

Shires of Murray and Waroona: joint age-friendly community planning

Background information

About the project

The Shire of Murray and Shire of Waroona are working together to determine the age-friendliness of our local communities and how we can all be more inclusive and supportive of older people.

With funding support from the Department of Local Government and Communities, the Shires are following the Age-Friendly Communities framework and toolkit (WA Govt) adapted from the World Health Organisation's Active Ageing Framework.

The framework encourages local governments to self-assess against a range of criteria across eight pillars or areas of focus. These eight areas will provide the basis for our research and engagement with the community.

1. Outdoor spaces and buildings
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. Social participation
5. Respect and social inclusion
6. Civic participation (volunteering) and employment
7. Communication and information, and
8. Community and health services

From late April to early June, we will be hosting a series of community conversations across the two Shires including with residents, service providers and those involved in caring for older people.

What we already know:

- There is an increasing number and percentage of older people in our community.
- We value the knowledge and contributions that these people have made and continue to make to our community.
- Sometimes it can be hard living in a regional area where not all services, facilities, transport and housing options are readily available.
- We need to understand and plan for the things that enable local people to remain safe, healthy and happy, as they grow older.
- We want to hear from local people about their experiences and ideas for how the community can assist our seniors.

The information and evidence we gather will assist in future project planning and development aimed at making our community more age-friendly.

What is an age-friendly community?

An age-friendly community is one that has appropriate housing, transport, physical infrastructure and social and civic supports that enable people to maintain participation in the community, as they grow old.

It is a community that -

- Recognises the great diversity among older people
- Promotes their inclusion and contribution in all areas of community life
- Respects their decisions and lifestyle choices, and
- Anticipates and responds flexibly to ageing-related needs and preferences.