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Executive Summary

The ageing of the population is a worldwide phenomenon due to decline in birth rates and an increase in life spans and not (as is often thought) solely contributed to by the ageing of the baby boomers! The age structure of countries will therefore change significantly. This change brings both opportunities and challenges. Some of these challenges are already present and will only exacerbate without careful strategic planning at all levels of Government.

Australia is following this same trend and at the local level, by 2031 the projected population of people aged 60 and older will constitute 39% of the South Gippsland population. This percentage is higher than that projected for both Gippsland and Victoria.

Local Government is in a prime position to take a lead in strategic planning for an ageing community. South Gippsland Shire Council (SGSC) has many strategic plans that contain strategies and actions that are relevant to the community. The Active Ageing Plan (AAP) 2012-2016 focuses on addressing issues that older residents have said are important in enabling them to participate in the community as they age.

The level of participation in the community is often dependent on the level of physical and cognitive ability of people. Maintaining health and wellbeing as we age is therefore integral to continuing participation. It is now acknowledged that health and wellbeing is affected by factors originating across any or all of four environmental dimensions (DoH 2012). These are Social, Economic, Built and Natural. The strategies in the action plan are grouped under the four environments of health as well as a heading of ‘Leadership’ consistent with the headings of the Council Plan. These are:

1. **Social** - A vibrant engaged community
2. **Natural Environment** - A sustainable environment
3. **Economic Environment** - A strong economy
4. **Built Environment** - Appropriate infrastructure
5. **Leadership** - A leading organisation

The AAP consists of two sections. Section one discusses the main opportunities and challenges presented for an ageing population at global, national, state and local levels and the process of the development of the Plan. Section two is the Action Plan which details the strategies, actions, measures, responsible officers/ partners and timelines for completion of each action.

There are sixteen strategies and forty-three actions in the Active Ageing Plan to address the issues identified from the consultation process. The implementation of the action plan will be monitored by the Active Ageing Plan 2012-2016 Steering Group. Evaluation of the actions will be via a survey of older residents to measure any improvement to their participation levels that can be attributed to the strategies within the Active Ageing Plan.
1. Overview of South Gippsland Shire

The current population of South Gippsland Shire is approximately 27,776, making up 10.7% of the Gippsland region.

South Gippsland Shire spreads across 3,280 square kilometres of farming and coastal landscape. The Shire consists of 26 settlements, including the four major townships of Foster, Korumburra, Leongatha and Mirboo North.

South Gippsland Shire has a strong dairy and beef industry with economic development also strong across horticulture, forestry, fishing, boutique food and wine, retail trade, manufacturing and tourism. With magnificent natural surrounds there is strong interest in the environment and the arts for recreation.
2. Introduction

The South Gippsland Shire Council (SGSC) Active Ageing Plan (AAP) 2012-2016 is a demonstration of Council’s ongoing commitment to ensure that the older residents of our community participate in community life and are valued for their knowledge, wisdom and life experiences.

A draft ‘South Gippsland Shire Council Positive Ageing Strategy 2007-2011’ was developed in 2007 and priorities and actions within this strategy were reviewed at the first meeting of the SGSC Active Ageing Plan 2012-2016 Steering Group. Whilst not formally adopted by Council, many actions within the Positive Ageing Strategy 2007-2011 have been achieved. The information received from the previous community consultations has also informed the development of the South Gippsland Shire Council Active Ageing Plan 2012-2016.

The current consultation process has involved the distribution of 1200 comprehensive surveys seeking an understanding of the issues that are most important to the older residents in our shire. The responses from the surveys have been aligned with the information collected from previous consultations and those identified by the Steering Committee.

The AAP consists of two sections. Section one discusses the main ageing issues at global, national, state and local levels and the process of the development of the AAP. Section two is the Action Plan which details the strategies, actions, measures, and timelines. Implementation of the action plan is the shared responsibility of council officers and external partners as detailed in the Action Plan.

The following table illustrates the relationship between the various stages of ageing and the economic costs. As can be seen from the table below, when function levels decrease, the cost of care increases. This Plan will focus on the areas highlighted in pink, i.e. no function limits, limited function and more limited function. These are the areas where Council can have the most influence. Those with more extensive functional limitations are more likely to require residential aged care services, which is the primary responsibility of the Commonwealth Government.

By shifting the focus on actions that encourage active ageing, the need to move into residential aged care could be delayed.
3. Why an Active Ageing Plan?

3.1 Policy Context

Global

Globally, two billion people will be aged 60 and older by 2050. If older people can retain their health, and if they live in an environment that promotes their active participation, their experience, skills and wisdom will be a very positive resource for societies.

Some of the challenges of ageing populations around the world include:

- strains on pension and social security systems;
- increased demand for health care;
- increased need for trained-health workforce in gerontology;
- increased demand for long-term care, particularly in dealing with dementia; and
- the raising of pervasive ageism that denies older people the rights and opportunities available for other adults.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends that these challenges can be addressed by implementing the following strategies:

- ensuring that the older population have a basic level of financial security;
- developing age-friendly environments;
- availability and accessibility of effective health care; and
- maintaining social patterns that influence the well-being of older adults.

National

In responding to the challenges of an ageing population, the Australian Government takes a whole-of-Government perspective. The areas of focus are superannuation and retirement income support, workforce, housing, social inclusion and lifelong education, as well as medical, health and aged care services. Overall, this policy context encourages individuals to plan for financial security and independence in later life and offers older people a broad range of services and support, depending on their needs and circumstances.

The ageing of the population makes health a key economic priority for the Government, as it will be essential to ensure that the workforce is as productive as possible. If, due to poor health, people are unable to contribute during their working years or their working years are shortened, wellbeing and economic growth will be reduced.

The Commonwealth Government has therefore committed to the following initiatives:

- **Retirement income system.** Mandatory employer superannuation contributions in an effort to increase the number of ‘self funded’ retirees. An Aged Pension which is accessible after the age of 67 years.

- **Encouraging active, independent ageing.** The Home and Community Care (HACC) program provides basic home care and maintenance services to enable people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. The Active Service Model of care has been introduced into the HACC program to focus on maintaining client independence.
3.1 Policy Context

National (cont’d)

- National effort to raise the focus on preventative health. The National Partnership Agreement on Preventative Health was formed to address the rising prevalence of lifestyle related chronic diseases, by:
  - laying the foundations for healthy behaviours in the daily lives of Australians through social marketing efforts and the national roll out of programs supporting healthy lifestyles; and
  - supporting these programs and the subsequent evolution of policy with the enabling infrastructure for evidence-based policy design and coordinated implementation.

- Ministerial Conference on Ageing. This is a forum for the Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers responsible for the care of older Australians and the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to discuss issues related to the ageing population.

- Australia’s commitment to the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing consists of ten commitments made by countries from around the world in response to the challenges of the global ageing population.

- Living Longer Living Better - National Aged Care Package Reform. The reforms give priority to providing more support and care in the home, better access to residential care, more support for those with dementia and strengthening the aged care workforce.

“We like participating and helping in clubs.”
Victorian

At the time of this report, the State Government had not released its policy on ageing. However, according to the Department of Health, Aged Care Environment Statement, the aged care agenda is focused on addressing the special needs of older Victorians and ensuring its policies and programs recognise and reflect the diversity of older people’s lives.

This includes:
- providing access to good quality and appropriate services;
- providing services to assist older people to remain living independently in their own homes; and
- upgrading public sector residential aged care facilities to meet new Commonwealth standards, (Department of Ageing and Aged Care 2012).

Council On The Ageing (COTA) is a prominent lobby group representing older Australians. At the state level it has a long history of ensuring older Victorians have a say in the development of public policy. It works towards positive change by advocating to Governments, political parties, public services, the media, other sectors of the community and the public in general.

At the state level COTA calls on the Government to work towards an Age Friendly Victoria, by:
- making ageing a policy priority; and
- committing to action on key issues impacting on older Victorians now and into the future.

COTA's priorities for action over the next term of Government are built on three pillars for achieving an Age Friendly Victoria:
1. Equity and Social Inclusion.
2. Sustainable Planning and Community Development through a whole-of-Government approach.

Regional

In 2010 people aged 60 and over made up 25% of the Gippsland population. This consisted of 48% males and 51% females, (Department of Health, Gippsland region).

The following areas are significant for maintaining the health and wellbeing of the ageing population of Gippsland.

- Health and wellbeing services and facilities that address regional wellbeing challenges including increased population and improving access for indigenous people, older people, disadvantaged people and people from multicultural backgrounds.
- Improving major recreational infrastructure particularly to cater for population growth and an ageing population.
- Improving community planning processes.
- Positive ageing by providing services and initiatives that support people as they age.
- Working with Gippsland’s Local Indigenous Networks to improve opportunities for the indigenous community in community, health and economic prosperity, (GLGN 2010).
3.2 Regional initiatives on ageing

Gippsland Regional Dementia Plan

The Department of Health, Gippsland Region has released the Regional Dementia Plan 2011-2014 in recognition of the prevalence of dementia across Gippsland which is expected to increase in the next ten years. The data indicates that an increase of nearly 40% in the prevalence of dementia may be experienced across Gippsland within the next ten years. However, a number of lifestyle strategies can reduce the risk of developing dementia such as participating in regular physical activity, leisure and social activities. Focusing on preventative initiatives may reduce the expected prevalence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>2010 No of people</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2015 No of people</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2020 No of people</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Change in dementia prevalence 2010-2020 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Gippsland</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>622</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>35.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gippsland</td>
<td>3,837</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>4,864</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>5,944</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>39.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>65,669</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>81,393</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>98,332</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>31.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Gippsland Dementia Plan, 2011-2014

Gippsland HACC Diversity Plan

This is a strategic population planning initiative that supports and encourages HACC service delivery which is responsive to and respectful of the specific characteristics of the person seeking services. The Department of Health classify the following groups as the major diverse populations:

- People from CALD populations.
- People with a dementia.
- People living in rural and remote areas.
- People experiencing financial disadvantage (*including people who experience or are at risk of homelessness*).
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.
4. Local Picture

4.1 Demographics

In 2006, 23.9% of the South Gippsland population were aged 60 and over. This is expected to increase to 39% by 2031. Projected population changes for the next four years shows no growth in the workforce age group (<64years), however across South Gippsland there is a projected increase of 8% of the aged (65+ years) population, (SGSC ID Profile 2012).

According to the Index of Relative Socio Economic Disadvantage (IRSED), South Gippsland Shire is classified as Advantage with a score of 1001, (a number 1000 and above is considered an indicator of an advantaged area). The figure is based on a number of criteria such as unemployment rate and number of crimes committed.

4.2 Health and Wellbeing Profile

The AAP focuses on assisting older people to remain active and healthy. It has to be acknowledged however, South Gippsland Shire residents do not enjoy the same level of health and wellbeing or access to health services as their metropolitan counterparts.

Some of the challenges faced by rural health service providers are

- attracting General Practitioners and other allied health professionals;
- limited access to primary health care services for people living outside of the town centres; and
- lower number of residential high care places.

In South Gippsland the main causes of illness are mental disorders, neurological and sensory disorders, malignant cancers, chronic respiratory disease and cardiovascular disease.

NB: It is acknowledged that these illnesses are not specific to the older population.

4.3 Diversity within the Older Population

In 2006, residents born in Australia made up 83.1% of the population of South Gippsland with 0.5% being identified as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders. 10.9% of the population were born overseas. Among those born overseas, 4.6% identified themselves as having a non-English speaking background (majority from the Netherlands and Italy) with the remaining 6.3% reporting they were from English speaking countries (mainly from United Kingdom). Among residents aged 70+ years 17.9% were from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background.

“I doubt there is anywhere in the world where people are so well cared for as they age.”
5. Relationship to other Council Plans and Strategies

The diagram explains the relationship of the AAP to other Council Plans. The Active Ageing Plan is a planning document. It is informed by the Vision Statement and key strategies which are mainly legislative requirements and the Community Directions Statement. The Plan, in turn, then informs the Council Plan, Annual Plan and Business Plans of each department within Council.

The following is a synopsis of the four most relevant strategic Council documents to the Active Ageing Plan.

**The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2010-2012 (MPHWBP)**

The MPHWBP Plan is a key strategic document which is a legislative requirement for all Local Governments under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008. The MPHWBP Plan contains actions and measures to improve the health and wellbeing of the whole community including the older residents. Some of the actions within the AAP will align with those in the MPHWBP Plan.

**Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS)**

The Municipal Strategic Statement is intended to provide a strategic framework to guide decision making within the South Gippsland Shire Planning Scheme 2012. The AAP has to align with the strategies within the MSS when there are actions that relate to land use and type of dwellings. These include such issues as suitable sites for retirement villages or guidelines for accessible housing.
5. **Relationship to other Council Plans and Strategies (cont’d)**

**Council Plan 2010-2014**

Within the Council Plan 2010-2014, Council has identified the following five key strategic goals:

1. A vibrant, engaged community
2. A sustainable environment
3. A strong economy
4. Appropriate infrastructure
5. A leading organisation

To ensure consistency of Council’s strategic planning process, the Active Ageing Plan 2012-2016 addresses these five strategic goals in relation to the older population.

**The Community Directions Statements**

The purpose of the Community Directions program is to assist our communities to develop community plans in a manner that:

- broadly engages the community in setting its future direction;
- allows for a coordinated and integrated approach to community development and community infrastructure provision;
- genuinely addresses the challenges and opportunities facing the community and develops strategies that reflect community priorities; and
- strengthens social networks, external networks and community engagement and resilience.

“Social activities are readily available.”
6. Methodology

The Active Ageing Plan 2012-2016 was informed by the following process:

**Literature review** of international, national, state and local information related to ageing including a review of the draft SGSC Positive Ageing Plan 2007-2011.

**Consultation**

**Internal:**
All levels of Council have been informed and have provided input into the development of the Active Ageing Plan.

*Councillor* Jeanette Harding represented Council on the Steering Group and updated Council on the progress of the AAP. The draft AAP was presented to Council on 21 March 2012.

*Council Officers* representing each department in Council have had input into the AAP. This was to ensure that:
- the actions within the plan were consistent with other strategic plans;
- Council officers were aware of community needs; and
- to ensure the strategies and actions were realistic and achievable.

**External:**
Community consultation has been extensive and consisted of various methods.

- **Survey.** A survey of 1200 residents of South Gippsland was conducted as part of the Improving Liveability for Older Persons (ILOP) project. A response rate of 20% was achieved. The responses from the surveys have informed the Plan and validated the strategies identified by the Steering Group.

- **Community Forums.** Conducted for the Community Directions project and the Improving Liveability for Older Persons have also informed the Plan.

- **Contact with local Community Groups.** The Project Officer for the ILOP project either visited groups or contacted key people within those groups to identify what issues are important to older people, *(list included in Appendix 1).*

- **Letters to HACC clients.** All HACC clients were sent a letter explaining the development of the AAP and seeking their input.

- **Partnership Input.** The major partners of the Aged and Disability Services Team were sent updates on the development of the AAP and were provided with opportunities for input.

- **South Gippsland Matters.** An article describing the planning process and a request for input from the wider community.
Consultation (cont’d)

External (cont’d):

- **Local Media.** An article informing the community of the development of the Plan and seeking further input was published in the South Gippsland Matters newsletter.

- **Public Briefing to Council.** A presentation on the progress of the Plan was made to Council in March 2012.

- **Steering Group.** A Steering Group was established to oversee the development of the AAP and to confirm the priorities identified by the community consultation. The final draft AAP was presented to the Steering Group for comment, (See Acknowledgements on Pg 40 for list of members)

- **Council Approval.** The final draft of the AAP was presented to Council to seek for approval to advertise the AAP for public exhibition and invite further consultation.
7. Council's responsibilities to the older residents

Leadership
Council is made up of a diverse range of departments and as one of the major employers in South Gippsland, has a responsibility to set examples of ‘Best Practice’ in all that it does.

Provision of infrastructure
Council owns Senior Citizen Centres, Libraries, Recreation Reserves, Pools and Community Houses and is responsible for the building and maintenance of much of the public infrastructure in the Shire such as roads, (except those roads that are owned and managed by VicRoads), footpaths, seating, toilets and bus shelters.

Advocacy
Council has a role to advocate to the other levels of Government and other bodies:
- to ensure the provision of quality accessible health services and residential aged care; and
- to seek funds for programs to assist the wellbeing of our older residents.

Service Provision
The HACC program in Victoria provides a range of basic support services to frail older people, people with a disability and their carers assisting them to continue to live independently in their community.

Comprehensive Assessment: SGSC is the designated HACC Assessment Agency. Clients are assessed for eligibility to receive HACC services. A care plan is developed in collaboration with the client, family and other agencies if required

Home Care: To assist clients to maintain a safe, healthy and hygienic home environment.

Personal Care: Services provide support for clients who have difficulty with daily personal care tasks.

Respite Care: Enables carers to have a break from their caring responsibilities.

Home Maintenance: Provides basic assistance to clients with the maintenance of their home to ensure a safe environment.

Community Transport: is provided by volunteer drivers in Council owned vehicles. This is available to clients who are unable to access other means of transport to attend medical appointments

Community Buses: Wheelchair accessible and available to clients with no other means of transport to provide access to services in larger towns.

Meals on Wheels: Provide nutritious and diet specific meals delivered to the client's homes by volunteers and completing a client welfare check during delivery.

Volunteer Coordination: The Community Transport and Meals on Wheels programs rely on the assistance of over 100 volunteers to assist with these programs.

HACC Services
The HACC program is a commonwealth state funded program. Victorian Local Governments have traditionally been the main HACC providers. DoH service level agreements per year are as follows:
- Assessment: 3130 assessments conducted
- Community Transport: 8500 hours per year
- Home care: 18,340 hours of service provided
- Home Maintenance: 900 hours of service provided
- Meals on Wheels: 16,383 meals delivered
- Personal care: 3,239 hours of service provided
Each year service hours can be negotiated based on community need but funding remains the same.
## 7. Council’s responsibilities to the older residents (cont’d)

### Programs specifically targeting older people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sustainability Audits:</strong> Funding received as part of a Government Climate Change initiative enabled HACC clients to have sustainability audits of their homes to identify ways to save energy. Up to $100 was available for initiatives to improve energy efficiency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access for All Initiatives:</strong> Council in partnership with the Department of Human Services, funds the Rural Access Project Worker position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men’s Sheds:</strong> Council’s Community Strengthening Team works with local individuals and men’s groups to establish the Men’s Shed Program. Men’s Sheds provide a space for older men to get together to socialise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seniors Festival:</strong> Council receives funding from the Office of Senior Victorians to conduct an annual concert to thank, celebrate and recognise seniors for their ongoing contribution to our community. Attendance is in excess of four hundred participants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Climate Change:</strong> Forums South Gippsland Shire Council received a grant from Department of Health to assist with climate change to enhance the safety and independence of HACC eligible people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Improving Liveability for Older Persons (ILOP):</strong> South Gippsland Shire Council received a grant of $100,000 to implement initiatives that will make a difference to the quality of life, social participation, health and well-being of older people in towns with a significant ageing population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emergency Management:</strong> Provision of tools to develop Emergency and Heatwave Plans. All HACC clients are provided with emergency REDIPLANS to make plans in case of emergencies. Council also maintains a list of vulnerable clients who may require assistance in case of emergencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hard Waste Collection Service:</strong> Council is introducing an annual optional hard waste collection service in 2012 for all residential properties. This is particularly important for the older residents who are unable to dispose of their hard rubbish.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Provision of information

**It has a prime role in assisting the local community to access information about a range of resources available.**

### Partnering with other services

**Council has a responsibility to form collaborative arrangements with the major local service providers to ensure an integrated approach to planning and service provision to meet the needs of the community.**

Examples include the development of the HACC Partnership Protocols The protocols were developed between the three major HACC providers in South Gippsland to ensure continuity of care and enhance integration of services for all HACC clients.

**South Gippsland Community register:** This is a collaborative program between Victorian Police, South Gippsland Shire Council and Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). The Citizens Advice Bureau manages the program. SGSC holds the funding and promotes the Community register. The Community Register is designed to enhance the confidence and safety of people on the register by offering friendly phone contact, assistance and advice for people over 50 and those with a disability. Members can nominate to receive secure regular contact calls if they are isolated and do not have family or friends nearby.

### Provision of Grants

**Council provides funding to each of the four senior citizen centres for ongoing maintenance of the buildings and meal subsidies to support their monthly luncheons.**
8. Strategies to address issues of importance to our older residents

The following strategies have been developed from the information received through the consultation process and reviewed by the Steering Committee. Considerable input from all stakeholders has ensured the strategies are achievable and within Council’s core business.

Social Environment - A vibrant engaged community
1. To provide an inclusive community that encourages active participation for older adults within the wider community, recognising the diversity of our community.
2. To support the provision of quality accessible health, and residential aged care for those who need it.
3. To promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle for maintaining independence.
4. To facilitate opportunities for older people to impart their experience, knowledge and wisdom.
5. To provide education and training opportunities to support lifelong learning opportunities.
6. To provide a variety of volunteering opportunities to stimulate the interest of the changing profile of retirees.

Natural Environment - A sustainable environment
1. To encourage older people to be involved in activities that promote sustainable practices.
2. To encourage activities that enable older people to access and enjoy the beauty of the natural environment.

Economic Environment - A strong economy
1. To ensure a sustainable agricultural industry.
2. To encourage businesses to be inclusive of older people.
3. To facilitate opportunities to plan for financial security in retirement.
4. To support local paid and unpaid employment opportunities that acknowledge the skills and wisdom of older residents.

Built Environment - Appropriate infrastructure
1. To provide physical environments that support lifelong health and wellbeing and ageing in place.
2. To enable a choice of transport options for older people.

Leadership - A leading organisation
1. To adopt a ‘whole of Council’ approach to strategic planning to ensure that the needs of older people are considered in all Council decisions.
2. To develop a coherent and integrated population planning approach.
3. To ensure older people are given the opportunity to be involved in the decision making process and advocate for themselves.
9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring the implementation of the actions and the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Active Ageing Plan will be the responsibility of the Manager Aged and Disability Services. This will be conducted in partnership with the members of the Steering Group.

Progress and analysis of the implementation of actions will be presented to Council in a Quarterly Report by the Manager Aged and Disability Services.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the AAP will include a survey of older people. This will be designed to measure whether there has been any improvement in their health and wellbeing and/or their ability to participate in the community that can be attributed to the actions within the AAP.

“I volunteer in aged care and community kitchen programs.”

“There is already a breath taking list of activities and outings.”

“We have been here four years and feel very much a part of the community.”
SECTION 2

Action Plan

South Gippsland Shire Council

Active Ageing Plan 2012 – 2016
Social Environment:  A vibrant engaged community

What is important to older people?

- **Access to information on activities and services available in various formats and languages.** Many people know there are a variety of activities and services available to them, however, information on how these are accessed are not always in suitable formats. Whilst many older residents are embracing technology and using computers to access information, for many others this is not an option. The challenge for all organisations is to understand who their target group is and identify the most suitable format for delivering messages to them.

- **Access to quality health care services.** Access to quality healthcare is a priority for most people regardless of age; however the likelihood of developing a chronic illness increases with age so access to health care is essential. Attracting health care practitioners to rural areas continues to be a challenge as does the provision of quality infrastructure. In response, the local health services have collaboratively developed the Gippsland South Coast Service Plan (GSCSP) to address some of these issues.

  It should be noted that on average, over one quarter of all health care costs over a lifetime are attributable to the last year of life (Wanless 2001) but the cost of this last year does not rise with age; The most costly patients are those who die young while health costs associated with the last year of life may actually be less in older age groups because elderly people are treated less extensively (Scitovsky 1988).

- **Access to quality residential aged care especially to dementia specific care.** Currently South Gippsland has an adequate number of high and low care beds as determined by the Commonwealth Government formula for the allocation of residential beds. One of the goals in the GSCSP is to ensure there are sustainable residential aged care services in the region, (GSCSP 2010).

- **Respect for their experience, knowledge and wisdom.** Older people have a wealth of knowledge and wisdom gained over a lifetime of experiences. It is important for communities to harness this knowledge to enable older people to continue to actively participate in community life. Involuntary retirement of mature aged people can be a waste of skills and experience, (COTA 2001).

- **Access to age and ability appropriate physical exercise.** Regardless of age or ability, in most cases it is still possible for people to be involved in some form of physical activity. It is important that there are options available to suit the varying levels of ability. Consideration also needs to be given to the venue and surrounding environment where the activity takes place to ensure that the dignity of the person is upheld at all times.
### Social Environment: A vibrant engaged community (cont’d)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Responsible Officer/ Partners</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 To provide an inclusive community that encourages active participation for older adults within the wider community, recognising the diversity of our community.</td>
<td>1.1.1 Implement identified programs from ILOP.</td>
<td>Report annual progress of ILOP.</td>
<td>Project Officer ILOP, ASMPP, Brokerage Agencies</td>
<td>September 2013</td>
<td>DoH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.1.2 Identify strategies to mitigate barriers for access and equity issues to all services.</td>
<td>Develop the HACC Diversity Plan.</td>
<td>Project Officer ILOP, ASMPP, Brokerage Agencies, SCPCP</td>
<td>July 2012</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Develop the SGSC Access and Inclusion Plan 2012-2016.</td>
<td>Manager Community Strengthening</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.1.3 Provide accessible information on activities and services for older people that addresses the diversity within the older population.</td>
<td>Review Council’s Communication Strategy to ensure information is accessible to all.</td>
<td>Manager Customer Relations, Project Officer ILOP, Steering Group, AAP</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Review the ‘New Resident’s Kits’ to include information that is relevant and accessible to older residents.</td>
<td>Manager Customer Service, Steering Group, AAP</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Conduct a Community and Health Services Expo.</td>
<td>Project Officer ILOP, Steering Group, AAP, ASMPP</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>DoH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 To support the Provision of quality accessible health, and residential aged care for those who need it.</td>
<td>1.2.1 Advocate on behalf of the residents for the strategies in the MPHWBP to be implemented.</td>
<td>MPHWB 2013-2017 developed and implemented.</td>
<td>Director Community Services</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>External funding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Social Environment: A vibrant engaged community (cont’d)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
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<th>Measure</th>
<th>Responsible Officer/Partners</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1.3 To promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle for maintaining independence.  
1.3.1 Collaborate with the SCPCP and local health services to implement Health Promotion activities. | Health promotion activities reported on annually.                                                                                                      | Manager Aged & Disability Services, SCPCP, ASMPP, Social Planning Officer                          | 2013        | SCPCP             |
| 1.3.2 Promote existing programs specific to the over 60’s age group conducted at SG Splash and Toora pools. | Participation rates for programs increased.                                                                                                          | Recreation Coordinator                                                                              | 2013        | Ongoing           |
| 1.4 To facilitate opportunities for older people to impart their experience, knowledge and wisdom.  
| 1.4.2 U3A to collaborate with Men’s Sheds to implement activities that allow information sharing among older men. | Evaluation of activities reported on in six monthly review of AAP.                                                                                  | Manager Community Strengthening & U3A                                                                | 2012        | Within existing budget |

Facilitate mentoring opportunities with U3A.

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<tr>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Resources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Social Environment: *A vibrant engaged community* (cont’d)

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<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.5 To provide education and training opportunities to support lifelong learning opportunities.</td>
<td>1.5.1 Conduct the SGSC Community Engagement Conference.</td>
<td>Participant feedback target of 90% positive response.</td>
<td>Manager Community Strengthening</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>External funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.5.2 Prepare our older residents to utilise technology to improve their lifestyles.</td>
<td>Provide training in the use of technology.</td>
<td>Coordinator Economic Development, GippsTAFE, West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation, South Gippsland Secondary College, Community Houses</td>
<td>2012 Ongoing</td>
<td>GLGN funding from the Gippsland Broadband Engagement Plan Connecting Communities &amp; ILOP funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 To provide and promote a variety of volunteering opportunities to stimulate the interest of the changing profile of retirees.</td>
<td>1.6.1 Increase awareness of volunteer participation throughout the Shire through a monthly ‘Volunteer in the Spotlight’ article on Council website, local press and Council marketing collateral.</td>
<td>An increase in volunteering participation rates.</td>
<td>Volunteer Coordinator, Communications Officer</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
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</table>

South Gippsland Shire Council Active Ageing Plan 2012-2016
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<tr>
<td>1.6.2</td>
<td>SGSC to partner with Volunteering Victoria &amp; the local community organisations to post all volunteering opportunities on their website.</td>
<td>An increase in the variety of volunteering opportunities and the number of volunteers participating.</td>
<td>Volunteer Coordinator</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
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## Social Environment:  A vibrant engaged community  (cont’d)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.6 To provide and promote a variety of volunteering opportunities to stimulate the interest of the changing profile of retirees (cont’d).</td>
<td>1.6.2 SGSC to partner with Volunteering Victoria &amp; the local community organisations to post all volunteering opportunities on their website (cont’d).</td>
<td>The number of Community groups listing their volunteering opportunities on the Volunteering Victoria website.</td>
<td>Volunteer Coordinator</td>
<td>Ongoing annual update</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6.3 Develop partnerships with local agencies to deliver services to older residents.</td>
<td>Investigate existing services and opportunities for a Friendly Visitors Scheme.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Volunteer Coordinator, External Volunteer Organisation</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6.4 Address the bureaucratic barriers to participation in volunteerism by providing clear and concise information on the legislative requirements for volunteering.</td>
<td>SGSC Volunteer Induction Booklet to include information and explanation of the legislative requirements.</td>
<td>Conduct governance training workshops for community groups.</td>
<td>Volunteer Coordinator</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
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Natural Environment: A sustainable environment

What is important for older people?

- **Maintaining the environment in pristine condition for younger generations to enjoy**
  
  A series of challenges arise from the interaction between natural resources, ecology and human behaviour. These include:
  
  - adapting to climate change;
  - improving efficiency in the management of water resources;
  - developing more sustainable energy sources;
  - protecting environmental assets and;
  - optimising the use of recycled materials; and
  - preparing for emergencies and natural disasters.

  We can learn much about environmental sustainability from our older residents as they have had to face some if not all of the above challenges over their lifetime. The State Government has recognised the contribution older people make to environmental sustainability by the development of the Green Sage Project. The aim of the Green Sage Project is to engage with senior Victorians and explore their views in relation to environmental sustainability and consider ways in which this knowledge can help to inform the Commissioner’s State of the Environment Report. (Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability 2011)

  People living in rural areas overall, have enormous respect and appreciation of the natural environment. They have been protectors of the natural environment for generations. This was evidenced in 1986 when a group of farmers near St Arnaud, in central Victoria started the Landcare movement in Victoria. Landcare now has a broader focus on sustainable management of all of Victoria's natural resource assets and many of its members are retirees.

- **Taking advantage of the beautiful rural and coastal landscape**
  
  The development of accessible infrastructure such the rail trails and board walks within the natural environment enables our older residents to continue to enjoy the natural beauty of the Shire.
### Natural Environment: **A sustainable environment (cont’d)**

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 To encourage older people to be involved in activities that promote sustainable practices.</td>
<td>2.1.1 Promote the support provided to enable all older residents to access the SGSC Sustainability Festival.</td>
<td>Number of patrons using the free transport to access exhibits.</td>
<td>Manager Sustainability</td>
<td>2012 Ongoing</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.1.2 Provide information on sustainable practices and environmental issues to older people.</td>
<td>Information on the effects of climate change on older people developed and distributed via local media, Community newsletter and Community forums.</td>
<td>Manager Sustainability; Manager Aged &amp; Disability Services</td>
<td>2013 Ongoing</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.1.3 Promote the engagement of older people to act as mentors of sustainable environmental activities.</td>
<td>‘Fix It’ Program implemented.</td>
<td>Manager Sustainability</td>
<td>2013 Ongoing</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.1.4 Offer opportunities for older people to share the enjoyment of the natural environment using the rail trails by linking them in with existing walking groups.</td>
<td>The number of older residents joining an existing walking group as a result of this action.</td>
<td>Project Officer ILOP, GSHS, Rural Access Officer</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>DoH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 To encourage activities that enable older people to access and enjoy the beauty of the natural environment.</td>
<td></td>
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Economic Environment: A strong economy

What is important to older people?

- **What intergenerational change in the farming community will mean for the sustainability of the farming industry.**
  
  Agriculture is the main source of income for South Gippsland with a strong dairy and beef cattle industry. Migration trends out of South Gippsland however suggest that young people are leaving the district. This raises issues of how we can ensure a sustainable farming community now that the majority of farmers are ageing. The average age of farmers across Australia is 53 years old, *(Australia 2020 Summit: The Future of Rural and Regional Australia, April 2008).*

- **Managing the effects of ageism**
  
  The Australian scenario is of a populous group on the cusp of retirement, healthier, wealthier and more active than previous generations with probably a quarter of a century of life ahead of them. Currently one of the biggest deterrents to older people working is the attitude of employers many of whom want their companies to project a youthful, exuberant image. This preference will, of necessity, undergo change as a result of the diminishing labour force. Some employers and labour market economists are already beginning to re-examine their assumptions that the preference for younger workers is economically rational.

- **Harnessing the skills and wisdom of older people**
  
  Mature age workers today have a greater capacity than previous generations to work beyond a retirement age of 60-65 years as they are healthier and better educated and the nature of work is less physically demanding, *(Lazear 1995 cited in Healy J 2004).*

- **Having enough funds to live on in retirement**
  
  A study conducted by National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM) found that the average wealth of older Australians almost doubled between 1986 and 1997 due to the high rate of home ownership among this group and the strong growth in share prices and in the value of superannuation *(Harding et al. 2002).* With the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) in 2008, the share market went down considerably causing superannuation funds to decrease also. This made some people who were nearing retirement to rethink their financial plans and stay in the workforce longer, *(H Bateman March 2010).*
## Economic Environment:  *A strong economy* (cont’d)

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1 to promote a sustainable primary production industry.</td>
<td>3.1.1 Facilitate training providers to conduct information / training sessions on succession planning and employment options for ageing farmers.</td>
<td>Training sessions provided.</td>
<td>Strategic Project Manager (Advancing Country Towns), U3A, Community College Gippsland (CCG)</td>
<td>2013 Ongoing</td>
<td>External funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.1.2 Maintain effective communication between the farming community and the relevant Government agencies and industry groups who represent them.</td>
<td>Conduct an Information workshop at the Gippsland Dairy Expo.</td>
<td>Coordinator Economic Development</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 To encourage businesses to be inclusive of older people.</td>
<td>3.2.1 Develop Promotional materials and ‘Live, Work and Invest’ prospectus for Toora and District.</td>
<td>Promotional materials and prospectus developed, approved and disseminated at the Regional Living Promotional Expo, Melbourne.</td>
<td>Coordinator Economic Development</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
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### Economic Environment:  A strong economy (cont’d)

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.2 To encourage businesses to be inclusive of older people.</td>
<td>3.2.2 Participate in the development and implementation of the Gippsland Inclusive Tourism Plan.</td>
<td>Gippsland Inclusive Tourism Plan implemented.</td>
<td>Rural Access Project Officer and Destination Gippsland</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.2.3 Develop the SGSC Economic Development and Tourism Strategy.</td>
<td>SGSC Economic Development and Tourism Strategy completed.</td>
<td>Coordinator Economic Development</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.2.4 Continue to promote ‘Good access is Good Business’ strategy.</td>
<td>Evidence of promotion of Good access is Good Business.</td>
<td>Rural Access Project Officer</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>External funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.2.5 Provide information to businesses on issues relevant to older people.</td>
<td>Information provided at the Regional Living Expo (Melbourne).</td>
<td>Coordinator Economic Development</td>
<td>2013 Ongoing</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 To facilitate opportunities to plan for financial security in retirement.</td>
<td>3.3.1 Financial planning advice opportunities offered to Council employees.</td>
<td>Vision Super financial advisers conduct staff sessions annually to their members.</td>
<td>Human Resources Management Coordinator</td>
<td>2012 Ongoing</td>
<td>Within existing funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.3.2 Council to support U3A to conduct Financial Planning information sessions for older people.</td>
<td>Financial Planning information sessions conducted.</td>
<td>Manager Community Strengthening; U3A &amp; Project Officer ILOP</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>DoH</td>
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</table>
**Economic Environment:  ** *A strong economy* *(cont’d)*

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<tr>
<td>3.4 To support local paid and unpaid employment opportunities that acknowledge the skills and wisdom of older residents.</td>
<td>3.4.1 Implications of an ageing workforce to be considered by Council’s Risk Management Steering Committee.</td>
<td>Ageing workforce identified on the Risk Register.</td>
<td>Manager Governance Services</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.4.2 Provide age friendly practices to encourage older employees to remain in the workplace.</td>
<td>Incentives such as phased retirement schemes and individual flexible leave arrangements to be considered with the next round of EBA negotiations.</td>
<td>Human Resources Management Coordinator</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*NB: Actions 3.3.1, 3.4.1 and 3.4.2 are Council initiatives only. These are examples of Council demonstrating leadership in provision of retirement planning for an ageing workforce.*
Built Environment: Appropriate infrastructure

What is important to older people?

❖ **Access to more seating in the towns**
  Adequate seating at regular intervals is necessary to enable older people to continue walk around their communities but still have somewhere to rest.

❖ **Feeling safe in the community**
  Feeling safe in one’s community influences how older people continue to participate in community life. It affects their independence, physical health, social integration and emotional well being.

❖ **Accessible footpaths**
  Wide and even footpaths. Smooth and low kerbs which are clear and accessible on foot or motorised scooter, enabling easier access for older people.

❖ **Access to a diversity of housing options**
  Housing for older people needs to accommodate ageing in place. ie Housing that is appropriate for older people is located close to services, sufficient in quantity and diversity, accessible and affordable.

❖ **Access to more public amenities throughout the Shire**
  Access to clean, conveniently located, well signed and accessible public toilets is an important feature of an age friendly environment.

❖ **Access to a variety of transport options**
  Access to affordable and reliable public transport is limited in most parts of South Gippsland. Private vehicles therefore remain the main form of transport utilised by older people. Initiatives to utilise private vehicles in a more cost effective, safe and environmentally friendly way are to be encouraged. **Source: WHO global Age Friendly Cities: A guide (2007).**
## Built Environment: Appropriate infrastructure

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1 To provide physical environments that support lifelong health and wellbeing and ageing in place.</td>
<td>4.1.1 Council adoption of the ‘Active By Design’ principles.</td>
<td>Active By Design principles prepared for inclusion into the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) - SGSC Planning Scheme.</td>
<td>Social Planning Officer</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.1.2 Support the inclusion of a hydrotherapy pool at Leongatha ‘SG Splash Aquatic Centre’.</td>
<td>A design Plan for a hydrotherapy pool completed.</td>
<td>Recreation Coordinator</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.1.3 Encourage the development of accessible housing.</td>
<td>Promote the ‘Build For Life’ Guidelines.</td>
<td>Rural Access Project Officer</td>
<td>2013 ongoing</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.1.4 Increase activities for older people conducted in Council owned facilities.</td>
<td>The Social and Community Infrastructure Plan to include a review of the efficiency of use of Council owned facilities.</td>
<td>Social Planning Officer</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.1.5 Ageing and / or inappropriate public amenities in towns to be replaced with accessible facilities. (Referred to in the MPHWBPs).</td>
<td>Refurbishment of public toilets in Leongatha and replacement of toilets in Toora, Fish Creek and Waratah Bay.</td>
<td>Building Coordinator</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
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## Built Environment:  **Appropriate infrastructure** *(cont’d)*

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<tr>
<td>4.2 To enable a choice of transport options for older people.</td>
<td>4.2.1 Develop a car pool / ride share system across the Shire.</td>
<td>Development of a web based car pool system.</td>
<td>Transport Connections Coordinator</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$85,000 Grant funded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.2.2 Review the HACC Community Transport Service to ensure it is meeting the needs of the older residents.</td>
<td>Report on outcomes of review to Council.</td>
<td>Manager Aged &amp; Disability Services</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.2.3 Facilitate a driver safety program for older drivers.</td>
<td>Older driver safety program implemented.</td>
<td>Transport Connections Coordinator</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>External funding</td>
</tr>
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A Leading Organisation

What is important to older people?

- **A Council that is receptive to the needs of older people**
  The development of the AAP is an example of a 'whole of Council' approach where all departments have been informed of the progress of the Plan and have actively participated in its formation. The actions have been developed as a result of input from the departments that have responsibility for them.

- **Having input into decisions that affect them**
  The Older population is represented at the Council level and Public presentations to Council encourage all residents to have input into Council decisions. Some identified barriers to providing input are physical accessibility and aids for hearing. (eg hearing loops).

- **Having the capacity to advocate for themselves**
  Civic participation levels of older people in South Gippsland are very high, with the majority of Council based volunteers representing the older age groups. They are also well represented in executive positions in local services clubs and committees. Community groups can also benefit from information and increased knowledge of the communication skills, submission writing and governance.
## A Leading Organisation

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<tr>
<td>5.1 To adopt integrated planning when developing Council strategies and plans that considers the needs of older persons.</td>
<td>5.1.1 Cross organisational consultation in the planning phase of strategic documents.</td>
<td>Level of contribution reported via the Quarterly Report.</td>
<td>Manager Aged and Disability Services in collaboration with the Leadership Team</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.2 To develop a coherent and integrated population planning approach.</td>
<td>5.2.1 ID Profile Population data to be used to monitor population and trends in the older age groups.</td>
<td>Evidence of consistent population data in all Council documents.</td>
<td>Social Planning Officer</td>
<td>Ongoing with annual review</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5.2.2 SCPCP Community Health and Wellbeing Profile to be used for providing a picture of the local population health status of older people.</td>
<td>Evidence of SCPCP data has been included in all relevant Council documents.</td>
<td>Social Planning Officer &amp; SCPCP</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>External funding</td>
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### A Leading Organisation (cont’d)

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<tr>
<td>5.3 To ensure older people are given the opportunity to be involved in the decision making process and advocate for themselves.</td>
<td>5.3.1 Provide information on Council services for the older people in clear, easy language recognising cultural diversity and sight and hearing impairment.</td>
<td>Council style guide to include guidelines on provision of accessible information.</td>
<td>Manager Customer Relations; Communications Officer</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.3.2 Establish a Steering Group that includes older people to monitor the implementation of the AAP.</td>
<td>Evidence of participation by older people.</td>
<td>Manager Aged &amp; Disability Services</td>
<td>Ongoing with six monthly review</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.3.3 Facilitate training that would build capacity for older people to advocate for themselves. eg training on presentations to Council, submission writing.</td>
<td>Community education opportunities offered.</td>
<td>Manager Community Strengthening; U3A; Community House; West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation; Community Working Groups</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>External funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4 To participate in research to identify initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of older people</td>
<td>5.4.1 SGSC Aged &amp; Disability Services to collaborate with tertiary institutions and other agencies in relevant research projects</td>
<td>Participation in the research pilot project: ‘Scoping the range of learning opportunities in the region’.*</td>
<td>Manager Aged &amp; Disability Services</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Within existing budget</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See Learning in Later Life Project in acronyms and definitions list
# Acronyms & Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAP</td>
<td>South Gippsland Shire Council Active Ageing Plan 2012-2016</td>
<td>The South Gippsland Shire Council Active Ageing Plan 2012-2016 (AAP) is a continuing demonstration of Council’s commitment to ensure that our community remains inclusive of older people. It contains strategies to address issues that are relevant to older people and which enable them to participate in community life for as long as possible and are valued for their knowledge, wisdom and life experiences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACAS</td>
<td>Aged Care Assessment Service</td>
<td>ACAS are independent teams who assist frail older people and their carers identify what kind of care will best meet their needs. Assessment teams are multi-disciplinary and can include health professionals such as medical officers, social workers, nurses, occupational therapists and physiotherapists. They conduct comprehensive medically based assessments for those needing community services or aged care residential services. They assess for all restorative and potential care options. For an older person to access Commonwealth funded residential care, residential respite, Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs), Extended Aged Care in Home (EACH) packages or flexible care, they must first be assessed as eligible by an ACAS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIHW</td>
<td>Australian Institute of Health and Welfare</td>
<td>Australia's national agency for health and welfare statistics and information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASMPP</td>
<td>Active Service Model Protocol Partnership</td>
<td>This partnership is made up of Health practitioners from South Gippsland Shire Council, Gippsland Southern Health Service and South Gippsland Hospital. It formalises collaborative arrangements between the partners to achieve positive outcomes for HACC clients at the local level.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Acronyms & Definitions (cont’d)

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<tr>
<td>Brokerage agencies</td>
<td>Brokerage agencies receive funding for Community Aged Care Packages and other programs that complement HACC services</td>
<td>These are the brokerage agencies that South Gippsland Shire Council has agreements with: Australian Homecare, Baptcare, Bass Coast Regional Health, Benetas, Dutch Care Ltd, Latrobe Community Health Service, Southern Cross Care, South Gippsland Palliative Care Service, West Gippsland Healthcare Group and Villa Maria.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Community Directions Program |                                                                             | The purpose of the Community Directions program is to assist our communities to develop community plans in a manner that:  
  - Broadly engages the community in setting its future direction;  
  - Allows for a coordinated and integrated approach to community development and community infrastructure provision;  
  - Genuinely addresses the challenges and opportunities facing the community and develops strategies that reflect community priorities; and  
  - Strengthens social networks, *external networks* and community engagement and resilience. |
| DoH                     | Department of Health                                                        | The Victorian Government Department of Health is responsible for partial funding and governance of the HACC program in Victoria.                                                                         |
| DOHA                    | Department of Health and Ageing                                             | The Commonwealth Government Department of Health and Ageing is responsible for funding and quality administration of the HACC program.                                                               |
| Fix It Program          |                                                                             | This is a program initiated by the Sustainability and Environment Team to encourage older people to transfer their skills in repairing garments, home maintenance and other similar skills to others in the community. |
### Acronyms & Definitions (cont’d)

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<tr>
<td>GippsTAFE</td>
<td>Gippsland Tertiary and Further Education</td>
<td>GippsTAFE is a registered training organisation that provides accredited training, short courses and industry based training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gippsland Inclusive Tourism Plan</td>
<td>Is currently in the planning stages and the aim of the plan is to ensure that all people are able to access tourism experiences in Gippsland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLGN</td>
<td>Gippsland Local Government Network</td>
<td>The Gippsland Local Government Network (GLGN) is an alliance of six Gippsland Councils who represent the collective interests of Gippsland and work cooperatively on issues and projects of mutual interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Good Access is Good Business</td>
<td>The ‘Good Access is Good Business’ program supports businesses to meet the legal and community expectations that all people should have fair access to goods, services and opportunities. <a href="http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/enterprisemelbourne/BusinessSupport/Pages/Access.aspx">http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/enterprisemelbourne/BusinessSupport/Pages/Access.aspx</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSCSP</td>
<td>Gippsland South Coast Service Plan</td>
<td>The Gippsland South Coast Service Plan and Model of Care report was commissioned by the Department of Health and looks to the next 10 years. Goals include enhancing emergency care services in the region, improving medical imaging, strengthening locally available mental health services and putting in the capital infrastructure that supports service development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HACC</td>
<td>Home and Community Care program</td>
<td>The Home and Community Care (HACC) Program is Victoria’s principal source of funding for services that support frail aged people, younger people with disabilities, and carers. In Victoria the program supports over 275,000 frail older people and people with disabilities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## Acronyms & Definitions (cont’d)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ILOP</strong></td>
<td>Improving Liveability for Older People</td>
<td>This program funded by the Department of Health, is to plan and implement projects to support older people to continue to participate in community life. The projects have been identified by community feedback.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learning in Later Life Project</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>The aim of this project is to develop, implement and evaluate learning interventions on the health and quality of life of older people living in the community and in residential care. SGSC Aged &amp; Disability Services will participate in the pilot project that will scope the informal learning opportunities currently taking place in the region through HACC, community groups and in residential care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAV</strong></td>
<td>Municipal Association of Victoria</td>
<td>The MAV is the peak representative and advocacy body for Victoria’s 79 councils. The MAV was formed in 1879 and the Municipal Association Act 1907 anointed the MAV the official voice of Local Government in Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MPHWBP</strong></td>
<td>The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan</td>
<td>Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans (MPHWBP) are a requirement of the Local Government strategic planning process as specified in the Health Act (1958). The plans outline actions to prevent or minimise public health dangers, as well as to enable people living in the municipality to achieve maximum health and wellbeing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NATSEM</strong></td>
<td>The National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling</td>
<td>The National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM), an affiliated research centre of the University of Canberra, is one of Australia’s leading economic and social policy research institutes, and is regarded as one of the world’s foremost centres of excellence for micro simulation, economic modelling and policy evaluation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCPCP</strong></td>
<td>South Coast Primary Care Partnership</td>
<td>The South Coast Primary Care Partnership is a voluntary alliance of health and community based agencies who are working together in the municipalities of Bass Coast and South Gippsland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>U3A</strong></td>
<td>University of the Third Age</td>
<td>U3A are a self-funded, voluntary organisation formed to provide learning opportunities to members aged 50 plus who are retired or not working full time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Acknowledgements

The AAP has been developed with input from the wider community, Steering Group members and Council Officers from each Directorate. SGSC would like to thank them for contributing their knowledge and expertise to the development of the Plan. The assistance and commitment to the project has been very much appreciated.

Steering Group Members

Tom Potter U3A Leongatha
Peter Wingett U3A Foster
Isabelle Trease Community member, Mirboo North
Sarina Lomagno Community member, Korumburra
Mel Hibbins South Coast Primary Care Partnership
Matthew Carroll Monash University, Gippsland Campus
Cr Jeanette Harding South Gippsland Shire Council
Jan Martin South Gippsland Shire Council - Director Community Services
Louise Brydon South Gippsland Shire Council - Manager Aged & Disability Services
Jeanette Draper South Gippsland Shire Council - Project Officer Aged & Disability Services
Tania Ryan South Gippsland Shire Council - Project Officer of ‘Improving Liveability for Older People’ Project
Vicki Bradley South Gippsland Shire Council - Social Planning Officer

Note: Quotes within this document have been taken from community members during the survey.
Appendix 1

List of community groups contacted for consultation into the ‘Improving Liveability for Older’ People Project.

• Men’s Sheds (5 local groups)
• Korumburra Senior Citizens
• Mirboo North Senior Citizens
• Leongatha U3A
• South Gippsland Community Health Centre
• Foster and District Community House and Learning Centre
• Lang Lang Golf Course
• Community Kitchens
• Nyora CFA
• Leongatha Senior Citizens
• Welshpool Community Transfer Station
• Venus Bay Community Health Centre
• Italian Senior Citizens
• Tarwin Community Health Centre
• Meeniyan Uniting Church Group
• Meeniyan Red Cross

• Leongatha Probus Club
• Foster Senior Citizens
• Korumburra Probus Club
• Toora Bowls Club
• Loch Post Office
• Loch General Store
• Korumburra (Milpara) Community House
• Leongatha Community House
• South Gippsland SPLASH – Aquatic Centre
• Fish Creek Bowls Club
• Korumburra Bowls Club
• Red Cross Association
• Toora and District Progress Association

*In addition 500 surveys were distributed via mail to a random selection of residents over 55 years.*
Appendix 2

List of brokerage agencies who partner with SGSC to provide services to clients with complex needs.

- Baptcare
- Latrobe Community Health Services
- Southern Cross Care
- South Gippsland Palliative Care
- West Gippsland Healthcare Group
- Villa Maria Disability Services
- Australian Home Care
- Benetas
- Dutch Care Ltd
- Bass Coast Regional Health
- South Gippsland Hospital
- Gippsland Southern Health Service
References

- ASPEX Consulting (2011) *Gippsland South Coast Service Plan*, Department of Health, Melbourne, Victoria


