



9.1 POSITIVE AGEING POLICY - PROPOSED POLICY SCOPE AND PROCESS

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present the proposed scope and process for developing a new Positive Ageing Policy which will establish a decision-making framework for responding to the needs and aspirations of older people in our municipality and guiding Council's response to Commonwealth Government reforms to the aged care sector.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 The scoping and process for the development of the policy have been designed to provide appropriate opportunities for members of the community to share their needs and aspirations, and to develop a policy that meets the requirements of our current and future community.
- 2.5 The World Health Organisation (WHO) Age Friendly Communities and Cities Framework will be used to inform the policy as it sets out an evidence-based framework for understanding what contributes to positive ageing.
- 2.6 The timeframe for delivery of the Positive Aging Policy needs to provide sufficient scope to ensure effective community engagement and is proposed to be extended to November 2022. Further clarity on Commonwealth Aged Care Reforms are also anticipated over this period.



3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the intended policy scope, process and community engagement for developing Council's new Positive Ageing Policy outlined in this report and Attachments 1 and 2.
- 3.2 Endorses the following changes to the commitment defined in the Council Plan 2021-2031 that Council 'provide':
 - 3.2.1 A new ~~Older Persons Policy~~ Positive Ageing Policy by ~~March 2022~~ November 2022 to set out the needs and aspirations for older people in our municipality and guide Council's response to major reforms happening in the aged and disability sectors.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 Under *Inclusive Port Phillip*, the Council Plan 2021-2031 outlines a commitment to provide:
 - 4.1.1 A new Older Persons Policy by March 2022 to set out the needs and aspirations for older people in our municipality and guide Council's response to major reforms happening in the aged and disability sectors.
- 4.2 There are more than 16,000 people aged 60 years and over living in the City Port Phillip, making up 16% of Port Phillip's resident population. There are also approximately 75 people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and older living in the municipality. People who are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds continue to have lower life expectancies compared with non-indigenous people.
- 4.3 By 2041, older people are forecast to represent almost 21% of the Port Phillip population, and in areas such as Port Melbourne, South Melbourne and Albert Park/Middle Park at least one in four residents will be over 60.
- 4.4 An ageing population and desire for national consistency and improved consumer choice for services is also reforming the national context for delivery of federally funded aged care services of which Council is a service provider.
- 4.5 Developing a Positive Ageing Policy will provide a framework for Council-decision making that ensures that Council services are meeting the needs of this population cohort and that the social and economic benefits of positive ageing outcomes are leveraged.
- 4.6 The WHO Age Friendly Communities and Cities Framework sets out an evidence-based framework for understanding what contributes to positive ageing. Their research indicates that there are eight inter-related topics that enable cities to become more age-friendly and encourage active ageing: outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information and community support and health services. This framework is detailed further in Attachment 2 – Aging Well Discussion Paper.
- 4.7 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.

4.8 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 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.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 A thorough engagement process with a range of stakeholders has been developed to ensure the new Positive Ageing Policy is reflective of the needs of people as they age.
- 5.2 The design of the engagement has been based on a belief that having in-person opportunities for older people to participate in the process is preferable. This will ensure adequate reach for the engagement, and that our future policy is reflective of the needs and aspirations of a wide cohort of older people in our community.
- 5.3 To ensure we can achieve a broad reach for the engagement, it is recommended that the timeframe for developing the policy is extended to November 2022, from March 2022, to allow for adequate in-person opportunities for people to participate.
- 5.4 Engagement activities will include:
- 5.4.1 A *Have Your Say* page (Including a background paper and survey) to align with the February 2022 Neighbourhood Engagement Program.



- 5.4.2 Provision of hard copy surveys at libraries and community centres, as well as using Council staff who have direct contact with older people, as distributors of surveys at service delivery/meeting points.
- 5.4.3 In person engagement with multicultural seniors' groups, community groups and sporting clubs where possible.
- 5.4.4 Three workshops with people making up the Positive Ageing Policy Sub Committee (membership of which will include a mix of Older Person Advisory Committee members, members of other committees and other interested community members). This group will also help synthesise feedback from the survey, articulate needs and aspirations for older people and contribute to the collation of the draft policy.
- 5.4.5 A second phase of community engagement to consult on the draft policy will occur in August 2022 via *Have Your Say* and align to the August Neighbourhood Engagement Program.
- 5.5 Council will be involved in the development of the Positive Ageing Policy through endorsing policy objectives and focus areas (Council meeting in May 2022), endorsing a draft policy for phase 2 community consultation (July 2022) and adoption of a final policy (November 2022).
- 5.6 The Older Persons' Advisory Committee will also be kept involved through attendance and updates at their March, April and June 2022 meetings.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Under the Gender Equality Act 2020 Council has an obligation to undertake a gender impact assessment on new policies, programs and services.
- 6.2 The development of this policy meets the criteria under the Gender Equality Act 2020 whereby Council has an obligation to undertake a gender impact assessment.
- 6.3 The gender impact assessment requires Council to:
 - assess the effects that the policy may have on people of different genders
 - explain how the policy can be changed to better support Victorians of all genders and promote gender equality
 - where practical, apply an intersectional approach to consider how gender inequality can be compounded by disadvantage or discrimination that a person may experience on the basis of other factors such as age, disability or ethnicity. In developing this policy, officers recognised that older people are not a homogenous group and that will consider any factors that may compound disadvantage or discrimination.
- 6.4 The Commonwealth Government has announced significant reforms to improve the delivery of aged care services in Australia. This policy will provide a framework for 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 research.



- 7.2 The extended timeframe will not impact on budget as the elements of the work program requiring funding will be completed in 2021/22.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 The Positive Ageing Background Paper outlines 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 an Older Persons Policy.

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

- 11.1.1 The process for developing the Positive Ageing Policy will be delivered in six stages (refer to Attachment 1).
- 11.1.2 The presentation of this report and Positive Ageing Background Paper and community survey (Attachment 2) represents the completion of the first stage of preliminary research to scope and understand what positive ageing means.
- 11.1.3 The second stage (February 2022) is focused on understanding what positive ageing means in the City of Port Phillip by engaging with the community. During this time, officers will also convene a subgroup of the Older Persons' Advisory Committee (OPAC) to assist with stages three and four. This group is proposed to be known as the **Positive Ageing Policy Sub-Committee** and will consist of members of the OPAC and interested persons from Council's newly formed LBGTIQ+ advisory committee, Multicultural Advisory Committee and Multifaith Network.
- 11.1.4 During Stage Three, officers will work with members of the Positive Ageing Policy Sub-Committee to unpack and articulate the goals this policy is seeking to achieve. It is proposed that these goals will be endorsed by Council in May prior to undertaking Stage Four which is formalising Council's role in achieving the goals and commitments (what the community can expect from Council).
- 11.1.5 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.
- 11.1.6 The final phase is the formal adoption which is planned for November 2022.

11.2 COMMUNICATION

- 11.2.1 Council values the contribution of people aged 60 years and old and recognises the important contribution older people make to the social and economic fabric of the City of Port Phillip.




MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 2 FEBRUARY 2022

11.2.2 Council is inviting people to contribute their lived experience and expertise to ensure that Council's new Positive Ageing Policy reflects the needs and aspirations of our community.

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. Positive Ageing Policy Process  [Download](#)
2. Positive Ageing Discussion Paper  [Download](#)