

South Australian Walking Strategy 2022–32
Action Plan 2022–2025

Heart Foundation

Government of South Australia

Wellbeing SA

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Glossary

DIT	Department for Infrastructure and Transport
DPC	Department for Premier and Cabinet
Education	Department for Education
FSA	Forestry South Australia
GA	Green Adelaide
LGASA	Local Government Association of South Australia
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia
ODASA	Office of Design and Architecture South Australia
ORSR	Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing
PLUS	Planning and Land Use Services
RAA	Royal Automobile Association of South Australia
SATC	South Australian Tourism Commission
WBSA	Wellbeing SA





Executive summary

Our vision is: more South Australians walking more often; all ages, all abilities



Transport

More South Australians making short trips by walking



Recreation & Sport

More South Australians accessing green open space for walking



Health & Wellbeing

More South Australians improving their health and wellbeing through walking

Our priorities are

Plan walkable neighbourhoods, towns and cities

- Plan for walkable places
- Plan for integrated public transport and walking
- Plan for universally accessible walking facilities for all ages and abilities

Build connected, safe and pleasant walking environments for all

- Create connected and pleasant walking networks
- Balance the needs for all travellers on our roads and footpaths
- Reinvigorate our main streets and local neighbourhoods
- Enhance our walking tracks and trails

Create a South Australian walking culture

- Educate, market and promote walking
- Realise the economic and tourism value of walking in South Australia

We will achieve our priorities through

Leadership • Partnerships and multi-sector collaboration • Community engagement and participation
Investment • Evidence based action and evaluation

We will measure our success by monitoring

The proportion of South Australian adults (18+ years) who report trips of 1km or less per week by walking **has increased**

The proportion of South Australian adults (18+ years) who report they walk weekly for recreation or leisure in the past 12 months **has increased**

The proportion of South Australian adults (18+ years) who report more than 30 minutes of walking per week **has increased**

Note: For reference, we consider walking to include jogging, running and moving with a pram or pusher, or moving with the aid of a mobility device such as a wheelchair, walking frame or the like.

Introduction

When we talk about walking, we also include jogging, running and moving with a pram or pusher or moving with the aid of a mobility device such as a wheelchair, walking frame or the like.

Input from South Australians, key stakeholders, local government, and national and international experts have helped to identify our three priorities for walking:

Priority 1: Plan walkable neighbourhoods, towns and cities

Priority 2: Build connected, safe and pleasant walking environments for all

Priority 3: Create a South Australian walking culture

This three-year Action Plan has been developed taking into consideration input received following consultation with the community on the Walking Strategy in 2021. It has been developed recognising that:

- this is the first of three Action Plans and we must collectively build momentum in this first iteration to support increased leadership; and
- investment in walking is required throughout the entire 10-year Strategy.

The practical and achievable initiatives described within this Action Plan reflect initiatives already being led at the state level and have been stretched in many instances to better support walking as a priority for the South Australian community.

Within its first year, Wellbeing SA will carry out the following initiatives to ensure accountability for delivering the Action Plan:

- upon launching the Strategy and Action Plan, establish a governance structure that supports cross-sectoral collaboration, including representation across government agencies, local government, stakeholders and industry
- establish working groups and/or communities of practice for each of the priority areas as required
- investigate and identify aspirational (and feasible) targets for each of the overarching baseline indicators;
- develop a baseline walking report utilising all data sources available; and
- establish a robust reporting process (including additional measures of success where required) to ensure we can identify whether we are progressing towards reaching our 10-year Vision.

A series of baseline data and evidence that has been collected in 2021 will be built upon and used during the life of each Action Plan and the Strategy to ensure that our vision of *more South Australians walking more often; all ages, all abilities* will be achieved.

Data related to walking behaviour and trends are being collected in South Australia via a range of mechanisms. These data provide a robust and reliable basis for forming baseline measures to determine whether the Strategy and associated Action Plan(s) are successfully increasing the proportion of South Australian adults who are walking resulting from various mechanisms, interventions and investments.

Using this data, Wellbeing SA will within the first year of the Strategy, investigate and identify aspirational (and feasible) targets for each of the overarching baseline indicators:

Walking for Transport

The proportion of South Australian adults (18+ years) who report trips of 1km or less per week **increases**.

Walking for Recreation & Sport

The proportion of South Australian adults (18+ years) who report they walk weekly for recreation or leisure in the past 12 months **increases**.

Walking for Health & Wellbeing

The proportion of South Australian adults (18+ years) who report more than 30 minutes of walking per week **increases**.

Underpinned by the South Australian Walking Strategy, Wellbeing SA will review and update the Walking Action Plan 2022–2025 every three years.



Priority 1: Plan walkable neighbourhoods, towns and cities

1.1 Plan for walkable places

Walking Policy and Legislation

	Action description	Lead Agency	Support Agency	Priority
1.1.1	Review relevant legislation to identify opportunities to embed walking and the conditions that support walking (e.g. street trees) into our communities	WBSA		2022 – 25
1.1.2	Investigate opportunities to incorporate additional measures to support walkable neighbourhoods in planning instruments, including the Planning and Design Code, Design Standards and Regional Plans. This could include policies and directions relating to: ▪ Connectivity for pedestrians ▪ Street layout and allotment configuration ▪ Provision of footpaths ▪ Access to open space ▪ Provision and retention of street trees	PLUS		2022 – 25
1.1.3	Investigate opportunities to create improved performance measures of success in relation to walkability in urban areas	PLUS	WBSA	2022 – 25
1.1.4	Adopt and consistently apply the Movement and Place classification framework into transport and network planning and Road Safety planning to appropriately balance the needs of various modes including pedestrians. Implement measures that strike the appropriate balance between traffic flows and pedestrian movements to optimise overall transport outcomes and improve pedestrian safety	DIT		2022 – 25
1.1.5	Implement the *Australian Transport Assessment and Planning (ATAP)* Guidelines, which outline best practice for transport planning and assessment in Australia, and which aim to improve the quality of the assessment of active travel initiatives. Apply consistent design standards through development of a Master Specification that aligns with the *ATAP* Guidelines	DIT		2022 – 25
1.1.6	As part of the State Planning Commission's strategic priorities to update the Regional Plans for South Australia and monitor the high-level targets of the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide-2017, incorporate relevant strategies and policies that support walking and walkability	PLUS	WBSA	2022 – 25
1.1.7	Explore opportunities to establish design and performance standards and/or infrastructure schemes for walking through the planning system	PLUS		2022 – 25
1.1.8	As part of the 'Community Health and Wellbeing in a Changing Climate' focus area of the Healthy Parks Healthy People SA approach, identify opportunities to support tree canopy outcomes that reduce the impacts of urban heat and support walkability	WBSA and GA	Local government	Ongoing

Walking Networks and Walkable Communities

	Action description	Lead Agency	Support Agency	Priority
1.1.9	Under the Public Health Partner Authority Agreement between Wellbeing SA and Local Government Association SA, work with local government to: ▪ provide LGA specific community 'Walking Profiles', as a tool to inform policy at the local level; ▪ identify opportunities to develop walking network plans for priority precincts around public transport nodes, schools, parks and open spaces, sport, recreation and community centres; ▪ identify opportunities to extend and improve shared and dedicated spaces that follow public transport corridors and open space areas, including along railway corridors and along rivers; ▪ identify opportunities to continue to plan new paths that are safe and appealing, high quality, suitably wide, functional, appropriately aligned and connected	WBSA and LGASA		2022 – 25
1.1.10	Adopt and consistently apply relevant Austroads Guides and support Austroads' update of design guidelines	DIT	Local government	2022 – 25
1.1.11	Research and adopt best practice guidelines for creating accessible, connected walking precincts and network planning (e.g. Streets for People Compendium)	ODASA	DIT, PLUS, NPWS and Local government	Ongoing
1.1.12	Review, update and communicate best-practice principles and or guidelines that support the planning and delivery of 'Healthy Neighbourhoods'	WBSA	All agencies	2022 – 25
1.1.13	Identify opportunities to improve and better integrate design guidance for pedestrian and walking environments into transport infrastructure projects and processes through inclusion in urban design principle and strategy documents	ODASA	Local government	2022 – 25

1.2 Plan for integrated public transport and walking

Integrate Walking and Public Transport

	Action description	Lead Agency	Support Agency	Priority
1.2.1	Under the Public Health Partner Authority Agreement between Wellbeing SA and Local Government Association SA, work with local government to identify and make recommendations on opportunities to improve connectivity and accessibility of people's whole of journey experience, including measures such as: ▪ expanding and improving walking catchments when planning new stops and stations ▪ improving walking catchments for existing stops and stations ▪ work with schools to deliver programs such as the Way2Go program	WBSA and LGASA	Local government	2022 – 25
1.2.2	Use the Heart Foundation's walkability checklist to assist Local governments and practitioners to identify opportunities and potential barriers to improve pedestrian connectivity, amenity and capacity to support walking as a viable and accessible travel choice	ODASA	DIT, Local government, Walking SA and Heart Foundation	2022 – 25
1.2.3	Use all identified opportunities to plan and design for green infrastructure including trees along transport corridors, by considering examples such as the Government Architect New South Wales Greener Places Design Framework	ODASA	DIT, GA	Ongoing

1.3 Plan for universally accessible walking facilities for all ages and abilities

	Action description	Lead Agency	Support Agency	Priority
1.3.1	Publish and promote improved guidance to better inform infrastructure providers on how to incorporate accessible universal design elements and principles into public transport infrastructure and surrounding precincts, and publish and promote case studies for successful transport infrastructure projects	ODASA	DIT	2022 – 25
1.3.2	Ensure new projects consider access and inclusion for people of all abilities, ages and backgrounds	All Agencies		Ongoing
1.3.3	Proactively promote accessible trails and facilities in National Parks and State Forest Reserves	NPWS	FSA	Ongoing

Priority 2: Build connected, safe and pleasant walking environments for all

2.1 Create connected and pleasant walking networks for communities

	Action description	Lead Agency	Support Agency	Priority
2.1.1	Consider the needs for investment in improved infrastructure for pedestrians in the State Infrastructure Strategy, and ensure that pedestrians are appropriately provided for in any infrastructure investment initiative. Continue to fund walking and shared use infrastructure through a number of programs: ▪ State Bicycle Fund ▪ Greenways Program ▪ Paths and facilities provided as part of Major and Minor Transport Infrastructure projects ▪ Partner funded projects – Black Spot and grants to councils ▪ Open Space grants scheme ▪ Healthy Towns grants scheme	Relevant agency to grant program		Ongoing
2.1.2	Under the Public Health Partner Authority Agreement between Wellbeing SA and Local Government Association SA, work with local government to identify opportunities to: ▪ pilot best practice models to identify opportunities to create and maintain convenient, direct and attractive street networks conducive to walking ▪ make improvements on existing walking networks to make walking attractive to a wider range of people, across different times of the day (informed by Walking Profiles)	WBSA and LGASA		Ongoing
2.1.3	Work with partners to recapture urban heat and tree canopy data (and consider alongside other relevant data such as active transport routes) to identify priority locations for 'shadeways' and a range of other uses	GA	ODASA, Local government	2022 – 25
2.1.4	Identify and pursue feasible opportunities to expand green infrastructure on public land, focusing on priority areas identified by Green Adelaide, corridors which provide for active travel, and new infrastructure projects	DIT	GA, ODASA and Local government	2022 – 25
2.1.5	Trial urban cooling initiatives in high priority locations such as public open spaces	GA	ODASA, Local government	2022 – 25
2.1.6	Investigate ways to improve personal safety and security, by designing and building in accordance with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles to provide safe public environments	ODASA	DIT	Ongoing
2.1.7	Promote the expansion of green space and the retention of green canopy as key enablers of walkable urban environments	Local government	GA	Ongoing

2.2 Balance the needs for all modes of movement on our roads and footpaths

	Action description	Lead Agency	Support Agency	Priority
2.2.1	Continue to deliver the Way2Go education program with schools and deliver associated school zone improvements (e.g. crossings)	DIT	Local government	Ongoing
2.2.2	Under the Public Health Partner Authority Agreement between Wellbeing SA and Local Government Association SA, work with local government to undertake the following: ▪ explore opportunities to implement Safe Streets to Schools program in collaboration with the local government sector ▪ collaborate with the local government sector to pilot and deliver minor projects to improve safety for people who walk in residential neighbourhoods, central business districts, and school zones enabling more people to walk safely ▪ work with local government to pilot maximising pedestrian priority on key routes into and around community facilities and destinations (including rail stations, schools, aged and health care facilities, retail precincts, open spaces and other activity centres)	WBSA and LGASA	Education	2022 – 25
2.2.3	Publish and promote case studies from demonstration projects such as at Military Road, Henley Beach; King William Road, Hyde Park; and Prospect Road, Prospect that demonstrate the benefits of safer walking environments and shared pedestrian facilities in areas with high volumes of walkers	ODASA	Local government	2022 – 25

2.3 Reinvigorate our main streets and local neighbourhoods

	Action description	Lead Agency	Support Agency	Priority
2.3.1	Review grant funding by aligning evaluation processes to consider the demonstration of a project's strategic alignment with the SA Walking Strategy	ODASA	WBSA	2022 – 25
2.3.2	Investigate opportunities to partner with Local government to co-fund street revitalisation projects	ODASA	Local government	2022 – 25
2.3.3	Work with Play Australia to support the closure of community streets for physical activity and movement	ORSR	Local government	Ongoing

2.4 Enhance our walking tracks and trails

	Action description	Lead Agency	Support Agency	Priority
2.4.1	Maintain walking tracks and trails in our parks and reserves (including State Forest Reserves)	NPWS	FSA , Local government	Ongoing
2.4.2	Improve walking data collection on trails and tracks to understand use	NPWS	FSA , Local government	2022 – 25
2.4.3	Improve walking opportunities in National Parks and State Forest Reserves	NPWS	FSA	Ongoing
2.4.4	Develop inspiring precincts by investing in the amenity of open spaces that benefit community experience and the broader visitor economy which promote walking	NPWS	SATC, Local government, FSA	Ongoing
2.4.5	Under the Physical Activity in Nature Action Plan (within the Healthy Parks, Healthy People SA agenda), continue to promote physical activity in nature and encourage and support South Australians to recognise and experience the fundamental connections between human health and environmental health	WBSA	NPWS, FSA, ORSR, GA, and Walking SA	Ongoing
2.4.6	Identify and make recommendations as to how to better utilise South Australia's tourism assets, such as winery regions, to develop integrated trails and paths	SATC	Local government	2022 – 25





Priority 3: Create a South Australian walking culture

3.1 Educate, Market and Promote walking

Education

	Action description	Lead Agency	Support Agency	Priority
3.1.1	Develop an active travel promotion and engagement toolkit / app aimed at local government, the development sector and other practitioners	WBSA and LGASA		2022 – 25
3.1.2	As part of delivery of the Curriculum in South Australia, encourage schools to raise awareness of the importance of active travel, to promote the health and well-being of children and young people	Department for Education	WBSA	Ongoing
3.1.3	Identify training gaps and needs for planning, designing, constructing and maintaining walking infrastructure (including accessibility and Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) issues). Identify and pilot suitable training to fill highest priority training needs and gaps	ODASA	LGASA	2022 – 25
3.1.4	Build competency and raise awareness of existing wayfinding tools including traditional sign posting and emerging technology to inform wayfinding	WBSA	Walking SA	Ongoing
3.1.5	Work with local government, local Kaurna people and other relevant organisations to incorporate Aboriginal place names and explanations of places of cultural significance (as appropriate) into way-finding signage	WBSA	Local government	Ongoing

Marketing

	Action description	Lead Agency	Support Agency	Priority
3.1.6	Support programs like the 10,000 Steps Program to encourage walking through individual and workplace participation, community engagement and by creating supportive environments	WBSA		Ongoing
3.1.7	Deliver a Road Safety Strategy and three-year Road Safety Action Plan for SA	DIT		2022 – 25
3.1.8	Promote and raise awareness of safe codes of practice for courteous use of multi-use trails (dog walking, horse riding, mountain biking etc.)	FSA		Ongoing

Promotion

	Action description	Lead Agency	Support Agency	Priority
3.1.9	Develop and implement a communication strategy for active travel. Integrate positive, inclusive walking messages and images into social media content and website via South Australian Government proactive media	WBSA		2022 – 25
3.1.10	Investigate ways to support community advocacy on walking and accessibility	WBSA	ORSR, Local government	Ongoing
3.1.11	Continue to promote walking opportunities in National Parks and State Forest Reserves through the website, social media and partnerships with Friends / volunteer groups	NPWS	FSA	Ongoing
3.1.12	Investigate digital innovation to promote walking opportunities for youth	ORSR		Ongoing
3.1.13	Encourage the advancement and promotion of walking team sports (modified versions of traditional team sports), to support the wider population being involved in physical activity and movement, e.g. Walking Netball, Walking Football (AFL & soccer)	ORSR		2022 – 25
3.1.14	Support universities to generate and promote evidence to promote the benefits of walking sport participation	ORSR		Ongoing

3.2 Realise the economic and tourism value of walking in South Australia

	Action description	Lead Agency	Support Agency	Priority
3.2.1	Promote and provide information on new and existing walks in South Australian National Parks and State Forest Reserves and walking tracks	NPWS	FSA , SATC and Walking SA	2022 – 25
3.2.2	Collect walking data on a regular basis to facilitate the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of walking	WBSA	FSA	2022 – 25
3.2.3	Support and promote walking events	WBSA	ORSR	2022 – 25
3.2.4	Investigate opportunities to elevate tourism within National Parks and State Forest Reserves	SATC	NPWS, FSA	2022 – 25
3.2.5	Collaborate with Data SA to identify and enable opportunities for open walking data availability	All agencies		Ongoing



Heart Foundation
Fighting for Australian hearts

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A partnership of Wellbeing SA and Heart Foundation

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Wellbeing SA and the Heart Foundation acknowledge and respect Aboriginal peoples as the state's first nations people and recognise Aboriginal people as the traditional owners and occupiers of South Australian lands and waters.

***WARNING:** Aboriginal people are warned that this publication may contain culturally sensitive material, including images of persons who have died and we offer our apologies for any distress caused if this occurs.*

Game On
Getting South Australia moving

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