



THEME 1

A HEALTHY AND CARING COMMUNITY

We love living in Leeton because we enjoy an excellent quality of life from childhood through to our senior years. Healthy lifestyles are enjoyed by all in a caring, safe and friendly community. Learning is a constant with access to quality education opportunities for all ages.

STRATEGIES

- A community that focuses on being healthy
- A community that embraces lifelong learning
- A community that is friendly and inclusive
- A community that is safe to live in and move about
- A community that enjoys good housing

A COMMUNITY THAT FOCUSES ON BEING HEALTHY

Leeton Shire today



As a community we know that our health (physical, mental, emotional and spiritual) is closely linked to the conditions into which we are born, grow, live, work and age. Having access to appropriate housing, a secure early life, good education, nutritional food, job certainty, social support and healthcare systems all help to keep us healthy.

Statistics from the Murrumbidgee Local Health District show that for Leeton Shire our four biggest issues are alcohol abuse, smoking, being overweight and diabetes.

**“For the sake of our children
let’s make drinking sugary
fizz and eating junk food
NOT normal”**

If we have to be honest, many of us live in a way where being unhealthy has become the norm. We know we need to change this and are pleased to learn that it is never too late to make a change.

As a community we appreciate having a range of good health services both in our Shire and regionally, including base hospitals in both Griffith and Wagga Wagga. Compared to many rural communities we have a good number and

selection of GP’s, dentists and allied health services. We are worried that our birthing unit at the Leeton Hospital is at risk because we do not have enough doctors who are trained obstetricians and registered to deliver babies. Given that on average 100 babies are born every year at the Leeton Hospital, we believe strongly that this service should be continued.

From time to time we hear about people struggling to find appropriate mental health services, a situation that is often made more difficult for people from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Some of us think that we are fortunate to be able to access specialist services within an hour to an hour and a half, while others would like to see more specialist services offered in Leeton.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

Our bodies and minds are happy and healthy from the lifestyle changes we have made. We enjoy regular exercise and keeping a close eye on what we eat and drink.

Being out and about in our communities knowing we don’t have to breathe in secondhand smoke makes us feel good. We are proud to show our children that our public spaces are smoke free.

It is reassuring that older residents can move about in our communities safely and easily.

As a community we are enjoying lots of fruit and vegetables that we have grown ourselves.

We have peace of mind knowing our health is being looked after locally by health clinicians, health services, government agencies and Council - all working together to provide the medical services we need.

The NSW Premier’s State Priorities – Improving Service Levels in Hospitals aims to have 81% of patients through emergency departments within four hours. Also Tackling Childhood Obesity aims to reduce overweight and obesity rates of children by 5% over 10 years.

How we can do this

By getting on board with the Murrumbidgee Local Health District Health Promotions Programs, including Make Healthy Normal, Healthy Built Environment and Food Security.

By keeping an eye on what we eat and by doing a little more exercise, we’d find ourselves having more energy, looking and feeling better and with less risk of chronic disease.

By banning sugary drinks and junk food in schools, hospitals and public facilities.

By advocating strongly when services are threatened to close down.



Who may be available to help?

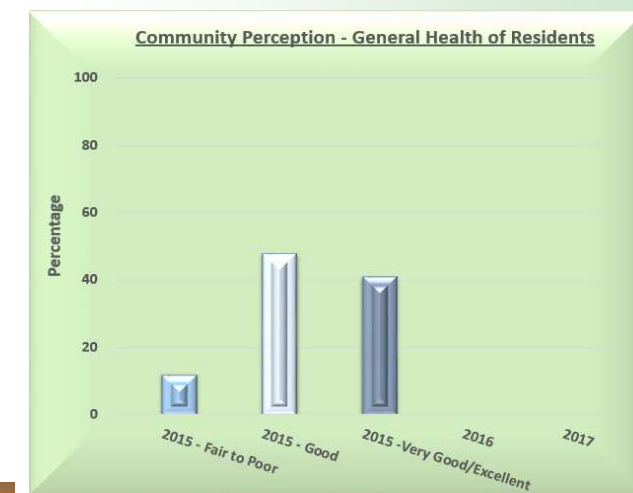
- Murrumbidgee Local Health District
- Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network
- Local health services
- Leeton Shire Council
- Local schools

Wish List

- More drug and alcohol services
- More mental health professionals and services
- Access to specialists rather than travelling
- Integrated local health system with other agencies
- Educational programs for prevention strategies



Signposts to measure our success over time



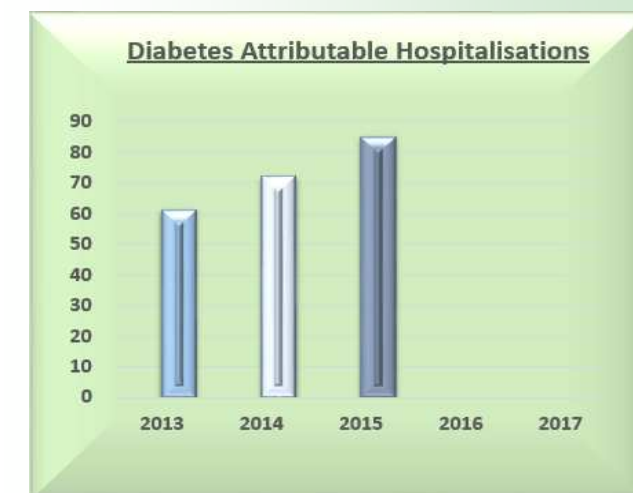
Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey 2015

We aim for the general health of residents to increase



Source: Murrumbidgee Local Health District—Health Atlas

We aim for alcohol attributable hospitalisations to decrease



Source: Murrumbidgee Local Health District—Health Atlas

We aim for diabetes attributable hospitalisations to decrease

A COMMUNITY THAT EMBRACES LIFELONG LEARNING

Leeton Shire today



Leeton Shire has a strong education network. This includes three major high schools, two of which are boarding schools where students come from across southwest NSW and other states, six primary schools, an independent school, a support school, two long day care centres, one pre-school and a number of family day care providers.

“The excellent education choices we have make Leeton a wonderfully liveable Shire”

The ABS Census data is broken down into postcodes with the 2011 data indicating in Yanco 53.3% of the people are studying, made up of 12.5% primary school, 73.6% high school, and 4.8% tech/uni/other students.

In the rest of the Shire 33% are studying, made up of 28.5% primary school, 26.9% high school, and 11.3% tech/uni/other students.

We can compare this to NSW which has 29.5% of people studying, made up of 27.8% in primary school, 22.7% in high school and 18.3% tech/uni/other students.

Having a local TAFE and registered training organisations that can offer many different

courses and programmes is important in our Shire, especially as our industries need skilled workers. Recent changes to funding for TAFE has made us nervous and we are committed to ensuring its ongoing presence.

Of the people living in Leeton Shire, 45% have qualifications over high school level:

- Certificate 20%
- Diploma 4%
- Degree 7%
- Graduate or Post Graduate Degrees 2%

Our community enjoys and values our local library service that caters for all ages with programs that cover children's story times, people of other cultures or languages, materials for the home-bound, and online resources. There is also opportunity for computer access so that everyone can benefit from modern technology.

Older residents in the community are endeavouring to set up U3A (University of the Third Age).



Where we want to be in 10 years time

Our young adults have every opportunity to undertake training to help obtain meaningful jobs or self employment opportunities within our communities.

We value the opportunities we have to study online or by distance education at our leisure and at an affordable cost.

The strong presence of NSW TAFE Riverina and other relevant education providers in the community has given us many choices to study areas we are truly interested in.

School leavers are enjoying the many different options they have for further study for their professional development.

The NSW Premier's State Priorities -Improving Education Results aim to increase the proportion of NSW students in the top two NAPLAN bands by 8%.



How we can do this

By having NBN faster broadband to help improve access to flexible online learning.

By continuing to offer free Wi-Fi so that nobody in the community is disadvantaged by not being able to access the internet.

By schools continuing to get creative and progress in their delivery of education to young people.

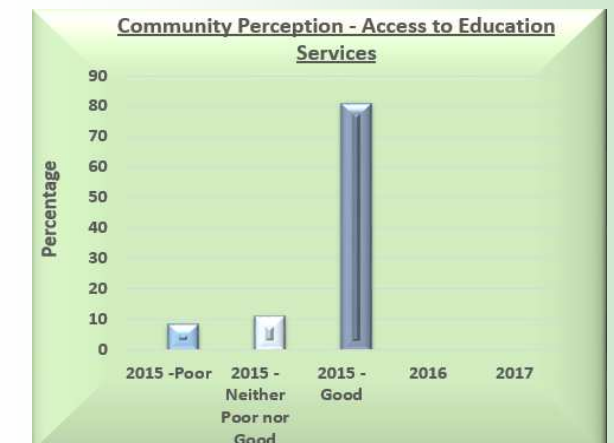
By local businesses providing apprenticeship opportunities.

Who may be available to help?

- NSW Department of Education
- TAFE and Registered Training Organisations
- Universities—such as Deakin/Charles Sturt
- Local schools
- Local Apprenticeship Centre



Signposts to measure our success over time



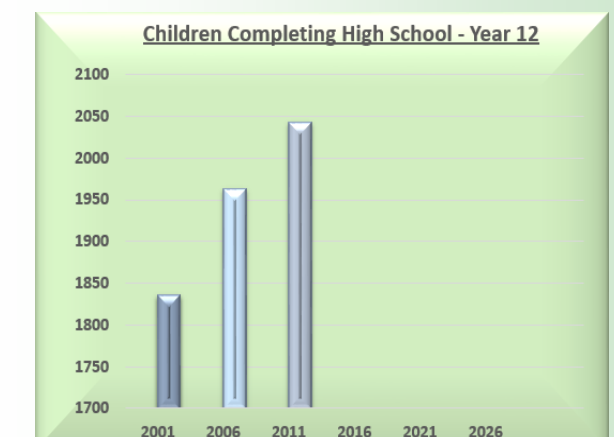
Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey 2015

We aim for “good” to trend upwards



Source: Leeton Shire Council

We aim for membership numbers to remain constant



Source: ABS Statistics

We aim for high school completion rates to increase

Wish List

Engineering to be continued to be offered locally through TAFE or another provider

A COMMUNITY THAT IS FRIENDLY AND INCLUSIVE

Leeton Shire today



One of the best things about living in Leeton Shire is being part of a community that is friendly, caring and inclusive. Many people who move here for a short-term job decide to stay. Others who leave return because they appreciate everything the Shire has to offer.

We have a new residents' kit aimed at helping people to quickly settle in and become familiar with how our community works.

"We absolutely love Leeton. It is genuinely the best welcome we have ever had!"

Many of us volunteer in community groups whether they be for sport and recreation or to help people facing disadvantage, ill health or difficult times.

At last count there were around 84 sporting and activity groups, 58 support groups or organisations, 16 churches and 92 service groups of varying kinds. This represents a range of opportunities for people to get involved in community life, make friends and have a sense of belonging. Leeton has a Multi Purpose Community Service Centre which houses a range of services that promote wellbeing in a friendly environment.

Leeton has a remarkable degree of social cohesion given its diversity. This is indicated by

the 2011 Census data which gives a break up of Leeton's population at that time. The countries of birth other than Australia included Italy (1.8%), England (1.0%), New Zealand (0.8%), India (0.5%) and Scotland (0.2%).

Many of us are actively working to promote mutual trust and understanding so that everyone has the opportunity to love living in Leeton. We find sharing food and cultural experiences helps to bring about togetherness and respect.

We have further shown our commitment to social cohesion by becoming a Safe Haven town for refugees in NSW.

We value our community facilities such as our local halls as these provide us with opportunities to meet, discuss, celebrate, entertain and hold events. It is also important for us to be able to farewell our loved ones in a dignified and respectful manner and we like our cemeteries in Leeton and Whitton to be attractive places to visit and remember our loved ones.

Some of us face various disabilities and while our facilities and services cater well for some, there is some way yet to go with achieving a full sense of inclusiveness. For example, people who are ageing or with physical disabilities often comment on access issues such as footpaths, kerb heights and ramps, etc.

Older people in our community in need of support can access Meals on Wheels, Home Modification and Maintenance Services and social support via a service that has operated for over 50 years.

We have inspiring youth and mentoring programs for our young people which provide opportunities for them to socialise and grow in confidence while celebrating their success.



Where we want to be in 10 years time

We are a community that is continuing to care about each other and enjoy great relationships.

Our volunteers in service clubs and community groups are highly valued for the help they continue to provide to others. They come from all age groups and bring diverse skills.

People with a disability and different cultural backgrounds feel fully involved and able to participate meaningfully in our community.



How we can do this

By strengthening our network of service groups and support groups.

By supporting youth services and programs.

By supporting aged services and programs.

By supporting disability services and programs.

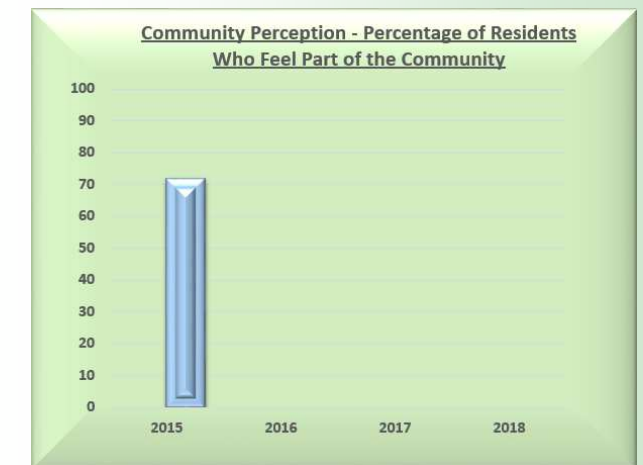
By supporting refugee and migrant services and programs.

By maintaining a central list of community groups and contacts.

Who may be available to help?

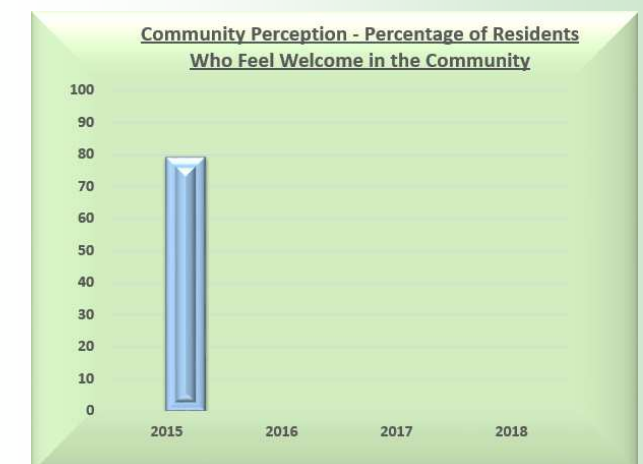
- Multicultural NSW
- Leeton Shire Council
- Family and Community Services
- Dept. of Social Services, Federal Gov.
- Youth NSW
- Local organisations and inter-agencies

Signposts to measure our success over time



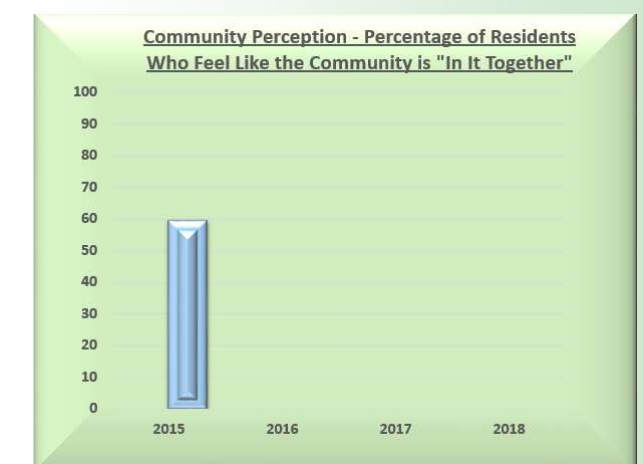
Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey 2015

We aim for all residents to feel part of the community



Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey 2015

We aim for all residents to feel welcome in the community



Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey 2015

We aim for community perception to increase

A COMMUNITY THAT IS SAFE TO LIVE IN AND MOVE ABOUT

Leeton Shire today



As residents of Leeton Shire we like to feel safe in our homes and on our streets. Generally our communities are safe places to live and move and raise a family.

Our police station falls under the Griffith Local Area Command. Most of the time we feel our policing service is good but sometimes the time it takes to respond is not satisfactory.

Growing drug (especially Ice) and alcohol abuse is a worry. Crime here is a bit different than in other places. Vehicle and house break-ins, stealing, vandalism and assaults other than family assaults are all down but other crime remains at about the same level.

“Leeton is relatively safe, but there seems to have been an increase in break-ins and this worries me. Police presence is limited from what I see and there needs to be more for younger people to do”

Leeton is getting more CCTV coverage in busy public areas and businesses and homes are also putting in more video systems. Well-lit streets are important. It is important to give young people things to do so that they aren't bored.

We do have a Neighbourhood Watch program which encourages people to limit the opportunities for crime and builds a safer community.

We also want to be safe on the roads and that includes making sure people aren't speeding or hooning, that the roads and streets are in good condition and that vehicles are safe. This is especially important around schools.

We enjoy our walkways and bike paths as they keep us separate from traffic. However in some areas paths are of a low standard or don't connect well enough and in some areas there are no footpaths at all. This can be a big challenge for people who use disability aides and for older residents.

We have zero tolerance for dogs running loose and attacking people or animals. In 2015 we had twice as many attacks per person compared to Griffith and almost three-and-a-half times as many compared to Narrandera.

In 2012 we suffered major flooding and we want to be sure that everything that can be done will be done to prevent this happening again.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

Mums and dads feel at ease letting their children play outside in the fresh air knowing our crime level and drug and alcohol issues are very low.

Our youth are active members of our communities and participate in a wide variety of activities.

It is great that we now feel as safe as the older generation did in the past at home and on our streets.

Mums and dads are comfortable with their children crossing busy streets to school as flashing lights outside every school help slow motorists down.

Parents pushing prams, children and the elderly head safely to the shops or schools or doctors on foot or in their mobility scooters on wide, well linked footpaths.

People needing to use disabled car spots enjoy knowing one will be available to them.

We can rest easy knowing that a flood event in our Shire won't have a major impact on us.

We enjoy being able to walk about in our communities without being threatened by animals on the loose.

The NSW Premier's State Priorities – Reducing Domestic Violence aims to reduce the proportion of domestic violence re-offending by 5% within 12 months. Also Protecting our Kids aims to decrease the percentage of children and young people re-reported at risk of significant harm by 15%.

How we can do this

By taking part in “Project Eye Watch”, an online community policing program to fight crime.

By encouraging people to take actions that prevent them from becoming victims of crime.

By setting up a Rural Watch system.

By continuing to promote campaigns on designated driving and looking after your mates.

By making sure there are lots of activities for young people to do when they aren't at school or work.

By increasing lighting and CCTV in public places.

By looking into how land around the Shire has been zoned and whether that is the best way to use it.

By implementing flood mitigation measures.

By developing footpaths, disability car parks and cycleways that meet priority needs.

Who may be available to help?

- NSW State Police
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Leeton Shire Council
- Local churches and community services
- Disability Action Reference Group
- Domestic Violence Support Group



Signposts to measure our success over time



Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey 2015

We aim for an increase in residents feeling safe in the community



Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

We aim for incidences to decrease



Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

We aim for incidences to decrease

A COMMUNITY THAT ENJOYS GOOD HOUSING

Leeton Shire today



As a community we believe that housing is one of the most basic needs for everyone. Through their lives most people spend more on housing than on anything else.

All families need to be able to live in an affordable home of a decent quality so that they can still pay for food, clothing, education and medicine. In Leeton Shire most people live in separate houses as opposed to flats and units.

In Leeton, 36.3% or just over a third of houses are owned mortgage-free and 32.7% of houses were owned with a home loan. This is slightly above the rest of the state. 27.5% of homes are rented. 7% of households spend over a third of their income on housing costs which often means they struggle to make ends meet.

“Rentals are difficult to find and sometimes we see families having to share accommodation.”

Generally there are as few as 6 to 20 rentals available at any one time on the internet ranging from \$180-\$320 a week and often this does not meet demand. Most people feel that there are too few rentals and that landlords are charging too much because of that shortage.

Argyle Housing provides housing for some older people which is good but there is a growing need for more elderly housing and single person housing.

Some residents have expressed concern about

the standard of social housing in some areas.

Residents feel that it is important that any new subdivisions meet the standards we expect for residential areas in Leeton. Some that haven't need attention to make them more liveable.

The lack of temporary or emergency housing is also a worry from time to time, as well as youth homelessness.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

We are fortunate to have many well planned and positioned housing areas to choose from around the Shire which suit our needs and price range.

Our communities welcome itinerant farm, factory workers and business travellers. We are pleased to offer them sufficient housing options that are suitably priced.

Knowing we are safe, regardless of our age or background, in our towns and villages makes us feel happy and content.

We are pleased to see that there has been an increase in the availability of social housing.

In times of need, it is reassuring to know that short term emergency housing is readily available in our communities.

The NSW Premier's State Priorities – Reducing Youth Homelessness aims to increase the proportion of young people who successfully move from Specialist Homelessness Services to long-term accommodation by 10%. Also Faster Housing Approvals aims to have 90% of housing approvals determined within 40 days.



How we can do this

By having different organisations involved in housing working together to find the best ways to meet identified housing needs.

By identifying land that might be good for building more houses, including special housing types like elderly, youth, lower income and backpacker places and making sure there is enough transport available for their needs.

By promoting house builds that foster health and wellbeing and long term affordability.

By promoting Leeton as an attractive location for housing development.

By investigating inner-city living.



Who may be available to help?

- NSW Department of Housing
- Leeton Shire Council
- Argyle Housing
- Salvation Army
- Leeton Community Op Shop
- Property developers

Wish List

More backpacker places that are nice

More apartments that are attractive

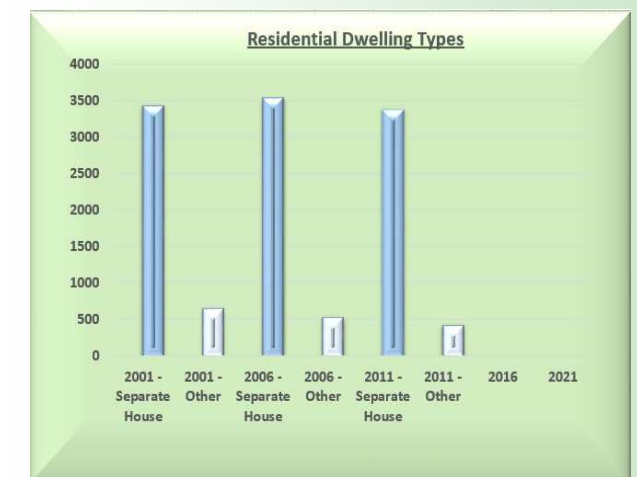
More transport for outer areas such as Wattle Hill and Golf Course Estate

Signposts to measure our success over time



Source: ABS Statistics

We aim for mortgage payments to be less than 30% of household income



Source: ABS Statistics

We aim for a variety of dwelling options



Source: ABS Statistics

We aim for a decrease in need for State Housing Accommodation