

COUNCIL ROLE STATEMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH



BACKGROUND

Public health incorporates a range of physical, mental, environmental and social elements that contribute to health and wellbeing, such as availability of medical facilities; urban design that encourages active lifestyles; a clean environment; and sense of belonging to a community.

The South Australian Public Health Act 2011 (the Act) replaces the South Australian Public and Environmental Health Act 1987 and aims to promote public health and reduce the incidence of preventable illness, injury and disability.

A key element of the Act is the requirement for public health planning at both the State and regional levels. The South Australian Government released its first State Public Health Plan in 2013, which identifies the following four priority areas that are to be the basis for further planning and action by governments, public health agencies and the health system:

- Stronger and Healthier Communities and Neighbourhoods for All Generations
- Increasing Opportunities for Healthy Living, Healthy Eating and Being Active
- Preparing for Climate Change
- Sustaining and Improving Public and Environmental Health Protection

Under the new Act, regions (councils) are also required to prepare Public Health Plans. The Plans should be reviewed at least once every five years and councils will be required to submit progress reports to the Chief Public Health Officer every two years. Public Health Plans prepared by councils should:

- Assess the state of public health in the region.
- Identify existing and potential public health risks.
- Identify strategies for addressing public health risks.
- Identify opportunities for health promotion.
- Address any public health issues specified by the Minister.

Accordingly, the City of Playford has prepared a Public Health Directions Report to satisfy its statutory obligation under the Act, which also forms the basis for this Council Role Statement.

PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTIONS REPORT

The Public Health Directions Report recognises that the City of Playford's residents generally have poorer health when compared with the metropolitan Adelaide population. Poorer health outcomes have been linked to lower socio-economic characteristics such as lower levels of education, employment, income and housing security – matters which impact many Playford residents.

More information about Playford's health profile can be found within the Public Health Directions Report or for a more comprehensive analysis, refer to the 2013 *Population Health Profile of the Playford Local Government Area to assist in the preparation of the Regional Public Health Plan* prepared by the University of Adelaide.

The Public Health Directions Report outlines what Council is already doing in relation to public health and identifies a number of areas where more focus is required (that link to the four priority areas identified by the State Government). These are referred to as the 'Playford Public Health Priority Areas'.

PLAYFORD PRIORITY AREAS

The Playford Public Health Priority Areas were identified through discussions with staff and stakeholders during the preparation of the Public Health Direction Report. The matters identified provide a starting place for Council and stakeholders to work towards improved health outcomes for the community. It should be noted that the 15 Priority Areas do not undermine the importance of actions and strategies identified in other strategic documents, or aims of other Council projects and services.

The different roles of Council in achieving the Playford Public Health Priority Areas are defined below:

Leader / Planner	Development of strategies, policies, programs and services that respond to relevant trends and influences.
Owner/Custodian	Management of assets that are under the care and control of Council. This includes management of social, physical and green infrastructure assets.
Regulator	Undertaking responsibilities pursuant to relevant legislation (e.g. food and health premise compliance).
Information Provider	Provision of information to the general community and identified stakeholders.
Advocate	Advocacy to relevant bodies (e.g. making representations on behalf of the community to relevant bodies, such as other tiers of government).
Facilitator / Initiator	Bringing together and/or engaging with individuals, community groups, industry, government agencies and other stakeholders to address issues impacting (or potentially impacting) on the city.
Agent	Managing the provision of a service on behalf of a third party, such as State or Commonwealth governments.
Direct Provider	Delivery of a service, project or program in full by Council, with no resource or funding support from external parties.
Part Funder / Partner	Service or project in which Council works with another organisation to fund and/or deliver an outcome.

The Playford Public Health Priority Areas are summarised below along with relevant stakeholders that will likely be involved in achieving the desired outcomes and Council's role(s). The Playford Public Health Priority Areas are grouped under the four State Government Priority Areas. More detail about the Playford Public Health Priority Areas can be found in Table 2 of the Public Health Directions Report.

PLAYFORD PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITY AREAS	RELEVANT STAKEHOLDER AGENCIES	COUNCIL'S ROLE
Stronger and Healthier Communities and Neighbourhoods for all Generations		
1. Identification of strategic actions to assist with 'closing the gap' for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.	Reconciliation Australia / South Australia Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement (Department of Premier and Cabinet) Northern Connections NAML	Leader / Planner Facilitator / Initiator
2. Improved local education, training and employment opportunities.	Universities TAFE Department of State Development NAML	Advocate Facilitator / Initiator

Council Role Statement – Public Health

PLAYFORD PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITY AREAS	RELEVANT STAKEHOLDER AGENCIES	COUNCIL'S ROLE
3. Continue to improve engagement with the community, particularly regarding provision of educational health information and promotion of community events or services.	NAML Northern Connections SA Health/State Government Non-government service providers	Information Provider Facilitator /Initiator Direct Service Provider Agent Part funder / Partner
4. Provision of ongoing, funded and coordinated mental health services.	NAML Northern Connections SA Health/State Government Non-government service providers	Advocate Information Provider
Increasing Opportunities for Healthy Living, Healthy Eating and Being Active		
5. High quality public transport provision.	Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure Adelaide Metro Renewal SA	Advocate
6. Continued resourcing of health education and preventative health programs.	State Government Commonwealth Government	Advocate Agent Part funder / Partner
7. Investigations into the establishment of edible landscapes.	Police and Community Together (PACT) Group Community groups (e.g. Playford Alive Community Reference Group, schools etc)	Leader / Planner Facilitator
8. Increasing opportunities for informal or incidental activity.	Office of Recreation and Sport Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure NAML	Leader / Planner Facilitator Direct Service Provider Part-funder / Partner
9. Retention and promotion of the Virginia and Adelaide Plains horticultural areas for locally produced fruit and vegetables.	Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure Primary Industries and Regions SA Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board Barossa Regional Development Australia District Council of Mallala Hortex	Advocate Part Funder/Partner Leader / Planner
Preparing for Climate Change		
10. Stormwater management and flood mitigation planning.	Natural Resources Management Board (Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources) Stormwater Management Authority Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure	Leader / Planner Facilitator Part Funder / Partner
11. Investigation into 'future proofing' Council's green infrastructure assets.	Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources	Leader / Planner Owner / custodian

PLAYFORD PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITY AREAS	RELEVANT STAKEHOLDER AGENCIES	COUNCIL'S ROLE
Sustaining and Improving Public and Environmental Health Protection		
12. Training for Council Environmental Health Officers in line with the new Public Health Act.	SA Health Local Government Association	Regulator
13. Support for the recently formed Northern Hoarding and Squalor Group that aims for an integrated approach to tackling hoarding and squalor issues.	State Government Northern councils RSPCA Non-government service providers NAML	Regulator Advocate
14. Future mosquito prevention and education program for Buckland Park.	SA Health	Facilitator Part- funder / Partner Information Provider Regulator
15. Connection of existing and expanding urban areas in Virginia and Angle Vale to SA Water mains sewer connections.	SA Water	Facilitator Regulator

The City of Playford community is a resilient and active community that, together with Council, State Government and other relevant agencies will strive to collaboratively work towards achieving improved health outcomes into the future.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be found in the following documents (a more comprehensive reference list can be found in the City of Playford Public Health Directions Report).

- City of Playford (2014) *Public Health Directions Report*.
- Government of South Australia (2013) *[State Public Health Plan] South Australia: A Better Place to Live* prepared by SA Health.
- Parliament of South Australia (2011) *South Australian Public Health Act*.
- Local Government Association (2013) *Population Health Profile of the Playford Local Government Area to assist in the preparation of the Regional Public Health Plan*, prepared by the University of Adelaide.

DOCUMENT DETAILS

Title	Council Role Statement - Public Health
Responsible Officer	General Manager – Planning, Strategy and Compliance
Endorsement Date	
Endorsed By	Ordinary Council
Next Review Due	5 years