



**ACTIVE AND HEALTHY
AGEING IN YARRA
STRATEGY 2018-2024**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri as the Traditional Owners of this country, pays tribute to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Yarra and gives respect to Elders past and present.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Council is committed to ensuring that Yarra is a place where everyone can live well. Living well means feeling included and active in the community. It means individuals being able to connect with other people and being able to participate in everyday life.

To develop an Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy, and Action Plans, that reflect the aspirations of our community – Council asked people who live, work and visit Yarra to complete a survey and/or participate in workshops to share their views on what it means to live “live well”.

The Active Ageing Advisory Group (AAAG) were engaged and consulted with in each aspect of the consultation, including the development of the Background and Issues Paper and Project Methodology.

Staff within Council were also consulted, including in a Council-wide workshop where information from the community consultation was incorporated through a deliberative “Play Decide” process.

The responses from the community consultation and engagement and internal consultation processes have formed the basis of the Active Healthy Ageing Strategy 2021–2023.

Based on the community voice and internal contributions, consecutive Action Plans developed under this strategy will reflect the needs and aspirations of people aged 50+, build on Council's strengths and build community capacity.

The Strategy will guide Council's work over the next six years to enable people aged 50+ to live well in Yarra through the development of three (3) two-year Action Plans.

I wish to thank our local residents and the many community groups and service providers who generously contributed their time and energy in participating in the Living Well in Yarra consultation, assisting in the development of this strategy. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the effort and support of the Active Ageing Advisory Group.



Cr Daniel Nguyen
Mayor, Yarra City Council

October 2018

OUR VISION

The City of Yarra is an Age-Friendly City – a welcoming and inclusive community for people of all ages, race, culture, gender, sexual orientation and lifestyles. We respect the strong voices of older people in our community and value their continuing contribution to civic life and their right to make decisions on their own behalf. Our environments and public spaces are safe and supportive and our programs, services and policies are responsive to the needs of older residents, with benefits to all ages.



COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO ACTIVE AND HEALTHY AGEING

While the process of ageing has been viewed from a deficit model in the past, Council focuses on the positive aspects of growing older, both for the individual and from the community perspective. With some academics now proposing that 'Middle Age' begins at 50 and extends until your 75th birthday, the opportunity to harness the benefits of an older population is more visible. The social and economic contributions that older people make to their families and communities strengthens our city.

Council values the contribution people 50+ make to the community and the economy, adopting policies and providing services to encourage residents to age well in Yarra. To achieve this goal, Council has worked in a variety of fields to ensure that Yarra is an Age-Friendly City, including reviewing local infrastructure planning, health care and social planning.

In 2006, Council endorsed the River of Life Positive Ageing Strategy 2007–2016 with a five year Action Plan 2007–2012. In 2014 Council consulted again with the community to develop Stage Two Action Plan, 2014–2017, adopting the vision of 'A City for All Ages', which was endorsed by Council in August 2014.

Active Ageing Advisory Committee (AAAG)

The River of Life Positive Ageing Strategy 2007–2016 included establishing the AAAG in 2007 to provide advice to Council on matters impacting on the lives and well-being of Yarra's residents 50+ years.

The AAAG consists of eight residents from across Yarra, with a diversity of interests, cultural background and geographic location.

The AAAG guiding principle is to collaborate with Council and the community in raising awareness of ageing issues and promoting a Yarra culture that responds to the needs and aspirations of all residents 50+ years.

The AAAG:

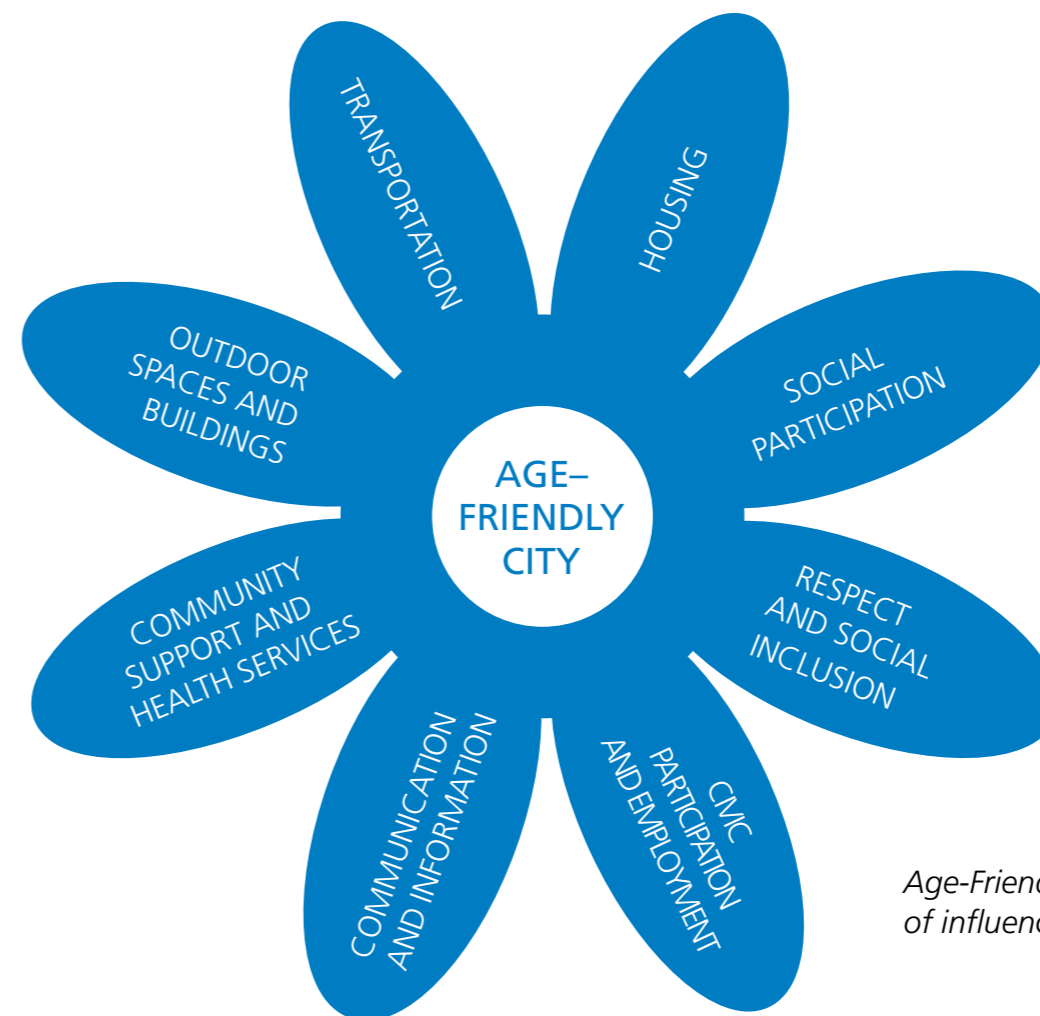
- Provide information and advice to Council on matters affecting the needs, interests and well-being of Yarra's older adults.
- Act as a conduit for the exchange of information and views between community, Council and other representative bodies on issues affecting the lives of older people.
- Represent the community broadly.

The AAAG will have a continuing role in supporting Council to implement the revised Strategy and consecutive Action Plans.

COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO THE AGE-FRIENDLY VICTORIA DECLARATION AND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION'S GLOBAL AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES GUIDE

In 2016, Council signed the Statement of Support and Partner Endorsement of the Municipal Association of Victoria's Age-Friendly Victoria Declaration. The Age-Friendly declaration is underpinned by the World Health Organisation's Global Age-Friendly Cities Guide, which identifies eight domains that directly influence the quality of life and wellbeing of people 50+.

Helping to shape local communities across all of the life stages is core business of local government. Age-friendly embraces much of what councils already do.



Age-Friendly Cities - Eight domains of influence



An age-friendly community is one that values the contribution of people 50+, and enables them to actively participate in all aspects of community life. In particular, an age-friendly community ensures people 50+ are free from age-related barriers that prevent participation.

Age-Friendly Cities foster opportunities for older people to enjoy social and economic participation, good health, and a sense of belonging and contributing. To achieve this, partnerships between older people and government, community organisations, businesses, services and other agencies are critical in building the fabric of an Age-Friendly City.

Under the Local Government Act 2010, Council has an important role in influencing community well-being and facilitating healthy, just and inclusive communities. Council planning, practices, policies and actions have a direct impact on how people can live across all ages.

Council makes a significant investment in supporting older people with a history of involvement with senior citizens centres, community transport, meals, home and

community care services, socialisation activities, recreation facility provision and programs, and support for clubs and organisations.

The eight domains of the WHO Age-friendly cities framework capture the breadth and depth of council business and are used as the framework for the Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy (AHA) 2018-2024.

The AHA 2018-2024 vision is for an Age-Friendly Yarra, which is welcoming and inclusive for people of all ages. Encompassing the Age-Friendly Cities Framework to ensure our community supports adults 50+ by designing policies, services and structures to ensure the physical and social environments of our City will enable people 50+ to live safely, enjoy good health and stay involved.

Based on the community voice expressed during the consultation, and internal contributions from Council Officers, consecutive Action Plans developed under this Strategy will reflect the needs and aspirations of people 50+.

Age-friendly promotes:

- A human rights-based approach
- An integrated approach to ageing from government and community
- A civil society where people of all ages and abilities are included and respected
- The social and economic contributions and value that older people make to families and communities
- Independence, well-being and quality of life for all people as they age

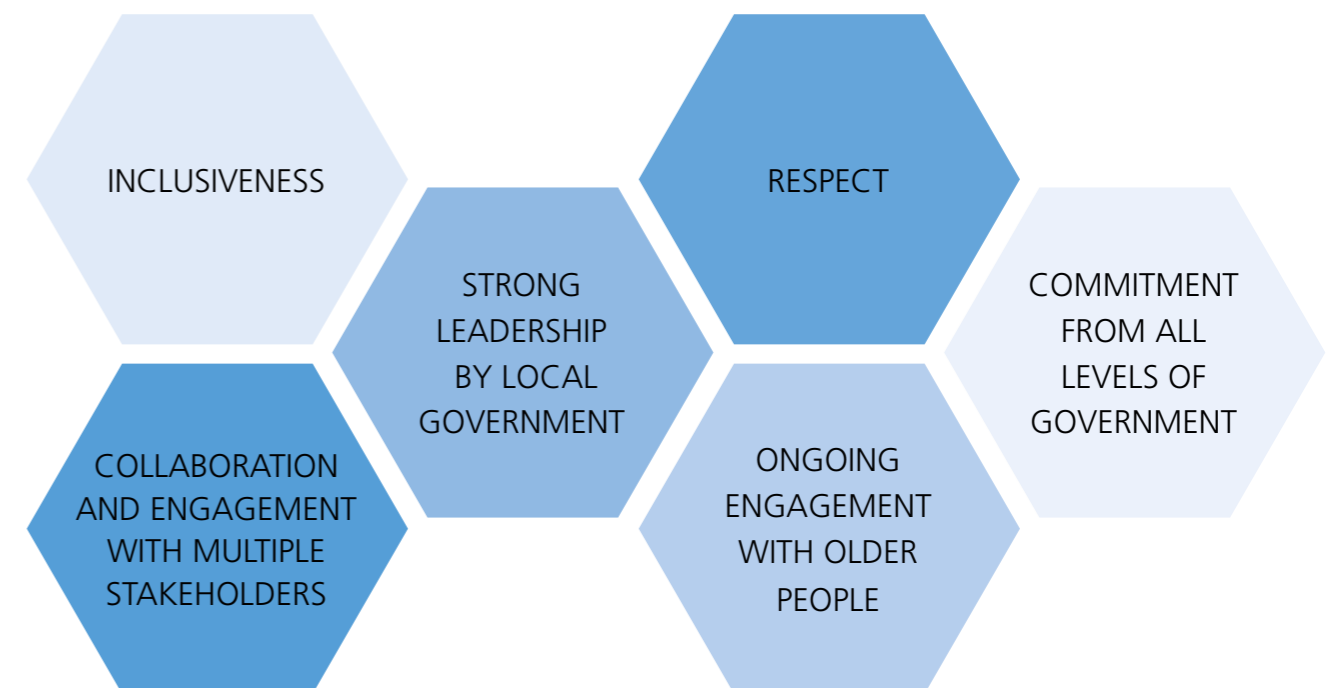
An Integrated Approach

The strong connections among the different aspects of city living demonstrates that an age-friendly city can only result from an integrated approach centred on how older people live. Taking this approach means coordinating actions across different areas of Council policy and services so that they are mutually reinforcing.

There are six essential elements of an integrated approach as depicted below.

Yarra is well served by a dynamic and well connected community support and health services sector. Many state-wide and local agencies are located in Yarra, including community health centres, neighbourhood houses, disability support services, housing and mental health agencies, hospitals and drug and alcohol agencies, churches, material and financial support agencies.

These key services offers Council significant capacity for collaboration and engagement with multiple stakeholders within the community to build service and community capacity and resilience.



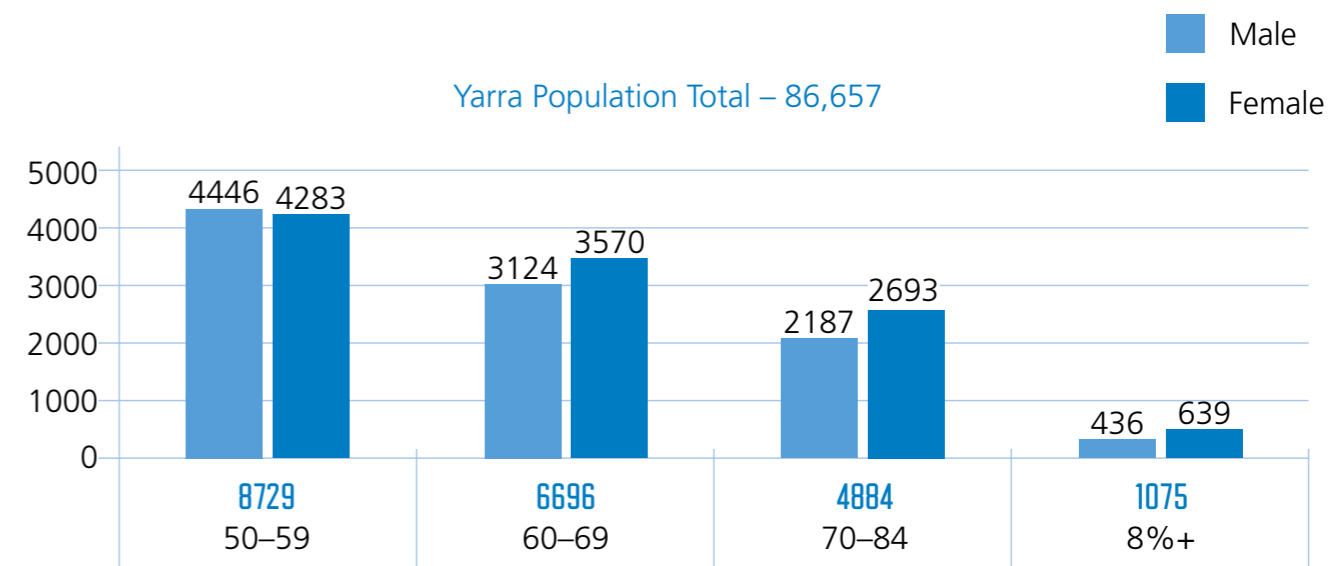
AGEING IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

In 2016 the Commissioner for Senior Victorians released "Ageing is Everyone's Business: A report on isolation and loneliness among senior Victorians". The report examines the causes for loneliness and social isolation amongst older people, and proposes opportunities for tackling the problems with a joined up approach.

The report contends that local government has a "vital role as an enabler" of joined-up local community responses to isolation and loneliness and connecting local needs with local resources such as volunteering, use of venues and coordination support.



YARRA AT A GLANCE



Residents aged 50+ make up approximately 24.7% of Yarra's total population and greatly influence the diversity of Yarra, not just in age, but also ethnicity, lifestyles and their contribution to the community.

As the above graph highlights, there are slightly more males than females in the 50-59 year age range; however, from 60+ years the number of females compared to males increases.

Gender imbalance tends to become more pronounced in older age groups, following a similar pattern to Victoria and Australia generally. The implications of this gender imbalance are significant as many women experienced reduced capacity to save over time because of reduced income due to their family responsibilities impacting on employment.

In regards to income, 28.4% of females and 22% of males had a weekly income of less than \$500, and 47.7% of females and 38.3% of males had a weekly income ranging from \$500 to \$999.

Cultural diversity among older age-groups varies from Victoria wide diversity, reflecting

2016 ABS Census

In the City of Yarra, 16.4% of the total female population earned an income of \$1,750 or more per week in 2016, compared to 26.8% of males.

Overseas born

City of Yarra	29%
Greater Melbourne	34%
Victoria	28%
Australia	26%

significant earlier waves of migration. In the City of Yarra, 22% of people speak a language other than English at home (ABS Census 2016), with the highest CALD groups being Vietnamese, Greek and Italian.

In the City of Yarra, 4,451 people who were able to speak another language in 2016 reported difficulty speaking English. 13,357 females and 11,970 males who were living in the City of Yarra in 2016 were born overseas, and 28% arrived in Australia within 5 years prior to 2016.



THE ROLE OF COUNCIL'S ACTIVE AND HEALTHY AGEING IN YARRA STRATEGY IN LIGHT OF NATIONAL REFORM

In 2017 the national portal, My Aged Care (MAC), was introduced as the main entry point to the aged care system in Victoria. Once the reforms are fully implemented, the delivery of care can be provided by a range of organisations, of which Council may be just one of many. The MAC system is based on an open and competitive market model for providers and is designed to increase individual consumer choice. This may have implications for vulnerable groups in being able to access care and having equity of access to services in the future.

In light of the MAC reforms, Council will review its role in service delivery, and this may in turn influence the approach and resources available in creating an Age-Friendly Yarra.

In developing the Action Plans that underpin this strategy in the changing context, Council will review the wealth of opportunities to advocate for, support, or directly run initiatives to grow the liveability in Yarra for older people. Council will closely observe the impact of the National Reforms on all residents over the six year period of the Strategy, and in particular the more vulnerable cohorts, and ensure that the strategic actions in each two year Action Plan reflect the developing needs of the community.

Council is also reviewing the way in which we partner in our Strategy development and implementation. We are currently exploring greater synergies with other

Council Action Plans – for example the Access and Inclusion Strategy and the 0-25 Strategy (children and young people aged 0-25 and their families) as well as the Housing Strategy, looking for ways we can leverage off common actions to create a city that is inclusive for all. Not only will this deliver on actions that support people 50+, people with disability and families, children and young people, but it will also strengthen advocacy calls for mutually beneficial initiatives. This is underlined by a view to extending collaboration across Council to build an Age-Friendly City for all embedded in the principles of Universal Design, and inter-generational connection.

Although the cessation of driving has a significant impact on an older person's health and ability to maintain their independence – and depression and anxiety is the most common mental health problem among older people – we understand that people can experience social isolation or limited mobility at any age. We are working to ensure our responses to these issues support residents through all life stages.

Ageing in Place

Ageing in place is also an important aspect of housing and often refers to the capacity of older people to remain living as independently as possible in their homes where they feel connected to services and amenities. Council's AAAG have consistently discussed the issue of the lack of affordable and suitable housing available for older residents in Yarra, especially residents who are homeless, or are renting privately or who are asset rich and income poor.

Between 2011 and 2016, nearly 7,500 people aged 50+ moved to Yarra either from overseas or elsewhere in Australia. Of this group, 39% were living in high density dwellings.

This presents an opportunity for services and Council to better engage with this cohort of residents who may have a wealth of experience to share in Yarra and who also may be vulnerable to social isolation.

2016 ABS Census

Households renting

City of Yarra	50%
Greater Melbourne	29%
Victoria	28%
Australia	29%

Medium and High density housing

City of Yarra	85%
Greater Melbourne	33%
Victoria	27%
Australia	27%

OUR CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Council undertook an extensive consultation and engagement process to ensure that this strategy is reflective of a broad range of stakeholders and benefits from the breadth of input from people who experience ageing from diverse perspectives.

The consultation process was a shared approach, with the consultation and survey questions designed to capture information relevant to people 50+ and people with disability. Consultation occurred in a mix of formats and a multitude of locations throughout Yarra.

An online consultation in parallel with the forums, workshops and pop-up sessions provided interested residents (e.g. family members of older parents) with the opportunity to share their views and contribute towards Council's development of services and infrastructure for the target groups via a quantitative survey. This survey was also available in hard copy, distributed via email groups and promoted at Council facilities and the Council webpage.



Members of the Active Ageing Advisory Group (AAAG) participated throughout the consultation period, providing advice and attending/participating in various consultations. On completion of the consultation stage, the following had been undertaken:

- 252 surveys
- Two (2) forums
- 12 workshops
- Seven (7) pop up sessions/on-site visits (distribution of surveys)
- Bi monthly AAAG committee meeting sessions
- Consultation and survey details distributed to over 20 organisations and networks, and
- Internal staff consultations, including branch and Council-wide.

KEY THEMES DERIVED FROM THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The value that the majority of participants in the consultation placed on Council's parks and gardens, libraries, leisure centres, and social and community programs provides a clear picture of what people 50+ are looking for in 2018 and beyond.

The key to living well in Yarra is the ability to independently access a variety of programs and support services which allow them to connect to other people and experience the health (mental and physical) benefits of socialisation and exercise.

Key areas identified for inclusion in the Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy are:

- To improve safety and accessibility for people 50+, to increase socialisation and participation in community life.
- Embed Universal Design principles in new developments, increase social housing options and ensure equitable access to shops and amenities.
- Improve people's sense of safety and wellbeing via raising awareness (promotion) and programming.
- To increase safer access and improved mobility through public realm improvement.
- Community inclusion opportunities and activities can easily be accessed and cater for the diverse interests of residents aged 50+.
- To ensure those that are wishing to access services/programs are able to do so (address financial, physical access and health barriers).
- To empower the community through information (accessible formats, web accessibility, and how information is disseminated).

- Reduce social isolation of people 50+ by removing barriers to social inclusion.
- To increase independence and community connection through provision of volunteering opportunities.
- To provide a variety of accessible channels of communicating information, i.e. apply "older person" lens to all Council communication.

Ideas and recommended actions under each of the above areas will be followed up with the relevant internal branches and potential external partners. They will form the basis of the three, two-year Action Plans to be developed for the Strategy.

By focusing on our community's priorities and developing appropriate actions and solutions to address their concerns, Council will be working towards the development of an Age-Friendly City. As previously detailed, the WHO Age-Friendly Cities Framework is providing guidance in the development of the AHA Strategy, with a particular focus on the eight domains:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transport
- Housing
- Community support and health services
- Civic participation and employment
- Respect and social inclusion
- Social participation
- Communication and knowledge

When analysing the feedback from the community consultation the issues raised by our community reflected the eight domain areas of the WHO Age-Friendly Cities Framework, with four key overarching themes emerging: Freedom, Life Experiences, Knowledge and Independence.



FUTURE STEPS AND ACTION PLANS

This Active and Healthy Ageing in Yarra Strategy 2018-24 sets the future direction for Council in creating an Age-Friendly City. The strategy will be underpinned by three Action Plans that each span two years. This allows for some agility in how Council will respond to the key themes in the context of a shifting service delivery environment. In each Action Plan, responsibility will sit with different Council branches to ensure that an Age-Friendly City approach is embedded across Council.

The following provides an overview of the key components of the strategy, the key overarching themes, the WHO Age-Friendly Cities eight domain areas and the Strategic goals.

FREEDOM

GOAL 1: Outdoor spaces and buildings

People 50+ live in an environment that includes open spaces, buildings, public toilets, shaded areas and walkways that are safe and easy to navigate.

Strategies:

- 1.1 Investigate infrastructure improvements to support walking and use of public spaces.
- 1.2 Review open spaces and buildings through an Age Friendly Lens, to increase mobility and decrease car dependency.
- 1.3 Address safety concerns of older residents in accessing open spaces in Yarra.

GOAL 2: Transport

People 50+ can get out and about, using a range of affordable, accessible and user-friendly transport services.

Strategies:

- 2.1 Advocate for, and support, accessible and affordable public and community transport.

LIFE EXPERIENCES

GOAL 3: Social participation

People 50+ are supported to be active in their community, doing the things they enjoy.

Strategies:

- 3.1 Develop the community capacity by encouraging groups to apply for Grants available through Aged & Disability Services.
- 3.2 Promote "Neighbourliness" across the municipality using a place-based approach.
- 3.3 Address perceptions of safety in encouraging greater social participation.
- 3.4 Facilitate Council and community-initiated activities and events to build social connections.

GOAL 4: Respect and social inclusion

People 50+ from all backgrounds are valued and appreciated, and no one is excluded based on race, geography, culture, language, sexuality, gender, ability or socio economic status.

Strategies:

- 4.1 Acknowledge the diversity amongst older people by promoting a range of activities and groups that cater for diverse.
- 4.2 Ensure the voice of older people is captured through Council wide consultation and engagement processes for all Council services.
- 4.3 Promote intergenerational dialogue through meaningful engagement opportunities.
- 4.4 Develop engagement approaches which focus on the vulnerable and those experiencing barriers to participation.

INDEPENDENCE

GOAL 5: Housing

Housing options for people aged 50+ are affordable, secure, accessible and close to transport, shops and community services.

Strategies:

- 5.1 Advocate for diverse, affordable housing options for people 50+ that support a city for all ages.

GOAL 6: Civic participation and employment

People 50+ participate in employment, training, lifelong learning and volunteering opportunities and are engaged and involved in decision making.

Strategies:

- 6.1 Support older people to continue employment, participate in volunteering, life-long learning and civic participation.
- 6.2. Ensure Older People are actively considered in the development of Council's policies, programs and services.

GOAL 7: Community support and health services

People 50+ are supported to stay healthy, active and independent through community support and health services, including services responding to elder abuse and fraud.

Strategies:

- 7.1 Educate and inform older people in the community of programs and services available to support their independence.

KNOWLEDGE

GOAL 8: Communication and information

People 50+ are able to access information they need in a variety of formats to stay informed and connected with their community, families, and friends.

Strategies:

- 8.1 Ensure that older people are aware of the diversity of programs and activities available, with a particular focus on socially excluded and vulnerable people.



ACTIVE AND HEALTHY AGEING IN YARRA 2021-2023

FREEDOM

GOAL 1: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings – People 50+ live in an environment that includes open spaces, buildings, public toilets, shaded areas and walkways that are safe and easy to navigate.

Strategy 1.1 Investigate infrastructure improvements to support walking and use of public spaces.

Action	Outcome Measures	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources
1.1.1 Advocate that a percentage of upgrades to footpaths and construction of level crossings are occurring in some high traffic areas that are utilised by 50+ population and people with disability. Consideration be given to location of Seniors Citizen facilities, medical services.	Upgrade of the footpaths and construct of continued path of travel on crossings on the nominated streets in key activity centres and high usage locations to make them safer.	City Works Aged & Disability Services	June 2023	Within existing resources

Strategy 1.2 Review open spaces and buildings through an Age Friendly Lens, to increase mobility and decrease car dependency.				
Action	Outcome Measures	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources
1.2.1 Identify and advocate for improvements to existing Council venues used by Seniors Groups and encourage use of new venues that offer better facilities.	Improvements are included in the Capital Works / Forecaster system. Seniors Groups encouraged to attend locally based alternate venues	Aged and Disability Services	August 2022	Within existing resources
1.2.2 Prepare a business case for the conduct of an Acoustic Audit of multipurpose Council meeting rooms and spaces utilised by older people in Yarra.	Business case prepared and approved.	Aged & Disability Services Arts, Culture & Venues	November 2021	Within existing resources
Strategy 1.3 Address safety concerns of older residents in accessing open spaces in Yarra.				
1.3.1 Utilising input from the public, AAAC DAC, and other seniors' groups in Yarra – identify locations and then advocate to implement demand-responsive signal technology.	Locations identified. Options for signal technology included in traffic management and place making projects.	Aged & Disability Services Traffic (Infrastructure, Traffic and Civil Engineering)	Ongoing	Within existing resources

FREEDOM				
GOAL 2: Transport - People 50+ can get out and about, using a range of affordable, accessible and user-friendly transport services.				
Strategy 2.1 Advocate for, and support, accessible and affordable public and community transport.				
Action	Outcome Measures	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources
2.1.1 Research and identify options to improve the Community Transport service to align with emerging needs – specifically ability to support residents in travelling to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical appointments; • More flexible shopping options. 	More flexible service that increases access, including social connections.	Aged & Disability Services	December 2021	Within existing resources
2.1.2 Dedicate one AAAC meeting annually to the needs of older people in terms of community and public transport. Invite the PTC and relevant Council Branches to participate in this dedicated "Transport Strategy" session.	The priorities of people 50+ are clearly reflected in Transport Strategy and program delivery.	Aged & Disability Services Strategic Transport	June 2023	New Initiative proposal 2019–2020

LIFE EXPERIENCES

GOAL 3: Social Participation – People 50+ are supported to be active in their community, doing the things they enjoy.

Strategy 3.1 Develop the community capacity by encouraging groups to apply for Grants available through Aged & Disability Services.

Action	Outcome Measures	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources
3.1.1 Work alongside Senior Groups and neighbourhood houses to develop processes to ensure accountability requirements are met as per CHSP program guidelines.	<p>Senior Groups who require additional support are provided with this in managing the grant process.</p> <p>Evidence of working with Neighbourhood Houses in identifying requirements and processes to meet CHSP and DEX reporting requirements.</p> <p>Number of applications approved.</p> <p>Outcomes of projects funded (as per DEX requirements).</p>	Aged & Disability Services	Ongoing	Within existing resources

Strategy 3.2 Promote “Neighbourliness” across the municipality using a place-based approach.

Action	Outcome Measures	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources
3.2.1 Roll out the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Project which involves assessing the resources, skills, and experience available in a community (individuals + associations + institutions such as local schools/businesses); organizing the community around issues that move its members into action; and then determining and taking appropriate action.	Session held with community members. No. community members engaged.	Aged & Disability Services	July 2021	\$75,000 grant Staff
	Community ABCD group established. Community connectors identified and training delivered.		August 2021	
	Locals service mapping completed. Community assets mapped		August 2021	
	ABCD group develop activities/action plan.		Sep 2021	
	Outcomes of initiatives (participants report increased social connections, increased support networks, increase in knowledge). Report to DHHS & Council on the program and its outcomes.		30 October 2021	

LIFE EXPERIENCES

Action	Outcome Measures	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources
3.2.2 Recommence the Dementia Alliance Project (and support the development in the Richmond area) focussing on 3 key objectives: Carer Support, Inclusion & Accessibility, and Awareness and Education.	Dementia Alliance re-established Action Plan developed by Group 7 implemented Establishing sub-groups (CALD focus) scoped and trialled. Report to Dementia Australia and Acquittal of grant and include achievements against 3 objectives.	Aged & Disability Services	August 2021	\$10,000 grant
3.2.3 Develop and implement safe and accessible (i.e. COVID19 guidelines) Seniors' Xmas celebrations, particularly for isolated and vulnerable older people in community.	Create and deliver Xmas gift boxes. Set up tele chat tree.	Aged & Disability Services	December 2021	Within existing resources
Strategy 3.3 Address perceptions of safety in encouraging greater social participation.				
Action	Outcome Measures	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources
3.3.1 Explore opportunities and apply (if applicable) for funding to implement a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) project in Yarra.	CPTED option reviewed and next steps identified. Focus is on older people and perception of safety (e.g. community safety audits)	Aged & Disability Services and Placemaking	June 2022	Within existing resources

Strategy 3.4. Facilitate Council and community-initiated activities and events to build social connections

Action	Outcome Measures	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources
3.4.1 Research and identify funding and engagement opportunities (internal and external) that will support local groups to re-engage with their members and local communities and/or improving health & wellbeing (resilience) post lockdown and in a COVID 19 safe manner.	Funding sought through relevant funding/partnership opportunities (Internal and externally)	Aged & Disability Services & (CP)	December 2021	Additional \$ (internal and/or external funds)
3.4.2 Research, develop and trial a Pilot model for re-establishing the Companion Animals Program that aligns to Yarra Council's Volunteer Strategy. This will be within the existing budget allocation of \$25K per annum	Model implemented, implemented and evaluated. Learning applied to the development of other initiatives aligned to the volunteer strategy within Aged & Disability Services.	Aged & Disability Services	Dec 2021 June 2022	Within existing resources

GOAL 4: Respect & Social Inclusion - People 50+ from all backgrounds are valued and appreciated, and no one is excluded based on race, geography, culture, language, sexuality, gender, ability or socio economic status.

Strategy 4.1 Acknowledge the diversity amongst older people by promoting a range of activities and groups that cater for diverse interests.

Action	Outcome Measures	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources
<p>4.1.1 Prepare a capital works budget bid for the installation of exercise equipment within an open space to encourage exercise, promote wellbeing and create social connection.</p> <p>Request to include table tennis options and exercise equipment for older people (request based on community consultation).</p>	Submit a 2021/22 or 2022/2023 budget bid for exercise infrastructure as per recommendations.	City Strategy (Open Space)	September 2021	Within existing resources budget bid development.



<p>4.1.2 Work with Open Space and Facilities to create permanent outdoor assembly/meeting spaces by installing seating for groups (e.g. amphitheatre style) and booking capability.</p> <p>This will allow outdoor sessions (e.g. book clubs, knitting clubs etc.) which is critical given outdoor has been identified as a safer option in relation to meeting (COVID19 advice).</p>	Working group established and potential parks identified for pilot program.	<p>Aged & Disability Services</p> <p>Arts, Culture & Venues</p> <p>City Strategy (Open Space)</p>	Ongoing	Within existing resources
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Strategy 4.2 Ensure the voice of older people is captured through Council wide consultation and engagement processes for all Council services.

Action	Outcome Measures	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources
<p>4.2.1 Appoint new Active Ageing Advisory Committee (AAAC) and implement detailed induction program, which includes review of Terms of Reference and agreement on meeting schedules and key strategic sessions.</p>	<p>AAAC appointed</p> <p>Induction completed by all members</p> <p>Minimum of 2 targeted strategic sessions (topics to be agreed) mapped out for 1st year.</p>	Aged & Disability Services	April 2021	Within existing resources

Action	Outcome Measures	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources
4.2.2 Promote annual targeted strategy sessions at meetings of the AAAC to branches across Council and invite relevant officers and external providers to consult and share knowledge.	Number of consultations Number of targeted strategy sessions	Aged & Disability Services	Ongoing	Within existing resources
Strategy 4.3 Promote intergenerational dialogue through meaningful engagement opportunities.				
Action	Outcome Measures	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources
4.3.1 Facilitate opportunities for residents 50+ and young people attending Yarra Youth Services to connect via intergenerational program activities. Review and replicate if appropriate successful initiatives, e.g. Carlton Railway	Number of ADS and Yarra Youth Services intergenerational activities (with a focus on arts and/or music)	Aged & Disability Services Yarra Youth Services	2022 2023	Within existing resources
4.3.2 Facilitate opportunities for residents 50+ to engage in intergenerational activities at libraries, Willowview and outreach (pop ups).	Number of ADS and Libraries intergenerational activities. Feedback from participants aligned to wellbeing measures.	Aged & Disability Services Library Services	2022 2023	Within existing resources

Strategy 4.4 Develop engagement approaches which focus on the vulnerable and those experiencing barriers to participation.				
Action	Outcome Measures	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources
4.4.1 Explore and identify funding actions to break down the digital and technological divide and ensure greater access to equipment and the internet for isolated and/or vulnerable older people in our community. Source funding internally or via the Commonwealth Home Support Program as applicable.	Report prepared with recommendations on the IT needs of vulnerable older people in Yarra. Funding secured to implement key recommendations	Aged & Disability Services Library Services	December 2021	Within existing resources



INDEPENDENCE

GOAL 5: Housing – Housing options for people aged 50+ are affordable, secure, accessible and close to transport, shops and community services.

Strategy 5.1 Advocate for diverse, affordable housing options for people 50+ that support a city for all ages.

Action	Outcome Measures	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources
5.1.1 In collaboration with other councils and Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), advocate to State Government on behalf of pensioners, to obtain greater rate subsidies and other rebates associated with the cost of living.	Workshop conducted at MAV with Interested councils. Submission (i.e. with case studies) forwarded to the State Government.	Aged & Disability Services Social Strategy & Community Development	June 2022	Within existing resources
5.1.2 AAAC updated at least annually on the implementation of the Social Housing and Homelessness Strategies to ensure affordable, appropriate and accessible housing for those aged 50 and over.	AAAC updated on progress. Actions from strategies are being implemented AAAC advocate on this issue as relevant.	Aged & Disability Services Social Strategy & Community Development	Ongoing	Within existing resources

5.1.3 AAAC receive annual update on the Housing Strategy and local affordable housing initiatives, and supply and demand within the municipality; and then advocate to meet the needs of low-to-moderate income households with persons aged 50.

AAAC updated on progress.
Yarra City Council Community Grants Program Yarra Affordable Housing Fund (YAHF) and Community housing Providers participate in Housing strategy session.

Aged & Disability Services
Community Partnerships

2022
2023

Within existing resources

GOAL 6: Civic Participation and Employment – People 50+ participate in employment, training, lifelong learning and volunteering opportunities and are engaged and involved in decision making.

Strategy 6.1 Support older people to continue employment, participate in volunteering, life-long learning and civic participation.

Action	Outcome Measures	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources
6.1.1 Ensure Council's employment practices value, promote and encourage older workers contribution to the workplace and community and identify actions to encourage older workers to seek employment with Yarra to maintain a diverse workforce.	OFAY continue to identify barriers, opportunities and actions to support older workers continue employment; outcomes of annual action plan of OFAY captured and reported on. Annual analysis and tracking of age diversity of employees at Yarra.	People and Culture	Ongoing	Within existing resources \$ operating budget to be advised/ confirmed

Strategy 6.2 Ensure Older People are actively considered in the development of Council's policies, programs and services.				
Action	Outcome Measures	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources
6.2.1 The AHA Strategy aligns to relevant Council's Plans and Strategies, and where other strategies and plans are being developed (e.g. Community Vision) they consider the domains of Age Friendly Cities where relevant.	Alignment of the AHA to current Council Plans/Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Health Plan • Council Plan Community engagement of people 50+ where relevant in development of Council Strategies and Plans.	Aged and Disability Services	Ongoing	Within existing resources
6.2.2 Review the WHO Global Campaign to Combat Ageism and prepare a report for Council on the campaign and its key recommendations	Report completed and presented to Council with recommendations on how Yarra can continue to combat ageism.	Aged and Disability Services	Oct 2021	Within existing resources

INDEPENDENCE

GOAL 7: Community Support and Health Services – People 50+ are supported to stay healthy, active and independent through community support and health services, including services responding to elder abuse and fraud.

Strategy 7.1 Educate and inform older people in the community of programs and services available to support their independence.

Action	Outcome Measures	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources
7.1.1 Provide information sessions, attend groups and engage with local agencies to support residents understand and navigate the My Aged Care system.	Sessions held through CALD groups; and with local agencies supporting socially isolated people. One to one navigation support offered and available, especially for most disadvantaged.	Aged and Disability Services	2021-2023	Within existing resources
7.1.2 Determine Council's future direction in the provision of the Commonwealth Home Support and Assessment Service.	Analysis and community engagement undertaken. Decision determined having regard to final State and Federal Government policy positions and system design.	Aged and Disability Services	December 2021	Within existing resources
7.1.3 Coordinate the Yarra Aged Care Services Forum to maintain information sharing; identify gaps in the service system and opportunities to work together.	Regular attendance by Community Health Centres and Aged Services providers. Feedback from attendees on the value of network.	Aged and Disability Services	2021-2023	Within existing resources

Action	Outcome Measures	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources
7.1.4 Promote, support and participate in State-wide annual events to enable older people to make informed decisions.	Promotion of events such as: Groundswell Project; Elder Abuse Awareness Day; Dementia Day; Good Neighbour Day; Seniors Week.	Aged and Disability Services	2021-2023	Within existing resources



KNOWLEDGE

GOAL 8: Communication and Information – People 50+ are able to access information they need in a variety of formats to stay informed and connected with their community, families, and friends.

Strategy 8.1 Ensure that older people are aware of the diversity of programs and activities available, with a particular focus on socially excluded and vulnerable people.

Action	Outcome Measures	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources
8.1.1 Ensure the Aged & Disability Services web-page has links to information on the diversity of programs, activities and events provided by the City of Yarra with a particular focus on Yarra Leisure, Libraries and Events.	Evidence that the web page is regularly reviewed and updated (quarterly review). Number of visits to webpages and links	Age and Disability Services	2021-2023	Within existing resources
8.1.2 Information is provided through a variety of channels and appropriate formats (i.e. Plain Language) to ensure the community has access to information on the range of programs, activities and events provided by the City of Yarra with a particular focus on Aged & Disability Services, Yarra Leisure, Libraries and Events.	Information has been made available through a multitude of formats and channels in accessible formats.	Age and Disability Services	2021-2023	Within existing resources

ACTION AREAS IN ACCESS & INCLUSION PLAN WHICH ALSO SUPPORT ACTIVE HEALTHY AGEING GOAL

- Conduct upgrades of the footpaths and construct continued path of travel on crossings on the nominated streets in key activity centres, to make them safer (Action 1.4.1)
- Advocating for the upgrade of pedestrian signal times to assist in crossing safely (Action 1.4.2)
- Continue to work with public and community housing providers to establish a shared understanding of supply and demand within the municipality. Advocate to meet the needs of low-to-moderate income households and people with disability (Action 1.6.1)
- Research and identify engagement opportunities for CALD and Aboriginal community members to engage with their communities' post COVID-19 lockdown (Action 1.7.3)
- Ensuring the Yarra planning Scheme encourages development which is inclusive and accessible for people of all ages and abilities (Action 5.1.2)
- branch and Council-wide.

ACTION AREAS IN ACTIVE HEALTHY AGEING PLAN WHICH ALSO SUPPORT ACCESS & INCLUSION GOALS

- Conduct upgrades of the footpaths and construct continued path of travel on crossings on the nominated streets in key activity centres, to make them safer (Strategy 1.1.1)
- Advocating for the upgrade of pedestrian signal times to assist in crossing safely (Strategy 1.3.1)

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