

File No:



To Whom It May Concern,

As the Mayor of Indigo Shire Council, I declare my strongest commitment to planning strategically for well-being in ageing and health, to showing leadership and good governance and to combat ageism. On 1 September 2016, Indigo Shire Council became a signatory to the Victorian Government and the Municipal Association of Victoria Age-Friendly Declaration. Together, we have steadily worked towards upholding our age-friendly commitments, and the next step in our journey is our application to join the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (the Network).

Indigo Shire matches global trends in its growth of an ageing population. Indigo's population is 16,035 with annual growth of 0.6%. Currently, 45% of the population in Indigo are over the age of 50 and 20.6% are aged over 65. Projections for growth in Indigo by 2031 show an increase in population to 16,973, with a 128% increase in those 70-84 years of age. In order to meet the challenges and opportunities of planning for significant growth in an ageing population Indigo Shire Council have developed and adopted the *Indigo Ageing Well Strategy 2019-2023* and have appointed a full-time, ongoing Ageing Well Officer to implement the Strategy.

The Strategy is guided by global best practice and aligns with the WHO *Global strategy and action plan on ageing and health*. It is additionally guided by community demand, demographic changes, leadership acknowledgement of the broader community benefits for age-friendly communities and alignment with local agencies priorities and state government policies. Further showing our dedication to strategically planning for ageing well, we have partnered with Charles Sturt University to develop a liveability atlas pilot for two of our rural town centres, with plans to expand across our Shire. In doing so, we are well situated to meet our responsibilities as a member of the Network.

Indigo Shire Council commit to investing time and resources on an ongoing basis to develop age-friendly resources and are already in the practice of sharing age-friendly resources and tools with other councils. We commit to building age-friendly environments and to sharing our learnings with other Network members.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernard Gaffney", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cr Bernard Gaffney  
**MAYOR**

Date: \_\_\_\_ July 2019