

Our ref: Derek Madden - CEO



22 December 2015

Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities  
World Health Organisation  
[gnafcc@who.int](mailto:gnafcc@who.int)  
Avenue Appia 20, CH – 1211 GENEVA 27  
SWITZERLAND

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Re: Application for membership to the Global Network of Age –Friendly Cities and Communities**

Cardinia Shire is located in the outer south-east of Melbourne and is one of 10 'interface' councils around the perimeter of metropolitan Melbourne. An interface council is defined as 30 per cent urban and 70 per cent rural, forming the interface between regional and metropolitan Victoria, Australia.

Cardinia Shire's primary urban centre is Pakenham, located 55 kilometres from Melbourne's central business district. Cardinia Shire is home to more than 90,000 people; more than 22 per cent are classified as being older adults.

Council Shire Council recently adopted its third Age Friendly Strategy 2015–19 (AFS). Overarched by our Council Plan and aligned to the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, the AFS sets Council's strategic direction to respond to our ageing population, by creating an environment to enable our residents to live in security, maintain their health, fully participate, and be an integral part of the community.

A key action in the first year of the strategy is to apply to the World Health Organisation to gain recognition with the **Global Network of Age –Friendly Cities and Communities**.

Our Council Plan identifies managing population growth, encouraging community engagement in Council's decision making and encouraging residents to improve their health and wellbeing as key challenges for the future.

Council is gathering expressions of interest from older voices in the community to adopt a 'bottom-up', participatory approach, to become involved in initiatives that support age friendliness at a local level. This will also involve a reference group as well as the implementation of a baseline assessment of age friendliness.

Council is committed to a process of continuous improvement and will conduct an annual review of the AFS, to monitor the implementation of the action plan to ensure it is on track, that outcomes meet expectations, and that demographics and needs of the community have not changed.

Cardinia Shire Council is committed to make its contribution to the Global Network of Age Friendly Cities.

Yours faithfully



**Cr Jodie Owen**  
**Mayor**  
Type your title here.



**Derek Madden**  
**Acting Chief Executive Officer**