

# City of Marion Regional Public Health Plan 2025-2029

*A great place to live*





### **Kurna Acknowledgement**

Ngadiu tampendi Kurna meyunna yaitya mattanya yainty yerta

This Kurna acknowledgement was prepared in consultation with traditional custodians.

### **Acknowledgement of Country**

The City of Marion acknowledges we are situated on the traditional lands of the Kurna people and recognises the Kurna people as the traditional custodians of the land.





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# Introduction

Good health and wellbeing are important for everyone. When we feel our best, it is easier to engage in daily activities such as work and recreation, spend time with others, and enjoy life. The benefits extend beyond individuals—being active and involved, builds resilient and connected communities.

The City of Marion Regional Public Health Plan 2025-2029, is council's first stand-alone, legislated Regional Public Health Plan, building on previous integrated Plans.



It aims to set strong foundations for ongoing work in health and wellbeing with a focus on getting the most from the extensive work we do to create lasting benefits for the community, and to keep our community safe from health risks.

Whether it's through parks, programs, services, or events, council is committed to working with partners, to create opportunities and supportive environments that build a resilient and thriving community for everyone.



# Mayor's message

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The State Government requires that Councils publish their contributions to public health. Marion Council therefore presents this Health and Wellbeing Plan, which reflects many services we already provide.

Although health is primarily a role and responsibility of state and federal governments, Marion Council is happy to play our part. Our community centres, libraries, sports facilities and playgrounds provide many opportunities for community connections, learning, and recreation.

A thriving community is built on the health of its individuals. We will do what we reasonably can to encourage healthy minds and healthy hearts.

Yours faithfully

*KRIS HANNA*

Mayor Kris Hanna



# Health and wellbeing and council's role

The terms 'health and wellbeing' mean different things to different people and is also described professionally in different ways. Commonly accepted concepts of health and wellbeing used in this Plan are:



*Good health*

## **Good health:**

Feeling good physically and mentally and being free from illness and injury.



*Positive wellbeing*

## **Positive wellbeing:**

Feeling a sense of purpose, belonging, meaning, value, connection, contentment and satisfaction in life.

These feelings may come about through experiences such as success, gratitude, achievement, good health, positive relationships, contact with nature, and feeling safe.





## *Community wellbeing*

### **Community wellbeing:**

The positive functioning of a community in areas such as acceptance of difference, fair opportunity/resources for all (equity), perceptions of safety, and an ability to recover from challenges (resilience).

Community wellbeing can be affected by things including: the health and wellbeing of individuals, the number and strength of connections across social groups and businesses, the liveability of the physical environment, the attitudes of people towards difference, and challenges in the wider social, political and economic environment that effect people locally.

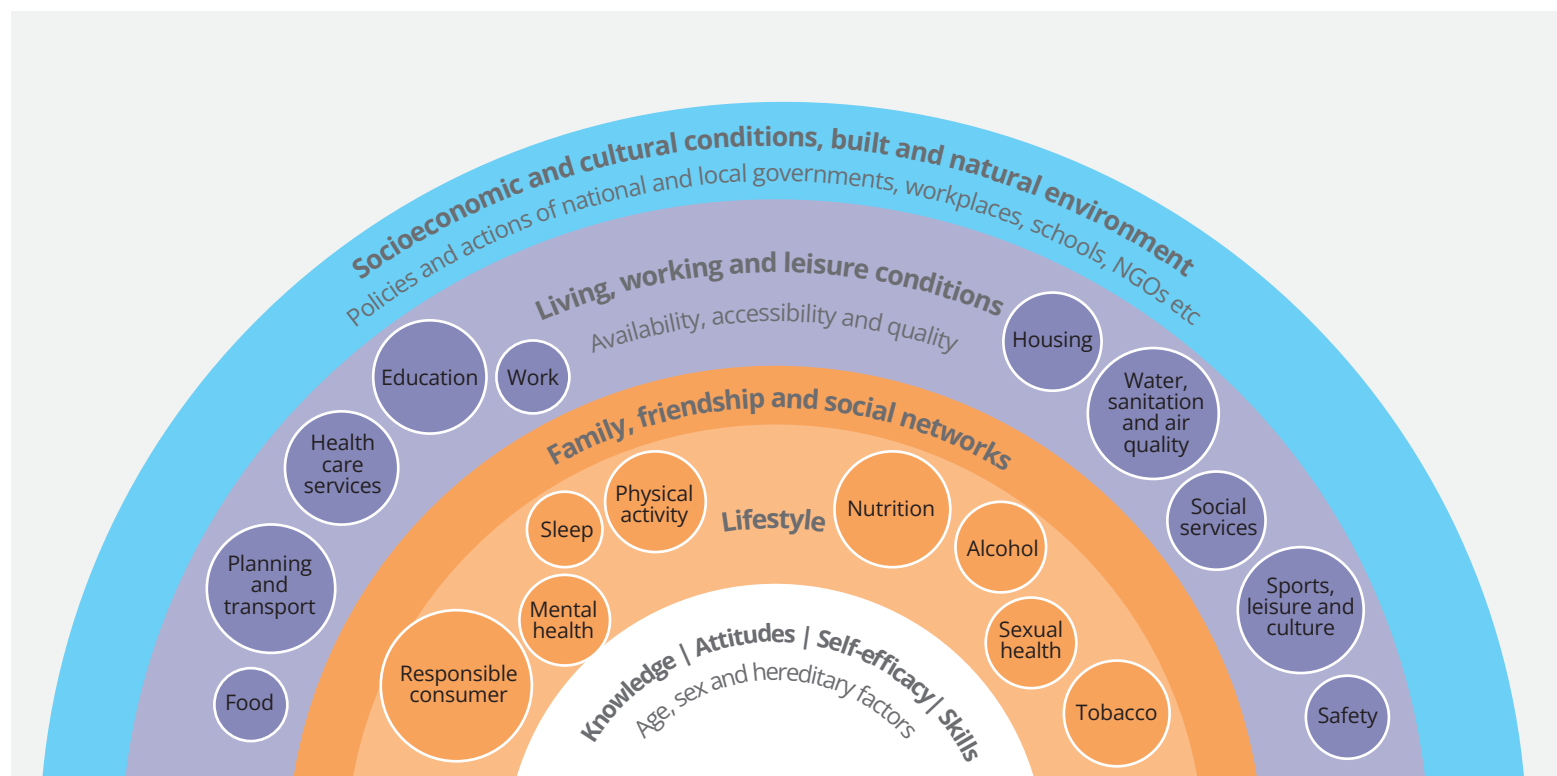


Community wellbeing  
and individual  
wellbeing are linked

## Determinants of health

Being healthy and well is not as simple as the choices we make. Our health and wellbeing is influenced by many factors including genetics, relationships with family and friends, interactions with our community, and broader issues in society and the environment around us.

**These different levels are called the determinants of health.**



Von Heimburg, D., Ness, O., Prilleltensky, I., & Pastorino, G. (2023). Country deep dive on the well-being economy: Iceland (Report No. WHO/EURO:2023-7415-47181-69111). World Health Organisation



## Public Health and the legislated responsibility of councils

Under the South Australia Public Health Act 2011 (SAPH Act 2011), Councils are required to develop a Regional Public Health Plan that addresses health and wellbeing challenges and opportunities in the local community. The SAPH Act 2011 defines public health as "the health of individuals in the context of the wider health of the community" emphasising the link between community wellbeing and individual wellbeing. The SAPH Act 2011 highlights the importance of working together across governments and with other agencies and the community, to each play a part to improve health and wellbeing for all. The term 'public health' is used interchangeably with the term health and wellbeing, in this Plan.

## Council's role in supporting health and wellbeing.

Council, in partnership with other agencies and the community, can influence the determinants of health to make it easier for people to be healthy and well, such as:

- Creating supportive physical environments (natural and built)
- Creating or supporting appropriate services and programs for individuals, businesses and groups
- Being a link between the community and other government or specialist agencies
- Influencing community attitudes through policy, and communication
- Responding to issues from the wider society that are affecting the community locally

Council does this through delivering and supporting a coordinated suite of services and functions, to support positive outcomes at the personal and community level.

In alignment with the State Public Health Plan (2019-2024), councils contribute to efforts that **promote** positive health and wellbeing, **prevent** ill health and wellbeing from arising or getting worse, and **protect** the community from harms to health that may be present in the broader environment.

### Council's suite of services and functions





## Position in the Council's Strategic Management Framework

The City of Marion Regional Public Health Plan 2025-2029 is one of councils legislated strategic documents in its Strategic Management Framework.

The Plan will give more visibility to the specific health and wellbeing thinking and approaches within council's work, recognising that health and wellbeing is a complex area of shared responsibility between councils and other arms of government.

This Plan forms a link between the overarching City of Marion Strategic Plan 2024-2034 and its operational level plans promoting a 'health and wellbeing way of thinking' to deliverables.

The City of Marion Regional Public Health Plan has a 4-year duration, with a 2-year review (July 2027) of actions and deliverables.





# Who will benefit from the Public Health Plan?

## Whole of population approach

The City of Marion Regional Public Health Plan, is a whole of population plan including:

- People across the age span from children – young people – working age – older people
- Individuals, community groups, businesses, and council workforce

## Fairness for all

Council recognises that our community is diverse, and some groups experience barriers to participation in community life that others do not. These groups may need tailored adjustments to enable fair and equal access (equity) to opportunity, places and spaces (as required by the *SAPH Act 2011* and the *South Australian Disability Inclusion Act 2018*). In this Plan these groups may be referred to as vulnerable, meaning at risk of exclusion if adjustments are not made.



These groups will vary for each focus area, and may include:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- People with disability and carers
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- People identifying as LGBTQI+
- People identifying as any sex
- People with lower incomes

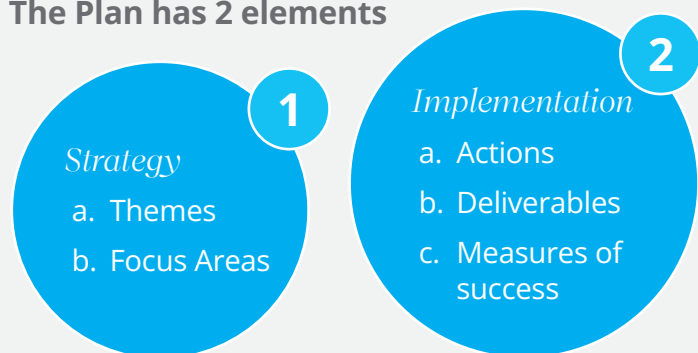
Council addresses challenges and opportunities for some groups through separate more targeted plans that compliment this one. These include:

- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan
- Multicultural Plan
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Plan



# The Plan

## The Plan has 2 elements



## The Plan is organised under the five strategic themes



## How the Plan was developed

The themes were guided by the *SAPH Act 2011* and the State Public Health Plan (SPHP). The focus areas were informed by quantitative and qualitative data including:

- State, national and City of Marion data
- Priority focus areas of Preventive Health SA (State Government)
- Community sentiments from City of Marion Strategic Plan Review, 2024; Youth Consultation Findings 2023

The actions, deliverables and measures of success were informed by:

- Staff and Council Member consultation
- Community sentiments
- Existing plans of council
- Best practice
- Opportunities for partnership and/or funding



## How the Plan will be reported

The Plan must be reported every two years to SA Health (in accordance with the *SAPH Act 2011*). Council will provide progress updates guided by the 'measures of success.' Reporting will occur via council reporting mechanisms on a rolling basis.

# State of health snapshot

## *Population strengths and challenges*



Population  
**98 493**



Average Socio-  
Economic Index  
for Areas **1008**

indicating higher  
advantage than  
Greater Adelaide (992)



Leading  
cause  
of death  
**Dementia**







## State of health snapshot: Population strengths

**29.1%** born overseas

**1.3%** Aboriginal residents

*High cultural diversity*

**83.9%** able to get **\$2000** within a week if needed

*Access to financial support*

**63.4%** participating in the labour force

**89.4%** 18-24 years earning or learning

*Good economic participation*

**18-21%** people aged 0-14 in some suburbs

**84 years** median age at death

*A youthful and older population*



## State of health snapshot: Population challenges

**12.5%** of people provide unpaid care to someone

**6.7%** of people have a profound or severe disability and require day to day help

*Accessibility and support*

Some suburbs are expected to grow annually up to **1.1%**

*Population growth (2021-2036)*

Lower birthrate (**1.47**) than Greater Adelaide **1.623**

Number of people aged 65+ is **increasing**

*An aging population*

**75%** of the population live in middle to low socioeconomic areas

**24.4%** of households are low-income

**6%** (16-64 years) receive an unemployment benefit

**Over half** of people 65+ receive an aged pension

*Financial pressure*



## State of health snapshot: *National and state challenges*

Women earn **11.5%** (on average) **less** than men in full-time roles within Australia

**80%** of people want **wellbeing, fairness and equality** to guide government decisions

Racial **discrimination** is increasing

*Social cohesion and equality*

**70%+** of Australians are concerned about climate change and its impacts

*Climate change*

**Gambling, vaping, and harm from screen time** are significant public health concerns for young people

*Lifestyle habits*

**"Maintaining a decent standard of living"** is the top priority for government action in South Australia

There is a **shortage of housing** and rental accommodation across the country including SA

**Cost of food is rising**

**Satisfaction with life has declined** because of cost of living and financial pressure

*Housing and cost of living*



# Physical health

## *Promoting healthy active lifestyles*

### Focus areas

1. Improve opportunities for participation in sport, recreation and active transport by all
2. Support better access to local, affordable, safe and healthy food
3. Partner with other agencies to help the community (including businesses, sports clubs and community groups) access information and services that support health and wellbeing

### Background

Physical movement, healthy eating, and regular health checks are ways to feel good and stay well at all ages.

Taking up healthy habits requires more than just personal motivation. While most South Australians (82.8%) actively manage their health, barriers like time, cost and opportunity, can make it difficult<sup>1</sup> (1).

Adding to these challenges, broader issues in the social and physical environment around us, such as advertising (e.g. junk food advertising to children), as well as lifestyle habits such as excessive alcohol consumption and smoking/vaping, can cause harm. A rise in obesity and chronic disease are seen when people are not living a healthy active lifestyle which can affect people's ability to work, study and play.

Healthy, active people support community wellbeing, creating an enlivened and engaged society. That's why council works with partners to make 'healthy' easier for everyone.

*1 South Australia Public Health Survey. Preventive Health SA*



## Community data snapshot

Over **1 in 4** people are **obese**

Most adults (**2 in 3**) meet physical activity guidelines

The most popular activity for adults is **walking** and for children, **swimming**

**69.2%** of walkers do-so for active travel

*Physical activity*



**2 in 5** families were not able to get enough food

Only **8.3%** ate enough vegetables

**68** food safety complaints in 2024

**31.8%** of older residents were within easy walking distance (500m) of fresh food outlets

*Healthy food*



**1 in 3** young people (16-17 years) in SA have tried vaping

**30.8%** of adults drink more alcohol than recommended

Only **15%** of eligible people from non english speaking countries participated in bowel screening vs **51.4%** in the broader population

*Pressures on health*



## Community sentiments

- Maintaining good health is a concern about the future
- Accessibility and walkability are aspirations, particularly for young people
- Community gardens, produce networks, and locally grown food are highly valued
- Playgrounds ("Big ones") a #1 priority for children



# Mental health

## *Creating supportive spaces and facilitating connections*

### Focus areas

4. Create opportunities for people to connect with each other and nature helping to reduce isolation and loneliness, and build a sense of local identity and belonging
5. Develop and implement strategies to ensure the council's work reflects the values of respect and fairness in practical and meaningful ways
6. Enhance skills and strengthen partnerships with service providers to allow council staff to compassionately respond-to and support vulnerable community members

### Background

Just like physical health, everyone has mental health—it's normal!

Physical health is about the wellness of our body, while mental health is about our thoughts, feelings, and how we respond to them. When we are mentally healthy, we feel capable, confident, and ready to handle daily challenges while contributing to our community and society. However mental health can go up and down influenced by what is happening in our life, broader society issues, and the physical environment around us.

In the course of its everyday work, council encounters people experiencing challenges to their mental health. These challenges may be from things like loneliness, social isolation, caring responsibilities, discrimination, inequality, financial stress, lack of contact with nature, as well as complex issues such as suicide, homelessness, and hoarding and squalor.

Compassionate and responsive customer service, programs and services, as well as partnerships with specialist services are ways the council can contribute to a supportive community environment.



## Community data snapshot



## Community sentiments

- Community wellbeing is a concern
- Mental health the #1 concern of young people in 2023
- Community support networks and connections to support services are ways to improve sense of safety
- Green space is a priority
- 65% of community centre attendees feel better connected to services
- 1/2 of respondents (in SA) have been able to participate more in life, and are able to cope better in tough times, through attending libraries.

Community data is referenced in Appendix 1: State of Health for the City of Marion 2025

Community sentiments data sourced from: City of Marion Strategic Plan Review. Community Engagement Report February 2024 Community Centre Survey 2023. City of Marion South Australian Public Library Network Customer Research 2023-2024. State Library South Australia



# Wellbeing

## *Facilitating purpose, belonging and community spirit*

### Focus areas

7. Enliven places and spaces with arts and culture
8. Create opportunities for people to contribute to the community, lead their own initiatives, and have a voice in council decision-making
9. Provide opportunities for people of all ages to keep learning and developing

### Background

Wellbeing is more than just feeling happy—it's about finding purpose and belonging, exploring passions, building skills, feeling a sense of control and empowerment, and practicing self-care. It enhances not only our individual lives but enables us to contribute meaningfully to community life.

The council fosters wellbeing by creating opportunities for creative arts and cultural expression, enriching our shared spaces and places. It supports community-led initiatives that empower the wider community including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, multicultural communities, and people with disabilities, ensuring all voices are valued and included.

By encouraging volunteering and embracing inclusive decision-making, council helps to build connections, inspire purpose, and nurture a vibrant sense of community. These efforts create a foundation for individual growth and a stronger, more connected community spirit.



## Community data snapshot

**46%** of people nationally would like to be involved with cultural and creative experiences

**16%** increase in attendance at the Marion Cultural Centre plaza and fringe (2021-2024)

*Arts and culture*

**18.8%** of children were developmentally vulnerable in one or more domain in 2021

**67%** of library users in SA have gained knowledge they can use in their personal life

*Learning and development*



**15.4%** of people volunteer in the community

**273** people volunteer at council

**57%** of people nationally believe they are able to have a real say on issues that are important

*Contributing to the community and decision making*



## Community sentiments

- 69% of people agree that arts and culture experiences make life richer and more meaningful and help people understand different perspectives
- Places to dance are a priority for children
- A consultative council and opportunity for participation
- Young people want council to use relevant and current communication and engagement methods
- 83% of library users in SA agree that the atmosphere at their library makes people feel like they are part of the community.

Community data is referenced in Appendix 1: State of Health for the City of Marion 2025



# Safety

## Safeguarding community health and wellbeing

### Focus areas

10. Support the protection of the community from communicable disease, infection and nuisance
11. Embed incident and emergency preparedness processes in council operations and collaborate with the community to increase preparedness

### Background

Safeguarding communities is about reducing the risk to health and wellbeing from things like communicable diseases, disease outbreaks (e.g. COVID 19) and incidents and emergencies, including those related to climate change.

Council has a legislated role in providing a vaccine service and monitoring businesses and facilities that could pose public health risks if not operated safely, such as swimming pools, tattoo parlours, warm water systems, and food businesses. It also investigates nuisances and litter incidents under the *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016*<sup>1</sup>, addressing issues like smoke, dust, graffiti, and dog management, that may impact public health.

Council collaborates with lead agencies including State Government, to support emergency responses and strengthen preparedness within both the community and the organisation. Research highlights that communities also play a vital role in leading preparedness and recovery efforts.

The collective efforts of agencies, council, and the community can enhance security, build resilience, and promote preparedness, creating a safer, healthier, and more resilient environment for all



## Community data snapshot

13 notifiable  
disease cases  
investigated in  
2023/2024

148 reports to  
council of graffiti  
on private  
property

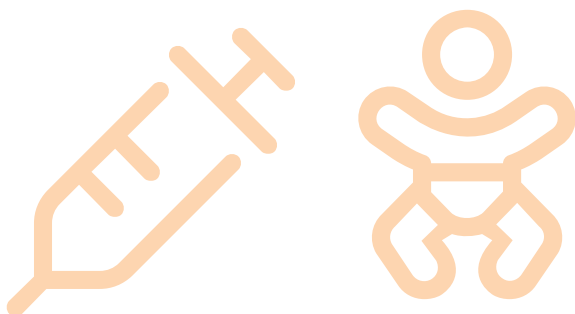
97.2% vaccination rate for  
children at 0-5 years

*Protection from  
communicable disease*



**Heatwaves** are likely to be the  
deadliest climate change impact in  
the City of Marion

*Incident and  
emergency preparedness*



## Community sentiments

- Maintaining good health is a concern of the community
- Young people want to feel prepared for their futures
- Climate change is a concern particularly for young people
- Trees and green space are valued



# Urban and economic conditions

## *Planning for growth and change*

### Focus areas

12. Identify the housing and public facilities/ amenities needed to support community health and wellbeing as the City of Marion develops

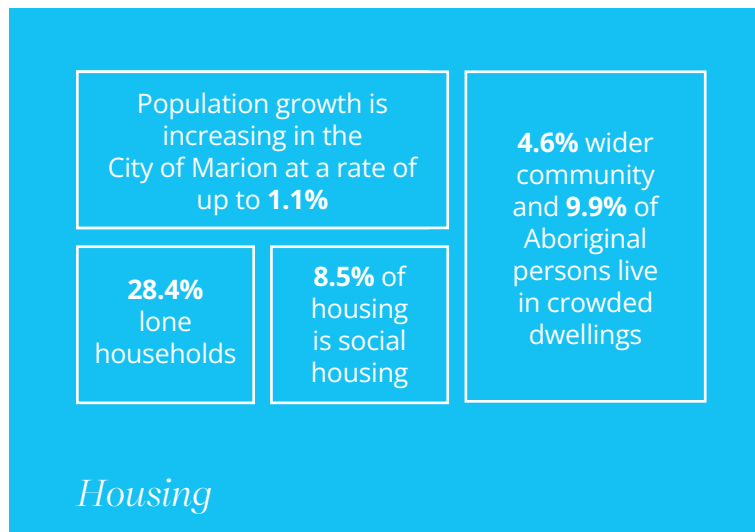
### Background

Planning for growth and change relates to housing, and the community places, spaces and facilities (social infrastructure) required to support the needs of a growing and diverse community e.g. community centres, playgrounds, parks, green corridors and bike and walking paths.

Collaboration with State Government on initiatives like the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan, provides an opportunity to ensure our local needs are considered in wider regional plans. It also gives a chance to advocate for development that supports our Community Vision of 'A liveable, sustainable community'.



## Community data snapshot



Almost half (**47.8%**) of older residents live more than 800m from community centres making walking access difficult

**83.7%** of respondents have access to green space within 400m of their home

*Social infrastructure*



## Community sentiments

- Housing density and housing affordability is a top concern of young people
- The built environment is perceived as a high priority for council action
- Greening initiatives (tree planting and horticulture) are a #1 priority for the environment
- Having playgrounds as well as parks, pools and places where everyone can have fun a top priority for children
- Advocating for environmental policy change at state and federal government levels is a priority





## Actions and deliverables (2025-2027)

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*Physical Health - Supporting  
a healthy active lifestyle*

## Actions and deliverables

### *Physical Health: Supporting a healthy active lifestyle*

Actions and deliverables	Measures of success	Alignment to City of Marion Strategic Plan 2024-2034	Work areas	Commence planning by
<b>Focus area 1: Improve opportunities for participation in sport, recreation, and active transport by all.</b>				
<b>1.1 Seek local data on the value of physical activity opportunities and venues, to the community.</b> Periodically engage with the community to gather insights on the value of specific sports, physical activities, active transport, and venues. Use this data to understand evolving needs and inform strategic planning.	The council understands community need and priorities for physical activity and active travel.	C3.1 L3.3 S2.1 C4.1 C4.3	<b>Lead:</b> Property Strategy and Delivery <b>Support:</b> Recreation and Cultural Facilities Open Space and Recreation Planning Community Wellbeing Media Engagement and Events Strategy and Risk	December 2025
<b>1.2 Collaborate across council to increase community participation in active travel.</b> Establish an active travel working group (and Terms of Reference) to explore initiatives and resources that increase community participation, focusing on infrastructure, promotion, events, wayfinding, and greening, with consideration of priority and vulnerable groups.	The council understands community need and priorities for physical activity and active travel.	L1.1 L1.3 S1.2 S2.1 C1.1 O2.1 O6.1	<b>Lead:</b> Engineering <b>Support:</b> Environmental Sustainability Asset Solutions Community Wellbeing Open Space and Recreation Planning Marketing and Communications Property Strategy and Delivery Recreation and Cultural Facilities Economic Development Strategy and Risk	December 2025



Actions and deliverables	Measures of success	Alignment to City of Marion Strategic Plan 2024-2034	Work areas	Commence planning by
<b>Focus area 2: Support access to local, affordable, safe and healthy food.</b>				
<b>2.1 Work with partners to help people access and prepare safe, nutritious food, especially those struggling to get enough.</b> Explore with partners new initiatives and grants to increase awareness of healthy eating, access to low-cost fresh food, and skills in preparing healthy food. Partners may include State Government, businesses, organisations or community members who produce, sell, prepare or provide food and teach skills.	The community reports increased opportunity to access local, healthy food.	C3.1 C3.5 O6.1	<b>Lead:</b> Community Wellbeing <b>Support:</b> Environmental Sustainability Economic Development Open Space and Recreation Planning Open Space Operations Marketing and Communications	December 2025
<b>2.2 Develop a healthy food policy to ensure healthy food options are available at council events, venues, and services.</b> Review and extend the existing healthy catering policy to increase the availability of healthy food options available for the community and staff, in venues such as the pool and community centre canteens, catered events, community events, and the meal service for older adults.	The council has a position on the provision of healthy food options for the community and staff.	C3.5 C1.1 C2.1 C2.2	<b>Lead:</b> Strategy and Risk <b>Support:</b> Recreation and Cultural Facilities Community Wellbeing	March 2026
<b>2.3 Provide regular food safety communications to food enterprises.</b> Develop a regular newsletter to provide information to food enterprises (e.g., school canteens, food businesses) on food safety issues within council's legislated responsibilities.	Increased compliance with food safety requirements by food vendors is observed.	C3.4 C2.4 2.1	<b>Lead:</b> Environmental Health <b>Support:</b> Marketing and Communications	December 2025

## Actions and deliverables

### Physical Health: Supporting a healthy active lifestyle

Actions and deliverables	Measures of success	Alignment to City of Marion Strategic Plan 2024-2034	Work areas	Commence planning by
<b>Focus area 3: Support access to health and wellbeing information and services.</b>				
<b>3.1 Assist the community to link with local health services through council venues and events.</b> Explore collaborations with health agencies who can provide health screening services, resources, health information, and sponsorship, at council events and venues.	There is an increase in availability of health and wellbeing services and information, through council events and venues.	C3.1 C3.2 C3.3 C4.2 O6.1	<b>Lead:</b> Community Wellbeing <b>Support:</b> Engagement, Media and Events Strategy and Risk	December 2025
<b>3.2 Amplify state and national health and wellbeing campaigns via council's media channels.</b> Support council teams to identify an annual schedule, of priority health promotion opportunities (relating to state and national campaigns and priorities of Preventive Health SA) and work with Marketing and Communications to share-on the information with the community via council newsletters and other media channels.	There is an increase in awareness by the community, of health and wellbeing opportunities promoted through council's communication channels.	O2.1 C2.4 C4.2	<b>Lead:</b> Strategy and Risk <b>Support:</b> Community Wellbeing Library Services Property Strategy and Delivery Marketing and Communications, Economic Development	December 2025
<b>3.3 Assist sports clubs to role model respectful behaviour and healthy habits.</b> Assist and collaborate with sports clubs to identify resources, partnerships and grants that help them to role model and address aspects of club culture and health and wellbeing, relevant to their members.	Sports clubs identify opportunities to develop healthy club culture.	C2.1 C3.1	<b>Lead:</b> Property Strategy and Delivery	July 2026





## Actions and deliverables (2025-2027)

*Mental Health - Facilitating  
supportive spaces and connections*

Actions and deliverables	Measures of success	Alignment to City of Marion Strategic Plan 2024-2034	Work areas	Commence planning by
<b>Focus area 4: Create opportunities for people to connect with each other and nature helping to reduce isolation and loneliness, and build a sense of local identity and belonging.</b>				
<b>4.1 Collaborate across council to better promote council's mental wellbeing and physical activity opportunities.</b> Council teams develop and implement a process that allows for cross-checking and coordinated promotion of activities, venues and initiatives to reduce duplication, expand reach and make it easier for the community to find the information.	The community is able to easily find all the physical activity and mental wellbeing opportunities provided or supported by council.	C1.1 C1.2 C3.1 C3.2 O2.1	<b>Lead:</b> Community Connections City Property <b>Support:</b> Marketing and Communications Environmental Sustainability Open Space and Recreation Planning	November 2025
<b>4.2 Build a sense of awareness, understanding and care of the local natural environment.</b> Identify opportunities to increase awareness and care-of local plant and animal species, and local seasonal change.	The community report an increased sense of connection to local nature through the initiatives.	S2.2 S2.3 C2.1 C2.4 C4.4	<b>Lead:</b> Environmental Sustainability <b>Support:</b> Open Space Operations Open Space and Recreation Planning Marketing and Communications	December 2025
<b>Focus area 5: Develop and implement strategies to ensure the council's work reflects the values of respect and fairness in practical and meaningful ways.</b>				
<b>5.1 Use evidence-based practice guidelines to support council's legislated responsibilities and other action relating to gender equality.</b> Use the Local Government Toolkit for the prevention of violence against women, to deepen understanding by Council Members and staff, of the council's role in promoting gender equality in the workforce, venues, and services, and in shaping community attitudes that can help prevent violence.	Council Members and staff report better understanding and/or awareness of the relationship between gender equality, disrespect, and violence against women.	O2.1 O3.1 O3.2	<b>Lead:</b> People and Culture <b>Support:</b> Community Connections Strategy and Risk Office of the CEO Marketing and Communications	March 2026

Actions and deliverables	Measures of success	Alignment to City of Marion Strategic Plan 2024-2034	Work areas	Commence planning by
<p><b>5.2 Identify and plan for improvements to council facilities (buildings and infrastructure) that improve access and inclusion for the for the diverse needs of the community.</b> Explore possible improvements to council venues and facilities, which align with contemporary aspects of diversity, access, and inclusion such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>safe and dignified physical access for people with disability and or mobility challenges</li> <li>gender inclusive and sensitive facilities (with consideration to needs of the multicultural and LGBTQIA+ communities)</li> </ul> <p>Council facilities include community gardens, swimming pool, sports and recreation facilities, community centres, libraries and the Marion Cultural Centre.</p>	The council is aware-of and working towards best practice in diversity access and inclusion.	L2.1 L2.2 S2.4 S1.1 O1.2 O5.1 L4.2	<p><b>Lead:</b> City Property Environmental Sustainability</p> <p><b>Support:</b> Asset Solutions Community Connections Strategy and Risk</p>	July 2026
<p><b>5.3 Identify and plan for improvements to operational policies, practices, and procedures that create a welcoming and inclusive service environment for the community, for the diverse needs and backgrounds of the community.</b> Enhance staff understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion principles to drive improvements across all council services and activities. This effort will be supported by the internal Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging plan, council's first Multicultural Plan, the Reconciliation Action Plan, the new Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (to be developed in 2025) and the Diversity, Access and Inclusion Policy.</p>	The council is aware-of and working towards best practice in diversity access and inclusion.	C1.1 C1.2 C2.3 C4.1 C4.2 C4.3 C4.4 S2.4,	<p><b>Lead:</b> Organisational Development Strategy and Risk</p> <p><b>Support:</b> All teams</p>	December 2025
<p><b>5.4 Identify and plan for improvements to operational policies, practices, and procedures that create a welcoming and inclusive service environment for the community, for the diverse needs and backgrounds of the community.</b> Enhance staff understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion principles to drive improvements across all council services and activities. This effort will be supported by the internal Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging plan, council's first Multicultural Plan, the Reconciliation Action Plan, the new Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (to be developed in 2025) and the Diversity, Access and Inclusion Policy.</p>	The council is aware-of and working towards best practice in diversity access and inclusion.	C1.1 C1.2 C2.3 C4.1 C4.2 C4.3 C4.4 S2.4,	<p><b>Lead:</b> Organisational Development Strategy and Risk</p> <p><b>Support:</b> All teams</p>	December 2025



Actions and deliverables	Measures of success	Alignment to City of Marion Strategic Plan 2024-2034	Work areas	Commence planning by
<b>Focus area 6: Enhance skills and strengthen partnerships with service providers to allow council staff to compassionately respond-to and support vulnerable community members.</b>				
<b>6.1 Provide frontline staff with training to equip them with the skills to respond to customers with empathy, compassion, and effective support.</b> Identify skill gaps of frontline staff and plan for training to help them respond with compassion to people facing mental health or wellbeing issues at council venues, services, and programs. This could include skills like active listening, empathy, and referring people to the right specialist services.	The council is aware of the support-skills front-line staff need to deliver quality customer service.	O3.2 C1.1 C1.2 C2.1	<b>Lead:</b> Organisational Development <b>Support:</b> Community Connections Environmental Health Community Safety Customer Service Open Space and Recreation Planning Open Space Operations	December 2025
<b>6.2 Foster partnerships with specialist services to enhance outcomes for individuals, when the council fulfills its legislated responsibilities to investigate hoarding and squalor.</b> Identify key agencies to support council officers with the resolution of hoarding and squalor cases.	Council staff feel supported to address hoarding and squalor. Cases are resolved more quickly and with better outcomes for the customer.	O6.1 C3.4	<b>Lead:</b> Environmental Health Community Safety	July 2026

# Implementation



## Actions and deliverables (2025-2027)

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*Wellbeing - Facilitating purpose, belonging and community spirit*

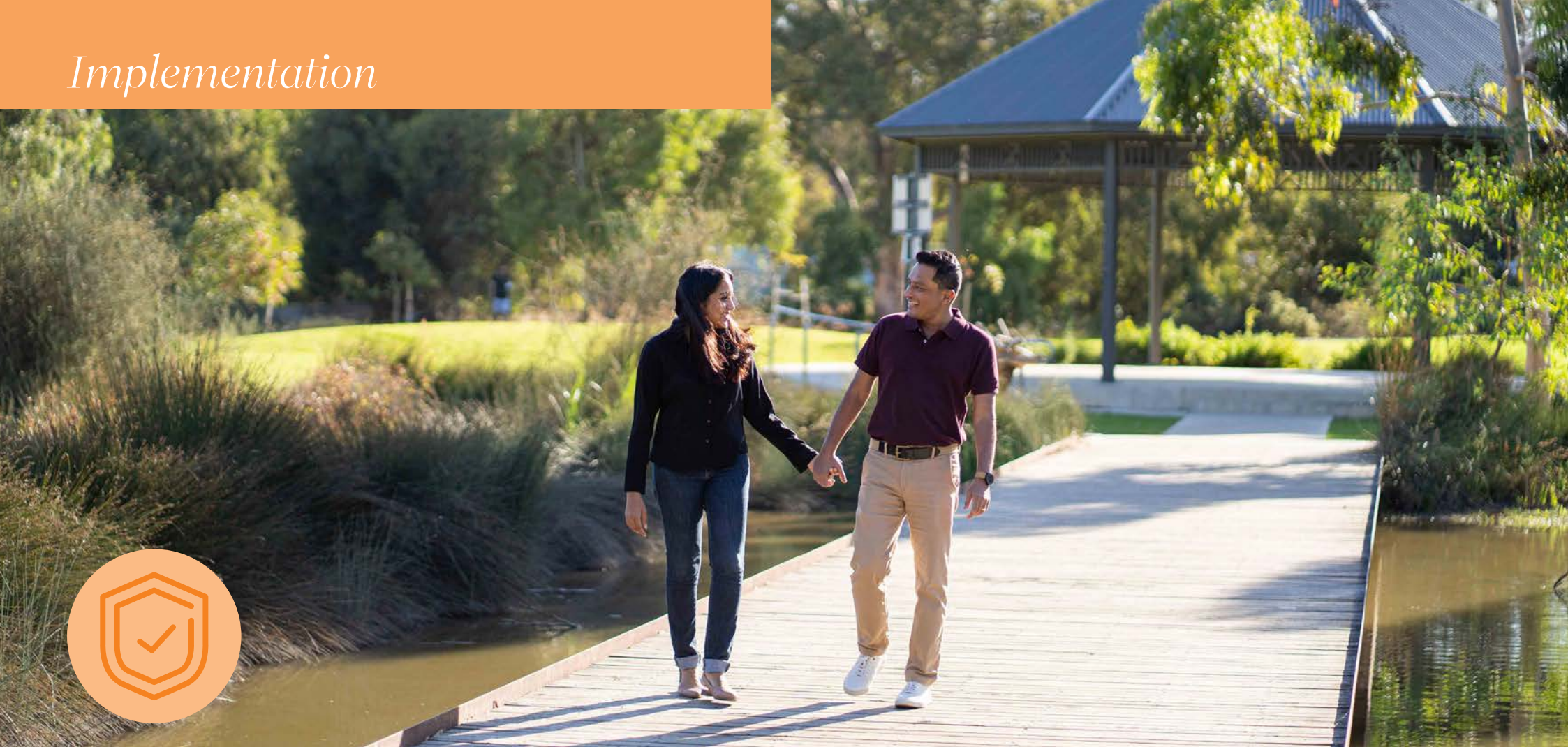
Actions and deliverables	Measures of success	Alignment to City of Marion Strategic Plan 2024-2034	Work areas	Commence planning by
<b>Focus area 7: Enliven places and spaces with arts and culture.</b>				
<b>7.1 Deliver creative arts projects in public spaces that build welcoming, inspiring, and enjoyable places for people to be.</b> Plan-for and coordinate implementation of the new Public Art Strategy and Action Plan that will guide the direction for public art across the City.	Implementation of the new Public Art Strategy commences.	C1.1 C1.2 C2.4 C4.1 O1.2 S2.1 L2.2	<b>Lead:</b> Public Art <b>Support:</b> City Property Community Connections	December 2025
<b>Focus area 8: Create opportunities for people to contribute to the community, lead their own initiatives, and have a voice in council decision-making.</b>				
<b>8.1 Make it easier for individuals, groups and businesses to navigate council processes and implement their own community initiatives.</b> Identify and address inefficiencies in council processes and procedures that are barriers to the success of community-led initiatives, across areas such as art, and sustainability. This would initially involve identifying stakeholders and scope.	Community members report that council processes effectively support and facilitate community-led initiatives.	C4.3 C4.1 O2.1 C1.2	<b>Lead:</b> Strategy and Risk <b>Support:</b> Community Connections City Activation Environmental Sustainability	March 2026
<b>8.2 Create more flexible volunteering opportunities at council that appeal-to and accommodate a more diverse range of people.</b> Implement the new City of Marion volunteering strategy that includes an emphasis on diversity and easier administrative processes.	Community members report flexibility and ease of council process that support volunteering.	C4.4 C4.3	<b>Lead:</b> People and Culture	December 2025
<b>8.3 Incorporate real-life perspectives into council planning for older adults.</b> Develop a reference group made up of older adults and/or their advocates, to contribute 'lived experience' perspectives to the development of projects and initiatives.	The council is increasingly seeking and considering perspectives of older adults to inform the development of services that benefit them.	C3.3 C2.1 C1.2 C4.1 C4.2	<b>Lead:</b> Community Wellbeing	July 2026







Actions and deliverables	Measures of success	Alignment to City of Marion Strategic Plan 2024-2034	Work areas	Commence planning by
<b>Focus area 9: Provide opportunities for people of all ages to keep learning and developing.</b>				
<b>9.1 Contribute to partnership projects that support the healthy development of young children in the City of Marion.</b> Collaborate with the Marion Early Years Collective Impact Network, to address recent developmental concerns for children in the City of Marion, based on the 2024 Australian Early Years Development Census results.	The community reports that the council-supported programs increase opportunities for positive early years development.	C3.2 C4.2 O5.2 C1.1	<b>Lead:</b> Community Wellbeing <b>Support:</b> Library Services	December 2025
<b>9.2 Identify opportunities for shared care of natural spaces by the council, the community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.</b> Strengthen partnerships to foster stewardship, such as collaborating with Green Adelaide to implement the Nature Stewards Strategy and engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and stakeholders in open space management.	There is an increase in community and/or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander involvement, in ongoing environmental care activities.	C1.1 C1.2 C2.1 C2.2 S2.3 C4.4	<b>Lead:</b> Environmental Sustainability Open Space Operations <b>Support:</b> Open Space and Recreation Planning Strategy and Risk	December 2025
<b>9.3 Promote innovative programs that help individuals overcome employment barriers and build skills.</b> Identify opportunities and partnerships that could deliver training, mentoring, and social enterprises, that support vulnerable groups including young and older adults, people with disability, new immigrants and people with limited English.	The community reports the initiatives increased opportunities for positive early years development. Initiatives increase work skills.	C2.4 C2.2 C2.3	<b>Lead:</b> Community Wellbeing Library Services <b>Support:</b> Economic Development	July 2025
<b>9.4 Develop and promote a curated collection of resources and programming at City of Marion libraries that support learning and health and wellbeing across all age groups.</b> Plan for targeted library outreach initiatives and the expansion of service beyond the library's physical spaces. Initiatives could include mobile library services, community pop-ups, and partnerships with local schools, businesses, and organisations.	The community report greater access to library services.	C2.1 C3.1,	<b>Lead:</b> Library Services <b>Support:</b> Community Wellbeing	December 2025



## **Actions and deliverables (2025-2027)**

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### *Safety - Safeguarding communities*



**Actions and deliverables**  
*Safety - Safeguarding communities*

Actions and deliverables	Measures of success	Alignment to City of Marion Strategic Plan 2024-2034	Work areas	Commence planning by
<b>Focus area 10: Support the protection of the community from communicable disease and infection and nuisance.</b>				
<b>10.1 Conduct scheduled and reactive, legislated inspections of premises, to uphold public health standards in accordance with the <i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i>.</b> Continue to conduct inspections and enact information, education and compliance measures relating to food businesses, public swimming pool and spas, tattoo parlours, hair and beauty, cooling tower and warm water systems.	The council continues to conduct its legislated role in accordance with the requirements of the <i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i> .	C3.4 C2.4	<b>Lead:</b> Environmental Health	July 2025
<b>10.2 Conduct investigations and responses to incidents in accordance with the <i>Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act</i>.</b> Continue to investigate and enact information, education and compliance measures relating to incidents such as dust and smoke, graffiti, cat and dog management, illegal parking, dumped rubbish and unsightly properties.	The council continues to conduct its legislated role in accordance with the requirements of the <i>Local Nuisance and Control Act 2016</i> .	C3.4 C2.4	<b>Lead:</b> Regulatory Services	July 2025
<b>Focus area 11: Embed incident and emergency preparedness processes in council operations, and collaborate with the community to increase preparedness.</b>				
<b>11.1 Build staff familiarity with Business Continuity Plans to be enacted in the case of incidents or emergencies.</b> Staff to be familiarised with the processes and procedures within the Business Continuity Plans.	Staff across council understand how incidents and emergencies may affect their normal workflow.	O2.1 L4.2 S3.1	<b>Lead:</b> All areas of the business <b>Support:</b> Strategy and Risk	December 2025
<b>11.2 Support community preparedness to extreme heat and heatwaves.</b> Coordinate a review across council, of the community-support response to any heat incidents of the preceding summer to identify any opportunities for improvements. This may initially involve identifying stakeholders and scope.	The council is improving response effectiveness to community heat incidents.	S3.1	<b>Lead:</b> Strategy and Risk <b>Support:</b> Community Connections Community Safety Environmental Sustainability City Property Marketing and Communications	March 2026



## Actions and deliverables (2025-2027)

*Urban and economic conditions –  
Planning for growth and change*

Actions and deliverables	Measures of success	Alignment to City of Marion Strategic Plan 2024-2034	Work areas	Commence planning by
Focus area 12: Identify the housing and public facilities/amenities needed to support community health and wellbeing as the City of Marion grows and develops.				
<b>12.1 Explore housing needs and advocate to State Government for their consideration in forthcoming developments relating to the Greater Regional Adelaide Plan.</b> Use data to identify where housing supply is insufficient to meet future population growth, demographic changes and impacts of climate change, in the City of Marion. Contribute these insights to the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan work of State Government.	A baseline understanding of housing needs and gaps is developed to inform future scenario planning.	O6.1	<b>Lead:</b> Planning and Development	July 20205
<b>12.2 Identify the community infrastructure needed in the City of Marion to accommodate future population growth and change, and advocate to State Government for their consideration in forthcoming development.</b> Plan and prepare for an investigation into the future community infrastructure needs of varied groups within the community. This may initially involve coordinating the establishment of a project governance group to identify resourcing and timelines for the investigation.	A community infrastructure project is scoped.	L3.3 O6.1 L2.3 L4.2	<b>Lead:</b> Risk and Strategy <b>Support:</b> City Property Environmental Sustainability Community Connections Open Space & Recreation Planning, Asset Solutions	July 2025



# Appendix 1.

## State of Health - City of Marion 2025

The following is a summary of referenced key data trends and findings for the City of Marion. The summary begins with an overview of social challenges and demographic considerations and then continues under the five themes and 12 focus areas of the plan.

Key data highlights are included in the main body of the Plan. Together with this summary, these elements fulfill the requirements of section 51(8) of the South Australian Public Health Act 2011.

### Social challenges

Australia faces challenges related to differences in income and opportunities (inequality), financial stress, and weakening relationships within community (social cohesion). A review of local data suggests City of Marion shares the challenges of financial stress and inequality, and there is no data available for social cohesion.

The data highlights a wellbeing-focussed approach in council planning is essential, with fairness, inclusivity, and community trust as core priorities.

### Data Snapshot

#### National & State Context

**Government Role & Public Perception:** The public expects governments to maintain a decent standard of living and ensure fair treatment for all. The vast majority of South Australians (4/5 people) want wellbeing to guide decision-making<sup>1</sup>.

**Social Cohesion & Financial Stress:** While neighbourhood belonging remains high, broader social cohesion is declining due to concerns over economic inequality and fairness. Financial stress is a major barrier to community engagement and acceptance of diversity<sup>2</sup>.

**Racial Discrimination & Inclusion:** Experiences of discrimination are increasing, and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, relationships with wider society have been impacted since the failed Voice referendum in 2023<sup>2</sup>.

#### City of Marion Data

**Socioeconomic Disadvantage:** 37.6% of residents live in areas of disadvantage relative to other areas in the City of Marion, as indicated by Social Economic Index For Areas (SEIFA) scores<sup>3,4</sup>. 25.7% live in areas of higher advantage. Note that SEIFA scores rank areas across Australia for their level of advantage and disadvantage relative to each other. SEIFA scores are based on population characteristics such as income, level of employment and education e.g. a disadvantaged area would be one where there is low income, high employment and low levels of education.

**Financial Hardship:** 24.4% of households are low income (earn <\$800/week), 64.6% of residents aged 65+ receive the Age Pension, 5.7% receive a Disability Support Pension<sup>6</sup>

**Vulnerable Populations:** 6.7% severe disability<sup>4</sup>, 5.8% jobseekers, 1089 persons sought emergency housing in 2023-24<sup>5</sup>.

**Aging Population:** High numbers of older residents especially in Marino-Seaview Downs (20.7%), Warradale (20.4%), and Morphettville (20.4%) compared with South Australia (SA -19.6%)<sup>6</sup>. The current birth rate is below the state average (1.47 vs 1.62)

## Physical health - Supporting a Healthy Active Lifestyle

### 1. Improve opportunities for participation in sport, recreation, and active transport by all

Obesity is the nation's leading preventable health issue, and a major health concern in the City of Marion with over 1/4 (26.8%) of Marion's adults classified as obese and 35.4% overweight<sup>3</sup>. While 66.5% of residents meet physical activity guidelines<sup>3</sup>, chronic disease rates remain above the state average<sup>6</sup>. In City of Marion, observed trends (of council) indicate that popular activities align with national trends, where the most popular activities for adults are (in order of preferred activity) walking, fitness/gym, bushwalking, running/athletics, swimming and cycling. For children, swimming, soccer, dance, basketball and gymnastics rank highest<sup>8</sup>. Of those who walk in the council area, they do so mostly, to get from place to place (active transport)<sup>3</sup>, yet car dependency remains high in the City of Marion, particularly in southern suburbs, where few people walk or cycle to work<sup>7</sup>.

### 2. Support access to local, affordable, safe and healthy food

Rising fresh food prices and disruptions in food supply chains (during the COVID 19 pandemic) have prompted a national focus on strengthening local food systems, addressing issues from production to availability to waste management<sup>9</sup>. Combined with the current cost-of-living crisis, food insecurity has become a growing challenge across the country<sup>10</sup>. In the City of Marion food security is a significant concern. A local study found as many as 50% of respondents surveyed were anxious about food availability, 25% of families with children struggled to meet food needs<sup>11</sup>.

Nutritional habits are also concerning, with low consumption of fruits, and vegetables particularly<sup>3</sup>. High demand for cooking books at council libraries indicate community interest in improving food practices. Food safety remains a core responsibility for council with ongoing food safety complaints.

### 3. Support access to health and wellbeing information and services

In the City of Marion, 79.2% report good or better health. Dementia is the leading causes of death<sup>6</sup>. Participation in cancer screenings is just over 50% for eligible people but notably low among non-English speaking communities (15%). Immunisation rates are good at year 1 but slipping at year 5<sup>6</sup>. Vaccination rates are particularly low in Aboriginal children<sup>6</sup> highlighting health disparities.

Lifestyle behaviours such as alcohol consumption pose risks, with nearly one-third of Marion residents exceeding recommended drinking limits (30.8%)<sup>3</sup>. Nationally, gambling and vaping rates are high with 60.3% of adults engaging in gambling and of those 13.7% involved in risky gambling behaviours. Smoking rates are dropping in the City of Marion, however in South Australia, vaping rates among young people are concerning, with up to one-third of 16-17-year-olds having tried it<sup>12</sup>.

## Mental health - Facilitating supportive spaces and connections

### 4. Create opportunities for people to connect with each other and nature helping to reduce isolation and loneliness, and build a sense of local identity and belonging

Loneliness and social isolation are major concerns in South Australia, affecting 33% of people, with young females and those facing financial hardship particularly impacted<sup>14</sup>. Social isolation affects 49% of South Australians, especially people aged 45-64 and those in disadvantaged areas<sup>13</sup>. Locally, 12.5% of residents in the City of Marion are unpaid carers, a group highly vulnerable to loneliness. A significant number of community centre users (16%) in the City of Marion may be experiencing loneliness<sup>15</sup>.

### 5. Develop and implement strategies to ensure the council's work reflects the values of respect and fairness in practical and meaningful ways.

The City of Marion has high cultural diversity (29.1% born overseas) and 1.3% of the population are Aboriginal<sup>4</sup>. Whilst local data on sex and gender



diversity is not available, the ABS estimates that 4.5% of the Australians 16 years+ identify as LGBTI+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex), though this is likely underestimated<sup>16</sup>. Rates of disability are significant in the City of Marion, 9.3% of people (living in households) have moderate or mild limitations due to disability<sup>4</sup>, with expectations that the number will increase as the population ages<sup>4</sup>.

Gender equality is often indicated by the gender pay gap. Nationally the gap is currently 11.5%<sup>28</sup>. It is widely believed that gender inequality is one of the drivers of violence against women. Nationally, a significant proportion of women (¼) and men (1 in 14) have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner, reflecting broader 'crisis' of domestic violence<sup>21</sup>. Locally, while specific domestic violence data is not yet available, crisis housing data shows that 57% of individuals seeking support were female, with 15% of cases linked to family violence<sup>5</sup>. At the state level, the Local Government Association has endorsed sector wide action.

## **6. Enhance skills and strengthen partnerships with service providers to allow council staff to compassionately respond-to and support vulnerable community members.**

Mental health issues are a significant concern in Australia, with 49% of people experiencing a mental disorder in their lifetime<sup>22</sup>. In the City of Marion, 25.4% of the population experience a mental health condition at any given time<sup>3</sup>. Only 38.3% of residents report good wellbeing<sup>3</sup>, indicating that many may be struggling with mental health and related issues. Suicide rates are higher in Marion than in Greater Adelaide, and while many individuals are affected, only a small percentage seek help<sup>6</sup>.

Hoarding and squalor, considered mental health conditions, are investigated by councils. The City of Marion has addressed 118 cases since 2022, hoarding and squalor cases also present challenges, with it taking an average of 70 days to address these issues due to their complexity.

# **Wellbeing - Facilitating purpose, belonging, and community spirit**

## **7. Enliven places and spaces with arts and culture**

Arts and culture are valued by South Australians, with many agreeing it makes life richer and more meaningful (69%)<sup>22</sup>. In SA, of those engaging in creative activities 96% do so for entertainment, connection, and self-expression<sup>22</sup>. The mental health benefits of involvement are increasingly recognised and many agree that cultural engagement fosters understanding<sup>22</sup>. There is strong support for arts opportunities and free or low-cost events, particularly for young people as cost and location remain barriers<sup>21</sup>. In Marion, rising attendance at Gallery M (art gallery) and Marion Cultural Centre Plaza Theatre, (which also host Fringe Events) highlight local interest, though more local data is needed of the value of arts and culture to the City of Marion community.

## **8. Create opportunities for people to contribute to the community, lead their own initiatives, and have a voice in council decision-making**

Empowering communities and sharing decision-making can strengthen social cohesion and meaningful outcomes for the community. However, only about half of Australians feel they are 'able to have a real say' in important issues<sup>2</sup>.

Volunteering, a key avenue for participation, has declined nationally post-COVID, with numbers yet to recover. In Marion, participation fell from 19.4% in 2016 to 15.4% in 2021, mirroring downward national trends. Council volunteer numbers are also dropping, though volunteering remains particularly valuable for people with disability, with 18.6% City of Marion volunteers disclosing disability.

## **9. Provide opportunities for people of all ages to keep learning and developing**

Lifelong learning and mental stimulation help to build a sense of purpose and meaning and can protect against cognitive decline and dementia. Early childhood learning is also crucial for resilience and healthy development.

In the City of Marion nearly 1 in 5 children face challenges, particularly in social and emotional skills whilst 47% of indigenous children were developmentally vulnerable in 2021<sup>23</sup>.

Libraries and community centres play a key role in education, wellbeing, and social connection. In SA, most people see libraries as welcoming spaces that promote community belonging, with many using them for more than just borrowing books. Of all library participants, 24% utilise libraries to relax or play, 21% to access computers and printers and 15% to access free internet WiFi<sup>24</sup>.

## Safety - Safeguarding communities

### **10. Support the protection of the community from communicable disease and infection, and nuisance**

Under the South Australian Public Health Act 2011, councils must investigate outbreaks of notifiable diseases. Local data – Notifiable disease (2023-2024):

Council was notified of 13 cases/notifications, with investigations including:

Legionella, requiring checks on cooling towers or homes.

Cryptosporidium, leading to investigations of public swimming pools.

Confirmed food poisoning cases, prompting investigations of food businesses.

Perceptions of safety are crucial to wellbeing, with factors like traffic management, lighting, nighttime vibrancy, and graffiti removal impacting how safe people feel in the City of Marion<sup>27</sup>. National data shows that while 97% feel safe at home during the day, only 64% feel safe at night. In South Australia, 24% of women avoid walking alone after dark due to safety concerns, compared to just 2.8% of men. Libraries are seen as trusted spaces, with 95% of users feeling safe there<sup>24</sup>. Issues from graffiti remain, with 148 reports (to council) of graffiti on private property in the past year.

### **11. Embed incident and emergency preparedness processes in council operations and collaborate with the community to increase preparedness**

Australia is increasingly facing a variety of emergencies, including climate-related events (heatwaves, floods, and fires), cyber-attacks, and pandemics. These events are becoming more frequent and intense, requiring an increase in shared responsibility in emergency preparedness between governments, agencies, and communities<sup>25</sup>. This is also a trend occurring globally with wildfires and floods a regular occurrence in some parts of the world.

While data on community sentiment regarding preparedness is limited, 63% of library users in South Australia reported they would consider going to the library during extreme weather conditions, highlighting a potential role for community spaces in emergency response.

## Urban and economic conditions - Planning for growth and change

### **12. Identify the housing and public facilities/amenities needed to support community health and wellbeing as the City of Marion grows and develops.**

Australia is said to be experiencing a national housing supply and affordability crisis. In the City of Marion, population growth continues at up to 1.1% per year in some areas<sup>6</sup>. Social housing is in demand particularly by women, people with disability, and Aboriginal residents<sup>5</sup>. Social housing makes up a small but significant percentage of total housing in the area (8.5%)<sup>4</sup>. Rental affordability is indicated as 'unaffordable' in the Marion post code area (5043) for the average rental cost proportional to household income<sup>18</sup>.

Lone-person households are common, with as many as 35.3% of residents in Edwardstown living alone. Standalone houses are the most common type of house. Additionally, 8.3% of households do not own a car<sup>7</sup>, increasing the need for accessible public transport and active transport options. Many older residents live beyond walking distance from community centres and fresh food outlets<sup>17</sup>. However, most residents in

the City of Marion reported having access to green spaces (parks, reserves) within 500m walking distance of their homes<sup>19</sup>.

Over half of City of Marion's 98,4937 residents participate in the labour force<sup>7</sup> including the majority of young people (89.4%) earning or learning 18-24<sup>4</sup>. In 2021, a significant majority (77.1%) of working residents in the City of Marion commuted outside the area to access their work location, with only 32.8% of residents working locally. The majority of local workers reside outside the council area, with many coming from neighbouring areas like Onkaparinga, Mitcham, Holdfast Bay, and West Torrens council areas<sup>7</sup>. The largest industry for local employment is healthcare and social assistance (20.3%), followed by education and training (9.6%) and retail trade (9.4%)<sup>7</sup>.

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8375 6600



[council@marion.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@marion.sa.gov.au)



@CityofMarion



@CityofMarion



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