Section 1: PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOUTHERN & HILLS REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2022

CONSOLIDATED REPORT *(with comparison to State Public Health Plan 2019 – 2024)*

Notes
- The first Southern & Hills Regional Public Health Plan was completed in May 2015 and formally endorsed in July 2015.
- The regional plan involves the six constituent councils of the Southern & Hills LGA: the Councils of Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Kangaroo Island, Mount Barker, Yankalilla and Victor Harbor.
- This report highlights activities of individual councils that have contributed to achieving the shared objectives of the regional plan and include significant initiatives, special projects and ongoing activities. It is not intended that every activity of every council is included.

THEMES/TOPICS/STRATEGIES FOR THE REGION		STATE PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN 2019 - 2024 PRIORITIES	ACHIEVEMENTS 2020-2022
THEME 1: HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS			
Built Environments	1.1 Aim for built environments that support communities to be active and socially connected (including all generations and levels of ability) and contribute to the health and well-being of communities. This will require a focus on creating liveable and 'walkable' towns and places with appealing and good quality public realm and open spaces.	PROMOTE: Build stronger and communities and healthier environments PREVENT: Prevent chronic disease, communicable disease and injury.	**Walkable towns** Staff from all councils were trained in universal design for the public realm via a regional project called *'Accessible Destinations in the Southern and Hills LGA'*. Councils across the region completed projects to support walkable and liveable communities including: • The District Council of Yankalilla completed 200 lineal metres of footpath repairs to existing footpaths as well as approximately 300 lineal metres of general footpath maintenance. Council also laid 200 lineal metres of asphalt material on footpaths as per its Footpath Priority Plan and completed maintenance of 3.5 kilometres of tracks and trails. • The City of Victor Harbor progressed its Footpath and Pedestrian Improvement Program, including ongoing works on its priority networks for disability access and inclusion. This improvement plan is based on recommendations from the Disability Access and Inclusion Committee, and community consultations from the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan and the Community Plan. • Adelaide Hills Council supported community-led walking events, constructed 10 new footpaths and renewed 28 footpaths to current standards • Kangaroo Island Council continued to deliver the five (5) year footpath program with new concrete footpaths on Osmond, Murray and Commercial Streets in Kingscote. **Quality public realm** Councils across the region completed public realm upgrades including: • Alexandrina Council completed several stages of the Strathalbyn Town Centre Streetscape Revitalisation program, constructed new footpaths in Milang, completed detailed designs for the Goolwa Wharf precinct upgrade, and commenced design for the implementation of the Goolwa Beach public spaces and car park upgrade. • The District Council of Yankalilla purchased, demolished and remediated an existing Service Station in Normanville and created a permanent green space called the Village Green in the centre of the town. Council also completed the Normanville Foreshore Masterplan including investigations into the jetty extension. • The City of Victor Harbor completed stage three of the main street upgrade with stage four currently under construction. The upgrades improved access and inclusion and provide an adaptable outdoor public space that is welcoming, safe and vibrant. • Adelaide Hills Council continued to work with community groups to progress strategic planning for their townships including the Gumeracha Main Street Project. • Kangaroo Island Council is delivering phase 1 of the Town Centers upgrade project across the four main townships, Kingscote, American River, Penenshaw and Parndana. This upgrade project not only makes the public space more accessible for people of all abilities it also activates the townships to support business to flourish and build community pride for the place we live. **Play opportunities** Councils across the region completed play space projects including: • Alexandrina Council completed several playground/ playspace renewal and replacement projects at Milang, Mount Compass and Port Eillot. • The District Council of Yankalilla secured funding and constructed a new pump track at the Yankalilla Youth Park. • The City of Victor Harbor completed stage two of the George Fischer Playground in Victor Harbor, providing active and imaginative play for children of all ages and abilities. • Adelaide Hills Council upgraded 5 playspaces at Birdwood, Paracombe, Mount Torrens Oval, Charleston and Kersbrook Soldiers Memorial Park. Council also audited all play spaces to ensure that it meets appropriate standards. The audit information along with policy positions and usage data assists Council to prioritise works to play spaces, courts, ovals and trails. • Kangaroo Island Council has installed new playground equipment at Emu Bay, American River and Kingscote with further equipment to be installed during the 2022/23 financial period.

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		Open space and trails Councils across the region maintained and improved public open space (reserves) including facilities and equipment to support passive and active recreation opportunities. Councils completed open space and recreational trail projects including: • Alexandrina Council completed a review of Encounter Bikeway and consulted the community on proposed changes. • The District Council of Yankalilla constructed multi-use trails and infrastructure for the Great Gorge Walk, Second Valley Forest, Carrickalinga Foreshore Trail and Stage 1 of the Carrickalinga to Normanville Walk. • The City of Victor Harbor improved accessibility to Muwerang (Kent Reserve) at Victor Harbor by enhancing accessible paths, connections to the beach and roll out beach matting. • Adelaide Hills Council audited all existing and proposed walking and cycling routes throughout the region to inform future trails and cycling policy, service levels, and help understand their maintenance requirements. It also completed the connection of the Amy Gillett Bikeway in Woodside, and developed a new Trails and Cycling Routes Policy to help prioritise future trail route projects. • Mount Barker District Council updated its Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm, Trails and Play Space Strategies. It also delivered the new walking and cycling trails program including the connection to the new Summit Sports and Recreation Park. • Kangaroo Island Council partnered with Kangaroo Island Tourism Alliance to deliver the Three Towns Walking project with replacement of directional and information signage to promote the existing walking trails in Kingscote, American River and Penneshaw. **Sport and recreation facilities** Councils undertook sports and recreation facility projects including: • The District Council of Yankalilla partnered with Reclink to provide access to sport and recreation by families experiencing disadvantage, through delivering 3 activity events for local youth. It also supported over 15 sports clubs through the delivery of Star Club training and events. • Alexandrina Council completed the first stage of a major redevelopment of Goolwa Oval precinct which includes a new community facility to be shared by a number of sports clubs. • Adelaide Hills Council developed the Community and Recreation Facilities Framework. It was also shortlisted as a finalist for the Local Government Professional South Australia award for management of the Lobethal Bushland Park Bushfire Recovery Project Initiative. It also secured grant funding of approximately $1 million for projects such as the Heathfield Oval change room and Cricket Net Project to upgrade facilities. • Mount Barker District Council advocated and secured funding to commence detailed design and construction of the Regional Indoor Aquatic and Leisure Facility. It also completed construction of the Summit Sports and Recreation Park stage 1 (Springs Road) and commenced use of the facilities. • Kangaroo Island Council continued to support the rebuild of the Western Districts Memorial Community Sports Centre with financial support from the AFL, SACA and Office of Recreation and Sport. It also continued to work with sporting groups to review their current facilities and planning what upgrades and additional facilities are required over the next 5 to 10 years. **Other infrastructure and facilities** • The District Council of Yankalilla commenced construction of a new library and community hub in Yankalilla with library services planned for the new facility in alignment with the State Government's Public Libraries Strategic Objectives "Tomorrow's Libraries". • Alexandrina Council upgraded the Strathalbyn Senior Citizens facility and supported the relocation of the Strath Neighbourhood Centre into the building. It also supported the community to develop the Port Elliot Community Garden, and commenced a major redevelopment of Signal Point Gallery, which included an upgrade to the building as well as a new exhibition fit out on the ground floor to house an 'experience centre' focused on First Nations Culture, river/environment and river boat history and act as a signpost to point visitors to the rest of the activities on the wharf and across the region. • Adelaide Hills Council upgraded a number of community halls including Longwood Institute Hall, Mylor Hall and Crafers Hall. • Kangaroo Island Council supported two of its township Progress Associations in Parndana and Penneshaw to upgrade their Town Halls.
Natural Environments	1.2 Plan for and maintain appealing and accessible natural environments and landscapes that contribute to the liveability of the region and provide unique and diverse activity opportunities.	PROMOTE: Build stronger and communities and healthier environments PREVENT: Prevent chronic disease, communicable disease and injury.	**Coastal landscapes** Coastal councils completed priority works to protect and enhance the coastal environment including: • The District Council of Yankalilla supported the Yankalilla Community Nursery to grow 40,000 seedlings and delivered the Glossy Black Cockatoo recovery project with 25,000 seedlings grown by volunteers. It also carried out coastal revegetation programs with the Rapid Bay Primary School and the Yankalilla Area School, and worked with the Myponga Primary School and the Yankalilla Area Schools to plant local native plants at the schools. It also used water-sensitive urban design principles to create 4 new rain gardens. • Alexandrina Council completed the Ratalang Basham Beach Dune Stabilisation project with support, guidance and partial funding from the Coastal Protection Board. Council also worked closely with the Ngarrindjeri authority at Ratalang Basham Beach for this important dune protection at one of two highlighted areas at this location. • Kangaroo Island Council supported local community groups undertake coastal revegetation

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			projects by auspicing funds and providing in-kind support. **Pest plant and animal control** Councils across the region undertook pest plant and animal control programs including: - The District Council of Yankalilla partnered with the Coast Protection Board to carry out rabbit control at priority sites that rabbits are impacting on coastal conservation and dune stability at Cape Jervis, Wirrina, Normanville, Carrickalinga and Myponga Beach. - Adelaide Hills Council commenced the cat study aimed at better understanding how cats utilize the habitat and which parts of the landscape should be the focus of further management. It also commenced a mapping project capturing declared weeds on Council roadsides in order to secure resourcing for weed management. - Kangaroo Island Council supported the KI Landscape Board's Feral Cat eradication blitz at the eastern end of the island. **Biodiversity** Councils undertook biodiversity protection and improvement initiatives including: - The District Council of Yankalilla implemented 68 priority actions under the Southern Fleurieu Coastal Action Plan. It also partnered with the Normanville Natural Resource Centre on sustainable living initiatives. - Alexandrina Council's Biodiversity Team managed approximately 312 hectares of natural areas, including 52 hectares of Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement area and 292 km of roadsides for the benefit of nature conservation. Council gratefully acknowledges its conservation partners which actively manage an additional 139 hectares of nature conservation areas. It also provided Hooded Plover information sessions during School Holiday Programs at Goolwa Library in 2020 and 2021. - Adelaide Hills Council reviewed and adopted the Biodiversity Strategy. It also collaborated with over 12 volunteer bushcare groups, non-government organisations, and State Government departments in managing biodiversity on mixed-use reserves across the region. Council also monitored vegetation at 24 high value reserves, completed regular assessments at over 90 Native Vegetation Marker System sites, completed bushcare activities at 167 Native Vegetation Marker System roadsides and 61 high biodiversity value reserves, and undertook woodland bird monitoring at 8 conservation sites. AHC also secured over $455,825 in external funding for biodiversity work on Council-managed roadsides and reserves. **Planning for natural areas** Councils prepared plans and strategies to protect important natural places and biodiversity: - The District Council of Yankalilla consulted with the local Landscape Board on the first 5 year Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Plan. - Alexandrina Council continued to advocate for the health of the River Murray, Lower Lakes and Coorong. Its vision is a healthy, working Murray Darling Basin which sustains our people, our economy, our culture, and our environment, all the way from southern Queensland through to the Lower Lakes, Coorong and Murray Mouth to the sea. - Adelaide Hills Council developed a Long Term Strategic Tree Planting Program to complement its continued enhancement of existing landscapes and maintenance programs.
Housing	1.3 Encourage the provision of diverse housing choices including affordable housing and housing choices that support older adults and 'ageing in place', people with a disability and young people. This includes allowing for and encouraging diverse housing options through Development Plans and town planning.	PROMOTE: Build stronger and communities and healthier environments	**Planning policy** Councils across the region implemented the State's new Planning and Development System and engaged in policy change through Planning and Design Code amendments including: - Following the completion of the Structure Plan for Yankalilla, Normanville and Carrickalinga, the District Council of Yankalilla supported a Code Amendment program to support the rezoning of land to accommodate future residential, environmental and employment needs for the next 15 years. - Alexandrina Council completed a Development Plan Amendment to provide additional land supply for diverse housing in Strathalbyn. The Development Plan Amendment being undertaken for Goolwa was not completed as Council chose not to proceed after the community consultation. **Housing strategies** - The District Council of Yankalilla progressed land use planning and investment attraction for housing, employment diversity and education diversity through the endorsement of an Economic Development Strategy. - The City of Victor Harbor supported the Southern Fleurieu Housing Round Table and the Homelessness Action Group facilitated by The Fleurieu Community Foundation. Both groups identify and support innovative solutions to housing. Occupational Therapy Master's students investigated youth homelessness and provided recommendations. - Adelaide Hills Council - as part of the transition to the Planning and Design Code - focused on ensuring that the development policy was transitioned in a manner that supported housing diversity and choice in appropriate locations, with a focus on density uplift and good design outcomes while ensuring that strategic housing outcomes supported by the previous Development Plan were supported by the new planning system.

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		Other housing initiatives • Mount Barker District Council staff worked with the Toward Home Alliance and local NGOs to ensure that regular outreach workers attend Mount Barker in an attempt to link rough sleepers to services and to find them suitable accommodation. • Kangaroo Island Council continued to support two Workers Accommodation projects in Parndana through in kind support with project management and planning. We continue to work with Junction Australia and SA Housing Authority on potential affordable housing developments on Council owned land.
Environmental Health	1.4 Undertake and facilitate environmental health services and programs that respond to the requirements of legislation and reflect community issues. Specific initiatives that respond to the health risks in the region are considered in the Council Public Health Action Plans in accordance with available resources.	PROMOTE: Build stronger and healthier communities and environments PROTECT: Protect against public and environmental health risks and respond to climate change.	Councils across the region continued to apply specific public health legislation relating to food safety, on-site wastewater management, manufactured water systems, swimming pools/spas, disease prevention and control, pest and vermin control, sanitation, housing/accommodation, water quality, environmental management, contaminated land and emergency management. Numerous outbreak investigations were undertaken by Councils in conjunction with SA Health, dealing with issues such as legionella, salmonella and pests of public health significance. Councils across the region were involved in enforcement activities ranging from warnings through to prosecutions under the Food Act and Wastewater Regulations. **Emergency response** Councils across the region played an active role in responding to emergencies, including the COVID-19 public health crisis, and undertook initiatives with their partners to plan for and mobilise effective emergency responses in the future, including: • The District Council of Yankalilla continued to be an active participant in the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island Zone Emergency Management Committee and provided ongoing feedback on the Region's Zone Emergency Management Plan. It also continued to participate in the Local Government Functional Support Group. Council also supported local emergency services organisations through its Fleurieu Coast Community Network, and contributed to the development of the Fleurieu Peninsular Services Online Directory. • Alexandrina Council took an active role responding to COVID-19 to help the community wherever possible. We sought to maintain effective and efficient Council services, although some Council services, events and programs were impacted by COVID-19. It activated a comprehensive Business Continuity Plan and provided regular updates about the Council's response via the corporate website, print media and Facebook page. • Mount Barker District Council's Environmental Health Officers played an active role during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic performing public place inspections, undertaking COVID compliance inspections, and referring non-compliances to SA Health or SAPOL. • Adelaide Hills Council utilised its primary emergency management response document, the Incident Operations Manual, to guide the response to the Cherry Gardens Bushfire and COVID-19 pandemic response activities in support of SA Health. The Manual was developed in 2019 and first utilised in response to the Cudlee Creek Bushfire in December 2019. Following a 'lessons learnt' process undertaken by Council in response to these three incidents the Manual was reviewed with a revised version adopted in October 2021. Supported by the Local Government Association 'Council Ready' Program, AHC also completed its Emergency Management Plan, which establishes Council's strategic direction for emergency management and describes the actions that council is taking or will take to reduce disaster risk, maintain incident operational capability, and prepare for recovery. • Kangaroo Island Council secured $290,000 from the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRA) to develop an island wide Natural Disaster Mitigation Plan to improve the communities resilience and response to climate and natural disaster events. **Wastewater** • Alexandrina Council reached a milestone in June 2021 with the transfer of ownership from Coorong Quay to Alexandrina Council. Substantial on-ground works occurred on both Hindmarsh Island and within Goolwa over the previous two years to ensure a seamless transition. Council ownership will enable an economical and reliable way to ensure good public health outcomes and wastewater quality outcomes for Coorong Quay's residents now and into the future. Alexandrina Council's Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) in 2020/21 followed up 148 complaints relating to wastewater systems and 133 aerobic servicing reports, which identified issues of non-compliance with relevant legislation. As a result of these investigations, 40 Compliance Notices were issued under the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*. • Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade commenced at the Mount Barker Wastewater Treatment Plant • Adelaide Hills Council renewed Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) pumps, including at Birdwood and Stirling. AHC also finalised pipe capacity upgrades in the Woodside township through the recreation grounds. Council upgraded pump station and control panel at Woodside Community Wastewater Management System facility to improve operational performance and reduce noise pollution. It also concluded a 3-year Aerobic Treatment System Compliance Project where over 600 aerobic systems reported as having no established disposal area or a non-compliant disposal area were rectified (Council has now embarked on the next stage which involves following up aerobic systems that are not providing regular servicing reports).

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			### Food and water - Adelaide Hills Council undertook food safety training with local businesses to ensure compliance. It also provided Food Safety Training program using an online platform through Council's website, enabling owners of food businesses to learn about best practice food handling and preparation. - Kangaroo Island Council supported SA Water's Penneshaw Desalination Plant upgrade project which will provide water security for the whole of Kangaroo Island. ### Immunisation Programs Councils across the region facilitated school and community immunisation programs, with many also offering influenza vaccinations free to staff as an initiative to reduce absenteeism and set a positive example to the community. - The District Council of Yankalilla provided a school immunisation program with clinics held at the Yankalilla Area School. - The City of Victor Harbor provided a facility to SA Health at Victor Harbor High School to administer COVID vaccinations to school students and provides delivery of a school-based immunisation program in partnership with the City of Onkaparinga. - Mount Barker District Council provide weekly public clinics at a number of different locations as well as providing school clinics as part of the School Immunisation Program. - Adelaide Hills Council continued to conduct regular public immunisation clinics at both Stirling and Woodside. Its immunisation clinics are run by the Eastern Health Authority. ### Other environmental health The City of Victor Harbor continued to provide two sharps disposal facilities to the public to enable the safe disposal of sharps.
Climate Change	1.5…Identify opportunities for responding to the impacts of climate change on the health and well-being of communities, including the health risks associated with extreme heat, disease and personal safety.	PROMOTE: Build stronger and communities and healthier environments PROTECT: Protect against public and environmental health risks and respond to climate change.	### Resilient Hills and Coasts The Resilient Hills and Coasts regional climate change partnership continued with numerous actions identified and implemented. Key achievements include: - securing a $100,000 federal grant funding for the project 'Bushfire and Biodiversity: building balanced, long-term regional resilience for the Southern Hills LGA'. Developed and signed off on 2020-2025 Regional Sector Agreement - assisting South Australian Coastal Councils with funding and governance model - working with SAROC developing a Little Corella management strategy - liaising with Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board and providing input into its Strategic Plan and Annual Business Plan. In addition to this regional partnership, each council implemented actions that reflect community priorities and the council's risks, resources and capacity, as detailed below. ### Planning climate change responses and for a low carbon future - Alexandrina Council established a Climate Emergency Advisory Committee in 2020 to guide and inform Council's planning and policy development, as well as climate change mitigation and adaption strategies.It also delivered the Solar and Energy Efficiency Project, installing solar arrays on Council buildings and upgrading existing office lights to more efficient LED. - Adelaide Hills Council continued to implement its Corporate Carbon Management Plan including the installation of a further 132 kW of solar PV panels on key facilities. It also prepared a Fleet Transition Plan to ensure a staged transition to hybrid and then electric vehicles for Councils light fleet. ### Reducing risks of heat in urban environments - Alexandrina Council undertook a tree canopy baseline study and heat map of its major townships. Understanding where tree canopy can be increased to reduce urban heat and increase local urban biodiversity will inform Council's plans to increase township greening. - The District Council of Yankalilla reviewed and promoted its tree planting program. It also used nine megalitres of recycled water for irrigation of some of its 134 parks and reserves. - Adelaide Hills Council progressed its program to adapt parks and green spaces to protect users from the increasing risks of extreme heat, including installing water fountains, shelter structures and tree planting. This is being rolled out in association with new and upgraded playgrounds. ### Preparing for emergencies related to climate change - Mount Barker District Council's has been successful in obtaining federal funding to work with individuals, businesses and community groups to build their capacity to prepare for, adapt to and recover from climate related disasters using a 'locally-led' approach. - Kangaroo Island Council secured $290,000 from the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRA) to develop an island wide Natural Disaster Mitigation Plan to improve the communities resilience and response to climate and natural disaster events. - Adelaide Hills Council completed bushfire mitigation activities including completion of the Road Reserves Annual Maintenance Program, Bushfire Management Area Plans asset inspections, maintained 17 fire tracks, completed the Asset Protection Zone Program, completed over 10,000

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			property inspections and issued over 500 105F notices to private properties. AHC also delivered the Community Resilience and Readiness program (funded by Country SA PHN) in partnership with communities affected by the 2019 Cudlee Creek fires. The program focused on moving from community recovery and immediate responses, to longer term resilience and readiness, particularly the emotional preparedness of communities and individuals in relation to future natural disasters. **Protecting community from risks of sea level rise and storms** Adelaide Hills Council progressed the Stirling, Aldgate and Bridgewater Storm Water Management Plan in partnership with the Stormwater Management Authority. Once completed, this will be a key document in adapting our built environment regarding future flood risk. **Integrating climate change risk into decision-making** • The City of Victor Harbor collected data to establish a benchmark of carbon emissions from Council operations and the integration of environmental criteria into procurement processes to encourage a market-led approach to low-carbon delivery. • The Councils of Adelaide Hills and Mount Barker participated in the first SA pilot of Climate Planning's Informed.City™ climate risk governance assessment process. The assessment results indicated opportunities for the councils to improve their climate risk governance against key indicators. **Involving the community in climate change initiatives** • The City of Victor Harbor established a Youth Climate Council as identified in the Climate Agenda to innovatively mitigate and adapt to climate change. • Adelaide Hills Council continued to work with the Sustainability Advisory Group (community and Council Members) to inform carbon reduction and climate change initiatives.
Economic Development	1.6 Support and encourage private sector investments in the region that contribute to the health and well-being of communities, including the development of lifestyle oriented housing developments and leisure and tourism facilities.		**Support for local businesses** • The District Council of Yankalilla delivered a COVID-19 relief package to support local businesses and individuals to a value of $65,000. The Council also delivered a new Economic Development Plan to support business in the area. • The City of Victor Harbor are in the process of developing an Investment Attraction Strategy that will identify the opportunities to attract greater levels of investment in the tourism and leisure sectors of the economy. • Alexandrina Council supported 22 businesses to recover from the impacts of COVID-19 by delivering the Economic Development Recovery Grant funding. • Mount Barker District Council continue to support home-based food businesses, undertaking routine inspections and providing advice. This type of business increased during the COVID pandemic. • Adelaide Hills Council supported 60 businesses who attended the "Rethinking Business" workshop event which provided information and advice to support in responding to the impact of bushfires and COVID-19. It also hosted networking events for Home Based Businesses, which were held in response to information provided by the Business Survey undertaken in 2021. AHC also assisted community and business through bushfires and COVID-19 impacts by waiving $22k of fines and interest and $13k in outdoor dining permits. **Regional economic development, partnership and investment attraction** • Alexandrina Council launched the Economic Development Strategy 2022-27, "Regenerating Alexandrina's Economy" to realise our plan towards sustainable growth. It also launched Business Alexandrina, a dedicated business program for the region which included the establishment of the Business Alexandrina Hub, and completed the inaugural Alexandrina Innovation Challenge program for entrepreneurs. • Mount Barker District Council continued to plan for the development of under-utilised space in the Mount Barker CBD. • Kangaroo Island Council progressed development of the Kangaroo Island Prospectus to attract further investment into the island. • Adelaide Hills Council adopted its Economic Development Plan 2020-24 following significant consultation with the business community, industry groups and other levels of government. It also continued to fund and support key economic development partnerships with Stirling Business Association, Adelaide Hills Tourism and Regional Development Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island.
THEME 2: HEALTHY LIFESTYLES			
Active Communities	2.1 Facilitate and encourage active communities through diverse programs, services and activity opportunities linked the 'healthy environments'.	PROMOTE: Build stronger and communities and healthier environments PREVENT: Prevent chronic disease,	**Physical activity - sport** • The District Council of Yankalilla installed signage promoting local sporting clubs including town entry signage. • The City of Victor provided an annual Sport and Recreation Grants to encourage community-led activities. • The Mount Barker District Council installed signage promoting local sporting clubs including town entry signage, and replaced existing sports facilities as identified by asset condition inspection

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	communicable disease and injury.	works e.g. tennis courts (Includes Hahndorf Tennis Club). • Adelaide Hills Council facilitated a series of workshops for clubs to help them recover and continue to grow in the changing environment of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also provided an annual Community and Recreation Facilities Grants program to support not-for-profit community organisations improve and upgrade facilities with the broader purpose of developing sport and recreation services for the community. **Other physical activity initiatives** • The District Council of Yankalilla provided free bike hire at key locations in Yankalilla, Normanville and Myponga to complement the existing program. • The City of Victor Harbor provided several active and diverse programs through Fleurieu Families and the Caring Neighbour Program. These include toddler dance and music sessions, Active Play, Lolly Jar Circus sessions, Ocean & Beach activities and Nature Play sessions. • Alexandrina Council supported community fitness classes and inclusive circus workshops. • Mount Barker District Council increased participation rates in the Adelaide Hills Recreation Centre (Mount Barker) and attendance numbers at the Mount Barker Mountain Pool. It also replaced existing playground equipment as identified by asset condition inspection works (Anembo Park, Clydesdale Place Reserve, Harrogate). • Adelaide Hills Council upgraded play spaces at Birdwood and Paracombe to include equipment for open-ended and unstructured nature play on rocks, logs, walls and in trees. **Seniors and active ageing** • Alexandrina Council's delivery of Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) services concluded on 30 June 2021. In March 2021, Council announced Resthaven as the new provider for Council's CHSP services from 1 July 2021, appointed by the Department of Human Services. • Mount Barker District Council's Community Programs team delivered Hills Community Transport for the Council as well as Adelaide Hills and Strathalbyn over 65s. • Adelaide Hills Council delivered weekly exercise classes at its Positive Ageing Centre in Woodside for eligible clients over 65 (including yoga, pilates, tai chi, Zumba, strength and walking).
Health Education	2.2 Contribute to community awareness of health risks in the region (obesity, substance abuse, driver safety etc) and the benefits of healthy living through physical activity and health eating.	PROMOTE: Build stronger and communities and healthier environments PROTECT: Protect against public and environmental health risks and respond to climate change. PREVENT: Prevent chronic disease, communicable disease and injury.	**Healthy aging** • Alexandrina Council supported COTA workshops ('Ageing Well in Your Community' and 'Living Life and Feeling Good'), covering physical and mental wellbeing, LGBTI+, ageing well, transport and transitioning from driving, hazard management and local community programs. • Adelaide Hills Council provided regular classes, special events and social outings through its Positive Ageing Program for eligible clients over 65. The program supports cognitive stimulation, social connection and wellbeing. Regular group activities included Mind Matters, 'Bloomers' Gardening Group, Cooking with Friends, Brain Boot Camp and more. **Youth** • Mount Barker District Council delivered a range of programs and activities for young people and are in the process of reviewing and developing a Child and Youth Plan. • Adelaide Hills Council adopted the Youth Action Plan 2021-24 in December 2020. It also provided programs, activities and events to support young people's wellbeing through social connection, including the Youth Leadership Program, Youth Week events, school holiday programs, live music and video gaming events. **Driver safety** • Mount Barker Council deliver Youth Driver Safety training twice a year. • Adelaide Hills Council provided Young Drivers Awareness Courses with instructors from the Australian Driving Institute. **Nutrition education** Alexandrina Council supported the delivery of Food Matters workshop series by the Food Embassy, to engage the community in development of a sustainable food system. **Drug and alcohol education** • Alexandrina Council established the Alexandrina Local Drug and Alcohol Team in 2022 working with service providers, education professionals and community members to inform the development of a Community Action Plan, primarily with a focus on youth. • The Councils of Mount Barker and Adelaide Hills Council (with Mount Barker Community Centre) collaborated as a Local Drug Action Team to deliver education programs about alcohol and other drugs in high schools and events and activities to support community connections that minimise the likelihood of young people taking up alcohol and other drugs. **Other health education** • The City of Victor Harbor provided Child Safe Environments training, Mental Health First Aid and forums and activities for Ageing well. The Community Grants program also provided funding to

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		community groups for healthy and affordable cooking sessions and community garden initiatives. • Adelaide Hills Council collaborated with Breakthrough Mental Health to coordinate mental health first aid courses, "Mates Meals and Mental health" evenings, and "Women's Wisdom and Wellbeing" evenings across several communities impacted by the 2019 Cudlee Creek fires.
Childhood and Youth Development	2.3 Encourage and support initiatives that contribute to the positive development children and young people, with a particular focus on welfare dependant families and children of and youth at risk.	PROMOTE: Build stronger and communities and healthier environments PREVENT: Prevent chronic disease, communicable disease and injury.	**Family support** • The District Council of Yankalilla's Community Outreach program provided parent information sessions, mental health initiatives and resilience workshops. Council's Library Services provided speech pathology talks and programs focused on the early childhood literacy framework. • Adelaide Hills Council supported multiple family-friendly community events across the district including the Stirling Family Fun day (run by The Hut Community Centre). **Children** • Through its Fleurieu Families program the City of Victor Harbor provided early intervention case management for vulnerable families, parenting education and support and therapeutic and social group work. Staff also provide an extensive referral service for families of children and young people to receive the support required for positive child development. • Mount Barker Council deliver a range of programs for children with a focus on literacy and have been successful in obtaining funding to deliver a multicultural playgroup. • Adelaide Hills Council's Community Resilience Team provided training for parents from primary schools in the region regarding preparing children and how to have conversations with them regarding bushfire preparation. Council also supported a BMX, Skate and Scooter event series which provided children workshops, demonstrations, and free rides alongside food and music. **Youth** • The District Council of Yankalilla's Library services provide Eduroam Wi-Fi which supports all tertiary students Australia wide. Council's Community Outreach program collaborated to deliver vocational training to school students. • Mount Barker District Council delivered a range of programs and activities for young people and are in the process of reviewing and developing a Child and Youth Plan. • As part of Adelaide Hills Council's Youth Leadership Program 2021, program participants took the lead in the production and distribution of 300 support packs for local year 12s going through exam periods.
Connected Communities	2.4 Facilitate opportunities for people within communities to connect to each other, including a focus on connecting commuters, temporary residents and isolated people in the region.		**Transport** • The District Council of Yankalilla purchased a new accessible vehicle for its Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP). It also introduced an On-Demand Transport Service at a reduced cost as a value add to the CHSP funded services. • The City of Victor Harbor, supported by Alexandrina Council and CHSP Funding provides transport services through Southern Communities Transport Scheme for Transport disadvantaged people and for access to medical and other appointments locally and to Adelaide. • Mount Barker District Council improved the accessibility and safety of twenty existing bus stops in the Council area. • Adelaide Hills Council worked with neighbouring councils to provide transport assistance through the Hills Community Transport program. It also contributed to planning discussions and negotiations with State Government on transport services and infrastructure across the Adelaide Hills. AHC also provided over 3,500 direct transport assistance trips for community members aged over 65 to access social activities and programs **Festivals and events** • The District Council of Yankalilla delivered youth events including, One One Fleurieu youth arts and outdoor cinema event, Normanville Beach Festival, Youth Week, Creative Cocoon Online Photography Competition. • Alexandrina Council led an Accessible Events Pilot with funding from the Local Government Information Linkages and Capacity Building Program. In collaboration with the City of Mount Gambier and City of Adelaide the program provided training for event organisers to improve accessibility therefore expanding the audience and the experience that attendees seek. • Mount Barker Council support the delivery of 75 community events per annum. • Kangaroo Island Council supported a variety of community events over the last 12 months including New Shoots Music Festival, KI Marathon, Stokes Bay Fireworks, Carols on the Coast, Fringe 2022 acts and RSL events. • Adelaide Hills Council supported 200+ community events including markets, local cycling and walking events, music festivals, Stirling Fringe and the Santos Tour Down Under, and guided them through the challenges of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Community grants** • The District Council of Yankalilla delivered $100,000 in community grants. • Alexandrina Council, recognising the significant impact that COVID-19 has had on its local communities, offered two new grants in 2020–21, in place of its usual Community Grants Program format. The Economic Development Recovery Grant and the COVID-19 Community

THEMES/TOPICS/STRATEGIES FOR THE REGION		STATE PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN 2019 - 2024 PRIORITIES	ACHIEVEMENTS 2020-2022
			Reactivation Grant aimed to help reinvigorate local businesses and community groups. It also completed a Community Grants Review in 2021/22. • Mount Barker Council's community program is delivered bi-annually at a value of $75k. • Adelaide Hills Council awarded $100k of Community & Recreation Facility Grants and Community Development Grants of $42k for the 2021-22 financial year. **Arts and culture** • The District Council of Yankalilla delivered a youth wall mural at the Normanville Foodland, reviewed and revised its Art Policy, delivered program partnerships with writer's groups and arts/ crafts groups and delivered music programs. • Mount Barker Council has developed an Arts Plan. • Adelaide Hills Council developed and adopted its Public Art Strategy 2022-27. It also secured $3 million in Local Economic Recovery Grant funding for the redevelopment of Fabrik's State heritage listed site. AHC also supported creative recovery after bushfire by providing workshops, gatherings and an exhibition celebrating the creative activity of the bushfire effected community, and presented the Festival of the Hills event in February 2021 which partnered with local businesses, artists and community groups to promote the Arts in our region. **New technologies** • Alexandrina Council attracted funding to deliver the Tech Savvy Seniors program offering residents aged 60 and over free technology training sessions to launch them into the online world. • Adelaide Hills Council continued to provide library and community centre programs and workshops adapting to the limitations of COVID-19 restrictions, including Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) programs and digital literacy support. **Community Libraries** • The District Council of Yankalilla's Library's outreach services expanded to include early literacy and STEM programming at Myponga and Rapid Bay Primary Schools. • Alexandrina Council's Library team offered a click-and-collect service during the pandemic. It also hosted two new programs during 2021: the Ngarrindjeri Story Time (Po:rlar peranbun prap) for preschoolers and their parents/carers where stories, songs and dance were enjoyed; and the Ngarrindjeri culture-sharing class (peranbun prap) for adults with conversational language and cultural stories that connect the Ngarrindjeri to Country. Staff also promoted library services at pop-ups in local shopping centres, which saw an increase in new and renewed memberships. • The City of Victor Harbor library team reached out to CAFHS groups, Early Learning Centres, Kindergartens and Junior Primary Schools across the Council region. Site visits by staff and children's excursions to our branches supported the important role early literacy has in childhood development. • Mount Barker District Council established a library collection development strategy. • Kangaroo Island Council reinstated its weekly Story Time for parents and children, delivered online training for the over 50's and recruited Friends of the Library volunteers. • Adelaide Hills Council developed and adopted its Libraries Strategy, and completed the Woodside Library refurbishment, including a new meeting room and reconfigured layout to encourage social connection. **Social programs** • The District Council of Yankalilla delivered several children's community markets. • The City of Victor Harbor provided the Caring Neighbourhood Program and the Positive Ageing Taskforce that offered activities and initiatives that supported an active and inclusive environment for older people and the Q+ Community. • Mount Barker District Council's Community Programs team delivered a number of social programs, including regular outings for seniors and continuing the Barker Blokes network. • Adelaide Hills Council offered activities and workshops at libraries and community centres to encourage social inclusion. These events were impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions in limiting face-to-face interactions, however, where possible, the events continued by utilising online options instead. Council also provided home maintenance, domestic assistance, and social support to registered clients in the Commonwealth Home Support Program, to support people aged over 65 remain independent in their homes and be connected with their community. **Support for vulnerable or disadvantaged community members** All councils participated in the regional project to improve accessible communications for people with disability. Websites, documents and processes were audited for access barriers, and staff participated in training. In addition: • The District Council of Yankalilla continued to host locations for food hamper collections, partnering with the local churches who engage with vulnerable or disadvantaged community members. • The City of Victor Harbor provided support groups for a number of groups, including, grandparent carers of children, families living with children with disability, women and children impacted by family and domestic violence, young people, and parents/carers of young people in the LGBTI+ community. Through the Southern Communities Transport Scheme, Council also provided a

THEMES/TOPICS/STRATEGIES FOR THE REGION	STATE PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN 2019 - 2024 PRIORITIES	ACHIEVEMENTS 2020-2022
		Community Passenger Network, Community Shopping Bus and access to transport for disadvantaged people of all ages who are transport disadvantaged. • Alexandrina Council established a partnership with the Women's Information Service (WIS) in 2021 to provide a hub called 'The Haven' located in the Goolwa Library. As part of the wider WIS team, The Haven is staffed by community volunteers who provide comprehensive, accurate, up to-date information and referrals to all women who have concerns for their safety. Council also reviewed its support to the three independently run Community Centres in the Council area. The review identified strong strategic alignment between Community Centres and Council, the strengths of each Centre, the role Council can play in them having a stable and secure future, and the opportunity to improve collaboration for the benefit of the community. As a result, Council has approved a new approach which includes two year funding agreements which commence in 2022/23. • Adelaide Hills Council provided transport assistance in partnership with Mt Barker and Alexandrina Councils for those who are transport disadvantaged for attendance at medical appointments. It also facilitated more than 300 check-in calls to vulnerable clients living in the bushfire area following the Cudlee Creek Bushfire; adjusted its services during the bushfires and COVID-19 disruptions to provide support, contact and information to vulnerable residents; and provided cultural diversity activities and programs across libraries and community centres throughout the year.
Volunteering and Skills	2.5 Encourage and support volunteering and skills development opportunities that support and encourage active and connected communities.	PROMOTE: Build stronger and communities and healthier environments.	### Council volunteers Councils across the region supported volunteering opportunities through their Libraries, Community Centres, Visitor Centres, CHSP programs, conservation areas and public reserves. Initiatives to support and develop council volunteering included: • The District Council of Yankalilla continued to investigate opportunities to stimulate volunteering by our growing community broadly. Council's Library volunteers delivered 550 hours of services and two volunteers transitioned to paid employment. • The City of Victor Harbor supported Southern Volunteering to provide a local volunteer referral service for volunteers wishing to be involved in community life and share their skills and knowledge. Council also provided approximately 500 volunteers with training opportunities related to their roles and responsibilities, and commenced work to encourage and support volunteers of all abilities. • Mount Barker Council introduced two new volunteering programs and continues to grow the number of volunteers engaged at Council. • Kangaroo Island Council reinstated its volunteer program in the Library and will look to expand the project into other community areas. • Adelaide Hills Council developed a new online induction and training package for volunteers enabling easier entry into volunteering, and supported groups and organisations to recruit and retain volunteers through its Volunteer Connect Program. ### Development of volunteering • Mount Barker Council introduced two new volunteering programs. • The Councils of Mount Barker and Adelaide Hills co-facilitated the 'Volunteer Leaders Connect' network meeting every three months for volunteer leaders from community organisations across the region. ### Recognition of volunteers • Alexandrina Council continues to recognise volunteer achievements and contributions with Australia Day Awards. • The Councils of Mount Barker and Adelaide Hills collaborated to implement a Volunteer Movie Day to recognise and thank all volunteers (during National Volunteer Week).
Access to services	2.6 Advocate for good access to health services across the region including through increased and improved health services for vulnerable communities through health agencies and the private sector. This includes advocating for improved medical and health services and public transport.	PROMOTE: Build stronger and communities and healthier environments. PREVENT: Prevent chronic disease, communicable disease and injury.	The City of Victor Harbor's Fleurieu Region Community Services Advisory Committee continues to advocate for regional services. The Committee includes representation from Country SA Public Health Network, the Health Advisory Committee and Flinders University Rural Medical School. Through the Southern Communities Transport Scheme, City of Victor Harbor also provided a Community Passenger Network, Community Shopping Bus and access to transport for disadvantaged people. Alexandrina Council achieved a successful outcome from its advocacy for a public secondary school in Goolwa, with the high school opening at the start of 2022. Mount Barker Council worked on strategic grants and projects with Summit Health to improve health outcomes for community members. Adelaide Hills Council advocated to the State Government regarding the closure of the Emergency Department at the Gumeracha Hospital (in part due to the lack of federal incentives applicable to Gumeracha under the Commonwealth Government's Modified Monash Model for GP workforce incentives) and requested action to reopen the facility.
THEME 3: PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS		

THEMES/TOPICS/STRATEGIES FOR THE REGION		STATE PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN 2019 - 2024 PRIORITIES	ACHIEVEMENTS 2020-2022
Planning and Policies	3.1 Integrate health objectives and outcomes within future planning for towns, new developments, facilities and open spaces. This includes reflecting health principles and objectives within Development Plans, Strategic Plans, community, open space and asset planning, and climate change planning.	PROMOTE: Build stronger and communities and healthier environments PROGRESS: Strengthen the systems that support public health and wellbeing	**Strategic Plans** Alexandrina Council prepared a new Strategic Management Plan called A2040 Our Plan to Thrive. **Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs)** Councils across the region progressed their DAIP implementation in this period. **Other plans and policies** Alexandrina Council progressed a substantial body of work in planning for the natural environment and climate change mitigation and adaption: • Finalised the Carbon Neutral Plan • Progressed the Climate Emergency Action Plan • Finalised the Coastal Adaptation Study (2021) • Developed the Coastal Adaptation Plan (adopted August 2022) • Developed the Climate Change Policy (adopted in August 2022) • Reviewed the Environmental Action Plan Adelaide Hills Council integrated health-related principles, objectives and outcomes into several new and updated strategic plans including: • Youth Action Plan 2021-24 (adopted December 2020) • Lobethal Bushland Park Masterplan (endorsed June 2021) • Public Art Strategy 2022-27 (adopted May 2022) • Libraries Strategy (adopted May 2022) **Planning and Design Code, and planning policy** Councils transitioned to the ePlanning system and Planning and Design Code in March 2021.
Advocating on Social issues	3.2 With potential health partners, advocate for social health issues in the region to be addressed, including drug and alcohol abuse, mental health, domestic violence and homelessness. A coordinated approach to responding to these issues will be required.	PROMOTE: Build stronger and communities and healthier environments PROTECT: Protect against public and environmental health risks and respond to climate change.	The City of Victor Harbor facilitated a Regional Community Services Advisory Group with key partners from Country SA PHN, Health Advisory Boards and Flinders Rural Medical School to advocate and support innovative solutions to social and health needs in the region. Staff also attend the Housing Round Tables, Homelessness Action Groups and are reengaging with The Drug Action Committee and Suicide Prevention Group. In 2021 Alexandrina Council established the Alexandrina Local Drug Action Team (LDAT). Inviting people across the region to inform the development of a Community Action Plan with a focus on preventing alcohol and other drug harms amongst young people through education and social and recreation opportunities.
Networking	3.3 Participate in and support networking within the health sector, including resource sharing and partnering opportunities.	PROGRESS: Strengthen the systems that support public health and wellbeing	Councils across the region facilitated and / or supported a range of networks to encourage information sharing, networking, collaboration, partnerships and advocacy including but not limited to: • Southern Fleurieu Service Providers Network • Southern Fleurieu Housing Roundtable • Fleurieu Foundation Homelessness Action Group • Southern Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island Positive Ageing Taskforce • Volunteer Leaders Connect • Adelaide Hills Youth Sector Network • Adelaide Hills Dementia Roundtable • Hills Positive Ageing Taskforce & Strathalbyn Aged Care Network
Across Region initiatives	3.4 Consider opportunities for across region initiatives (including between 'sub regions') to achieve health initiatives and services that are beyond the scope of an individual Council or there is an economic or social benefit to establishing a partnership.	PROGRESS: Strengthen the systems that support public health and wellbeing	Victor Harbor and Yankalilla Councils are members of the Fleurieu Regional Community Services Advisory Committee where the Regional Health Plan is a regular agenda item allowing cross-council discussion of current issues and trends. Yankalilla and Victor Harbor and Alexandrina Councils partner in the provision of Fleurieu Families to provide a range of supports for families with children. Alexandrina Council, City of Victor Harbor and Yankalilla Council were successful in obtaining funding through the Office for Ageing Well for two projects to be delivered from June 2022: • The Advanced Care Directives (ACD) project will increase community awareness and understanding of ACDs through community forums; and support community members to understand and complete their own ACD through offering peer/volunteer support sessions. • The 'Connecting through the Art of Ageing' project aims to 'spark curiosity about ageing' within local communities, promote ageing as a lifelong process and its significance at every age, encourage intergenerational connectedness, and challenge ageism through community conversations and participation in intergenerational activities. Alexandrina Council and Mount Barker District Council were partners in 'Local Government: Enabling Resilient Food Systems in South Australia', a multi-council project exploring the role of local government in supporting a resilient local food system. Together we developed a process and resources for South Australian councils and their communities to explore how they can support a resilient local food system in their own context.

THEMES/TOPICS/STRATEGIES FOR THE REGION	STATE PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN 2019 - 2024 PRIORITIES	ACHIEVEMENTS 2020-2022
		Alexandrina participated as a "test council". Using the resources developed we worked with key food system stakeholders and community to develop a vision and actions for a resilient food system in Alexandrina. Adelaide Hills Council's Community Resilience Officer supported the Adelaide Hills Community Action Bushfire Network, chairing meetings, organising speakers, taking minutes and coordination. The Councils of Mount Barker and Adelaide Hills co-facilitated the 'Volunteer Leaders Connect' network meeting every three months for volunteer leaders from community organisations across the region. Adelaide Hills Council supported Wellbeing SA to seek community interest in establishing a Suicide Prevention Network within the district. Council helped organise and promote 2 community forums (at Heathfield and Lobethal).
Funding and resources	3.5 Seek additional funding and resources from other levels of government and funding providers to contribute to achieving health initiatives in the region.	PROGRESS: Strengthen the systems that support public health and wellbeing	Councils across the region collaborated to attract grant funding for four public health projects hosted by the Southern & Hills LGA: • Community Wellbeing Alliance Pilot Project • Community Wellbeing Indicators for South Australian Local Governments • Regional Champions for Accessible Destinations in the S&HLGA • Regional Champions for Accessible Communications in the S&HLGA. All these projects were successfully completed and acquited during the 2020-2022 period. The Community Wellbeing indicators project was the regional winner of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing Excellence in Public Health Award of 2021. The Regional Champions for Accessible Destinations in the S&HLGA project was the winner in the Community Wellbeing & Diversity category of the Planning Insititue of Australia (SA) Planning Excellence award. Alexandrina Council attracted grant funding for major capital projects that will contribute to improved health and wellbeing: • Goolwa Wharf precinct redevelopment • Strathalbyn Town Centre Streetscapes revitalisation • Goolwa Beach Master Plan public realm upgrades • Goolwa Oval precinct redevelopment Stage 1 and 2 Adelaide Hills Council secured grant funding for major projects that will enhance public health and community wellbeing, including: • FABRIK Arts + Culture Hub redevelopment Project at Lobethal • Gumeracha Main Street Upgrade Project • New change rooms for Heathfield Oval • Heathfield Sports Courts Redevelopment • Lobethal Bushland Park Masterplan Implementation • Aldgate Main Street Amenity Upgrade
Coordinated approach	3.6 Adopt a coordinated and strategic approach to obtaining funding, strengthening health partner relationships and achieving health related initiatives. This could involve a region-wide working group that liaises on health opportunities and initiatives.	PROGRESS: Strengthen the systems that support public health and wellbeing	All councils in the region participate in the S&HLGA Regional Public Health Working Group which meets on a regular basis. The Southern & Hills LGA Executive Officer provides administrative and secretarial assistance to this group. The key outcomes and successes of the Southern and Hills Local Government Association Regional Public Health Working Group are reported to the Southern & Hills LGA Board via the Executive Officer Board report. The Working Group Agendas and Minutes are published on the S&HLGA website.

Section 2: EMERGING PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES (2020-2022)

Challenges 2020-2022

- Ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on community and economic activities that support health and wellbeing

- Mitigating and adapting to climate change and its impacts for present and future communities

- High % of people with mental health issues, premature deaths from suicides, clients of mental health services, especially children and young people. Exacerbated by the impacts of bushfire on communities in three councils, and by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Decline in volunteering since beginning of COVID-19, and reliance on volunteer base for essential roles that contribute to community health and wellbeing

- High population growth (except AHC) projected between 2016-2036, especially in Mount Barker, Alexandrina and Victor Harbor LGAs

- Ageing population with high numbers of Age Pension recipients, especially Victor Harbor, Alexandrina and Yankalilla LGAs

- High number of unpaid carers (before COVID-19). (While there are benefits from the care economy to local communities and economics, unpaid care can affect people's ability to fully participate in paid employment, and unpaid carers need ongoing support, recognition and respite.)

- High levels of housing stress (mortgage and rental), especially Mount Barker, Victor Harbor, Alexandrina and Yankalilla LGAs

- Fewer social housing dwellings available for rent

- Low numbers of school leavers admitted to university. (Participation in higher education increases opportunities for choice of occupation and for income and job security, and also equips people with the skills and ability to control many aspects of their lives – key factors that influence wellbeing throughout the life course.)

- Significant variation of socioeconomic disadvantage between the LGAs with similar indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage for the Victor Harbor, Yankalilla and Alexandrina LGAs. The least disadvantaged LGA is Adelaide Hills. The LGAs with greatest socioeconomic disadvantage seem to be experiencing the poorest health outcomes: Victor Harbor, Yankalilla and Alexandrina reported the poorest outcomes for early life and childhood and personal health and wellbeing domains. Unemployment, low income, housing stress and reliance on government support stand out as key factors influencing poor health and wellbeing outcomes in the most disadvantaged LGAs. (Socioeconomic factors drive health outcomes for communities.)

Emerging public health issues 2020-2022

- Local health services and infrastructure are not keeping pace with the region's ageing and increasing population. Increasing demand for local health services (including GPs, psychiatrists, multidisciplinary clinics, emergency departments and ambulance services) is greater than supply in our growing region. Our community leaders and partners point to a myriad of factors attributing to this critical issue, including Commonwealth and State policy settings making it difficult to attract and retain health professionals needed in our rural areas, as well as insufficient funding needed for new health clinics and emergency care in rural towns.

- Increased extreme climate events such as heat waves and bushfire. Kangaroo Island Council, Adelaide Hills Council and Mount Barker District Council were all impacted by bushfires during 2019/20.

- Increasing homelessness and people at risk of homelessness

- Funding for and access to adequate mental health services. These existing challenges have been exacerbated by the impacts of bushfire on communities in three of the Councils in this region, and by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- High levels of obesity (childhood, males and females), which is a risk factor for chronic diseases

- 22.7% of children in their first year of school across the region in 2018 were considered to be 'developmentally vulnerable'13 - up from 18.3% in the region in 2015. Highest % in Yankilla (31%) and highest increase from 2015-2018 in Victor Harbor. (The early development assessment of children predicts later health, wellbeing and academic success).

- Expenses associated with transport to Adelaide for health-related services which are not available in the region. The issue is being close enough to Adelaide not to have services provided in the region, but not close enough to be in the metro-ticket scheme for transport. For example, from City of Victor Harbor the ticket cost is $28 per adult. When people need regular transport (eg 5 days per week) to attend a health service this is very expensive.

- Challenges with implementing the new State Planning and Design Code, particularly ensuring that the policies introduced will reflect housing needs with respect to adaptability, energy efficiency and healthy built environments.

- Compulsive hoarding and domestic squalor becoming a bigger issue than indicated in the first RPHP.

- The impacts of SA Health's withdrawal from disease prevention and health promotion following the Review of Non-Hospital Based Services by Warren McCann in 2012 (the 'McCann Review')

- The impact of changes introduced by State and Commonwealth governments in how aged care and disability services are funded and delivered.

- The immediate and longer-term effects of COVID-19 (including 'Long Covid') on local communities and economies across the region, including the impacts of public health measures (e.g. stay-at-home orders, border closures, and activity and service restrictions). COVID—19 responses were reported to be exacerbating pre-existing risks factors that lead to poorer health outcomes, such as: social isolation; job and incomes loss; harmful consumption of alcohol; reduced access to mental health services; reduced availability of family, domestic and sexual violence services (despite the increased demand); exacerbation of the underlying drivers of family, domestic and sexual violence; disruptions in young people's education or employment.12

- Councils also reported additional emerging issues, including: safety of staff in emergency departments due to a rise in violent drug and alcohol presentations; availability of emergency housing, poverty, transport disadvantage; lack of resourcing to implement the DAIPs and ensure mainstream services are accessible for all; lack of resourcing to renew ageing sport facilities and replace ageing infrastructure; decline in volunteerism.

Opportunities

- Strengthening the strategic relationships and collaboration between the six councils and their regional partners (e.g. by facilitating a regional public health forum)

- Reviewing data releases from the ABS 2021 Census to monitor changes and gaps in our region's population health and consider collective responses

- Seeking joint funding for a regional coordinator role

- Advocating together for better access to local health services across the region

- Partnering with community groups to improve mental health and wellbeing

- Strengthening partnerships with recreation, sporting and community groups to deliver wellbeing benefits from council facilities and assets

- Applying Universal Design when developing and re-developing public spaces and destinations across the region

- Increasing community usage of green open spaces for nature-based activities that support health and wellbeing

- Supporting active travel and recreation (including walking, running, cycling)

- Sharing information and resources to reimagine volunteering and community life post COVID-19

- Strengthening community preparedness for public health emergencies

- Building the climate resilience of our communities through regional partnerships such as Resilient Hills & Coasts

- Raising community awareness of and adaptation to the public health risks associated with climate change

- Supporting decision-makers to consider future public health risks of climate change when undertaking climate risk governance assessments