



# Literacy and Lifelong Learning Impact Report 2023-2024

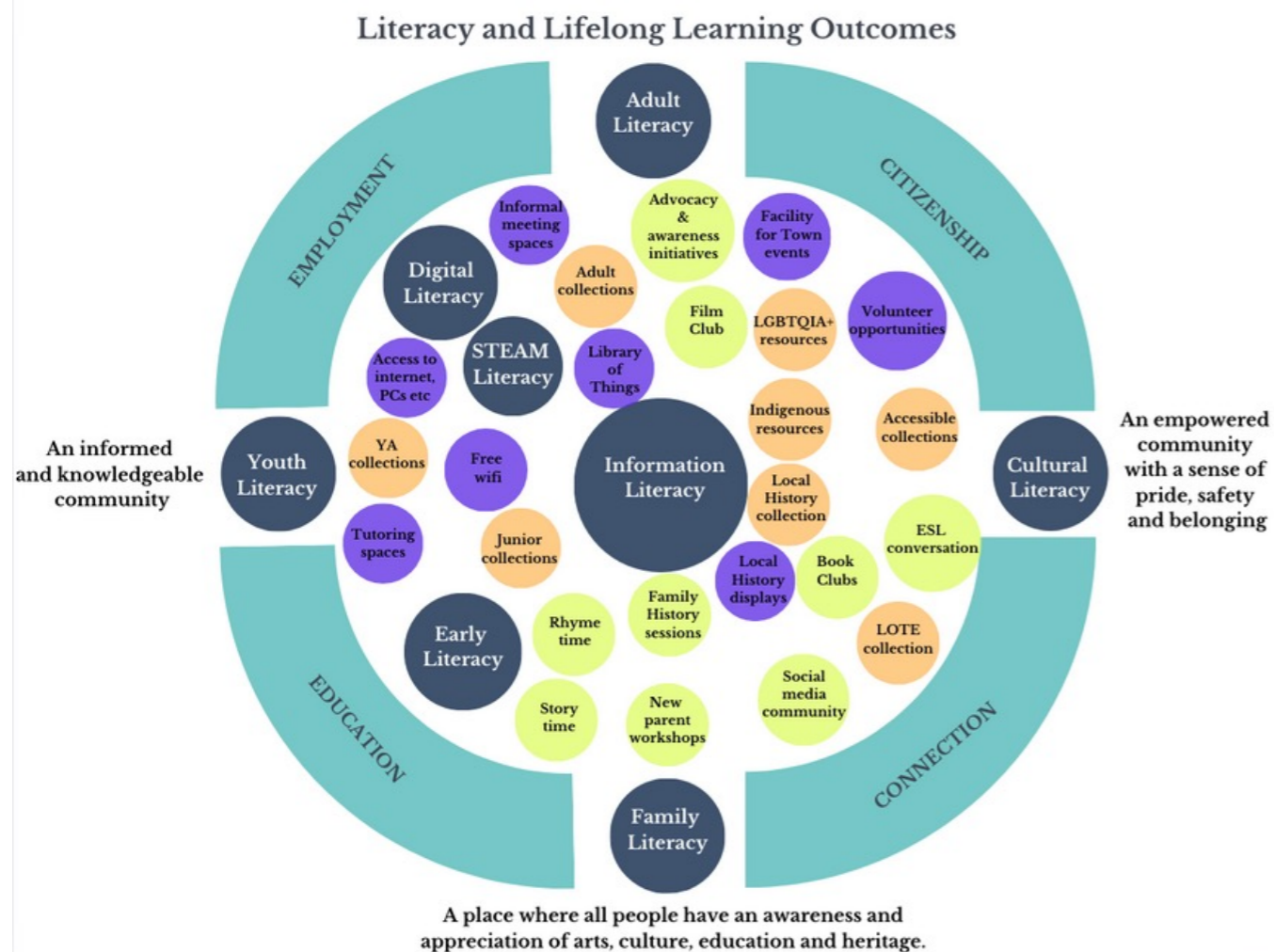


TOWN OF  
VICTORIA PARK

# Early Literacy Scorecard 2023-2024

Literacy is a fundamental skill that is necessary to nurture from birth through all stages of life. Access to literacy and learning engagement is crucial to the success of communities and their socio-economic goals, as well as the betterment of the individual's personal, professional, educational, and community awareness. Libraries are at the forefront of literacy and learning engagement for all ages and all abilities. Programs are curated and designed to accommodate different levels of education, ages, and interests, with an eye to providing services for those marginalised community members.

Our goals: The library is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming space with a focus on lifelong learning for all ages and stages of literacy development and across subject matter. Through collaborative partnerships, outreach, and in-house programming, the library is a hub for exploration, innovation, and creativity, inspiring ideas and providing a sense of belonging for its community – all while encouraging a love of reading and personal exploration.



# Library Highlights 2023-2024

<p><b>102,540</b> Library visitors</p>	<p>We welcomed 1,911 new adult members and 202 new Junior or Young Adult members this financial year.</p> <p>Top reasons for using the library include borrowing resources (90%), attending programs (18%) and children's programs (17%), and accessing technology (13%).</p>
<p><b>46</b> Family History sessions delivered to 68 researchers</p>	<p>Our Local History collection has jigsaw, photograph, map and realia sub-collections, making local history engaging and accessible to a wide range of people.</p> <p>Weekly Time Warp Tuesday Facebook posts increase awareness about the Local History Collection and encourage people to share their own local stories.</p>
<p><b>997</b> Better Beginnings resources distributed to new parents and kindy students</p>	<p>We delivered 152 total Rhymetime and Storytime sessions to 7,556 participants, encouraging parents to read, sing and play with their children every day to improve early literacy outcomes and prepare their child for school.</p>
<p><b>36</b> programs and events for young people aged 6-18 years</p>	<p>We facilitated 3 Job Ready sessions for 24 teens, contributing to improved employment outcomes and directly addressing one of the top 6 key issues identified by young people in the Town.</p> <p>We added 6 borrowable laptops to our Library of Things to improve our community's access to digital resources.</p>
<p><b>82%</b> of library items are available in accessible formats</p>	<p>Our 12 volunteers select and deliver library items to 20+ housebound patrons each fortnight.</p> <p>Our Library of Things includes Memory Care Kits that foster communication and engagement between caregivers and people experiencing memory loss.</p>
<p><b>41</b> Lifelong learning sessions delivered to 562 participants</p>	<p>Our Bite Sized Learning program covered a range of topics from health, the arts, craft, employment and disability awareness. and makes lifelong learning opportunities accessible to all.</p> <p>We facilitate 2 book clubs, a film club, 2 foreign language groups and a poetry group and provide resources for 57 community-led book clubs.</p>

<p><b>11</b> programs and events celebrating diversity in our community</p>	<p>We have items in 32+ languages, so our Culturally and Linguistically Diverse patrons can enjoy books and films in their first language.</p> <p>Our volunteers facilitate weekly English Conversation Circles for up to 12 new adult migrants, to increase social connections and improve knowledge of life in Australia.</p>
<p><b>276</b> digital literacy 1-on-1 sessions delivered</p>	<p>Our 7 digital literacy programs supported 360 people, especially Seniors, to improve their confidence, digital skills and online safety.</p> <p>We also assist people to use the library's digital resources, so they have access to information and entertainment 24/7.</p>

...contributing to an increase in knowledge, opportunity, skill development, experience and confidence in Town of Victoria Park residents.

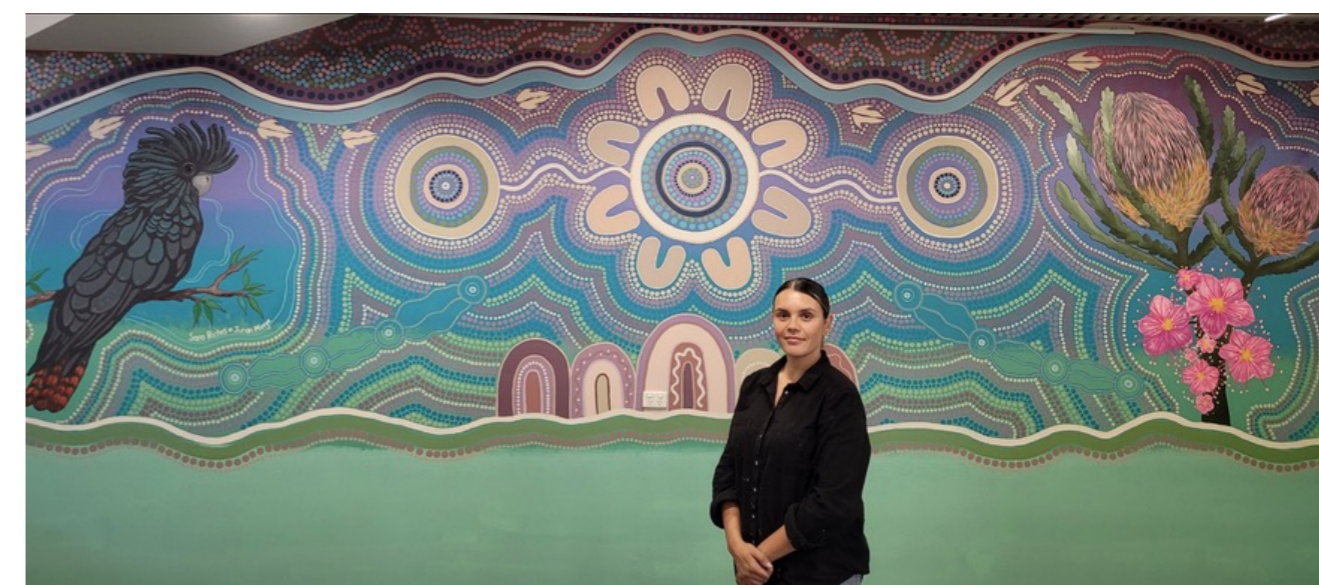


# Library Collections – More than Books

This collection...	...fosters...	...and contributes to:
Boardgames	social connection, intergenerational engagement and reduced screen time	improved wellbeing
Memory care kits	communication and engagement between people experiencing memory loss and their caregivers	improved relationships
Get fit kits	increased physical activity	improved physical wellbeing
Fiction	increased empathy for others	improved social connection
Non-fiction	improved knowledge of people, places, ideas and the environment	improved lifelong learning opportunities

For more details on Library Services outcomes, click on the scorecards:

- [Early Literacy Scorecard](#)
- [Adult Literacy Scorecard](#)



Sara Riches with the mural she designed and painted for the junior area in the Library. The mural symbolises the gathering together of people, rich culture and the abundant Whadjuk land.

# Impact Stories

Back in November we had a Sustainable Nappy workshop.

About 6 women came, from different backgrounds, at different stages of pregnancy and some new mums had other children already.

Two mums met, found that they lived close by, were both new to the area and were both having their first bubs.

Mums sat with other mums.

Then a few weeks went by and we had the Perinatal Yoga for mums in the library. Two mums that had met at the Nappy Workshop came together. How lovely. Then a few months went by and I saw both mums with bubs coming to Rhyme time. I stopped and chatted and recognised that they met way back at the Sustainable Nappy workshop then again at the Yoga and now they were coming to Rhyme time together.

The social impact is so wonderful. You have two mums that make a social connection, through their relationship with the library, and now their bubs will have an ongoing relationship with libraries. This is why I love my job, seeing the community grow with, and from, the library.

- Feedback from Programs and Engagement Librarian

Just a quick note of thanks for the Vic Park library and all staff working there. In the last several years, this library has offered my family a safe place and welcoming vibes. We have accessed Rhyme time in the early years and now regularly borrow books, puzzles and DVDs.

This library has become a special outing for my children.. somewhere to go to avoid the extreme weather (rain or heat) and somewhere to take them without needing to spend money.

It took having kids to re-discover reading for myself and now I look forward to book borrowing just as much as they do. I have swapped out my phone scrolling for reading on my work commute and at bed time which has greatly improved my well-being and sleep hygiene.

Thank you for giving us the library and quality service.

All the small things don't seem like much but added together, they are significant.

- Feedback from a Library user