

Background and context

In 2022, Council undertook a review of the previous Human Rights and Social Justice Framework 2017-21 to understand changes to international, national and state policy and the changing landscape of health inequality in a post-pandemic environment, along with opportunities to strengthen its role and responsibilities in upholding human rights and advancing social justice for the community.

The new draft Social Justice Framework (draft Framework), which covers a ten-year period from 2023-2033, reinforces this overarching commitment. The draft Framework places a stronger focus on implementing social justice values across the organisation to ensure Council processes and decisions do not contribute to further disadvantage or undermine aspirations for equity, diversity, inclusion and resilience.

The draft Framework also incorporates health inequality and climate justice as part of Council's social justice commitments for the first time.

Methodology

The community was invited to provide comment on the draft Framework, either online via Your City Your Voice or via email directly to the project team, over a four week period from 25 January to 23 February 2024.

There were no in-person engagement opportunities.

Engagement was promoted via a media release and social media.

An email was also sent to registered members of the Your City Your Voice platform.

Overall response

An email was sent to **367** registered members of the digital engagement platform who selected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Community, Policy and Strategy, or Youth as projects of interest to them.

Almost two thirds, **61% (224)**, opened the email and **6.5% (24)** clicked through to the project page.

There were **three** contributions online via Your City Your Voice and **one** email was received by the Social Planning team.

Your City Your Voice

The project page was visited **169** times during the engagement period. **One** visitor followed¹ the project page. The draft Social Justice Framework 2023-2033 was downloaded **35** times.

There was a good level of interest from the community evidenced by the number of visits and document downloads. This suggests that those who visited the page may not have felt the need to share comments as they were potentially comfortable with the strategic direction outlined in the draft.

¹ Following a project allows community members to easily keep track of projects and receive alerts whenever updates are made.

Interest in the project peaked twice including at the project's launch on 25 January, and when the project was promoted via media release and social media on 29 January.

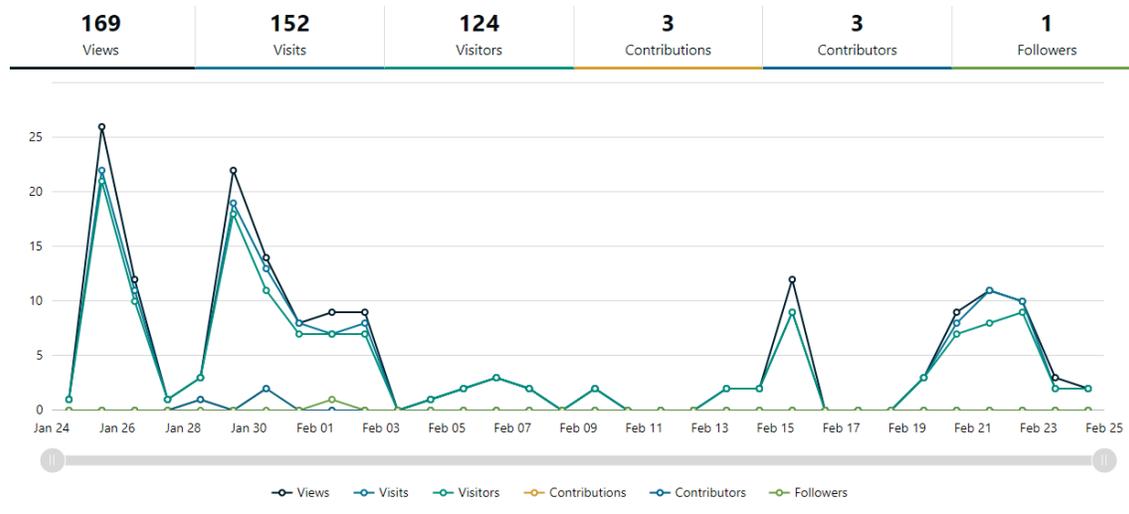


Figure 1: Digital engagement performance summary

Findings

Email

One email was received by the Social Planning team. The email was supportive of the draft Framework and values. The email went on to suggest that Council should measure homelessness and poverty rates to ensure we can address these issues at a community level. The email further noted that a focus on this would align with health and wellbeing indicators, as well as the goals of equity, inclusion and resilience.

Your City Your Voice

Three community members shared their comments on the draft Framework. Comments included:

- Support for the principles and goals of the draft Framework, but some concerns around its implementation.
- A question regarding the draft Framework's definition of resilience and how it can be measured.
- Concern about how the draft Framework will be implemented equitably, particularly the needs of residents and ratepayer groups not specifically identified.

Demographics

- Two males and one female provided comments.
- Two respondents were aged 45-49, while one respondent was aged 40-44.
- Two respondents resided in Footscray, while one respondent does not reside in the Maribyrnong local government area but works here.
- One respondent identified as a member of the LGBTIQ+ community.