

# South Coast Health Care, Bass Coast and South Gippsland Shire Councils

Healthier communities: from town, to country, to coast

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

The South Gippsland Shire and the Bass Coast Shire both needed to update their Municipal Public Health Plans (MPHPs) in line with the Environments for Health Framework. The project was an opportunity to collaborate on development of a shared vision and priorities for improving health in the catchment. The partners needed additional capacity to assist with municipal scanning, to identify and document strategic opportunities and develop priorities for their MPHPs.

## **Methodology – how we did it**

- Established governance arrangements for the partnership between the councils and the South Coast Health Services Consortium (PCP).
- engaged consultants (Martin Bonato and Associated Pty Ltd).
- Used Environments for Health Framework to undertake municipal scanning, prioritisation and strategy development.
- Used Leading the Way sessions to engage senior council staff and elected members and promote MPHP and Environments for Health.
- Developed an issues paper including a report on municipal scan.
- Documented strategic opportunities for local government, including objectives and tasks for further consideration by each council.

## **Partners – who was involved?**

- South Coast Health and Wellbeing Partnership
- Bass Coast Shire Council
- South Gippsland Shire Council
- South Coast Health Services Consortium (Primary Care Partnership) – representation from the Division of General Practice and from Bass Community Health Service.

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

- Both councils now have access to a municipal scanning report which identifies issues for MPHP planning, gaps and strategic opportunities.
- Council staff and key stakeholders have a greater understanding of the relevance of the MPHP.
- Development of the MPHPs has taken longer due to other commitments from the two council officers responsible for the project.

## **Where to now?**

Both councils are now drafting MPHPs consistent with Environments for Health Framework. Both have also prepared other key strategic documents such as a Youth Strategy (Bass Coast) and Council Plan (South Gippsland) consistent with framework.

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