



# NUNGARIN PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN 2026 | 2028



DRAFT 05/2026

## ABOUT PUBLIC HEALTH PLANNING

Public health planning is a practical evidence base process applied to consider our communities public health needs, and it is a support strategy that sets priorities that will improve people’s health and well-being. The Department of Health and local governments share a statutory responsibility for public health planning.

Figure 1: Examples of the Shire’s current activities that protect and promote public health in our community includes:

**TO BE UPDATED**

- Administration and Governance
- Community Planning
- Community Networks
- Books and Resources
- Calendars and Events
- Walking and Trees
- Skate and Bouncy Parks
- Shaded Public Spaces and Playgrounds
- Events and markets that bring the community together
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plans
- Protecting our food and drinking water
- Providing Waste and Wastewater Disposal Services
- Protecting Amenity and Built Environment
- Supporting Volunteering and Community Involvement

## SHIRE PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Council recognises that supporting public health and wellbeing is fundamental to achieving the Shire's vision for Nungarin as "a great place to live with a well-connected, strong, healthy and friendly community." We also acknowledge our responsibility to make informed decisions that support positive health outcomes and enhance the wellbeing of both current and future generations.

Accordingly, the Shire has developed its first Local Public Health Plan (the Plan), providing a flexible and adaptive framework to support local and regional public health initiatives. Informed by local population health data, the Plan outlines the Shire's role in protecting, promoting and improving community health and wellbeing.

The Plan aligns with the Shire's Integrated Strategic Plan 2023–2033 and reflects our commitment to maintaining health-related services and facilities while integrating relevant regional programs and initiatives. The Shire's membership of the North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils (NEWROC) further demonstrates our commitment to collaboration with neighbouring local governments and regional agencies to address State, regional and local health priorities.

Importantly, the Plan has reflected on the four key pillars of the Integrated Strategic Plan community, economy, infrastructure and natural environment, and organisation which underpin our commitment to sound governance and informed community planning. This informed integration supports the development of a healthy, connected and resilient community, both now and into the future.



## CEO MESSAGE

The Public Health Act 2016 requires all Local Governments to prepare Local Public Health Plans that align with the State Public Health Plan, are integrated with local strategic planning, and are informed by local population health data. This Plan is an informing plan and highlights the important role the Shire plays in protecting and promoting community health and wellbeing.

Under the Local Government Act 1995, the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911, and the Public Health Act 2016, the Shire has key responsibilities in supporting public health outcomes through core environmental health functions that maintain safe built environments, food and water safety programs, hazard and risk assessment, and emergency and incident management.

Importantly, this document has been prepared with a strengths-based approach that recognises existing local health services and facilities and looks to enhance collaborations and partnerships that support community wellbeing, and local stewardship.

Because this is our first Local Public Health Plan, it has been prepared to be progressive and adaptive, starting with practical and achievable objectives that can be readily monitored, reviewed, and reported on annually as required in the Health Act.

The aim of the adaptive approach is to enable the Plan objectives to align with emerging initiatives and population health data, ensuring it remains relevant to the needs of our community. Ultimately, the success of this process will be reflected in our community's capacity to make healthier and more informed lifestyle choices.

## STATE PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN

The Department of Health's published the State Public Health Plan (SPHP) in June 2025 as required under section 43, Part 5 of the Health Act. The SPHP details priorities for the promotion and protection of public health and the delivery of services in Western Australia up to 2030. [\(Hyperlink to copy State Public Health Plan\)](#) The Health Act also requires Local PHPlans to be consistent with the SPHP. So as part of the pre-planning, the States' vision, objectives and priorities were considered and were practicable will be related to the reviews and redevelopment of this Plan.



## LOCAL POPULATION HEALTH PROFILE DATA

The Shire of Nungarin Population Health and Wellbeing Profile was prepared using data provided by the State Health Department's Epidemiology Branch and interpreted in consultation with WA Country Health Service (WACHS). In accordance with Section 45 of the Public Health Act 2016, the preparation of this Plan included consideration of relevant local population health data to help identify current and emerging public health priorities within the community.

The available population health data is based primarily on information current as at 30 June 2021, when the estimated population of the Shire of Nungarin was 263 people. Of this population, approximately 61.2% were male and 38.8% were female. While this information provides a useful baseline for understanding local health and wellbeing trends, it is acknowledged that some data is now dated. Accordingly, the Plan also recognises the importance of incorporating updated information from the 2026 Census and other emerging health datasets as they become available.

The development, implementation and ongoing review of this Plan is intended to be adaptive and responsive. Future updates to population data, emerging health priorities, community feedback, regional and State initiatives, and funding opportunities may influence the direction and priorities of the Plan over time. Updated information will continue to be shared with the community and stakeholders, with feedback helping to inform annual reviews and the ongoing assessment of local public health needs.

The population health profile identified several positive health indicators within the Shire, providing a strong foundation for future health promotion and prevention initiatives.

**Physical Activity** - In 2020, residents of the Shire of Nungarin reported levels of sufficient physical activity comparable to the Western Australian average. Similarly, the prevalence of screen-based sedentary leisure activities exceeding recommended levels was consistent with State trends.

**Alcohol Use** - Available data indicated that alcohol consumption within the Shire was generally lower than, or comparable to, State averages, particularly in relation to levels considered high risk for short-term harm (defined as consuming four or more standard drinks on a single occasion).

**Mental Health** - Population health data suggested a lower prevalence of stress and anxiety compared with the State average. However, there were indications that rates of depression may have been higher within the local community, highlighting the importance of continued mental health awareness, support services, and community wellbeing initiatives.

**Injuries** - In 2020, accidental falls appeared to be a leading cause of injury-related hospitalisations within the Shire, with hospitalisation rates estimated to be approximately 34% higher than the Western Australian average. This highlights the importance of injury prevention strategies, particularly for older residents and vulnerable community members.

Overall, the data offers some positive health behaviours within the Nungarin community that can support ongoing efforts to promote healthy lifestyles and community wellbeing. At the same time, opportunities may exist to strengthen preventative health programs through collaboration with State, regional, and local initiatives.

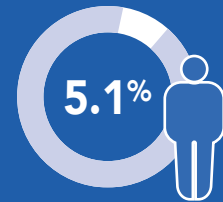
Looking ahead, changing demographic trends and updated health information will continue to inform future reviews of the Plan, support evidence-based priority setting, and guide the planning and delivery of local public health initiatives across the Shire.

## POPULATION PROFILE SNAPSHOT

As of June 2024.



**POPULATION**



**UNEMPLOYMENT**



**FAMILIES WITH AN ANNUAL INCOME < \$64,999**



**IDENTIFY AS ABORIGINAL**

## OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

The plan applies a practical approach to identifying objectives, listing primary environmental health roles and relevant statutory responsibilities as a foundation for supporting collaborations and initiatives that may influence local public health and wellbeing outcomes. See Figure 2 overleaf.

Aim - Is to continue to support health-related services and facilities that promote community health and wellbeing.

Figure 2: Objectives and Priorities

OBJECTIVE	PRIORITY ACTIVITIES	WHEN	WHO
Primary Objective	Prepare and manage public health planning. [Section 16(a) Health Act 2016 - Function of a Local Government]	Ongoing	CEO
1.0 Perform Environmental Health Functions.	1.1 Sustain statutory environmental health protections for. [Section 16(c)&(d) Health Act 2016 - Function of a Local Government] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food, water and wastewater safety.</li> <li>• Assess built environment health impacts.</li> <li>• Manage hazards, infectious disease.</li> <li>• Assess health and amenity impacts.</li> <li>• Monitor compliance and emerging risks.</li> <li>• Communicate environmental health risks.</li> <li>• Support emergency incidences.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	EHO
2.0 Align with SPHP and Community Strategic Plan	2.1 Consider SPHP priorities as part of PHP annual reviews, [Sec 45(2). Health Act 2016]. 2.2 Consider relevant provisions of the Community Strategic Plan when reviewing the PHPlan. 2.3 Reviews of the Community Strategic Plan should be considered in conjunction with the PHPlan. [Sec 45(3). Health Act 2016.]	Before PHP reviews	CEO & EHO
3.0 Examine Health Data and Consider Partnerships	3.1 Examine existing and emerging local population health data. [Sec 45(4)(b). Health Act 2016.] 3.2 Monitor potential partnerships and key agencies health initiatives to support local priority objectives. [Sec 45(4)(d)&(e). The Health Act 2016] 3.3 Monitor State and regional agency initiatives and funding opportunities that support health and wellbeing outcomes. [Sec 45(4)(d). The Health Act 2016]	Ongoing	EHO
4.0 Undertake Reviews & Reports	4.1 Make available to the public the PHPlan. [Sec 46(1). Health Act 2016.] 4.2 Review the PHPlan annually and report to Council. [Sec 45(5). Health Act 2016.] 4.3 Replace the PHPlan (Within 5 years). [Sec 46(6). Health Act 2016.] 4.4 Refer to community feedback as part of reviews and redrafts. [Sec 45(4)(a). Health Act 2016.]	Ongoing December 5 Years Ongoing	CEO & EHO

## CONCLUSION

The Public Health Plan (PHPlan) has been developed in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Public Health Act 2016 and has been informed by an evidence-based approach that considers both State and local public health priorities, together with the needs and community characteristics of the Shire of Nungarin.

The Plan recognises the Shire’s existing health services, facilities, and community strengths, while establishing practical, achievable, and adaptable objectives that can be monitored, reviewed, and reported on over time. It is intended to provide a flexible framework that supports continuous improvement in public health planning and responds to emerging issues, updated population health data, and changing community needs.

Importantly, the Plan supports the ongoing delivery of core environmental health functions and encourages collaboration with State and regional health initiatives aimed at strengthening community wellbeing, prevention, resilience, and supportable public health outcomes.

The Plan has been made available in accessible formats to encourage community awareness, participation, and engagement. Community and stakeholder feedback will continue to play an important role in informing annual reviews and reporting requirements under the Public Health Act 2016. This ongoing review process will assist in shaping future priorities and actions, support informed local decision-making, and promote a shared responsibility for health, wellbeing, and community resilience across the Shire of Nungarin.

## KEY AGENCIES

 <p>Government of Western Australia Department of Health Epidemiology Branch</p>	 <p>Government of Western Australia South Metropolitan Health Service</p>	 <p>Government of Western Australia WA Country Health Service</p>	<p><b>PLAN PREPARED BY:</b></p>  <p>LG CONSULTING SOLUTIONS SERVE AND INFORM</p> <p>Tony Turner - 0429 411 117</p>
 <p>Wheatbelt Development Commission</p>	 <p>WA Primary Health Alliance Better health, together</p>	 <p>injury matters PREVENTION TO RECOVERY</p>	 <p>GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA healthway</p>

**References:** Integrated Planning Suite 2020 – 2030. | Shire Population Health Profile, WA Country Health Services Great Southern Population Health Unit. | Government of Western Australia WA Country Health Services, Great Southern Health Profile 2022. | Government of Western Australia Department of Health, State Public Health Plan for Western Australia 2024–2029, Objectives and Priorities, Proposed Framework for the Plan. | Government of Western Australia Department of Health, State Public Health Plan for Western Australia, Objectives and Policy Priorities for 2019-2024. | Government of Western Australia South Metropolitan health Services, Pathway to a Healthy Community, A Guide for Councillors and Local Governments.