

DUNMUNKLE CHILDCARE

their future is our future



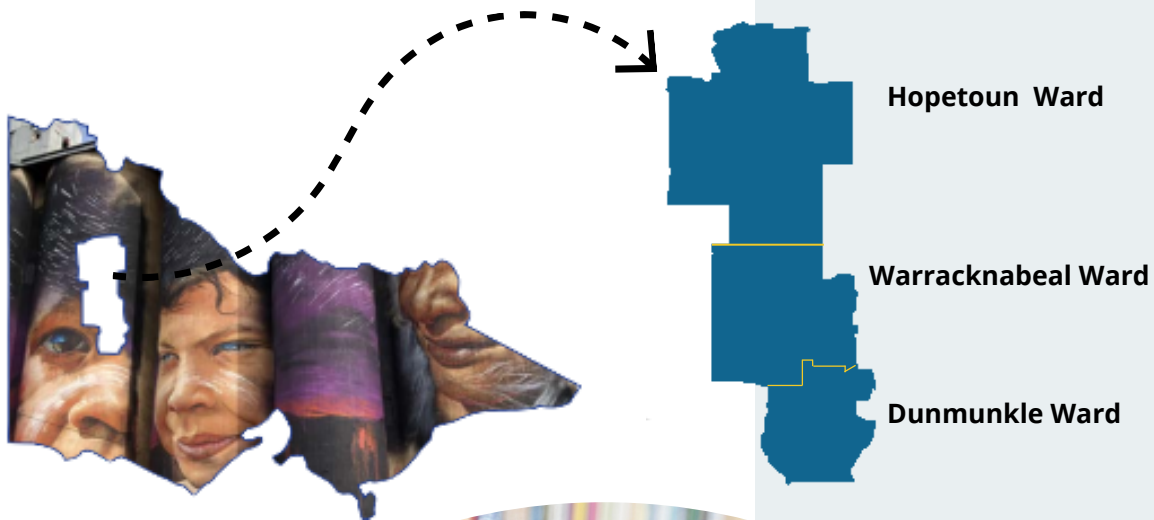
ABOUT YARRIAMBIACK

*A CONNECTED RURAL
COMMUNITY WHO
VALUES ITS LAND
AND WELLBEING*

Yarriambiack Shire is in the heartland of the Wimmera Southern Mallee in North West Victoria. With a population of 6,674 passionate residents Yarriambiack is a major agricultural and food producing region, as well as providing a broad range of opportunities in other industries including education, construction, retail and tourism.

Yarriambiack is a diverse, vibrant region experiencing social and economic change. This is creating a growing demand for a skilled and educated workforce.

Home to the original Silo Art Trail, Yarriambiack Shire continually strives for excellence and aims to serve its community through strategic, sustainable and innovative projects.





**A SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEM
SPANNING GENERATIONS**

OUR CHILDCARE CHALLENGE

The main socio-economic issues in Yarriambiack and more specifically the Dunmunkle towns of Minyip, Murtoa and Rupanyup are affordable and social housing and access to childcare. With recent funding announcements regarding the 'Easing Yarriambiack's Housing Shortage' project, Yarriambiack Shire Council is poised for an exciting time of growth and opportunities.

Childcare in-place locally has been a complex and frustrating challenge for young families for decades and continues to be a barrier for predominantly women entering and re-entering the workforce when starting and raising families.

Twice as many women in the region have more than double the level of post-secondary qualifications compared to men. These women are often the main carers in the home, resulting in under employment and an untapped skilled workforce not meeting their potential in the region.

Yarriambiack Shire Council sadly represents some of the lowest inter-generational health and education outcomes in the state, which can be direct attributed to the lack of and limited access to basic services such as childcare.



BY FIVE - A REGIONAL APPROACH FOR CHANGE

By Five is a place based early childhood project, initiated in 2016 by the Wimmera Southern Mallee (WSM) Regional Partnership and the local community who recognised the opportunity to act early to improve outcomes for children.

By Five has helped to build a good foundation for collaboration between health, education and family services and identify community priorities. This project has also begun to influence systemic change including optimising existing funding streams, establishing new services and extending existing services.

"By Five demonstrated how a small, well targeted investment from government can unlock an enormous sleeping giant.... the power of people in local communities to identify and resolve their own issues."

OUR STORIES

CLAIRE - RELYING ON INTERSTATE FAMILY

Claire and her family live in Murtoa in southern end of Yarriambiack. A professional woman who works in education, Claire has been on childcare waiting lists in Horsham since her baby was six weeks old. Now 12 months Claire's children rely on their grandmother to complete a 600km round trip from Wakool, NSW each week so that Claire can continue to work whilst raising her family.



"Our mother is still active on the family farm and is making a considerable sacrifice to her own farming business to take care of our children, to allow us to work."

- Claire Bibby

"It is very encouraging to see so many babies and young families in our community. Our future in Yarriambiack is very bright. It's a shame that childcare is a limiting factor in many people gaining full employment."

- XXXX Bibby

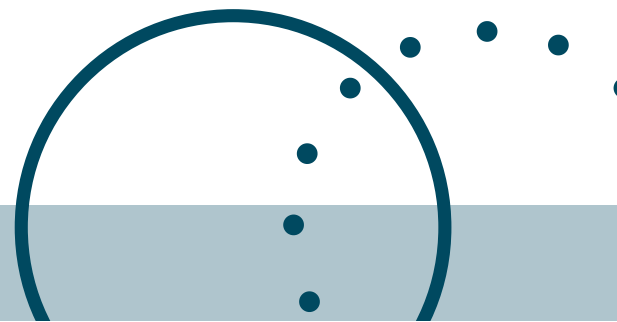
BEC - JUGGLING THE KINDER-CHILDCARE RUN BETWEEN TOWNS

Bec is currently juggling the kinder years with her son attending kindergarten in Murtoa and childcare in Horsham, some 30 kilometres away. This disruption impacts Bec's capacity to work and her son's constantly spending time in the car travelling to and from facilities.

Bec is an Early Childhood Teacher and currently working in Horsham, but like so many would prefer to work in the new facility in her community, taking the pressure off her and her family for the after school and kinder pick up schedule.

"I am relying on friends and family for after school and kinder pick up while I work as an Early Childhood Teacher in another town. We are in desperate need of a facility here in Murtoa for our children and for local employment."

- Bec





OUR STORIES

EVE - A NURSE ON THE SIDELINES

Eve has three children aged 4 years, 2 years and 10 months who lives and works in Murtoa. With a husband running a farm business, juggling work and family commitments saw Eve leave the nursing profession during the pandemic.

Because of these circumstances, Eve has had to rethink her career and has started up a Pilates business. Whilst this is a fantastic opportunity for the local community to access Pilates, Eve has witnessed first hand that some people (especially women) haven't been able to support her new venture due to the lack of access to childcare.

The loss of occasional care in Murtoa has been heartbreaking for mother's like Eve, who also seen this impact not only her business but the physical and mental health and wellbeing of her clients and fellow mothers.

"As a nurse with immunisation qualifications I was unable to assist during the Coronavirus crisis due to the lack of childcare."

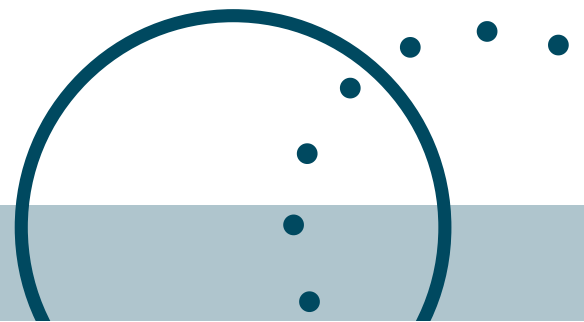
- Eve Delahunty

MIKAELA - UNDER EMPLOYED AND IN HIGH DEMAND

Mikaela is a qualified teacher with a Masters in Student Wellbeing currently working in the Department of Education in family violence prevention. With a 4 year old, 2 year old and baby #3 on the way, Mikaela loves her career and is passionate about the health and wellbeing of her community. Mikaela's 2 year old was on the childcare wait list in Horsham for 2 years before he had a spot. The travel for accessing daycare takes over two hours per day, particularly taxing when working from home with hybrid working during COVID. Makaela is the definition of 'under employed' as she works two days per week due to the lack of access to childcare and would jump at the opportunity to work more days. Mikaela is a strong advocate for working mothers

"Being able to work makes me a better parent as some time away and doing what I love is so closely linked with my positive mental health."

- Mikaela





OUR STORIES

BELINDA - SACRIFICING STUDY

Belinda is a mother of one child and has been living in Murtoa for 4 years. A stay-at-home Mum, Belinda had to stop studying as she could not find childcare for her son while she completed work experience, a compulsory component of her course. Belinda has had to change courses due to the lack of childcare and now after school care so that she can still care for her son.

"I would like to think by now in the 21st century that everybody was entitled to have access to child care no matter where in Australia you choose to live."

- Belinda Swan

As one of the many young families making the move to rural Victoria, Belinda has sacrificed her dream career and has had to wait to re-enter the workforce until her son has reached school-age due to the lack of childcare, years-long waitlists and lack of occasional care in Dunmunkle.

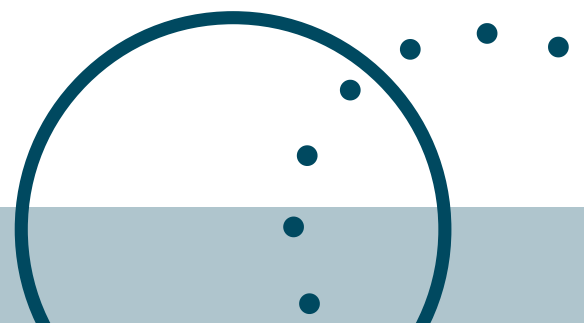
KATELYN - READY AND WILLING TO WORK LOCALLY

Katelyn is a born and bred Murtoa woman who is a mother to two children. As an Early Childhood Educator, Katelyn is well aware of the advantages that early childhood education and care has on the growth and development of a child, as well as the disadvantages the lack of early childhood education has on children.

Katelyn currently works 45 minutes from home in the neighbouring community of Warracknabeal, but would relish the opportunity to work in her hometown at a new childcare facility. The travel required for work and the lack of childcare impacts Katelyn's capacity to work the desired hours. Katelyn's experience within the sector has her concerned as the lack of access to childcare is creating further disadvantages for the significant community of low socio-economic residents within the Dunmunkle catchment.

We are very fortunate to have a number of facilities in the town which make it a great place to live and raise a family. Supporting the growth and development of our children can only be made possible if the facilities and programs are there to allow it."

- Katelyn





**CHILDCARE WILL UNLOCK OUR
REGION'S POTENTIAL**

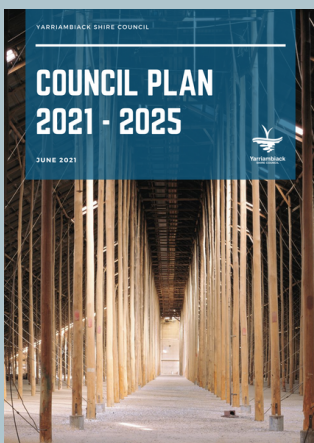
OUR CHILDCARE SOLUTION

A viability study has been completed and has confirmed significant investment is required. There are adequate - and growing - numbers of babies and young children in the catchment area that will benefit from a dedicated Early Learning Centre in Murtoa. Significant economic initiatives such as the Donald Mineral Sands development will see an increased demand for childcare in a short period of time.

The Yarriambiack Shire's building condition report on the Murtoa Kindergarten indicated the condition of the building requires a rebuild. The project will release / reduce the reliance on Horsham and Warracknabeal based childcare services and reduce the waiting lists across the region. The benefits of this project are generational and far-reaching. Parents and carers will be able to re-enter the skilled workforce and contribute to the skilled workforce shortages. Our children will benefit with an equal playing field for opportunities in early childhood development.

Our communities have a ready and willing qualified and experienced early childhood workforce.

A new kindergarten building and a separate childcare building combined would equate to a more cost-effective Early Learning Centre located on a safer location on the Department of Education land beside the Murtoa College, which means access to After School Care and safe pick up / drop off and school bus routes. This would be a magnificent benefit to our community while also supporting the growth of both of our local schools and cementing the choice of education Murtoa currently offers families. This is fully supported by Murtoa College, as well as parents and carers of Murtoa and neighbouring communities and farms.

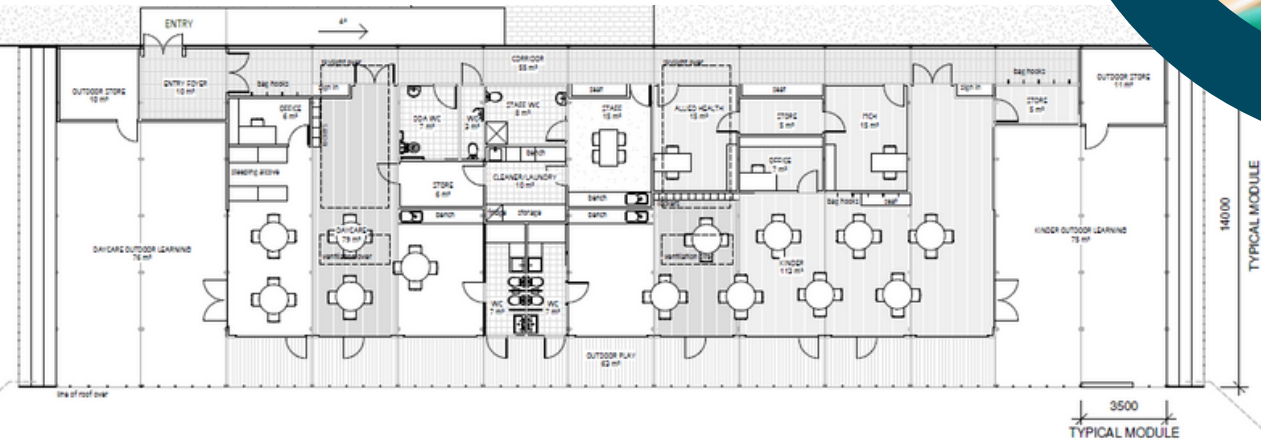


CHILDCARE IS OUR PRIORITY

Yarriambiack is experiencing social and economic change, creating growing demand for a skilled and educated workforce. Addressing the barriers faced by families in the region through equitable, innovative, place-based interventions gives children and young people the best possible chance to thrive.

Council has identified the Dunmunkle Childcare project as one of its highest priorities as endorsed in the 2021 - 2025 Council Plan. Council has committed \$400,000 towards the development as co-funding to highlight the importance of this project.

FUNDING REQUIRED



PROJECT BUDGET

Council's Commitment	\$440K
Federal Funding Building Better Regions (Application submitted - awaiting outcome)	\$845k
State Government Commitment required (Dependent on Federal Government commitment)	\$1.95m - \$1.1m

TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT

\$3.235m



**THANK
YOU**

**Yarriambiack Shire Council
Ms Tammy Smith
tsmith@yarriambiack.vic.gov.au
(03) 5398 0100
www.yarriambiack.vic.gov.au**