

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing **Action Plan 2025/26**

Introduction

The Whitehorse Integrated Council Plan 2025-2029 shows Council's dedication to making our community healthier and happier. We have integrated the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) with the Council Plan to strengthen our work with our community and key stakeholders.

The Integrated Council Plan 2025-2029 meets the all the requirements of the *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic)* (the Act) which requires Councils to develop a MPHWP every four years following Council elections. The aim of the Act is to achieve the highest attainable standard of public health by reducing health inequalities, promoting healthy environments and preventing illness, injury, disability and death.

The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan Action Plan 2025/26 (the Action Plan) is a supplement to the Integrated Council Plan 2025-2029 along with the Council Plan Action Plan 2025/26, which can also be read on its own.

The Action Plan lists important projects and initiatives that directly support the Health and Wellbeing Objectives of the Integrated Council Plan 2025-2029. It outlines those that will be delivered together with local groups and organisations to improve the health and wellbeing of people who live, work, study or spend time in Whitehorse.

This plan is accurate at the time of printing and Whitehorse City Council reserves the right to make changes.



Strategic Direction 1

Community



Community is about making sure people can easily meet and connect with others and feel they belong. It's about being active, having fun, making people feel welcome and respected.

We foster these connections through recognising our shared experiences and unique differences. Our community thrives when people feel safe, healthy, and valued. Through partnerships and thoughtful initiatives, we build connection, promote wellbeing, and create the foundation for a city where everyone can participate, contribute, and find their place.

Objective 1.1: **An involved and connected community** ♥️

2025/26 MPHWP Actions:

Strategy: Foster social connections and a sense of belonging

- Plan and develop an **Intergenerational Social Connections Program** whereby young and older people come together to work on shared interests, social or environmental issues, encouraging social support and meaningful connections ♥️.

Lead organisation: healthAbility

Supporting organisations: Council, FVREE, Eastern Health

- Implement and evaluate the **Women in Sport** Program in collaboration with Deakin University to provide an opportunity for female grassroots community leaders who are passionate about driving change in their communities. The program fosters inclusive and diverse leadership at every level of community involvement ♥️.

Lead organisation: Council

Supporting organisation: Deakin University

Objective 1.3: A healthy and active community 🏡

2025/26 Council Plan Actions:

Strategy: Support community initiatives to promote health and prevent disease

- Increase the **Migrant Learn to Swim Program** to increase access for new migrants to learn how to swim, reducing risk of drowning 🏡.
Lead organisation: Council
Supporting organisations: Migrant Information Centre, Surrey Park Swim Club, Nunawading Swim Club
- Deliver initial phases of the **North Eastern Local Food System Collective Project** to leverage existing structures, functions and commitment to strengthening food systems, and build on and scale the foundational work through NEPHU's inaugural Population Health Catchment Plan. A local food access project in Whitehorse will emerge from this initial phase 🏡.
Lead organisation: North Eastern Public Health Unit (NEPHU)
Supporting organisations: Council, healthAbility
- Deliver local initiatives in **support of the National Dementia Action Plan 2024-2034** to reduce the stigma, minimise risks and support carers 🏡.
Lead organisation: Council
Supporting organisations: Eastern Health, healthAbility, AMES, dementia specialist organisations
- **Create new Outdoor Fitness Equipment spaces** to support people of all ages to exercise outdoors 🏡.
Lead organisation: Council
Supporting organisations: U3A Nunawading

Strategy: Prevent and respond to family violence (including elder abuse)

- Contribute to the planning and achievement of **Together for Equality and Respect Strategy (TFER)** priority initiatives and implement collaborative projects relevant to the Whitehorse community annually 🏡.
Lead organisation: Council
Supporting organisations: Women's Health East (WHE), TFER Partners
- Build on existing service developments to further **Fathers Inclusion and Engagement in Maternal Child Health** 🏡.
Lead organisation: Council
Supporting organisations: healthAbility
- Initiate, co-design and deliver initiatives to **Counter Ageism and Prevent Elder Abuse** by delivering a range of educational and awareness raising and connecting people to appropriate services 🏡.
Lead organisation: Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC)
Supporting organisations: Council, AMES Australia, Seniors Rights Victoria

Strategy: Partner to enhance mental health and build resilience

- Determine approach, resourcing, implementation and evaluation of a **Mental Health Champions program** in Whitehorse to increase the capacity of community members to identify and respond to others facing mental wellbeing challenges 🏡.
Lead organisation: healthAbility
Supporting organisations: Council, Eastern Health

Strategic Direction 4

Natural



Our natural spaces provide more than beauty. They sustain life, clean our air, cool our streets, and nourish our wellbeing. We recognise that healthy ecosystems and biodiversity are essential partners in creating a liveable city, which becomes increasingly important with a growing population.

Trees, waterways, parks, and wildlife corridors form a green network that supports both nature and people. We face environmental challenges that require both immediate action and long-term planning. By protecting and enhancing our natural environment, we create a more climate resilient, sustainable city where both community and nature can flourish together for generations to come.

Objective 4.2: **An environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient city** ♡

2025/26 Council Plan Actions:

Strategy: Partner with the community to achieve positive environmental and health outcomes that reduce climate change impacts

- Investigate a **Water Sensitive Urban Design developer offset scheme** to address compliance shortfalls and implement if feasible ♡.

Lead organisation: Council

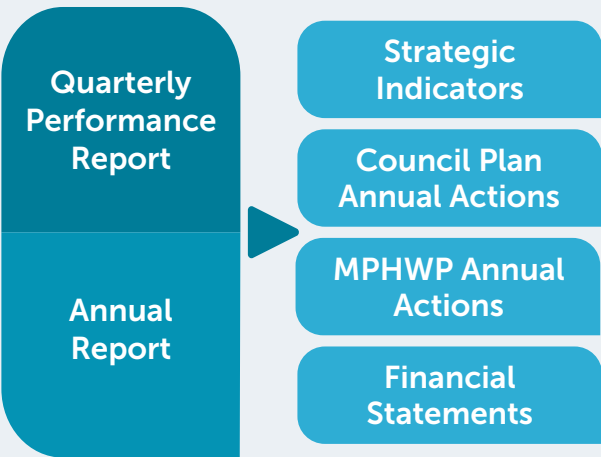
Monitoring and reporting

To facilitate transparency and accountability, the actions listed in this annual action plan will be reported back to the community on a quarterly basis in the Whitehorse Quarterly Performance Report. This report is made available on Council’s website after being presented to Council for each quarter of the financial year.

You can find all of Council’s Quarterly Performance Reports here:
www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/performance-reports

To support the development and evaluation of the MPHWP Action Plan, Council has established a MPHWP Steering Committee to guide the implementation of collaborative health and wellbeing initiatives for Whitehorse. Membership includes key internal stakeholders and organisations we partner with to implement the MPHWP.

Integrated Council Plan: monitoring and reporting



Note: The Quarterly Performance Report and Annual Report both contain reporting information on more areas than those listed above.

Whitehorse Health and Wellbeing Steering Committee 2025-2029

Steering committee

- AMES Australia
- Eastern Access Community Health (EACH)
- Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC)
- Eastern Health
- FVREE – Free from Family Violence
- healthAbility
- Migrant Information Centre (MIC)
- Neighbourhood and Community Houses in Whitehorse
- North-Eastern Public Health Unit (NEPHU)
- The University of Melbourne - Melbourne Climate Futures, Melbourne Law School and Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences
- Women’s Health East (WHE)

Council departments represented

- Communities, Engagement and Integrated Planning (Chair)
- Health and Family Services
- Leisure and Recreation Services
- Arts and Cultural Services
- City Services
- Communications, Advocacy and Investment
- Whitehorse Manningham Library (WML)

Note: Member organisations (in alphabetical order)