



9.2 **OLDER PERSONS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

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

PREPARED BY: LAURA CATTAPAN, COORDINATOR GRANTS AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present to Council the Older Persons Consultative Committee (OPCC) Annual Report 2020 (provided at Attachment 1).

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The City of Port Phillip's OPCC is a formal Reference Committee to Council, and acts as its peak advisory and advocacy body consulting on issues affecting the wellbeing of older people, 55 years and over, within the municipality.
- 2.2 The OPCC have presented to Council their Annual Report outlining the breadth of work they have completed and highlighting their key achievements.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Receives and acknowledges the Older Persons Consultative Committee (OPCC) Annual Report 2020 and thanks the Committee for their work and achievements.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The OPCC was established in 2000 as a component of Council's response to the International Year of the Older Person and is a reference committee of the City of Phillip. Its community members are appointed on a voluntary capacity. They advise and advocate to Council on wellbeing issues, policies, plans and services impacting older people.
- 4.2 OPCC members attend monthly committee meetings and volunteer additional time on subcommittees to support their advocacy work and assist Council to deliver events such as the Port Phillip Seniors Festival. Members also represent older persons in relevant forums and are members of other reference committees and networks within Council and the community.
- 4.3 In 2020 the OPCC developed an action plan in line with their Terms of Reference, the Council Plan 2017-27 and the World Health Organisation Age Friendly Cities Framework. The Plan outlines advice to Council on policy and planning issues, advocacy relating to older people, and promotion of positive ageing in Port Phillip. Refer to Attachment 2. OPCC Terms of Reference and Attachment 3. OPCC 2020 Objectives and Action Plan - Review.
- 4.4 The OPCC Annual Report 2020 outlines the committee's outcomes and achievements, which include the highlights below:



- 4.4.1 Keeping Council informed of the impact of COVID-19 on older residents of Port Phillip. This involved identifying service gaps and raising issues of concern for older persons including social isolation, lack of digital literacy and ageism.
- 4.4.2 Guiding and assisting Council with reimagining and developing the 2020 City of Port Phillip Seniors Festival program.
- 4.4.3 Participating in OPCC working groups and subcommittees to further develop actions outlined in the OPCC 2020 Objectives and Action Plan, including:
 - OPCC 2020 Planning Working Group
 - Seniors Festival Steering Committee
 - OPCC 21st Anniversary Working Group (previously titled 20th)
- 4.4.4 Providing advice, input and feedback on a range of Council business activities and strategic documents as outlined in section 5.1.1
- 4.4.5 Raising to Council key issues affecting older people in Port Phillip as outlined in section 5.1.2.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The OPCC 2020 Annual Report outlines the contribution, advice and consultation provided to Council by the OPCC, along with informing Council on issues impacting older people in the City of Port Phillip, this included:
 - 5.1.1 Feedback during consultation on Council activities:
 - Draft Customer Service Charter
 - Public Toilet Plan
 - Maintenance and replacement of public lighting
 - 'Future Ready' Multicultural Seniors Review
 - Draft Annual Council Budget for 2019/20.
 - 5.1.2 Information on matters affecting older persons:
 - Advocating for the State Government to continue funding Victorian Active Ageing Partnership Project
 - Seating and homelessness in Fitzroy Street
 - Public lighting in Port Phillip
 - The impact of COVID-19 on older people in Port Phillip
 - Hiring of Council's community facilities.
 - 5.1.3 Engagement with external stakeholders:
 - Shrine to Sea Project, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
 - Australian Communications Consumer Action Network, No Victorian Left Offline Roundtable.



- EveryAge Counts webinar, 'Beyond 2020 – What's ageism got to do with it?'

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no known legal or risk implications.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 The OPCC Annual Report is drafted and produced internally. There is no expense, other than officer time, associated with the production.

7.2 The 1920/21 annual Council budget allocated \$5,466 for OPCC running costs, providing for an annual forum, administration, printing, participant support and meeting refreshments.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 There is an online distribution of the OPCC Annual Report as well as being accessible on the Council website. The report is available in hardcopy by request only.

8.2 Environmental sustainability has been a key objective in the OPCC Objectives and Plan for the past six years.

8.3 Issues relating to climate change have been included in the OPCC monthly meeting Agendas.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 The establishment of Council Reference Committees is integral to Council's commitment to good governance and aligns well with the Local Government Act requirements around community engagement. Through these Committees, Council recognises and encourages community leadership, and seeks to maximise community feedback in its decision-making process.

9.2 Reference Committees provide advice to Council as well as facilitating community networks to build on local strengths, keeping people informed and connected. They improve public confidence through demonstrating active community participation in the decision-making process.

9.3 The OPCC's contribution has ensured that older persons in Port Phillip have a more culturally enriched, participatory and inclusive lived experience. As an established reference committee, they have been responsible for advocating for Council to deliver a range of positive and healthy ageing initiatives. They include the Linking Neighbours Program and Seniors Register, a dedicated Seniors Festival, and the establishment of a University of the Third Age (U3A) in Port Phillip.

9.4 The OPCC host annual information forums on current topics identified as of significant importance by older residents.

9.5 The OPCC provide advice to Council on policy, strategy developments and the Commonwealth Aged Care reforms.

9.6 The OPCC will be an important stakeholder for Council to continue to consult in relation to COVID-19 recovery. The United Nations (UN)' Policy Brief: The impact of COVID-19 on older persons May 2020', outlined 'the pandemic has seen older persons at a significantly higher risk of mortality and sickness with people over 80 years old dying at five times the average rate'. The wellbeing, mental health and the impact of ageism and stigma on older persons needs to be addressed. The UN highlight the extreme



importance for older persons to contribute to the crisis response and recovery. The OPCC are well placed to assist Council to deliver on this.

- 9.7 Committee members are representative of a range of local groups and services including U3APP, Australian Association of Gerontology, Port Phillip Lions Club, COTA Victoria, Port Phillip Bicycle Users Group, CaSPA Care, Linking Neighbours, Port Phillip Multifaith Network and Port Phillip Multicultural Advisory Committee.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

10.1 The work of the OPCC aligns with Strategic Direction 1 in the Council Plan 2017-27 - 'We embrace difference, and people belong' through ensuring:

1.1 A safe and active community with strong social connections.

1.4 Community diversity is valued and celebrated.

10.2 The OPCC Annual Report reflects the committee being active, informed and made up of community members who are from diverse backgrounds.

10.3 The OPCC advocate for the inclusion of older persons in all aspects of community life. Issues relating to improving street safety and amenities, housing and homelessness, ageism, climate change, aged care and the impact of COVID-19 are priorities for the committee.

10.4 Council will continue to consult with the OPCC on Council priorities and key strategies.

10.5 Key priorities for the OPCC in 2021 include:

- Ageism
- Aged Care Reforms and Findings of the Royal Commission
- Health, Safety and the Physical Environment
- Housing and Homelessness
- Environmental Sustainability
- Communication
- Governance

10.6 The OPCC addresses the following Port Phillip Social Justice Charter principles:

- Participation in decision-making and Council processes
- Access: Equity of Access to information, facilities and services
- Respect: Valuing diversity
- Enjoying the City: being connected

10.7 The OPCC addresses the following City of Port Phillip Health and Wellbeing Implementation Strategies priority health topics:

- Service access – universal and targeted access to information and services, including maternal and child health and youth services, aged and disability services.
- Social inclusion and diversity including mental health resilience.



10.8 The OPCC addresses the Port Phillip Community Safety Plan 2019-23, Priority Area 2. Build Resilience:

- Strategy 2.11 Council supports consultative processes and advisory groups to ensure our understanding of community service needs is well-informed and relevant.

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

11.1.1 The Older Persons Consultative Committee Annual Report 2020 will be made available on Council's website following this meeting.

11.2 COMMUNICATION

11.2.1 The outcome of the Council meeting will be communicated at the OPCC meeting on 3 May 2021 and will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.

TRIM FILE NO: 02/06/38

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 - OPCC Annual Report 2020
2. Attachment 2 - OPCC Terms of Reference
3. Attachment 3 - OPCC 2020 Objectives and Action Plan