

Summary framework for consultation

# DRAFT **State Public Health Plan 2019-2024**



Government  
of South Australia

SA Health

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**SA Health Statement of Reconciliation**

“SA Health recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first Australians and we seek to engage Aboriginal people in decision making processes for matters that affect their lived experiences in the community and through the health system. Together we will develop services and practices to be non-discriminatory and inclusive of Aboriginal people, respectful of Aboriginal beliefs and culture, fostering Aboriginal self-determination and producing equitable health outcomes for Aboriginal people of South Australia.”

# Message from the Chief Public Health Officer



I am very pleased to release the draft framework of the State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 for consultation.

It was clear from the many stakeholders contributing to the recent review of the inaugural State Public Health Plan that it has set a strong strategic direction to drive a coordinated and consistent approach to public health action. Stakeholders also recognised the need to continue to strive for improvement and recommended the State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 include a clear vision and goal, improved measurability, clearer articulation of the roles and commitments of a broad range of public health partners and increased consideration of governance structures for implementation and monitoring.

This draft framework is based on the principles of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* (the Act), and proposes a revitalised vision, goals, priorities, deliverables and indicators drawn from consultations with local councils as co-administrators of the Act and other stakeholders from state government departments, non-government organisations and professional associations. It is by working in partnership that we will not only achieve consistency in our approach but will better mobilise our collective resources and effort for positive public health outcomes for all South Australians.

I therefore strongly encourage all stakeholders to consider this draft framework, provide feedback and play a key role in shaping the detail of the State Public Health Plan 2019-2024.

**Professor Paddy Phillips**  
Chief Medical Officer and Chief Public Health Officer

# Introduction

Public Health is what we do as a society collectively to create the conditions and environments that support the wellbeing of all South Australians. Public health works to ensure that individuals and communities avoid illness and injury and opportunities are created for social inclusion and building a strong and resilient community.

The scope of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* (the Act) reflects public health in its broadest sense, covering the foundational role of public health in protecting against environmental hazards and preventing communicable disease and also extending to the promotion of healthy environments and lifestyles to address chronic conditions. The Act recognises that many factors impact on the health of communities including the social, economic and physical environment as well as individual characteristics and behaviours.

This is the draft framework for the second State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 (the draft framework), under the Act. Consistent with the objectives of the Act, the draft framework outlines the key priorities and high level deliverables for improving the health and wellbeing of all South Australians and reducing the incidence of preventable conditions. It builds on the foundations of the inaugural State Public Health Plan 2013, *South Australia: A Better Place to Live*. The framework takes into account the public health achievements of the past four years and feedback from the extensive review consultation. It also has regard for Local Council Regional Public Health Plans and reports, established under the Act.

The scope of the draft framework is broad and action on the deliverables will require commitment and input from partners in public health. Individuals, families, communities, all levels of government and other agencies share responsibility for improving health and wellbeing and collaborative action continues to be both a principle and priority of the Plan. A healthier South Australian community benefits all of us.

## Purpose of this document

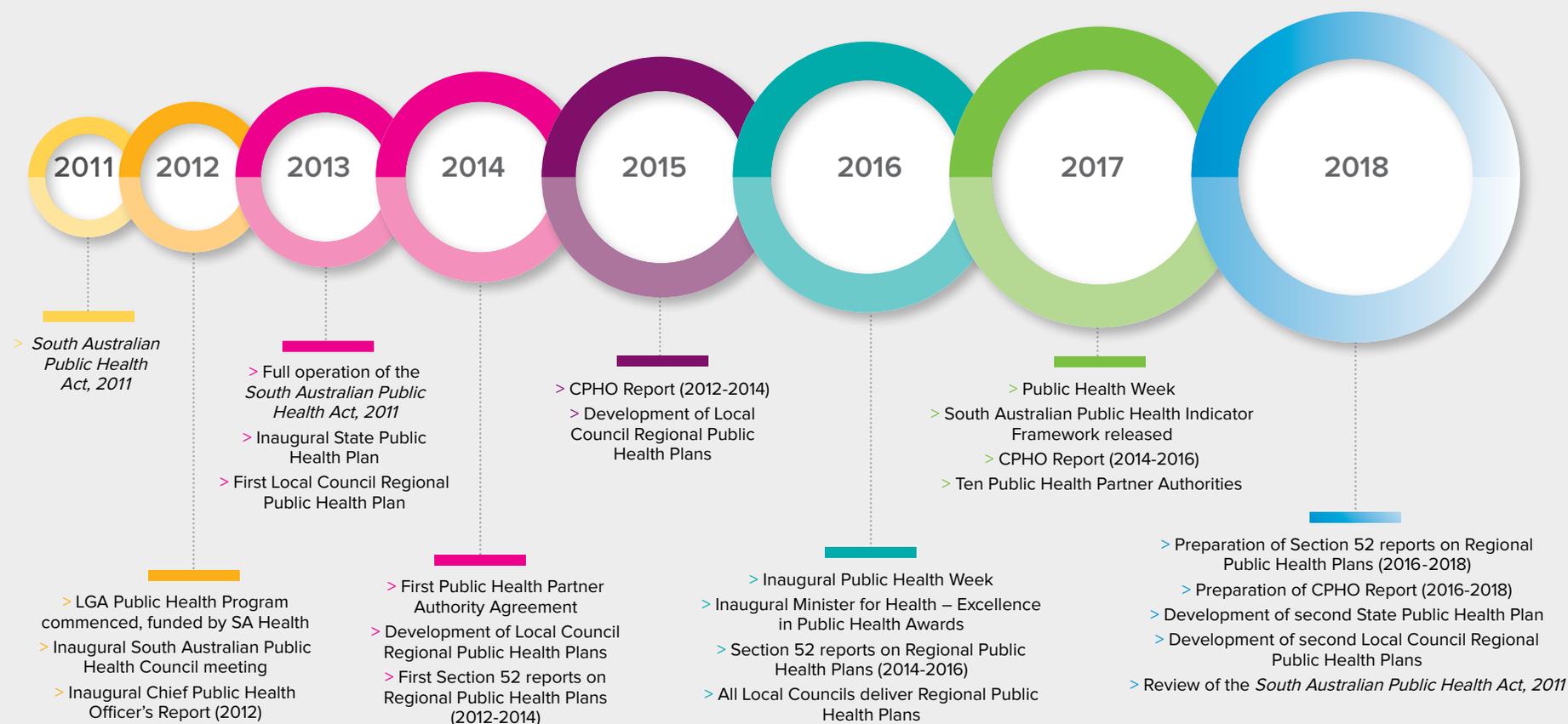
The purpose of this document is to present a draft framework for the State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 and provide an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on its structure and content as well as develop more specific actions under the priority areas. The feedback will be used to inform the development of a full draft Plan that is scheduled for broad consultation later in 2018.

## Building the Public Health System

The implementation of the State Public Health Plan and the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* has seen collaboration between SA Health, the Local Government Association (LGA), local councils, government departments and non-government agencies, in the delivery of positive public health outcomes at both a local and state level. These collective efforts have resulted in both an increased profile and understanding of public health and wellbeing and the establishment of foundational structures that will be built upon in the next State Public Health Plan. The achievements are shown in Diagram 1.



## Diagram 1 – Building the Public Health Planning System 2011-2018



# Landscape of Public Health

Below is a brief snapshot of some aspects of public health in South Australia. This section will be covered in more detail in the full draft Plan to meet the requirements of Section 50 of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* where it outlines that the State Public Health Plan should 'comprehensively assess the state of public health in South Australia'. The information in the full Plan will be linked to the detailed and contemporary data that is reported every two years in the Chief Public Health Officer's Report and data compendium.

## Our state and our people

*Understanding the demographics and geography of South Australia (SA) helps provide context to the factors influencing public health activities and trends.*

The population of SA is **1.7 million people and 2.4% are Aboriginal people.**

SA's population is increasing but SA is **one of the slowest growing states in Australia.** Many regional and rural areas are experiencing population decline.

**SA has one of the oldest population profiles** in the country (median age of 40 years). The age profile for Aboriginal people is much younger (median age of 22 years).

Over three-quarters of South Australians **live in metropolitan areas.**

SA is home to people from more than **200 culturally diverse backgrounds.**

## Determinants of health

*Our health and wellbeing depend on the social, economic and environmental conditions in which we live. These factors are referred to as the "determinants of health" and include: education and employment; urban form, housing and neighbourhoods; social connections; and the built and natural environment. Our genetic endowment and access to health care and other services are also important.*

**The relationship between determinants, risk factors, and illness and disease is complex, with many preventable diseases dependent on the interplay of different determinants and how individuals and communities are affected by them.**

**Determinants of health cannot be tackled by the health sector, or any other sector, alone. It requires multiple agencies to come together to develop policies and programs to solve cross-sector problems and enhance community health and wellbeing.**

**South Australians from poorer social or economic circumstances are at greater risk of poor health, have higher rates of illness and disability and live shorter lives than those who are more advantaged.**

## Preventable disease and injury

*Almost one third of the overall disease burden in Australia could be prevented by removing exposure to risk factors such as tobacco use, being overweight, alcohol use, physical inactivity and high blood pressure.*

In Australia, the five groups causing the most burden (2011) were:

- > **cancer**
- > **cardiovascular diseases**
- > **mental and substance use disorders**
- > **musculoskeletal conditions**
- > **injuries.**

*While deaths from infectious diseases are declining, prevention of communicable diseases remains a priority. The transmission of infectious diseases is minimised through access to safe food and water, immunisation programs, wastewater management and environmental sanitation, vector control programs and community education.*

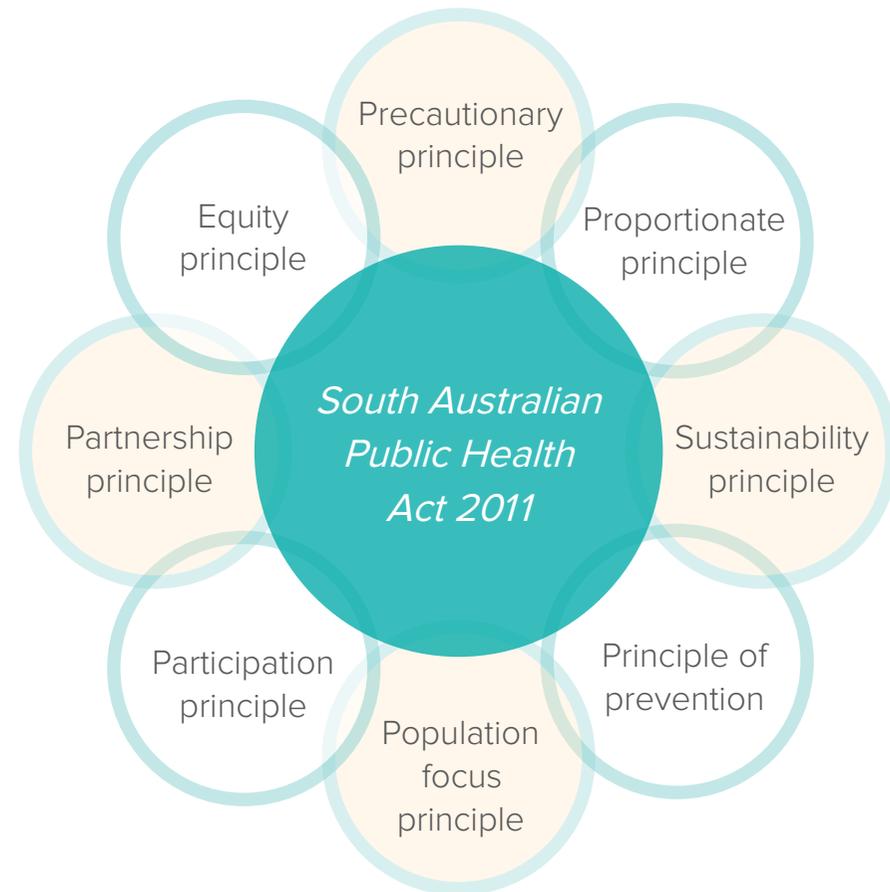
The top five notifiable infectious diseases in South Australia (2014-16) were:

- > **influenza (vaccine preventable)**
- > **chlamydia (sexually transmitted infection)**
- > **campylobacteriosis (often a foodborne illness)**
- > **pertussis/whooping cough (vaccine preventable)**
- > **salmonellosis (often a foodborne illness).**

The data listed above is from the 2014-2016 Chief Public Health Officer's Report.

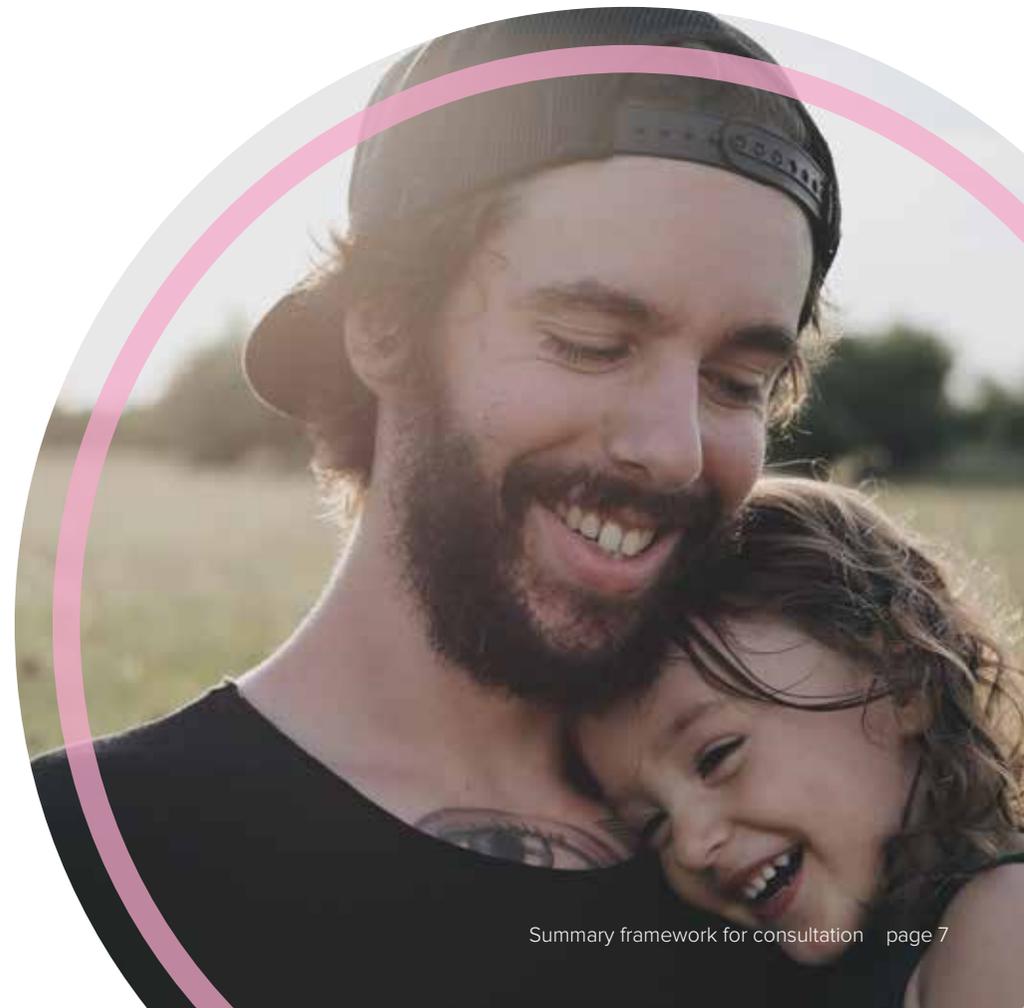
# Principles

The *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* (Sections 5 to 14) establishes principles that guide everyone involved in administering the Act. The application of these principles ensures that the primary values of the Act are upheld. These principles have been used to shape the draft framework for the State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 and are evident through the priorities and deliverables and underpin the framework for public health action over the next five years.

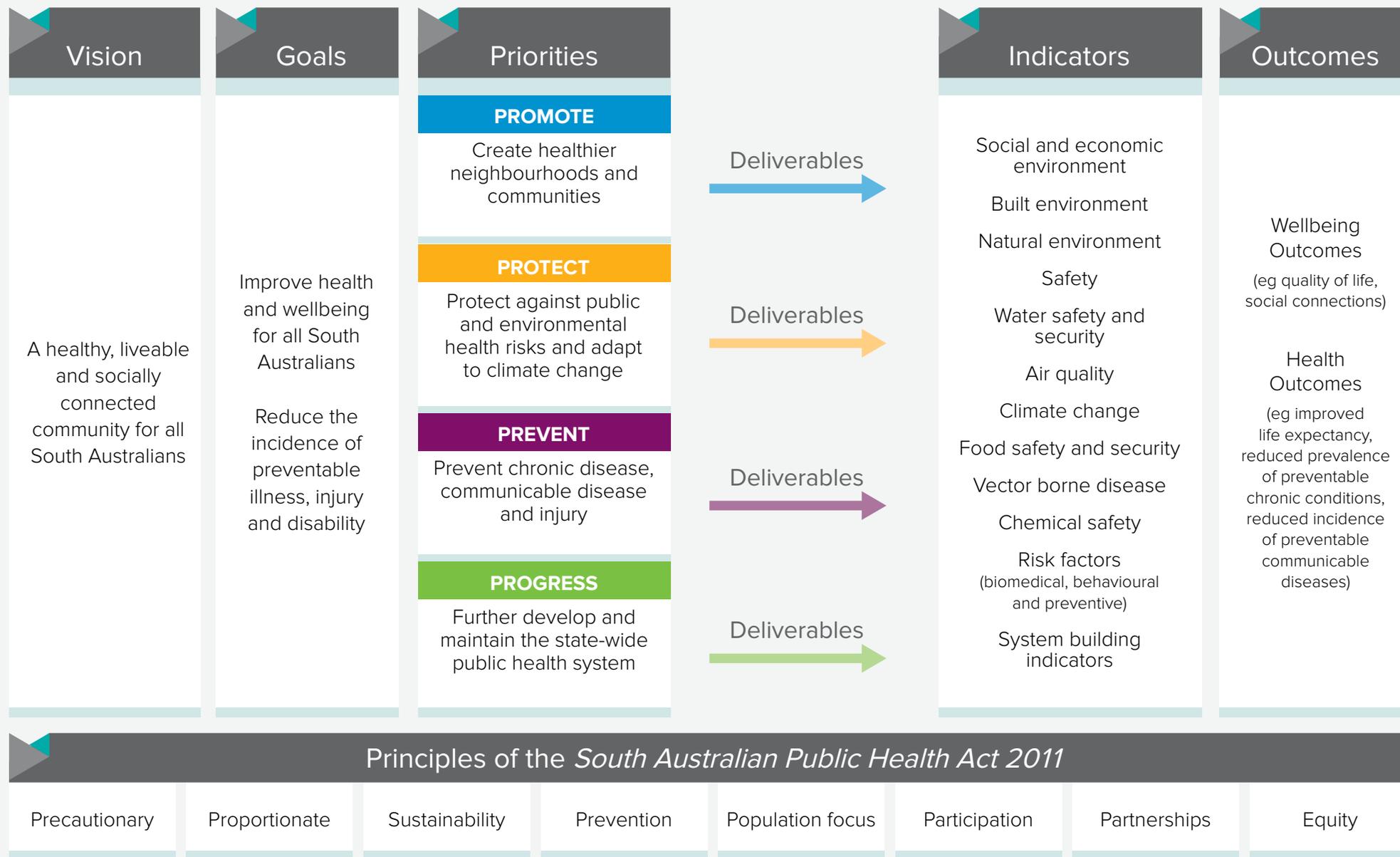


# Priority populations

The draft framework outlines public health actions that aim to improve health and wellbeing for all South Australians, from our youngest to oldest community members. However, it does recognise that health status varies considerably across different population groups and that social and economic disadvantage is associated with poorer health outcomes, evident from birth. Priority populations include South Australia's Aboriginal population, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people identified as high risk of communicable diseases and people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. The draft framework acknowledges the need to address health inequalities by addressing the determinants of health for these communities and this will be reflected through targeted deliverables under each of the four priorities. These actions will be further developed in the full Plan.



# State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 Framework



# Vision

## A healthy, liveable and socially connected community for all South Australians

Imagine a South Australia where communities and neighbourhoods across our state are friendly, well-designed places that make it easy for people to be active and make nutritious food choices, where it is easy to walk or cycle to access local services, and access public transport to larger centres. The neighbourhoods are vibrant and there are plenty of things to do for people of all ages. Residents of all ages have a say in community life, feel safe and included, celebrate their cultural diversity and look out for each other. This is a vision for South Australia's future and this Plan aims to guide us towards achieving this vision.



# Goals and Priorities

## GOALS

- > Improve health and wellbeing for all South Australians
- > Reduce the incidence of preventable illness, injury and disability

## PRIORITIES

The priorities are consistent with the priorities of the State Public Health Plan 2013. The additional priority (Progress), focuses on continuing to progress the development of a strong public health system and is in response to feedback from the review consultation process.

### PROMOTE

Create healthier neighbourhoods and communities

### PROTECT

Protect against public and environmental health risks and adapt to climate change

### PREVENT

Prevent chronic disease, communicable disease and injury

### PROGRESS

Further develop and maintain the state-wide public health system

# Roles

There is a wide spectrum of actions that impact on public health and all are important to achieving the vision of a healthier South Australian community. These range from taking action on the determinants of health, delivering core public health services and strategies and specific actions on the preventable burden of disease. A coordinated effort is needed from all public health partners, including local councils, state government, non-government organisations and the community. Roles will differ but may include: Partner/Collaborator, Leader, Advocate, Funder, Regulator, Supporter or Service Provider. All of these roles are essential for consistent and coordinated public health across the priorities. These roles will be further explained in the full Plan.



# PROMOTE

## Create healthier neighbourhoods and communities

### Why is this important?

- > The environments where we live, learn, work and play have a major influence on our physical, social and emotional health and wellbeing.
- > Well-designed public spaces and developments make our communities more liveable, walkable, inclusive and accessible for all.
- > Healthy neighbourhoods support mental health and wellbeing through encouraging social connectedness, volunteering and other forms of community participation.

### Deliverable action areas could include:

- > Develop and support plans, policies and guidelines that enable the creation of healthier neighbourhoods and communities for all, with particular consideration for vulnerable populations.
- > Promote social connection, community participation and mental wellbeing to enhance liveable communities.
- > Work in partnership to ensure the built environment supports healthy lifestyles through:
  - supportive food environments
  - access to quality public realm and green infrastructure, including open space
  - public infrastructure (ie walkable footpaths, functional street scapes, recreation spaces, smoke free environments and accessible community services)
  - urban planning that promotes active travel.

- > Support policies and programs to improve community safety.
- > Develop policies that support healthy choices in settings such as schools, childcare centres, workplaces and neighbourhoods.
- > Increase community awareness of the important role of the built environment on health and wellbeing.

### Possible indicator groups could include:

- > Social and economic environment (i.e. income, socio economic status, employment, education, housing, social connection)
- > Built environment (i.e. public and social infrastructure, active transport, food environments, smoke free public spaces, green open space, community services)
- > Natural environment (i.e. public open space, streetscapes, tree canopy)
- > Community safety.

# PROTECT

## Protect against public and environmental health risks and adapt to climate change

### Why is this important?

- > We have healthy and safe communities due to the often unseen, but essential foundational public health services that we experience every day.
- > Public health protection services and strategies enable improved food safety and water quality and the safe, effective disposal of waste. If these essential services were diminished, our health would be severely compromised.
- > State and local governments work together to maintain the infrastructure and systems that protect the community against these public and environmental health risks.
- > As weather and climate patterns change, we need to ensure that plans and policies are in place to address and prevent public health risks associated with climate change.
- > Variations in our climate have increased the frequency and severity of weather events such as floods, droughts, bushfires, storms and periods of extreme heat. These events threaten the wellbeing of our communities, especially in vulnerable populations.

### Deliverable action areas could include:

- > Administration of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*, *Food Act 2001*, *Safe Drinking Water Act 2011*, *Controlled Substances Act 1983*, *Tobacco Products Regulation Act 1997*.
- > Support and monitor the implementation and administration of guidelines and regulations established under the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*.

- > Support and develop capacity for the delivery of health protection services.
- > Ensure appropriate health risk assessments are undertaken.
- > Ensure that effective public health plans and strategies are developed to improve public and environmental health issues in remote communities.
- > Work in partnership to prevent, prepare, respond and recover from the public health impacts of major incidents, emergencies and disasters.
- > Ensure plans are in place to minimise and address the impact of climate change (and the resulting severe weather events) on public health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on addressing the needs of vulnerable populations.
- > Ensure that a 'climate change/sustainability' lens is applied to the development of new plans, policies and strategies, as well as implementation of vulnerability assessments on infrastructure and assets.

### Possible indicator areas could include:

- > Water safety and security
- > Air quality
- > Food safety and security
- > Vector borne disease
- > Chemical safety
- > Climate change and emergency management preparedness.

# PREVENT

## Prevent chronic disease, communicable disease and injury

### Why is this important?

- > Section 9 of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* outlines the 'Principle of Prevention' recognising the importance of early intervention.
- > Chronic diseases, infectious and communicable diseases and injury threaten our individual health and the productivity and vitality of our communities.
- > Chronic diseases are the leading cause of ill health, disability and death. Chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes, stroke, ischaemic heart disease and some cancers can be prevented.
- > Many infectious and communicable diseases are preventable through infection prevention behaviours and vaccination (such as hepatitis B, certain strains of influenza and whooping cough).
- > Injury, including those from road traffic accidents, falls and poisoning have a major impact on our health and wellbeing. Injuries can affect people of all ages and leave many with serious disability or long-term conditions.

### Deliverable action areas could include:

- > Develop and deliver plans, policies and evidence-based practices that address the risk factors for chronic disease (focusing on cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer), with a focus on priority populations.
- > Enable and empower individuals and communities to make healthy choices, through environments, programs, education and information that supports wellbeing, with a focus on

priority populations.

- > Work in partnership to embed prevention into practice.
- > Develop and implement policy, programs, best practice guidelines and resources to minimise the impact of infectious and communicable diseases, both in the population as a whole and higher risk groups.
- > Maintain high levels of vaccination for vaccine preventable diseases to protect both individuals and the community.
- > Investigate and manage outbreaks of infectious and communicable disease.
- > Support screening for early detection of cancers, with a particular focus on priority populations.
- > Develop specific plans, policies and evidence-based practices that aim to prevent chronic disease, infectious and communicable disease and injury for Aboriginal people, including enhancing early detection and management of chronic disease in Aboriginal communities.
- > Implement actions that prevent disability and injury.
- > Increase community awareness of chronic disease risk factors and health literacy.

### Possible indicator groups could include:

- > Risk factors – biomedical (e.g. weight), behavioural (e.g. smoking), and protective factors (e.g. immunisation and cancer screening)
- > Injury and disability (eg poisoning prevention, falls prevention, suicide prevention and injury prevention).

# PROGRESS

## Further develop and maintain the state-wide public health system

### Why is this important?

- > State-wide system change requires a sustained focus on the key enablers or building blocks to strengthen the effectiveness, efficiency and quality of the public health system. This includes enablers such as:
  - leadership
  - governance
  - data, surveillance, evaluation and reporting
  - resourcing
  - workforce capacity
  - partnerships.
- > Partnership is a principle of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* and is essential to achieve the goal of improving health and wellbeing and further developing the state-wide public health system.
- > Strengthening collaborative efforts across the health system and across the government and non-government sector will result in a planned and consistent approach to addresses areas of priority.

### Deliverable action areas could include:

- > Continue to develop and refine data and surveillance systems to inform public health planning and action.
- > Further the existing partnership between SA Health and the Local Government Association, to strengthen the role of councils as public health authorities and support Regional Public Health planning, implementation and reporting.
- > Continue to develop, expand and strengthen partnerships with:
  - state government departments,
  - non-government organisations,
  - research institutions and universities.
- > Maintain current and identify new Public Health Partner Authorities to be established, and support collaborative work through this partnership approach.
- > Use a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach across government and non-government agencies to address the social determinants of health and health inequities.
- > Audit state government strategic directions to assess alignment with the State Public Health Plan and health and wellbeing outcomes.

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# PROGRESS

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- > Explore opportunities to enable the Minister for Health and Wellbeing to provide across government health advice utilising the provisions of Section 17 of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*.
- > Ensure appropriate leadership and governance structures for implementation of the State Public Health Plan.
- > Implement and sustain the South Australia Public Health Indicator Framework.
- > Use research and evidence to inform all public health plans, policies and interventions.
- > Further develop monitoring and reporting processes for the State Public Health Plan, ensuring alignment with other reporting requirements of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*.
- > Build community and organisational capacity in public health and wellbeing across spheres of government and other key stakeholders.
- > Enable communities to be engaged and involved in health and wellbeing planning and decision making.
- > Build workforce capacity across state and local government and non-government organisations to support coordinated public health action.

- > Build the evidence base for public health, including evidence about the cost-effectiveness of public health strategies and interventions and disseminate this information to key stakeholders.
- > Develop a web-based system and associated tools to support access to data and content in the State Public Health Plan, and up-to-date information on implementation progress.

## **Possible indicator groups could include:**

- > System building enabling indicators (e.g. governance structures, partnerships and resourcing, workforce capability, data and surveillance systems, access to information).

# Implementation and Governance

The vision and goals of the State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 are about improving health and wellbeing for all South Australians. This is a shared responsibility and achieving this will require collaboration across a range of stakeholders, the community and all levels of government.

The establishment of governance and implementation structures for this Plan will be coordinated by SA Health in partnership with local councils and other stakeholders. Implementation governance structures will be further developed in consultation with stakeholders and could include the development of an implementation plan and the hosting of an annual forum with stakeholders to monitor implementation.



# Monitoring and Reporting

Formal reporting on the implementation of the State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 will occur in the biennial Chief Public Health Officer's Report which will also report progress on public health and wellbeing indicators.

The information from Local Councils' Regional Public Health Plans and biennial reports under Section 52 of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* will continue to inform the development of the full Plan.



# Additional elements

One of the recommendations from the review of the inaugural State Public Health Plan was to consider the development of easily accessible online components and tools to support the State Public Health Plan 2019-2024. It is anticipated that these tools and resources will be available on an updated SA Health webpage. This State Public Health Plan website will contain copies of the full Plan and summary document, as well as supporting fact sheets, guidance tools and latest news regarding implementation. This page will also link to the South Australian Public Health Indicator Framework, Chief Public Health Officer's Report, data sources and information about regional public health planning and Public Health Partner Authorities. The content of this page will be developed in the coming months and further consultation will occur as part of the full Plan development process.



# Next steps

The draft framework for the State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 builds on the solid foundation established by the State Public Health Plan 2013 and its implementation. It sets out a framework for the development of collaborative action over the next five years with a range of stakeholders. Consultation will occur over the coming months with a broad range of stakeholders and feedback used to inform the development of the full draft Plan. It is anticipated that consultation on the full draft Plan will occur in August 2018.



For more information

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