Public Health Plan 2027-2031

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Shire of Narembeen
Together we grow

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1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Shire of Narembeen acknowledges the Noongar People, the Traditional Owners of Country within the Shire's boundaries, and pays respect to Elders past and present.

2. Executive Summary

The Shire of Narembeen Public Health Plan 2027–2031 provides a practical framework for protecting, promoting and improving community health and wellbeing. It responds to local priorities including active living, mental wellbeing, road and injury safety, healthy ageing, access to services and environmental health. The Plan builds on existing Shire services and community partnerships rather than establishing new stand-alone programs.

The Plan aligns with the State Public Health Plan for Western Australia 2025–2030 through Promote, Prevent, Protect and Enable, with Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing and Equity and Inclusion considered across these objectives. Seven actions identify the Shire's contribution, responsible partners and practical measures. Delivery will be supported through normal operational planning, annual budgets and existing partnerships, with a concise annual progress report to Council.

3. Message from the Shire President

On behalf of the Shire of Narembeen, I am pleased to present our Public Health Plan 2027–2031, which outlines our commitment to supporting a healthy, safe, connected and inclusive community.

Health and wellbeing are fundamental to the strength and sustainability of our community. While access to quality healthcare is essential, good health is influenced by much more than medical services. It is shaped by the places we live, the opportunities we have to stay active, our connections with others, and our ability to access services and support when needed.

As a small rural community, Narembeen has many strengths, including our strong community spirit, active volunteers, local organisations and willingness to support one another. However, we also recognise the challenges associated with geographic isolation, an ageing population, access to services and the changing needs of our community.

This Plan builds on the extensive community engagement undertaken through the development of our Council Plan 2036 and Community Wellbeing Plan 2026–2029. The feedback received has helped identify the priorities that matter most to our residents and reinforces the importance of creating a community where people of all ages can live well, feel safe and remain connected.

Local government has an important role in creating environments that support good health. Through the maintenance of safe roads, parks, recreation facilities and public spaces, environmental health services, community programs and partnerships, the Shire contributes to the everyday wellbeing of our residents.

Importantly, we cannot achieve these outcomes alone. Strong partnerships with health providers, community organisations, sporting clubs, volunteers, government agencies and residents will be essential to delivering meaningful and sustainable improvements.

This Plan takes a practical and achievable approach, recognising the resources available to a small local government while identifying opportunities to strengthen existing services, support community-led initiatives and advocate for improved outcomes.

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I encourage all members of our community to continue playing an active role in shaping Narembeen's future. By working together, we can build on our strengths, respond to emerging challenges and ensure Narembeen remains a healthy, resilient and welcoming place to live, work and raise a family.

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4. Section A – Background and Health Profile

4.1 Introduction

Public health is about creating conditions that help people and communities stay healthy and safe. Local government contributes through the places people use, the services it provides, its regulatory functions, community development, partnerships and advocacy. This Plan operates from 2027 to 2031 and provides the Shire's local response to the Public Health Act 2016 (WA) and the State Public Health Plan.

For Narembeen, this includes maintaining safe roads, paths, parks and recreation facilities; environmental health and food safety; waste and drainage; emergency management; supporting active and connected communities; improving access and inclusion; and working with health and community partners.

4.2 Vision

Narembeen is a community of sustainable strength: capable, connected, self-determined and actively shaping its future.

4.3 Integrated Planning and Reporting: Plan Alignment

The Public Health Plan is an informing strategy under the Shire's broader planning framework. It should be read with the Council Plan 2036 and the following supporting plans.

Plan / Framework	How it Relates to Public Health
State Public Health Plan 2025–2030	Overarching statutory alignment: Promote, Prevent, Protect and Enable.
Shire of Narembeen Council Plan 2036	Sets the Shire's long-term community direction and priorities for liveability, connection, infrastructure and leadership.
Community Wellbeing Plan 2026–2029	Detailed local actions for alcohol and other drugs, mental health, wellbeing and safety, and supporting community across the lifespan. Includes SOCK; actions are referenced rather than duplicated.
Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2024–2029	Provides the Shire's existing framework for equitable access to services, facilities, information, consultation and participation.
Age Friendly Community Report and Plan (2016)	Useful legacy evidence and age-friendly principles, particularly for movement, facilities, participation and communication. Reference as an informing document.

4.4 Social and Commercial Determinants of Health

Health and wellbeing are influenced by more than individual choices. In Narembeen, factors such as geographic isolation, transport, access to services, housing, employment, education, social connections and the built environment all contribute to the health and wellbeing of our community.

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The Shire plays an important role in creating a healthy and supportive community through the provision of infrastructure, facilities, planning and services. Where matters fall outside its direct responsibilities, the Shire works with government agencies, service providers and community organisations through partnerships and advocacy to support positive health and wellbeing outcomes.

4.5 Our Community

Narembeen is a small rural Wheatbelt community with a strong agricultural base, active volunteer networks and a strong sense of community. Geographic isolation, an ageing population and access to services are important planning considerations. Health statistics for a small population can fluctuate considerably and should be interpreted cautiously. The Health and Wellbeing Data Summary provides detailed demographic and health evidence informing this Plan.

4.6 Our Health

The Shire's current Health and Wellbeing Data Summary provides the evidence base for priority setting. Rather than reproduce the full data report, this Plan highlights the issues most relevant to local government action.

Evidence / Issue	Planning Implication
Physical activity and healthy eating	Support accessible recreation, walking opportunities, healthy community settings and established health promotion.
Tobacco and vaping	Maintain smoke- and vape-free environments and promote established cessation messages and services.
Alcohol and mental wellbeing	Use the Community Wellbeing Plan as the detailed implementation mechanism.
Road and transport safety	Maintain a safe road network through risk-based maintenance, infrastructure improvements, road safety initiatives and advocacy.
Healthy ageing, access and isolation	Apply age-friendly and disability access principles to facilities, information, participation and advocacy.
Environmental health	Continue core food safety, water, waste, public health, emergency management and regulatory functions.

4.7 Community Engagement and Support

The Shire of Narembeen Public Health Plan 2027–2031 has been informed by extensive community consultation undertaken through the development of the Council Plan 2036 and the Community Wellbeing Plan 2026–2029.

These engagement processes provided opportunities for residents, community groups, businesses, young people and key stakeholders to identify local priorities, challenges and opportunities relating to community health, wellbeing, liveability and long-term sustainability.

Council Plan 2036 – Community Engagement (March 2026)

The Council Plan was developed through a comprehensive community engagement and sensemaking process involving workshops, forums, stakeholder discussions, youth engagement and community surveys.

The engagement included:

- 84 individual participants attending workshops and forums.
- 148 workshop participations recorded across multiple sessions.
- 46 community survey responses received.
- Engagement representing approximately 16.5% of the Shire's population, as reported in the Council Plan.

Key priorities identified included housing and liveability, maintaining essential infrastructure and services, economic sustainability, community participation, leadership and strengthening Narembeen's long-term resilience.

Community Wellbeing Plan 2026–2029 – Community Engagement (March – August 2026)

Additional targeted community consultation was undertaken to inform the development of the Community Wellbeing Plan, including:

- 22 community survey responses received.
- 2 community workshops conducted.
- 30 workshop participants recorded.

This engagement contributed to identifying local priorities relating to mental health and wellbeing, alcohol and other drugs, community safety, social connection and supporting residents across different stages of life.

Combined Community Engagement

Across the two planning processes, community consultation included:

- 68 community survey responses**.**
- 114 recorded workshop participants or attendances, comprising 84 individual Council Plan workshop participants and 30 Community Wellbeing Plan workshop participants.
- 178 workshop participations, comprising 148 Council Plan participations and 30 Community Wellbeing Plan participations.

These figures demonstrate the breadth of community input informing the Shire's strategic planning. As some residents may have participated in both processes, the combined figures should not be interpreted as the number of unique individuals consulted.

The Public Health Plan draws on these recent engagement outcomes, together with local health and wellbeing data, relevant Shire strategies and the State Public Health Plan for Western Australia 2025–2030.

This integrated approach ensures that public health priorities reflect community-identified needs, available evidence and the Shire's capacity to deliver outcomes through existing services, partnerships and advocacy.

4.8 Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing

Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing is an overarching objective of the State Public Health Plan. While the Shire has a small Aboriginal resident population, the Shire recognises the importance of culturally respectful and inclusive services, facilities and community engagement. Where relevant, the Shire will work with Aboriginal residents and appropriate regional organisations to identify access barriers and

opportunities for participation. This approach will be incorporated into existing Shire activities and partnerships rather than creating a separate program.

4.9 Equity and Inclusion

Equity and Inclusion is an overarching State objective. The Shire will consider whether facilities, services, information and opportunities are accessible to people who may experience barriers because of disability, age, geographic isolation, socioeconomic circumstances or other factors. The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2024–2029 is the primary supporting plan for disability access and inclusion.

5. Section B – Strategic Plan

5.1 Priorities

To keep the framework simple, Narembeen's priorities are grouped directly under the four State Public Health Plan.

State Objective	Narembeen Focus
Promote	Healthy eating, active living, recreation, social connection, healthy ageing and community participation.
Prevent	Reducing preventable illness, injury and harm through mental health and wellbeing initiatives, alcohol and other drug harm prevention, tobacco and vaping awareness, disease prevention and community safety.
Protect	Environmental health, food and water safety, emergency management, road safety, and safe public places.
Enable	Access and inclusion, age-friendly participation, partnerships, health information, service access and advocacy.

5.2 Public Health Risks and Priorities

The Shire's public health priorities have been informed by available local health and wellbeing data, community engagement, existing Shire strategies and the State Public Health Plan 2025–2030. Key considerations include healthy eating and active living, mental health and social connection, alcohol and other drug-related harm, tobacco and vaping, road and injury safety, healthy ageing, access to services and environmental health.

Road and transport safety warrants particular attention, with available health data indicating higher rates of transport-related hospitalisations and deaths than the Western Australian average. This finding should be interpreted in the context of the Shire's small population and checked against the latest Health and Wellbeing Data Summary before adoption.

The Shire will focus on matters where it can contribute through existing services, infrastructure, regulation, partnerships and advocacy. Section 5.3 sets out the corresponding actions and measures. Detailed initiatives already covered by the Community Wellbeing Plan and Disability Access and Inclusion Plan will continue to be managed through those plans.

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5.3 Action and Evaluation Plan

No.	Objective / Priority	Action	Measure	Timing	Lead / Partners
P1	Promote Healthy & active community	Maintain parks, pool, recreation facilities, footpaths and walking opportunities; promote established healthy eating and active living initiatives.	Facilities maintained; supported initiatives; participation rates.	Ongoing	Shire; clubs; school; CRC; WACHS; Healthway
P2	Promote / Prevent Mental wellbeing & connection	Implement the Community Wellbeing Plan 2026–2029, including SOCK and actions for mental health, AOD, safety and connection.	Community Wellbeing Plan reporting and agreed indicators.	2027–2029 then review	Shire; CWP partners; WACHS; Police; school; community groups
P3	Prevent Tobacco, vaping & cancer prevention	Maintain smoke/vape-free Shire environments and share established cessation and cancer screening/prevention campaigns.	Compliance maintained; campaigns/messages shared.	Ongoing	Shire; WACHS; Cancer Council; Healthway
P4	Protect Road & injury safety	Include road safety in relevant Shire works, community safety and communications; support road, farm, machinery and falls-prevention initiatives with partners.	Safety considerations documented; number of supported awareness initiatives; available crash/injury trends reviewed.	Annual	Shire; Road Safety Commission; Police; Main Roads WA; Injury Matters; local groups
P5	Protect Safe & healthy environments	Continue environmental health, food safety, water, waste, drainage, emergency management and public health regulatory functions.	Statutory obligations met; significant risks/issues reported through normal systems.	Ongoing	Shire; WACHS; relevant agencies
P6	Enable Access, inclusion & healthy ageing	Apply DAIP requirements and age-friendly principles to facilities, information, consultation and participation; advocate for access to health and community services.	DAIP actions monitored; accessibility considered in relevant projects; advocacy/partnership activity recorded.	Ongoing	Shire; service providers; community groups
P7	Enable Partnerships & evidence	Maintain health partnerships; refresh priority data when new Department of Health information becomes available.	Annual review completed; data updated when available; key partnerships maintained.	Annual	Shire; WACHS; Department of Health

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5.4 Resourcing

Most actions are existing Shire functions or partnership activities and should be delivered within normal operational planning and annual budgets. New initiatives should only be added where there is a demonstrated local need, a responsible lead and an achievable resource or grant pathway. The Plan does not create a commitment to establish new stand-alone health programs.

6. Section C – Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

6.1 Evaluation and Reporting

The Shire will use a desk-top annual review. The purpose is to confirm that actions are progressing, identify emerging risks and update the Plan where new evidence or changed circumstances justify it.

What will be checked?	How?	Frequency
Action delivery	Review the seven actions and their simple measures.	Annually
Community Wellbeing Plan actions	Use that Plan's existing governance and reporting; do not duplicate reporting.	As set by that Plan
DAIP-related actions	Use DAIP monitoring for access and inclusion matters.	As set by DAIP / annually for PHP summary
Health data	Update key indicators when new Department of Health / WACHS data becomes available.	When available
Emerging risks	Consider significant local public health, road safety, environmental health or service-access issues.	Annually / as required
Plan review	Full review before expiry or earlier if legislation, State priorities or local needs materially change.	By 2031

6.2 Reporting

Progress against the Public Health Plan will be reported annually to Council using a simple traffic-light reporting system**.**

The annual report will identify the status of each action using a simple traffic-light system and provide a brief summary of key achievements, significant issues or changes, and any recommended amendments.

Where actions are delivered through an existing Shire plan, such as the Community Wellbeing Plan or Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP), detailed monitoring will remain within that plan, with relevant progress summarised in the annual Public Health Plan report to Council.

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Appendix 1 – Community Wellbeing Plan 2026–2029

The Community Wellbeing Plan 2026–2029 is a supporting implementation framework for this Public Health Plan. It provides the detailed actions for alcohol and other drugs; mental health, wellbeing and safety; supporting community across the lifespan; and SOCK.

Progress against the Community Wellbeing Plan will be monitored through its established processes and summariness in the annual Public Health Plan report to Council. Following the supporting plan's 2029 expiry, the Shire will review the relevant Public Health Plan action and any successor arrangements.

The Community Wellbeing Plan 2026–2029 is available on the Shire of Narembeen website and, for internal access, through the Shire's records management system.

Website

Documents in Corporate Documents - Plans and Strategies » Shire of Narembeen

Internal Records Location

RECORDS / CORPORATE PLANNING / PLANNING / Community Wellbeing Plan

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References / Informing Documents

- State Public Health Plan for Western Australia 2025–2030
- Shire of Narembeen Council Plan 2036
- Shire of Narembeen Health and Wellbeing Data Summary
- Shire of Narembeen Community Wellbeing Plan 2026–2029
- Shire of Narembeen Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2024–2029
- Shire of Narembeen Age Friendly Community Report and Plan (2016)

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