

Local Public Health *Strategy*

2026 - 2031



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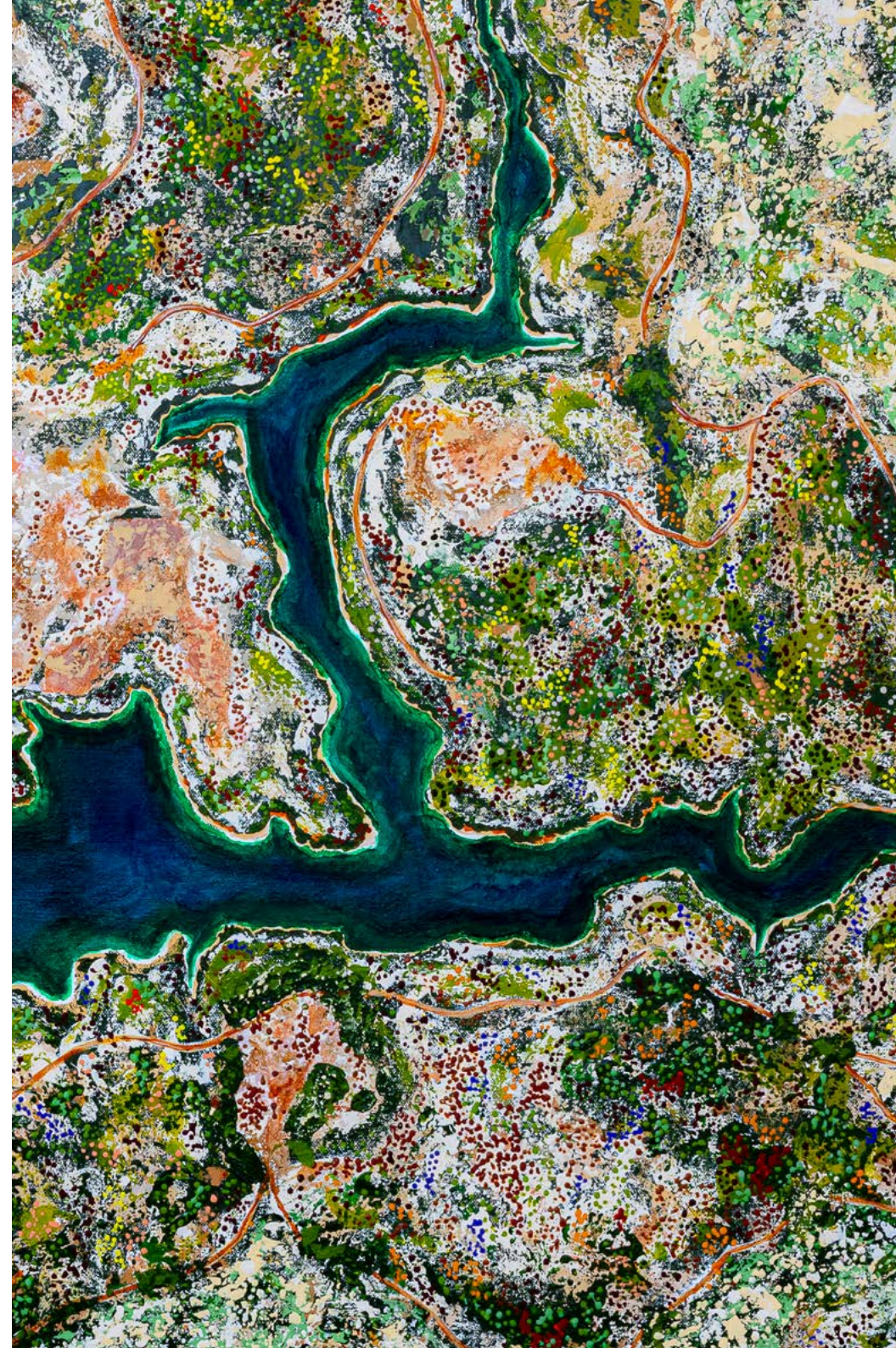
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Acknowledgement of Country

Mundadjalina-k ngala kaditj Noongar moort nidja Wadjak boodjar-ak kalyakool moondang-ak kaaradj-midi. Ngala Noongar Moort wer baalabang moorditj kaadidjiny kootadjinanginy. Ngala Noongar wer Torres Strait Moort-al dandjoo koorliny kwaba-djinanginy. Koorra, yeyi wer kalyakool, ngalak Aboriginal wer Torres Strait birdiya wer moort kootadjinanginy.

Shire of Mundaring respectfully acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, who are the traditional custodians of this land. We acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the region.



A welcome message from the Shire President



On behalf of Council, I present the Shire of Mundaring Local Public Health Strategy 2026 - 2031, shaped in partnership with our community.

This Strategy aligns with the WA State Public Health Plan 2025-2030, and its four objectives (Promote, Prevent, Protect, and Enable). It also ensures we meet our obligations under the *Public Health Act 2016* (WA) which now requires all local governments to prepare a public health plan that will be reviewed every five years.

This Strategy provides a high-level roadmap for protecting and improving health and wellbeing across the Shire.

Our response to public health is about creating a community that supports and enhances health and wellbeing. It is shaped by the places we live, learn, work, and connect, and by how easily people can access the services and supports they need to live healthy and fulfilling lives.

In Shire of Mundaring, sustainability and wellbeing are closely connected. Caring for our bushland and waterways, planning safe and inclusive places, and strengthening social connection all contribute to healthier lives. At the same time, climate-driven health risks, including extreme heat and bushfire threat, affect both physical health, making preparedness, response, and recovery a core public health priority.

Most importantly, this Strategy has been shaped with our community, with over 1,100 engagements informing the Strategy through community events, face-to-face consultations, drop-in sessions, stakeholder workshops, and resident surveys, helping us to understand what matters

most to those that call the Shire home. We heard consistent priorities across the Shire, alongside different challenges experienced in our three regions: the foothills, hills and rural communities.

The priorities in this Strategy reflect what we heard from the community, including the need to strengthen climate resilience, improve bushfire and emergency preparedness, support mental wellbeing, and ensure residents can access the health services and care they need locally.

The Shire plays a preventative and enabling role in public health by shaping safe, green and accessible environments, supporting community connection and wellbeing, and managing key environmental health risks such as food safety and air and water quality. While the Shire does not provide clinical or specialised health services, we act as an advocate, enabler, connector and place leader, working collaboratively with community organisations, service providers and government partners to coordinate action, strengthen local networks, improve service visibility and champion the resources needed to support our community's health and wellbeing.

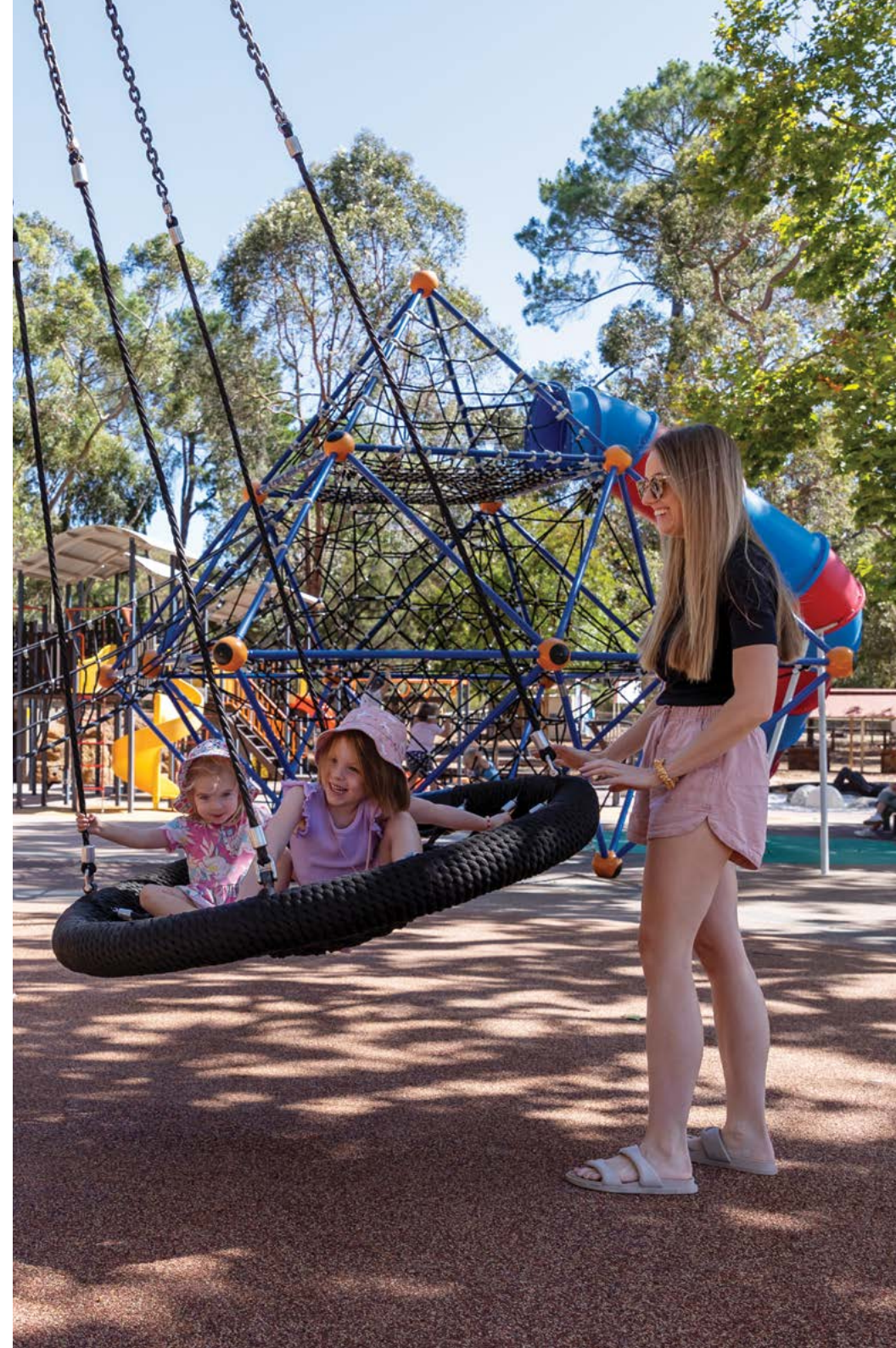
We are committed to transparent monitoring and reporting as this Strategy is implemented, and to learning and adapting as community needs evolve.

Together, we can continue building a healthy, resilient and sustainable future for the Shire of Mundaring.

Paige McNeil
Shire President

Alignment to the State Public Health Plan

This Local Public Health Strategy has been developed in accordance with the *Public Health Act 2016 (WA)*, which requires all local governments to prepare and implement a local public health plan that is consistent with the State Public Health Plan, where appropriate.



This legislative framework recognises public health as a shared responsibility across state and local government, community organisations, and residents. It reaffirms the critical role of local government in shaping the everyday conditions that influence health, safety, and quality of life. The key public health objectives and policy priorities for WA, as identified in the State Public Health Plan (SPHP), are:

- Empowering and enabling people to live healthy lives;
- Providing health protection for the community, and;
- Improving Aboriginal health and wellbeing.

Across the Shire of Mundaring, public health extends well beyond the delivery of clinical services and medical care. It is shaped by where people live, how they move, the environments they inhabit, the services they can access, and the strength of their social and community connections.

With three distinct communities across the Foothills, Hills and Rural landscape, the Shire's public health opportunities and challenges are uniquely place-based. From ageing demographics and access to services, to climate-related risks and mental wellbeing, our community's health profile reflects both our local strengths and our responsibilities.

Under the *Public Health Act 2016*, local public health plans are required to:

- Identify local public health needs
- Examine health status and health determinants
- Establish objectives and policy priorities
- Define how these priorities will be achieved
- Describe partnerships with relevant agencies
- Provide a framework for identifying and managing public health risks
- Support ongoing monitoring, review, and reporting

Objectives of the State Public Health Plan

- **Promote:** Foster strong, connected communities and healthier environments.
- **Prevent:** Reduce the burden of chronic disease, communicable disease, and injury.
- **Protect:** Protect against public and environmental health risks, effectively manage emergencies, reduce impacts of disaster, and lessen the health impacts of climate change.
- **Enable:** Bolster public health systems and workforce, and leverage partnerships to support health and wellbeing.

In addition, two overarching objectives have been identified to be integrated across all other objectives in the SPHP.

These overarching objectives are:

1. Aboriginal health and wellbeing

It is essential to apply an Aboriginal cultural lens to all aspects of public health to address systemic racism and strengthen the cultural determinants of health for Aboriginal people in WA. This approach ensures that Aboriginal health and wellbeing are considered in every public health initiative, fostering more equitable and culturally safe models of care.

2. Equity and inclusion

There is an opportunity for targeted engagement and action to empower community groups who may benefit most from support, by addressing the social and environmental determinants that influence health and improve their access to health services. These include, but are not limited to:

- people of culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds
- people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage
- people living in rural and remote areas
- people with disability
- people living with a mental health condition
- LGBTIQ+SB people
- older people





How the Shire of Mundaring contributes to Public Health

What is public health

Good health is more than the absence of illness. It includes physical, mental and social health and cultural wellbeing.

Under the *Public Health Act 2016*, public health is defined as “the wider health and wellbeing of the community; and the combination of safeguards, policies, and programs designed to protect, maintain, promote, and improve the health of individuals and their communities, and to prevent and reduce the incidence of illness and disability.”

We aim not only for our community to be well, but to thrive. When people thrive, they can live full, active lives and contribute positively to community life.

By planning for health today, we can help prevent future health challenges and ensure our community continues to thrive for generations to come.

How we contribute

This Strategy provides a framework for supporting the health and wellbeing of our community and strengthens the Shire’s proactive approach to protecting the wellbeing of future generations. It identifies key focus areas that take a holistic view of health and guide the creation of environments where people can thrive.

The Shire’s role includes creating safe, clean, green, and accessible places; embedding public health principles in local decision-making; advocating for public health priorities; and empowering our community to make healthier choices by improving health literacy, knowledge, and skills.

Local services, agencies, and community groups also play a vital role. We know the best outcomes occur when responsibility is shared, making collaboration across government, service providers, and the community essential. By working together, we can create conditions that make healthy living easier and more achievable for everyone.

The Shire’s role in supporting public health

The Shire does not deliver clinical or specialised medical services such as hospitals, medical centres, mental health treatment, or drug and alcohol support. Instead, the Shire’s role in health and wellbeing is primarily preventative and enabling, focused on strengthening community capacity, supporting local networks, and creating environments that help people to live healthy, connected and resilient lives.

A core function of the Shire is shaping the physical, social and natural environments that influence community wellbeing. This includes planning, designing and maintaining community facilities, public open spaces, parks, reserves, recreation infrastructure and places that encourage social connection, physical activity and cultural expression.

The Shire also has statutory responsibilities under the *Public Health Act 2016*, including compliance with public health requirements and the management of environmental health risks. This involves monitoring and regulating matters such as safe food, air and water quality to protect public health. While these functions remain essential, this strategy is primarily focused on the broader physical, social and mental wellbeing of the community.

In fulfilling its role, the Shire provides and supports a wide range of facilities, services and programs that contribute to public health and community wellbeing, including:

- Waste management, recycling and energy-efficiency initiatives
- Planning, development control and sustainability programs
- Public open spaces, parks, reserves, tree planting and environmental stewardship
- Air and water quality monitoring
- Community safety, development, engagement and grants
- Community events, arts, culture and heritage
- Tourism and destination marketing
- Economic development and place planning
- Library and information services
- Aquatic centres, sport and recreation facilities, trails and activity programs
- Family, child and youth services
- Environmental health services
- Roads, footpaths, street lighting and community facilities
- Pedestrian and cycle paths and related infrastructure

Public Health in Place

Our Context

- Urban, semi rural and rural communities in Perth's eastern hills
- 42,000+ residents across foothills, hills and rural communities
- Proximity to metropolitan area whilst enjoying the lifestyle and environmental qualities of a regional community



Our Strengths



Strong community connections



Safe neighbourhoods



Natural environment for active living

Our Challenges



Ageing population



Limited local health services



Bushfire, heat and environmental risks

Our Issues



Mental health and wellbeing



Service access and equity across life stages



Chronic disease prevention

Developing the Strategy

In developing this Strategy, the Shire undertook a comprehensive review of local health data and collected evidence on the social and environmental health determinants. This work, alongside extensive community and stakeholder consultation, highlighted clear public health priorities.

In response, this Strategy focuses on proactive and preventative objectives that address underlying factors shaping health and wellbeing. It recognises that active lifestyles, strong social connection, accessible and responsive services, safe environments, and inclusive opportunities are central to enabling people to live well at every stage of life.

Guiding Principles

Practical Progress

Focusing on steady, achievable improvement that delivers lasting community benefit.

Real Impact

Prioritising actions that create measurable, long-term improvements in health and wellbeing.

Strong Partnerships

Working collaboratively to maximise resources and deliver shared value.

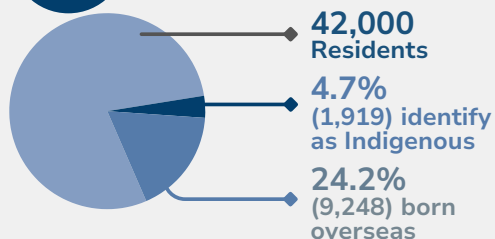
Equity for All

Ensuring everyone has fair access to opportunities for good health.

Health Status Snapshot



POPULATION (2025)



SOCIO-ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT (2021)

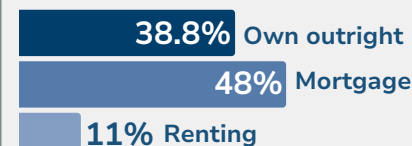
Above average income



\$817
individual / week

\$2,270
family / week

Housing tenure



LIFE EXPECTANCY (2018-2022)

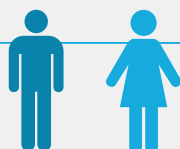
Male	Age in Years	Female
81.2	Australia-wide	85.3
71.9	Indigenous	75.6
55	NE Perth Indigenous	60.4
70.6% Potentially avoidable deaths for Indigenous population		
North-East Perth		58.3% Nation-wide



LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH (2016 - 2023)

Male

1. Coronary heart disease
2. Lung cancer
3. Dementia (incl. Alzheimer's)
4. Suicide



Female

1. Dementia (incl. Alzheimer's)
2. Coronary heart disease
3. Breast cancer
4. Cardiovascular disease



BURDEN OF DISEASE (2021)

Top 3

Long-term conditions

- Arthritis
- Mental health
- Asthma

12,894 residents travel to work by car | compared to | 407 only use public transport



INJURIES & FALLS (2020)

Higher than WA average

- Intentional self-harm
- Transport accidents



HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS (2020)

Higher than WA average

34,613 – 36,266 ASR per 100,000 population



MENTAL HEALTH PREVALENCE (2020)

High / very high psychological distress

10.2% Mundaring | 8.6% WA

Males more at risk of intentional self-harm



HEALTHCARE BEHAVIOURS (2020)

Mundaring

12.9%

Smoking

WA

10.7%

39.4%

Obesity

31.9%

32.6%

Overweight

31.9%

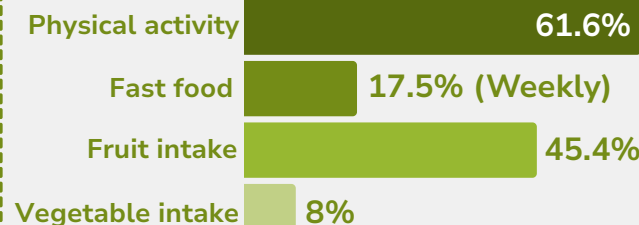
23.1%

Alcohol

24%



EXERCISE, NUTRITION & DIET (2020)





PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOURS & SCREENING (2021)

Greater than WA average

94-95% children aged 5 years in Mundaring are fully immunised

Greater than WA average

- **56-59%** participate in breast cancer screening
- **45-54%** participate in bowel cancer screening
- **60-88%** participate in cervical cancer screening



50% of residents have a 60-minute drive to some health service providers (2023)

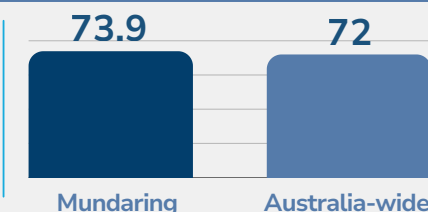


15.8 % of First Nations people participated in routine health checks (2020/21)



DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY (2022)

Australian Digital Inclusion Index



CRIME RATES (2016 – 2025)

Decreasing Trend

In 2019, four suburbs made the top ten list for lowest crime rates (WA Police Force Data)

- Mahogany Creek
- Hovea
- Stoneville
- Parkerville

Lower than State average for youth crime 10-24 years old (2021)



ENVIRONMENTAL DATA (2025)

Bushfire Prone Area

Air Quality



Generally good PM2.5 (particles) from 0 to 25 ug/m3

Temperatures



Highest temp – 42°C recorded in Feb 2025

Rainfall



954.8 mm annual rainfall in 2024, 727.5 in 2023



DISABILITIES (2024/25)

- 1,078 NDIS participants
- Primary Disabilities include, Autism Spectrum(ASD), Intellectual Disability, Psychosocial Disability, Developmental Delay
- 4.2% of people requiring assistance are 0-9 years old, compared to Greater Perth at 3.4%



ELDERLY (2021)

Perth North including Mundaring

10.6%

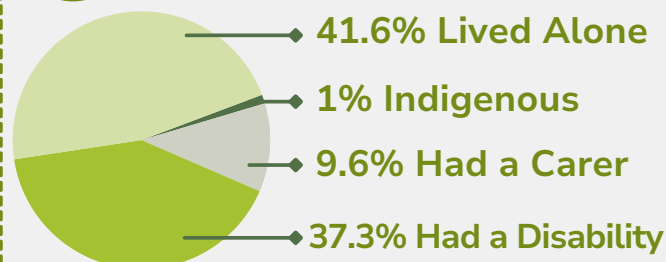
people aged 55+ needed assistance

23.1%

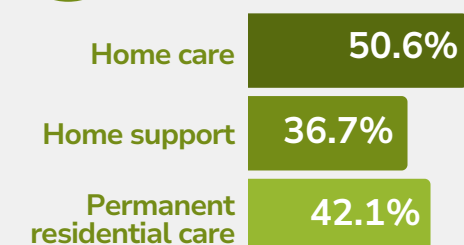
people aged 65+ live alone



AGED CARE CLIENTS (2024 / 25) Perth North including Mundaring



CARE TYPE (2024/25) Perth North inc. Mundaring





Community Engagement

The Shire of Mundaring developed its Local Public Health Strategy with a strong focus on meaningful community engagement, ensuring the Strategy is informed by the insights, lived experience, and aspirations of residents, service providers, community organisations, businesses, and government agencies.

In late 2025, more than 1,100 feedback touchpoints were recorded across the shire through a range of inclusive engagement channels designed to capture stakeholder, community, and staff feedback. Broad and diverse participation from Foothills, Hills, and Rural communities strengthened the development of a place-based, locally responsive Strategy.

Engagement Activities

- Resident survey (online and hard copy)
- 'Pop Up' consultation at the Darlington Arts Festival
- Three-week consultation installation at Boya and Mundaring Libraries
- Community drop-in session
- Targeted key stakeholder interviews
- Drop a Ball, Make a Call activity at Darlington Arts Festival and both Shire libraries, to highlight priorities
- 'World Cafe' stakeholder workshop
- Leadership and Elected Member roundtables

Consistent themes emerged across all engagement streams, with participants expressing strong support for health and wellbeing remaining a core focus for the Shire, alongside a clear need for improved communication, transparency, and greater clarity around the Shire's role in public health.

Environment and mental health were consistently identified as the highest-priority issues. Feedback highlighted growing climate-related anxiety, concerns about bushfire preparedness, and increasing mental health pressures across all life stages. Access to services was also identified as a key structural barrier that compounds disadvantage, particularly for young people, older residents, and those living in outer or rural areas.

Consultation findings reinforced the importance of a place-based, prevention-focused approach. Participants noted that health priorities vary across life stages and require targeted responses, while other challenges are shared across the community. Addressing service fragmentation, improving service visibility, and reducing access barriers will strengthen coordination, support healthy ageing, and expand opportunities for wellbeing. In this context, the Shire's role as an advocate, enabler, connector, and place leader is central to improving long-term health outcomes.



What We *Heard*

"We want to understand what the role of Local Government is in Health and Wellbeing"

"We want to see more in-person community engagement from Shire of Mundaring"

"We want help to identify health risks and adaptation option for climate change impacts"

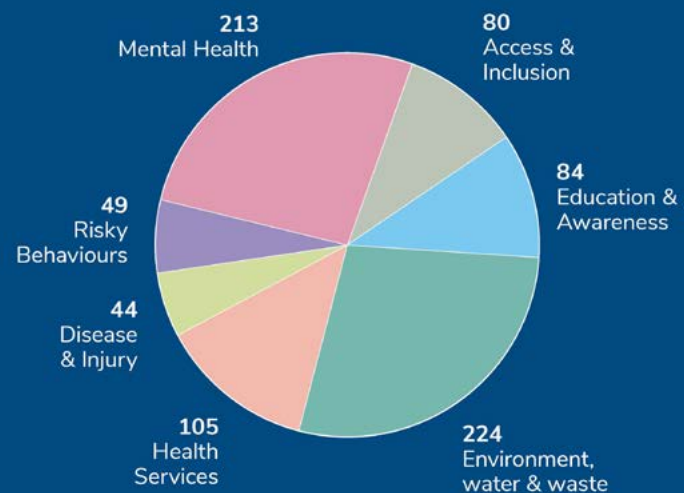
"We want safer roads and trails; more red lights, safety rails and policing"

"We want residents to stay in the area as they age; we need housing for older people"

"Better public transport especially for young people so they can access events and activities"

"We need more resources and services for mental health in this region"

Drop a Ball, Make a *Call*



Consultation

Summary

1100

Engagements within the Shire

799

Votes in our Drop a ball,
make a call activity

164

Surveys Completed

200+

In person chats

How the Shire will use this Strategy

The Local Public Health Strategy provides a strategic framework to guide how the Shire of Mundaring will allocate resources and make decisions that protect, promote, and support the health and wellbeing of the community over the next five years.

The Strategy brings together local health evidence, community insight, and the Shire's service delivery responsibilities to identify priority areas where the Shire can make the greatest contribution to improving public health outcomes. It supports the Shire to focus effort where it can most effectively influence change, through planning, environmental health regulation, community services, place-making, emergency management, and partnership development.

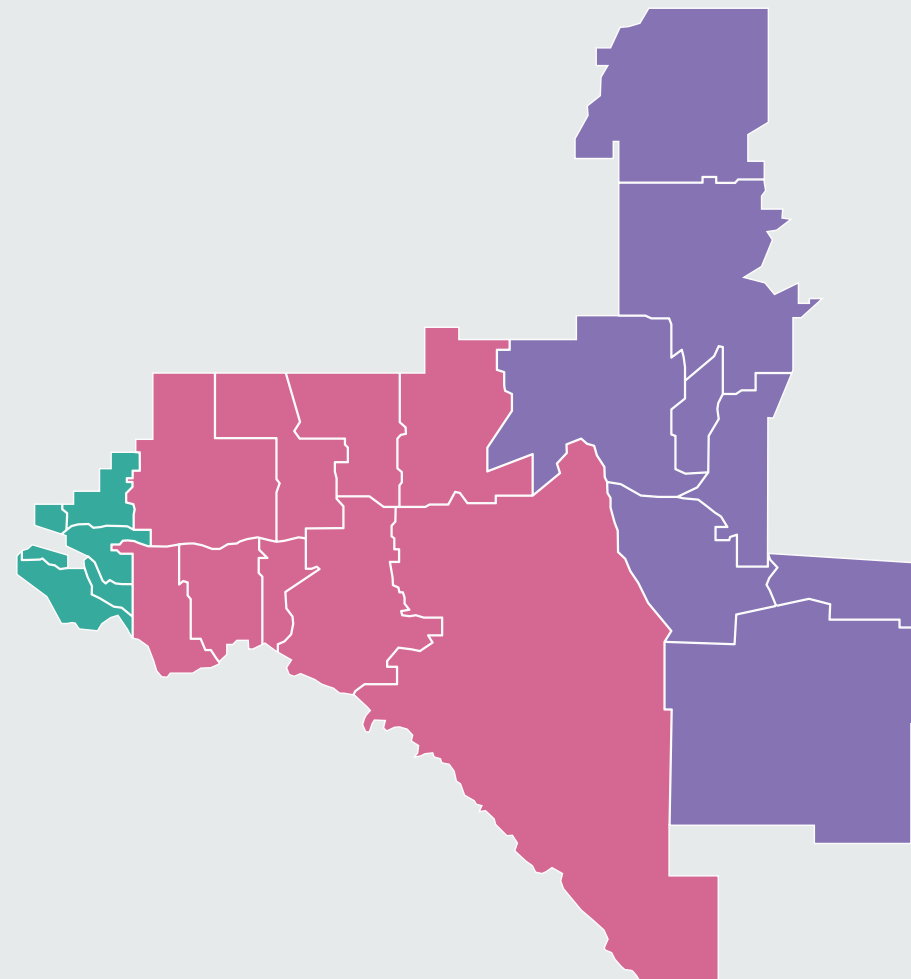
The Strategy will be used to:

- guide Council decision-making and service-planning
- align Shire programs and initiatives with local health priorities
- strengthen partnerships with health services, community organisations, and government agencies
- inform advocacy for improved services and infrastructure
- support monitoring and reporting of community health outcomes.

Implementation of the Strategy will be integrated into the Shire's broader planning and reporting framework, including the Council Plan, supported by an internal action plan. Progress will be reviewed regularly to ensure the Strategy continues to respond to emerging community needs and evolving public health challenges.

Understanding Our Communities

The Strategy responds to the recognition of three connected but distinct communities - the Foothills, Hills, and Rural areas. Each of these have unique characteristics that influence local health needs and opportunities. Recognising these differences is essential to delivering effective, place-based public health responses.





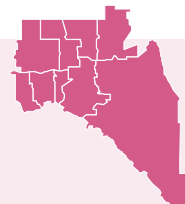
Foothills community

A key connection point between metropolitan Perth and the Hills, with strong access to transport corridors, services, employment, and community facilities.

From a public health perspective, this area plays an important role in supporting access to services, recreation, and everyday amenities. As the Foothills continues to grow, maintaining accessible public spaces, strengthening community infrastructure, and supporting active and connected lifestyles will be essential to sustaining public health.

Community includes

Bellevue, Greenmount, Helena Valley, Midvale, Swan View.



Hills community

Characterised by its village centres, bushland landscapes, and strong sense of local identity, the Hills access to trails, parks, and natural environments supports active living, social connection, and mental wellbeing.

At the same time, the dispersed nature of settlements and proximity to bushland presents challenges related to emergency preparedness, climate resilience, and access to services. Strengthening local connections, supporting community resilience, and ensuring accessible services remain key priorities.

Community includes

Boya, Darlington, Glen Forrest, Hovea, Mahogany Creek, Mount Helena, Mundaring, Parkerville, Sawyers Valley, Stoneville.



Rural community

Reflecting the Shire's strong connection to land, nature, and rural living, residents benefit from space, natural environments, and strong local networks, which contribute positively to health and wellbeing.

Distance from services, transport limitations, and exposure to environmental risks can create additional challenges. Supporting the Shire's residents in rural settings requires a focus on improving service access, strengthening communication and support networks, and building resilience to environmental and emergency risks.

Community includes

Bailup, Beechina, Chidlow, Gorrie, Malmalling, The Lakes, Wooroloo.

Public Health Priorities



Access, Equity
& Inclusion



Disease &
Injury



Education &
Awareness



Environment,
Water & Waste



Health &
Health Services



Mental
Wellbeing



Risky
Behaviours

Interpreting the Strategy

The Strategy is structured around distinct focus areas that reflect the key public health issues facing the community. These focus areas will guide how the Shire directs resource, effort, partnerships and services over the next five years on public health planning matters.

It has been developed with intentional alignment to the State Public Health Plan 2025 - 2030 while also reflecting what was heard through local consultation. This approach helps focus attention on the issues that matter most to residents, supports targeted and place-based action, and clarifies the Shire's role in responding to public health needs across each distinct community.

The Strategy has been designed to remain flexible and responsive as local public health needs change over time. Regular monitoring and an annual review will ensure it remains relevant and effective.



Access, Equity & Inclusion

Equitable access to health, wellbeing and community support is a foundational determinant of population health. Across the Shire, access is shaped by a range of social, cultural, geographic and systemic factors, including language, disability, age, income, transport, digital access and service availability. When access barriers exist, they contribute to preventable health inequities, poorer outcomes across the life course, and increase pressure on individuals, families and health services.

This priority recognises that improving health outcomes requires more than service provision alone. It requires systems, environments and information that are inclusive, culturally safe and responsive to the diverse needs of the community, enabling people to understand, access and engage with supports in ways that reflect their circumstances and lived experience.

By enabling equitable access by shaping inclusive environments, supporting culturally responsive approaches, strengthening service coordination, and advocating for a system that reduces barriers and improves outcomes, the Shire of Mundaring plays an active role in supporting equitable health outcomes across the community.

State Government Priorities (WA State Public Health Plan)

- Apply an Aboriginal cultural lens across all areas of public health planning
- Strengthen culturally secure service design for Aboriginal and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse populations
- Co-develop health information in multiple languages to improve accessibility
- Improve data collection and use to enhance outcomes for priority populations
- Strengthen the Aboriginal health workforce through culturally responsive training and support
- Expand Aboriginal cultural learning and truth-telling to improve service safety, trust and outcomes

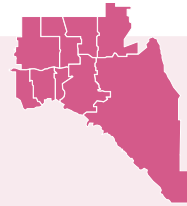


What we Heard (Community Priorities)



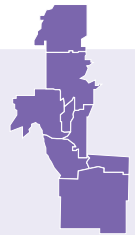
Foothills community

- Improved awareness of local services and supports
- Clearer pathways to the right support
- Access to local facilities, programs and spaces
- Reduced barriers to accessing support



Hills community

- Improved awareness of local services and supports
- Enable easier movement and access to local places
- Spaces for residents to stay active and connected
- Easy to reach, locally available health services



Rural community

- Services that come to the community
- Clear, reliable information
- Access to inclusive community facilities and programs
- Better coordination between transport and services

What we will do (Focus Areas)

- Enhance inclusive access to local government services, facilities, and health supportive information for all community members.
- Address access barriers related to distance, transport, age, disability, and digital exclusion to support full community participation.
- Foster inclusive, health supportive public spaces and facilities that enable participation, mobility, and independence across the community.

Disease & Injury

Preventable disease and injury contribute to reduced quality of life, avoidable hospitalisations and long-term health burden across the community. Chronic conditions, falls, road trauma, heat-related illness and other unintentional injuries are influenced by the interaction of individual behaviours, built environments, service access, and broader social and environmental conditions.

Across the Shire, these risks are shaped by ageing populations, geographic distance to services, climate pressures, transport patterns, housing design, physical activity opportunities and participation in preventive care. When prevention and early intervention are limited, health conditions are more likely to progress, increasing pressure on individuals, families and health systems.

This priority recognises that reducing disease and injury requires more than clinical care alone. It relies on safe and accessible infrastructure, well-designed public spaces, informed communities, and coordinated action across planning, transport, recreation and emergency preparedness. Strengthening preventative screening, promoting active lifestyles, and reducing environmental and safety risks are central to long-term health outcomes.

By embedding health considerations into planning and infrastructure decisions, improving safety in public environments, supporting preventative initiatives, and working collaboratively with partners, the Shire of Mundaring plays a proactive role in reducing avoidable disease and injury and supporting safer, healthier living across the life course.

State Government Priorities (WA State Public Health Plan)

- Prevent injuries and promote safer communities
- Reduce use of tobacco, vapes and related products
- Reduce harm due to illicit drug use, misuse of pharmaceuticals and other drugs of concern
- Expand immunisation program provision to prevent infectious disease
- Prevent, monitor and control notifiable infectious diseases
- Improve access to screening and early detection

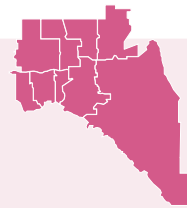


What we Heard (Community Priorities)



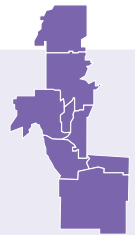
Foothills community

- Safer roads and paths in busy areas
- More ways to stay active and healthy
- Reduced traffic and environmental risks
- Clearer access to health checks and prevention services



Hills community

- Safer paths, parks and public spaces for all ages
- Neighbourhoods that support staying active and well
- Better preparation for bushfire and heat risks
- Strong local emergency response and support



Rural community

- Better access to health and safety support
- More local screening and outreach services
- Stronger bushfire and emergency readiness
- Reduced isolation through community connection

What we will do (Focus Areas)

- Reduce preventable disease and injury within the community through early intervention, local risk reduction initiatives and evidence-informed prevention.
- Mitigate community exposure to environmental, behavioural, and infrastructure-related health risks.
- Support early detection and encourage protective health behaviours to reduce avoidable illness and improve long-term community wellbeing.

Education & Awareness

Education and awareness play an important role in supporting the health of individuals, families, and communities. When people understand health risks, know what services are available, and feel confident in finding the right support, they are more likely to make informed choices, seek help early, and look after their own wellbeing.

Access to information is influenced by factors such as age, digital inclusion, language, cultural background, service complexity and geographic distance. Some residents find it easy to stay informed and connected, while others may experience barriers that make it harder to access timely, reliable and relevant health information. When information is unclear or difficult to navigate, people may delay seeking support or miss opportunities for prevention and early care.

This priority recognises that improving health outcomes requires more than sharing information. It requires communication that is clear, trusted and relevant to everyday life in the Shire. Strengthening health literacy means providing information in ways that are easy to understand, culturally respectful and suited to different life stages. It also means embedding this knowledge into community spaces, programs and service hubs.

Through strengthening local communication practices, working with partners to coordinate messaging, and delivering place-based education and awareness initiatives, the Shire of Mundaring supports residents to build confidence, make informed decisions, and access the right support at the right time.

State Government Priorities (WA State Public Health Plan)

- Improve health literacy through accessible and effective public health information
- Co-design and deliver community-led public health education to build trust and understanding
- Ensure clear communication and public information to manage health risks effectively during emergencies
- Promote consistent, evidence-based messaging to counter misinformation
- Increase awareness of climate change and environmental health impacts
- Build community capacity to access, understand and use health information

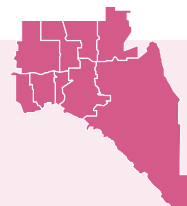


What we Heard (Community Priorities)



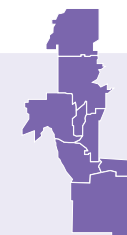
Foothills community

- Build understanding of lifestyle, injury and mental wellbeing risks
- Improve awareness of local health and wellbeing services
- Promote early help-seeking and personal safety
- Deliver inclusive, relevant health education



Hills community

- Strengthen understanding of healthy ageing and age-related risks
- Improve awareness of local health and support services
- Provide clear information for confident health decisions
- Build everyday awareness of emergency preparedness and safety



Rural community

- Improve access to clear and trusted local health information
- Strengthen awareness of early warning signs and support pathways
- Promote emergency readiness and bushfire safety
- Support peer networks to build community resilience

What we will do (Focus Areas)

- Strengthen community health literacy to support informed decision-making and self-management.
- Improve awareness of health risks, protective behaviours and early warning signs.
- Improve community understanding of available services, programs, and pathways to care.
- Build community capacity to respond effectively to health, safety and emergency risks.

Environment, Water & Waste

Protecting and enhancing the natural environment is fundamental to the health, resilience and liveability of the shire. Climate impacts, water security, bushfire risk, land use and waste management shape daily life, influence long-term health outcomes, and determine the region's long-term sustainability.

This priority recognises that healthy ecosystems, reliable water systems, and responsible waste management are essential foundations for thriving communities. It takes a place-based approach to safeguarding natural assets, reducing environmental risk and strengthening stewardship across the shire's townsites, hills, and rural landscapes.

The focus is on coordinated, preventative action that embeds sustainability into planning, infrastructure, service delivery, and community practice. This includes supporting climate adaptation, protecting waterways and biodiversity, improving waste minimisation, resource recovery, and reducing pollution.

As a regulator, land manager and promoter of responsible resource use, the Shire of Mundaring supports long-term public health and continued liveability.

State Government Priorities

(WA State Public Health Plan)

- Manage the effects of climate change on people's health
- Reduce harm from current and emerging environmental, radiation and biosecurity risks
- Safeguard drinking water, wastewater and food safety
- Ensure public health risks are addressed in planning and development to support healthy living and minimise impacts from public health hazards
- Strengthen public health surveillance for climate-sensitive health outcomes
- Identify and mitigate the environmental health hazards arising due to climate change

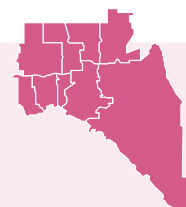


What we Heard (Community Priorities)



Foothills community

- Manage stormwater, runoff and localised flooding in urban areas
- Reduce environmental impacts from higher density living and transport
- Promote sustainable development protecting liveability and environment
- Support responsible waste management and efficient resource use



Hills community

- Protect bushland and waterways to support biodiversity and environment
- Reduce bushfire, erosion and extreme weather risks
- Balance development with long-term environmental protection
- Strengthen environmental stewardship and responsible waste practices



Rural community

- Support sustainable land and water management
- Reduce bushfire, erosion and extreme weather risks
- Promote responsible land stewardship and conservation practices
- Build environmental resilience through improved land and waste practices

What we will do (Focus Areas)

- Strengthen environmental stewardship across local government areas to protect natural assets, biodiversity, and overall ecosystem health.
- Reduce environmental risks associated with climate change, bushfire, flooding, and land degradation through proactive local planning and management.
- Improve sustainable land use and resource management practices, including responsible water use and effective waste management.
- Encourage environmentally responsible behaviours and practices within the community to support long-term sustainability.

Health & Health Services

Access to timely, appropriate and coordinated health service is essential to supporting good health across all stages of life. Service availability, geographic spread, workforce capacity and system complexity influence how easily residents can obtain the care they require. When services are fragmented, difficult to navigate, or limited locally, people may delay treatment or rely more heavily on acute and emergency care.

Within the Shire, proximity to regional centres is often offset by travel barriers, limited local service availability and reliance on external providers, particularly for older residents and people with complex health needs. These factors shape how residents engage with health services and manage ongoing or complex health conditions.

This priority focuses on strengthening the local health services ecosystem through improved coordination, visibility and responsiveness. It includes supporting outreach and visiting service models, improving service navigation, encouraging locally responsive approaches, and advocating for infrastructure and workforce investment where gaps exist.

By building strong partnerships with providers, regional agencies and community organisations, the Shire of Mundaring plays an active role in supporting a more connected, accessible and sustainable local health system that better meets the needs of its community.

State Government Priorities (WA State Public Health Plan)

- Improve access to primary, mental health and community health services
- Improve access and participation in screening programs
- Promote integrated approaches that strengthen physical and mental health before crisis
- Promote health equity and access for vulnerable and priority populations
- Strengthen the Aboriginal health workforce through culturally responsive training and support
- Expand Aboriginal cultural learning and truth-telling to improve service safety, trust and outcomes

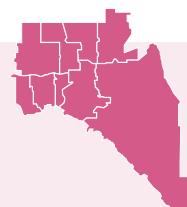


What we Heard (Community Priorities)



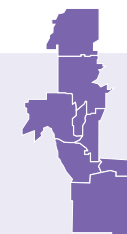
Foothills community

- Stronger access to local primary health and allied health services
- Clear pathways to local health care and support services
- Health services located close to where people live



Hills community

- Reliable access to local and visiting health services
- Local care options that support ageing in place
- Timely access to emergency medical care when needed



Rural community

- Regular visiting health services in rural areas
- Reduced travel requirements for specialist care
- Better coordination between local and regional health providers

What we will do (Focus Areas)

- Support outreach, visiting, and mobile service models to overcome geographic and access-related barriers within the community.
- Improve the visibility and awareness of available health services and support options across the Shire through clear, accessible information sharing.

Mental Wellbeing

Mental wellbeing is a fundamental component of overall health, influencing how people think, feel, connect with others and cope with everyday challenges. Positive mental health supports learning, employment, relationships and community participation, while poor mental health can affect physical health, social connection and long-term life outcomes.

Across the shire, mental wellbeing is shaped by a range of social, environmental and economic factors, including access to services, social isolation, financial pressure, housing security, digital connectivity, exposure to environmental stressors and life-stage transitions. Young people, older residents, carers and those experiencing disadvantage may face additional challenges in maintaining good mental health and accessing timely support.

This priority recognises that supporting mental wellbeing requires more than clinical services alone. It relies on strong social connections, safe and inclusive environments, early intervention, stigma reduction, and clear pathways to support. Creating communities where people feel connected, valued and confident to seek help is central to improving mental health outcomes.

By strengthening community connection, promoting awareness, supporting early help-seeking, improving access to information, and working collaboratively with service providers, the Shire of Mundaring plays an active role in fostering positive mental wellbeing and resilience across the life course.

State Government Priorities (WA State Public Health Plan)

- Promote shared responsibility across Council, business and community sectors to strengthen workplace mental wellbeing
- Sustain local participation in evidence-based campaigns that promote mental wellbeing and early support
- Invest in local, place-based programs that build protective factors and reduce mental health risks
- Enable Aboriginal-led, culturally grounded initiatives that strengthen connection, healing and resilience
- Advocate for and support responsible digital practices that protect mental wellbeing
- Build community resilience and collective care to respond to stress, trauma and change

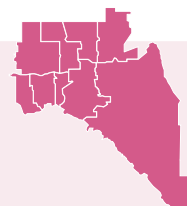


What we Heard (Community Priorities)



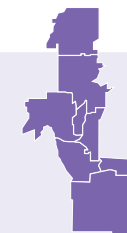
Foothills community

- Support mental wellbeing amid lifestyle pressure and daily stress
- Strengthen early support and family-based prevention pathways
- Promote inclusive, connected communities that build everyday resilience
- Normalise self-care and early help-seeking without stigma



Hills community

- Support older residents facing isolation, transition and declining health
- Strengthen early recognition of emerging mental wellbeing concerns
- Reduce stigma around help-seeking in later life
- Address anxiety linked to bushfire and climate uncertainty



Rural community

- Reduce isolation and wellbeing risks from distance and limited services
- Strengthen early response where support access is constrained
- Support peer-led, community-based resilience and trust building
- Address anxiety from bushfire exposure and climate impacts

What we will do (Focus Areas)

- Strengthen mental wellbeing by creating welcoming, supportive, and socially connected local environments.
- Support locally delivered mental wellbeing programs and initiatives in everyday community settings.
- Strengthen the community's ability to access local wellbeing supports

Risky Behaviours

Risky behaviours, including excessive alcohol, tobacco, vape and drug use, dangerous driving on-road and off-road, and anti-social or disorderly behaviour in public spaces, contribute to preventable illness, injury and social disruption. These behaviours are influenced by broader conditions such as social isolation, stress, limited access to safe recreation, economic pressure and the design and management of community environments.

For the Shire of Mundaring, reducing harm requires a focus on prevention, proportionate response and the strengthening of protective factors across the community. Supporting positive alternatives, improving local environments, and addressing the social and environmental drivers of risk are central to reducing reliance on high-risk behaviours.

By shaping safer settings and events, strengthening place-based prevention initiatives, and improving coordination with community organisations, service providers and regional partners, the Shire will support consistent, evidence-informed harm-reduction approaches that promote safety, resilience and healthier choices across all life stages.

State Government Priorities (WA State Public Health Plan)

- Prevent early uptake of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- Protect residents from second-hand smoke and vape exposure
- Support evidence-based harm reduction, safer practices and access to support services for alcohol, illicit drug and pharmaceutical misuse
- Improve safety for drivers, pedestrians and older residents through education, safer environments and targeted prevention initiatives
- Address stigma and discrimination and improve help-seeking behaviour
- Support locally tailored, place-based approaches that identify and respond to risky behaviours early and proportionately

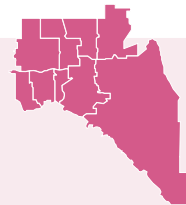


What we Heard (Community Priorities)



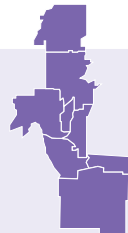
Foothills community

- Reduce risky alcohol, smoking, vaping and drug use
- Support prevention responses to lifestyle pressures and social norms
- Promote safer public spaces, events and recreation settings
- Strengthen protective factors through connection and participation



Hills community

- Reduce alcohol and medication-related harm among older residents
- Strengthen connection and access to age-appropriate activities
- Address risky behaviours linked to isolation and unmanaged pain
- Promote safer community spaces that reduce exposure to harm



Rural community

- Reduce risky behaviours linked to isolation and limited services
- Address harmful alcohol use linked to distance and social norms
- Support safer community settings and shared responsibility
- Strengthen peer-led activities and youth engagement

What we will do (Focus Areas)

- Use safer design principles in local government facilities and public spaces to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour by improving visibility, access, and overall safety.
- Support community-led initiatives that build protective factors and reduce risky behaviours through connection, participation, and positive alternatives.
- Partner with schools, youth services, and community organisations to deliver locally relevant prevention and harmreduction programs for young people.
- Work with emergency services and relevant agencies to discourage highrisk behaviours during bushfire season and total fire bans.



The 2026–2031 Local Public Health Strategy was developed by the Shire of Mundaring, with specialist planning input from The Social Planners.

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