

2.1 A HEALTHY AND RESILIENT MONASH: INTEGRATED PLAN 2017-2021 – YEAR ONE EVALUATION SUMMARY

Responsible Director: Julie Salomon

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the achievements outlined within the Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021 Year One Actions Evaluation Summary.

BACKGROUND

Under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, every four years Victorian Local Governments are required to develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. In 2017 Council undertook to renew its Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, adopting an integrated strategic planning approach which incorporated the priorities and key actions of all areas of work which fall under the Community Development and Services (CD&S) Directorate.

The Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 does not require annual reporting to State Government; it only requires a four-year final evaluation report to be presented at the end of the Plan lifespan, due in October 2021. However, progress reports have historically been presented to Council annually. CD&S has committed to continue to provide an Action Plan Evaluation Summary on completion of each annual cycle of 2017-2021.

A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021 (the Plan) was endorsed by Council on 31 October 2017. This report presents an evaluation summary of the implementation of year one actions (2017-18) identified under this Plan.

DISCUSSION

A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021 (Attachment 1) undertakes to delivery action across three priorities impacting upon the health and wellbeing of the Monash community. A total of 30 action areas were outlined in the *Year One Action Plan 2017-2018*. In this new integrated way of working, each department of CD&S aligns their individual work plans to support the annual Action Plans.

A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021 Year One Action Plan (Action Plan) identified emerging priorities for action. These priorities were informed by consultation with our community, Councillors, staff and key partner agencies, and was supported by evidence as outlined

in the Plan's companion document *Our Community: A Snapshot* (Attachment 3)

A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021 sets out ambitious targets focused on the following priorities: Active and Healthy; Engaged, Confident and Connected; Safe and Respectful. The Action Plan outlines actions and impact factors which, when achieved, will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the Monash community.

While Council is committed to an annual reporting cycle for this plan, it should be noted that the Plan sets a four-year strategic direction, and therefore reporting year-on-year may, in some priority areas, only show an incremental impact. That said, there have already been a number of significant achievements demonstrated in Year One.

By using an integrated approach to strategic health and wellbeing planning, Council has a unique opportunity to apply a renewed approach to the way we evaluate our work. *The Action Plan Year One Evaluation Summary 2017-2018* (Attachment 2) captures a 'helicopter view' of the Actions delivered, to provide an understanding of how they have affected positive change in the lives of the Monash community. What has been evident through this initial year evaluation process, is that there is a greater level of collaboration and collective impact enabled simply by having an integrated plan.

Highlights from Year One

Some of the highlights and key achievements from Year One include:

PRIORITY: Active and Healthy

- The installation of new and upgraded accessible play spaces continues to be a key focus for Council, particularly play spaces that promote child development, increased physical activity, an appreciation of the outdoors, and provides opportunity for safe exploration.
- Reduction of seniors groups meeting and socialising in gambling venues or participating in gambling activities. Council facilitates social support groups for seniors to attend providing alternatives to gambling activities.
- Council has increased the number of playgroups, including the delivery of 'playgroup pop-ups' and the opening of the Cabena Child and Family Centre in April 2018. Through this network all caregivers (mothers, fathers, grandparents and extended families) are able to feel more supported, socially connected and able to access information and services.
- The Monash Youth Services (MYS) team has delivered targeted outreach to vulnerable people, such as the young people who are

residents of the Youth Foyer, ensuring vaccination rates of 95% for all vaccine preventable diseases.

- The Early Years team has strengthened its relationship with Child FIRST and Child Protection through the Inner East Family Services Alliance, enabling the team to deliver better knowledge of and responses for our most vulnerable young people.
- As an unintended consequence of the consultation and advocacy efforts to improve mental health services for young people in Monash, the MYS team now have an even greater understanding of local young people's needs, and how their service is perceived.
- Revitalisation of Council's Community Transport Program for seniors, to allow for greater use of the service. The "Seniors on the Move" and "Healthy Habits on the Move" programs have had a positive impact on access, social connection and independent living for older adults living in Monash
- To ensure that all residents are encouraged to participate in physical activity rates, all new and upgraded Council facilities are designed for accessibility and inclusion, with gender, age, ability and culture as key considerations.

PRIORITY: Engaged, Confident & Connected

- The Monash community is actively consulted, engaged in civic and community activities and invited to participate in a dynamic program of events. Council provides opportunities for people to have their say about things that matter to them. This includes via consultations, communities and networks, and Community Listening Posts.
- The Community Conversation Series is a program of forums and events presented on a range of health and wellbeing topics. These topics are relevant and informative for target audiences. One of the most highly attended events in the series was the Chinese Women's Health Event, which was presented entirely in Mandarin.
- Council presents a dynamic program of events and community celebrations which reflect the culturally and linguistically diverse community of Monash. Many of these events are organised with direct community involvement to ensure they accurately represent the culture of creative expression of the communities they reflect.
- The membership of the Monash Multicultural Settlement Services Network has been refreshed, to ensure that new contacts and agencies are included. This has led to a renewed sense of purpose for the network and the development of a program that is driven by the needs of our more vulnerable CALD communities.
- As a result of Council implementing an internal protocol for responding to rough sleeping in Monash, Council has been able to respond to 100% of all reports of rough sleeping. There is now one homelessness support service located in Monash, operating once a week from Clayton.

- The introduction of the Neighbourhoods & Place Making team has provided Council with resources to enable responses to local and emerging issues (including Community Safety). These staff will strengthen community networks, foster a sense of place and build Council's relationship with residents.
- Monash is developing a Language Aide Scheme. This will recognise and value the language skills existing within the Council workforce. Staff will be accredited and supported to provide informal interpreter services to assist everyday interactions with customers in the community. This contributes to Council's cultural competence and assists us to deliver respectful and responsive customer service to our CALD community members.
- Council has continued working in close partnership with Monash University to deliver community health and wellbeing outcomes. Through joint activities such as Monash in Motion, Winter Concert Series, Rang Barse (Holi) Festival and Live at Warrawee, this partnership continues to go from strength to strength.

PRIORITY: Safe & Respectful

- With the support provided by Maternal Child Health and Early Years services, there has been a reported increase in Monash children's readiness and identified learning needs for transition into four-year old kindergarten.
- The Monash Public Library Service programs delivered for seniors, (e.g. 'Living in the Real World') exceeded targets for attendees and number of repeat sessions offered, thereby addressing the need for digital literacy and life skills within this cohort.
- Monash continues to be recognised for its leadership and advocacy for Gender Equity across local, regional, state and national settings. Council is working with schools, sports clubs and local community organisations to implement evidence-based and sustainable initiatives that promote respectful relationships and the prevention of violence against women. Facilitating change in local settings supports the safe participation of women in all aspects of community life.
- Monash is implementing policies and procedures across Council in an effort to attain UN accreditation as a Child-Friendly City. This includes all MCH and Immunisation staff (as well as other key staff in CD&S) completing the Safeguarding Children Online training.

A more detailed overview of Year 1 achievements is provided in Attachment 2 - The Action Plan Year One Evaluation Summary 2017-2018.

Evaluation Framework – Years Two – Four

Over the next four years, the CD&S team will focus on measuring the impact which Council has on the priorities outlined in *A Healthy & Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021* using the "most significant change"

evaluation method (Davies and Dart 2003). Council will work in partnership with academics from Deakin University, to develop appropriate methods for capturing qualitative data, which will provide Council with greater insights and more robust evaluation, to show positive incremental progress on long term priorities.

It should be noted that Monash's innovative approach to integrated health and wellbeing planning, sets a new precedent for local governments across Victoria. Furthermore, our enhanced evaluation framework will result in a more sophisticated approach to collecting, analysing and reporting on the very positive and tangible impacts that Council is able to have on the lives of the people of Monash.

Once this report and the Evaluation Summary has been presented to Council, a summary of the year one progress and highlights will also be made available to the general community.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

A Healthy And Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021 represents a new strategic policy direction which adopts the approach of one integrated health plan with one vision, one yearly action plan and shared priorities across the Community Development and Services Directorate.

In addition to the identified priorities of the Plan and associated actions, Council will continue to deliver its full suite of services, activities and programs.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021 represents Council's integrated approach to support the Monash community to lead healthy, happy and fulfilled lives. The Plan prioritises programs, services and activities that make it easy for members of the Monash community to lead healthy lifestyles.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The Plan seeks to represent the needs and aspirations of every member of the Monash community and their specific priorities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021 is predominantly implemented within existing Council resources. In some instances, funding will be sought through Council's annual budget process and/or externally.

CONCLUSION

The Action Plan Year One Evaluation Summary 2017-2018 provides an overview of the actions delivered and key achievements in the initial year of the new Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan.

The strategic outcomes achieved in Year One reflect Council's commitment to improving the lives of the Monash community across leading health and wellbeing priorities.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: *A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021*

Attachment 2: *Action Plan Year One Evaluation Summary 2017-2018*

Attachment 3: *Our Community: A Snapshot*