

5.6 MUNICIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN 2007 – 2010: REVIEW OF YEAR 1
(HLTH5:NM:RO)

Responsible Director: Don Cameron

RECOMMENDATION

Council notes that the annual review of the Municipal Public Health Plan (MPHP) 2007 -2010 has been conducted in accordance with the Health Act 1958.

INTRODUCTION

Section 29B of the Health Act 1958 requires all Councils to prepare Municipal Public Health Plans (MPHP's) at three-year intervals. The Health Act 1958 states 'every council must review its municipal public health plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan'.

The purpose of this report is to advise that the review of the MPHP has been undertaken and of the significant achievements during Year 1 of the Monash MPHP 2007-2010.

BACKGROUND

The review of the Monash MPHP 2007-2010 was undertaken during March-May 2008 whereby consultation was conducted with each officer responsible for strategic actions within the plan.

The Monash MPHP 2007-2010 is centred around four health priorities which are:

1. A Sustainable, Liveable and Safe Community
2. Healthy Lifestyles
3. An Inclusive and Connected Community
4. A Supportive Community

Following is the discussion that provides Council with a brief overview and significant achievements within each of the four health priority areas following the consultation.

DISCUSSION

The 12-month status review of the MPHP found all strategic action requirements to have been met and actions continue to be implemented. Below is a summary of the significant achievements.

Immunisation

- An additional vaccine has been offered through Council's immunisation service to protect against Rotavirus gastroenteritis.
- The annual immunisation survey found 94% of respondents rated the service as good to excellent.
- Council is continuing to work in partnership with Greater Monash GP Network in the development and distribution of Immunisation Education Kits to secondary schools in Monash.

Food Safety

- The enforcement of the Food Act 1984 is continuing and a Food Safety Policy & Procedure manual has been developed to guide the Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) in the consistent application of food safety principles.
- Council continues to develop and disseminate 'It's your food' newsletter to all food proprietors three times a year.
- There are 1156 food businesses licensed in Monash. Council's EHOs conduct regular food safety inspections of these premises, investigate food complaints and test samples of food for compliance with the relevant food standards.
- Whilst there was substantial compliance with food standards by food operators four food premises were prosecuted for contraventions of the Food Act 1984 and the Food Standards Code.

Environmental Health

- Council continues to provide information and educative support to residents on a range of issues affecting public health including pest control, domestic and commercial noise, pollution and handling of asbestos – this information is also updated regularly on Council's website.
- Legal action was instigated against one homeowner for causing a nuisance to their neighbours through the emission of noise.
- There were 274 premises licensed under the Health Act including hairdressers, beauty parlours, body piercing establishments, tattooists and accommodation houses and these premises were regularly inspected by the EHOs to ensure hygiene standards were maintained.
- Regular testing of water quality continued on all public swimming pools.

Environmental Sustainability

- Council has established an Environmental Advisory Committee
- Across Monash water usage has reduced by 45% between 2002/3 and 2006/7 through changed practices and improved efficiency measures and water restrictions.

Community Safety Month (CSM)

Council's Team Leader Health Promotion facilitated three CSM Steering Committee Meetings in 2007. The Steering Committee comprises of Council staff, representatives from Victorian Police, MFB, VicRoads, Neighbourhood Watch, Neighbourhood Renewal, Greater Monash GP Network and MonashLink Community Health Services. Activities that took place during CSM 2007 include:

- Home safety forum
- Car safety day
- Older persons expo
- Ashwood Festival
- Walk in the Park
- Operation Safe Plate
- Keeping Safe and Mobile Course
- Emergency Management Exercise

Physical Activity

- Programs, memberships and attendance levels at the Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre continue to grow.
- The new Clayton Community Centre is exceeding patronage targets.
- Council continues to raise awareness through a range of brochures that are available to the public, in conjunction with regular articles in Council's Bulletin and website.
- Displays have been held in local shopping centres to promote specific programs and/or memberships to Council's major leisure and aquatic centres.

Golden Plate Award (GPA)

- The Golden Plate Award was held in November 2007. For the first time in 2007, a Business Waste and Recycling standard was introduced to the program.
- Additional promotion of the GPA in 2007 included a winner's brochure which is available in hard copy and on Council's website.
- Council's Food and Accommodation Guide 2008 will incorporate information on Golden Plate Award to continue to raise awareness.

Health Promotion Events

Council's Team Leader Health Promotion successfully held a morning tea for all internal staff to support Pink Ribbon Day and raise awareness of breast cancer. The morning tea raised \$450 for the Cancer Council.

Tobacco Education and Enforcement

- Education efforts have been targeted to smoking in children's outdoor play areas at family restaurants in 2008.
- The placement of tobacco vending machines in premises where minors are unsupervised is currently under investigation and appropriate action is being taken where relevant.
- Three rounds of test purchasing have been undertaken in the past 12 months. Results from each round have been mixed with sales rates varying from 43% in August 2007 to 8% in December 2007. The most recent test purchase result was a 38% sale rate to Council's minor.
- The high percentage of sales to minors indicates the importance of the Tobacco Education and Enforcement role at Council.

Review the Health and Wellbeing Profile

Council reviewed the Monash Health and Wellbeing Profile in 2007 to support the development and implementation of projects and programs within Monash.

Building Partnerships

- Council is a member agency of Inner East Primary Care Partnership and continues to assist in their catchment planning.
- Council continues to work collaboratively with both Monash Link Community Health Service and Greater Monash GP Network on a number of projects and initiatives.

Advocacy and Submissions

- A submission was made to the Municipal Association of Victoria on the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission report into food regulation. The submission addressed areas where intended costs may occur for Council in regulatory food safety.
- Submissions and representations have been made regarding proposed amendments to the Health Act 1958 & Food Act 1984.
- Monash Public Library Service provides a venue for Council for community information dissemination on public information processes or community consultation on legislative changes and advocacy processes.

Health Education

- Council regularly updates its website on health services and facilities.
- Council annually reviews the Health Events Calendar on Council's website and updates information as it becomes available.
- Council continues to develop a number of brochures, newsletters and booklets aimed to promote existing health services and facilities which can be found at various Council locations and Councils website.
- Council's MPHP was disseminated across the City of Monash and relevant Eastern Region organisations as well as consumers and interest groups. Information on the development of the MPHP is also located on Councils website. The plan continues to be disseminated as requested.

AMENDMENTS

- The Health Act 1958 provides for Councils MPHP to be amended during the life of the plan if required. During the review of the plan the emerging issue of Climate Change was discussed at the MPHP Advisory Committee. The committee recommends the MPHP to be amended to include the emerging issue of Climate Change.
- The new strategy will be incorporated within **Goal One** - A Sustainable, Liveable and Safe Community, **Objective 1.4** – Promote environmental sustainability.
- The **New Strategy**: *Explore opportunities to promote environmental sustainability to Monash residents through the environmental advisory committee and the sustainable future forum.*
- This strategy fits into the existing environmental advisory committee and requires no additional funding/ resources.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Monash MPHP is integrated into the City of Monash Strategic Planning Framework including Monash 2012 and the Monash Council Plan 2006-2010 as well as other specific strategic plans. The Monash MPHP provides strong links to these plans as well as external community health plans.

FINANCIAL

The strategic actions identified have been incorporated into existing department budgets/resources, which were considered in the development and implementation of the Monash MPHP 2007-2010.

CONCLUSION

The Monash MPHP 2007 – 2010 has been distributed widely throughout Monash to agencies and community members. The 12-month status report has found all strategies to have commenced and continue to be implemented. The second year of the MPHP will focus on further developments of the strategies and continue to see the positive partnerships with external agencies strengthened.