



Local Government Health and Wellbeing Planning

BRIEFING FOR
Executive & Councillors

2024



Local Government



Has **legislative authority and community responsibility** based on an electoral mandate to plan for local areas and ensure community health, wellbeing and development



Do this by addressing the **causes** of health problems rather than dealing with the symptoms. Helping keep people well and out of hospitals through immunisation, health inspections and creating healthy environments



Victorian Public Health & Wellbeing Act Objectives

protecting public health and preventing disease, illness, injury, disability or premature death

promoting conditions in which persons can be healthy

reducing inequalities in the state of public health and wellbeing

Challenges

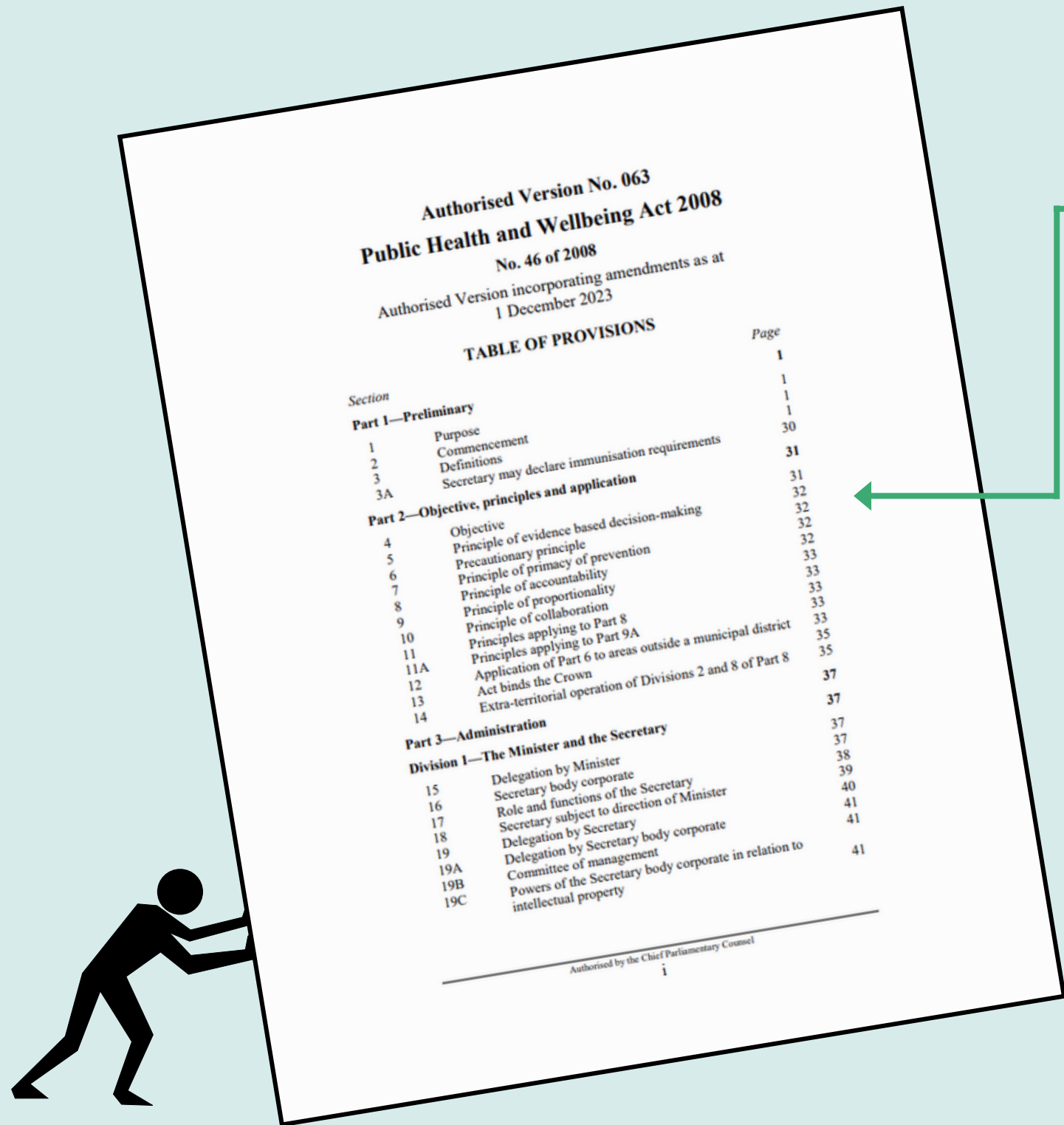


Common challenges to our good health:

- preventable diseases are on the rise
- the population is growing
- the population is ageing
- our lifestyles are changing
- our world is changing

Some population groups have significantly worse health outcomes than others

Public Health and Wellbeing Act



Authorised Version No. 063
Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008
No. 46 of 2008
Authorised Version incorporating amendments as at
1 December 2023

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Authorised by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel
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Division 3 - Councils

- Function of Councils
- Secretary may require report from Council
- Municipal public health and wellbeing plans
- Inclusion of public health and wellbeing matters in Council Plan or Strategic Plan
- Special powers of Secretary in a state of emergency

A municipal public health and wellbeing plan must



Be prepared within 12 months of the council election



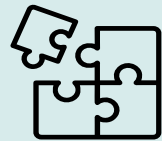
Examine data about local health status and health definitions



Identify strategies based on evidence for creating maximum health and wellbeing



Involve local community in the development and evaluation of the plan



Specify how council will work with the Department of Health and other agencies



Specify measures to prevent family violence and respond to the needs of victims of family violence in the community



Be consistent with Council Plan and the Municipal Strategic Statement



Have regard to the Victorian Health and Wellbeing Plan



Plans must have regard to State Priorities

State Priorities



sexual & reproductive health



reducing tobacco & e-cigarette harms



mental health & wellbeing



healthy eating



active living



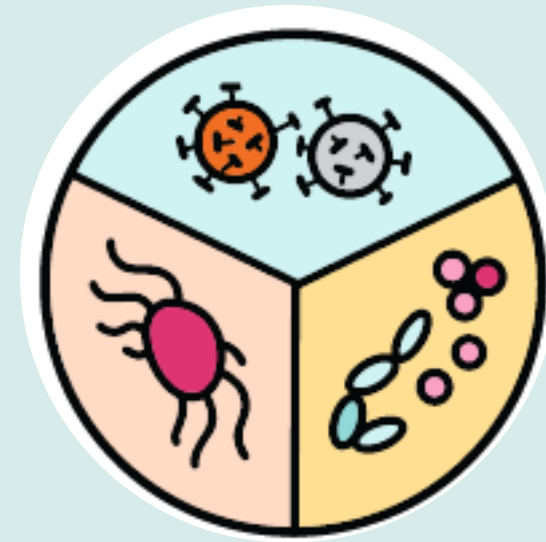
reducing harm from alcohol & drug use



tackling climate change



preventing violence

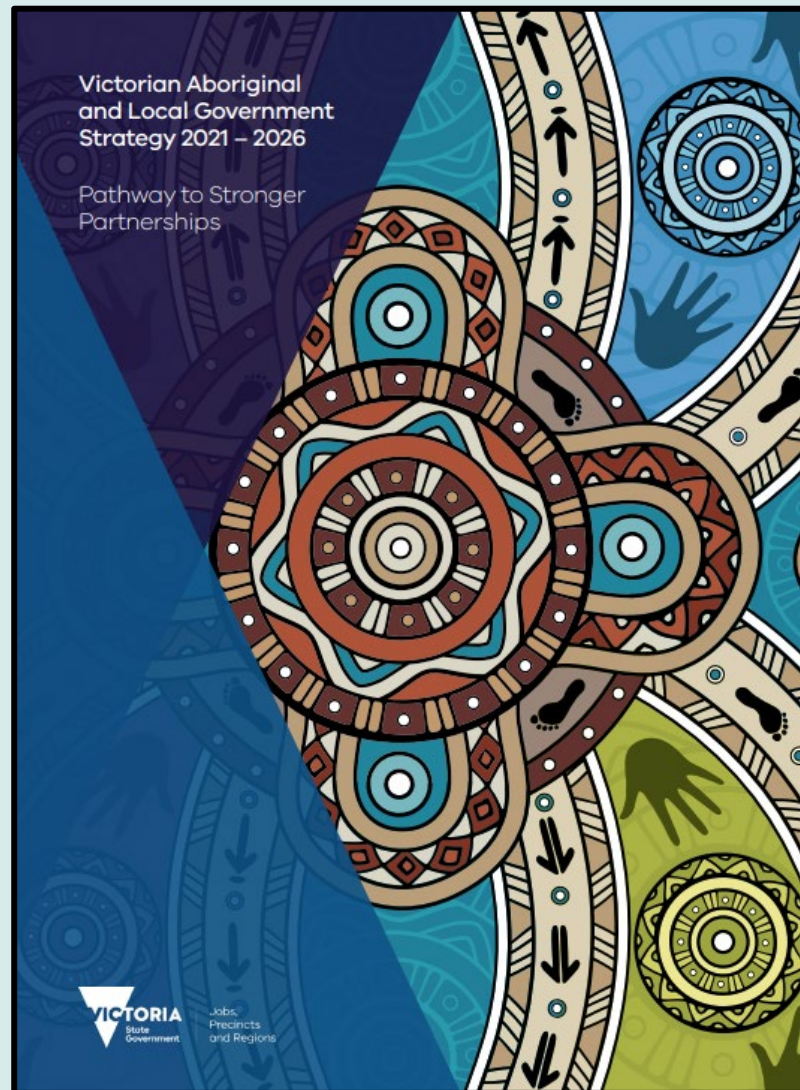


decreasing antimicrobial resistance



reducing injury

First Nations - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders



Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

- Includes a Statement of Recognition of Aboriginal people in Victoria as First Nations People of Australia and their enduring connection to Country, kin and culture

Victorian Public Health Wellbeing Plan 2023-2027

- Embedding approaches to achieve self-determination in health and wellbeing policies and programs is identified in the

Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy 2021-2026

- Strategic Pillar 6 - Health and Wellbeing – design local Aboriginal health and wellbeing policies and services in partnership with Traditional Owners, Aboriginal Community Controlled sector and the Aboriginal community

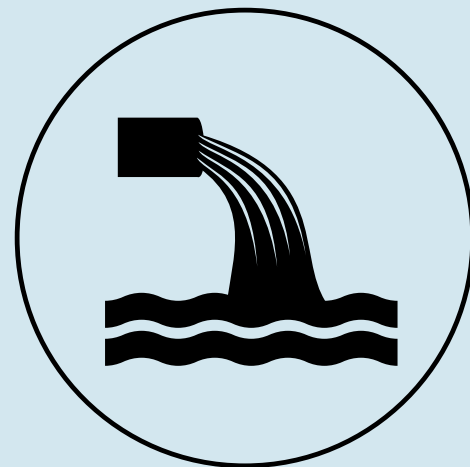
Local Government Act 2020

- Traditional owners must be engaged in council strategic planning and decision-making

Local Government CAN influence the health and wellbeing of communities

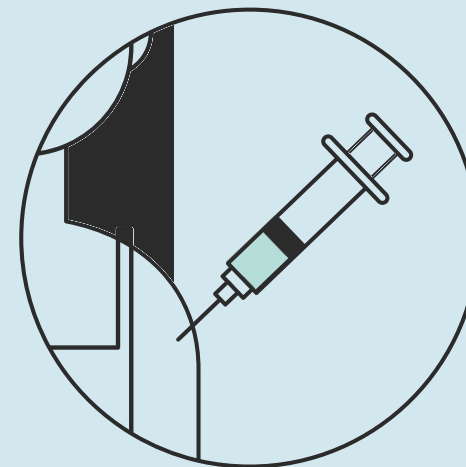
19th Century

Drains
Sewers
Building regulations



Early 20th Century

Parks and playgrounds
Maternal and Child Health
Immunisation
Food Regulation
Residential Zones


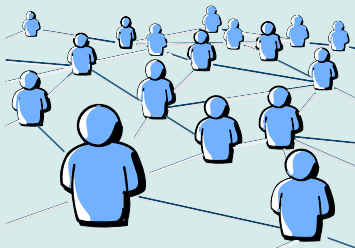

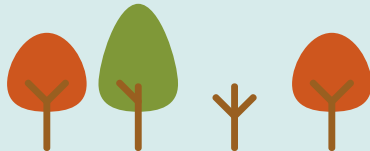


Late 20th Century to now

Health Promotion
Preventative focus
Climate change and health



Council CAN influence the health and wellbeing of communities

Environmental Dimensions	Components	Council Action Area - Examples
 <p>Built/Physical</p>	<p>Provision of infrastructure amenities: parks, street lighting, roads, footpaths</p>	<p>Land use planning Transport & traffic management Recreation facilities</p>
 <p>Social</p>	<p>Sense of community Participation Perceptions of safety</p>	<p>Community support Art & cultural development Library services</p>
 <p>Economic</p>	<p>Economic policy Industrial development Employment</p>	<p>Community economic development Access & equity</p>
 <p>Natural</p>	<p>Geography Air & water quality Native vegetation</p>	<p>Water quality Waste management Energy consumption</p>

Adapted from Environments for Health - Department of Human Services Victoria

Council planning landscape

Timeline

Plans

Short term

1

year

Annual Budget

30 June 2025

Annual Report

31 October 2025

Medium term

4

years

Council Plan

Due 31 October 2025

Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan

Due 31 October 2025

Long term

10

years

Community Vision Review adopted by

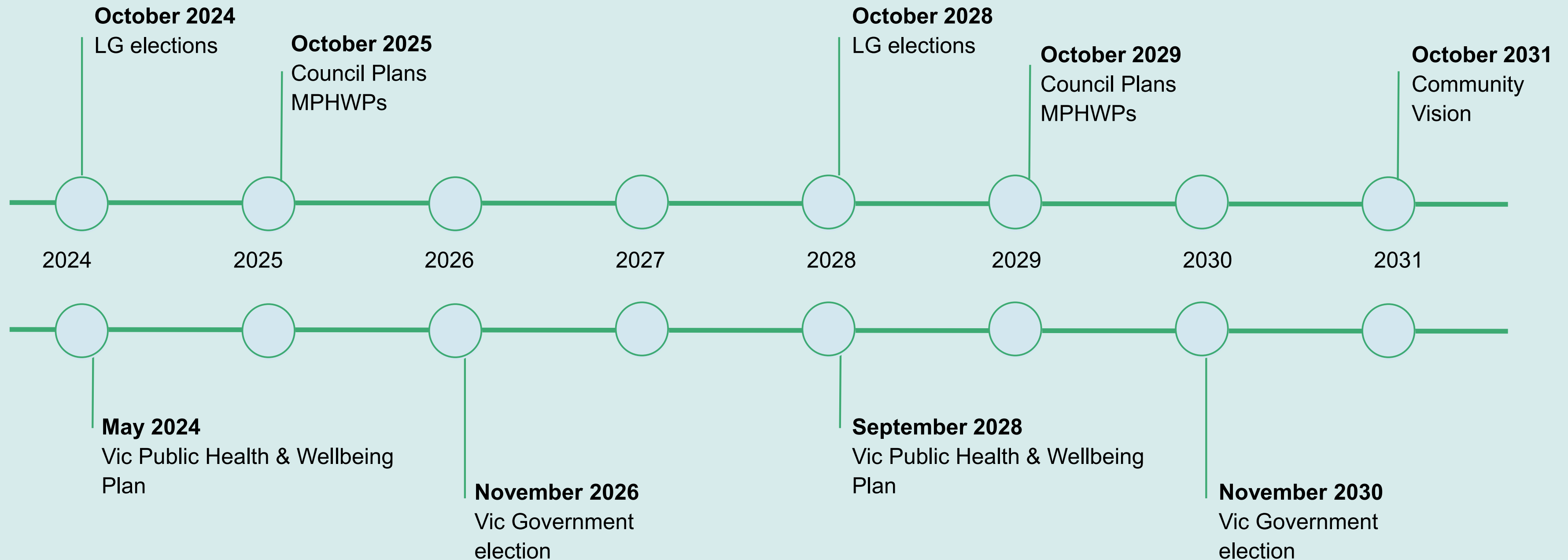
Due 31 October 2025

Resources

- MAV has guidance links and analysis of past plans on the [MAV website](#).
- Useful resources including guidance on health and wellbeing planning on the Department of Health website [DH Prevention](#)
- [Vichealth](#) has a range of evidence informed resources which are aimed to assist councils in acting to improve health and wellbeing of communities.



Alignment of state & municipal public health & wellbeing planning





Questions

