

Opportunities for

Carlton

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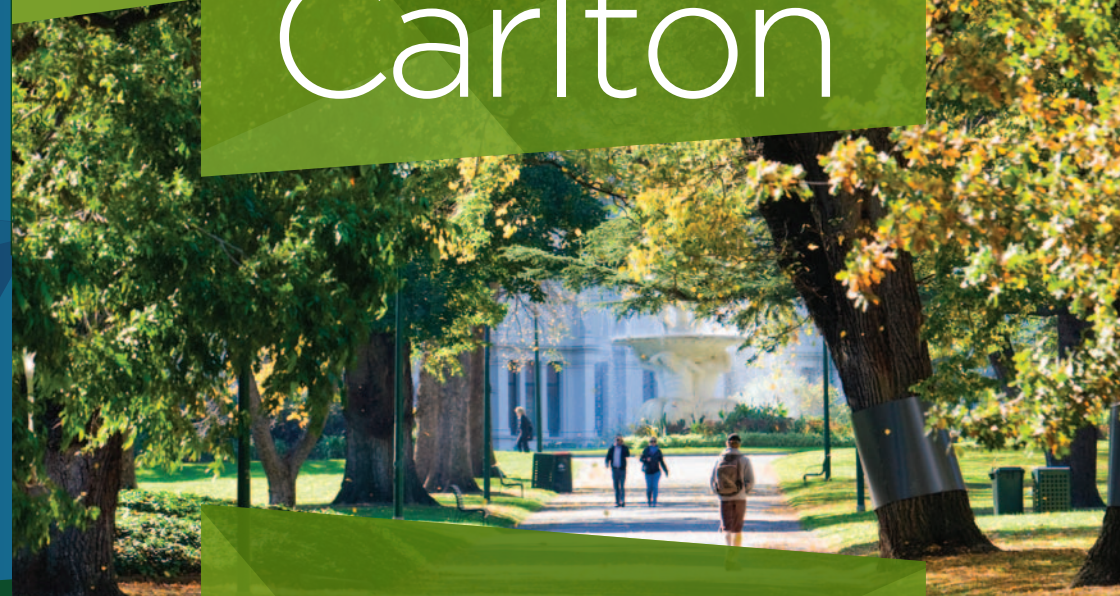
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Carlton community plan





Message from the City of Melbourne

Education, health, employment and safety are important priorities for a strong community. The Opportunities for Carlton project aims to identify improvements for a growing local community.

Vibrant and diverse, Carlton is home to 14,000 residents, and an important precinct for tourism, education, hospitality and business. In common with the rest of Melbourne, it is changing and developing. In response, the City of Melbourne has a long-term commitment to support improvements, and work closely with the people of Carlton.

The Opportunities for Carlton project has involved extensive consultation with local people to develop the Carlton Community Plan. With government and community working together, the Opportunities for Carlton Project will guide our planning for improvements for Carlton now and in future.

We encourage you to take part in your community, and help make a difference.



Robert Doyle
Lord Mayor



Cr Jennifer Kanis
**Future Melbourne
(People and Creative City)
Committee Chair**

Message from the Chair

The Carlton Community Plan will help shape the quality of life for the Carlton community for decades to come, by strengthening the social, health, economic and educational outcomes for all residents.

A diverse group of people have already come forward to contribute a vision for the future that puts inclusion, well-being and engagement centre stage in both the planning process and as a cornerstone of future decision-making.

We now have an unprecedented opportunity to showcase the extraordinary value that comes from community participation, collaboration and a deep commitment to shared priorities.

I look forward to the rest of this exciting journey.



Melanie Raymond
Chair, Opportunities for Carlton



This community plan has been developed by the Carlton community and endorsed by the Opportunities for Carlton Network with support from the City of Melbourne. It will be enacted by the ‘Opportunities for Carlton’ (OFC) project.

Why Carlton?

Carlton is a dynamic and diverse suburb that has some unique characteristics.

- Carlton is the scene of major and rapid change on the fringe of the central city. With significant growth in new medium and high density housing developments, including public housing estates and student accommodation, comes significant increases and changes in the population and increased pressure on infrastructure and demand for services.
- Carlton’s population is changing and growing. More than half of Carlton’s residents are born overseas, and almost half of its population is aged between 12 and 25 years old, including a large and increasing number of tertiary students.
- There are differences in the experiences of Carlton residents. While a significant number of Carlton residents rate highly in terms of their standard of living, in contrast a large number of people in Carlton are also living with much poorer standards of income, education, employment, housing and socio-economic status.

Supporting the Carlton community

The OFC project is a collaborative process with the Carlton community funded by the Department of Planning and Community Development and the Office of Housing and administered by the City of Melbourne. The project aims to harness community energy, skills and resources, to empower the community to positively engage with the changes currently occurring within the Carlton community.

Through the OFC project, the City of Melbourne will support Carlton’s residents, businesses, organisations and public institutions to work collaboratively to plan, coordinate and deliver targeted responses to local issues.

The project will build genuine participation of local people in the government’s decision-making processes on matters within the community, and ensure a more collaborative and coordinated investment by government into the Carlton area.

OFC vision and mission

Carlton will be a vibrant, inclusive, equitable and thriving place to live, work, study and visit.

We will achieve this by bringing community, industry and government together to develop and implement ideas designed to create a better Carlton.



Objectives

The objectives of the OFC project are to:

- Identify Carlton community priorities, and assist the community and government to enact the Carlton community plan.
- Connect people within Carlton, including the diverse groups and individuals, across cultures, age groups and interests.
- Build on local strengths and assets to develop skills and knowledge to meet community priorities.
- Support and enhance a culture of dialogue between the community and government, to support community participation in decision-making.
- Better coordinate government investment and effort into the Carlton community.

How this community plan was developed

The OFC project commenced with a community planning process in 2008. This community plan was developed through extensive consultation with the community to identify the issues and barriers faced by the Carlton community. The plan identifies community priorities as well as ideas for addressing these barriers.

A range of priorities to improve education, employment, safety, health, and social outcomes for the Carlton community are outlined.

The OFC project is a 3 year project from June 2009 to June 2012 and will work with community and government to enact this community plan.

The project structure will involve:



OFC network

The OFC network is the key coordinating body for the OFC project. It is made up of residents, community groups, government and industry, and meets every six months.

The major roles of the network are to:

- Inform and identify priority needs and issues in the community.
- Endorse the direction of the project, and decide on the preferred approaches and actions to address needs and issues.
- Actively participate in implementing solutions, actions and outcomes.



Working groups

Ideas generated by the OFC network are further developed by working groups focussed on specific themes and actions.

Current groups include:

- Carlton together – focuses on community engagement, community connectedness, embracing diversity, volunteering, sustainability and tourism.
- Healthy Carlton – focuses on health and wellbeing, safety, diversity and recreation opportunities in Carlton.
- Carlton work and learning – focuses on lifelong learning and the development of education and employment opportunities in Carlton.

Inter-government group

The work of the community is supported by the inter-government group made up of senior local and state government representatives with responsibility for coordinating government resources in and around the Carlton area.

This group meets quarterly to:

- Identify and secure government support across Carlton.
- Ensure coordinated approach to project and program delivery in Carlton.
- Support a culture of community engagement through government processes.
- Commit to timely and effective responses to issues arising from the project.

What success will look like

- Sustainable and effective mechanisms for community participation in decision-making are established.
- Improved dialogue between community and government.
- The Carlton community is strengthened and more connected, having an active voice in decisions affecting their community.
- The Carlton community plays an active role in addressing community needs and is engaged in creating a connected and inclusive Carlton.
- Government planning and resources are responsive to identified community needs.

Community action plan for Carlton



Overarching project priorities			
Community priority	Why this is a priority	Priority actions	Community assets
<p>Sustainable and effective systems for community participation in decision-making have been established.</p>	<p>The Carlton community is going through a period of change and growth within its population and in the landscape of Carlton. This presents an exciting opportunity for the Carlton community to help shape the future of Carlton. Members of the community can be supported to provide input on decisions about their environment.</p> <p>The Opportunities for Carlton project will support the whole of government planning in Carlton and enhance the dialogue between the community and government.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop systems for decision-making in Carlton, ensuring that the diverse needs of the Carlton community are captured. • Support whole of government coordination in Carlton. • As processes are established and evaluated, explore with government partners ways to embed learnings into process and policy. • Develop community skills in participation and advocacy. • Enhance accountability, feedback and communication between the community and government. 	<p>Existing planning processes with the City of Melbourne and government</p> <p>Office of Housing Community Liaison Committee (OoH CLC)</p> <p>Carlton Housing Estate Residents Services (CHERS)</p> <p>Police Community Consultative Committee (PCCC)</p>
<p>Community knowledge and skills have been developed to support participation in decision-making processes. The community feels confident and informed.</p>	<p>A key priority for Opportunities for Carlton as a community strengthening project is community participation in decision making. This includes ways to keep the community informed, involved, collaborating and empowered.</p> <p>Community members have also identified their interest in access to research and information that enables them to make well informed decisions, as they plan for Carlton now and in the future. This includes understanding the demographics of population changes and the experiences of other communities undergoing similar community planning processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop community skills for participation, which may include community advocacy, planning processes and supporting / coordinating community groups. • Support research in Carlton to ensure that information and resources are accessible and help the community and government in planning and development. 	<p>Interested and involved community members</p> <p>Government research and resources</p> <p>Tertiary institutions</p>

Community action plan for Carlton



Carlton Together – focuses on community engagement, community connectedness, embracing diversity, volunteering and tourism.			
Community priority	Why this is a priority	Priority actions	Community assets
<p>To develop social networks, structures and infrastructure to bring people together in Carlton.</p>	<p>There is a need for community space in Carlton for the community to meet together, hold events and perform. This need has been identified through the Opportunities for Carlton project and other community consultation processes, including the Carlton Community Infrastructure Plan and the Office of Housing Redevelopment Visioning process.</p> <p>More specifically, arts and culture can play an important role in social connection, celebration and discussion. The City of Melbourne Carlton Flats Arts Project provided community arts and culture opportunities in Carlton and demonstrated that the community uses performance and meeting space when available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and make better use of existing community facilities and infrastructure. Work with government to incorporate community input into identifying and planning future community spaces in Carlton. Develop arts and culture initiatives that support community expression, including opportunities for art and performance. 	<p>Existing parks / facilities</p> <p>Melbourne Museum</p> <p>Universities</p> <p>La Mama</p> <p>Cinema Nova</p>
<p>To build Carlton as a community that responds to the changing populations, and ensure that people have ways to connect with the community, and access activities and services in Carlton.</p>	<p>Nearly 70 per cent of all dwellings in Carlton are rented, and consequently there is a relatively high turnover of residents. 34 per cent of Carlton's households are lone person households. The community has identified a need to help orient and welcome newly arrived people to Carlton as a means of involving people who may be socially isolated and building a strong, cohesive community that is able to respond to these changes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a community website as a central digital hub for Carlton information, events, services and businesses. Map services and points of interest / relevance in Carlton. Work with the following: the Office of Housing to help orient new public housing tenants; education facilities to help orient new students; and real estate agents to help new private renters and home owners. Work with government to develop affordable housing options in the inner city, and to provide responses to homelessness in Carlton. 	<p>Local media</p> <p>Real estate agents</p> <p>Student support services</p> <p>Office of Housing</p> <p>City of Melbourne</p>

Community action plan for Carlton



Carlton Together – focuses on community engagement, community connectedness, embracing diversity, volunteering and tourism.			
Community priority	Why this is a priority	Priority actions	Community assets
<p>To build Carlton as a great place to live, visit and enjoy. To ensure that cultural opportunities are enjoyable and accessible for all and the community is involved through events, employment and planning.</p>	<p>There is a need to balance the needs of Carlton residents with the needs of the broader Melbourne community. Carlton is a key attraction in Melbourne, and the success of tourism development can increase employment opportunities and prosperity in Carlton.</p> <p>Events, arts, culture, heritage and tourism can also provide opportunities to celebrate the diversity of Carlton and to bring the community together.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop mechanisms for visitors to access Carlton, including walking tours and improved cycling access. • Develop activities in Carlton to celebrate diversity, including Harmony Day and social enterprise initiatives. • Support a healthy and vital arts and culture scene for all people in Carlton. • Develop a community website as a valuable resource for visitors to Carlton. • Identify supports and incentives for tourism operators in Carlton. 	<p>City of Melbourne Tourism Melbourne Branch and Events Melbourne Branch</p> <p>Tourism Victoria</p> <p>Carlton traders</p> <p>Major facilities and events in Carlton (such as Melbourne Museum)</p> <p>La Mama</p>
<p>To improve ecological sustainability in Carlton—including water, waste, energy, climate change and pollution.</p> <p>To ensure that this improvement is reached through active community involvement, contributing to the broader response to climate change.</p>	<p>We are facing a significant global environmental challenge. Community action and awareness can make a difference to the immediate Carlton environment, and to the global community through our choices, actions and advocacy.</p> <p>Everyone can make a positive contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. By involving and empowering the Carlton community to work together to enact environmental change, there is the potential to improve the liveability and connectedness of Carlton.</p> <p>The community will consider the opportunities for action, identifying systemic and community-level change, as well as infrastructure and behavioural change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness and involvement on environmental sustainability through community education, the community website and forums. Work with other local community environmental initiatives in Melbourne to strengthen community networks. • To build community understanding and involvement across diverse community groups, with information provided in multiple languages. • Develop projects to turn good intentions into actions, including innovative environmental initiatives, linkages with business and restaurants, waste reduction and sustainable transport options. • Work with government planning and development agencies to seek systemic change, including improved environmental programs for recycling, energy efficiency, reducing water use, implementing eco-friendly building and construction methods and sustainable transport options. 	<p>Interested and committed community members</p> <p>Universities and students</p> <p>Community organisations</p> <p>Businesses and institutions</p> <p>All levels of government</p> <p>Green belt and public parks</p>

Community action plan for Carlton



Carlton Together – focuses on community engagement, community connectedness, embracing diversity, volunteering and tourism.			
Community priority	Why this is a priority	Priority actions	Community assets
To create an inclusive and participatory Carlton community through volunteering.	<p>Carlton is diverse with many cultures and skill groups. Bringing the groups of Carlton together can provide benefits for the whole community, and build the soul of Carlton.</p> <p>Volunteering has been identified as a key way for the Carlton community to work together. Communities are strengthened by widespread participation of citizens. People’s sense of belonging grows when they are given choices and chances to make a difference to the health and vitality of their communities.</p> <p>Volunteering will be linked across the project, through work, learning, health and wellbeing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore mechanisms for meaningful engagement and coordination of volunteers across Carlton, to include all groups in Carlton. • Explore links between volunteering opportunities and employment pathways. • Utilise the people of Carlton as an important community resource for social involvement, skills and knowledge exchange, and connection. 	<p>Interested community members</p> <p>Existing volunteer programs across Carlton including Church of All Nations, University of Melbourne, City of Melbourne, Rotary and Melbourne Museum.</p> <p>Capital City Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN)</p>
To respond to youth issues and build responses in partnership with the Carlton community.	<p>Carlton is a ‘young’ suburb. Its youth (12 to 25 year old) population comprises 47 per cent of the total population, including large numbers of tertiary students.</p> <p>The community has identified a need to work in partnership with young people, to build an understanding of youth priorities and then to work together to improve young people’s experience in their community. The needs of young people will be built into the broader project responses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with young people in Carlton to identify their experience of community issues and possible responses from a youth perspective. • Build project responses across Opportunities for Carlton that include young people, to reflect and respond to youth needs. • To involve young people in the community and welcome their contributions to strengthening the Carlton community. 	<p>Young people in Carlton</p> <p>Youth services</p> <p>Education providers</p>

Community action plan for Carlton



Work and Learning – focuses on lifelong learning and the development of education and employment opportunities in Carlton.			
Community priority	Why this is a priority	Priority actions	Community assets
To help the Carlton community develop improved skills, plus confidence in and access to information and communications technology (ICT).	<p>Access to and improved skills in ICT have been shown to address disadvantage and social isolation in many ways. Whilst there are generally high rates of internet connection in Carlton homes, there are over 17 per cent of households with no internet access. Access to the internet is increasingly a key way to access information on government and social services, employment, education and current events. Access should be linked to training and understanding to build participation.</p> <p>In Carlton we want to harness the potential of technology to maximise educational, employment and social opportunities for all our citizens.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a digital inclusion strategy for Carlton including access, training and infrastructure. • Develop projects that address access to and understanding of ICT in the community. • Develop a community website by providing a digital community space and involving the community in website development, usage and training. • Work with government to plan accessible ICT development in Carlton. 	<p>Primary schools, secondary schools, universities and tertiary providers</p> <p>Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre (CNLC)</p> <p>Church of All Nations (CAN)</p> <p>Drummond Street Relationships Centre (DSRC)</p> <p>Adult Migrant Education Service (AMES)</p>
To increase lifelong learning opportunities in Carlton, with links between the needs of the community and education provision and planning.	<p>Carlton has a wide range of education providers, which are great assets to the community. The Carlton Learning Needs Analysis identifies key recommendations for increasing the structured learning capacity in Carlton, to include children and families, young people, those in and out of work and older persons.</p> <p>The community is interested to understand and respond to the needs of these groups, particularly those that are under-represented in existing education options.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop projects to identify community education needs, and create better linkages between education providers and other community agencies to meet these needs. • Increase partnerships with major education institutions to respond to the needs of the community. • Develop family literacy approaches in recognition of the links between literacy, access, participation, employment and health. • Increase partnerships between education and arts and culture institutions. 	<p>Carlton Local Agencies Network (CLAN)</p> <p>Capital City Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN)</p> <p>North Carlton Library</p> <p>Job service agencies</p> <p>Local businesses</p> <p>All levels of government</p> <p>Melbourne Museum</p> <p>Community members</p>

Community action plan for Carlton



Work and Learning – focuses on lifelong learning and the development of education and employment opportunities in Carlton.			
Community priority	Why this is a priority	Priority actions	Community assets
<p>To improve employment pathways for disadvantaged communities through links between community services, job services and employers.</p> <p>Carlton employers have access to strong local workforce.</p>	<p>The 2006 census data showed unemployment in Carlton was around 13 per cent. There are particularly high rates of unemployment in some groups in Carlton, including young people, CALD communities and single-parent households. Ways to address these barriers have been identified by the community, including building links between training and available work, providing support for individuals pre and post placement, and developing approaches that address discrimination.</p> <p>Employers in Carlton range from small retail traders and hospitality businesses to major organisations such as universities, developers and hospitals. Improved employment pathways for employees and employers would benefit both groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop partnerships between employers, job services providers and education providers to develop employment pathways to meet the needs of both employees and employers. • Develop projects to support employment and social enterprise. 	<p>Listed on previous page.</p>
<p>To ensure that existing and planned community infrastructure facilities meet the lifelong learning needs of the Carlton community.</p>	<p>The Carlton Community Infrastructure Plan identifies a need for community education infrastructure such as lifelong learning facilities, childcare facilities and community meeting spaces. The Carlton Learning Needs Analysis also supports the creation of a learning centre hub.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with government to establish community infrastructure priorities as identified in the Carlton Community Infrastructure Plan. 	

Community action plan for Carlton



Healthy Carlton – focuses on health and wellbeing, safety, diversity and recreation		opportunities in Carlton.	
Community priority	Why this is a priority	Priority actions	Community assets
To improve access to appropriate, affordable health services that respond to the needs of the Carlton community.	The health of the community has impacts on happiness, social cohesion and economic and educational outcomes. A vast array of community health indicators are available for consideration, and may inform the broader health responses in Carlton.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build understanding of existing and emerging health issues in Carlton and develop community projects to respond to these needs in partnership with health providers in Carlton. 	Department of Health Education facilities Community Health Services City of Melbourne
To improve Carlton's social inclusion benefits to community safety, diversity and mental health.	<p>Social connection and inclusion has a wealth of benefits to the health of a community. It can help people to feel safe, address social isolation, and involve people in building a vibrant and healthy community.</p> <p>In Australia, around one in five people will experience a mental illness at some stage of their life, including alcohol or other substance abuse disorders. The community can play an important role in raising awareness of issues, symptoms, available services and the importance of creating an inclusive society.</p> <p>The Healthy Carlton Family Harmony Safety Project highlighted community concerns about general safety, drug and alcohol usage, racism and family violence. The project recommended ways to build a stronger community to address the community concerns.</p> <p>The purposes of community space, and its planning and design, also have been identified as playing important roles in access and safety of the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve understanding of community safety issues and develop project responses to address identified needs. Increase linkages between services, the police and community. Develop community-based responses to family violence. Work across sectors to develop community responses to mental health issues. Work with government to inform the planning of public spaces in terms of community safety and access. Coordinate events to celebrate diversity and bring the community together. 	Victoria Police Police Community Consultative Committee (PCCC) Community Health Services Public spaces and role of passive surveillance

Community action plan for Carlton



Healthy Carlton – focuses on health and wellbeing, safety, diversity and recreation opportunities in Carlton.		Priority actions	Community assets
Community priority	Why this is a priority		
To celebrate and reflect community diversity around Carlton.	The community identified the need to support cultural expression and celebration in Carlton. The diversity of Carlton is one of its strengths. 52 per cent of residents were born overseas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support community events that celebrate diversity. Develop project-based responses to diverse community needs, such as the Men's Shed, community market and community events. 	
To ensure that existing and planned community and recreation services and facilities are used and enjoyed by the Carlton community.	The Carlton Community Infrastructure Plan identifies a need for additional public open space in Carlton. The community has shown strong support for the role recreation plays in building a healthy community, including sport, community spaces and community gardens. The community recognises the benefits of recreation as including fitness, participation and associated social benefits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake infrastructure mapping and explore the use of existing services and facilities. Support opportunities to build outdoor community meeting spaces through a community market, including community access to fresh and affordable fruit and vegetables. Support the development of, and access to, community kitchen space and community gardens. Reflect children's and young people's needs in planning for physical and social environments. Develop sport and recreation activities that respond to community interests. Work with government to incorporate community input into identifying and planning community recreation spaces in Carlton. 	Carlton Baths Universities Community parks Carlton Gardens Tennis Club Carlton Football Club City of Melbourne Open Space Strategy La Mama Cinema Nova Melbourne Museum Schools
To ensure that existing and planned community health facilities and community services are responsive to the needs of the Carlton community.	The Carlton Community Infrastructure Plan identifies a need for additional community health services and aged care services in the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with government to incorporate community input into identifying and planning community health facilities and community services in Carlton. 	Community Health Services Hospitals Doctors (GPs), dentists, specialists Australian Unity Office of Housing City of Melbourne



Reference documents:

Future Melbourne, City of Melbourne, July 2008

Council Plan 2009-2013, City of Melbourne, July 2009

Carlton: A Vision to 2010, An Integrated Local Area Plan, City of Melbourne, 2000

Carlton Community Infrastructure Plan, Beca Report prepared for Office of Housing and City of Melbourne, November 2006

Carlton Housing Redevelopment Visioning report, Socom Report for Office of Housing, November 2008

Carlton Learning Needs Analysis, Codesco Report for the Opportunities for Carlton Project, September 2008

Family Harmony Safety Project Report, Healthy Carlton Working Group, Opportunities for Carlton Project, May 2010

The role of Carlton Church of All Nations in addressing high unemployment on the Carlton Estate, Church of All Nations, November 2008

Horn of Africa Men in Carlton, Omar M Farah, Carlton Local Agencies Network project, 2007

Vertical Living Kids - Creating supportive high-rise environments for children in Melbourne, VicHealth Report, December 2009

How to get involved

The OFC project provides a chance for everyone who lives, works, studies or plays in Carlton to participate.

Most of the actions contained in the community plan for Carlton are driven by local residents and agencies operating in working groups. Participants do not need to have knowledge or experience in a particular field to be involved. Enthusiasm and time is all you need to make a difference.

Due to the range and diversity of actions contained in the community plan, there are plenty of opportunities for your family, group or business to get involved.

To find out more about the OFC project please contact **opportunitiesforcarlton@melbourne.vic.gov.au** or call the City of Melbourne on **03 9658 9658**.