

Latrobe Health Advocate 2022-23 Statement of Intent

Vision

A strong, healthy and inclusive Latrobe community supported by leading health and wellbeing systems that are based on innovation, collaboration and the voice of the community.

Values

Bold, Approachable, Credible, influential, Empowering, Collaborative

Mission

The Latrobe Health Advocate is a catalyst of change and a trusted independent voice for the health and well-being of Latrobe communities.

Our core objectives

- **Identify the health and wellbeing needs of the community** inclusive of diversity, culture, beliefs, gender, age and sexuality.
- **Engage and build partnerships** with Latrobe communities, key stakeholders and health partners to deliver health innovations and systems change improvements.
- **Be a community leader and advocate** that provides trusted, independent advice and insight to Ministers, the state government agencies and stakeholders.
- **Create opportunities that empower the community** to self-advocate for health and wellbeing initiatives now and in the long term.
- **Address the social determinants of health and wellbeing** and systemic changes required in Latrobe communities.

The five year road map



Indicators of success

- Improved community opportunities and perceptions
- Improve community connectedness and participation
- Improved health services access and design
- Improved health and lifestyle

The work of the Latrobe Health Advocate is impactful when:

- **We see better systems of health and well-being driven by**

- Better relationships
- Better mental models
- Better services
- Better supports
- Better policy
- Better integration of community voice in decision-making*

- **Latrobe communities consider their concerns on matters impacting their health and well-being are heard by Government and other key stakeholders**

- **We have created an environment for community engagement, collaboration and innovation.**

* This model is adapted from *The Water of Systems Change*, John Kania, Mark Kramer and Peter Senge 2018

The Latrobe Health Advocate provides independent advice to the Victorian Government on behalf of Latrobe Valley communities on system and policy issues affecting their health and wellbeing. The Office of the Advocate is midway through a 5 year plan that intends to enable an environment for self-advocacy. Working alongside the Latrobe Health Assembly and Latrobe Health Innovation Zone stakeholders, the focus in 2022-23 is to apply the social determinants of health through the production of a report card; advocate for existing and new recommendations to improve health and wellbeing; and review engagement approaches to support self advocacy in Latrobe. There is a deliberate commitment to build on the engagement we have had through our inclusive communities work addressing the inequities that exist for some communities, including people living with disabilities, chronic conditions, people experiencing financial stress, family violence, LGBTIQ+, culturally and linguistically diverse people, younger people, people over 60 and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Priorities 2022-23

Build on the established role of the Advocate and LHIZ

Develop a system whereby the Advocate can measure impact in achieving change and engagement with the community.

Support the ongoing evolution of governance structures in the Zone to optimise roles and accountabilities that enable collaboration and the Advocate to be a system change agent.

Develop a matrix of existing and future stakeholders and partners to understand their priorities, challenges and opportunities for shared work.

Build a coalition that supports the work of the Latrobe Health Advocate to strengthen and elevate community voice.

Elevate the voice of our community and deliver priority campaigns

Further align stakeholder engagement activities to focus on social determinants of health.

Develop a toolkit which evolves the methodology for undertaking priority campaigns/reviews including advisory groups, engagement methods, research and expert peer review.

Further build the reputation and effectiveness of the Latrobe Health Advocate and LHIZ for citizen leadership and engagement through use of social media and communication channels.

Advocate and influence health and wellbeing outcomes and system change

Strengthen connections with various Ministers and key stakeholders to promote collective strategies across portfolios to address the social determinants of health and achieve systems change.

Continue bipartisan engagement and build on support for the work of the Latrobe Health Advocate.

Undertake a collaborative project with partners in the Zone to design an innovation architecture for advocacy and system change.

Refresh the advocacy strategy and toolkit.

Advocate for the implementation of endorsed priority recommendations.

Pilot a process for 'quick win' advocacy opportunities within LHIZ.