

Public Health Plan

2026-2030



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Our Health Vision

To protect, promote and enhance the health, well-being and quality of life of our community.

This can be achieved by creating an environment consisting of healthy people and community, healthy places and spaces, and healthy partnerships.

The Shire of Murray has developed this Plan in line with statutory obligations under the WA Public Health Act 2016.

The Plan is a five-year strategic document intended to integrate with the Plan for the Future 2023-2033 (Shire of Murray, 2023), rather than duplicate existing plans and strategies across the organisation.

The Plan has been designed to focus on measures where the Shire can make a difference by addressing the social determinants of health. The social determinants of health and well-being (Figure 1) are the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes, which portrays the factors or conditions in which people live and how they influence health and well-being within our community.



Figure 1: Campbell, F. (Ed.) (2010). *The social determinants of health and the role of local government*. The Improvement and Development Agency.

About the Murray Public Health Plan

This plan aligns with the Shire's legislative obligations under the WA Public Health Act 2016, which aims to establish an integrated health and wellbeing planning process that fits into existing planning frameworks and strategies within local government and can support a wider local vision for a healthier community. The plan focuses on the following key areas:

1. Healthy People and Community

To guide and encourage our community to lead healthier lifestyles through the provision of lifestyle and educational opportunities.

2. Healthy Places and Spaces

To provide healthy places and spaces to support and encourage healthy lifestyle opportunities.

3. Healthy Partnerships

To develop collaborative partnerships with community, business, government, non-government, and key stakeholders to improve health and wellbeing.

These three key areas were established through aligning the priorities of the Shire of Murray Plan for the Future 2023-2033 as well as identifying the community's needs which were informed by community workshops, surveys, and seminars.

Alignment to the State Public Health Plan for Western Australia

The Plan is consistent with the [State Public Health Plan for Western Australia 2025-2030](#) (State Plan), where applicable, under the Public Health Act 2016. The vision, objectives and guiding principles of the State Plan are summarised below:

State Plan Vision

The best possible health, wellbeing, and quality of life for all Western Australians - now and into the future.

State Plan Pillars and Objectives

Promote	Prevent	Protect	Enable
Foster strong communities and healthier environments	Reduce the burden of chronic disease, communicable disease, and injury	Protect against public and environmental health risks, effectively manage emergencies, and lessen the health impacts of climate change	Bolster public health systems and workforce, and leverage partnerships to support health and wellbeing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Minimise impacts of public health hazards- Optimise mental health- Improve health literacy- Promote population health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reduce use of tobacco and vapes- Encourage healthy eating and active living- Reduce harm from alcohol use- Prevent injuries- Reduce harm from illicit drug use- Improve population screening programs- Expand immunisation program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Manage health impacts of climate change- Control notifiable diseases- Improve disaster and emergency management- Reduce harm from radiation and biosecurity risks- Enhance pandemic response- Ensure access to safe food & water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Enhance population health data- Foster innovation in public health issues- Develop public health partnerships- Develop public health workforce

State Plan Overarching Objectives

Aboriginal health and wellbeing; and equity and inclusion.

State Plan Guiding Principles


- Sustainability
- Precautionary
- Proportionate
- Partnerships

Source: Government of Western Australia, Department of Health, Public Health Division (2025). State Public Health Plan for Western Australia, 2025-2030.





Community Engagement



This plan has been developed in partnership with the South Metropolitan Health Service and is informed by the ideas, suggestions and recommendations from the community, service providers, local organisations, businesses, and government in the development of the Shire's Plan for the Future 2023-2033.

The Shire sought the views of as many members of the community as possible. The community shared their ideas through community consultation which consisted of workshops, surveys, and seminars. This consultation helped shape the aspirations and outcomes in the Shires Plan for the Future, as summarised below.

Consultation Summary

Aspirations

PEOPLE	PLANET	PLACE	PROSPERITY	PERFORMANCE
Our community enjoys excellent health, wellbeing and quality of life	Our natural environment is cared for and appreciated	Our rural charm is preserved while we grow by embracing innovative urban design ideas	Our economy is thriving with diverse business, tourism and job opportunities	Our can-do attitude helps us to achieve desired outcomes and continuously strive for excellence

Outcomes

PEOPLE	PLANET	PLACE	PROSPERITY	PERFORMANCE
A safe community.	The ecosystem is managed sustainably for the benefit of current and future generations.	Population growth is being managed responsibly and sustainably.	Sustainable economic growth with decent work for all.	Capable and accountable leadership and governance.
A diverse, socially connected and cohesive community.	Shared responsibility for combatting climate change.	Our towns offer vibrant and attractive spaces, with retained rural charm.	Access to quality education and life-long learning for all.	The Shire actively listens and responds to community needs.
An active and healthy community.	A resilient community equipped to respond to natural disasters and other emergencies.	Built heritage is respected and celebrated.	Visitor Numbers are growing.	
		It is easy to move around the Shire safely and sustainably.		

Source: Shire of Murray (2023). Plan for the Future, Council Plan, 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2033.



A snapshot of the Health and Wellbeing Profile 2011–2020

Shire of Murray

Population

18,641 people live in this area¹

49.9%
Females¹

50.1%
Males¹

3.6% identify as Aboriginal persons¹
(Includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons)

31.6% families with an annual income <64,999¹

5.4% are currently unemployed¹

27.5% were born overseas¹

13.6% speak a language other than English at home¹



Nutrition

53.8% eat recommended serves of fruit per day²

9.3% eat recommended serves of vegetables per day²

24.0% eat fast food at least weekly³



Physical activity

37.7% meets the recommended weekly physical activity guidelines⁴

44.8% spend more than recommended time in screen-based sedentary leisure activities⁵



Overweight and obesity

32.6% classified as 'overweight'⁴

22.1% classified as 'obese'⁴



Tobacco use

9.9% currently smoke⁶

566.5 tobacco-attributable hospitalisations Age standardised rate (ASR)⁶

72.2 tobacco-attributable deaths (ASR)⁶



Alcohol and illicit drugs

28.0% drink alcohol at levels that increase the risk of long-term harm⁷

6.8% drink alcohol at levels that increase the risk of short-term harm⁷

900.3 alcohol-attributable hospitalisations (ASR)⁸

41.2 alcohol-attributable deaths (ASR)⁸

183.8 illicit drug-attributable hospitalisations (ASR)⁸

15.6 illicit drug-attributable deaths (ASR)⁸



Mental health and wellbeing

11.0% experience anxiety⁷

18.6% experience any mental health condition⁷

11.9% experience depression⁷

11.8% experience stress⁷

11.7% experience high or very high psychological distress⁷

NOTES:

1. As at 30 June 2021.
2. Persons aged 2 years and over.
3. Persons aged 1 year and over.
4. Persons aged 5 years and over.

5. Persons of all ages.
6. Persons aged 18 years and above.
7. Persons aged 16 years and over.
8. Persons aged 15 years and over.

Hospitalisations and deaths are expressed as Age-standardised rates (ASR) per 100,000 population. Other data expressed as estimated prevalence (%) excluding population data.



A snapshot of the Health and Wellbeing Profile 2011–2020

Shire of Murray



Injury-related hospitalisations (ASR)

18.7

accidental drowning,
submersion, threats to
breathing hospitalisations⁵

854.2

accidental falls
hospitalisations⁵

56.3

accidental poisoning
hospitalisations⁵

88.1

assault and neglect
hospitalisations⁵

112.3

intentional self-harm
hospitalisations⁵

416.1

transport accident
hospitalisations⁵



Injury-related deaths (ASR)

1.4

accidental drowning,
submersion, threats to
breathing deaths⁵

14.8

accidental falls
deaths⁵

12.4

accidental poisoning
deaths⁵

1.0

assault and neglect
deaths⁵

20.0

intentional self harm
deaths⁵

10.2

transport accident
deaths⁵



Notifiable infectious diseases (ASR)

59.0

blood-borne
diseases⁵

217.7

enteric diseases⁵

547.4

sexually transmitted
infections⁵

179.2

vaccine-preventable
diseases⁵

55.3

vector-borne
diseases⁵



Heatwave related conditions (ASR)

6.6

heatwave related hospitalisations⁵

13.4

heatwave related Emergency Department
presentations⁵

NOTES:

1. As at 30 June 2021.
2. Persons aged 2 years and over.
3. Persons aged 1 year and over.
4. Persons aged 5 years and over.

5. Persons of all ages.
6. Persons aged 18 years and above.
7. Persons aged 16 years and over.
8. Persons aged 15 years and over.

Hospitalisations and deaths are expressed as Age-standardised rates (ASR) per 100,000 population. Other data expressed as estimated prevalence (%) excluding population data.

This snapshot of the Health and Wellbeing Profile has been prepared by South Metropolitan Health Service, Health Promotion (2025). Information and data is sourced from the Public Health Atlas produced by the Epidemiology Directorate, Public and Aboriginal Health Division, Department of Health WA, October 2024. Data presented in the Health and Wellbeing Profiles 2011–2020 are estimates derived from Bayesian modelling processes not raw values. Refer to [Bayesian modelling method documents](#) for technical information.

Contact

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This document can be made available in alternative formats on request.

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Murray SEIFA Index of Disadvantage

Although the overall level of health and wellbeing of Australians is relatively high compared with other countries, there are significant disparities in the health outcomes of different populations within Australia. In particular, people who live in areas with lower socio-economic condition tend to have worse health than people from other areas.

The following scores for Murray are based on the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD). This index contains only disadvantage indicators (e.g. unemployment, low incomes or education levels, single parent families, low skilled occupations, poor English proficiency). SEIFA scores are based on a national average of 1,000 and areas with the lowest scores are the most disadvantaged.

Based on the 2021 census data, the Shire of Murray had a SEIFA Index of Disadvantage score of 962, the third lowest among local government authorities (LGA) within the South Metropolitan Heath Service (SMHS). The SEIFA index for LGAs in the SMHS region ranged from 936 to 1,082. Table 1 provides the SEIFA scores for suburbs and localities within the Shire of Murray.

Table 1: SEIFA Index of relative socio-economic disadvantage scores by suburbs, Shire of Murray.

Suburb	SEIFA score	Usual resident population
Barragup	1000	940
Birchmont	1008	86
Blythewood	1008	85
Coolup	984	420
Dwellingup	970	524
Fairbridge	1086	55
Furnissdale	871	1061

Holyoake	954	22
Inglehope	1044	18
Meelon	1029	174
Nambeelup	1021	361
Nirimba	1008	80
North Dandalup	1053	863
North Yunderup	932	840
Pinjarra	903	4914
Ravenswood	981	2483
South Yunderup	992	3860
Stake Hill	1051	469
Teesdale	1044	89
West Coolup	1008	182
West Pinjarra	1006	448

Evaluation of the Plan

The Shire of Murray will regularly track the progress on the completion of the Plan's key focus areas including the period between each review and report to the community through:

Annual Report

The annual report is produced at the end of each financial year and highlights the operations and achievements of the Shire during the prior 12-month period. It contains an indication of key priorities from the Plan for the Future, and informing strategies such as this Plan.

Financial Performance

The proportion of programs and projects funded by the Shire's annual budget will indicate how well the Shire is progressing with the completion of the Plan for a finance and resource perspective.

Key Performance Indicators

The Shire's Corporate Business Plan contains key performance indicators and is reviewed annually by Council. These indicators include how the Shire is progressing on key initiatives, as well as reviewing its operational efficiencies and achievements.

After five years of this Plan being implemented, it will be evaluated and reviewed entirely. Then the next Plan will be developed according to the needs of the local community with aligning the State Public Health Plan and legislative requirements of the Public Health Act 2016.

Action Plans

Action Plan: Healthy People & Community

The following strategies have been identified for future action:

Support and encourage the community to lead healthier lifestyles by the provision of education and lifestyle opportunities

Strategies		Actions
1.01	Reduced alcohol related harm in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Continue to support low alcohol and no alcohol events and activities, both internally and in conjunction with event organisers.- Consider adopting a policy which influences environments supportive of alcohol risk minimisation strategies.- Support the Local Drug Action Team in their initiatives.
1.02	Reduced exposure to tobacco smoke and vape aerosols in public places	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Continue to promote all Shire events as smoke and vape free.- Maintain smoke and vape free signage at Shire facilities.- Support state and federal public health campaigns to reduce tobacco use, vaping and use of related products, particularly among people at greater risk of harm.
1.03	Reduced preventable communicable diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Implement policies and promote strategies to prevent and manage the spread of preventable notifiable diseases.- Provide educational opportunities that raise community awareness of minimising pollutants i.e. impacts of illegal dumping, water contamination.- Maintain and grow existing partnerships with relevant organisations to further develop healthy environments.- Support and promote the WA immunisation schedule to increase vaccination rates for children.
1.04	Improved healthy and active living	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Activate parks, bushland, foreshores, ovals and walking trails, providing connections and shared paths wherever possible.- Continue to deliver activities and programs that support active and healthy lifestyle behaviour changes at Shire facilities.- Maintain and continue to strengthen partnerships with local community groups and sporting clubs to promote healthy environments i.e. healthy canteens, safe alcohol environments and smoke and vape free environments.
1.05	Increase access and inclusion to community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Facilitate programs and services for young people that promote inclusiveness, participation and recognition within the community.

	services for everyone's needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work closely with the local Aboriginal community to develop culturally appropriate, community-based initiatives that celebrate Aboriginal heritage. - Increase access to natural environments for opportunities for connecting with country, mental health benefits and active living. - Support the implementation of multicultural action plans to encourage the participation of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) communities in social, economic and cultural life. - Deliver programs that support disability access and inclusiveness. - Support community events that promote community inclusion and involvement.
1.06	Improved mental health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen the partnership with Act Belong Commit. - Support and promote community involvement in activities that encourage a connected and mentally healthy community. - Support collaboration with government and non-government agencies to address social determinates of health including housing, education, employment, financial security, and safe, healthy environments.
1.07	Support the prevention of avoidable injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise awareness of family and domestic violence and continue to partner with referral services and WA Police. - Continue and promote swimming pool inspection barrier programs. - Support state and federal injury prevention campaigns e.g. Injury Matters campaigns and implement relevant initiatives locally. - Continue to monitor traffic surveys to identify areas of concern to minimise road injuries.
1.08	Improved healthy eating, nutrition and food security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote healthy eating at Shire events. - Promote healthy eating as part of food safety programs and food business inspections. - Investigate opportunities to increase healthy food options at Shire facilities and events. - Support state and federal nutrition campaigns in partnership with local community groups and sporting clubs. - Increase availability and accessibility of quality, affordable and nutritious food for all in community. - Support participation in initiatives to improve community food security.
1.09	Consider public health risks in planning and development policies to facilitate healthy living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote access to healthy food options through food retail zoning and policies and encourage local food production.

	and minimise impacts from public health hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and implement urban design and building code requirements that support climate-resilience, including protecting and increasing the tree canopy, creating green public spaces, improving stormwater management and using sustainable building materials. - Foster collaboration between public health representatives, urban planners, state government agencies and community stakeholders to ensure that health is a focus in urban development strategies. - Conduct regulatory compliance activities for public buildings, accommodation, aquatic facilities, recreation waters and food businesses.
1.10	Improved health literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote and ensure public health information is accessible, appropriate and effectively communicated. - Leverage digital health tools such as mobile apps, online platforms, and social media to disseminate appropriate health information.

Action Plan: Healthy Places & Spaces

The following potential strategies have been identified for future action:

Provide healthy places to support and encourage healthy lifestyle opportunities in the shire

Strategies	Actions
2.01 Improved community safety and reduced crime levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Support the Community Safety & Crime Prevention Plan.- Support emergency services and continue to review the Local Emergency Management Plan.- Support best practice requirements for encouraging active transport.- Motivate creative design for open space in newly developed areas that meet community needs.- Support community groups to establish places that encourage community participation and involvement.- Monitor and regulate short stay accommodation and camping facilities on private land.
2.02 Conserve, maintain and enhance public areas and streetscapes through the Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Implement conservation of remnant vegetation policy.- Support the establishment of sustainable community fresh food initiative i.e. farmers market, local community gardens and edible verge gardens.- Continue to maintain public areas, shared paths and streetscapes, to enhance walkability and enable the community to be active for fun, sport, transport and leisure activities.
2.03 Protect and enhance environmental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Implement environmental health strategies and relevant legislation to protect and enhance the health of the community.- Undertake surveillance and implement mosquito management strategies to minimise the public health impacts from disease carrying mosquitoes.
2.04 Future development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Local Planning Strategy to create a comprehensive and strategic direction for the growing community, consolidating future urban growth towards existing settlements.- Incorporate Health Impact Assessment into the local planning framework.- Consider health opportunities in planning decisions, policies and strategies, including walkability, shared paths, active transport and liveability.- Ensure structure plans for growth areas focus on diverse housing options, education, employment,

public transport, financial security, and safe, healthy environments.

2.05 Adapt to climate change

- Continue to promote the use of renewable energy.
- Encourage and exercise best practice water management.
- Reduce urban heat through landscape plantings.
- Promote the waste education program and promote recycling strategies.
- Implement actions in the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan.
- Consider the impact of climate change on mosquito breeding and adapt the mosquito program accordingly.
- Identify and mitigate the environmental health hazards arising due to climate change.

Action Plan: Healthy Partnerships

Work in partnership with government, non-government, community-based organisations and members of the community to undertake/deliver/implement public health initiatives

Strategies	Actions
3.01 Collaborative partnerships with businesses, government and service providers	- Support a local network of service providers to encourage greater collaboration and partnerships for continued growth, economic prosperity and health.
3.02 Develop a sustainable local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support local businesses including those that offer health promotion services eg personal trainers in public open space. - Provide support and incentive mechanisms for new and existing local businesses that enhance community health, including forums, development of hubs and shared office space.
3.03 Improve access to ample job opportunities locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help identify gaps in service provision and support or partner programs and initiatives to fill those identified gaps. - Support a local network of service providers to encourage collaboration and partnerships for sharing of information regarding job opportunities.
3.04 Develop a healthy workplace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to provide a full package of support, training and engagement mechanisms to foster staff development and to support equality in the workplace. - Continue to offer staff a variety of health and wellbeing opportunities. - Expand Aboriginal partnerships and cultural learning to deepen understanding of racism through truth-telling and the Cultural Determinants. - Promote shared responsibility across government, private and non-government sectors to build workplaces that promote mental health and wellbeing.
3.05 Demonstrate strong leadership and good governance	- Provide strong leadership through good governance to ensure public health is considered in operational and strategic decisions.
3.06 Support and promote population-based screening programs	- Improve the access to population-based screening programs for the prevention or early detection of disease and other public health risks and certain other conditions of health.
3.07 Provide sustainable disaster and emergency	- Ensure clear communication and public information to manage health risks effectively during emergencies.

	management across Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery (PPRR) phases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of environmental health services after bushfires or during disasters, as required. - Assisting community led recovery, supporting long-term health needs and resilience building.
3.08	Reduce harms due to current and future health hazards, including environmental, radiation and biosecurity risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce harms due to current and future health hazards, including environmental, radiation and biosecurity risks
3.09	Ensure access to safe food and water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with stakeholders to support introduction of new food safety standards for horticulture and food safety standard 3.3.2A. - Maintain water sampling program for food businesses that are on non-potable water supply.

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