

Boroondara Community Plan 2021-31 - Health Priority Annual Action Plan 2021-22

This document outlines key actions which will support the delivery of health priorities and contribute to the achievement of the vision and strategic objectives of the Boroondara Community Plan 2021-31 (BCP).

Putting health and wellbeing at the centre of everything Council does

The BCP, incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25 (MPHWP), is Council's key strategic document. It will inform the development of all Council plans, policies and strategies over the next 10 years.

This will be the second time Council has incorporated the MPHWP into the BCP. Doing so has enabled Council to proactively and routinely identify opportunities for health and wellbeing to factor into actions across the organisation. This will continue to be achieved through Council's Integrated Planning Framework, which ensures annual commitments, strategic business planning, actions and budgets reflect the priorities set out in the BCP.

A liveability approach

Council is committed to undertaking a liveability approach to delivering on the BCP. This means that we will provide the services, facilities and type of access that increase healthy choices for everyone in our community.

The BCP is structured around seven themes, each of which aims to improve community wellbeing by improving liveability in Boroondara. These are:

1. Community, Services and Facilities
2. Parks and Green Spaces
3. The Environment
4. Neighbourhood Character and Heritage
5. Moving Around
6. Local Economy
7. Leadership and Governance.

Our health priorities

The wellbeing commitment set out in the BCP will ensure that Council has a focus on equity to address health and social inequalities that exist in our community.

In addition to our wellbeing commitment, the following health priorities are identified in the BCP:

- tackling climate change and its impacts on health
- improving mental wellbeing and social connection
- preventing all forms of violence
- reducing harmful alcohol use
- increasing healthy eating
- increasing active living.

A life-stage approach

Council provides support to community members at key life-stages, when people may be more vulnerable to impacts or changes to wellbeing and may require additional support. In particular: the 'Children and Young People's Action Plan' and 'Add life to your years - Healthy Ageing in Boroondara' address key work in supporting a life-stage approach. These plans act as platforms to undertake actions that can address population-wide needs relating to these life-stages.

Working with our partners

Council acknowledges the important role of community and health provider partners in improving health and wellbeing across the municipality. Council works collaboratively with a wide range of partners to improve health and wellbeing, including community groups, sports clubs, faith groups, educational institutions, statutory bodies and service providers.

Municipal public health and wellbeing planning is aligned with integrated health promotion planning processes for agencies receiving health promotion funding from the Department of Health. In Boroondara, our health partners include Access Health and Community, Women's Health East and the Inner East Primary Care Partnership. Council is committed to supporting our partners, aligning efforts and identifying areas for joint action to improve health and wellbeing.

Council's Boroondara Public Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee also provides a strategic platform for partners to provide advice on the implementation of actions relating to community health and wellbeing.

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The below actions highlight key activities under each health priority that Council will undertake in 2021-22. The actions are also presented underneath their relevant BCP strategy. It is important to note these actions represent key activities only and that all actions Council undertakes under each BCP strategy contribute towards improving the health and wellbeing of the community.

Actions where Council will partner with community organisations will be marked with a (P). Community organisations can include health providers, community groups, sports clubs, faith groups, educational institutions, statutory bodies and service providers.

Health priority: Tackling climate change and its impacts on health

BCP Strategy 1.7: Community resilience, safety and public health are improved by working in partnership with community and government organisations.

Develop a Community Resilience Framework to support older adults to better adapt to extreme weather events in order to assist residents to prevent any related health conditions.

BCP Strategy 2.2: Our sustainable urban forest is preserved and increased through managing and renewing our open space trees and understory growth.

Implement a targeted program to increase the planting of trees on local streets by 1000 per annum improving the green canopy coverage in our urban spaces for the enjoyment of future generations.

BCP Strategy 3.2: The environmental impact of Council facilities and assets is further reduced through implementing sustainable practices.

Implement the 2021-22 actions in Council's new Climate Action Plan to deliver a range of initiatives to reduce Council's energy and greenhouse emissions and lowering of Council's use of gas and electricity to meet our climate related targets.

Health priority: Improving mental wellbeing and social connection

BCP Strategy 1.1: Neighbourhoods and community spaces facilitate social connections and belonging by providing, maintaining and activating places for people to meet, organise activities and celebrate events.

Partner with Access Health and Community, Manningham City Council, Women's Health East and Leisure Networks to implement the Inclusive Clubs Project to support sports clubs to become more inclusive by creating safe, equal and respectful environments for all members. (P)

BCP Strategy 1.2: Health and wellbeing is improved through delivering, facilitating and advocating for services and programs that are accessible and affordable.

Trial a cultural champions volunteer program where culturally diverse residents would be engaged to provide advice on the needs and issues important to them.

Convene the Boroondara Interfaith Network (BIN) and work with its members to hold events for all the community to promote harmony and social cohesion. (P)

Present a draft Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre Strategic Service Plan aimed at increasing the number of volunteers referred to the community sector to a total of 2,300 and achieve an additional 25 new member organisations annually to provide services to facilitate a resilient and socially inclusive community.

Work with community partners to identify trends in order to advocate to state and federal governments, and peak bodies to address the complex needs of families in Boroondara; especially in relation to family violence, mental health, alcohol and drug substance abuse and social isolation.

Continue partnering with Access Health and Community to work towards improving the health and wellbeing of public housing residents in Boroondara. (P)

Deliver targeted health and wellbeing programs for young people, including the Body Project, LGBTIQA+ support group, TAC L2P learner driver mentor program, Space4Us, and Solar Productions, to increase young people's confidence and mental wellbeing.

BCP Strategy 1.3: Arts and culture are showcased by increasing opportunities to participate in artistic and cultural programming.

Continue to develop arts and cultural content for digital platforms to enhance access and participation in Boroondara Arts programs from the community.

Support 10 creative activation and installations across parks, laneways and public realm areas to engage and increase community participation, positive social engagement and enjoyment of public spaces.

BCP Strategy 1.5: Life-long learning is supported by delivering and working with our community and partners to meet the broad range of interests within the community.

Deliver a program to introduce and support older residents to improve their digital capabilities to access information and attend online community events to increase opportunities for social connection and reduce social isolation.

BCP Strategy 7.8: Celebrate and recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, knowledge and heritage through implementing initiatives in partnership with our community and stakeholders.

Develop a Boroondara Reconciliation Strategy 2022-26 in consultation with key stakeholders from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector, service providers, community organisations and the broader Boroondara community to progress reconciliation locally. (P)

Health priority: Preventing all forms of violence

BCP Strategy 1.7: Community resilience, safety and public health are improved by working in partnership with community and government organisations.

Identify, assess and manage family violence risk through the Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS), the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) and the Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM).

Participate in the Boroondara Family Violence Network to share information and resources and to identify opportunities for partnership to raise awareness of and prevent family violence. (P)

Raise awareness of community safety in Boroondara through events, projects, advocacy and education. (P)

Participate in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence campaign to raise awareness of and prevent gender-based violence and promote gender equality. (P)

Undertake a Gender Impact Assessment Pilot Project to establish a standardised process for Council to meet its requirement in the *Gender Equality Act 2020* to undertake gender impact assessments of all new Annual Initiatives, which have a direct and significant impact on the public, including those due for review.

Participate in the Free to Be Me Steering Group to transition the program online and support local early childhood education and care centres in the primary prevention of violence against women.

BCP Strategy 2.3: Parks and green spaces are accessible and appealing through maintaining, improving and increasing amenities.

Install solar lights along 500 metres of Boroondara park paths to enhance the community usability of open spaces for longer periods of time each day and enhance community safety.

Healthy priority: Reducing Harmful alcohol use

BCP Strategy 1.7: Community resilience, safety and public health are improved by working in partnership with community and government organisations.

Undertake activities to raise awareness about the risks of harmful alcohol use, to support the community to make healthier choices. (P)

Continue to participate in the Eastern Metropolitan Region Action on Alcohol Flagship Group to advocate for systemic change and raise awareness to reduce alcohol related harm. (P)

Healthy priority: Increasing active living

BCP Strategy 1.1: Neighbourhoods and community spaces facilitate social connections and belonging by providing, maintaining and activating places for people to meet, organise activities and celebrate events

Engage 200 participants and activate 12 community spaces through the 'Fit Park Series', as part of the Activating Boroondara initiative. (P) Enhance sporting pavilions to be more accessible and better support a diverse range of user groups in response to community need. (P)

Review signage for the non-gendered toilets at the Canterbury Community Precinct project, to ensure that they are inclusive to people of all genders. (P)

BCP Strategy 2.3: Health and wellbeing is improved through delivering, facilitating and advocating for services and programs that are accessible and affordable.

Provide grants for low income earners or people facing disadvantage to enable their participation in sport and recreation.

BCP Strategy 2.1: Parks and green spaces enable sport and recreation opportunities by maintaining and improving recreation spaces and equipment.

Develop a plan to identify suitable open space areas to install outdoor exercise equipment for the community to access enabling more physical activity and social connectedness.

Build a dedicated seniors fitness station as part of the revitalisation of Victoria Park Regional Playground, Kew to increase access to and encourage physical activity amongst seniors.

BCP Strategy 5.5: Sustainable transport use is encouraged and supported through delivery of green travel programs and advocacy to State and Federal Governments.

Promote active travel to children and young people in families by providing a range of sustainable transport programs including, bike education and Walk or Wheel Wednesdays.

Health priority: Increasing healthy eating

BCP Strategy 1.2: Health and wellbeing is improved through delivering, facilitating and advocating for services and programs that are accessible and affordable.

Raise awareness of the link between healthy eating and good mental health through events and programming to encourage the community to make healthy food choices. (P)

BCP Strategy 3.1: Community resilience and capacity to live sustainably is increased through advocacy, education and resources.

Continue to support healthy eating and community connectedness through Boroondara's community gardens, by providing opportunities for the community to gather, and to plant fruit and vegetables.

BCP Strategy 7.2: Resources are responsibly allocated and used through sound financial and asset planning, procurement and risk management practices.

Provide healthier food and drink offerings in the workplace, to encourage staff to make healthy food choices.