CITY OF BALLARAT

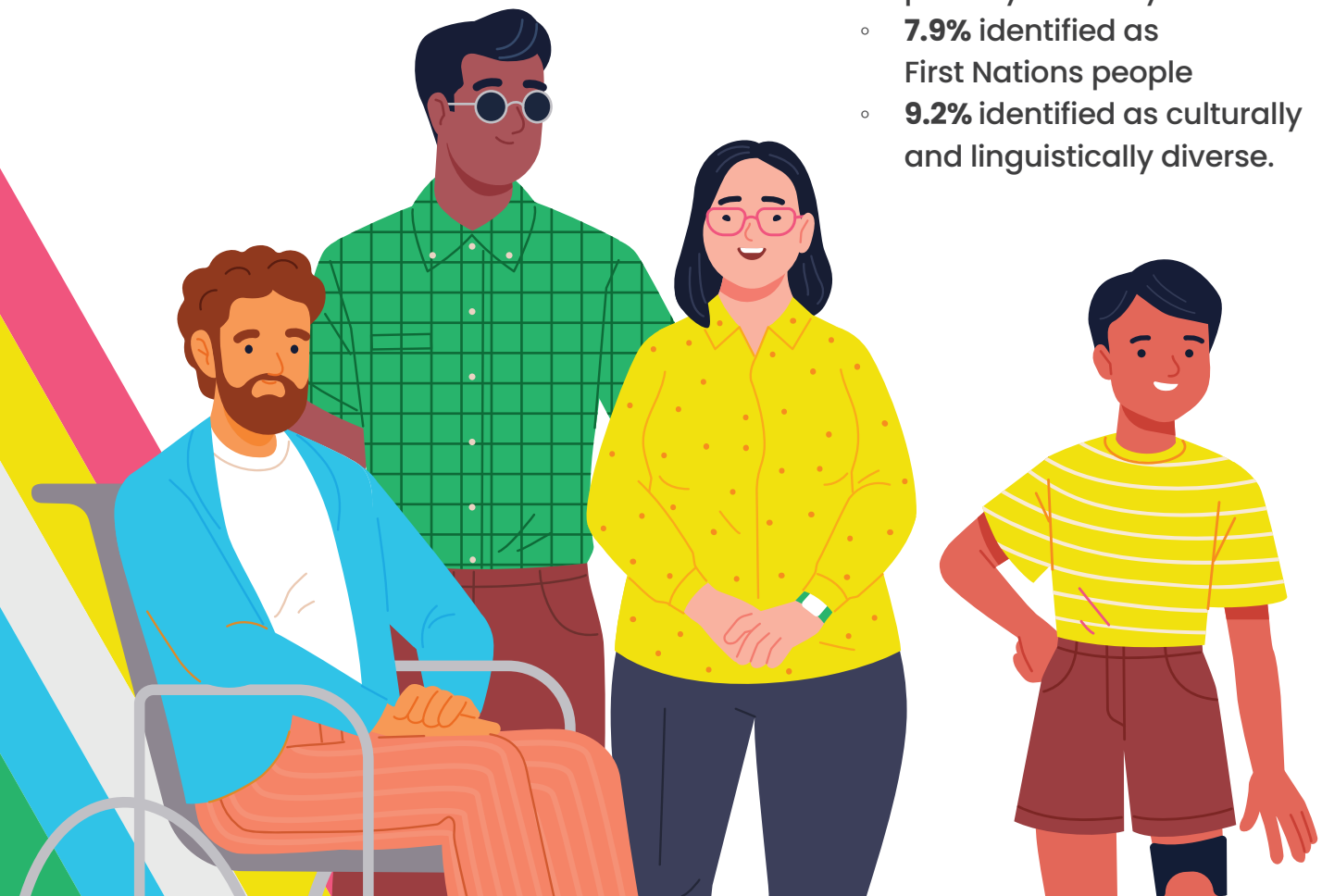
Our community and disability

Disability is part of our community

- **7.4% of Ballarat** residents live with a **severe or profound disability** – higher than the average across Regional Victoria
- From 2016 to 2021, City of Ballarat's population needing assistance increased by 2,118 people (33.8%). This represents an average annual population change of 6.0% per year over the period.

Most people with disability aren't covered by the NDIS

- **10% of Victorians** living with disability are eligible for the **NDIS.**
- In June 2023, the NDIS had around 610,500 active participants, of whom 43% were aged under 15. Among NDIS participants aged under 65:
  - **62%** were males and **37%** were females
  - **37%** had autism as their primary disability
  - **7.9%** identified as First Nations people
  - **9.2%** identified as culturally and linguistically diverse.



Many people live with long-term health conditions

- **2 in 5 Ballarat** residents have one or more **long-term health conditions.**
- Among those with disability, **89%** also have one or more long-term health conditions.
- 7.6% of people with disability aged under 65 delayed or did not see a GP when needed because of cost
- 33% of adults with disability experienced high or very high psychological distress, compared with 12% of those without disability.
- 14% of adults (aged 18 and over) with disability smoked daily, compared with 9.1% of those without disability.
- 84% of adults with psychosocial disability did not meet physical activity guidelines, compared with 77% of those with physical disability and 70% of those with sensory or speech disability.
- 1 in 5 (19%) people with disability aged 15–64 experience social isolation (lack of social contact with others), compared with 9.5% without disability

Disability affects people across the lifespan

- In Ballarat, **12%** of people with disability are **children** (0–14), and nearly **half (49%) are 65 or older.**
- Young People (aged 15 – 24) in Ballarat are living with a disability
- 48.7% of the Ballarat community aged 85 years and over live with a disability

Safety is a major issue

- People with disability are **3× more likely** to experience family violence.
- They are **2× more likely** to experience sexual violence.
- About 1 in 10 (9.5% or 25,900) Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) clients in 2022–23 had disability; 2.8% (or 7,600) had severe or profound disability
- People with disability are of two to four times more likely to be injured or killed in disasters compared to people living without disability.
- A national study found that 60.3% of those with disability had any emergency management plan, with the largest challenge for those without a plan being a result of not knowing how to prepare.

Discrimination is still widespread

- In 2023–24, **43% of all complaints** to the Australian Human Rights Commission were under the **Disability Discrimination Act,** the largest category of discrimination complaints. In the previous year, complaints were in relation to:
- half (50%) related to goods, services and facilities
- 1 in 3 (34%) to employment
- 1 in 7 (14%) each related to disability standards or education
- 1 in 12 (8.7%) related to access to premises

Inclusion matters for diverse communities

- 24% of Aboriginal people live with disability, double the rate of the general population.
- 39% of LGBITQA+ people aged 14 to 21 identify as having a disability or long-term health condition
- 5.1% of the non-English speaking population in the City of Ballarat, reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability.

Many people living with disability face barriers to work, income and education

- Overall, 87.6% of the labour force needing assistance was employed, and 12.4% unemployed
- Overall, 30.9% of the population needing assistance aged 15 years or more held educational qualifications, and 60.2% had no qualifications, compared with 29.9% and 60.6% respectively for Regional VIC.
- Income levels for people with disability vary significantly. Only 6.4% lived in high-income households, while 28.7% were in low-income households. The most common household income ranges were $400–$499 (13.1%) and $650–$799 (14.8%), with smaller groups in the $1,250–$1,499 range (8.2%) or with income not stated (8.6%).

Caring is a major part of our community

- 14.2% of Ballarat residents provide unpaid care
- 10.5% of the population needing assistance provided unpaid child care, compared with 9.2% for Regional VIC.

In 2021, 19.1% of people ages 12-24 were recorded as Persons Providing Unpaid Care to a Person with a Disability

Disability is shaped by where we live

Areas in Ballarat with the highest disability rates include:

- Ballarat East–Eureka–Warrenheip
- Wendouree
- Sebastopol Ward
- Sebastopol–Redan

