



MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

4 MAY 2022

9.1 POSITIVE AGEING POLICY - DRAFT POLICY OBJECTIVES

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: TONY KEENAN, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND INCLUSION

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide Council and the community with the outcomes of the Positive Ageing community consultation and draft key policy objectives for the Positive Ageing Policy.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 On 2 February 2022, Council endorsed a policy development process and resolved for officers to commence community engagement to inform and deliver a Positive Ageing Policy by November 2022. Council endorsed the engagement approach that facilitated broad and diverse input from residents, service providers, Council's advisory committees and the wider community.
- 2.2 Older people (defined as people aged 60 years and older and first nations people aged 50 years and older) make up a significant, valued and growing proportion (16%) of the municipal community in Port Phillip.
- 2.3 Australia has an ageing population and reform in aged care services has been occurring since 2016. The Commonwealth is directing an agenda for national consistency and improved consumer choice for delivery of federally funded aged care services.
- 2.4 A Positive Ageing Policy will help Council navigate future decisions around how it can contribute to positive ageing outcomes, as well as inform future decisions about its role in Commonwealth funded aged care services.
- 2.5 Following community engagement on what matters for positive ageing and two workshops with stakeholders, Council officers have proposed policy goals for positive ageing for Council endorsement. These proposed goals set out aspirations for positive ageing in the City of Port Phillip.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Note the activities undertaken to inform the development of Council's Positive Ageing Policy to date and planned next steps.
- 3.2 Endorse the proposed policy objectives for Council's Positive Ageing Policy as follows:
 - 3.2.1 Goal 1: Accessible, affordable, and quality support services are available locally and at home as people age and needs change
 - 3.2.2 Goal 2: Effective communication and education enables people to maintain health and wellbeing and know about available services and activities
 - 3.2.3 Goal 3: Respect and value of the contribution of older people from all genders, backgrounds, identities and abilities and the importance of intergenerational connections



- 3.2.4 Goal 4: Well-designed public spaces, events, activities and campaigns promote independence, social interaction, health and wellbeing, and digital literacy
- 3.2.5 Goal 5: Safe, secure, and stable housing enable people to remain in their communities as they age
- 3.2.6 Goal 6: Affordable, safe and reliable transport options enable independent movement and connection to friends, family and services

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 On 2 February 2022, Council noted the intended policy scope, process and community engagement for developing Council's new Positive Ageing Policy.
- 4.2 This policy will use the WHO Age Friendly Communities and Cities Framework to articulate the roles the Council can play in:
 - Positioning Port Phillip as an age-friendly city for everyone
 - Ensuring the city is a safe, accessible and inclusive place for older people regardless of their life stage, age, ability, ethnicity, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation
 - Fostering neighbourhoods that are supportive, caring and resilient in times of need
 - Facilitating adequate access to health, housing and social support services and programs for all people as they age
 - Ensuring that all people can remain socially connected, engaged and valued members of the city as they age.
- 4.3 The scope of this policy will consider:
 - The needs of people aged 60 years and older (and First Nations people aged 50 years and older), and their families and carers in the City of Port Phillip
 - How older person services and programs that are delivered in the City of Port Phillip can contribute to positive ageing including:
 - Services and programs delivered directly by the City of Port Phillip. These include the Older Persons Advisory Committee, Linking Neighbours program, Seniors Festival and providing Commonwealth funded entry level aged care services such as community transport, home maintenance, domestic assistance and social support.
 - Services and programs that receive financial or in-kind support from the City of Port Phillip. These include facilities providing programs for older people to socialise and grant funding for community groups.
 - Universal services, programs and events provided or funded by Council that contribute to an age-friendly city. This includes the provision of public spaces, lighting, footpaths and sport and recreation services.
 - Services provided by other levels of government, the private sector and the non-for-profit sector.
- 4.4 The Positive Ageing Policy will be delivered in six stages (refer to Attachment 1).
- 4.5 The presentation of this report represents the completion of the first three stages:
 - 4.5.1 Stage 1: Preliminary research to scope and understand what positive ageing means.



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4.5.2 Stage 2: Council engaged with the community members and stakeholders to understand what age friendly means in the City of Port Phillip. During this time, officers convened a subgroup of the Older Persons' Advisory Committee (OPAC) to assist with stages three and four. This group is known as the **Positive Ageing Policy Sub-Committee** and consists of members of the OPAC and interested persons from Council's newly formed LBGTIQ+ advisory committee, Multicultural Advisory Committee and Multifaith Network.

4.5.3 Stage 3: Officers worked with members of the Positive Ageing Policy Sub-Committee across two workshops to unpack and articulate the goals this policy is seeking to achieve.

4.6 More detail on the activities and outcomes from the community consultation and stakeholder engagement is provided in Section 5 of this report.

4.7 Drawing on the analysis of what was learnt through the community engagement, the WHO Age-Friendly Domains and discussions with the Positive Ageing Policy Sub-Committee the following five focus areas were identified:

4.7.1 **Community support and health services**

This was identified as the most important priority by survey respondents when asked what positive ageing would look like in the future and was a key priority identified by the Positive Ageing Policy Sub-committee. Survey respondents shared that access to adequate and affordable health care, while feeling supported at home and in their community is important. A number of respondents praised services available in the City of Port Phillip and expressed a desire to see these grow. While half felt they have access to the services they need when or if they need it, a high proportion were unsure (38 per cent) and some (13 per cent) stated that they do not have access.

4.7.2 **Social participation, respect and inclusion**

This was identified as the second most important priority by survey respondents when asked what positive ageing would look like in the future and was a key priority identified by the Positive Ageing Policy Sub-committee. Survey respondents shared that access to a range of accessible and affordable activities and intergenerational integration is key for positive ageing and expressed that age can be a barrier for connecting with their community and a need for activities that build connections and combat loneliness.

4.7.3 **Housing**

This was identified as the third most important priority by survey respondents when asked what positive ageing would look like in the future and was a key priority identified by the Positive Ageing Policy Sub-committee. Survey respondents shared that being able to remain in their own home is central to positive ageing with people raising concerns about not being able to afford to remain at home and a lack of affordable retirement living options and low-income housing.

4.7.4 **Outdoor spaces and buildings**

This was identified as a key priority by survey respondents across several topics and related issues were identified by the Positive Ageing Policy Sub-committee. Survey respondents identified that having safe, clean and beautiful



streets and outdoor spaces are important with a desire for more trees, shady areas and seats to make walking more enjoyable. Safety was also emphasised, with people wanting to feel safer out and about, especially at night. There were also concerns about dogs off-leash in outdoor spaces and 'ugly' and unnecessary development as well concerns related to climate change, food insecurity and rising sea levels.

4.7.5 **Transportation and moving around**

This was identified as a key priority by survey respondents across several topics and related issues were identified by the Positive Ageing Policy Sub-committee. Survey respondents identified that proximity and accessibility to outdoor spaces and facilities are important drivers of positive ageing with people wanting to feel safe outdoors without the dangers of e-bikes and scooters, off-leash dogs, and damaged footpaths.

- 4.8 Based on the key focus areas, six policy goals for positive ageing in our city have been developed that reflect our aspirations for positive ageing in our city:

Goal 1: Accessible, affordable, and quality support services are available locally and at home as people age and needs change

Goal 2: Effective communication and education enables people to maintain health and wellbeing and know about available services and activities

Goal 3: Respect and value of the contribution of older people from all genders, backgrounds, identities and abilities and the importance of intergenerational connections

Goal 4: Well-designed public spaces, events, activities and campaigns promote independence, social interaction, health and wellbeing, and digital literacy

Goal 5: Safe, secure, and stable housing enable people to remain in their communities as they age

Goal 6: Affordable, safe and reliable transport options enable independent movement and connection to friends, family and services

5. **CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS**

- 5.1 During February and March, Council consulted to understand what age friendly means in our community. This included:
- 5.1.1 Key stakeholder interviews with service providers (involving hour long interviews with representatives across 12 organisations including community health services, social clubs, sporting groups and community groups).
 - 5.1.2 A hard copy and online community survey measuring attitudes and opinions against the WHO Age Friendly domains and informed by an evidence-based background paper.
 - 5.1.3 Members of the community were invited to participate via promotion in CoPPThis!, the Have Your Say online engagement platform, targeted social media advertising, postcards, social media, direct mail and the Council website.
 - 5.1.4 Responses to the survey were sought from diverse and intersectional groups by utilising Council's networks and stakeholder lists and offering translated versions of the hard copy survey (in Polish, Russian and Greek).



5.1.5 Of the 359 survey respondents, there was a good spread of respondents from across the municipality with 95 per cent residing in the City of Port Phillip. About 70 per cent identified themselves as women or female which is a higher proportion than the 52% of the 2016 Census population aged 60 years and older who are female. Compared with the demographics of people aged 60 years and older, the respondent profile was older with 76 per cent aged 70 years and older (this age range accounts for 46 per cent of 2016 Census population aged 60 years and older). A higher proportion of survey respondents identified that they live alone compared with the demographics of people aged 60 years and older.

5.2 Members of Council's Older Persons, Multicultural Advisory and newly formed LGBTIQA+ advisory committees were invited to participate on the Positive Ageing Policy Sub-Committee to help inform the development of the policy.

5.3 The Positive Ageing Policy Subcommittee consists of:

- 8 members of the Older Person Advisory Committee
- 3 members of the Multicultural Committee
- 1 person associated with the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee

5.4 Two workshops were held with the Positive Ageing Policy Sub-Committee. These workshops were designed for participants to consider what is most important to people aged 60 years and over and their goals for the future.

5.5 At the first workshop, attendees considered the outcomes of the community engagement and identified the following areas of focus for the policy:

- 5.5.1 Housing
- 5.5.2 Community support and health services
- 5.5.3 Social Participation (including isolation and social participation)
- 5.5.4 Environment

5.6 At the second workshop, attendees identified key elements to be included in the goals for positive ageing under the five focus areas. Key elements identified included:

5.6.1 **Community support and health services:** Access, Affordability, Availability locally and/or at home, Quality, Communication and education around support and services available

5.6.2 **Social participation, respect and inclusion:** Respect, Education, Intergenerational, Diversity of older people

5.6.3 **Housing:** Stability, Security, Support to age in place

5.6.4 **Outdoor spaces and buildings:** Connections, Considered Design, Connectivity, Spaces for social interaction, knowledge and interest sharing

5.6.5 **Transport and Moving Around:** Transport as an enabler of connections and independence, Safety, Affordability, Accessibility, Reliability

5.7 These key elements have been reflected in the proposed goals provided in this report.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Commonwealth Government has announced significant reforms to improve the delivery of aged care services in Australia. This policy will provide a framework for

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Council to make informed decisions about its future role in Commonwealth-funded aged care services.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 Operating project funding of \$60k has been allocated in the 2021/22 budget to support the delivery of this policy. This funding is being used to develop engagement materials, facilitate workshops and undertake supporting research.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 The Positive Ageing Background Paper outlined the issues associated with climate change and positive ageing including the impacts of climate change on older people.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 The Positive Ageing Policy will outline Council's role in providing services to people as they age. It is being drafted alongside a broader project which will review the potential impact of the Commonwealth Aged Care Reforms on Council's delivery of these services.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 Development of a Positive Ageing Policy aligns to the Strategic Direction 1 *Inclusive Port Phillip* in the Council Plan 2021 - 2031. A specific initiative under this direction is to prepare a Positive Ageing Policy.

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

- 11.1.1 The next and fourth stage in the policy development process is to formalise Council's role in achieving the goals (what the community can expect from Council).
- 11.1.2 A third workshop with the Positive Ageing Policy Subcommittee (scheduled for 23 May 2022) will inform this prior to the draft policy being presented to Council on 20 July 2022.
- 11.1.3 Stage Five provides an opportunity for community members to provide feedback on the draft policy to ensure it is fit-for-purpose prior to its formal adoption.
- 11.1.4 The final phase is the formal adoption which is planned for November 2022.

11.2 COMMUNICATION

- 11.2.1 The community and all relevant stakeholders are kept informed throughout the process.

12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

- 12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any material or general interest in the matter.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Policy Development Process