

Our Ref: NL:GH D21/4854

Contact: Nicole Langtip [nlangtip@surfcoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:nlangtip@surfcoast.vic.gov.au)

30 July 2021

***Office of the Mayor***

Global Network of Age Friendly Communities  
World Health Organisation  
Avenue Appia 20  
1202 GENEVA Switzerland

To whom it may concern

**Membership of WHO Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities**

I write to apply on behalf of the Surf Coast Shire Council, Victoria, Australia, to be considered for Membership of the WHO Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities.

The Surf Coast Shire spans the traditional lands of the Wadawurrung and the Gulidjan and Gadabanud Peoples of the Eastern Maar. We acknowledge them as the Traditional Owners and Protectors of this place.

The Surf Coast Shire is located in south-western Victoria, 120km from Melbourne, Australia. Victoria's Surf Coast with its spectacular coastline, scenic rainforests and magnificent beaches, is one of the tourist draw cards of Australia and it is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Victoria, with the permanent population forecast to rise from 33,456 in 2021 to almost 44,000 by 2036.

The Shire comprises several townships, each with a keen sense of community, a unique identity and a strong desire to protect and nurture the environment. The Shire spans both significant coastal townships and rural population including farming and rural-based residential communities.

The age distribution in the Shire is unusual for a regional municipality with a higher than average ageing population. Almost 30% of the population will be aged over 60 over the next 20 years.

The Surf Coast Shire Council has been actively working toward creating Age Friendly communities for the past 5 years as outlined below.

August 2016	Surf Coast Shire Council signed the <i>Age Friendly Victoria Declaration</i> as its first step to committing to working towards creating age friendly communities.
July 2018	Council directed the formation of a community-led Positive Ageing Advisory Committee.
October 2018	Terms of Reference and membership of the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee was endorsed by Council.
Nov 2018 - Current:	Positive Ageing Advisory Committee have been actively involved in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• advising Council on setting direction, moving from a direct service delivery model to that of creating age friendly communities in 2020</li><li>• consulting with our community to determine key priorities</li><li>• developing Council's <i>Age Friendly Strategy 2020 - 2024</i></li><li>• leading projects in local communities.</li></ul>
2019 – 2020	Shire-wide community consultation to inform strategic plan was undertaken.
August 2020	Shire Council adopted the <i>Age Friendly Strategy 2020 – 2024</i> (based on WHO Age Friendly Communities framework).
Nov 2020	Age Friendly Officer employed by Council to activate strategy.

If accepted as a member of the *WHO Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities (WHO GNAFCC)* we commit to:

- sharing and promoting the values and principles that are central to the WHO GNAFCC approach and to the process of creating more age-friendly cities and communities;
- implementing the four steps required to create age-friendly local environments (engage and understand, plan, act, measure);
- actively participate in the GNAFCC.

Please consider our application to become a network member – we look forward to actively participating in the development of an age friendly world.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Stapleton".

**Cr Libby Stapleton**  
Mayor