



SINGLETON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2022/2026

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Singleton Council acknowledges the Wanaruah, Wonnarua people and their custodianship of the land in the Singleton Local Government Area. We also acknowledge all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who live within the Singleton Local Government Area and pay our respect to elders past, present and future.

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FROM THE **MAYOR**

CR SUE MOORE

Acknowledging that the needs and expectations of our community change, this Singleton Community Development Strategy 2022-2026 addresses current challenges and potential future issues with actions to promote the social and cultural wellbeing of the people of Singleton.

In its simplest form, that means recognising what we all need to flourish at a basic level: inclusivity.

Developed with input from individuals and organisations across our local government area, this document presents a vision for our community to promote social inclusion and diversity, identifying areas of priority including youth; ageing; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; vulnerable children and families; homelessness; mental health; and vulnerable communities (including LGBTIQ+, people who are isolated and/or lonely, people experiencing domestic and family violence; and people from non-English speaking backgrounds).

The overwhelming message was for Singleton to be a place that is inclusive for teens and young people, with facilities that are accessible for the ageing population and people with a disability, and where children can thrive and grow.

This document is the plan of action to deliver just that: to create a community that is inclusive, involved and engaged; respectful; and which values the contribution of all members regardless of age, gender, ability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or cultural background.

Most of all, this is our commitment to work collaboratively to recognise everyone for what we share in common, to celebrate our differences, and ensure positive outcomes for all.

Cr Sue Moore
Mayor of Singleton



FROM THE **GENERAL MANAGER**

JASON LINNANE

Council's purpose is to create community, and nowhere else can we have such a direct human impact than the Singleton Community Development Strategy 2022-2026.

The pages of this document are a snapshot of the real people we serve every day, going beyond the basic provision of services and facilities to ensure our community is inclusive for everyone regardless of age, gender, ability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or cultural background.

Informed by direct feedback from our community, we have set a vision to empower the people of our local government area to be healthy, inclusive, connected, resilient and prosperous through the facilitation of partnerships to deliver programs and services.

Most importantly, we have tangible actions and associated measures to track our progress and report back to our community through our Annual Report.

Specific actions include acknowledging the Wanaruah/Wonnarua people as the traditional owners of this land, and

delivering outcomes that include an increase in knowledge understanding of the Wanaruah/Wonnarua people, their lands and their culture.

Participation in recreation, lifelong learning and employment or volunteer opportunities at all stages of life are encouraged; young people are empowered and resilient with opportunities for education, employment, recreation, sport, arts and culture; and access to safe, affordable and appropriate housing is available for all.

Of course, all of these issues are complex, and the Strategy does not pretend to be an easy solution.

But this is an important document to help pave the way, and a further commitment that in our work to create community in service of the people of Singleton, no one will be left behind.

Jason Linnane
General Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has had an active Community Development program for decades and prides itself on building the capacity of the Singleton Community. Collaborative programs, training and events have occurred, and strong relationships developed. Council also acknowledges that the needs of the community and its expectations change and as such councils focus needs to adapt to these changing needs. This strategy will address current challenges and potential future issues affecting the social, cultural and community wellbeing of the Singleton Community. It will identify opportunities for council investment and strategies to attract external funding sources. It will help drive the direction of council services and committees to ensure quality outcomes for the Singleton community.

While community development has the potential to look at whole of community, for the purposes of this plan the following have been identified as areas of priority.

Youth (12-24 years)

Ageing (60+ years)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Vulnerable Children and Families

Homelessness

Mental Health

Vulnerable communities

Vulnerable communities include:

LGBTIQA+, People who are isolated and/or lonely, people experiencing domestic and family violence, people from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Please note Disability is also an identified priority area, however this is covered in the [Disability Inclusion Action Plan](#).

In addition, there are key areas of influence that have also been identified as being essential considerations when addressing these priority areas, they include: health and wellbeing, collaborative approach and transport.

BACKGROUND

This Community Development Strategy has been created from reviewing the existing Community Development Management Plan. The Community Development Management Plan consists of a collation of the following previous plans of Council.

[Singleton Child Friendly Strategy](#)

[Singleton Multicultural Plan](#)

[Singleton Safety Strategy](#)

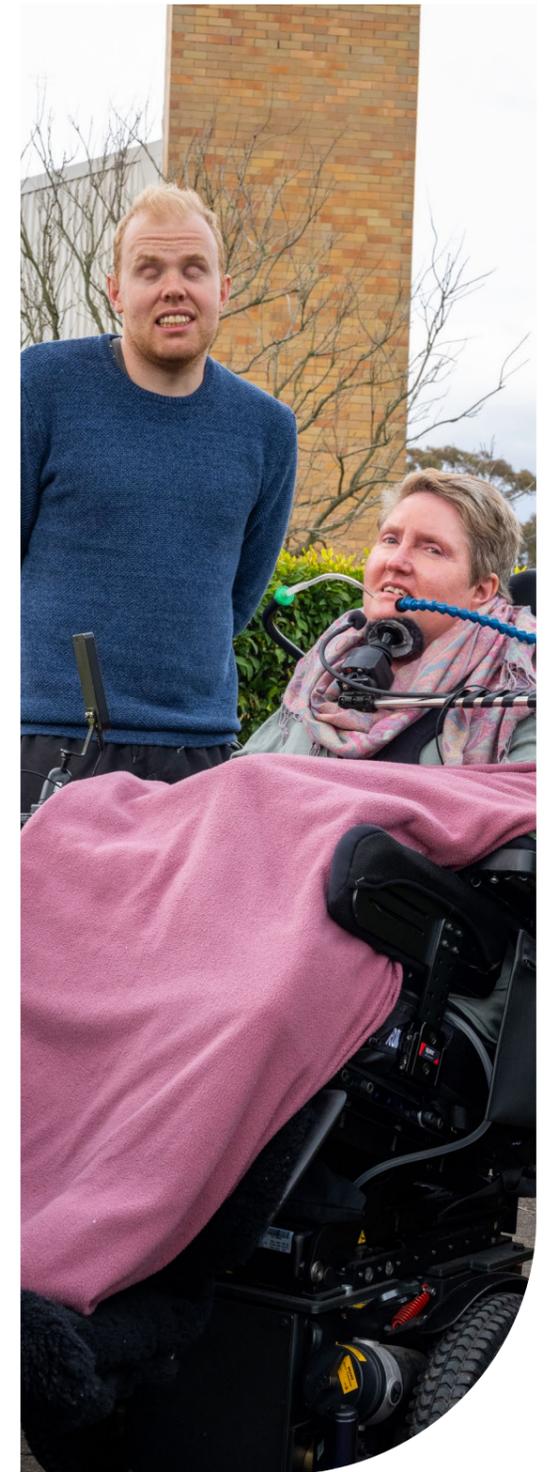
[Lifestyle Plan for Older People](#)

[Disability Access Plan 2020](#)

[Singleton Youth Strategy 2015-2018](#)

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026 is also considered as part of this strategy development; however, its actions are not duplicated.

This strategy brings forward learnings from these plans as well as new research, data and evidence from State, National and International plans, policies, and strategies. This is to ensure the community development work undertaken by Council meets both the most up to date, best practice methodologies as well as the expectations and needs of our community.



VISION

Community Development Strategy vision is to empower our community to be healthy, inclusive, connected, resilient and prosperous through the facilitation of partnerships to deliver community programs and services.

Councils overarching vision is to be Vibrant, Progressive, Resilient, Connected and Sustainable and this will aid in achieving the vision of this strategy.

What will achieving this vision look like?

A community that is inclusive, involved and engaged. A community that values and respects the contribution of all community members, regardless of age, gender, ability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or cultural background. As a collective, we will work collaboratively to achieve positive outcomes for the community.

OUR ROLE

Council has multiple roles in achieving the vision of this strategy.

 **Deliver**
As part of its core business, Council provides these services and assets

 **Collaborate**
Council will support and partner with community, government and private organisations to deliver benefits and services to the community.

 **Advocate**
Council will continue to influence others to create positive change for our community through advocacy and our advocacy agenda.

 **Regulate**
Council will continue to regulate activities as required by our legislations

THE PLANNING + POLICY LANDSCAPE

The planning and policy landscape for community development is vast with many diverse elements.

The key plans considered as part of the development of this Strategy were:

- Ageing Well in NSW: Seniors Strategy 2021–2031
- Regional NSW Youth Action Plan Empowering youth in regional NSW 2020
- Healthy, Safe and Well: A Strategic Health Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2014-24
- Multicultural NSW Strategic Plan 2021-2025
- NSW Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023
- National Agreement on Closing the Gap July 2020
- NSW Living Well: A Strategic Plan for Mental Health in NSW 2014 – 2024
- Singleton Community, Delivery and Operational Plan
- Singleton Socio-Economic Development Strategy 2020-2024
- Singleton Community + Economic Development Fund Policy
- Singleton Council Youth Services Policy
- Singleton Council Volunteering Policy

Additional plans and policies can be seen in Reference and Supporting Documents.



UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

Sustainable Development Goals



The United Nations has developed 17 Global Goals (officially known as the Sustainable Development Goals).

These goals have been agreed upon by world leaders and Singleton Council acknowledges that it can do its part to help achieve these goals.

While various departments look at different goals, for this strategy the following have been identified as those most relevant to community development giving Council the opportunity to partner with the community and advocate for:

- No Poverty
- Zero Hunger
- Good Health + Wellbeing
- Quality Education
- Gender Equality
- Reduce Inequalities
- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Ultimately it is Council goal to work with the community to ensure 'no one is left behind'.

KEY AGENCY + STAKEHOLDERS

True community development cannot be done without input and buy in from a variety of stakeholders, likewise this strategy could not be developed, implemented, or reviewed without the contribution of various agencies and stakeholders.

These stakeholders include but are not limited to:

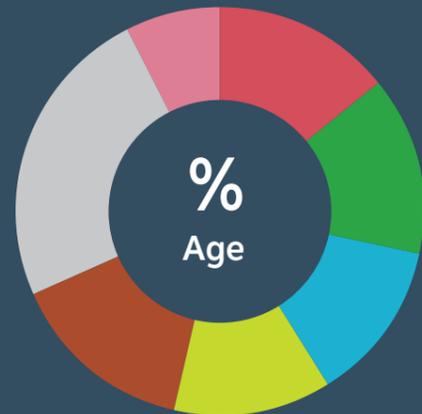
- Department of Communities and Justice (NSW DCJ)
- Hunter Joint Organisation
- Hunter New England Health
- Singleton Interagency
- MindLink Upper Hunter
- Local community service providers
- Aboriginal service providers
- Wanaruah Land Council.
- Community groups
- Community members and volunteers
- Council Committees, including Disability Advisory Committee and Singleton Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee
- Relevant Government agencies



OUR COMMUNITY



21,445
Population



- 14.20% 0-9
- 14.40% 10-19
- 12.70% 20-29
- 12.40% 30-39
- 14.80% 40-49
- 24.20% 50 - 69
- 7.30% 70+



Where people live:

Singleton Downtown	5,472
Singleton Heights	4,882
Huntermuir	2,538
Gowrie and Macdougalls Hill	459
The Retreat	976
East Branxton / Dalwood	1,200
Rural East	3,446
Rural North	1,938
Rural South West	1,829
Broke Village	233



Top 5 Country of birth, other than Australia, living in Singleton LGA

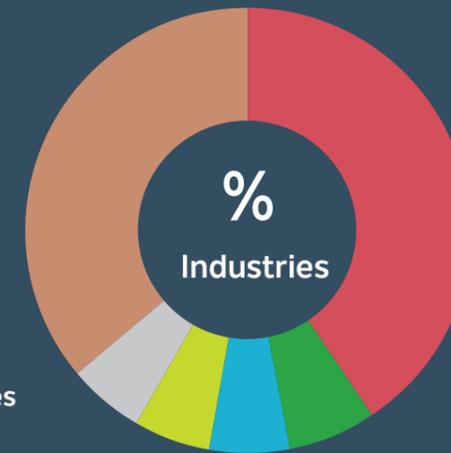
New Zealand	410
England	345
Philippines	187
South Africa	135
India	80

Other Language apart from English spoken at home, people living in Singleton LGA

Afrikaans	89
Tagalog	78
Filipino	54
Vietnamese	45
Mandarin	45



16,325
jobs within Singleton



Main Employing Industries

- 40.59% Mining
- 6.50% Public Administration + Safety
- 5.82% Construction
- 5.70% Retail Trade
- 5.38% Accommodation + Food Services
- 36.01% Other



Number of people born in predominately non-English speaking country living in Singleton

561 Resident in Australia for five years or more

133 Resident in Australia for five years or more



4
Protected Aboriginal Places



6,347
Recorded Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites



156
Heritage items in Singleton LGA



37
Historic buildings on the Singleton Heritage Walk



4,893km²
LGA area



90 reported domestic violence related assaults in 2021

134 reported intimidation, stalking and harassment offences in 2021

56 breached apprehended violence orders in 2021



19% of households in Singleton LGA are single occupation

17.5 % people aged 18 years felt that they had experienced discrimination

1,926 people receiving an Age Pension 2021

In 2016 it was estimated 37 people were homeless while 1563 were at risk of homelessness



168 drug offences occurred in 2020 45% of those were possession/use of cannabis and 24% possession/ use of amphetamines



9.6% population are living with high or very high psychological distress



3812 people participate in voluntary work.

4.5% (1025) have a profound or severe disability in Singleton LGA



52.3% People aged 18 years and over felt very safe/safe walking alone in local area after dark (modelled estimates)



Our Aboriginal Community

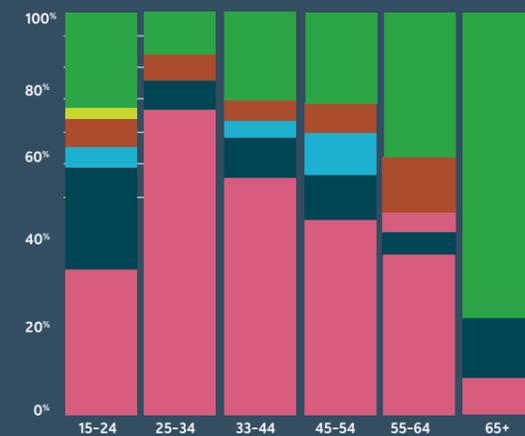
8.7% (1,864) of the Singleton Population identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Aboriginal Median Age 21 v 37 of general population

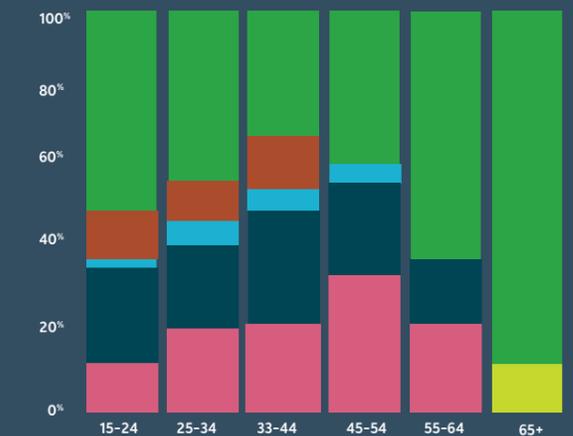
3% of Aboriginal adults had a degree or higher compared with 25% of general population

11.7% Aboriginal people are living in crowded dwellings

Aboriginal men (15+) Singleton



Aboriginal women (15+) Singleton



● Not in labour force ● Employed but off work
● Not stated ● Employed part-time
● Unemployed ● Employed full time

Data Sources

Aboriginal Affairs 2016 Community Portrait: Singleton LGA
 Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 and 2021 Census
 Australian Bureau of Statistics: Modelled estimates from the ABS 2014 General Social Survey
 Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, 2021: Estimating the population at-risk of homelessness in small areas
 NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOSCAR)
 NSW Government, Department of Communities and Justice, 2018: Their Futures Matter Human Services Data Set

COMMUNITY INPUT

The development of this strategy has been based on input received from the community and relevant stakeholders.

Consultation occurred via:



Direct community consultation through the Community Strategic Planning engagement process.



Online survey targeting local service providers.



Targeted face to face consultation with key stakeholders.

What we learnt from the Community Strategic Plan Engagement Process

In 2021 Council undertook extensive community consultation as part of its community engagement to develop the Singleton Community Strategic Plan 2032.

This engagement was conducted using surveys, workshops, roadshows, dotmocracy, shadowgrams, children’s art competitions and feedback through social media.

Overall, there were over 2000 interactions through the consultation process.

The feedback we received relevant to the Community Development Strategy included:



Community feedback

“Council should promote social inclusion and diversity”

“Make Singleton more teen and young people inclusive”

“Focus on the needs of an ageing population and people with a disability with accessing our local community facilities”

“Community is important”

“More assistance for our vulnerable community members”

“Singleton a place where children can thrive”

“A town full of diversity and energy driven by optimism”



The top 4 areas of focus from the Community Strategic Plan as they apply to community development where:



Young People



Health and Wellbeing with a focus on mental health



Older People



Community Events

What we learnt from the targeted consultation

Targeted consultation through an online survey and face to face meetings was undertaken with local service providers and key stakeholders. **46 people** with a local services background contributed to the development of this plan, **24 via an online survey** and **22 face to face** consultation. To compare data and to see if any areas of concern may have been missed, data from a 2020 survey for the Singleton Interagency was also utilised that included **65 responses** from local service providers and government agencies.



From the survey the following was identified:



Top 5 areas of focus for the Community Development Strategy:

- Vulnerable Children + Families
- Homelessness
- Domestic and Family Violence
- Mental Health
- Keeping older people active + engaged



The top 4 issues facing those who use services are:

- Knowing what services are available to them
- Transport
- Eligibility to access service
- Securing appropriate housing



Identified gaps in service included:

- Direct youth and mental health support outside of business hours
- Housing availability including emergency housing
- Services for young people
- Mental health services particularly for chronic or severe mental health



Biggest issues experienced by service providers include:

- Consistency of funding
- Staffing including being able to find and keep staff
- Knowledge of other services and referral pathways

ABORIGINAL+ TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

Overview

Singleton LGA is located on the Wanaruah/Wonnarua Nation. The Wonnarua / Wanaruah people are the traditional landowners of the Singleton area, and their lands extend throughout the Hunter Valley. The Wonnarua / Wanaruah people have occupied the Upper Hunter for at least 30,000 years, with traditional knowledge holding that occupation extends back to the early stages of the Dreaming.

Today 8.7% or 1864 people in Singleton identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in the 2020 Census.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in Singleton is much younger than the community combined with a median age of 21 compared with 37 years.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience a disproportionate level of disadvantage compared to the general population and working together for positive change is needed to reduce, with the aim to eliminate, the disadvantage experienced. This disadvantage is felt in areas of health, education, mortality, employment, and housing among others.

Too often the focus for services including government is on the disadvantage and closing the gap and to little is on the strengths and teaching available from the Aboriginal community. As a collective, communities could learn a great deal from connecting to country, the value of family and respect for elders that are ingrained in Aboriginal Culture. Aboriginal people themselves have said that in having the ability to connect to their culture combined with the ability to have better self-determination and input into policy that affect them, will see the greatest improvements to the Aboriginal community. Supporting Aboriginal people, communities, and organisations to take the lead and empowering them to take on challenges in ways that suits their community best, will see the best outcomes for Aboriginal people living in the Singleton LGA.

Singleton Council is committed to closing the gap, through implementation of relevant actions, and utilising the strengths of and working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to achieve the improved outcomes.

PRIORITY AREAS

Each priority area has its own unique strengths and concerns, it's important to look at those individually while at the same time address them holistically and not in isolation. The priority areas are addressed below giving a simplistic overview of the area and information relevant specific to Singleton LGA.

Key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Specific Plans +Strategies

- Australian Local Government Association Closing the Gap Implementation Plan September 2021
- National Agreement on Closing the Gap July 2020
- Australian Government Closing the Gap Commonwealth Implementation Plan 2021
- NSW Implementation Plan for Closing the Gap 2021
- The NSW public sector Aboriginal employment strategy NSW Working together for a better future 2019–2025
- NSW Government Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) - What Aboriginal children and young people have to say 2019

Committee: Singleton Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee



Action	Council's Role	Stakeholder	Indicator of Success
Work with the Singleton Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee to ensure the Wanaruah/ Wonnarua people are acknowledged as the traditional owners of this land.	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee • Council Staff 	Welcome to Country protocol followed for all Council events, services, and publications.
Singleton Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee to provide guidance supporting Council to incorporate respectful cultural practices in working with stakeholders and across Council operations.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee • Council Staff 	Singleton Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee meetings held minimum 4 times a year.
Implement relevant National Closing the Gap initiatives.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee • Aboriginal community member • Aboriginal Service Providers & organisations • Health and Employment providers • Council Staff 	<p>Relevant Closing the Gap initiatives reflected in Aboriginal Reconciliation action plan (RAP).</p> <p>Actions identified in RAP completed</p>

Action	Council's Role	Stakeholder	Indicator of Success
Hold an event for Reconciliation Week	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee Community members Council Staff 	Event held and streamed with a minimum of 200 interactions (in person and online)
Support the NAIDOC committee to hold a NAIDOC week event	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee Community members Council Staff NAIDOC committee 	<p>Council is a member of the NAIDOC committee</p> <p>Funding secured to hold event</p> <p>NAIDOC event held with 350 participants</p>
Investigate the feasibility of having a specific Aboriginal Community Development position within Singleton Council.	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Staff 	Position proposal developed for Indigenous Community Development role within Singleton Council

Desired State /What does success look like:

Implementation of this strategy in collaboration with relevant services and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-indigenous community will see improvements in health, employment and education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It will also help close

the gap and create better standards of living for current and future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In addition, this strategy aims to see an increase in knowledge, understanding and respect of the Wanaruah/Wonnarua people, their lands and their culture.



AGEING

Overview

In the 2020 Census 4405 people were aged over 60 in Singleton or 20% of the population. People over 60 contribute to the economic and social fabric of our community, they volunteer, provide free childcare to grandchildren, run local service groups and for some they do all this while still participating in the work force.

While the community gets to benefit from the ageing population, for people who are aged over 60, they will inevitably experience some form of disadvantage and the chances of that only increases the older people get. Increase in health issues, a greater chance of experiencing disability (1 in 2), experiencing ageism or age discrimination, abuse, isolation and/or loneliness are all possible as we age.

Ultimately everyone wants to age well, to be active, healthy, connected and valued. For people aged over 60 outside factors can influence their ability to achieve this such as the cost of living, affordable or adaptable housing, availability of affordable transport options and access to services.

By addressing these issues, it can help people to age well in place. Working together as a community to provide opportunities for people aged over 60 to continue to thrive in their life, while at the same time helping to address disadvantage faced by the same demographic is essential to providing the best outcome for people over 60.

Committees

- Singleton Interagency
- Disability Advisory Committee

Key Ageing Specific Plans and Strategies

- NSW Government Plan 'Ageing Well in NSW – Seniors Strategy 2021-2031



Action	Council's Role	Stakeholder	Indicator of Success
Advocate for an Aged Crime Prevention Officer to be based at Singleton Police Station, Hunter Valley Police District.	Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police • Council • Community 	Aged Crime Prevention Officer based at Singleton Police Station, Hunter Valley Police District
In collaboration with service providers promote falls prevention information.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Singleton Interagency • Community 	Falls prevention promoted to the community yearly
Collaborate with relevant organisations to promote disaster readiness, with a focus on those most vulnerable.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Emergency organisations • Community 	Relevant organisation has up to date list of vulnerable people to contact in case of emergency
In collaboration with community and service providers recognise Seniors Week.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singleton Interagency • Council • Community 	Senior's week events or programs throughout the LGA are held every year
Continue to provide lifelong learning programs at the Singleton Library.	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Community 	3 Lifelong learning programs provided at the Singleton Library each year

Desired State /What does success look like:

All Seniors in the Singleton LGA have access to what they need to age well, to be active, healthy, connected and valued. That public spaces and programs

encourage participation in recreation, lifelong learning and employment or volunteer opportunities at all stages of life.

MENTAL HEALTH

Overview

Almost half of all Australian adults will face mental ill health during their lives. Mental illness or mental ill health is a health problem that significantly affects how a person feels, thinks, behaves, and interacts with other people.

Mental Health has a huge impact on every aspect of a person's life. It affects behaviour, physical health, work, and relationships, as well as the people around them. It can affect anyone at any stage of life.

During 2017/2018, 2202 people (955 male & 1247 female) aged over 18 were living with high or very high psychological distress which is approximately 9.6% of the Singleton population. While we don't know how many young people experience mental illness in Singleton, we know that in 2017/2018 13% children under 15 and 17% young people aged 15-18 either themselves or a parent used NSW mental health services (hospital or ambulatory) (Source: Social Health Atlas of Australia: New South Wales & Australian Capital Territory).

While prevalence of mental illness is similar between urban areas and rural and remote communities, the rates of self-harm and suicide increase with remoteness. Suggesting that more needs to be done to address mental health in regional and rural communities.

Singleton Council can assist with mental health through advocating for adequate health services as well as through promoting and having programs and spaces for healthy living that are known to build mental resilience and wellbeing. Including but not limited to recreation and sport spaces, art and cultural programs, cycleways and footpaths for walking, events, opportunities for people to get together and safe youth spaces like the Youth Venue for young people to use and access resources.

For more information on mental health resources please see mental health service navigation tool at [W singleton.nsw.gov.au](http://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au)

Key Mental Health Specific Plans and Strategies

- The NSW Aboriginal Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025
- Living Well in Focus 2020-2024 - A strategic plan for community recovery, wellbeing, and mental health in NSW
- Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan 2017 to 2022
- National Mental Health and Wellbeing Pandemic Response Plan
- The NSW Strategic Framework and Workforce Plan for Mental Health 2018-2022

Committees

- MindLink Upper Hunter (formally known as the Upper Hunter Mental Health Interagency)
- Local Health Committee



Action	Council's Role	Stakeholder	Indicator of Success
Mental Health services including prevention programs are supported by Singleton Council.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mindlink Upper Hunter members • NSW Health • Council • Community 	Mindlink Upper Hunter Interagency held minimum 4 times a year.
Collaborate with MindLink Upper Hunter to advocate for further mental health funding that meets the needs and gaps in service in Singleton	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mindlink Upper Hunter members • Council • Community 	Funding applications for mental health services supported by Singleton Council.
Work with the Singleton Community and service providers to reduce the stigma around mental health	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mindlink Upper Hunter members • NSW Health • Council • Community 	Program or event undertaken that works towards reducing stigma around mental health.
Mental Health Programs and services are promoted by Council	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mindlink Upper Hunter members • NSW Health • Council • Community 	Mental Health Navigation tool maintained on Councils website
In collaboration with the community and services encourage self-care as a way to promote positive mental health wellbeing	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mindlink Upper Hunter members • NSW Health • Council • Community 	Self-care promoted as a way of supporting mental health wellbeing.

Desired State /What does success look like:

This strategy aims to work towards the ideal that anyone needing access to any form of mental health service or support has access to affordable, quality care in a timely manner. Anyone who has a mental health issue feels supported and are comfortable

to reach out to get the help they need to be healthy. Suicide rates reduce and those experiencing suicidal thoughts know where to go for support. Mental health is seen as any other health conditions that requires both medical and non-medical support.



YOUTH

Overview

Youth for the purposes of this strategy refers to young people aged between 12-24 years in line with other relevant state plans. In 2021, 3463 people were aged between 12-24 years or 16% of the total Singleton population.

Youth is a key transition period in a person's life, it is a time for education, employment and first times as adulthood approaches. In Singleton 83.6% of young people were undertaking education or were employed in 2016 (below the state average of 85%). While we don't have specific data for Singleton in 2020 an [Australian Government Health and Wellbeing report](#) for young people stated in 2019, two-thirds (66%) of young people aged 14-17 had never had a full serve of alcohol and that the proportion of 14-17 year olds consuming 5 or more drinks at least monthly was 8.9%. The proportion of people aged 14-17 who had never smoked in 2019 was 97%. In 2018 most students in Years 10, 11 and 12 had engaged in some form of sexual activity, from deep kissing (74%) to sexual intercourse (47%), one-third (33%) of students reported 'sexting' in the previous 2 months and 79% had accessed the internet to find answers to sexual health information.

In 2018-19 21% of all people receiving Medicare-subsidised mental health specific services were young people aged 12-24.

The Singleton Community through the consultation process for Councils Community Strategic Plan identified youth as an area of priority for Council. Mental health, a lack of recreation opportunities, employment and services were raised. We also know that young people experience high levels of homelessness often in the form of 'couch surfing' or living in cars, can struggle to access further education due to accessibility and affordability, can become disengaged from school, experience bullying/cyberbullying, can feel lonely and isolated, feel 'not good enough' and experience stress, especially around school performance and finishing school.

While it is all too easy to take a needs-based approach when it comes to Youth, that would be a disservice to young people. Young people are innovative, creative, energetic, capable agents of change – no matter what their background, or where they live. Council and the wider community recognise, that tapping into this energy and knowledge is important to guide decision making around youth improvements and opportunities.

Committees

- Singleton Youth Action Team
- Singleton Interagency
- Singleton Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee.

Key Youth Specific Plans and Strategies

- Regional NSW Youth Action Plan Empowering youth in regional NSW
- Writing Themselves In 4 2021 The health and wellbeing of LGBTQA+ young people in Australia.
- Department of Education, Skills, and Employment 2021 Australian Youth Policy Framework.
- Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) The NSW strategic plan for children and young people 2022-24.



Action	Council's Role	Stakeholder	Indicator of Success
Give young people the opportunity to have input into Council decision making.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young People aged 12-24 Council 	Youth Action Team Established
Review Singleton Council Youth Services.	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young People aged 12-24 Council Youth Services 	Business review undertaken of Youth Services to address unmet needs within the Singleton Youth Community.
Provide support program to young people.	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young People aged 12-24 Council DCJ Counsellor Schools 	<p>Youth Workers provide case management to 15 young people a year.</p> <p>Mental health Counsellor provides mental health support to 15 people a year.</p>
Establish the Youth Venue as a safe and welcoming place for all.	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young People aged 12-24 Council 	Youth Venue staff undertake Cultural and LGBTIQA training.
Advocate for affordable and accessible after school education options.	Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TAFE NSW Newcastle University Training providers Young People aged 12-24 Council 	<p>Education and training facilities stays on Councils Advocacy Agenda.</p> <p>Increase in the number of young people accessing post school education options.</p>
Develop programs through the Youth Venue that meet the life skills needed as identified by young people.	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young People aged 12-24 Council 	Life skills program developed and run at the Youth Venue with at least 20 young people participating

Action	Council's Role	Stakeholder	Indicator of Success
Implement youth focus recreation and leisure opportunities	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young People aged 12-24 Council Local services and organisations 	Diverse activities provided to youth in Singleton.
Support the DRIVE program	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singleton PCYC Council Young People 16-24 	DRIVE program supports 15 young people a year
Improve options for disengaged youth.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Schools Young People Police Service providers Aboriginal Service providers PCYC Community Council 	Program options developed for disengaged youth
Celebrate Youth Week	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Young People aged 12-24 	Youth week event held every year

Desired State /What does success look like:

This strategy's aim is for young people to be resilient and have the skills and knowledge they need to have a fulfilling and healthy life. Young people are empowered to participate in community, to have their say,

to be heard and valued. Young people have opportunities to participate in education, employment, recreation, sport, arts, and culture.

LGBTIQA+

Overview

Singleton Council is committed to celebrating and strengthening diversity, inclusion and belonging, and working towards a safe, harmonious, and prosperous community for all. It is important therefore to acknowledge people who identify as LGBTIQA+ as part of this celebration of diversity and to acknowledge that people who identify as LGBTIQA+ may not have the same opportunities to feel safe and included. Discrimination, stigma, lack of understanding, education and trauma can all negatively impact a person's life and their experience in our community.

Mental and emotional distress is the most prevailing issue faced by LGBTIQA+ people, with the impact of this devastating high for young people. Statistics from LGBTIQ+ Health Australia report April 2021 state; 25.6% of LGBTQA+ young people aged 16 to 17 had attempted suicide in their lifetime, 5.2% of LGBTI people aged 18 and over reported having attempted suicide in the past 12 months and 48.1% of transgender and gender diverse people aged 14 to 25 reported that they had attempted suicide in their lifetime.

Research has shown that growing up in rural communities also exacerbated some young people's feelings of being alone, unsupported and/or accepted with access to services and resources often limited or non-existent in these areas.

Singleton Council is committed to supporting every member of our community and recognise that more could be done for LGBTIQA+ members, particularly young people and will look for ways to demonstrate that Council services are a safe and welcoming space for all.

Committees

- Singleton Interagency
- MindLink Upper Hunter
- Disability Advisory Committee

Relevant LGBTIQA+ Specific Plans, Strategies and Research

- LGBTIQ+ Health Australia April 2021 Snapshot Of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Statistics for LGBTIQ+ People
- NSW LGBTIQ+ Health Strategy 2022-2027
- The Equality Project Australia LGBTIQA+ Policy Guide 2020

Action	Council's Role	Stakeholder	Indicator of Success
Promote Council spaces as a safe and welcoming place for LGBTIQA+ identifying people.	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Community 	Undertake LGBTQ+ training for Council staff Register Council services with the Welcome Here Project
Encourage local service providers and organisations to become confident in being a safe place for LGBTIQA+ identifying people.	Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singleton Interagency • Council • Community 	Local services and organisation register with the Welcome Here Project
Recognise Pride Month (June).	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singleton Interagency • Council • Community 	Pride month acknowledged and promoted by a variety of service providers and organisations.
Investigate opportunities that destigmatise gender and sexual identity, promotes inclusion and fights against homophobia and transphobia.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Local services, organisations + businesses • Council • Police 	Opportunities identified and actioned within the four years of this strategy.
LGBTIQA+ services promoted locally for ease of access.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singleton Interagency • Council • Community 	LGBTIQA+ services promoted via social media, promotional materials and in relevant newsletters, at least three times a year.

Desired State /What does success look like:

This strategy aims to create a community where everyone feels safe to be themselves exactly as they are. That people who identify as LGBTIQA+ do not experience

hate or discrimination or fear judgement but rather feel welcome and accepted as valued members of our community.

VULNERABLE CHILDREN + FAMILIES

Overview

Children and young people deserve to have the best possible start in life and to live free from abuse and neglect. Protecting children and young people from harm is everyone's job and takes a whole of community approach. All children and their families are important and valued and Council provides a number of services specifically for them such as childcare and playgrounds. However, it is our most vulnerable, those that experience abuse, neglect or are victims of circumstances such as homelessness or witnessing violence in the home that need the most support to thrive.

The Department of Communities and Justice data show that 35% of Singleton children aged 0-5 years are identified as vulnerable (Using the Their Futures Matter (TFM) Human Services Dataset). Of that 35%, 23% identify as Aboriginal. We also know that during 2016-17, 594 (9.6%) children and young people were reported to Child Protection; of those 432 where at risk of significant harm, with 94 children and young people placed in out of home care.

Advocating for vulnerable children and families and working with local services providers to gain appropriate levels of funding to meet required service levels is important to see children and families thrive. Council acknowledges its role in keeping Children safe and is committed to implementing Children Safety Standards across the organisation.

Committees

- Singleton Interagency
- Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee
- Disability Advisory Committee

Relevant Vulnerable Children + Families Specific Plans, Strategies and Research

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- NSW Child Safe Standards
- NSW Government – Department of Communities and Justice Hunter District Data Profile

Action	Council's Role	Stakeholder	Indicator of Success
Promote the voice of children by actively engaging with children about their community.	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Children and families • Community 	Consultation with children is included in Council's Community Engagement Strategy as deemed appropriate
Adequate provision of parenting programs available to residents	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local service providers • Community • Council 	Parent programs delivered in Singleton LGA.
School age children have access to a healthy breakfast improving their health, wellbeing, and ability to learn through the breakfast club programs.	Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools • Singleton Neighbourhood Centre • Community • PreSchool Centres 	Breakfast clubs operating in the Singleton LGA
Collaborate with Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) to address vulnerable children.	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCJ • Council 	Contract with DCJ implemented with identified actions for vulnerable children.

Desired State /What does success look like:

Vulnerable children who experience trauma have access to programs and services that best meet their needs to address their current situation and to empower them to live healthy successful lives. That their family or support are able to access

programs and services to help the children and themselves. Ideally reducing the number of young people who are vulnerable in Singleton is the long-term goal and purpose of targeting this vulnerable group.

HOMELESSNESS

Overview

People experiencing homelessness, and those at risk of homelessness, are among Australia's most socially and economically disadvantaged. Homelessness is known to be an issue Australia wide, and the Singleton community is not immune. Homelessness is a term that can involve a range of experiences including sleeping rough, couch surfing, sleeping in a car, living in a caravan park, relying on crisis accommodation or refuges, and living in a severely overcrowded space.

Locally the Singleton Neighbourhood Centre during December 2021 – February 2022 provided homeless services 288 times. Those services were to children, teenagers, females, and males. In addition to those already experiencing homelessness in its many forms, the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute in 2021, estimated that 1164 people aged over 15 were at risk of homelessness in the Singleton LGA. That number is expected to rise with the increase in cost of living currently being experienced.

While social housing helps to address homelessness it is important to note that there were 96 applications for Social Housing (June 2021) in Singleton.

The wait times to receive housing is between 2 and 10+ years depending on the type of housing required.

Affordable housing, as well as availability of rental properties within Singleton has been a community concern for some time. While affordable housing can be a separate issue to homelessness the lack of affordable and social housing can increase the number of people who experience homelessness in our community.

Committees

- Singleton Interagency

Relevant Homelessness Specific Plans, Strategies and Research

- NSW Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023
- Ending Homelessness in Australia November 2021 Report prepared by Paul Flatau, Leanne Lester, Ami Seivwright, Renee Teal, Jessica Dobrovic, Shannen Vallesi, Chris Hartley and Zoe Callis

Action	Council's Role	Stakeholder	Indicator of Success
Advocate for additional short term crisis accommodation in Singleton.	Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Singleton interagency • Housing + Homeless service providers • Community 	<p>Crisis accommodation added to Council's Advocacy Agenda.</p> <p>Crisis support lobbied for by Singleton Interagency.</p>
Sub-working group established from the Singleton Interagency to look at short term housing accommodation	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Singleton interagency • Housing + Homeless service providers 	Working group established and meeting 3 times a year
Continue to advocate for an increase in social and affordable housing.	Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Singleton interagency • Housing + Homeless service providers • Community 	Affordable housing to stay on Advocacy agenda.
Support service providers to address homelessness and housing.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Singleton interagency • Housing + Homeless service providers • Community 	Funding opportunities promoted to service providers.
Actively seek appropriate retirement village and over 55's living options in Singleton.	Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Developers 	Developers encouraged to develop retirement village or over 55's living options.

Desired State /What does success look like:

Everyone should have access to safe, affordable, appropriate housing. This strategy is working towards everyone

having housing first while also addressing the issues that lead to homelessness.

DOMESTIC + FAMILY VIOLENCE

Overview

Domestic and family violence does not discriminate, anyone can be a victim and we know that it occurs in all sectors of the community and across all cultural groups. According to NSW Health 1 in 4 women experience violence by an intimate partner with domestic and family violence the leading cause of death, illness and disability for women aged under 45, while 1 in 13 men experience violence by an intimate partner. The flow on effect of this violence is to any children within the home, with 1 in 9 witnessing violence towards their mother and 1 in 22 witnessing violence towards their father. NSW Health also tells us that Indigenous women are 32 times more likely than non-Indigenous women to be hospitalised due to family violence injuries.

The flow-on effect of domestic and family violence is the provision of appropriate services for people fleeing those situations. Domestic and family violence is a primary reason for people seeking assistance from specialist homelessness services (40% of clients; of which 92% were women and children.

It is important to note that while physical violence is the point where domestic and family violence is often 'discovered' due to needing medical treatment. Domestic and Family violence is a result of ongoing patterns of behaviour aimed at controlling a partner or family member through fear and coercion. It is important therefore that strategies addressing domestic violence look holistically at relationships and at addressing abuse in its many forms and not just physical violence.

Committees

- Singleton Interagency
- MindLink
- Disability Advisory Committee
- Upper Hunter Domestic Violence Committee

Relevant Domestic + Family Violence Specific Plans, Strategies and Research

- NSW Health Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Domestic and Family Violence 2021-2026

Action	Council's Role	Stakeholder	Indicator of Success
Collaborate to promote Domestic Violence education in workplaces.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Violence Services • Businesses • Community • Council 	Domestic Violence education occurring in local services, organisations and businesses.
Establish a Domestic Violence services group made of up service providers to have a collaborative approach when working with people experiencing Domestic Violence.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Violence Service providers • Relevant Service provider • Singleton Interagency 	Domestic Violence working group established.
Continue to run Love Bites program within local schools.	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Singleton Youth Workers • Relevant Service providers • Schools 	Love Bites Program run in School
Local services promote domestic violence programs and awareness campaigns such as White Ribbon Day, Domestic Violence Month and 1800RESPECT.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Violence Services • Singleton Interagency • Community • Council 	Two Domestic Violence Campaigns run each year.

Desired State /What does success look like:

Ultimately success would be everyone in our community being safe from physical or emotional abuse in their homes. To reach this however we potentially need to see the numbers of people experiencing domestic and family violence (D&FV) go up. This is due to the number of people who suffer in silence rather than report the violence (mental or physical). For service providers

seeing the numbers go up means that the campaign to end domestic and family violence is successful, that there are safe, affordable and accessible options for those experiencing D&FV and that victims no longer feel alone. Educating young people on what healthy relationships look like will help in the ultimate goal of the number of people experiencing D&FV being zero (0).



SOCIAL ISOLATION + LONELINESS

Overview

Social isolation and loneliness are a growing concern across Australia. While there is no doubt that Covid and the resulting restrictions enhanced people's feelings of social isolation and loneliness, the research does predate Covid. A survey conducted in 2012 found that 1 in 3 Australians experienced loneliness between 2001 and 2009 (Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey). Previously it was thought that the demographic most impacted by loneliness was older people, however research is showing that it is young people aged 18-24 who experience loneliness at significant rates.

Social isolation has been linked to mental illness, emotional distress, suicide, the development of dementia, premature death, poor health behaviours, smoking, physical inactivity, poor sleep, and biological effects, including high blood pressure and poorer immune function. While there is not as much data around loneliness as there is on social isolation, it is known to be harmful to both mental and physical health and is even linked to premature death.

While social isolation and loneliness can be linked, it is not always the case. People can experience social isolation without being lonely and those who experience loneliness are not always isolated.

People who are socially isolated have additional concerns that can be addressed to aid in reducing isolation. Isolation can be experienced based on where one lives, access to transport and access to technology.

Working collaboratively with local services, organisations and clubs on opportunities for social connections to be offered more broadly, as well as addressing barriers to participating will help reconnect people with the Singleton community.

Committees

- Singleton Interagency
- MindLink Upper Hunter
- Disability Advisory Committee

Relevant Social Isolation + Loneliness Specific Plans, Strategies and Research

- Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing Australia's welfare 2021 report
- Australian Psychological Society and Swinburne University of Technology, 2018. The Australian Loneliness Report

Action	Council's Role	Stakeholder	Indicator of Success
Develop in collaboration with services, programs that reduce loneliness and isolation.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Singleton Interagency Council 	Working group established from Singleton Interagency to establish programs that address loneliness and isolation
Increase understanding of service offerings (e.g. events) for community members who are at risk of isolation or loneliness in collaboration with relevant service providers.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Singleton Interagency Community 	Three events each year promoted via services who work with people who are isolated or lonely

Desired State /What does success look like:

The strategies aim is for no one in our community to experience social isolation due to barriers such as transport or lack of connectivity (i.e. internet). That opportunities are provided to remove barriers and connect people with community

such as attending the library, events, or services. Anyone who experiences loneliness from time to time knows where they can go to connect with others within our community and feel safe and confident to do so.

DISABILITY

Overview

Disability is part of being human. Almost everyone will temporarily or permanently experience disability at some point in their life (WHO). Currently approximately 4134 (18%) people in Singleton has a disability, with 1025 having a profound or severe disability (4.5%). The impact of disability on a person's life is based on the ability of that person to access services, facilities, and their community. For people with a disability, the lack of inclusion in the community comes more from societies and individuals bias and lack of understanding of disability, than the disability itself. This plan does not address people with a disability directly as Singleton Council has a Disability Inclusion Action plan 2022-2026 which can be viewed for more information.

Committees

- Disability Advisory Committee

Relevant Disability Specific Plans, Strategies and Research

- Singleton Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026
- Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing People with disability in Australia 2020
- Employ My Ability, Disability Employment Strategy 2021-2031

Action	Council's Role	Stakeholder	Indicator of Success
Promote accessibility and disability inclusion in council public spaces including events and programs.	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Community • Disability Advisory Committee 	Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026 implemented.
Implement the Disability Inclusion Action Plan	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • People who have a disability • Community • Disability Advisory Committee 	Actions from the Disability Inclusion Action Plan are achieved and reported to Disability Council NSW
Investigate opportunities for young carer programs.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Young Carers • People who have a disability • Community • Disability Advisory Committee 	Investigation undertaken and appropriate programs promoted

Desired State /What does success look like:

A community that is truly accessible to everyone. From physical access to public facilities to breaking down stereotypes and limiting beliefs about people who have a form of disability.

That everyone regardless of their abilities can participate fully in society as they chose including but not limited too: education, employment, recreation and leisure



PEOPLE FROM NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRY'S

Overview

Singleton is home to 694 (3%) people who are from a non-English speaking country. While these number are low (the state average is 20%), people from non-English speaking countries are a social and economic asset. While natural migration will occur, Singleton Council will support opportunities to attract people from non-English speaking backgrounds to further diversify and enrich our community.

Committees

- Singleton Interagency

Relevant People From Non-English Speaking Country's Specific Plans, Strategies and Research

- Multicultural NSW Strategic Plan 2021-2025



Action	Council's Role	Stakeholder	Indicator of Success
Connect with multicultural organisations	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singleton Interagency • Service Providers • Council 	Ensure multicultural organisations are represented on the Singleton Interagency
Education opportunities for people from non-English speaking backgrounds investigated and promoted to community	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Providers • Multicultural services and groups • Community • Council 	Investigation complete and opportunities promoted
Investigate opportunities to celebrate diverse cultures in our local community	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multicultural services and groups • Singleton Interagency • Community • Council 	Investigation conducted with relevant organisations.
Support migration opportunities by providing social infrastructure that attracts people from diverse backgrounds to settle in Singleton	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same stakeholders 	Increase in number of people from multicultural backgrounds moving to Singleton over the next 5 -10 years.

Desired State /What does success look like:

People from multicultural backgrounds feel safe and encouraged to share their culture with the wider community so that everyone has the opportunity to learn more about the many cultures that make up the Singleton

community. People from non-English speaking backgrounds have opportunities to participate fully in education, employment, sport, and recreation activities.

AREAS OF INFLUENCE

While this Community Development Strategy has been developed to address the needs of the priority areas, this cannot be done in isolation. Three key elements have also been identified as having influence in helping to address our priority areas:

1. Health + wellbeing
2. Collaborative approach
3. Transport



HEALTH + WELLBEING

Overview

Health and wellbeing are important to everyone in our community and ensuring that there is equitable access to opportunities to health and wellbeing initiatives is important at both the individual level and to the broader community.

Good health and wellbeing are more than the absence of disease or illness. It is a complex combination of a person's physical, mental, emotional, and social health factors. It is also linked to one's feelings and experience of being safe in their home and community. It is a person's wellbeing that is strongly linked to happiness and life satisfaction.

This strategy looks to address many of the factors that influence a person's health and wellbeing, and through the actions set out to remove barriers and provide opportunities for everyone in our community to have the best health and wellbeing outcomes possible.

Committees

- Local Health Committee
- Singleton Interagency
- MindLink Upper Hunter



Action	Council's Role	Stakeholder	Indicator of Success
Create and support opportunities that enhance positive health and wellbeing outcomes in our community.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Fitness providers • Community • Council 	<p>Health and Fitness Expo held.</p> <p>Opportunities for people to be active including local walking trails promoted to community via relevant events, news releases and social media.</p> <p>Sport and Culture fund established to help people financially to be involved in sport and cultural activities.</p>
Advocate for required levels of health care services for the Singleton LGA including but not limited too early intervention services, palliative care, and GPs.	Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Local Health Committee • Singleton Interagency • MindLink Upper Hunter • Hunter New England Health • GP's • Council 	<p>Increase health care services and funding to Singleton LGA maintain on the Advocacy Agenda.</p> <p>Service funding monitored through Singleton Interagency and Local Health Committee</p>

Action	Council's Role	Stakeholder	Indicator of Success
Community services continue to provide food assistance programs.	Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Services Local Charities Religious organisations Community Council Funding bodies Local businesses and companies 	Food assistance programs are available in Singleton 6 days a week.
Investigate opportunities that assist with cost of living for both community member and service providers.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singleton Interagency Local Charities Community Council 	Opportunities to address cost of living for service providers and their clients promoted through the Interagency.

Desired State /What does success look like:

This strategy sets out to work towards the health system in Singleton and surrounding areas meet the needs of the local community, and to remove barriers to health care to ensure equitable access for anyone who needs it.

Successful implementation of this strategy will help Singleton be an active healthy community that sets out, as individuals and families, to be the healthiest version of themselves by looking after their health and wellbeing.



COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Overview

Having a collaborative approach to Community Development is an essential element in activating change that meet the needs of our community. This strategy has been developed with input from a variety of services and collaborative actions have come from working together to meet our common goal of improving the lives of those in our community.

Singleton has a wide variety of organisations that work hard within the resources they have, to reach as many people as possible. A collaborative approach between services and other organisations has been identified as one way we can support people in the community who need access to quality services. A collaborative approach allows organisations to work together to address problems and deliver outcomes that are not easily or effectively achieved by working alone. A collaborative approach also allows services to combine their effort and expertise creating quality outcomes.

Council can also play a role in a collaborative approach and with the help of those organisations on the ground will help monitor and strategically plan for the constantly changing and evolving needs of the community, as well as monitoring and responding to the social and economic influences that can further impact on the types of services the community require.

Committees

- Singleton Interagency
- MindLink Upper Hunter
- Disability Advisory Committee
- Singleton Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee
- Singleton Youth Action Team

Action	Council's Role	Stakeholder	Indicator of Success
Work with service providers to build capacity and to promote a collaborative approach to service delivery.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singleton Interagency • Council 	<p>Singleton Interagency is supported by Council, holding 6 meetings a year and by providing weekly information sharing.</p> <p>Training opportunities are developed and promoted to Singleton service providers, with input from services on relevant training they would like to participate in.</p> <p>Opportunities for collaborative grant funding is promoted through the interagency and supported as required by Singleton Council.</p>
Collaborate to engage business people to volunteer to be on community service organisation boards to expand the skill sets available.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Singleton • Service providers • Council 	Program established to link relevant business people to community services to become board members.
Help service providers, community organisations and clubs understand grant funding requirements.	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service providers • Local organisations and clubs • Community • Council 	Grant writing workshops held bi-yearly.

Action	Council's Role	Stakeholder	Indicator of Success
Advocate at a State and Federal Government level for longer-term funding opportunities (3-5 years) to allow programs and services to better meet the needs of the community.	Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Singleton Interagency Community 	<p>Longer-term grant funding opportunities promoted through Councils Advocacy Agenda.</p> <p>Impacts of short-term funding report developed by Singleton Interagency by 2025</p>
Enhance community and services space at Singleton Heights.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singleton Heights Community Singleton Interagency Council Community 	<p>Business plan developed for Community Hub at Singleton Heights.</p> <p>Funding opportunities applied for to design and build the Community Hub.</p> <p>Community services and the wider community are consulted with during the design phase of the Community Hub.</p> <p>Events and outreach programs held in the Singleton Heights</p>
Advocate for after hours or extended hour crisis support for youth, mental health and domestic violence.	Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Singleton Interagency Community 	After hours or extended hour support advocated for through Councils Advocacy Agenda and the Singleton Interagency

Action	Council's Role	Stakeholder	Indicator of Success
Community connect days held to build collaboration between service providers and to link community members with the right service.	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singleton Interagency Council 	Interagency hold a services or community connect day once a year
Social issues and trends are followed through data and statistical review.	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singleton Interagency Council Community 	Statistical review report completed on social issues and trends.
Seek opportunities to increase services and programs across the LGA in line with community needs.	Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singleton Interagency Council 	Relevant funding opportunities applied for
In collaboration with relevant service providers undertake safety audits for vulnerable people.	Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police Fire and rescue Singleton Interagency Community 	<p>Safety audit procedure developed</p> <p>Number of safety audits undertaken each year</p>
In collaboration with service providers support key safety campaigns such as driver safety, online safety, domestic violence campaigns and programs, elder and people with a disability abuse	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Singleton Interagency Community 	2 Safety campaigns promoted to the community a year.

Desired State /What does success look like:

Local services, organisations, businesses, community, Council and State and Federal Government working together to achieve the best outcomes for the Singleton

community. Facilities such as Heights Community Hub and after hour services are built and serviced to meet the identified needs of the community.

TRANSPORT

Overview

Singleton residents are highly dependent on private vehicle transportation to get around. While there is public transport via bus, trains and taxi's the services are minimal compared to our city neighbours. Local transport often does not line up with appointment times and this problem only increases if people need to leave town for appointments or if they would like to for leisure purposes.

The lack of available transport is putting pressure on residents. Local health services are noticing that people are not attending

appointments (particularly at the new Maitland Hospital) due to either lack of transport or the cost of fuel. Transport is a barrier to participation for those who are unable to drive themselves, do not have access to a reliable and registered vehicle or cannot afford the cost of fuel.

Committees

Singleton Interagency
MindLink Upper Hunter
Singleton Health Committee

Action	Council's Role	Stakeholder	Indicator of Success
Advocate for improved public transport	Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Singleton Interagency Council State Government 	Public transport stays on the Advocacy Agenda
Transport options considered collectively by the Singleton Interagency	Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Singleton Interagency Council State Government 	Transport included in Singleton Interagency Action Plan

Desired State /What does success look like:

Singleton has quality, affordable, accessible, ample, and consistent public transport that meets the needs of the Singleton community.

Community transport is affordable and accessible to those who needs it.



RESOURCING THE STRATEGY

Actions in the strategy will be completed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. Stakeholder investment will be key to implementing actions for quality outcomes. Actions in the Strategy that do not require additional funding to deliver will be included in Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

Actions in the Strategy that will require additional funding will be considered as part of Council's annual planning process.

Council and relevant service providers may apply for funding from external sources to help achieve the actions in the Strategy.

CLOSING THE LOOP

The actions identified in this strategy will form part of Singleton Councils Operational Plan and reported on through this process. The actions in this strategy will make up part of Councils Annual Report and form provision of information for the End of Term Report for elected Council.

An implementation plan has been developed alongside this strategy that guides Council staff on whose role each action is to lead and the associated timeframes.

Where actions are relevant to committees of Council, those committees will contribute to the action and monitor its implementation.

An informal review of this strategy will take place in 2024 at the halfway mark to ensure the strategy is still a positive reflection of the community and current resources. A complete review of this plan will occur in 2026.



REFERENCES + SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Local

- Singleton Arts and Cultural Strategy 2020-2030
- Singleton Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032
- Singleton Delivery and Operational Plan 2022
- Singleton Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026
- Singleton Housing Strategy (draft)
- Singleton Socio-Economic Development Strategy

Regional

- NSW Government - Hunter District Data Profile

State

- Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) 2022 The NSW strategic plan for children and young people 2022-24
- Mental Health Commission of NSW 2014 Living Well: A Strategic Plan for Mental Health in NSW 2014 – 2024
- Mental Health Commission of NSW 2020 Living Well in Focus 2020-2024
- NSW Child Safe Standards
- NSW Government 2018 NSW Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023
- NSW Government 2019 The NSW public sector Aboriginal employment strategy NSW Working together for a better future 2019–2025
- NSW Government 2020 Regional NSW Youth Action Plan Empowering youth in regional NSW
- NSW Government 2021 Ageing Well in NSW: Seniors Strategy 2021–2031
- NSW Government 2021 Multicultural NSW Strategic Plan 2021-2025

- NSW Government 2021 NSW Health Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Domestic and Family Violence 2021-2026
- NSW Government 2022 LGBTIQ+ Health Strategy 2022-2027
- NSW Government Department Education and Aboriginal Affairs 2017 Community Portrait: Singleton LGAA portrait of the Aboriginal community of Singleton, compared with NSW, from the 2016 and earlier Censuses.
- NSW Government Department of Health 2018 The NSW Strategic Framework and Workforce Plan for Mental Health 2018-2022
- NSW Government Health 2014 Healthy, Safe and Well: A Strategic Health Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2014-24
- NSW Government Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) 2019 - What Aboriginal children and young people have to say
- NSW Government 2021 Implementation Plan for Closing the Gap 2021

Federal

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- Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census Data
- Australian Government Closing the Gap Commonwealth Implementation Plan 2021
- Australian Government Department of Education, Skills, and Employment 2021 Australian Youth Policy Framework
- Australian Government Department of Health 2020 National Mental Health and Wellbeing Pandemic Response Plan
- Australian Government 2021 Employ My Ability, Disability Employment Strategy 2021-2031
- Australian Government Mental Health Commission 2017 Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan

- Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing 2020 Health of Young People snapshot.
- Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing 2021 Australia's Welfare 2021 in brief report
- Australian Local Government Association September 2021 Closing the Gap Implementation Plan
- Australian Psychological Society and Swinburne University of Technology, 2018. The Australian Loneliness Report
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- LGBTIQ+ Health Australia April 2021 Snapshot Of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Statistics for LGBTIQ+ People
- Melbourne Institute: Applied Economic & Social Research 2021 Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey
- Mission Australia 2021 Youth Survey Report
- National Agreement on Closing the Gap July 2020
- Paul Flatau, Leanne Lester, Ami Seivwright, Renee Teal, Jessica Dobrovic, Shannen Vallesi, Chris Hartley and Zoe Callis November 2021 Ending Homelessness In Australia – A evidence and policy deep dive.
- The Equality Project Australia 2020 LGBTIQ+ Policy Guide 2020
- Writing Themselves In 4 2021 The health and wellbeing of LGBTQA+ young people in Australia.

International

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child or the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021-2030
- United Nations Sustainability Goals

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Closing the Gap	Closing the Gap is a strategy that aims to improve the life outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
Collaboration	Services, organisations, business and community working together on projects to meet common goals and objectives.
Community Development	Community development is a holistic approach grounded in principles of empowerment, human rights, inclusion, social justice, self-determination and collective action. It considers community members to be experts in their lives and communities, and values community knowledge and wisdom. Community development allows for services and organisations to work with the community to address disadvantage and to empower the individual and the community.
D&FV	Domestic and family violence
DCJ	NSW Department Communities and Justice
Homeless	Homelessness is a term that can involve a range of experiences including sleeping rough, couch surfing, sleeping in a car, living in a caravan park, relying on crisis accommodation or refuges, and living in a severely overcrowded space.
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Asexual + other diverse sexual orientation and gender identities.
Vulnerable	Vulnerable populations are groups and communities at a higher risk of poor health, social, educational and economic disadvantage as a result of the barriers they experience due to situations often beyond their control such as age, gender, gender and sexual identity, race, disability or illness, poverty, education and employment opportunities.
Vulnerable Children +Families	Vulnerable children and families are those that experience abuse, neglect or are victims of circumstances such as poverty, homelessness, witnessing violence in the home, exposure to drugs or to the criminal justice system.
Youth	Young people aged between 12 and 24 years.





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