



Yarriambiack Shire Council

Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan

2013-2017

*Working together to ensure a
Healthy Rural Lifestyle.*



Shire Map



Travel distances from Warracknabeal...

Adelaide	431km
Ballarat	230km
Bendigo	205km
Grampians	129km
Horsham	58km
Melbourne	342km
Mildura	254km



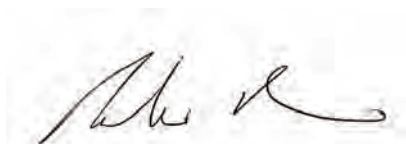
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Foreword

Message from the Mayor

"It is no secret that Australia is facing some of its biggest health challenges in recent history. The ever growing obesity crisis, sharply increasing levels of dementia, warmer temperatures and unprecedented rates of depression. Each level of government has its own place to play in helping our citizens live happier and healthier lives, and it is my great pleasure to introduce the plans that the Shire of Yarriambiack has made for their part in this process. As with all of our Shire plans, we welcome your feedback and any ideas that you may have. Please feel free to contact the Shire offices or your elected representatives if you have something that you would like to see added."



Cr Andrew McLean
Mayor
Yarriambiack Shire Council

Introduction

Role and Purpose of the Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan

The purpose of this plan is to outline actions that Council will undertake to improve the health and wellbeing of the community. The Plan is required under Section 26 of the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.

Under the Act, a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan must:

- Include an examination of data about health status and health determinants in the municipal district.
- Identify goals and strategies based on available evidence for creating a local community in which people can achieve maximum health and wellbeing.
- Provide for the involvement of people in the local community in the development, implementation and evaluation of the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.
- Specify how the Council will work in partnership with the department and other agencies undertaking public health initiatives, projects and programs to accomplish the goals and strategies identified in the public health and wellbeing plan.

The Victorian Climate Change Act 2010 was developed to address the Government's response to climate change mitigation and adaption and require key Government decision-makers to have regard to climate change when making specific decisions. Yarriambiack Shire Council recognises that they play a vital leadership role in assisting local communities to adapt to the long term physical impacts presented by climate change (LGA, 2013).

The State Government has predicted the following climate change impacts for Yarriambiack Shire:

- Increased temperatures, particularly during summer months;
- Reduced rainfall, with the greatest reduction in Spring.
- Increased intensity of rain events, however, reduction in the number of rainy days.

Increasing temperatures and lower annual rainfall will result in water being a predominant issue for Council, the community and primary producers in the future. Consequently, these matters have been taken into consideration during the preparation and planning of the strategies to be implemented as part of this plan. Additional measures to be explored by Council that are not documented in this plan include water harvesting and solar energy schemes.

Links to other Plans

Council's Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is one of Council's key strategic plans and is consistent with the Council Plan and the Municipal Strategic Statement by directly linking in with the Council Plan, the Health and Wellbeing Plan influences all Council policies, service plans and annual business unit plans.

The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2011 - 2015 was also considered in the development of the Goals and Actions within this Plan. Council has aligned this Plan with such documents to ensure success in the delivery of our actions.

Council's Role in Health and Wellbeing

Under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, the function of Councils is to seek to protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing within the municipal district by:

- creating an environment which supports the health of members of the local community and strengthens the capacity of the community and individuals to achieve better health;
- initiating, supporting and managing public health planning processes at the Local Government level;
- developing and implementing public health policies and programs within the municipal district;
- developing and enforcing up-to-date public health standards and intervening if the health of people within the municipal district is affected;
- facilitating and supporting local agencies whose work has an impact on public health and wellbeing to improve public health and wellbeing in the local community;
- co-ordinating and providing immunisation services to children living or being educated within the municipal district;
- ensuring that the municipal district is maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

Characteristics of the Community

DEMOGRAPHICS

3.1 The Locality

Yarriambiack Shire is located across the Wimmera and Mallee districts of North Western Victoria.

The current Yarriambiack Shire Council was formed on 19 January 1995 by the amalgamation of the former Shires of Karkarooc and Warracknabeal, most of the Shire of Dunmunkle and part of the Shire of Wimmera.

The region has a long history of settlement, with pastoral squatters first establishing runs in the 1840s, with settlers and townships following in the 1870s. The area has a strong Lutheran and German heritage.

Yarriambiack Shire covers an area of 7,310 square kilometres and has a population of approximately 7,082. Of the population, almost half the workforce is employed in agriculture.

Yarriambiack Shire is the heartland of grain production and handling in the Wimmera and Mallee. Dry-land farming from this region produces one quarter of Victoria's total production of wheat and barley. Legume and oilseed crops are also very important, along with lamb and wool production.

The road and rail network through the Shire form major links in cross country transport.

The major natural features are the Wyperfield National Park to the north, and the Yarriambiack Creek which winds its way through the Shire from north to south.

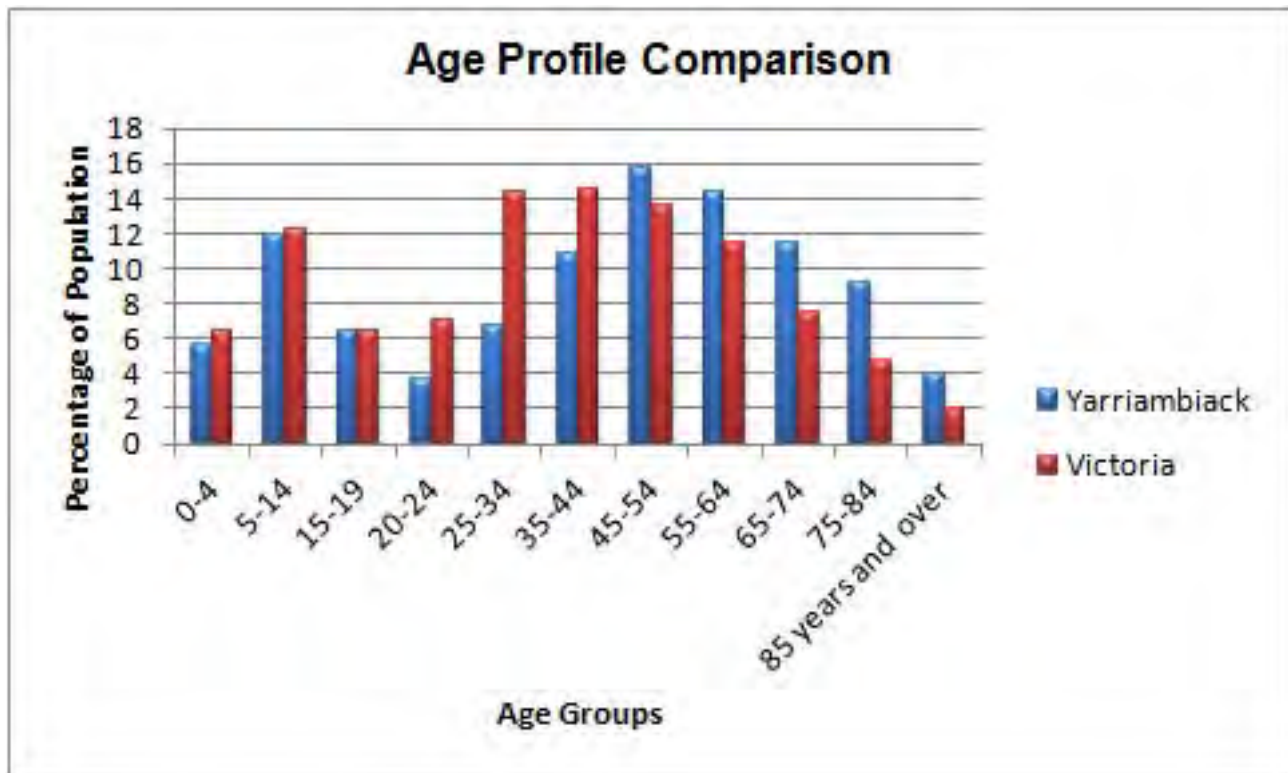
Natural and man-made lakes in the Shire attract tourism through recreation and wildlife.

3.2 The Communities

The population of Yarriambiack Shire Council is approximately 7,082. It is concentrated in a number of small towns which are made up of the following with a population of larger than 200 people. They consist of Warracknabeal (2,745), Murtoa (991), Hopetoun (555), Minyip (667), Rupanyup (549), and Beulah (201).

Towns under the population of 200 people consist of Woomelang, Speed, Patchewollock, Tempy, Lascelles, Yaapect, Brim, Lubeck, Turiff & Sheep Hills.

These towns are important economic and social centres for surrounding areas, providing commercial and community services to all Yarriambiack residents.



3.3 Distance and Isolation

- Low population density - around 1 person per sq kilometre
- Heavy reliance on roads - resulting in increased risk of motor vehicle accidents, difficulties with personal transport and accessing products and services.

3.4 Settled Population/Homogenous Population

A strongly homogeneous population can provide for strong community support, through shared values and experiences, however it also carries the risk that the needs of minority groups (often the most disadvantaged) are forgotten and that newcomers are seen as “outsiders”.

Very low percentage of persons from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds - meaning that individuals from these backgrounds are more likely to experience isolation not only from the mainstream, but also from their own cultural group.

3.5 Diminishing Population

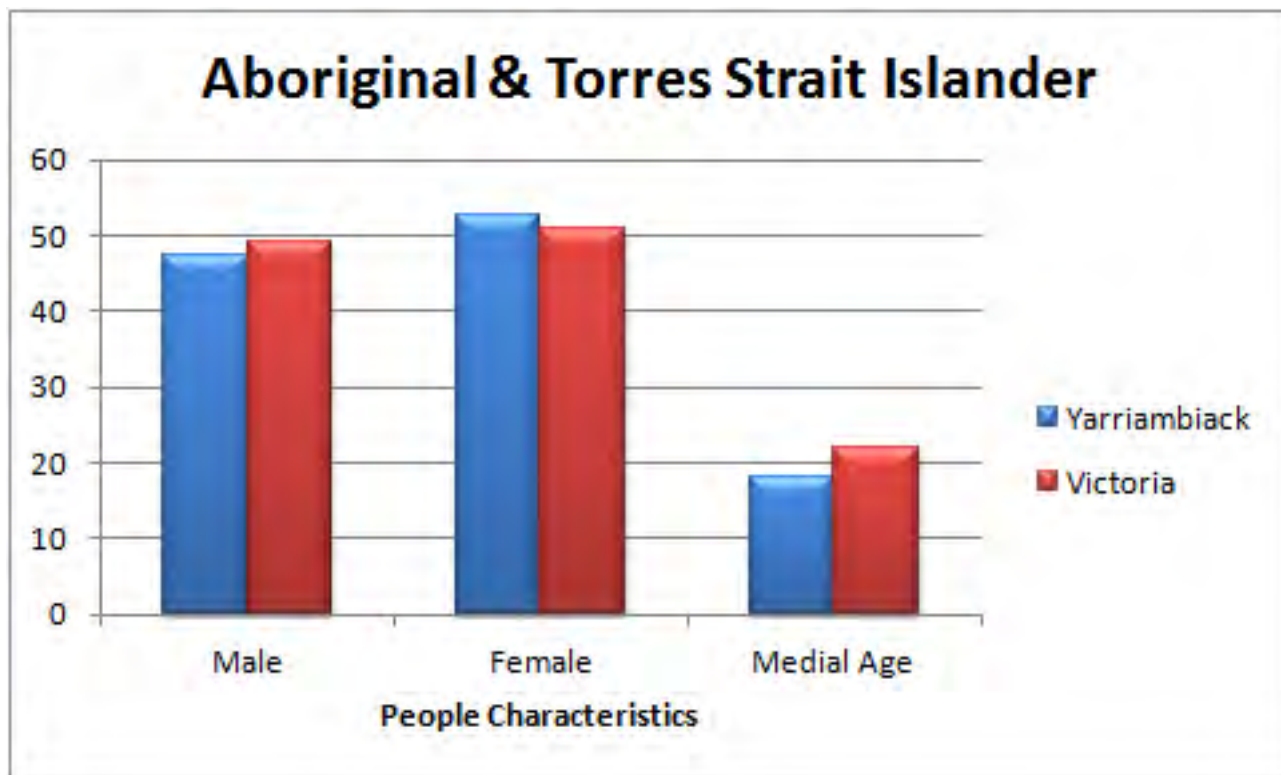
Declining population overall, with aging population increasing.

There has been a recent trend of movement into the region of individuals and families from urban centres, many from lower socio-economic backgrounds, influenced by low housing prices. The challenge then is for long term residents to develop a greater inclusiveness. New residents often find the support systems and agencies previously relied upon are not available and must develop individual living skills to establish connectedness within the community.

Yarriambiack has low unemployment figures compared to the state average, however this may be due to people leaving the area if they become unemployed to seek out increased training and employment opportunities. This may be particularly relevant to our younger residents.

3.6 Indigenous

From the 2011 Census in Yarriambiack, there were 74 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



3.7 Cultural Diversity

Country of Birth	Percentage 2011	Percentage 2006
Australia	87.7%	88.9%
Other countries	3.7%	4.9%
Not stated	8.6%	6.2%

The top 5 stated countries of birth, other than Australia, were England, New Zealand, Germany, India and Phillippines.

There are a number of languages spoken in the municipality. Languages spoken at home, other then English, include Malayan 0.3%, German 0.2%, Filipino 0.2%, Mandarin 0.2% and Arabic 0.2%.

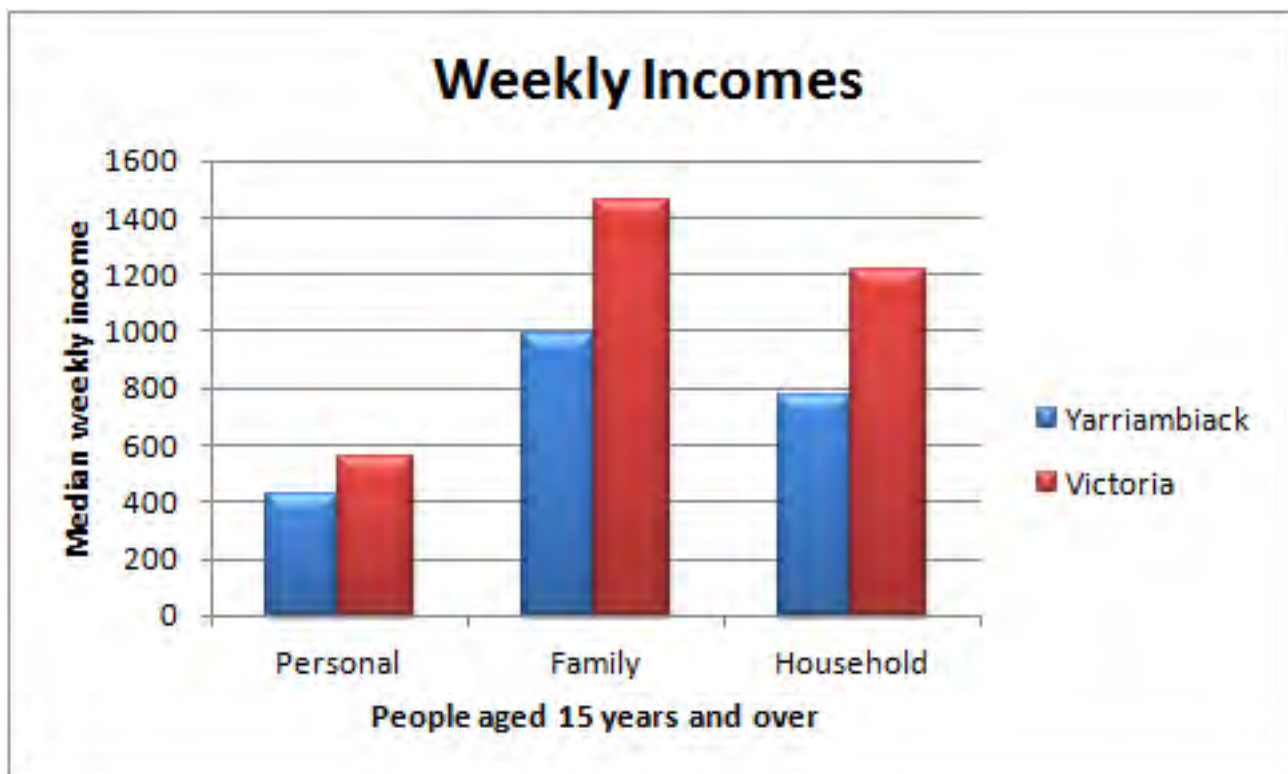
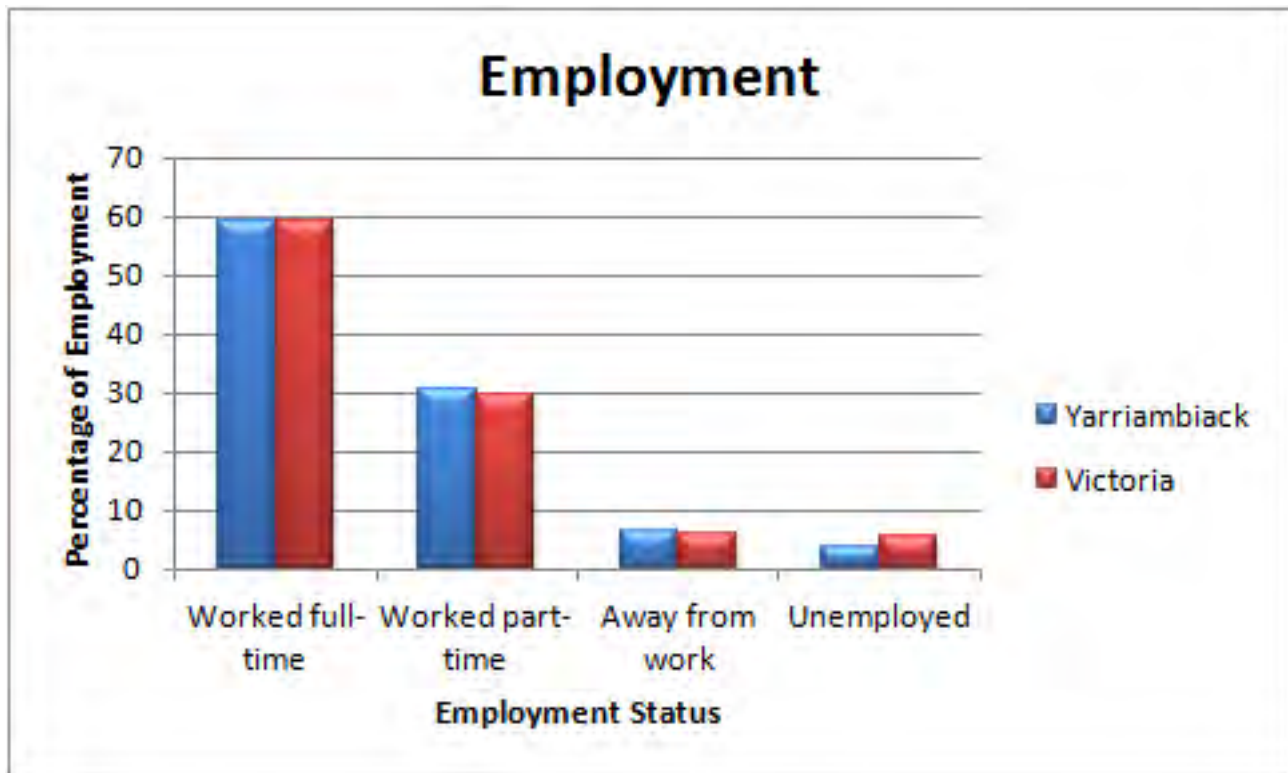
3.8 Economic Development

The Shire is well situated to serve the needs of local economies and communities and promote and facilitate increased public and private investment in developing its grain and related industries. Warracknabeal is the sub-regional centre for the northern Wimmera and southern Mallee, with excellent facilities for shopping, aged care, health, recreation and other commercial activities. The saleyards are an important selling feature. There are industrial estates with additional sites available for development.

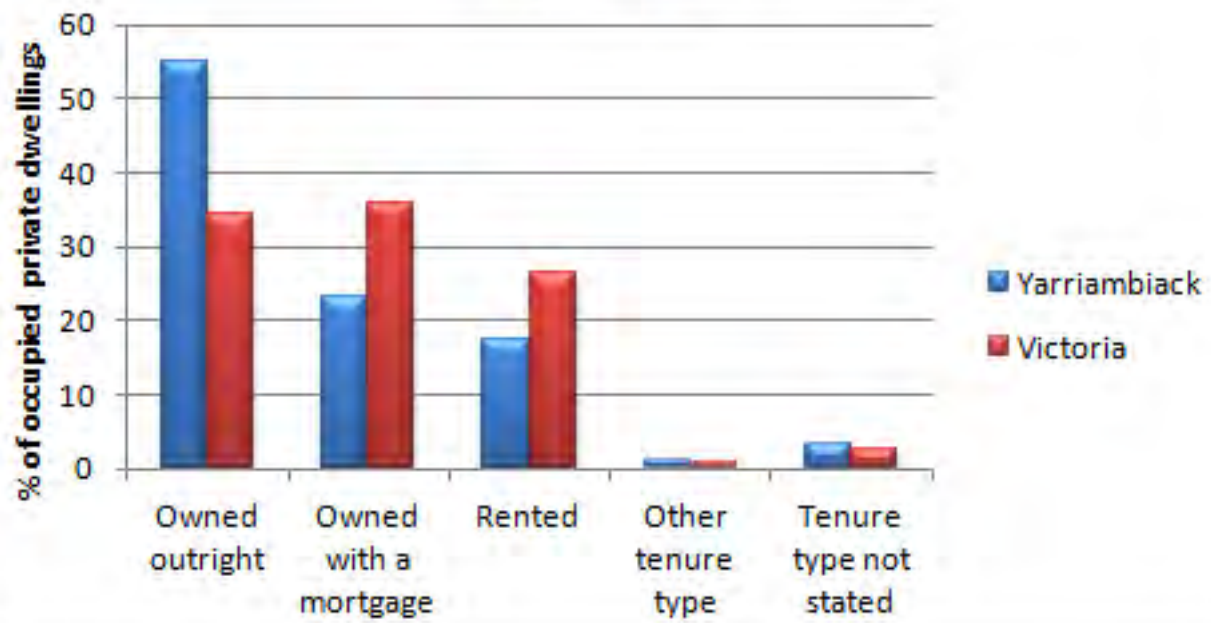
The Shire is the heartland of grain production and handling in the Wimmera/Mallee. The dry-land farming area produces one quarter of Victoria's total production of wheat and barley and is noted for the production of lambs and wool. Legume and oilseed crops are very important and alternative livestock enterprises are also well established.

3.9 Employment Opportunities

Of the population, almost half the workforce is employed in agriculture. Many other residents depend indirectly on farming, as they are employed in services used by the farming population. The population trends are remarkably similar to other areas across most of the Wimmera/ Mallee.



Tenure



Identifying the needs of the Community

Three main sources informed the Plan:

1. Statutory Responsibilities and Core Services

As part of its core business, Council undertakes key services and activities that protect and enhance the health of its population, many of which are statutory requirements of Local Government.

2. Community Concerns

Community consultation was undertaken by Wimmera Primary Care Partnerships to determine what issues and concerns were important to residents in the Shire on a local level. Community concerns and issues were identified through various statewide documents that are detailed throughout this plan.

This feedback identified strategies that Council could use to make positive change to improve the overall health and wellbeing of our residents. These strategies broadly fit under the following headings:

Local Action Priorities:

- Community Health & Wellbeing
- Built Environment
- Economic Development

3. State and Regional Concerns

Statistical data such as the Census statistics and the Wimmera Primary Care Partnerships Strategic Directions Plan identified possible areas of need on a state and regional level.

Regional Action Priorities:

- Physical Exercise
- Reduce Health Inequities
- Climate Change/Natural Disasters
- Mental Health
- Social Connectedness
- Support Migration

Priorities for Action

From these priorities 8 goals for action were developed. For each goal a range of strategies have been identified, these are outlined in part 5 of our plan.

In order to maximise health outcomes, the goals and strategies identify actions across all environmental dimensions; built/physical, social, economic and natural.

5. *Goal One*

TO CREATE SAFE, RESPECTFUL AND EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES

A safe and respectful environment is a key factor in maintaining the health and wellbeing of communities (DHS, 2011, p.8). This strategy will be two tiered and focus on the physical and psychological elements that enhance an individual's wellbeing. Factors to be considered include providing safe roads, footpaths and adequate street lighting in our communities. Council will also promote awareness around the ever increasing rates of domestic violence. Research has shown that one woman is killed each week in Australia by a current or former partner (MAV & VicHealth, 2013). Given the role Local Governments play in our communities, Council has the opportunity to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence in our local society.

STRATEGIES	PARTNERS	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY
Domestic Violence			
Collaborate with other local community welfare and health service organisations to support regional initiatives that aim to reduce gender inequity and domestic violence.	Women's Health Grampians, Wimmera Uniting Care	2017	All Departments
Develop a communication strategy that promotes respectful relationships both in the workplace and in domestic settings.	Women's Health Grampians, Wimmera Uniting Care	2015	Human Resources
Continue and maintain support for the prevention of violence against women initiatives, including the continuation of Council's CEO remaining as the White Ribbon Ambassador.	Women's Health Grampians, Wimmera Uniting Care	2013	All Departments
Review workplace policies to ensure that gender equality and respectful relationships remains a key determinant to a safe, healthy and enjoyable working environment.	-	2017	Human Resources
Safe Environment			
Review Council's Sustainability Strategy.	Catchment Management Authorities, Department of Environment & Primary Industries	2017	Environment & Sustainability
Ensure that the following factors are considered when developing Council Plans and Strategies relating to urban environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision for and promotion of walking. • Connectivity of the street network. • Environments for all • Mixed land use and density • Parks and open space that provide for passive and active sports and recreation opportunities • Safety and surveillance • Social inclusion • Good urban design features such as active frontages, development of commercial buildings to the street frontage and provide awnings for shade and passive surveillance. • Provision of supporting infrastructure-e.g. seats, signage lighting and shade. 	-	Ongoing	All Departments

STRATEGIES	PARTNERS	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY
Safe Environment Cont...			
Continue to implement Council's Footpath Asset Management Plan to maintain and improve existing footpaths and to implement when necessary new footpaths to improve linkages in the pedestrian network.	-	Ongoing	Technical Services Department & Asset Management Working Group
Advocate for provision for recreational water allocation for the municipal weir pools.	-	Ongoing	Director of Infrastructure & Planning
Support the activities of the Wimmera Roadsafe, Police and Community Consultative Committee, Wimmera Southern Mallee Crime Prevention Committee and other organisations addressing community and road safety.	Department of Justice, Victoria Police	Ongoing	Director of Infrastructure & Planning
Rollout LED street lighting program across the shire to deliver more efficient and improved lighting in our towns.	Powercor	2017	Infrastructure & Planning

These strategies will be supported by the implementation of the following Council Plans and various other public policies developed by external organisations, including:

- Council Plan 2013-2017
- MAV Document – Violence Against Women
- Sustainability Strategy
- Street Tree Policy
- Footpath Asset Management Plan
- Road Management Plan
- Asset Management Plan

Indicator	Measure/Source
Reduction in the number of incidences relating to domestic violence or violence against women.	Women's Health Grampians, Wimmera Uniting Care
Improved awareness about gender based violence and equitable relationships.	Women's Health Grampians
The length of new footpath built and monetary value spent on footpath maintenance.	Council Data
The perceptions of public Safety according to Community indicator figures and ongoing Community meetings.	Council Data
The number of complaints-request reports on footpaths.	Council Data
The number of new Disability Discrimination Act designed ramps constructed on footpaths.	Council Data

Goal Two

IMPROVE LEVELS OF WELLBEING AND SOCIAL CONNECTION

Improving mental health and social connection among communities is an essential factor in determining an individual's overall wellbeing. The Mental Health Council of Australia states that a healthy mind and feeling part of a community allows individuals to better enjoy the people and environment around them. Mental health also promotes creativity and allows us to make the most out of our abilities and any opportunities that may arise (MHCA, 2012).

The Victorian Population Health Survey (Department of Health, 2011-2012, p.44) revealed that the proportion of adults living in the Yarriambiack Shire with high to very high levels of psychological distress was 5.6 per cent higher than the State estimate. The strategies developed below aim to improve the overall resilience of our local communities by stretching social connections and improving the mental health status of our residents.

STRATEGIES	PARTNERS	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY
Maintain and continue support for Council's Early Years strategy.	Department Education & Early Childhood Development	Ongoing	Community Services
Support appropriate agencies in the delivery of health promotion days to the public and Council staff.	Rural Northwest Health, Dunmunkle Health	Ongoing	Community Services
Continue to support Nexus and other youth related activities.	Rural Northwest Health, Dunmunkle Health, Warracknabeal Neighbourhood House, Wimmera Uniting Care	Ongoing	Community Services
Maintain support for kinder gym, play groups and mothers groups across the municipality.	Rural Northwest Health, Dunmunkle Health, Parent Groups, Wimmera Uniting Care	Ongoing	Community Services
Continue to support and provide information to new mothers in relation to post natal depression.	Department of Human Services	Ongoing	Maternal & Child Health Nurses
Complete and maintain projects initiated under Council's Improved Liveability for Older Persons scheme.	Department of Health, Rural Northwest Health, Dunmunkle Health	2014	Home and Community Care
Support events and festivals that bring residents together and encourage social connection.	Department of Health, Rural Northwest Health, Dunmunkle Health	Ongoing	Community, Business & Economic Development
Support Health Agencies in raising awareness of mental health and the benefits of social connection.	Rural NorthWest Health, Dunmunkle Health	Ongoing	Community Services
Continue to seek funding in accordance with Council's Community Grants Program.	-	Ongoing	Community, Business & Economic Development

These strategies will be supported by the implementation of the following Council Plans and various other public policies developed by external organisations, including:

- Rural NorthWest Health Promotion Plan
- Dunmunkle Health Plan
- Victorian Population Health Survey 2011-2012
- Council Plan 2013-2017
- Wimmera PCP Strategic Plan

Indicator	Measure/Source
Reduced number of adults living with high to very high levels of psychological distress	Victorian Population Health Survey
Maintained or increased numbers of children/mothers attending kinder gym, play groups and mothers groups	Council Data
Improved liveability data for older people living in Yarriambiack	Council Data
Number of community grants received by Council	Council Data, Department of Planning and Community Development

Goal Three

INCREASE LEVELS OF PHYSICAL EXERCISE

The benefits of exercise are now well documented. Physical activity reduces the risk of several major chronic diseases, while improving an individual's quality of life and sense of wellbeing (BHC, 2013).

According to the Victorian Population Health Survey (2011-2012, p.38), Yarriambiack Shire has the highest proportion of adults that are either overweight or obese when compared to other Victorian Local Government areas and is 17.1% higher than the state average. This indicates a significant problem and exposes this proportion of the community to a variety of health risks and a reduced quality of life.

Council plays a significant role in providing environments that encourage physical activity (VicHealth, 2013). The strategies below define how Council and other appropriate external organisations aim to increase the levels of physical activity in our communities.

STRATEGIES	PARTNERS	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY
Continue to maintain support for organisations that develop/implement programs that aim to increase physical activity.	Rural Northwest Health, Dunmunkle Health, Wimmera Uniting Care, Primary Care Partnerships	Ongoing	Community Services
Utilise funding to improve walking trails and related facilities across the Shire.	Community Groups and Clubs	Ongoing	Community, Business & Economic Development
In collaboration with other organisations, identify current barriers to physical activity.	Primary Care Partnerships	2017	Community Services
Continue to offer staff health checks and health promotion days.	OHS Committee, Rural Northwest Health, Dunmunkle Health	Ongoing	Senior Management
Explore funding options to update and purchase new gym equipment in the Warracknabeal Leisure Centre.	-	2015	Community, Business & Economic Development
Continue to support programs that increase the level of physical activity in our older population.	Department of Health, Department of Human Services	Ongoing	Community Services

These strategies will be supported by the implementation of the following Council Plans and various other public policies developed by external organisations, including:

- Rural NorthWest Health Promotion Plan
- Dunmunkle Health Plan
- Victoria Population Health Survey 2011-2012
- Council Plan 2013-2017
- Wimmera PCP Strategic Plan

Indicator	Measure/Source
Reduced proportion of adults living in Yarriambiack Shire that are overweight or obese.	Victorian Population Health Survey
Increased utilisation of Council's walking trails.	Council Data / Maintenance required
Increased attendance for programs that promote physical activity.	Council Data
Increase in the number of new memberships at Council's Leisure Centre.	Council Data

IMPROVE ACCESS FOR ALL ABILITIES ACROSS THE SHIRE

Despite the prevalence of people living with a disability, there is very limited information available on the health of such people. From the information that is available, data indicates that the health of people with a disability is worse than that of their non-disabled peers. (VicHealth, 2012). People with a disability often do not experience social connection or the benefits this delivers to their overall wellbeing.

Local Governments must therefore ensure that disabled people feel included and considered within their communities by ensuring their physical access to basic services and fulfilling their social needs. Council has developed a Disability Access Policy that aims to fulfil the needs of an inclusive community that is physically accessible to all.

STRATEGIES	PARTNERS	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY
Undertake Council business in accordance with the principals of the Yarriambiack Shire Council Access Policy & Plan.	Department of Health	Ongoing	All Departments
Maintain and update Council's mobility maps for each township.	-	Ongoing	Community Services, Technical Services
Continue to support the Warracknabeal Community Transport Service Initiative.	Warracknabeal Neighbourhood House, Rural Northwest Health, Wimmera Uniting Care	Ongoing	Community Services
Lobby the State Government for improved public transport.	-	2017	Community Services

These strategies will be supported by the implementation of the following Council Plan:

- Council's Disability Access Plan.

Indicator	Measure/Source
All new developments and/or projects consider access for people with a disability.	Council Data
Reduction in the number of access related complaints from physically disabled residents.	Council Data
Appropriate and improved levels of public transport and ultimately, access to services.	Council Data/Survey

REDUCE HARM FROM ALCOHOL RELATED SUBSTANCE ABUSE

According to the World Health Organisation, alcohol related substance abuse has become one of the most important risks to public health. Alcohol abuse is a major contributing factor “to a wide range of diseases, health conditions and high risk behaviours, from mental disorders and road traffic injuries, to liver diseases and unsafe sexual behaviour” (WHO, 2013).

The Victorian Population Health Survey (2011-2012) found that Yarriambiack Shire Council is home to a significantly higher proportion of adults at risk of short term alcohol related harm than the State average.

STRATEGIES	PARTNERS	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY
Support health service providers in creating awareness surrounding the risks associated with substance abuse.	Rural Northwest Health, Local Neighbourhood Houses, Victoria Police, Dunmunkle Health	2017	Community Services
Provide information and support to sporting clubs interested in the ‘Good Sports’ program, which aims to change cultures and reduce high risk drinking behaviours.	Rural Northwest Health, Victoria Police, Dunmunkle Health	2014	All Departments
Continue to enforce the prohibition of alcohol consumption in public places in accordance with Council’s Local Law	Victoria Police, Community Groups and Clubs	Ongoing	Community Services

These strategies will be supported by the implementation of the following Council Plans and various other public policies developed by external organisations, including:

- Rural NorthWest Health Promotion Plan
- Dunmunkle Health Plan
- Wimmera PCP Population Health & Wellbeing Profile 2013
- Victorian Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017
- Victorian Population Health Survey 2011-2012

Indicator	Measure/Source
Increased awareness among the community regarding the risks of substance abuse	PCP Population Survey, Victorian Population Survey
Improved drinking cultures in sporting clubs with increased club numbers implementing the ‘Good Sports’ program	Sporting Club Feedback
Reduction in the number of on-the-spot fines issued to members of the public	Victoria Police

IMPROVE NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY AMONG OUR COMMUNITIES

A well balanced diet can help individuals maintain a health body weight and decreases the risk of diet related chronic diseases, such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and some cancers (Better Health Channel, 2013). A healthy diet is particularly important for Yarriambiack Shire residents given that our overweight and obesity rates are some of the highest in the state. Council can play a vital role in educating the community and creating awareness on diet related issues.

Food security is equally important to a well balanced diet and a matter that is causing increased pressures on low socioeconomic groups in our communities. Issues that prevent access to safe, affordable and nutritional foods must be explored and rectified where possible.

STRATEGIES	PARTNERS	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY
Create a positive awareness around food and nutrition through community publications developed by Council.	Rural Northwest Health, Dunmunkle Health	Ongoing	All Departments
Continue to support healthy eating policies implemented in all child care centres and schools.	DEECD	Ongoing	Community Services
Support programs that aim to improve access to nutritional foods for disadvantaged groups in the community.	Rural Northwest Health, Dunmunkle Health, Department of Social Services	2014	Community Services
Incorporate provisions into our Health and Wellbeing Policy that require Council to provide healthy alternatives when catering.	-	2014	Human Resources
Provide information on healthy eating options to new parents through Council's child and maternal health service	Department Education Early Childhood Development	Ongoing	Early Years Staff
Continue to provide food related emergency relief to people during times of hardship.	Rural Northwest Health, Dunmunkle Health, Department of Social Services, Department of Health	Ongoing	Community Services
Support the establishment of community gardens in the Shire	Rural Northwest Health, Dunmunkle Health, Local Neighbourhood Houses	2014	All Departments

These strategies will be supported by the implementation of the following Council Plans and various other public policies developed by external organisations, including:

- Rural North West Health Promotion Plan
- Dunmunkle Health Plan
- Wimmera PCP Strategic Plan
- Victorian Public Health Plan 2013-2017
- Victorian Population Health Survey 2011-2012

Indicator	Measure/Source
Increased awareness among the community regarding the benefits of a well balanced diet.	PCP Population Survey, Victorian Population Survey
Improved levels of fruit and vegetable consumption in the Shire	Victorian Population Survey
Establishment of community gardens	Council Data

Goal Seven

PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND BUSINESS SUPPORT ACROSS THE MUNICIPALITY

An individual's inability to secure suitable employment will have a detrimental affect on their wellbeing. This effect is not limited to, but is more likely to significantly affect males in our community. Continued unemployment and rejection ultimately results in a decline of a person's overall wellbeing. Research has demonstrated that this loss in wellbeing is strongly related to depression (Australian Unity, 2013).

Council intends to enhance and promote the local economy through a variety of available programs and business development advice. A confident and stable economy is also likely to encourage employment opportunities accessible by local communities.

STRATEGIES	PARTNERS	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY
Council will continue to participate as an exhibitor at the Regional Living Expo to promote Yarriambiack Shire Council.	Wimmera Development Association, Regional Development Victoria	Ongoing	Community, Business & Economic Development
Provide business development advice and support proprietors in completing a viable business plan.	Wimmera Development Association, Regional Development Victoria	Ongoing	Community, Business & Economic Development
Continue to participate in the regional economic development network meetings to remain at the forefront of community development and economic issues.	Wimmera Development Association	Ongoing	Community, Business & Economic Development
Maintain Council's bi-monthly business newsletter.	-	Ongoing	Community, Business & Economic Development
Continue to provide business information kits for new owners to assist them with establishing a solid foundation for their new business venture.	Wimmera Development Association	Ongoing	Community, Business & Economic Development
Explore training opportunities with Wimmera Business Centre that aim to provide proprietors with the necessary skills and knowledge to operate a successful business.	Wimmera Business Centre	Ongoing	Community, Business & Economic Development

These strategies will be supported by the implementation of the following Council Plan:

- Yarriambiack Shire Council Plan 2013-2017

Indicator	Measure/Source
A strong local economy with business opportunities regularly becoming available.	Council Data
A low unemployment rate in the municipality.	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Business competency and training level of new proprietors.	Council Data

Goal Eight

CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AND IMPROVE COUNCIL SERVICES THAT CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF OUR AGEING POPULATION

Australians are continuing to live longer lives than at any other time in history. According to the ABS (2012), our population is ageing due to sustained low fertility and an increased life expectancy. Approximately 14% or just over three million people in Australia are aged 65 or over. The ABS has projected that our ageing population will increase by 91% over the next two decades (AIHW, 2012, p.51).

Council's Home and Community Care Services will certainly experience an increase in demand. Therefore, current services must continually be developed and improved to offer the most effective and efficient service possible to our community.

STRATEGIES	PARTNERS	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY
Complete and maintain projects initiated under Council's Improved Liveability for Older Persons scheme.	Rural Northwest Health, Dunmunkle Health	Ongoing	Home & Community Care
Continue to deliver Home and Community Care (HACC) services in accordance with Victoria's Active Service Model, which exclusively promotes capacity building and restorative care in service delivery.	Rural Northwest Health, Dunmunkle Health, Benetas, St Lawrence, Wimmera Community Options, Department of Human Services	Ongoing	Home & Community Care
Continue to provide transport options for the aged or disabled members of our community.	Rural Northwest Health, Dunmunkle Health,	Ongoing	Home & Community Care
Maintain support for 'Memory Lane Cafe' to create awareness and support for those suffering from dementia.	-	Ongoing	Community Services

These strategies will be supported by the implementation of the following Council Plans and various other public policies developed by external organisations, including:

- Improved Liveability for Older Persons Scheme
- Victoria's Active Service Model
- Volunteer Transport Policy

Indicator	Measure/Source
Maintain and/or increase the number of elderly residents that are able to safely and comfortably remain in their homes.	Council Data
The successful delivery of HACC services with high satisfaction levels from clients.	Council Data
The number of eligible residents utilising Council's volunteer transport service.	Council Data

Review

This plan will be reviewed on an annual basis in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health & Wellbeing Act 2008. The review will be undertaken in consultation with an internal stakeholder group which will include a staff member from each Council Department.

External stakeholders will also be advised prior to each annual review to allow partner agencies an opportunity to provide feedback into the progress of the plan.

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