

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

POSITIVE AGEING STRATEGY 2021-47

COMMUNITY COMMENTS,
RESPONSES AND SUBMISSIONS TO
DRAFT STRATEGY

July 2021

Context

The Draft Positive Ageing Strategy 2021-47 was noted at the Council Meeting on 25 May 2021 and released for community comment. Council notes and thanks those individuals and organisations who provided feedback to the draft Positive Ageing Strategy.

The draft Strategy was available for community comment on the "Have Your Say" web page from 26 May to 23 June 2021 and as a result:

- There were 6,700 people reached through social media, with 405 survey link clicks
- There were 112 responses submitted through Have Your Say
- There were 3 written submission received.

Feedback from Online survey in relation to the recommendations	City of Greater Geelong Response:
Does the Strategic objective for 2047 align with your vision for positive ageing?	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I think a statement of the Rights of the Older Person should be included. This draft document presents appropriate and appealing objectives, plans and policies but this all comes to nought unless there is guaranteed and full funding. 2. FOOTPATHS, so that disabled people can go places without having to walk on the roads. Also enforce parking regulations. Such as, no parking on nature strips, people parked facing the wrong way. People parked such as to prevent garbage collection. 3. There is much that is missing from this draft. It really doesn't say much. 4. As regards infrastructure [particularly suburban] CoGG totally ignores the needs of older citizens and spends money on useless "white elephants" like the proposed conference centre while we struggle to get to public transport or shops on rough grass. 5. Older persons, over 55 how is this possible? 55 is not older automatically 6. You have omitted any suggestion that the CoGG will actually engage with the oldies. What you are offering is just what the CoGG will provide - not what is emotionally satisfying to seniors 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted - The City upholds human rights principles in developing and implementing Council policies, action plans and the delivery of services. Further consideration will be given to articulating this in finalising the strategy. 2. "Noted. Neighbourhood amenity is among the priorities within the strategy. Further consideration will be given to articulating the alignment of this strategy with other Council strategies such as the Access and Inclusion Plan in developing the action plan." 3. Noted. 4. Noted. Transport and neighbourhood amenity are among the priorities within the strategy. 5. Noted. People aged 55 years and over have been included in this strategy to align with other government bodies such as the Commonwealth Department of Social Services and the Australian Human Rights Commission. 6. Noted. The action plan will be co-designed with stakeholders and the community.
Written Submission	City of Greater Geelong Response
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In principle the CoGG Ageing Strategy has good content but I am disappointed with the outlook for 'older people'. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Redefine the boundaries of the strategy: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1.1 Seniors as aged 50 plus, as there are occupations that support early retirement and potential retirees may use this phase to ease into retirement (a pre-retirement curser) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. People aged 55 years and over have been included in this strategy to align with other government bodies such as the Commonwealth Department of Social Services and the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Feedback from Online survey in relation to the recommendations	City of Greater Geelong Response:
<p>1.1.2 Others inclusive single parents, stay home mums and dads, migrants from varied cultures, LGBTI, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and all persons of socio-economic status etc.</p> <p>1.1.3 Between the two groupings the intergenerational connection is established. This addresses the need for User groups needing access to a multipurpose area in daylight hours. "</p> <p>2. My only comments are that it could be strengthened in terms of rights and participation of older people and therefore make the following suggestions for your consideration.</p> <p>Under strategic objective add as first dot point - The human rights of older people are acknowledged and respected.</p>	<p>Further consideration will be given to articulating the alignment of this strategy with other Council strategies targeting other population groups in developing the action plan.</p> <p>2. Noted - The City upholds human rights principles in developing and implementing Council policies, action plans and the delivery of services. Further consideration will be given to articulating this in finalising the strategy.</p>
Are there any aspects of an age friendly community that are missing from the three themes?	
Feedback from Online survey in relation to the recommendations	City of Greater Geelong Response:
<p>1. I think the three themes are covered well and are appropriate but I believe there should be a strong statement about the Rights of the Older Person. Such a statement should include the right to universal aged care.</p> <p>2. A commitment to actioning these aims with an appropriate time frame. Otherwise they are just high minded 'claptrap'.</p> <p>3. Affordability</p> <p>4. Access to understanding people when dealing with government agencies. Realisation that we don't always have internet access and cars</p> <p>5. Transport</p> <p>6. Safety, right to live free from violence - family violence prevention work. Quality and safety in service provision together with risk balance. Equitable access to income...safe housing with affordability and access particularly older women. Having voice.</p> <p>7. Cultural, linguistic, sexual diversity</p> <p>8. Access to secure housing, employment, preventative and responsive health care</p>	<p>1. Noted - The City upholds human rights principles in developing and implementing Council policies, action plans and the delivery of services. Further consideration will be given to articulating this in finalising the strategy.</p> <p>2. Noted. The action plan will provide relevant timelines.</p> <p>3. Noted.</p> <p>4. Noted.</p> <p>5. Noted. Transport is among the priorities within the strategy.</p> <p>6. Noted. Further consideration will be given to articulating the alignment of this strategy with other Council strategies and plans such as the Social Housing Plan and Ba-gurrr Gender Equity Framework.</p> <p>7. Noted. Diversity has been included as part of the community profile within the strategy. Further consideration will be given to articulating the alignment of this strategy with other Council strategies such as the Ba-gurrr Gender Equity Framework and Multicultural Action Plan.</p> <p>8. Noted. These issues are reflected in the priorities of the strategy, however further consideration will be given to articulating the alignment of this strategies with other Council strategies</p>

Feedback from Online survey in relation to the recommendations	City of Greater Geelong Response:
<p>9. As a retired Nurse, mostly in an infectious disease hospital and then aged care, more needs to be done in the care of the elderly.</p> <p>10. Centralised facilities or Hubs where seniors are able to play sport and socialise. Currently, the various Halls and facilities on the Bellarine are too small and spread out across the region.</p> <p>11. older people have a role in the development of their communities - somewhat more active in its wording rather than the passive live in welcoming communities etc</p> <p>12. Something around safety would be nice</p> <p>13. There is no reference or acknowledgement of the impact of technology on aging Australians. For example, the sudden introduction of using QR codes, needing to pay for parking by credit card only or by downloading an app..... just a couple of examples.</p> <p>14. All 3 are missing.</p> <p>15. There should be something to ensure that vulnerable older people can be identified.</p> <p>16. They are motherhood statements that include no commitment to action by CoGG. CoGG has no record of upholding its own principles.</p> <p>17. Theme 2. please show me an example.</p> <p>18. Age friendly communities is not only about older people, it's about ageing well where you live across all demographics. I understand this strategy is focussed on older residents but the strategy talks about being intergenerational but each theme starts with 'older people'.</p> <p>19. What is missing is a commitment to actually engage with seniors - you are continuing to say, "we know what is good for seniors". Instead ask them what they want.</p> <p>20. Theme 4 Life-long learning ... Older people encouraged to engage with educational services such as Deakin Uni. off-campus studies, U3A, CAE (Melbourne) & other organisations offering extension services.</p> <p>21. I think maybe the wording could include "encouraged". I think we could offer all these things but unless we are actively engaging with this age group a lot will not connect as they may lack confidence and the ability to seek these services out.</p>	<p>and plans such as the Social Housing Plan.</p> <p>9. Noted.</p> <p>10. Noted. Access to infrastructure to support healthy lifestyles is a priority under theme 3 of the strategy. Further consideration will be given to articulating the alignment of this strategy with other Council plans such as the Social Infrastructure Plan.</p> <p>11. Noted. As the themes are outcome focused, they can sound passive. The role of the community will be further considered in developing action plan.</p> <p>12. Noted. Consideration will be given to reflecting safety in the wording of theme 1.</p> <p>13. Noted. Access to training and support to use digital technologies is one of the priorities under theme 3. This will be further considered when developing the action plan.</p> <p>14. Noted.</p> <p>15. Noted.</p> <p>16. Noted. An action plan will be co-designed with stakeholders and the community.</p> <p>17. Noted.</p> <p>18. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan.</p> <p>19. Noted. An action plan will be co-designed with stakeholders and the community.</p> <p>20. Noted. Consideration will be given to strengthening the wording of the priority under theme 2 which relates to lifelong learning.</p> <p>21. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan.</p>

Feedback from Online survey in relation to the recommendations	City of Greater Geelong Response:
<p>22. Older people feel safe within their community</p> <p>23. Can choose where they live and how they are supported if required</p> <p>24. Older people should be respectfully cared for with appropriate medical and care facilities</p> <p>25. I can't go to town because meters terrify me and not in a bus friendly area</p>	<p>22. Noted. Consideration will be given to reflecting safety in the wording of theme 1.</p> <p>23. Noted.</p> <p>24. Noted.</p> <p>25. Noted. Transport is among the priorities within the strategy.</p>
Written Submission	City of Greater Geelong Response:
<p>1. The arts and cultural dimension were missing - could inclusion in some form be considered?"</p>	<p>1. Noted. Consideration will be given to adding in a priority related to arts and culture under theme 2.</p>
<p>Priorities THEME 1:</p> <p>TOP THREE PRIORITIES SELECTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amenity & safety of local neighbourhoods is promoted by appropriate footpaths, ramps and pedestrian crossings, good street lighting, public seating and toilets (27%, 30 responses) • Services & supports are available to enable older people to create and maintain informal networks and social connections (27%, 30 responses) • Older people feel safe in the community (15%, 17 responses) 	
Feedback from Online survey in relation to the recommendations	City of Greater Geelong Response:
<p>1. Programs that specifically support older residents remain mobile and active. For example, fitness classes specifically targeted to older participant (there are few if any). Programs to keep them driving as there is very little public transport.</p> <p>2. Service provision to ensure older residents have support when needed to prevent decline in health due to isolation and loneliness</p> <p>3. Affordability and advocacy</p> <p>4. Safe and supported. Words like dignity and respect</p> <p>5. Housing for elderly women</p> <p>6. Health care, support to remain in own home</p>	<p>1. Noted. Transport is among the priorities within the strategy. This will be further considered when developing the action plan.</p> <p>2. Noted. This is a priority under theme 3.</p> <p>3. Noted.</p> <p>4. Noted. Consideration will be given to reflecting safety in the wording of theme 1.</p> <p>5. Noted. Further consideration will be given to articulating the alignment of this strategies with other Council strategies and plans such as the Social Housing Plan and the Ba-gurk Gender Equity Framework.</p> <p>6. Noted. This is a priority under theme 3.</p>

Feedback from Online survey in relation to the recommendations	City of Greater Geelong Response:
<p>7. Transport covering all areas and easily accessible is important once a person is unable to drive</p> <p>8. Gutters removed. Steps in doorways. Shelters at all bus stops. Wider access doors in business. More space inside stores enabling wheelchair movement through their racks etc. more lifts for disabled. Over road crossings at major junctions.</p> <p>9. Education for the community to support and safeguard our older people</p> <p>10. Good leadership within clubs and organisations to follow through with events/ activities, projects and objectives. Motivation, support and enthusiasm is required for clubs etc to run activities and events.</p> <p>11. Free parking when you have to go to visit a Specialist in any hospital in Geelong. Parking is a major problem. Also, most of oldies don't have the right phones for parking meters so can't use the parks in street.</p> <p>12. Support for the current and future use of technology in all areas of life. Technology hubs could be available in community hubs as new requirements are implemented within the city, state or country.</p> <p>13. In "old" Grovedale as many as 30% of streets have no concrete footpaths at all. We are expected to traverse rough grass or walk on unsafe roads.</p> <p>14. Local community facilities encourage and support use by older people.</p> <p>15. Enhanced opportunities to remain fit and healthy- e.g. indoor heated pool, whirlpool, spa and sauna</p> <p>16. That CoGG ensure that environments which contain large numbers of older adults are safe for residents. For example, Central Rd Drysdale has a retirement village with 200+ residents over 70, yet CoGG refuses to put in a footpath on an incredibly dangerous road.</p> <p>17. No mention of listening to older people.</p> <p>18. Given that over half of all seniors will now be living well into their 90s, the #1 priority should be to focus on lifelong learning</p> <p>19. I fall regularly because I can't see edges - yellow strips would help; Meeting 'drop ins' other than pokies places!</p>	<p>7. Noted. Transport is among the priorities within the strategy. This will be further considered when developing the action plan.</p> <p>8. Noted. Further consideration will be given to articulating the alignment of this strategies with other Council strategies and plans such as the Access and Inclusion Plan.</p> <p>9. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan.</p> <p>10. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan.</p> <p>11. Noted. Transport is among the priorities within the strategy. This will be further considered when developing the action plan.</p> <p>12. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan.</p> <p>13. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan.</p> <p>14. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan.</p> <p>15. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan.</p> <p>16. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan.</p> <p>17. Noted. Older people were consulted in the development of this strategy, and an action plan will be co-designed with stakeholders and the community.</p> <p>18. Noted. Consideration will be given to strengthening the wording of the priority under theme 2 which relates to lifelong learning.</p> <p>19. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan.</p>
Written Submission for Theme 1:	City of Greater Geelong Response:
<p>1. The northern suburbs poor infrastructure and outdoor spaces. (theme 1) When you are limited to a 5km radius in Norlane there are very limited options to be near nature. (known to be important to all</p>	<p>1. Noted. Further consideration will be given to articulating the alignment of this strategy with other Council</p>

Feedback from Online survey in relation to the recommendations	City of Greater Geelong Response:
<p>humans). The geographic location of Norlane and surrounds does not have equitable access to spaces, places and services. This is not in the community interest. In particular Deppeler Park/seagull paddock is not welcoming with safe footpaths, pedestrian crossings, lighting, chairs and the toilets which are a disgrace.</p> <p>Also, there are two signs in Robin Avenue-You steal, your marked (with a handprint). This is not welcoming or equitable. I pass this on my way to work every day and think, "I want to steal something now". Never seen the signs anywhere else in Geelong or for that matter-anywhere else! This would not pass WHO measures. Other areas in Geelong are brilliant for parks and outdoor spaces and cafes-why not here? COGG must advocate for change for the area. Norlane is also home to Cultural groups Wathaurong and Diversitat! Groups who model respect to elders. Who else has a cultural precinct like that in the world? It should be celebrated. We would like to see further reflection of the needs and aspirations of Australians from diverse backgrounds given proper recognition in public policy."</p>	<p>strategies and plans such as the Multicultural Action Plan and Reconciliation Plan.</p> <p>An action plan will be co-designed with stakeholders and the community.</p>
<p>Priorities THEME 2:</p> <p>TOP THREE PRIORITIES SELECTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of flexible opportunities for older people to use and share their skills and expertise is promoted (e.g. mentoring, volunteering and learning opportunities) (35%, 39 responses) • The diverse experiences and views of older people are actively sought and supported to inform the development, implementation and monitoring of Council's activities (27%, 30 responses) • The value of older employees is embraced and celebrated (13.4%, 15 responses) 	
Feedback from Online survey in relation to the recommendations	City of Greater Geelong Response:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocacy 2. In first point add in 'actively sought' and add in diverse older people. 3. Housing for older women. 4. More emphasis on respect and eradicate being spoken down to or total ignorance. It is everywhere we go. 5. The notion of lifelong learning. The 'third age' can provide an exciting way for older people to renew and explore past learning passions that they might not have had time to pursue in previous stages of their life. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. Noted. This is captured in priority 2 under this theme. 3. Noted. Further consideration will be given to articulating the alignment of this strategies with other Council strategies and plans such as the Social Housing Plan and the Ba-gurk Gender Equity Framework. 4. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan. 5. Noted. Consideration will be given to strengthening the wording of the priority under theme 2 which relates to lifelong learning.

Feedback from Online survey in relation to the recommendations	City of Greater Geelong Response:
<p>6. All requests for infrastructure improvements are permanently ignored on the grounds of "no money available", however money can always be found for totally unnecessary items.</p> <p>7. Sporting access support</p> <p>8. Please demonstrate example of this ... value of older people, terminology surely needs to be redefined defined</p> <p>9. The culture needs to be tweaked so that respect for the elderly is a given (as it is in Thailand)</p> <p>10. strategies for retaining not retraining older people in the workforce - not just transition to retirement</p> <p>11. Seems quite patronising - "older people are listened to and their ideas included and embraced".</p> <p>12. There used to be groups that seniors participated in - do you really know of any??</p>	<p>6. Noted. Further consideration will be given to articulating the alignment of this strategy with other Council plans such as the Social Infrastructure Plan. This will also be further considered when developing the action plan.</p> <p>7. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan.</p> <p>8. Noted. Further information about the discussions which helped to shape the strategy is found under 'Engagement Themes' within the strategy document. This section further explains what those who were consulted meant by being valued.</p> <p>9. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan.</p> <p>10. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan.</p> <p>11. Noted. Further consideration about language will be given when finalising the strategy.</p> <p>12. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan.</p>
Written Submission for Theme 2	City Of Greater Geelong Response
<p>1. Addition to point two to read as follows - people as they age are respected, supported and encouraged to participate as active citizens in building strong local communities.</p>	<p>1. Noted. Consideration will be given to strengthening the wording of theme 2.</p>
<p>Priorities THEME 3:</p> <p>TOP THREE PRIORITIES SELECTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of health and support services is available to promote, maintain and restore health; and support independent living (27.6%, 31 responses) • Older people have access to facilities, infrastructure and opportunities to support healthy lifestyles. (18.7%, 21 responses) • Barriers impeding access to health and community support services are minimised and outreach is provided to vulnerable or disadvantaged people (17%, 19 responses) 	

Feedback from Online survey in relation to the recommendations	City of Greater Geelong Response:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It may not be relevant to this survey but all people including those who are older need access to safe toileting facilities. The lack of this in the Newtown (Chilwell) shopping centre is unacceptable. Old, unsafe, no short-term parking on the side street. 2. Resourcing and funding to do these things. 3. Housing for older women 4. Safe access to services 5. More true transparency and less evasiveness when we ask for advice costs etc. 6. Coolabah Park is a wonderful facility but for 40 years CoGG has refused to provide a concrete footpath to access it from Heyers Rd. The cost of installation of suburban paths for the benefit of all is dumped only on abutting residents. 7. Encourage use of public space to promote healthy ageing, friendships 8. An actual commitment by CoGG to provide those facilities. For example, the is only one warm water pool in CoGG at Leisurelink. The opportunity to build one on the Bellarine which has 30% over 70 has been completely ignored by CoGG in the Drysdale pool. 9. Affordability to access activities and events, transport etc 10. Training to use technology - a number of the other priorities are hollow if the "user" does not have access to the information. Technology will empower. 11. 1-2 lessons are not enough for our older brains! Have you seen the cost of places for use? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan. 2. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan. 3. Noted. Further consideration will be given to articulating the alignment of this strategies with other Council strategies and plans such as the Social Housing Plan and the Ba-gurk Gender Equity Framework. 4. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan. 5. Noted. 6. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan. 7. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan. 8. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan. 9. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan. 10. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan. 11. Noted. This will be further considered when developing the action plan.
Written submission for Theme 3	City of Greater Geelong Response:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. My concern is that no attention is being given in addressing the lack of a large indoor space for cross community social recreation and leisure activity for Seniors and others. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. Access to infrastructure to support healthy lifestyles is a priority under theme 3 of the strategy. Further consideration will be given to articulating the alignment of this strategy with other Council plans such as the Social Infrastructure Plan.