



CITY OF
MONASH

SM:AGED51

From the Office of the Mayor

10 November 2015

World Health Organisation
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
SWITZERLAND

AGE FRIENDLY CITIES

As Mayor of the City of Monash I am honoured to make a submission for our city to be considered an 'Age-Friendly City' by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Monash has had an Age-Friendly agenda for many years and we have ensured that older residents are at the forefront of our thinking when it comes to planning and design, policies and programs.

We are very conscious of the needs of our older residents, as the age profile in Monash is higher than average for Greater Melbourne and this will increase further over the next 15 years. Our older adult community has increased by 0.9% since the last census and is expected to double by 2031. We also have the sixth largest concentration of baby boomers in Victoria and Monash is considered the baby boomer heartland.

Like many cities Monash is evolving quickly to adapt to increased globalisation, changing economic conditions and an ageing population. Our older residents have excellent access to public transport and infrastructure with strong links to Melbourne CBD by bus, train and freeway.

We recognise the WHO global age friendly city principles as best practice when it comes to planning holistically for the future.

In June this year we took a step forward on the path to becoming an 'Age Friendly City' by adopting a five-year action plan; *Age Friendly Monash – A Positive Ageing Plan*.

We worked with the community to develop the plan, with some older residents volunteering as Age-Friendly Ambassadors and consulting with other older residents about what the plans actions and priorities should be. One of the key aspects of this plan centres on our belief that if ageing is to be positive, it must be supported by ongoing opportunities for health, participation and security.

Some of the actions in Monash's plan are:

- Improving and increasing the number of 'places to rest' in public areas;
- Establishing a working group to investigate the issues and barriers seniors face when parking in Monash and to consider all possible solutions;
- Promoting government incentives for employing seniors to Monash employers; and
- Creating opportunities for people to support each other, such as younger people teaching older people how to use technological devices.

With the Age-Friendly Ambassador initiative embedded in our five-year plan we are acknowledging the important role our seniors play in ensuring the plan is monitored and implemented in their best interest.

We care about our residents and especially our seniors, who are living longer, more healthy and active lives. We value their history and wisdom and will do our utmost to ensure that there are viable services to meet their needs in almost every facet of their lives.

I look forward to Monash becoming a member of the Age-Friendly Network and working with the World Health Organisation to ensure that Monash excels as an 'Age-Friendly City'.

Yours sincerely



CR PAUL KLISARIS

Mayor

Encl.