

## 2.1 **A HEALTHY & RESILIENT MONASH: INTEGRATED PLAN 2017 - 2021 YEAR FOUR EVALUATION SUMMARY (2020 - 2021)**

Responsible Director: Russell Hopkins

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **PURPOSE**

This report presents a summary of the implementation and evaluation of:

1. *A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017 - 2021 Year Four Action Plan 2019-2020*
2. The completion of *A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017 – 2021*.

#### **KEY CONSIDERATIONS/ISSUES**

Council's State-legislated Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan [MPWHP] 'A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021' includes an annual action plan which is released each year for implementation and evaluation. This report reflects the evaluation of the Plan's fourth and final year and the completion of the life cycle of this MPHWP.

During the course of the Year Four implementation, Council and the community had the unprecedented challenge of continuing to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated restrictions, including extended and multiple lockdowns. In response, Council continued to adapt and deliver many of its services, programs and initiatives to support residents through the pandemic. This adaptation is reflected throughout the implementation and evaluation of Year Four of the Plan.

To celebrate the outcomes and success achieved in each year of the plan's implementation, Council also produces an annual highlights video. The Year Four 'Most Significant Change' highlights video captures the health and wellbeing initiatives conducted by Council and the 'Most Significant Change' evaluation impacts to community. The video will be available via Council's website and is a visual representation of the annual achievements of the Plan.

#### **CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION**

The impact of the both the Year Four Action Plan under Council's *A Healthy & Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017 - 2021* and the implementation and conclusion of the entire four-year plan, reflects Council's demonstrated commitment to improving the lives of the Monash community across its health and wellbeing priorities.

## **A HEALTHY AND RESILIENT MONASH: INTEGRATED PLAN 2017 - 2021 YEAR FOUR EVALUATION SUMMARY (2020 - 2021)**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council notes the achievements outlined within the Year Four Evaluation Summary of 'A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021' and the completion of the four-year Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The State-legislated *A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017 - 2021* was endorsed by Council on 31 October 2017. This report presents an evaluation summary of the implementation of Year Four of the Plan (2020 - 2021) and an evaluation of the success of the four year *A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021*.

### **BACKGROUND**

Every four years Victorian Local Governments are required under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 to develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan [MPHWP]. The current *A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021* is in its fourth and final year and is due to sunset in October 2021. The new MPHWP 'Monash Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021 – 2025' has been released to the public as draft and is due to Council in October 2021 for consideration.

The objective of the state-legislated MPHWP is to maximise the health and wellbeing of the community through evidence-based programs, policies, services and initiatives.

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

#### *The Plan's priorities*

The Plan captures three overarching pillars that contribute to the health and wellbeing of the Monash community: *Active and Healthy, Engaged, Confident & Connected*, and *Safe & Respectful*. These high-level pillars were developed in consultation with our community, Councillors, staff, key partner agencies and supported by evidence through census and population health statistics. Supporting these pillars are 30 priority action areas.

The *A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021 Year Four Action Plan* identified specific actions for implementation and evaluation over the course of 2020 – 2021 [**Attachment 2**].

## DISCUSSION

### *Year Four Action Plan*

Each year an annual evaluation summary is submitted to Council to track the progress of the four-year plan. *The Year Four Evaluation Summary 2020 - 2021* [**Attachment 3**] highlights high-level action, innovation and achievements across all 30 key areas over the course of July 2020 – June 2021. Many of the innovative responses to the COVID-19 pandemic are detailed throughout the evaluation summary.

### *Evaluation approach*

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.

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 community participants of Council programs and services 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 evaluative method which highlights success stories and provides rich narrative as to the impact of Council's work across the community.

The accompanying Year 4 Most Significant Change highlights video showcases many of the impactful stories of change that have occurred as a result of the plan's activity and will be available on Council's website.

### *Highlights and Achievements of Year Four*

A selection of key achievements of Year Four have been listed below, thematically organised into the three pillars of the plan. For a full evaluation summary, please refer to *Year Four Evaluation Summary 2020 – 2021* [**Attachment 3**].

### *Key Year Four Achievements*

#### PILLAR ONE: Active and Healthy

- The \$21 million Monash Tennis Centre at the Glen Waverley Sports Hub was announced and community consultation for the concept design has commenced
- Oakleigh Recreation Centre re-development concluded with the opening of the facility
- *This Girl Can* project
- *Tech Savvy Seniors Sessions*

- Council's connection with the community across Early Years programs was maintained and enhanced throughout the COVID-19 restrictions through online platforms
- The successful launch of the *Active Communities program*
- Monash Youth Ambassadors produced a series of informative videos to help students manage exam season
- Immunisation maintained a very high student vaccination consent card return rate even while 29 secondary school visits were replaced with community sessions due to secondary school remote learning
- *Our Club Local Drug Action Team's* values-based messaging for local clubs targeted reducing excessive alcohol consumption and promoted mental wellbeing.

#### PILLAR TWO: Engaged, Confident & Connected

- Council worked extensively in consultation with the Monash community to develop the next *Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021 – 2025*, due for adoption in October 2021
- Council's *Monash Loneliness Framework 2020 – 2025* was released in September 2020, an Australia-first policy
- The work of the Community Response Team [CRT] supported the community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of the multiple lockdowns
- The first ever *Pride Night* was held at Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre (MARC)
- *Hello Neighbour* project and the *Community Ambassadors* program
- The implementation of the *Parklets for Outdoor Dining* project
- MGA was the headline exhibition for the international photography festival *PHOTO 2021*
- The *Community Activation and Social Isolation* project
- The library's *Click and Collect* services during lockdowns
- The *Integrated Practical Placement Program*
- The *Age Friendly Survey Community Engagement*
- The Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Service adapted its outreach to support clients during restrictions and also provided responsive support to Monash families caught overseas, interstate and while isolating in hotel quarantine
- The Monash Disability Advisory Committee increased in members and actively contributed to several Council policy development consultations
- Brine Street Childcare supported families that were impacted by COVID-19 to access quality child care and education during lockdown through Government subsidies
- *Flavours of Monash* community cookbook project
- Supporting *Community Grants* recipients to adapt and be COVIDSafe.

### PILLAR THREE: Safe & Respectful

- The *Regional Local Government Homelessness & Social Housing Charter* advocated for the homelessness and social housing needs of the 13-Council East and South-East region
- The *Be Connected Digital Mentor* program supported digital literacy and those not confident to use technology community
- Council's first-ever *Social Housing Framework 2020 - 2025* was adopted in December 2020
- Refurbishment of the Central Reserve Grandstand and relocation of two community organisations.

#### *COVID-19 response and adaptation*

Delivering services and activities during the COVID-19 restrictions posed a unique opportunity to innovate and adapt Council's activities to continue to serve the Monash community and achieve the plan's objectives. Council found new ways of reaching the community, including with a diverse range of online programs and events. In some settings, Council reached a part of the Monash community it had never reached before.

#### *Loneliness*

In year four, the internal health plan governance committee of Council officers, who implement the Plan and monitor the plan's actions, identified activities that address loneliness as a shared priority to focus and cross-collaborate on. The many activities targeting loneliness often overlapped with COVID-19 adaptations.

A detailed overview of the Year Four achievements is provided in *Year Four Evaluation Summary 2019 – 2020 [Attachment 3]*. 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 of the plan but may appear only once under a single objective.

### **Completion and evaluation of *A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2021-2025***

The implementation of year four marks the final year of the plan's implementation. Each year an annual evaluation summary has been presented to Council to chart the annual progress against the annual Action Plan.

Over the last four years of the plan, Council has demonstrated innovation and organisational collaboration across health and wellbeing priorities, streamlined implementation and evaluation reporting with one integrated plan, outstanding delivery of service to the community through the COVID-19 pandemic and a stronger focus on evaluation through the 'Most Significant Change' framework and release of the annual highlights video.

Based on Council's learnings and a 2020 audit of the *A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017 – 2021*, a number of additions to the new *Monash Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021 – 2025* are proposed, including:

- The articulation of four-year outcomes that Council is seeking to achieve against all of the 27 health and wellbeing priorities and indicators which will measure progress. This will provide Council a stronger view of the four-year impact of the plan.
- Ownership of the new plan and actions included from every Monash Council Directorate.
- Operating procedures manual for health plan governance.
- Clear identification of the internal Council Lead which is responsible for each action and the partners involved in each action.

Based on consultation and new State Government legislative requirements, this 2021 – 2025 plan also sees the inclusion and adoption of new strategic priorities not outlined previously in Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. These include: *Climate Change and Health, Loneliness, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation, LGBTIQ+ and Homelessness and Social Housing.*

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The State-legislated Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans [MPWHP] are four-year strategies which commit Councils to maximising the health and wellbeing of the municipality and applying a rigorous, evidence-based annual implementation and evaluation reporting process. The MPWHPs have direct alignment to the Victorian State Government's four-year 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 Four Evaluation Summary 2020 - 2021* provides an overview of key actions completed and evaluated in the fourth year of the new *A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021*.

The *Year Four Evaluation Summary 2020 - 2021* 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 continue 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 Four Action Plan 2019-2020*

**Attachment 3:** *Year Four Evaluation Summary 2020 - 2021*