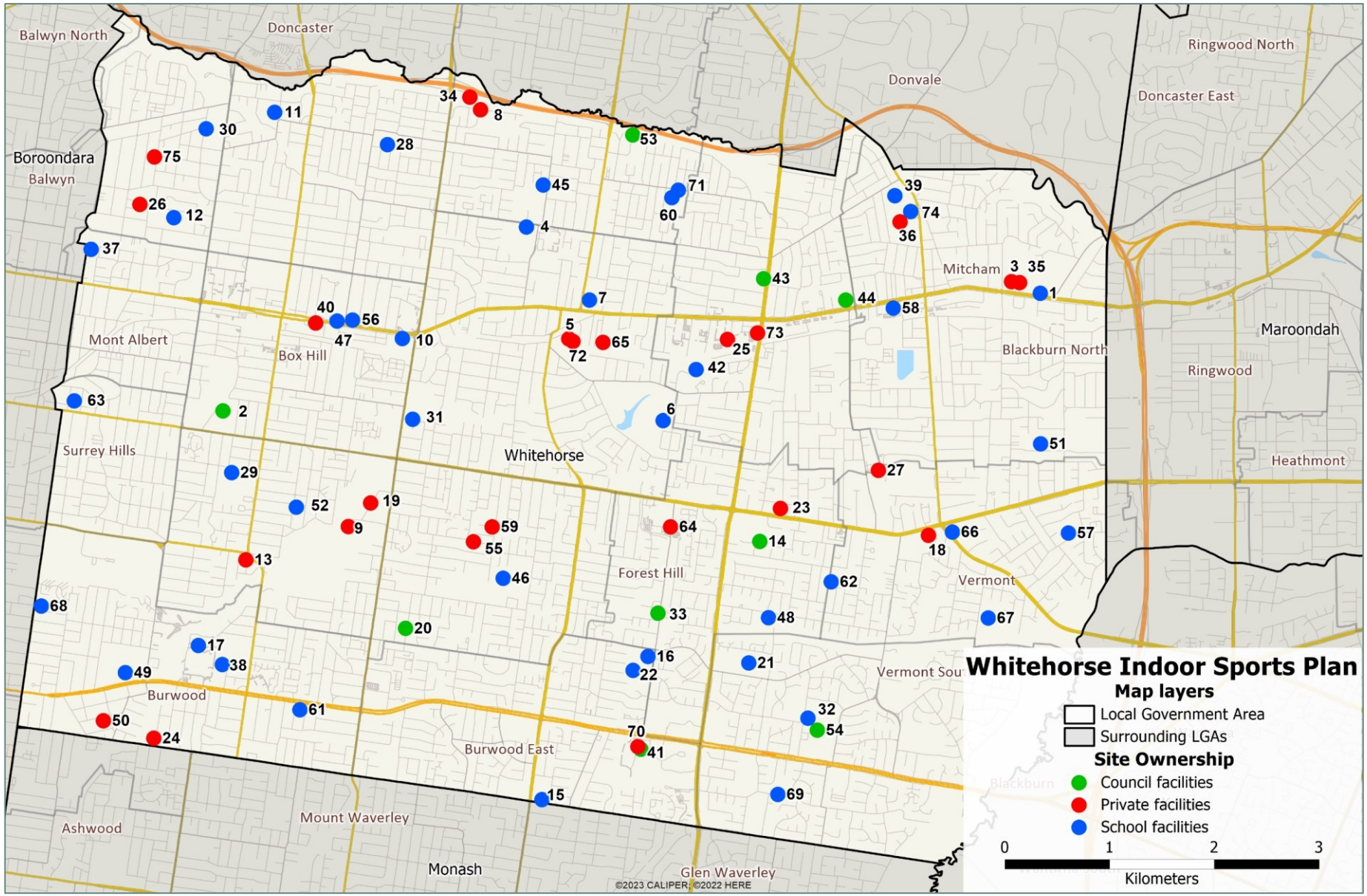
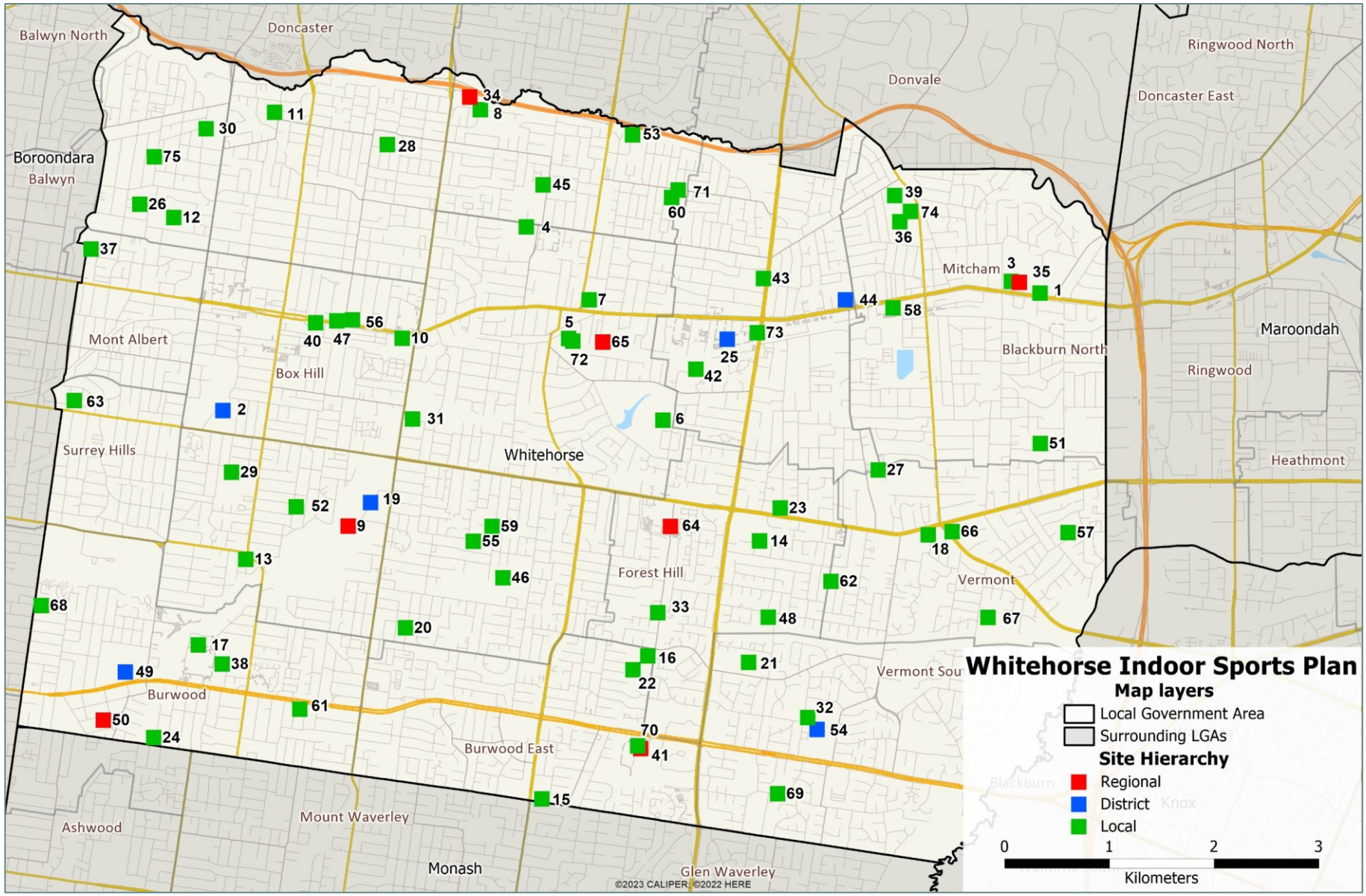


Figure 2: Site Ownership of indoor sports facilities in Whitehorse

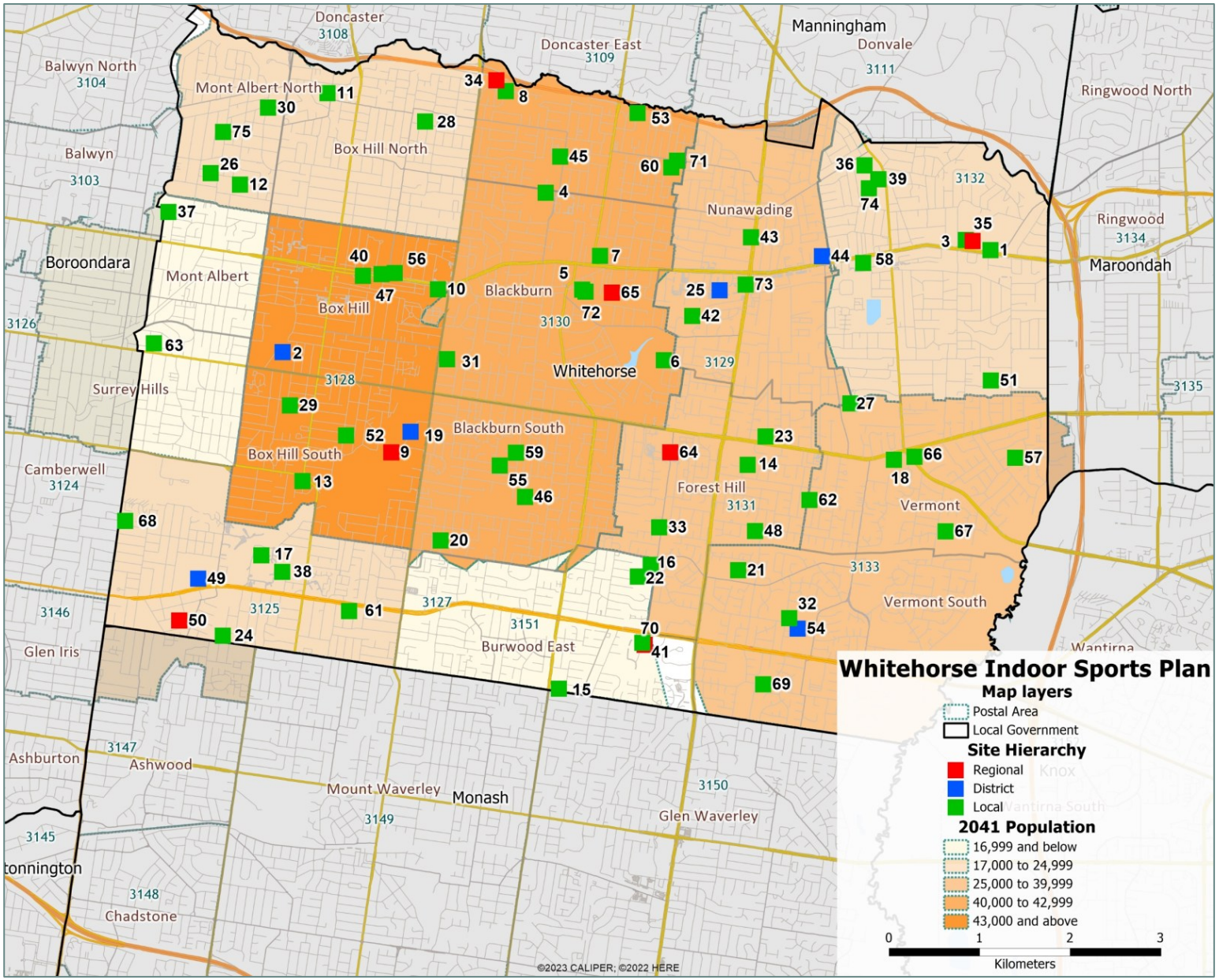


Indoor Sport Facility Hierarchy in Whitehorse

Current Supply Map

The adjacent map shows the current population and location of Whitehorse facilities.

Figure 3: 2021 Population and Hierarchy of Facilities in Whitehorse

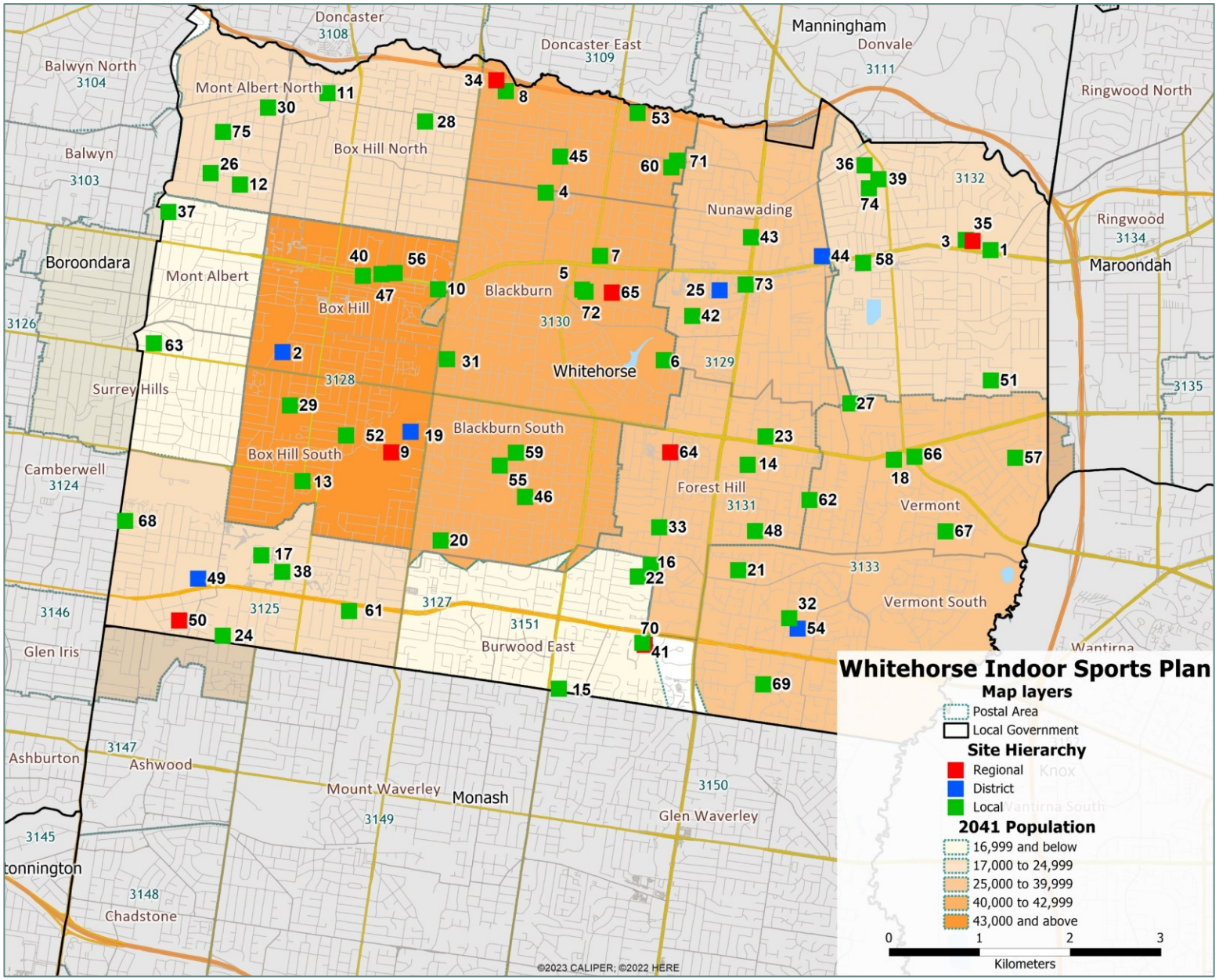


Future Supply Map

The adjacent map shows the projected future population and location of existing facilities.

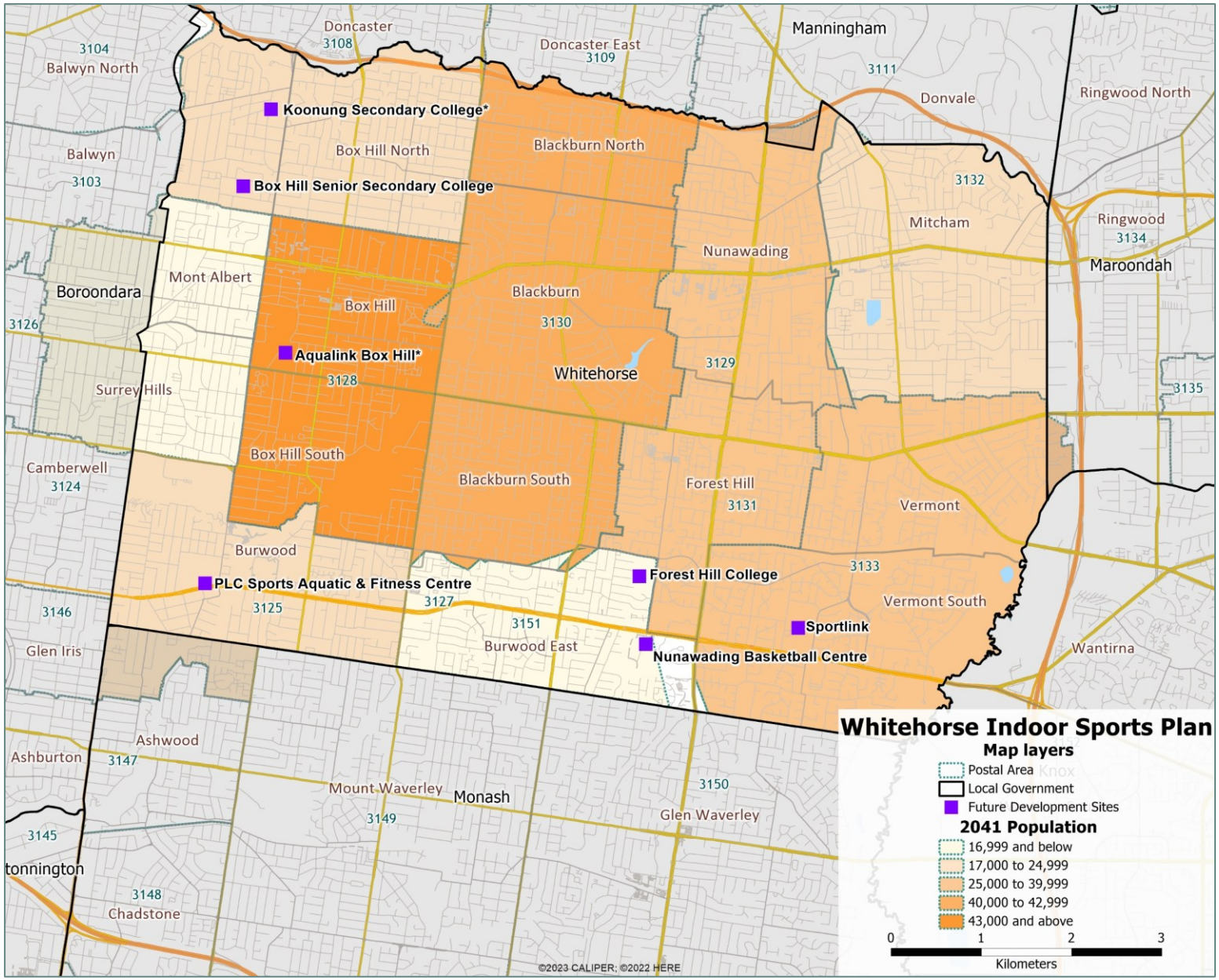
The facility catchments for Council and school facilities that propose improvements will service high population growth areas in Whitehorse.

Figure 4: 2041 Projected Population and Hierarchy of Existing Facilities in Whitehorse



The adjacent map shows the projected future population and location of facilities, which have been earmarked for the potential development of additional courts for indoor sports.

Figure 5: 2041 Projected population and facilities identified for potential future development opportunities in Whitehorse



The following section summarises the existing facility provision by sport

Badminton

- Two facilities support district badminton operations, where the other venues support local social play.
- There is potential capacity to provide for 52 badminton courts at shared-use or dedicated venues where badminton is played. However, when occupancy levels of shared-use courts are reviewed, the current badminton court access is 30 courts.
- Due to the multi-use nature of indoor courts, the use of shared-use venues for badminton is restricted. There is competition for use of courts by other indoor sports at multi-use venues i.e. badminton cannot use the courts at the same time as another code i.e. basketball or netball.
- Key facilities of a district standard include:
  - Melbourne Badminton Centre – A high-quality private regional nine court badminton facility.
  - Mitcham Badminton Centre – A high-quality private regional 12 court badminton facility.

Basketball

- There are 25 facilities and 41 indoor sports courts in Whitehorse used for basketball. Of these courts, 36 courts are used by community sports clubs and associations. Only four of these courts are compliant for basketball (run off meets standards). However, when occupancy of shared-use courts is reviewed, the current basketball court access is 33 courts.
- Nunawading Basketball Centre is a regional five-court basketball stadium that is home to one of Australia's largest basketball associations, the Melbourne East Basketball Association (MEBA). The Nunawading Basketball Centre has a very high average occupancy rate of 87.92%. The following indicates the usage of the facility:
  - Weekday Off Peak (9am-4pm) – 81.8%
  - Weekday Peak (4-10pm) – 100%
  - Weekends (9am-4pm) – 83.67%.
- The 30-minute drive time catchment for the Nunawading Basketball Centre mirrors the participant reach following a postcode assessment of membership. This facility catchment represents 2,407,691 people which will grow to almost 3 million people by 2041. The postcode membership map shows a very high proportion of Melbourne East Basketball Association participants coming from the municipalities of Whitehorse, Monash, Maroondah and Knox. Nunawading Basketball Centre is the regional facility supporting these participants.
- The Melbourne East Basketball Association utilises Nunawading Basketball Centre and several satellite indoor sports facilities located in Whitehorse (15 facilities), Monash (11 facilities), Maroondah (four facilities) and Knox (one facility).
- Other facilities used for basketball include:
- Sportlink – A district four-court stadium with four covered outdoor netball courts that supports netball, basketball, futsal and pickleball. It is home to one of Victoria's largest netball associations.
  - Aqualink Box Hill – A three-court multi-sport stadium. The facility includes the stadium and an aquatic and leisure centre.
  - Slater Reserve Stadium – A two-court indoor stadium used for basketball and netball.

Calisthenics

- The Blackburn Calisthenics College is located in Mitcham is a district level facility. The club is seeking an additional studio.
- Regent Calisthenics is located in Ringwood on the boundary of the City of Whitehorse within Maroondah City Council.

Cricket (Indoor)

- The Box Hill Indoor Sports Centre is a regional indoor cricket centre with six compliant indoor cricket courts. The venue is in excellent condition and is supported by kiosk, bar, administration and toilets.
- The Century Cricket Centre, located in Blackburn, provides private coaching for cricket under a membership model. The centre provides five indoor cricket courts.

Fencing

- There are four local facilities in Whitehorse where fencing is provided:
  - The Whitehorse Club is a dedicated district-level fencing facility with 10 pistes. The fencing facility is used each weekday evening and Saturdays and is a training facility only because it is non-compliant for competitions (insufficient run offs). This facility is proposed to be demolished in the East Burwood Reserve Master Plan.
  - The Nunawading Community Hall and Durkin Hall at St Joseph's Parish have a multi-sport court where fencing is played. These two facilities and accommodate six pistes.
  - The Box Hill North Primary School multi-purpose room is used for fencing training.
  - The State Fencing Centre, located in North Melbourne, supports the main fencing activities in Victoria.

Futsal

- There are 12 facilities providing capacity for 21 futsal courts at shared-use or dedicated venues in the City of Whitehorse that support unaffiliated futsal competition and social play. However, when occupancy of shared-use courts is reviewed, the current futsal court access is four courts.
- Sportlink is classified as a district facility that supports futsal competition across the four sports courts.
- Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre is a private indoor sports centre that supports a district-level futsal competition on three fit for purpose futsal courts.
- There are local schools' sports courts being hired for social futsal games/competitions.

Gymnastics

- There are three district gymnastics facilities located in Whitehorse, the Eastern Gymnastics Club and Nunawading Gymnastics Centre. A third gymnastics hall is being constructed at Presbyterian Ladies College that may be available for community use:
  - Eastern Gymnastics Club, Box Hill South - a high-quality private district gymnastics facility with two gymnastics halls. The Club has a commercial lease for use of their gym.
  - Nunawading Gymnastics Centre, Nunawading - a district gymnastics facility located at Walker Park. The facility is not fit for purpose to support senior events and can only support beginner to intermediate levels. The Club reports that the facility has reached capacity, and they require a larger facility to grow participation and programming.

- A new gymnastics hall is being constructed at Presbyterian Ladies College. The school is currently considering the options for community access to the gymnastics area.
- The BTYC district gymnastics facility is located in Manningham and Burwood United Gymnastics Squad district gymnastics facility is located in Monash. They are located on boundary of the City of Whitehorse and service Whitehorse residents.
- The State Sport Centre in Wantirna is the home of the Knox Gymnastics Club also services Whitehorse residents.

Martial Arts

- Martial Arts providers are operating from 25 schools, churches, private facilities, the Nunawading Basketball Centre and Sportlink.

Netball

- There are 25 netball courts, of which eight courts are used by the regional netball association. However, when occupancy of shared-use courts is reviewed, the current netball court access is eight courts
- Sportlink is the key netball facility. It is a regional four-court indoor stadium plus four covered outdoor netball courts.
- Box Hill Indoor Action Sports Centre hosts mid-week indoor social netball competitions on three courts.
- The remaining courts are used by community sports clubs for training and social play.

Table Tennis

- There is a capacity for 28 table tennis courts across 12 facilities. Three of these facilities (10 courts) are used by the table tennis association. The remaining courts are used for unaffiliated social play and private coaching. However, a review of the occupancy of shared-use courts/ multi-purpose rooms by table tennis, the current table tennis court access is eight courts.
- Key facilities are:
  - Mahoneys Reserve Pavilion Hall – Association Competition (4 tables)
  - Eley Park Community Centre – Association Competition (3 tables)
  - Sportlink Vermont South – Association Competition (3 tables)
  - Deakin University Stadium – Social Play (2 tables)
  - Mullauna College – Private Coaching (7 tables)
  - Other facilities are school facilities that are sometimes hired for social play.

Volleyball

- There are nine volleyball courts within the City of Whitehorse. However, the occupancy review of shared use courts, indicates the current volleyball court access is one court.
- Key facilities are:
  - Aqualink Box Hill – Three available multi-purpose courts for volleyball. The facility is mainly used by school groups.
  - Nunawading Christian College – Local school indoor sports stadium providing for unaffiliated social volleyball competition. One used for volleyball.

- Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre – Private regional indoor sports centre providing for indoor cricket, indoor netball, futsal, volleyball, pickleball, basketball and other sport and recreation activities. One court is used for volleyball.
- Sportlink – Four available multi-purpose courts for volleyball. However, limited court access is restricting the growth potential of volleyball at the facility.

Emerging Sports

- There are 26 sports courts and 18 multi-sport halls that are currently being used for a range of activities including emerging and other indoor sports. There are two specialised indoor climbing facilities.
- The key facilities that are currently being used are:
  - Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre – A private regional indoor sports centre providing for indoor cricket, indoor netball, futsal, volleyball, pickleball, basketball and other sport and recreation activities.
  - Urban Climb Blackburn – A private regional indoor climbing walls including one of Australia's best speed walls.
  - Pure All-Stars Cheerleading and Dance – A high quality private district cheer and dance studio,
  - Eastern Cheer and Dance Academy – A high quality private district cheer and dance studio.
  - Bounce Indoor Trampoline Park – A high quality district indoor trampolining and parkour facility.
- Pickleball is played in indoor and outdoor facilities. Within the City of Whitehorse, it is played at Sportlink and on the Heatherdale Tennis Club's outdoor court.

1.9 Catchment Mapping Analysis

A series of catchment maps were prepared for each indoor sport. These are provided for in the body of the report.

1.10 Provision Benchmarking Analysis

This section compares the provision of indoor courts for Whitehorse to:

1. The City of Monash
2. The City of Maroondah
3. The City of Greater Dandenong.

These three councils were selected for benchmarking due to their proximity to Whitehorse, location in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne and similar presence of key indoor court facilities such as Oakleigh Recreation Centre, Waverley Basketball Centre, Springers Leisure Centre, Dandenong Stadium, Maroondah Nets and Maroondah Rings.

The table below provides a comparison of the population to council-owned indoor courts ratio. The table above indicates that the City of Whitehorse is ranked third among the benchmarked councils, and the Whitehorse courts per resident are slightly higher (1:11,898) than the average (1:10,275) of the benchmarked councils.

Table 3: Indoor Court Provision Benchmarking

Council	No. of Indoor Council Courts	Population (2024)	Courts per resident	Rank
Whitehorse	15 (3 at Aqualink Box Hill) (4 at Sportlink) (5 at Nunawading Basketball Centre) (1 at Nunawading Community Hub) (2 at Slater Reserve)	178,477	1:11,898	3
Dandenong	24 (15 at Dandenong Stadium) (5 at Springers Leisure Centre) (4 at Gloria Pyke Netball Complex)	167,000	1:6,958	1
Maroondah	12 (4 at The Rings) (8 at Maroondah Nets)	119,308	1:9,942	2
Monash	17 (6 at Waverley Basketball Centre (5 at Oakleigh Recreation Centre) (4 at Waverley Netball Centre) (1 at Southern Community Centre) (1 at Brandon Park Reserve)	209,178	1:12,304	4

* Note – only indoor sports courts provision could be benchmarked from information provided by local councils.

The City of Whitehorse Active Communities Team preferred provision ratio for basketball and netball courts is one court per 5,000 people. This standard is consistent with other local government provision ratios (i.e. Hobson Bay and Casey). This ratio is not adopted by the Council.

Growth Areas Authority (GAA) Standards adopted for Community Infrastructure Planning for Victorian Growth Councils in April 2008 for indoor recreation centres and courts indicate:

- Level 1 Indoor stadium (1 court per 10,000 to 15,000 people).
- Level 2 Indoor stadium (2 courts per 20,000 to 30,000 people).
- Level 3 Indoor stadium (4-6 courts per 40,000 to 60,000 people).

This quantitative benchmarking analysis against provision ratio standards shows a current undersupply of indoor sports courts in Whitehorse that will grow if additional courts are not provided.

Table 4: Quantitative Indoor Sports Provision Benchmarking Assessment

Population	Number of public (Council owned) courts if applying Active communities/ local government ratio of 1 court: 5000 people	Shortfall of Council owned (public) courts	Number of public (Council owned) courts if applying GAA ratio of 1 court: 10,000 people	Shortfall of Council owned (public) courts
2024 – 178,477	36 courts	21 courts	18 courts	3 courts
2046 – 234,277	47 courts	32 courts	24 courts	9 courts

This quantitative assessment is one tool for assessing demand. The Otium Analytics Demand Analysis Model is also used for the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Play. This tool is a more detailed analysis that considers each sport individually, the capacity of current facilities servicing each sport, population by junior and senior age groups, programming frequency for junior and senior participants for each sport, etc.

1.11 Asset Review

A review of the Council-owned building condition register was completed to understand the building condition and fit-for-purpose rating as assessed by the Council for the following buildings:

- Eley Park Community Centre (Inc Avenue Neighbourhood House and Eley Park Pavilion)
- Sportlink
- Mahoneys Reserve North Pavilion
- Nunawading Gymnastics & Sports Club
- Slater Reserve Basketball Stadium
- Nunawading Basketball Centre.

This building condition and fit for purpose assessment involved a site inspection from a qualified building condition assessor and surveying user groups. In addition to the information below, Otium Planning Group conducted a visual assessment of 30 facilities including Council owned, schools and private facilities. The findings from this assessment are identified in the facility inventory.

Building Condition

The table below summarises the building conditions and remaining useful life of these facilities.

Table 5: Building Condition Assessments

Building Name	Date Inspected	Sub-component	Condition Rating	Remaining Useful Life
Eley Park Community Centre	14/12/2022	Ceiling	7	15
		Fitments	6	6
		Flooring	6	6
		Plumbing Fixtures	6	14
		Plumbing Services	6	6
		Wall Finish	6	4
		Downpipe	6	12
		Roofclad	6	12
		Ext-Clad	6	22
		Ext-Door	6	22
		Ext-Finish	6	4
		Int-Wall	6	18
		Ext-Path	5	28
		Signage	6	6
Sportlink	12/01/2023	Ceiling	6	20
		Fitments	6	6
		Flooring	6	6
		Downpipe	6	12
		Gutter	6	12
		Roofclad	7	9
		Ext-Clad	6	22
		Bound-Fence	6	10
Mahoneys Reserve North Pavilion	19/01/2023	Ceiling	7	15
		Fitments	6	6
		Plumb-Fix	6	14
		Plumb-Srv	6	6
		Roofclad	7	9
		Fire	6	6
		Mechanic	6	8

Building Name	Date Inspected	Sub-component	Condition Rating	Remaining Useful Life
		Ext-Clad	6	22
		Ext-Finish	6	4
		Int-Door	6	14
		Int-Wall	6	18
		Bound-Fence	6	10
		Carpark	6	8
Nunawading Gymnastics & Sports Club	18/01/2023	Ceiling	6	20
		Fitments	6	6
		Flooring	6	6
		Plumb-Fix	6	14
		Plumb-Srv	6	6
		Downpipe	6	12
		Gutter	6	12
		Electric	6	10
		Ext-Clad	6	22
		Ext-Door	6	22
		Ext-Finish	6	4
		Int-Door	6	14
		Staircase	6	20
		Ext-Path	6	22
Slater Reserve Basketball Stadium	10/01/2023	Ceiling	6	20
		Fitments	6	6
		Plumb-Fix	6	14
		Downpipe	6	12
		Gutter	6	12
		Roofclad	9	2
		Mechanic	6	8
		Ext-Door	6	22
Nunawading Basketball Centre	09/01/2023	Ext-Clad	6	22
		Ext-Finish	6	4

A review of the table above indicates:

- Nearly all building components were rated 6 or 7, except the **Slater Reserve roof cladding** which was rated as a 9.
- The **Slater Reserve roof cladding** was identified in January 2023 as only having two years of useful remaining life.
- Otherwise, most facilities identified various maintenance and renewal items ranging from 4 to 28 years of useful remaining life.

Fit for Purpose

The following table presents the key findings from the fit-for-purpose assessment for each facility, conducted by the Council and captured in the building condition register.

Table 6: Fit for Purpose Assessment

Facility	Eley Park Community Centre (incl. Avenue Neighbourhood House and Eley Park Pavilion)	Mahoneys Reserve North Pavilion	Nunawading Gymnastics & Sports Club	Slater Reserve Basketball Stadium	Nunawading Basketball Centre	Nunawading Community Hub	Aqualink Box Hill
Is the facility capable of handling intended use	Overall, the facility was assessed as capable of handling its intended use.	Overall, the facility was assessed as capable of handling its intended use.	Overall, the facility was assessed as **NOT** capable of handling its intended use.	Overall, the facility was assessed as capable of handling its intended use.	Overall, the facility was assessed as **NOT** capable of handling its intended use.	Overall, the facility was assessed as capable of handling its intended use.	Overall, the facility was assessed as **NOT** capable of handling its intended use.
Functional issues with facilities	More storage is required in the kitchen.	Upstairs is cricket and downstairs is activities club, table tennis etc.	They are at capacity as there is a high demand for more members. There is a wait list.	Office is small and has no airflow /ventilation or windows.	Capacity issues. Having to use alternative venues as they cannot service the numbers and clubs.	The NCH is a fully accessible centre with lift, ramps built with the community in mind.	No further commentary was provided in the assessment.
	Toilets require an upgrade.	Each storage room is for different uses but the space per user group isn't enough.	Too much equipment in the space. The facility is too small.	Meeting room get used for seminars and childminding facilities.	Heat and condensation when it is cold or hot plays a part on whether the games are cancelled.	Additional storage required (clients asked to bring and take their equipment with them).	
		Leaking issues, aged facilities, no hot water, there is a step down into the toilets which is dangerous and an OHS issue.	The cooling is inadequate. They have to cancel classes on hot days.	Not enough cooling. The stadium becomes very hot on a sunny day, so heat rules apply, causing cancellations. Court 2 is hotter.	The facility requires more storage.	Change room and shower toilets connected to the stadium.	
		The Kitchen is not used for its intended purpose downstairs.		Due to humidity, the floors are slippery. In winter, when it rains with wind, there are	Need bigger evaporative cooling and fans to move the air. Fans needed for		

Facility	Eley Park Community Centre (incl. Avenue Neighbourhood House and Eley Park Pavilion)	Mahoneys Reserve North Pavilion	Nunawading Gymnastics & Sports Club	Slater Reserve Basketball Stadium	Nunawading Basketball Centre	Nunawading Community Hub	Aqualink Box Hill
		Upstairs kitchen is used a lot.		leaks, or when there has been frost and then sunshine, the courts leak.	condensation on court 3 in winter months.		
				The change room and shower facilities do not meet the current standards. Both have no privacy and fully open change rooms.	Disabled parking is inadequate and incorrectly located.		
				Slater Reserve does not meet current stadium requirements for the Vikings Big V competition (Seating requirements).	Insufficient CCTV coverage over car park.		
				Need more disabled parking as there is only one.			

* **Note**: Fit for purpose information for Sportslinks was not provided.

1.12 Key Findings of Facilities Review

The City of Whitehorse has a good level of indoor sports facility provision that offers a range of programs and services at facilities servicing local, district and regional catchments

Some indoor sports facilities in the City of Whitehorse require renewal and don't meet current facility standards

Indoor sports facilities in the City of Whitehorse are near capacity

The City of Whitehorse has a good level of indoor sports facility provision that offers a range of programs and services at facilities servicing local, district and regional catchments

There are 75 indoor sports facilities offering sports courts for basketball, netball, volleyball, futsal, badminton and emerging sports like pickleball and sports halls for gymnastics, callisthenics, cheer/dance, combat sports and fencing.

These facilities are provided by Council, schools and private operators and all play a key role in supporting indoor sports participation in Whitehorse. Key facilities include:

- Nunawading Basketball Centre – A regional five-court basketball stadium that is home to one of Australia's largest basketball associations.
- Sportlink - A regional four-court stadium plus four covered outdoor netball courts. Sportlink is a multi-sport stadium that supports netball, basketball, futsal and pickleball. It is home to one of Victoria's largest netball associations.
- Aqualink Box Hill - A district three-court multi-sport stadium. The facility includes the stadium and an aquatic and leisure centre.
- Slater Reserve – A two-court indoor stadium used for basketball and netball.
- Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre – A private regional indoor sports centre providing for indoor cricket, indoor netball, futsal, volleyball, pickleball, basketball and other sport and recreation activities.
- Melbourne Badminton Centre – A private high-quality nine court badminton facility.
- Mitcham Badminton Centre – A private high-quality 12 court badminton facility.
- Eastern Gymnastics Club – A private district gymnastics facility with two gymnastics halls.
- Pure All-Stars Cheerleading and Dance – A private regional cheer and dance studio.
- Urban Climb Blackburn – A private regional indoor climbing walls including one of Australia's best speed walls.

Some indoor sports facilities in the City of Whitehorse require renewal and don't meet current facility standards

There are 51 indoor sports courts in Whitehorse. Only four Council courts, located at Sportlink, are compliant (run off not to netball court dimensions – largest court size that accommodate all indoor sports). The runoff for all other Council courts is non-compliant on sides and ends for basketball and netball competition.

Court compliance ensures the safety, accessibility and functionality of the facility in meeting the competition requirements of sports and building codes. Compliance not only reflects a commitment to safety and fair access for all users but also shields facility owners and operators from legal liabilities.

Most indoor sports facilities have access to basic support infrastructure including change rooms and toilets. In general, there is access to unisex change rooms and toilets however they are small in size. Administration, meeting room, storage and corridors are small and there are access issues. This is particularly the case at the Nunawading Basketball Association and Slater Reserve Stadium. The exception is Sportlink which has good size dimensions and the new Nunawading Community Hub, which is designed to contemporary standards and to a high treatment level.

The key Council asset condition concerns are:

- Sportlink indoor courts are compliant, however are showing deterioration and have experienced water damage. These will require renewal in the short to medium term.
- The run offs at the Nunawading Basketball Centre, Slater Reserve Stadium and Aqualink Box Hill courts are non-compliant on side and end for basketball and netball.
- Nunawading Gymnastics Centre is located at Walker Park. The building is in poor condition, it is not fit for purpose (i.e. facility is inaccessible), has inadequate cooling and requires replacement in the short term.
- The Slater Reserve stadium roof cladding was identified in January 2023 as only having two years of useful remaining life. Slater Reserve has a small office with no airflow/ventilation or window, inadequate cooling, humidity, rain and condensation issues which cause slippery floors, insufficient seating, and poor changeroom amenities.
- The Nunawading Basketball Centre is aged and does not meet current design standards for indoor courts. The facility has capacity issues i.e. it cannot service the numbers and clubs, there are heating and condensation issues, insufficient cooling, inadequate storage and disabled parking and CCTV.
- There are no asset concerns at the new Nunawading Community Hall court and studios. They are in excellent condition and are well used by U3A and a variety of other sport and recreation groups such as fencing.

Indoor sports facilities in the City of Whitehorse are near capacity

Otium spoke with facility providers and visited 30 key indoor sports facilities. A consistent theme was that these facilities were operating at a very high occupancy rate (80+%) and that providers received regular requests to use facilities, but there was no time to accommodate new use. Occupancy schedules for Council facilities support this finding and are included in **Appendix 3**.

Access to additional courts and sports halls will be required to support all indoor sports including fencing, combat sports and emerging sports like pickleball. Future development of Council indoor sports facilities should consider access to courts and sports halls for these sports.

This quantitative benchmarking analysis found Whitehorse currently provides 1 court for every 11,898 people. When compared to the City of Monash (1 court: 12,304), City of Maroondah (1 court: 9,942) and City of Greater Dandenong (1 court: 6,958) and applying local government and Growth Area Authority provision ratio standards, this suggests a current shortfall in provision of indoor sports courts.

Appendix 6: Demand Assessment Paper

This Demand Assessment Paper reviews the current and future demand for indoor sports facilities in the City of Whitehorse.

1.13 Demographic Review

The following key population and demographic characteristics and trends will influence indoor sport and recreation participation within Whitehorse.

The resident profile is based wherever possible on the 2021 ABS Census data and has been sourced from .id, an online company that analyses ABS Census data.

Population

- The City of Whitehorse population is growing rapidly. The current population of 178,639 (2023) has grown by 8,998 people since 2016 and is expected to reach 234,277 by 2046, representing a 31% growth (Source: .id – informed decisions).
- There is a large proportion of the Whitehorse population that fall into the 5-49 years old age bracket that are most likely to make regular use of sports facilities. This age cohort accounts for 102,224 persons or 59.7% of the 2021 population and will grow to 143,935 persons by 2046, 61.4% of the population. This age bracket is also typical of those members of the population who would typically utilise and participate in indoor sports and recreation activities.
- Compared to Greater Melbourne, there is a growing number of young people aged 0 to 17 years (24%) that shows an increasing demand for junior programs and competitions.
- There is a higher proportion of people aged 50 years and older (36.2%) when compared to Greater Melbourne (32%). There will be a demand for social and therapy based indoor sport programs from this age group.
- Please note that the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) population projections and recently adopted Victoria's Housing Statements (that sets a goal of 800,000 new homes over a decade) are excluded from the above population forecast. There is no specific population data on the impact of SLR that will increase future housing, employment and development densities in the Box Hill Metropolitan Activity Centre and Burwood Major Activity Centre. These areas are likely to be a focus of the Housing Statement's implementation in Whitehorse.

Diversity

- Indoor sports and recreation are popular across all cultures across the world. As of the 2021 Census, cultural diversity is higher within the Whitehorse with 41.5% of residents being born overseas, compared to 35.7% in Greater Melbourne.
- The proportion of residents who speak a language other than English at home within the Whitehorse (40.5%) is higher than the proportion of residents who speak a language other than English at home in Greater Melbourne (34.1%).
- There are over 150 cultures represented in Whitehorse, particularly from those born from China, India and Malaysia. Indoor sports like table tennis and badminton are popular in these countries that is translating to increasing participation for these sports in Whitehorse.

Disadvantage and Social Capital

- Whitehorse ranks as the 12th most advantaged Local Government Authority using the SEIFA index score. Whitehorse scores 1,049 on the index, whilst in comparison the Victorian average score is 1010 and the Greater Melbourne average score is 1021.
- There are pockets of disadvantage in Whitehorse with Box Hill recording a SEIFA index of 991. Providing access to affordable sports facilities and services will be important for this community.

1.14 Local Participation

To gain an insight into the local participation level of indoor sports in the City of Whitehorse, three participation assessments were undertaken:

1. **AusPlay –** In October 2023, the Australian Sports Commission commenced the AusPlay survey, a large-scale national survey to track the sporting behaviours and activities of the Australian population.

   Using the AusPlay Participation Survey for weekly participation rates of organised sport, it has been estimated that there are 33,574 Whitehorse City Council participants across the eleven identified indoor sports. This will grow to 45,343 participants by 2046; therefore, an additional 11,769 indoor sport participants are projected in the next 20 years. Please note that emerging sports like sport climbing and pickleball were not assessed due to insufficient data.

2. **State Sporting Associations -** State Sporting Associations (SSAs) were invited to supply registered participation data and identify key demands and opportunities. Of the eleven indoor sports only five SSAs were able to provide participation data for the City of Whitehorse. Three additional SSAs being Football (Soccer), Netball and Cricket could only provide participation data on their mainstream activity being outdoors. It was too difficult to obtain information for Martial Arts as it doesn't have an overarching peak body, and the activity is highly commercially driven. The SSA participation data obtained is reflected in each sport's State of Play. This information was not reliable enough to use as the input data for the demand modelling.

3. **Local Participation Data –** Indoor sports participation data was obtained from clubs, groups and associations operating independently of council involvement via leases, hiring of venues or commercial operations. This information while not completely reliable to use as the input data, the data obtained was an important ground truthing of participation for demand modelling.

   Based on the Whitehorse club and association database, 77 local indoor sporting clubs and associations were invited to participate in the Local Sporting Clubs online survey. The survey asked for information on membership/participation numbers.

   Of the 77 clubs/association, 29 responses were received, which was a good response, however information on local participation numbers was still lacking. As a result, a significant amount of consultant and officer time was spent directly gathering participation data from clubs, associations, groups, leisure services and commercial operators. We were able to gain some insights to local participation, which is reflected in each sport's State of Play. This information was not reliable enough to use as the input data for the demand modelling.

City of Whitehorse Organised Indoor Sport Participation

The AusPlay Participation Survey reports high participation rates in physical activity and sport within the City of Whitehorse (92.9% participation rate for adults and 69.1% for children) on this finding, we can assume that the State or National participation rates for major indoor sports is likely, if there are enough fit-for-purpose sports facilities provided.

Using the AusPlay Participation Survey for weekly participation rates of organised sport, it has been identified that there are currently an estimated 33,574 participants across the eleven identified indoor

sports. This will grow to 45,343 participants by 2046. An additional 11,769 indoor sport participants are projected in the next 20 years. Please note that emerging sports like sport climbing and pickleball were not assessed due to insufficient data.

The table on the following page shows the projected participation for the proposed major participation sports for the Whitehorse population in 2021, 2031 and 2046 (Source: .id – informed decisions).

Table 7: Participation Projections 2024/2036/2041

Sport	Current SSA Registered Participation	Local participation	AusPlay Participation Rate (State or National Rate)	AusPlay Participation Rate applied to 2021 Population	AusPlay Participation Rate applied to 2031 Population	AusPlay Participation Rate applied to 2046 Population
Badminton	307	High number of unaffiliated badminton players 6 clubs / associations 2 providers	Adults 2.00% Children 15.60%	6,978	7,563	9,193
Basketball	7,019	MEBA membership 12,279 and 15 clubs 2 other clubs in Whitehorse competing in other Associations	Adults 4.20% Children 13.70%	9,387	10,765	12,988
Calisthenics	298	298 1 club in Whitehorse 1 club servicing Whitehorse located in neighbouring LGAs	Adults 0.02% Children 0.30%	108	113	138
Indoor Cricket	Not available	Approximately 536 players 1 provider running competitions in Whitehorse	Indoor and outdoor cricket: Adults 2.60% Children 4.80% *15% of the overall participation is Indoor Cricket	719	851	1,023
Fencing	Not available	Approximately 280 players across 3 clubs	Adults 0.09% Children 0.06%	143	176	210
Futsal	Not available	Approximately 695 futsal participants High number of unaffiliated futsal players 2 providers running competitions in Whitehorse	Adults 3.70% Children 9.30% *39% of the overall participation is Futsal	2,927	3,408	4,104

Sport	Current SSA Registered Participation	Local participation	AusPlay Participation Rate (State or National Rate)	AusPlay Participation Rate applied to 2021 Population	AusPlay Participation Rate applied to 2031 Population	AusPlay Participation Rate applied to 2046 Population
Gymnastics	1,927	2,326 across two clubs in Whitehorse 2 clubs servicing Whitehorse located in neighbouring LGAs	Adults 0.45% Children 13.50%	4,331	4,384	5,379
Martial Arts	Not available No central peak body	7 martial arts providers plus 3 Tai Chi providers	Adults 1.72% Children 0.88%	2,537	3,138	3,751
Netball	3,153	Whitehorse Netball Association membership 3,153	Adults 3.20% Children 6.70% *30% of the overall participation is Indoor Netball	1,836	2,159	2,597
Table Tennis	183	Estimated 1,250 unaffiliated and affiliated players	Adults 0.35% Children 11.10%	3,534	3,571	4,383
Volleyball	Not available	High number of unaffiliated volleyball players Alliance Volleyball has 171 members 4 local social volleyball providers 2 regional associations servicing Whitehorse located in neighbouring LGAs	Adults 0.70% Children 0.51%	1,074	1,318	1,577
Total				**33,574**	**37,446**	**45,343**

* Football Australia and Netball Australia National Participation Reports

** There are no local participation data or an AusPlay participation rate for emerging sports, pickleball and sport climbing

The section below summarises the participation for each sport in Whitehorse. For those sports that supplied data, participation has increased over the last five years.

Badminton

- Badminton Victoria reports 307 registered players within the City of Whitehorse. However, there is a high proportion of unaffiliated badminton players that participate locally.
- Badminton is provided for by local clubs, associations and private providers, some of which are unaffiliated with Badminton Victoria.
- Badminton clubs and associations include:
  - Thornburn Ladies Badminton Club – Thornburn Ladies Badminton Club is the only club within Whitehorse City Council affiliated with Badminton Victoria. In 2024 the club had 63 registered senior women players. Membership has declined in recent years from 73 members in 2019/20. The club's main venue is Nunawading Community Hub.
  - Deakin Badminton Club – The club has 60 members (40 senior men and 20 senior women) in 2024. The club's main venue is Melbourne Badminton Centre, the second venue is Deakin Indoor Sports Stadium, and they have also hired local primary school sports stadiums.
  - Elite Sports Association - The association operates from the Mitcham Badminton Centre. The club offers coaching, pathways programs and competition.
  - Infinity Badminton Association - The association operates from the Mitcham Badminton Centre. The club offers coaching, pathways programs and competition.
  - JT Ultra Badminton Association – The association operates from the Melbourne Badminton Centre. The club offers coaching, pathways programs and competition.
  - Whitehorse Activities Club – The club hosts social badminton weekly at Mahoneys Reserve Pavilion. The program attracts about 10 people.
- There are two major private badminton centres that provides for casual hire, coaching, group bookings and social events:
  - Mitcham Badminton Centre - Mitcham Badminton reports 1,547 members across their social mornings (817) and night court (730) categories. The Centre has 200 registered members playing weekly. The courts are booked out every evening on weekdays and during the day on weekends. They estimate 150 visits per day, equating to 54,000 annual visits. The Centre recorded 4,590 bookings for individuals, groups and schools in 2024.
  - Melbourne Badminton Centre – Melbourne Badminton Centre reports over 5,000 customers registered on their booking website with courts booked out every evening on weekdays and during the day on weekends. The facility hosts A-One Badminton Academy and Pro Badminton Academy and several clubs and local level competitions. There are 70 regular users that play at least once a week.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 6,978 badminton participants in Whitehorse in 2021 which will grow to 7,563 in 2031 and 9,193 in 2046.

Basketball

- There are currently 7,019 Basketball Victoria-registered participants in Whitehorse, excluding those involved in non-registered development programs. The registered State Sports Association participation rate for the Whitehorse population is 4.36%.
- The Melbourne East Basketball Association (MEBA) is the primary basketball association within the City of Whitehorse and operates out of the Nunawading Basketball Stadium (NBS). The NBS is

a regional level facility, located within East Burwood Reserve. MEBA has approximately 12,279 members, half of whom reside outside the City of Whitehorse.

- The MEBA Domestic Competition is run as follows:
  - Senior Domestic – Monday-Thursday Evenings.
  - Junior Domestic – Saturdays. The junior domestic competition is referred to as the Greater Eastern Basketball Conference (GEBC). This is a competition run in partnership with the Ringwood Basketball Association.
- MEBA has 15 affiliated clubs participating in competitions:
  - Ashwood Wolves
  - Blackburn Vikings – Complete in MEBA on Mondays and Fridays. The club also competes in the Eastern District Junior Basketball Association (EDJBA) on Saturdays.
  - Donvale Dunkers
  - E Bees
  - Eastern Bulls
  - Huntingtower Heat
  - Syndal Storm
  - Mitcham Thunder – Compete in MEBA. The club also competes in the EDJBA and GEBC.
  - Mulgrave Mambas
  - Nunawading Kangas
  - Vermont Vultures
  - Wattle Park Saints
  - Waverley Basketball Club
  - Waverley Raiders
  - Waverley Wildcats.
- In addition to this, the MEBA representative team is the Nunawading Spectres.
- The City of Whitehorse is also home to other basketball clubs that participate in other basketball associations. These clubs include Blackburn Vikings and Mitcham Thunder identified above and:
  - Koonung Comets - Compete in EDJBA on Saturdays with weekly training sessions.
  - Whitehorse Mustangs - Compete in EDJBA and the Greater Eastern Basketball Conference (GEBC) on Saturdays.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 9,387 basketball participants in Whitehorse in 2021 which is anticipated to grow to 10,765 in 2031 and 12,988 in 2046.

Calisthenics

- There are currently 298 calisthenics Victoria-registered participants in Whitehorse. The registered participation rate is 0.19%.
- Calisthenics participation in Victoria has increased by 13.1% from 6,928 participants in 2020 to 7,836 in 2023. Calisthenics Victoria report that this trend is being realised in the City of Whitehorse.
- There are two clubs that service Whitehorse:

- Blackburn Calisthenics College has 160 members in 2024. This club is affiliated with Calisthenics Victoria.
- Regent Calisthenics is located just outside the boundary of the City of Whitehorse. It is the second largest club in Victoria and services Whitehorse residents.

- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 108 calisthenics participants in Whitehorse in 2021, which is anticipated to grow to 113 by 2031 and 138 by 2046. This comparison against the actual Whitehorse registered calisthenics participants shows a significantly higher participation rate and proportion than the State average.

Cricket (Indoor)

- Cricket Victoria does not provide data on registered indoor cricket players due to the commercial nature of the activity.
- Indoor cricket competition in Whitehorse is provided at the Box Hill Indoor Sports Centre, a private operator. The Centre is very well used seven days a week and hosts indoor cricket competitions, including eight senior divisions with 37 registered teams playing three nights per week and Sunday evenings; and junior grades three to 10 with 30 teams playing four afternoons each week. Each team has a minimum of eight players, so it is assumed there are 536 indoor cricket participants in Whitehorse.
- Cricket Victoria reports that outdoor cricket participation in Whitehorse has increased across all categories of participants including junior and master blasters, juniors and seniors over the past three years. There are 3,585 junior and senior players participating in teams and 891 participants in the junior and master blaster program.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 4,794 cricket participants in Whitehorse (indoor and outdoor) in 2021 that is anticipated to grow to 5,675 by 2031 and 6,820 by 2046.

Fencing

- There are approximately 280 fencing participants in Whitehorse.
- There are three fencing clubs in the City of Whitehorse:
  - The Blacklords Fencing Club uses the Whitehorse Club. They are one of the largest and most successful fencing clubs in Victoria with 70 members. Pre-Covid-19 the membership was 120 members, which dropped to 30 members post-Covid-19. It is likely the membership will grow to pre-Covid-19 levels. The membership is culturally diverse with 40% of members women, special needs fencers and across a wide range of age groups.
  - The Victorian Fencing Academy operates from Box Hill and North Melbourne. They report 11 participants in Whitehorse.
  - The Whitehorse Chevaliers book the Nunawading Community Hub at least twice a week. About 100 participants attend their sessions.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 143 fencing participants in Whitehorse 2021 which will grow to 175 in 2031 and 210 in 2046.

Futsal

- Football Victoria does not provide data on registered futsal players due to the commercial nature of the activity.
- The Box Hill Indoor Action Centre offers futsal competition on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. There are five divisions with 42 teams (210 players) on Monday, three divisions with 26 teams (130 players) on Wednesday, one division with six teams (30 players) on Thursday and one

division with five teams (25 players). An approximate total of 395 futsal players playing weekly, year-round.

- Futsal Super 5's competition is run from Sportlink on Sunday (Men's – 16 teams), Tuesdays (Men's – 20 teams) and Wednesday (Mixed – 16 teams and Men's – 8 teams). There are approximately 300 people playing futsal each week.
- The competition and most teams are not affiliated with Football Victoria. However, there are two futsal clubs in the City of Whitehorse which are affiliated with Football Victoria - Kingston Royals Futsal Club and Nunawading City Owls Futsal Club.
- Soccer participation generally has increased by 146.05% from 608 participants in 2020 to 1,496 in 2024. Football Victoria report that although these figures represent soccer, futsal participation growth has also grown exponentially, with the provision of futsal being provided by both affiliated clubs and private providers.
- Given the high demand for access to existing indoor sports facilities, there are limited access opportunities for futsal to use indoor courts, impacting their ability to grow the sport.
- The Football Australia National Participation Report identifies that 39% of overall soccer participants are futsal players. If applied to Whitehorse soccer participants, the number of Futsal players is approximately 583. This current registered participation converted to a participation rate is 0.36%.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 2,927 futsal participants in Whitehorse in 2021 which will grow to 3,408 in 2031 and 4,104 in 2046.

Gymnastics

- There are currently 2,326 Gymnastics Victoria-registered participants in Whitehorse. The registered participation translates to a rate of 1.2%. This does not account for club members participating in non-affiliated gymnastics programs.
- There are two gymnastics clubs in the City of Whitehorse:
  - Eastern Gymnastics Club runs senior and junior training and competitions seven days a week (Weekdays daytime and evenings, Saturday daytime, Sunday evenings). Membership has remained stable.
  - Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club have 500-550 members. They operate senior and junior training and competitions and programs. Programs are offered to all age groups from beginner to intermediate levels.
- There are two large gymnastics clubs in neighbouring municipalities (Manningham) that also service Whitehorse residents - BTYC and Burwood United Gymnastics Squad.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 4,331 gymnastics participants in Whitehorse in 2021 that will grow to 4,384 in 2031 and 5,379 in 2046.

Martial Arts

- Registered participation data for martial arts is unavailable due to the lack of an integrated peak representative body and the commercial nature of the activity.
- There are seven martial arts sports providers in the City of Whitehorse including:
  - Blackburn Karate Club runs a karate program seven days a week, year-round for children (5-8 years), young people (9-15 years), adults (16 years and above), and fitness classes.

- Gracie Jiu-Jitsu in Burwood runs seven days a week, year- round for pre-school (3-5 years), children (5-12 years), teen and adult classes, women only classes, black belt club and private lessons.
- Hung Gar Yau Shu Arts School in Nunawading runs weekly martial arts classes for students aged 12 years and above on Saturdays.
- Kando Martial Arts Club in Nunawading runs seven days a week, year-round for pre-school (3-5 years), children (5-12 years), teenagers, adults, and cardio kickboxing classes.
- Mitcham Aikido School in Mitcham runs weekly martial arts classes for students aged 12 years and above on Saturdays.
- Whitehorse Shotokan Karate-Do Australia in Mont Albert runs weekly martial arts classes.
- Wado Ryu Karate in Box Hill operates from Aqualink Box Hill on Thursdays for junior and adults' classes.

- Tai Chi is also a martial art but is not recognised as a sport in Australia. Tai Chi providers in the city of Whitehorse include:
  - Blackburn Tai Chi Academy – The Academy reports 12 senior men and 14 senior women in 2024. They operate Monday evenings between February to early December from St Luke's Church Hall Blackburn South.
  - Celestial Tai Chi College – The College report 98 senior men and 479 senior women in 2024. Membership has increased since 2019. They operate weekday evenings year-round from St Peter's Anglican Church Hall. They operate weekday evenings year- round from St Peter's Anglican Church Hall.
  - Taichi for Life in Forest Hill runs seven days a week and year-round for children, young people and adult classes across Tai Chi, Wushu, Qigong martial arts.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 2,537 martial arts participants in Whitehorse in 2021, growing to 3,138 by 2031 and 3,751 by 2046.

Netball

- There are currently 3,153 Netball Victoria-registered participants in Whitehorse, which translates to a participation rate of 1.8%.
- Netball competition is played on indoor and outdoor sports courts. The competition is administered through both Netball Associations and Football and Netball Leagues.
- The Whitehorse Netball Association (WNA) is the primary netball competition in Whitehorse, operating out of Sportlink. There are sixteen clubs affiliated with the WNA. These are:
  - Aces
  - Blackburn South
  - Blackburn Primary
  - Hi-Lites
  - Holy Saviour
  - Ignite
  - Laburnum
  - OOPS
  - Parkmore

- St. Luke's Rosellas
- St. Scholastica's
- St. Thomas
- St. Timothy's
- Surrey Hills
- WCNC.

- The WNA also has a representative team who utilise Sportlink as a training facility, playing matches at the Waverley Netball Centre, located in the City of Monash.
- Slater Reserve Netball Association (SRNA) is a small Association. They offer two senior competitions on a Wednesday and Friday evening with 4-5 teams competing on each night.
- There are sixteen neighbouring netball associations within adjacent municipalities where participants from the City of Whitehorse participate.
- Social netball competitions are also played mid-week at Sportlink and Box Hill Indoor Action Centre.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 1,836 netball participants in Whitehorse in 2021, growing to 2,159 in 2031 and 2,597 in 2046.

Table Tennis

- Table Tennis Victoria reports 183 registered players within the City of Whitehorse. However, there are approximately 1,250 (affiliated and unaffiliated) players who play competitively or socially or are coached every week for around 48 weeks of the year within the City of Whitehorse. The current registered participation converted to a participation rate is 0.92%.
- This participation is provided by clubs/associations, community organisations and private coaches. Many players play multiple times during the week and may pay their fees at different locations, so their membership is then tied to that association.
- The Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association (ESCTTA) is the main table tennis competition in the City of Whitehorse. In 2023/24, the Association had 64 members.
- There are also unaffiliated clubs, social competitions and private table tennis coaches operating in the City of Whitehorse. These include private coaches: Scorpio Table Tennis Academy, Box Hill Table Tennis Centre, The Disruptor Coach (play at Vermont Primary School) and Smythe Table Tennis (Play at Sportlink).
- The following clubs/associations and private coaches provided data:
  - Balwyn United Table Tennis Incorporated has 69 players (25 men, 28 boys, 7 women and 9 girls).
  - Deakin Table Tennis Club has 65 players (51 men, 10 women and 4 non-binary).
  - Mark Smythe Table Tennis coaches 78 players (48 men, 19 boys, 8 women and 3 girls).
  - The Disruptor Club Incorporated coaches 45 players (28 men and 30 boys).
  - Scorpio Table Tennis Academy coaches 223 players.
  - Whitehorse Activities Club has 600 members (200 men and 400 women). This club hosts a range of activities including social table tennis.
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 3,534 table tennis participants in Whitehorse in 2021, which will grow to 3,571 in 2031 and 4,383 in 2046.

Volleyball

- There is no volleyball association or competition in Whitehorse affiliated with Volleyball Victoria. Currently, the sport is delivered by private providers in Whitehorse
- Volleyball is played weekly at Sportlink. There are social groups that regularly book a court on weekday evenings.
- Deakin University Volleyball Club trains every Friday night in the HB gym at the Burwood Campus and plays social matches on Sundays.
- The Alliance Volleyball Club is a large club that services Whitehorse. They have 171 members which includes 66 juniors. The average age of members is 22 years and 34.3% are girls and women.
- In addition to unaffiliated competitions played in Whitehorse, affiliated volleyball associations run competitions at facilities bordering Whitehorse, including Mullum Mullum Stadium (Manningham) and Maroondah Nets (Maroondah).
- Using AusPlay participation rates, there are an estimated 1,074 volleyball participants in Whitehorse in 2021 which will grow to 1,318 by 2031 and 1,577 by 2046.
- Volleyball consistently ranks among the top five most popular sports and is often reported as the most gender-equal sport in Victoria and Australia. In 2023, Volleyball was ranked the third most participated sport in Victorian Secondary Schools, reflecting its appeal across broad student communities, including underrepresented and minority groups, with strong all-ability appeal for both the game and officiating.

Emerging Indoor Sports

- Within the City of Whitehorse there are several emerging activities that are using indoor sport facilities. These include:
  - Cheer
  - Sport Climbing
  - Pickleball and Paddle Ball.
- Pure All-Stars Cheerleading and Dance and Eastern Cheer and Dance Academy have a high membership base within Whitehorse and drawing members from outside the municipality.
- Sport Climbing Australia reports that Urban Climb Blackburn is recognised as one of Australia's highly regarded facilities and attracts high usage across the week, including hosting national speed wall climbing events.
- With the recent introduction of pickleball the operators of Sportlink and Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre report growing interest and participation.

1.15 State and National Participation

Since 2001, data has been collected on participation in exercise, recreation and sport by adults aged 15 years and over. Consistent data was collected via the Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) between 2001 and 2010. Similar data was collected by the ABS between 2011 and 2014. The AusPlay Survey was introduced by the Australian Sports Commission in 2015 and collects sports participation data for children aged 0-14 and adults aged 15 and over. The latest data was released in October 2022, with results for the 2021-22 financial year. Annually, about 20,000 interviews are conducted with adults aged 15 and over and about 3,500 interviews with parents/guardians of children under 15 years of age.

The AusPlay survey results are summarised in this section.

Key physical activity participation statistics from AusPlay show:

- Children (0-14 years) are getting back to regular participation, at least 1+ per week. 42% of children participated in organised out-of-school hours sport and physical activity in 2020/21 increasing to 47% in 2021/22. This shows participation levels in organised sport and physical activity is returning to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels.
- Mental health is a growing motivator of participation across all age groups and genders.
- Inactive adult Australians reporting that physical activity is not a priority has increased from 7% in 2020/21 to 11% in 2021/22.
- Adult participation in sport and physical activity remained at similar levels since 2016/17 to 2021/22:
  - 81% of adults participate at least 1+per week in 2021/22 compared to 80% in 2020/21 and 81% in 2016/17.
  - 41% of adults participate in sport-related activity at least 1+ per week in 2021/22 compared to 41% in 2020/21 and 42% in 2016/17.
  - 21% of adults participate through a sports club or association at least 1+ per week in 2021/22 compared to 21% in 2020/21 and 21% in 2016/17.
- Physical health and fitness remain the primary motivators for 83% of 15+ year olds and for all ages and abilities. A greater percentage of 15–19-year-olds recorded health and fitness as their motivation, the most significant increase (14%) of all age/ability groups from 62%-84% between 2016/17 and 2021/22.
- Nearly double the percentage of the population were motivated by mental health benefits over the same period, increasing by 15% from 16% to 31%. This trend occurred equally across all age/ability groups apart from the 55+ age group for whom the increase was 11%.
- Fun and enjoyment have continued to be the second most significant motivator for engagement in physical activity across all age and ability groups (46%), the increase being more significant in the 55+, LOTE (Language other than English) and disability cohorts. However, it continues to be the primary motivator for 70% of 15-19-year-olds, followed by fitness and health.
- Young people 15-19 (39%) are also more motivated by the social benefits compared to the general population (39%). Benefits associated with being in the outdoors is now significantly more important to females (23%) than males (17%) than in 2016/17 when it was important to 16% of females and 13% of males.
- Poor health or injury (27%), not enough time/too many other commitments (24%) and not a priority (11%) are major barriers to participation.

- Children participation (0-14 years) in sport and physical activity has increased in the last 12 months but still below 2016/17 levels:
  - 47% of children participate in out-of-school hours sport and physical activity at least 1+per week in 2021/22 compared to 42% in 2020/21 and 62% in 2016/17.
  - 43% of children participate in out-of-school hours sport and physical activity at least 1+ per week in 2021/22 compared to 37% in 2020/21 and 57% in 2016/17.
  - 43% of children participate through a sports club or association at least 1+ per week in 2021/22 compared to 41% in 2020/21 and 46% in 2016/17.

The following figure shows the adult frequency of participation rates:

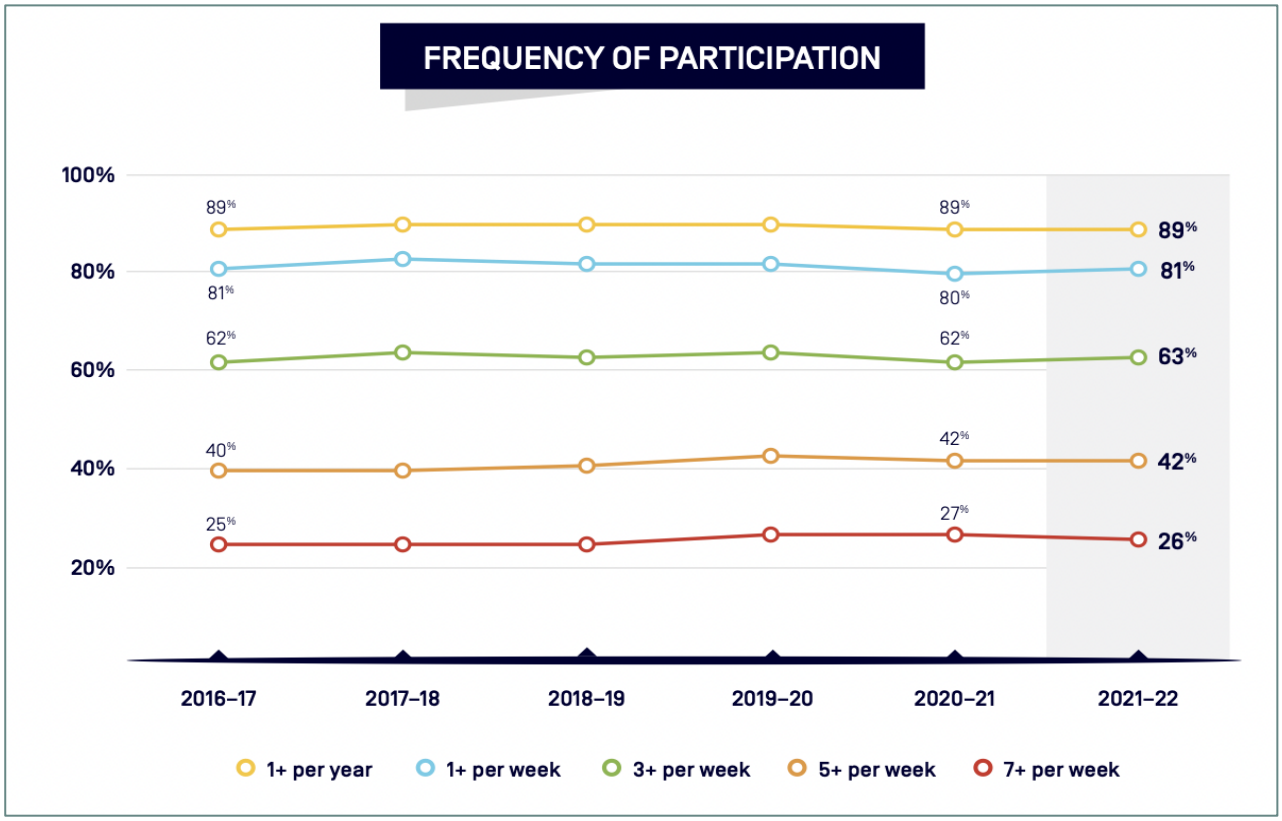


Figure 6: Adult Frequency of Participation Rates 2016/17 to 2021/22

The figure below shows the children frequency of participation rates:

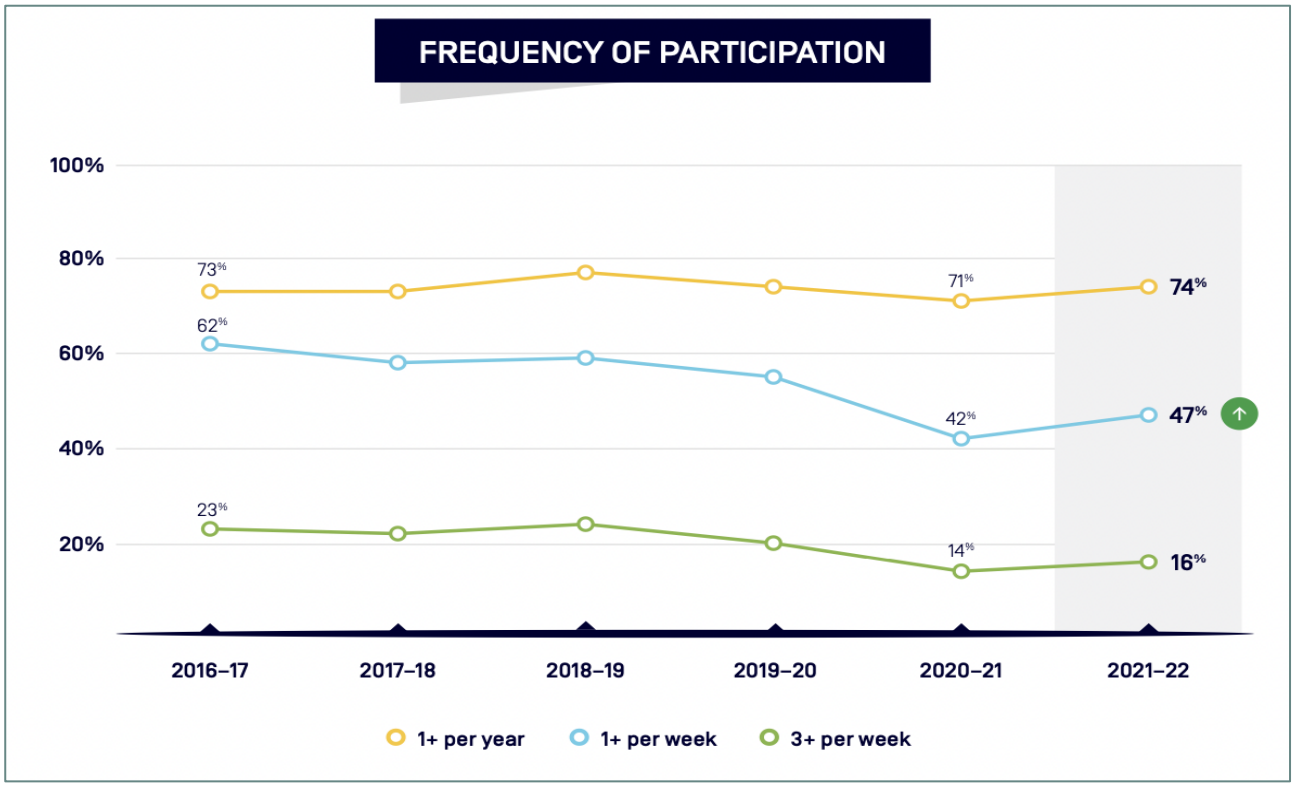


Figure 7: Children Frequency of Participation Rates 2016/17 to 2021/22

Ausplay has prepared participation insights for the following indoor sports:

- There were 247,200 adults and 9,000 children playing badminton annually. The peak age for participation is 12 to 34 years of age. There was 37.8% of the overall badminton participation in Victoria.
- There were 850,200 adults and 370,400 children playing basketball annually. The peak age for participation is 12 to 17 years of age. There was 35.2% of the overall basketball participation in Victoria.
- There were 96,800 adults and 491,800 children playing gymnastics annually. The peak age for participation is 0 to 17 years of age. There was 31.1% of the overall table tennis participation in Victoria.
- There were 238,400 adults and 64,300 children playing martial arts annually. The peak age for participation is 5 to 17 years and 65+ years of age. There was 32.9% of the overall martial arts participation in Victoria.
- There were 145,000 adults and 8,900 children playing table tennis annually. The peak age for participation is 35 to 65+ years of age. There was 36.4% of the overall table tennis participation in Victoria.
- There were 272,500 adults and 24,900 children playing volleyball annually. The peak age for participation is 12 to 17 years of age. There was 24.9% of the overall volleyball participation in Victoria.

Please note that indoor cricket, futsal and indoor netball were not captured individually in sport profiles.

1.16 Future Participation Demand

A facility demand model has been developed to guide the current and future indoor court and facilities requirements. **The model is a guide only** and includes assumptions on court and facility capacity, usage, and participation.

The Otium Analytics **Demand Analysis Model** determines the estimated participants, required hours of access, number of facilities, playing space and total space for sports. The model considers shared use of facilities. The infographic below shows the key inputs and outputs of the model.

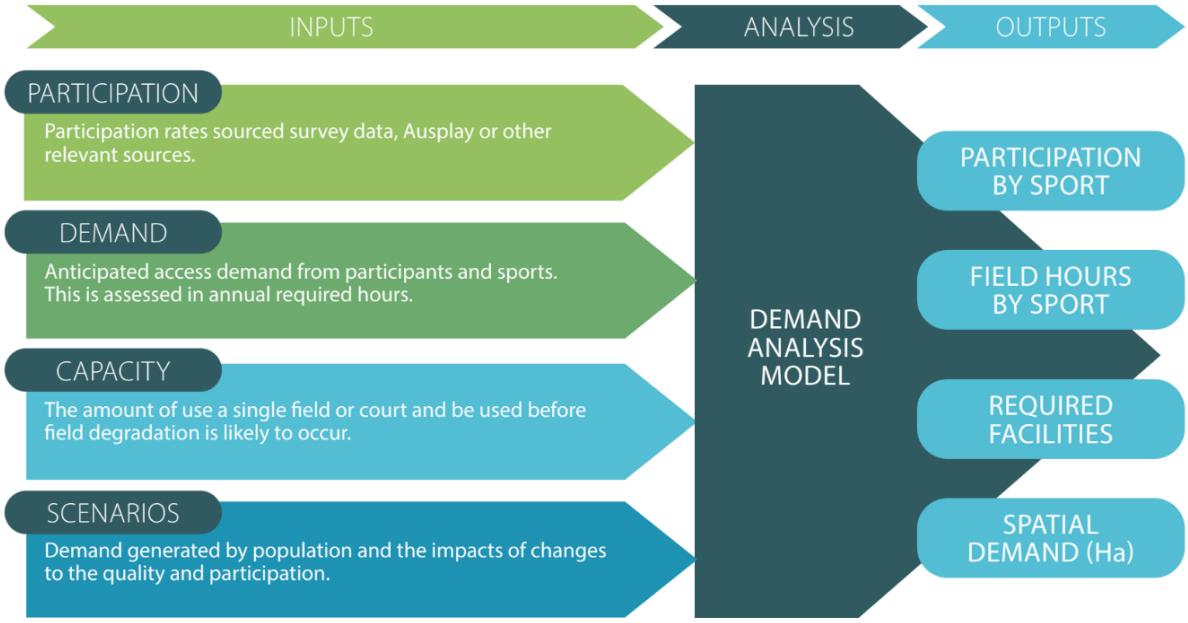


Figure 8: Otium Analytics Demand Analysis Model

The model considers the current court capacity, participation rates, and usage levels. Other factors such as the capacity of a court to accommodate playing numbers, the current distribution of clubs to courts, and opportunities for clubs to share need to be overlaid.

The model is overlaid with local factors impacting a facility's use. These include:

- Distribution and accessibility of courts. It may not be feasible for clubs to travel significant distances to access courts.
- Quality and condition of facilities. The quality (whether a facility is fit for purpose), and condition of a facility may restrict the amount of use possible. This could be because the infrastructure is nearing the end of life.
- Participation numbers within indoor sports clubs/associations changing from year to year. There has been for some sports a drop off in participation over the COVID-19 restriction years that are now returning to and exceeding pre-pandemic levels.
- Programming of sports competition. For example, sports associations stipulate required start times, competition formats, game length times and the number of games played at each court each week.
- Inequitable participation distribution across sports at facilities.
- Location of facilities that have a wider catchment beyond a municipal boundary. For example, regional indoor sports facilities like Nunawading Basketball Centre and Sportlink.

- Practicality of indoor sports sharing. Sharing of facilities amongst competing sports may not be possible due to competition structures.

Impact of occupancy levels in shared use courts on provision:

The pie chart below shows the average proportion of use by sport for shared-use courts which that sport access. This has been used to modify the current court accessed for each sport.

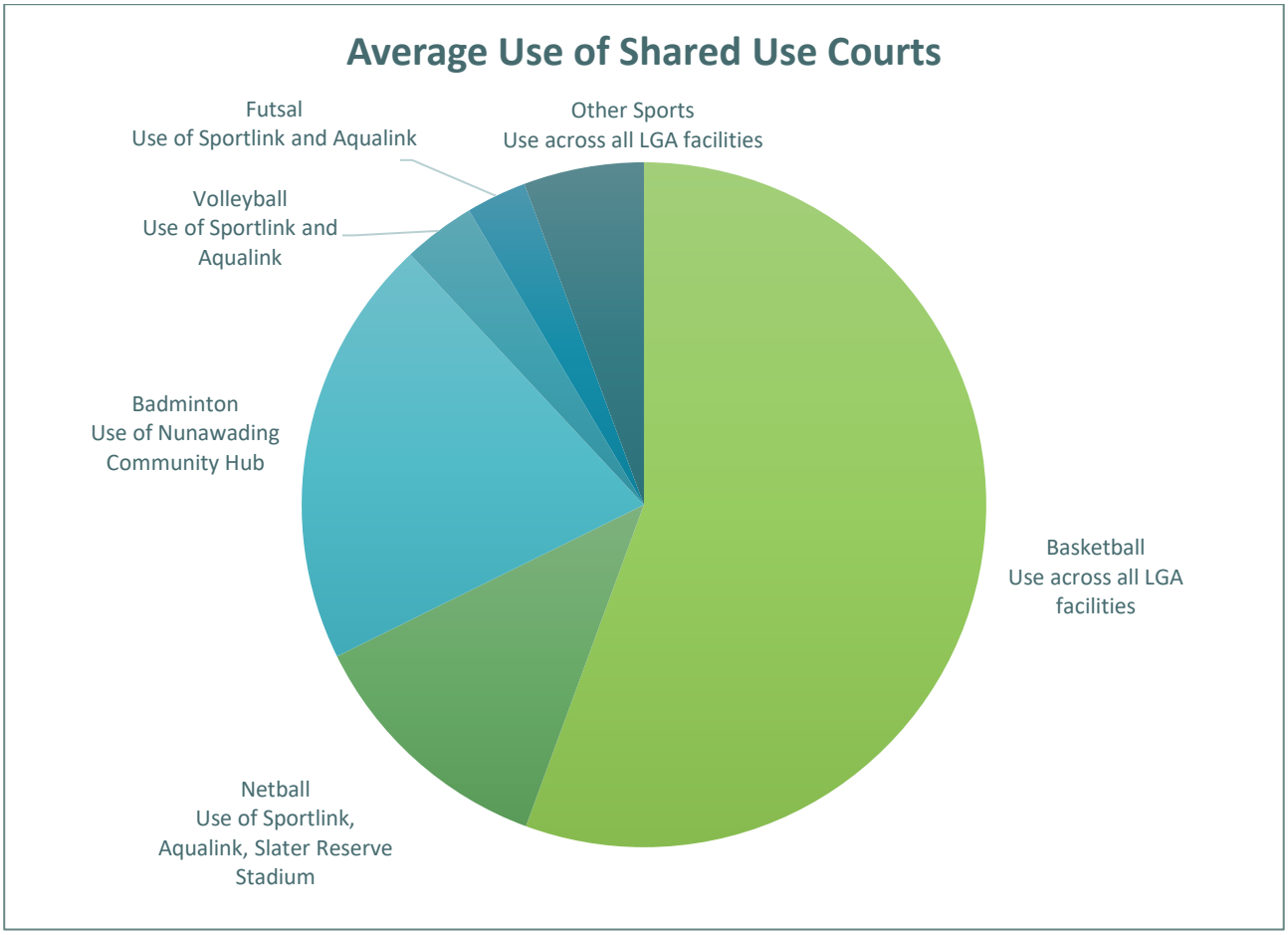


Figure 9: Proportion of use by sport for shared use courts across Council facilities

Demand Analysis Model Assumptions

The model applies full optimisation of all court for the average field/court capacity across the sports field network based on participation and usage assumptions.

The model applied the key assumptions in the table below.

Table 8: Model Assumptions

Category	Assumption
Population	• City of Whitehorse population will grow from 171,845 (2023) to approximately 234,277 by 2046. • The 2021 age breakdown is used to determine the current proportion of people aged between 0-14 years (children) was 18% and for 15+ years (adults) was 82% in Whitehorse. • In 2046, the proportion of people aged between 0-14 years (children) is estimated to be 15% and for 15+ years (adults) 85% in Whitehorse.
Sport Participation	• Participation rates for major participation sports identified in the recent AusPlay Participation Survey 2023-24 for once-a-week organised sport participation.

Category	Assumption	
	• This participation rate is considered appropriate following a review of registered State Sporting Association participation and local association participation data.	
Court Capacity	• Indoor sports courts have a capacity of 54 hours of use each week. • For indoor specialty courts/facilities: – Gymnastics 54 hours. – Calisthenics 54 hours. – Table Tennis 25 hours. • The size of facilities is based on a full-size equivalent court for that sport.	
Current Community Courts/ Facilities	The current court access for each sport for training and/or competition purposes: • Basketball – 33 basketball courts. • Netball –8 netball courts. • Volleyball – 1 volleyball courts. • Badminton – 30 badminton courts. • Table Tennis – 8 table tennis courts. • Futsal –4 futsal courts. • Gymnastics – 2 district sized gymnastics halls • Callisthenics – 1 district sized studio space * Please note that the current provision of courts for each sport is currently restricted due to competition with other sports and use by schools.	
Utilisation	• The benchmark average training and competition hours each week and participant numbers per field/court has been informed by State Sporting Associations and AusPlay participation reports.	
	• Basketball	• Adult – 3 hours per week and 12 participants per court • Child – 2 hours per week and 14 participants per court • All Year
	• Netball	• Adult – 3 hours per week and 16 participants per court • Child – 2 hours per week and 16 participants per court • All Year • Applied 30% of overall netball participation rate – indoor participation
	• Volleyball	• Adult – 3 hours per week and 16 participants per court • Child – 2 hours per week and 16 participants per court • All Year
	• Futsal	• Adult – 2 hours per week and 16 participants per court • Child – 1 hours per week and 16 participants per court • All Year • Applied 39% of overall football (soccer) participation rate – Futsal participation
	• Badminton	• Adult – 2 hours per week and 4 participants per court • Child – 1 hours per week and 4 participants per court • All Year
	• Table Tennis	• Adult – 2 hours per week and 4 participants per court • Child – 1 hours per week and 4 participants per court • All Year
	• Gymnastics	• Adult – 4 hours per week and 32 participants district size hall • Child – 2 hours per week and 32 participants per district size hall • All Year • 8 participants per coach (4 classes each hour time slot) • Size of facility is equivalent of one court – district size • Applied 85-90% of overall participation rate is children
	• **Calisthenics**	• Adult – 4 hours per week and 10 participants district size studio • Child – 2 hours per week and 20 participants per district size studio • All Year • Size of facility is equivalent of 1/3 court – district size

Demand Analysis Model – Facility Requirement Modelling

Based on the above methodology and assumptions, The table below details the facility requirements for major participation sports in the short and long term.

The table shows for each major participation sport:

- The current number of courts accessed.
- The number of courts required to meet the current population and participation demand.
- The number of courts required to meet the future population and participation demand.

Table 9: Facility Requirements Current to 2046

Sport^	Current Court/Hall Used by Sport	Current Court/Hall Access*	Current Court/Hall Access Requirement for Participation Demand (2024)	Current Surplus/ Deficit of Court/Hall Access	Future Court/Hall Access Requirements for Participation Demand (2046)	Future Surplus/ Deficit of Court/Hall Access
Badminton	52	30	26	4	54	-24
Basketball	41	33	41	-8	64	-31
Calisthenics	1	1	2	-1	2	-1
Futsal	21	4	5	-1	7	-3
Gymnastics~	3	3	4	-1	6	-3
Netball	26	8	9	-1	11	-3
Table Tennis	28	8	14	-6	18	-10
Volleyball	9	1	3	-2	4	-3

* The current court access considers firstly a sport's access to dedicated courts (100% access) and secondary the proportion of use by that sport for shared multi-sport courts.
^ Indoor cricket and martial arts are not included because there is insufficient participation rate data or facility usage information to run a demand analysis model.
~ Gymnastics hall access includes new PLC gymnastics hall.

Please note that due to a shortfall across the above indoor sports courts, the available court space to support emerging sports like pickleball is limited. Also, these courts are restricted in use for sports due to a high competition for access to courts across sports and school usage requirements for school stadiums. Additional courts will be required to support major participation sports and emerging sports now and into the future.

Also, private and school facilities are playing an important role in supporting sports like combat sports, martial arts, dance and cheer. Provision of access to Council managed facilities to support these sports may de-risk the potential loss of these sports clubs and providers.

Access to these facilities can be provided on multi-use/shared arrangement.

1.17 Key Findings of Demand Assessment

Population growth is fuelling an increase in indoor sports participation

Whitehorse is culturally diverse and home to cultural groups that enjoy a variety of indoor sports

Good level of indoor sports provision offering a range of programs and services

Facilities are at capacity and there is high competition for additional courts by all indoor sports whether it is major participation sports or emerging sports

Some indoor sports facilities require renewal and don't meet current facility standards

Population growth is fuelling an increase in indoor sports participation, and current facilities are at capacity

The City of Whitehorse population is growing rapidly. The current population of 178,639 (2023) has grown by 8,998 people since 2016 and is expected to reach 234,277 by 2046 (additional 55,638 people or 31% growth).

Much of this growth will be in our most active years age groups (5-49 years) that report high indoor sport participation. This age cohort accounts for 102,224 persons or 59.7% of the 2021 population and will grow to 143,935 persons by 2046, 61.4% of the population.

This population growth will translate into more indoor sports participants. There are very high participation levels across all indoor sports, and indoor sports facilities are reaching capacity.

Using the AusPlay Participation Survey for weekly participation rates of organised sport, it has been identified that there are currently an estimated 33,574 participants across the eleven identified indoor sports. This will grow to 45,343 participants by 2046. An additional 11,769 indoor sport participants are projected in the next 20 years. Please note that emerging sports like sport climbing and pickleball were not assessed due to insufficient data.

There are very high participation levels across all indoor sports and indoor sports facilities are reaching capacity. Several of these facilities are in average condition, they do not meet contemporary design standards (i.e. non-compliant courts) and require renewal to meet participant needs.

All Council, school and private indoor sports providers are reporting high occupancy rates, exceeding 80%. A common challenge across providers is that facilities are operating at full capacity during peak times (after school hours and weekends), with frequent requests for additional access that cannot be accommodated. The occupancy schedules for Council facilities further validate this finding.

A detailed assessment of the occupancy levels of the key indoor sport facilities was undertaken and has informed the proportion of access to courts by sports.

Access to additional courts and sports halls will be required to support all indoor sports including lower participation and emerging sports such as fencing, martial arts and combat sports, pickleball and paddle ball. Future development of Council indoor sports facilities should also consider access to courts and sports halls for these sports.

The following table summarises the occupancy levels of the three Council-owned indoor sports facilities:

Table 10: Court Occupancy Levels

Facility Name	Total Occupancy	Weekday Off Peak	Weekday Peak	Weekends
Nunawading Basketball Centre	87.92%	81.90%	100.00%	83.67%
Sportlink				
Indoor Courts	73.40%	35.00%	92.00%	99.20%
Outdoor Courts	53.60%	33.75%	71.70%	62.50%
Aqualink Box Hill	61.95%	24.20%	81.90%	95.80%
Slater Reserve	63.86%	28.75%	90.20%	82.00%
Nunawading Community Hub	72.40%	68.00%	72.30%	78.60%

Future participation growth will result in the need for additional indoor sports courts and facilities.

State Sporting Association registered participation trends have shown an increase in participation across indoor sports. Local indoor sports associations and clubs have also shown an increase in participation.

If there is no change, there will be a shortfall in indoor sports courts and facilities to meet 2046 participation demand

The Otium Analytics Demand Analysis Model shows a current and future shortfall of indoor sports courts to provide for these participants in the future. The key challenges and opportunities for each sport is summarised below**:**

Badminton

- The current provision of badminton courts meets the current demand in the short to medium term. However, there is a projected shortfall of badminton courts in 2046.
- The use of existing major badminton centres at peak times is very high and near capacity. This finding suggests local badminton participation and demand is high.
- District facilities support club and association competition, coaching, training and programming. The local facilities support social play.
- The City of Whitehorse facilities are primarily used to support local social badminton participation. However, if the private providers cease operations, Whitehorse risks losing facilities that support competitive badminton opportunities.

Basketball

- There is a current shortfall of eight basketball courts, which is projected to grow to 31 in 2046.
- Basketball Victoria reports that existing teams have limited access to courts, with most timeslots currently filled for competition. Compliant facilities are fully booked, restricting the sport's participation growth.
- The majority of basketball courts in the City of Whitehorse are non-compliant, with insufficient run off.

- The City of Whitehorse basketball facilities primarily support Association competition. School courts also play an important role in supporting Association competition and club training. However, if schools cease community access or community access to school facilities were not endorsed by planning, Whitehorse risks losing competitive basketball opportunities.
- The Melbourne East Basketball Association lacks a contemporary regional indoor sports stadium that supports athlete development pathways from entry-level programs to elite (NBL1) standard competition.
- All basketball associations and clubs indicated a need for access to additional courts.

Calisthenics

- There is a current and future shortfall of one calisthenic studio. There is a gap in provision of a calisthenics facility in the central/northwestern area of Whitehorse.
- Calisthenics Victoria report compliant facilities are at capacity restricting the participation growth of the sport.
- The district private calisthenics club is seeking additional studio spaces to support participation growth.
- There is a reliance on private and school providers. If private providers and schools cease operations, Whitehorse risks losing calisthenics opportunities.

Cricket (Indoor)

- The current indoor cricket facility is sufficient to meet both present and future demand.
- The Box Hill Indoor Action Centre is a regional indoor sports centre that offers indoor cricket competitions. Cricket Victoria supports the Centre as the regional indoor cricket competition facility and do not advocate for any additional competition facility. However, if this private provider ceases operations, there is a risk of losing indoor cricket competitions in Whitehorse.
- The City of Whitehorse are upgrading cricket nets with lighting at strategic locations to facilitate year-round use for training. There is also a private cricket coaching indoor cricket centre. These initiatives support the pre-season and winter cricket training programs.

Fencing

- The current fencing facilities are sufficient to meet both present and future demand. However, there is a risk of losing fencing competitions in Whitehorse if private providers cease operations.
- The Whitehorse Club is proposed to be demolished as part of the East Burwood Reserve Master Plan. The Blacklords Fencing Club seeks a larger facility to accommodate a minimum of ten pistes. The current pistes have non-compliant run offs, there are limited spectators viewing areas and wheelchair access is a concern.
- The State Fencing Centre in North Melbourne supports competition fencing and athlete pathway development in metropolitan Melbourne.

Futsal

- There is a current shortfall of one futsal court, which is projected to grow to three by 2046.
- The current access to the 21 courts is restricted due to the courts being shared with other indoor sport users. Participation demand and access to these courts should be monitored to assess future court requirements.
- Any new indoor courts developed or upgraded should be designed to accommodate futsal.

- There is a reliance on private providers for competition and if they cease operation, there is a risk of losing access to futsal competition in Whitehorse.

Gymnastics

- The number of district gymnastics facilities meet current and future demand. However, The Nunawading Gymnastics Centre is ageing and not fit for purpose. Its limitations restrict the Club's programming. The Centre can only accommodate junior gymnastics competitions up to Level 2.
- There are large district gymnastics clubs in neighbouring municipalities that all service the needs of Whitehorse residents, particularly those that live within close proximity.
- There is a new private gymnastics facility being constructed at Presbyterian Ladies College that may help to meet future demand requirements in Whitehorse if the facility and club are accessible to community members.
- There is a reliance on private providers for gymnastics programming and competition and if they cease operation, there is a risk of losing gymnastics programming and competition in Whitehorse.

Martial Arts

- The current provision of martial arts facilities meets current requirements.
- There is a large network of private providers in Whitehorse, with some operating from private dedicated facilities and others from shared multi-purpose multipurpose rooms and courts within school and Council indoor sports facilities. There is a risk of losing martial arts programming to Whitehorse if the private providers cease operation.
- Multi-purpose halls within Council's indoor sports facilities such as Nunawading Community Hub, Aqualink Box Hill and Sportlink could provide access for martial arts as participation demand increases. Private providers may also introduce new facilities to meet this demand.

Netball

- There is a current shortfall of one netball courts, which is projected to grow to three by 2046.
- The indoor courts used by netball are shared with other indoor sports codes and are not compliant for netball.
- Whitehorse Netball Association have access to all four courts at Sportlink on a Saturdays. The Association would like to access additional indoor court time but have not had the critical mass to expand beyond current programming. Club's membership didn't bounce back strongly from Covid-19 and is only now returning to pre-Covid-19 levels.
- Competition for indoor courts use is high at Sportlink, a multi-sport venue, and expanding netball programming may be a challenge.

Table Tennis

- There is a current shortfall of six table tennis courts, which is projected to grow to 10 by 2046.
- The current provision of courts across several small halls is restricting growth. The small number of courts in each location is impacting the ability for the sport to grow and attract participants, in particular juniors.
- The facilities are not fit for purpose. They are shared use, which requires them to be pack up/set up operations. There is no dedicated table tennis facility that meet current competition standards.

- There is a need to investigate the feasibility of developing a regional 20-court table tennis facility in Whitehorse.

Volleyball

- There is a current shortfall of two volleyball courts, which is projected to grow to three by 2046.
- Volleyball is played on multi-use venues that have restricted use.
- In addition to unaffiliated competitions played in Whitehorse, there are affiliated regional volleyball associations running competitions at facilities on the border of Whitehorse including Mullum Mullum Stadium (Manningham) and Maroondah Nets (Maroondah). These facilities service Whitehorse residents that means there is no demand for a regional volleyball competition facility.

Emerging Indoor Sports

- Within the City of Whitehorse there are several emerging activities that are using indoor sport facilities. These include:
  - Cheer
  - Sport Climbing
  - Pickleball and Paddle Ball.
- Indoor sports courts are restricted in use for emerging sports due to a high competition by other high participation indoor sporting activities.
- Additional courts will be required to support major participation sports and emerging sports now and into the future.

Nunawading Basketball Centre is a regional basketball facility and is operating at capacity

The Nunawading Basketball Centre is a regional facility that supports 12,279 members, attracting half of its membership from outside the City of Whitehorse. This East Burwood Reserve Master Plan supports additional courts to develop this facility as a contemporary indoor sports stadium that supports the breadth of Nunawading Basketball Association programming. This includes training and competitions, programs such as SEDA and accommodation for staff.

The Nunawading Basketball Centre has a very high overall occupancy rate of 87.92% across off peak and peak periods:

- Weekday Off Peak – 81.8%
- Weekday Peak – 100%
- Weekends – 83.67%.

The facility catchment map of a 30-minute drive time mirrors the reach shown in the postcode membership map. This facility catchment represents 2,407,691 people which will grow to almost 3 million people by 2041. The postcode membership map shows a very high proportion of Melbourne East Basketball Association participants coming from Whitehorse, Monash, Maroondah and Knox. Nunawading Basketball Centre is the regional facility supporting these participants. This facility is supported by satellite indoor sports facilities in Whitehorse (15 facilities), Monash (11 facilities), Maroondah (four facilities) and Knox (one facility).

There is high competition for additional courts by all indoor sports whether it is major participation sports or emerging sports

All Council, school and private indoor sports providers are reporting very high occupancy rates (80+%). Access to additional courts and sports halls will be required to support all indoor sports including fencing, combat sports and emerging sports like pickleball. Future development of Council indoor sports facilities should consider access to courts and sports halls for these sports.

Appendix 7: Trends Analysis Paper

This Trends Analysis Paper reviews recreation participation and facility trends and how they will influence the programming and facility requirements of indoor sports facilities in the City of Whitehorse.

1.18 General Participation Trends

Factors affecting participation and facility provision

Otium research has identified a range of general recreation participation trends that are likely to impact on local communities in the future. These are:

- **A gradual ageing of the population**. As life expectancy increases, birth rates stay low and the "baby boomers" of the 1950s and 1960s grow older. The percentage of population of 5 to 14-year-olds will continue to decrease with the greatest growth in the 55+ age group. This will create a demand for programs and services in sport and recreation that go well beyond a focus on junior participation.
- **Flexibility in the times when people recreate**. As demands on people's time increases and work practices change, people are seeking to take their sport and recreation at different times, over a broad spread of hours and at facilities that offer a lot of activities under the one roof. Health and fitness facilities are particularly attractive and getting easier to use, as many are open 12 to 16 hours per day, 7 days a week, with some now also open 24/7.
- **Increased variety in sport and recreation options**. People's sport and recreation options are changing towards newer, more varied activities offered over a greater range of timeframes compared to previous decades where limited variety in activities and scheduling occurred. This has supported the trend to more multi-use facilities to attract a broader range of users as well as multiple programs to meet different needs at the one facility.
- **Constraints to sport and recreation participation**. Lack of time, lack of facilities nearby, family and work constraints, health problems and cost of service or use of facilities are the main constraints to many people's sport and recreation participation. The development of targeted markets of users, programs and services at many health and fitness centres has assisted in reducing some of these participation constraints.
- **Changing employment structures, trading and work hours**. These trends often make participation in traditional sport and recreation activities difficult and therefore people are looking for facilities that are open longer hours and have a lot of activity options at the one site. This makes opportunities such as indoor sports courts attractive as their long opening hours and days open per year means usage can be made in a wide range of social, training, competition and educational settings.
- **Different people want different activities**. The different population characteristics sees the need for facilities to offer potential users a much more varied range of programs and services than previously offered. All year round available indoor and outdoor sport and recreation facilities also provide the greatest diversity of activities throughout the different seasons impacted by the areas weather.

- **Provision of high standards and quality of facilities and services**. People are more and more looking for high standard, high quality facilities and services to meet their sport and recreation needs. This has also seen the trend for indoor facilities becoming very popular as they allow activity in safe and secure spaces in all weather and environmental conditions. This leads to indicating that building low standard, low-cost facilities will not attract the maximum user market. The development by a number of peak sporting bodies of sport specific facility standards and guidelines has also placed pressure on facility providers to meet higher standards of provision.
- **Desire for activities to be affordable**. The development of multi-purpose fitness and indoor sport centres has enabled the high operating cost activities to be cross subsidised by more profitable activity areas such as health and fitness, food and beverage and entertainment areas. This has enabled many facilities to keep general entry fees low to encourage use whilst seeking users who want special services to contribute at a greater level to the cost of such activities. In general, there is a greater reliance on locally accessed and lower cost opportunities by those without the resources to travel and pay for more expensive activities.
- **Recognition of strong links between physical activity and health**. Preventative health care and active lifestyles are very important to many people and health and fitness and indoor sport activities are becoming a large part of people's activity choices. There is increased recognition of the strong links between involvement in recreational activity and good health, and the development of appropriate activities and services which support this.
- **Expectations of equity and access**. Today's society expects all people to have equitable access to public facilities. There is a particular demand to provide sports facilities for the growing female participation across all sports. There are a growing number of competitions and programs for people all abilities to participate. This means we need to improve the design of our sport and recreation facilities and ensure we provide accessible facilities.
- **Sustainable development**. In addition to the trends above there are specific trends relating to leisure and sporting facility development such as sport facility planners and operators need to respond to community demand for more sustainable and eco-friendlier infrastructure.

All recreation providers are operating in an environment of change. Providers will need to respond to the following challenges:

- **Consumer expectations**. As a result of consumers being exposed to high quality programs, events and services through the media and other leisure industry providers they are expecting more and more from their sport and recreation programs. This includes quality of facilities, support amenity, player and spectator comfort, quality of service, coaching and expecting the service to be provided when they want it. However, this has meant that significantly less program space can be achieved per investment dollar.
- **Competition for participants**. All of Australia's sporting codes have recognised the need to recruit young players into their sport at an early age. Many of the sports face competition from large, well-funded junior programs and high-profile sports as well as other forms of entertainment competing for the time and interest of young people. A key challenge for many sports and recreational activities is the retention of those recruits beyond their early to mid-teen years.
- **Reliance on external revenues**. Participants provide a large proportion of funding for most sport and recreation activities, programs and services. Competition is intense for funding, sponsorship, spectators, profile and members. Providers will need to clearly differentiate and market products and benefits to seek to access other revenue streams. This is particularly important in the development and upgrade of facilities and equipment.

- **Funding challenge**. Maintaining and developing new facilities is a major challenge for the sport and recreation industry. The future may require sporting and recreation providers to partner in multi-sport/recreational developments either in local government or commercially built complexes.
- **Well-trained personnel**: Volunteers predominantly service most sports. Recruiting and retaining paid staff and volunteers are critical to operations. In an increasingly regulated world, volunteers need and demand access to training and education in a flexible delivery model that responds to their busy lives. Coaches, officials and administrators must be supported to ensure the delivery of quality programs and competitions. Supporting and recognising volunteers is a task not to be underestimated.

1.19 Future Participation Trends

The sporting landscape can rapidly change. The most recent AusPlay Survey 2021 results for the most popular sport and physical activities across age groups shows a wide range of sports and physical activities are now being played, outside traditional sports. This is particularly the case for adult participation where unstructured sports that can be played at flexible times and support a person's lifestyle, health and wellbeing are now preferred.

Table 11: Future Participation Trends 2021

Life Stage	Popular Indoor Sports and Physical Activities
0 to 4 years	Gymnastics, Dance
5 to 14 years	Basketball, Netball, Volleyball, Gymnastics, Dance, Combat Sports
15 to 17 years	Basketball, Netball, Volleyball, Gymnastics, Fitness Gym
18 to 34 years	Basketball, Netball, Fitness Gym, Pilates/Yoga
35 to 54 years	Basketball, Fitness Gym, Pilates/Yoga
55 years and over	Fitness Gym, Pilates/Yoga

We have seen traditional sports introduce new formats that are gaining in popularity and growing participation. These new formats of traditional sports have broadened the audience of participants to sports. Examples include:

- New formats that are derivatives of traditional sports. Examples include pickleball and Padel which are derivatives of tennis now being played in indoor courts and outdoor tennis court venues.
- Social fast-paced competition formats that are played on smaller courts take less time to play and are more accessible. An example is Netball Fast 5.

The recent AusPlay Survey 2021 also shows several new emerging indoor sports trends in Australia. These include:

- Female sports: Women and girls sports have been the fastest growing participation across traditional and emerging sports.
- eSports (Exergaming): eSports or competitive gaming has been gaining popularity not just in Australia but worldwide. There are now several eSports' leagues and tournaments.
- Virtual training and racing: Zwift is an example of an online platform that allows cyclists to connect their indoor trainers or stationary bikes to a virtual environment through a computer or smart phone. Zwift features include gamification elements, allows for multi-player and social cycling, and host racing events and challenges.
- Adaptive and inclusive sports: Adaptive sports for people with disabilities are gaining recognition and support. These sports promote inclusivity and support people with a wide range of abilities.

There is a growing number of adaptive sport competitions offered from local community to elite level. These include blind cricket and wheelchair sports for Australian Rules Football, rugby, basketball and tennis.

- Combat sports: Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) is an example of a combat sport in Australia growing participation with more gyms and competitions emerging and greater visibility of the sport through the global popularity of Ultimate Fighting Championships (UFC).
- Climbing and bouldering: Indoor and outdoor climbing and bouldering facilities have become more.

1.20 Facility Trends

Contemporary Sports Facility Principles

Otium Planning Group research has identified the following design principles for contemporary sports facilities:

Provision Framework

- **Meet contemporary standards:** Meet contemporary industry standards for building and sports including for community, regional, national and international competition, depending on the hierarchy classification of the sports facility.
- **Design and maintain facilities to hierarchy level**: This will mean Council can strategically invest in quality sports facilities to the level the sports facility provides for, whether that is delivering for local (community) standard competition or for regional (elite) standard competition. If a regional facility the facilities will offer a higher level of service and quality design standard.

Create Destinations

- **Take a place-making approach**: The Creating Places for People urban design protocol should be used in designing sports facilities. This approach will be supported by adherence to Universal Design and female-friendly design principles.
- **Be hub precincts**: Sports facilities can be provided within a hub for sport, entertainment, community, health and/or tourism activities. A regional sports hub should complement other precincts in a city/township for retail, food, arts, and culture, etc.; and connect via pedestrian and public transport links.
- **Be multi-purpose**: Promote shared-use and offer mixed-use programming. Sports facilities will be active places that operate seven days a week in peak and off-peak times. Use should be optimised.
- **Respond to the community**: Sports facilities will interact with and support a mix of community sport and event activity. The design will include a future expansion area that will future-proof sports facilities if additional facility needs or opportunities are identified.

Design Approach

- **Be designed to deliver multiple solutions**: The design of sport facilities should include a canopy that provides shade for daily activities and capture rainwater; a roof structure with solar panels that generate energy for the building; maximise the use of natural light and double glazing for climate control; flexible lighting systems that offer security and safe passage for pedestrians.
- **Consider biomimicry in design**: Sports facilities will respond to the local climate, allowing the building to breathe, provide comfort for every human sense and adapt to year-round requirements.
- **Embrace technology**: Sports facilities will respond to new technology in terms of entertainment, operations and monitoring facility performance.

- **Be sustainable**: The design should include strategies like harvesting water, creating energy, turning waste into food, enhancing the habitat and adding value for the surrounding community.

Operational Efficiency

- **Efficient**: Sports facilities will consider the maintenance and operational requirements of facilities with a view to making them efficient and easy to maintain.

Manage Budget

- **Keep budget in mind**: Government is operating in a tight fiscal environment and therefore the design must balance the above principles with delivering the service objectives of sports facilities and to a reasonable budget.

Indoor Sports Facility Sustainability Trends

Common indoor facility management trends have been observed in recent times including:

- The number of companies in the marketplace with the capability to manage and operate specialist facilities is now increasing.
- There is a growing number of councils establishing Company Limited by Guarantee models to manage leisure facilities.
- Incorporation of commercial facility components into the overall service mix, e.g., retail outlets, health services and café facilities.
- Establishment of community Boards of Management/Committees to oversee the operation of indoor facilities.
- Pursuit of non-sporting uses for indoor facilities, e.g., events, displays, functions.

Financial Performance of Indoor Sports Facilities

The following are relevant trends in the financial performance of indoor sporting facilities:

- Generally, stadiums with less than three to four courts have a lower income generating capacity and lower likelihood of being financially viable. A minimum of four courts is required for a commercial service, whilst a one to two court facility is considered a community service.
- Facilities that are designed and operated to be 'multi-use' are generally operated at higher levels of usage capacity and financial performance than single sport/specialist facilities.
- Large regional facilities with four or more courts that are centrally located in large catchment areas, with a low level of external competition, in prominent positions have a greater chance of being financially viable.
- Larger centralised facilities are more efficient in terms of both competition coordination and financial sustainability.
- Successful indoor sporting associations have access to a larger multi-court facility of four or more courts for competition and a range of smaller facilities e.g., schools, for training.
- Indoor sports stadiums provide social and economic benefits to a region, whilst generating jobs during construction and operation.

Making Spaces for Girls and Women

The design for recreation infrastructure has been more suited to male participation. The following design guidelines and resources respond to extensive research and engagement with women and girls that focus on barriers faced when participating.

Female-Friendly Sport Infrastructure Design Guidelines

Female sports participation at the elite and peak of athlete pathways is increasing and rapidly in line with an increase in grassroots participation in sport and physical activity. This represents an exciting time for Australia but also presents challenges for sports administrators and facilities.

Sport and Recreation Victoria has developed the Female Friendly Guidelines that include the following design principles to create female-friendly facilities:

- **Fit for purpose**: While promoting a flexible and multi-use approach, ensure female-friendly design elements and specific requirements meet the level and type of activities being delivered, as well as occupant, club or tenant needs.
- **Multi and shared use**: Infrastructure should be efficiently designed to promote equitable and flexible use by a mixture of users capable of sharing facilities and usage times. The facility space planning and design of public spaces should adopt a multi-purpose approach.
- **Compatibility**: Identification of compatible sports, teams, activities, clubs or organisations with similar objectives and requirements for facility design, use and management should be promoted.
- **Universal Design**: The principles of Universal Design should be applied to community sport and recreation facilities so that they accommodate users of all ages, gender, ability and cultural backgrounds.
- **Public Safety**: Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) takes into consideration the relationship between users and the physical environment in the design of public spaces in crime prevention and assists with public safety.
- **Health and safety**: Security and safety of users should be paramount. Sport and active recreation facilities and their surrounds should be designed, built and maintained in accordance with relevant occupational health and safety standards. They should also incorporate child safe and safer design principles into facility design.
- **Functionality**: Facility design and layout should promote safe and optimal functionality to accommodate formal, competitive, social and recreational forms of usage and participation.

Making Spaces for People with Disabilities

Otium has engaged with Disability Sport and Recreation Victoria about key drivers and barriers for participants with disabilities engagement and facility, program and service ideas for delivering their meaningful engagement in sport and recreation.

The following key drivers were identified by participants engaged with sport:

- Providing opportunities for physical activities.
- Ability to play sport they enjoy, as close to able-bodied rules as possible.
- At the same time, considering their various needs to ensure they enjoy the activity.
- Clear pathways of progression as skills improve.
- Where possible, integration and understanding between able and disabled participants.
- Providing opportunities for social connection and emotional support.

The following key barriers were faced by participants' engagement with sport:

- A lack of awareness of the sport and where to play.
- Time, cost and effort involved in travel.
- The cost involved in getting kitted out.
- Lack of critical mass of participants.
- Lack of consistent and convenient scheduling.
- General lack of organisation and administration, needing them to step into this role to ensure gameplay goes ahead.

Disability Sport and Recreation Victoria advocates for 'Disability Sport Hubs' that service a regional catchment. These hubs were seen as an important ingredient to encouraging people with disabilities to participate.

The Disability Sports Hub would provide:

- An information portal for how people with disabilities can get involved in sport.
- A central physical location, a dedicated fit-for-purpose space for adaptive (disability) sport.
- A place for bringing people together and cross-pollination of experience and expertise.

The Disability Sports Hub would involve project partners who would connect and engage with various stakeholders including the local community of people with disabilities, State Sporting Associations, disability sport organisations and local disability service providers.

The programs and services at a Disability Sports Hub would be:

- Driven by people with disabilities.
- Low-cost participation opportunities.
- Encourage engagement with local schools, sport clubs, coaches, leisure providers and disability organisations.

The physical activities and programs would be complemented by an information and education hub for the delivery of capacity-building training amongst local providers of sport and recreation programs. This would create a welcoming and skilled environment that supports greater participation by people with disabilities, addresses the key barriers and delivers more sustainable long-term outcomes.

The facility requirements of a Disability Sports Hub would consider:

- Indoor sports courts are ideal for most disability sports.
- Netting/walls.
- Ample circulation space.
- Access to facilities is important – older venues are set up for one or two people in a wheelchair (one accessible toilet and car park). When you have competition, you could have up to 40 people.
- Storage areas for wheelchairs (10 chairs) for programs.
- Lifts (bigger is better).
- Light switches at the right height.

- Braille signage.
- Access keys/downloadable information.

Disability Sport and Recreation identified the **Phoenix USA – Ability360 Sport and Fitness Centre** as the best example of a fit-for-purpose Disability Sports Hub for adaptive sports. It is a best practice in terms of welcoming and functional requirements for people with a disability.

The centre has wheelchair-accessible weight machines, an aquatic area equipped with lifts and elevators, accessible locker rooms, indoor courts, a climbing wall (35ft), an indoor track, personal training, swim lessons, group fitness classes, recreation therapy, team sports, etc. All programs, facilities, and activities are inclusive.

See the following weblinks to a fly-through of the facility.
https://ability360.org/sports/
https://nirsa.net/nirsa/portfolio-items/ability360-sports-and-fitness-center/

Universal Design Principles

The seven Principles of Universal Design were developed in 1997 by a working group of architects, product designers, engineers and environmental design researchers. The following principles will guide the design of the new Sports Performance Event Activity Centre in terms of place and function, environment and sustainability, products and communications:

- **Equitable use**: The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.
- **Flexibility in use**: The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
- **Simple and intuitive use**: Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language, skills, or current concentration level.
- **Perceptible information**: The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.
- **Tolerance for Error**: The design minimises hazards and errors – most used elements, most accessible; hazardous elements eliminated, isolated or shielded.
- **Low physical effort**: The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.
- **Size and space for approach and use**: Appropriate size and space are provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of the user's body size, posture, or mobility.

1.21 Key Findings of Trends Analysis

Diverse and accessible network of sports facilities are needed to deliver the full range of activities and benefits.

New and upgraded sports facilities should adopt industry design principles that deliver inclusive, multi-use and sustainable facilities.

Diverse and accessible network of sports facilities are needed to deliver the full range of activities and benefits

Key trends influencing the provision and design of sport and recreation facilities and services are:

- There is a trend for new or improved sport and recreation facilities to be designed as multi-use and multi-functional. This is partly due to sports facility investment being used smarter to not put unnecessary financial pressure on Council by duplicating facilities with available capacity.
- The large growth in female participation within traditionally male-oriented sports is increasing pressures on playing facilities and increasing the need to diversify amenities to be universally accessible.
- Whilst the nature and intensity of participation in sport may change over time, the need for suitable and adaptable spaces to accommodate demand will remain. Future facility provision and design needs to ensure spaces are adaptable to accommodate changing participation trends.
- The location of sports precincts needs to be accessible to most of the community in order to maximise use. They should be well connected by active transport links and public transport.

New and upgraded sports facilities should adopt industry design principles that deliver inclusive, multi-use and sustainable facilities

The following design principles have been developed to help inform the future design of the sports. It will be used to guide the future prioritisation framework.

- **Accessible and Inclusive:** Sport and active recreation facilities will be universally designed and inclusive, fostering participation in sport and active recreation by all our community, across all life stages, genders and cultures.
- **Diverse and Equitable:** Sport and active recreation facilities will offer a diverse mix of facilities, programs and experiences. Council will provide an equitable distribution of sport and active recreation precincts across the municipality.
- **Safe and Welcoming:** Sport and active recreation facilities and programs are designed to be visible, open and welcoming to the community, creating a safe place for girls and women to participate.
- **Multi-Use:** Sport and active recreation facilities will be multi-use, offering several activities, programs and experiences for users.
- **Connected:** Sport and active recreation facilities connection across our communities and our unique natural environment.
- **Sustainable:** Sport and active recreation facilities will be designed and operate efficiently, whilst being well managed and maintained.

The following reference documents are provided for guiding design principles:

- Creating Places for People
- Making Places for Girls
- Healthy Active by Design
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
- Universal Design Principles
- Female Friendly Design Guidelines.

Appendix 8: Engagement Findings Paper

This Engagement Findings Paper summarises the key findings from surveys and interviews with key stakeholders and community.

1.22 Engagement Process

A Community Engagement Plan was developed to ensure Whitehorse residents and community had the opportunity to provide input to help shape the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Plan to meet current and future demands. The engagement process ensures the Council has a clear understanding of the community's views about indoor sports facilities in Whitehorse.

The engagement was conducted in August 2024 and included:

- Community survey of the Whitehorse community
- Survey of local sporting clubs and associations
- Survey of local schools
- Interviews with State Sporting Associations
- Interviews with a targeted group of local sporting clubs
- Internal Council Officer discussions.

The following section summarises key engagement findings.

1.23 State Sporting Associations Interviews

The following information was captured during interviews with State Sporting Associations.

Basketball

Basketball Victoria, 21 August 2024

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	Whitehorse basketball participation profile – 7,019 registered players: • Players mostly participate at Whitehorse, Blackburn, Knox and Ringwood Basketball Association. • 55% in Whitehorse, 25% Nillumbik then Maroondah, Knox and Monash remaining. • There is also a migration of players into Whitehorse from these municipalities, particularly Maroondah and Monash. • There is "one in four basketballers reside in the Eastern corridor of Melbourne". Nunawading Basketball Association – 11,600 registered players. • High participation Association in Victoria. • Strong governance model. • Full-service basketball associations. • These participation numbers do not include social, and school programs are in addition to this.
Current facilities	The provision of indoor courts is through Council, government and independent schools. Not many within the municipality are compliant, impacting ability to grow the sport and offer programs are competition grade facilities.
Issues and challenges	• The 4% participation rate growth has been 7% over the last couple of years as a State average. The number of participants is growing across the board; however, the

Discussion Topic	Comments
	largest growth is shown in junior participants. Demand is outstripping supply. Across the state, we are currently at a 220-court deficit and on track to 600 in 10 years. • ActiveXchange shows 10 court deficits within City of Whitehorse, growing to 25 courts short by 2033. This is based on 4% participation rate. • The current Council and School facilities are at capacity, and Clubs use facilities in other LGAs. There is a latent demand for participation that can't be serviced by current facilities. An example is the Nunawading Basketball Association. They use a four-court facility but have 1500 more members than Knox.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	Development proposals: • Business Case to knock down the Nunawading Basketball facility and build a new 12-court facility. • Seeking new courts in Box Hill area – No site. • Seeking additional courts at Forest Hill Secondary College. • Seeking additional courts at Forest Hill Chase.
Support for project	Support the project to enable the growth of basketball and increase the future provision of courts within the City of Whitehorse.

Netball

Netball Victoria, 21 August 2024

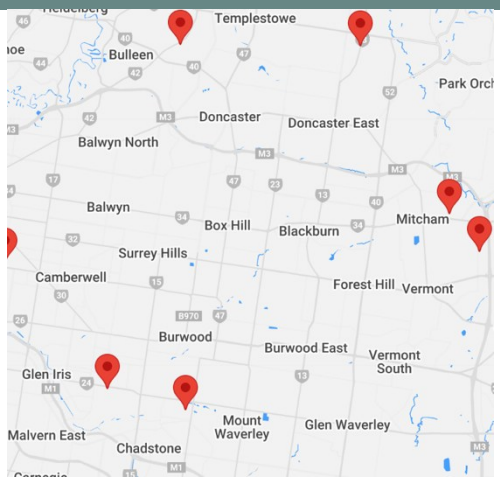
Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	• Whitehorse City has consistent membership levels over the past five years and has recovered well post COVID (2020) - see membership numbers below. The LGA demonstrates strong participation growth (that is, the number of members participating in netball activities - i.e., more than one competition per week) and has seen a significant increase in participation in the years from 2022 to 2023 with a growth of almost 300 participants in 12 months. There is strong participation growth reported through the experience of Whitehorse Netball Association. • Netball remains one of the highest female participation sports within the LGA, but male participation is growing, although growth of mixed and male competitions is restricted due to limited court access for current membership numbers within the LGA. • Within Whitehorse City Council there are two Netball Victoria affiliated associations Whitehorse Netball Association (WNA) & Slater Reserve Netball Association (SRNA). WNA is a large association that operates out of the Sportlink facility and conducts most of the Netball Victoria affiliated netball activity within the LGA. The SRNA is a small association that operates out of the Slater Reserve facilities. • WNA services all the LGA but has very strong participation from Blackburn, Mitcham, Vermont. WNA runs a large domestic netball program that includes the entry level program of NetSetGo, Junior and Senior competition and a Representative Pathway program. Netball is well supported in the local primary schools and interschool netball sports programs are hosted at Sportlink (home of WNA). On a Saturday WNA have over 1500 players coming through to play (domestic competition), another 250 on a Monday (NetSetGo), 750 on a Thursday (social comp) and over 200 kids involved in our rep program. They would like to grow their programs and offerings but are restricted with not enough courts for growth. • SRNA are a very small Association with most members in a higher senior level. They offer two senior competitions on a Wednesday and Friday evening. Participation is 4-5 teams on both nights.
Current facilities	Whitehorse currently has two active facilities that are used for Netball Victoria affiliated activities: • Sportlink (8 courts - 4 indoor and 4 outdoor covered courts, Whitehorse Netball Association).

Discussion Topic	Comments
	• Slater Reserve Stadium (2 indoor courts, Slater Reserve Netball Association) - home of Blackburn Vikings Basketball.
Issues and challenges	• WNA struggles fitting all their junior program on the courts when running competitions and have ongoing issues with Council in terms of being the major stake holder but often not being able to get the preference times/access they need to enable competition growth and development. • SRNA are happy in their facility and have no plan for growth, however, note that their facility is predominantly used for basketball and there are limited times for access for netball.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	• Currently the LGA does not have enough netball facilities to meet the current needs, or to support future growth, of its netball community. Netball remains the highest female participation team sport in Australia and is also experiencing growth with male participation through mixed and male competitions. The forecasted population growth for Whitehorse City in the next 10 is an increase of over 37, 000 people by 2036. This would see a predicted increase of 639 netball members which equates to an additional 91 teams (refer Forecast Growth tab). The LGA will need to invest in facilities to support this growth. • Indoor facilities support growth in netball participation at all levels and ensures activities can be undertaken without impact from weather. This optimises, and maximises, participation opportunities when compared with outdoor courts. Indoor courts also better support multi-sport participation.
Support for project	• Netball Victoria is happy to provide support for the development of indoor sports centres that support the growth of netball within Whitehorse City.

Calisthenics

Calisthenics Victoria, 5 August 2024

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	• 7,782 participants in Victoria. • 7,725 Female, 57 Male, 5 Non-binary. • 298 within the City of Whitehorse.
Current facilities	• There is currently 1 calisthenics club in the City of Whitehorse, located within an industrial setting to the very east of the municipality. • Out of the 91 Clubs within Victoria, a handful own their own facility, approximately 20 have long-term leases, and the others go year to year – this is unsettling for Clubs.
Issues and challenges	• There are several challenges, including increasing costs and a lack of appropriate spaces with suitable flooring. Most clubs require access to two spaces that can be used simultaneously. When clubs approach local councils for space hire, they often face limited availability, carpeted floors or spaces that are not large enough. Storage is also a common issue.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	From the map below, there is a gap in the City of Whitehorse for facility provision and thus limits the sport's growth.

Discussion Topic	Comments
	
Support for project	• Calisthenics Victoria welcomes additional indoor facility provision to cater to a range of sports and would take up the opportunity to consult on further facility developments to assist in expanding Calisthenics in a fit-for-purpose facility within Whitehorse.

Sport Climbing

Climbing Victoria, 19 August 2024

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	22.50% of recreational climbers are based in Victoria, so the current estimate for climbers in Victoria is ~85,000. The Sport Climbing Australia membership base is mostly competition climbers. Recreation climbers account for 20 to 30 times the membership numbers.
Current facilities	There are some private entrants in the market. They are more commercial rather than a public offering. Need a mix to service a community. Gymnastics is a closer model to climbing with commercial operators leading the market. Two facilities in City of Whitehorse: • Hard Rock Climbing – Dated facility now. Not contemporary. • Urban Blackburn – Best facility in country. Best speed wall in the country. There is an opportunity to invest in certifying the speed wall that would be the only one in Australia.
Issues and challenges	• Events disrupt/impact commercial providers. They don't like to host events. • Fees are high for sport, and operators lose out on hosting events compared to revenue raised for general business.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	• Sport Climbing Australia is looking for an event-focused venue in metropolitan Melbourne. The sports ambition for more event-focused facilities, high performance programming and coaching training centre. Although, if developed in Whitehorse, this would impact current operators. • There could be an opportunity for Council to partner with Urban Blackburn and Sports Climbing Australia. The facility is best placed to support a high-performance program. • Sport Climbing Australia received Victorian Government funding to complete a 'Sport Climbing National Performance Centre Feasibility Study'. The scope of the project included multiple potential sites as areas of interest. At this stage, the Feasibility Study is still progressing through the Victorian Government internal assessment process.
Support for project	Supports further conversation to increase visibility and participation of sport.

Volleyball

Volleyball Victoria, 2 September 2024

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	• There is no affiliated play at facilities in Whitehorse. Volleyball Victoria has unaffiliated volleyball social competition in the area. Mullum Mullum Stadium (Manningham) and Maroondah Volleyball has a large volleyball competition. Most Whitehorse residents will access these facilities, which are nearing capacity. • Volleyball participation has doubled in the last five years and high interest through the school program. Appeals to broad audience to the sport including multi-cultural, gender diverse, adaptive (disability) volleyball and school volleyball across diverse cultures. Volleyball is seeking to translate school play to local competition and pathways. Most growth is metropolitan based. • State league competition has now grown to about 244 teams. Premier, State League and Junior State League. VV developing a primary school aged introductory program. • SSV competition – Primary school over 2000 participants and secondary school 1600 participants. Second highest.
Current facilities	• Nunawading Christian College is utilised for unaffiliated play. • Outside of LGA - Mullum Stadium, Ringwood SC and Templestowe College, Waverley Christian College, Donvale Christian College, MLC Kew, Templestowe College.
Issues and challenges	• Understanding the 'real' participation number of Volleyball within the State and LGA's as there is so much unaffiliated play occurring. Translating uncaptured data to complete a true demand analysis Is not easy.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	• Support a 'location-driven Association' that starts with competitions and then develops into training and programming. Volleyball Victoria would assist in creating these Associations. • Mildura Stadium and Maroondah Volleyball Stadium support two-to-one court configurations and pole location to host tournament events. Benchmark design examples that support flexible programming for volleyball programming.
Support for project	• Advocates for another facility with access to multiple courts to support participation and team growth in Whitehorse, with a local affiliated Association to support provision of the sport.

Table Tennis

Table Tennis Victoria, 30 August 2024

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	• There are 5,500 registered players within Victoria. There would be much higher participation numbers as there are unaffiliated clubs for social and competition throughout the State. • Registered table tennis players within the City of Whitehorse are 183. • There is however, a much higher number of approximately 1,300 documented by a local table tennis representative within the City of Whitehorse which consists of a small portion of competition and larger social participation.
Current facilities	• Mahoneys Reserve, Eley Park, St Phillips Church (in Mount Waverley which is outside LGA).
Issues and challenges	• Unaffiliated play is much larger, and therefore hard to capture data. • There is no dedicated table tennis facility within the municipality, however the demographic of Whitehorse supports the sport.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	• TTV agrees there is a need for an Association run competition facility of about 20 tables and support local Association position and advocacy. • There is also a commercial opportunity at Forest Hill Chase (Haben are the owners) – Table Tennis Victoria would run a commercial entertainment venue of 7-9 tables that

Discussion Topic	Comments
	support social recreation play, but also where clubs can book and TTV can run programs.
Support for project	• Yes, alongside further investigating if the commercial opportunity is viable.

Futsal

Futsal Victoria, 2 September 2024

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	• The East of Whitehorse has a high participation in social futsal. • The participation in football has doubled in Whitehorse in the last 10 years (2014 - 791 players; 2023 – 1,057 and fairly sure this has increased again, particularly girls and women participation and mini roos and junior teams). The current clubs will not have capacity to support this participation on outdoor sports fields too. The growth of the game requires access to Futsal competition and venues. • Futsal grows the game. Encouraging clubs to have Futsal teams that will support growth of participation in clubs and not being reliant. • Demographic of Whitehorse supports Futsal participation. Futsal is popular in Asia.
Current facilities	• Sportlink, Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre. • Outside of the LGA Oakleigh Recreation Centre, Mount Evelyn, Nets and Springers in Dandenong also have high futsal participation programs.
Issues and challenges	• The biggest challenge to the sport is access to venues. It is a struggle to host tournaments because of lack of venues. Access to more facilities is required.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	• By increasing futsal participation, it leads to growth in soccer and overall engagement with the world sport. • Football Victoria support multi-sport venues and seek Futsal access to facilities. Seek goals and lines (40m x 20m wide).
Support for project	• By increasing Futsal participation, it leads to growth in soccer and overall engagement with the world sport.

Cricket

Cricket Victoria, 23 August 2024

Discussion Topic	Comments
Participation profile	Whitehorse indoor cricket participation is played at Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre. It is an unaffiliated competition with Cricket Victoria and therefore participant numbers are unknown. Whitehorse cricket participation in outdoor cricket has increased over the last three years: • Junior and Master Blaster participants – 313 to 891 • Junior cricket players – 2054 to 6026 • Senior cricket players – 2797 (Current only). We assume that with the increase in outdoor cricket players, there is a growing demand for indoor cricket competitions. Girls' Sport Victoria (GSV): • Number of indoor competitions: 5 (Senior A / Intermediate A&B / Junior A&B) • Year levels in each competition: 7&8 / 9&10 / 11&12 • Number of teams in Inner East Metro Region: 39 • Number of participants in Inner East Metro Region: 390 • Venue: Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre.

Discussion Topic	Comments
	Eastern Independent Schools of Melbourne (EISM) • Number of indoor competitions: 8 (4 male and 4 female) • Year levels in each competition: 7 / 8 / 9 / 10-12 • Number of teams in Inner East Metro Region Female: 15 • Number of teams in Inner East Metro Region Male: 19 • Number of participants in Inner East Metro Region Female: 150 • Number of participants in Inner East Metro Region Male: 190 • Associations place teams within the indoor competition program to continue cricket participation year-round, however data is hard to capture as this is not affiliated with Cricket Victoria.
Current facilities	• The provision of facilities within the City of Whitehorse are private/commercial providers. • Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre only hosts competition; pre-season indoor training for local clubs is not available. • Century Cricket Blackburn – private 24/7 membership and training facility.
Issues and challenges	• The two facilities in the municipality do not cater to pre-season training, so Clubs travel outside of the LGA for this.
Gaps and opportunities for indoor sports facility provision	• Cricket Australia's Strategic Plan 2022-27 is targeting to attract kids (ages 5-12) and families from all backgrounds to inspire a lifelong love of cricket. Cricket Victoria is following this strategic direction too. • There is a gap in available space to build new facilities therefore, schools are seen as an opportunity for multi-use spaces for use during evenings and weekends.
Support for project	• Multi-use spaces, or enclosed/roofed outdoor nets.

1.24 Sports Clubs and Associations Feedback

Stakeholder interviews were conducted with the following Associations and Clubs and the following information was captured.

Nunawading Basketball Association

Nunawading Basketball Association (NBA) is one of Australia's oldest and most successful basketball Associations and for the past 50 years has managed the Nunawading Basketball Centre. Nunawading Basketball is now the largest Association in Australia with 12,279 registered players across beginner programs, domestic competitions and representative programs, with over 1,100 teams. Nunawading Basketball has consistently grown at nearly double the state average over the past 10 years, which has resulted in a significant increase in demand and as a result, a severe shortage in court capacity.

The following table lists the facilities the Nunawading Basketball Association and associated Clubs utilise for training and competition.

Table 12: Facility List for Nunawading Basketball Association and Associated Clubs

Facility	Number of Courts	Compliance	Competition	Training	Teams/Associations
Nunawading Basketball Centre	5	No	Yes	Yes	NBA, Kangas, Vultures
Forest Hill College	2	No	Yes	Yes	NBA, Kangas, Vultures
The Knox School	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	NBA, Vultures, Kangas
The Rings	4	No	Yes		NBA
Sportlink	3 out of 4	Yes	Yes	Yes	NBA, Kangas

Facility	Number of Courts	Compliance	Competition	Training	Teams/Associations
Norwood Secondary	2	Yes	Yes		NBA
Brentwood Secondary	1	No	Yes	Yes	NBA, Waverley
Heathmont Secondary	1	No	Yes		NBA
Huntingtower College	1	No	Yes	Yes	NBA, Huntingtower Heat
Mulgrave Primary	1	No	Yes	Yes	NBA, E.Bees, Mulgrave Mumbas, Waverley
Roberts McCubbin Primary	1	No	Yes		NBA
Wheelers Hill Secondary	1	No	Yes	Yes	NBA, Syndal Storm, Raiders
Wesley College	1 mid-week, 2 Friday night	No	Yes	Yes	NBA, Vultures
Rangeview Primary	1	No	Yes		NBA
Essex Heights PS	1	No		Yes	Ashwood Wolves
Donvale Christian College	1	No		Yes	Donvale Dunkers
Glendal PS	1	No		Yes	E.Bees
Huntingtower	1	No			
Mullauna College	1	No		Yes	NBA, Kangas, Vultures
Nunawading Christian College	1	No		Yes	Kangas
Blackburn Lake PS	1	No		Yes	Kangas
Vermont PS	1	No		Yes	Vultures
Vermont SC	1	No		Yes	Vultures
Eva Burrows College	1	No	Yes	Yes	NBA, Vultures
Wattle Park PS	1	No		Yes	Saints
Laburnum PS	1	No		Yes	Saints
Box Hill Senior Secondary	1	No		Yes	Saints
Jells Park Primary	1	No		Yes	Waverley
Brandon Park	1	No		Yes	Waverley
Mount View PS	1	No		Yes	Raiders
Holy Family School	1	No		Yes	Wildcats
Blackburn PS	1	No		Yes	Kangas
Kingswood College	1	No		Yes	Kangas

The Association has entered into a number of agreements for exclusive use. These agreements are in place at Forest Hill College, Mullauna College and The Knox School. Each of these venues are available to NBA at the times required (Mullauna and Knox not currently used on Sundays). To secure these partnerships the NBA contributes to the annual maintenance of the facility including floor re-sealing and have also invested capital with new backboards/rings/seating.

The Association's greatest challenge is that the demand for basketball participation is outstripping the current court supply, specifically compliant courts. As the above table shows, most of the courts are non-compliant due to limited court run-off, which proves a safety hazard for players and referees. The security/safety of these utilising single-court facilities is also of concern for the Association.

Whitehorse Netball Association

The Whitehorse Netball Association (WNA) conducts all their programs at Sportlink which has 4 indoor courts and 4 outdoor under-cover courts.

The following programs are hosted by WNA at Sportlink:

- Saturday all ages competition – 8 courts (inside 4 courts used until 6pm, outside courts used until 3pm) – over 1,500 players.
- Monday NetSetGo competition 4pm-6pm on 4 indoor courts. Outside courts used for club training. Representative training on 2-3 inside courts – 11 teams.

– Saturday and Monday competitions host 160 teams = 1,600 players.

- Tuesday mid-week ladies' competition. Representative training at night – 11 teams.
- Wednesday mid-week ladies' competition 9am-11am on two inside courts – 40 players. Walking netball 10am-11am court – up to 20 players.
- Thursday mid-week ladies' competition 9am-11am on two inside courts – 40 players. Adult night competition 7pm-10pm. 380 players on 4 indoor and 1 outdoor court.

Outdoor courts are not at full capacity. Currently inline skating and pickleball utilise some outdoor courts when not in use by WNA.

WNA has an inspiration for a WNL team. However, a facility with appropriate support facilities (amenities and spectator seating) would be required. If the redevelopment of Nunawading Basketball Centre was to offer multi-use courts, WNA would consider a decentralised facility for netball provision in order to grow the sport both in participation and elite programming.

Koonung Comets

The Koonung Comets have a membership base of 1,000 registered players, with a male to female participation ratio of 70:30. Their goal is to increase female participation, to a more balanced gender ration closer to 50:50.

The Club currently utilises the facilities listed below:

- **Koonung Secondary College**: Single court, available 4 nights a week for training and Saturdays for games.
- **Mont Albert**: Four nights of training after 6:00pm; limited by low roof and lack of run-off space, meaning no games can be played there.
- **Box Hill Senior Secondary College**: Two nights for training (Tuesdays and Thursdays) and all-day Saturdays for games.
- **Whitehorse Primary School**: Previously used for Saturday games, but the Club has lost access due to ongoing construction works (outside the catchment area).
- **Doncaster Secondary College**: Located outside the Whitehorse area, used midweek for netball and badminton after 6:00pm, and double courts are available on Saturdays for games.

The Club is experiencing challenges in securing additional court space in the City of Whitehorse and surrounds. They are only able to access courts if a cancellation occurs within another booking. The Nunawading Basketball Stadium is too far away from Koonung, and they currently do not play with the Association's competition, so the upgrade to this facility will not affect the Club and their ability to access additional court space.

The Club raised the long-term impact consideration of the proposed Suburban Rail Loop and that the associated urban planning will increase local population density, particularly in areas like Mont Albert and Doncaster Hill, putting additional pressure on court availability. More high-rise developments and population growth in these areas will affect court demand.

The Club is actively advocating for facility expansion at Koonung Secondary College.

Nunawading Gymnastic Club

Nunawading Gymnastic Club is located in a Council facility at Walker Park, 413-425 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading. The Club has seen significant growth since returning from COVID-19, with a stable enrolment base of between 500-550 participants. Key factors for their growth are considered to be:

- Clear vision for the Club, with better governance and management in place.
- Tailored service with a variety of program offerings.
- Encouragement and active involvement from the Club community.

The current programs on offer are:

- KinderGym: 132 participants (87 female and 45 male)
- Gymnastics for All (GFA): levels 1-11
- Recreation Gymnastics: 224 participants
- Acrobatics: State and national level with 19 participants
- WAG (Women's Artistic Gymnastics): 47 participants
- Rhythmic Gymnastics: 41 participants
- MAG (Men's Artistic Gymnastics): 11 participants
- GymStar: Specific to Gymnastics Victoria, 92 participants.

Their concern with the current facility is that it is ageing and dated. The existing facility has limitations, as there is only one sprung floor, and the rhythmic gymnastics program uses a soft foam floor for competitions. Due to the facility's limitations, such as the low ceiling height, lack of high-level equipment and seating for spectators, they can only host junior gymnastics competitions up to Level 2.

When planning for a new facility, the Club would like the following considered:

- Expansion of footprint due to general population growth and growth of the sport.
- Two sprung floors and a dedicated rhythmic gymnastics area.
- Consideration of satellite venues currently not in use: the Club requires a facility specific venue with a high ceiling for advanced training.
- Foam pit is required for higher-level gymnastics (they are currently using other clubs' facilities for this).
- Walker Park is ideal due to the proximity to other sports and public transport.

Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association

The Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association (ESCTTA) is the only table tennis organisation affiliated within the City of Whitehorse with Table Tennis Victoria. There are a number of non-affiliated social table tennis competitions and private organisations running coaching programs.

Within Whitehorse and surrounding areas there is currently no central venue for table tennis competition. The ESCTTA hires the following four venues:

- Mahoneys Reserve, Forest Hill – 4 tables for competition/5 tables for social play.
- Eley Park Community Centre – 3 tables.
- Sportlink Vermont South – 3 tables.
- St Philips Church, Mount Waverly – 3 tables.

The lack of a central location limits the number of players they can accommodate and is a major barrier to introducing a junior competition and catering for community groups, schools and individuals who wish to play in a social setting.

Given the size of the existing facilities there are constraints on the number of tables that can be set up. As a consequence, instead of having a single fixed night on which to compete, players must compete on different nights of the week over the course of a season and may play on a Tuesday, Wednesday or even a Thursday night. This means that some people are prevented from playing due to work, family or other commitments.

During finals when all Grades must compete on the same night, ESCTTA must hire the use of the Kilsyth Table Tennis Centre, and all competing players and spectators must travel a considerable distance (on average about 20 km) to the venue.

Creation of a single venue for table tennis in Whitehorse would address many of these issues, allow for increased participation by Whitehorse residents and provide a more streamlined experience for participants.

Table tennis could be included in a multi-purpose venue, but table tennis would need their own space within the venue due to both the OH&S issues of setting up and packing away the 120kg tables and the potential damage to the tables during this process.

Contemporary table tennis venues require a PVC foam backed flooring that is anti-slip and cushioning for any movement, lessening strain on the players body or injury caused by accidental falls. All the sections of flooring are welded together to prevent any slipping hazards, so is unable to be packed up. The flooring is unsuitable for most of the sports identified for the indoor sports facility, except for badminton.

The following tables detail the current facilities, programs participation numbers and key facility issues.

Table 13: Mahoneys Reserve Facility

Facility Name	Day	Hours of Use	Type of Activity	Number of participants	Organisation
Mahoneys Reserve – Forest Hill • 4 tables for competition • 5 tables for social	Monday	Evening	Social & community play	20	Private
	Tuesday	Morning Afternoon	Social Social	21 21	Whitehorse Activity Club
	Wednesday	Afternoon Evening	Social Social	20 20	Whitehorse Activity Club St Johns
	Thursday	Evening	Competition	32	ESCTTA
	Friday	Morning Afternoon Evening	Training and coaching	23 20 20	Whitehorse Activity Club Whitehorse Activity Club Private
	Saturday	Afternoon Evening	Social competition	15 20	ICC Balwyn United table Tennis
	Sunday	Evening	Social	60	DPC table tennis Association

- The Association currently pays the Committee of Management, the Northern Pavilion Association, $30 per night for the use of the hall.

Table 14: Eley Park Community Centre

Facility Name	Day	Hours of Use	Type of Activity	Number of participants	Organisation
Eley Park Community Centre • 3 tables	Tuesday	Evening	Pennant A Grade Comp	16	ESCTTA
	Wednesday	Evening	Pennant B Grade Comp	16 21	ESCTTA

- The Association pays approximately $5,000 per annum ($110 per night) rental for the use of the Eley Park facility.
- The floor surface has a concrete surface covered in vinyl which can be slippery if not cleaned regularly.
- Lighting level is sufficient, however is below contemporary standards.
- The facility has limited storage that is difficult to access.
- Tables were being damaged by social functions using the tables.

Table 15: Sportlink

Facility Name	Day	Hours of Use	Type of Activity	Number of participants	Organisation
Sportlink Vermont South • 3 tables	Monday	Evening	Competition	78	Private MSTT
				5	Mullauna College Coaching
	School holidays			30/32 3 days per week of school holidays	

Table 16: St Philips Church

Facility Name	Day	Hours of Use	Type of Activity	Number of participants	Organisation
St Philips Church, Blackburn South • 3 tables	Wednesday	Evening	Pennant C Grade Comp	15	ESCTTA

- The Association currently pays $30 per night for the use of the hall.

Social competition and coaching activities are undertaken at the following venues:

Table 17: Facilities that host Social and Coaching Table Tennis Activities

Facility Name	Day	Hours of Use	Type of Activity	Number of participants	Organisation
Box Hill Baptist Church	Monday Friday	Evening	Social	20	Private
Deakin University	Monday-Friday	Afternoon/ Evening		122	Private
Scorpio Table Tennis Academy			Coaching only	223 coached	Private
Box Hill Table Tennis Club			Coaching only – primary school aged	60	Private
The Disruptor Coach – Vermont Primary School			Primary aged coaching	45	Private

In the City of Whitehorse, more than 1,250 people play table tennis, either competitively or socially, or are coached every week for around 48 weeks of the year. All this without a dedicated venue and no junior players.

There are approximately 100 TTV members playing in Whitehorse. Official State figures will be lower if members have paid for their membership through other Associations. Most players in Whitehorse are not TTV members. Many players play multiple times during the week and may pay their fees at different locations, their membership is then tied to that Association.

There are no facilities within Whitehorse for children to play table tennis outside their school. All juniors are required to travel at least 20km (Kilsyth, Dandenong, MSAC) to participate.

Within the ESCTTA, 58% of their playing cohort is made up of people of Asian background. This is proportionally larger than the percentage of the Asian population in Whitehorse and reflects the popularity of this sport within that community. The are concerns by members that limited Council rates are being expended on table tennis facilities.

ESCTTA proposed possible options for the location of a dedicated table tennis facility. They are:

- Aqualink Box Hill, either location off former outdoor pool or at the end of the existing indoor courts.
- Surrey Park, adjacent to the baseball diamond.

1.25 Clubs and Associations Feedback

Local Whitehorse City Council sporting clubs and associations were directly invited to participate in a Local Sporting Clubs online survey.

There were 29 complete responses received from the following clubs and associations:

- Balwyn United Table Tennis Incorporated
- Blackburn Calisthenics College
- Blackburn Tai Chi Academy
- Burwood United Gymnastics Squad (BUGS Gymnastics)
- Camberwell District Basketball Association
- Camberwell Dragons- over 30's basketball
- Celestial Tai Chi College
- Deakin Badminton Club
- Deakin Table Tennis Club
- Eastern Gymnastics Club
- Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association
- Koonung Comets Basketball Club Inc
- Mark Smythe Table Tennis
- Mitcham Basketball Club*
- Mitcham Thunder Basketball Club
- Nunawading Basketball
- Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club Inc
- Nunawading Kangas Basketball Club
- Playball Basketball
- Respect Sports Incorporated
- Slater Reserve Netball Association
- St James Netball Club
- Syndal Storm
- The Disruptor Club Incorporated
- The Whitehorse Club
- Thornburn Ladies' Badminton Association Incorporated (TLBA)
- Victorian Fencing Academy
- Whitehorse Activities Club Incorporated (WAC)
- Whitehorse Netball Association.

*Mitcham Badminton Club is not a club but a private twelve-court badminton venue.

Membership

Clubs and Associations were asked to provide their membership figures for 2019/20 and 2023/24, categorised by male, female, and non-binary members at both junior and senior levels.

Table 18: Association Membership Figures 2019/20 and 2023/24

Associations	2019/20							2023/24						
	Junior Men/ Boys	Junior Women /Girls	Junior Non-Binary	Senior Men/ Boys	Senior Women /Girls	Senior Non-Binary	Total	Junior Men/ Boys	Junior Women /Girls	Junior Non-Binary	Senior Men/ Boys	Senior Women /Girls	Senior Non-Binary	Total
Balwyn United Table Tennis Incorporated	36	6	0	29	11	0	**82**	28	9	0	25	7	0	**69**
Burwood United Gymnastics Squad (BUGS Gymnastics)	64	398	3	0	13	0	**478**	50	423	2	0	10	0	**485**
Camberwell District Basketball Association	0	0	0	0	-	0	**8**	0	0	0	0	0	0	**8**
Camberwell Dragons- over 30's basketball	0	0	0	0	50	0	**50**	0	0	0	0	50	0	**50**
Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association	3	0	-	75	6	-	**81**	0	0	0	58	6	0	**64**
Nunawading Basketball Association	6,366	1,909	2	3,248	742	12	**12,279**	5,197	1,680	5	2,666	595	7	**10,150**
Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club Inc	84	459	-	3	6	-	**552**	0	0	0	0	0	0	**356**
Playball Basketball	232	117	0	0	0	0	**349**	246	255	0	0	0	0	**501**
Respect Sports Inc	0	0	0	143	61	0	**204**	0	0	0	126	48	0	**174**
Slater Reserve Netball Association	0	0	0	0	50	0	**50**	0	0	0	0	55	0	**55**
Thornburn Ladies' Badminton Association Inc. (TLBA)	0	0	0	0	63	0	**63**	0	0	0	0	73	0	**73**
Whitehorse Netball Association	10	1850	10	40	340	0	**2,300**	100	1,900	10	60	320	0	**2,040**

Table 19: Clubs Membership Figures 2019/20 and 2023/24

Clubs	2019/20							2023/24						
	Junior Men/ Boys	Junior Women /Girls	Junior Non-Binary	Senior Men/ Boys	Senior Women /Girls	Senior Non-Binary	Total	Junior Men/ Boys	Junior Women /Girls	Junior Non-Binary	Senior Men/ Boys	Senior Women /Girls	Senior Non-Binary	Total
Blackburn Calisthenics College	0	140	0	0	80	0	**220**	0	100	0	0	60	0	**160**
Blackburn Tai Chi Academy	0	0	0	12	14	0	**26**	-	-	-	11	8	-	**17**
Celestial Tai Chi College	0	0	0	98	146	0	**244**	-	-	-	93	114	-	**207**
Deakin Badminton Club	0	0	0	40	20	0	**50-60**	20-30	20-30	-	80-100	60-80	-	**200**
Deakin Table Tennis Club	0	0	0	51	10	4	**65**	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Eastern Gymnastics Club	71	454	3	0	0	0	**525**	-	-	-	-	-	-	**550**
Koonung Comets Basketball Club Inc	703	296	1	0	0	0	**1,000**	579	213	0	0	0	0	**792**
Mark Smythe Table Tennis	19	3	0	48	8	0	**78**	16	2	-	50	10	-	**78**
Mitcham Badminton Club	-	-	-	-	-	-	**409**	-	-	-	-	-	-	**512**
Mitcham Thunder Basketball Club	350	45	0	0	0	0	**395**	390	50	-	-	-	-	**390**
Nunawading Kangas Basketball Club	519	232	1	16	7	1	**776**	582	110	0	16	8	0	**716**
St James Netball Club	2	178	0	0	10	0	**189**	1	123	0	0	14	0	**137**
Syndal Storm	0	0	0	15	7	0	**22**	50	20	0	40	10	0	**120**
The Disruptor Club Incorporated	30	28	0	0	0	0	**45**	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
The Whitehorse club	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	20	10	0	**30**
Victorian Fencing Academy	12	3	0	0	0	0	**15**	8	3	0	0	0	0	**11**
Whitehorse Activities Club Inc (WAC)	0	0	0	150	300	0	**450**	0	0	0	200	400	0	**600**

Membership Changes

Respondents were asked to report whether their membership had increased, remained stable, or decreased in recent years, along with an explanation for the change.

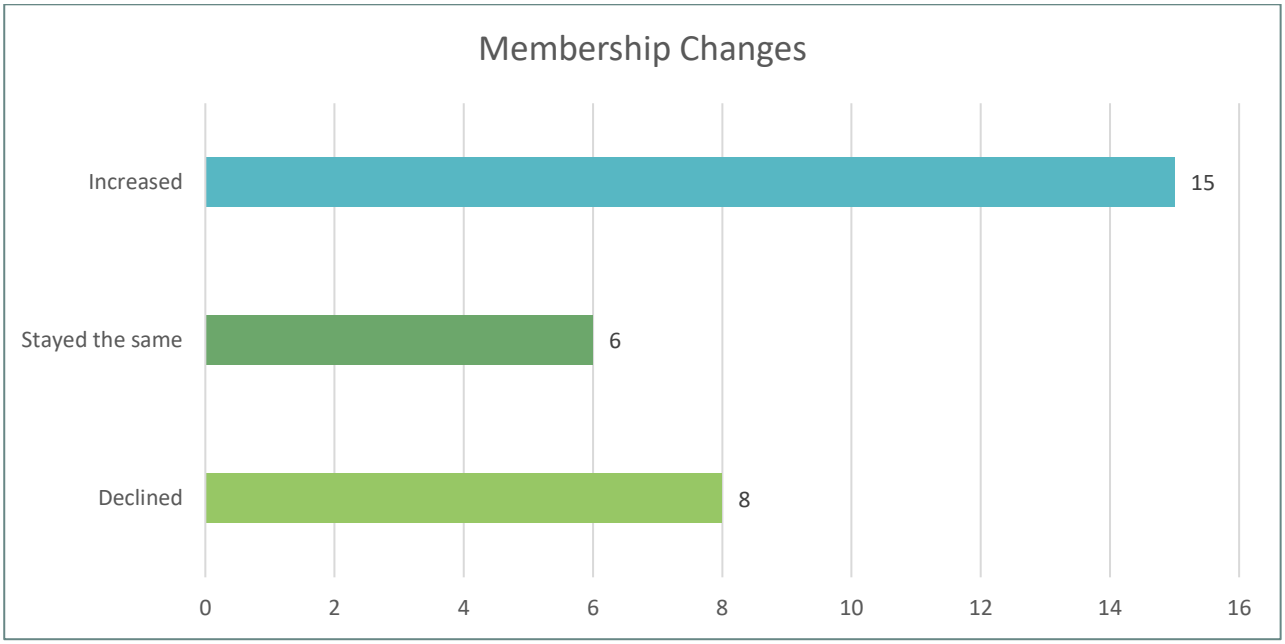


Figure 10: Membership Changes

The following themes emerged from clubs and associations who responded that their membership **increased**:

- Increased focus on engaging younger members and expanding youth development programs.
- Ongoing efforts to enhance program offerings, incorporating member feedback, and providing inclusive opportunities for all.
- Improved access to facilities or resources, allowing for greater participation.
- Growing interest in health and wellness initiatives as part of the club's offerings.
- Efforts to include diverse community members, such as new residents, and providing flexible options to accommodate different needs.
- Moving bookings online has made a significant difference in increasing membership.

The following themes emerged from clubs and associations who responded that their membership **declined:**

- The rising cost of living has impacted members' ability to participate.
- Competition from other local associations and new sports centres has drawn members away.
- An ageing membership base that is not being replaced by younger participants.
- Members struggling to manage their time due to work, study commitments, or energy levels.
- Lack of adequate facilities, equipment, and capacity to meet current demands.

Sports Represented

The survey responses included the following sports along with the number of clubs/associations for each sport:

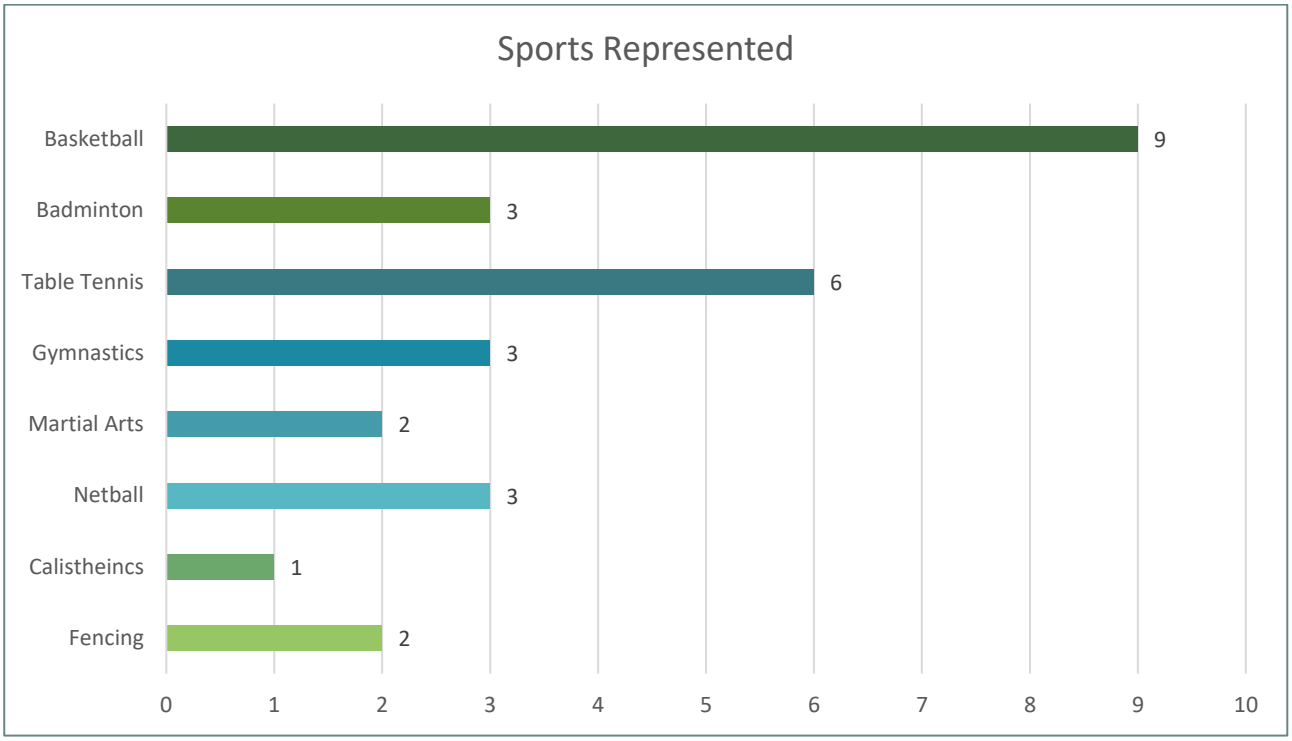


Figure 11: Sports Represented

The graph shows that:

- Basketball is the most popular sport, as 32.1% of all respondents reported participating in it.
- Table Tennis follows as the second most popular sport with 21.4%, while Netball, Badminton and Gymnastics all represented by 10.7% of respondents each.

Emerging Trends

The following table details themes that can be identified as emerging trends for each sport.

Table 20: Emerging Trends

Sport	Emerging Trends
Basketball	• An increase in women returning to sports post-COVID-19, with a greater emphasis on safety over competitiveness. • Participants are seeking local opportunities to play, and there are challenges in securing venues, particularly due to high costs and the need to finish games earlier. • The rising cost of living and lack of support in the sport are contributing to reduced participation. • A decline in participation during the winter months as children shift to playing other sports. • Growing interest in weeknight competitions, especially from cultural groups that have scheduling conflicts on weekends, leading to challenges in accommodating training sessions due to limited space.
Badminton	• Challenges in attracting younger members due to scheduling conflicts (unavailability during the day) and differences in preferences (lack of interest in social-oriented formats of play).

Sport	Emerging Trends
	• Increasing membership due to moving bookings online.
Table Tennis	• A lack of suitable venue is preventing the offering of junior competitions, despite significant interest from parents and players at a basic skill level. • Current use of school gym facilities is restricted to after-school hours, and there is a need for more flexible access to other facilities. • Members primarily use public or active transport to access venues. While play is mostly social, there is a growing interest in more structured training. • Increased immigrant participation is noted, which might reflect in increased demand.
Gymnastics	• Emphasis on catering to the specific strengths and weaknesses of each gymnast, with a focus on adjusting training methods to suit individual needs. • Prioritising the creation of a welcoming and inclusive community for families, ensuring that gymnasts feel safe and comfortable participating. • A trend towards more casual attendance rather than consistent, competitive involvement. • The rising costs of participation are making it increasingly difficult for some families to sustain involvement in gymnastics.
Martial Arts	• A growing commitment to martial arts as a means of improving personal wellbeing.
Netball	• There is a significant decline in participation among girls aged over 16, with about half of those previously registered not continuing to play in the open categories. • A growing number of players prefer playing during the day, as it better accommodates family responsibilities, rather than opting for evening or Saturday games.
Fencing	• Reduced interest in competition.

Facility Satisfaction

Clubs and associations were asked to rate their satisfaction with their main venue on a five-point scale. Following are the results.

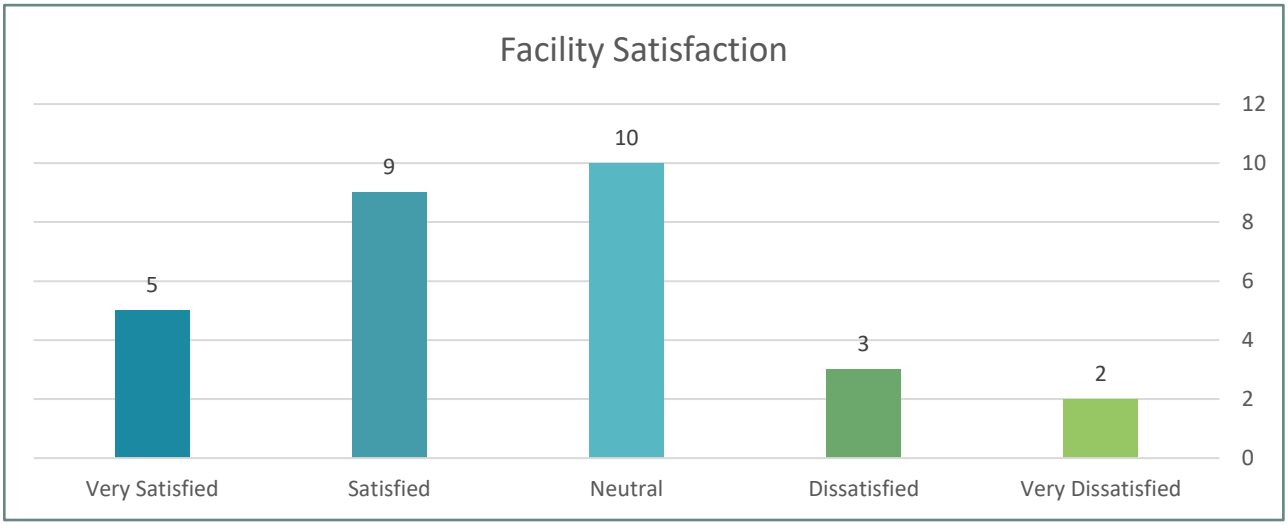


Figure 12: Facility Satisfaction

The graph indicates the following:

- Of the total respondents, 48.2% were “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with the facilities at their main venue.
- A total of 34% were “Neutral” about the facilities.
- Only 17.2% of the total respondents reported feeling “Dissatisfied” or “Very Dissatisfied” with the facilities at their main venue.

Positive feedback

- **Whitehorse Activities Club** were satisfied with their current venue, stating that it meets their needs.
- **Camberwell Dragons - over 30's basketball** appreciated the location of their facilities.
- **Playball Basketball** mentioned satisfaction with the quality of lighting at their venue.
- **Respect Sports Inc** noted that while lighting is generally good, summer conditions can be challenging due to the glass walls, but overall, they are satisfied.
- **Thornburn Ladies' Badminton Association Inc. (TLBA)** were very satisfied with their facilities, describing them as "*very good*".

Areas of Concern

Clubs and associations were asked to select the reasons behind their "Dissatisfied" or "Very Dissatisfied" ratings, and the following were the results.

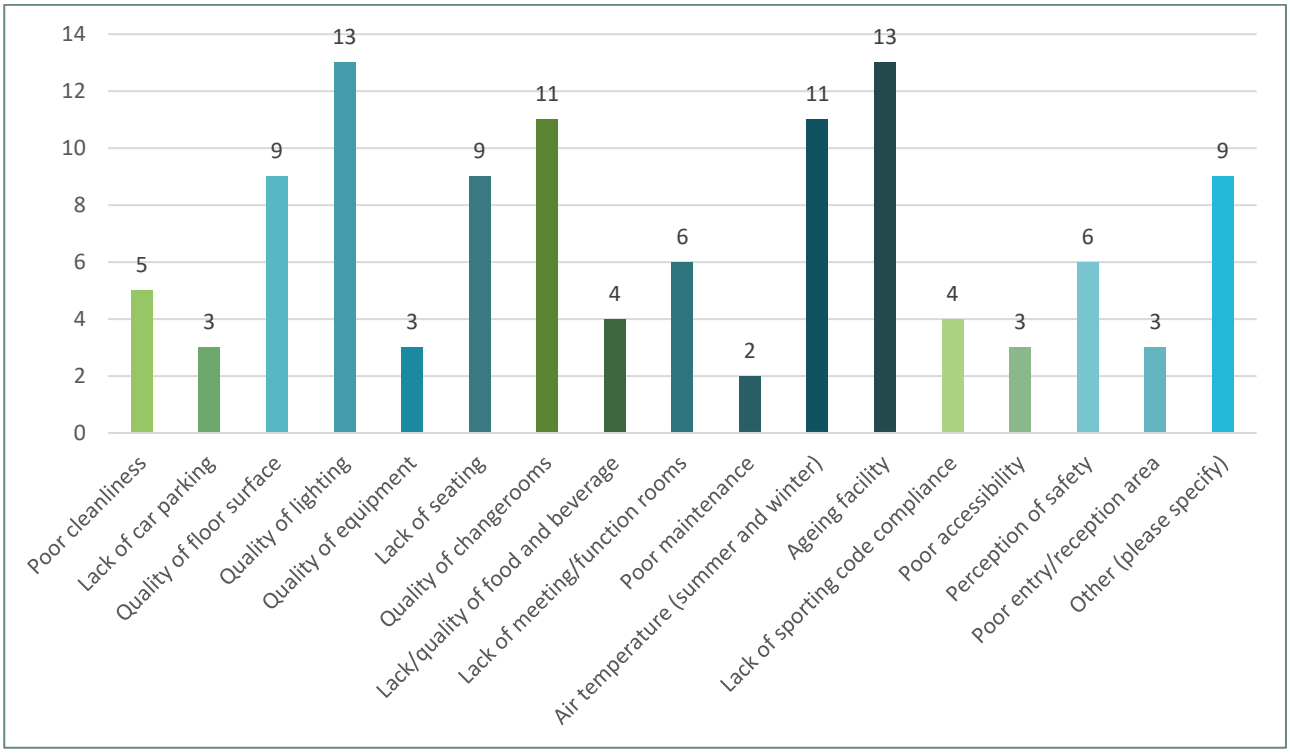


Figure 13: Areas of Concern

The graph indicates:

- A significant concern among respondents was the quality of lighting, with 11.4% of respondents identifying this as a major issue.
- It was tied with concerns about ageing facilities, with 11.4% of respondents citing it as a significant issue.
- Following closely was the quality of changerooms, and air temperature (summer and winter) each had 9.6% of respondents reporting dissatisfaction.

New or Upgraded Facilities Needed by Sport

Clubs and associations were asked to detail their requirements, either in form of facility upgrades or new facilities to accommodate current and future growth. Following table summarises the response from the clubs categorised by sport.

Table 21: New or Upgraded Facility Requirements

Sport	New or Upgraded Facility Requirements
Basketball	• **Camberwell Dragons -** maintaining the availability of the existing two basketball courts they currently use is of high importance. • **Playball Basketball** suggests upgrading the score tables to a flat surface rather than the current 45-degree angle and recommends changing the flooring to a lighter colour the next time it is sanded back. • **Respect Sports Inc** highlights the need for better lighting, particularly during summer when the glass walls can cause issues, though they note that everything else is satisfactory. • **Camberwell District Basketball Association** stresses the importance of having always functioning scoreboards to ensure smooth game operations. • **Koonung Comets Basketball Club** has need for more courts that meet competition-grade standards to accommodate their growing requirements. • **Nunawading Basketball** indicates a significant demand for at least 10 additional courts in the area to meet the current needs for competition, training and other programs. • **Mitcham Thunder Basketball Club** needs more facilities or renewal contracts that include struggling clubs, with upgrades that promote greater inclusivity. They also advocate for more indoor basketball courts that are managed by the Council in the Whitehorse area. • **Nunawading Kangas Basketball Club** indicates that their needs have grown, competition games have taken over traditional training venues, making it increasingly difficult to find suitable training times and locations. This situation is negatively impacting their ability to foster a strong club spirit, which is vital for the long-term viability of the club. They require help and additional facilities to address this issue. • **Syndal Storm** needs additional facilities to accommodate the rising participation levels.
Badminton	• **Deakin Badminton Club** has a critical need for improved car parking at the Sports Centre. They highlight the safety concerns of walking long distances from distant parking spots to the entrance, especially when accompanied by children, and mention that accidents have occurred due to the lack of footpaths. Additionally, increasing the number of WC (restroom) facilities is important, particularly for women, as there are often long waits for changing or restroom use, which becomes even more problematic when a restroom is out of order. • **Mitcham Badminton Club** mentioned that the lighting and flooring will need to be replaced in the next two years.
Table Tennis	• **Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association** calls for a dedicated venue for table tennis. There are safety concerns associated with setting up and taking down heavy tables, which weigh approximately 120 kg each, leading to injuries and damage. A dedicated area would eliminate the need for frequent table setup and takedown, extending the life of the tables and improving safety. Additionally, they highlight the need for modern PVC foam-backed flooring that is anti-slip and cushioned, which is critical for table tennis. • **The Disruptor Club Incorporated** suggests that obtaining more high-quality tables would greatly benefit the children who play, enhancing their experience. • **Deakin Table Tennis Club** expresses the need for new tables, new barriers and a potential switch of venue to Deakin University Stadium for better facilities. • **Mark Smythe Table Tennis** advocates for red synthetic flooring (such as Taraflex) and improved lighting of approximately 1,000 lux, similar to what other clubs in Melbourne have. They also highlight the need for more space to accommodate additional tables, as their current venue at Sportlink is fully booked and does not allow for expansion. • **Balwyn United Table Tennis Incorporated** identifies the need for better toilet and changing room facilities, as well as an increased seating area to accommodate their members more comfortably.

Sport	New or Upgraded Facility Requirements
Gymnastics	• **Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club Inc** mentioned significant upgrades, including improved amenities, a larger area for equipment, a redesigned entry and administration area, and a building with a higher ceiling. They also require a kitchen, meeting rooms, a square or rectangle-shaped building instead of the current L-shape, and the installation of heating and cooling systems. Additionally, they highlight the need for a proper viewing area, increased storage, disability access, and a designated pick-up and drop-off area. • **Burwood United Gymnastics Squad (BUGS Gymnastics)** is advocating for a larger venue to accommodate growth and provide adequate parent viewing. They also mention that the building is currently in disrepair and that there is limited parking, which needs improvement. • **Eastern Gymnastics Club** identifies the need for a foam pit to enhance training and safety. They also mentioned lower rent to ease financial pressures on the Club.
Netball	• **St James Netball Club** indicated that there is a need for more dedicated indoor netball facilities. The existing indoor venues are heavily booked and often used by other sports like volleyball and pickleball, which can make the playing surface unsafe for netball. The Club calls for the creation of spaces specifically designed and reserved for netball to ensure player safety and adequate availability. • **Slater Reserve Netball Association** highlights the need for infrastructure maintenance and upgrades. For example, updated changerooms and fixed roof leaks. • **Whitehorse Netball Association** indicated a shortage of court availability which may be hindering the ability to cater to the growing number of players. They also requested support from Council to make them the primary tenant at Sportlink.
Calisthenics	• **Blackburn Calisthenics College** reported the need for a home club with three dedicated studio spaces.

Open Comments

Following section summarises the open comments and feedback provided by the clubs and associations.

Increased demand for facilities:

- Multiple clubs and associations (e.g., Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association, Nunawading Basketball, Koonung Comets Basketball Club) mentioned a growing demand for additional and modern sports facilities, particularly for basketball and table tennis.
- Several clubs are advocating for new venues or the expansion of existing ones to accommodate increasing participation across different age groups.

Accessibility and inclusion:

- St James Netball Club points out the need for dedicated facilities for female sports, highlighting the lack of budget allocation and resources compared to male sports. This reflects a broader issue of gender equity in sports facilities.
- Various respondents (e.g., Deakin Table Tennis Club, Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association) call for greater accessibility to facilities for all age groups, including seniors and individuals with disabilities (e.g., through Swish for the visually impaired).
- Emphasis on creating inclusive programs that cater to diverse demographics, including junior coaching, social play for seniors, and women-only events.

Facility upgrades and maintenance:

- Feedback from Nunawading Kangas Basketball Club and Slater Reserve Netball Association indicates a need for upgrades to outdated facilities that do not meet current competition standards. There is a common concern regarding maintenance and improvement of existing venues.

- Mitcham Badminton Club recommended against situating a sports centre near residential areas, as noise issues could become a concern for the community and potentially discourage participation in the sport.

Financial support and resources:

- Several associations, including Mitcham Thunder Basketball Club and Balwyn United Table Tennis, mentioned the need for increased funding and resources to support grassroots clubs and enhance equipment. This includes calls for equitable distribution of financial support across all sports.

Operational challenges:

- Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association and Mark Smythe Table Tennis highlight logistical issues, such as the difficulty and safety risks associated with setting up and packing away table tennis tables, leading to the need for dedicated spaces that minimise these challenges.
- The Disruptor Club notes access restrictions to school facilities outside school hours, limiting adult participation opportunities.
- The Eastern Suburbs and Churches Table Tennis Association would prefer a centralised venue that could host community events, championships and competitions, encouraging community engagement and providing economic benefits to Whitehorse.

Key Findings

Key findings from the survey results are summarised below.

- **Growing membership:** Focus on youth engagement, program expansion, and health and wellness initiatives have driven membership growth. Moving to online bookings has made it easier for people to participate.
- **Declining membership:** Rising costs of living, an ageing membership base, competition from other clubs and inadequate facilities are leading to membership declines. Time constraints from work and study also contribute to declining participation.
- **Satisfaction levels:** While most respondents are generally satisfied with their facilities, concerns remain about lighting, ageing infrastructure and poor equipment conditions.
- **Facility upgrades and expansion:** There is a pressing need for more courts, dedicated spaces for certain sports (like table tennis) and better infrastructure across various clubs. Issues include poor lighting, lack of restrooms and outdated equipment.
- **Dedicated spaces and maintenance:** Many clubs request new or upgraded venues tailored to their specific sports. Common needs include better changerooms, flooring, seating and temperature control. Clubs are advocating for more resources and facilities for female athletes, particularly in netball, highlighting a need for dedicated spaces and budget allocation.
- **Inclusive programs:** Efforts are being made to offer more inclusive opportunities for diverse groups, including women, seniors, juniors and people with disabilities. Clubs emphasise the need for accessible facilities, better parking, seating and lighting to accommodate all members.
- Sport-specific trends and challenges:

  - **Basketball:** High demand for more courts and a growing interest in post-COVID-19 participation among women, but there are challenges with cost, scheduling and venue availability.
  - **Badminton:** Attracting younger members remains a challenge, but online booking has facilitated increased participation.
  - **Table Tennis**: Clubs highlight the need for dedicated venues and better equipment to meet increasing demand.

- **Gymnastics and Netball:** Clubs request venue expansions to accommodate growth, as well as more sport-specific facilities to improve player safety and experience.

- **Operational and funding issues:** Clubs face challenges such as restricted access to venues outside school hours, safety concerns with setting up heavy equipment, and overall lack of space. Clubs seek more financial support, equitable resource distribution, and better maintenance to improve grassroots participation and ensure long-term sustainability.

1.26 School Survey

Local Whitehorse City Council education institutions were directly invited to participate in an online School survey.

There were 19 complete responses received from the following clubs and associations:

- Aurora School
- Blackburn English Language School
- Blackburn Lake Primary School
- Blackburn Primary School
- Box Hill Senior Secondary College
- Burwood East Special Developmental School
- Deakin University
- Kingswood College
- Mitcham Primary School
- Mullauna Secondary College
- Orchard Grove Primary School
- Our Lady of Sion College
- Our Lady's Primary School
- Parkmore primary School
- St James Vermont
- St John's Primary School
- St Philip's Primary School
- St Thomas the Apostle School
- Wattle Park Primary School.

Enrolment numbers

Table 22: Enrolment numbers

Clubs	2019/20							2023/24						
	Junior Men/ Boys	Junior Women /Girls	Junior Non-Binary	Senior Men/ Boys	Senior Women /Girls	Senior Non-Binary	Total	Junior Men/ Boys	Junior Women /Girls	Junior Non-Binary	Senior Men/ Boys	Senior Women /Girls	Senior Non-Binary	Total
St James Vermont	171	179	0	0	0	0	**168**	172	0	0	0	0	350	**340**
Blackburn Primary School	228	212	0	0	0	0	**267**	241	0	0	0	0	440	**508**
Deakin University	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	27,372	**31,975**
Box Hill Senior Secondary College	0	0	0	180	160	2	**0**	0	0	200	150	0	350	**375**
Blackburn Lake Primary School	303	246	0	0	0	0	**250**	271	0	0	0	0	549	**521**
Blackburn English Language School	70	70	0	60	60	0	**70**	70	0	60	60	0	260	**260**
Aurora School	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	300	**260**
Wattle Park Primary School	135	121	0	0	0	0	**193**	185	0	0	0	0	256	**378**
Burwood East Special Developmental School	28	13	0	25	6	0	**33**	7	0	30	6	0	76.8	**79**
St Thomas the Apostle School	102	104	0	0	0	0	**147**	174	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Orchard Grove Primary School	355	293	0	0	0	0	**359**	307	0	0	0	0	648	**666**
St Philip's Primary School	13	17	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**40**	42	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30	**82**
Mitcham Primary School	259	246	0	0	0	0	**221**	213	0	0	0	0	505	**434**
St John's Primary School Mitcham	76	80	NA	NA	NA	NA	**70**	70	NA	NA	NA	NA	156	**140**
Parkmore primary School	62	50	0	0	0	0	**69**	53	0	0	0	0	112	**222**
Our Lady's Primary School	71	68	'-	0	0	0	**104**	71	0	0	0	0	139	**175**
Mullauna Secondary College	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	0	0	591	**0**
Our Lady of Sion College	0	0	0	0	915	5	**0**	0	0	0	960	0	920	**960**
Kingswood College	111	70	0	215	183	0	**67**	56	0	222	186	0	579	**531**

Enrolment Changes

Respondents were asked to report whether their enrolment numbers had increased, remained stable, or decreased in recent years, along with an explanation for the change.

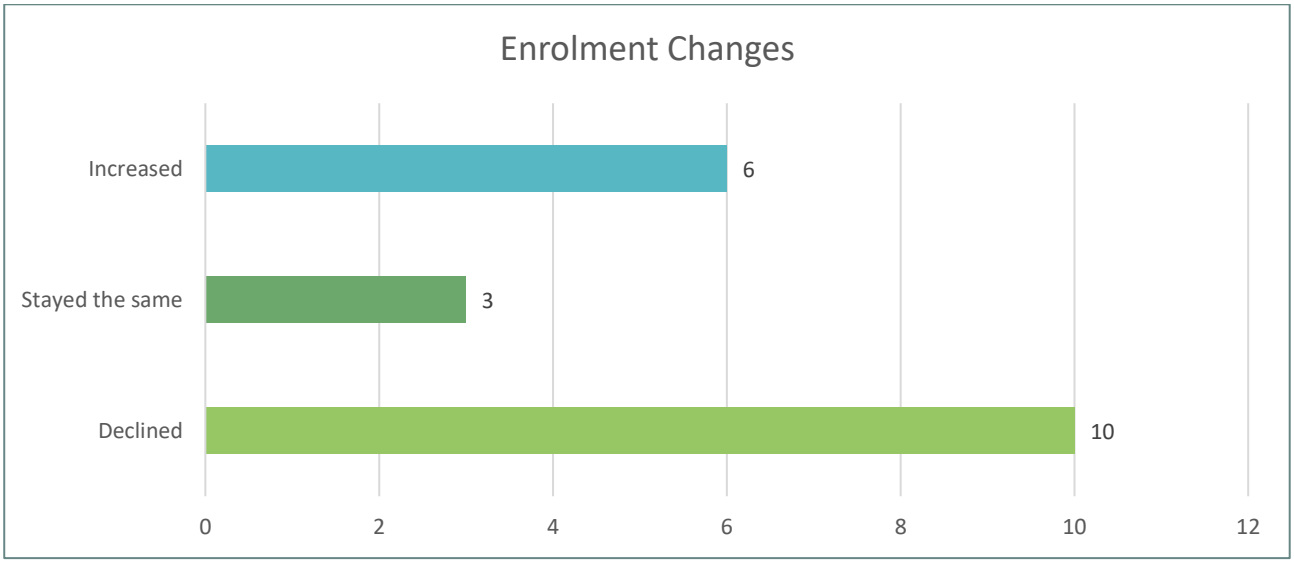


Figure 14: Enrolment Changes

The following themes emerged from schools who mentioned that their enrolment **increased**:

- The school is reaching or nearing its maximum capacity, indicating a high demand for enrolment.
- The school has undergone or plans to undergo improvements and renovations to its facilities, making it more appealing to potential students.
- A growing number of new families are moving into the area, leading to a potential rise in student enrolment.
- The school is adapting its programs and offers to better meet the needs of a shifting demographic, which may be drawing in more students.
- There is an increasing need for specialised language support services for young deaf children and their families, which could attract more students.

The following themes emerged from schools who mentioned that their enrolment **declined**:

- Changes in local residential patterns, including families moving out for affordable housing, declining birth rates, and lack of property development, have reduced the pool of potential students.
- Neighbouring schools with better sports facilities and other amenities are attracting students, making it harder for some schools to compete.
- Economic challenges faced by families, including the lack of affordable housing, have made it difficult for them to enrol their children.
- The school experienced setbacks during the pandemic, such as staffing issues and general direction problems, leading to a decline in enrolment and performance.

Schools with Indoor Sports Courts

Schools were asked to mention if they had indoor sports courts and following with results.

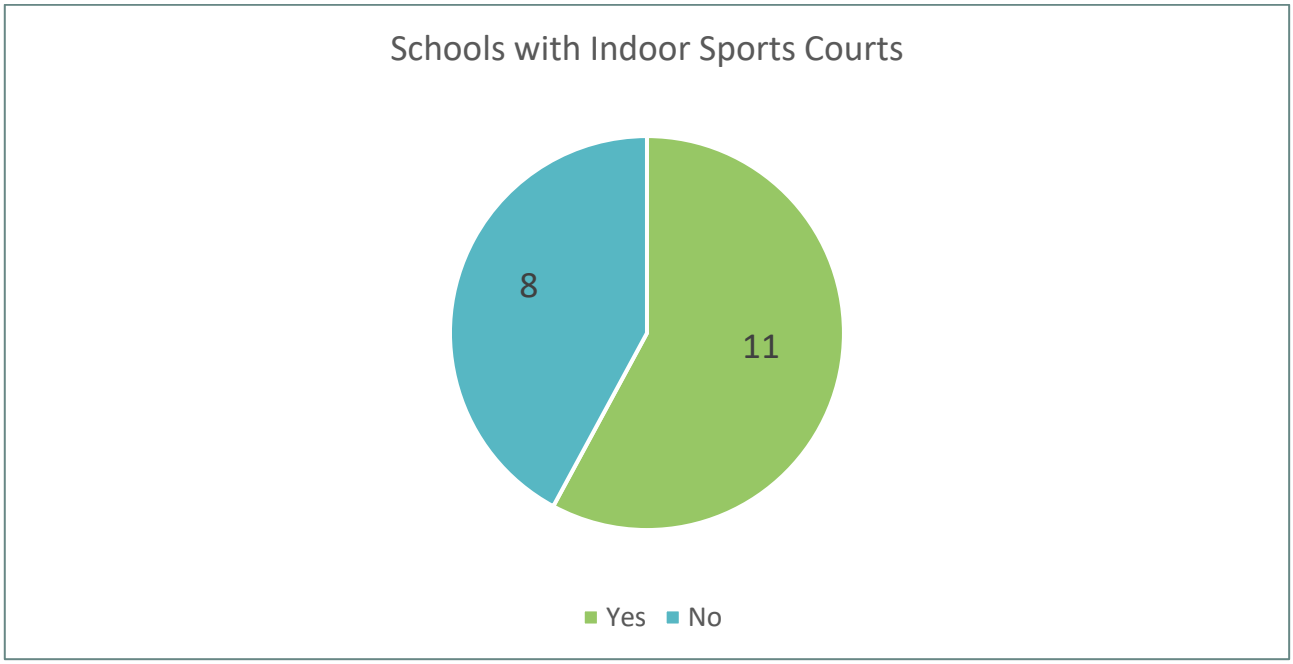


Figure 15: Schools with Indoor Sports Courts

Of the responses, eleven schools reported having indoor courts, while eight did not.

The eleven schools with indoor courts were then asked to specify how many courts they had:

- All but one school indicated that their courts are available for community use.
- Ten schools reported needing more courts to accommodate growing participants while nine schools were satisfied with the number of courts they currently have.
- Eight schools indicated that they use Council facilities. Facilities used included Sportlink, Nunawading Stadium, Vermont Tennis Club and Aqualink. Other facilities mentioned included The Rings, Action Indoor Sports and Melbourne Badminton Centre.

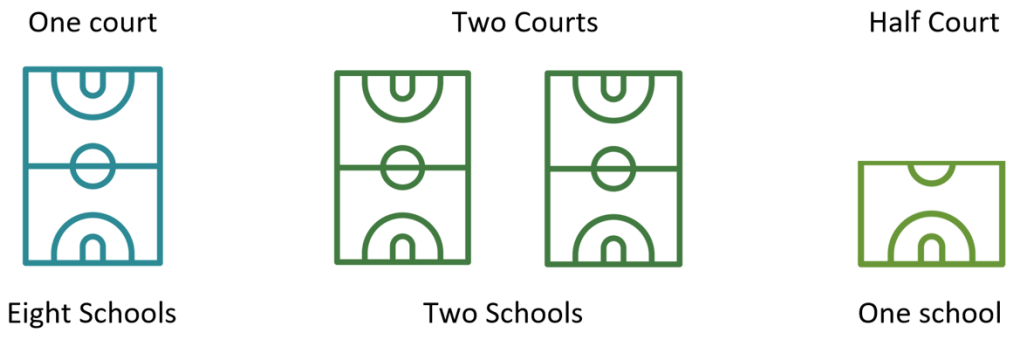


Figure 16: School Indoor Courts

Days and Times for Community Use

Schools were asked to report when their courts are available for community use.

Table 23: Days and Times

School	Days and Times for Community Use
Blackburn Primary School	• Monday to Friday 3:45pm - 10pm • Saturday - Sunday 9am - 6pm
Deakin University	• Weekends 8am - 6pm if available
Box Hill Senior Secondary College	• Indoor Court: Used essentially 7 days a week • Outdoor Tennis Courts: Used 3-4 days per week • Considering a synthetic soccer training pitch but requires support for establishment
Blackburn Lake Primary School	• Monday to Friday 4 - 9pm • Saturday 8am - 5pm • Sunday 8am -12pm
Wattle Park Primary School	• Monday 4pm - 9pm • Tuesday 4pm -7pm • Wednesday 4pm -9pm • Thursday 4pm -9pm • Friday 5pm -7pm • Saturday 8.30am -7pm • Sunday 5.30pm - 8.30pm
Burwood East Special Developmental School	• Monday to Friday 5.30pm - 8pm, Saturday and Sunday all day
Orchard Grove Primary School	• Basketball club - Monday - Friday - 4pm - 9pm and Saturday 9am - 11am • Church hire - Sunday - 9am - 5pm
Mitcham Primary School	• Monday - Friday 3.45pm - 8pm
Mullauna Secondary College	• Monday - Friday 4pm - 9:30pm • Saturday 9am – 5pm
Kingswood College	• Courts have previously been available Monday - Friday 5pm - 9pm and Saturday - Sunday 9am - 5pm, however this is no longer the case due to a directive from the Council following a neighbour complaint. The school is eager to make their facilities accessible to the community again.

Future Facility Needs

Schools were asked to specify their future facility needs and provide reasons for those requirements.

Table 24: Future Facility Needs

Schools	Facilities Needed
Deakin University	• Needs two additional courts in the future to meet growing demand.
Box Hill Senior Secondary College	• Lacks sufficient facilities for its Sports Academy and PE classes. In 2023, the school spent $50,000 on transport and court hire just for the basketball program, highlighting the urgent need for more courts.
Blackburn Lake Primary School	• Has only one basketball court and occasionally needs more space to accommodate activities.
Mitcham Primary School	• Requires at least two full-sized indoor courts to better attract external hirers and local clubs. One court is insufficient for multiple teams, and there is a lack of toilet facilities connected to the existing indoor court.
Mullauna Secondary College	• Faces space limitations, hindering its ability to fully support its sports programs.

Schools	Facilities Needed
Our Lady of Sion College	• Needs an indoor court for weekly Girls Sport Victoria events, such as badminton, volleyball, basketball and netball.
Kingswood College	• Has only one indoor court, which is insufficient due to rising enrolment numbers. The need is especially urgent during the winter and autumn months when outdoor sports are not feasible.

Future Considerations for Facilities

Schools were asked if they would consider the following:

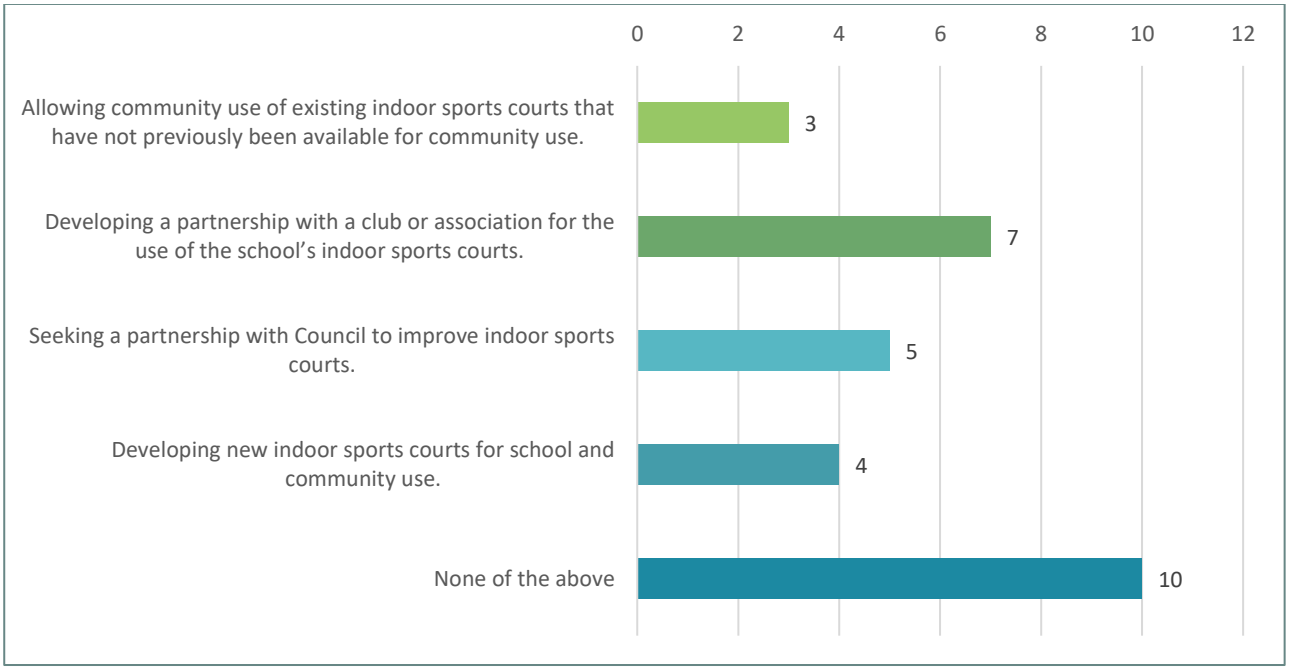


Figure 17: Future Considerations for Facilities

The graph above indicates that:

- Seven schools considered developing a partnership with a club or association for the use of the school's indoor sports courts.
- Five schools considered seeking a partnership with the Council to improve their indoor sports courts.
- Four schools would consider developing new indoor sports courts for both school and community use.
- Three schools considered allowing community use of existing indoor sports courts that had not previously been available for such use.
- Ten schools did not consider any of the options mentioned.

Key Themes from Open Comments

The key themes from open comments are summarised below.

Partnerships with the Council:

- Many schools are open to partnering with the Council to build and manage new indoor sports facilities, such as basketball courts or gymnasiums.
- Schools are particularly interested in collaborative efforts that would allow shared use of facilities between the school and the community.

Growing demand for indoor sports facilities:

- There is an increase in demand for indoor sports spaces, with pressure on schools to provide these areas often supported only by parent donations.
- There is a specific mention of the need for more facilities to support women's sports, such as netball.

Existing and planned collaborations:

- Schools and other institutions are already working with the Council or planning to do so.
- There have been past efforts to develop indoor sports facilities, but some schools report a lack of tangible support and action.

Current facility limitations:

- Some schools face limitations with their current facilities, such as small indoor courts unsuitable for larger groups.
- There are issues with accessing resources within the Council, leading schools to seek alternatives in neighbouring areas.

Community use and accessibility:

- There is a desire for facilities that can serve both school and community needs, with a focus on maximising usage during different times of the day.

Positive experiences with council venues:

- Some schools have had positive experiences with Council outdoor fields and are seeking similar support for indoor facilities.
- There is appreciation for the Council's responsiveness to specific scheduling needs, though some areas still require improvement.

Key Findings

The key findings from the survey results are summarised below.

- **Increasing demand for enrolment:** Schools are reaching or nearing maximum capacity due to high demand. Factors include ongoing improvements to facilities, a rising number of new families moving into the area, and programs adapted to meet changing demographic needs.
- **Interest in collaborative partnerships:** Many schools are open to partnering with the Council for the development and management of new indoor sports facilities and managing shared use between schools and the community.

- **Need for additional indoor sports facilities:** A significant number of schools have a need for more indoor sports courts to accommodate growing participation.
- **Limitations of current facilities:** Several schools face challenges with existing facilities, including inadequate space and limited access to resources, leading them to seek alternative options.
- **Positive experiences with Council facilities:** Many schools have had positive interactions with Council-managed outdoor fields and are looking for similar support and responsiveness for indoor facilities.
- **Challenges from competing schools:** Schools are facing competition from neighbouring institutions with better sports facilities, making it more challenging to retain and attract students.

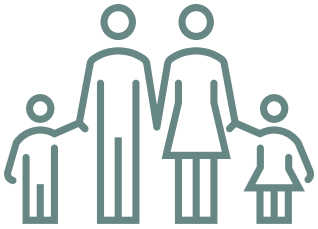
1.27 Community Survey

This section summarises the key findings from the community survey conducted online via the Council's "Your Say Whitehorse" webpage, as well as through written submissions. The survey took place in August 2024, with a total of 928 respondents participating.

Respondent Profile

The following information provides details on who responded to the survey.

The majority (50%) of respondents were men. Meanwhile, 44% of the respondents were women, four respondents were non-binary and 3% prefered not to say.



Age group that represents the highest percentage of the respondents is 35 to 44 years (20.7%) followed by 45 to 54 years (18.4%) and 12 to 17 years (15.4%).

The predominant postcodes where respondents lived were Mitcham, Nunawading, Blackburn and Box Hill North.

The majority (58%) of respondents were born in Australia. A total of 11.4% of the respondents were born in China, 5.5% were born in Malaysia, 4.7% were born in Hongkong and 3.9% were born in India.

Of the total respondents, 19.4% indicated that they have low proficienct in speaking English, 12 respondents reported some form of disabiltiy, 11 people were from low socio-economic background, three people were from the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island community and 11 people were from the LGBTQIA+ community.

The majority fo the respondents spoke English (73.1%), 9.8% respondents reported speaking Mandarin and 8.1% reported speaking Cantonenese.

Figure 18: Respondent Characteristics

The following tables summarise the user survey respondents' sample.

Table 25: User Survey Respondent Sample

Category	Sub-group	Number	% of the survey respondents
Gender	Men	465	50
	Women	404	44
	Non-Binary	4	0.4
	Prefer not to specify	26	2.8
Age Range	Below 12	85	9.2
	12-17	143	15.4
	18-24	76	8.2
	25-34	83	8.9
	35-44	192	20.7
	45-54	171	18.4
	55-64	62	6.7
	65-74	49	5.3
	75+	32	3.4

Table 26: User survey population statistics

Suburb	Count	% of the survey respondents
Mitcham	41	4.4%
Nunawading	41	4.4%
Blackburn	37	4.0%
Box Hill North	30	3.2%
Forest Hill	29	3.1%
Vermont	26	2.8%
Blackburn South	26	2.8%
Vermont South	22	2.4%
Burwood East	21	2.3%
Glen Waverley	20	2.2%
Box Hill South	18	1.9%
Blackburn North	17	1.8%
Mont Albert North	17	1.8%
Burwood	16	1.7%
Other	66	7.1%

A review of the survey respondents indicates that:

- A higher percentage of men (50%) participated in the survey compared to women (44%). A small proportion of respondents identified as non-binary (0.4%), and 2.8% preferred not to specify their gender.
- Most respondents fell within the 35 to 44 years age group, representing 20.7% of the total sample. This was followed by those aged 45 to 54 years (18.4%) and 12 to 17 years (15.4%).
- A lot of the respondents were from Mitcham (4.4%), Nunawading (4.4%), Blackburn (4%) and Box Hill North (3.2%).

Of the total respondents, 812 (87.5%) indicated that they play an indoor court sport. The survey results of these 812 respondents who indicated they use indoor courts are analysed below.

Visitation to the Indoor Courts

Following data represents the indoor courts visitation habits of the respondents.

Frequency of Play and Visitation

Respondents were asked how often they played an indoor sport.

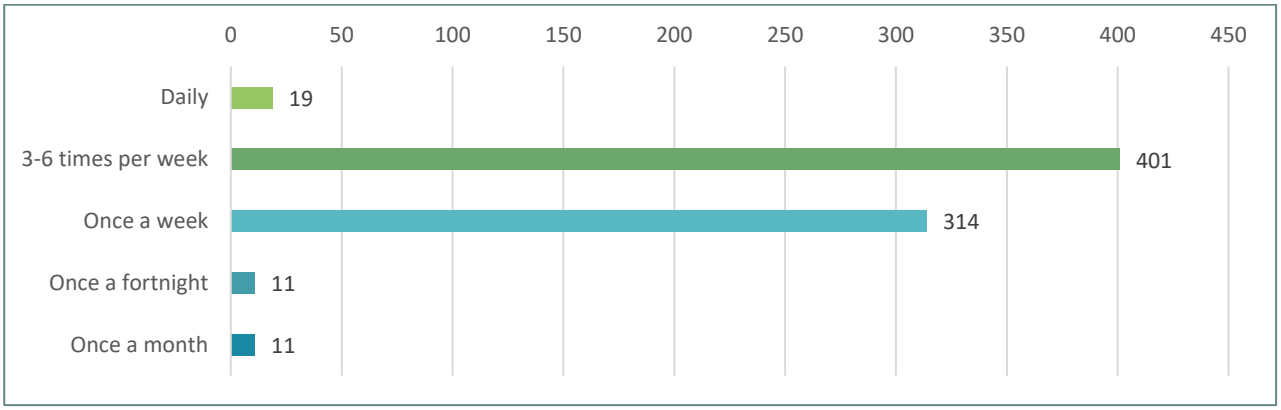


Figure 19: Frequency of Play

- Of the total respondents, 49.4% respondents reported playing an indoor sport three to six times a week, followed by 38.7% of the respondents who reported playing at least once a week.
- This indicates a heavy demand on the existing indoor courts provision in the City of Whitehorse.

Indoor Courts Visitation Time

Respondents were asked to report on what times of the week they visited the indoor courts in the City of Whitehorse. Overall, 27.2% of the respondents indicated they only played on weekdays, 12.7% only played on weekends and 53.2% respondents played all week.

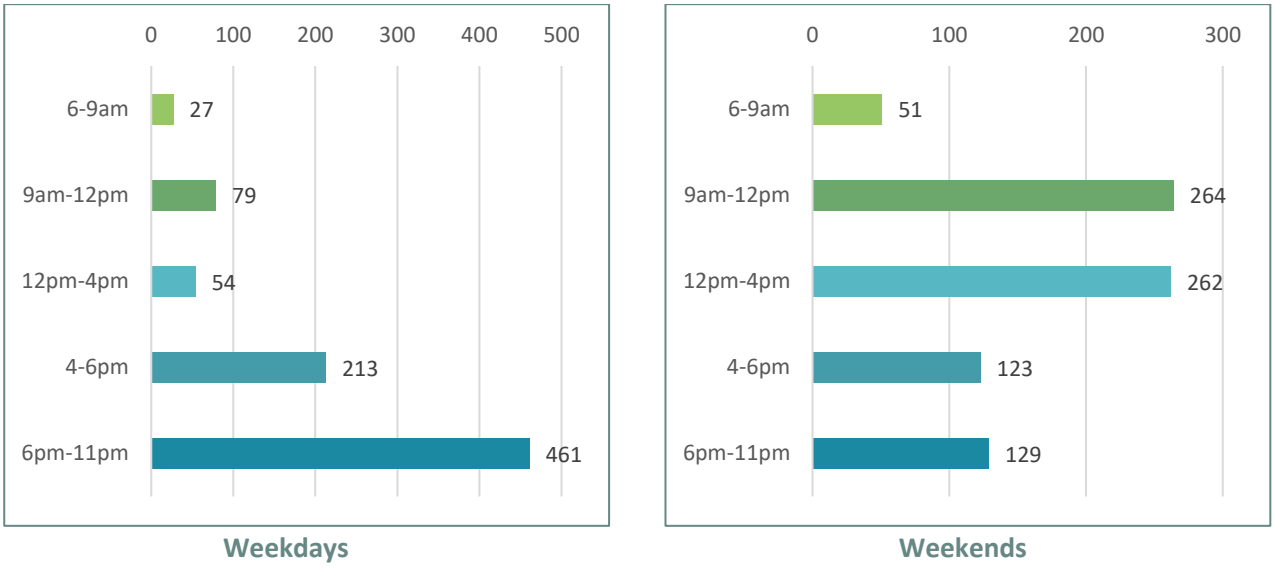


Figure 20: Indoor Courts Visitation time

The graphs indicate that:

- The most popular time to visit the indoor courts is weekdays between 6 pm to 11 pm, as indicated by 56.8% of the respondents.
- This was closely followed by the 9 am to 12 pm time slot (32.5%) and 12pm to 4pm time slot (32.3%) on weekends.
- This high demand may suggest that current facilities could be overbooked or at capacity during these hours.

Transport to the Indoor Courts

Respondents were asked to report on the method of travel to get to the Indoor Courts.

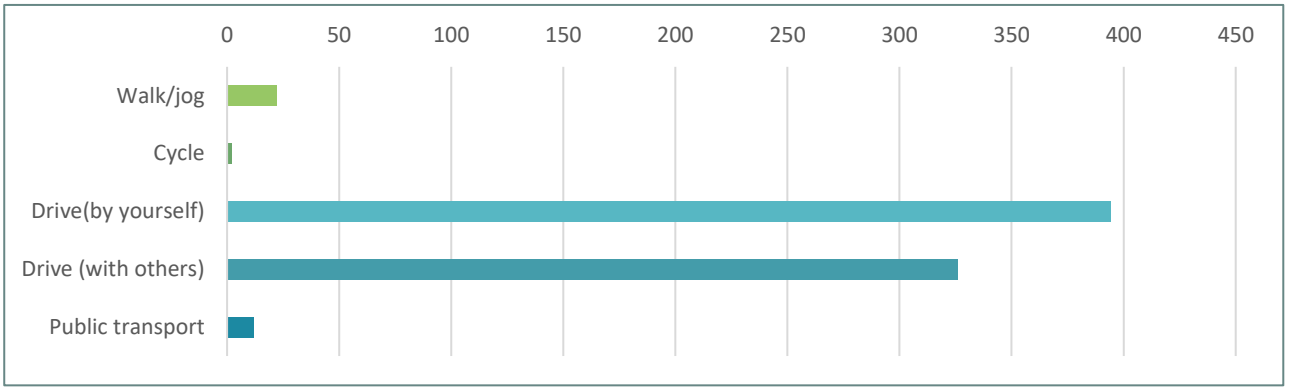


Figure 21: Transport to the Indoor Courts

The graph above indicates that:

- 48.5% of the respondents travel in a car by themselves while 40% carpool with friends or family.
- Only a small percentage (2.7%) walk or jog to the centres and an even smaller percentage (1.5%) take the public transport.
- This indicates that most users rely on cars to access indoor courts, highlighting potential challenges in parking demand and accessibility for those without cars.

Distance to the Indoor Courts

Respondents were asked how far they were willing to travel using different modes of transportation – walking, cycling and driving.

Walking

- Three respondents indicated that they would walk up to five minutes.
- Eight respondents indicated that they would walk five to ten minutes.
- Eleven respondents indicated that they would walk more than 10 minutes.

Driving and public transport

Following table indicates the willingness of respondents to travel different distances to indoor courts.

Table 27: Mode of Transport and Distance to Indoor Courts

Transport	Less than 5km	5 to 15 km	More than 15km
Drive car by themselves	182	186	26
Drive others	158	147	21
Public transport	2	9	1

The table shows that the majority of respondents (82.8%) would prefer to travel no more than 15 kilometres by car, either alone or with others, to an indoor court.

Use of Indoor Courts

The following analysis details the indoor sports played by the respondents and reasons for use. Overall, 44.8% of respondents played in facilities only in Whitehorse Council while 6.9% played only outside of Whitehorse Council and 48.3% mentioned that they played in facilities both inside and outside the Council.

Sports played by Respondents

Respondents were asked to select all indoor sports they played in Whitehorse Council. Following image illustrates different sports played in the Council.

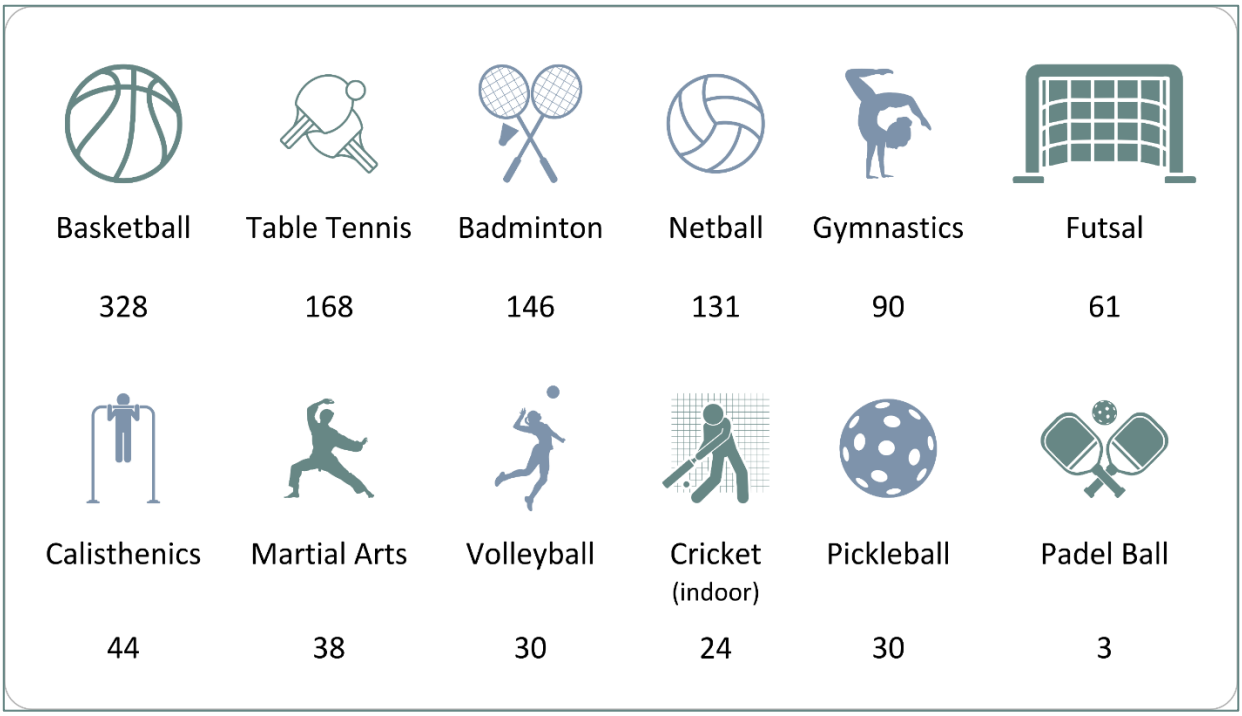


Figure 22: Sports played by Respondents

Results indicate:

- The top three sports played by the respondents are Basketball, Table Tennis and Badminton, followed by Netball, Gymnastics and Futsal.
- Other sports played included Squash and Dance.

Reasons to Participate

Respondents were asked the main reason to participate in indoor sports. Following reasons were the most popular.

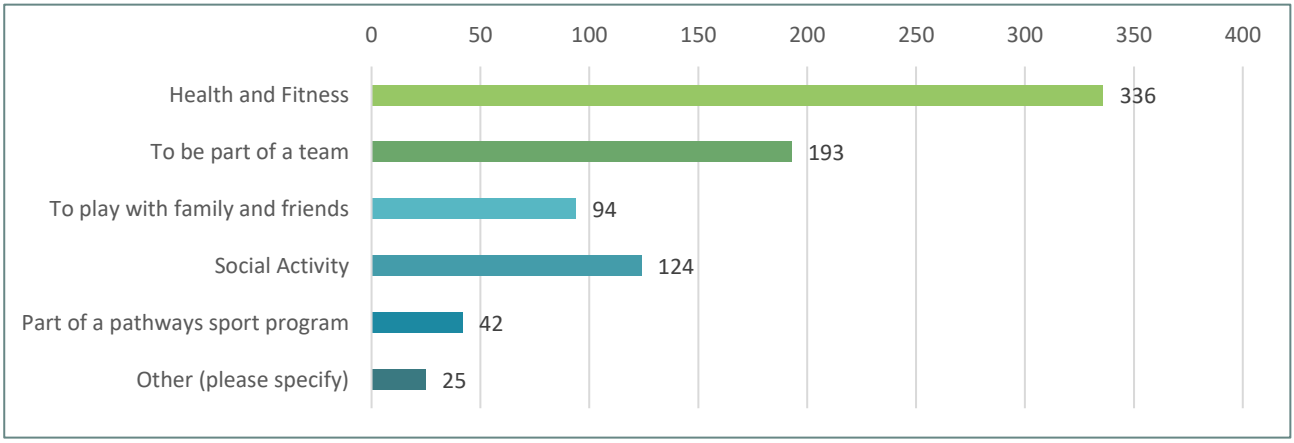


Figure 23: Reasons to Participate

The results indicate that the main reason to participate in indoor sports in Health and Fitness (41.2%), followed by the want to be part of a team (23.7%) and as a social activity (15.2%).

Facilities used by Respondents

The following Whitehorse City Council facilities were used by the respondents.

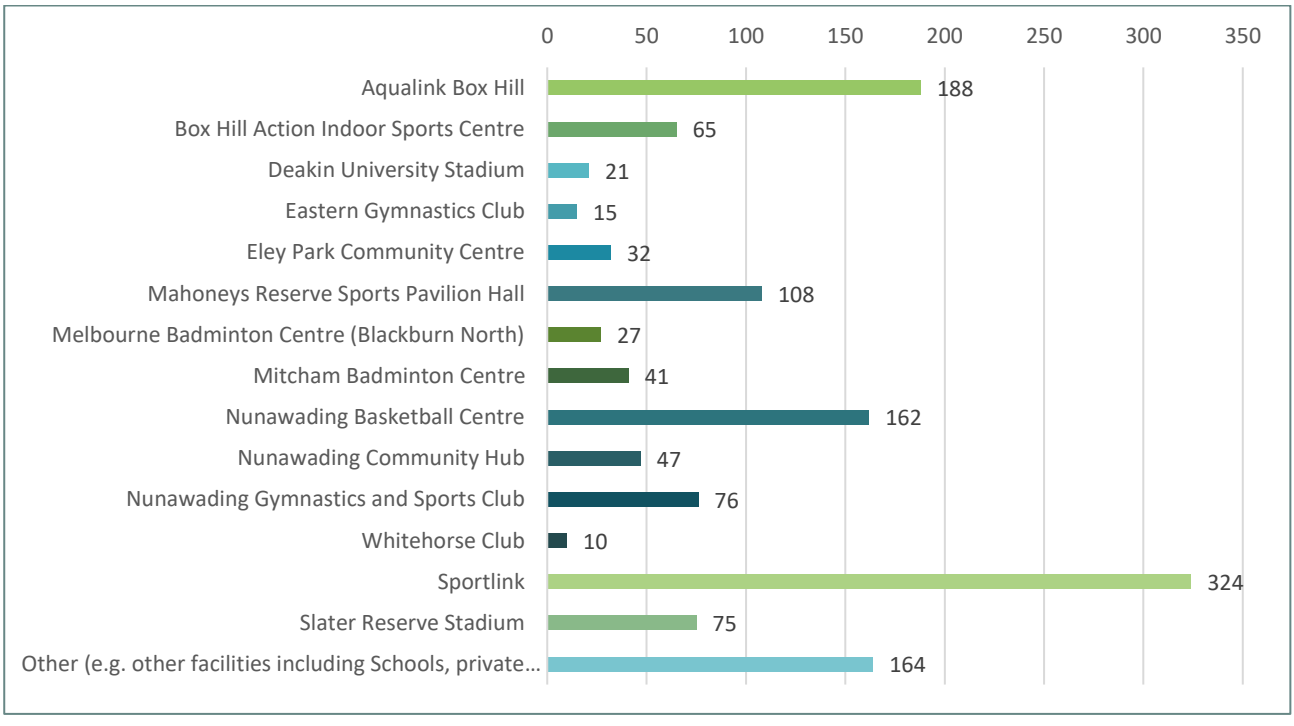


Figure 24: Facilities used by Respondents

The graph above indicates:

- The most used facility is Sportlink (39.9%), followed by Aqualink Box Hill (23.2%) and Nunawading Basketball Centre (19.9%).

- Other frequently used facilities include Mahoneys Reserve Sports Pavilion Hall (13.3%) and other facilities such as schools or private centres (20.2%).
- Among the school courts, Koonung Secondary College and Box Hill Secondary College were reported to be used the most.

Main Venue of Use

Respondents were asked to indicate their main venue of use. Following was the most popular:

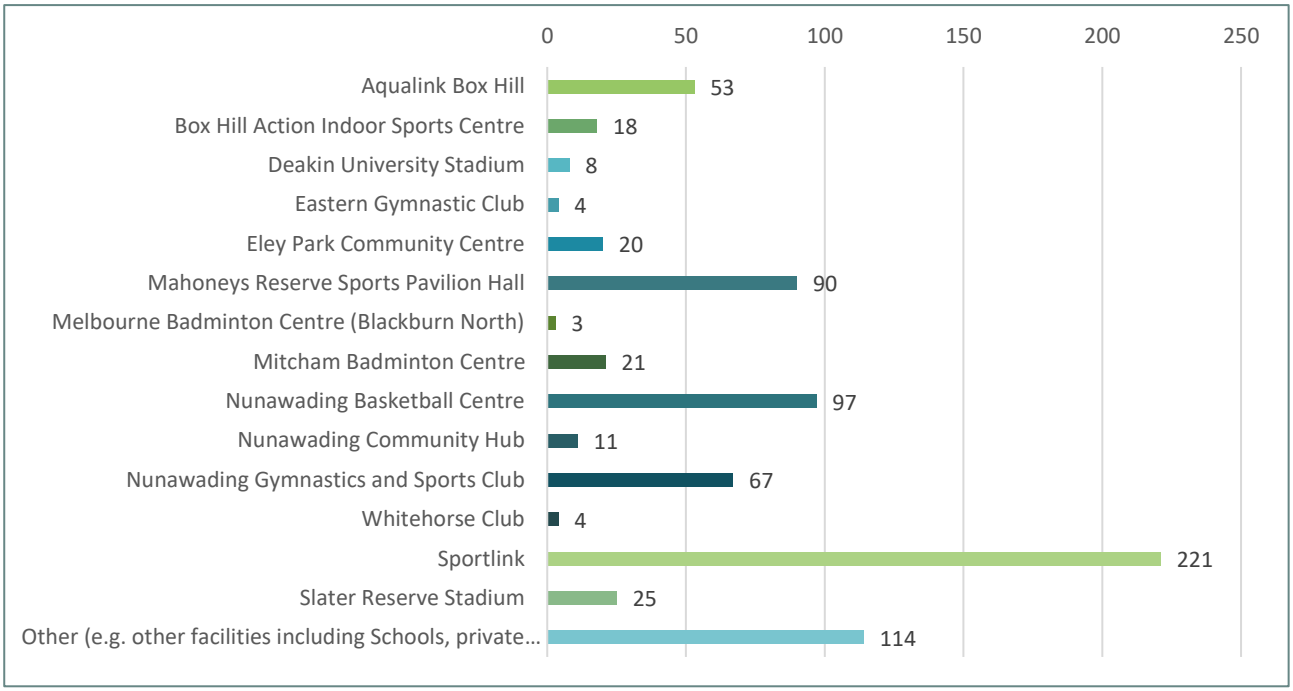


Figure 25: Main Venue of Use

The results indicate:

- The most frequently used main venue is Sportlink (29.2%), followed by Nunawading Basketball Centre (12.8%) and Mahoneys Reserve Sports Pavilion Hall (11.9%).
- Other venues include Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club (8.9%) and Aqualink Box Hill (7%).

Rating of Facilities

Respondents were asked to rate their main venue on a five-point scale. They could either rate it Excellent, Good, Adequate, Quite Poor or Very Poor. The following graph shows the results.

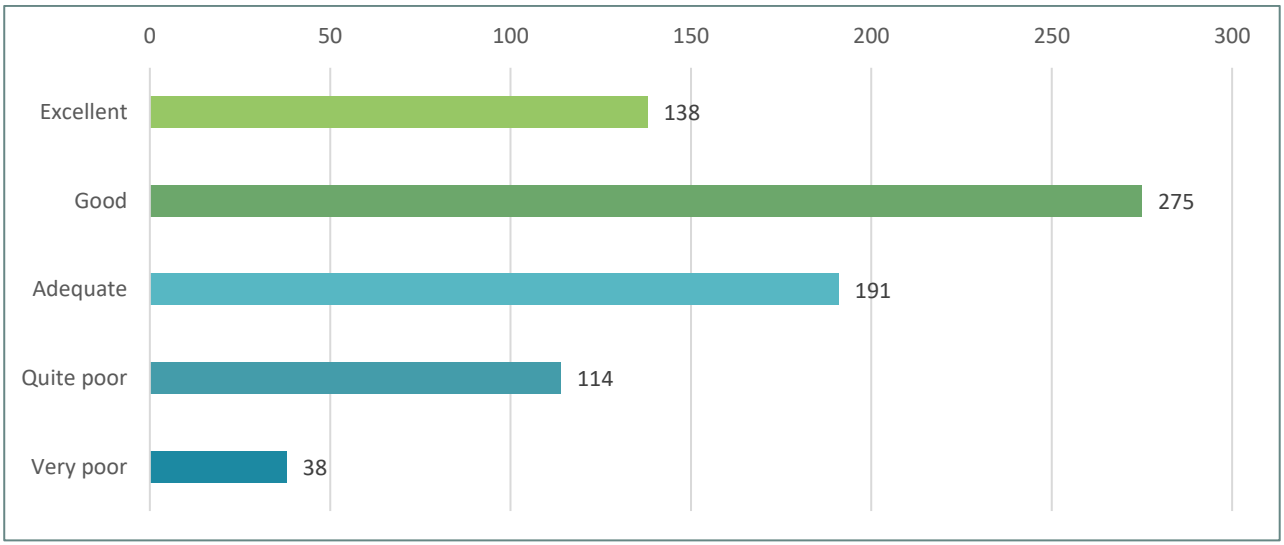


Figure 26: Rating of Facilities

The results show that 54.7% of participants rated their main venue as either Excellent or Good, while 29.4% rated it as Quite Poor or Very Poor. The remaining 25.3% rated their venue as Adequate.

Respondents who rated their main venue "Quite Poor" and "Very Poor" were asked to indicate the reason for their rating. Following are the results.

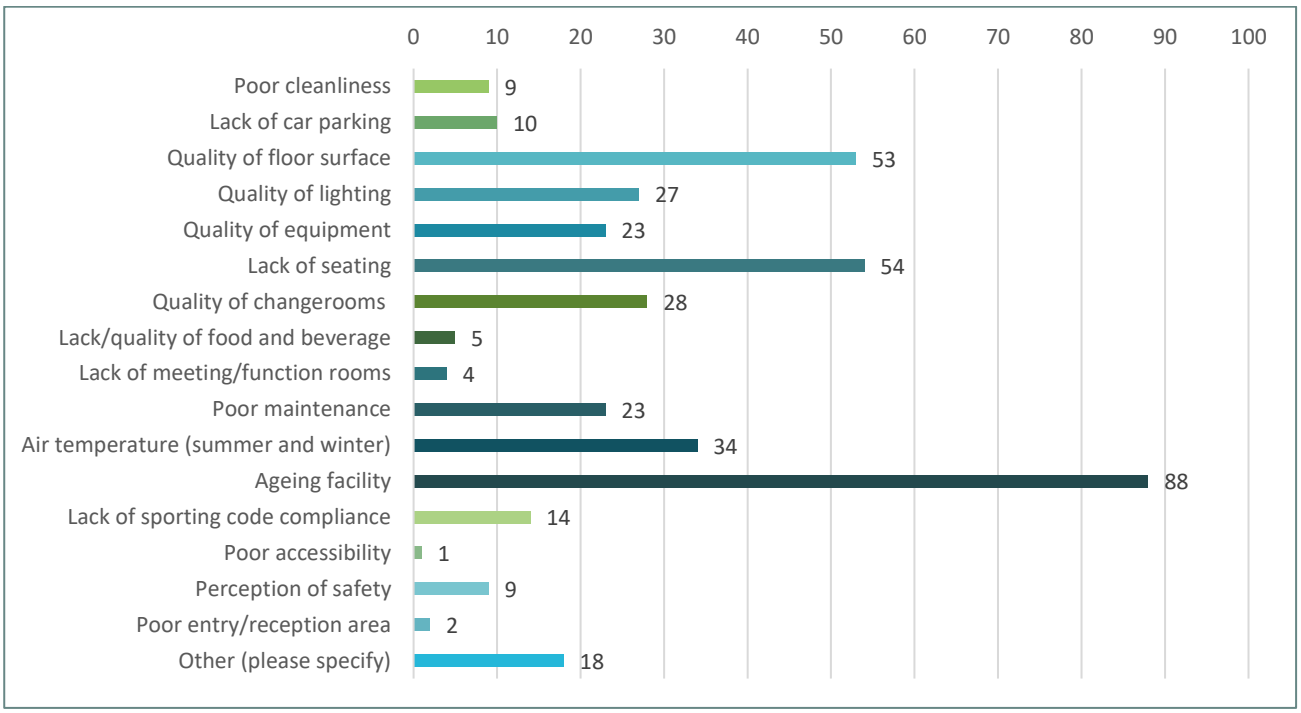


Figure 27: Reason for Dissatisfaction with Facilities

Responses indicated:

- The most common reasons for rating a facility as Poor or Quite Poor are Ageing facility at 21.8%, followed by Lack of seating at 13.4%, and Quality of floor surface at 13.1%.
- Other issues include Air temperature (8.4%) and Quality of lighting (6.7%).

Value of Indoor Sport

Respondents were asked what they valued the most about playing indoor sport and following were the results.

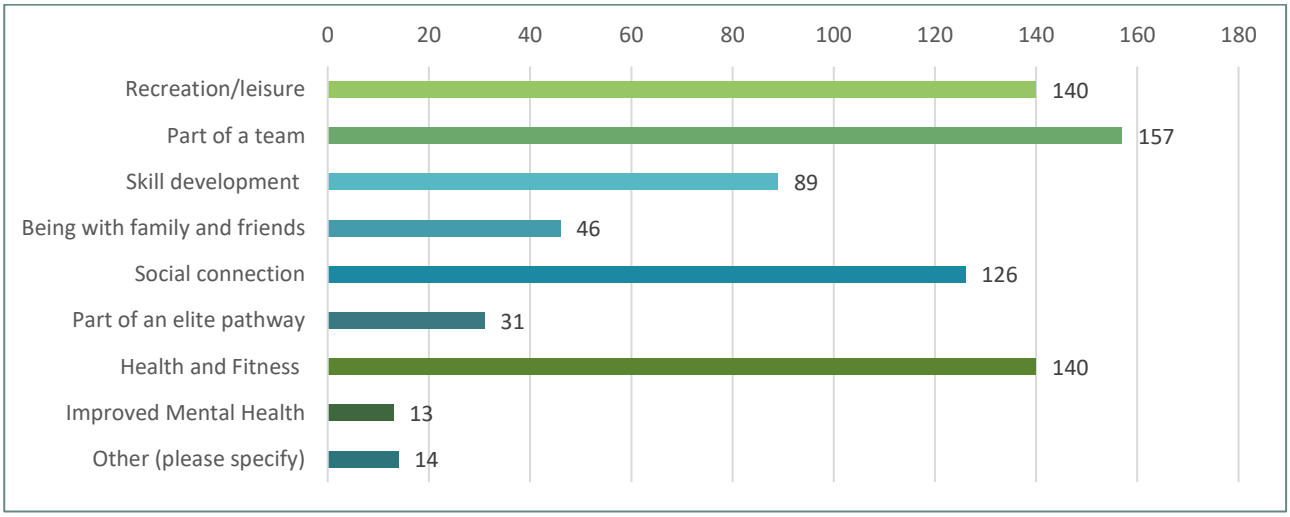


Figure 28: Value of Indoor Sport

The results indicate:

- The most valued aspects of playing indoor sports are being Part of a team (20.8%), along with Health and Fitness and Recreation/leisure (both at 18.5%).
- This is followed by social connection (16.7%) and skill development (11.8%).
- Being with family and friends is valued by 6.1% of participants, while part of an elite pathway accounts for 4.1%.

Barriers and Future Participation

Respondents were asked about barriers in participation as well as what would encourage them to participate more in the future.

A. Barriers for Participation in Indoor Sports

Current players were asked if there were any barriers to their participation in Indoor Sports in the City of Whitehorse. Following were the most popular responses.

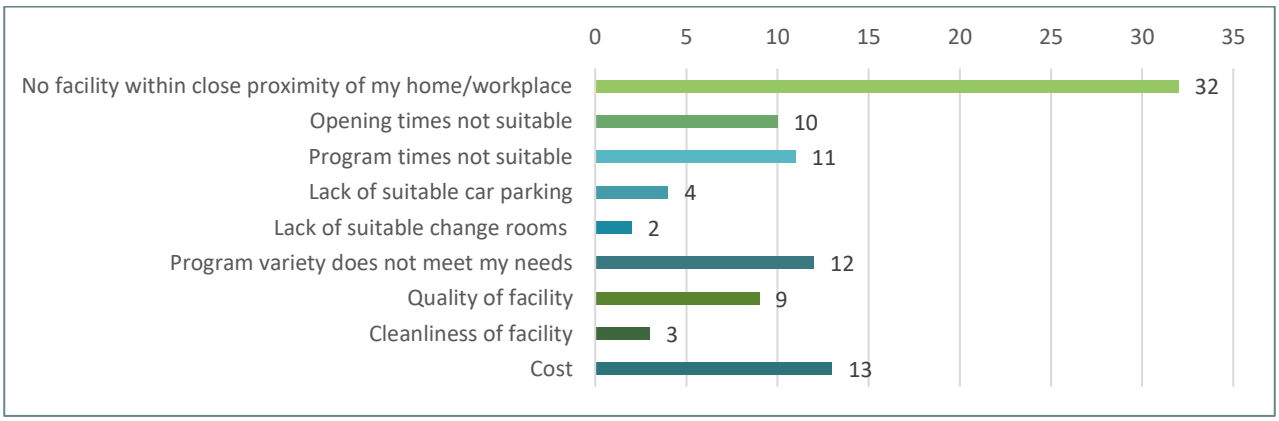


Figure 29: Barriers for Participation in Indoor Sports

The results indicate that:

- The main barriers to participating in indoor sports in Whitehorse include the lack of a facility close to home or workplace (33.3%), followed by high costs (13.5%), and a lack of program variety (12.5%).
- Other barriers include unsuitable program times (11.5%) and unsuitable opening times (10.4%).

B. Future Participation in Indoor Sports

Current players were asked what would encourage them to participate in indoor sports within the City of Whitehorse and following were the most popular answers.

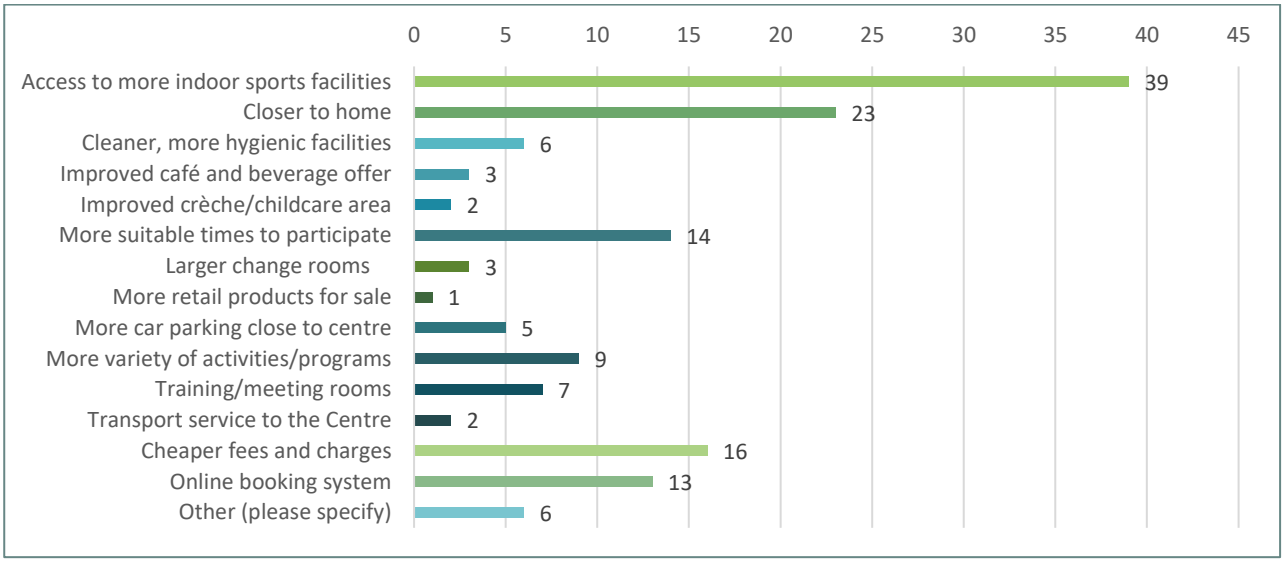


Figure 30: Future Participation in Indoor Sports

The survey results indicate:

- The primary factor encouraging participation in indoor sports in the City of Whitehorse is access to more indoor sports facilities (26.2%), followed by cheaper fees and charges (10.7%).
- This was followed by closer proximity to home (15.4%), more suitable times to participate (9.4%), and an online booking system (8.7%), with additional considerations including variety of activities (6.0%) and improved hygiene (4.0%).

C. Barriers for Participation in Indoor Sports

A total of 116 respondents reported that they do not participate in indoor sports. They were asked to share their reasons for not playing indoor sport in the City of Whitehorse. Following were the most common ones.

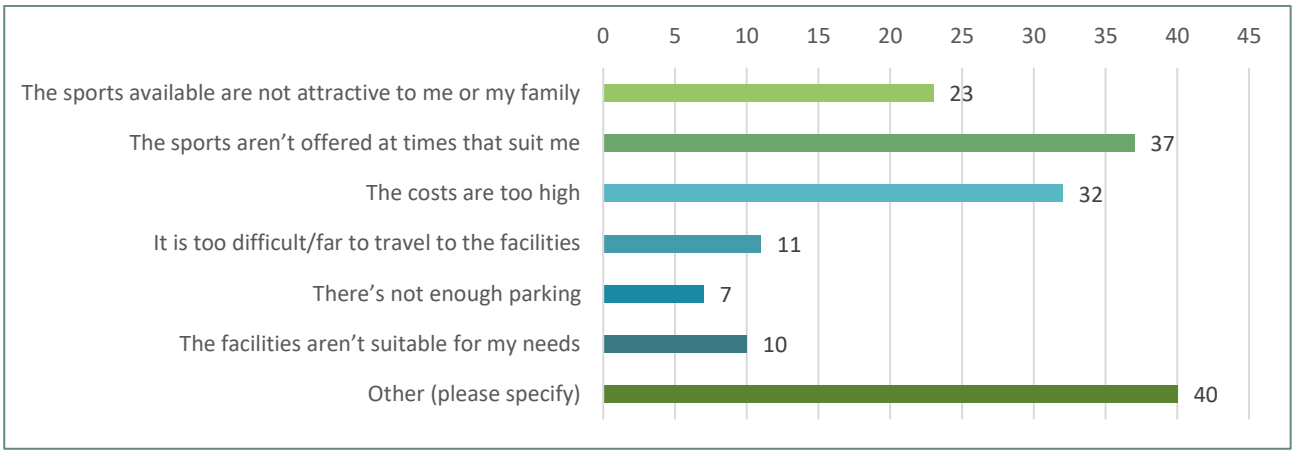


Figure 31: Barriers for Participation in Indoor Sports

The results indicate:

- The main reason for not playing indoor sports is that the sports aren't offered at convenient times (23.1%), followed by high costs (20.0%) and lack of attraction to available sports (14.4%).
- Additionally, 6.9% found it difficult to travel to facilities, and 4.4% cited insufficient parking.
- Of the 25% who cited other reasons, age and fitness-related limitations, lack of suitable indoor sports programs or awareness, and family or childcare responsibilities were the most common ones.

D. Choice of Future Sport

When asked about their interest in playing indoor sports in the future, 85 respondents (73.3%) mentioned that they would like to participate, while 31 respondents (26.7%) said they would not. The respondents who indicated that they would like to participate in the future were asked which sport they would be interested in. Following are the results.

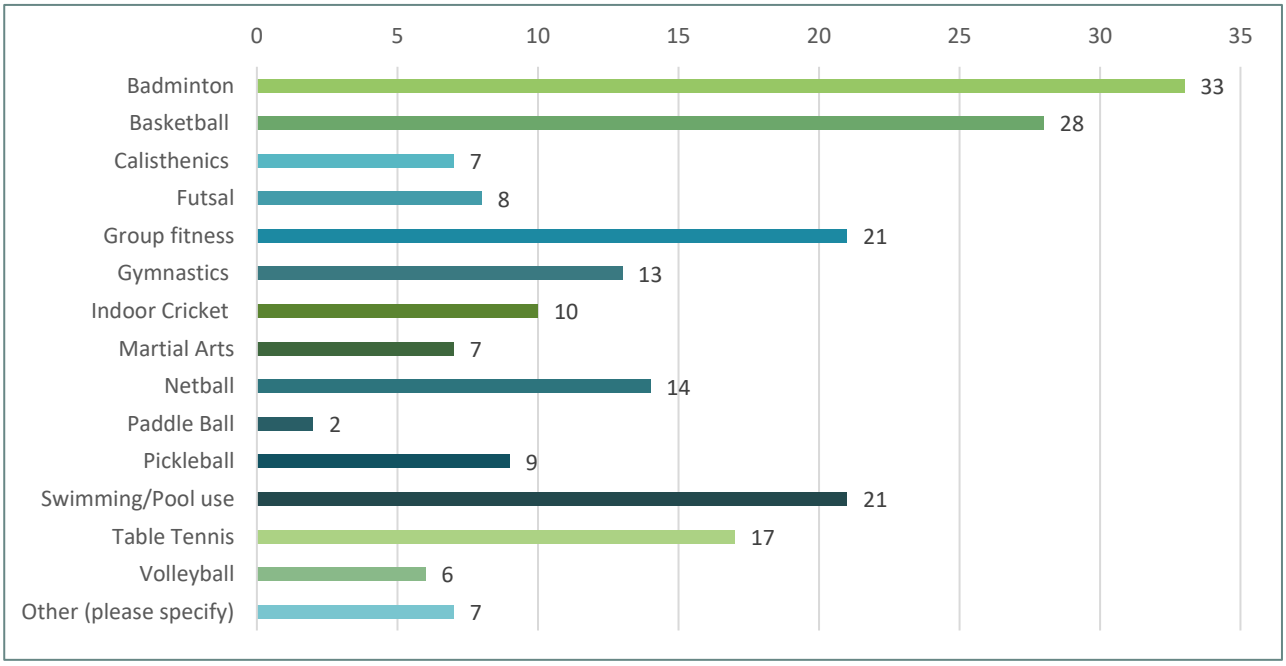


Figure 32: Choice of Future Sport

The results indicate:

- Badminton is the most preferred indoor sport among respondents, with 38.8% selecting it.
- This is followed by Basketball (32.9%) and Group fitness and Swimming/Pool use (all at 24.7%).
- Other popular options include Table Tennis (20%), Netball (16.5%), and Gymnastics (15.3%).

E. Likelihood of Participation in Indoor Sports

The 31 respondents who answered "no" to whether they would like to play more indoor sports were asked what could make them more likely to participate in indoor sports within Whitehorse. The following were the most mentioned factors.

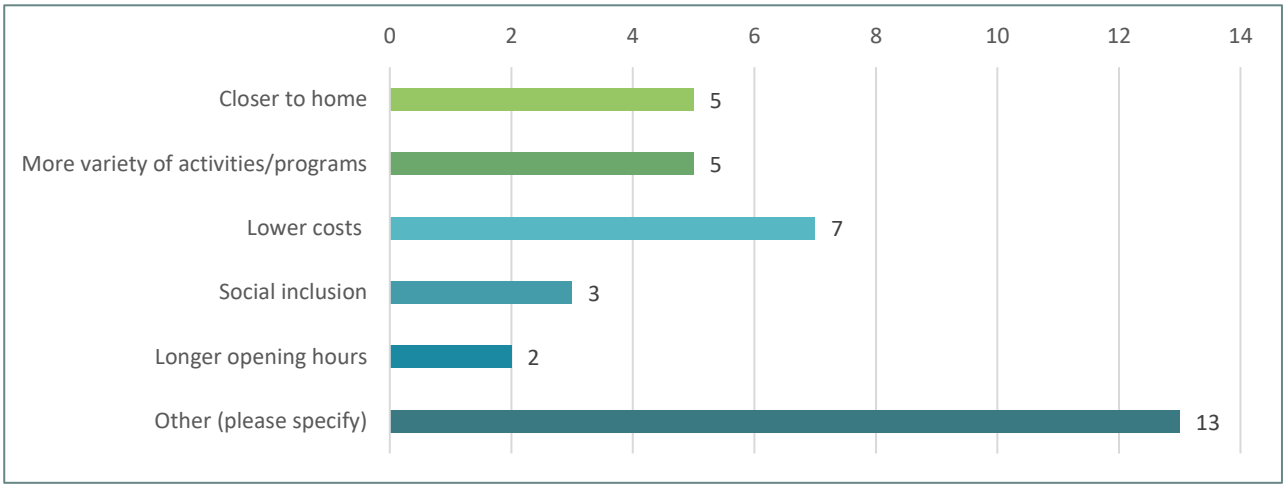


Figure 33: Likelihood of Participation in Indoor Sports

The results indicate:

- The most significant factor that would make respondents more likely to play indoor sports is lower costs (20%).
- Additionally, 14.3% would be encouraged by closer proximity to home and a greater variety of activities/programs, while 8.6% cited social inclusion, and 5.7% mentioned longer opening hours.
- Other reasons included more flexible access to sports facilities without the commitment to a competition format, highlighting personal barriers like health and comfort, and better accessibility for seniors and children.

Open Comments

Following section summarises the open comments and feedback provided by the respondents.

- **Need for improved basketball facilities**: Respondents emphasised the requirement for better-quality basketball courts. Concerns included outdated infrastructure, slippery floors, inadequate lighting, and insufficient seating. Many reported that the current conditions at venues like the Nunawading Basketball Centre did not meet the needs of the community or support the growth of the sport.
- **Facility upgrades and maintenance**: Many respondents mentioned the need for upgrades to existing sports facilities due to issues like poor hygiene, outdated amenities, and lack of maintenance. Concerns included dust on floors, deteriorating surfaces, and inadequate changerooms. It was suggested that improved facilities would enhance the experience for all users, encouraging greater participation in sports.

- **Demand for dedicated Table Tennis facilities**: A significant number of respondents called for a permanent table tennis centre to accommodate growing interest in the sport. They highlighted the challenges of setting up and dismantling equipment in temporary venues, which can be time-consuming and potentially dangerous. A dedicated facility would enhance safety, efficiency, and the overall experience for players.
- **Community connection and health benefits**: The social and health benefits of indoor sports were mentioned by many respondents, particularly in relation to senior citizens. Participation in these activities encourages community bonds and improves mental and physical wellbeing. Respondents wanted to see more accessible facilities that encourage social interaction and support a healthy lifestyle.
- **Community engagement and social connections**: Many respondents emphasised the importance of indoor sports in fostering community bonds and social interaction. Participants appreciated the opportunities to connect with friends and family through sports, highlighting the sense of belonging these activities create.
- **Accessibility and affordability**: Respondents raised concerns about the high costs associated with venue hire and the difficulties in booking available facilities. Many respondents recommended more affordable options that would make participation in sports accessible to a wider audience, particularly for families and seniors. The need for a streamlined booking process was also mentioned.
- **Parking and accessibility issues**: Several respondents noted logistical barriers to accessing sports facilities, particularly crowded parking situations and difficulties in reaching venues. They highlighted the need for improved parking facilities and better accessibility options to ensure that everyone can easily participate in sports activities.
- **Support for diverse sports**: There was a recognition of the community's diverse sporting needs, particularly for badminton and basketball, reflecting the interests of a multicultural population. Respondents called for facilities that cater to a variety of sports to ensure inclusivity and encourage broader participation across different age groups and cultural backgrounds.

Summary of Key Themes

The following points summarise the key findings from the community survey:

- **Demographics:** A slightly higher proportion of men (50%) responded compared to women (44%), with 0.4% identifying as non-binary responded to the survey. Most respondents were aged 35-44 (20.7%), followed by those aged 45-54 (18.4%). While the majority (58%) were born in Australia, a significant proportion were born in China (11.4%) and other countries, reflecting the multicultural nature of the community. Additionally, 19.4% of respondents had low English proficiency, and 11 respondents identified as LGBTQIA+.
- **Indoor sports participation**: Nearly half (49.4%) of respondents play indoor sports 3-6 times per week, indicating heavy demand for existing indoor courts. Popular sports include basketball, table tennis, and badminton, with reasons for participation centred on health and fitness (41.2%), team involvement (23.7%), and social connections (15.2%). The most frequently used facilities were Sportlink (39.9%) and Aqualink Box Hill (23.2%).
- **Usage patterns**: The busiest times at indoor sports venues are on weekdays from 6 pm to 11 pm (56.8%), with weekends between 9 am and 12 pm also popular. Most respondents travelled by car, either alone (48.5%) or carpooling (40%), indicating potential parking demand and accessibility challenges for non-drivers.
- **Facility conditions and feedback**: While 54.7% of respondents rated their main venue as excellent or good, 29.4% rated it as poor or quite poor. Common complaints included ageing facilities

(21.8%), lack of seating (13.4%), and poor floor quality (13.1%). Facility upgrades were mentioned as important, particularly better basketball courts and maintenance improvements.

- **Barriers to participation**: Lack of facilities near home or work (33.3%) and high costs (13.5%) were the main barriers to participating in indoor sports. Respondents suggested that access to more facilities, lower fees, and an easier booking system could increase participation.
- **Non-participants**: Of the 116 respondents who do not currently play indoor sports, 73.3% expressed interest in future participation, particularly in badminton (38.8%) and basketball (32.9%). The main reasons for non-participation were inconvenient times (23.1%) and high costs (20%).
- **Community needs and suggestions**: Respondents called for diverse sports options and dedicated facilities, such as a permanent table tennis centre, to accommodate growing interest. They mentioned the social and health benefits of indoor sports, particularly for seniors, and highlighted the need for affordability, improved accessibility, and better parking.

1.28 Local Clubs Meeting

Otium and the Council hosted an in-person meeting, inviting local clubs to engage in discussions about future plans for indoor sports in Whitehorse.

Ten clubs were in attendance representing the following sports.

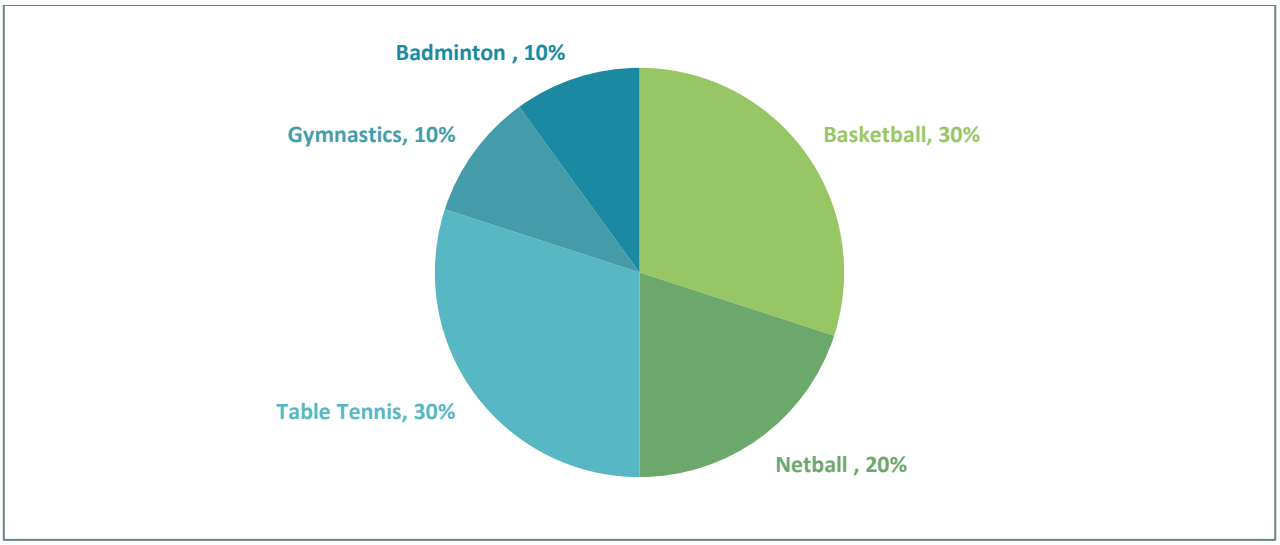


Figure 34: Sports in Attendance at Council Meeting

The following questions were asked using “Slido” polling in PowerPoint. The results are summarised below.

- Overall, 60% of the club members indicated that they use facilities outside of the City of Whitehorse for training and competition for their sport, while 40% only used facilities within the Council area.
- When asked if they use single or multiple facilities for their training and competitions, 60% of the clubs indicated that they use multiple, while 40% use a single facility.
- All clubs and associations within the City of Whitehorse were invited to complete a survey, 90% of the clubs present in the meeting indicated that they had completed the survey out while 10% mentioned that they had not yet.

- The clubs were asked if their membership numbers had changed since COVID-19. Seven clubs indicated that their membership had increased while three clubs indicated that it had stayed somewhat the same.
- The clubs were then asked if their current facilities and associated infrastructure (such as car parking, changerooms etc) met their expectations and 20% agreed while 10% were unsure and 70% strongly disagreed.
- The clubs were then asked what facility issues they faced and following were the results.

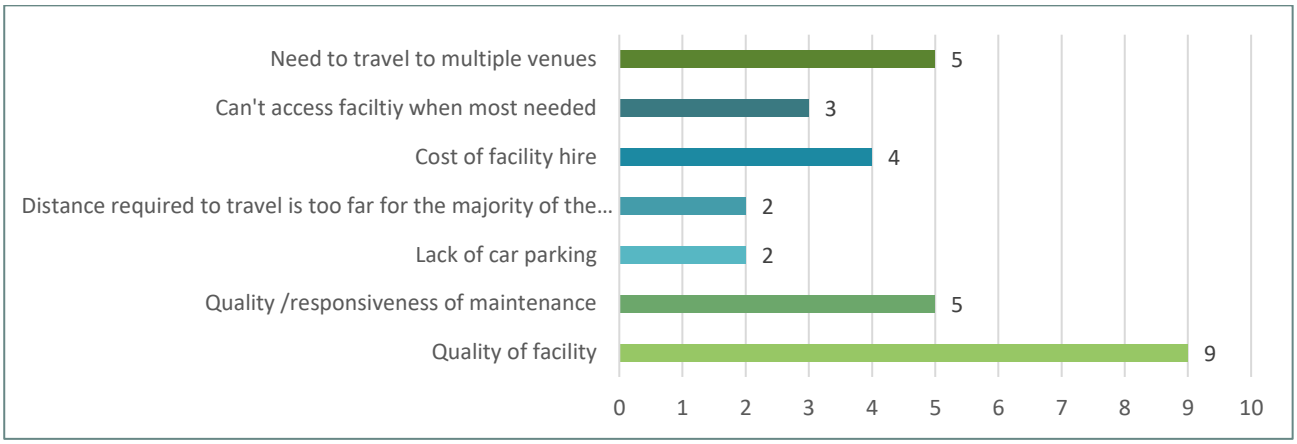


Figure 35: Clubs Responses to Facility Issues

The graph clearly illustrates that quality of facility were the major issue among the clubs, followed by the need to travel to multiple venues and quality/responsive of maintenance.

Clubs were then asked what membership/governance issues they faced. Following were the results.

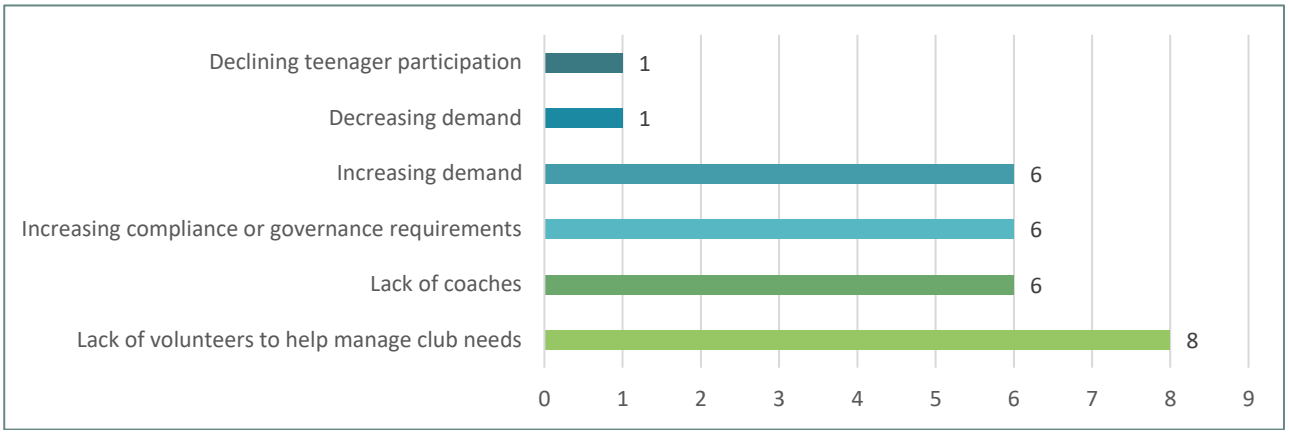


Figure 36: Clubs Responses to Membership/Governance Issues

The lack of volunteers is an issue faced by most of the clubs, followed by increasing demand among the residents, increasing governance requirements and compliance as well as lack of coaches.

- The next question was “What should the Council's investment priorities be (in priority order)?” The ranked results were the following:
    1. Support facility upgrades and extensions that encourage junior sport.
    2. Support investment in infrastructure to support female participation.
    3. Support the sports to meet their compliance needs.
    4. Support non-traditional sports that meet identified need.

- Clubs were then requested to rank a series of statements based on their level of importance. The results are as follows.
    1. Support facility upgrades and extensions that encourage junior sport.
    2. Support investment in infrastructure to support female participation.
    3. Support the sports to meet their compliance needs.
- Clubs were given the opportunity to make open comments. Following is the summary of open comments:
    - **Lack of youth participation:** There are no teenagers playing table tennis, and there are no opportunities for children to play in Whitehorse, which has a population of 24,000 students.
    - **Limited facilities:** Clubs are operating at maximum capacity and cannot expand due to a lack of available facilities. Some existing venues are outdated and beyond upgrading.
    - **Accessibility and compliance:** Prioritising disability accessibility in existing facilities is crucial, and compliance with sports body policies must be considered.
    - **Growing demand:** The need for more venues is urgent, as clubs, such as a local basketball club, have experienced significant growth (40% since COVID-19) and now have over 1,000 kids participating.
    - **Need for support:** There is a call for more community sport grants and events to support the growing demand.

Notes from Further Discussions

The following points summarise further discussions held in the meeting.

- **Storage for multi-purpose use:** There is a need for effective storage solutions that can accommodate various sports and activities, allowing for multi-purpose use of facilities.
- **Volunteer time constraints:** Time availability for volunteers poses a significant challenge, affecting the ability to manage and run sporting events and activities effectively.
- **Logistical issues with schools:** Collaborating with schools presents logistical difficulties, making access to school facilities challenging and inefficient for sports programs.
- **Affordability concerns:** The affordability of using and maintaining sports facilities is a concern, which may limit participation and access for the community.
- **Desire for permanent setups:** While facilities can support multiple sports, there is a preference for having permanent setups for certain sports, such as table tennis.

1.29 Key Findings from Stakeholder Engagement

Local and state sporting associations report high participation in indoor sports and call for more facilities to meet current and future demand.

Local Association and Clubs and School confirm an increased demand for indoor sport facilities

There is targeted youth engagement and new programs being introduced to increase participation

All stakeholders and community report a need to upgrade existing indoor sport facilities

Both clubs and schools are open to partnerships with the Council to develop and manage new or upgraded indoor sports facilities

The community report barriers to participation, including rising living costs and limited access to affordable facilities, are significant across all groups

There is a strong emphasis on inclusivity and accessibility in programming across clubs and schools

Local Associations and Club and State Sporting Associations confirm very high participation across all indoor sports and advocate for additional indoor sport facilities to meet current (latent) and future demand

Local Clubs and Associations are advocating for additional indoor sport courts and facilities in Whitehorse. The key reasons raised include:

- Population growth is resulting in an increase in participation levels.
- Continued growth in participation numbers from entry to elite levels.
- Insufficient courts and facilities to meet current and future participation demand.
- Existing courts and facilities are not fit for purpose.
- Existing facilities are ageing and require renewal.

State Sporting Association confirm high indoor sport participation levels in Whitehorse when compared to Victoria. The basketball and netball associations have very strong governance models and offer a full-service model. All State Sporting Associations report high competition for use of existing courts and a need for additional courts to maintain current indoor sport programming benefit and to service current (latent) and future participation demands.

Non-traditional indoor sports like badminton, table tennis, sport climbing are seeking community and commercial partnerships to service participation interest in their sports, due to the lack of access to existing facilities.

The following points summarise the key themes recognised from community, school and clubs/associations surveys.

Local Association and Clubs and School confirm an increased demand for indoor sport facilities

The community demonstrates a significant demand for additional indoor sports facilities, as both clubs and schools report the need for more courts to accommodate rising participation levels. Clubs highlight increased engagement in sports like basketball and badminton, while schools need more spaces, particularly for women's sports like netball.

There is targeted youth engagement and new programs being introduced to increase participation

Clubs are effectively driving membership growth through targeted youth engagement and program expansion. By focusing on health and wellness initiatives, clubs are attracting younger participants, which is mirrored by schools reaching or nearing maximum enrolment capacities due to facility improvements and adaptive programs that cater to the changing demographics.

All stakeholders and community report a need to upgrade existing indoor sport facilities

While many respondents express general satisfaction with their facilities, there are notable concerns regarding the quality of infrastructure. Issues such as inadequate lighting, ageing facilities, and worn-out floors are frequently raised in club and community feedback, and schools report similar limitations that affect their ability to meet the demands of students and the community effectively.

Both clubs and schools are open to partnerships with the Council to develop and manage new or upgraded indoor sports facilities

This collaborative approach aims to facilitate shared use between schools, clubs and the community, maximising resource utilisation and improving access to sports facilities for all residents.

The community report barriers to participation, including rising living costs and limited access to affordable facilities, are significant across all groups

Clubs and community members note that high costs and a lack of nearby facilities affect engagement, while schools face competition from neighbouring institutions with better amenities, highlighting the need for improved local infrastructure.

There is a strong emphasis on inclusivity and accessibility in programming across clubs and schools

Efforts are being made to ensure opportunities are available for diverse groups, including women, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. Clubs advocate for accessible facilities with better parking and seating, while schools recognise the necessity for specialised support services, particularly for young deaf children.