

# Preventing all forms of violence



Crimes are categorised as drug offences, public order or security offences, justice procedures offenses and crimes against a person, most commonly in the form of family violence and violence against women. There can be significant health and wellbeing impacts and fear of crimes can limit people's everyday activities, social interaction and physical activity.

Family violence causes physical and mental health impacts, social isolation from family and friends, food insecurity, displacement of housing, loss or limited employment and even death. It is estimated that it costs Australia \$21.7 billion dollars a year to address family violence incidences (VicHealth 2015).

## Crime rates

Manningham continues to be one of the safest municipalities in Victoria. Since 2011 crime rates have fluctuated in line with wider trends across Victoria and the Eastern Metropolitan Region (EMR), as illustrated below in **Figure 1. Rate of criminal incidents by year.**

## Criminal Incidents - Manningham, EMR and Victoria



Source: Victorian Crime Statistics Agency

Manningham experiences the same types of crimes as the wider State, albeit at a lower rate. Property and deception offences are most common, representing more than 72.0% of all offences in Manningham in 2019, followed by crimes against the person (13.6%) as illustrated below in **Table 1. Offence division by year.**

Offence Division	Year								
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Crimes against the person	342	377	394	399	467	570	495	485	522
Property and deception offences	2,196	2,272	2,413	2,364	2,459	2,953	2,686	2,392	2,758
Drug offences	91	80	120	136	129	93	122	130	117
Public order and security offences	79	105	98	87	107	107	100	92	120
Justice procedures offences	84	84	86	141	188	236	295	243	307
Other offences	12	5	1	3	5	3	1	4	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,804</b>	<b>2,923</b>	<b>3,112</b>	<b>3,130</b>	<b>3,355</b>	<b>3,962</b>	<b>3,699</b>	<b>3,346</b>	<b>3,830</b>

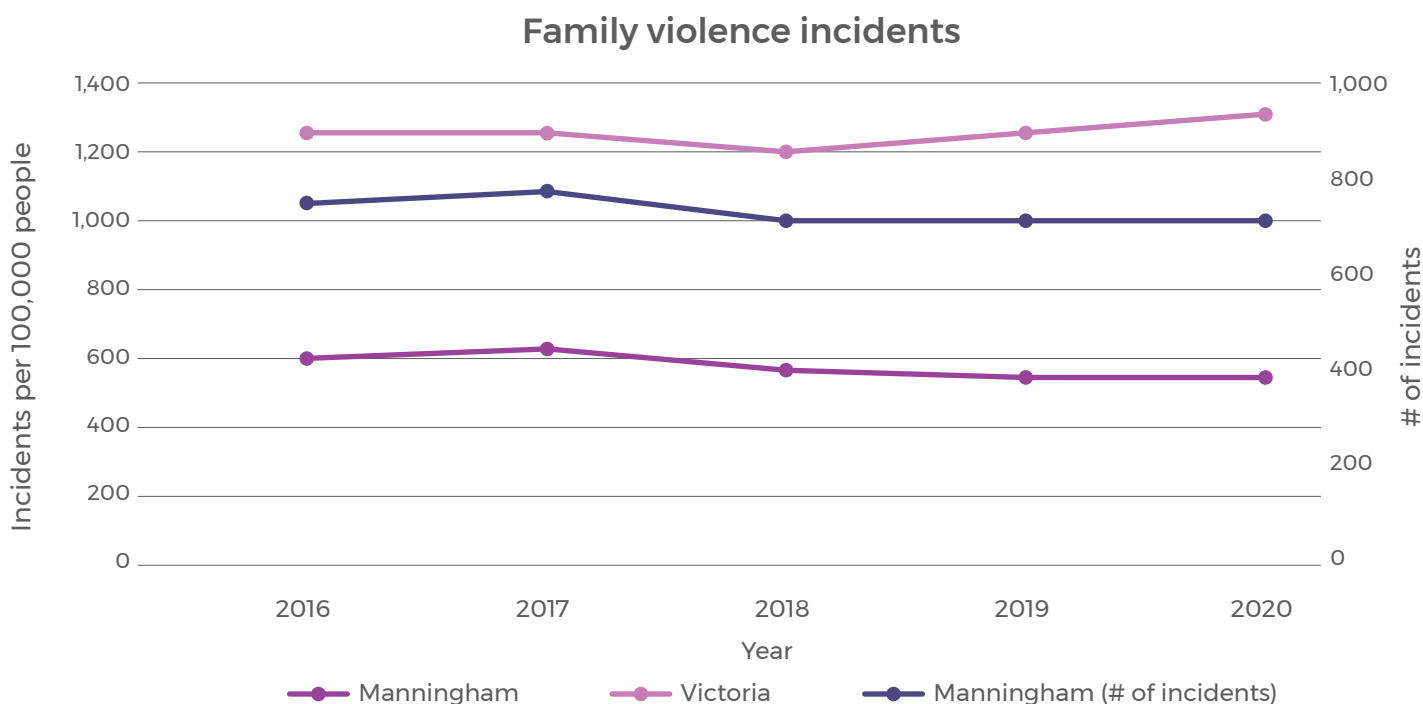
Source: Victorian Crime Statistics Agency

Of particular note is the increase in the number of justice procedure offences and crimes against the person since 2011. In 2019, almost half (46.5%) of justice procedure offences were due to breaches of family violence orders and almost one-third (31.9%) due to breaches in bail conditions. In 2019, 61.7% of crimes against the person were due to assault and related offences, and 12.6% due to stalking, harassment and threatening behavior.

## Family violence incidents

Family violence can lead to physical and mental health impacts, social isolation from family and friends, food insecurity, displacement of housing, loss or limited employment and even death.

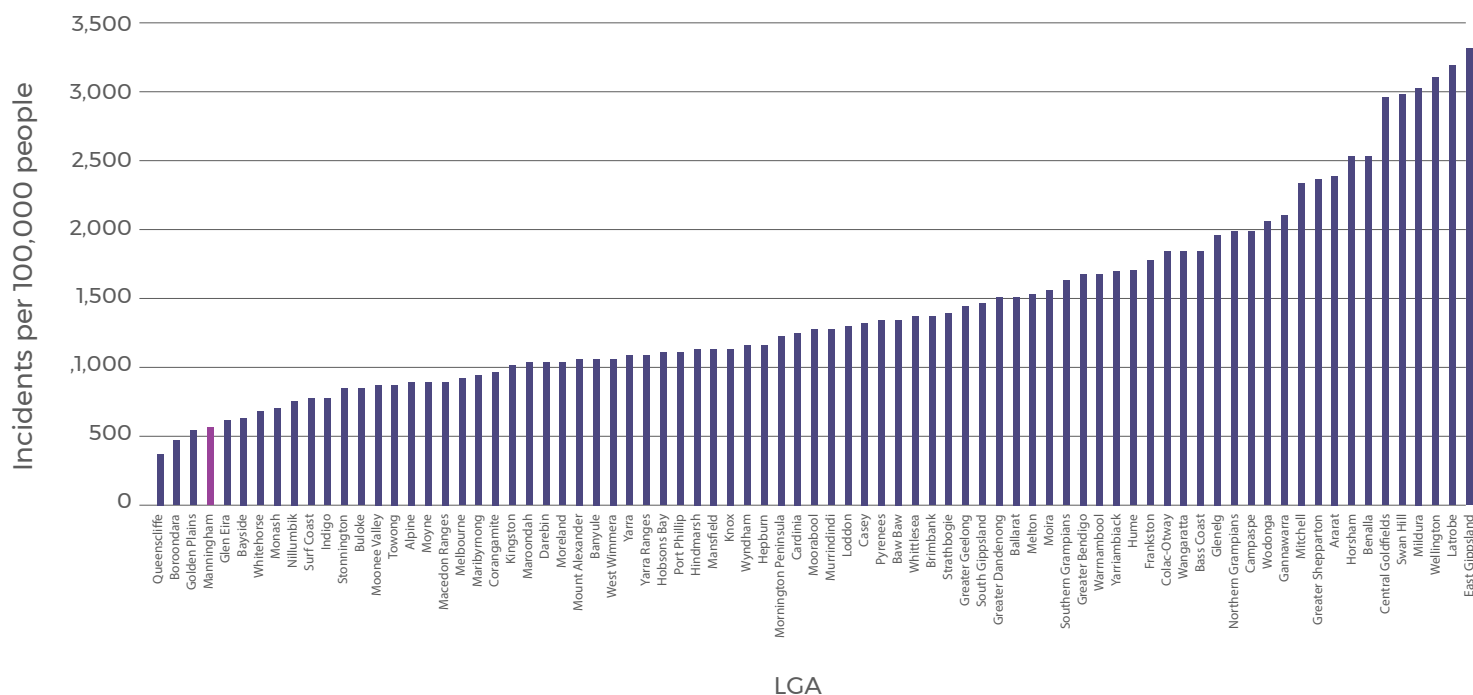
As illustrated in **Figure 2. Family violence incidents by year** below, Manningham has experienced less than half of reported family violence incidents compared to the Victorian average and changes in the municipality since 2016 broadly correlate with those across the state.



Source: Victorian Crime Statistics Agency

In the 12-months to March 2020, Manningham had one of the lowest rates of family violence compared to other Victorian local government areas (LGA) as illustrated on the next page in **Figure 3. Family violence incident rate by LGA (12-months to March 2020)**.

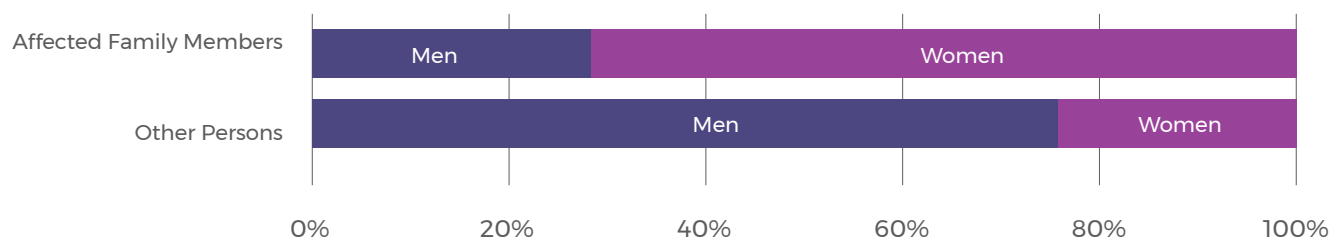
## Family Violence Incident Rate by LGA (12-months to March 2020)



Source: Victorian Crime Statistics Agency

In the 12 months to March 2020, women accounted for 72% of people affected by family incidents in Manningham, whilst men accounted for more than 76% of “Other Persons” (i.e. the person responsible for the reported family incident) as illustrated below in **Figure 4. Manningham family violence incidents by gender**. This is consistent with the wider Victorian experience.

## Family Violence Incidents - Manningham - 12 months to March 2020 Affected and Other Persons by Gender



Source: Victorian Crime Statistics Agency

Family incidents affect people of all ages. In Manningham in 2020:

- 7.4% were aged 0 to 17 years
- 9.9% were aged 18 to 24 years
- 18.4% were aged 25 to 34 years
- 23.9% were aged 35 to 44 years
- 20.3% were aged 45 to 54 years
- 20.1% were aged 55+ years

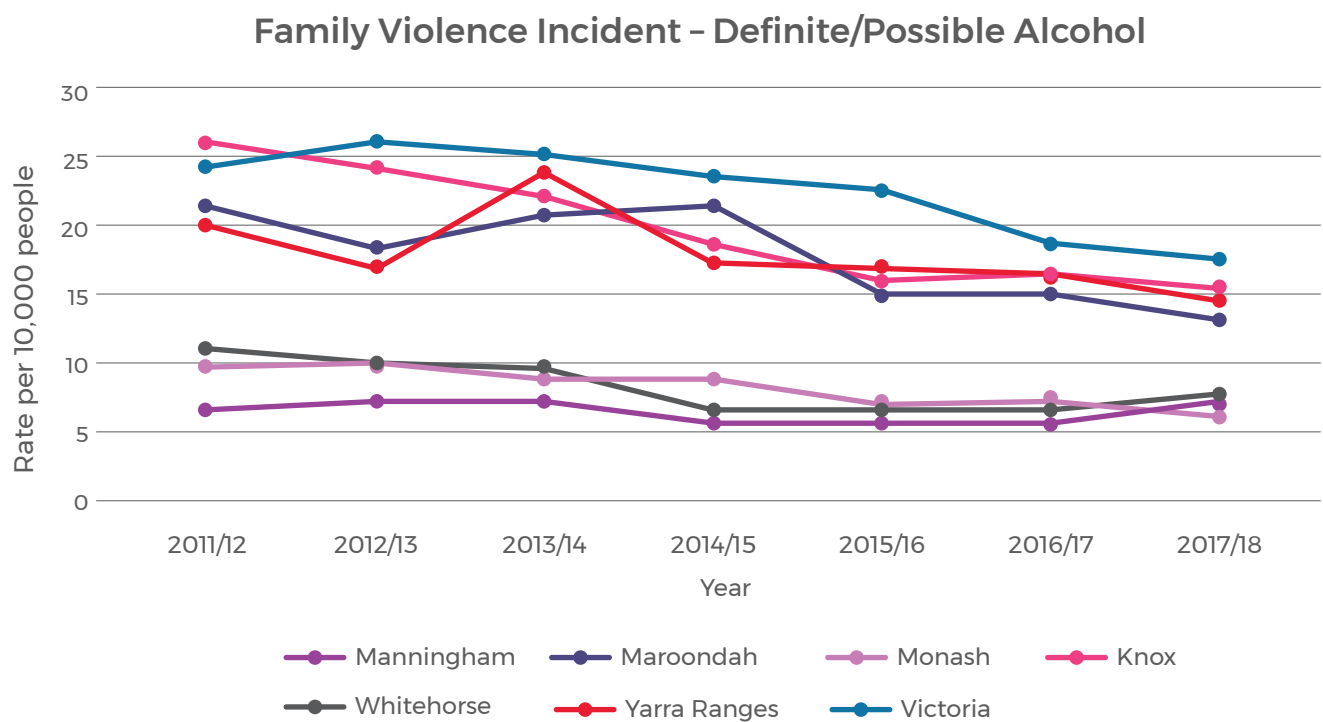
The age distribution of affected people has remained relatively unchanged since 2016.

The incidence of possible or definite alcohol involvement in family violence incidents is low in Manningham compared to the Victorian average. However, the Victorian average trended down significantly from 2013/14 to 2017/18, whereas Manningham's rate remained relatively static and increased slightly in 2017/18 as illustrated below in

**Figure 5. Family violence incidents involving alcohol by local government area.**

LGBTQIA+ Victorians are more than twice as likely to have experienced family violence (13.4%) compared to the broader population (5.1%), (Discussion Paper for the Victorian LGBTIQ Strategy).

Within the Eastern Metropolitan Region, Manningham, Whitehorse and Monash exhibit similarly low levels of alcohol involvement in family incidents. However, Manningham and Whitehorse increased slightly and Monash decreased slightly in the 12 months to June 2018.



Source: AODStats by Turning Point and Monash University

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT A NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL

## National approach

The *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022* implemented through the *Fourth Action Plan 2019-2022* focuses on five national priorities to reduce family, domestic and sexual violence, namely:

1. Primary prevention for the whole community to change attitudes, behaviours and accepted standards that excuse, justify or encourage violence against women and their children.
2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children, who continue to experience disproportionately high rates of family violence.
3. Respect, listen and respond to the diverse lived experience and knowledge of women and their children affected by violence.
4. Respond to sexual violence and sexual harassment through primary prevention, including gender equality, consent and healthy sexual relationships particularly for young people.
5. Improve support and service system responses to ensure women and their children have help when they need it and reducing the stigma associated with seeking support.

## State approach

Family violence is a key priority of the current Victorian Government, beginning with the establishment of a Royal Commission into Family Violence in 2015 which delivered its final recommendations in March 2016. Key Victorian policies relating to family violence now include:

1. *Ending Family Violence – Victoria's Plan for Change* is a 10-year plan outlining how the government will implement all 277 recommendations from Victoria's Royal Commission into Family Violence.
2. *Free from Violence* is a primary prevention strategy designed to change social norms, structures and practices that enable and support violence against women and children.
3. *Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy* aims to progressively build the attitudinal and behavioural change required to reduce violence against women and deliver gender equality. It utilises a range of levers including legislative change, governance structures, employment practices, budget, policy, procurement, funding decisions and advocacy to the Commonwealth Government. The strategy focuses on six key settings for early action including education and training; work and economic security; health, safety and wellbeing; leadership and representation; sport and recreation; and, media, arts and culture.

Family Safety Victoria has been established to implement key recommendations from the Royal Commission.

The *Gender Equality Act 2020* provides the legislative basis for implementing key aspects of the Government's gender equality strategy (*Safe and Strong*), in particular the requirement to develop Gender Equality Action Plans (GEAP) every four years, and to publicly report on progress every two years.

## Local approach

**Council Vision:** A liveable and harmonious city

**Mission:** A financially sustainable Council that listens, consults and acts with integrity, value and transparency.

Manningham's *Council Plan 2017-2021* under the *Healthy Community* theme, includes the action area of "a community that is active in the prevention of family violence", through strengthened community confidence to report family violence and link to support services.

Manningham's *Healthy City Strategy 2017-2021* identifies the prevention of violence as an action area, through committing and acting to end violence and its impacts, with a focus on women and children who are victims, people with disability, and LGBTQIA+ people. The targets are a 5% increase in reporting incidents of family violence, reflecting confidence in the system and intolerance of family violence by 2025 (2016 baseline), and an increase in the proportion of bystanders who are prepared to safely intervene in a family violence situation.

Women's Health East has led the development of a regional strategy on the prevention of violence against women, *Together for Equality and Respect*. Manningham is a key partner on the initiative.

The *Gender Equality Act 2020* commences on 31 March 2021, at which point Manningham Council will start developing a Gender Equality Action Plan, to be finalised by October 2021.

Gender inequity is a key driver of family violence. To enable a safe, respectful and inclusive community it is vital to address gender inequity. This includes working to unpack gender stereotypes in our community.

*While this data reflects many aspects of our community, we recognise that it is not comprehensive and does not reflect everyone's experience in Manningham. We commit to identifying these gaps and seeking data, as it becomes available, to fill them. If you are aware of data, not included here, that better reflects your community, please email [manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au) with the subject heading 'new data information'.*