

# PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN

2026 - 2031



[www.boyupbrook.wa.gov.au](http://www.boyupbrook.wa.gov.au)



# Our Vision

Growing our community together

Our Shire will be:



A place for people, with a sense of community; one that is active, vibrant, engaged and connected.



A place with community and visitor facilities that are well maintained and further developed as required.



A place that is safe and secure. An inclusive place that nurtures local youth and ageing population and retains local health and medical services.



A place that grows housing and employment opportunities through economic development based on our local comparative advantage.

# Our Values



## Proactive

Embrace creativity, adaptability and continuous improvement seeking new ideas and solutions to address challenges and seize opportunities to ensure sustainability.



## Leadership & Teamwork

Lead through collaboration, promote diversity, have pride in our work and partner with the community to achieve shared visions and aspirations.



## Accountability & Integrity

Demonstrate respect, transparency, honesty and inclusivity in all interactions with the community.



## Commitment

Build and share knowledge, act professionally and develop relationships that make a positive contribution to our community.



## Engaging Community

Show respect, understanding and compassion for others and work collaboratively with community for better outcomes.





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## Document Control

Version	Description	Date	Author	Comment
1	Initial draft plan	2020	AH	Paused due to COVID19
2	Second draft	2026	AH	New template New State PHP
3				
4				

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and work.

This document is available in alternative formats upon request including in large and standard print, electronically by email, in audio on CD and on the Shires website at [www.boyupbrook.wa.gov.au](http://www.boyupbrook.wa.gov.au).



# Executive Summary

## Shire of Boyup Brook Public Health Vision

The Shire of Boyup Brook Public Health Plan is a structured road map to support decision makers, health professionals, and communities in implementing health priorities through targeted actions and partnership. It provides a strategic and sustainable framework to promote, prevent, protect and enable the health and wellbeing of all members of the community. The Plan aligns with the Shire’s vision of “Growing our community together” and supports the priorities of the Western Australian State Public Health Plan by focusing on prevention, equity, and the creation of healthy environments.



Guided by the Shire’s PLACE values, the Public Health Plan recognises that health is influenced by a range of social, environmental, economic, and built determinants. The Plan adopts a whole-of-community and whole-of-organisation approach to public health, consistent with the State Public Health Plan’s emphasis on shared responsibility and collaboration across government, community, and partner organisations.

Broad objectives and priorities have been developed to support partnerships with relevant stakeholders and to integrate public health considerations into local government planning and decision-making. This approach reflects the State Public Health Plan’s Promote, Prevent, Protect and enable framework and supports improved health outcomes through actions and outcomes.

The Shire also acknowledges the two overarching objectives which encompass Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing and Equity and Inclusion. These are integrated across the four objectives to achieve broad, action-based initiatives to achieve the identified priorities.

The key objectives of the Shire of Boyup Brook Public Health Plan are to:

The key objectives of the Shire of Boyup Brook Public Health Plan are to:



**Promote:** Social, mental and environmental wellbeing in a changing climate.



**Prevent:** Disease and injury through advocacy and education



**Protect:** Community health through effective compliance and regulatory activities



**Enable:** Active living and health lifestyles choices within the community

Through alignment with the State Public Health Plan and local strategic priorities, the Shire of Boyup Brook Public Health Plan provides a clear framework for action that supports equity, inclusion, and long-term community wellbeing.



## Message from the Shire President

On behalf of Council, I am pleased to present the Shire of Boyup Brook's Public Health Plan 2026-2031.

The health and wellbeing of our community is fundamental to the Shire's vision of Growing our community together. As a rural and agriculturally based community, Boyup Brook faces unique opportunities and challenges that influence health, including geographic distance, access to services, environmental conditions, and the importance of strong social connections. This Public Health Plan provides a clear and proactive framework to address these factors and support the wellbeing of our community now and into the future.

The Plan aligns with the Western Australian State Public Health Plan and the Shire's Strategic Community Plan, reflecting a shared commitment to prevention, protection, and the promotion of healthy environments. It recognises that improving public health is a shared responsibility and requires collaboration across Council, community groups, service providers, and government agencies.

Council is committed to a whole-of-organisation approach to public health planning, ensuring that health considerations are embedded in decision-making, service delivery, and community development. This Plan supports inclusive, safe, and resilient communities and reinforces the Shire's values of Proactive, Leadership and Teamwork, Accountability and Integrity, Commitment, and Engaging Community.

I would like to thank Council members, staff, community representatives, and stakeholders who contributed to the development of this Plan. Your input has been invaluable in shaping a document that reflects the needs, strengths, and aspirations of our community.



**Cr Helen O'Connell**  
Shire President  
Shire of BoyupBrook



# Introduction

Welcome to the Shire of Boyup Brook's first Public Health Plan. Originally drafted in 2021, the Plan was put on hold. The Plan has since been reviewed and updated in response to significant changes in the public health landscape and lessons learnt, including the declaration of a State of Emergency and the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic has been one of the most significant public health challenges faced by State and local governments in recent history. It highlighted the critical role of local governments in implementing clear safeguards, policies, and programs to protect, maintain, promote, and improve the health and wellbeing of the community.

This Public Health Plan reflects these lessons and provides a proactive framework to support prevention, preparedness, and resilience, ensuring the Shire is well positioned to respond to both current and emerging public health risks while continuing to support the long-term wellbeing of the Boyup Brook community.

## Context

The Shire of Boyup Brook views health as central to a liveable, friendly, sustainable and safe community. The Act defines public health 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.

Under the *Public Health Act 2016* (the Act) all local governments are required to develop a public health plan that address the requirement of the definition.





## Introduction

Local health plans are to align with the objectives of the *State Public Health Plan for Western Australia 2025-2030*, be evidence-based, and establish objectives and priorities for the promotion, prevention, protection, and enabling of public health in the local government district. Aligning local public health priorities with the objectives of the State Plan will help to better direct resources to joint areas of public health need.

Local governments play a critical role in shaping the built, social, cultural, economic, and natural environments that influence the health and wellbeing of their communities. Beyond healthcare services, factors such as where people live, the quality of the environment, employment, income, education, and social connections all have a significant impact on health outcomes. Through planning, regulation, service delivery, and community development, local governments are uniquely positioned to influence these determinants and promote healthier communities.

This broad influence highlights the importance of shared responsibility for public health. Partnerships with community organisations, service providers, and other levels of government strengthen capacity, improve efficiency, and support coordinated action. Public health planning provides an opportunity for consultation, reflection, and future-focused strategies, enabling local governments to identify priorities, implement initiatives, and foster more resilient, connected, and healthy communities.





# Introduction

## Requirements for Public Health Planning under the Act

Health legislation within Western Australia is in the final stages of transitioning from the *Health Act 1911* to the *Public Health Act 2016*. In accordance with the *Public Health Act 2016*, the Shire of Boyup Brook Public Health Plan was developed using an evidence-based and consultative approach. The process combined data analysis, stakeholder engagement, and strategic alignment to ensure the Plan is relevant, actionable, and integrated with broader local and State priorities.

Following the implementation of Part 5 of the *Public Health Act 2016*, it is a mandatory requirement for local governments to develop and implement a Public Health Plan by June 2026. The local government plan must be consistent with the State Public Health Plan but will be tailored to local needs.

In accordance with Section 45 of the *Public Health Act 2016*, a local public health plan must:

- a. identify the public health needs of the local government district; and
- b. include an examination of data relating to health status and health determinants in the local government district; and
- c. establish objectives and policy priorities for —
  - (i) the promotion, improvement and protection of public health in the local government district; and
  - (ii) the development and delivery of public health services in the local government district; and
- d. identify how, based on available evidence, the objectives and policy priorities referred to in paragraph (c) are proposed to be achieved; and
- e. describe how the local government proposes to work with the Chief Health Officer and other bodies undertaking public health initiatives, projects and programmes to achieve the objectives and policy priorities referred to in paragraph (c); and
- f. include a strategic framework for the identification, evaluation and management of public health risks in the local government district and any other matters relating to public health risks in the local government district —
  - (i) that the local government considers appropriate to include in the plan; or
  - (ii) that are required to be included in the plan by the Chief Health Officer or the regulations; and
- g. include a report, in accordance with the regulations, on the performance by the local government of its functions under this Act.

**Public  
Health  
Act 2016**



**Public  
Health  
Plan**



**Implementation**





# Introduction

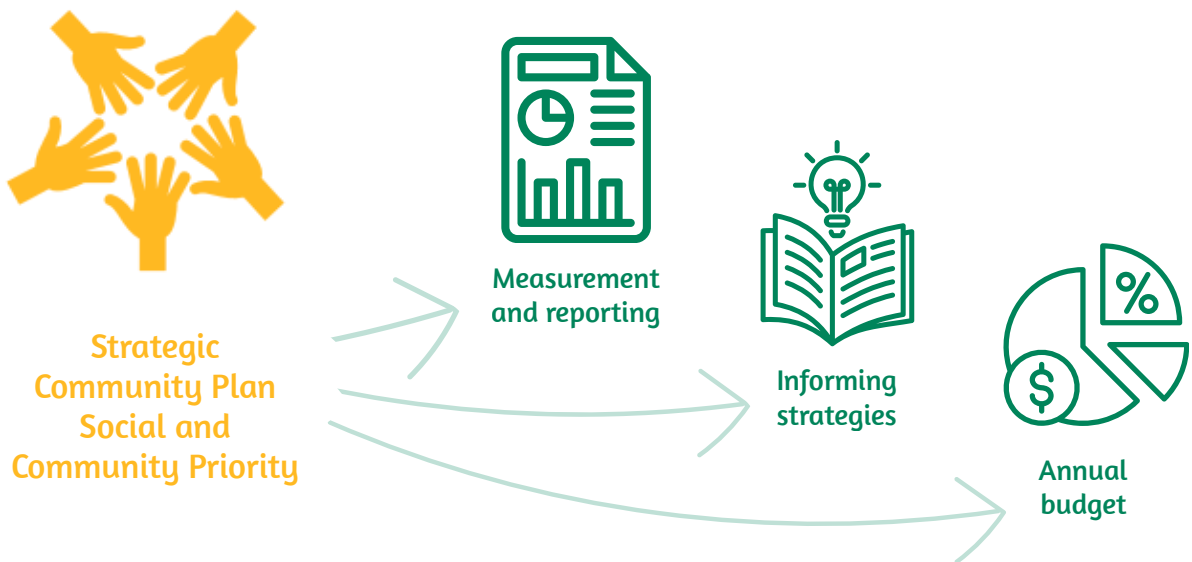
## Plan Alignment

Local public health planning complements the integrated planning and reporting framework required under section 5.56 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Part 5, regulation 19C of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, which require local governments to develop a Strategic Community Plan supported by informing strategies.

The Shire of Boyup Brook Public Health Plan is aligned with the Strategic Community Plan 2021-2031 and the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2024-2029, ensuring that public health considerations are embedded across whole-of-community planning. These strategic documents collectively guide the Shire's long-term vision and strengthen the local government's capacity to plan for the diverse and evolving needs of the community.

The Strategic Community Plan serves as the key document that translates community aspirations into operational actions, service delivery priorities, and resource allocation. The Public Health Plan is informed by this plan, supporting an integrated and coordinated approach to improving health and wellbeing outcomes.

The Public Health Plan aligns with a range of identified community objectives, contributing to a welcoming, inclusive, and healthy community, and reflecting the Shire's vision of growing our community together.



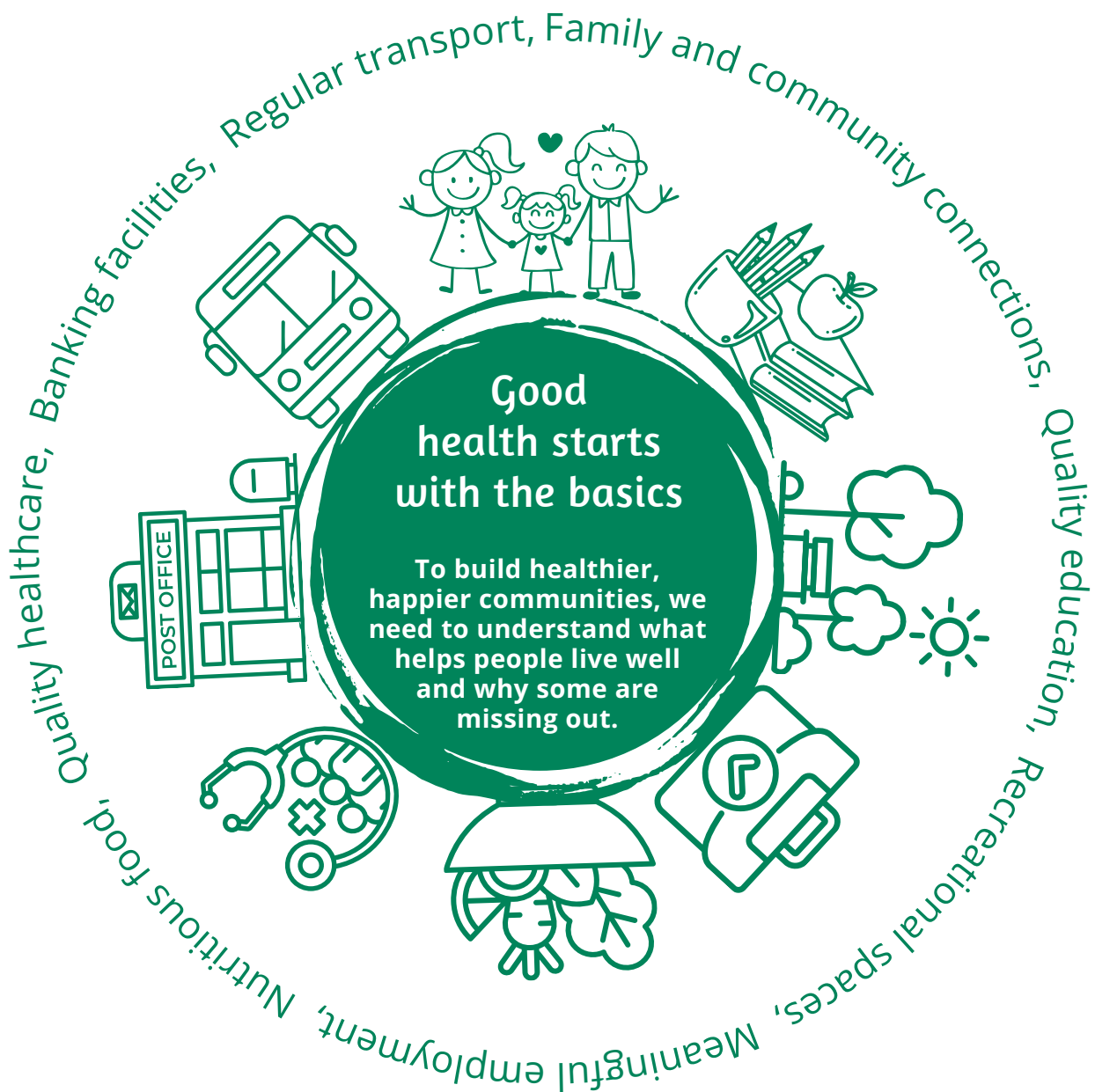


# Introduction

## Social and commercial determinants of health

Public health is about ensuring communities have fair access to the resources that support good health. These resources are referred to as the social determinants of health – like education, employment, housing, and healthcare. They are resources shaped by broader social and commercial factors.

The commercial determinants of health are the ways businesses impact public health – positively or negatively.<sup>6</sup> For example, harmful industries like tobacco, alcohol, and unhealthy food and drink negatively contribute to health risks.



Local governments play a key role in addressing these factors. The Shire aims to work with public health partners and community groups to strengthen health and well-being of the community.



## Our Community

The Shire of Boyup Brook is a rural local government area located in the South West region of Western Australia, covering approximately 3,000 square kilometres. The community is characterised by low population density, dispersed farming properties, and a small central township that serves as the primary hub for services, employment, education, and social connection. This geographic context is a key consideration under the *Public Health Act 2016*, particularly in relation to environmental health, access to services, and health equity.

Agriculture is the dominant economic activity within the Shire, with sheep farming forming the foundation of the local economy alongside broad acre farming. Employment patterns are closely linked to seasonal and climatic conditions, influencing income stability, work-related health risks, and stress levels for farming families. Agricultural work environments present specific public health considerations, including injury risk, exposure to environmental hazards, and the impacts of climate variability such as drought and extreme weather events.

The population of Boyup Brook is relatively small and stable, with a higher proportion of older adults and long-term residents compared to metropolitan areas. This demographic profile influences health determinants such as access to healthcare, housing suitability, transport availability, and social support networks. An ageing population increases demand for preventative health measures, chronic disease management, and age-friendly community infrastructure.





## Our Community

Social determinants of health in Boyup Brook are strongly shaped by community connectedness and participation. Small local schools, sporting clubs, volunteer organisations, and community groups play a central role in fostering social cohesion, mental wellbeing, and resilience. Sporting and community activities are particularly important protective factors in a geographically dispersed community, helping to reduce social isolation and support positive health outcomes.

Environmental determinants of health include the rural landscape, distance from regional centres, and reliance on private transport. Access to health and allied services is more limited than in metropolitan areas, with residents often required to travel significant distances for specialist care. Transport barriers, workforce availability, and service accessibility can disproportionately affect older residents, young people, and those living on remote properties.

The built environment within the township influences opportunities for physical activity, community safety, and social interaction. Public spaces, recreational facilities, and community infrastructure are important enablers of healthy behaviours and wellbeing, consistent with the preventive focus of the Public Health Act 2016.



Overall, Boyup Brook is a resilient rural community with strong social networks and a shared agricultural identity. Public health planning within the Shire must consider the interaction between social, economic, environmental, and built determinants of health, and prioritise prevention, early intervention, and community-led approaches to improve and protect the health and wellbeing of residents across the lifespan.



# Our Community

## Community Profile



**Population 1,702**



Male 50%

Median Age 49 years



Female 50%



### Family Composition



Couple without children 53.7%



Couple with children 36.4%



One parent family 10%



### Indigenous Status



Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander 2.3%



Non-Indigenous 85.4%



Indigenous status not stated 12.6%



### CALD



Households that speak a non-English language 1.1%



### Education Standards



Bachelor Degree 10.4%



Diploma 7.4%



Certificate IV 2.3%



Certificate III 14.2%



### Industry & Employment



Sheep Farming 16.5%



Grain Farming 8.8%



Beef Cattle 7.8%



Local Government 4.1%



Retail 3.3%



### Disability Status



People who identify as having a disability 14.6%



People who need assistance with core activities 5.2%













# Our Community

## Our Health

The Shire of Boyup Brook Health Profile 2011–2020, prepared by the Epidemiology Directorate of the Department of Health WA in collaboration with the Public Health Advisory Group, provided key local health data to inform the Plan. This included analysis of health behaviours, health status, risk factors, injuries, vaccination rates, environmental health measures, and safety data. The Local Government Injury Report provided by Injury Matters, has also been referenced providing data and facts in relation to hospitalisations, by injury category.

Examination of this data identified the priority public health areas for the Shire.

	Health outcome	Our local government prevalence	Western Australia (comparison for context)
	Smoke tobacco daily	11%	10.7%
	Overweight	35.1%	34.95%
	Obese	35.1%	34.95%
	Eat recommended serves of fruit daily	5.3%	49.9%
	Have recommended amount of physical activity per week	51%	48.1%
	Eat fast-food at least weekly	10.4%	23.9%
	High risk alcohol harm use with long-term harm	21.6%	24%
	Mental health diagnosis	11.4%	15.53%
	Injury related hospitalisations - accidental falls	1.038%	1.15%
	Notifiable infectious diseases (sexually transmitted - average males/female)	8.2%	6.1%



# Our Community

## Our Health

### Climate change and environment indicators

### Our local government



proportion of population living outside of town

70%



High UV exposure

Possibly high due to rural lifestyle



Extreme weather events (heatwave)

Becoming more frequent



Air quality

Generally good/low pollution



Drinking water quality in town

Meets Australian guidelines



Drinking water outside of town

May not meet guidelines



Environmental Health services

Part time Officer at LG

The [Australian Food Atlas](http://www.australianfoodatlas.org) offers a suite of interactive dashboards that map, measure and monitor food access across local government areas. Access is available to local government employees. It is currently free of charge to these registered users. Access the Australian Food Atlas at [www.australianfoodatlas.org](http://www.australianfoodatlas.org).





# Our Community

## Community engagement and support

Development of the Plan involved consultation across Shire service areas, Council, community members, and external stakeholders. While survey response were limited, insights from ongoing engagement across other Shire focus areas were incorporated.

This included feedback from the drafting of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, consultations with local sporting groups, and discussions at emergency management meetings. These contributions ensured the Plan reflects local needs, strengths, and opportunities, and supports coordinated and collaborative action across the community.

## Equity and inclusion

This is an opportunity for targeted engagement and action to empower community groups who may benefit most from support. These include but are not limited to:

- People experiencing socio-economic disadvantage
- People living in rural and remote areas
- People with disability
- People living with a mental health condition
- LGBTQIA+ people
- People of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) backgrounds



## Aboriginal health and wellbeing

While the Shire Public Health Plan doesn't specifically identify the application of Aboriginal health and wellbeing, the concept is integrated across all other objectives, and outcomes, and will be continually considered in every public health initiative to ensure an aboriginal cultural lens is applied where relevant.





## Our Plan

The Shire has developed a Plan that focuses on four key areas, which were established based on an overview of the health profile data and health determinants of people in the Shire of Boyup Brook. Local consultation from a range of community engagement sessions and linked to the priorities of the Shire Strategic Plan.



Each objective has identified priority areas and actions, together with expected outcomes that will impact change. These actions incorporate existing Shire services and initiatives that contribute to public health and community wellbeing, while also identifying areas for future focus and promotion.

### **Our commitment to the health and wellbeing of our staff**

The Shire of Boyup Brook is the local government area's largest single employer, employing more than 50 full-time staff. A healthy workforce is essential to effective service delivery and is characterised by engagement, resilience, and a reduced risk of workplace injury and chronic disease.

The Shire recognises its responsibility to support the health, wellbeing, and safety of its workforce and demonstrates this commitment through the implementation of a Work Health and Safety Management Plan and an employee health and wellbeing program. These initiatives support a safe working environment and promote positive physical and mental health outcomes.

Shire staff are encouraged and supported to maintain and improve their health through a range of workplace initiatives. These include free recreation centre membership, access to peer support and confidential counselling services for employees and their family members, volunteering support, vaccination programs, occupational health and safety training, ergonomically designed workspaces, health checks, and initiatives to support the reduction of alcohol and tobacco use.



# Our Plan

## Implementation

The Public Health Plan will assist future health related policy and project development within the Shire. It is acknowledged that many factors affecting health fall outside the scope of local government and that the delivery of many health services are facilitated by external agencies.

Where possible, partnerships will be developed with other government agencies (i.e. WA Department of Health), service providers, local organisations, non-government agencies and the community to advocate for improved services and build relationships to address existing and emerging public health issues.

The role of the Shire will vary depending on the scope of the expected outcome and if it is within the shires remit. However local government can influence and contribute in a variety of ways across various platforms.

These will include, but are not limited to:

- Facilitating initiatives and collaboration
- Educating the community and stakeholders
- Delivering services and programs
- Advocating for community needs
- Regulating in accordance with legislation and
- Partnering with relevant organisations and sectors





# Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

## Reporting

Under the Act, local governments are to review their public health plans each year and replace them no later than five years after their implementation. Regulations governing the reporting requirements of local public health plans are still being developed by the WA Department of Health.

The annual review will monitor the implementation of the action plan and will include:

- a review of demographics and health data to ensure priorities remain current
- monitoring of the implementation in accordance with the schedule
- a review of the strategies to ensure they remain relevant and are producing the desired outcomes
- horizon scanning
- a review of State plans to ensure alignment of priorities
- amendment and updating of the plan to reflect changes

The progress of the plan will be reported to Council annually and also incorporated into the Shire's integrated planning framework.

## Implementation

In accordance with section 22 of the *Public Health Act 2016 (WA)*, local governments are required to report to the Chief Health Officer on the performance of functions under the *Public Health Act 2016 (WA)*.





## Appendices

### Appendix 2: References and relevant government legislation

There are numerous public health centric legislative instruments designed to protect the health and wellbeing of Western Australians. They cover issues such as food safety, water quality, injury prevention, controlled substances and tobacco control.

Acts assigned to the Minister for Health include:

*Public Health Act 2016*  
*Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911*  
*Food Act 2008*  
*Medicines and Poisons Act 2014*  
*Tobacco Products Control Act 2006*  
*Health Services Act 2016*  
*Radiation Safety Act 1975*  
*Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1966*

Other Acts that directly or significantly impact or influence public health include:

*Building Act 2011*  
*Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995*  
*Contaminated Sites Act 2003*  
*Emergency Management Act 2005*  
*Environmental Protection Act 1986*  
*Liquor Control Act 1988*  
*Local Government Act 1995*  
*Planning and Development Act 2007*  
*Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*

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## Appendices

### Appendix 2: References and relevant government legislation

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Opening hours: Monday - Friday  
9.00am - 4.30pm



[www.boyupbrook.wa.gov.au](http://www.boyupbrook.wa.gov.au)



The Shire of Boyup Brook is an inclusive and equal opportunity employer that values and respects diversity in the workplace.

