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2025 State Public Health Plan

Stakeholder Consultation Summary



Government
of South Australia

SA Health

Background

The State Public Health Plan (the Plan) is a legislative requirement under the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* (the Act). Under section 50 of the Act, review of the Plan is required at least once every five years. The 2025 Plan is the third iteration.

This draft Plan represents the cumulative feedback from stakeholders following a set of consultations and workshops occurring over the first half of 2025. Outputs from across these stakeholder sessions were thematically analysed using qualitative analysis software, resulting in the themes, considerations, and references that form the backbone of this draft Plan. These thematic insights were then complemented with a comprehensive review of current related public health plans, strategies, data and literature.

By co-designing the priority areas and strategic directions with a diverse and invested set of stakeholders, the Plan aims to collectively motivate public health action and partnership.

Ten formal consultation sessions occurred with a broad range of stakeholders including:

- > South Australian Public Health Council (SAPHC)
- > Local government
- > State government agencies
- > Non-governmental organisations
- > Local Government Association (LGA)
- > Public Health Partner Authorities (PHPAs)
- > Public health peak bodies
- > Aboriginal leaders and organisations
- > Culturally And Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities
- > Groups representing older people, children and young people, women, people living with a disability, LGBTQIA+ and regional communities
- > Academics and researchers
- > Specialists and experts from across the five identified priority areas (chronic disease, injury, mental health, communicable disease, and climate and the environment)
- > The Public Health Division (PHD), SA Health

A summary of each consultation session is provided in Table 1. Over 215 individual stakeholders provided feedback across the consultation process. Some stakeholders participated in multiple sessions. Consultation sessions were held in various formats depending on the session's objectives and attendees, including both virtual and in-person meetings and workshops. The format for each session was tailored to the stakeholder group, and generally comprised a presentation providing background on the Plan and a series of questions or issues for consideration. In addition to these discussion sessions, PHPA contacts were invited to participate in an online survey.

Regular input and advice throughout the development process was also received via the weekly Plan Huddles and monthly Plan Advisory Group meetings.

- > The weekly Plan Huddles were held between January and September 2025 with the Chief Public Health Officer, PHD Executive Directors and the Plan development team. These meetings provided an opportunity for regular updates on Plan development,

authorising steps and directional input into the development process. Members on the Huddle also provided input into and review of early drafts of the Plan content.

- > The Advisory Group was established in January 2025 to provide advice and guidance on all aspects of the 2025 Plan development. Specific advice was sought on Plan concepts and wording of the Priority Areas and Strategic Directions and stakeholder engagement strategies including format, session design and attendees. Members of the Advisory Group also provided significant input reviewing early drafts of this draft Plan. Advisory Group membership included representation from SAPHC, the LGA and Preventive Health SA (PHSA).

Stakeholder Acronyms

AHCSA	Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia	MCCSA	Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia
CALHN	Central Adelaide Local Health Network	MYSA	Multicultural Youth SA
COTA	Council on the Ageing	OCP	Office of the Chief Psychiatrist
DEW	Department for Environment and Water	PHD	Public Health Division
DHS	Department of Human Services	PHSA	Preventive Health SA
DIT	Department for Infrastructure and Transport	PIRSA	Department of Primary Industries and Regions
DPC	Department of the Premier and Cabinet	SACOSS	South Australian Council of Social Service
DCS	Department for Correctional Services	SAPHC	South Australian Public Health Council; members represent: Local government Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Health Australia Experts with qualifications / experience in public health, health promotion and communicable disease Expert with experience in the non-government community sector
EPA	Environment Protection Authority	WCHN	Women's and Children's Health Network
LHN	Local Health Networks	YACSA	Youth Affairs Council of South Australia
LGA	Local Government Association		

Table 1: Summary of Stakeholder Consultation – 2025 State Public Health Plan

Title and Purpose	Attendees	What we heard
<i>Kickoff Workshop</i> 6 Dec 2024 To set the scene for the development of the 2025 Plan and consider key questions regarding the framing of significant public health issues.	22 attendees representing: SAPHC, LGA, PHSA, AHCSA, PHD & Flinders University.	• Identification of key issues, enablers and equity considerations. • Agreement to use a strengths-based equity approach to discussing 'priority' populations throughout the 2025 Plan in the context of key public health issues. • Emphasis on the importance of collective action and public trust to combat mis and disinformaiton. • Support for continuity in the use of the three public health pillars: protect, promote, prevent.
<i>Priority Area Workshop</i> 6 Feb 2025 To identify priority areas, enablers, and key populations to highlight in the 2025 Plan.	24 attendees representing: LGA, local government, Cancer Council, Heart Foundation, DHS, SACOSS, SAPHC, PHSA, OCP, DEW, COTA, the Office of Ageing Well & PHD.	• A range of potential priority areas were proposed, which were distilled down (out of session) to five priority areas for inclusion in the 2025 Plan; working titles; chronic disease, injury, mental health, communicable disease and climate and the environment. • Equity considerations for the priority areas. • Enablers to effective public health action across priority areas.
<i>Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities</i> 31 March 2025 To understand public health priorities and other considerations for the Plan from the perspective of CALD communities.	Hosted by Multicultural Communities Council of SA (MCCSA) with 17 attendees representing a diverse range of cultures and language groups.	• Multiculturalism is now the mainstream in South Australia. • Language and tone are critical; considerations must be made for translation of the 2025 Plan. • Trust and local messaging is key to public health communications in CALD communities. • 'Priority populations' should be explicitly named in the 2025 Plan as opposed to just presenting the equity principle.

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Title and Purpose	Attendees	What we heard
<i>Equity in Public Health</i> 7 April 2025 To discuss the approach for representing diversity and equity in the Plan and to understand priorities from the perspective of diverse population groups.	19 attendees representing: AHCSA, MYSA, MCCSA, Regional Development Australia Adelaide, SA Rainbow Advocacy Alliance, SACOSS, YACSA, Commissioner for Children and Young People, Office for Women, Embolden, COTA, The Office for Ageing Well, Dementia Australia, Healthy Male, Purple Orange.	• The 2025 Plan should present populations at risk of negative health outcomes using strengths based language. • The determinants of health and intersectionality need to be a key focus of the 2025 Plan. • There are key equity considerations and challenges for the represented population groups in relation to the five identified priority areas. • Partnerships are central to the success of the 2025 Plan.
<i>Academics and Researchers</i> 10 April 2025 To present the key areas of focus for the 2025 Plan and identify opportunities to leverage information and expertise from the academic community.	11 attendees from South Australian Universities including: Flinders University, University of Adelaide, Torrens University and University of South Australia.	• There is strong alignment between the 2025 Plan's proposed priority areas and public health topics currently engaged in research. • Academic contacts are interested in ongoing involvement in the 2025 Plan's development and communications. • Participants have relevant information to provide for review and inclusion in the 2025 Plan.
<i>Public Health Division</i> 11 April 2025 To receive input and direction from a diverse set of public health professionals on the development and priorities of the 2025 Plan.	Over 80 staff from across the three branches of the PHD: • Health Protection and Regulation • Communicable Disease Control Branch • Public Health Planning and Response	• Identification of a broad range of issues under each of the five priority areas, including key areas of focus for strategic action. • Discussion of the enablers required to address these issues to achieve public health outcomes.
<i>Public Health Partner Authorities (Survey)</i> May 2025 To understand how the 2025 Plan's priority areas align with PHPA strategies and how the 2025 Plan could support these agencies.	Survey disseminated to 25 PHPA contacts. Responses received from 10 PHPAs including: Alcohol and Drug Foundation, SACOSS, Return to Work SA, LGA, COTA, DHS, DCS, Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing.	• PHPAs provide valuable avenues for public health action, including advocating for priority populations. • There are many intersections among the 2025 Plan's priority areas and the ongoing work led by PHPAs. • Identification of relevant strategies and plans that can be referenced in the 2025 Plan.

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<i>Aboriginal Conversation</i> 16 June 2025 To identify how the 2025 Plan can respectfully and genuinely represent the lived and cultural perspectives of Aboriginal peoples.	The conversation was guided by two Aboriginal SAPHC members, with support from the PHD Aboriginal and Regional Public Health Director. 17 attendees from key Aboriginal organisations and communities including: AHCSA, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and Community Council Groups, SA Health Aboriginal Health Executives and leads (including PHD, LHNs and PHSA).	• The importance of weaving cultural perspectives of Aboriginal peoples throughout the 2025 Plan. • The 2025 Plan should feature holistic, strength-based and respectful messaging about Aboriginal peoples including their collective values and knowledge. • The cultural determinants, including connection to Country, self-determination, spiritual and cultural identity should feature in the 2025 Plan. • Aboriginal peoples must be recognised in the 2025 Plan as a population with distinct cultures, traditions and beliefs with solutions focused on community-driven, Aboriginal-led approaches.
<i>Strategic Directions Workshop</i> 24 June 2025 To bring together a broad range of public health stakeholders to discuss priority area visioning including what success looks like and how this can be achieved for each of the five priority areas.	67 attendees from a range of agencies and organisations including: SAPHC, PHSA, LGA, local government, AHCSA, EPA, DEW, MCCSA, PIRSA, Council on the Ageing, SA Youth Forum, DIT, DPC, CALHN & WCHN Trauma Services, Cancer Council, Dementia Australia, Regional Development SA, PHD.	• Discussion and identification of what success looks like for the priority areas. • Development and prioritisation of strategic directions that will provide the framework for public health action in each priority area. For further refinement out of session. • Feedback on the framing, tone and language to be used in discussion of the priority areas. • Considerations for future work to support collective action in public health.
<i>Youth Conversation</i> 6 August 2025 To understand what public health issues matter to young people, including how the 2025 Plan's priority areas impact young people.	Hosted and facilitated by SA Youth Forum. Attended by 17 SA Youth Forum members.	• Recognition of specific support systems and enablers required by young people under each of the five priority areas. • Interpretation of what public health means to young people: "Public health isn't just about diseases and injuries, it's also about how we live, connect and cope." • Consideration of additional public health issues raised that may sit outside the broad priority areas.

For more information

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