

Minutes

Seniors Interests Advisory Committee

MEETING HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2009

CITY OF JOONDALUP

MINUTES OF THE SENIORS INTERESTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN CONFERENCE ROOM 2, JOONDALUP CIVIC CENTRE, BOAS AVENUE, JOONDALUP ON WEDNESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2009

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members:

Mr Patrick Wyburn	WA Retirement Complexes Association – Acting Presiding Person	
Ms Margaret March	Community Member	
Ms Valerie Corey	Community Member	<i>from 0935 hrs</i>
Mr Allyn Bryant	Association of Independent Retirees	
Ms Lynda Waterman	Senior Community Liaison Officer	
Mr Alex Cilia La Corte	National Seniors	
Ms Anne Pike	Advocare Inc	

Officers:

Ms Debbie Terelinck	Manager, Community Development and Libraries
Ms Pauline Sookloll	Community Development Officer
Mrs Lesley Taylor	Administrative Secretary

In Attendance:

Ms Rebecca Freemantle	Project Co-ordinator, Vario Wellness Clinic	<i>to 1010 hrs</i>
Mr Bruce Duffy	Concordia Lutheran Church	
Ms Kerry Walsh	Community Vision	

DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Manager, Community Development and Libraries declared the meeting open at 0930 hrs.

CONDUCT OF MEETING

In the absence of both the Presiding Person and Deputy Presiding Person, it was agreed by those committee members present that Mr Patrick Wyburn be responsible for the conduct of the meeting.

MOVED Ms Pike, SECONDED Ms Waterman that Mr Patrick Wyburn be elected as Acting Presiding Person for this meeting.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED (6/0)

In favour of the Motion: Mr A Bryant, Mr A Cilia La Corte, Mrs M March, Ms A Pike, Ms L Waterman and Mr P Wyburn

The Acting Presiding Person assumed the Chair at this Point, the time being 0932 hrs.

APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies: Crs Corr and Diaz
Ms Maria Bunn
Ms Joy Coleman
Ms Patricia Geary

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE SENIORS INTERESTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2008

MOVED Mr A Bryant, SECONDED Ms M March that the minutes of the meeting of the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee held on 3 December 2008 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED (6/0)

In favour of the Motion: Mr A Bryant, Mr A Cilia La Corte, Mrs M March, Ms A Pike, Ms L Waterman and Mr P Wyburn

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

IDENTIFICATION OF MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY SIT BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil.

PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

Nil.

REPORTS**ITEM 1 PRESENTATION- THE VARIO WELLNESS CLINIC - [55511]****WARD:** All**RESPONSIBLE** Mr Clayton Higham
DIRECTOR: Planning and Community Development

The Program Manager of the Vario Wellness Clinic will provide Seniors Interests Advisory Committee members with information about the Vario Wellness Clinic.

In November 2007, the Edith Cowan University launched the Vario Wellness Clinic, the first of its kind, offering a multidisciplinary approach to wellness with exercise physiology, psychology, nutrition and physiotherapy being the core focus areas. The philosophy behind this initiative is that humans operate most effectively when their minds, physical function and nutrition are optimised simultaneously.

Vario (which is Latin for “different” or “to change”) was established in order to provide much needed evidenced-based wellness programs to the community and this has been accomplished through the development of the Vario Health Institute. This research facility has provided a number of highly successful wellness programs by looking into the areas of illness prevention, wellness and disease management.

The Vario Wellness Clinic goes on to deliver these evidence-based programs from the Health Institute to the community through the services of highly experienced health professionals.

The Vario Health Institute works to optimise collaborative health research and enhance synergies between different research disciplines, industries and government bodies, with the aim of strengthening knowledge and understanding of how to improve health and well-being across the lifespan and within differing social, cultural, political and environmental contexts.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Vario Wellness Clinic Information Sheet

Ms Rebecca Freemantle, Project Co-ordinator, Vario Wellness Clinic provided a presentation in relation to the various programs available through the Wellness Clinic located at Edith Cowan University – Appendix 1 refers.

A number of questions were raised regarding the services provided and the affordability of attending the programs by those pensioners receiving only the aged pension.

Ms Valerie Corey entered the Room at 0935 hrs.

MOVED Mr A La Corte, SECONDED Ms L Waterman that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee NOTES the presentation on the Vario Wellness Clinic.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED (7/0)

In favour of the Motion: Mr A Bryant, Mr A Cilia La Corte, Ms V Corey, Ms M March, Ms A Pike, Ms L Waterman and Mr P Wyburn

Appendix 1 refers

Ms R Freemantle, Vario Wellness Clinic left the Room at 1010 hrs.

ITEM 2 INTERGENERATIONAL CULTURAL ACTIVITIES – [55511]

WARD: All

RESPONSIBLE Mr Clayton Higham
DIRECTOR: Planning and Community Development

PURPOSE

To provide the Seniors Interest Advisory Committee with information about Intergenerational Cultural Programs in the City of Joondalup.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City's Cultural Program includes events which cater to a wide range of audiences in an effort to shape an inclusive, connected community across generations.

It is recommended that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee NOTES the information provided in the Report.

BACKGROUND

Research conducted through the Seniors Plan Review has identified that intergenerational activities are important to help break barriers between age groups and teach younger people how to behave with, and respect seniors. Many older people would prefer not to attend senior specific events, feeling they are "separated as a different species" in community events which could lead to the generational gap growing larger.

DETAILS

Summer in the City

The City of Joondalup program of free outdoor concerts planned for the 2008/09 summer period aims to appeal to a wide range of audiences. The Summer Concert Series offers four free, live outdoor smoke free music events, giving residents the opportunity to enjoy world class entertainment, in their own community.

This season includes three Summer Concerts, held around the Joondalup region and a special Valentine's Concert held at the Joondalup Resort.

This season's performances include:

City Blues Jam

Featured Chicago blues act Diamond Dave and the Doodaddies, supported by blues and roots singer songwriter Simon Kelly.

7pm -10pm, Friday 5 December 2008, Joondalup CBD.

Jazz in the Park

Featuring The James Flynn Big Band performing the classic repertoire of Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Dean Martin & Bobby Darin, supported by jazz ensemble Tim Jago Trio.
6pm - 9pm, Saturday 17 January 2009, Mawson Park, Flinders Ave, Hillarys.

Valentine's Concert

Featuring Damien Leith and Band performing the classic 60's and 70's repertoire, supported by folk-jazz singer songwriter Freya Hanly and band.
6.30pm – 9.30pm, Thursday 12 February 2009, Joondalup Resort, Country Club Boulevard, Connolly.

Retro Beach Party

Featuring the 1950's Rock- a- Billy, retro-swing, jump blues and dance acts including Jus Jump, The Rusty Pinto Combo, The Hullabaloo Hoppers lindy hop dance troupe and Perth's best retro Hot Rods on display.
5pm - 8pm, Sunday 15 March 2009, Sorrento Foreshore, West Coast Drive, Sorrento.

Joondalup Festival

The City of Joondalup Festival has traditionally attracted predominately young people and families. The free event will be held over the weekend of 28-29 March 2009 in the Joondalup CBD. The Joondalup Festival is the northern corridor's largest and most significant cultural event and will celebrate its 11th anniversary in 2009. The City has developed programs which are targeted at a range of audiences including adults and older people.

The City expects to attract approximately 50,000 people and is currently in negotiations with a range of exciting, high profile performers to light up this year's event, along with all the traditional highlights and a few new features.

Additional Acrod (accessible) parking sections are now designated in front of Lotteries House for the festival. This will be of particular benefits to many seniors in the community.

Current planning is aimed to broaden the festival's appeal and increase the older patronage and includes:

- Festival Markets
- Street Art Performers
- Art Exhibition
- Food and Wine Festival
- Festival Parade
- Continuous Live Music

The City is currently calling for local groups, businesses and community members who would like to get involved. There are a range of opportunities. Expressions of Interest are now being accepted for the Food and Wine Festival, Festival Street Parade and Community Performers. The Festival Street Parade offers an exciting opportunity for community group's promotion and the showcase of their creativity.

Sunday Serenades 2009 Concert Series

Sunday Serenades is a series of fine music concerts held in the City of Joondalup Civic Chambers on the third Sunday of every month, from April to December. The Sunday Serenades includes a selection of music such as jazz, classical, choral, opera and Broadway with something to appeal to a wide range of preferences.

Individual ticket prices are \$10 concession and \$12 full-price. In 2009, the City will be offering a new subscription package, so patrons can save time and money while enjoying memorable music every month.

NAIDOC Week 5-12 July 2009

The City of Joondalup, in partnership with Edith Cowan University, West Coast TAFE and the Blend[er] gallery, celebrates NAIDOC Week with a range of activities for people of all ages and backgrounds. The events highlight the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Activities often include an Official Launch and Flag-Raising Ceremony, traditional story-telling sessions, Indigenous Art Exhibition, Indigenous Film screenings, and dance performances.

Community Art Exhibition

The City of Joondalup Community Art Exhibition is considered the premier annual event for local artists. In 2008 it attracted 155 artworks by local artists ranging from school children to seniors, showcasing the diversity and talent within the Joondalup region.

Invitation Art Award

The Invitation Art Award is a prestigious annual exhibition for WA's art community, held in an accessible and community-friendly space at Lakeside Joondalup Shopping City in October each year. The acquisitive prize is one of the largest acquisitive cash prizes in the State, a cheque for \$10,000, and the City adds the winning artwork to its growing art collection which is on display in the Civic Chambers, Administration Building and Libraries for the enjoyment of the whole community.

Library Programs

Discovery Sessions

Discovery Session sessions include interactive workshops, information sessions, entertainment and new learning experiences. Discovery Sessions are aimed at anyone over the age of 18 and cover a diverse range of topics from forensic science to gardening, mosaics to travel. Presentations are held throughout the year at all four Joondalup Libraries and consist of morning, afternoon or evening sessions. There is a charge of \$2.50 per session payable on arrival.

Mahjong

Mahjong involves skill, strategy and calculation, as well as a certain degree of chance. Mahjong commenced at Joondalup Library in April 2005 with a group of 5 people interested in learning the game. The group has grown since then, newcomers are welcome.

For newcomers	2nd and 4th Thursday mornings of the month
For experienced players	Friday afternoons

Book Clubs

Book Club members discover new authors and expand their knowledge in a friendly and social environment. Participants engage in discussion and the sharing of ideas with like-minded people. Five book clubs have come into being throughout Joondalup and have continued to provide reading opportunities and social engagement for many patrons. The Library provides tea and coffee and the book (for a \$5 hire charge) which includes reading notes to assist with the book discussion. The 12 book club members choose from a list of 430 titles, which include classic literature, fiction, non-fiction, children's literature, biographies and many award winning titles. New titles are always being added to this list.

Joondalup Library	1st Wednesday of the month at 11.00am
Joondalup Library	2nd Monday of the month at 7.00pm
Duncraig Library	2nd Tuesday of the month at 10.00am
Whitford Library	3rd Monday of the month at 6.30pm
Duncraig Library	3rd Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm
Woodvale Library	4th Thursday of the month at 10.00am

Criminal Profiling Club

These groups meet monthly to discuss different crimes, analyse crime scene construction and practise the art and science of criminal profiling. The many Crime Investigation programs on TV are an indication of the popularity of this topic and of the interest in solving crimes; in particular the many unsolved crimes, whether recent or historical. The groups consist of 20 members, facilitated by Mr John Earley, a Criminal Behaviour Profiler who provides handouts and information on crimes such as: the Beaumont children, the Jonestown Massacre, the Peter Falconio case; and serial killers like the Birnies, Jack the Ripper and Ivan Milat.

Joondalup Library, Club	Third Tuesday morning of the month, 10.00am.
Whitford Library Club	Second Saturday morning of the month, 10.00am

The sessions run for two (2) hours and there is a charge of \$2.50 for each meeting.

The Writers Group

The Joondalup Library Writers' Group meets once a month on a Sunday afternoon to pursue and support each other in their writing endeavours. Homework is set each month with an exercise to do at each session. Presenters are also organised throughout the year to assist and encourage members with their writing.

There is a charge of \$2.50 per session and \$5.50 with a presentation.

Issues and options considered:

Not Applicable.

Link to Strategic Plan:

Not Applicable.

Legislation – Statutory Provisions:

Not Applicable.

Risk Management considerations:

Not Applicable.

Financial/Budget Implications:

Not Applicable.

Policy Implications:

The provision of services, events and activities for seniors by the City is linked to the Strategic Plan through the outcomes, objectives and strategies under the Key Focus Area – Community Wellbeing.

Regional Significance:

Not Applicable.

Sustainability Implications:

Not Applicable.

Consultation:

Not Applicable.

COMMENT

The provision of accessible and inclusive cultural programs to all age groups is important to enhance the development of a healthy community.

ATTACHMENTS

Not Applicable.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

Discussion ensued.

MOVED Mr A Bryant, SECONDED Mr A La Corte that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee THANKS and SUPPORTS Council on its efforts in presenting the Intergenerational Cultural Activities to the Committee.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED (7/0)

In favour of the Motion: Mr A Bryant, Mr A Cilia La Corte, Ms V Corey, Ms M March, Ms A Pike, Ms L Waterman and Mr P Wyburn

MOVED Ms L Waterman, SECONDED Ms A Pike that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee NOTES the information provided in the Report.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED (7/0)

In favour of the Motion: Mr A Bryant, Mr A Cilia La Corte, Ms V Corey, Ms M March, Ms A Pike, Ms L Waterman and Mr P Wyburn

ITEM 3 ADOPT A PENSIONER - [55511]

WARD: All

RESPONSIBLE Mr Clayton Higham
DIRECTOR: Planning and Community Development

PURPOSE

To provide the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee (SIAC) with options for exploring the provision of a service similar to the Adopt a Pensioner website.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Adopt a Pensioner website provides a way for the general public to support pensioners through gifts, assistance with transport, shopping, household chores and gardening. While the majority of donors or helpers will be genuine, pensioners must be urged to exercise caution in accepting in-kind assistance through the Adopt a Pensioner site. Older people who are in most need of assistance may have no computer knowledge or ability to access the internet in order to use the Adopt a Pensioner site. Although the purpose of this initiative is to provide practical assistance, the website has the potential to prevent social isolation in older people who are living alone without a supportive network of family and friends.

Possible options include advocating for an increase in the safety of those Joondalup residents accessing the Adopt a Pensioner site, development of a similar service for City residents or raising both awareness and capacity of other community service providers to meet community need.

It is recommended that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee CONSIDERS the options and implications presented in this report and PROVIDES ADVICE to the City on how to progress this issue.

BACKGROUND

The Adopt a Pensioner website was initiated in May 2008 by a private web developer following significant media and community concerns that the Commonwealth Government budget did not contain substantial increases in the single age pension.

Adopt a Pensioner was launched and promoted on national television appealing to the general public to assist struggling pensioners, particularly those trying to survive on the \$273 per week paid to (approximately 2 million) senior citizens on the single age pension. Thousands of dollars were also collected through the Adopt a Pensioner national campaign. This money has now been converted to shopping vouchers and distributed to pensioners who apply with the Combined Pensioners and Superannuates Association of New South Wales. The generosity of the general public has been greatly appreciated by those pensioners receiving support.

The recent Federal Government economic stimulus bonus of \$1,400 for singles or \$2,100 per couple provided to Senior Health Care Card holders will also have provided some immediate financial relief.

DETAILS

There are currently 7500 'friends' and only 256 pensioners registered on the Adopt a Pensioner website. In exploring ways to promote the site or a similar program to older people and the community, the following additional challenges were identified with the Adopt a Pensioner website:

- Those that need the service may not want to register for assistance.
- The word 'adopt' could be viewed by older people as a term for looking after someone who is incapable. Those in need of support may feel stigmatised by the name of the program and may not wish to be 'labelled' as a pensioner. It might be better to research into a more empowering name that reflects the contribution and value seniors have made to the community and that others are giving back. For example, the words 'companionship' and 'community' suggest something more empowering.
- Those older people most in need of the service may not have access to or the knowledge of how to use the internet.
- People may feel vulnerable in receiving help from a stranger in the community. The Adopt a Pensioner website requires an email address to sign up. Personal information, such as addresses and contact details, are not given. The website does suggest the initial meeting is in a public space however there are no safeguards in place.

Concerns in relation to the security of people utilising the Adopt a Pensioner have been raised with the private web developer however further advocacy in relation to this issue is required.

The Adopt a Pensioner website lists the ways in which people can provide support to pensioners as being companionship, transport and shopping, gardening and general assistance. The following is a summary of groups in the City of Joondalup that provide similar services to the community.

Companionship

Within the City of Joondalup there is a wide range of opportunities for seniors to engage socially through a number of service clubs, social clubs, cultural activities, church groups and seniors events.

Other programs that target social isolation through companionship and social programs include the Home and Community Care (HACC) funded services such as Volunteer Taskforce Social Support program and Wesley Do Care. Both programs have indicated difficulties in identifying isolated clients. Do Care introduces a volunteer visitor to a lonely older person with the aim of providing social contact and a link back to the community. Volunteers participate in information sessions before being introduced and all older people are visited by co-ordinators to ensure a suitable introduction is made.

The Federal Government funds the Community Visitors Scheme that operates in aged care facilities through a variety of community-based organisations to carry out the tasks of:

- recruiting, training and supporting volunteer community visitors
- matching volunteers to residents in aged care homes
- supporting visitor-resident relationships.

Transport and Shopping

The City of Joondalup Community Transport Program takes elderly clients who are not able to use public transport to social clubs and shopping. The Volunteer Task Force Transport Program provides transport to medical appointments to clients who meet the Home and Community Care (HACC) criteria. There are no local services available for seniors who do not meet HACC criteria to attend special appointments. The City receives enquiries from older people who would benefit from such a program.

Gardening

The Volunteer Task Force provides a gardening service to clients who meet the HACC criteria. The current average waiting period for new clients is between 18 months and 2 years. There are no local services available for seniors who do not meet HACC criteria and cannot afford a gardener. The City has received a number of enquiries from older people who are distressed by the state of their garden, need assistance and cannot afford to pay commercial rates for services.

General Assistance

The Volunteer Task Force provides a maintenance service (for non trade tasks) to assist clients who meet the HACC criteria. The HACC Program provides basic support and maintenance services to frail people to assist them to continue living independently at home. There are no local services available for seniors who do not meet HACC criteria and need general assistance. The City has received a number of enquiries from older people who are in need of general assistance and professional trade services and cannot afford commercial trades people.

Issues and options considered:

Program Delivery to the Isolated

It is important to work with health professionals and community service agencies to reach those who are at risk of isolation. Challenges with running programs that provide services to the socially isolated include:

- Difficulty in the identification of clients due to their isolation.
- Often people who request services are already accessing sufficient services.
- The reluctance of some people to get involved due to limited mobility even when offered additional support.
- Prolonged isolated leads to reluctance to get involved due to loss of social confidence.

Recruiting Volunteers

The following are considerations in recruiting volunteers or 'friends' to assist older people:

- The expectations of volunteers are often different to what is actually involved. Orientation and training is integral to a successful volunteer program.
- One full time volunteer program co-ordinator has the capacity to manage approximately 70 friend-to-older person matches. This gives an indication of the budgetary commitment in terms of staffing levels for a community service provider to deliver such as service.
- Volunteers are often rewarded through the friendship that is formed in the process however it is difficult to find volunteers willing to partner with people that suffer from mental illnesses including dementia.
- It is important for volunteers to be aware of support services available as they are often the only connection the older person may have who can refer them to necessary services.

Considered Options

A number of alternatives are proposed for further consideration, a solution may consist of one or a combination of the following options.

Option 1

1. The City undertakes further advocacy with the private web developer and other interested stakeholders such as the Commonwealth and State Governments to address the challenges and concerns in relation to security, terminology used on the website (ie "adopt"), lack of awareness of the service and how to access the internet.
2. The City liaises with other Local Governments to identify common challenges and develop a co-ordinated approach to Commonwealth and State Governments to raise awareness and seek support.

Option 2

The City engages with community based organisations such as Community Vision and the Volunteer Taskforce Group to explore:

1. Utilising the current Adopt a Pensioner website to:
 - Develop a service that operates to register on behalf of City-based seniors.
 - Increase quality assurance by screening people offering assistance.
 - Promote the Adopt a Pensioner website to agencies and residents which includes information on how to safely benefit from the process.
2. Creating and managing a similar website that links volunteers to pensioners in the City of Joondalup. Staff will match the seniors to the volunteer who best suits their requirement and facilitate the process.

3. Developing and maintaining a form on an existing agency website for residents registering to volunteer to assist older people in need in the community. Advertise to seniors who need gardening, maintenance and transport. Staff will match the seniors to the volunteer who best suits their requirement and facilitate the process.

The reasons for exploring this option with community-based organisations is that they are already delivering complementary services to seniors and volunteers, they have well developed networks with this client base and there is greater likelihood of securing funding from external sources.

Option 3

Undertake further research into the City of Joondalup providing the services outlined in Option 2 or 3. Considerations include whether the City wishes to embark on new service delivery in this area when other community-based organisations already engage with the potential clients, the resource implications (potentially \$80,000 to \$100,000 for a this new service), and the City's ability to attract external funding.

Option 4

Work with the Joondalup Volunteer Resource Centre to develop a public relations program to further increase the number of volunteers in the City engaging in programs that target the socially isolated and those in need of support. Such a program will include working closely with local agencies such as local media, service clubs, Community Vision and Neighbourhood Watch to increase community awareness of services that may benefit people who are isolated and in need.

It is possible that if the number of volunteers engaging through the Joondalup Volunteer Resource Centre can be increased and connected to seniors requiring services, this will negate the need for a separate Adopt a Pensioner website.

For each of the above options, conducting a focus group with isolated older people will assist with program development or advocacy work targeted to meet their needs.

Link to Strategic Plan:

The provision of services, events and activities for seniors by the City is linked to the Strategic Plan through the outcomes, objectives and strategies under the Strategic Plan Key Focus Area- Community Wellbeing; The City of Joondalup is committed to enhancing the wellbeing of all people in the community – socially, emotionally, culturally and physically.

Legislation – Statutory Provisions:

Not Applicable.

Risk Management considerations:

There are some risks associated with the wellbeing of older people when providing assistance from volunteers. The risks can be mitigated through screening processes.

Financial/Budget Implications:

Depending on the direction taken there may be budgetary implications that will need to be identified and considered.

Policy Implications:

Not Applicable.

Regional Significance:

The challenges faced by older people across Australia to manage on a single pension and the Adopt a Pensioner website has been identified through state wide and national media.

Sustainability Implications:

Not Applicable.

Consultation:

The Adopt a Pensioner website developer, relevant agencies and community services organisations have been consulted whilst gathering information to develop this report.

COMMENT

There are approximately 109 pensioners and 690 'friends' who are currently registered with the Adopt a Pensioner and reside in the City of Joondalup. It is encouraging to see the public support from people willing to volunteer their time and resources to help older people in need through the Adopt a Pensioner website. It is important to see caring and pro-active community members linked with those who are most in need in our community who may not have access to the internet or may be apprehensive about putting themselves in a vulnerable situation.

With a rapidly ageing population and over 10,000 people over the age of 60 years in the City of Joondalup, there is a growing need for assistance in the areas of transport, shopping, maintenance and gardening for those that are relying on the Government pension to survive.

There are a range of options and considerations for discussion. Preliminary consideration of the options by the City indicates a preference for Option 1 and/or Option 2.

ATTACHMENTS

Not Applicable.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION: That the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee RECOMMENDS the City ADOPTS Option 1 and/or Option 2 as outlined in the Report.

Discussion ensued, with concerns being raised in relation to the security of those pensioners who may participate in a service of this nature.

MOVED Ms M March, SECONDED Mr A Bryant that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee RECOMMENDS the City ADOPTS Options 1 and 2 as outlined in the Report.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED (7/0)

In favour of the Motion: Mr A Bryant, Mr A Cilia La Corte, Ms V Corey, Ms M March, Ms A Pike, Ms L Waterman and Mr P Wyburn

ITEM 4 UNIVERSAL BUILDING DESIGN - AGEING IN PLACE – [55511]

WARD: All

RESPONSIBLE Mr Clayton Higham
DIRECTOR: Planning and Community Development

PURPOSE

To provide the Seniors Interest Advisory Committee (SIAC) with information about the City's recent funding submission to partner in Ageing in Place research and investigation of the principles of universal building design as part of the District Planning Scheme review.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Universal design in the built environment benefits people of all ages and abilities and is an important strategy to assist older people to remain in their own homes as they age. Implementing Universal Design principles in all new residential buildings means that homes do not have to be modified (ie widening doorways) at a later stage to accommodate wheelchairs or mobility supports.

The City of Joondalup District Planning Scheme Review is currently in progress. With several stages in the process, the review can take several years to complete. The inclusion of Universal Building Design will be investigated as part of the District Planning Scheme review.

Understanding the aspirations and needs of local residents aged 50+ is a central concern of Local Government. The Australian Research Council Linkage Project will assist the City in collecting meaningful data which will inform the City's planning processes.

It is recommended that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee NOTES the information provided in the Report.

BACKGROUND

Housing and community well being for seniors is a complex and multifaceted issue. Despite the very pressing issues of housing affordability and rental stress, some consistent and positive ideas for working through the complexity have emerged.

Investigating the principles of universal building design has been requested as part of the District Planning Scheme Review and will be an important strategy towards effectively responding to the needs of the City's older residents.

The City has recently partnered in a submission to the Australian Research Council Linkage Project to assist with funding for research into older peoples' preferences for ageing in place and the implications for support and care.

The research will be led by the Centre for Research and Ageing Curtin University of Technology; other partners include Melville, Rockingham and Fremantle local governments, aged care providers – Silver Chain and Bethanie Care Group and the seniors' peak body – National Seniors. The project will include the surveying of 30,000 WA residents aged 55+ years and 300 in depth interviews over a 3 year period. Between 5% and 10% of the population surveyed will be Joondalup residents. The City will be provided with access to both the aggregate and disaggregate (City specific) data from the project. Findings will

enable the City to respond to the needs of an ageing population through effective planning and relevant across-sector community development strategies for social support and care.

DETAILS

Issues and options considered:

Not Applicable.

Link to Strategic Plan:

The provision of services, events and activities for seniors by the City is linked to the Strategic Plan through the outcomes, objectives and strategies under the Strategic Plan Key Focus Area- Community Wellbeing; The City of Joondalup is committed to enhancing the wellbeing of all people in the community – socially, emotionally, culturally and physically.

Legislation – Statutory Provisions:

Not Applicable.

Risk Management considerations:

Not Applicable.

Financial/Budget Implications:

Not Applicable.

Policy Implications:

Not Applicable.

Regional Significance:

Not Applicable.

Sustainability Implications:

Not Applicable.

Consultation:

Not Applicable.

COMMENT

Meeting people's deep wish to 'age in place' and utilising what technology and universal design have to offer is integral to future vitality of our ageing community.

The City's District Planning Scheme is a document that sets the objectives and principles for development within the City. It is noted that the appropriate place for the specific provisions in regard to universal design is within the state based Residential Design Codes or the national based Building Code of Australia. These documents prescribe, in detail, the requirements for the approval and construction of dwellings and buildings. Universal design provisions are incorporated to a degree within these documents, however, further incorporation of these provisions will require support at the state and national levels. Notwithstanding, it is appropriate that the objective of universal design be investigated for incorporation in the District Planning Scheme.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 The Principles of Universal Design
Attachment 2 Accessibility Management Fact Sheet

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

Discussion ensued.

MOVED Ms A Pike, SECONDED Ms V Corey that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee NOTES the information provided in the Report.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED (7/0)

In favour of the Motion: Mr A Bryant, Mr A Cilia La Corte, Ms V Corey, Ms M March, Ms A Pike, Ms L Waterman and Mr P Wyburn

MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil.

REQUESTS FOR REPORTS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**Existing Bus Routes within the City of Joondalup**

An update was provided on the status of the report requested on existing bus routes within the City of Joondalup.

CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Acting Presiding Person declared the Meeting closed at 1058 hrs; the following committee members being present at that time:

Ms Margaret March
Ms Valerie Corey
Mr Allyn Bryant
Ms Waterman
Mr Alex Cilia La Corte
Mr Patrick Wyburn
Ms Anne Pike