

2.1 A HEALTHY AND RESILIENT MONASH: INTEGRATED PLAN 2017 - 2021 YEAR THREE EVALUATION SUMMARY (2019 - 2020)

Responsible Director: Russell Hopkins

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

This report presents a summary of the implementation and evaluation of *A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017 - 2021 Year Three Action Plan 2019-2020*.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS/ISSUES

Council's state-legislated municipal public health and wellbeing plan '*A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021*' [the Plan] includes an annual action plan each year for implementation and evaluation.

This report reflects the Plan's completion and evaluation of its third year.

During the course of this year's implementation, Council and the community had the unprecedented challenge of adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated restrictions. In response, Council refocused and adapted many of its services, programs and initiatives to support residents through the pandemic. This adaptation is reflected throughout this report.

To celebrate the successes achieved in each year of the Plan, Council also releases an annual highlights video. The Year Three Highlights Video captures the health and wellbeing initiatives conducted by Council and the 'Most Significant Change' impacts to community. This video will be available via Council's website and is an accessible representation of the annual achievements of the Plan.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

The impact of the Year Three Action Plan under Council's *A Healthy & Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017 - 2021* reflects Council's commitment to and delivery of actions that improve the lives of the Monash community across identified health and wellbeing priorities. It also demonstrates Council's agile response to supporting and continuing to service the community through every stage of the COVID-19 restrictions.

It is recommended that Council notes this report.

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the achievements outlined within the Year Three Evaluation Summary of 'A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021'

INTRODUCTION

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 Three of the Plan (2019 - 2020).

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, Victorian local governments are required to, within 12 months of their election, develop, and then implement and evaluate a municipal public health and wellbeing plan [MPHWP]. The objective of the state-legislated MPHWP is to maximise the health of the community through initiatives, programs, services and policies based on evidence.

In October 2017, Council endorsed *A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021* (The Plan) [**Attachment 1**].

DISCUSSION

The Plan's priorities

The Plan captures three priority areas that contribute to the health and wellbeing of the Monash community: *Active and Healthy; Engaged, Confident & Connected; and Safe & Respectful*. These priorities were developed in consultation with our community, Councillors, staff, key partner agencies and supported by evidence through census and population health statistics. Supporting these overarching priorities are 30 key areas for action and *A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021 Year Three Action Plan* identifies specific yearly actions [**Attachment 2**].

Evaluation Approach

The Year Three Evaluation Summary 2019 - 2020 [**Attachment 3**] highlights high-level action, innovation and achievements across all 30 key areas over the course of July 2019 – September 2020. Many of the innovative responses to the COVID-19 pandemic are listed throughout the evaluation summary.

A mixed-methods approach of quantitative and qualitative data is recorded to measure the impact of Council's contribution to improving the health and wellbeing of Monash residents across the prioritised actions of the Plan.

Most Significant Change Evaluation

An overarching evaluation framework 'Most Significant Change' is applied where possible across the Plan's actions. The 'Most Significant Change' [MSC] evaluation model is a qualitative, participatory monitoring approach which collects 'stories' of significant change. Monash residents are asked 'What is the most significant change [the Council initiative] has had on you?' and "Why is that important to you?'. The MSC approach is a simple and powerful method which highlights success stories and provides rich narrative as to the impact of Council's work across the community.

The accompanying video showcasing the Year Three Highlights Video of *A Healthy & Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017 – 2021* captures many of the 'Most Significant Change' stories that have occurred as a result of the Plan's activity, and will be available on Council's website.

Highlights and Achievements of Year Three

A selection of key achievements of Year Three of the Plan have been highlighted below, thematically organised into the following categories:

- Key achievements: three pillars of the plan
- COVID-19 response and adaptation
- LGBTIQ+ inclusive activities

Key Year three achievements: the three pillars

PRIORITY: Active and Healthy

- The Immunisation Innovation project
- 'Local Drug Action Team – Our Club' project
- Maternal and Child Health Mobility Upgrade Project (with Business Technology)
- 'This Girl Can' Grant
- A Night at the Library - 30 hours continuous opening of the Glen Waverley Library featuring 32 activities and community workshops
- Ten key Recreation Facility Development Projects were planned for or delivered, including Ashwood High modular bathroom amenities (Council manages this land which is highly utilised by Monash residents)
- The second year of the successful 'Community Leaders United By Sport' (CLUBS) gender equity in sports pilot program

PRIORITY: Engaged, Confident & Connected

- Recruiting Community Ambassadors as part of the 'Hello Neighbour' Community Harmony Grant project
- 'Meet Your Street' - neighbourhood events, Meet Your Street Guide, Street Party Guide and Meet Your Street grants
- The *Portrait of Monash: the ties that bind* exhibition. MGA commissioned four leading Australian artists to explore the City of Monash
- Development of Monash's first ever Loneliness Framework and Social Housing Framework (draft)
- Monash Public Library Service was the first library in Australia to participate in the International Bookmark Exchange Competition in conjunction with five international public libraries
- Young Women's Leadership Program
- Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week
- Active Monash pricing policy assessment review
- Quiet sensory spaces at an immunisation session and the Clayton Festival
- The Resilience Project public forum
- Volunteer@Monash has been developed and expanded, with 32 different position descriptions, an increase in enquiries from residents and a new PageUp webpage developed (to be launched post COVID-19)

PRIORITY: Safe & Respectful

- 'PLAYING FAIR' to support gender equitable and inclusive play environments at playgroups (grant from the Office for Women (DPC) as part of the 'Free from Violence Local Government Grants Program')
- Development of Monash's first Sensory Play Space at Wellesley Play Space
- Gender Equality Bill Implementation Pilot Project – Gender Impact Analysis
- Safety & Security Audits conducted across 35 reserves
- Upgrade of the Glen Waverley Library Public Toilets. This was a \$160k initiative which ensures the toilets are Disability Discrimination Act compliant and will greatly improve the amenity for the users of the library (330,000+ users per annum).
- The 'Clothesline Project' at Batesford Family Fun Day
- Establishment of the editorial group of young people who have both contributed and edited the publication of the Monash Student Space newsletter

- Launch of the new Events Approval Process applicable to all Council and Community delivered events held on Council-owned public open spaces
- Community and stakeholder engagement ensuring that the design of the Brine Street Child Care Centre upgrade met current and future needs of the service

A detailed overview of the Year Three achievements is provided in *Attachment 3 Year Three Evaluation Summary 2019 – 2020*. As the Plan sets out a four-year strategic direction, single year reporting may show incremental progress against some actions. Many activities achieve multiple objectives but may appear only once under a single objective.

COVID-19 response and adaptation

Delivering services and activities during the COVID-19 restrictions posed a unique opportunity to innovate and adapt Council activity to continue to serve the Monash community and achieve the Plan's objectives.

Some of Council's responses to the challenges posed by COVID-19 include:

- Creation of the Community Response Team [CRT] to provide an effective and coordinated response to mitigate the impact of COVID-19
- The International Women's Day 2020 event became Council's first online, livestream community event in response to COVID-19 restrictions
- A Health Promotion Marketing Plan, developed in response to COVID-19 restrictions
- Immunisation Service adaptations: an all online booking system, sessions observing social distancing, additional hygiene protocols and extra requirements for nurses, while also responding to a greatly increased demand for service
- Maternal and Child Health service adaptations: phone or telehealth for all appointments up to 3.5 years, 15 minute in-person weight checks using universal precautions for infants aged 2-8 week old and 4 months, and new parent groups all online
- Early Years and Family Services adaptations: virtual playgroup experiences and YouTube videos that the Playgroup Facilitators have been able to offer families with children, both single one-on-one sessions, in small groups and in large Zoom groups, and playdough activity kits
- Brine Street Child Care & Kindergarten has created a YouTube Channel with activities and story time, supporting the ongoing education and wellbeing of children. While the Centre remained

open, families who are not attending are able to continue participating in the Brine Street community

- FReeZA Quiksound Productions developed and facilitated an online talent event for local young people during the COVID-19 isolation.
- Monash Council led a partnership of seven councils to host 'An evening with Tom Boyd', an online Men's Health Week event highlighting mental wellbeing
- Active Monash's Online Group Exercise program to support the community to keep fit and active while at home during COVID-19, including group fitness videos, workouts, healthy tips and information, advice on how to keep your family moving during this time. Over 67,000 views of the social media, webpage and YouTube sites were captured from April to June 2020
- Supporting the #TogetherforRespectatHome social media campaign during COVID-19 and, in partnership with The Glen, sharing these vital messages with our community on their digital super screens
- A Library and Meals on Wheels Community Support Team collaboration delivered targeted reading materials to vulnerable meals on wheels clients
- Monash Public Library Service adaptations included easier access to online resources, cleared fines, increased loan amount, extended loans periods, BeamaFilms streaming videos, redirected expenditure into e-resources and introduction of a personalised book matching service for e-books
- Social Inclusion COVID-19 responses individual phone calls to existing Positive Ageing Activity Centre clients, phone contact care plans, Monash on the Move monthly program was replaced with a monthly 'Let's Stay Social' newsletter, monthly at home Activity Kits for PAAC clients and Volunteers, and participation in the Community Care Blanket project
- Monash Gallery of Art's virtual engagement programs that respond to COVID-19, including virtual gallery experiences with a dedicated microsite and the release of a new series of artist interviews in collaboration with RMIT University
- Monash Library's online baby times and multicultural story times - 3,693 YouTube downloads of 60 programs up to 30 June 2020
- Supporting the Monash Multicultural Settlement Services Network (MMSSN) to share information on services and community needs and foster partnerships between community groups and local service providers, including translated COVID-19 related information.

LGBTIQ+

In Year Three the internal governance committee of Council officers who implement the Plan and meet quarterly to monitor the plan's actions, identified LGBTIQ+ inclusive activities as a shared priority to focus and cross-collaborate on. Some of the activities in Year Three included:

- Council is a member on the Q-East Alliance (made up of the seven Eastern-Metropolitan Councils and community organisations). The Q-East Alliance has organised a Rainbow Celebration event for young LGBTQIA+ people on 15 November, 2019
- LGBTIQ+ Inclusive Practice Training provided to 65 Monash employees, facilitated by Transgender Victoria
- Monash Public Library Service developed a LBGTIQA collection series title, to 652 items in Library catalogue, with 1,905 loans since July 2019 to end of March
- The Youth Services team coordinated an information stall in the Glen Waverley library forecourt on 'Wear it Purple Day' with information and resources for young people. The Glen Waverley library also had a book display to promote their LBGTIQA collection list. Council Officers were encouraged to wear purple on 'Wear it Purple Day' on 30 August, 2019
- Glen Waverley Library hosted an online Rainbow Storytime and rainbow yarn bombing of the entrance to Glen Waverley library International Day against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia (IDAHOBIT) Day in May 2020
- In 2019 WordFest brought together authors from a variety of backgrounds to share their poignant experiences that shaped their lives, influenced their writing and enabled them to share their deepest truths. The speaker line-up included Nevo Zisin who identifies as non-binary
- As part of MGA's 'Portrait of Monash: the ties that bind' exhibition for February - May 2020, Australian Photographer David Rosetzky interviewed members of the Monash LGBTIQ community to reflect their lived experiences in the exhibition
- Every quarter there is a LGBTIQ-themed film as part of the Positive Ageing Lifestyles Program
- Youth Services provides one-to-one youth worker support and referral for the LGBTIQ community
- Active Pride Night at Monash Aquatics and Recreation Centre was planned but this event was rescheduled for mid to late 2020 due to COVID -19.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Municipal public health and wellbeing plans are four-year state-legislated strategies which commit Councils to maximising the health and wellbeing of the municipality and apply a rigorous, evidence-based annual implementation and evaluation reporting process. The municipal public health and wellbeing plans have direct alignment to the Victorian State Government's four-yearly public health and wellbeing plan.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Plan represents Council's legislated role in supporting the Monash community to lead healthy, happy and fulfilled lives.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

Human rights principles of access and equity, social justice, all abilities, gender equity, diverse communities, information and communication are articulated in the Plan and underpin its approach and application.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

The *Year Three Evaluation Summary 2019 - 2020* provides an overview of key actions completed and evaluated in the third year of the new *A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021*.

The *Year Three Evaluation Summary 2019 - 2020* reflects Council's commitment to and delivery of actions that improve the lives of the Monash community across identified health and wellbeing priorities. Notably, it also demonstrates Council's agility to continuing to serve and support the community in innovative, practical and meaningful ways whilst adapting to the substantial changes posed by COVID-19 restrictions.

ATTACHMENTS

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

Attachment 2: *A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021 Year Three Action Plan 2019-2020*

Attachment 3: *Year Three Evaluation Summary 2019 - 2020*