

DRAFT 10-12-2025



Public Health & Wellbeing Plan

2026-2030



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Acknowledgement of Country

The Shire of Northampton respectfully acknowledges the Yamatji People, who are the Traditional Owners and First People of that land that this Public Health Plan covers. We pay our respect to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of the Yamatji People.

The name “Yamatji” comes from the Wajarri language and means “man” or “human being”. Lands within the Shire are culturally significant with 209 registered Aboriginal Heritage sites.

Introduction

We are pleased to present our first Community Public Health Plan for the inhabitants of the Shire of Northampton. The Public Health Plan is a requirement of new Public Health legislation that requires each local government in Western Australia to undertake research into the health of all people living within our Shire and to conduct an on-line survey to seek their responses. While the Plan is a stand alone document, objectives of the plan will be incorporated into Council's future Strategic Planning Framework including the Shire's Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan.

We hope you will enjoy reading this Plan as we implement its strategies.

Cr Liz Sudlow

Shire President

December 2025

Mr Andrew Campbell

Chief Executive Officer

December 2025



Plan Implementation

The Public Health Plan is a requirement of new Public Health legislation that requires each local government in Western Australia to create their own public health plan. We have undertaken research into the health demographics of all people living within our Shire and conducted an on-line survey to seek your responses. This Plan is required to align with the State Public Health Plan and to be integrated with Council's Community Strategic Plan and Council's Corporate Plan.

Each Local Government Authority is required to create its own Public Health Plan, which in turn is to be incorporated into the Council's Strategic Community Plan. The Strategic Community Plan connects with Council's Business Plan which is funded by each Local Government Authority through its revenue stream. Each Local Government is then required to prepare and adopt a Local Government Public Health Plan.

The diagram below provides a pictorial representation of how this is to be achieved.



Linkages between Part 5: Public Health Planning of the *Public Health Act 2016* and Local Government Planning for the future requirements under section 5.56 of the *Local Government Act 1995*

Our Current Health Role

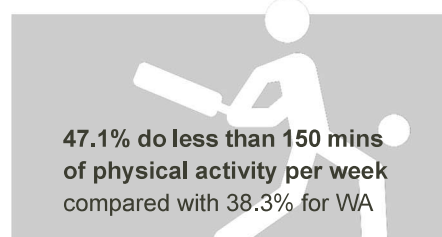
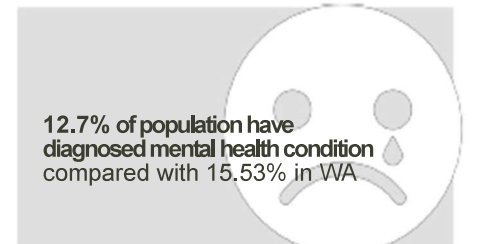
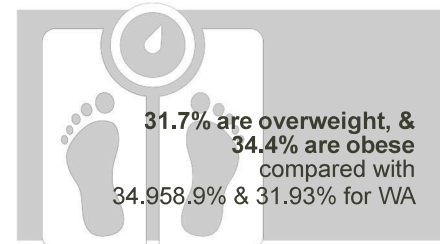
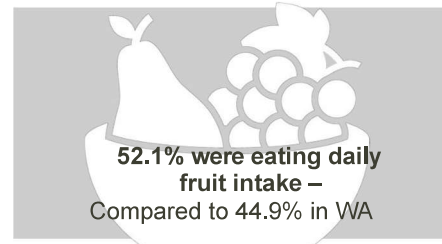
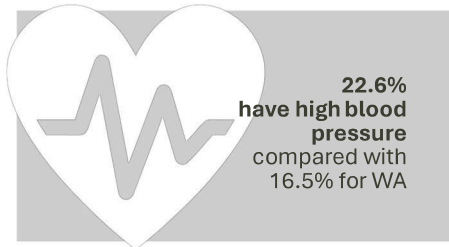
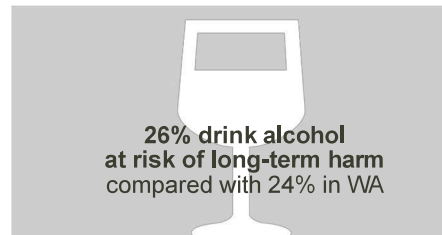
The Shire of Northampton provides the following range of funding and services to support the health of our community.



These are explained in more detail in the core business described here:

- Infrastructure and property services, including provision of local roads, pathways, drainage, waste collection and management, and approval of on-site effluent disposal systems.
- Environmental Health Services to prevent and control environmental health hazards, emissions and communicable diseases (i.e. tobacco control, water and food safety, noise and air pollution and animal & mosquito control).
- Community Services, assisting and advocating for medical services.
- Cultural facilities and services, such as libraries and supporting community groups that operate art galleries and places of historic importance and museums.
- Provision of recreation facilities, such as parks, sports fields, recreation centres and leasing land for sporting and recreation clubs including golf courses, bowling clubs and other recreational facilities.
- Building services, planning and development control, including inspections, licensing, certification and enforcement.
- Administration of facilities, such as the airport, cemeteries, street parking, solid waste disposal sites and wastewater dump points for camping and other travellers.
- Local Government Health Law Enforcement, Ranger and Emergency Services.
- The Shire is financially supporting the Northampton Medical Clinic to ensure residents and visitors have access to medical services.

Snapshot of the health of people living in the Mid West Region



Key results from our 2022 Public Health & Wellbeing

THE RESIDENTS OF NORTHAMPTON SPEAK

AS THINGS ARE NOW

We think the two most serious health risks in our community are:

- Using illegal drugs
- No regular dental checkups

We think the three most serious mental & social health issues in our community are:

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Drug Addiction

We say our top three volunteering activities are:

- Community groups/services
- Public events
- Environment & conservation

The sport & recreation facilities we use the most are:

- Informal walking trails
- Town Oval

Word cloud containing terms: feel, place, city, people, walk, live, lifestyle, great, good, beautiful, needed, beach, regional, community, spirit, park, showed, rural, friendly, town, Kalbarri, location, love.

What is the thing you like the best about living in the Shire of Northampton?

CHANGE FOR THE FUTURE

Our top two programs to improve the health of our community:

- Routine screening for health issues eg cervical & prostate cancers
- Programs for seniors / aged people

Our top three programs to help us be more physically active are:

- Public exercise equipment that is free to use
- Free fitness classes
- Exercise/play equipment in parks that cater for various age groups

Our top four facilities or resources for good community health are:

- Safe roads
- Parks & public open spaces
- Recreation facilities eg Northampton Community Centre
- Disability access to buildings & recreation

Our top two priorities to encourage the eating of healthy food:

- More healthy food options in takeaway/fast food outlets
- Healthy foods being easier to identify in the shops

SURVEY RESPONDENTS AGREED WITH THESE STATEMENTS:

There is strong community spirit in our Shire (76%)

I feel the Shire cares about our welfare (72%)

I know where to get help when I need it (80%)

I am proud of the community where I live (76%)

I feel like my life has a sense of purpose (70%)

I enjoy interacting with my neighbours (79%)

I feel like I belong in my local community (54%)

The Shire of Northampton's Strategic Community Plan 2025-2035

Our Economy		
Community Aspiration	The Shire's Commitment	Desired Outcomes
<p>We are proud of our diverse, resilient local economy, built on sustainable farming and fishing, vibrant high street businesses, tourism, mining, and other industrial opportunities. Managed, sustainable growth creates local employment and business opportunities in balance with protecting our natural assets, rural charm, and heritage. Ongoing investment in tourism and new attractions strengthens our reputation as a destination of choice. We are optimistic about the future and aspire to be a place of opportunity for all.</p>	<p>The Shire commits to securing government, grant, and other funding sources to support strategic initiatives and community priorities. It will uphold a relevant Local Planning Scheme that ensures effective compliance control and provides timely, accurate development advice and approvals. Through strategic zoning and, where appropriate, land acquisition, the Shire will facilitate sustainable growth, infrastructure development, and the long-term wellbeing of the community.</p>	<p>1.1 Local and thriving We feel supported to work and grow our businesses in the Shire and are confident in the Shire's willingness to make appropriate commercial investment to fill unmet needs for future development.</p> <p>1.2 Diverse and prosperous We are driving balanced and sustainable growth by embracing new opportunities for our economy, people, and culture to thrive, whilst ensuring primary industries remain profitable into the future.</p> <p>1.3 Attractive and popular Our reputation as a prime visitor destination is strong and we are optimising an ecologically friendly tourism industry.</p>

Our Natural Environment		
Community Aspiration	The Shire's Commitment	Desired Outcomes
<p>We value and celebrate our unique natural environment, ensuring it remains clean, healthy, and sustainably managed for future generations. Careful stewardship of our land, marine environments, foreshores, townscapes, and nature-based attractions ensures long-term ecological health and prosperity. We take pride in our community's active role in environmental conservation, and we are committed to preserving the natural beauty of our region</p>	<p>The Shire commits to playing its part to protect the environment in support of ecological sustainability and enhancing the human experience. It will advocate for effective coastal erosion management and work to optimise the use and preservation of the Shire's natural attractions, helping to ensure they remain accessible, resilient, and valued by current and future generations.</p>	<p>2.1 A healthy ecosystem The interconnected biodiversity of our flora and fauna is protected and nurtured.</p> <p>2.2 A protected landscape Our Shire balances human wealth and pleasure with protection of our coastlines, riverbeds, and other natural landscape and marine features.</p> <p>2.3 Nature-based aesthetic appeal The natural beauty of our Shire is conserved for our residents and to attract visitors.</p>



Our People		
Community Aspiration	The Shire's Commitment	Desired Outcomes
<p>Our Shire is home to strong, connected communities where people of all ages feel safe, included, and supported. We provide a diverse range of services, activities, events and experiences that bring people together, promoting opportunities for residents to thrive and visitors to enjoy. We benefit from good access to health, transport, and community services that enhance wellbeing and social connection. Our inclusive community spirit reflects our commitment to offering quality of life for everyone.</p>	<p>The Shire commits to fostering intergenerational, accessible support services and social opportunities that enhance liveability, wellbeing, and community cohesion. It will promote an inclusive and vibrant culture that celebrates diversity, strengthens connections, and supports the evolving needs of all residents</p>	<p>3.1 Socially connected and included We feel supported to live well and prosper together, whatever our age or diversity of needs.</p> <p>3.2 Outstanding recreation and tourism experiences Community life and tourism is being enriched through a strong portfolio of events, activities, attractions, and historical heritage.</p> <p>3.3 Healthy and safe community We feel safe in our Shire and have reliable access to services that support our health and wellbeing</p>

Our Built Environment		
Community Aspiration	The Shire's Commitment	Desired Outcomes
<p>Our Shire's buildings, roads, infrastructure, utilities, public amenities, and recreational and tourism facilities are safe, functional, and fit-for-purpose. The Shire takes a proactive approach to general maintenance and land use planning, ensuring our physical assets enhance the liveability of our communities, promote accessibility, and support a sustainable local economy. Through thoughtful investment and responsible stewardship, we sustain a high-quality built environment that meets the current and future needs of our</p>	<p>Within the bounds of funding prioritisation, the Shire commits to delivering appropriate and functional buildings, roads, infrastructure, and amenities that meet the needs of the community. Where the Shire has influence to, it will ensure the effective and efficient delivery of roadworks and other infrastructure projects, supporting accessibility, safety, and long-term sustainability across the built environment.</p>	<p>4.1 Fit-for-purpose infrastructure Our buildings and other physical assets enhance functionality, experience, and ambience. Where appropriate and beneficial to the community, we are supporting the development of light commercial areas.</p> <p>4.2 We are connected We experience good utility provision, internet service, and phone connectivity across the shire.</p> <p>4.3 We can move around effectively A comprehensive strategy is driving effective management of roads, drainage, paths and parking facilities, ensuring maintenance and improvement of infrastructure is meeting increasing future transport demands</p>



Our Leadership		
Community Aspiration	The Shire's Commitment	Desired Outcomes
Strong, transparent, and accountable leadership ensures good governance and responsible management of our Shire's resources. Informed decision-making is guided by robust strategic and operational planning, grounded in the needs and aspirations of our community. Through well resourced and effective engagement with residents, stakeholders, and partners, our Shire prioritises clear and open communication that fosters trust and confidence. This empowers a truly collaborative approach to stewarding the future of our Shire.	The Shire commits to upholding accountability, good governance, and responsible stewardship, underpinned by transparent and effective communication. It will seek sufficient resourcing to ensure it is equipped to meet future challenges, enabling responsive, forward-thinking leadership that serves the best interests of the community	<p>5.1 Excellent communication We feel heard and valued, even when our ideas and requests can't be actioned.</p> <p>5.2 Best practice stewardship Our Shire continues to expand capacity and capability to maintain excellence in all areas of leadership and Council operations.</p> <p>5.3 Collaborating for our future We benefit from a partnership approach to sustainable development characterised by effective advocacy and strong relationships.</p>

Aims and Objectives of the Local Public Health Plan

In reviewing the Shire's Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan, the Shire will take into account the following Aspirations, Commitment's and Desired Outcomes.

Health		
Community Aspiration	The Shire's Commitment	Desired Outcomes
To provide a safe and healthy community by minimizing known health risks.	To provide, facilitate and advocate for environmental health protection measures to reduce risks to community health, wellbeing and incidence of infectious disease.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise harm from unsafe use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco and vape use within the community. • Provide adequate recreational facilities to encourage healthy lifestyle choices. • A healthy and sustainable community with access to relevant health services for all people and demographics within the region.

Community and Public Health Outcomes

Minimise Harm	Active and Healthy Lifestyles	A Healthy and Sustainable Community	A Safe Environment
<p><u>Minimise</u> harm from unsafe use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco</p> <p>Encourage safe sale and service of alcohol and tobacco, and support no/low alcohol and smoke free community venues and events and at Shire facilities</p>	<p>Provide adequate recreation facilities and encourage healthy lifestyle choices</p> <p>Support Live lighter or similar as a community campaign to raise community awareness in healthy eating and living</p> <p>Promote healthy eating and affordable meals and drinks in food outlets and at community clubs and events</p> <p>Provide safe and accessible public open spaces and walking trails</p>	<p>Access to relevant health services for all demographics</p> <p>Encourage personal health screening services such as prostate and cervical cancer, blood pressure and mammograms</p>	<p>Provide public health education on matters such as <u>FoodSafe</u>, vector and other disease control</p> <p>Maintain safe food standards by regular surveillance of food premises</p> <p>Monitor drinking and recreational waters, public aquatic facilities to maintain standards and reduce public health risks</p> <p><u>Minimise</u> the incidence and community spread of infectious disease through education, vaccination, food surveillance and vector control</p>



Conclusion

While public health is the responsibility of all persons in the community, this plan focusses on the need to address present shortcomings to improve the health of every person. Improving the health of individuals through exercise and nutrition were identified as key messages, and attention to mental health, the prevention of transport accidents, and increased screening for cancer-related illnesses will be beneficial in the longer term.

The Council will need to provide leadership to improve public health outcomes by:

- Leading the community by advocacy to provide better public health planning,
- Ensuring that the community has access to facilities and infrastructure to encourage healthy lifestyles and activities,
- Having a whole of Council approach,
- Encouraging partnerships with Government and non-government agencies for health planning, and
- Elected members encouraging and mentoring to promote healthy lifestyles.

The Plan was developed by including:

- Extensive analysis of health data (a well-developed Health Profile Report)
- Participation in an electronic Health and Well Being Survey, and
- Consultation with elected members and senior officers.