

MEDIA RELEASE

MID MURRAY RESIDENTS TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON REGION'S HEALTH PRIORITIES

Mid Murray residents are being urged to have their say on a draft plan to improve public health and wellbeing in the Murraylands and Riverland.

Developed by the Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association (MRLGA) for its eight member councils – including Mid Murray Council – the plan sets the goals that Councils across the region will work towards to deliver enhanced health outcomes for the community.

The draft plan focuses on core areas for the whole region including:

- Building community wellbeing and resilience
- Increasing healthy living choices
- Preparing for climate change and planning for emergency; and
- Sustaining environmental and public health.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said the whole region, and the Mid Murray district itself, faced public health challenges, but also has many strengths on which to draw to assist in improving the community's health outcomes.

"In the Mid Murray district, like much of the wider region, we know that mental wellbeing is an area of concern, along with access to health services," Mayor Burgess says.

"Barriers such as distance, cost, accessibility of care and isolation also play a part in impacting on our residents' health. Fortunately, we also have many positives to offer to support wellbeing, such as our strong community networks, growing number of support services, our beautiful natural environment, improved recreation facilities and our local health programs."

The draft plan sets out ways in which local Councils can collaborate to improve health outcomes across the entire region. It also identifies top priorities for individual Councils to focus on.

Mid Murray's top priorities include:

- Working with the Mid Murray Our Town group to develop an implementation plan and with Mid Murray Family Connections to assist in addressing mental health issues;
- Building on the work Council has already done in developing its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan;
- Promoting and celebrating Aboriginal culture and its significance through engagement and collaboration opportunities;
- Partnering with sports clubs to increase participation;
- Leveraging existing open spaces, and exploring other recreation strategies, to provide a broad range of opportunities for social connection and inclusion for all ages;
- Developing a Community Emergency Plan; and
- Supporting health programs such as the Joint Murraylands Mosquito Management Plan, School Immunisation Program and education programs to improve food handling skills and knowledge.

The MRLGA and Mid Murray Council are now encouraging residents and local organisations to provide feedback on the draft plan. To read the draft and provide feedback visit www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au or www.lga.sa.gov.au/murraylands-and-riverland-lga. Consultation closes at 5pm, 10 May 2021.

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