



CITY OF
MONASH

From the Office of the Mayor

D19-51523

20 February 2019

World Health Organisation
Age Friendly Cities Network

Dear Sir/ Madam

As Mayor of the City of Monash, I am honoured to submit this letter recommending we continue to be endorsed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as an age-friendly city.

Cities worldwide, including the City of Monash, are in a process of transformation as they adapt to increasing globalisation, changing economic conditions and an ageing population.

Monash is a large, diverse and prosperous city covering 80km² with great access by freeway, bus and trains from the Melbourne CBD. We have approximately 196,780 residents, with 50% of those born overseas, and anticipated to increase by a further 20,000 by 2031. Monash has an older age profile than Greater Melbourne and this will compound over the next 15 years. Monash has the 6th largest concentration of baby boomers in Victoria and is considered the baby boomer heartland. Our seniors' cohort increased by 0.9% since the last census and is expected to double by 2031.

Our Age Friendly journey began in 2013 when Council endorsed working towards creating an Age Friendly community. Since then, Council has progressed its commitment to Age Friendly, achieving many milestones along the way. We care about our residents and our seniors, who are living longer, more healthy and active lives. We value their history and wisdom and do our utmost to ensure that there are viable services to meet their needs. We are proud to be a diverse community that addresses the needs of our population.

In our long-term goals, the Age Friendly Monash initiatives have been embedded in our Healthy and Resilient Monash – Integrated Plan 2018 - 2021. Furthermore, the Age Friendly Ambassadors continue to be recognised as a valuable resource within Council and provide ongoing advice and recommendations to many departments. Some of our current initiatives, based on feedback from our older community, are focusing on increasing places for people to rest as they go about daily activities, compiling a public toilet strategy and addressing loneliness and isolation. All these initiatives have been directly influenced by Council's commitment to being Age Friendly and guided by the feedback and recommendations of our Age Friendly Ambassadors.

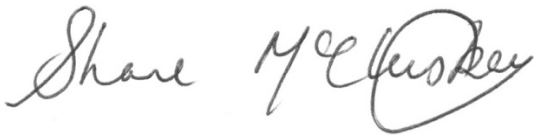
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I look forward to working with the WHO and continuing our work under the Age-Friendly Network. The City of Monash, and our seniors, has much to contribute to the network and we are excited and committed to continuing the vision of being an Age Friendly community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shane McCluskey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, circular flourish at the end of the last name.

SHANE McCLUSKEY
Mayor