



Cherbourg Health Plan

A message from Mayor Elvie Sandow

On behalf of the Cherbourg Community, welcome to Wakka Wakka Country. I would like to acknowledge the Elders past, present and emerging and the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we stand.

Cherbourg is an Aboriginal Community located around three hours north of Brisbane, situated in the South Burnett Region and the nearby township of Murgon.

Cherbourg continues to grow with an estimated population of around 1,800 people and has approximately 330 houses.

The Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council provides essential services such as housing, water and waste management and has a long history in supporting economic development. This includes building and joinery services, pastoral and farm services and recycling service. Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council also operates as the 'Primary' Disaster management, coordination, and command centre.

Cherbourg has built a reputation and is respected as a well-known leading community with a history of success academically, economically and on the sporting arena, dating back to 1904.

The developments, initiatives and positive success stories act as testimony to the wonderful wealth of strength, resilience and is a reflection of our ancestors and cultural practices still operating to this day.

In recent times the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council, Community Members and Workforce have proven our collective skills and attributes whilst negotiating and securing investment and managing to completion major capital works and infrastructure upgrades. This includes but is not limited to new water supply, waste management plants and economically successful recycling plant.

During the COVID 19 Pandemic, the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council determined to take a lead in keeping the community safe and worked with the Darling Downs Health and Hospital Service and local Government and non-Government service providers to coordinate an "all of community response".

The learnings from the COVID 19 response have galvanized the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council to consider and place key values that guides the work of the endorsed Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council, Health Council.

The Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council has been monitoring the First Nations Health Equity Agenda and refers to the Queensland's Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Equity Framework, which places First Nations peoples and voices at the centre of healthcare service design and delivery in Queensland.

The intention of the Cherbourg Health Council is to lead Cherbourg Health providers in bringing about change to health service delivery, enabling the community to live longer healthier lives.

We also note existing commitments from the Queensland Government, in particular the "Statement of Commitment to reframe the relationship between Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people and the Queensland Government".

We see the emergence of the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council 'Health Council' a local community response to both the reframing of relationships and the Health Equity Agenda of the Queensland Government and wish to ensure this is recognised and this narrative forms the base of communication within relevant State and Commonwealth Departments.

As the Mayor of the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council, it is with gratitude to all involved, who have shown courage and determination to reflect on past practices and the willingness to challenge the status quo to lead and support

Mayor Elvie Sandow



Many Tribes. One Community



Mission

Create and sustain culturally healthy and safe environments and lifestyles for Cherbourg people.

Values



Respect



Empathy



Understanding



Compassion



Accountability



Identity



Partnerships

Vision

The Cherbourg Health Council in partnership with the community of Cherbourg strives to:

- Provide a clean, safe and healthy community
- Work in partnership to improve and maintain the health and wellbeing of our people
- Consistently empower community to become self-reliant/independent
- Empower/encourage our community to determine their future through self-respect, education, training, cultural and traditional values
- Provide a caring, respectful and safe environment for our community
- Improve Health outcomes for our community.

Health Equity

The Cherbourg Health Council acknowledges the Queensland Government's health equity reform agenda. This reform seeks to improve Aboriginal peoples' and Torres Strait Islander peoples' health outcomes, experiences, and access to care across the health system.

As representatives of our community the Cherbourg Health Council will lead this reform locally, and ensure that the voices, lived experiences and cultural authority of our people are listened to and respected.

In leading this reform we will ensure that health services:

- Actively eliminate racial discrimination and institutional racism within health services
- Increase access to healthcare services
- Influence the social, cultural and economic determinants of health
- Deliver sustainable, culturally safe and responsive healthcare services
- Work with our people, community and organisations to design, deliver, monitor and review health services.



Culturally Appropriate Customer Service

Priorities

Cherbourg people have access to culturally safe customer service.

What was agreed

1. Create an alternative complaints process to raise issues through the Cherbourg Health Council.
2. Community to design welcoming waiting areas for Cherbourg Hospital and Community Health.
3. Provide more care in people's homes
4. Develop and deliver cultural awareness training to all health staff that is specific to Cherbourg.
5. Hire more local people in customer-facing jobs in our health facilities.
6. Improved communication and coordination of patient care and services.



Early Years

Priorities

Cherbourg children are born healthy and strong, and thrive in their early years.

What was agreed

1. Make sure all children can get hearing, vision, and dental care.
2. Provide health services in Gundoo Early Childhood Centre.
3. Provide more parenting programs and support to parents, before and after their child is born.
4. Review local paediatric services so that everyone who needs access to a specialist can get it.



Mental Health

Priorities

Cherbourg people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing.

What was agreed

1. Host a mental health forum for the community to plan better social and emotion wellbeing services in the community.



Chronic Disease

Priorities

Cherbourg people enjoy long, healthy lives.

What was agreed

1. Promote healthy lifestyles in the community.
2. Find out why people miss their outpatient appointments, and reduce these barriers.
3. Have health providers work together to plan support for patients with complex care needs.
4. Review the specialists that visit Cherbourg to make sure we have the right services available locally.