

Boroondara Community Plan 2021-31 - Health Priority Annual Action Plan 2022-23

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 is 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.

Priority cohorts

As per Council's wellbeing commitment, articulated in the BCP, priority cohorts have been identified, who are known to experience disproportionately negative health and wellbeing outcomes. The following strategies and action plans are key documents guiding Council's efforts to address these health and wellbeing inequities, including:

- [Boroondara Reconciliation Strategy 2022-26](#)
- [Disability Action Plan \(currently under review\)](#)
- [Multicultural Action Plan 2019-23](#)
- [Homelessness Protocol.](#)

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 North Eastern Public Health Unit. 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 2022-23. 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 are 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 2.2

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

Actions to support this strategy

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

BCP strategy 3.1

Community resilience and capacity to live sustainably is increased through advocacy, education and resources.

Actions to support this strategy

Progress towards the targets to reduce Council and community emissions established in the Climate Action Plan by implementing the actions detailed in the Climate Action Plan Implementation Plan for 2022-23. (P)

Enable monitoring of community progress towards the Community emissions targets in the Climate Action Plan through the implementation of a community emissions measurement model.

BCP strategy 3.2

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

Actions to support this strategy

Reduce the volume of materials going to landfill by using a minimum of 20% of recycled materials including glass, plastics and toners in our asphalt products to resurface roads.

BCP strategy 3.5

Our leafy streetscapes are maintained and improved through advocating for careful project planning by government regulatory and project authorities, supported by the increased planting of resilient species.

Actions to support this strategy

Protect the Gardiners Creek now and into the future through the development and adoption of a Masterplan for the Gardiners Creek giving consideration to recreational, active transport, biodiversity and environmental initiatives.

BCP strategy 3.4

Trees and vegetation on private land are valued through promoting and encouraging our community to retain and enhance greenery.

Actions to support this strategy

Create an Urban Greening Strategy to protect and enhance our landscapes, trees and green cover in response to the challenges of climate, urban heating and urban densification.

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.

Actions to support this strategy

Commence the development of a Community Infrastructure Framework to guide the renewal and redevelopment of community facilities to meet the needs of all members of the community now and in the future.

Support volunteer-involving organisations to rebuild volunteer workforces post COVID-19 through recruitment and designing new volunteer roles aligned with changing program needs, priority cohorts and volunteer interests.

Continue to evolve library spaces to better support local and diverse community needs when attending children's events and program activities.

Partner with Access Health and Community to support socially isolated or lonely residents under 65, to connect into programs that are accessible and affordable through the Access to Community program. (P)

The Boroondara Interfaith Network and Swinburne University of Technology to partner with the Faith Communities Council of Victoria to host its annual Victorian Interfaith Network Festival for 2022 in Boroondara to build the capacity and sustainability of existing multifaith/interfaith networks. (P)

Hold training, activities, and events, including during Homelessness Week, to raise awareness within Council and the community of the complex and compounding causes of homelessness and how to report a person who is homeless in-line with Council's Homelessness Protocol. (P)

Continue to run 'Skittles', a LGBTIQ+ social support group for young people aged 13-17.

Recognise and celebrate IDAHOBIT and Wear It Purple Day, with a communications campaign and activities bringing together and promoting LGBTIQ+ inclusion.

Update the general salutation on Council correspondence from Sir/Madam to “Dear business owner, resident, community member or applicant” to ensure that it is inclusive of all community members.

Support and build the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, community groups and individuals to apply for Council's community grants to improve health and wellbeing, increase participation and support community strengthening, including Individual Participation Grants; Individual Achievement Grants; Community Arts Venue Grants; Annual Community Strengthening Grants; Small Grants (Biannual) and Triennial Operational Grants. (P)

BCP strategy 1.3

Arts and culture are showcased by increasing opportunities to participate in artistic and cultural programming

Actions to support this strategy

Foster opportunities to engage with and develop local artists and creative community organisations within Boroondara through provision of mentoring, an inclusive approach to Expression of Interests for projects and participation in Boroondara Arts programs.

BCP strategy 7.5

The community's interests are represented by Council through leadership and strong advocacy to external stakeholders.

Actions to support this strategy

In collaboration and/or consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector, advocate where required on social, health and wellbeing issues which are important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. (P)

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. (P)

BCP strategy 7.6

Convenient and accessible choices for interacting with Council are provided, by offering various options for services and engagement.

Actions to support this strategy

Communicate and embed accessibility standards and guidelines to the organisation for adoption across all communication channels (digital and non-digital including customer interactions).

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.

Actions to support this strategy

Plan and deliver events, projects, advocacy and education activities to improve community health and wellbeing by raising awareness of community safety issues, including prevention of violence against women of diverse experience and backgrounds, and the importance of the need to build community resilience. (P)

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. (P)

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).

BCP strategy 5.3

Shared paths and footpaths are fit-for-purpose through continued improvements to surface condition and lighting.

Actions to support this strategy

Improve safety and security of shared paths and paths by progressively installing energy efficient lighting.

BCP strategy 7.1

Decision-making is transparent and accountable through open governance processes with timely communication and reporting.

Actions to support this strategy

Gender Impact Assessments are supported through developing and implementing a streamlined approach to reporting on Gender Impact Assessment activities.

Health priority: Reducing harmful alcohol use

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.

Actions to support this strategy

Partner with Boroondara Neighbourhood Houses and Men's Sheds to promote community connection opportunities and support the recovery from COVID-19. (P)

BCP strategy 1.2

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

Actions to support this strategy

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.

Continue to partner with Access Health and Community and the YMCA to deliver the Sunday Sessions program, supporting hardly reached community members to consume less alcohol on the weekends by getting involved in free exercise and wellbeing activities at recreation centres on Sunday mornings.

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.

Actions to support this strategy

Create an all-ability recreation facility to meet current and future community needs by completing the progressing of the Kew Recreation Centre. (P)

Enhance the provision of early years education, disability and recreation services to the local community by completing the construction of the Canterbury Community Precinct and supporting the coordination of the community agencies on site to work together to optimise service provision.

Partner with Deakin University and YMCA to undertake research looking at how to reduce barriers to accessing recreation facilities for specific groups, including people with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ and CALD community 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.

Actions to support this strategy

Connect people living with a disability in Boroondara to physical activity opportunities by developing a Disability Sports Hub in collaboration with Disability Sport and Recreation (DSR) and the YMCA. (P)

Continue to participate in a partnership between Council, Access Health and Community, Manningham Council, Women's Health East and Leisure Networks to deliver the Inclusive Clubs project to build the knowledge of club officials on how to make their club more inclusive by creating safe, equal and respectful environments for all members, including LGBTIQ+ communities. (P)

Develop a guide for sports clubs on how to improve inclusion of particular cohorts including people with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, CALD and LGBTIQ+ community members.

BCP strategy 2.1

Parks and green spaces enable sport and recreation opportunities by maintaining and improving recreation spaces and equipment.

Actions to support this strategy

Improve the health of the Boroondara community, by working with the YMCA to support programming of physical activity opportunities in Boroondara's parks and sports grounds. (P)

BCP strategy 5.4

Off-road bike paths and on-road cycling lanes are interconnected and safe through expanding access and infrastructure for cyclists.

Actions to support this strategy

Seek to provide an integrated bicycle network that is safe, connected, protected, efficient and appealing to bicycle users of all ages and abilities by developing and adopting a bicycle strategy.

BCP strategy 5.5

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

Actions to support this strategy

Install permanent bicycle counters around the Boroondara off-road path network to gather usage data and monitor trends.

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.

Actions to support this strategy

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.

BCP strategy 3.1

Community resilience and capacity to live sustainably is increased through advocacy, education and resources.

Actions to support this strategy

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.

Actions to support this strategy

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