

## Priority 1 - Stronger and Healthier Communities and Neighbourhoods for all Generations

The State Public Health Plan recognises the important role that Councils play in promoting physical environments for healthy lifestyles. Councils are encouraged to integrate community health considerations into their urban and infrastructure planning, with consideration of the CHES principles for healthy environments:

- **Connected Environments.**
- **Healthy Eating Environments.**
- **Safe Environments.**
- **Sustainable Environments.**

This priority area recognises the role of local government in promoting wellbeing through collaborative and vibrant environments.

### *What are we already doing?*

Both Unley and Mitcham Councils are committed to a range of policy areas and initiatives which support 'stronger and healthier communities'. The region is valued for its 'clean and green' amenity, history, residential character and high-street commercial precincts.

Promoting sustainable environments is a high priority for both Councils and both have committed to environmental sustainability planning for number of years. Waste and resource management, climate change mitigation, water security, catchment management and promotion of biodiversity have been key focus areas. The City of Unley has adopted a Food Security Strategy with an integrated focus on sustainability and health outcomes. The City of Mitcham's 'Trails Strategy' promotes physical activity through the use of trails in the hills face region, whilst incorporating measure to protect the natural environment.<sup>18</sup>

Building on the commitments of its Ageing Strategy, the City of Unley has become the first Council in South Australia, and one of only a few in Australia, to gain membership to the World Health Organisation's Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.<sup>19</sup> The City of Mitcham has prepared an 'Age Friendly Neighbourhoods Toolkit' (draft). The toolkit provides a demographic analysis of the Council area and a self-assessment toolkit for assessing the extent to which Council is 'age friendly'.<sup>20</sup> Safe and accessible infrastructure is a high priority in planning physical environments for health and mobility for all sectors of the community.

The community programs and services offered through Council community centres and libraries, contribute significantly to social interaction, volunteerism and life-long learning opportunities in the region. Promoting vibrancy and social interaction through place activation principles, has been a key focus in urban planning across both Council areas. Staff highlighted the opportunities for a place-based, holistic approach for planning to consider a range of factors including community health.

Events and community activities in the region are central to promoting vibrant, healthy communities. The City of Unley has a significant focus on promoting community vibrancy through arts and cultural activity. The Council is participating in a project to develop a Cultural Indicators Framework for evaluating the impact of arts and cultural activities on

the wellbeing of the community. The City of Mitcham has recently supported a number of youth and music events.

Both Councils have a strong commitment and focus on community involvement in heritage protection and promotion. The northern portion of the City of Unley is within the 'Inner Metro Rim Structure Plan' for the City of Adelaide. The 'Inner Metro Rim Structure Plan' builds on the '30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide' and establishes plans for higher density, mixed-use developments near activity centres and transit corridors.<sup>21</sup>

### State and Regional Strategy References

- South Australia: A Better Place to Live – Priority 1: Stronger and Healthier Communities and Neighbourhoods for all Generations.
- The Planning Strategy for South Australia: 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide.
- Age-friendly Neighbourhoods Guidelines and Toolkit for Local Government.
- The Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- Mount Lofty Ranges Regional NRM Board: Sub Region Priorities for Metropolitan Adelaide.
- Volunteering Strategy for SA
- Inner Metro Structure Plan.

### Strategic Directions

Action	Our Role	Rating	Council Project/ Strategy	Partners
<b>Built and Natural Environments for Health</b>				
1.1 - Formalise multi-disciplinary project teams to facilitate the integration of social, health and cultural wellbeing considerations into major projects for the region. Refer to SA guidance materials for: 'healthy by design', 'Green Infrastructure Guidelines' and 'Age Friendly Neighbourhoods'.	Coordinate	■	Unley master planning projects: Unley Central Precinct, King William Road Precinct  Mitcham master planning projects: Mitcham Precinct, Blackwood Precinct, Southern Corridor Structure Plan	DPTI DCSI SA Health NGOs
1.2 - Facilitate development to meet housing affordability and diversity targets within the City of Unley and Mitcham Development Plans.	Facilitate	★	City of Unley Development Plan  City of Mitcham Development Plan	DPTI
1.3 - Plan and prioritise urban environments and infrastructure to promote equal physical access for people with disabilities.	Coordinate	★	City of Unley - Access for All Action Plan, Access Mapping Project  City of Mitcham Access and Inclusion Plan	DPTI DCSI

Action	Our Role	Rating	Council Project/ Strategy	Partners
1.4 - Encourage property developers to consider age friendly principles within project design.	Advocate Facilitate	■	City of Unley – Age Friendly Strategy (proposed)  City of Mitcham – Ageing Plan (proposed)	DPTI  SA Health  Aged Care
1.5 - Advocate through the planning reform process for the incorporation of 'health by design' and 'age friendly design' guidelines into the DPTI Better Development Plan Policy Library for subsequent incorporation into Council's Development Plan.	Advocate	■	City of Unley Development Plan  City of Mitcham Development Plan	DPTI  SA Health
1.6 - Advocate for improved public transport services in the region.	Advocate	★	City of Unley Community Passenger Network Service Agreement  City of Mitcham – Community Passenger Network Project	DCSI  SA CTA  Southern Region Councils
1.7 - Continue to support alternate travel options (public transport, cycling) and pedestrian friendly environments through Local Area Traffic Studies and precinct planning projects.	Coordinate	★	Cities of Unley and Mitcham Local Area Traffic Studies and Precinct Planning  City of Unley Community Passenger Network Service Agreement  City of Mitcham – Community Passenger Network Project	DPTI  SACTA  SA CTA  Southern Region Councils
<b>Vibrant and Engaged Communities</b>				
1.8 - Negotiate events, the arts and cultural development in the region to support community vibrancy and social interaction.	Coordinate Facilitate	★	City of Unley - SA LGA Cultural Indicators Framework Project. City of Unley Public Arts Strategy City of Unley Community Events Program  City of Mitcham – Mitcham Heritage Centre Strategic Plan	DPC
1.9 - Identify and implement community engagement strategies to improve community involvement in Council decision-making.	Coordinate	★	City of Unley – Community Engagement Policy and Toolkit	

Action	Our Role	Rating	Council Project/ Strategy	Partners
			City of Mitcham – Public Consultation Policy	
1.10 - Promote opportunities for volunteering across all age groups and recognise the contribution of volunteers in our region.	Coordinate Facilitate	★	City of Unley Volunteer Policy  City of Mitcham Volunteer Policy	DPC
1.11 - Partner with local health providers and the Medicare Locals to facilitate access to health program information via. Council community facilities.	Facilitate	■	City of Unley: Library Strategy and Age Friendly Strategy, Community Centres Direction Paper  City of Mitcham Library Plan	MLs NGOs SA Health
1.12 - Undertake continued promotion of early childhood literacy and lifelong learning opportunities through Council libraries.	Coordinate	★	City of Unley: Library Strategy  City of Mitcham Library Plan	DPC
1.13 - Establish Council Policies and Action Plans to recognise youth achievements and support local student research and work experience.	Coordinate Facilitate	★	City of Unley: Youth Strategy (proposed)  City of Mitcham Youth Strategy	DCSI