



Selecting priority issues for action, Writing the plan, Coordinating the implementation, monitoring & review of the plan

Geographical focus groups

- Townsville
- Magnetic Island

The health needs assessment work is on-going over the life of the Healthy City Plan. The Implementation Committee plans to engage further with several of these groups over the next year to focus on a range of issues. Discussion about health conditions for the indigenous groups in Townsville will be a priority and are continuing.

Selecting priority issues for action

The Project Management Group identified priority issues and drafted theme areas via a comprehensive process which involved: - analysing information gathered in the Townsville Health Profile, completing the 'Have Your Say' Survey, reviewing results from the Health Services Gap Analysis and collating and reviewing data from the Focus Groups.

Developing Strategies - Interagency Working Parties

To further assist in prioritising and developing strategies, intersectoral working parties were created around themes identified by the health data analysis. The government and non-government sectors, community representatives, and indigenous groups were invited to participate in the intersectoral working parties. The theme working parties met over a number of weeks and worked together on identifying health objectives and action strategies, facilitating agencies' involvement and planning time frames.

Writing the plan

A draft plan was constructed from the theme working parties recommendations and action strategies, agency involvement, time frames and desired outcomes were developed. The draft strategies were forwarded to the agencies for consideration and comment and agencies were asked to commit to the content of the Townsville Healthy City Plan.

Implementing the plan - Coordinating the implementation, monitoring and review of the plan

A reference group has been developed to facilitate further community consultation, networking and linkages with partner agencies to support the implementation, monitoring and review of the Townsville Healthy City Plan over a five-year period. Figure 3 highlights the key actions required to implement the Healthy City Plan in Townsville.

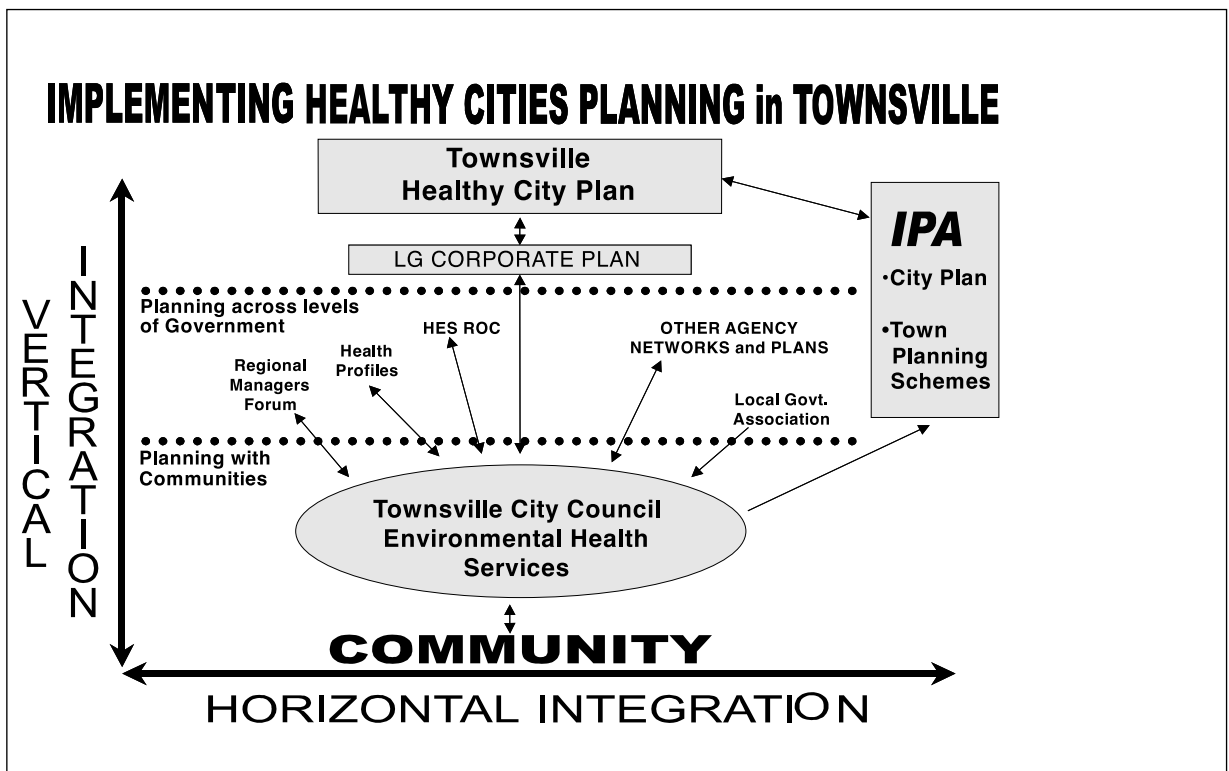


Figure 3: Process of Implementing the Townsville Healthy City Plan

Local government is recognised as having key leadership and governance roles in the areas of: -

- achieving consensus around a local healthy city vision;
- establishing goals for integrated social, cultural, environmental and economic progress; and
- overseeing, reviewing and updating strategies and actions aimed at achieving equitable and sustainable outcomes for current and future generations (LGCSAA and J. Wills, 2001).

Local government is not the only player in these areas; however recognising a governance role is important for progressing shared goals and achieving outcomes for common good.

The Healthy City Plan has both direct and indirect links with other key Council Plans such as the Corporate Plan, City Plan including Council policies. A number of state and regional strategies also have important linkages recognised in the plan implementation.

The health needs of the city should to be communicated and progressed ‘up’ (vertically) to higher level planning frameworks and ‘across’ (horizontally) to community agencies, other stakeholders and to all communities. The Healthy City Plan is designed to integrate public health planning strategies both ‘horizontally’ across the region with adjacent local governments and the business plans of other agencies and ‘vertically’ to other state planning mechanisms, including the ‘Whole of Government’ – Regional Framework for Growth Management Planning Initiatives and the Integrated Planning Act. Resources will be required to build partnerships with State and National representatives in government and other forums including the Northern Regional Managers Forum of State Agency Managers, HESROC Councils, the LGAQ and the Industry Sector.

Townsville City Council is a primary partner in all public health planning processes in the city. Figure 3 provides a diagrammatical representation of the elements of 'integrated practice' for the Townsville Healthy City Plan Implementation. It is the challenge for Townsville City Council and other agencies to ensure that local health initiatives are recognised and systems and mechanisms devised and supported to ensure that public health planning strategies are fully integrated into broader regional and state-wide plans in the future.

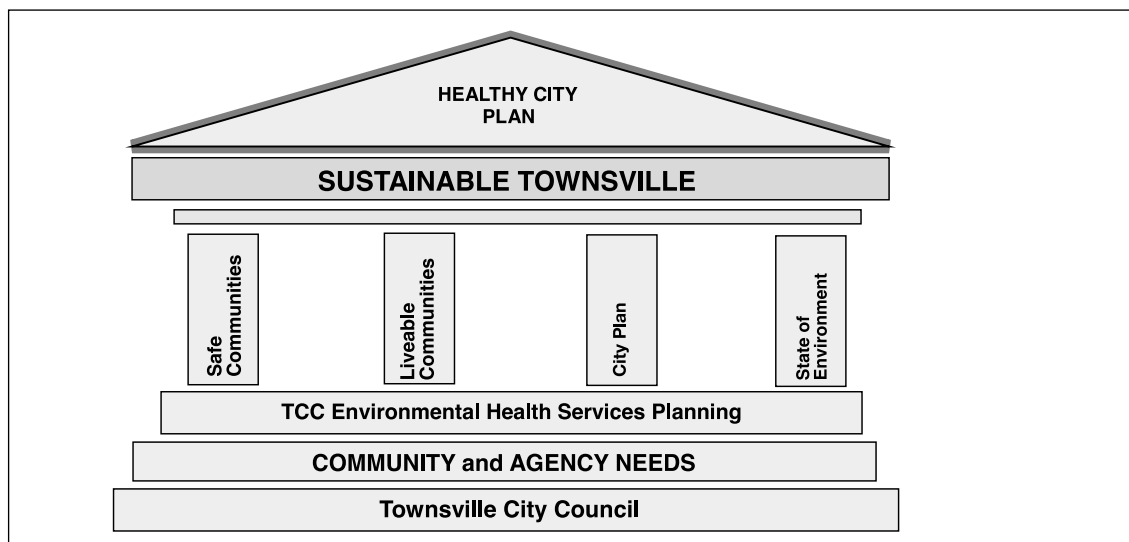


Figure 4: Linking the 'Pillars of Health' with Sustainable Townsville

Figure 4 highlights the 'Pillars of Health' in Townsville City Council and demonstrates the internal organisational linkages of the integrated Healthy City Plan to Sustainable Townsville and other planning initiatives in Council.

Townsville City Council recognises that the Health City Plan is a community document supported by other agency strategic business plans and health and environment agencies programs. The continued input of city and community agencies and residents is fundamental to the maintenance of Healthy Townsville.

Townsville City Council will Chair a Health City Planning Implementation Committee and invite other key stakeholders to work in partnership to progress the implementation of the Healthy City Plan 2003- 2008. An 'Integrated Health Planning Approach' in the City will ensure health needs are placed on the agenda of the organisations responsible for funding such initiatives, provide for information flow to other higher order planning mechanisms and allow a participative approach so that people and agencies in the City will work together in 'rolling out' new health based planning initiatives in the next 5 years.

Summary.

The Townsville Healthy City Plan incorporates all areas of environmental health promotion and action, and will be integrated with Council's Corporate Plan. The Townsville Healthy City Plan builds on existing planning such as Sustainable Townsville, Safe Communities, the Liveable City Strategy and the State of Environment Reporting. The Council acknowledges the valuable contribution of the community groups, agency representatives and all residents who provided assistance to the development of the Townsville Healthy City Initiative 2003-2008.

Council looks forward to working collaboratively with all stakeholders in the implementation of the Plan.