

HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2023-2028

Engagement Report

By Jamie-Lee Gale (Community Development Planner)

1. Overview

Public health planning is soon to be a mandatory requirement under Part 5 of the new Public Health Act 2016, replacing the Health Act 1911. The Public Health Act requires each local government to produce a '*public health plan that applies to its local district*' and must be part of the overall strategic and corporate planning and reporting framework.

The purpose of public health planning is to take a proactive approach to preventative health with a focus on achieving long-term public health outcomes. The Town's Public Health Plan will be elevated to incorporate the Community Development Strategy creating one strategy for the Town with a working title of Health and Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy).

The existing Healthy Vic Park Plan 2017-2022 concluded in June 2022 and a new Strategy is now being developed for 2023-2028. The outgoing Healthy Vic Park Plan had three objectives, which were based on the results of community and stakeholder engagement undertaken in 2016:

- To provide healthy places and spaces to encourage and support healthy lifestyle opportunities
- To guide and encourage our community to lead healthier lifestyles through the provision of lifestyle and educational opportunities
- To educate and empower our local businesses and events in prioritising the health of our community

The Town's new Health and Wellbeing Strategy will be actioned over a five-year timeframe, 2023-2028. This is irrespective of the resources that may or may not be available to complete the actions outlined in the Strategy. For this reason, it is important to identify the community health and wellbeing needs for the Town and establish priorities and strategies for a five-year period whilst aligning to the State Public Health Plan. This report provides a snapshot of the consultation process undertaken to date, what we have learned, the draft vision for the Strategy, and key focus areas.

2. Consultation

Internal working group

An internal working group of 13 key staff was established to represent all service areas within the organisation directly impacting with public health. Staff participated in a two-hour hybrid workshop on 22 November 2022 where they identified how their service area fits within public health and further clarified themes for the new Plan to capture the Town's possible public health priorities. Key themes that emerged included activating and encouraging inclusive and safe spaces, empowering and enabling community to live healthy lives, a healthy and active community, and providing preventative health measures for the community.

Elected Members consultation

Elected Members (EM) were consulted at Concept Forum on 6 December 2022 and again via the EM portal in March 2023. Within the Concept Forum the following public health priorities emerged:

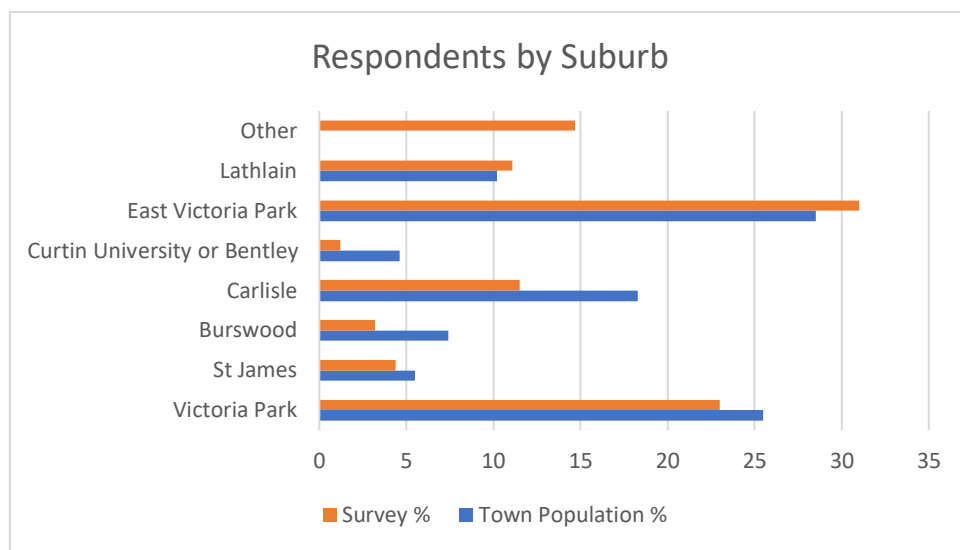


Community survey responses

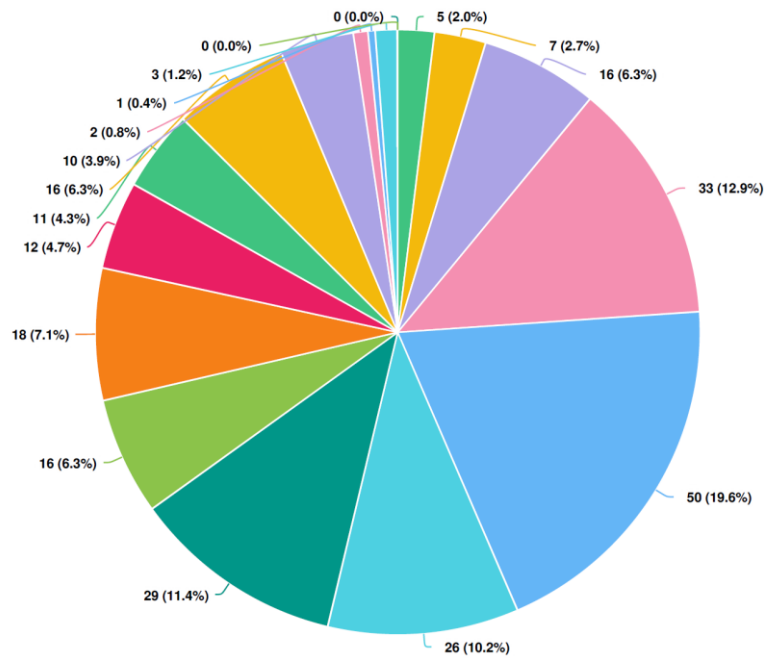
The Community were invited to provide feedback on public health priorities via the Town's *Your Thoughts* platform, with 260 submissions received over the four-week period between 3 April to 28 April 2023.

Demographics:

- Suburb – 65.1% of respondents live in East Victoria Park, Lathlain, and Victoria Park, while making up 64.2% of the Town's population, which may suggest a higher level of interest in this topic within this locality. Burswood and Bentley had significantly lower response rates than expected, whereas engagement from St James and Carlisle were consistent with their relative percentage in the Town of Victoria Park



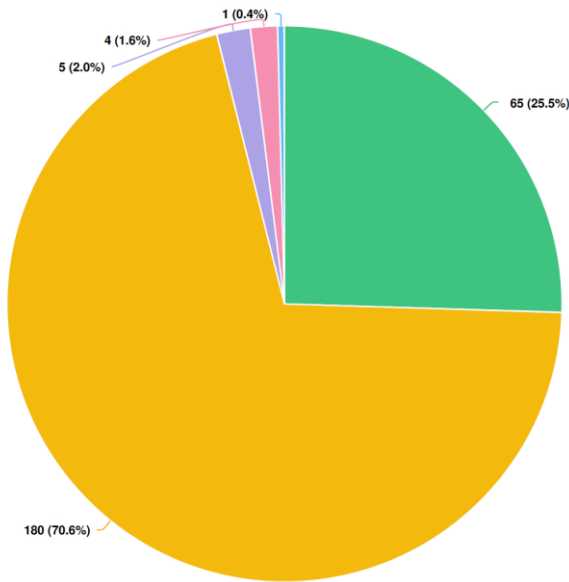
- Age range – 60.4% of respondents were between 25-49, while making up 43.2% of the Town's population, which may suggest a higher level of interest. The most responsive group between 35-39 years.



Question options

- 15-19
- 20-24
- 25-29
- 30-34
- 35-39
- 40-44
- 45-49
- 50-54
- 55-59
- 60-64
- 65-69
- 70-74
- 75-79
- 80-84
- 85 or older
- Prefer not to say
- Under 10
- 10-14

- Gender – Females responded 2.5 times as much as males, making up nearly 3/4 of responses. Non-binary, other and people preferring not to say, made up 4% of respondents.



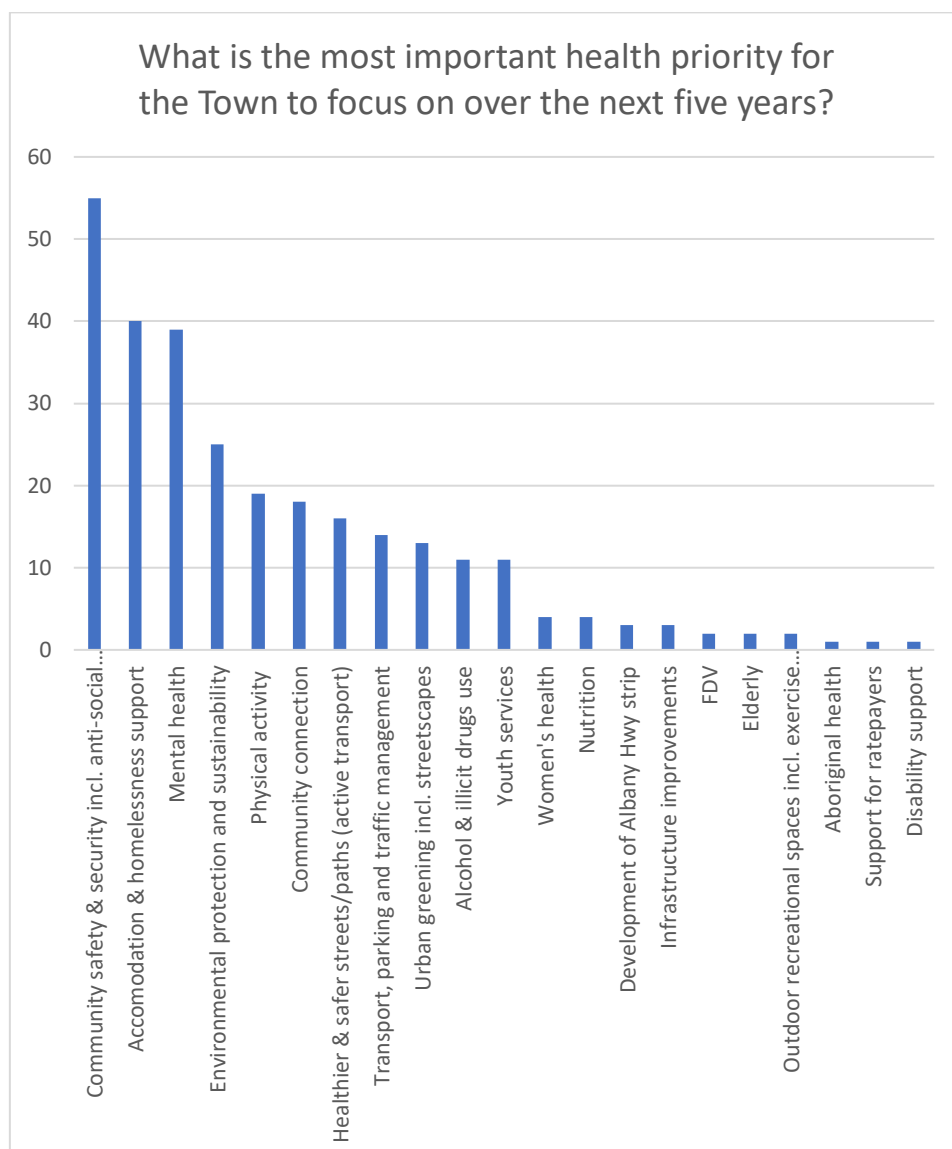
Question options

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

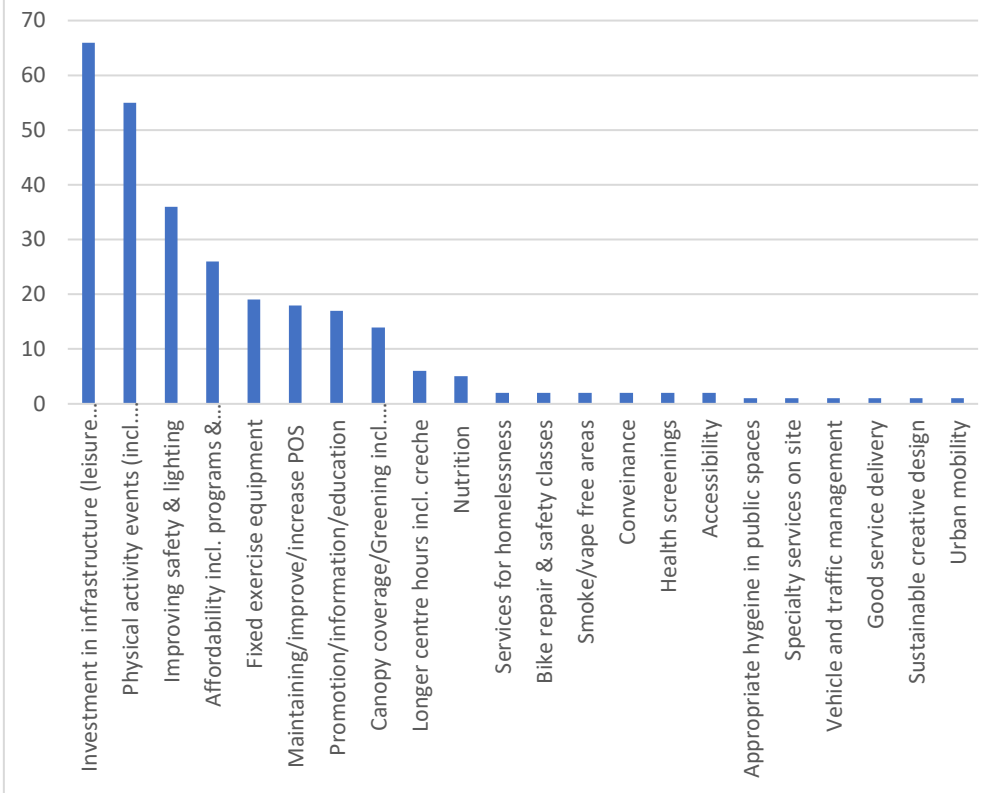
Key findings:

- Community safety and security including anti-social behaviour and lighting was considered the most important public health priority for the Town to focus on over the next five years. Majority of feedback specifically on John Macmillan Park and surrounds.

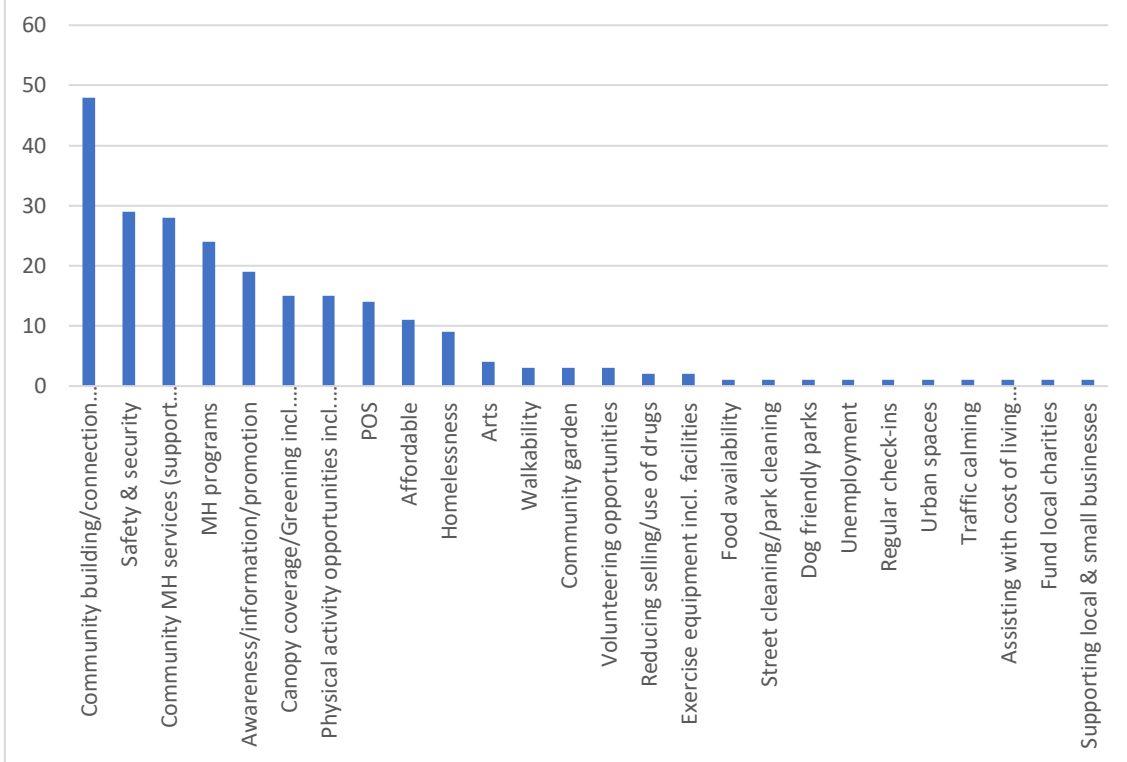
- Community would like more support, information and programs within the Town focusing on mental health initiatives.
- Accommodation and homelessness support was considered within the top 5 priorities for the Town to focus on over the next five years.
- Community believes more connected and safer bike paths, active spaces including fixed exercise equipment, and direct program deliverables within the Town will help improve the community's physical health.
- The community believe community connection is a top public health priority. This is through volunteering opportunities/support in the Town and more Town led events which bring the community together.
- Environmental protection and sustainability are important to the community. Residents would like healthy streets, sustainable creative design, streetscapes, and urban greening.



How can the Town better support the community's physical health?



How can the Town better support the community's mental health?



3. Vision for 2023-2028 Strategy

In addition to specific public health consultation, engagement feedback from community members, key stakeholders, and service providers from 2021-2022 was also reviewed and analysed including but not exclusive to:

- Strategic Community Plan
- Safer Neighbourhoods Plan
- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Access and Inclusion Plan
- Strategic Infrastructure Plan

From review of the feedback from the above Plans, a number of public health priorities were evident and from what we heard, the community wanted to see:

- Environmental protection and sustainability
- Community safety and security, especially lighting
- Urban greening including streetscapes
- Transport, parking, and traffic management
- Community connection
- Development of Albany Highway strip

Additionally, data from the Town's social needs analysis and health profile data, identified the following health focus areas:

- Mental health
- Nutrition
- Physical activity levels
- Illicit drug and injury attributable hospitalisations
- Accommodation and homelessness support
- Youth services
- Family and domestic violence (FDV) services

As a result, aligning the recent public health consultation with other community consultation feedback and health profile data, three key focus areas are continuously emphasised and are proposed to be the key pillars of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-2028. This focus will help the Town to engage with and achieve desired long-term public health and wellbeing outcomes whilst aligning to State Public Health Plan and the Town's Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032.

HEALTHY & ACTIVE	EMPOWERED & CONNECTED	SAFE & RESILIENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical activity including fixed exercise equipment • Mental Health • Nutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active transport and infrastructure • Social connection and wellbeing • Volunteering opportunities and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer streets and spaces specifically John Macmillan Precinct • Environmental protection and sustainability • Accomodation and homelessness support

4. Next steps

DATE	DESCRIPTION
May 2023	Analysis of engagement
May 2023	Concept Forum for Elected Members to provide feedback before draft of Strategy
May-June 2023	Development of Strategy
4 July 2023	ABF
18 July 2023	CF - Draft Strategy presented to Council at ABF for approval to advertise for public comment
July-August 2023	Open the draft Strategy for public feedback for 3-weeks
August-September 2023	Strategy revised based on final comments
October 2023	Final Strategy developed and presented to Council for endorsement at OCM (post caretaker period)
November 2023	Inform community and stakeholders that the Strategy has been adopted and how it will be implemented