

# CITY OF PORT PHILLIP

## Integrating Sexual & Reproductive Health in Local Government Health & Wellbeing

This resource has been designed to support the City of Port Phillip to integrate and align sexual and reproductive health promotion and activities within its Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and annual Action Plans as relevant.

### Your Plan



WHISE has conducted an analysis of your Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and identified the following leverage points as potential opportunities to align and integrate sexual and reproductive health:

#### 1 – Inclusive Port Phillip health and wellbeing outcomes

Inclusive communities enable improved health and wellbeing outcomes for all members of our community by working to address inequities and valuing diversity.

#### 2 – Liveable Port Phillip health and wellbeing outcomes

Liveable environments create a foundation for good health and wellbeing for everyone. This includes well-designed places that have safer access to quality open space, amenities and services.

### Potential actions



WHISE has identified the following as potential actions for implementation, in order for the City of Port Phillip to integrate and align sexual and reproductive health within its Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan:

- Partner with WHISE to host capacity-building for healthcare practitioners in your local government area to ensure healthcare services are inclusive for diverse communities, including LGBTIQ+ identifying people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and people with disabilities.

Collaborate with Youth Services, community organisations and/or schools in your area to support the delivery of content on sexual and reproductive health and consent for young people through inclusive respectful relationships education.

Partner with WHISE to deliver training to Council staff on applying an intersectional gender lens to primary prevention and health promotion.

Partner with WHISE to deliver Active Bystander training for the primary prevention of gender-based violence, including sexual violence and reproductive coercion.

Promote social media campaigns that celebrate diversity and inclusion, such as IDAHOBIT or Wear It Purple Day, or that promote equality and respect, such as 16 Days of Activism and International Day of Zero Tolerance to FGM/C.
- Promote access to the Sexual and Reproductive Health Hubs, Monash Health Community and Peninsula Health to ensure equitable access to healthcare services for communities at risk of poorer health outcomes.

Promote cervical screening to under-screened populations in your local government area, in partnership with WHISE and other organisations.

Engage in efforts to promote community health literacy regarding reproductive health issues including pelvic pain, endometriosis, polycystic ovary syndrome and menopause, to encourage access to help-seeking and health services.

Partner with WHISE to deliver a menopause information session to staff at the City of Greater Dandenong or for community through libraries and community centres.

## What is SRH?



“**Sexual health is a state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity.**

**Sexual health requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships...**”

~ World Health Organization

## What does SRH include?

Sexual and reproductive health incorporates a range of issues and services, including but not limited to:

- ✓ Respectful relationships and prevention of gender-based violence
- ✓ Cervical screening
- ✓ Vaccinations
- ✓ Contraception
- ✓ Sexually transmissible infections
- ✓ Blood borne viruses
- ✓ Fertility and pregnancy
- ✓ Chronic reproductive health issues
  - Endometriosis
  - Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)
- ✓ Menopause
- ✓ Menstruation
- ✓ Abortion

## Local data analysis



Sexual and reproductive health outcomes vary considerably across the Southern Metropolitan Region. While there are complex factors that contribute to health and wellbeing outcomes, one of the main social determinants of sexual and reproductive health outcomes is the availability of affordable, high-quality and accessible services.

A comprehensive report of available sexual and reproductive health data for each local government area is available via the [Victorian Women's Health Atlas](#).

**However, at a high-level, residents of the City of Port Phillip require:**



Increased access to pharmacists who will dispense medical abortion, as access to these services is lower than the Victorian average.



Increased access to long-acting reversible contraception through healthcare providers, as Implanon uptake is lower than the Victoria average.



Targeted health promotion and access to testing and treatment for sexually transmissible infections and blood borne viruses, as HIV, syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhoea prevalence is higher than the Victorian average.

The development of this resource is part of the implementation of WHISE's four-year regional sexual and reproductive health strategy, [Good Health Down South 2021 - 2025](#) and Year Three and Four Action Plan (Action 2.2).

## Who is WHISE?



Women's Health in the South East (WHISE) is an intersectional feminist health promotion agency working in the Southern Metropolitan Region to promote gender equity, prevent violence against women, improve sexual and reproductive health, and mental health and wellbeing.

## Contact



For more information on WHISE's work in sexual and reproductive health, or for support to integrate sexual and reproductive health in your Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and annual Action Plans, please contact WHISE's Sexual and Reproductive Health Lead, Laura Riccardi via email: [lrccardi@whise.org.au](mailto:lrccardi@whise.org.au).