



Ordinary Council Meeting

Addendum to Item:

12.3.2 – Public Health Plan 2026–2029

**Harvey Council Chamber
Tuesday, 28 April 2026
4PM**

Item No.:	12.3.2.
Subject:	Public Health Plan 2026–2029
Proponent:	Shire of Harvey
Location:	Shire of Harvey
Reporting Officer:	Senior Environmental Health Officer
Authorising Officer:	Director Sustainable Development
File No.:	F/11/00017
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Public Health Plan 2026–2029 [12.3.2.1 - 46 pages]2. State Public Health Plan 2025–2030 [12.3.2.2 - 96 pages]3. Shire of Harvey Public Health Profile 2025 [12.3.2.3 - 54 pages]

The following additional information is provided in regard to Item 12.3.2

Amendments made to Public Health Plan 2026–2029 (**Attachment 1**) which include Spelling updates and reworded actions on pages:

- 24
- 27
- 30
- 36
- 39
- 40



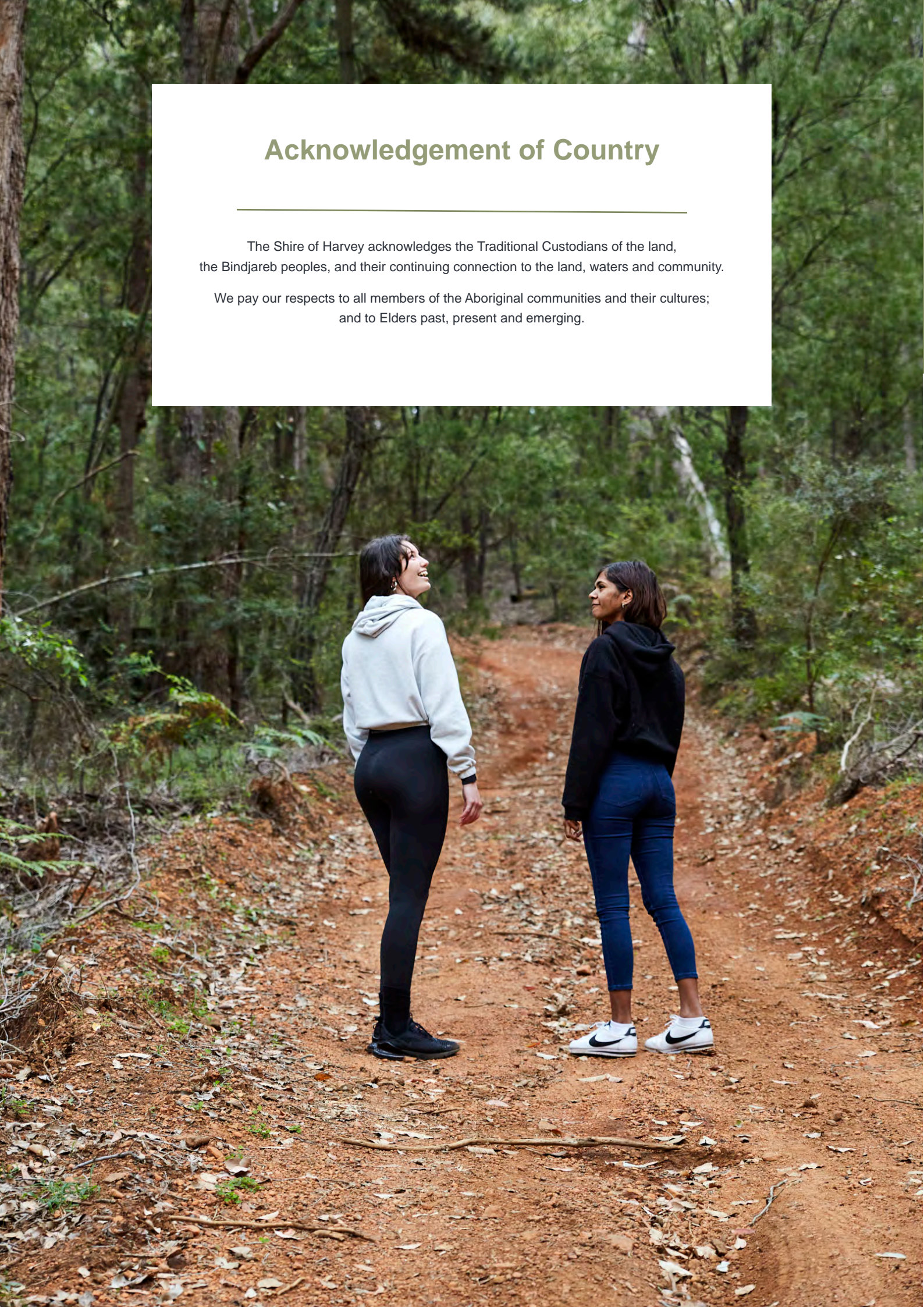
Public Health Plan

2026-2029

Acknowledgement of Country

The Shire of Harvey acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Bindjareb peoples, and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community.

We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders past, present and emerging.



Public Health Vision

“ A healthy, safe and connected community where people of all ages can thrive, feel included and supported, and enjoy environments that protect wellbeing now and into the future. ”

Our mission

Together, towards an even better lifestyle.

Our values

- Effective stewardship of our environment and heritage
- Strong leaders and fair decisions
- Effective communication and cooperation
- A safe community that has a strong community spirit and sense of belonging
- Our heritage – acknowledging our history in creating our future

Public Health Plan version xxxx
Adopted by Council: xxxxx
Released: xxxxx



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Message from the Shire President and CEO



*Shire President
Michelle Campbell*

The Shire of Harvey is pleased to present the *Shire of Harvey Public Health Plan 2026–2029*.

Public health challenges are constantly evolving.

While traditional concerns such as water quality and sanitation have largely been addressed, new and complex issues continue to emerge.

These include mental health, chronic disease, substance use, environmental risks, climate impacts, and the broader social and economic determinants that influence community wellbeing.



*Chief Executive Officer
Annie Riordan*

This Plan presents an opportunity to refine and strengthen the Shire's public health response, ensuring it is responsive to the unique needs, values and aspirations of our diverse communities across urban, coastal and rural areas.

The Shire of Harvey Public Health Plan 2026–2029 outlines

clear priorities and actions to guide our work and investment in community health and wellbeing over the next four years.

It sets out our commitments and responsibilities and provides a framework to deliver evidence-based strategies that support the health of our residents - now and into the future.



Background

Since the introduction of the *Health Act 1911*, local governments have played a central role in protecting community health through land use planning, sanitation, and the administration of building regulations.

These efforts have contributed significantly to improved life expectancy and quality of life across Western Australia.

In the 21st century, the burden of disease has shifted.

While infectious diseases remain a concern, chronic conditions, often shaped by the environments in which people grow, live and work, now account for much of the community's health challenges.

Planning for health therefore requires a more integrated approach to the provision of facilities, programs and services.

This includes addressing environmental health risks alongside chronic disease, mental health and wellbeing, communicable diseases, climate change impacts and other issues affecting our communities.

The Shire of Harvey Public Health Plan 2026 - 2029 (the Plan) provides a framework to support and enhance the health and wellbeing of our local communities.

It serves as the Shire's strategic roadmap for fostering a healthy, active, safe and inclusive environment for all residents.

Health and wellbeing are shaped by the built, natural, social and economic environments in which people live, work and connect.

The Shire of Harvey plays a vital role in ensuring these environments are safe, sustainable, accessible and supportive of positive public health outcomes.



Public Health Planning Context

Public health is shaped by a wide range of social, environmental and economic factors that influence how people live, work and connect within their communities.

Local governments play a critical role in public health by creating environments that protect health, reduce risk and support wellbeing across all stages of life.

The Shire of Harvey Public Health Plan 2026–2029 has been developed in accordance with the *Public Health Act 2016* and the State Public Health Plan for Western Australia.

The Act requires local governments to prepare and implement a Public Health Plan that identifies local public health needs, establishes priorities for action, and outlines how public health functions will be delivered, monitored and reported.

This Plan provides a coordinated framework for public health action within the Shire of Harvey.

It builds on existing services, strategies and initiatives, and aligns public health priorities with the Shire's broader strategic planning and reporting frameworks.

While the Plan does not replace the role of State or Commonwealth governments in delivering health services, it focuses on the Shire's responsibilities in prevention, protection, planning and advocacy.

Development of the Plan was informed by a comprehensive review of local health and demographic data, analysis of the social determinants of health and consideration of environmental and climate-related risks.

A mapping exercise of current Shire initiatives was undertaken to identify existing strengths and areas of opportunity, and a gap analysis guided the identification of priority health areas.

Community and stakeholder engagement has also shaped the Plan, ensuring it reflects local experiences, values and priorities.

Together, these inputs provide a strong evidence base for targeted, place-based actions that are realistic, achievable and responsive to the needs of the Harvey community.

Shire Plan Alignment

The Shire of Harvey recognises its leadership role in local prevention, planning, protection and advocacy, working in partnership with community organisations, service providers and other levels of government to improve public health outcomes.

This Public Health Plan is embedded within the Shire of Harvey's broader strategic planning and reporting frameworks, ensuring a clear alignment between community health and wellbeing priorities and the Shire's corporate objectives.

The Plan directly supports Objective 2 – Facilitate healthy and active communities of the Shire Council Plan and is identified as a priority action.

In addition, the initiatives and actions outlined in this Plan also directly and indirectly contribute to a range of other Council Plan objectives, particularly those relating to safety, inclusion, environmental sustainability, community connection and access to services.



The Shire's Role in Promoting Public Health

Local government is often considered the level of government closest to the community, not only due to the breadth of services it delivers, but also because of its direct influence on the social, environmental and economic determinants of health.

Through the services, infrastructure, planning and regulatory functions it provides, the Shire plays a significant role in shaping community health and wellbeing.

At the Shire of Harvey, these functions, further detailed in the Shire's Operational Plans, support a preventative and place-based approach to public health.

Together, they contribute to healthier, safer and more connected communities.

The Role of Environmental Health Services

Environmental Health is defined as "creating and maintaining environments which promote good health." It encompasses a wide range of regulatory, monitoring and education functions that aim to prevent harm and promote wellbeing through safe and healthy environments.

The Shire's Environmental Health Services play a critical role in ensuring the community has access to:

- Safe food and food premises
- Clean and safe drinking water
- Healthy housing and accommodation
- Effective control of pests, noise and pollution
- Safe recreational and public environments
- Monitoring and response to infectious diseases and outbreaks
- Education and compliance relating to tobacco use, personal appearance services and illegal contamination
- Safe wastewater and effluent systems

These functions are fundamental to reducing disease, injury and premature death associated with environmental and public health risks.

A Whole-of-Shire Approach

While the Environmental Health Team leads the delivery of core public health protections, responsibility for improving health and wellbeing extends across the organisation.

Many Shire functions and services contribute to the broader public health system through planning, service delivery and community engagement.

Key contributors include:

- Infrastructure and Environmental Services – managing drainage, waste, urban heat mitigation and environmental assets.
- Community Services – supporting volunteering, inclusion, community connection and local events.
- Health Promotion and Education – delivering messaging around nutrition, mental wellbeing and prevention.
- Recreation and Active Living – maintaining open spaces, trails and physical activity infrastructure.
- Planning and Development – ensuring healthy land use, building compliance and access to food and services.
- Cultural and Educational Services – delivering programs that strengthen social connection, cultural participation and digital inclusion.

This whole-of-Shire approach recognises that public health outcomes are shaped by decisions across multiple service areas and reinforces the importance of collaboration, coordination and shared responsibility.



A Whole-of-Community Approach

Achieving improved health and wellbeing outcomes across the Shire requires more than Council action alone. A whole-of-community approach is essential - drawing on the collective knowledge, resources and expertise of our local and regional partners.

These partnerships not only strengthen the development and delivery of effective strategies but also support the monitoring and evaluation of outcomes across the Shire over the life of the Plan.

Current and future partners include:

- State government agencies including the WA Department of Health, WA Country Health Service, and neighbouring local governments
- Health and community service providers, including general practices, Aboriginal health services, youth services, and mental health agencies
- Education and early years providers, including local primary and secondary schools and early childhood services
- Community organisations and local groups, such as neighbourhood centres, sporting clubs, and resident-led initiatives

The Shire also actively participates in relevant regional health networks and primary prevention partnerships and will continue to build new partnerships over the next four years.

These collaborations will be key to addressing emerging health issues, attracting investment, and increasing the overall impact of public health strategies.



What Influences our Health and Wellbeing

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” (WHO, 2020).

This broad definition reflects the complex and interconnected factors that influence our health, including personal characteristics, lifestyle behaviours, and the environments in which we live.

These influences are collectively known as the Determinants of Health, and include key factors such as:

- Income and education
- Employment and housing
- Social connections and inclusion
- Experiences of discrimination or racism
- Access to healthy food, clean water, and natural environments
- The design of neighbourhoods, infrastructure, and services



A Framework for the Determinants of Health.

Source: The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Public health aims to protect and promote the wellbeing of communities by addressing these factors in a coordinated and equitable way.

It includes both preventive action (e.g. promoting healthy lifestyles, ensuring safe housing and sanitation) and responsive planning for broader challenges such as climate change, extreme weather, disease outbreaks, and demographic change.

In the Shire of Harvey, health and wellbeing are influenced by the places where we are born, live, learn, and work.

This Public Health Plan recognises the complex nature of these determinants and supports a whole-of-community approach involving Council, service providers, and residents to improve health outcomes for all.

About our Community

The Shire is growing, which brings both benefits and challenges.

We focus on developing an economy that includes everyone and respects our environmental boundaries.

Our older population is getting larger, bringing both needs and opportunities.

Many of our homes now house one or two people, particularly among older adults, reflecting a trend toward smaller households.

Unlike some other parts of the regional WA, we also have a significant population of children and young families.

Therefore, we provide for many different needs and people across our community.

Population and density

- 28,567 people
- Median age 40 years
- 51% female 49% male
- 32% Couples with children
- 30% Couple without children
- 10% One parent families
- 19% population born overseas

Housing

- 11,873 dwellings
- density 18 persons per/sm
- 42% mortgage
- 31% fully owned
- 20% renting
- Average household size 2.57

Employment

- \$1,833 median weekly household income
- 62% employment
- 60% employed full-time
- 33% employed part-time
- 4% unemployed
- 5% worked from home

Vulnerability

- 19% lone person households
- 118 homeless persons (estimate)
- 32% have a long term health conditions

Disability and carers

- Disability is reported by 17% of residents, with 5% requiring assistance with core activities
- 12% of residents are providing unpaid care

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

- 2.9% of the population or 815 residents identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- 92% English only used at home
- 85% were employed
- 45% completed year 12 or above

Education and volunteering

- 13% university qualification
- 30% trade certificate
- 8% advanced diploma or diploma
- 13% completed year 12
- 18% reported volunteering

Our Greatest Assets and Health and Wellbeing Challenges

The Shire of Harvey Public Health Profile (2025) provided an evidence-based foundation for the development of this Plan which aligns with the required objectives of the *Public Health Act 2016* (WA) and the State Public Health Plan 2025-2030.

The Profile drew on the Shire's demographic, health, environmental, and socioeconomic characteristics, highlighting existing strengths and positive health outcomes, while also identifying key challenges and opportunities to further improve community health and wellbeing.

Key strengths and positive health attributes identified through the Public Health Profile contribute to the overall wellbeing, resilience and quality of life of the Shire community

The opportunity to plan for the future

Amazing natural environments

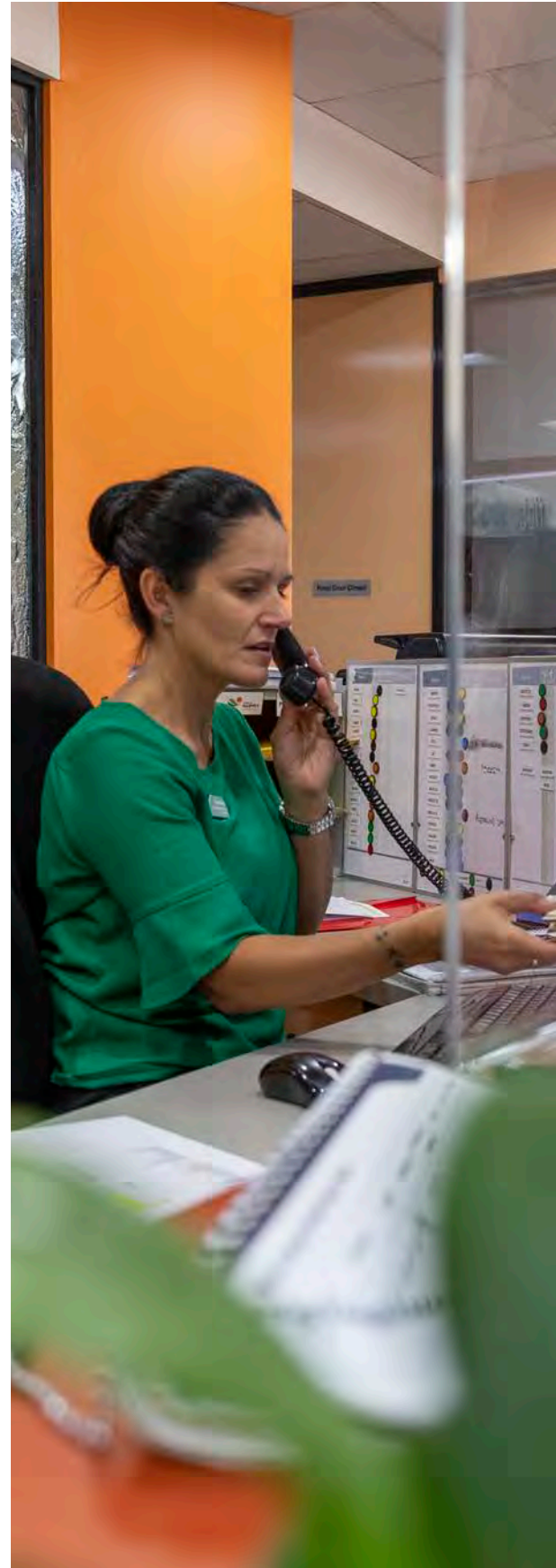
Socio economic index for advantage and disadvantage is high

Diverse employment sectors and opportunities

Significant investment in sports infrastructure and organised recreation

Strong sustainability initiatives

Community networks are strong



Our greatest health and wellbeing challenges

70% of adults are overweight or obese	48% of people don't get enough exercise	9 out of 10 adults don't eat the recommended serves of vegetables daily	Less than half of adults eat enough fruit
27% adults drink alcohol at high risk levels for long term harm (40% of men)	41% of adults spend more than recommended time in screen based sedentary leisure time	11% of adults smoke: 12% men	The prevalence of vaping is increasing
Chronic conditions affect 32% of the population, with mental health, asthma, arthritis, and diabetes being most common	15% of people eat fast food at least once a week	45% of residents felt that safety and security levels could be improved (2025)	Notifiable infectious diseases are increasing in the Southwest
Mental health conditions are prevalent in 13.4% of residents, especially between the ages of 15 and 54	Immunisation coverage is declining particularly among Indigenous children and adolescents	Volunteering rates 18.5% are above the national average (14%)	Mosquito borne diseases are increasing in the Southwest
Climate change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 1.3°C temperature rise since 1910 • More frequent and intense heatwaves • Declining cool-season rainfall 	The top 3 injury hospitalisations are <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accidental falls 2. Transport accidents 3. Intentional self-harm 		



Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing

Aboriginal people comprise approximately 2.9 per cent of the Shire's population.

While Aboriginal residents experience many of the same health challenges as the broader community, evidence shows they are more likely to experience poorer health outcomes due to the ongoing impacts of historical disadvantage, social and economic inequities, and barriers to accessing culturally safe services.

The Shire recognises that improving Aboriginal health outcomes requires strengths-based, culturally respectful approaches led in partnership with Aboriginal people and organisations.

Consistent with the Shire's Reconciliation Action Plan, the Shire's role is to support culturally safe environments, promote inclusion and participation, and embed respect for Aboriginal culture across policies, programs and public spaces.

Within the context of this Public Health Plan, the Shire will:

- Support culturally safe and inclusive public spaces, facilities and community programs;
- Partner with Aboriginal organisations and service providers to support social and emotional wellbeing; and
- Advocate for improved access to services where gaps are identified.

Aboriginal health, culture and wellbeing is embedded across this Plan, with primary alignment to Priority Area 2: Strengthen Mental Health, Social Connection & Community Resilience, and Priority Area 3: Create Safe, Inclusive and Connected Environments.

Progress will be monitored through implementation of the Public Health Plan and reported annually in accordance with the *Public Health Act 2016*.



Developing the Plan

The development of the Shire of Harvey's Public Health Plan followed a structured, evidence-informed process to ensure that the Plan reflects local needs, community voices, and strategic alignment with State and Council priorities.

The process included eight key steps—ranging from pre-planning and data analysis to community engagement and formal adoption.

Each step was designed to build a robust, action-oriented framework for improving public health in the Shire over the next four years.



Implementation, Monitoring and Review

Implementation of the Public Health Plan will be coordinated by the Shire of Harvey in collaboration with community groups, service providers, State Government agencies and other key stakeholders.

The Plan adopts a partnership-based approach that recognises the Shire's leadership role in local prevention, planning, protection and advocacy, while acknowledging that many actions will be delivered in conjunction with external organisations.

Key implementation approaches include:

- Embedding public health outcomes into business planning, service delivery and decision-making across the organisation.
- Leveraging existing initiatives, strategies and local partnerships to maximise impact and avoid duplication.
- Prioritising actions in line with available resources and organisational capacity.

Implementation of proposed actions will be subject to budget availability, including opportunities to secure external funding through State and Federal Government grant programs.

Changes in Council priorities, emerging technologies and State or Federal Government policy settings may also influence the timing, scope or viability of specific actions.

Further investigation will be undertaken for each action area to confirm delivery timeframes, indicative costs, potential funding sources and baseline measures for monitoring progress.

Evaluation Framework and Reporting

Monitoring and evaluation are critical to understanding the effectiveness of the Public Health Plan and ensuring it remains responsive to community needs.

Progress will be assessed on an annual basis using a combination of qualitative and quantitative measures.

In accordance with the requirements of section 22 of the *Public Health Act 2016*, the Shire will report annually on the implementation of the Public Health Plan and its performance in fulfilling public health functions.

Evaluation methods will include:

- Tracking relevant health and wellbeing indicators (such as physical activity, mental wellbeing, access to services and environmental health measures).
- Analysis of feedback from community engagement activities, including the Community Perceptions Survey.
- Reporting on the delivery and status of actions within each priority health area.

Annual reporting will occur through existing Council reporting mechanisms and will be used to inform continuous improvement, review priorities and guide any necessary amendments to the Plan over its lifespan. Where appropriate, summary information will also be shared with the community to support transparency and accountability.



Putting the Public Health Plan into Action

The Shire of Harvey Public Health Plan 2026 - 2029 builds on a strong foundation of existing public health initiatives and partnerships across the community.

It provides a clear, action-oriented framework to guide the Shire's ongoing commitment to protecting and improving community health and wellbeing over the next four years.

Recognising that health needs change across the life course, the Plan outlines priority areas that support children, young people, adults and older residents, while also addressing the broader environmental and social determinants that influence health for the whole community.

The priority health areas, objectives, subfocus areas and actions have been shaped by a comprehensive review of local health and demographic data, relevant legislation and policy and insights gathered through stakeholder and community engagement.

This evidence-based approach ensures the Plan responds to current needs while preparing for emerging health challenges.

While the Plan acknowledges and supports the strong work already underway, it also establishes a coordinated structure to strengthen local public health action, align efforts across service areas and guide future decision-making.

The focus areas identified are interconnected rather than standalone.

Many actions contribute to multiple health outcomes and reflect the complex, overlapping nature of public health.

For example, initiatives that promote healthy eating and active living, reduce tobacco-related harm, or address the health impacts of climate change also support mental wellbeing and reduce the risk of chronic disease.

The following action plan outlines the specific initiatives the Shire will undertake or support to achieve the objectives of the Public Health Plan.

The actions reflect a combination of existing programs, regulatory responsibilities, partnerships and new opportunities identified through the planning process.

Together they provide a practical framework for improving health and wellbeing across the Shire over the life of the Plan.

The seven priority areas reflect the key determinants of health identified in the community health profile.

Together they support health and wellbeing across the life course while addressing the environmental, social and community factors that influence health outcomes.

These priorities also contribute directly to achieving the Shire's vision and the overarching public health vision.

Shire Vision

Together, towards an even better lifestyle

Public Health Vision

A healthy, safe and connected community where people of all ages can thrive, feel included and supported and enjoy environments that protect wellbeing now and into the future.

Priority Health Area	Sub Focus Area	Key Outcomes
1. Promote healthy lifestyles across all life stages	Physical activity, healthy eating & harm minimisation	Increased physical activity, healthier eating and reduced risky behaviours
2. Strengthen mental health, social connection and community resilience	Mental wellbeing, youth engagement & resilience, community participation & inclusion, volunteering & community capacity	Stronger community connections and improved mental wellbeing
3. Create safe, inclusive and connected environments	Injury prevention, community safety & preparedness, accessible & age friendly infrastructure, Aboriginal health & cultural inclusion	Safer public spaces and inclusive community participation
4. Protect and enhance environmental health and climate resilience	Environmental health protection, climate adaptation, emergency preparedness, waste & circular economy	Healthy environments and reduced environmental health risks
5. Strengthen local capacity for public health leadership and partnerships	Leadership & advocacy, policy & planning, monitoring & reporting health outcomes, partnerships & community capacity	Coordinated public health planning and evidence-based decision making
6. Support child health and early development	Early years development, literacy, learning & active play, family support & childcare	Children supported to thrive and learn
7. Support healthy and active ageing	Age-friendly planning, social participation & connection, carer support & independent living	Older residents supported to remain active and connected

Priority Health Area 1 - Promote Healthy Lifestyles Across all Life Stages

Rationale

Lifestyle risk factors such as poor nutrition, low physical activity and harmful alcohol and tobacco use contribute significantly to chronic disease in the Shire of Harvey. Local data indicates that many residents do not meet national guidelines for diet and exercise, increasing the risk of obesity, cardiovascular disease and other preventable health conditions. Targeted action to promote healthier eating, increase physical activity and reduce substance-related harm can improve health outcomes across all life stages.

Objective

To improve community health by promoting active lifestyles, healthy eating and harm minimisation across all life stages.

Shire pillars: People and Place.

State Public Health Plan alignment: Promote, Prevent, Protect.

Sub focus area	Action	Owner	Role	Partner	Time frame
Physical activity	Continue to invest in infrastructure and programs that support physical activity, including play spaces, accessible playgrounds and walking and cycling opportunities	Infrastructure	Deliver	Sporting clubs, community groups	Ongoing
	Support recreational opportunities including shared-use paths, trails and regional cycling links	Community Development, Infrastructure	Deliver/ Partner	State agencies, community groups	Ongoing
	Deliver programs through recreation centres that encourage participation in physical activity, particularly among vulnerable population groups such as older adults	Recreation Services	Deliver	Sporting clubs, community groups	Ongoing
	Support local sporting clubs and associations to create inclusive and healthy environments and increase participation, particularly among under-represented groups	Community Development Recreation Services	Partner	Sporting clubs	Ongoing

Sub focus area	Action	Owner	Role	Partner	Time frame
Healthy eating	Advocate for accessible, healthy food and nutrition education initiatives across schools, community groups, libraries, and sporting clubs	Community Development Library Services	Partner	Community, State agencies	Ongoing
	Support initiatives that improve access to affordable and nutritious food, including community gardens, farmers markets and partnerships with local producers to strengthen local food systems	Environmental Health. Library Services. Community Development	Partner	State agencies, community groups	Ongoing
	Support community initiatives that strengthen local food security	Environmental Health	Partner	State agencies, Local growers	Ongoing
Harm minimisation	Work with local clubs, venues and event organisers to promote responsible alcohol consumption and reduce alcohol-related harm	Environmental Health. Community Development	Partner	State agencies, Local Alcohol Accord	Ongoing
	Support education and behaviour change initiatives to reduce smoking, vaping and high-risk alcohol and illicit drug use, particularly among young people	Environmental Health. Community Development	Partner	State agencies, Local Alcohol Accord	Ongoing
	Advocate for a coordinated local Alcohol Accord in partnership with relevant agencies to promote safer alcohol practices and community wellbeing	Environmental Health	Deliver	WA Police DRGL	Ongoing
	Deliver regulatory activities that support tobacco control and compliance with relevant legislation	Environmental Health	Deliver	WA Health and WA Police	Ongoing



Priority Health Area 2 - Strengthen Mental Health, Social Connection and Community Resilience

Rationale

Mental wellbeing is a key determinant of overall health. Local indicators show levels of psychological distress and social isolation among some population groups, highlighting the importance of strong social networks, inclusive community programs and opportunities for participation.

Strengthening community networks, inclusive programs, volunteering opportunities and local events can support social connection, resilience and positive mental wellbeing across all ages.

Objective

To strengthen mental wellbeing and resilience by supporting social connection, community participation and inclusive local initiatives.

Shire pillars: People and Place.

State Public Health Plan alignment: Promote and Enable.

Sub focus area	Action	Owner	Role	Partner	Time frame
Mental wellbeing	Deliver place-based programs and community events that promote social connection and a sense of belonging	Community Development	Deliver/ Partner	Community	Ongoing
	Partner with local health and community service providers to support access to inclusive mental health and wellbeing services	Community Development.	Deliver	Community NGOs	Ongoing
Youth engagement & resilience	Promote participation of vulnerable young people in local health, recreation and community initiatives	Recreation Services	Deliver	NGO, State agencies	Ongoing
	Partner with schools and health agencies to deliver targeted behaviour-change initiatives addressing vaping, smoking and high-risk alcohol use	Community Development Recreation Services	Partner	NGO, State agencies	Ongoing
	Ensure public programs, facilities and community events are inclusive and accessible for people of all abilities	Community Development Environmental Health	Deliver	Community NGOs	Ongoing

Sub focus area	Action	Owner	Role	Partner	Time frame
Community Participation & Inclusion	Support initiatives that reduce social isolation and strengthen social support networks for carers, people with disability and other vulnerable groups	Community Development	Partner	NGOs, State agencies, Community	Ongoing
	Partner with disability advocacy organisations and community groups to co-design inclusive programs and service pathways	Community Development	Deliver	NGOs, State agencies	Ongoing
	Provide opportunities for people with disability and carers to participate in community planning, consultation and local initiatives	Community Development	Deliver	Local health providers	Ongoing
	Collaborate with local health providers to ensure inclusive communication practices (e.g., Easy English, Auslan, plain language)	Community Development, Marketing Communication and Advocacy	Partner	Local health providers	Ongoing
	Investigate opportunities to strengthen and promote community participation in volunteer organisations	Community Development	Deliver	Community NGOs, Community	Ongoing
Volunteering & community capacity	Support Community Resource Centres and local community organisations as hubs for connection and information	Community Development	Deliver / Partner	Community	Ongoing
	Promote inclusive volunteering and intergenerational programs that build community resilience	Community Development	Deliver / Partner	Community	Ongoing



Priority Health Area 3 - Create Safe, Inclusive and Connected Environments

Rationale

Mental wellbeing is a key determinant of overall health. Local indicators show levels of psychological distress and social isolation among some population groups, highlighting the importance of strong social networks, inclusive community programs and opportunities for participation.

Strengthening community networks, inclusive programs, volunteering opportunities and local events can support social connection, resilience and positive mental wellbeing across all ages.

Objective

To create safe, accessible and inclusive environments that support participation, mobility and community wellbeing.

Shire pillars: People and Place.

State Public Health Plan alignment: Promote, Prevent and Enable.

Sub focus area	Action	Owner	Role	Partner	Time frame
Injury prevention	Implement the 10-year Local Path Renewal and Improvement Plan to improve safety and mobility across the Shire	Infrastructure Services	Deliver	Community NGOs, State agencies, Community	Ongoing
	Undertake inspections of public buildings and community facilities to ensure compliance with safety standards	Environmental Health, Asset Management, Property Services	Deliver	N/A	Ongoing
	Support community education and initiatives that promote falls prevention and home safety	Community Development	Deliver/ Partner	Community NGOs, State agencies	Ongoing
Community safety & preparedness	Deliver actions identified in the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan	Ranger Services, Community Development	Deliver/ Partner	WA Police, State agencies	Ongoing
	Implement the Shire CCTV Strategy to improve safety in public places and community facilities	Information Services	Deliver	WA Police, State agencies	Ongoing
	Support community education initiatives relating to personal safety and family violence awareness	Ranger Services, Community Development	Deliver/ Partner	WA Police, State agencies	Ongoing
	Deliver community preparedness and resilience initiatives to strengthen community response to emergencies	Emergency Management	Deliver/ Partner	State agencies	Ongoing

Sub focus area	Action	Owner	Role	Partner	Time frame
Community safety & preparedness	Support emergency preparedness and response activities by providing environmental health advice and ensuring safe water, sanitation and shelter during emergencies	Environmental Health	Deliver	WAPOL, State agencies	Ongoing
Accessible & age friendly infrastructure	Promote inclusive public spaces that support accessibility, age friendliness, and cultural welcoming through advocacy and partnerships	Asset Management, Property Services, Special Projects, Community Development	Deliver	Community NGOs, Community	Ongoing
	Improve lighting, footpaths and signage to enhance safety, accessibility and mobility in public areas	Asset Management, Property Services, Special Projects	Deliver	N/A	Ongoing
	Maintain and inspect Shire facilities and infrastructure and implement improvements where required	Asset Management, Property Services	Deliver	N/A	Ongoing
	Support the implementation of initiatives identified in the Bunbury-Geographe Reconciliation Action Plan	Community Development Marketing, Advocacy, Communication	Partner	Other agencies, NGOs	Ongoing
	Advocate for partnerships with Aboriginal organisations and community members to co design culturally safe programs, places, and events	Community Development Marketing, Advocacy, Communication	Partner	Other agencies, NGOs	Ongoing
Aboriginal health & cultural inclusion	Advocate for initiatives that strengthen cultural awareness and foster meaningful partnerships with Aboriginal businesses, organisations, and community groups	Community Development Marketing, Advocacy, Communication	Partner	Other agencies, NGOs	Ongoing
	Promote access to disability and carer support services including NDIS and Carer Gateway through community centres and local information channels	Community Development	Partner	Other agencies, NGOs	Ongoing
	Support initiatives that strengthen social connection and peer support for carers and people with disability	Community Development	Partner	Other agencies, NGOs	Ongoing



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FIRE

HOT

FIRE

EXTINGUISH
ARSON
1800 333 000
UP TO \$50,000
REWARD

H-9063

NO OVERSIZE
TOWING VEHICLES

Priority Health Area 4 - Protect and Enhance Environmental Health and Climate Resilience

Rationale

Environmental conditions such as water quality, waste management, vector-borne disease risks and climate impacts can significantly affect public health. Effective environmental health regulation, climate adaptation and emergency preparedness are essential to protect community wellbeing and reduce future risks.

Objective

To protect community health by managing environmental risks, strengthening climate resilience and supporting emergency preparedness.

Shire pillars: People, Planet and Place

State Public Health Plan alignment: Protect and Enable.

Sub focus area	Action	Owner	Role	Partner	Time frame
Environmental health protection	Ensure safe food environments through regulatory inspections, licensing and education of food businesses and food handlers	Environmental Health	Deliver	State agencies	Ongoing
	Monitor and respond to environmental health risks including air, water and soil quality and investigate environmental health complaints	Environmental Health	Deliver	State agencies	Ongoing
	Protect public health through water quality monitoring and management of recreational water and drinking water systems	Environmental Health	Deliver	Watercorp, State agencies	Ongoing
	Regulate and monitor wastewater systems, onsite effluent disposal and liquid waste facilities to ensure compliance with public health standards	Environmental Health	Deliver	Watercorp, State agencies	Ongoing
	Implement mosquito monitoring and vector control programs to reduce risks associated with mosquito-borne diseases	Environmental Health	Deliver	State agencies	Ongoing
	Enforce public health legislation through inspections, compliance monitoring and regulatory action where required	Environmental Health	Deliver	N/A	Ongoing

Sub focus area	Action	Owner	Role	Partner	Time frame
Environmental health protection	Review and maintain local public health legislation including the Shire Health Local Law	Environmental Health, Governance & Strategy	Deliver	State agencies	26/27
	Deliver environmental health education and advisory services to businesses and the community	Environmental Health	Deliver	State agencies, Community NGOs, Community	Ongoing
Climate adaptation	Implement climate-smart urban greening and heat mitigation measures	Environmental Services, Sustainable Development, Planning Services	Deliver	State agencies	Ongoing
	Implement the Bush Fire Risk Management Plan	Emergency Management	Deliver	State agencies	Ongoing
	Implement the Waterwise Council Action Plan	Waste & Safety Services, Parks & Gardens	Deliver	Watercorp, State agencies	Ongoing
	Investigate opportunities for renewable energy initiatives including solar installations and an electric vehicle fleet.	Waste & Safety Services	Deliver	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	26/27
	Partner with regional organisations including the Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group to manage environmental risks.	Environmental Services, Sustainable Development	Partner	Other agencies, NGOs	Ongoing
Emergency preparedness	Promote community preparedness for bushfire, storm and coastal hazard risks	Emergency Management, Environmental Services	Deliver/partner	State agencies	Ongoing
	Implement bushfire readiness and compliance programs	Emergency Management	Deliver/partner	State agencies	Ongoing
	Conduct emergency management exercises with relevant agencies and community partners	Emergency Management	Deliver/partner	DFES Office of Bushfire Management	Ongoing
	Develop a Local Heatwave and Extreme Weather Health Response Plan	Environmental Health, Emergency Management	Deliver	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	27/28

Sub focus area	Action	Owner	Role	Partner	Time frame
Waste & circular economy	Deliver waste reduction and circular economy initiatives	Waste Services	Deliver	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	26/27
	Develop and implement the Local Waste Management Strategy	Waste Services	Deliver	Community NGOs	Ongoing
	Implement the closure plan for the Richardson Road landfill site	Waste Services	Deliver	Community, State agencies	Ongoing
	Participate in community clean-up and environmental stewardship initiatives	Environmental Services, Waste Services	Deliver / Partner	Community NGOs, Community	Ongoing
	Investigate infrastructure that supports the transition to low emission transport including EV charging stations	Asset Management, Property Services, Environment Services, Sustainable Development, Waste & Safety Services	Deliver	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	Ongoing



FEELONG
KUBARK

KOAST

RECYCLING

Priority Health Area 5 - Strengthen Local Capacity for Public Health Leadership and Partnerships

Rationale

Effective public health outcomes rely on coordinated planning, strong partnerships and evidence-based decision making. Local governments play an important role in advocating for services, working with regional partners and integrating health considerations into planning and policy.

Objective

To strengthen public health leadership through effective governance, partnerships, advocacy and evidence-based planning.

Shire pillars: People, Place, Planet, Prosperity and Performance

State Public Health Plan alignment: Protect and Enable

Sub focus area	Action	Owner	Role	Partner	Time frame
Leadership & advocacy	Advocate to State and Federal Governments for services, infrastructure and initiatives that improve community health and wellbeing such as improved transport to health services and affordable aged housing options	Marketing, Advocacy & Communication, Community Development	Advocate	State and Federal agencies	Ongoing
	Provide public health advice to Council and support the implementation and review of the Public Health Plan	Environmental Health	Deliver	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	Ongoing
	Strengthen partnerships with Aboriginal organisations, community groups and regional agencies to support coordinated health initiatives	Community Development, Environmental Health	Deliver	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	Ongoing
	Advocate for the celebration and support of community awareness events that promote health, inclusion, and cultural recognition (e.g. R U OK? Day, Mental Health Month, NAIDOC Week, Pride Month)	Marketing, Advocacy & Communication, Community Development	Deliver	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	Ongoing
Policy & planning	Embed health impact considerations into planning processes and project assessments	Environmental Health, Sustainable Development	Deliver	State agencies	26/27
	Assess health impacts of housing, accommodation facilities and development proposals to support healthy built environments	Environmental Health, Sustainable Development	Deliver	State agencies	Ongoing

Sub focus area	Action	Owner	Role	Partner	Time frame
Monitoring & reporting health outcomes	Use population health data, community feedback and inter-agency collaboration to monitor emerging health issues	Environmental Health	Deliver	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	Ongoing
	Incorporate Closing the Gap indicators and Aboriginal community input into monitoring and planning processes	Environmental Health	Deliver	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	26/27
	Monitor environmental health indicators and emerging risks to inform regulatory and public health responses	Environmental Health	Deliver	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	Ongoing
Partnerships & community capacity	Strengthen cross-sector partnerships with WA Health, community organisations, schools and aged care providers to expand health promotion initiatives	Environmental Health	Deliver/ Partner	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	Ongoing
	Investigate opportunities for representation on regional health partnerships such as the Wellington Health Alliance	Environmental Health, Community Development	Deliver/ Partner	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	Ongoing
	Administer community grant and sustainability funding programs that support local health and wellbeing initiatives	Community Development, Environmental Services, Finance	Deliver	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	Ongoing



Priority Health Area 6 - Support Child Health and Early Development

Rationale

Early childhood is a critical period that shapes lifelong health, learning and wellbeing. Access to supportive family services, early literacy programs, safe play environments and community resources helps children develop the foundations for healthy development.

Objective

To support healthy child development by strengthening early learning, family support and opportunities for active play.

Shire pillars: People and Place.

State Public Health Plan alignment: Promote, Prevent and Enable.

Sub focus area	Action	Owner	Role	Partner	Time frame
Early years development	Deliver initiatives under the Bright Futures: Early Years Strategy to support healthy child development and family wellbeing	Community Development	Deliver	Community NGOs, State and private sector agencies	Ongoing
	Advocate through the Shire's Play Spaces Strategy for safe and accessible play environments for children and families	Asset Management, Property Services	Deliver	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	Ongoing
	Deliver early childhood literacy and learning programs through libraries and community facilities that promote active play, reading and creative engagement (e.g. Storytime, Rhymetime, Better Beginnings and literacy and creative festivals)	Library Services	Deliver	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	Ongoing
Family support & childcare	Support childhood and adolescent immunisation uptake by providing accessible, community-appropriate locations for vaccination services and promoting these services through clear, targeted communication channels	Environmental Health	Deliver/ Partner	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	Ongoing

Sub focus area	Action	Owner	Role	Partner	Time frame
Literacy, learning & active play	Provide public library services that support literacy, lifelong learning and community connection	Library Services	Deliver	Community, State agencies	Ongoing
	Provide digital literacy and online safety education for children, young people and families	Library Services	Deliver	Community, State agencies	Ongoing
	Advocate for childcare, creche and school holiday programs that will support families and enable community participation	Community & Lifestyle	Deliver/ Partner	Community	Ongoing
	Advocate for integrated, community led support for vulnerable families through partnerships, effective referral systems, and targeted grant programs	Community Development, Community & Lifestyle	Partner	Community NGOs, State agencies	Ongoing



Priority Health Area 7 - Support healthy and active ageing

Rationale

The Shire of Harvey has a growing older population, increasing the need for age-friendly infrastructure, opportunities for social participation and services that support independence. Supporting older residents to remain active and connected helps maintain health, wellbeing and community engagement.

Objective

To support older residents to remain active, independent and socially connected as they age.

Shire pillars: People and Place.

State Public Health Plan alignment: Promote, Prevent and Enable.

Sub focus area	Action	Owner	Role	Partner	Time frame
Age-friendly planning	Deliver initiatives identified in the Aging Together: Age Friendly Strategy	Community Development	Deliver/ Partner	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	Ongoing
	Advocate for transport and mobility options that support independence and access to services for older residents	Community Development, Marketing, Advocacy & Communication	Advocate	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	Ongoing
Social participation & connection	Support initiatives that reduce loneliness and social isolation among older residents	Community Development	Deliver/ Partner	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	Ongoing
	Promote volunteering, cultural activities and community events that encourage participation by older adults	Community Development	Deliver/ Partner	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	Ongoing
	Deliver intergenerational programs that strengthen connection between younger and older residents	Community Development	Deliver	Community NGOs, State agencies	Ongoing
Carer support & independent living	Support carers of older people through partnerships with service providers, community organisations and grant programs.	Community Development	Deliver	Community NGOs, Community, State agencies	Ongoing
	Promote access to services and programs that support older residents to live independently in the community.	Community Development	Deliver	Community NGOs, State agencies	Ongoing



Shire supporting documents and Programs

- 10 year Local Path Renewal and Improvement Plan
- Access and Inclusion Plan 2021 - 2026
- Age Friendly Strategy 2022 - 2027
- Arts and Culture programs
- Asset Management Plan 2022 - 2032
- Biodiversity Strategy
- Bright Futures Early Years Strategy
- Bush Fire Risk Management Plan
- CCTV Strategy
- Coastal Hazard Adaption Plan
- Communications Strategy 2022-2027
- Council Plan 2025 – 2026
- Creative Communities 2027
- Crime Prevention Plan
- Early Years Strategy 2022 - 2027
- KidSport Program
- Library Visions 2022-2032
- Light Industry Program
- Local Waste Management Strategy
- Play Spaces Strategy
- Service Plans 2025 - 2026
- Trails Master Plan
- Voices of Youth Strategy
- Waterwise Council Action Plan
- Workforce and Diversity Plan 2022 - 2026

References

- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Department of Health – Health and Wellbeing Surveillance Survey
- Shire of Harvey Public Health Profile 2025 – available on request

Acknowledgements

- WA Country Health Service
- Wellington District Health Advisory Committee



How could public health and wellbeing be even better in the Shire of Harvey?

Please reach out to the Shire of Harvey to share your thoughts and ideas:

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