

Active Ageing Plan – have your say!

Council is developing its Active Ageing Plan 2017-2021 and is seeking feedback to help create a more age-friendly community.

The Plan is a demonstration of Council's ongoing commitment to ensure the older residents of our community continue to participate actively in community life and are valued for their knowledge, wisdom and life experiences.

South Gippsland's population, like much of Australia's, is changing; our population is getting older. The opportunity exists now to think about how Council can support our older community members by making South Gippsland more age-friendly.

Council's Social Planning Officer, Vicki Bradley, said it was important that all members of our community think about our changing needs through the whole of life.

"The ageing of the population is a positive trend and it is an indication that we are living longer, healthier lives," she explained. "This presents our community with challenges and opportunities that require careful consideration, thoughtful planning and the allocation of resources from all levels of government."

The Active Ageing Plan 2017 – 2021 is being developed in conjunction with the Active Retirees Advisory Committee (ARAC). Committee Chair, Peter Wingett, said members firmly believed that people could change the way they aged by staying active within all areas of life.

"With ARAC members representing 13 organisations, we felt we could provide a good insight into how to maintain and encourage an age-friendly community," Mr Wingett explained.

"Our priorities include access to public transport, social engagement and supporting older people to continue living actively in their own homes. We are looking forward to receiving input for development of the next Active Ageing Plan from the broader community."

Residents can provide their ideas of how to make South Gippsland more age-friendly at one of the following community discussion meetings between 10.00am – 12.00pm:

- Tuesday 24 May - Loch Memorial Reserve clubrooms, Loch
- South Gippsland Community Health Centre, Foster
- Wednesday 25 May - Venus Bay Community Centre, Venus Bay
- Thursday 26 May – Salvation Army, Leongatha
- Wednesday 1 June - Mirboo North Community Shed, Mirboo North

Those that cannot attend a community meeting can still provide feedback directly to Mrs Bradley over the phone by calling 5662 9200. Residents can also complete a Towards an Age-Friendly South Gippsland survey online at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/active-ageing-survey Surveys are also available from your local library, community group or by request from Council. Surveys can be returned in a reply paid envelope, in person at a library or Council offices up until 30 June.

Photo caption: Active Retirees Advisory Committee members Jeff Montague and Peter Wingett with the Towards an Age-friendly South Gippsland survey.

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