

# Health Priority Annual Action Plan 2023–24

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.

## **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.

## Health Priority Annual Action Plan 2023–24: key activities

The below actions highlight key activities under each health priority that Council will undertake in 2023–24. 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.

Council will partner with community organisations to deliver some actions. Community organisations can include health providers, community groups, sports clubs, faith groups, educational institutions, statutory bodies and service providers.

Actions where Council will partner with community organisations are noted with this statement: *Council will partner with community organisations to deliver this action.*

### Health priority: Tackling climate change and its impacts on health

#### BCP Strategy 3.1

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

##### Actions to support this strategy

Develop and promote initiatives and programs which support businesses to reduce the environmental impact of their operations such as reducing waste to landfill, improved energy and water efficiency, adoption of renewable energy sources and social/sustainable procurement.

#### BCP Strategy 3.2

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

##### Actions to support this strategy

Progress towards meeting the targets of the Climate Action Plan to reduce Council and community emissions by implementing the 2023-24 actions of the Climate Action Plan Implementation Plan.

#### BCP Strategy 3.3

Municipal and household waste is reduced through initiatives to prevent, reduce, reuse and recycle.

##### Actions to support this strategy

Reduce the volume of virgin construction materials on Council road projects, by using a minimum of 20% recycled materials including glass, plastics, and toners in our asphalt products to resurface roads.

#### BCP Strategy 3.6

Our biodiversity is conserved and maintained through improving the way we manage our diverse plants, animals and natural spaces.

### **Actions to support this strategy**

Improve the green canopy coverage in our urban environment for the enjoyment of future generations by presenting the Tree Canopy Strategy to Council for endorsement.

Improve the community's ability to access biodiversity and indigenous vegetation now and into the future by finalising the Biodiversity Asset Management Plan.

### **BCP Strategy 4.4**

New development positively contributes to amenity and liveability through design excellence.

### **Actions to support this strategy**

Introduce Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy into the Boroondara Planning Scheme to ensure future development in Boroondara achieves a high standard of sustainability.

### **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**

Identify options to support the uptake of electric vehicles and low emission vehicles by the Boroondara community through the implementation of electric vehicle charging stations in shopping centre carparks.

### **BCP Strategy 5.6**

Emerging transport options including e-mobility are planned for by exploring initiatives that increase safety and public confidence in e-mobility use and infrastructure.

### **Actions to support this strategy**

Review Council's Car Share Policy and Procedures to identify options to support take up of electronic vehicles and low emission vehicles by the Boroondara community.

## **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**

Build strong partnerships with neighbourhood houses to deliver community activities and programs which respond to community need by implementing year 1 actions in the Neighbourhood House Framework.

## 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

Hold activities and events to recognise and celebrate Boroondara's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual/Aromantic Plus (LGBTQIA+) communities, to foster social connections and inclusion and to improve community safety, health and wellbeing.

Support the delivery of high-quality Council volunteer programs and services by undertaking a review of Council's Volunteer Policy.

Hold training, activities and events, including Homelessness Week, to raise awareness within Council and the community of the causes of homelessness and how to report a person who is homeless in-line with Council's Homelessness Protocol. *(Council will partner with community organisations to deliver this action.)*

Promote health and wellbeing activities through key dates and events, such as Men's Health Week and Women's Health Week, to encourage active living and reduce social isolation. *(Council will partner with community organisations to deliver this action.)*

Adopt the renewed Disability Action Plan and hold a launch event to raise the profile of initiatives to improve the inclusion of people with disability.

Support the health and wellness of disadvantaged groups by providing individual participation grants.

Build the capacity of people from culturally diverse backgrounds, people with disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to deliver and participate in community activities, programs and services by increasing access to the Community Strengthening Grants Program.

Support older people to understand, access and navigate the range of Council and other aged care services available to them through the provision of information sessions, dissemination of accessible digital and printed resources and connecting individuals with services where required.

Support community members to understand lifestyle choices that promote good health and wellbeing by delivering a series of Wellbeing Conversations on various health and mental wellbeing topics.

Deliver social and support programs for young people who identify with LGBTQIA+ communities.

Evaluate the Y's user experience through quantitative research and qualitative research in partnership with Deakin University. *(Council will partner with community organisations to deliver this action.)*

Deliver a video campaign that captures the lived experiences of members of the community who have navigated parenting and mental health challenges and participated in a Maternal and Child Health-led parenting program.

### BCP Strategy 1.3

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

#### Actions to support this strategy

Strengthen the 'Learn with Boroondara Arts' program and provide the necessary resources to sustain the program and elevate visibility and profile for use by educators.

### 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.

#### Actions to support this strategy

Activate outdoor space at Camberwell Library to run programs and events, in response to positive feedback from the community.

### 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

Promote resilience, leadership and suicide prevention among young people in Boroondara by delivering a tailored suite of youth programs and services in conjunction with the Y. *(Council will partner with community organisations to deliver this action.)*

Celebrate and promote the achievements of young people and those who work with young people by delivering the Boroondara Youth Awards.

### 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

Enhance social connection and the appreciation of Boroondara's parks and gardens through engagement with artists and the delivery of community events using the 2024 Summer in the Park series.

### BCP Strategy 7.4

The voices of our community are heard through engagement strategies to allow effective representation on current and long-term community needs.

#### Actions to support this strategy

Consider the needs and aspirations of our multicultural community identified through community consultation by presenting to Council for endorsement a draft of the Multicultural Action Plan 2024-28.

## 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.

### Actions to support this strategy

Progress reconciliation locally through activities and events in collaboration with community groups, service providers, networks and local schools by implementing year 2 actions of the Boroondara Reconciliation Strategy 2022-26. *(Council will partner with community organisations to deliver this action.)*

Health priority: Preventing all forms of violence

## 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

Report on actions taken to improve gender equality as a result of Gender Impact Assessments of Major Council Initiatives, by overseeing the reporting of Council's assessments to the Commissioner for Gender Equality.

## BCP Strategy 1.4

Facilities and sports precincts encourage equal access through social planning, delivery, asset maintenance and renewal activities.

### Actions to support this strategy

Promote and encourage participation in organised sport by women and girls in accordance with the Victorian Government's Fair Access Roadmap and delivering Gender Impact Assessments as required.

## 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, and building community resilience. *(Council will partner with community organisations to deliver this action.)*

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. *(Council will partner with community organisations to deliver this action.)*

Participate in the Boroondara Family Violence Network to share information and resources and to identify opportunities for partnerships to raise awareness of and prevent family violence. *(Council will partner with community organisations to deliver this action.)*

### 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

Development of a Lighting Policy and Strategy for consideration by Council.

Encourage use, improve safety and security of shared paths by progressively installing energy efficient lighting along the Anniversary Trail between Whitehorse Road and Canterbury Road.

### Health priority: Reducing harmful alcohol use

#### 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

Facilitate youth-led music and cultural events that are drug, alcohol, vape and smoke free, funded and delivered in partnership with the Victorian Government Office for Youth. *(Council will partner with community organisations to deliver this action.)*

With grant funding from Vic Health, develop a community alcohol profile and internal alcohol action plan to identify opportunities to prevent and minimise alcohol-related harm.

Continue planning Sunday Sessions programming for 2024 by participating in the Working Group.

### Healthy priority: Increasing active living

#### 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

Provide information to older residents on community activities and events which promote healthy ageing through Council's website and paper-based resources.

#### BCP Strategy 1.4

Facilities and sports precincts encourage equal access through social planning, delivery, asset maintenance and renewal activities.



## Actions to support this strategy

Address the lack of capacity to meet the demand for current or future participation in organised outdoor sport by presenting the recommendations from the Sportsground Provision Project to Council.

Support sports clubs to be more inclusive by delivering a club inclusion guide.

Enhance diversity and inclusion through improving sports facilities by completing construction of Lewin Reserve Pavilion.

Support leased clubs to provide a safe environment for participation in sport by providing a lighting infrastructure grant to help fund the renewal of key club assets.

Deliver a Public Toilet Strategy that addresses the need for public facilities to allow for increased participation in outdoor activities.

Continue to be a member of the Inclusive Clubs Working Group, consider recommendations from the Inclusive Clubs Program Evaluation report and support the implementation of the working group recommendations.

Support sport and recreation clubs to be more inclusive by releasing the Sports Club Inclusion Guide and supporting clubs' inclusion initiatives.

## 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 sporting experience in Boroondara by completing full sportsground reconstructions at Ashburton Park and Lynden Park East.

## BCP Strategy 2.5

Playgrounds are engaging and safe by improving shading and renewing and diversifying equipment.

## Actions to support this strategy

Enhance recreational opportunities for children and families by completing construction of the local play space at Kate Campbell Reserve.

Enhance recreational opportunities for children and families by completing construction of the regional play space at Hays Paddock.

## 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

Improve safety, driver awareness and wayfinding of routes by installing shared lane markings along select informal bicycle routes identified in Boroondara's TravelSmart map and adopted Bicycle Strategy.

Provide an improved integrated bicycle network, by progressively implementing a range of on-road infrastructure initiatives.

## 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

Encourage sustainable travel options by undertaking bicycle promotional and behaviour change programs for children including travel plans for primary and high schools and infrastructure initiatives. *(Council will partner with community organisations to deliver this action.)*

Represent the Boroondara community in decision making by advocating to the Victorian government in relation to public and active transport, open space, urban design and environmental opportunities associated with the North East Link and the Union Road Level Crossing Removal projects.

## BCP Strategy 6.5

Local visitation is increased through showcasing and promoting local shopping and attractions.

## Actions to support this strategy

Facilitate guided shopping precinct tours for Boroondara's older residents, which promote Council's health priorities and support local businesses.

## BCP Strategy 7.4

The voices of our community are heard through engagement strategies to allow effective representation on current and long term community needs.

## Actions to support this strategy

Promote the achievements of sports clubs in Boroondara by delivering the Annual Sports Awards.

## 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

Continue to facilitate planter boxes at two playgroup sites at North Balwyn and Glen Iris East that provide children at the playgroups an opportunity to plant vegetable seedlings, see them grow and share the harvested fruit and vegetables.

Offer communal gardening plots within the Canterbury Neighbourhood Centre community garden program to showcase the importance of healthy eating initiatives. *(Council will partner with community organisations to deliver this action.)*

Explore opportunities for new initiatives that promote the link between food and mood and ways to make healthy food choices an easy option. *(Council will partner with community organisations to deliver this action.)*

Foster positive relationships with food from an early age by delivering Market Munchkins, a free, fun and interactive program that introduces pre-schoolers to fresh, seasonal produce through hands-on food-related activities. *(Council will partner with community organisations to deliver this action.)*

Identify opportunities and deliver initiatives through the Maternal and Child Health Service to encourage healthy eating among children and families.