

PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Town of Bassendean (Town) has drafted its first Public Health Plan which will help us improve the health and wellbeing of our community and we are inviting community feedback!

During our initial consultation in June 2021, community members identified the factors that helped them lead a happy, healthy and connected life. This included social connections, parks, walking and cycling opportunities and free fitness activities. These common themes helped shape the draft Public Health Plan and our health and wellbeing goals for the next four years. The plan includes goals to help people to be more active, make healthier food options and improve connectedness.

The Town would like to know what you think about the [Town of Bassendean Public Health Plan 2022 – 2026](#). To share your thoughts, complete the quick survey below by 16 January 2023, or lodge your submission via email to mail@bassendean.wa.gov.au.

All feedback will be considered in forming the final version of the plan.

What is a Public Health Plan (PHP)?

A Public Health Plan (PHP) is a strategic health plan. It enables local governments to assess the public health needs of its community through the examination of data relating to health status and health determinants. This assists with articulating the public health vision, objectives and priorities necessary for the promotion and protection of public health in the community.

PHPs help ensure that the appropriate allocation of resources are available to achieve public health priorities through the delivery and development of public health services.

PHPs must be monitored and evaluated regularly to measure the local government's progress towards achieving long-term public health outcomes.

Why are we doing a PHP?

The *Public Health Act 2016*, which is currently being introduced to replace the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911*, requires all local governments in Western Australia to develop a PHP which details the current health status of its population and also provides key priority areas for the improvement of the community's health. It also requires the State to produce a State Public Health Plan. This recognises the shared responsibility that State and Local governments have in targeting areas of public health need in a proactive way and working together to achieve long term improvements in public health.

What is the benefit of having a PHP?

A Public Health Plan outlines actions that are necessary to ensure that everyone that lives, works and visits the Town have an acceptable level of health today and into the future. This helps minimise the number of people whose lifestyle may be compromised by the symptoms of preventable diseases.

Positive health and wellbeing enables individuals to:

- Have increased life expectancy and better quality of life;
- Survive injury, illness and pain;
- Avoid premature death and preventable hospitalisation
- Deal with stress, disappointment and sadness;
- Enjoy more lifestyle choices and
- Spend less on the costs of ill-health.

From a community perspective, the health and wellbeing of the population contributes to social interaction and the vitality of the community. For example, it enables participation in sports, volunteering, and other activities that bring the community together.

How has the draft PHP been formulated?

Using data gathered by the Department of Health and feedback from the community, the Town has identified the health issues of most importance to the community as a whole. The draft PHP identifies priority areas for actions and objectives that aim to improve public health for the community overall.

What is Public Health?

The World Health Organisation defines Health as *'a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity'*.

Public health has a focus that aims to improve the health and wellbeing of a population as a whole rather than at an individual level.

Public health is multifaceted and takes into account not only the health status of the community but also the social determinants of health that may have an impact on health and wellbeing. Social determinants of health are those that may be beyond a person's control but contribute either positively or negatively to their health. The conditions in which a person is born into grow up in, works and ages within can influence their health. Community access to health care, safe housing, safe workplaces, education, air pay and social influences can all have an effect on health.

What does the Town currently do to promote or improve public health?

Health and wellbeing of the community has always been a priority for local governments, from the traditional roles of health protection by the provision of basic services such as sewage, sanitation and safe drinking water, to the various other functions and services that local governments provide today. Some of the activities and services currently undertaken by the Town that contribute to public health include:

- Public protection through Health services such as food safety, water sampling, vector control;
- Provision of parks, open spaces,
- Provision of library services and other community services such as child care;
- Facilitating community groups
- Supporting local sporting clubs and events

How can I provide my feedback?

You can provide your feedback by:

- Completing the 'online feedback form'
- Completing a hardcopy feedback form which are available at the Customer Services Centre, Bassendean Memorial Library and Youth Services.

What will you do with my feedback?

All feedback received will be reviewed and analysed and the draft PHP will be revised as appropriate.

I'd prefer not to complete the survey online. How else can I give you my feedback?

Hard copy feedback forms are available from the Bassendean Memorial Library, Youth Services and the Customer Service Centre at 35 Old Perth Rd Bassendean. Once completed, you can return the form the Customer Service Centre or the Memorial Library by 16 January 2023.

What are the next steps?

Once the public feedback period has closed, all feedback will be analysed and the draft PHP will be revised where appropriate. The finalised PHP will then go to Council for adoption.

How can I ask a question about the project?

You may email the Town at mail@bassendean.wa.gov.au

Or telephone (08) 9377 8000 to speak with the Health Services team.