



Murrindindi
Shire Council

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

Year 2 Progress Report

October 2023



Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land in which Murrindindi Shire is now located, the Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People. We pay our respects to their leaders and Elders past and present for they hold the memories, traditions, cultures and hopes of all Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people. We extend that respect to all First Nations people, including other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in our Shire.

Our Partners

Thank you to the Murrindindi Shire Health and Wellbeing Consortium (The Consortium) for their contribution to this report, and ongoing commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of the Murrindindi Shire community.

- Alexandra District Health
- Yea and District Memorial Hospital
- Nexus Primary Health
- Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit
- Menzies Support Services
- Family Care
- The Dindi Collective
 - Alexandra HUB
 - Yea Community House
 - Flowerdale Community House
 - Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House
 - Toolangi Castella District Community House
- Primary Care Connect
- Valley Sport
- Victoria Police
- Central Ranges LLEN
- AFL – Eastern Division
- Victorian Government Department of Health



Introduction to the year two report

We are pleased to present the *Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25 Year Two Progress Report*. This report captures some of the key activities delivered by partners across the 12-month period from July 2022 to June 2023 to support improved health, wellbeing, and community connection across Murrindindi Shire.

The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP), adopted by Council in September 2021, provides a strategic framework to support positive health outcomes in our Shire, and aims to build healthy, resilient, and connected communities. The MPHWP embodies the shared direction of Council, our health partners, and the community with a commitment to work cohesively to ensure that all people have the opportunity to achieve good health.

Achieving improvements to population level health and wellbeing relies on a collective partnership approach across a long period of time. To evaluate the impact of actions within the MPHWP on the health and wellbeing of our community, we have presented a range of locally relevant statistical measures to demonstrate the status and trends of health and wellbeing in our community.

The Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 recognises the key role that Councils play in improving the health and wellbeing of their communities. Each Council is required to prepare a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan within 12 months of a Council election, in partnership with their community. The MPHWP is published on Council's website here <https://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Your-Council/Publications/Strategies>

It is made up of four key Strategic Themes. Under each of these themes sits a number of strategies and key focus areas that guide actions across the life of the plan.

It is important to note that although holding the responsibility for the construction and reporting of the plan, Council is not funded to deliver explicitly on health promotion and prevention activities. Therefore, delivery of actions within the plan relies heavily on effective partnerships with health promotion and prevention organisations, community groups (e.g., neighbourhood houses) and health and wellbeing services, among others.



Community Consultation

The MPHWP was developed alongside the 2021-25 Murrindindi Shire Council Plan and 10 Year Community Vision 'Shaping our Future' project. Although these were two separate processes, data

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gathered through the Shaping Our Future project informed actions within the MPHWP. Several meetings were held with the Murrindindi Shire Health and Wellbeing Consortium (The Consortium) to guide development of strategies and key focus areas in the plan, ensuring actions were consistent with the focus of our partner organisations across the life of the plan. The plan was presented to the community in draft form inviting feedback, with submissions encouraged through Council's online engagement platform The Loop.

Legislative Requirements

The Public Health and Wellbeing Act (section 26) specifies that a MPHWP must include the following;

- include an examination of data about health status and health determinants.
- identify goals and strategies based on available evidence for creating a local community in which people can achieve maximum health and wellbeing.
- specify measures to prevent family violence and respond to the needs of victims of family violence in the local community.
- provide for the involvement of people in the local community in the development, implementation and evaluation of the public health and wellbeing plan.
- specify how the council will work in partnership with the Department (of Health and Human Services) and other agencies undertaking public health initiatives, projects, and programs to accomplish the goals and strategies identified in the public health and wellbeing plan.

In addition:

- The MPHWP must have regard to the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-23 and its ten focus areas.
- Council must report to the secretary on family violence prevention and response at intervals specified by the Secretary in writing.
- Council must have regard to Climate Change in preparation of the MPHWP, as defined by section 17 of the Climate Change Act 2017.
- Councils must undertake Gender Impact Assessments where necessary as defined by section 9 of the Gender Equality Act 2020.

Environmental Context

Government Reforms

State and Federal governments have been undertaking significant reforms in recent years which have an impact on the health and wellbeing of communities. The most significant of these reforms relate to gender equality, family violence and mental health. These reforms have, and will continue to, guide actions that come under the MPHWP.

Covid-19

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was significant for our community. Whilst the day-to-day impacts have subsided, our community is still impacted both from the presence of the virus but also the aftermath of the restrictions the community faced and the impact that had on the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of our community. These have ongoing implications for our health and wellbeing and need to be considered in the health and wellbeing planning.

Disaster Recovery



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As a community, Murrindindi residents are unfortunately all too familiar with natural disasters. The flooding in October 2022 impacted the entire community and significantly impacted a large area of the municipality. Ensuring health and wellbeing is considered as part of disaster recovery is crucial to ensure the community can bounce back and enhance their resilience to future disasters. Funding through government disaster recovery arrangements will enable health and wellbeing outcomes to be delivered to those impacted by natural disaster.

Local Public Health Units

The Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit (GVPHU) was established, along with others around the state, during the pandemic with limited scope and responsibilities. During this reporting period, the responsibilities and scope has expanded to other health priorities. The GVPHU will now focus on delivering prevention activities through a shared planning approach with joint goals and strategies to enable integrated place based chronic disease prevention and health promotion and will therefore be a key stakeholder in the health and wellbeing planning.



Indicators of Health and Wellbeing in Murrindindi

Our connected communities

Rate of police callouts to family incidents (2020/21, per 100,000)

Murrindindi
1,419

Victoria
1,392

Family violence against females (2022, per 100,000)

Murrindindi
1131.6

Victoria
1138.0

Residents who engaged in voluntary work (2021)

Murrindindi
22.7%

Victoria
14.2%

Intimate partner violence against female (2022, per 100,000)

Murrindindi
802.6

Victoria
748.0

Neighbourhood perception – this is a close-knit neighbourhood (2015)

Murrindindi
80%

Victoria
61%

Our active environments

Participation in sporting clubs (2019, among 10 major sports)

Murrindindi
15.4%

Victoria
16.8%

Adults who are sufficient physically active (2017)

Murrindindi
50.8%

Victoria
51.1%

% students (Year 7-9) who report being bullied (2018)

Murrindindi
20.9%

Victoria
20.4%

Residents who support unequal status in relationships (2015)

Murrindindi
27%

Victoria
36%

People who do not feel safe alone in their area at night (2015)

Murrindindi
27%

Victoria
45%

Our healthy people

% of persons obese (2020)

Murrindindi
28.8%

Victoria
20.9%

Youth (20-24yo) disengagement (2021)

Murrindindi
16.0%

Victoria
10.6%

Met vegetable consumption guidelines (2017)

Murrindindi
4.5%

Victoria
3.6%

Increased lifetime risk of alcohol-related harm (2017)

Murrindindi
70.2%

Victoria
52.3%

Adolescent birth rate (2020, per 1,000)

Murrindindi
15.96

Victoria
21.80

Our strong partnerships

Prevalence of mental health conditions (2021)

Murrindindi
11.3%

Victoria
9.5%

Females diagnosed with anxiety/depression in lifetime (2017)

Murrindindi
51.3%

Victoria
36.9%

Males diagnosed with anxiety/depression in lifetime (2017)

Murrindindi
23.2%

Victoria
22.6%

Females seeking professional help for mental health problem (2017)

Murrindindi
16.9%

Victoria
23.1%

Daily smokers (2020)

Murrindindi
15.3%

Victoria
12.0%

Focus Area 1 - Our Connected Community

Our Vision: We will build resilient communities where people are accepted, safe and feel they are a valuable part of the place where they live. We will aim to support vulnerable people in our communities and provide opportunities for all people to connect.

Strategies

Together we will:

- 1.1 Support our diverse and inclusive communities, and we will promote the respect, safety, and participation of all people.
- 1.2 Recognise and celebrate the cultural heritage of our First Nations people.
- 1.3 Seek to understand and respond to the unique needs of children, youth, and older people in our Shire.
- 1.4 Work alongside community groups and volunteers and support our communities to plan for their future.

Key Focus Areas	Completed Actions – Year 2
Promote inclusion of all people regardless of their age, gender identity, sexuality, disability and cultural or religious beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council supported and promoted several events celebrating diversity to promote inclusion in the community. This has included NAIDOC Week, This Girl Can, Wear it Purple Day, International Youth Day, and Seniors Week. • As part of the Shire’s status as a <i>Refugee Welcome Zone</i>. Council has advocated to support the creation of a specific regional community sponsorship program for Afghan refugees in Indi. • The Dindi Collective (Yea Community House, Alexandra Hub, Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House, Flowerdale Community House, Toolangi-Castella District Community House) offered a diverse range of programs for all members of the community including youth and older people. • In collaboration with Murrindindi and Mitchell Shires, Nexus held an Activate Inclusion Sports day, delivered by Disability Sports Australia
Understand and respond to the challenges of family violence and gender inequality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Free from Violence program has commenced implementation by Council following receiving a \$270,000 grant through the Victorian Government’s Free from Violence Local Government Program • Council has recruited a Free from Violence Project Officer, completed an organisational ‘health check’ and delivered training to staff about gender equality and family violence as part of the Free from Violence program. • Council continues to actively participate in the Goulburn Family Violence Executive partnership which aims to progress strategic regional goals including perpetrator accountability, improved data, workforce development and reform implementation. • Council and Nexus Primary Health have delivered local activities as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and have collaborated with neighbouring Mitchell Shire Council on a regional approach to the 16 Days campaign.
Create strong partnerships with Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations through joint initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council’s Reconciliation Acton Plan (RAP) was adopted in December 2022. • Council’s first Reconciliation Action Plan was developed by an internal working group, adopted in December 2022, and

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	<p>was launched during Reconciliation Week in partnership with Taungurung Land and Water Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre coordinated a range of NAIDOC week events.
<p>Deliver and collaborate on diverse programs that benefit children and young people.</p>	<p><u>Children (0 to 11)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A colour run at the Marysville Primary school was supported by the Lower Hume Prevention Collaborative • The Yea and Flowerdale Community Houses supported the delivery of youth programs including playgroup, games sessions and Scouts. • Council delivered a review of future Early Education and Care service and infrastructure requirements including the Best Start, Best Life reforms for 3- and 4-year-old Kindergarten. We have secured funding from State Government to progress the review recommendations and develop appropriate plans to meet the increased capacity needs of the community. • Council’s Maternal and Child Health team serviced 512 families including 124 new births and 1,080 Key Age and Stage consultations. Seventy-two vulnerable families were offered extra support through the Enhanced Program and twenty families utilised our Sleep and Settling Outreach program. 580 clients were immunised at our community sessions. New parent group sessions were offered in Kinglake and Alexandra with a total of fifty families participating. • Council’s Family Day Care service increased Educator numbers to fifteen and provided 81,000 hours of care to over two hundred children. Our supported Playgroups and Parent Early Education Program (PEEP) offered 118 sessions at Eildon and Kinglake, supporting sixty-five families. • The Murrindindi Children's Network collaborated with local schools and kindergartens to provide the ELF Reading Day celebration in Alexandra and Yea. <p><u>Youth (12 to 25)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council supported health and wellbeing outcomes across forty-five events and programs that engaged 3,839 young people including: live performances, pool parties, community and school events, leadership programs and the Youth Climate Action Group. • Council enhanced career pathways with thirty-five young people employed as lifeguards and partnered on Job Skills sessions, Jobs Expo, and Industry Immersion Tour.
<p>Support the needs of older people and seek to understand and respond the challenges of our aging population.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Flowerdale Community House and Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House continued to provide a regular bus service to support community members to attend events and undertake daily living tasks. • The Nifty 50 Plus program continues being delivered out of the Toolangi-Castella District Community House, providing

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	<p>a fully qualified fitness instructor for community members over 50 years of age.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council launched the ‘Services for All Ages’ campaign to promote inclusion, awareness, and engagement with a wide variety of services on offer. • Council continued to support seniors’ groups through attending regular meetings and promoting aged care services within the community.
<p>Support vulnerable people and people with diverse needs to reduce social isolation and increase access to services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternal Child Health (MCH) delivered 437 hours of additional outreach support to sixty vulnerable families through our Enhanced MCH program. • We supported 113 people to access health and wellbeing services through the DindiLink program which included fifty-five people supported to link to aged care and disability services. There were a further thirty-five people assisted with referrals to mental health, food and material aid relief, and homelessness support. • Flowerdale Community House, Toolangi-Castella District Community House and Yea Community House delivered support programs and services including technology assistance, email and printing support and access to My Gov services, SalvoCare Emergency relief and applications to the Power Saving Bonus. • Council’s Maternal Child Health team delivers the ENHANCE program to families requiring additional support.
<p>Recognise, collaborate with, and provide support to our volunteers and community groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thirty-one nominations were received for Citizen of the Year Awards in conjunction with National Volunteer Week. Two appreciation dinners were hosted for volunteers with 230 community members in attendance. • The Dindi Collective supported volunteering opportunities including, Toolangi Castella District Community House and Flowerdale Community House Op-Shop Social Enterprises. • Yea Community House supports local volunteer and incorporated groups with promotion and program delivery.
<p>Work with the community to deliver events that connect people and enhance community participation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council attended eight community connection events to support access to services after the October 2022 flood. • Council listed thirty-two events on the Community Events Calendar on Council's website. • Community Planning continued to be rolled out across Murrindindi. There were 273 participants across thirty-four community meetings/events over the 12-month period. Community Plans, all with different progress made, have now been created for six communities: Marysville, Yea, Toolangi-Castella, Eildon, Glenburn, and Thornton. • The Yea Community House supported the Yea Railway monthly market.

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Focus Area 2 - Our Active Environments

Our Vision: Our physical and social environments are vibrant, inclusive, and accessible. We want to celebrate the natural environment we live in, and create spaces where people feel motivated and comfortable to participate.

Strategies

Together we will:

Promote and provide opportunities for participation in recreation, sport, and active living.

2.2 Encourage community exploration and care of our beautiful natural environment and rural lifestyle.

2.3 Recognise the relationship between climate change and our health and aim to achieve resilient and safe communities considering future challenges.

2.4 Support culture and the arts by exploring new creative opportunities to develop and showcase local initiatives.

2.5 Remove barriers to participation and support flexible and accessible opportunities for community members to engage with initiatives, programs, and services.

Key Focus Areas	Completed Actions – Year 2
Promote, improve, and provide access to information about our local tracks, trails, and paths.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Discover Dindi platform continues to provide information to residents and tourists about local tracks and trails. A 2.6km section of shared path has been constructed between Eildon Town Centre, the Eildon pondage, Outdoor Education Group Centre, and the Blue Gums Park providing enhanced connections between key destinations.
Seek to provide and promote appropriate, accessible, and high- quality recreation and sporting facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council was successful in obtaining three grants through Sport and Recreation Victoria Council engaged with Alexandra Cricket Club to support the delivery of new Cricket Nets and club development. We were successful with grant applications to the State Government totalling \$4,236,800 to progress delivery of the Eildon Splash and Skate Park Project. Council have again provided free entry to the four swimming pools, with a total of 25,181 attendees. We completed construction of the Leckie Park cricket nets, Blue Gums trail, Alexandra Rotary Park and Visitor Activity Precinct, and Thornton Recreation Reserve netball courts projects. We delivered the following actions to enhance the pool facilities including hosting eight pool parties to encourage and celebrate participation, repainting and upgrading pool covers at Marysville pool and adding bird lasers to Yea and Marysville pool to help maintain water quality.
Collaborate in the future development of our local sporting and recreation clubs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council continues to engage with local sporting and recreation clubs to support club development, facility improvements and grant seeking. Valley Sport provided club support to our community in the areas of strategic planning and policy development.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Flowerdale Community House provided free advertising opportunities for the Flowerdale Sports Club. • Council continues to provide support, advice, and future planning services to all sporting clubs within our shire.
Recognise, promote, and collaborate on initiatives that encourage people to connect with our natural environment for physical activity, leisure and caring for country.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Children's Services promote outdoor play and active participation in programs through Bush Kinder and Playgroup in Eildon and Kinglake. • Council and various Landcare groups continue to partner to enhance the natural environment. • Council's Reconciliation Action Plan supports building a greater understanding of caring for country and considering how that should guide and influence Council decision making on public land.
Promote active living initiatives and explore opportunities for active transport programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Community Buses were used for 123 trips during the period. • Lower Hume Prevention Partnership have continued to promote the Grow Well Dindi Program supporting active living and healthy eating across the Shire, in collaboration with Alexandra District Health, Yea District Health and Council.
Identify and promote the co-benefits between health and wellbeing and climate change initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council adopted a <i>Climate Change Policy</i> in September 2022 which provides the strategic objective for Council to achieve net zero emissions by 2035. • Council has developed a draft <i>Climate Change Action Plan – Toward 2035</i> which is the key approach to realise the targets and policies set out in the Climate Change Policy 2022. • The Guardians of the Earth youth group has been facilitated through Alexandra Secondary College with a focus on climate change initiatives.
Collaborate with the community to deliver arts and cultural events across the Shire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council have continued to support Arts and Culture events including, Take it Outside Music in the Park in Marysville, Alexandra Christmas Tree Festival and Marysville Art Show • Council supported the community via the Grants and Contributions program with fifty successful applications to the value of \$126,184.
Promote an accessible and inclusive approach to service delivery, respond to the needs of the community and investigate opportunities for improvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council continued our work consolidating audit reports completed in Alexandra, Eildon, Kinglake, Marysville, and Yea to support prioritising projects for the 20-year capital works program. • During the year we celebrated thirty-five advocacy days on our social media platforms and ran or supported activities including: International Women's Day, Clean up Australia Day, National Volunteer Week, IDAHOBIT Day, Childrens week, Reconciliation Week, 16 days of activism and Seniors week. • Council completed Access Audits across Council facilities in key townships to support appropriate disability access.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility audits have been completed in Alexandra, Eildon, Kinglake, Marysville, and Yea to support prioritising projects for the 20-year capital works program. • We progressed Thornton and Glenburn Community Planning in partnership with community members. The team coordinated thirty-four events attracting 270 people to progress even better future for their communities. Community formed eleven action teams to progress priority projects voted on at community events. • Our online platform "The Loop" continued to be a valuable engagement tool with thirty-four projects posted on the platform with a total of 19,400 visits. • We ran a deliberative engagement process with 25 Eildon community representatives advising Council in relation to the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment and proposed land sales. • We also held thirty-five pop-up events, public meetings and focus groups enhancing community voice to progress key projects and to support flood recovery.
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Focus Area 3 - Our Healthy People

Our vision: We aim to increase access to healthier options for people that live, work, and play in Murrindindi Shire to support improved physical and mental health outcomes. We will aim to empower our communities and promote co-ownership of health and wellbeing initiatives.

Strategies

Together we will:

- 3.1 Respond to emerging issues and challenges to health and wellbeing for all members of our community, including the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 3.2 Recognise opportunities to achieve healthier outcomes, and introduce new initiatives that are accessible, affordable, and appropriate for our communities.
- 3.3 Work with our partners to increase access to healthier food and drinks and support our communities to make healthier choices.
- 3.4 Promote community involvement and joint ownership of health initiatives and support community-led partnerships and programs.

Key Focus Areas	Completed Actions – Year 2
Recognise the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on our Shire and continue to lead and collaborate on initiatives to support our communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A collaboration of partners worked together to manage local impacts from the Covid-19 pandemic and vaccinations. • The impact of Covid-19 has reduced significantly and has become part of everyday life, however the lasting impacts on the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of our community will continue to influence programs and service delivery.
Investigate and plan for future challenges in emergency management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has led the development and ongoing coordination of the Murrindindi Shire Flood Recovery committee. • Council obtained \$452,000 through the LEAPing into Resilience grant to support emergency preparedness, in collaboration with Mansfield and Strathbogie Shires. • The October 2022 had a significant impact on the Murrindindi community and provided (and continues to provide) further challenges and opportunities to enhance planning for emergency management.
Recognise the importance of food security and local food networks, collaborate on initiatives that respond to local issues and broader regional priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dindi Collective collaborated with Council to respond to food access issues throughout the October 2022 floods. • Community gardens are established at Flowerdale Community House, Yea Community House, Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House, and Toolangi-Castella Neighbourhood House to help provide locally produced food. • Yea Community House and Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House continue to support community with the delivery of food share and community beehives. • Flowerdale Community House have delivered a food bank for community members to access.
Increase access to healthy food and drink in Council facilities and within our	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VicHealth's Vic Kids Eat Well program was rolled out across the Murrindindi and Mitchell LGAs with limited success due to various reasons. The Kinglake Football

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<p>communities. Understand challenges in this space.</p>	<p>Netball Club was engaged in the program but opted to not continue due to volunteer capacity barriers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Healthy Eating Advisory Service has been utilised to guide the catering of youth-focused events including pool parties and Gnarly Neighbours skate sessions.
<p>Ensure health and wellbeing information is accessible to all and promote increased health literacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community-led Grow Well Dindi program has attended a range of events, providing fresh fruit, easy meal recipes, healthy eating pamphlets and active living resources. • Lower Hume Prevention Collaborative developed active living resources and distributed within the community.
<p>Collaborate on mental health and wellbeing initiatives and promote access to information and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Goulburn Mental Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee hosted a Mental Health and Education forum with over seventy attendees identifying community priorities for mental health support. • Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House continues to deliver the Be Well in the Ranges program. • Council continues to advocate for improvements to mental health services through the Goulburn Valley Mental Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee. • Three Mental Health First Aid course were delivered with fifty attendees. The courses included Yea (youth focused), Kinglake, and Alexandra (men focused). • We supported the Goulburn Mental Health and Wellbeing Project with an annual forum targeting service providers focusing on Shared Care for mental health services. • We coordinated two Youth focused Mental Health First Aid training courses in Yea and Kinglake with twenty-six participants.
<p>Review tobacco control initiatives and environmental tobacco management policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with Alexandra District Health and Council's Environmental team, the Community Development Officers have erected several 'Smoke and Vape Free' signs at pools and around public open spaces.
<p>Support new health initiatives and explore opportunities to collaborate with community groups, non- government organisations and other government agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council briefed on options associated with Social and Affordable housing. • Council continues to partner with the Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health in the provision of four condom vending machines to promote safe sexual health. • Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House continues to roll out the Be Well in the Ranges program in Kinglake, Kinglake West, Flowerdale, and Toolangi. • In the aftermath of the October 2022 floods, partner agencies have continued to provide additional health and wellbeing services to impacted communities in acknowledgement of the health and wellbeing impact of natural disasters.

Focus Area 4 - Our Strong Partnerships

Our vision: We recognise that improving health and wellbeing is the responsibility of all. We will work cohesively as partners and within our communities to achieve our common goals and objectives, sharing our successes and challenges.

Strategies

Together we will:

- 4.1 Support our diverse and inclusive communities, and we will promote the respect, safety, and participation of all people.
- 4.2 Recognise and celebrate the cultural heritage of our First Nations people.
- 4.3 Seek to understand and respond to the unique needs of children, youth, and older people in our Shire.
- 4.4 Work alongside community groups and volunteers and support our communities to plan for their future.

Key Focus Areas	Completed Actions – Year 2
Work alongside our partner organisations to attract skilled health professionals to Murrindindi Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborations with health partners continues to include discussions around attracting health professionals
Advocate for the continued improvement of health and wellbeing services available to residents of Murrindindi Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council’s Maternal Child Health team participated in a Costing methodology review, supported by the Municipal Association of Victoria • Council continued to participate in the Goulburn Family Violence Executive and the Goulburn Valley Mental Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee • Council advocated to State Government for support for affected communities throughout the October 2022 flood. • Community Planning activities have highlighted the specific health needs of our communities, including a localised GP service and community gym in Eildon. • Community Accessibility and Council continue to deliver the Moving Murrindindi transport program, supported by twelve volunteer drivers who delivered 273 individual trips to medical and social appointments and transport hubs. • Council’s community buses were used for 123 individual trips to support our community groups deliver programs and services for our community. • Council has engaged with the Eastern Primary Health network in improving the Mental Health response in the Kinglake Ranges and surrounds.
Seek State and Federal funding to allow us to achieve connected, safe, and healthy communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council committed additional budget to appoint a full time Grant Officer to support grant seeking and program delivery. • There are several grant funded projects underway. • Council continues to refine longer term infrastructure planning to enable projects to be grant-ready to maximise chances of securing of grant funding.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has advocated to the State and Federal Government on new approaches to affordable housing and mental health in our communities, alongside improvements to open space infrastructure, recreation trails, parks, and streetscapes.
Continually review service delivery in line with community input and feedback to ensure accessibility for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent audits of the Marysville and Yea Swimming Pools were conducted in November 2022 to help with the planning and management of our aquatic facilities.
Empower our communities to increase control over their health and wellbeing outcomes, ensuring that harder to reach voices are elevated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of health and wellbeing programs and resources, using a DIY approach, has enabled communities to utilise resources in their own space and in their own time.
Recognise opportunities for co-ownership of health and wellbeing initiatives across organisations and our community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In collaboration with Alexandra District Health and PT on the Run, Dindi Knock Out was delivered from October to December to promote physical, social, emotional, and mental health and wellbeing in boys. • Council continues to work on improving the design, delivery and governance of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, in collaboration with our partners, to improve health outcomes for the community.
Retain, strengthen, and grow community and organisational partnerships to best serve the needs of our communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's online engagement tool 'The Loop' hosted eight projects with a total of 3548 visits. • We also held eleven pop-up events to support engagements and • As part of recovery efforts from the October 2022 flood, six Community Connection events were held in different flood-impacted communities across the Shire. • Council has participated in Lower Hume Prevention Collaboration Partnership, RAP Working Group, SHOUT Working Group, FreeZa Facilitators Working Group. • We supported State and Regional advocacy for community health outcomes via sector networks including Maternal Child Health; Community Care; Early Years; Family Violence; Mental Health; Social and Affordable Housing; Community Transport; and October 2022 Flood Recovery.
Maintain and update Our Profile with the latest health and wellbeing data for our Shire to guarantee our programs have a robust evidence base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The profile of our community and wellbeing indicators have been integrated into this report to track progress and to help identify areas where further progress is needed.