

**Shire of Broome**

# **A healthy future, for everyone**

**Public Health Plan 2026-2031**

# Contents

## Introduction

The Shire of Broome’s vision is to be a place where there is **a future for everyone** – a place where people of all ages, abilities and cultures experience good health and wellbeing.

Through our Council Plan, we are striving to achieve a healthy, active community.

<b>Our Council Plan 2025-2035</b>	
<b>Vision</b>	Broome – a future for everyone
<b>Outcome</b>	3. A healthy, active community
<b>Objective</b>	3.1. Improve access to health facilities, services and programs to achieve good general and mental health across the community.
<b>Action</b>	3.1.1 Provide and implement a Local Public Health Plan, as per legislative requirements, to consider major health risk factors and actions needed to address these factors in the Shire of Broome

To create a **Local Public Health Plan**, the Shire of Broome engaged with representatives from government and non-government agencies, businesses and the community.

- 1,190 community members completed the 2024 MARKYT® Community Scorecard.
- 304 community members and key stakeholders completed a Health and Wellbeing Survey between 17 November and 19 December 2025.
- Meetings were held with key stakeholders who were available to discuss the Local Public Health Plan between December 2025 and February 2026. This included representatives from the Department of Health; Department of Housing and Works; Department of Communities; WA Police; Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation; MercyCare Broome Aboriginal Short Stay; and Broome Senior High School.

Over the next five years, the Shire of Broome is committed to being a voice for the local community and working with key partners to deliver priority projects outlined in this plan.

## Acknowledgement of Country

The Shire of Broome acknowledges the Yawuru people as the native title holders of the lands and waters in and around Rubibi (the town of Broome) together with all native title holders throughout the Shire. We pay respect to the Elders, past, present and emerging, of the Yawuru people and extend that respect to all Aboriginal Australians living within the Shire of Broome.

*Wirriya ngangaran liyan nyamba buru yawuru*

We hope you are feeling good in our yawuru country.

## Shire President Message

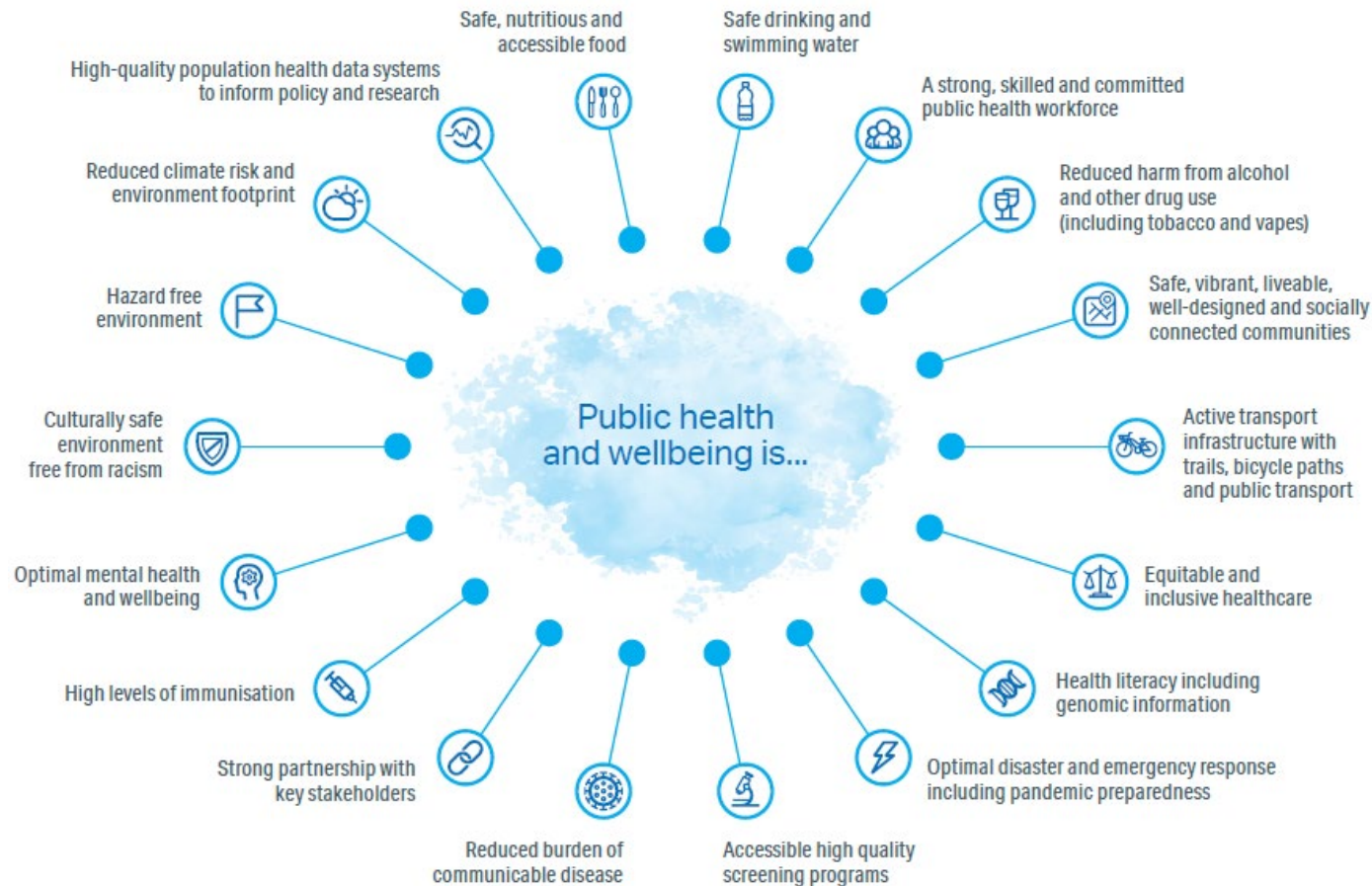
TBC

**Chris Mitchell**  
Shire President

# Public health and wellbeing

The *Public Health Act 2016 (Western Australia)* defines public health as the wider health and wellbeing of the community, and the combination of safeguards, policies and programs designed to protect, maintain, promote and improve the health of individuals and their communities and to prevent and reduce the incidence of illness and disability.

Public health considerations affect the lives of Western Australians every day and include a wide range of actions aimed at improving the wellbeing and quality of and encompass both historical and proposed activities in the natural and built environment<sup>1</sup>.



<sup>1</sup> State Public Health Plan: <https://www.health.wa.gov.au/~media/Corp/Documents/About-us/Public-Health-Act/State-Public-Health-Plan-2025-2030.pdf>

## Determinants of health

According to the Department of Health<sup>2</sup>:

Health inequalities and inequities can arise from the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, known as the determinants of health.

Social determinants of health include:

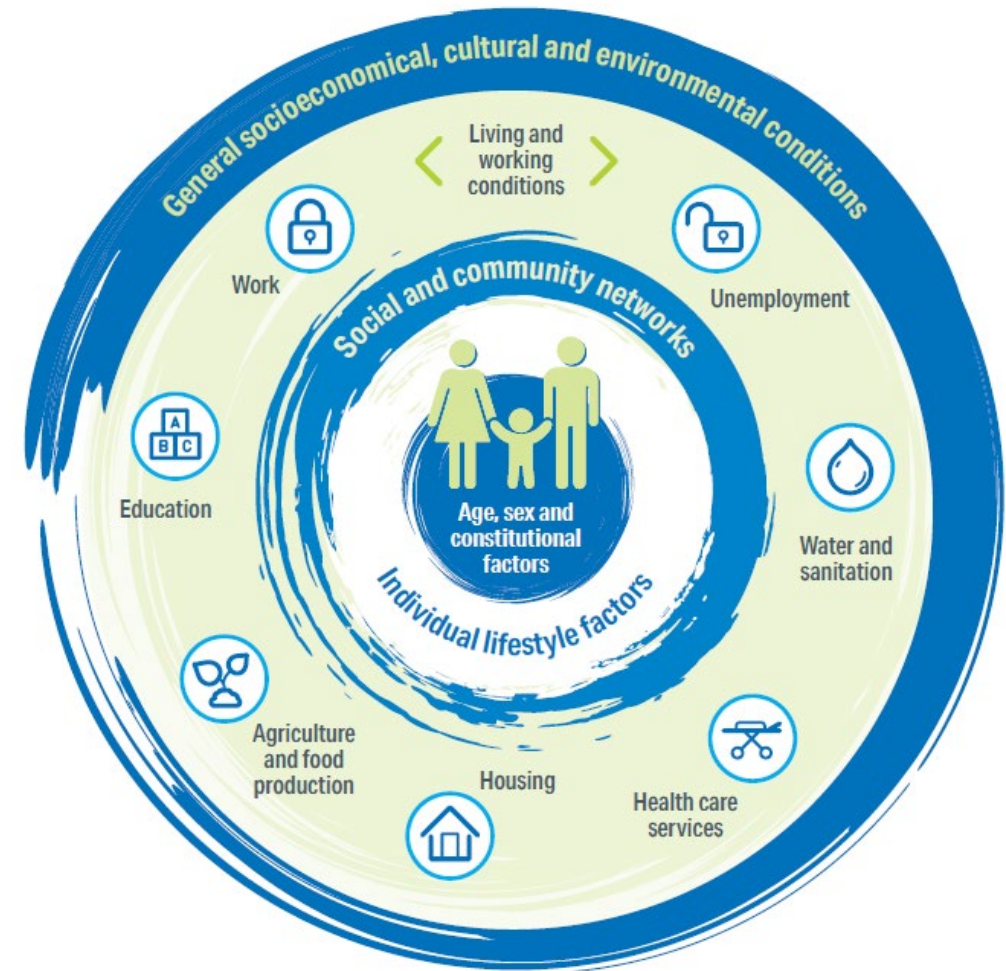
- Age, sex and constitutional factors
- Individual lifestyle factors – like smoking, alcohol consumption, drug use, diet and nutrition, physical exercise, sleep habits, etc.
- Social and community networks
- Living and working conditions – like education, housing, employment, healthcare access, access to healthy foods, etc
- General socio-economic, cultural and environmental conditions

These determinants can affect a person's ability to lead a healthy life, their likelihood of becoming unwell, and their overall life expectancy.

Knowledge and attitudes, health risk behaviours, social support, and the built and natural environments can all strengthen or undermine individual and community health.

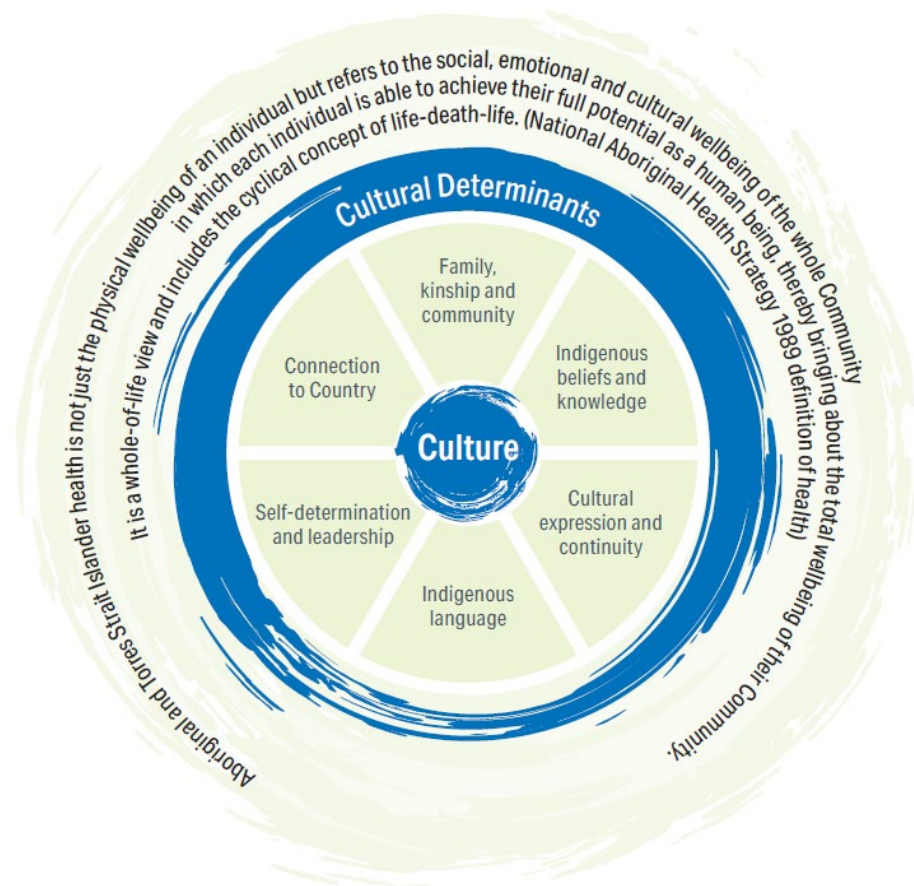
Strategies that address the determinants of health are fundamental to reducing health inequities and improving health outcomes.

Working to reduce the health impact of social determinants is a shared responsibility and requires a cross-sector approach.



<sup>2</sup> State Public Health Plan: <https://www.health.wa.gov.au/~media/Corp/Documents/About-us/Public-Health-Act/State-Public-Health-Plan-2025-2030.pdf>

## Cultural determinants of health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people



Cultural determinants – like connection to land, family, language, culture, spirituality, and self-determination – are central to resilience, identity, and mental health and are essential to the wellbeing of Aboriginal people<sup>3</sup>.

According to the Department of Health, recognising and integrating these cultural elements within public health initiatives fosters culturally safe environments and strengthens health outcomes by honouring the values, connections, and strengths unique to Aboriginal communities.

In preparing this Plan, the Shire of Broome has considered guiding principles and priorities in the **WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework**.

Guiding principles	Priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural security</li> <li>• The health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people is everyone's business</li> <li>• Partnerships</li> <li>• Aboriginal community control and engagement</li> <li>• Access and equality</li> <li>• Accountability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing risk factors</li> <li>• Managing illness better</li> <li>• Building community capacity</li> <li>• Better health systems</li> <li>• Aboriginal workforce development</li> <li>• Data, evidence and research</li> <li>• Addressing the social determinants of health</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> State Public Health Plan: <https://www.health.wa.gov.au/~media/Corp/Documents/About-us/Public-Health-Act/State-Public-Health-Plan-2025-2030.pdf>

# Our community

## Resident population

Shire of Broome  
June 2024, ABS Estimate



# 18,870

Annual change: 2023-2024  
1.3% increase

## Relative socio-economic disadvantage

ABS Socio-Economic Indexes for Australia (SEIFA), 2021

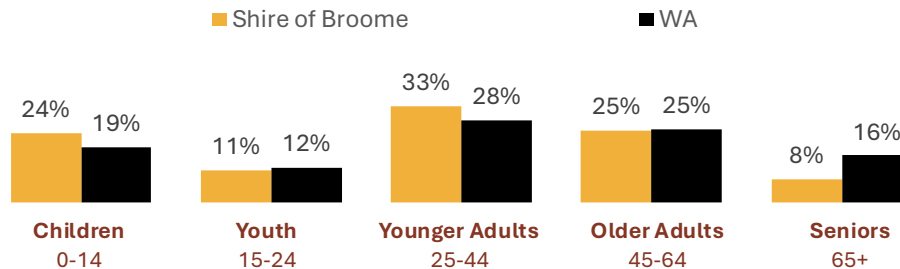


# 962

Rank: 41 out of 139  
WALGAs

## Age profile

2021, ABS Census



## Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people

Shire of Broome  
2021, ABS Census



## Profound or severe core activity limitation

Shire of Broome  
2021, ABS Census  
(excludes not stated)



## People who speak a non-English language

Shire of Broome  
2021, ABS Census  
(excludes not stated)



## Completed year 12 or equivalent

Shire of Broome  
2021, ABS Census



## Home ownership

Owned outright or with a mortgage  
Shire of Broome, 2021, ABS Census  
(excludes tenure type not stated)



## Housing diversity

Semi-detached house, townhouse, flat or apartment  
Shire of Broome, 2021, ABS Census  
(excludes not stated)



## Volunteering

Among 15+ year olds  
Shire of Broome, 2021, ABS Census  
(excludes not stated)





















# Our health profile

The following data was extracted from the *Health and Wellbeing Profile: Shire of Broome 2015-2024*, prepared by the Department of Health. This information was supplemented with long-term health condition data collected in the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census. While this is the best available data, limitations are noted – such as the recency of data and lower representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in data sets, particularly people who live in Aboriginal communities and itinerants. This may explain the lower than expected incidence of long-term health conditions such as diabetes and kidney disease.

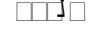


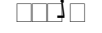
## Health behaviours and risk factors

Health and Wellbeing Profile: Shire of Broome, 2015-2024 (released: January 2026), Department of Health

	Children		Adults	
	Broome	WA	Broome	WA
 <b>Weight</b> Overweight or obese		25.2%		74.7%
 <b>Physical inactivity</b> Did not complete recommended weekly physical activity		62.3%		39.1%
 <b>Vegetable consumption</b> Eat 5+ serves per day		10.9%		4.7%
 <b>Fruit consumption</b> Eat 2+ serves per day		75.4%		33.4%
 <b>Fast food consumption</b> More than twice a week		6.2%		6.0%
 <b>Sugar-sweetened soft drinks</b> More than twice a week		8.5%		16.8%





















 <b>Alcohol</b>
High risk consumption: For short-term harm
<b>23.3%</b>
WA: 11.9%
For long-term harm
<b>47.3%</b>
WA: 29.1%

 <b>Smoking</b>
Current smoker
<b>25.4%</b>
WA: 13.5%
Current vaper
<b>6.2%</b>
WA: 7.9%

<b>Hospitalisations</b>	Broome	WA
Age standardised rate per 100,000 people		
Alcohol attributed		665.4
Illicit drug attributable		181.8
From accidental falls		1,031.0
Due to assault and neglect		106.4
Due to transport accidents		236.9
From intentional self-harm		106.6






## Long-term health conditions

% residents, 2021, ABS Census (excludes not stated)

	Broome	WA
 <b>Diabetes</b> (excluding gestational diabetes)		4.8%
 <b>Asthma</b>		8.1%
 <b>Arthritis</b>		8.4%
 <b>Mental health condition</b> (including depression or anxiety)		9.1%
 <b>Heart disease</b> (including heart attack or angina)		3.9%
 <b>Kidney disease</b>		0.8%
 <b>Cancer</b> (including remission)		3.0%
 <b>Lung condition</b> (including COPD or emphysema)		1.7%
 <b>Dementia</b> (including Alzheimer's)		0.7%
 <b>Stroke</b>		0.9%

## Notifiable infectious diseases

Age standardised rate per 100,000 people

	Broome	WA
Blood-borne diseases		44.1
Enteric disease		218.9
Sexually transmitted infections		600.6
Vaccine preventable disease		714.1
Vector-borne disease		21.1

Children ages vary across different health statistics, and adult ages vary from 16+ years to 18+ years across different health statistics. Refer to the full *Health and Wellbeing Profile: Shire of Broome, 2015-2024* for more details.

# Council performance

To monitor community perceptions of service levels and to identify performance gaps and priorities, the Shire of Broome participates in the MARKYT® Benchmarking Excellence Program. In 2024, 1,190 community members completed a MARKYT® Community Scorecard. This included assessment of services and facilities that contribute to community health and wellbeing. Health and community services received moderate performance ratings and were the fourth highest priorities.



# Working together for healthier communities

We all have a role in making Broome a healthier place. This Plan recognises healthy communities are a shared responsibility between all three tiers of government, government agencies, service providers, businesses, community groups and individuals.

## Federal Government

Federal Government is responsible for developing national policies and legislation and providing grants that aim to improve public health and increase community awareness and empowerment.

## State Government

The State Government of Western Australia has a central role in protecting, promoting and improving public health across the state through policy, regulation, prevention and service delivery.

Responsibilities include the monitoring of communicable diseases, managing environmental health risk, promotion of health and wellbeing and conducting research to inform policy.

Departments with a direct impact on public health and wellbeing include:

- Department of Health
- Department of Communities
- Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport
- Department of Housing and Works
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
- WA Police
- Department of Fire and Emergency Services
- Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety

## WA Country Health Service

WA Country Health Service is responsible for providing hospital and health services across the Kimberley region, including Broome Health Campus and mental health services and support for drug and alcohol issues.

Key programs include the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Adult Mental Health Service, Older Adult Mental Health Service, Community Alcohol and Drug Service, Broome Mental Health Unit, and Broome Community Recovery Centre.

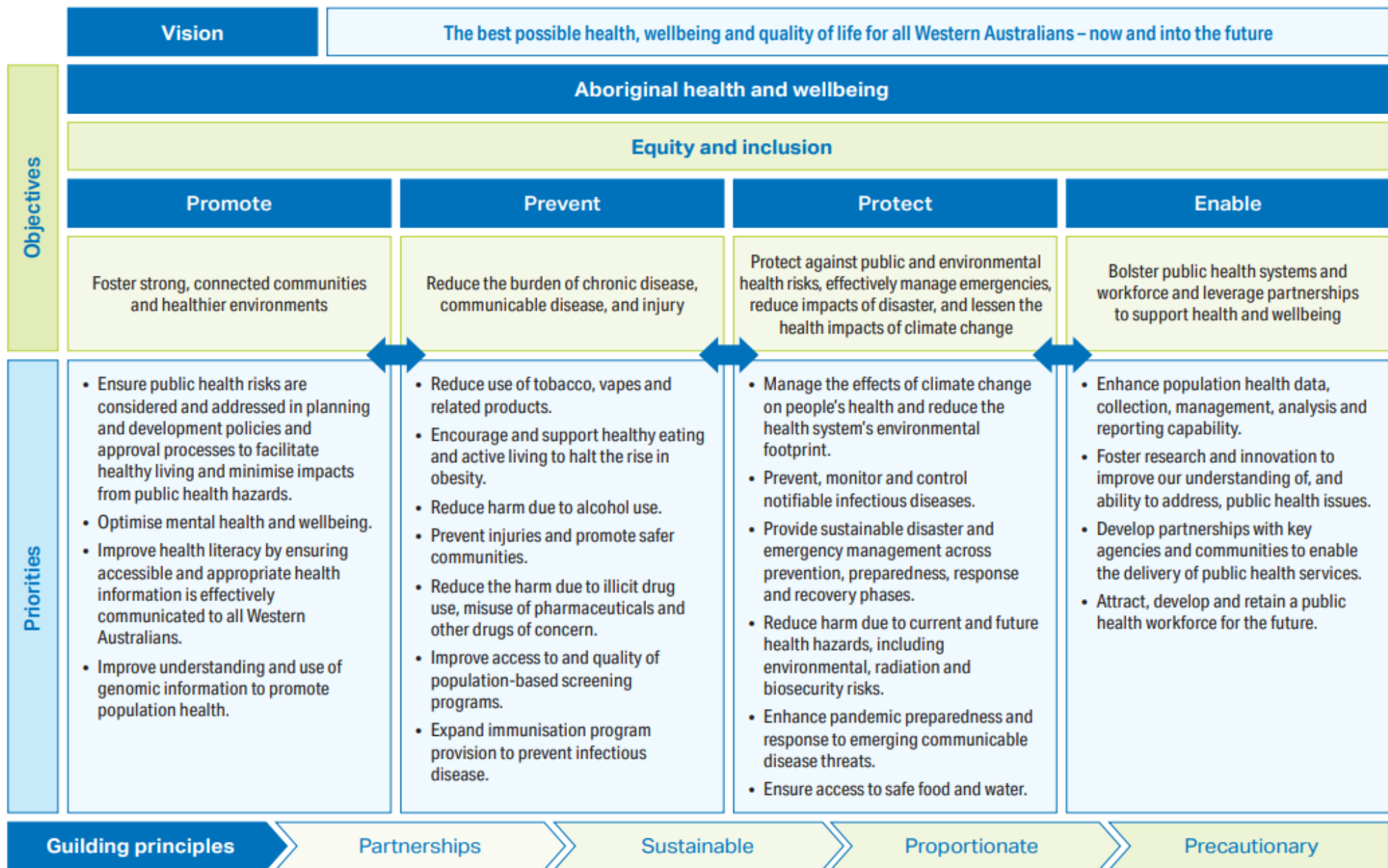
## Local health and community service providers

Various non-government organisations and private businesses deliver a range of health and wellbeing services, including general and mental health services, alcohol and drug counselling, family and domestic violence support services, housing support, crisis accommodation, financial counselling, sport and fitness groups, art and culture, diet and nutrition, and much more.

## Aboriginal Health

The Aboriginal Health Council of WA advocates for culturally appropriate healthcare and represents and supports the network of Aboriginal-run, culturally secure health services across Western Australia, covering primary health care, chronic disease management and wellbeing services. Local providers include Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS), Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (BRAMS) and Kimberley Renal Services.

# State public health vision, objectives and priorities



## Shire of Broome's contribution to State public health priorities

The Shire of Broome has adopted an integrated approach to planning and reporting, with various plans, strategies and services collectively addressing State public health priorities.

	State public health priorities	Alignment with Council Plan objectives	Supporting plans and strategies	Council Services
<b>Promote</b>	Ensure public health risks are considered and addressed in planning and development policies and approval processes to facilitate healthy living and minimise impacts from public health hazards.	1.2 Encourage responsible animal management. 2.1 Promote access to safe, affordable accommodation to meet all needs, including itinerants, homeless people, those at risk, youth and the elderly. 5.1 Manage and conserve the natural environment, land and water. 5.2 Adopt and encourage sustainable practices. 5.3 Mitigate climate change and natural disaster risk. 6.1 Promote sensible and sustainable growth and development. 9.2 Deliver cost effective, fit-for-purpose assets, facilities and equipment.	Local Planning Strategy Local Planning Scheme No 7 Broome Housing Affordability Strategy Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaption Plan State of the Environment Report and Environmental Management Plan 2026 Asset Management Plan 2025 – 2045 Capital Works Program Community Safety Plan 2025-2029 Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2023-2028 Local Emergency Management Arrangements 2021 Animal Management Plan 2024 - 2028	Community Development Environmental Health Services Ranger Services Waste Services Emergency Services Planning and Building Services Community Facilities Parks and Gardens Engineering Services Works Services

State public health priorities		Alignment with Council Plan objectives	Supporting plans and strategies	Council Services
Promote (cont.)	Optimise mental health and wellbeing	<p>3.1 Improve access to health facilities, services and programs to achieve good general and mental health in the community.</p> <p>3.2 Improve access to sport, leisure and recreation facilities, services and programs.</p> <p>4.1 Grow knowledge, appreciation and involvement in local art, culture and heritage.</p> <p>6.2 Develop and maintain community facilities.</p> <p>7.3 Provide improved access to safe, affordable public transport, marine and aviation services.</p> <p>8.1 Facilitate economic growth, training and employment opportunities in traditional and emerging industries, including agriculture, aquaculture, minerals, energy, tourism, art and culture.</p> <p>8.2 Activate Broome precincts, events and tourism.</p>	<p>Youth Plan 2025-2029</p> <p>Broome Youth Precinct Master Plan Report</p> <p>Art and Culture Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2028</p> <p>Sport and Recreational Plan 2021-2031</p> <p>Broome Recreation and Aquatic Centre Master Plan</p> <p>Recreational Trails Master Plan</p> <p>Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2023-2028</p> <p>Broome Housing Affordability Strategy</p> <p>Local Planning Strategy</p> <p>Identifying Opportunities for Events in Broome</p> <p>Place Management Plan 2025-2029</p>	<p>Community Development</p> <p>Environmental Health Services</p> <p>Ranger Services</p> <p>Emergency Services</p> <p>Community Facilities</p> <p>Parks and Gardens</p> <p>Community Facilities</p> <p>Library Services</p> <p>Civic Centre</p> <p>Recreation Services</p>
	Improve health literacy by ensuring accessible and appropriate health information is effectively communicated to all Western Australians	<p>3.1 Improve access to health facilities, services and programs to achieve good general and mental health in the community.</p> <p>10.1 Provide community with excellent customer service, relevant, timely information and effective engagement.</p>	<p>Corporate Communications and Engagement Strategy 2022 – 2027</p> <p>Youth Plan 2025-2029</p> <p>Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2023-2028</p>	<p>Community Development</p> <p>Environmental Health Services</p> <p>Waste Services</p> <p>Ranger Services</p> <p>Emergency Services</p> <p>Marketing and Communications</p>
	Improve understanding and use of genomic information to promote population health.	No alignment with Council Plan objectives.	Nil	Nil

State public health priorities		Alignment with Council Plan objectives	Supporting plans and strategies	Council Services
Prevent	Reduce harm due to alcohol use.	1.1 Work with key stakeholders to improve community safety and security. 3.1 Improve access to health facilities, services and programs to achieve good general and mental health in the community.	Community Safety Plan 2025-2029 Youth Plan 2025-2029	Community Development Environmental Health Services Ranger Services Emergency Services
	Reduce the harm due to illicit drug use, misuse of pharmaceuticals and other drugs of concern.			
	Reduce use of tobacco, vapes and related products.			
	Prevent injuries and promote safer communities.	1.1 Work with key stakeholders to improve community safety and security. 1.2 Encourage responsible animal management. 2.1 Promote access to safe, affordable accommodation to meet all needs, including itinerants, homeless people, those at risk, youth and the elderly. 6.2 Develop and maintain community facilities. 7.1 Provide safe and efficient roads and parking. 7.2 Provide safe, well-connected paths and trails to encourage greater use of active transport. 7.3 Provide improved access to safe, affordable public transport, marine and aviation services. 9.2 Deliver cost effective, fit-for-purpose assets, facilities and equipment.	Community Safety Plan 2025-2029 Broome Housing Affordability Strategy Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaption Plan Animal Management Plan 2024-2028 Asset Management Plan 2025 – 2045 Capital Works Program	Community Development Environmental Health Services Ranger Services Waste Services Emergency Services Planning and Building Services Community Facilities Parks and Gardens Engineering Services Works Services
Encourage and support healthy eating and active living to halt the rise in obesity.	3.1 Improve access to health facilities, services and programs to achieve good general and mental health in the community. 3.2 Improve access to sport, leisure and recreation facilities, services and programs.	Sport and Recreational Plan 2021-2031 BRAC Masterplan Youth Plan 2025-2029 Broome Youth Precinct Masterplan Recreational Trails Masterplan Corporate Communications and Engagement Strategy 2022 - 2027	Community Development Community Facilities Parks and Gardens	

State public health priorities		Alignment with Council Plan objectives	Supporting plans and strategies	Council Services
Prevent (cont.)	Improve access to and quality of population-based screening programs.	3.1 Improve access to health facilities, services and programs to achieve good general and mental health in the community.	Corporate Communications and Engagement Strategy 2022 - 2027	Community Development Environmental Health Services Marketing and Communications
	Expand immunisation program provision to prevent infectious disease.	3.1 Improve access to health facilities, services and programs to achieve good general and mental health in the community.	Corporate Communications and Engagement Strategy 2022 - 2027	Community Development Environmental Health Services Marketing and Communications

State public health priorities		Alignment with Council Plan objectives	Supporting plans and strategies	Council Services
Protect	Manage the effects of climate change on people's health and reduce the health system's environmental footprint.	5.3 Mitigate climate change and natural disaster risks.	State of the Environment Report and Environmental Management Plan 2025 Coastal Hazard Risk Management & Adaption Plan District Stormwater Management Strategy	Environmental Health Services Ranger Services Emergency Services Planning and Building Services
	Prevent, monitor and control notifiable infectious diseases.	3.1 Improve access to health facilities, services and programs to achieve good general and mental health in the community.	State of the Environment Report and Environmental Management Plan 2025 Mosquito Management Plan Record Keeping Disaster Management Plan 2019	Environmental Health Services Marketing and Communications

State public health priorities		Alignment with Council Plan objectives	Supporting plans and strategies	Council Services
<b>Protect</b> (cont.)	Provide sustainable disaster and emergency management across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery phases.	5.3 Mitigate climate change and natural disaster risks.	Local Emergency Management Arrangements 2021 Coastal Hazard Risk Management & Adaption Plan District Stormwater Management Strategy Record Keeping Disaster Management Plan 2019	Environmental Health Services Ranger Services Emergency Services
	Reduce harm due to current and future health hazards, including environmental, radiation and biosecurity risks.	5.1 Manage and conserve the natural environment, lands and water.	State of the Environment Report and Environmental Management Plan 2025 Waste Strategy 2021-2031 Dampier Peninsula Waste Management Plan 2023-28 Landfill Closure Management Plan 2023 Mosquito Management Plan	Environmental Health Services Waste Services
	Enhance pandemic preparedness and response to emerging communicable disease threats.	3.1 Improve access to health facilities, services and programs to achieve good general and mental health in the community.	Local Emergency Management Arrangements 2021 Record Keeping Disaster Management Plan 2019	Emergency Services Environmental Health Services
	Ensure access to safe food and water.	5.1 Manage and conserve the natural environment, lands and water.	State of the Environment Report and Environmental Management Plan 2025 Local Emergency Management Arrangements 2021	Environmental Health Services Emergency Services

State public health priorities		Alignment with Council Plan objectives	Supporting plans and strategies	Council Services
Enable	Enhance population health data, collection, management, analysis and reporting capability.	10.1 Provide community with excellent customer service, relevant, timely information and effective engagement.	Corporate Communications and Engagement Strategy 2022 – 2027	Community Development Environmental Health Services Marketing and Communications
	Foster research and innovation to improve our understanding of, and ability to address, public health issues.			
	Develop partnerships with key agencies and communities to enable the delivery of public health services.	3.3 Build the capacity of volunteer-operated organisations. 9.1 Strengthen leadership, advocacy and governance capabilities.		Governance, Strategy and Risk Community Development Environmental Health Services
	Attract, develop and retain a public health workforce for the future.	3.3 Build the capacity of volunteer-operated organisations. 11.1 Support employee wellness and foster a positive workplace culture	Strategic Workforce Plan Staff Housing Investment Strategy Economic Development Strategy 2021 - 2026	People and Culture Economic Development

## Local public health priorities

The Shire of Broome collaborated with the community and key partners to determine local public health priorities.

Problematic **consumption of alcohol and other drugs** was considered to be the primary public health priority, and a key contributing factor to other health priorities, including general and mental health conditions, family and domestic violence, community safety, and homelessness.

To reduce harm from alcohol and other drugs, the community would like the Shire of Broome and key partners to prioritise:

- public health leadership and interagency collaboration
- health workforce attraction and retention
- community connection and belonging to help build resilience
- prevention, early intervention and support services
- access to safe, affordable accommodation to meet all needs, especially social housing, short-term housing and crisis accommodation

Other public health priorities include:

- access to general and mental health services, programs and facilities
- encouraging healthy behaviours to reduce obesity and chronic diseases
- reducing climate-related health risk and impacts
- minimising the incidence and impact of infectious and vector-borne diseases, particularly from mosquitos

### Local public health priorities

1. Reduce use, harm and effects from alcohol and other drugs.
2. Strengthen public health leadership and interagency collaboration.
3. Attract, develop and retain a public health workforce to meet local needs.
4. Strengthen social connection, belonging and resilience.
5. Improve access to prevention, early intervention and support services.
6. Promote access to safe, affordable accommodation to meet all needs.
7. Improve access to general and mental health services, programs and facilities.
8. Encourage healthy behaviours to reduce obesity and chronic diseases.
9. Reduce climate-related health risks and impacts.
10. Minimise the incidence and impact of infectious and vector-borne diseases.

# Priority 1. Reduce use, harm and effects from alcohol and other drugs

## Current situation

The Federal and State Governments lead efforts to reduce alcohol and other drug-related harm in the Shire of Broome. They provide health facilities and services, and fund multiple community organisations and Aboriginal health services to deliver drug and alcohol support programs and facilities. The Shire of Broome supports harm reduction through local policy, advocacy, and enabling service delivery.

The Department of Health reports that the incidence of smoking (25%) and high-risk alcohol consumption for short term harm (23%) in the Shire of Broome is almost twice as high as for Western Australia. And 47% of the adult population consumes alcohol at high risk for long term harm compared to 29% for Western Australia.

In the Shire of Broome's 2024 Community Safety Survey, 77% of respondents considered alcohol and other drugs to be main contributors to local crime and anti-social behaviour in the Shire of Broome. In the 2025 Health and Wellbeing Survey, 49% of respondents indicated they had been affected by the use of alcohol and other drugs over the past 12 months, either their own use or use by family or friends. Households with children in primary school were most likely to have been impacted by the use of alcohol and other drugs, followed by people with disability, First Nations' peoples, and single person households.

As reported in the National Drug Strategy, and observed in the Shire of Broome, impacts from alcohol and other drugs include health, social and economic harms. Alcohol, tobacco and other drug problems are also associated with social and health determinants, such as discrimination, unemployment, homelessness, poverty and family breakdown.

### Health Harms

Including injury, chronic conditions and preventable diseases (including lung and other cancers, cardiovascular disease, and liver cirrhosis), mental health problems and road trauma.

### Social Harms

Including violence and other crime, unhealthy childhood development and trauma, intergenerational trauma, contribution to domestic and family violence, child protection issues and child/family wellbeing.

### Economic Harms

Associated with healthcare and law enforcement costs, decreased productivity, associated criminal activity, and reinforcement of marginalisation and disadvantage.

In relation to health harms, alcohol and illicit drug attributable hospitalisations were significantly higher in the Shire of Broome:

- Alcohol attributable hospitalisations were at 1,636.8 per 100,000 population in the Shire of Broome compared to 665.4 for Western Australia
- Illicit drug attributable hospitalisations were at 373.3 per 100,000 population in the Shire of Broome compared to 181.8 for Western Australia

Aligned with the National Drug Strategy, key stakeholders and community would like a shared focus on demand, supply and harm reduction in the Shire of Broome.

Suggestions included:

- purchasing restrictions
- health promotion and education campaigns
- safe needle exchange programs
- safe drug use and injection facilities
- detox and rehabilitation facilities
- policing and ranger services
- sobering-up shelters
- family support services
- more local addiction specialists

The community would benefit from further promotion of local support services as 47% of respondents thought it would be difficult to access support for alcohol and other drugs in the Shire of Broome.

There was strong support for making community events smoke-free (83% support) and enforcing State legislation for playgrounds and outdoor cafes and dining areas to be smoke-free, with 87% and 83% support, respectively.



Source: [www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/national-drug-strategy-2017-2026.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/national-drug-strategy-2017-2026.pdf)

## What we will continue to do

The Shire of Broome will continue to assist in reducing harm from alcohol and other drugs by delivering these services:

Council services	Service description
<b>Community safety</b>	Facilitate the Community Safety Working Group and the Broome Liquor Accord, continuing to advocate for a regional approach to alcohol and drug management and delivery of priority projects identified in the Community Safety Plan.
<b>Ranger services</b>	Partner with WA Police to conduct joint public health and safety patrols, including Male Oval Precinct, Town Beach, Kennedy Hill and other public health and safety hotspots.
<b>Community engagement</b>	Promote messages and education programs to reduce harm from alcohol and other drugs, sharing campaigns and resources created by specialists employed by the Department of Health and other public health partners.

Several existing plans and strategies aim to reduce use, harm and effects from alcohol and other drugs. To avoid duplication, a sample of the most relevant projects from these plans are referenced below. Please refer to the supporting plans and strategies for full details.

Plans and strategies	Existing projects
<b>Council Plan 2025-2035</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for WA Country Health Service to introduce a <b>safe needle exchange and disposal program</b> with supporting community education.</li> <li>Advocate for the Mental Health Commission to provide a new <b>sobering up shelter</b> in a suitable location.</li> <li>Advocate for the establishment of a <b>Withdrawal Centre</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Safety Plan 2025-2029</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Participate in Kimberley Regional Group meetings</b> to monitor alcohol management indicators across the Kimberley and advocate for fit for purpose and consistent alcohol management systems in the Kimberley.</li> <li>Coordinate the <b>Broome Liquor Accord</b> to promote responsible liquor sale, supply and service practices, advocate for effective liquor restrictions, and support initiatives to prevent sly grogging and reduce alcohol-related harm.</li> <li>Collaborate with WA Country Health Service to <b>promote safe needle disposal messages</b> (posters, social media campaigns etc).</li> <li>Conduct <b>daily sweeps of known hotspot areas</b> and respond to community reports of discarded needles (funded by the Mental Health Commission)</li> <li>Advocate for the Mental Health Commission to continue funding for <b>sharps collection</b> and clean-up in known hotspots.</li> <li><b>Advocate for increased funding</b> for service providers to deliver drug and alcohol initiatives and support services, including rehabilitation, by preparing letters of support and correspondence to ministers and relevant stakeholders.</li> </ul>

## Priority 2. Strengthen public health leadership and interagency collaboration

### Current situation

Many organisations provide public health and community services in the Shire of Broome, including Federal, State and Local Government, non-government organisations, and private companies. Although there is strong collaboration, no single agency has overall responsibility for reducing harm from alcohol and other drugs. Instead, responsibility is shared across health, safety and community wellbeing agencies, each reporting to different governing bodies or funders.

As a result, it is difficult to find a single, up-to-date source of information that clearly outlines who is responsible for what and how each organisation contributes to shared outcomes. In the 2025 Community Health and Wellbeing Survey, many respondents expected it would be difficult to access support for alcohol and other drugs (47%), mental health (56%) and housing stress or homelessness (73%) in the Shire of Broome.

There are calls for a more integrated and effective interagency approach, with clear leadership to help address local health priorities. Stakeholders would like a more cohesive, less fragmented public health system focused on shared and measurable outcomes, stronger Aboriginal-led and culturally informed responses to public health issues, and more consistent and reliable engagement between different agencies to promote and deliver services.

As reported by the Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum<sup>4</sup>, local communities and organisations have for more than 25 years consistently called for the development and implementation of a regional Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy. A shared strategy is needed to address the lack of coordination in planning, funding, and service delivery across the region, including services to significantly improve underlying social determinants such as inequality, poverty, early-childhood development, education, environmental health, employment, and housing, that undermine the effectiveness of AOD misuse responses.

---

<sup>4</sup> Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum (2025). Kimberley Aboriginal-led Regional Alcohol and Other Drug Plan: Desktop Review. Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum, Broome, Western Australia.

## What we will continue to do

The Shire of Broome will continue to assist in strengthening public health leadership and interagency collaboration through the following services:

Council services	Service description
<p><b>Stakeholder engagement</b></p>	<p>Participate in working groups and committees to strengthen interagency collaboration and to represent the Shire of Broome and local needs. Working groups are continually evolving in response to local priorities. Some current examples include the Kimberley Regional Group, Community Safety Working Group, Broome Liquor Accord, Broome Vulnerable People Working Group, and the Broome Youth and Community Services Coordinators Network.</p>

The Community Safety Plan has a specific objective to “strengthen collaboration with service providers”. To avoid duplication, relevant projects from this plan are referenced below.

Plans and strategies	Existing projects
<p><b>Community Safety Plan 2025-2029</b></p>	<p>The Community Safety Plan has an objective to “<b>strengthen collaboration with service providers</b>”, addressing community safety priorities that often overlap with public health priorities, such as reducing harm from alcohol and other drugs. Key projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with key partners to support delivery of effective crime prevention and engagement activities for young people, together with evaluation programs.</li> <li>• Collaborate with key stakeholders to identify existing working groups, including their membership, scope, and areas of focus, to ensure alignment with community priorities and reduce duplication of efforts.</li> <li>• Facilitate regular meetings with WA Police, Department of Communities, Department of Housing and Works, and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions to embrace a collaborative, coordinated, multi-agency response to local safety issues.</li> <li>• Participate in local stakeholder meetings to discuss at-risk youth and diversionary activities.</li> <li>• Participate in Broome Vulnerable People Working Group monthly meetings to discuss coordinated, multi-agency solutions for vulnerable people in the Broome township.</li> <li>• Participate in the annual Broome Elders Forum by hosting a stall to engage with participants and better understand their needs.</li> <li>• Facilitate Broome Youth Advisory Council meetings to plan youth projects and events and provide a youth voice on local issues.</li> <li>• Facilitate information sharing through the Broome Youth and Community Services Coordinators Network.</li> <li>• Advocate for the new Family and Domestic Violence One Stop Hub to lead the mapping of existing support services in collaboration with key stakeholders.</li> </ul>

## New strategic initiatives

To address service gaps, the Shire of Broome has identified the following priority project.

New projects	Linked strategies	Key partners	Service Team	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31
Advocate for the continuation of the Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum to develop and deliver a Kimberley Aboriginal-led <b>Alcohol and Other Drug Plan</b> to provide necessary leadership, direction and coordination in the Kimberley region to reduce growing harm from alcohol and other drugs, mental health, homelessness, and family and domestic violence.		Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum	Place Activation and Engagement	●	●	●	●	●

● / \$ Resourcing or funding secured

\$ Additional operating or capital budget required

o Additional funding required, amount to be determined

## Priority 3. Attract, develop and retain a public health workforce to meet local needs

### Current situation

According to a report prepared by the Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum<sup>5</sup>, despite decades of local efforts and various inquiries and their recommendations the Kimberley region continues to face systemic barriers to effectively manage the high levels of AOD harms. **Chronic workforce shortages** and organisational capacity issues are considered to be one of these main barriers.

In the Shire of Broome's 2025 Community Health and Wellbeing Survey, 68% of respondents spontaneously mentioned a **lack of GPs and long wait times** as one of their main health concerns. When prompted, 78% of respondents said they had experienced a delay or were prevented from seeing a health practitioner in Broome over the past 12 months. These issues were more prevalent among females, families with children in primary school and high school, and residents who rent from government or community housing. Seniors were less likely to experience delays.

The main reason for experiencing a delay or being prevented from seeing a health practitioner was that they could not get an appointment (93%), followed by the service was not available locally (48%), they didn't have money to pay for the service (20%) or there was a lack of transport (5%).

- 56% of respondents reported waiting more than four weeks for an appointment with a general practitioner
- 52% of respondents saw four or more different general practitioners in the past three years, adding to concerns with continuity of care.
- 68% of respondents needed to travel to Perth or other places over the past three years, because a medical service wasn't available in Broome.

In the Mental Health Commission's discussion paper for the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2025-2030, **housing availability** for public health workforces in regional areas was identified as a key challenge for attracting and retaining health workers.

The Mental Health Commission also identified a need to grow and develop Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces across the mental health, alcohol, other drugs, and suicide prevention systems aligned to best practice, including an Aboriginal peer workforce.

---

<sup>5</sup> Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum (2025). Kimberley Aboriginal-led Regional Alcohol and Other Drug Plan: Desktop Review. Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum, Broome, Western Australia.

## What we will continue to do

Though the Strategic Workforce Plan the Shire will seek to attract, develop and retain staff to meet local government obligations in relation to public health and wellbeing.

### Council services

### Service description

#### People and Culture

Recruit and develop the Shire’s workforce to deliver services that contribute to public health and wellbeing. This includes Rangers, Environmental Health Officers, Waste Officers, Community Development Officers, Sport and Recreation Officers, and more.

While the Shire is not responsible for attracting and employing primary health professionals, such as general practitioners, other specialists and allied health professionals, **the Shire does have a supporting role in helping to make the Shire of Broome an attractive place to live and work to assist with the attraction and retention of health professionals.** This includes advocating for sufficient housing for essential workers.

To avoid duplication, a sample of relevant housing projects from the Shire’s plans and strategies are referenced below. Please refer to the supporting plans and strategies for full details.

### Plans and strategies

### Existing projects

The Shire of Broome will help to attract and retain health professionals through achievement of Outcome 2 in the Council Plan, for “everyone to have a place to call home”.

Key projects include:

#### Council Plan 2025-2035

- Progress the **Broome Housing Affordability Strategy and Master Planning** project to work with landowners of undeveloped and underdeveloped land within urban areas, particularly in Old Broome and Chinatown, to realise opportunities for new dwelling construction.
- Advocate for the Department of Housing and Works and relevant partners to **improve access to diverse and affordable housing** by developing appropriate strategies or completing Stage 1 of the Broome Urban Renewal Strategy.
- Advocate for State Government to construct new houses on development ready sites within Broome for **Government Regional Officer Housing** to ease pressure on the private rental market.
- Facilitate development and operation of Sanctuary Village Caravan Park and **Key Worker Accommodation**.
- Develop **staff key worker housing** to meet organisational needs and reduce impost on the local private housing market.

## Priority 4. Strengthen social connection, belonging and resilience

### Sample of key stakeholder comments

#### Current situation

According to the World Health Organization, good-quality, positive social connection, can prevent and reduce social isolation and loneliness, enhancing physical and mental health and extending lifespans, and also contributes to support healthy behaviours.

They urge member states to develop, implement, and evaluate current, best available evidence-based strategies that promote social connection to reduce social isolation and loneliness, taking into consideration those in vulnerable situations, and to integrate them into health promotion, disease prevention, management and recovery programs as well as into prevention, preparedness and response plans for health emergencies<sup>6</sup>.

In the Shire's 2024 MARKYT® Community Scorecard, 57% of respondents said they felt like they belong in their local community. Although down from 62% in 2022, it was on par with the industry average of 56%.

In the 2025 Health and Wellbeing Survey, personal relationships received a wellbeing index score of 60 points, up 5 points over the past five years. However, ratings were lower in single person households, households with a baby or toddler, and people with disability.

55% of respondents reported feeling lonely or isolated sometimes or often. Loneliness was greatest in single person households (78%), and was more prevalent among females, young adults, parents with school-aged children, people with disability and people who work full-time. Cat owners also said they were likely to experience loneliness.

76% of respondents had participated in community events. There was moderate attendance at arts and culture festivals and events (52%), Broome Library (47%) and Broome Civic Centre (35%).

*The way our society is, is that everything's individual. We live in suburbia now where we don't even meet our neighbours. We don't even know who they are. But we need to be, and the Shire's role really is about trying to get this social connection.*

*And I know the Broome Shire in particular is looking at safe spaces, for instance, as part of planning. You know, that's one of the things we can do is to make sure that community can come together and feel safe and interact.*

*Quite often, when you've got an addiction problem, you are isolated from family and community and that's a big red flag for us because it means decline mentally and in health.*

*So we need to then get that back and get family involved and get people involved in socialising, even if it means just volunteering somewhere.*

*So, this idea of social connection . . . keeping the shire, the community in the shire connected, I think that's the important thing. Because change happens by communities, not by individuals.*

<sup>6</sup> Third Global Model World Health Assembly, 28 October 2025, Agenda item 4.6, Fostering Social Connection for Global Health.

While 78% of Aboriginal respondents had attended or participated in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural activities, 32% felt there were insufficient opportunities for community to connect with Country, culture and community.

In the 2025 Health and Wellbeing Survey 37% of respondents had participated in volunteering activities over the past 12 months. Volunteering was higher among parents with children in high school, and among people with a trade.

To help strengthen social connection, belonging and resilience the Shire of Broome provides welcoming and inclusive community facilities, maintains public open spaces, and delivers and facilitates a broad range of programs, services and community events, along with volunteer support services.

Key stakeholders believe the Shire of Broome can have a large and positive impact on public health through delivery of these services. To this end, the Shire has invested in the development of several plans and strategies that aim to improve public facilities and services to strengthen social connection, belonging and resilience.

## What we will continue to do

The Shire will continue to develop plans and strategies, to activate places, to build, upgrade and maintain public facilities, and to deliver and facilitate community services, programs and events to strengthen social connection, belonging and resilience. A sample of these plans, places and services are provided below. Please refer to the Shire’s website for a full list.

Plans and strategies	Places and facilities	Services, programs and events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Plan 2025-2035</li> <li>• Community Safety Plan 2025-2029</li> <li>• Sport and Recreation Plan 2021-2031</li> <li>• BRAC Masterplan</li> <li>• Broome Youth Precinct Master Plan Report</li> <li>• Recreational Trails Masterplan</li> <li>• Arts and Culture Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2028</li> <li>• Youth Plan 2025-2029</li> <li>• Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2023-2028</li> <li>• Animal Management Plan 2024-2028</li> <li>• Asset Management Plan 2025-2045</li> <li>• Capital Works Program</li> <li>• Place Management Plan</li> <li>• Playground Strategy 2026</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Beach</li> <li>• Cable Beach</li> <li>• Chinatown</li> <li>• Broome Recreation and Aquatic Centre</li> <li>• Broome Skate park</li> <li>• BRAC Youth Bike Precinct</li> <li>• Broome Civic Centre</li> <li>• Broome Library</li> <li>• Local beaches, boat ramps and jetties</li> <li>• Playgrounds, parks and reserves</li> <li>• Footpaths and cycleways</li> <li>• Trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Development Fund</li> <li>• Events Listing (on Shire website)</li> <li>• Citizenship Ceremonies</li> <li>• Shinju Matsuri – <i>Festival of the Pearl</i></li> <li>• Youth Week</li> <li>• All Abilities Sports Day (at BRAC)</li> <li>• Dash &amp; Splash (at BRAC)</li> <li>• KidSport program</li> <li>• Volunteer support services</li> <li>• And lots more</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="1458 1313 2141 1377">Visit <a href="http://www.broome.wa.gov.au">www.broome.wa.gov.au</a> for comprehensive lists of current services, programs and events</p>

To avoid duplication, a sample of the most relevant projects from supporting plans and strategies are referenced below. Please refer to these plans and strategies for full details.

Plans and strategies	Existing projects
<p><b>Council Plan 2025-2035</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for continued grant funding to deliver <b>youth diversionary sporting and personal development programs</b> in collaboration with WA Police, such as A Sporting Chance and A Remote Chance, to guide young people away from criminal and high-risk behaviours with the support of their families.</li> <li>• Complete a feasibility study to upgrade or relocate <b>Broome Library</b>.</li> <li>• Complete a feasibility study for a <b>Performing Arts Centre</b>.</li> <li>• Facilitate implementation of the <b>Broome Turf Club Masterplan</b>.</li> <li>• Prepare an <b>Age-Friendly Plan</b> to improve access to services and facilities for seniors.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community Safety Plan 2025-2029</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce a <b>Get to Know Your Neighbour</b> initiative to strengthen neighbourhood connections and improve community safety.</li> <li>• Launch a <b>Broome Cares</b> campaign to raise awareness of what the Shire and key partners are doing to support vulnerable people, good news stories, and how the community can help (volunteering opportunities etc).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Youth Plan 2025-2035</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote access to <b>safe, welcoming spaces</b> where young people can connect, relax, and engage in positive programs such as BRAC, Broome Library, Broome Youth and Families Hub, and Broome PCYC.</li> <li>• Facilitate a program of events and activities in celebration of <b>National Youth Week</b>.</li> <li>• Collaborate with key stakeholders to advocate for <b>on-country programs and initiatives</b> for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth, incorporating cultural opportunities such as hunting, fishing and language into events and activities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Arts and Culture Strategy and Action Plan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund a business case and detailed design to upgrade and develop the <b>Broome Museum</b> and adjacent lands.</li> <li>• Advocate for Nyamba Buru Yawuru to build the <b>Kimberley Centre for Art, Culture and Story</b>.</li> <li>• Advocate for improved access to <b>musical instruments</b> for children and young people in the shire.</li> <li>• Advocate for the introduction of a <b>KidSport like program for arts and culture</b> activities.</li> </ul>

## Priority 5. Improve access to prevention, early intervention and support services

### Current situation

Key stakeholders would like a stronger focus on prevention and early intervention across all stages of life to reduce harm from chronic disease, addiction, family and domestic violence, and suicide.

They suggest Government and non-government organisations, like the Department of Health, Department of Communities, Department of Housing and Works, Mental Health Commission, local health professionals, schools, local police and the Shire of Broome, work together on early identification and response to public health risks before they escalate.

*When babies are born normal weight, there are better outcomes, especially with health, but we see far too many pregnant women having premature births, low birth weights. And the evidence is relatively clear about that impact alone. So again, we're just rolling along, doing our own things, and we're missing the signs where we should be going, hey, this is not looking right, but we should be doing a little bit more around this.*

*If we can get them attending school regularly, that's obviously the first goal, but in order to do that, they need to feel safe and comfortable. So regular attendance is going to be a key goal because ...they're going to need to regularly attend the workforce. So, helping them with those positive routines around attendance and social interaction and, you know, following, listening, achieving, striving.*

*We need to look more at the issue of bad ageing, we need to look at health and wellbeing from a life course perspective. And this starts from preconception, prenatal, postnatal, early childhood, you know, teenage, early adult, right through to older people.*

*Well, I think there needs to be more ongoing support for men. You know, there's not a lot... there is a really good one organised by Men's Outreach, Change in Ways Program. That definitely needs to be expanded to, you know, make men behave better.*

## What we will continue to do

The Shire will continue to play a significant and meaningful role in improving access to prevention, early intervention and support services by raising community awareness about what services are available in the Shire of Broome.

Council services	Service description
<b>Environmental Health Services</b>	Promote preventative health campaigns and early intervention programs delivered by the Shire, including mosquito management, recreational water monitoring, public swimming pool water quality control, and food business inspections
<b>Library Services</b>	<p>Deliver early education and literacy programs, such as Baby Rhyme Time, Toddler Rhyme Time, Children’s Story Time (3-5 years), First Nations Storytime, Hooked on Books, and Social Minecraft session.</p> <p>Deliver programs for young people and adults, such as book clubs, author and speaker events, Tech Help Tuesdays, Innovation Station Teen Tech Group, movie nights, boardgame nights, Dungeons and Dragons, chess club, Craft and Conversation.</p> <p>Facilitate access to public health information, events and workshops.</p>

Several existing plans and strategies aim to improve access to prevention, early intervention and support services. To avoid duplication, a sample of the most relevant projects from these plans are referenced below. Please refer to the supporting plans and strategies for full details.

Plans and strategies	Existing projects
<b>Council Plan 2025-2035</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for essential <b>primary prevention initiatives</b> supporting families through childhood and adolescence, including enhanced support, education and mentoring programs for parents and caregivers.</li> <li>Host a round table discussion with the Department of Education, Department of Communities and community service providers to understand which programs currently support <b>school attendance</b> or deliver alternative education for at-risk youth in Broome and to explore how to better meet local needs.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Safety Plan 2025-2029</b>	<p>The Community Safety Plan has a specific objective to “reduce the incidence of and impact from family and domestic violence”. Here is a sample of priority projects to support this objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support <b>Marnja Jarndu Women’s Refuge Inc.</b> to advocate for funding to extend or build new facilities to deliver safe accommodation and support for women with or without children who are escaping family violence or are in crisis.</li> <li>Support MOSAC’s Family Outreach Service to establish a new <b>Family and Domestic Violence One Stop Hub</b> in Broome, providing integrated support and wrap-around services.</li> <li>Advocate for additional culturally responsive support services to reduce the incidence of <b>elder abuse</b> and to support those affected.</li> <li>Advocate for and support local services and sporting clubs to deliver workshops that educate young people on healthy and respectful relationships, including the impacts of social media, to <b>promote early intervention and positive behaviour</b>.</li> </ul>

# Priority 6. Promote access to safe, affordable accommodation to meet all needs

## Current situation

Housing affordability, overcrowding and homelessness are key community and stakeholder concerns in the Shire of Broome.

Only 42.6% of residents own their home outright or with a mortgage, well below the state average of 70.1% in the 2021 ABS Census, and there is a high proportion of social housing. Around 6,000 properties are maintained by the Department of Housing and Works, with tenancies managed by the Department of Communities.

In the 2025 Health and Wellbeing Survey, 49% of respondents reported that they had experienced financial stress from housing costs in the past 12 months, and 38% had experienced housing instability or homelessness, either directly or through a family member or friend.

Community and key stakeholders are seeking more affordable housing, more social housing that is supported and maintained to an acceptable standard, more crisis and short-term accommodation that is safe and easily accessible for people experiencing family and domestic violence, more safe spaces for intoxicated people, and more short-term accommodation for people needing to access medical and other services in Broome

## What we will continue to do

Several existing plans and strategies aim to improve short-term and crisis accommodation in the Shire of Broome. To avoid duplication, a sample of the most relevant projects from these plans are referenced below. Please refer to the supporting plans and strategies for full details.

Plans and strategies	Existing projects
<b>Council Plan 2025-2035</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Progress the <b>Broome Housing Affordability Strategy</b> and Master Planning project to work with landowners of undeveloped and underdeveloped land within urban areas, particularly in Old Broome and Chinatown, to realise opportunities for new dwelling construction.</li><li>• Advocate for State Government and relevant partners to improve access to diverse and affordable housing by developing appropriate strategies or completing Stage 1 of the <b>Broome Urban Renewal Strategy</b>.</li><li>• Advocate for State Government to construct new houses on development ready sites within Broome for <b>Government Regional Officer Housing</b> to ease pressure on the private rental market.</li><li>• Facilitate development and operation of <b>Sanctuary Village Caravan Park and Key Worker Accommodation</b>.</li><li>• Advocate for funding towards headworks for <b>McMahon Estate</b> infill development.</li><li>• Advocate for State Government to develop a <b>homelessness and itinerancy strategy</b> for Broome.</li><li>• Advocate for State Government to fund <b>Ngurra Buru Night Space</b> to continue beyond the trial for at risk children and youth.</li></ul>

Plans and strategies

Existing projects

**Community Safety  
Plan 2025-2029**

- Advocate for a **Youth Accommodation Program** such as a 24/7 crisis and transitional accommodation service for youth aged 15-25 years who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness.
- Advocate for safe and affordable **short stay accommodation** in Broome for all people.
- Advocate for Mental Health Commission to deliver **Step Up/Step Down Services** in Broome to provide contemporary, therapeutic mental health care through short-term residential support and individualised care.

**New strategic initiatives**

To address service gaps, the Shire of Broome has identified the following priority projects.

New projects	Linked strategies	Key partners	Service Team	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31
Advocate for the Department of Housing and Works to maintain <b>quality social housing</b> stock to support healthy living conditions and prevent chronic disease.		Department of Housing and Works	Environmental Health; Ranger Services	●	●	●	●	●

● / \$ Resourcing or funding secured

\$ Additional operating or capital budget required

o Additional funding required, amount to be determined

## Priority 7. Improve access to general and mental health services, programs and facilities

### Current situation

In the Shire of Broome's 2025 Health and Wellbeing Survey, community self-scored their general health 61 points, down 8 points over the past five years and mental health scored 52 points overall, down 6 points. General health scores were lowest among First Nations peoples and people with disability, while mental health scores were lower among people with disability and in single person households.

Injury-related hospitalisations and notifiable infectious diseases have been significantly higher in the Shire of Broome compared to Western Australia. The largest variances were for hospitalisations due to assault and neglect (11 times higher), vector-borne disease, mainly from mosquitos (5 times higher) and sexually transmitted infections (3.5 times higher). According to the Australia Bureau of Statistics, Aboriginal people in WA are 3 times more likely to die by suicide than non-Aboriginal people<sup>7</sup>.

Community members expressed difficulty accessing general practitioners and other specialists in the Shire of Broome:

- 56% of respondents reported waiting more than four weeks for an appointment with a general practitioner.
- 52% of respondents saw four or more different general practitioners in the past three years, adding to concerns with continuity of care.
- 68% of respondents needed to travel to Perth or other places over the past three years, because a medical service wasn't available in Broome.
- 58% of respondents thought it would be difficult to access mental health support in Broome.

Recent research supports findings from the 2024 MARKYT Community Scorecard, when "access to health and community services" received a performance index score of 50 points, down from 61 points in 2020, and community members indicated a need for the Shire of Broome to:

- Advocate for more health professionals (GPs, dentists, specialists and allied health professionals) to reduce waiting times and the need to travel to Perth.
- Advocate for the expansion of Broome Hospital to include a larger emergency department, MRI machine, more staff, more beds and better parking.
- Advocate for more mental health and drug and alcohol rehabilitation services.

---

<sup>7</sup> Public consultation: Draft Western Australian Suicide Prevention Framework 2026-2031

## What we will continue to do

While the Shire is not responsible for delivering health care services, including general, mental, specialist and allied health services, it does have a role in advocating for the State Government, and private and community health service providers to improve access to general and mental health services in the Shire of Broome, supporting the delivery of public health and wellbeing programs, and promoting community awareness of these services.

To avoid duplication, a sample of the most relevant projects from the Shire's plans and strategies are referenced below. Please refer to the supporting plans and strategies for full details.

Plans and strategies	Existing projects
<p><b>Council Plan 2025-2035</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advocate for the State Government to expand or relocate <b>Broome Hospital</b> with more staff, facilities and services to address current and long-term health needs.</li><li>• <b>Advocate for increased funding and support</b> for community organisations to promote and deliver health and mental health initiatives for adults, young people and children.</li><li>• Advocate for the State Government to provide more beds in <b>Mabu Liyan (Broome Mental Health Unit)</b> to address critical demand and service gaps.</li><li>• Advocate for Mental Health Commission to deliver <b>Step Up/Step Down Services</b> in Broome to provide contemporary, therapeutic mental health care through short-term residential support and individualised care.</li></ul>
<p><b>Youth Plan 2025-2029</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partner with stakeholders to <b>promote essential health services</b>, including mental health support, to young people in the Broome region.</li><li>• Work in partnership with the Shire Youth Advisory Council and Headspace Youth Advisory Council to co-design and <b>deliver health and wellbeing initiatives at youth events</b>, including R U OK Day.</li></ul>

## Priority 8. Encourage healthy behaviours to reduce obesity and chronic diseases

### Current situation

The Department of Health reports that 23.8% of children and 67.5% of adults in the Shire of Broome are overweight or obese. Contributing factors include a lack of exercise, and higher consumption of sugar-sweetened soft drinks or energy drinks, and more frequent consumption of fast food than WA rates.

- 57.4% of children and 31.8% of adults do not complete the recommended amount of weekly physical activity.
- 10.6% of children and 20.2% of adults drank sugar-sweetened soft drinks or energy drinks more than twice a week.
- 5.0% of children and 7.9% of adults ate fast food more than twice a week.

### Exercise:

In the Shire of Broome's 2025 Health and Wellbeing Survey, 68% of respondents rated their exercise as good, very good or excellent. Ratings were lower among people with disability, First Nations peoples, single person households, and households with a baby or toddler.

There was high usage of local parks and reserves (76%) and BRAC (68%), and moderate participation in gym or fitness classes (40%), sports clubs or teams (39%) and fitness events (36%). 42% of respondents said they walk or cycle around their neighbourhood daily.

The Shire of Broome has good sport and recreational facilities, and there are several projects underway to move towards excellence. In the 2024 MARKYT Community Scorecard, respondents gave sport and recreational facilities an overall score of 65, marginally ahead of the industry average.

In the 2025 study, the main barriers for participating in health and wellbeing activities were cost (21%), lack of time (17%), work commitments (16%), heat or weather-related elements (14%), safety concerns (11%) and other social and psychological reasons (11%).

### Diet and nutrition:

In terms of diet, 85% of respondents rated their diet and nutrition as good, very good or excellent. Ratings were lower among people with disability, First Nations peoples, those with lower levels of education, and families with children aged 0-17 years.

Most respondents ate fresh fruit and vegetables daily (70%) or at least weekly (29%). The main barriers for consuming fresh fruit and vegetables were cost (53%), followed by poor quality and freshness (28%), availability (13%) and limited choices (10%).

Of concern, 21% of respondents skipped or cut the size of meals often or sometimes over the past 12 months because there wasn't enough money for food. This was more prevalent in families with children aged 0-17 years, among those with a trade, and people with disability.

58% of respondents thought it would be difficult to access help for people experiencing food shortages in Broome. Perceived difficulty was greater among females, parents with school-aged children, people with disability, and First Nations peoples.

## What we will continue to do

The Shire will continue to develop plans and strategies and deliver facilities and services to encourage physical activity and healthy diets. A sample of these plans, places and services are provided below. Please refer to the Shire’s website for a full list.

Plans and strategies	Places and facilities	Services, programs and events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Plan 2025-2035</li> <li>• Sport and Recreation Plan 2021-2031</li> <li>• BRAC Masterplan</li> <li>• Broome Youth Precinct Master Plan Report</li> <li>• Recreational Trails Masterplan</li> <li>• Youth Plan 2025-2029</li> <li>• Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2023-2028</li> <li>• Animal Management Plan 2024-2028</li> <li>• Asset Management Plan 2025-2045</li> <li>• Capital Works Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broome Recreation and Aquatic Centre</li> <li>• Broome Library</li> <li>• Town Beach water park</li> <li>• Cable Beach youth precinct</li> <li>• Broome Skate park</li> <li>• BRAC Youth Bike Precinct</li> <li>• Local beaches, boat ramps and jetties</li> <li>• Playgrounds</li> <li>• Outdoor fitness equipment</li> <li>• Ovals, parks and reserves</li> <li>• Footpaths and cycleways</li> <li>• Trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of charities and community organisations that offer food parcels, meals, or vouchers for groceries, such as Centacare Kimberley, Feed the Little Children, and Foodbank WA.</li> <li>• Promotion of partner health and wellbeing campaigns, like LiveLighter®, The Active8 Program, and The Better Health Program</li> <li>• Community Development Fund</li> <li>• Club Contacts Database (see Shire website)</li> <li>• Events Listing (see Shire website)</li> <li>• Youth Week</li> <li>• All Abilities Sports Day (at BRAC)</li> <li>• Dash &amp; Splash (at BRAC)</li> <li>• KidSport program</li> <li>• Cable Beach beach safety patrols</li> <li>• Library programs</li> <li>• And lots more</li> </ul> <p>Visit <a href="http://www.broome.wa.gov.au">www.broome.wa.gov.au</a> for comprehensive lists of current services, programs and events</p>

To avoid duplication, a sample of relevant projects from the Council Plan are provided below. Please refer to the supporting plans and strategies for full details.

Plans and strategies	Existing projects
<p><b>Council Plan 2025-2035</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for funding to improve sporting infrastructure in <b>Aboriginal Communities</b> within the Shire.</li> <li>• <b>Upgrade BRAC</b> to include a gym and fitness facility, additional squash courts, and indoor children’s play space.</li> <li>• Construct <b>BRAC Youth Bike Precinct</b>.</li> <li>• Complete a feasibility study to <b>expand BRAC aquatic centre</b> with a 50m pool.</li> <li>• Support Broome Bowling Club to develop a <b>Broome Bowling Club Master Plan</b>.</li> <li>• Complete a feasibility study for a <b>safe ocean swimming facility</b>.</li> </ul>

## Priority 9. Reduce climate-related health risks and impacts

### Current situation

Located in the Kimberley region of Western Australia, with higher risks of extreme heat, cyclones and flooding, the Shire of Broome has a strong focus on reducing climate-related health risks and impacts. This occurs through several strategies and plans and delivery of essential local government services.

In the recently drafted State of the Environment Report and Environmental Management Plan 2025, providing a Public Health Plan that includes consideration for climate change threats, and mitigation measures was considered a low priority. This was on the basis that the Shire currently addresses urban-heat risks and fulfils Public Health Act requirements through initiatives like embedding heat-health outreach and early-warning systems and operating cooling centres (air-conditioned public spaces where people can go to stay cool during extreme heat). Community members have also taken mitigation measures to reduce heat impacts. For instance, 97% of respondents had home air-conditioning systems.

Although the Shire is meeting legislative requirements, in the 2025 Community Health and Wellbeing Survey, 14% of respondents spontaneously said heat and other weather events prevent them from participating in health and wellbeing activities more often. This was fourth highest barrier behind cost, time and work commitments. When prompted, 90% of respondents said they were impacted by heat and lack of shade when walking or cycling along streets and footpaths in Broome, with 47% saying they were impacted a lot.

In support of these findings, in the Shire of Broome's 2025 Youth Forum, 45% of young people rated the need for air-conditioned places where young people are welcome to hang out as critical. Second only in order of importance behind providing free access to BRAC or gym memberships.

Providing air-conditioned facilities and a larger tree canopy in public spaces would help to encourage healthy behaviours to reduce obesity and chronic diseases (see priority 8), and to strengthen social connection, belonging and resilience (see priority 4).

The 2025 Community Health and Wellbeing Survey also found a gap in preparedness for natural disasters, and community concern with air pollution. 72% of respondents had been impacted by air pollution, dust or noise, with 23% saying they had been impacted a lot. And just 44% of respondents had an emergency kit with essential supplies to be self-sufficient for at least 7 days in an emergency.

## What we will continue to do

The Shire of Broome will continue to assist in reducing climate-related health risks and impacts by delivering these services:

Council services	Service description
<b>Development services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversee preparation and implementation of strategies and plans to reduce climate-related health risks and impacts, like the State of the Environment Report and Environmental Management Plan 2025, Coastal Hazard Risk Management &amp; Adaption Plan, District Stormwater Management Strategy and Local Emergency Management Arrangements.</li> </ul>
<b>Planning services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Govern landscaping controls in precinct structure plans to encourage retention of urban trees and to increase plantings to reduce urban heat island effect.</li> <li>Govern landscaping standards in Local Planning Strategy 7 to facilitate shading of parking areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver environmental health services to reduce climate-related health risks and impacts. This includes addressing urban-heat risks and fulfilling Public Health Act requirements by embedding heat-health outreach and early-warning systems, operating of cooling centres (air-conditioned public spaces where people can go to stay cool during extreme heat) and providing public education in heat safety.</li> </ul>
<b>Parks and gardens</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain local parks, gardens and green spaces.</li> </ul>
<b>Streetscape enhancement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain Shire controlled streetscapes, and supply street trees (1 street tree per 20m verge) for private landowners to maintain on their verges.</li> </ul>

Several plans and strategies aim to reduce climate-related health risks and impacts. Due to the comprehensive nature of these plans, priority projects have not been duplicated in this plan. Please refer to these supporting plans and strategies for full details:

- State of the Environment Report and Environmental Management Plan 2025
- Coastal Hazard Risk Management & Adaption Plan
- District Stormwater Management Strategy
- Local Emergency Management Arrangements

Below we outline a sample of existing projects that aim to reduce climate-related health risks and impacts.

Plans and strategies	Existing projects
<p><b>State of the Environment Report and Environmental Management Plan 2025</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide a <b>baseline assessment of significant trees</b> on public land and establish tree register.</li><li>• Facilitate a review of the Shire's <b>spatial mapping</b> information with regards to weeds, heatmapping, significant trees and other key environmental priorities.</li><li>• Provide an internal assessment of the Shire's <b>climate hazard preparedness</b> and identify any gaps that require mitigation.</li><li>• Advocate to State and Federal Governments to implement climate change mitigation measures to protect remote <b>Aboriginal Communities</b>.</li><li>• Facilitate <b>education and engagement opportunities</b> that help residents and businesses understand climate risks, reduce emissions, and adapt to changing conditions.</li><li>• Provide a <b>web platform</b> for the State of the Environment to facilitate information sharing, knowledge and environmental responsibilities to the community.</li><li>• Provide a <b>climate adaptation and/or mitigation plan</b>.</li></ul>
<p><b>Recreational Trails Masterplan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Install <b>shade trees</b> on Sanctuary Road and Gubinge Road.</li></ul>
<p><b>Council Plan 2025-2035</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide 2 new indoor, <b>air-conditioned</b>, multipurpose courts at BRAC.</li><li>• Include a multi-purpose room for after-school care, an indoor <b>air-conditioned</b> children's play space and creche as part of the BRAC upgrade.</li></ul>

# Priority 10. Minimise the incidence and impact of infectious and vector-borne diseases

## Current situation

Latest data from the Department of Health<sup>8</sup> shows Broome’s vector-borne disease rate was 108 per 100,000 residents: 5 times higher than for WA. The rate of sexually transmitted infections was 2,098 per 100,000 residents: 3.5 times higher than for WA. The rate for vaccine preventable disease was 1,402 per 100,000 residents: 2 times higher than for WA.

Vector-borne diseases are caused by viruses transmitted to humans through the bite or contact of an infected vector, like mosquitos, ticks, fleas and sandflies. Mosquitos are the primary vectors of disease in the Shire of Broome. In the 2024 MARKYT® Community Scorecard, “mosquito control” received a performance index score of 43 points; up from 35 points in 2020. While there is a need for continued improvement in mosquito management, only 4.6% of respondents chose “mosquito control” as one of their top three priorities for the Shire of Broome.

## What we will continue to do

The Shire of Broome will continue to assist in minimising the incidence and impact of infectious and vector-borne diseases by delivering these services:

Council services	Service description
<b>Environmental health services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote public health by managing environmental risks, in particular mosquitos and other pests, wastewater and water safety, and food safety.</li> <li>Deliver preventative education and health promotion campaigns supported with compliance of local laws and policies to minimise the incidence and impact of infectious and vector-borne diseases.</li> </ul>
<b>Community engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share public health partner messages and education programs to prevent vector-borne disease.</li> </ul>

Several existing plans and strategies aim to minimise the incidence and impact of infectious and vector-borne diseases. To avoid duplication, an example of a relevant project from these plans is referenced below. Please refer to supporting plans and strategies for full details.

Plans and strategies	Existing projects
Council Plan 2025-2035	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the Mosquito Management Plan.</li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> Source: Health and Wellbeing Profile: Shire of Broome, 2015-2024 (released: January 2026)

## Reporting

The Shire of Broome has adopted an integrated approach to planning and reporting.

The Council Plan and its supporting plans and strategies work together to address local public health priorities. Progress on existing projects outlined in this Plan will be reported each year as part of updates on the Council Plan and its supporting documents. Progress on new initiatives in the Public Health Plan will also be reported to Council annually.

In line with State Government requirements, the Public Health Plan will be reviewed every five years, with the next review due by 2031.

# Do you have an idea or suggestion to improve health and wellbeing in Broome?

Please contact the Shire of Broome to share your thoughts and ideas.

In person: Shire Administration Centre  
Cnr Weld and Haas Street  
Broome, Western Australia

Phone: +618 9191 3456

Email: [shire@broome.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@broome.wa.gov.au)

Mail: PO Box 44, Broome, Western Australia 6725