

LODDON SHIRE MUNICIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN

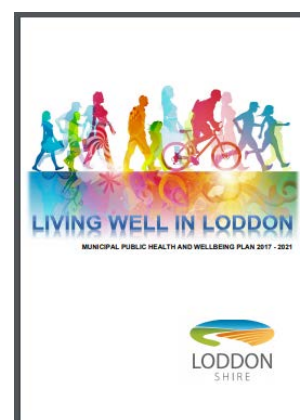
BACKGROUND

Having worked in and with Loddon Shire communities and services providers over the last 18 years, Bendigo Loddon PCP (BLPCP) has developed trusting relationships that enabled it take a lead role in facilitating the Loddon Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWBP) development. The MPHWBP in Victoria provide guidance for action on priority areas of preventable poor health and wellbeing that align with the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing (VPHWB) priority areas.

The project ran between February and March 2017 and involved key stakeholders in the region including local council and health and community services. Done on behalf of the Loddon Shire Council, the local community is the primary beneficiary of the intended MPHWBP actions and outcomes.

The objectives for this project were to:

- support the provision of relevant health and wellbeing data
- review the current Loddon MPHWP 2013-2017
- review the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-2019
- facilitate key stakeholder consultation
- identify key strategic priorities for the municipality
- identify the work currently being undertaken by agencies in each of those priority areas.
- identify the agreed outcomes to be achieved for each priority area.



PARTNERS

- Inglewood District Health Service
- Bendigo Loddon Primary Care Partnerships
- Boort District Health
- Department of Health and Human Services, Loddon Mallee Region
- Dingee Bush Nursing Centre
- Loddon Mallee Oral Health Network
- North Central LLEN
- Centre for Non-Violence
- Local Community House representatives
- Loddon Healthy Minds Network
- Strong Families, Strong Children Network
- Goldfields Library Network
- Northern District Community Health Service
- Loddon Shire Council key staff

METHOD

MPHWBP take a place-based approach, which recognises that people and places are inter-related and that the places where people spend their time play an important role in shaping their health and wellbeing. This enables a focus on local needs and priorities, and engages the community as an active partner in developing solutions. To ensure a coordinated local prevention effort, local health and community services, including those with expertise in health promotion and primary prevention, come together with council and DHHS to establish a common approach to the preparation of health

and wellbeing plans. Alignment of organisational strategic plans across the catchment with the MPHWP provides the greatest opportunity for collective impact.

The evidence base for the Loddon MPHWP Plan development included the Loddon Gannawarra Health Needs Analysis (2017), which was conducted by BLPCP and commissioned by the Loddon Gannawarra Health Services Executive Network (LGHSEN). This provided the most current health and wellbeing data available at a local level.

BLPCP held two consultation sessions and was able to leverage off established partnerships across the Loddon Shire, resulting in broad participation. A Strategic Plan alignment analysis of participating organisations was conducted, demonstrating the strong association of the health and wellbeing outcomes in scope. Local demographic data and health profiles for the Loddon Shire were presented highlighting the SEIFA disadvantage and top four health priorities of heart and respiratory health, diabetes, mental health and oral health that had been identified.

BLPCP used the VPHWB as a complementary framework to develop the Loddon MPHWP Plan and ensure alignment to state-wide priorities at a local level. Areas for action were explored under the state priorities of Healthy and Well, Safe and Secure, Able to Participate, Connected to Culture and Community, and Liveable. Data measures for success were considered and the Public Health and Wellbeing Framework Data Dictionary was used as a guide to nominate indicators of success.

Finally, BL PCP designed and facilitated the Loddon MPHWP Plan development process in consultation with the Loddon Shire Director of Community Wellbeing. As many of the participant organisations were BLPCP members, the existing partnership platform facilitated the collaborative planning and agreed outcomes and measures. These were provided to Loddon Shire for incorporation in the Loddon MPHWP Plan.

OUTCOMES

Through these extensive efforts, BLPCP produced the Loddon Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 **“Living Well in Loddon”**. This is framed by and aligns with the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework, incorporates four pillars of action and includes the required family violence initiatives and outcomes measures. This has ultimately benefited the Loddon Shire Council, health and community services, and the Loddon Shire community.

The final MPHWP can be viewed here: [Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan](#)