

Norfolk Island Health Needs Assessment

2022/23 to 2025/26



Norfolk Island Health Needs Assessment Update – February 2023.

The aim of this document is to explain the process that Brisbane North PHN has taken with the Norfolk Island community and relevant stakeholders to develop the Norfolk Island 2022/23 – 2024/25 Health Needs Assessment (HNA). It outlines outputs from the process and how the community can use the HNA to support health and service needs of their community.

The Brisbane North PHN HNA process is underpinned by a socio-ecological view of public health. This means that when considering the health status of an individual and the broader community, the social, cultural and external environmental factors are considered, in combination with an individual’s behaviours, age, gender and heredity factors.

The Health Map (Figure 1) is a useful depiction to consider the impact of the global ecosystem we live in and how the natural and built environments along with the local economy can influence available community activities. The local economy can impact the community and people’s lifestyle choices. These broader influences and systems can interconnect with an individual’s biological factors such as age, gender and genetics¹. Viewing Norfolk Island health and service needs through a determinants of health lens ensures a comprehensive and holistic view of health and wellbeing is considered and how unique factors to Norfolk Island’s policy, cultural and historical context is relevant to the HNA process.

The HNA was jointly undertaken in partnership with Norfolk Island Health and Residential Aged Care Services (NIHRACS), Norfolk Island community, Queensland Department of Education and Metro North Health. An eight-step process was developed to guide development and is outlined below (Figure 2).



Figure 1: The Health Map¹



Figure 2: Norfolk Island Health Need Assessment development process

Steps 1 – 6 focused on learning about health and service strengths and needs from people living and working on Norfolk Island. Consultation was held with a range of community stakeholders from health, education, community services, advocacy groups and people living on the Island. Key insights were also gained from participating in NIHRACS strategic planning consultation processes. Existing health, community and academic data and reports were reviewed. Both the quality and availability of current data was noted as a limitation and an opportunity to improve for future health needs assessment processes.

Information gathered from **Steps 1-3** were reviewed, themed and grouped into health and service strengths and needs. These strengths and needs were then shared and validated in **Step 5** via a face-to-face workshop on-Island in December 2022 (Figure 3). Twenty one (21) people attended the workshop and included representatives from on-Island and Australian based services, community members and local advocacy groups. During the health needs assessment workshop, participants were invited to: review needs and strengths gathered from Steps 1-4 and add anything missing, question anything odd. An additional 10 needs were identified in workshop discussions.

In **Step 6**, workshop participants worked in five groups: (1) clinical health services, (2) health and wellbeing team, (3) education*, (4) community services and (5) advocacy groups to determine community readiness to address identified health and service needs via a readiness criteria:

- *high readiness (green)* – community has immediate resources available to address identified need
- *moderate readiness (orange)* – community needs additional resources to address identified need
- *low readiness (red)* – community needs to advocate for resources to address need.

Groups were asked to use the criteria to ‘vote’ on community readiness to address needs (based on their knowledge of available resources in their particular service/sector/group) and to make note of existing resources for ‘high readiness’ needs and what might be required for ‘moderate’ and ‘low’ readiness needs. From Step 6, an overall community readiness continuum was developed for identified health and service needs (Figure 4).

Following the workshop, the summary of health and service needs was updated with feedback received in Step 5 and was made available for community feedback for two months (December 2022-January 2023). Additional community feedback was incorporated into the overall health and service needs summary document (see Appendix 1). Of the additional 10 needs identified in the workshop, feedback was provided to support three needs (cancers, sleeping disorders and physical activity/sedentary lifestyles) and these have since been added to readiness continuum. Readiness voting will take place for these needs during Brisbane North PHN’s March (2023) visit.

**Representatives from Education were unable to attend due to competing end of semester demands. Feedback was gathered post workshop to ensure representation.*

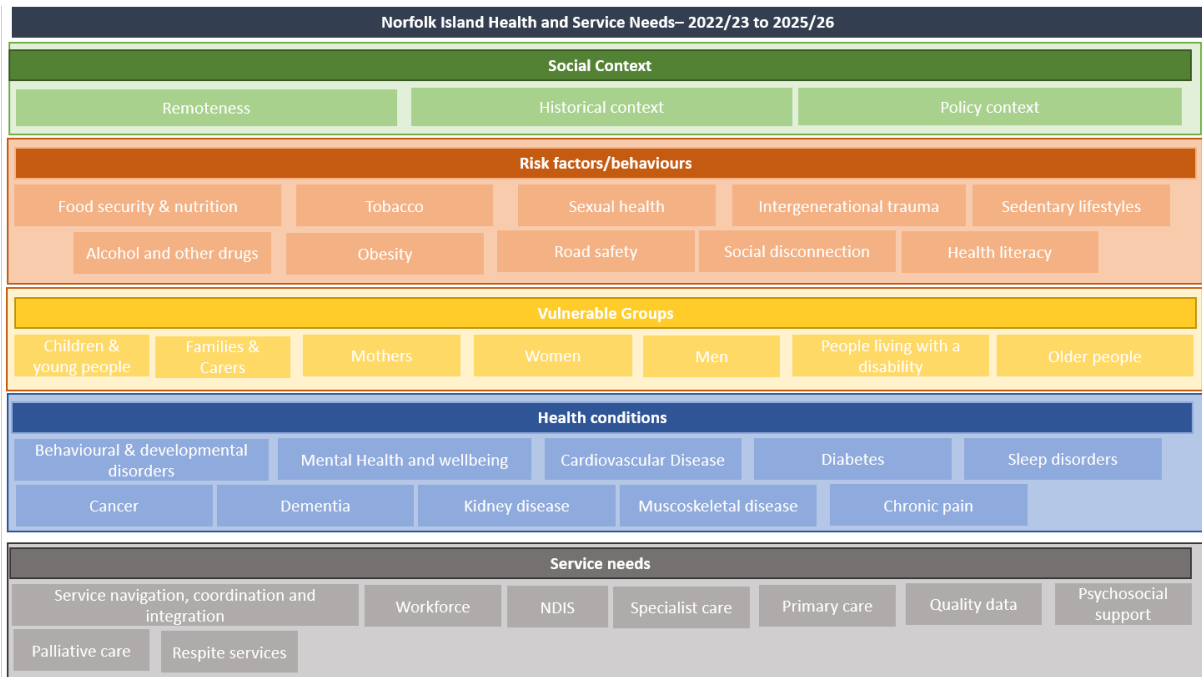


Figure 3: Norfolk Island health and service needs generated from community consultation and data review (Output: Steps 1-5)

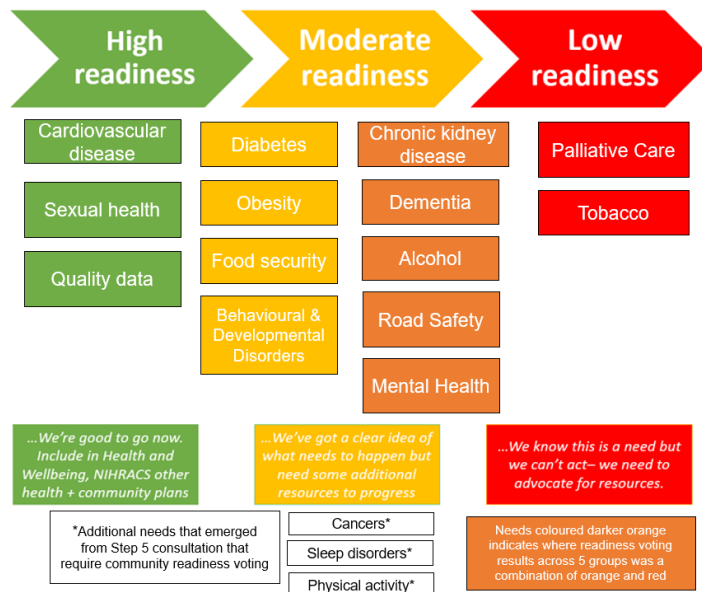


Figure 4: Norfolk Island community readiness to address identified health and service needs (Output: Step 6)

Step 7 will be developed during February-April 2023 and will deliver four outputs:

1. *Public facing Norfolk Island Health Needs Assessment document* – this document will be available for anyone living and working on Norfolk Island. It is a public resource that articulates current health and service strengths and needs. It is a high-level summary of Steps 1-6 learnings.
2. *Australian Department of Health PHN Health Needs Assessment deliverable report* – all 31 PHNs have a deliverable to the Department of Health to develop a health needs assessment process for communities they support and articulate the HNA process and findings. It is a report detailing process and outputs from Steps 1-6.
3. *Norfolk Island Health and Service Needs Action Plan* – the action plan will outline the health and service needs validated by the community in Step 5, summarise HNA findings, articulate system enablers required to support the health and service needs. It will also outline what ‘needs to be different’ for each need and corresponding immediate, medium and long term actions to address the need. Services/organisations that are (or could be) responsible to progress the actions and possible timeframes will be recorded*.
4. *Advocacy tool* – the additional resources and system enablers required to support identified needs (as per mapping document) will inform the basis of an advocacy tool that community, services and funding bodies can use to support relevant funding applications and conversations with decision makers. It is a tool that has applied what is required to address needs based on learnings and suggestions from Steps 1-7.

*Some additional information and community consultation will be required to complete the action plan document, particularly around who can progress actions and possible timeframes. Whilst Brisbane North PHN plans to develop the first iteration of this advocacy tool during March and April 2023, we acknowledge it will be an ongoing process that will align with the NIHRACS Strategic Planning process and is part of Step 8.

Step 8 will be an ongoing process in partnership with the Norfolk Island community, NIHRACS, Department of Infrastructure, Queensland Department of Education and Metro North Health. We acknowledge that a health needs assessment process is never ‘complete’. Needs continue to evolve as communities evolve and respond to their internal and external environmental contexts. Brisbane North PHN will continue to gather and collate information about Norfolk Island health needs and update documents in line with our health needs assessment planning cycles.

If you have any questions about this process please contact:



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Reference:

1. Barton, H; Grant, M. A health map for the local human habitat. *J. R. Soc. Promot, Health* 2006, 126, 252-253.