

# Central Goldfields and Mount Alexander Shire Councils

The Future Together

## **Justification – why do the project?**

The aim of this project is to develop a framework for the Municipal Public Health Plan (MPHP) that is compatible with, and complements, other relevant internal and external plans. The project also seeks to develop whole of council MPHPs that address the priority health issues and needs of the two communities by creating stronger links and a coordinated approach to health and wellbeing. The learnings from this process will be incorporated into the development of future MPHPs.

## **Methodology –how we did it**

Both shires implemented the project at the same time. Environmental Health Officers from both councils were supported to work with the Primary Care Partnership (Central Victorian Health Alliance). A reference group was formed, involving representatives from within and external to the councils and terms of reference were developed clarifying the responsibilities of the group. The implementation process defined a clear and time limited process, with distinct periods for issue identification; brainstorming of potential solutions; concrete commitment to strategies; and review of the plan and planning process.

## **Partners - who was involved?**

- Central Goldfields and Mount Alexander shires
- Central Victorian Health Alliance (CVHA)
- Community health, hospitals, Divisions of GPs, Police, Goldfields Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN) and a range of other locally significant individuals and organisations.

## **Outcomes – what changes have occurred as a result of this project?**

- Council departments now have an understanding of how the MPHP involves them and their work, and partner organisations have a better understanding of the breadth of work of council. This process encouraged council departments and external agencies to look at their existing work and consider how it could be done differently to meet the identified health needs within existing resources.
- Training provided to local government officers and councillors by PCP and statewide providers demonstrated that it is possible to make changes without costing councils a fortune. As a result, councillors are more inclined to support staff to try new ideas.
- The reference groups were highly beneficial, with participants engaged and leading the process in the right direction. This collaboration with council provides a shared responsibility in the process.

## **Where to now?**

Councils are yet to adopt the new MPHPs. All participants in the Reference Group are willing to work together to align future community consultation processes.

## **Contacts**

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