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COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

The community services strategic objectives seek to provide the opportunity for people to have the use of community facilities.

The State Co-ordination Council in its publication 'Planning for Community Needs, July 1976' defined community needs as those 'opportunities, facilities and services to which individuals and groups require access in order to live adequately in a civilised society'.

Recent years have seen growing awareness that the well-being of people in a community depends not just on adequate provision of such basic services as water, sewerage, drainage and roads. It also depends on the availability and quality of various other community services and facilities.

These range from infant welfare centres and pre-schools through to senior citizens' centres and nursing homes for the aged. They include health, medical, home help services, medical clinics and hospitals provided by public and private enterprise. They include parks, gardens and sporting facilities.

13.1 Overcoming Imbalance and Time Lags

The strategy seeks to overcome the imbalance between supply and demand in various parts of the metropolitan area of such services and facilities. It also seeks to overcome time lags in providing them in new residential areas, to locate them at or near privately developed retail facilities, to provide them in areas of deficiency and to improve access to them throughout the metropolitan area.



The present imbalance in the provision of such services has arisen as the structure of Melbourne's population has changed. Declining and ageing populations and fewer young families in inner and older established middle suburbs have meant that in most of these areas demand for services for the young, such as infant welfare centres and primary schools has fallen, while demand for services for the elderly has increased. Rapid development of outer suburbs, with their many young people, has meant that services often lag behind need. This leads to hardship and social stress, made worse by lack of adequate local public transport.

Siting community services at or near existing retail and commercial centres will improve access to the services by public transport. It will also encourage multi-purpose trips, whether by public or private transport.

13.2

Overcoming Social Problems

Land use planning for community facilities and services can be an important influence on people's welfare. Inadequate provision for community services and facilities has led to various social problems which now need public intervention.

Supplying such services early in suburban development should stimulate wider community contact, both formal and informal, and help establish local community identity, along with group assistance and support networks.

13.3

Identifying Requirements

The Board will encourage close liaison between planning and other agencies to monitor trends in demand and development in order to highlight areas of need to government departments and local councils.

The Metropolitan Planning Scheme, through its objectives, zones and reservations, will provide a means of ensuring that adequate and properly located land is made available. Local development schemes should make provision for such services in order to overcome present deficiencies and cater for anticipated needs of people.

