

PERENJORI LOCAL HEALTH PLAN



Perenjori
Embrace Opportunity

2026-2030



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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Badimia people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which we live and work.

We also pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.



Introduction

Local governments play a vital role in protecting and promoting the health and wellbeing of their residents, and can help to reduce disease, illness and injury within their communities. In recognition of this important function, Part 5 of the Public Health Act 2016 requires local governments in Western Australia to prepare a local public health plan.

This Public Health and Wellbeing Plan sets out the actions the Shire of Perenjori will take between 2026 and 2031 to improve the health and wellbeing of our community. It has been informed by a community health and wellbeing survey, current health status data, and the services and facilities the Shire already provides.

This Plan must be consistent with the State Public Health Plan for Western Australia 2025–2030. In accordance with section 45 of the Public Health Act 2016, local public health plans must align with the current State Public Health Plan by 4 June 2026.

The State Plan identifies two overarching objectives that underpin every priority area within it, and which this Plan actively considers throughout:

- Aboriginal health and wellbeing
- Equity and inclusion

This Plan also has regard to the objects of the Public Health Act 2016, which include promoting and improving public health and wellbeing, preventing disease and premature death, reducing inequalities in health among disadvantaged groups, and supporting collaboration between State and local government to protect community health.

Purpose of this Plan

This Plan is intended to:

- Identify the public health needs of the Shire of Perenjori;
- Examine the health status and health determinants of our local community;
- Establish objectives and policy priorities for the promotion, improvement and protection of public health, and for the development and delivery of public health services; and
- Set out an action plan describing how these objectives and priorities will be achieved, by whom, and within what timeframe.

Our Current Health Role

The Shire of Perenjori provides a range of funding to support the health and wellbeing of our community through the following services and facilities.

- Community services that include the provision of a Medical Centre, operating Tuesday and Thursday mornings.
- A Well Women's Clinic attending the community quarterly, funded through Rural Health WA.
- Provision of a purpose-built facility for visiting allied services.
- Free membership of the Perenjori Gym for residents.
- Free entry to the Aquatic Centre during pool season.
- Support of local sporting and recreational clubs with provision of facilities.



Community Survey Results

To inform this Plan, the Shire of Perenjori commissioned a Community Health & Wellbeing Survey. The survey results provide valuable insight into the health status, behaviours, priorities and aspirations of our community.

Who responded

- All respondents (100%) confirmed they live in Perenjori.
- Most respondents were aged 51–65 (approximately 42%) and 31–50 (approximately 29%), with smaller proportions aged 65+ (approximately 23%) and 18–30 (approximately 6%). No respondents were under 18.
- Approximately 78% of respondents were female and 22% male.
- Approximately 3% of respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- Approximately 78% of respondents are currently a member of a local community group, voluntary organisation or sporting club.

Overall health and wellbeing

- Residents rated their overall health and wellbeing at an average of 3.90 out of 5.
- Approximately 57% of respondents said they are able to access the health services they need; 43% said they are not.
- Approximately 62% of respondents believe there are gaps in health services within the Shire.
- Approximately 80% of respondents would support the provision of a Community Nurse service if it were funded or partially funded through the Shire's annual budget.

What matters most to residents

When asked how important a range of factors were to living a healthy and happy life in Perenjori, residents rated the following as most important:

- Having a safe community
- Access to mental and general health services
- Being physically active and participating in community activities
- Access to healthy food options and community vaccinations/health screening

Public health priorities

Residents were asked to rank a list of public health issues in order of importance. Based on average ranking, the issues residents most consistently identified as priorities were:

- Tobacco and smoking
- Illicit drug use
- Alcohol harm to self and community
- Young children and teenagers not having enough to do
- Mental health and the ageing population were also raised as priorities, though ranked comparatively lower on average across all responses. Given the emphasis placed on access to mental health services elsewhere in the survey this plan treats mental health as a standing priority alongside these ranked issues.

Community Survey Results

Lifestyle and behaviour

- Approximately 90% of respondents are non-smokers.
- Alcohol consumption is polarised: approximately 29% of respondents drink no alcohol, while approximately 26% consume more than four standard drinks per week.
- Approximately 48% of respondents exercise daily, with most exercising at home, on bush tracks, or at the local gym.
- In describing their weight, approximately 42% of respondents identified as slightly overweight and 6% as very overweight, compared with 35% who felt their weight was about right.



Strategic Alignment

This Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is intended to align with the Shire of Perenjori's Strategic Community Plan, ensuring public health priorities are reflected in the Shire's broader long-term planning.



Objectives and Policy Priorities

Based on the health data and community survey findings above, and having regard to the State Public Health Plan 2025–2030, the Shire of Perenjori will focus on the following objectives.

Priority 1 — Access to Health and Allied Health Services

Reflecting that 43% of residents cannot currently access the health services they need, and strong support (80%) for a funded Community Nurse service.

Priority 2 — Mental Health and Wellbeing

Reflecting that access to mental and general health services was rated among the most important factors for a healthy, happy life in Perenjori.

Priority 3 — Reducing Harm from Tobacco, Alcohol and Illicit Drug Use

Reflecting that these issues were ranked most consistently as public health priorities by the community.

Priority 4 — Physical Activity and Active Recreation Infrastructure

Reflecting low satisfaction with walking/cycling infrastructure (39%) and strong demand for walking/cycling trails, exercise programs and walking groups.

Priority 5 — Healthy, Safe and Connected Community

Reflecting that a safe community was rated the top factor for healthy living, alongside high rates of community group participation (78%) that should be supported and sustained.

Action Plan

The following actions have been identified to achieve the objectives and policy priorities above. Actions, responsibilities and timeframes marked require confirmation by the Shire before this Plan is finalised.

Priority 1 - Access to Health Services

Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
Advocate for continued or alternative funding for the Well Women's Clinic beyond the current grant period.	MCCS	26/27
Investigate feasibility of a Shire-funded or partially funded Community Nurse service.	CEO	27/28
Work with WA Country Health Service and the local Health Service Provider to identify additional allied health outreach opportunities.	CEO	Ongoing

Priority 2 — Mental Health and Wellbeing

Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
Advocate to State Government and the Mental Health Commission for accessible mental health programs and services for the community.	CEO	Ongoing
Support community events and activities that promote social connection and reduce isolation.	CEO	Ongoing

Priority 4 — Physical Activity and Active Recreation Infrastructure

Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
Investigate the development of walking and cycling trails within the townsite.	MCCS / MIS	26/27
Investigate installation of free/affordable outdoor exercise equipment.	MCCS / MIS	27/28
Support establishment of a community walking group.	MCCS	26/27
Investigate opportunities for implementing for exercise programs and local gym upgrades.	CEO	Ongoing

Action Plan

Priority 5 — Healthy, Safe and Connected Community

Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
Continue to support local community groups, sporting clubs and volunteer organisations.	CEO	Ongoing
Maintain and promote safe community infrastructure (roads, footpaths, lighting).	MIS	Ongoing
Continue environmental health monitoring, including food and water surveillance.	EHO	Ongoing



Partnerships

Delivering this Plan is not the sole responsibility of the Shire of Perenjori. The Shire will work with the following bodies, among others, to achieve the objectives and policy priorities in this Plan:

- The Chief Health Officer and Department of Health WA
- WA Country Health Service and the local Population Health Unit
- Mental Health Commission of WA
- Cancer Council WA
- Local community groups, sporting clubs and volunteer organisations

Strategic Public Health Risk Framework

The Shire of Perenjori will identify, evaluate and manage public health risks in the district on an ongoing basis, informed by community consultation, health status data, and guidance from the Chief Health Officer. Public health risks considered as part of this Plan include risks arising from health status (e.g. chronic disease, mental health, substance use), environmental conditions, and social and economic factors affecting the local community.



2024 Senior Hockey Premiers

Review, Reporting and Replacement

In accordance with section 45(5) of the Public Health Act 2016, the Shire of Perenjori will review this Plan annually to:

- Check that implementation of actions is on track;
- Check that results to date are as expected;
- Consider whether the local health status, risks or priorities have changed;
- Identify any new funding or partnership opportunities; and
- Decide whether any amendments are required.

This Plan will be published and made publicly available in accordance with the Public Health Act 2016. There is no requirement to submit this Plan to the Department of Health for review, however the Shire will report on the publication of this Plan as part of its annual performance reporting obligations.

Unless replaced sooner, this Plan will be replaced within five years of endorsement, in accordance with section 45(6) of the Public Health Act 2016.

