

CIRCULAR HEAD COMMUNITY WELLBEING PLAN

2025 - 2030



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mayor's Message	03
About the Community Plan	04
Guiding Principles	04
Developing the Plan	05
Community Reflections	06
Key Life Stages	07
Strategic Themes	07
Theme 1: Healthy & Well	09
Theme 2: Connected & Active	12
Theme 3: Safe Families & Communities	15
Theme 4: Vibrant & Inclusive	18
Theme 5: Skills for Life	21

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Circular Head is known for its strong community spirit, beautiful landscapes, and the resilience of its people. These qualities are at the heart of our Community Wellbeing Plan 2025–2030 – a guide to help us build a healthier, more connected, and more inclusive community.

To shape this plan, we listened to what people across our area had to say – through surveys, school workshops, and meetings with local groups. We gathered information from other studies, surveys and plans across our region and state to make sure our plan and our priorities are clear.

Making a real difference will take teamwork. Council is committed to working closely with residents, local services, businesses, and nearby councils. We'll keep listening, reporting back, and adapting the plan as community needs change.

Thank you to everyone who shared their ideas; together we can ensure Circular Head remains a place where every person can belong, participate and thrive.



Mayor Gerard Blizzard
Circular Head Council

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY PLAN

The Circular Head Community Wellbeing Plan sets out a clear and considered planning roadmap, designed to inform Council how it can work to strengthen health, inclusion, connectedness, and resilience across the community. It recognises that wellbeing is shaped by more than just services alone, and is influenced by the places we live, how we live, the opportunities we have, and the people around us.

This plan is built on the social determinants of health, which considers how factors like education, employment, safety, culture, environment and connection all contribute to our overall quality of life. It also draws on what we have heard from our community and what matters most to them, whilst also aligning to broader planning directions across the state and country.

Noting a growing focus across Tasmania in the role of local government in supporting community wellbeing, Councils are now being asked to think more broadly about how planning, infrastructure, events, services, and partnerships can all help create communities where people feel supported and have what they need to live well. This is particularly important here in Circular Head, where local knowledge, relationships, and place-based solutions are key.

This plan presents us with a practical framework to guide our work, aligned to the Mission, Vision and Values of our Council. It helps Council stay focused and responsive to what matters, enables informed decision-making, and coordinates a response to emerging needs in a way that strengthens our community over time. It's a plan that aims to bring people together, support healthy choices, and continue to make Circular Head a great place to live at every stage of life.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Collaboration: Working with those already engaged, or potentially affected, to enable a collective approach and response.

Equity: Supporting everyone in our community to live our best life, whatever their strengths, challenge, or background.

Innovation and Adaptation: Being creative and willing to try new things whilst able to learn, change and adapt as required.

Win-Win-Win Planning: Achieving across multiple domains, able to demonstrate felt benefit in multiple ways through the work we deliver.

Multiple, incremental gains: Ongoing, small steps in the right direction, rather than trying to 'fix' everything at once.

Outcome and scale-focused: Progressing genuine, sustained improvements for and with as many people as possible.

DEVELOPING THE PLAN

This plan has been built from the ground up—shaped by research, local knowledge, and conversations with people across the Circular Head community. It reflects what matters most to residents, while aligning with broader priorities across Tasmania and Australia, including the Healthy Tasmania Strategy and the Tasmanian Wellbeing Framework. A review of existing Council strategies ensured a clear and coordinated approach.

The plan is both evidence-based and informed by community input. Engagement activities included stakeholder meetings, school workshops, elected member discussions, and informal community conversations. A community survey provided further insight into lived experiences around health, access, connection, and support.

A broad mix of voices was heard—young people, older adults, Aboriginal organisations, service providers, community groups, and residents from all walks of life. Consistent themes emerged:

- Improved access to local services
- Stronger support for young people
- Increased collaboration between groups and services
- Clearer, more consistent communication across the community.

These insights helped shape five key themes that reflect community values and needs, while providing a practical, all-of-life framework to guide Council decision-making. The plan brings together and replaces three previous strategies—the Youth Plan, Age-Friendly Communities Plan, and Health and Wellbeing Plan—into one cohesive, future-focused document.

The result is a clear, realistic, and forward-thinking plan designed to guide local action, support partnerships, and strengthen wellbeing across the Circular Head community.



A Good Life:
A Wellbeing Framework for Tasmania



COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS

In developing the plan, residents were invited to share their experiences and insights through a range of channels. This was to ensure a broader range of voices could be captured and provide a valuable snapshot of community life, highlighting what's working well – and where more attention is needed. Their reflections are captured below.

BIGGEST STRENGTHS OF CIRCULAR HEAD:

The community noted the local community spirit as an overwhelming strength of the region, contributing significantly to the livability and sense of belonging. Other recognised strengths included the provision of public places and open spaces, as well as the quality of schools in the region. Whilst also an area of focus and priority, the community did recognise the strengthening of public safety and an increase in the range of healthy food options available locally.

FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY WELLBEING:

There was a common response amongst residents when asked to rank factors that contributed to community wellbeing, with family and friends, quality of local environment, healthcare, the range and accessibility of community facilities, and employment opportunities being the Top 5 factors.

FACTORS THAT LIMIT PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY:

When asked to identify factors that impacted an individual's ability to participate in their community, things such as a lack of free time, difficulties accessing information, a shortage of things of interest to residents, costs of activities, and health factors were ranked as the Top 5 factors.

TOP PRIORITIES FOR COUNCIL TO ENHANCE OVERALL WELLBEING:

The Circular Head community identified a number of planning areas for Council to prioritise, recognising these as integral to enhancing the regions overall wellbeing. These include:

- Working to address housing challenges (including an increase in affordable housing provision).
- Further developing crime and safety prevention initiatives across the community.
- Continuing to coordinate and support a range of activities and things to do for residents and visitors.
- Facilitating opportunities to connect community to the natural environment, and
- Advocating for, and helping initiate an increase in mental health services and supports available locally.

These community-identified priorities, along with wider insights, research, and observations, have helped inform and guide development of the Strategic Themes of the Community Wellbeing Plan.

STRATEGIC THEMES

1

HEALTHY & WELL

2

CONNECTED & ACTIVE

3

SAFE FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

4

VIBRANT & INCLUSIVE

5

SKILLS FOR LIFE

KEY LIFE STAGES

EARLY YEARS:

Setting the foundation for lifelong learning, this stage spans from birth (and pre- birth) through to young adulthood. It's a time where connection, safety, and belonging matters most. Supporting this group means creating inclusive spaces to play, learn, socialise, and thrive - whether through school, community events, youth programs, or early education. It's also about ensuring young people feel heard, supported, and have clear pathways to participate and contribute.

MIDDLE YEARS:

Often the busiest stage of life, the middle years are shaped by work, family, and community roles. People in this group are often juggling multiple responsibilities whilst also contributing significantly to the local economy, services, and social networks. Planning for this life stage involves supporting access to housing, stable employment, reliable services, and flexible opportunities to stay active, connected, and healthy.

LATER YEARS:

The later years are about staying connected, valued, and independent for as long as possible. Many in this group remain active in the community through employment, volunteering, and caring for their network. At the same time, health and mobility needs can change. Planning in this stage means ensuring older adults can access the care, housing, transport, networks, and opportunities that they need to live well, safely, and with dignity.



1

HEALTHY & WELL

FOCUS: Being healthy means having the opportunity to thrive – physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally – at every stage of life. We celebrate positive wellbeing through access to quality health care, active lifestyles, and supportive services that meet the needs of our diverse community. This theme is about creating and developing the conditions for people to live well and stay well, with a focus on inclusion, community, health, positive ageing, and promoting active lifestyles for all ages. Through the range of actions and initiatives, the aim is to continue to build a community where wellbeing is part of everyday life.

PRIORITY 1: Ensure high quality, accessible services for all of community.	LIFE STAGES	COUNCIL'S ROLE
1.1.1 Review and improve Council programs to enhance access, inclusion, and community participation.	ALL	Deliver
1.1.2 Improve digital and offline communication channels so residents can easily access information and find out about local services and events.	ALL	Deliver
1.1.3 Promote access to free or low-cost community spaces that support participation and social connection.	ALL	Collaborate Deliver Enable
1.1.4 Facilitate outreach to connect isolated and vulnerable residents with services and support.	ALL	Collaborate Deliver
1.1.5 Work with local organisations to improve access to inclusive, culturally safe, and timely health services.	ALL	Collaborate
1.1.6 Carry out regular community needs assessments to identify service gaps and guide future planning.	ALL	Deliver
PRIORITY 2: Educate and empower positive health choices among community.	LIFE STAGES	COUNCIL'S ROLE
1.2.1 Work with schools, services, and community groups to include health education and wellbeing in local programs.	ALL	Collaborate Enable
1.2.2 Create inclusive health resources that support healthy ageing through physical activity, nutrition, mental health, and prevention.	ALL	Collaborate Enable
1.2.3 Use Council's communication channels to share key health messages and promote healthy choices in the community.	ALL	Deliver
1.2.4 Run and support programs that are aimed at reducing harmful behaviours (e.g. substance use, gambling, vaping) whilst building health literacy.	ALL	Collaborate Deliver Enable
1.2.5 Promote healthy eating, physical activity, mental and sexual health through prevention-focused activities.	ALL	Deliver Enable
1.2.6 Work with other organisations and community groups on local health initiatives such as food programs, walking groups, and peer support.	ALL	Collaborate Enable
1.2.7 Support resident access to specialist health initiatives such as the Patient Travel Assistance Scheme and First 1000 Days project.	ALL	Collaborate Enable
1.2.8 Review and support alignment of community resources and services, ensuring equitable access for all of community.	ALL	Collaborate Deliver

1

HEALTHY & WELL

PRIORITY 3: Build community capacity to support resident health and wellbeing.	LIFE STAGES	COUNCIL'S ROLE
1.3.1 Explore requirement and benefit of a Council-led Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee to help guide this plan and co-design actions.	ALL	Deliver
1.3.2 Involve residents in shaping local health and wellbeing efforts to make sure they reflect community needs.	ALL	Deliver
1.3.3 Work with local organisations to build people's skills and confidence to take care of their own health and wellbeing needs.	ALL	Collaborate Deliver Enable
1.3.4 Support identified peer-led education opportunities where trust, cultural relevance, and lived experience matters.	ALL	Collaborate
1.3.5 Create opportunities for children and young people to shape their own wellbeing and have a say in decisions that affect them.	Early Years	Collaborate
1.3.6 Work with community groups to grow their services and support, encouraging greater community involvement.	ALL	Collaborate Enable
1.3.7 Respond to the needs of carers – including formal, informal, and young carers – by improving access to information, networks, and support.	ALL	Collaborate Enable
1.3.8 Continue to facilitate annual grant funding opportunities that support healthy living, promote connections, and encourage active lifestyles.	ALL	Deliver
1.3.9 Raise awareness of Dementia, and reduce barriers to support and service access for carers and people living with Dementia.	Middle Years Later Years	Collaborate Enable
PRIORITY 4: Advocate for high quality, accessible, affordable, and responsive health services.	LIFE STAGES	COUNCIL'S ROLE
1.4.1 Advocate for better access to mental health services into the region, especially for children, young people, and vulnerable residents.	ALL	Advocate Collaborate Enable
1.4.2 Work with service providers to create flexible, evidence-based responses to local health needs.	ALL	Enable
1.4.3 Follow through on Council's Access to Health Service commitments to strengthen availability and access.	ALL	Deliver
1.4.4 Work with others on long-term, sustainable patient transport solutions whilst advocating for improvements to specialist transport schemes like the Patient Travel Assistance Scheme.	ALL	Advocate Collaborate Enable