

RURAL CITY OF WANGARATTA

MUNICIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH & WELLBEING PLAN 2017 - 2021



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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



This plan is one of the most important documents that the City has produced in my term as mayor.

Many of the statistics in Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing plan are confronting and show that there is plenty of work to do for agencies like Council. Wangaratta is unfortunately above average when it comes to incidences of family violence, child protection investigations, and for children with emotional or behavioural problems. Mental health issues are also prevalent, while a lot of people are also under financial stress from increased utility charges with wages not keeping up with inflation. I know some of our agencies are assisting more people as each week passes.

It can be disheartening but it is also good to know that we have actions in place to deal with these issues. The purpose of a plan like this is to sit back and take stock of where the issues are and then figure out what we can do about them. Council cannot do all of this alone. We need the assistance of the multitude of agencies across the Rural City of Wangaratta to band together and address these issues head on.

Throughout the consultation period for this plan Council came together with these agencies through the Wangaratta Local Government Area Health and Wellbeing Partnership. The input of all agencies can make a difference, and this plan will be reviewed annually to ensure it stays relevant to the community's current health and wellbeing needs. I should point out that Council already undertakes and supports a variety of services and initiatives that help build a healthy community.

These include aquatic facilities, sporting grounds that are maintained and upgraded by Council, shared paths throughout Wangaratta and connecting rural areas through the rail trail, immunisations, Maternal and Child Health Services, school crossing supervisors, as well as some of the best parks in Victoria.

I shouldn't forget the role the arts plays in building a healthy community too. The Wangaratta Art Gallery and Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre play vital roles in our community.

The future is bright for Wangaratta if we all work together, and I look forward to seeing the actions from this plan come to fruition.

Ken Clarke OAM
Mayor



WHY DEVELOP A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN?

Making sure our community can be healthy is a shared responsibility. It requires effort and a collaborative approach from many partners and cohorts including Government, not-for-profit organisations, businesses, health professionals, community groups, schools, sporting clubs and individual residents.

Victorian councils have a statutory responsibility for health and wellbeing planning under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (the Act). The Act strengthens the role of local government as a major partner in the effort to achieve the highest attainable standard of public health and wellbeing by:

- Protecting public health and preventing disease, illness, injury, disability or premature death
- Promoting conditions in which persons can be healthy
- Reducing inequalities in the state of public health and wellbeing

Under the Act all local government authorities in Victoria are required to develop Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans within 12 months of each general election of the council. The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is required to set broad goals and priorities over a four year period such as health promoting strategies; planning for age-friendly physical environments and community support; accessible services and programs; and emergency management planning.

The Act clarifies the respective roles and responsibilities of local and state government regarding public health and wellbeing planning and outlines the following functions of Council:

- Creating an environment which supports the health of local community members and strengthens the capacity of individuals to achieve better health;
- Initiating, supporting and managing public health planning processes at the local government level;
- Developing and implementing public health policies and programs within the municipal district;
- Developing and enforcing up to date public health standards and intervening if the health of people within the municipal district is affected;
- Facilitating and supporting local agencies whose work contributes to the improvement of health and wellbeing in the local community;
- Coordinating and providing immunisation services to children living or being educated within the municipal district;
- Ensuring the municipal district is maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

A Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan must:

- Include an examination of data about the health status and health determinants in the municipal district;
- Identify goals and strategies based on available evidence for creating a local community in which people can achieve maximum health and wellbeing;
- Provide for the involvement of people in the local community in the development, implementation and evaluation of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan; and
- Specify how the council will work in partnership with the Department of Health and other agencies undertaking public health initiatives, projects and programs to accomplish the goals and strategies identified in the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

The State Government of Victoria has developed an overarching State-focused plan, the *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-2019*, along with a detailed outcomes framework endeavouring to measure the combined impact of the overall health and wellbeing effort.

The State Government of Victoria proposes a bold vision for the state to create;

A Victoria free from the avoidable burden of disease and injury so that all Victorians can enjoy the highest attainable standards of health, wellbeing and participation at every age.

INFLUENCES ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING

To attain a level of good health and wellbeing outcomes, it is important to understand that health and wellbeing is more than merely the absence of the burden of disease. Health and Wellbeing is a highly dependent interwoven relationship encompassing a range of complex social conditions.

These complexities can involve circumstances such as: genetic predisposition and family inheritance, life expectancy, generational and social differences and influences, emotional and environmental influences. All these factors are highly dependent on each other in how they affect any particular area of our community. For example: while all children will share some common social determinants and milestones specifically related to age, they will still vary greatly on other social determinants such as family income, social status or exposure to family violence.

The planning approach adopted in the development of this MPHWP has taken into account research by the World Health Organisation and is consistent with the 2015-2019 Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan which confirms the need to look at the full range of social determinants in order to address the full spectrum of health and wellbeing needs.

Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing

The following list is not finite but it does represent the key broad level social determinants that impact the health and wellbeing of the community of Wangaratta:

- Income;
- Social status;
- Early life;
- Education;
- Social cohesion;
- Employment status and working conditions;
- Gender;
- Discrimination;
- Violence;
- Addictions and substance abuse;
- Food security;
- Physical activity;
- Environment;
- Transport; and
- Housing.





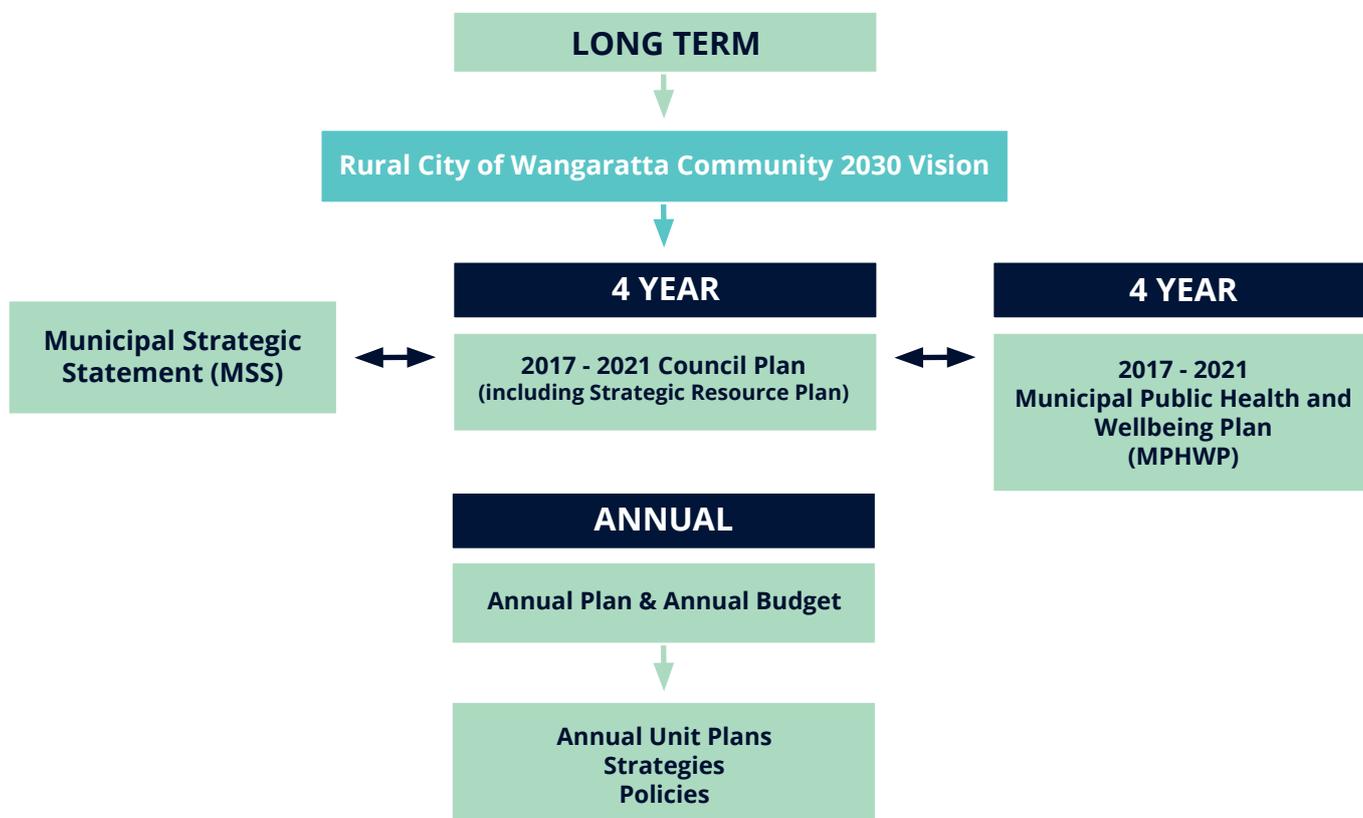
Positive Influences

The Rural City of Wangaratta undertakes a range of activities which have the aim of positively influencing the social determinants of health and wellbeing. These activities include:

- Improving opportunities for people to connect socially;
- Assisting to facilitate the reduction of social and economic inequalities;
- Providing financial support to community organisations for local activities;
- Improving economic opportunities to provide jobs;
- Considering gender differences in planning and implementation;
- Informing and educating through leadership and promoting acceptance of all people within our community;
- Advocating through programs and partnerships to prevent violence;
- Collaborating with health partners on the promotion of education and social programs in relation to drug and alcohol addiction;
- Improving links to fresh food, sustainable agriculture and food distribution;
- Building the skills of sport and leisure clubs to ensure they are sustainable and able to provide participation opportunities;
- Incorporating universal access and healthy by design principles into planning and projects;
- Developing infrastructure that encourages walking and cycling;
- Advocating for improved public transport networks;
- Promoting housing that is safe, secure and affordable;
- The development of policy that improves access to arts, culture and leisure activities for all socio-economic statuses;
- Fostering strong partnerships across the education sector and advocating for improved access to education opportunities;
- The provision of library services, including access to free wireless internet;
- The provision of early years services with a focus of family partnerships and collaboration regarding children's development, parenting skills/support and health and wellbeing; and
- The provision of immunisation services to our children in the prevention against infectious diseases

RURAL CITY OF WANGARATTA COUNCIL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

This figure illustrates the relationship between the Rural City of Wangaratta's Council Plan 2017-2021, the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP), and the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS). It demonstrates how the plans are closely interrelated. Council must produce a MPHWP within 12 months of a new Council being elected.





OUR PARTNERS

The Rural City of Wangaratta has strong relationships with a comprehensive range of stakeholders and organisations that deliver services and programs throughout the municipality. Together these stakeholders have formed a productive strategic alliance (Wangaratta Local Government Area Health and Wellbeing Partnership) supported by the Central Hume Primary Care Partnership (CHPCP), that focuses on addressing the health and wellbeing needs and priorities of the local community.

Our partners include:

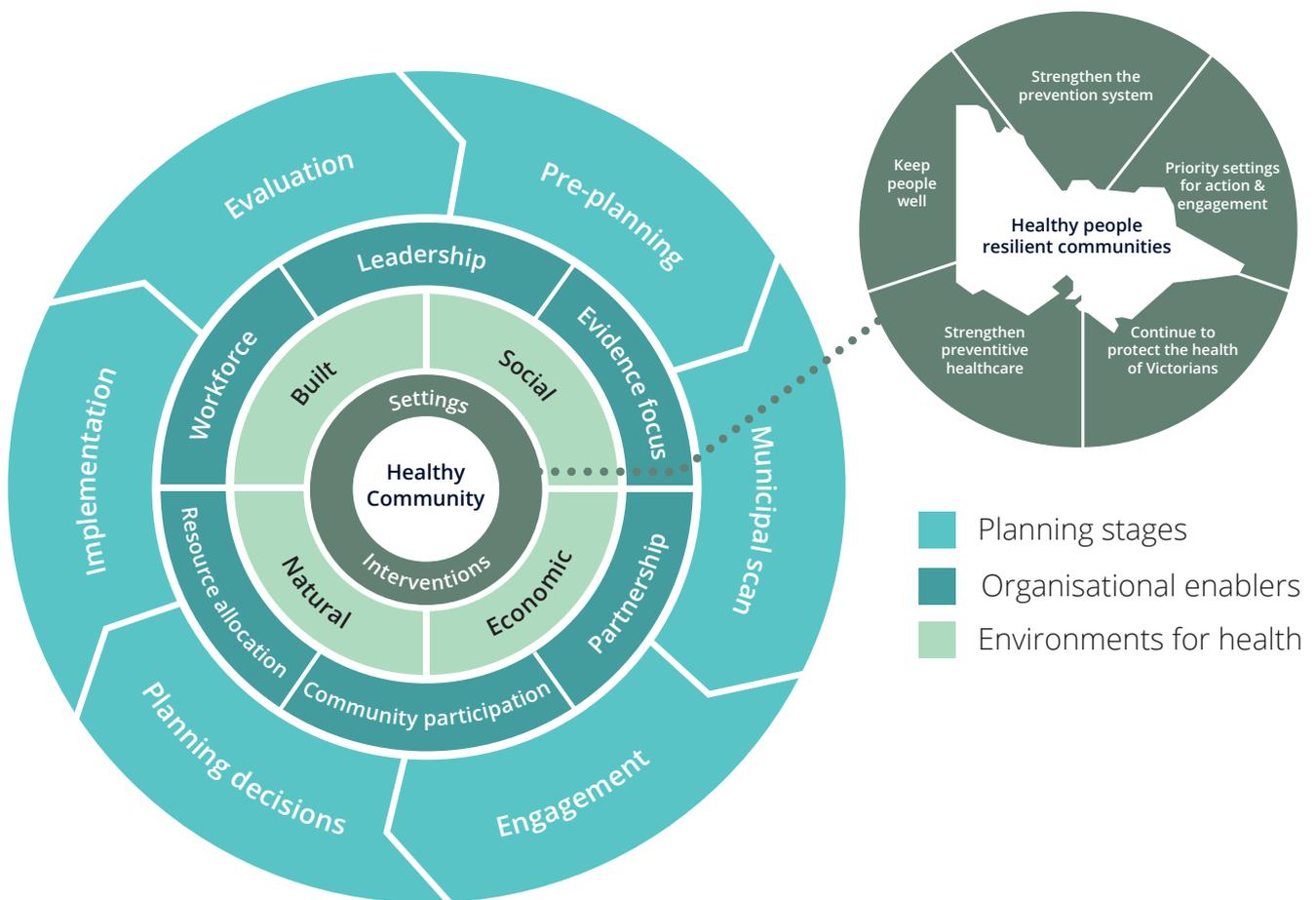
- Anglicare
- Central Hume Primary Care Partnership
- Centrelink
- Community Accessibility
- Department of Education and Training
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Justice and Regulation
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources
- Dirrawarra Indigenous Network
- Gateway Health
- Hume Region Outreach Connections
- Integrated Primary Mental Health Service
- Mind Australia
- North East Child and Adolescent Mental Health
- North East Multicultural Association
- North East Support and Action for Youth (NESAY)
- Northeast Health Wangaratta
- Open Door Neighbourhood House
- Pangerang Community House
- Beyond Housing
- SCOPE
- The Centre for Continuing Education
- Uniting Goulburn North East
- Upper Murray Family Care
- Rural City of Wangaratta Aged & Disability Services
- Victoria Police Wangaratta
- Villa Maria
- Women's Health Goulburn North East
- YMCA Wangaratta
- Yooralla

DEVELOPING THE PLAN

The Rural City of Wangaratta utilised *The Environments for Health Municipal Public Health Planning Framework* (Department of Human Services, 2001) to support the development of a plan that responds to the needs of the community, in partnership with local service providers and organisations.

The planning cycle below progresses through a range of actions from pre-planning to evaluation of the process. This cycle provides a standard methodology to ensure robust planning with a defined method for managing change, and that seeks to improve service development and health outcomes.

Planning Cycle for municipal public health and wellbeing





ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY

The Rural City of Wangaratta undertook extensive consultation with stakeholders to support the development of strategic objectives. Consultation involved:

- Community Health Services
- Representatives from local health, community and welfare agencies
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Community representatives
- Rural City of Wangaratta Officers

The consultation with stakeholders focused on the following process:

- Present analysis of data
- Receive feedback and confirmation on key priorities
- Present priorities and seek confirmation on solutions to perceived issues
- Present community feedback and refine

The main suggestions to improve local health and wellbeing from the community were:

- Continue to develop infrastructure that supports physical activity – walking tracks, exercise equipment, etc;
- Support the prevention of family violence by taking a whole of community, zero tolerance stance;
- Actively address the issue and effect of drug use (particularly ice) and anti-social behaviour throughout the community;
- Support women into leadership roles and promote respectful relationships within the community;
- Support positive community and family interactions through events, activities and volunteering;
- Build the capacity of people to make healthy life choices, including access to healthy food, social opportunities, and accessible physical activity options;
- Ensure that the municipality is clean, well maintained and well designed to support people's health and wellbeing;
- Provide support, resources and social connections for people in our community who face mental health challenges.



CONTEXT

The Rural City of Wangaratta completed a comprehensive desktop literature review of relevant existing national and state plans, strategies and documents. Relevant documents were considered as those with the potential to impact services, planning and public health and wellbeing within the municipality.

The following regional and Victorian Government documents were considered in the development of the MPHWP:

- Central Hume Primary Care Partnership Strategic Plan 2016 – 2018
- Education State Early Childhood Reform Plan: Ready for kinder, ready for school, ready for life
- Ending Family Violence: Victoria's Plan For Change
- Family Violence Rolling Action Plan 2017 - 2020
- Free From Violence: Victoria's strategy to prevent family violence and all forms of violence against women
- Koolin Balit - Victorian Government strategic directions for Aboriginal health 2012 - 2022 Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Action Plan
- Hume Region Preventing Violence Against Women and Children Regional Strategy 2013 – 2017
- Hume Region Population Ageing Profile 2011 - 2031
- Roadmap for Reform: strong families, safe children
- Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy
- Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2013 - 2018
- Victorian Health Priorities Framework 2012 - 2022
- Victorian Health Priorities Framework 2012 - 2022: Rural and Regional Health Plan
- Victorian Local Aboriginal Networks Five Year Plan 2016 - 2020
- Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015 - 2019
- Victoria's 10-year mental health plan
- Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Key Priorities 2017 - 2020

MONITORING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Whilst the development of the MPHWP has been led by Council's Community and Recreation Team, all Council directorates play a key role contributing to the health and wellbeing of the local community. Not all of the strategies within the plan are the direct responsibility of Council. The MPHWP provides for an integrated agency response to address identified community health and wellbeing needs and gaps. The Plan also aims to guide the efforts of community organisations and service providers in the delivery of strategies and actions that will lead to expected outcomes.

Implementation and monitoring will be supported by expert advice from the Wangaratta Local Government Area Health and Wellbeing Partnership supported by the Central Hume Primary Care Partnership.

The Plan is designed to allow for a strategic response to health and wellbeing priorities. These needs can change and through the Wangaratta Local Government Area Health and Wellbeing Partnership, the MPHWP will be reviewed annually to ensure it is reflective by addressing the community's current health and wellbeing needs.

Council will support the partnership by:

- Developing a Rural City of Wangaratta MPHWP Annual Action Plan in conjunction with Plan Partners to identify specific activities, responsible agencies, performance measures and targets;
- Developing tools for monitoring the progress and achievement of strategies and actions over the life of the Plan; and
- Fostering ongoing consultation and communication with the local community and partners to ensure stated strategies and actions remain relevant to the local community and are addressing identified needs.

EVALUATION

The MPHWP will be reviewed annually in accordance with the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 requirements to ensure that it continues to respond to the needs of the community, and that it remains current and reflective of the progress that has been made. The annual review will be coordinated by Council and will be conducted in collaboration with the Wangaratta Local Government Area Health and Wellbeing Partnership. Council will also prepare and submit an annual report on progress and evaluation findings, on behalf of Plan Partners, to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services.

A final evaluation will be conducted at the end of the four years, in November 2021 and will consist of:

- Assessment of progress;
- Assessment of targets;
- Review of key data for the municipality including the social profile, health status, health risk factors, health behaviours and population risk groups; and
- Review of implementation mechanisms for the MPHWP including partnership terms and arrangements.

EVIDENCE OF NEED AND ACTION:

OUR STORY

Our data tells an important story about the challenges our community face and enable us to recognise the things we do well and the characteristics and opportunities that support our communities health and wellbeing. Some data can have two sides to its story.

It is important to acknowledge that the data and statistics centred around crime, anti-social behaviour and violence within our community can be driven by many factors and influences including environmental, social, emotional and lifestyle circumstances to which people are exposed. High rates, while requiring attention and monitoring can also mean that we have a community that feels safe and supported to report behaviour that they know is unacceptable or inappropriate. An increase in incidents can also mean that we have a highly responsible services system that is actively tackling anti-social and unsafe behaviour.

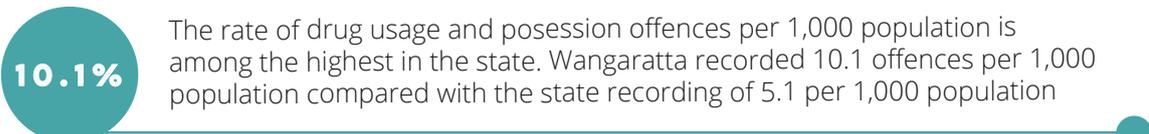
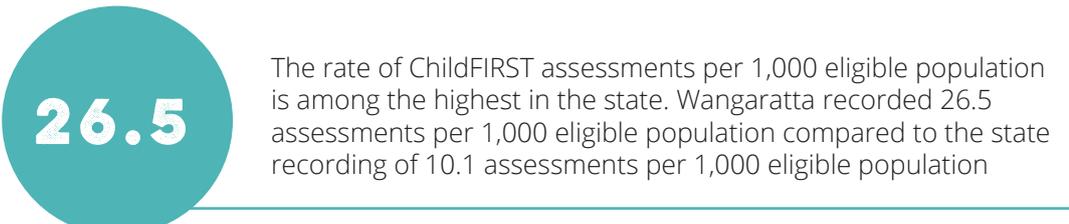
Reporting on mental health is a complex task. Ultimately, we strive to be a community where people feel they can access the services and resources they need at any stage in their life. We actively work to address the stigma that surrounds mental health and the high participation we experience in mental health serviced is testament to the quality services that exist, their ability to be accessed easily, the size of our service catchment area, and the behaviour and attitude of our community in feeling safe and supported to access services.

Wangaratta is a service centre for a much larger region and as such, our data can often reflect the size of our catchment – which is not restricted to our municipal borders.



PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE

Our Story



Our Actions

1.1 A community that does not tolerate violence

- 1.1.1 Build collaborative partnerships to support and contribute to whole of community actions to prevent family violence
- 1.1.2 As a community, actively participate in the Victoria against Violence campaign from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to December 10 (Human Rights Day) to raise awareness of violence against women
- 1.1.3 Actively participate in Family Violence Networks
- 1.1.4 Actively participate in the Hume Regional Crime Prevention Committee
- 1.1.5 Partner with Police and local businesses to facilitate the implementation of Closed Circuit Television monitoring with the CBD, addressing issues of anti-social behaviour and crime and violence

1.2 Services and resources that respond to the needs of our community

- 1.2.1 Provide information in a range of forms and raise awareness of the services and resources that are available for local families
- 1.2.2 Advocate and lobby for the increased local provision of services that support all members of our community

1.3 Children who are safe and protected

- 1.3.1 Implement effective family violence prevention and early identification screening measures in universal services in partnership with local service providers
- 1.3.2 Support front line staff with education and training to recognise and respond to the needs of victim survivors including at our library, Maternal and Child Health Service, Early Years Services, Aged and Disability Services, Local Laws, Emergency Management and Recovery and Leisure staff
- 1.3.3 Develop and implement a Municipal Early Years plan that includes actions and initiatives that model and build respectful relationships with children, and actively address risk factors and response strategies to family violence

Our Targets

- Reduction in family violence rates
- Reduction in substantiated child protection investigations and increased engagement with services to ensure children are safe from harm
- Reduction of antisocial behaviour and crime within the RCoW

ACHIEVING SOCIAL EQUITY

Our Story



Mortgage and rental stress in Wangaratta are higher than the State average. In Wangaratta, 12.3% of people experience mortgage stress compared with the State average of 11.4% and 28.3% of people experience rental stress compared with the State average of 25.1%.



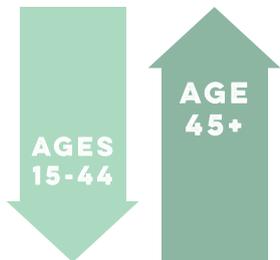
The unemployment rate in Wangaratta is 6.4%, slightly higher than the state average.



1.6% of people are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin which is above the state measure of 0.8%



The median household income of \$913 is well below the state measure of \$1,216.



Actual and projected population are both well below the state measures. People aged 15-44 are under-represented relative to the state average while people aged 45+ are over-represented



Only 47% of people within the municipality live near public transport compared to the state average of 73.9%.



60.9% of people did not complete year 12, which is higher than state average of 43.7%



4.0 homeless people (estimated) per 1,000 population on par with the state average



The percentages of Year 9 students attaining national minimum literacy and numeracy standards are below the state measure, as is the percentage of 19 year olds completing year 12

Our Actions

2.1 Gender equity in all parts of our community

- 2.1.1 Promote and support accessible, affordable and inclusive opportunities for girls and women of all abilities and ages to be part of all elements of community life including sport, cultural, education, employment and leadership roles
- 2.1.2 In partnership with local organisations, undertake prevention work throughout our community by promoting gender equity and challenging conservative gender norms
- 2.1.3 Support work-place based initiatives and capacity building opportunities to build a respectful, equitable and inclusive workplace culture
- 2.1.4 Advocate for and support the delivery of resources, services, events and groups that enable equity and connection for members of our community who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex.
- 2.1.5 Actively participate and support the Regional Community of Practice delivered by Women's Health Goulburn North East to engage in shared learnings and to promote gender equity

2.2 Economic equality and growth

- 2.2.1 Work to remove economic barriers that prohibit or limit participation in sports and cultural activities for our children and young people
- 2.2.2 Provide free and accessible programs that enable men, women, young people and children of all abilities to enjoy and participate in cultural activities
- 2.2.3 Advocate and lobby for increased provision of educational services and opportunities within the municipality to ensure everyone can access training, education and leadership opportunities
- 2.2.4 Actively work to attract and develop business growth within the municipality to increase inclusive employment opportunities for people of all abilities
- 2.2.5 Advocate, facilitate and support projects that provide safe, accessible and affordable housing options appropriate to the needs of all community members

2.3 Cultural celebration, recognition and support

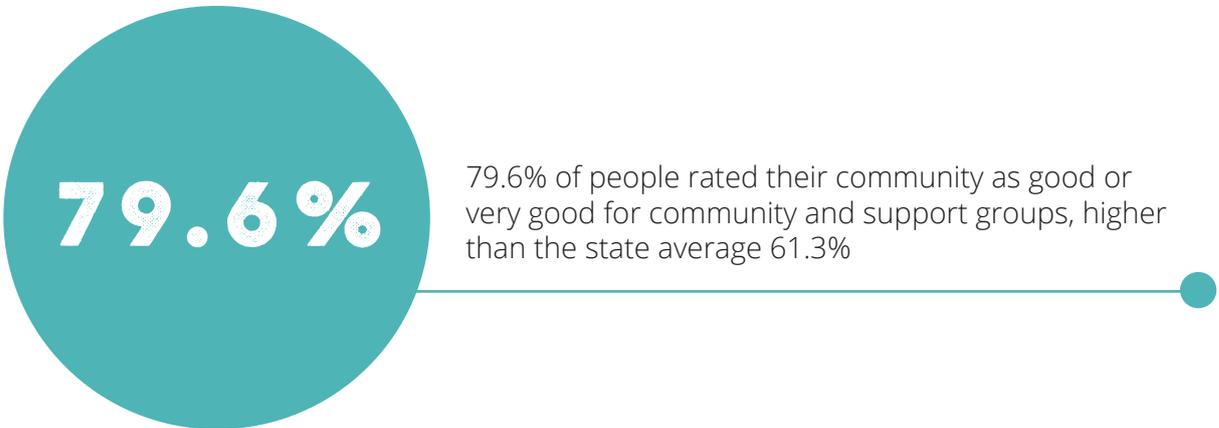
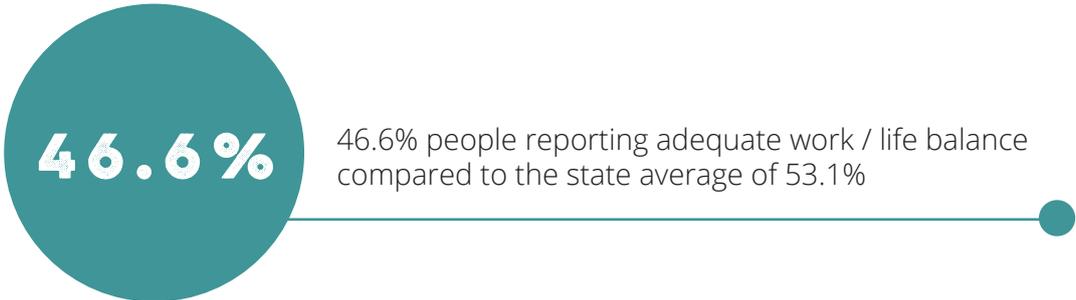
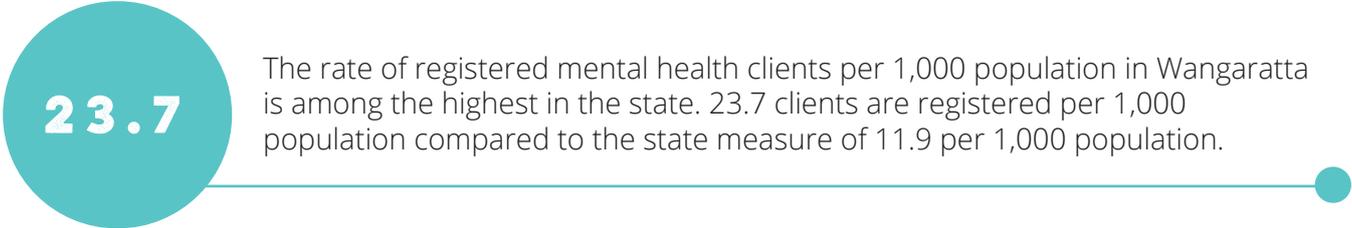
- 2.3.1 Facilitate and lead the delivery of the Ovens and Murray Regional Area Partnership project to support the health and wellbeing of our culturally diverse community members at all life stages
- 2.3.2 Work in partnership with local indigenous elders and community members to recognise and celebrate Aboriginal heritage, knowledge and culture throughout the community
- 2.3.3 In collaboration with local indigenous elders and community members, provide regular celebration, exhibitions and events– temporary and permanent – promoting Indigenous art, culture and stories throughout the municipality
- 2.3.4 Protect and recognise the continuing story of traditional indigenous and European heritage and settlement through art, story, events, and community facilities
- 2.3.5 Continue to support the Dirrawarra Indigenous Network
- 2.3.6 Advocate for and support the establishment of a gathering place in Wangaratta for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

Our Targets

- Reduction in rates of unemployment
- Reduction in rates of homelessness
- Increase rates of Year 12 completion

SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH

Our Story



Our Actions

3.1 Services and networks that can help

- 3.1.1 Advocate and lobby for an increase in mental health service accessibility and availability appropriate to the diverse needs of men, women and children of all abilities within the municipality, especially in areas and with marginalised groups that are vulnerable or are most at risk
- 3.1.2 Work with emergency services and community service organisations to support our communities during periods of crisis and emergency, identifying the needs of women, men and children of all abilities and ages and supporting recovery
- 3.1.3 Throughout our arts and culture programs, deliver programs and exhibitions that recognise and address issues of mental health and social inequalities
- 3.1.4 Continue to support the provision of a collaborative service system that delivers a partnership approach to the support, pathways and planning for mental health services

3.2 Knowledge that informs our direction and understanding

- 3.2.1 With the support of partners and schools, implement the Youth Wellbeing Profiler project throughout the municipality to gain an understanding of the needs, priorities and challenges facing younger people within our community enhancing overall health and wellbeing
- 3.2.2 Support and participate in the Wangaratta Well Ageing Vision (WAVE) and Engagement project to better understand the needs and priorities of older people within the community

3.3 Preventative programs and projects

- 3.3.1 Deliver a calendar of events, projects and opportunities that enable families, friends and community members of all abilities and ages to gather and connect
- 3.3.2 Develop and implement the Wangaratta Gaming Policy to set clear conditions and controls for our municipality for future related gaming applications and its long term purpose of reducing and minimising gambling related harms
- 3.3.3 Work with schools and youth organisations to deliver an evidence based approach to sexuality and relationships education for young people
- 3.3.4 Support healthy ageing within the our municipality through the development and implementation of a Positive Ageing Action Plan in collaboration with older people and relevant service providers
- 3.3.5 Actively participate in and support the work of the Wangaratta Suicide Prevention Network
- 3.3.6 Continue to deliver programs and projects that connect people from all abilities, and from all backgrounds throughout our community, such as the Community Leadership Program and the Community Ambassador Program

Our Targets

- Reduced rate of suicide within the municipality
- Reduction in drug possession offences
- Increased awareness of mental health services and support networks
- Reduced rate of expenditure for electronic gaming machines throughout the municipality

ENABLING HEALTHY BEHAVIOURS

Our Story



90.7% of people could access community services and resources which was more than the state average of 85.2%



The rate of unintentional injuries treated in hospital per 1,000 is the highest in the state. The municipality measured 140.4 unintentional injuries treated per 1,000 population compared to the state measure of 61.0 per 1,000 population



Children fully immunised between 24 and 27 months was 87.8%, less than the state average of 90.5%



1,113.1 Home and Community Care (HACC) clients aged 65 and over per 1,000 target population which is higher than the state average of 737.8



54.6% people in Wangaratta do not meet dietary guidelines for either fruit or vegetable consumption, higher than the state average of 48.6%



The municipality is ranked 11th in the State with 19.2% of people drinking sugar-sweetened soft drink every day



48.1% of babies are fully breastfed at 3 months



14.9% of people receiving disability services support per 1,000 population compared to the state average of 8.9%

Our Actions

4.1 Provision of health services for everyone

4.1.1 Advocate for and support the use of technology to expand service provision for men, women and young people of all abilities, including those living in small towns and isolated rural areas

- 4.1.2** In partnerships with local health services and organisations, encourage people to understand their own health needs and have increased health literacy levels
- 4.1.3** Review and implement actions in Council's Community Access and Inclusion Plan in collaboration with men, women and young people of all abilities who have lived experience of disability
- 4.1.4** Work across all parts of the community to support the provision of dental services to ensure children meet oral health benchmarks
- 4.1.5** Advocate for and support the effective implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- 4.1.6** Continue to deliver quality, welcoming and accessible immunisation services across the municipality to encourage the prevention of infectious disease in our children, young people and families

4.2 Addressing drug and alcohol use

- 4.2.1** Continue to deliver a range of drug, smoke and alcohol free events and projects throughout the municipality that are family friendly and accessible for people of all abilities
- 4.2.2** Actively participate in the Local Drug Action Team (LDAT)
- 4.2.3** Investigate ways to strengthen regulation of alcohol supply and reform of liquor licensing through Wangaratta Liquor Accord
- 4.2.4** Actively address tobacco use within the community through the enforcement of smoking restrictions, the provisions of educational information and the delivery of smoke free facilities and events throughout the municipality
- 4.2.5** Continue to advocate for and support the delivery of alcohol and drug prevention programs throughout our services, especially to our vulnerable and at risk community members

4.3 Enabling healthy food choices

- 4.3.1** Encourage healthy choices within community spaces and at community events through the provision of accessible, safe drinking water and the availability of affordable, health food options
- 4.3.2** Support and advocate for the affordable access to healthy food within the municipality
- 4.3.3** Facilitate projects and provide information and resources that encourage people of all abilities and ages to grow their own food, connect with their cultural food heritage and integrate sustainable, healthy food lifestyles into their daily lives

Our Targets

- Reduced presentation at emergency department
- Reduction in rates of unintentional injuries
- Increase in number of people meeting daily fruit and vegetable consumption targets
- Reduced rates of smoking
- Reduced rates of daily consumption of sugar sweetened beverages.
- Increased attendance at Maternal and Child Health service
- Reduction in rates of preventable infectious diseases
- Increased immunisation rates

BUILDING ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

Our Story



55% percent of Rural City of Wangaratta adults do not meet the physical activity guidelines



Plan for safer public spaces through incorporation of the Safer Design Guidelines.



Leverage and further build on Wangaratta's unique strengths in the community and sporting areas.



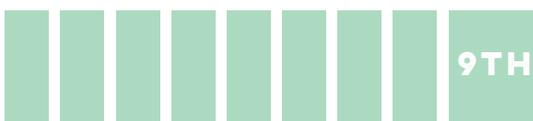
Well above average attendance at community events (70.6% compared to state average of 55.7%).



Above average members of a sporting group (34.2% compared to state average of 26.5%).



94.4% of people who rated their community as an active community which is higher than the state average of 81.1%



Wangaratta ranks 9th amongst other Victorian Local Government Areas for people rating the community as an active community and 4th for people who rated their community as good or very good for community and support groups.

Our Actions

5.1 Community spaces that enable activity

- 5.1.1 Ensure planning for new and redeveloped community facilities incorporates universal design principles
- 5.1.2 Continue to deliver inclusive and diverse services for all people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds through all Council's facilities and operations including the Wangaratta Library, Wangaratta Art Gallery, Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre, Wangaratta Children's Services Centre, Wangaratta Indoor Sports and Aquatic Centre and the Visitor Information Centre.

- 5.1.3 Through exciting programming and accessibility at the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre and Wangaratta Art Gallery, provide the opportunity for all community members to enjoy and participate in the arts
- 5.1.4 Ensure key community facilities, precincts and spaces are family friendly to ensure parents and carers can easily participate in community life
- 5.1.5 Protect and enhance the natural environment including parklands, waterways and reserves to benefit community health and wellbeing.
- 5.1.6 Create environments that protect residents and visitors from harmful uv radiation levels.

5.2 Integrated and collaborative projects

- 5.2.1 Deliver the Rural Community Planning project to facilitate the implementation of locally developed priorities and actions that build healthy, connected and active rural communities
- 5.2.2 Explore and support transport opportunities that allow people to access social, medical and recreational linkages
- 5.2.3 Work with partners to drive projects and inform the development of our communities in line with the World Health Organisations Age Friendly Communities guidelines
- 5.2.4 Provide support to community groups and organisations that seek opportunities for innovation, collaboration and community participation
- 5.2.5 Provide opportunities and recognition for people to volunteer within our community
- 5.2.6 Continue to support programs and projects that encourage children to increase their daily physical activity such as the Walk to School Program
- 5.2.7 Support the Wangaratta Bike Reference Group and the implementation of their priorities to encourage safe and accessible bike use throughout the municipality

5.3 Safe neighbourhoods and places

- 5.3.1 Minimise rates of preventable infectious disease through the provision of immunisation, domestic waste water management and environmental health compliance
- 5.3.2 Consider design in community and recreational precincts, facilities and spaces in a way that enhances safety and passive surveillance

Our Targets

- Increase in number of people meeting Australia’s Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines
- Increased number of children participating in local sporting and passive recreation activities
- Increased distance of walking and cycling tracks throughout the municipality
- Increased provision of lighting within the Wangaratta CBD

The image features an abstract background with several overlapping circles in shades of teal and green. Two dotted lines curve across the middle of the page. The text is centered in a white, outlined font.

THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING
OF INDIVIDUALS IS A SHARED
RESPONSIBILITY OF
OUR COMMUNITY

