



# **Community Profile and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Profile 2025**

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## Executive Summary

The development of a Council Plan and the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) is informed by the profile on the community that the plans aim to serve.

Moyne Shire spans an area of 5,478km<sup>2</sup>, with a population of 17,610, a median age of 45, and gross regional product of almost \$1.5 billion. Moyne's

Moyne Shire's largest industry is agriculture, forestry and fishing, generating 34% of its revenue and employing 37% of the population. This supports a reasonably low unemployment rate of 1.3% (June 2024 quarter).

This profile report provides an overview of the Shire's profile relative data related to its people, the natural environment, the Shire's economic profile, and indicators of place and place-making.

To support the development of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP), an analysis of key health and wellbeing determinants has been undertaken, exploring lifestyle and behavioural factors, environmental factors including social, cultural, economic, and natural factors that all have impact upon the public health of our community.

Self-reporting on levels of overall health, and of psychological distress demonstrate Moyne's need for complex and allied health solutions, ensuring that collaborative approaches to outcomes are realised.

It explores Moyne Shire inhabitants' engagement with public health, particularly related to support for the challenges of mental health, how family violence impacts community public health outcomes, and the impact of our built and natural environment as some key determinants.

# Moyne Shire – Stats at a Glance

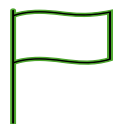
## Community Profile



17,610  
population



45  
Median age



90.5%  
Australian citizens



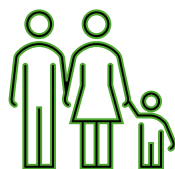
1.62%  
indigenous population



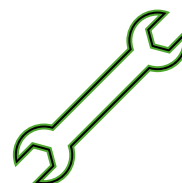
5%  
Need help with core activities



0.88%  
Same Sex Couples



72.4%  
Families with two or more  
children



1.3%  
Unemployment rate

## People



17.3%  
report fair to poor health  
(vic. 20.5%)



37.81%  
One or more long term health  
conditions  
(vic. 34.98%)

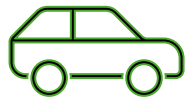


18.8%  
Low to medium life  
satisfaction  
(vic. 21.9%)



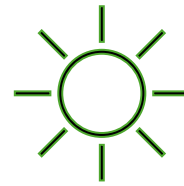
21.9%  
Self-report having  
a disability

## Natural Environment



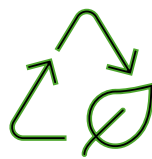
60%

drive to work in vehicle



27%

of dwelling with solar  
installation



63%

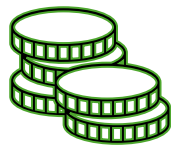
rate environmental  
sustainability as extremely or  
very important



76%

emissions attributable to  
agriculture activities

## Economic Indicators



\$1,530

Median weekly income  
(13% less than Vic median)



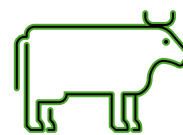
62.7%

Labour force participation rate  
(vic. 62.6%)



33.71%

employed in agriculture,  
forestry, or fishing  
(vic. 2.2%)



34.1%

revenue generated by  
agriculture, forestry, and  
fishing



## Place and Place-making



52%

Report high level of Civic Trust  
(in public institutions &  
government)



29.5%

Report high level of social trust  
(in acquaintances and  
strangers in community)



59%

Planning for population growth  
as extremely or very important



79.1%

Believe there is “good  
community spirit”

# COMMUNITY Profile

## Our community

Moyne Shire's population continues to grow with a compound annual growth rate of 0.7% since 2013, resulting in 17,610 inhabitants with a median age of 45 years. The community is predominantly made up of Australian citizens at 90.48%. 5% of the population state that they require assistance with core activities. 21.9% of the population self-report as having a disability (DoH 2024b).

Moyne Shire households include 11% lone person households and 10.78% single parent family households, with 97.47% of private dwellings being separate houses.

1.62% residents are Aboriginal, 15% were born overseas, and 8.35% speak a language other than English. The gender distribution is nearly equal with 49.28% males and 50.76% females. The LGBTIQ+ is represented by 5.3% of Moyne Shire population (DoH 2024b) with the community including 0.88% same-sex couples, comprising 24 male same-sex couples and 82 female same-sex couples (REMPPLAN 2024).

Moyne Shire expects to see a declining annualised growth rate of population with 0.76% rate in population by 2026, dropping to 0.46% annualised growth rate by 2046, resulting in an expected population total of 20,048 people (REMPPLAN 2024).

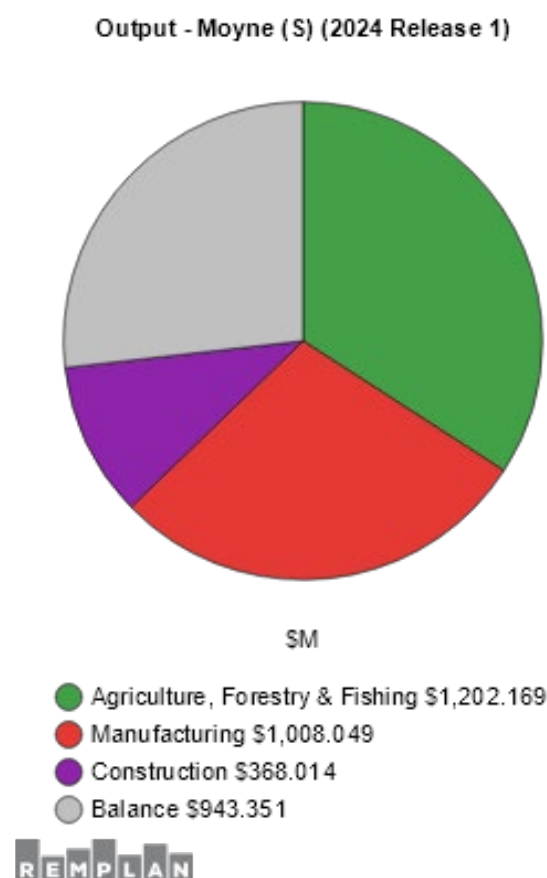
This is expected to translate to an annualised growth in dwellings from a total of 8971 dwelling in 2026 (0.97%), to 10,398 dwellings by 2046 (0.67%).

## Economy Details

Moyne Shire covers 548,168,600 hectares of land and generates a gross regional product of almost \$1.5 billion.

Total dollar output for Moyne Shire equals \$3,521,583 million with Agriculture Forestry & Fishing, and Manufacturing as the standout industry sectors, demonstrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Moyne Shire Output – 2024 Release, in millions of dollars



Source: REMPLAN, 2024

Employment reflects this output with 33.7% of the workforce employed within the Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing industry, and 28.6% in Manufacturing.

The total number of jobs in Moyne in 2021 was estimated at 6,950. This reflects an increase of 531 jobs from 2016. The construction industry has shown the largest job growth rate with an increase of 217 jobs between 2016 and 2021.

The Total Value-add in the area is estimated at \$1.3 billion, with the major contributors as per above with the addition of rental, hiring, and real estate services accounting for 12% of value-add.

This is supported by the annual growth rate for business count demonstrating a 3.6% increase from 2021 to 2023.

Year 12 attainment rates for Moyne Shire sit at 43.5%, lower than that of Barwon South West at 50.55%, and Victoria at 59.47%.

It is estimated that 73.7% of dwellings are either owned outright or with a mortgage. From 2016 the rate of home ownership has increased by 10.9%.

The weekly household median income is \$1530; 13% less than Victorian median income of \$1759.

## Place details

Community members report feeling trust for public institutions and government, with 51.75% stating reporting the feeling of Civic Trust (DoH 2024a). This is combined with 29.5% reporting having a high level of social trust (trust of acquaintances and strangers in the community).

59% of respondents to the Moyne Shire Community Engagement Survey 2024 rated the importance of planning for population growth as extremely important or very important (JWS Research 2024).

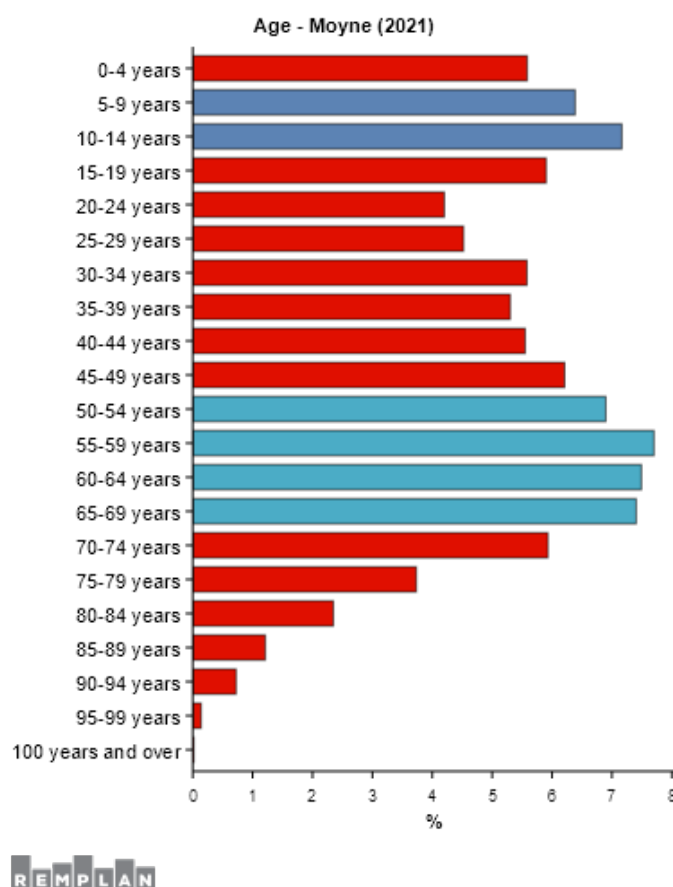
Moyne rated the shire's business/community development performance index score at 63, an increase from 61 from the past two years performance measures (not measured prior to 2022) (JWS Research 2024).

57.5% of residents report that multiculturalism makes life in the community better demonstrating the importance of diversity in our communities (UC 2024), and highlighting the opportunities to strengthen the sense of place through actions outlined in Moyne Shire's Aboriginal Engagement and Partnership Plan.

## People Details

The population age spread across Moyne Shire shows highest percentages of population within the 55–69-year age bracket (a total of 29.5% of the Shire's population and then followed by the 5 year to 14 year brackets (6.38% and 7.16% respectively, totalling 13.54% of the population) highlighted in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Spread of Age, 2021



Source: REMPLAN, 2024

With 19.9% of adults self-reporting only poor to fair health, below that of Victoria at 20.9% (DoH 2024b), and 18.8% of adults reporting low or medium satisfaction with life, below that of Victoria at 21.9%, the need for supportive wrap-around health services within the region is evident.

Coupled with reports of 16.2% of adults reporting high to very high psychological distress, below overall Victorian rates at 19.1% (DoH 2024b), the consideration for allied health, including mental health services, and home support and care services, and demonstrates the need for collaboration within the public health sector.

Comorbidity, the co-occurrence of chronic health conditions in individuals (AIHW 2016) has a significant impact on health services and is associated with worse health outcomes. 37.8% of residents report one or more long-term health conditions, higher than that of Victoria at 37.81% with 5% of residents reporting the need for assistance with core activities.

These factors have been assessed further in the Health and Wellbeing profile.

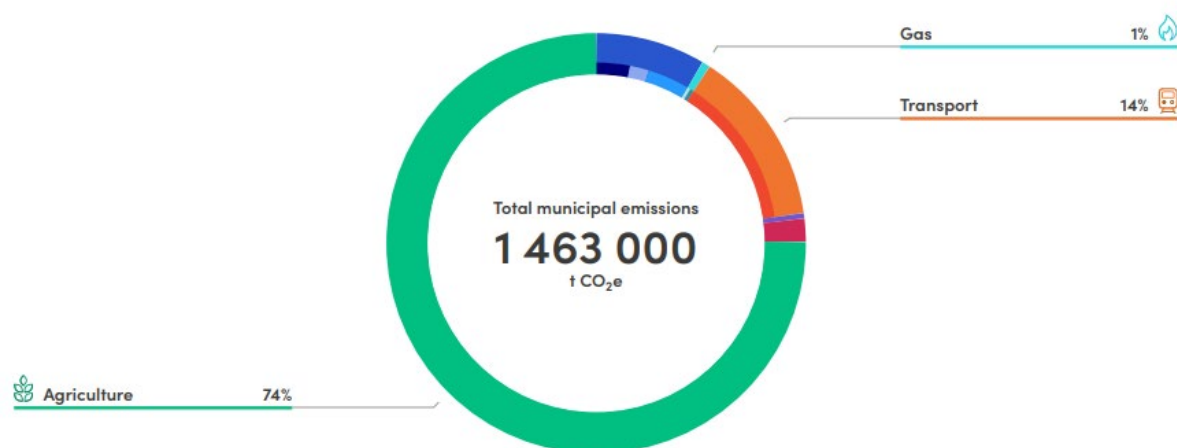
21.9% of people in Moyne have self-reported as having a disability. Across all rural regions, 22.9% of men have a self-reported disability, and 24.2% of women have a self-reported disability (DoH 2024b).

## Environment Details

In the most recent Community Engagement Survey, conducted in 2024, 63% of respondents rated environmental sustainability as extremely important or very important, versus 61% of Victorian respondents (JWS 2024). However, this is in contrast with only 26.6% of dwellings having solar installations (Australian PV Institute 2024).

The prevalence of the agriculture industry within the shire contributes 76% of the 1.4M tonnes of Moyne Shire's total CO<sub>2</sub>e total municipal emissions (Snapshot Climate 2024) demonstrated in Figure 3.

**Figure 3.** Moyne Shire total municipal emissions 2022



Source: Snapshot Climate 2022

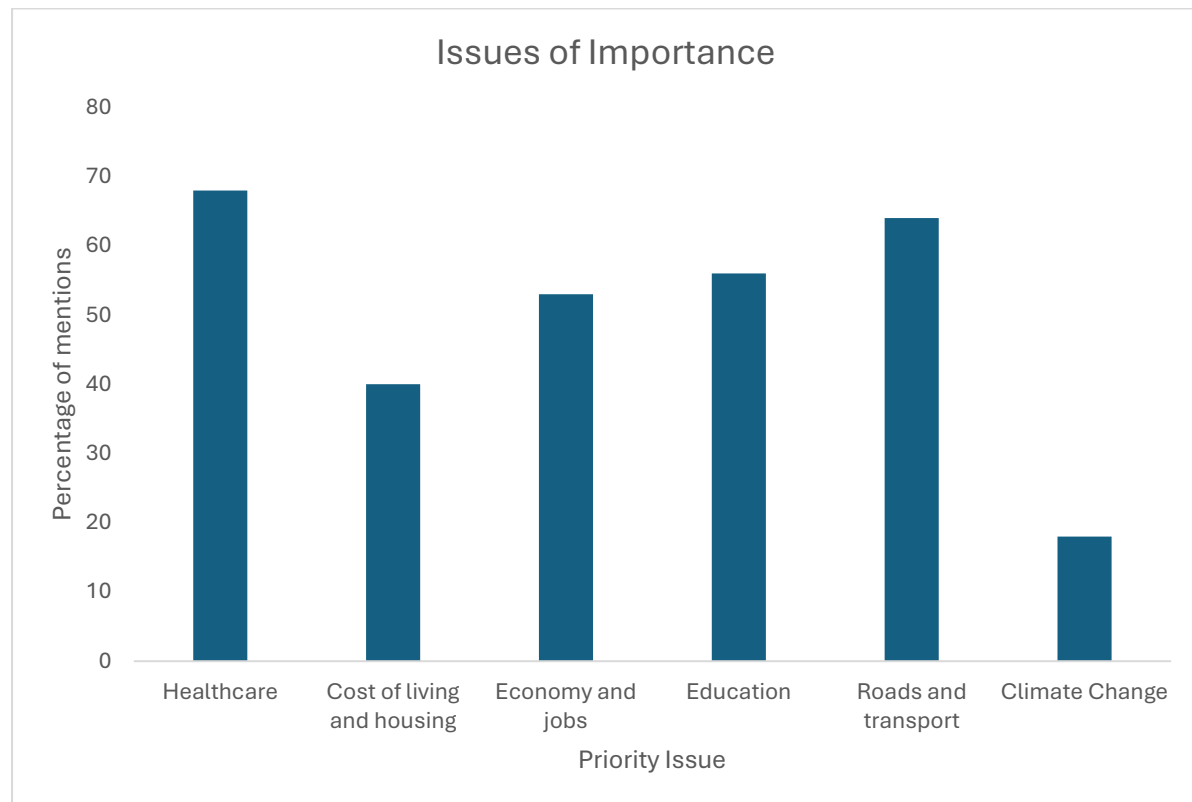
Workers in Moyne Shire predominantly drive to work, with 60% reported as driving a vehicle to work. With 28.7% reporting either working from home, or not working, this leaves 11.2% taking alternative travel methods to work, including cycling, scooter, passenger, or walking.

Residents of Great South Coast (incorporating Moyne, Corangamite, Glenelg, Southern Grampians, and Warrnambool City Shires), report climate change concerns, with 63% concerned about coastal erosion and changes to sea levels, 60% concerned about heatwaves, and 46% concerned about air pollution (SV 2017).

When considering top three priority issues, 75% of respondents highlight climate change as an issue that requires urgent action, however only 18% of Great South Coast

respondents rated climate change as an issue of importance to Victoria. Respondents rated healthcare, cost of living and housing, economy and jobs, education, and roads and transport as higher priority issues over climate change, demonstrated in figure 4 (SV 2017).

Figure 4. Top three priority mentions in Great South Coast



Source: Sustainability Victoria, 2017

When considering responsibilities for climate change, 85% want climate change action from local governments (SV 2017).

Whilst 98% expect action from climate change from individuals, only 83% of residents state that they are willing to take action on climate change (SV 2017).

In relation to Moyne's built environment, in 2023-24, the value of building approvals in Moyne was \$73.299 million. Of this, residential approvals accounted for 80.7% (\$59.142 million).

## Community Values and Priorities

### Regional Priorities

Regional priorities are represented by South West Victoria Alliance (SWVA), most recently highlighted in its report, “A stronger south west – A call for investment in Childcare in Communities”. The publication focuses a spotlight on the impact of the current childcare crisis being felt across the nation, highlighting the stressors contributing to this as:

- High unemployment
- Lack of housing
- Lower education attainment levels (SWVA 2024a).

SWVA also highlights broader calls across the region for:

- Local roads and infrastructure upgrades
- The establishment of a Local Government Sustainability Fund
- A Small Grants Program to help councils boost local wellbeing and foster community pride
- The development of a Hydrogen Innovation Plan for south-west Victoria (SWVA 2024b).

Among further regional priorities discussed at Parliament in May 2024 were:

### Environment

- Energy transition plan for the region, to understand training needs, future employment opportunities and infrastructure and community needs.
- Develop the Hydrogen Opportunity via a Clean Energy Training Hub
- Development of a Sustainable Water Strategy

### Community

- Childcare – Development of a Centre of Excellence to train more staff and address the workforce shortage.
- Housing – expansion of key worker housing projects in the region using successful models already implemented
- Workforce – develop with government strategies to address workforce shortages

### Future Possibility

- New tourism – explore ways to support emerging tourism sectors like geothermal
- High- Value agriculture – enabling infrastructure is needed, roads and other transport infrastructure (SWVA 2024b).



## Council Priorities

Moyne Shire will continue to focus on articulating priorities through development of:

- Moyne Shire Council Plan 2025-2029
- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Asset Management Plan
- Long Term Financial Management Plan
- Workforce Plan
- Updated Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

It also has identified actions for delivery from:

- Aboriginal Engagement and Partnership Plan
- Disability Inclusion and Access Plan
- Youth Strategy
- Arts and Culture Strategy
- Open Space Strategy 2020-2035.

## Shire Service Areas

Council priorities seek to address the community focus on service areas, outlined within the Moyne Shire Community Engagement Survey 2024.

Individual Service Areas of Importance where importance exceeds performance by 10 points or more, suggesting further investigation is necessary<sup>1</sup>, demonstrated in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Net Differential analysis of service area performance, Moyne Shire, 2023.

Service Area	Index Score	Performance (index score)	Net Differential
Local streets and footpaths	77	55	-22
Consultation and Engagement	77	57	-20
Population growth	69	55	-13
Waste Management	78	68	-10

Source: JWS 2024

The individual service area with the strongest influence on the overall performance rating is “Decisions made in the interest of the community”.

Good communication and transparency with residents around Council decision making and demonstrating efforts to advocate for the community provide the greatest opportunities to drive up overall opinion of Council’s performance. Following on from

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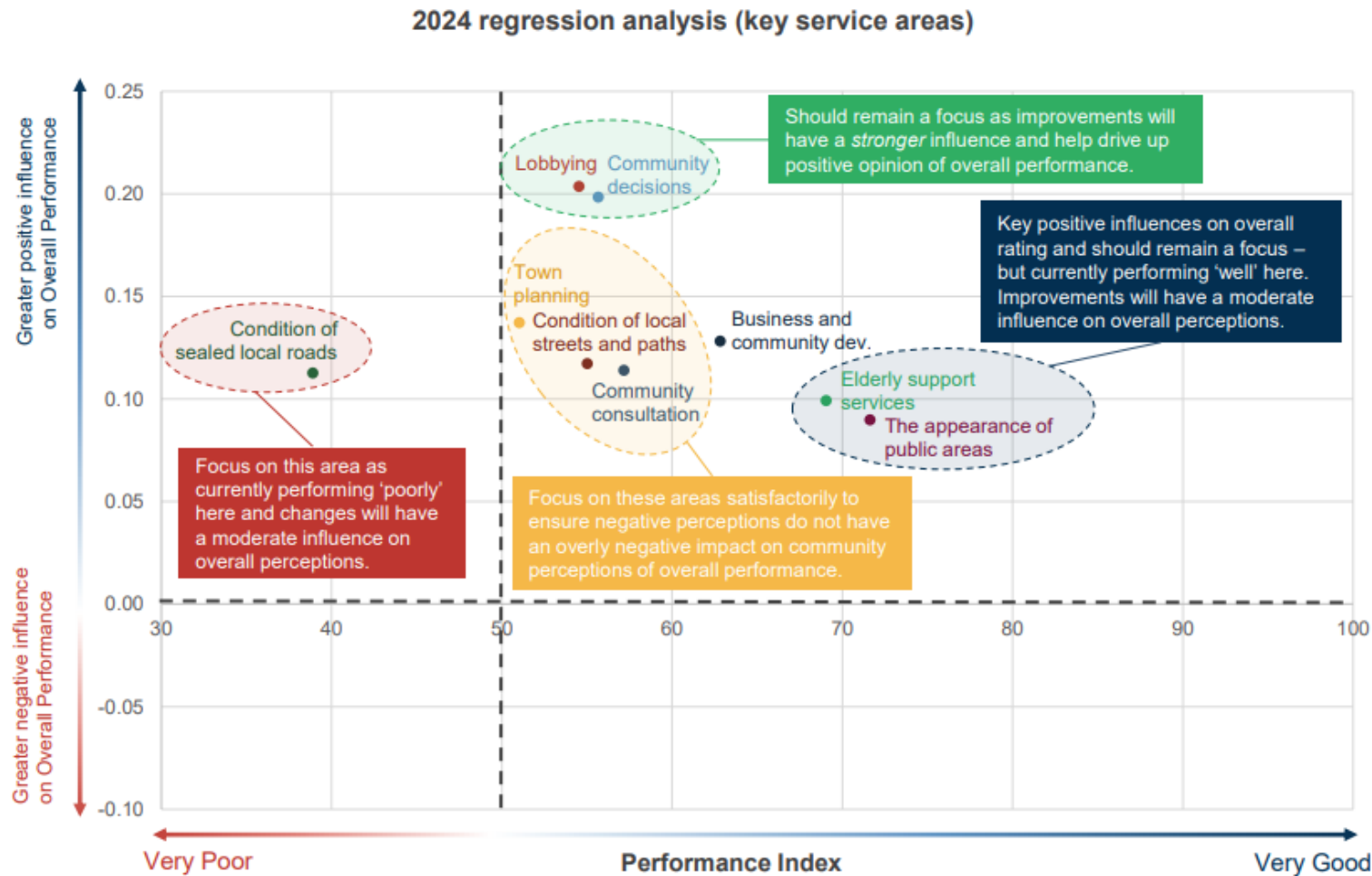
<sup>1</sup> J01314 Community Satisfaction Survey 2024 – Moyne Shire Council

that, other individual service areas with a more moderate influence on the overall performance rating are:

- Town planning
- Business and community development
- The condition of local streets and paths
- Community consultation and engagement
- The condition of sealed local roads
- Elderly support services
- The appearance of public areas (JWS 2024).

Regression analysis plots these service areas to understand influence on overall performance for key service areas in Figure 5.

Figure 5. Influence on overall performance: key service areas

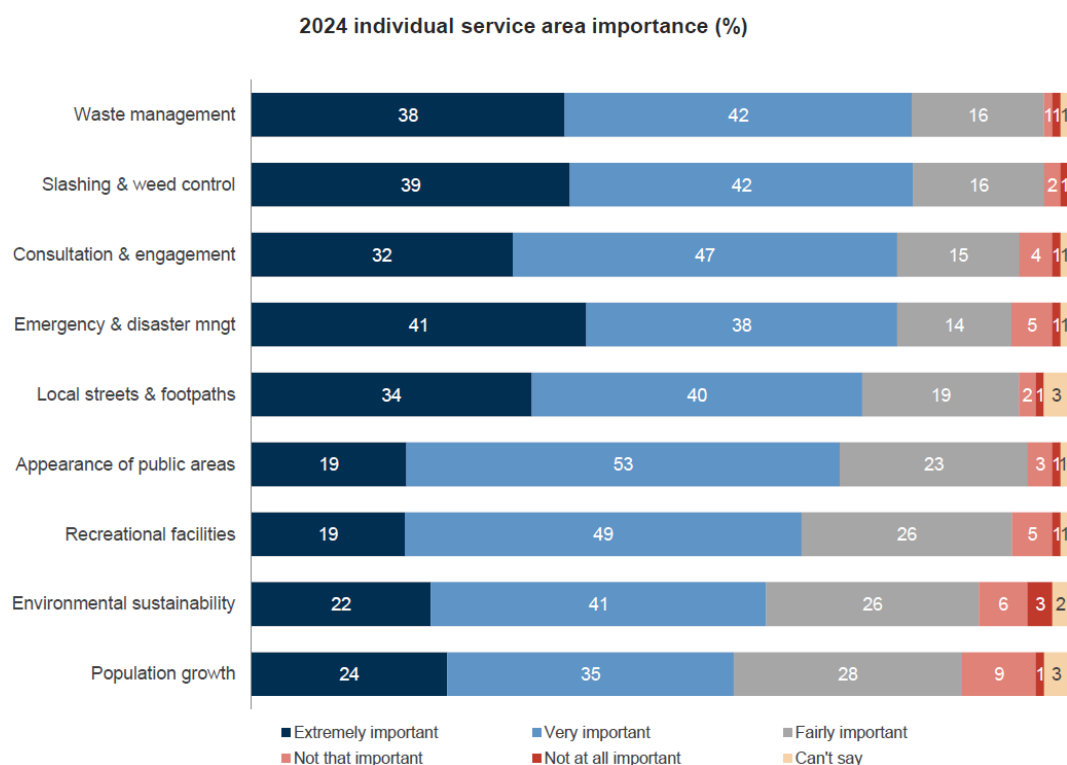


Source: JWS 2024

Within these service areas, the appearance of public areas and Council's elderly support services have high performance index scores (72 and 69 respectively) and a moderate influence on the overall performance rating. Other service areas with a moderate influence on overall perceptions, but where Council is performing less well, are town planning, local streets and paths, and community consultation (index scores of 51, 55 and 57 respectively). However, most in need of Council attention is the condition of its sealed roads, which is rated as poor (index score of 39) and is a moderate influence on overall community opinion<sup>2</sup>.

Figure 6 highlights the service areas ratings by the community, noting that waste management, slashing and weed control, consultation and engagement, emergency and disaster management, local streets and footpaths all rate at a total of 74% or higher selecting this service area as extremely important or very important.

**Figure 6.** 2024 individual Service Area Importance (%)



Source: JWS, 2024

The report on the community engagement survey provides guidance for addressing key service areas to focus on listed in table 2.

<sup>2</sup> 2024 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey – Moyne Shire – page 28

**Table 2.** Overview of levels of focus on key service areas for Moyne Shire; Community Engagement Survey 2024.

Key Service Area	Focus
Lobbying Community decisions	Should remain a focus as improvement will have a <b>stronger</b> influence and help drive up positive opinion of overall performance
Elderly support services	Key positive influences on overall rating and should remain a focus – but currently performing “well” here. Improvement will have a moderate influence on overall perceptions
Appearance of public areas	
Community Consultation	Focus on these areas satisfactorily to ensure negative perceptions do not have an overly negative impact on community perceptions of overall performance
Condition of Streets and paths	
Town Planning	
Condition of sealed local roads	Focus on this area as currently performing “poorly” here and changes will have a moderate influence on overall perceptions.

Source: JWS 2024

# **Moyne Shire**

## **Health and Wellbeing Profile**

# HEALTH AND WELLBEING Profile

## Stats at a Glance



17.3%  
report fair to poor health



37.81%  
one or more long term health  
conditions



61.5%  
overweight



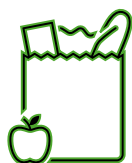
8.24%  
report depression/anxiety



9.2%  
comorbidity rate



11.1%  
daily smokers



8.0%  
severe food insecurity



10.3%  
rate of family violence  
incidents



78.4%  
community has a bright  
future



80%  
attractive natural spaces in  
community

## Health and Wellbeing Status

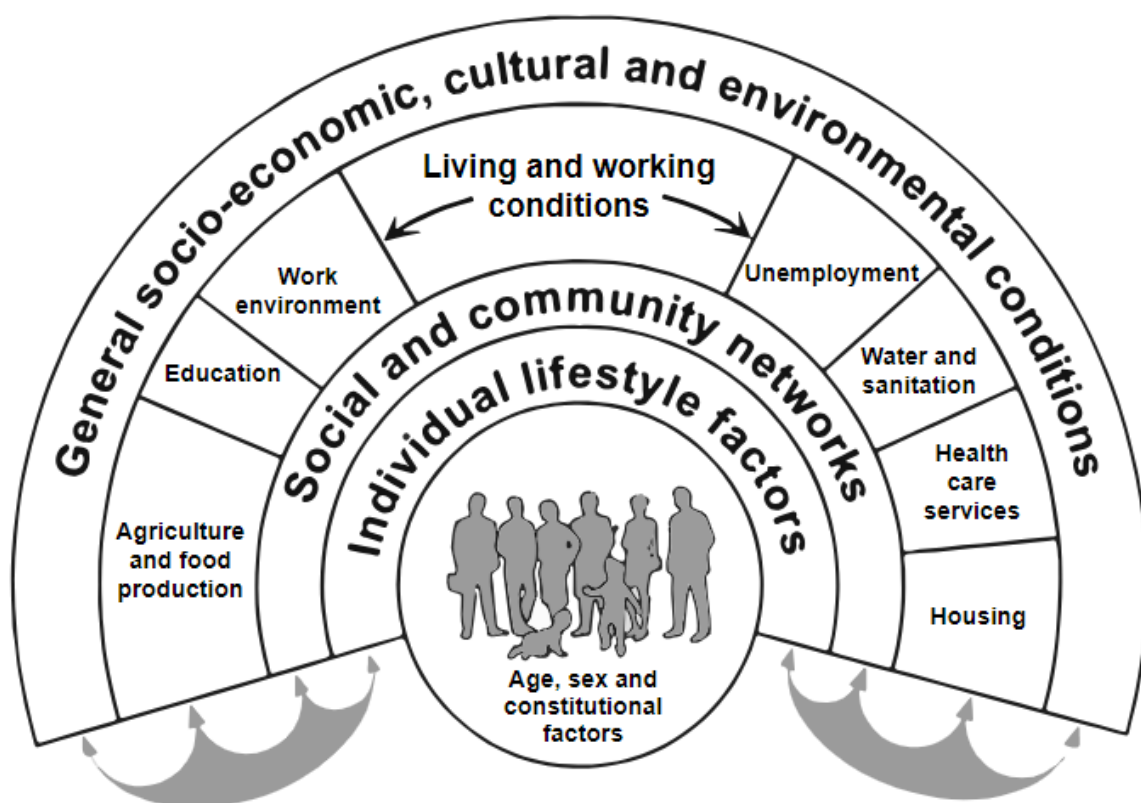
Many factors combine to affect the health of individuals and communities with factors such as where we live, the state of our environment, genetics, income, and education levels all having impact on health and wellbeing outcomes (WHO 2024).

These factors are identified as determinants of health, and include:

- The social and economic environment
- The physical environment, and
- The person's individual characteristics and behaviours (WHO 2024).

Factors considered include lifestyle factors, socio-economic, cultural and environmental conditions, outlined in the Dahlgren and Whitehead (2021) model of health determinants, demonstrated in figure 7.

**Figure 7.** Model showing layers of health determinants



Source: Dahlgren and Whitehead 2021



## Individual Lifestyle

Lifestyle and behaviours of Moyne Shire demonstrate that a significant portion of the population, 61.5%, is overweight, with 4.6% classified as obese (REMPLAN 2024). This high prevalence of overweight individuals can lead to various health complications, including cardiovascular diseases and diabetes. Additionally, 9% of the population suffers from asthma, which can be exacerbated by environmental factors and lifestyle choices (REMPLAN 2024).

11.1% of the population are daily smokers (VAHI 2023), 4.2% report vaping daily (DoH 2024b), and based on overall Australian statistics, 26.8% of adults over 18 years of age exceeded alcohol consumption guidelines in 2022. This is relevant to Moyne Shire given adults living in outer regional and remote areas are more likely to exceed alcohol consumption guidelines (30.9%) over those in major cities (25.9%) (AIHW 2017).

These statistics highlight the need for comprehensive health interventions and support systems to address both physical and mental health challenges in the community.

Sexual and reproductive health issues present in Moyne Shire include cases of chlamydia, syphilis, gonorrhoea, and Hepatitis B, yet these have decreased from 299.5 per 100,000 in 2020 to 239.6 per 100,000 in 2024, indicating some progress. However, the overall infectious disease rates have alarmingly increased from 479.2 per 100,000 in 2020 to 862.6 per 100,000 in 2024 (DoH 2024a). This surge underscores the urgent need for enhanced public health measures, including better access to healthcare, education on preventive practices, and robust disease surveillance and control programs to curb the spread of infectious diseases.

Mental health is also a significant issue, with 17.4% of residents rating their wellbeing as fair to poor. A notable 8.24% of the population has been diagnosed with depression and/or anxiety, yet only 17.3% of those have sought professional help for their mental health issues, below the Victorian average of 20.1%. This indicates a significant gap in accessing mental health services. Additionally, 16.9% of residents experience high to very high levels of psychological distress in their daily lives. These statistics underscore the urgent need for improved mental health support and resources to address the psychological well-being of the community.

Moyne Shire has a prevalence of long-term health conditions with highest reported conditions being Arthritis, at 9.1% of population and Asthma at 9.0% of population (REMPLAN 2024). A broader range of long-term health conditions prevalent in Moyne Shire is listed in Table 3.

Of these, 9% of this population reports comorbidity, experiencing more than one long-term health condition (REMPLAN 2024).

**Table 3.** Long-term Health Conditions – percentage of population - 2021

Type of long-term health condition <i>All people</i>	% Moyne	% Victoria	% AUS
Arthritis	9.1	8.0	8.5
Asthma	9.0	8.4	8.1
Cancer (including remission)	3.2	2.8	2.9
Dementia (including Alzheimer's)	0.5	0.7	0.7
Diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes)	4.1	4.7	4.7
Heart disease (including heart attack or angina)	4.3	3.7	3.9
Kidney disease	0.9	0.9	0.9
Lung condition (including COPD or emphysema)	2.0	1.5	1.7
Mental health condition (inc. depression or anxiety)	8.2	8.8	8.8
Stroke	1.1	0.9	0.9
Any other long-term health condition(s)	6.9	8.0	8.0
No long-term health condition(s)	58.8	61.0	60.2
Not stated	8.8	7.6	8.1

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2021

**Note 1:** Respondents had the option of reporting multiple long-term health conditions. Therefore, the sum of all long-term health condition responses for an area will not equal the total number of people in the area.

**Note 2:** Calculated percentages represent a proportion of the number of people in the area (including those who did not answer the long-term health conditions question).

More information on [Type of long-term health condition \(LTHP\)](#)

Table based on place of usual residence

When considering the impacts of physical exercise on health, 19.9% of Moyne residents reporting not doing any moderate to vigorous physical activity, 40.9% undertaking less than 150 minutes per week, and 37.9% reporting at least 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per week (DoH 2024b).

Consumption of fruit and vegetable across the Shire is represented by 4.2% of adults who met both fruit and vegetable consumption guidelines, slightly above Victoria's rate of 3.5% (DoH 2024b).

## Social and Community

Social, cultural and economic determinants of health extend beyond conventional socio-economic factors of employment, income and education, and make up the wider environmental factors impacting health. These determinants also examine how aspects of diversity, safety, community connection, and civic engagement influence the wellbeing of residents (AIHW 2016).

Broader community environmental impacts are broken into social and cultural, economic, and natural/built environments.

The social and cultural environment impacts individuals' health and wellbeing through educational outcomes, prevalence and experience of violence and crime, and individuals' position and experiences in relation to trust, diversity, and inclusion.

Moyne Shire is experiencing increasing reports of family violence, with 27.7% of criminal offences relating to family violence incidents in 2024, and the rate of incidents at 10.3% per 100,00 (CSA 2024a). This aspect of crime aligns with overall increase in crime rates, up 24.4% from 447 cases in 2023, to 556 in 2024 (CSA 2024b).

When asked, "How satisfied are you with how safe you feel?" 81.6% of respondents in Moyne & Corangamite Shire reported a high satisfaction rate (80 or above) with only 6.6% expressing a low level of satisfaction with their feeling of safety (UC 2024). When compared to the whole of Victoria, 12.1% expressed low satisfaction with how safe they feel, with only 68.2% expressing high satisfaction.

Community values are demonstrated through 57.5% of residents reporting that they believe multiculturalism makes life in the community better (UC 2024), and 78.4% reporting a feeling that the community has a bright future (UC 2024).

Loneliness is described as "subjective unpleasant or distressing feeling of lack of connection to other people..." (Badcock et al. 2022) and has been identified as Australia's next public health epidemic of the 21<sup>st</sup> century (AIHW 2025). 22.6% of Moyne Shire residents expressed experiencing loneliness in 2023 (DoH 2024b) indicating the need for local government, at a community level to consider ways to address loneliness within communities.

Indicators including social network and support indicators, community participation and trust, provide an indication of social cohesion within communities. A study on community strength identified that 89.8% of Moyne residents felt able to get help from friends and family, or neighbours when needed.

Moyne Shire has a Year 12 attainment rate of 43.5% compared with 50.5% for Barwon South West region, and 59.4% for Victoria (REMPLAN 2024).

41% of residents in **regional** Victorian areas report volunteering regularly, compared to 35% of urban Victoria (UC 2024).

## Socio-Economic, Cultural, Environmental

### Socio-Economic

The Shire's economic position, as well as individuals' economic position has an impact on public health. Key economic conditions impacting health include increasing financial insecurity or stress, increasing housing stress, and increasing food insecurity.

With 3.17% of residents living in social housing, and 24.75% of households with four or more inhabitants, Moyne Shire's household makeup can have an impact on its residents' health. These statistics enable future planning for housing, for example, where 2.75% inhabitants highlighting a need for one or more extra bedrooms (REMPLAN 2024) demonstrates the need for dwelling types within broader planning considerations.

The number of people experiencing homelessness in Moyne Shire increased from 24 in 2016, to 33 in 2021 (BSWHN 2024). Of those seeking support for homelessness throughout the 2023-2024 financial year, 42% were survivors of family and domestic violence, 19% were First Nations people, and 21% were young people presenting alone.

Whilst unemployment continues to trend low, at 1.3% as of June 2024 (REMPLAN 2024), 8.0% of residents have reported experiencing severe levels of food insecurity (DoH 2024b), and 27.1% report high levels of financial distress (UC 2024).

When considering community health profile, considerations related to access to healthcare/affordability of healthcare are an important measure. In Moyne Shire 23.8% of people report having only fair or poor dental health, with 28.1% of people reporting avoiding or delaying visiting a dental profession in the last 12 months because of the cost (DoH 2024b).

When considering access to medical appointments, tests or procedures, 11.1% report having an appointment cancelled by the medical facility in the last 12 months, and 14.6% report cancelling or postponing medical appointment, test or procedure in the last 12 months (DoH 2024b). For surgery, 3.8% report having planned surgery cancelled or postponed by the hospital or doctor, and 3.5% cancelling their own planned surgery.

58% of Moyne residents do not hold any private health insurance.

When accessing general practitioners, 20.8% of Moyne residents report not going to see a GP when needed, with the main reasons report for not being able to access a GP including cost (16.5%), unavailability of appointment (46.4%), and 32% reporting "other

reasons” (DoH 2024b). Over the past 12 months, 39.3% report having to wait longer than they felt acceptable for a GP appointment (DoH 2024b).

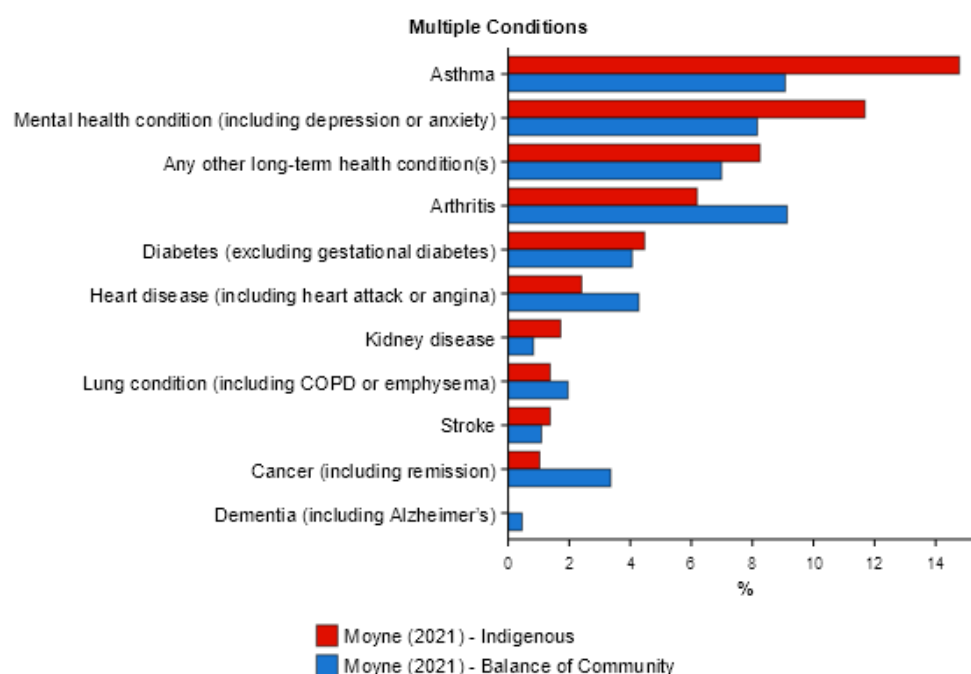
Moyne Shire’s SEIFA score (see Definitions) is 1029, ranking 451 out of 547 local government areas across Australia indicating a relatively high score, demonstrating a less level of disadvantage. The Victorian state score is 1010.

## Cultural

Studies confirm that the balance of evidence confirms that racism is a significant health risk factor for both mental and physical health (Paradies et al. 2015; Pascoe & Smart Richman 2009; Schmitt et al. 2014). 12.3% of adult residents report experiencing discrimination in the last 12 months (DoH 2024b) and 2.4% reporting experiencing racism.

When considering health differences between indigenous populations compared to the balance of community data indicates greater proportion of the indigenous community suffers from asthma, mental health condition(s), diabetes, whilst less proportion of the indigenous community suffers from arthritis, or heart disease, compared to the balance of the community, noted in Figure 8. (REMPLAN 2024).

Figure 8. Population by Health Conditions – Indigenous to Balance of Community.



REMPLAN

When considering indigenous youth in our community, 13.65% of the indigenous youth population are reported as being disengaged, with 5.38% of the balance of the community youth being classed as disengaged.

## Natural Environment

The health of the population can be linked to the state (or health) of our natural environment, including air quality, water quality, soil and food quality (AIHW 2018).

Moyne Shire covers approximately 5,478km<sup>2</sup> and has approximately 3,859ha of open space. Of this, 407ha or 10.5% of total open space is considered as “core” within Moyne Shire’s Open Space Strategy (Moyne Shire 2020). This equates to a ratio of 19.65ha per 1000 residents.

Leading medical journal, *The Lancet*, states that climate change is “the biggest global health threat of the 21<sup>st</sup> century (Costello et al 2008). Climate change-related exposures such as higher temperatures, extreme weather events and worsening air quality is expected to impact on the health of the community, especially socially and economically disadvantaged populations.

Positive natural environmental impacts on health and wellbeing in the community is demonstrated by 80% of residents agreeing to the statement that there are attractive natural places in my community (UC 2024).

All industries within Moyne Shire, from agriculture and fishing through to tourism and mining are dependent upon the natural environment comprising of clean air and water, productive soils, efficient and effective waste disposal and endemic plants and animals, impacting upon the health of its residents.

A significant contributor to health within a community is water quality, and equally as important, perception of water quality, with parts of Moyne Shire requiring improvement in this area, indicated by 81% of Port Fairy residents indicating that they do not drink tap water (Capire 2020).

This is demonstrated by evidence that half of Year 4 and Year 6 children in Moyne Shire do not drink the recommended 8 glasses of water per day (Strugnell et al. 2024), and that the daily consumption of sugary beverages by adults is higher in Moyne Shire (35.6%) than the Victorian average (34.4%) (Brown et al. 2022, DoH 2024b).

Public transport availability and use of private vehicles can be a measure of active versus passive transport, considering the method of travel to work, with single driver car at 57.8%, decreasing from 2016 rate of 59.7%. However, this doesn’t translate to a shift to active transport, with use of bicycle reducing from 0.52% to 0.35%, and walking reducing from 5.39% to 4.75% (REMPLAN 2024).

When combining a range of environmental health questions including water health, soil erosion, and general environmental degradation, University of Canberra determined an overall perceived environmental health score with Moyne scoring of 4.8, where 1 was rated as poor environmental health, and 7 was rated as good environmental health (UC 2024). This is compared to Victoria’s overall score of 4.2.

## Public Health Alignment

Alignment between public health bodies will be considered in the development of the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029, in line with section 26 of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (Vic) requirements in the development of the plan. With that, consideration will include the 10 priorities for public health and wellbeing in Victoria within the [Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2023-2027](#) which includes:

- improving sexual and reproductive health
- reducing harm from tobacco and e-cigarette use
- improving wellbeing
- increasing healthy eating
- increasing active living
- reducing harm from alcohol and drugs
- tackling climate change and its impacts on health reducing all forms of violence
- decreasing antimicrobial resistance across human and animal health
- reducing injury.

# Definitions

## Comorbidity

The simultaneous presence of two or more diseases or medical conditions in a patient:

- a disease or medical condition that is simultaneously present with another or others in a patient.

**Disengaged** – when considering youth engagement, disengaged you identifies persons aged 15-24 years who are either “unemployed”, or “not in the labour force” and not enrolled in education.

## Long Term Health Condition:

This variable describes the number of selected long-term health conditions a person has reported. The selected long-term health conditions include:

- arthritis
- asthma-
- cancer (including remission)
- dementia (including Alzheimer’s)
- diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes)
- heart disease (including heart attack or angina)
- kidney disease
- lung condition (including COPD or emphysema)
- mental health condition (including depression or anxiety)
- stroke

The condition ‘any other long-term health condition(s)’ is excluded from the count.

**SEIFA Index of Disadvantage** – Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) is a suite of indexes that have been created by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) from social and economic Census information. Each index ranks geographic areas across Australia in terms of their relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. It is a range of information about the economic and social conditions of people and households and presents as a “score”, where a low score indicates relatively greater disadvantage.



## Data Sources

Data has been taken from a range of expert sources including the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Department of Health through Victorian Public Health Surveys, Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing, Crime Statistics Agency's and other key peak body reporting on health and wellbeing.

Where data is available for Moyne Shire, this has been used. Where Moyne Shire has been included in the broader South Coast, or Barwon South West regions, this data has been utilised.

Where REMPLAN data is used, it relates specifically to the Moyne Shire local government area, with comparisons to the Barwon South West Region and/or Victoria.

Data related to crime and family violence is taken from the Crime Statistics Agency and is specific to Moyne Shire.

Data related to lifestyle and behaviours taken from the Victorian Population Health Survey incorporates data from Barwon South West Local Public Health Unit, comprising of Corangamite and Moyne Shire.

Data related to environmental and sustainability factors from Sustainability Victoria, uses data for the Great South Coast area, comprising Moyne, Southern Grampians, Glenelg, Corangamite, and Warrnambool City Shires.

Community Satisfaction Survey data is related directly to Moyne Shire.

Regional wellbeing data, sourced from the University of Canberra Regional Wellbeing Survey relates to a grouping of Moyne Shire and Corangamite Shire within its dataset.

Data on Victorian Public Health for 2023 has been provided to Local Government in advance of publication and as such, the reference used is Department of Health (2024).

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