

Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2011–2015

Summary

Victoria's plan for healthy people and healthy communities

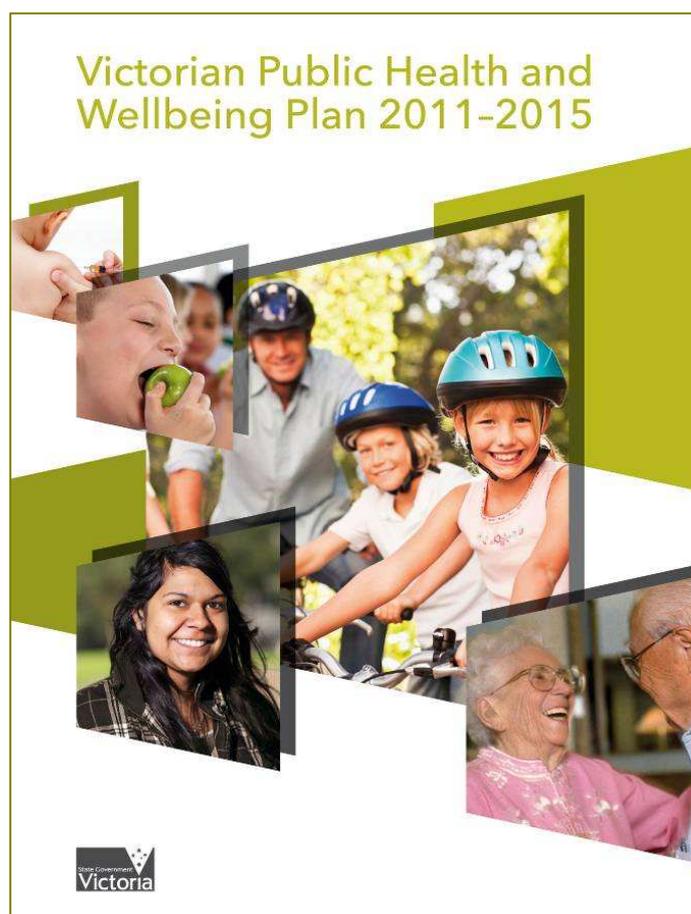
The Minister for Health released the first Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan on 1 September 2011. The goal of the plan is to improve the health and wellbeing of all Victorians by engaging communities in prevention, and by strengthening systems for health protection, health promotion and preventive healthcare across all sectors and levels of government.

The *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2011–2015* provides the basis for building a statewide prevention system – complementary to the healthcare system – that will be more effective, better coordinated and sustainable over the longer term.

Escalating rates of chronic disease place a huge burden on the Victorian community, yet many of these conditions are largely preventable. For Victorians to be as healthy as possible, a strong focus on prevention is needed. An effective prevention system, together with a strong and responsive healthcare system, can help reduce the growing burden of chronic disease and injury we are now facing, and can support people to enjoy a greater sense of wellbeing.

This first Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan outlines the key components of this statewide system, which will help position Victoria as a world leader in prevention. The plan articulates the core elements of an approach to prevention that will build on current strengths, and, at the same time, provide a solid foundation to meet the challenges of the future.

Download the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/prevention/vphwplan>



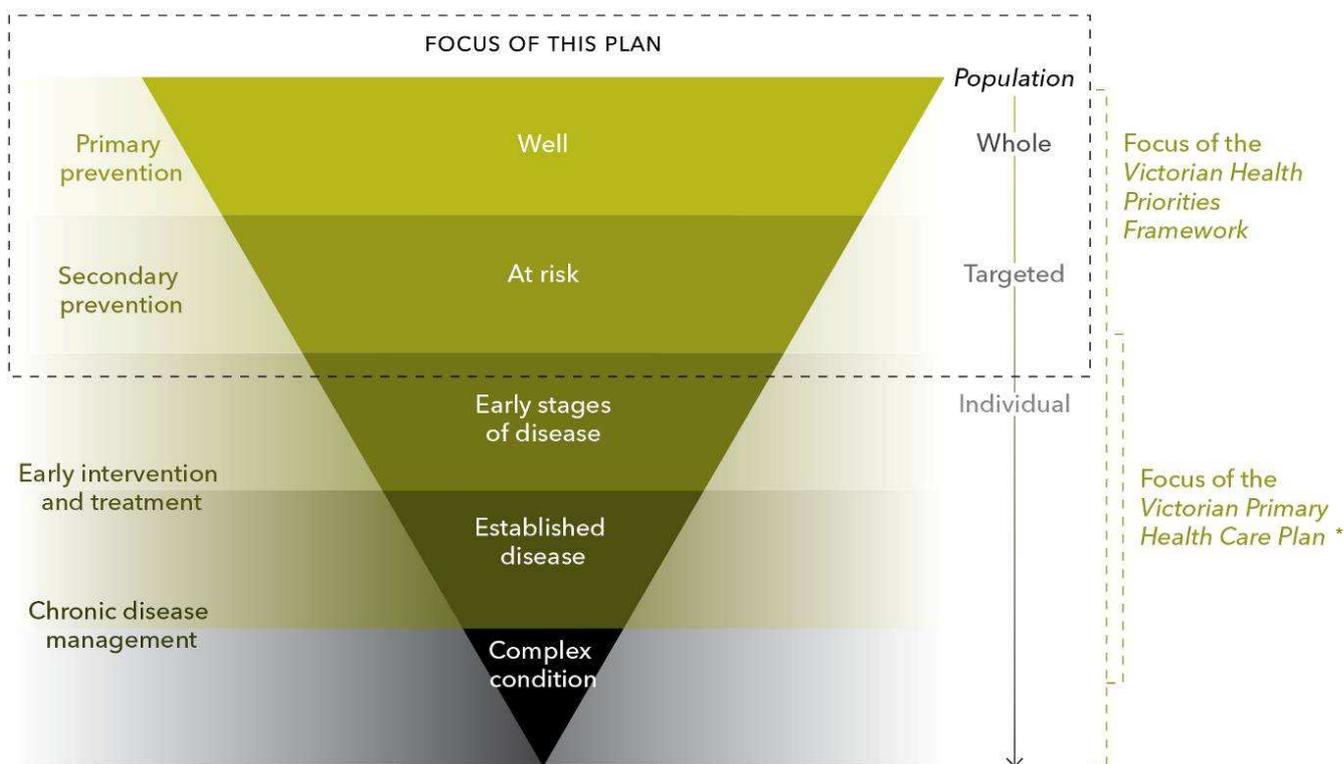
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The plan in context

The plan has been developed to meet the requirement under Victoria's *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* that a state public health and wellbeing plan be developed every four years. The alignment of municipal public health and wellbeing plans with this state plan is also required under the Act.

The plan is a companion document to the *Victorian Health Priorities Framework 2012–2022*, which articulates the long-term planning and development priorities for Victoria's health system.

The focus of the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan:



* The Victorian Primary Health Care Plan is currently under development

A plan for all Victorians

By taking a whole-of-government, whole-of-system, and whole-of-life approach, the plan provides the basis to improve outcomes for individuals, the healthcare system, and the wider economy and society.

The intention of this approach is to ensure that health improvement opportunities, underpinned by evidence of effectiveness, are provided at all stages of the life course: from the early years, through childhood and adolescence, adulthood, and into older age. The aim is to achieve lasting improvements in the health of all Victorians, with a particular emphasis on the needs of those who are worse off and experiencing poorer health than others in our community.

Health is important – to each of us as individuals, to our families and to the Victorian community. Good health also contributes to workforce productivity and participation, and a strong economy.

Partners in prevention

Partnerships are integral to achieving improvements in population health and wellbeing. Victoria has a well-established foundation of collaborative local, regional and statewide partnerships that focus on improving public health and wellbeing. Building on the strengths of these existing partnerships is a major focus of this plan.

The plan identifies the contributions made by our partners in prevention and highlights that improving health really is everybody's business:

- individuals, families and communities
- health sector, non-government organisations, researchers, private and voluntary sectors
- all levels and sectors of government.

Priorities for the next four years

The plan outlines opportunities for progress in public health and wellbeing over the next four years through the following priorities:

Building a sustainable prevention system

Preventive health requires a system through which interventions can be coordinated, sustained and supported, in the same way that healthcare requires a comprehensive and integrated system to manage illness. The design of an effective prevention system requires attention to a number of key building blocks, including governance and leadership, information systems, financing and resource allocation, partnerships, and workforce development.

Supporting key settings for action and engagement

To be effective, strategies to improve health and wellbeing require the support and engagement of those affected; this is often best achieved in the settings where people live, learn, work and play, or seek healthcare for themselves or their families. Four priority settings are identified as major focal points for action: early childhood and education settings, local communities and environments, workplaces, and health services.



Strengthening established public health practice

The plan continues to emphasise the importance of the traditional domains of public health: health protection, health promotion and preventive healthcare.

- Protecting the health of Victorians by ensuring that risks to health are identified, investigated and controlled without delay.
- Keeping Victorians well by providing individuals with the information and skills required to make healthy choices, and supporting communities to facilitate living a healthy lifestyle.
- Prevention through screening and the early detection of illness combined with the provision of access to early care and treatment.

The table overleaf presents these priorities within a structural overview of the plan. The overview outlines the *why*, *who*, *how*, *where* and *what* of the plan, and the nine overarching strategic directions that the opportunities and actions identified within the plan will help bring to life.

Overview of the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2011–2015

WHY →	<p><i>Goal: To improve the health and wellbeing of all Victorians by engaging communities in prevention and by strengthening systems for health protection, health promotion and preventive healthcare across all sectors and levels of government</i></p>					
WHO →	<p>Partners in prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – State and local government – Health sector, non-government organisations, researchers, private sector and others – Individuals and families 					
	<p>Strategic directions 2011-2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Build prevention infrastructure to support evidence-based policy and practice – Develop leadership and strengthen partnerships to maximise prevention efforts across sectors – Review financing and priority-setting mechanisms to ensure available resources are based on population need and potential for impact – Develop effective modes of engagement and delivery of evidence-based interventions in key settings – Strengthen local government capacity to develop and implement public health and wellbeing plans – Improve health service capacity to promote health and wellbeing – Integrate statewide policy and planning to strengthen public health and wellbeing interventions – Increase the health literacy of all Victorians and support people to better manage their own health – Tailor interventions for priority populations to reduce disparities in health outcomes 					
HOW →	<p>Strengthen the prevention system</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Governance and leadership</td> <td>Information systems</td> <td>Financing and resource allocation</td> <td>Partnerships</td> <td>Workforce development</td> </tr> </table>	Governance and leadership	Information systems	Financing and resource allocation	Partnerships	Workforce development
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WHERE →	<p>Priority settings for action and engagement</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Local communities and environments</td> <td>Workplaces</td> <td>Early childhood and education settings</td> <td>Health services</td> </tr> </table>	Local communities and environments	Workplaces	Early childhood and education settings	Health services	
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WHAT →	<p>Interventions</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Continue to protect the health of Victorians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Communicable disease prevention and control – Immunisation – Environmental health – Food safety – Incident and emergency response </td> <td> <p>Keep people well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Healthy eating – Physical activity – Tobacco control – Oral health – Alcohol and other drug use – Sexual and reproductive health promotion – Mental health promotion – Injury prevention – Skin cancer prevention </td> <td> <p>Strengthen preventive healthcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cancer screening – Newborn screening – Early intervention </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Continue to protect the health of Victorians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Communicable disease prevention and control – Immunisation – Environmental health – Food safety – Incident and emergency response 	<p>Keep people well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Healthy eating – Physical activity – Tobacco control – Oral health – Alcohol and other drug use – Sexual and reproductive health promotion – Mental health promotion – Injury prevention – Skin cancer prevention 	<p>Strengthen preventive healthcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cancer screening – Newborn screening – Early intervention 		
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	<p>Monitoring and review</p>					