

12 January 2012

Mrs Charlotte Wristberg
FCH/ALC
Main Building
World Health Organisation
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
SWITZERLAND

Dear Mrs Wristberg

Application for membership to the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities

The local government area of the City of Boroondara has approximately 169,000 residents across 12 suburbs in the inner east of Melbourne. It is one of the largest local government areas in Victoria, Australia. Boroondara is characterised by an ageing population, with just over 30,000 people over the age of 65 years. Between 2006 and 2031 this ageing population is expected to increase by 41% (12,315 people).

I would like to inform you of Council's commitment to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) continuous improvement cycle for promoting active ageing. We are seeking to join the Global Network of Age-friendly Cities.

In 2009, to address the growth in our ageing population, Council adopted the strategic plan, *Creating an Age Friendly Boroondara, Active ageing and community participation 2009-2014*. During the development of the Plan, we reviewed research, and consulted with the community and service providers. This work identified that the issues facing older people in Boroondara reflect the same eight domains in the World Health Organisation (WHO) Age-friendly Cities framework.

We have formed a Creating an Age Friendly Boroondara Reference Group to ask people about what is important to them now and as they grow older as this is an essential element of an age-friendly city. This Reference Group comprises two Councillors, residents, community groups and key service organisations. The contributions made by the Reference Group have been important in setting priorities, proposing solutions for action and monitoring progress.

We consider that seeking membership of the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities is the next step in advancing our efforts in creating a city that is not only friendly and accessible for older people, but to all population groups.

Council is committed to the WHO cycle involving planning, implementation, evaluation and continual improvement. An annual action plan will be developed to continually assess and improve our age-friendliness. By June 2012 we plan to review the Terms of Reference for the Creating an Age Friendly Boroondara Reference Group allowing us to integrate the WHO Global Age Friendly Cities checklist into our annual action plan.

Council has set June 2014 as the date that we would like to have a new Age-friendly strategic plan in place that has used the WHO Global Age-friendly recommended cycle, checklist and establishment of indicators.

Being part of the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities will facilitate Boroondara's links with cities from across the world to exchange information and allow us to access technical guidance on improving the lives of older people.

We look forward to being a member of the Global Network of Age-friendly Cities. If you require further information please contact Lisa Foord, Manager Health, Ageing and Disability Services on +61 3 9278 4700 or lisa.foord@boroondara.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heinz Kreutz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cr Heinz Kreutz
MAYOR