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| **Strategic Community Development Collaboration, Ecology and Health Promotion** |
| **Background/Objectives** The paper examines the value add of the Municipal Health & Wellbeing Plans (MHW) Plans, a legislative requirement on local government in Victoria, Australia. This legislation has been in place in Victoria, Australia since 2008[[1]](#footnote-1).  The **municipal integrated planning environment provides future opportunities for strategic community development action for improved of ecology and health outcomes.** MHWPs is a multisectoral planning tool which can accommodate collaborative policy interdependencies and outcomes planning. It can provide a way to encourage a truer representation of the policy interdependencies between ecology and a community’s health and wellbeing. The planning environment for these plans has altered. They are now being developed in a more integrated way across **all** business divisions of the local governments. This integrated approach is seen as a strong movement forward to 'whole of organisation', collaborative and 'systemic' approach to implementation and outcome success across the organisation.  **Objectives**  Using a state government and population health lens, this work:   1. participated and reviewed the MHW planning across the Inner East area of Melbourne, Australia over a 6-month period[[2]](#footnote-2) 2. identified progress toward a less siloed organisational systems approach and 3. sought out opportunities to maximise policy outcome interdependencies between ecology and health outcomes in communities.   **Methods** This work was conducted over a 6-month period while a member of a cross sector team. The work examined the development and content analysis of Municipal Health Plans in four local areas.  **Results** All four (4) Councils opted to 'utilise the Environmental for Health' [[3]](#footnote-3)Framework for the MHWPs. Some Councils more than others, explored the links between natural systems and social and health and well-being or even economic outcomes. The review found a trend towards more integrated planning in the Health and Well Being platform, where there are stronger cross disciplinary approaches to health and well-being, and supportive tools and processes being developed.  **Discussion** Some Councils are more progressive than others on shared outcomes. Persistent findings found; system thinking, planning for place, and collaboration in action, are needed to progress an integrated approach to community health and well-being planning.  **Key Words**: policy interdependencies, Municipal Health & Wellbeing Plans, strategic eco-health integrative planning, community development |

1. Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, downloaded 31st January 2018

   https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/health-strategies/public-health-wellbeing-plan [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This is core monitoring work of local government as a funded agency, by the Department of Health and Human Services. The purpose of the review was to gauge the alignment of Council's actions with their overall strategic objectives and the priority actions in the MHWPs. A supplementary objective was to consider the alignment with the Health's Divisional Branch Operating plan (BOM) and health outcomes at the state level. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Focusing on the determinants of health that lie within the built, social, economic and natural environments, this framework guides the development of Municipal Public Health Plans (MPHPs), a function of local councils determined by the Victorian Health Act. Evaluation of Environments for Health Municipal ... - Health.vic.gov.au

   [https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/.../%7B2B5D14A3-6F62-4443-868A-9C9B84940272%](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/.../%7B2B5D14A3-6F62-4443-868A-9C9B84940272%25)... [↑](#footnote-ref-3)