

HEALTH & WELLBEING PLAN UPDATE

Report Author: Executive Officer Health and Wellbeing

Responsible Officer: Director Communities

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public.

SUMMARY

The *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* requires Councils to develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan every four years. Council formally endorsed and commenced delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 (the Plan) in 2021.

The Health and Wellbeing Progress Report (Attachment One) highlights some of the key achievements and completed projects for each of the seven priority areas of the Plan. This provides insight into the first two years of implementing the Plan and a line of sight between Council strategy and tangible health and wellbeing outcomes within community.

A wide range of innovative projects have occurred under each of the seven priorities of the Plan, despite not all being showcased in the Health and Wellbeing Progress Report. COVID-19 and major weather events have impacted the delivery of the Plan. To mitigate any risk of achieving optimal health and wellbeing outcomes for the community, a thorough review and refocus of the Plan has been completed. The remaining two years of the Plan will have an evaluation framework implemented to focus on achieving the greatest outcomes for the community.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

- 1. Note the progress of the endorsed Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025, as outlined in the Health and Wellbeing Progress Report.***
- 2. Endorse the Health and Wellbeing Progress Report.***

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council endorsed Draft Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 in 27 July 2020 (Item 7.2).

Council endorsed Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 in 12 October 2021 (Item 7.5).

Council endorsed Appointment of Health & Wellbeing Committee 2022-2026 in 31 January 2023 (Item 10.2).

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

Council is required to report to State Government on the progress of Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan annually.

The Health and Wellbeing Progress Report highlights some of the key achievements and completed projects over the first two years of implementing the Plan. The Health and Wellbeing Progress Report provides visibility between Council's strategy and tangible health and wellbeing outcomes within community. It acknowledges the strong external partnerships and collaboration needed to achieve the outcomes of the Plan.

The Plan contains 91 implementation actions to be delivered over four years, of which 23 actions have already achieved, with the remaining 68 actions in progress. While there have been significant achievements, there are several factors that have impacted the delivery of the Plan over the first two years, including:

- Covid restrictions and impacts
- Significant weather events
- Funding cuts to prevention activities impacting external partners capacity
- Loss of essential services for the municipality, such as the Lilydale Youth Hub

Due to these challenges, not all priority areas have been progressed equally with limited action undertaken in areas such as:

- Gambling
- Reducing harmful use of alcohol and other drugs
- Increasing healthy eating and food resilience

To support the progress of the current Plan and the establishment of the next iteration of the Health and Wellbeing Plan a new evaluation framework has been developed utilising a Results Based Accountability Methodology (RBAM). The RBAM will measure outcomes for community, better enabling Council to determine future investment, resourcing and scope in relation to community health and wellbeing. In

the context of the Plan, it is intended that once implemented, the evaluation framework will:

- Measure impact and co-benefits of activity or programs.
- Provide an annual quality improvement cycle to inform program delivery ensuring that community experiences and voice are captured and reflected.
- Enable Council and key partners to have a set of shared outcomes for community and over time to track progress.
- Capture emerging health and wellbeing concerns to inform action and advocacy priorities.
- Capture qualitative data and storytelling along with significant change data.

Council will continue to work in partnership with external services, community houses and various community groups across the Yarra Ranges to ensure these actions are not only achieved, but where possible sustainable for years beyond the life of the Plan. In the remaining two years of implementing the Plan, Council will listen and respond to our advisory committee's advice and input, as part of implementing the evaluation framework.

Major action will occur across the following priority areas:

- Increasing healthy eating and food resilience.
- Enabling community mental wellbeing and social connection.
- Preventing violence against women and children.
- Reducing harm from alcohol and other drugs.
- Deliver community grants and partnerships to build health and wellbeing.
- Homelessness, Social and Affordable Housing.

Options considered

Only one option was considered:

Providing a public update on the progress of the endorsed Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025, including insights into the achievements, challenges and forward focus for the remaining two years of the Plan and to share the progress of the Plan publicly via a Council meeting.

Recommended option and justification

1. Councillors note the progress of the endorsed Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025, as outlined in the Health and Wellbeing Progress Report.
2. Councillors endorse the Health and Wellbeing Progress Report.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Funding to deliver actions against the seven priorities of the Plan align with Councils 2023-2024 operating budget.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

This report contributes to the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan:

1. **Connected and Healthy Communities:** Communities are safe, resilient, healthy, inclusive and socially well connected. Quality services are accessible to everyone.
2. **High Performing Organisation:** An innovative, responsive organisation that listens and delivers quality, value for money services to our community.

This report contributes to the following strategic objectives(s) in the Victorian Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023:

1. To achieve our vision of all Victorians enjoying the highest attainable standards of health, wellbeing and participation at every age.
2. Contributing to six of the State Health and Wellbeing priorities. They are:
 - Tackling climate change and its impact on health
 - Preventing all forms of violence
 - Increasing healthy eating
 - Increasing active living
 - Improving mental wellbeing
 - Reducing harmful alcohol and drug use.

RELEVANT LAW

The *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* states:

“A Council must review its municipal public health and wellbeing plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the municipal public health and wellbeing plan”.

The annual review provides an opportunity to ensure:

- Actions identified in the Plan (MPHWP or Council Plan) are being implemented satisfactorily.

- Are having the desired impact.
- To assess whether they remain the best way for Council to improve public health and wellbeing over the life of the Plan.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

There are no economic implications.

Social Implications

There are no social implications.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee and Disability Advisory Committee were informed of the current progress of the Plan and consulted regarding the review and future focus of the Plan over the remaining two years of implementation.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

External collaboration with the Health and Wellbeing Steering Committee comprised of external organisations, whose role is to help deliver the implementation actions of the Plan.

No collaboration with other Councils, Governments or statutory bodies was sought.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Three risks have been identified and will continue to be monitored to ensure delivery of the Plan over the remaining two years, which are outlined in the following table:

Risk	Mitigation Action
Health and Wellbeing priorities of the community have shifted.	Refreshed Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee to inform, input and advise Council. Implementation of the RBAM evaluation framework to understand community experiences and ensure that community voice and emerging health and wellbeing concerns

Risk	Mitigation Action
	are captured and embedded in programs, activities and advocacy priorities
Further unplanned public or climate health emergencies and the need for urgent response.	<p>Provide both preventive and responsive programs in emergencies and support for coordination of emergency relief networks.</p> <p>Continue to build community resilience by facilitating community planning, community groups, networks, local service networks and by supporting and building community leadership capacity.</p> <p>Ensure the community is at the heart of what we do through delivery of grants, skill building, mental health first aid training and community changemakers programs.</p>
Uncertainty of prevention funding cuts and the already exhausted capacity of relief and service providers across the municipality.	<p>Establishment of Health & Wellbeing Steering Committee with key stakeholders to align planning, efforts, and resourcing across the municipality.</p> <p>Development of evaluation framework to help determine where greatest return on investment can occur.</p> <p>Council grants program continuing to support community health and wellbeing priorities.</p> <p>Supporting coordination of the Yarra Ranges Emergency Relief Network (YRERN) to deliver a range of supports to community during emergencies.</p>

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

1. Health & Wellbeing Progress Report.