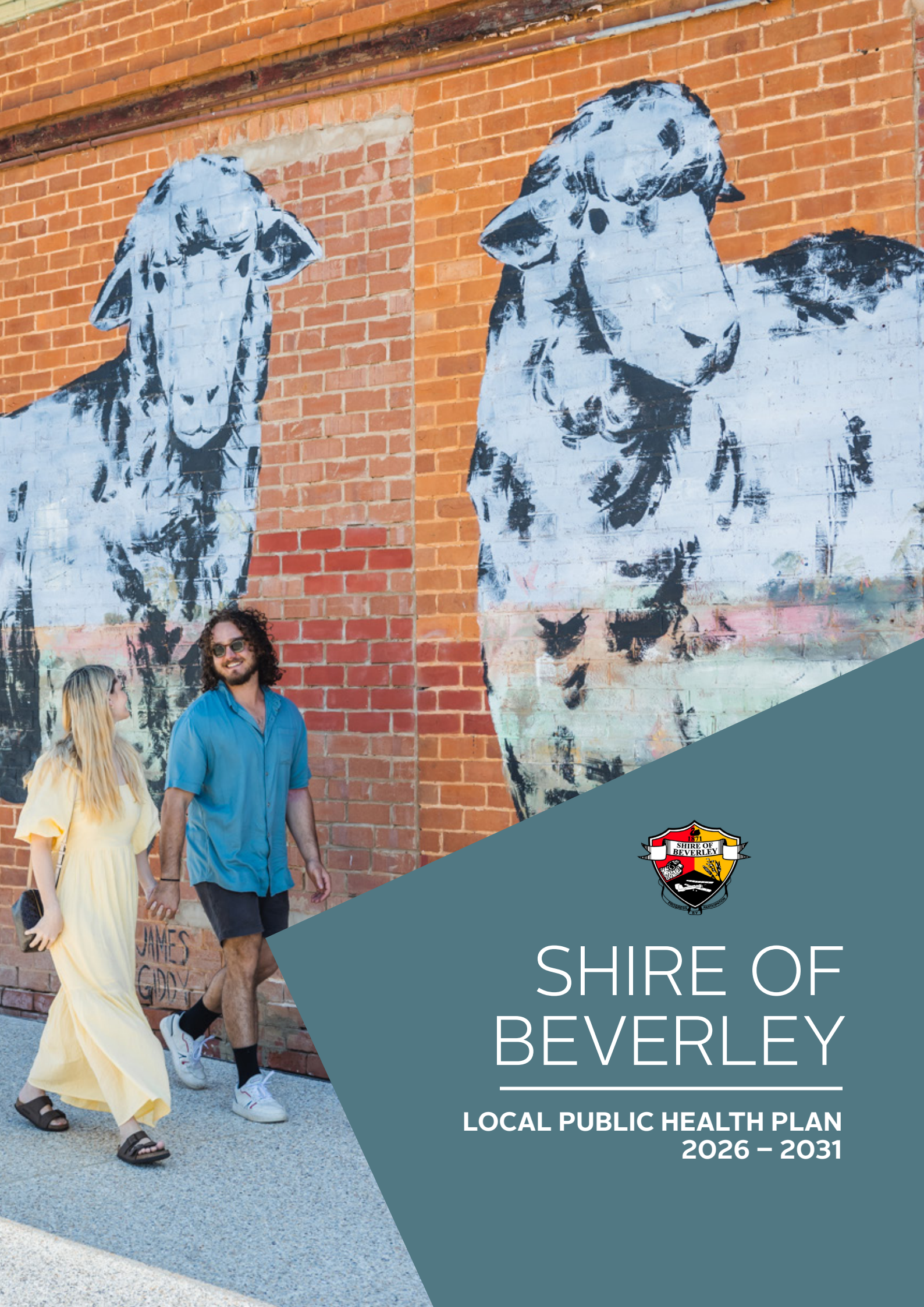

SHIRE OF BEVERLEY

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN 2026 – 2031

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

For thousands of years the Ballardong Noongar have inhabited the region along the Avon (Colguler) River and Dale (Boyagurring Bilya) River and have a deep attachment to their country.

The Shire of Beverley acknowledges the Ballardong Noongar people, Traditional Custodians of this land, their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to the Elders past and present and we extend that respect to other First Nations people.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Shire of Beverley, I am pleased to present the Shire of Beverley Local Public Health Plan 2026–2031. This Plan recognises the important role health and wellbeing play in supporting a connected, active and resilient community, and provides a practical framework to guide local actions over the next five years.

While the primary responsibility for health services rests with the State and Federal Governments, Council has always been committed to supporting the wellbeing of our community. With or without a formal health plan, the Shire has continued to invest in facilities, services, advocacy, partnerships and community initiatives that help residents live well and stay connected.

This Plan has been developed to align with the State Public Health Plan for Western Australia 2025–2030, which provides the strategic framework for public health planning across the State. It also supports the Shire of Beverley Strategic Community Plan 2023–2033 and the Shire of Beverley Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, ensuring our local public health priorities are connected to Council's broader vision for an inclusive, accessible and sustainable community.

The priorities and actions outlined in this Plan have been informed by the work of the Local Health Advisory Group, the Local Health Advisory Group Survey 2023, local health data and the community consultation undertaken in 2026. We thank everyone who contributed their time, experience and ideas. Your feedback has helped identify what matters most to our community, including access to health services, childcare, aged care support, mental health, outdoor activity, housing, transport and opportunities for people of all ages to participate in community life.

The Shire's role is not to replace the responsibilities of other levels of government, but to lead where we can, advocate where we should, and partner wherever possible. Through this Plan, Council will continue to promote healthy lifestyles, support safer and more accessible environments, protect public and environmental health, and enable partnerships that strengthen local services and opportunities.

Beverley is a community with strong local spirit, dedicated volunteers and a deep sense of care for one another. This Plan builds on those strengths and recognises that good health is shaped not only by medical services, but also by connection, inclusion, safe spaces, active living, lifelong participation and access to the supports people need at different stages of life.

Cr Dee Ridgway

Shire President

Vincent Street Heritage Walk
A PLACE FOR COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
VINCENT STREET HERITAGE WALK

SHIRE OF BEVERLEY - OUR CURRENT HEALTH ROLE

The Shire of Beverley provides a range of services, funding and assets to support the health and wellbeing of our Community.

These include:

- A contract for the Provision of Medical Services to the Shire of Beverley which includes a five day a week Medical Practice, bulk billing for pensioners & health care card holders where applicable.
- Infrastructure and property services including the Beverley Medical Centre and doctor housing; Beverley Cornerstone building which provides childcare, tourism and community services; Beverley Gymnasium; parking; footpaths including universal access friendly main street; waste collection and local roads.
- Recreation facilities such as the Beverley Swimming Pool, Beverley Function & Recreation Centre and Moort Wabiny Park (multiple use family park).
- Safe and affordable housing for persons aged over 57 years at the Hunt Road Village and independent living units in Dawson Street.
- Meeting and event places including the Beverley Town Hall, Beverley Function & Recreation Centre, the town oval, Apex River Park and Bally Bally Hall.
- Enabling of cultural facilities and services such as the Beverley Railway Station Cultural Precinct, Beverley Library and places of historic significance such as the Avondale Machinery and Dead Finish Museums.
- Healthy outdoors spaces including the Community Garden, redeveloped Vincent Street with canopy plants and seated meeting spaces, walking trails at Brooking Street and Dale River reserves, planning for Commonage Hill Trail and support of the Beverley River Care Group.
- Community Grants Program to support workshops, events and capital purchases for incorporated community groups and their volunteers.
- Buildings which accommodate the Op Shop (Beverley Hospital Auxiliary) and Beverley Mens Shed.
- Planning, development and building approvals which ensure appropriate health and safety, design and accessibility for public buildings or events.
- Environmental health services to monitor food safety, noise and air pollution, and to assist in the distribution of educational material when appropriate.
- Bi-annual events for seniors to promote inclusion and negate loneliness.
- Member of the WALGA Roadwise program that promotes safe roads and safe driving to reduce road trauma and fatalities.
- Hosts and facilitates a Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) meeting two to four times a year. The LEMC supports the Shire with updates to the Beverley Local Emergency Management Plan ensuring the health and wellbeing of the Community is at the forefront should an emergency event occur.

BEVERLEY COMMUNITY PROFILE

2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census

PEOPLE

Total People	1669
Male	50.6%
Female	49.4%
Median Age	56yrs
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2.8%
Non-Indigenous	85.3%
Not Stated	11.6%

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples	
Male	51.9%
Female	48.1%
Median Age	48yrs

EMPLOYMENT

In the labour force	46.5%
Not in the labour force	40.7%
Not Stated	12.1%

Industry of Employment	
Agriculture	18.7%
Local Government	4.8%
Education	3.6%
Hospitals	3.6%

HEALTH

No long-term condition	46.6%
Not stated	12.8%
Arthritis	14.3%
Asthma	10.1%
Mental Health condition	9.5%
Other	8.8%
Diabetes	7.5%
Heart Disease	6.2%
Cancer	3.8%
Lung condition	2.8%
Stroke	1.1%
Kidney Disease	1.0%
Dementia	0.6%

INCOME & WORK

Beverley Median Weekly Income	$568
WA Median Weekly Income	$848
Unpaid domestic work	67.4%
Provided unpaid care for children/child	18.7%
Provided unpaid assistance to a person with disability, health condition or old age	12%
Voluntary work through a community group or organisation	23.5%

Note: This Local Health Plan is a living document, relevant data from the 2026 Census will be entered into the plan as it becomes available.

HEALTH & WELLBEING PROFILE

October 2024, Epidemiology Directorate, Public and Aboriginal Health Division, Department of Health WA

NUTRITION

Diet has an important effect on health and can influence the risk of diseases such as coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, stroke and some cancers. The Australian Dietary Guidelines outlines the recommended daily serves of fruit and vegetables for adults and children (NHMRC, 2013).

IN 2020:

49.6%
Ate recommended serves of fruit daily

males **45.8%**

females **53.5%**

(WA comparison 49.9%)

9.6%
Ate recommended serves of vegetables daily

males **7.2%**

females **11.9%**

15.1%
Ate fast food at least weekly

males **18.3%**

females **11.9%**

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SEDENTARY BEHAVIOUR

Physical activity reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease, some cancers and type 2 diabetes, and helps improve musculoskeletal health, maintain body weight and reduce symptoms of depression (WHO, 2009).

IN 2020:

5 YEARS AND OVER

Completed the recommended amount of physical activity each week

males **55.7%** (WA 46.9%)

females **62.1%** (WA 49.2%)

Spending more than recommended time in screen-based sedentary leisure activities

males **45.0%** (WA 46.9%)

females **44.7%** (WA 49.2%)

Recommended time:
(less than 21 hours per week)

OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY

Overweight and obesity in adults is associated with cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, some cancers, musculoskeletal disorders (in particular osteoarthritis), dementia and a range of other conditions (AIHW, 2017).

IN 2020:

residents had a lower prevalence of overweight, and a higher obesity prevalence compared to the State.

males **38.9%** (WA 38.7%)

females **28.3%** (WA 31.4%)

aged 5 years and over were overweight

males **40.4%** (WA 31.6%)

females **42.2%** (WA 32.2%)

aged 5 years and over were obese

TOBACCO SMOKING

Tobacco use, including past and current use and exposure to second-hand smoke, increases the risk of a number of health conditions, including cancer, respiratory diseases and cardiovascular disease (AIHW 2018).

IN 2020:

Residents had a higher prevalence of current smoking compared to WA State.

males **17.4%** (WA 11.9%)

females **13.5%** (WA 9.7%)

18 years and over and over were current smokers.

The rate of tobacco-attributable deaths was higher among residents of Shire of Beverley compared to the WA State rate.

males **112.3** per **100,000.** (WA 74.9)

females **65.4** per **100,000.** (WA 49.4)

people aged 15 years and over.

The rate of tobacco-attributable hospitalisations among residents was lower compared to the WA State rate.

males **519.4** per **100,000.** (WA 516.8)

females **283.9** per **100,000.** (WA 399.6)

people aged 15 years and over.

ALCOHOL

Alcohol use increases the risk of some health conditions, including coronary heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, and liver and pancreatic disease. It also increases the risk of violence and anti-social behaviour, accidents and mental illness (AIHW, 2017).

IN 2020:

the prevalence of alcohol use at levels considered to be high risk for short-term harm (4 standard drinks on any one day) in the Shire of Beverley was higher compared to the WA State average

11.9% used alcohol at levels considered to be high risk for short-term harm in comparison to the WA average of 7.9%.

The prevalence of alcohol use at levels considered to be high risk for long-term harm (2 standard drinks on any one day) was similar compared to the WA State average.

22.9% of persons over used alcohol at levels considered to be high risk for long-term harm compared to the WA average of 24%

The rate of alcohol-attributable hospitalisations among Shire of Beverley was similar compared to the WA State rate.

males **943.9** per **100,000.** (WA 1144.9) females **815.4** per **100,000.** (WA 747.4)

people aged 15 years and over.

The rate of alcohol-attributable deaths among Shire of Beverley residents was higher compared to the WA State rate.

males **70.4** per **100,000.** (WA 50.3) females **36.8** per **100,000.** (WA 18)

people aged 15 years and over.

ILLICIT DRUG-RELATED HARM

Data for illicit drug-attributable hospitalisations were sourced from the WA HMDC. Population estimates were obtained from the ABS.

IN 2020:

The rate of illicit drug-attributable hospitalisations among Shire of Beverley residents was lower compared to the WA State average.

males **143.5** per **100,000.** (WA 252.2) females **180.2** per **100,000.** (WA 282.0)
people aged 15 years and over.

The rate of illicit drug-attributable deaths among Shire of Beverley residents was lower compared to the WA State average.

males **0.3** per **100,000.** (WA 15.9) females **13.4** per **100,000.** (WA 7.3)
people aged 15 years and over.

MENTAL HEALTH

People with a mental health condition are at an increased risk of experiencing other disorders including physical disorders and diabetes (AIHW 2017).

IN 2020:

Shire of Beverley residents had a lower prevalence of anxiety, a similar prevalence of depression, a similar prevalence of stress, and a similar prevalence of any mental health condition when compared to the WA State prevalence.

12.9% (WA 11.9%)
Males

19.2% (WA 18.7%)
Females

16% (WA 15.5%)
Persons

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Local Health Advisory Group Community Health Survey 2023

The Local Health Advisory Group is made up of community members and two councillors. Their meetings are often attended by the Beverley Health Services Manager, a representative of the Frail Aged Lodge Committee and Beverley St John Sub-Centre.

In 2023 a local health survey was mailed out to Beverley residents (participation was optional).

KEY INFORMATION

Respondents Overall Physical Health

44%	38%	6%	11%
Good	Average	Poor	No response

Respondents Overall Mental Health

69%	15%	7%
Good	Average	Poor

Illicit Drugs more than twice a week

4%	87%	9%
Yes	No	No response

More than 2 standard drinks a day

26%	65%	9%
Yes	No	No response

Smoke or Vape regularly

14%	77%	9%
Yes	No	No response

Do you use local GP's

71%	10%	18%	1%
Yes	No	Occasionally	No response

Medical Attention

77%	15%	2%	3%	1%	1%
Doctor	Hospital	Nurse	Internet	Friends	Stay at home

The four most important items considered for a healthy and safe community were:

- Access to health care
- A safe neighbourhood
- Healthy behaviours and lifestyle
- Clean environment

The four things concerning you most about your health were:

- Ageing problems
- Managing at home as you age
- Access to health care
- Cancer

The four factors you believe carry the highest risk to health were:

- Drug use
- Alcohol abuse
- Tobacco use
- Being overweight

The five highest ranked improvements that you would like to see in Beverley to improve your health were:

- Easier access to specialist health professionals
- Heated/hydrotherapy pool with other facilities
- Home help
- Doctor stationed at the hospital
- More walking and cycling tracks

Shire of Beverley 2026 Health and Wellbeing Survey Results

Over a six-week period, community members were invited to participate in a Health and Wellbeing Survey. The survey covered general wellbeing, physical health, mental health, housing, health and wellbeing issues, retirement and ageing, local health services and the communities desired improvements for the future.

GENERAL WELLBEING

A sense of connection to Beverley	Your physical health	Loneliness and isolation	Mental health and wellbeing
22.23% Felt very connected	**8.74%** Excellent	**30.10%** Never	**13.59%** Excellent
45.63% Connected	**26.21%** Very Good	**24.27%** Rarely	**27.18%** Very good
19.42% somewhat connected	**45.63%** Good	**37.86%** Sometimes	**38.83%** Good
10.68% not very connected	**14.56%** Fair	**5.83%** Often	**15.53%** Fair
1.94% not connected at all	**4.85%** Poor	**1.94%** Always	**4.85%** Poor

85%
of respondents felt either very safe or safe in our community.

65%
of respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with opportunities for physical activities and recreation.

HEALTH

The highest number of suffered long-term health conditions are High/Low Blood pressure, asthma, mental health related illness and obesity.

Respondents considered the following six to be the most significant health and wellbeing issues currently facing the entire community: Access to Childcare, Mental Health Support, Substance Abuse (tobacco, drugs, alcohol and vapes), Aged Care Services, access to Dental Health, general cost of living and access to health care services.

65%
of respondents use the Local GP's in Beverley.

65%
of respondents use other medical services such as the Chemist, Chiropractor, pathology.

30%
of all respondents needed the services of the Beverley Hospital in the previous year. Of those respondents, 75% were satisfied with their visit/s.

33%
of respondents had difficulty accessing local health services. The main reasons being that service is unavailable in Beverley and therefor travel was required.

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

The most requested health and wellbeing initiatives that respondents felt would benefit them the greatest were: heating at the swimming pool, natural outdoor walking or trail places, free physical activity classes, physical activity classes at the swimming pool, physical activities classes, mental health support and establishment of HACC or similar day centre.

The barriers that may prevent people from participating in health and wellbeing classes were suitable times, cost, age-appropriate groups and childcare availability.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The most requested health and wellbeing initiatives that respondents felt would benefit them the greatest were: heating at the swimming pool, natural outdoor walking or trail places, free physical activity classes, physical activity classes at the swimming pool, physical activities classes, mental health support and establishment of HACC or similar day centre.

The barriers that may prevent people from participating in health and wellbeing classes were suitable times, cost, age-appropriate groups and childcare availability.

46.6%
of respondents had been impacted by mosquitoes

23.3%
impacted by excessive smoke or burning and

12%
impacted by dust

80.58%
of respondents supported mosquito fogging

9.71%
did not support it and

9.71%
were unsure

HOUSING

46.6%
of respondents were concerned about housing. The biggest concerns are availability of affordable rentals and the lack of rentals in general. Concern was also raised about empty houses, the lack of housing for short term workers and the lack of developable land.

AGEING AND RETIREMENT

28%
plan to retire in Beverley

40%
have not thought about and

15%
had already retired here

58%
of respondents plan to live in their home for as long as possible.

62%
of respondents are aware of the health services facilitated by the Beverley CRC.

The most concerning aspects in relation to ageing are a Dementia or Alzheimer's diagnosis, mobility, the ability to drive or find transport, Home help (staying in place) and increased medical appointments.

PRIORITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS

The most important health and wellbeing priorities or improvements identified by respondents were (listed in order of priority):

CHILD CARE

Including childcare centres, day care and after school care

ACCESS TO SPECIALIST SERVICES

Dentist, physiotherapy and podiatrist

AGED CARE HOME SUPPORT, SENIORS PROGRAMS AND PALLIATIVE CARE

OUTDOORS

Walking trails, free fitness equipment, bike trails and pet friendly trails

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Including programs for different age groups and genders

MORE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS AND SHOPPING

SURVEY COMMENT

Council would like to thank the Beverley community for their participation and feedback for the survey. Respondents ranged in ages from 16 – 84 years participated and it was pleasing to have each age grouping being represented. It was interesting to learn that many people felt lonely or isolated in the last 12 months but overall have felt mentally well. This may be attributed to the resilience of country people or the fact that most participants felt connected to Beverley.

There were many suggestions in the survey to inform the Local Health Plan that can also be noted for consideration by Council as other planning documents are developed or reviewed such as the Strategic Community Plan, Shire of Beverley Housing Plan, trails planning and development and progress of Beverley 2035 initiatives.

It was very evident that childcare, seniors programs, health care services, outdoor physical activity and the increasing cost of living feature in the everyday lives of our community members.

The results of this survey and consideration of the 2023 Local Health Advisory Group survey have guided the Action Plan.

ACTION PLAN – STRATEGIES FOR THE WAY FORWARD

The Shire of Beverley will continue to provide a range of services, funding and assets to support the health and wellbeing of our Community as outlined in Our Current Role on page 6.

To address our priorities the following Action Plan has been developed.

PROMOTE

ACTION PLAN / STRATEGIES FOR THE WAY FORWARD

WA STATE PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN	SHIRE OF BEVERLEY STRATEGY
Foster a strong connected community and healthy environment.	Foster a strong and healthy community.

OUR PRIORITES

01 Support activities and programs that reduce loneliness and isolation.

02 Support awareness and access to mental health support.

03 Support wellbeing at every age through physical activity and community engagement.

OUR ACTIONS

1	Improve health literacy by promoting and communicating accessible and health information to Beverley residents (Local Medical Service Provider Information, SunSmart, LiveLighter, RUOkay Day etc.).
2	Extend the 10 year Footpath Program to improve safety and accessibility for walkers, gophers, wheelchairs and prams.
3	Explore opportunities for Intergenerational based care facilities through Beverley 2035.
4	Support the WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015 – 2030 where appropriate.
5	Communicate the Shire of Beverley Disability Access and Inclusion Plan to ensure people living with disability reach the 7 outcomes.
6	Seek external funding to progress the walk and bike trails concept plans.
7	Partner with the Beverley CRC to provide low cost physical activities at the Beverley Swimming Pool.
8	Actively promote the Shire Community Grants program that supports volunteers to achieve their outcomes for the benefit of the community.
9	Support initiatives, events and programs for older adults that reduce social isolation.
10	Explore external funding opportunities to move and expand the existing gymnasium to the Beverley Swimming pool under Stage 2. Explore future funding opportunities to install heating at the pool.
11	Support organised Youth activities that provided by accredited organisations and individuals.

PREVENT

ACTION PLAN / STRATEGIES FOR THE WAY FORWARD

WA STATE PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN

Reduce the burden of chronic disease and injury.

SHIRE OF BEVERLEY STRATEGY

Support initiatives aimed at reducing chronic disease and injury risk factors in the community.

OUR PRIORITES

01 Support local injury prevention programs and initiatives.

02 Support road safety programs.

03 Support health awareness programs.

OUR ACTIONS

1	Seek external funding to progress Stage 2 Swimming Pool (Buildings) to improve community health and wellbeing through the provision of a more accessible and inviting place for the community to enjoy health and injury prevention programs and to be active which has a positive impact on the physical and psychological health of people of all ages and social groups.
2	Facilitate access to screening programs by providing venues and promotion (eg. Lions Skin Cancer Bus, Breast Screening Bus, Bone Density).
3	Install 'no smoking' and 'no vaping' signs in Shire owned buildings and facilities.
4	Promotion and venue for programs such as Stay on Your Feet.
5	Ensure Shire events are safe and appropriate risk management has been considered.
6	Promote road safety through the Shires membership to WALGA Roadwise.
7	Support awareness events such as SOCK week (Save Our Country Kids Road Safety).
8	Support local groups to promote their local road safety campaigns (eg Beverley Football Club – Belt Up Week).
9	Continue the upgrades to the Hunt Road Village units for accessibility, safety and comfort of tenants.
10	Promote the Shire's Gym and Healthy Lifestyle package.

PROTECT

ACTION PLAN / STRATEGIES FOR THE WAY FORWARD

WA STATE PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN	SHIRE OF BEVERLEY STRATEGY
Protect against public and environmental health risks, manage emergencies, reduce impacts of disaster.	Safeguard public health and environmental risks and manage emergencies effectively to reduce the impact of disasters.

OUR PRIORITES

01 Increase environmental hazard awareness.

02 Increase emergency response awareness.

OUR ACTIONS

1	Maintain safe food standards by regular surveillance of food premises and food manufacture and hygiene practices.
2	Maintain an active monitoring and education program to minimise mosquito nuisance eg Fite the Bite.
3	Provide sustainable disaster and emergency management across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery phases the Beverley LEMC.
4	Invest in sustainable infrastructure such as energy efficient buildings.
5	Provide guidelines, resources, and regulatory support to reduce or eliminate risks within public buildings, community events and residential buildings.
6	Participate in multi-agency exercises through the Local Emergency Management Committee.
7	Apply for external funding to increase and improve the CCTV network for protection and safety within the Community.
8	Provide information that is relevant to our community during health outbreaks (eg. Bird Flu, COVID)
9	Progress Stage 2 Swimming Pool (Buildings) to install solar photovoltaic and battery storage infrastructure that deliver environmental benefits.

ENABLE

ACTION PLAN / STRATEGIES FOR THE WAY FORWARD

WA STATE PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN

Advocate and partner to increase health systems and workforce to support health and wellbeing.

SHIRE OF BEVERLEY STRATEGY

Build on partnerships that support and strengthen the health network in our community.

OUR PRIORITES

01 Advocate for increased childcare options.

02 Advocate for increased housing.

03 Advocate for increased specialist health services.

OUR ACTIONS

1	Build on existing partnerships and look for new opportunities to assist the delivery of public health and specialist services.
2	Develop accommodation to support the retention of WA Country Health Service workforce in Beverley.
3	Continue to support the Beverley Early Years Network who aim to give every child the best start.
4	Provide Council representation to community groups whose core function includes health.
5	Explore partnerships and external funding opportunities to advocate for increased child daycare in Beverley.
6	Advocate for palliative care options in Beverley.
7	Reestablish quarterly meetings with local health care providers to advocate for the needs of the community.
8	Seek external funding to progress Stage 2 Swimming Pool (Buildings) that includes a new family area which will provide a dedicated space for young children and parents/ carers. This area will also be used to supervise young children whilst their parents/carers participate in the Centre's programs.

EVALUATION AND REPORTING

This Plan will be used to inform the Shire's Strategic Community Plan, Long Term Financial Plan, Annual budgets and Disability Access & Inclusion Plan.

It is intended to be a flexible and living document, allowing new statistics and opportunities to be added as they arise over the life of the Plan.

The Shire will monitor and track the Plan over the next five years as new statistics and health reports become available.

Our community will also be updated on the delivery of actions via the Shire's Annual Report.

After five years, the Plan will be evaluated and reviewed including what worked well, what needs to be done differently and lessons learnt. Outcomes will be measured through community survey and involvement.

A new Plan will be developed detailing existing and new opportunities for 2031-2035.

SHIRE OF BEVERLEY

136 Vincent Street, Beverley WA 6304
Phone: 9646 1200
admin@beverley.wa.gov.au

For information on all of Council's Services visit the website

beverley.wa.gov.au