**YPRL Programming Framework 2021-2025**

**Overview**

Yarra Plenty Regional Library (YPRL) is a regional service comprising nine branch libraries located across the three Member Councils of Banyule, Nillumbik and Whittlesea. Our libraries are equipped with specialist resources, spaces, collection and equipment to facilitate hands-on learning, support literacy and encourage creative expression. We provide opportunities for our community to learn, create, connect, and live well in a fun and supported environment.

**Strategic alignment**

This Action Plan is informed by the three-member councils’ community, health and wellbeing, social enterprise, business and arts plans, as well as YPRL’s [Library Plan 2021-2025](https://yprl-filestore.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/policies/YPRL_LibraryPlan_20212025FINAL.pdf). Our vision is:

*Informed creative communities: connected, empowered and well*

Our three-member councils understand the value of learning, literacy and social connection in supporting community health and wellness. This Programming Framework has been linked to council community plans and strategies and each event, activity or program has outcomes that support the *Roadmap to Recovery* of health and wellness, economic recovery and environmental sustainability.

**Context**

Every day libraries help people to read, learn, discover, relax and connect with information, people and ideas. For many of our member councils’ residents, the library is an integral part of their life and their community. More than just traditional measures of library output such as the number of loans or visits, these individual and community outcomes result from libraries helping people to improve their knowledge and skills, connect with one another or change attitudes and behaviours.

YPRL library programs provide engagement, enrichment, and connection to our communities, and activate our library spaces. YPRL programs:

* are creative, innovative, and responsive to community needs
* have a regional focus, to make the most of public funding and to provide services to our whole community
* use partnerships to increase our capabilities, capacity, and offerings
* deliver reading, learning, and community outcomes at every event
* are based on codesign and collaboration with community, councils and partners
* focus on a culture of continuous improvement and testing
* emphasise innovative approaches and look for new opportunities through professional practice, research and radical collaborations.

**Program Streams**

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|  | **Stream Name** | **Description** |
| Icon  Description automatically generated | Creating Connections | Programs that encourage the community to come together and form connections and networks, over a chat or a simple activity. Programs that let our communities celebrate and share their culture with the wider community. |
| Icon  Description automatically generated | Creative Minds | Programs to drive creativity in all sorts of ways. Craft, all things writing and literary, author talks, book clubs, Maker Space events |
| Logo, company name  Description automatically generated | Early Years Literacy | Programming that supports the early years, with a focus on literacy development |
| Icon  Description automatically generated | Family Fun | Fun, free, accessible activities for the whole family, or for kids after school. |
| Icon  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | Growing Healthy Lives | Sustainability, environment, and gardening programs, including food production and food security. Health & health literacy. |
| Schematic  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | Learning Technology | Activities to challenge and empower you in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths. Including tech help and elearning as well as kids’ events. |
| Icon  Description automatically generated | Life Skills | Financial literacy, life skills, job readiness and back to work programs, lifestyle, mental health |
| Icon  Description automatically generated | Local and Family History | Supporting research skills for new and established historians and genealogists, with speakers, walks, and more. |
| Logo, icon  Description automatically generated | Local Writers | Writing groups, local authors, Booklovers, events that get everybody writing |
| Icon  Description automatically generated | Small Business Support | Programs and networking opportunities to strengthen and support local small businesses, new and established.  |

**Sustainable Development Goals**

YPRL supports and contributes to the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) understanding the important role libraries play in the international drive for greater social equality, improved economic prosperity and a more sustainable environmental approach. The SDGs provide a framework to demonstrate how libraries can support positive change, from quality education to reducing inequalities. This helps us to reflect on and align with other organisations to determine how we can create localised outcomes that contribute to meaningful change for the whole nation.

Our Program Streams are mapped to the SDGs as follows:

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| **Program Stream** | **Sustainable Development Goals** |
| Creating Connections | 3 Good Health and Wellbeing5 Gender Equality10 Reduced Inequalities17 Partnerships for the Goals |
| Creative Minds | 3 Good Health and Wellbeing17 Partnerships for the Goals |
| Early Years Literacy | 3 Good Health and Wellbeing4 Quality Education10 Reduced Inequalities17 Partnerships for the Goals |
| Family Fun | 3 Good Health and Wellbeing10 Reduced Inequalities17 Partnerships for the Goals |
| Growing Healthy Lives | 2 Zero Hunger3 Good Health and Wellbeing6 Clean Water and Sanitation7 Affordable and Clean Energy11 Sustainable Cities and Communities12 Responsible Consumption and Production13 Climate Action15 Life on Land17 Partnerships for the Goals |
| Learning Technology | 3 Good Health and Wellbeing4 Quality Education7 Affordable and Clean Energy10 Reduced Inequalities17 Partnerships for the Goals |
| Life Skills | 1 No Poverty2 Zero Hunger3 Good Health and Wellbeing4 Quality Education10 Reduced Inequalities17 Partnerships for the Goals |
| Local and Family History | 3 Good Health and Wellbeing17 Partnerships for the Goals |
| Local Writers | 3 Good Health and Wellbeing17 Partnerships for the Goals |
| Small Business Support | 3 Good Health and Wellbeing8 Decent Work and Economic Growth9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure11 Sustainable Cities and Communities17 Partnerships for the Goals |

**Evaluation methodologies**

Evaluation is embedded within the Programming Framework both through a culture of reflection and through feedback from our community.

Our evaluation models use a mix of qualitative data – stories and case studies gathered from our community and quantitative data such as attendance figures, website access and collection use. Success measures will be reported against the SDGs.

**Objectives and Actions**

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| **Objective** | **Description** | **Actions** |
| Robust and balanced regional programming | YPRL programming meets the needs of our local communities, offering variety and supporting community connection. Programming is strategic and efficient on a regional scale. | This will be achieved by:* Each branch will deliver programming across each Program Stream every quarter at minimum
* Ongoing evaluation of individual events and ongoing programs to assess whether programming is meeting community needs
* When appropriate, using the codesign methodology to design programs
* All programs and events will deliver outcomes in the areas of Knowledge and Learning, Connection, and Wellbeing, to support the Library Plan
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| Seek radical partnerships and collaborations | We understand the power of partnerships and the reach and benefits they bring to our communities and organisation. | This will be achieved by:* Partnering across all branches to expand our capability to deliver events and services
* Actively seeking out new and innovative partnerships
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| Increase organisational and staff capability | Our staff feel confident and empowered to engage our communities. | This will be achieved by:* Providing leadership opportunities for staff within regional programming
* Structuring opportunities for learning, such as peer to peer learning and secondments
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