



Our Ref: CS.SPV.45 / LT24322005
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City of Albany

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13 September 2024

TO WHOM IT CONCERNS

RE: City of Albany's membership in the Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC)

It is my pleasure to write in support of an application on behalf of the City of Albany to become a member of the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities. The City has been working towards Albany becoming a truly age-friendly place to live and work for almost a decade and we wholeheartedly commit ourselves to that goal.

The City of Albany is located in the Great Southern region of Western Australia, in the WHO member state of Australia. Between the comfortable climate, natural landscapes, and wide range of services; Albany is one of the most sought-after places to live. With a vibrant community, relaxed lifestyle, and numerous places to explore, many residents have made the easy decision to spend the rest of their lives in the Great Southern. Albany has a growing population and an increasing number of senior community members. The City of Albany is committed to ensuring our community achieve a high quality of life through health and wellbeing, participation, and security as they age.

The City is dedicated to making Albany a age-friendly place to live and work; our first Age-Friendly Plan was developed from the ground up with a comprehensive community-led consultation process back in 2016 following increased awareness on the importance of planning for an aging population. Following this Plan, and the lessons learned from its development, came an Age Friendly Charter, which was developed in partnership with our neighbouring local authorities in the Shires of Denmark, and the Shire of Plantagenet, as well as the Western Australia Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA).

Our current Age-Friendly Plan for the City of Albany (2023-2027) was again co-created with extensive community-led consultation and dedicated staff who work closely with community members, organisations, and groups, as well as service providers and advocacy organisations. This co-designed plan contains a detailed action plan which will guide the work we need to undertake to attain the goals of the Plan and make Albany a truly age-friendly place to live.

The City of Albany's ethos is one of collaboration, we recognise that our community members move across municipal boundaries to access services, participate in social activities, volunteer, and connect with friends, family and employment. Therefore, it is only logical that we work with our partners across municipalities, the not-for-profit sector, and government departments to both share resources and knowledge and develop strategies that help community members wherever they are.

I hope from this letter and the associated material with the City of Albany's application that you clearly see our commitment to developing age-friendly practices and to the WHO AFC values and principles, however if you would like any further information or would like to come and see the work we are doing here in Albany, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Yours sincerely



Greg Stocks
Mayor