



Moreland
City Council

Healthy livelihoods

Moreland City Council Health Profile

December 2020

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Overview

Livelihoods are defined as being able to secure the necessities of life through balanced, healthy and safe environments. Livelihoods are dependent on the quality of employment and socio-economic status, therefore those who have a higher socioeconomic status and have secure employment are more likely to live healthier lives as they can access the necessities of life.

Socioeconomic status is a combination of an individual's education, income and occupation status and can be used as an indicator of health to identify trends in population groups. Socioeconomic status can also be used to identify advantages and disadvantages within populations and is a useful tool to identify groups that may need extra support or assistance. Within Moreland, 24.6% of households are classified as 'low-income' (Moreland City Council, 2020). Low-income households are more likely to have higher rates of smoking, inadequate intake of fruit and vegetables and are more likely to be inactive (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2020). Having a low-socioeconomic status affects health outcomes as there are many chronic disease inequalities. Arthritis, asthma, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, coronary heart disease, mental health conditions and lung cancer are just some of the chronic diseases which are more prevalent in low socioeconomic groups than in high socioeconomic groups (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2020).

Employment is a social determinant of health and is an important part of a person's wellbeing as it provides income, sense of purpose and reduces psychological stress. Safe work environments and healthy work policies are important for protecting people and their health in a range of ways including, reducing workplace injuries and accidents, addressing discrimination, or ensuring employees do not burn out at work (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2020). Those who are unemployed have a higher risk of death, illness and disability (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2020), and there are many psychological challenges that unemployment brings which can quickly deteriorate mental health (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2020). Employment can often be attributed to the quality of education an individual has achieved or their skills and qualifications. Those who receive a quality education and finish their qualifications are more likely to attain higher-paying, secure jobs which will raise their socioeconomic status and thus, produce better health outcomes. Employment and education are strongly intertwined so both need to be addressed to ensure that the inequalities experienced by those from low-socioeconomic status backgrounds are reduced and more equal futures and opportunities are available to all.

Inclusive labour policies help to promote healthy livelihoods. They protect the right to work regardless of a person's backgrounds or beliefs and create environments with a zero-tolerance towards discrimination. Having an inclusive labour policy means those with a specific vulnerability are not penalised for this and have opportunities to work and provide for their lifestyle.

Moreland context

Moreland has a slightly higher level of socio-economic disadvantage than the Greater Melbourne average, with the suburbs of Fawkner, Glenroy, Hadfield and Coburg North being the most disadvantaged. A quarter of households are classified as 'low income', which is slightly higher than for Greater Melbourne and equates to approximately 13,600 households, again concentrated in these northern suburbs.

In June 2020, the unemployment rate in Moreland was 6.1%, which is slightly higher than for Greater Melbourne (5.7%). Unemployment is substantially higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, for people with a need for assistance due to a severe or profound disability, and for those who are recent arrivals in Australia within the last 5 year. A low proportion of people live and work within Moreland (15%) compared to neighbouring municipalities and the average for Australia.

Covid-19 has significantly impacted both employment and income, with nearly one third (30%) of respondents to the Moreland Covid-19 Secondary Impact Analysis survey reporting that their financial situation got worse during the pandemic. Unemployment has increased by 0.7% between March and June 2020, with women, young people and those from asylum seeker, refugee and migrant backgrounds disproportionately impacted.

In summary, key issues include:

- Fawkner, Hadfield, Glenroy and Coburg North experience higher levels of socio-economic disadvantage, a higher concentration of low-income households and higher rates of unemployment.
- Covid-19 has significantly impacted income and employment, with women, young people and those from asylum seeker, refugee and migrant backgrounds disproportionately impacted.
- A low proportion of people live and work within Moreland.

Key insights

Employment & Unemployment

- In June 2020, the **unemployment rate in Moreland was 6.1%**, higher than the unemployment rate of 5.7% for Greater Melbourne.
- Suburbs with the highest unemployment rates in June 2020 were Fawkner (8.2), Coburg (7.5), and Hadfield (7.5).

Residents employed locally

- In Moreland, an average of **15% of employed persons live and work in the same local area**. This is considered very low with Moreland placing in the bottom 2 percentile for all of Australia. Compared to neighbouring LGAs, Moreland performs slightly lower than Moonee Valley (17.7%), Darebin (17.7%) and Maribyrnong (20.3%).

Socioeconomic status

- The SEIFA IRSD Index of disadvantage, an indicator to measure relative disadvantage, was 1,014 for the City of Moreland in 2016, which is slightly lower than the score for greater Melbourne with 1,026. This means that Moreland has **slightly higher level of disadvantage** than the greater Melbourne average.
- In Moreland, **24.6% of households** with stated incomes were classified as “low income”, which is slightly higher than in greater Melbourne (23.6% of households) and equates to approximately **13,600 households**.

Employment & Unemployment

Measure: Unemployment rate

Small area labour markets (SALM) presents regional estimates of unemployment and the unemployment rate on a quarterly basis at the local government area (LGA) level and statistical area 2 (SA2) level.

In June 2020, the unemployment rate in Moreland was 6.1, higher than the unemployment rate of 5.7 for Greater Melbourne. Suburbs with the highest unemployment rates in June 2020 were Fawkner (8.2), Coburg (7.5), and Hadfield (7.5).

For more information on unemployment including unemployment payment data current to November 2020, see the [Moreland Unemployed and residents at risk of unemployment brief](#).

Table. Unemployment rate in Moreland SA2s (June 2020)

Suburb	June 2020		Baseline: 2016 Population Census	
	Unemployment Rate (%)	Unemployed persons	Unemployment Rate (%)	Unemployed persons
Brunswick	5.9	1,251	5.8	904
Brunswick East	5.5	541	5.5	428
Brunswick West	6.8	690	6.2	541
Coburg	7.5	1,324	7.0	990
Coburg North	5.8	278	6.4	254
Fawkner	8.2	530	10.2	584
Glenroy	7.0	867	9.1	766
Gowanbrae	3.7	66	4.0	292
Hadfield	7.5	202	7.3	184
Pascoe Vale & Oak Park	3.8	578	6.2	907
Pascoe Vale South	5.0	320	5.7	56
Moreland	6.1	6,677	6.9	5,904
Greater Melbourne	5.7	-	6.8	-

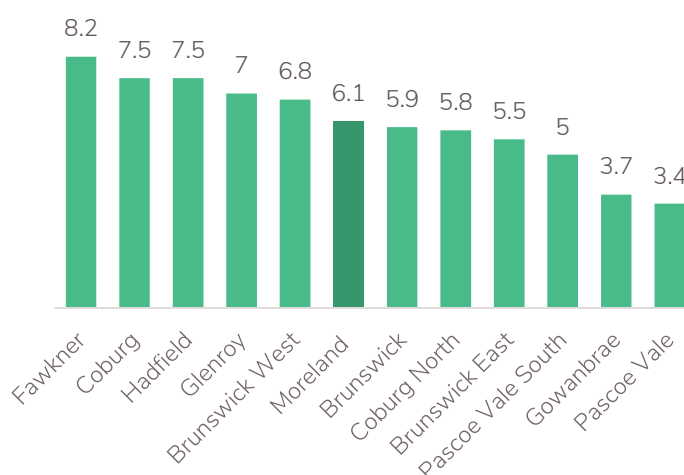
Source: Small Area Labour Markets (SALM) reporting on unemployment rate by SA2 June 2020, Australian Bureau of Statistics Population Census 2016

Table. Baseline unemployed persons in 2016 by sex

Sex	Unemployed, looking for work	% of all unemployed
Male	3,246	55%
Female	2,657	45%
Total	5,904	100%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Population Census 2016

Unemployment rate by suburb (June 2020)





PANDEMIC

Between March and June 2020, the unemployment rate in Moreland increased by 0.7%. Suburbs with the largest increase between March and June were Pascoe Vale South (+2.1%), Fawkner (+1.3%), and Hadfield (+1.3%).



Four in ten respondents to the VicHealth Coronavirus Impact Survey reported less hours of work being available to them and one in ten reported losing their job in the first lockdown. Young people were the most severely impacted by job loss (7% higher than the State average) with young women overrepresented in job loss and unemployment. 29% of people in Victoria are concerned about future job prospects (VicHealth, 2020).

Women have experienced a greater rate of unemployment during the pandemic. The majority of casual workers unable to access job keeper are women; 55% of job losses due to the pandemic are women; and women's unemployment has increased five-fold since the crisis (Gender Equality Victoria, 2020). They have also had a larger responsibility of caring responsibilities and amounts of unpaid work (VicHealth, 2020).

People from asylum seeker, refugee and migrant backgrounds are also disproportionately impacted, being overrepresented in highly casualised and low-income industries that have been heavily affected by COVID-19, such as hospitality and retail (Koy, 2020) and those on temporary visas, who have been largely excluded from federal support packages (VicHealth, 2020).



CLIMATE CHANGE

The economic impacts projected as a result of climate change suggest higher rates of unemployment and economic uncertainty. These rates will be attributed to extreme weather conditions and changes to Victoria's climate which may reduce productivity in Victoria (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017).



PRIORITY GROUPS

Unemployment is substantially higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (11.4%), for people with a need for assistance due to a severe or profound disability (16.0%) and for those who are recent arrivals in Australia within the last 5 years (14.1%) (ABS Census of Population and Dwellings, 2016).

In 2014, 39% of LGBTQIA+ people stated they have hidden their sexuality or gender at work due to fear of discrimination (Australian Human Rights Commission, 2014).

Residents employed locally

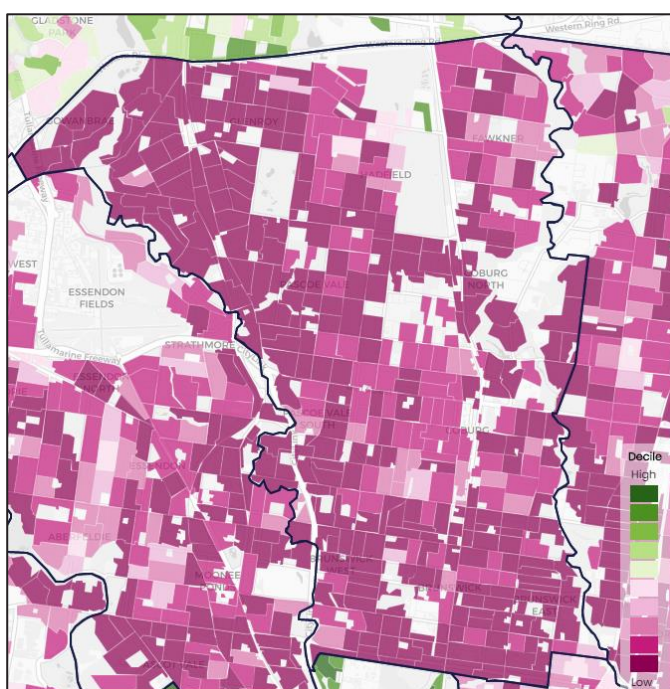
Measure: Percent of employed persons living and working in the same local area

When employees live closer to their workplaces, the likelihood of individuals commuting to work using public transport, walking and cycling as opposed to relying on private vehicles is increased. The use of public and active transport reduces traffic congestion and emissions from private vehicles which positively supports the build and natural environment as well as individual physical activity. (Australian Urban Observatory 2018).

In Moreland, an average of 15% of employed persons live and work in the same local area. This is considered very low with Moreland placing in the bottom 2 percentile for all of Australia. Compared to neighbouring LGAs, Moreland performs slightly lower than Moonee Valley (17.7%), Darebin (17.7%) and Maribyrnong (20.3%).

Table. Percent of employed persons living and working in the same local area by suburb

Suburb	%
Brunswick	14.1%
Brunswick East	13.6%
Brunswick West	14.9%
Coburg	18%
Coburg North	11.7%
Fawkner	18.4%
Glenroy	15.3%
Gowanbrae	9.3%
Hadfield	19.7%
Oak Park	11.5%
Pascoe Vale	12.6%
Pascoe Vale South	14.8%
Moreland	15%



Source: Australian Urban Observatory 2018

Table. Social infrastructure index by LGA

LGA	Moreland	Moonee Valley	Darebin	Maribyrnong
%	15%	17.7%	17.7%	20.3%

Source: Australian Urban Observatory 2018



URBAN CHANGE

Council seeks to create vibrant places that can house future populations and provide local employment. Finding ways to encourage developers to provide commercial floor space to support local job creation in Activity Centres will be important for a growing population and changing work patterns.

Socio-economic status

Measure: SEIFA score

SEIFA (Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas) is a product developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) that ranks areas in Australia according to relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. The indexes are based on information from the Census. SEIFA 2016 is based on Census 2016 data. The Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) is one of four SEIFA indexes. It is a general socio-economic index that summarises a range of information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area. This index includes only measures of relative disadvantage.

A **low** score indicates relatively greater disadvantage in general. For example, an area could have a low score if there are:

- Many households with low income
- Many people with no qualifications
- Many people in low skill occupations

A **high** score indicates a relative lack of disadvantage in general. For example, an area may have a high score if there are:

- Few households with low incomes
- Few people with no qualifications
- Few people in low skilled occupations

The SEIFA index has several limitations worth noting:

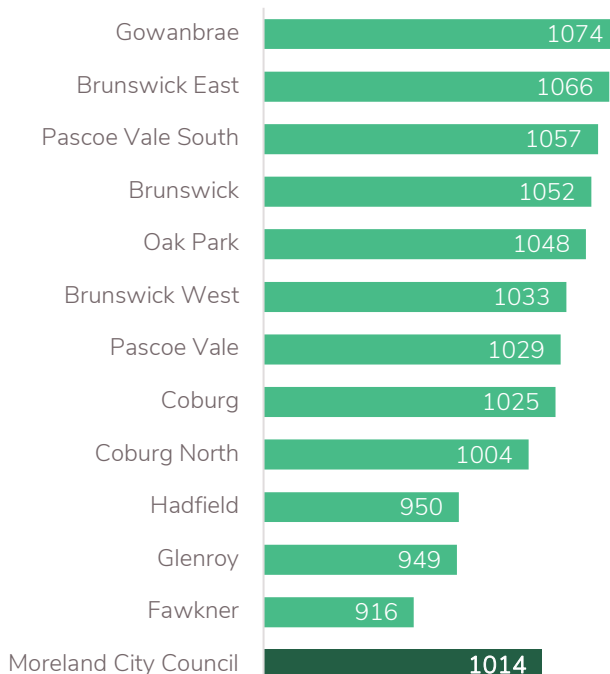
The indexes are assigned to areas, not to individuals. They indicate the collective socio-economic characteristics of the people living in an area.

Due to inputs such as low incomes, SEIFA will pick up large aged care homes and retired people who may have large assets but low incomes. These irregularities are important to note when considering the SEIFA index.

Table. SEIFA IRSD by suburb

Suburb	SEIFA IRSD Score
Gowanbrae	1074
Brunswick East	1066
Pascoe Vale South	1057
Brunswick	1052
Oak Park	1048
Brunswick West	1033
Pascoe Vale	1029
Coburg	1025
Coburg North	1004
Hadfield	950
Glenroy	949
Fawkner	916
Moreland City Council	1014

SEIFA IRSD score by suburb



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Population Census 2016

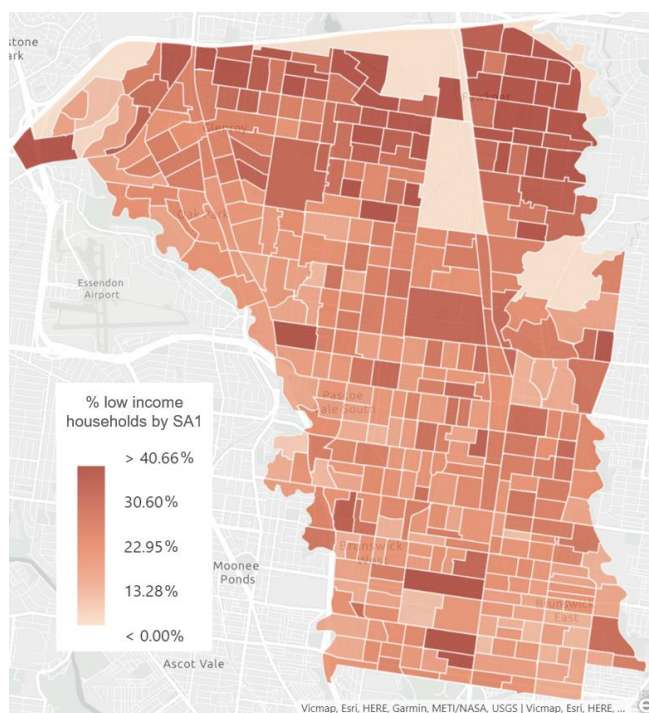
Measure: Low-income households in Moreland

Low-income households¹ are defined as those with equivalised² household income less than \$500 per week. This is the standard range closest to the bottom 25% of all households in Australia.

In Moreland, **24.6% of households** with stated incomes were classified as “low income”, which is slightly higher than in greater Melbourne (23.6% of households) and equates to approximately **13,600 households**. Lone-person households and single-parent families are more likely to have low equivalised incomes than other household types (id consulting, Social Cohesion Monitoring Report 2019).

Table. Low-income households by suburb

Suburb	Low-income households	% of all households
Glenroy	2,231	32%
Coburg	2,025	24%
Brunswick	1,797	20%
Fawkner	1,640	40%
Pascoe Vale	1,355	23%
Brunswick West	1,195	22%
Brunswick East	798	17%
Hadfield	662	36%
Coburg North	661	27%
Pascoe Vale South	625	20%
Oak Park	423	21%
Gowanbrae	157	18%
Moreland	13,570	24.6%
Greater Melbourne	-	23.6%



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics population census 2016, Equivalised Total Household Income (weekly) by statistical area 1 (SA1). Map prepared in Power Bi by Moreland Research Team.



PANDEMIC

Nearly one third (30%) of respondents to the MCC Covid-10 Secondary Impact Analysis survey reported that their financial situation got worse during the pandemic. Younger respondents aged 18-34 were more likely to have their financial situation worsen. CALD respondents were also more likely to have their financial situation worsen. On the other hand, respondents in higher income (over \$100k) households reported an improved situation.

¹ Relationship between “low-income” and poverty: Low income definition used is not an indicator of poverty and there will be people on more than \$500 per week living in poverty as per the Henderson Poverty Line definition by [Melbourne Institute University of Melbourne](#).

² Equivalised household income is a good measure of the resources available to a household. It adjusts total income to account for household size in terms of adults and children and puts all households on equal footing with a single person household of the same income (ID Consulting 2019).

Stark differences have been noted between the experiences of some people or communities and the rest of Victoria. Those who earn less than \$59,999 annually experienced an increase in their financial hardship (VicHealth, 2020).



CLIMATE CHANGE

Communities with a low socio-economic status have a higher sensitivity to the impacts of climate change. There is a higher prevalence of underlying chronic health conditions that will be exacerbated by climate change, ultimately putting people from this group at greater risk of adverse health effects (Department of Health and Human Services, 2019).



PRIORITY GROUPS

The gender pay gap contributes to women's socioeconomic status. This status is a key social determinant in assessing future health outcomes. People with a lower socioeconomic standing have higher risks of many physical and mental illnesses (VicHealth, Gender Equality Health and Wellbeing 2017).

LGBTQIA+ adults are more likely to have a lower socioeconomic status. There is a higher proportion of this community that have an annual household income of less than \$40,000. There is also a much lower proportion of people in higher income households (over \$100,000 annual household income) when compared to non-LGBTQIA+ adults (Victorian Agency for Health Information, 2017).

Fawkner, Hadfield, Glenroy and Coburg North experience higher levels of socio-economic disadvantage, higher rates of unemployment, and have a relatively high percentage of people with poor or no spoken English (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016).

Data sources

For a full list of references, please refer to the [Moreland Health & Wellbeing Profile 2020](#)

Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing 2016

The ABS Census of Population and Housing is a nationwide census of all households and residents. It is conducted every five years. The census collects data about the population including age, gender, relationships within households, usual residence, country of birth, language spoken at home, ancestry, education, employment, wages and religion. The census also collects a small amount of household data. The most recent data is 2016.

Australian Human Rights Commission, 2014

Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) protects and promotes human rights in Australia and internationally.

Australian Urban Observatory

The Australian Urban Observatory is a digital platform that transforms complex urban data into easily understood liveability maps across Australia's 21 largest cities. The Observatory maps key liveability indicators found to be associated with health and wellbeing and provides a clear understanding of the liveability of cities. The most recent data is 2018.

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) deliver services that support liveable, inclusive and sustainable communities and thriving natural environments.

Department of Health and Human Services 2019

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provides advice on health and climate change.

Gender Equality Victoria, 2020

The peak body for gender equity, women's health and the prevention of violence against women.

id consulting, Social Cohesion Monitoring Report 2019

This data was prepared by .id Consulting on behalf of Moreland City Council.

The most recent data is 2016.

Small Area Labour Markets publication June 2020

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment produces quarterly regional estimates of unemployment and the unemployment rate at the Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) and Local Government Area (LGA) level. The most recent data is June 2020.

VicHealth Applying a gender lens in the workplace 2016

A tool to provide guidance on applying a gender lens in the workplace. It forms part of a suite of tools developed from the experiences of Monash City Council and Link Health and Community in their journey to create and support gender equity and prevent violence against women as part of the Generating Equality and Respect program.

VicHealth Coronavirus Victorian Wellbeing Impact Study 2020

A survey of 2,000 Victorian adults to explore how their health and wellbeing was affected during the first lockdown of 2020. The survey covered general wellbeing, social connection, healthy eating, physical activity, financial hardship, smoking, alcohol consumption, as well as working and home life.

The most recent data is from 2020.

VicHealth Gender Equality, Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-19

VicHealth's vision for gender equality is about finding and delivering solutions that build the social, economic, political and cultural foundations that enable women and girls to participate fully and equally in all aspects of their lives.

Victoria Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017-2020

Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017-2020 lays out a blueprint for action that will help the state meet the challenges and act on the opportunities of climate change.

The most recent data is 2017.

Victorian Agency for Health Information 2017

Safer Care Victoria and VAHI were created as a part of government reforms to improve quality and safety across Victoria's public healthcare system.