



AGE FRIENDLY

INFORMING STRATEGY 2020/2025

Message from the Shire President

Many communities across the globe are planning for ageing populations for the first time in recent history. This emerging population of older adults brings diversity and experience to the community – in addition to unique abilities, needs and aspirations – compared to previous generations.

The Shire of Mundaring has a higher than average number of older residents when compared with other local governments in the metropolitan area. More than 11,600 residents aged 55 years and over call our community ‘home’.

An increased population of older people, combined with the new and varied demands of this population, makes planning for an ‘age-friendly’ future vitally important.

An age-friendly community is one that recognises diversity, promotes inclusion and contribution, respects the decisions and lifestyle choices of older people and responds flexibly to ageing-related needs.

As such, a local government’s policies, services and structures are designed to help older people live safely, enjoy good health and stay involved in their community. Shire of Mundaring is determined to achieve this standard.

The Shire has developed this Age Friendly Informing Strategy (AFIS) to provide a framework that reflects current Shire practice and identifies opportunities for building a community that is friendly to all ages.

The strategy has been developed to complement the Shire’s other strategic community documents to foster, and maintain, an age-friendly community. Importantly the strategy also addresses the eight outcome areas of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Age Friendly Cities Framework.

Thank you to those who participated in the community consultation to inform this action plan. Implementation of this Strategy requires continual community input and comment in order to achieve our goals and make improvements.

Cr John Daw
Shire President



Executive Summary



Shire of Mundaring is seeing an increase in older residents as the overall population continues to age and people remain healthy and active for longer. Between 2011 and 2016, the number of people aged over 55 years increased from 9920 to 11,653, representing an increase of 15%¹.

The older population now spans more than 40 years (from 60 to 100+ years), reflecting longer life spans and making it very diverse in terms of health, family, economic, emotional, physical, financial and household circumstances. This increasing population combined with changing demographics represents varied opportunities and challenges for planners.

The Shire of Mundaring is a positive place for older people to live. Older people reported that they feel safe and comfortable in their environment and, in particular, they appreciate the range of facilities and services available.

Our vision to respect diversity and support local people to age in place will be achieved through partnerships with government organisations, community groups and local people focussed on building a community that is friendly to all ages.

The standard definition for an older person is often those aged 65 years and over. However, in the development of this AFIS the Shire is including those aged 55 years and over. The Shire believes it is important to include people within this age bracket to ensure their expectations are considered in future planning, as they will be part of 65 years and over demographic in the near future.

¹ Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011 and 2016. Compiled and presented by .id, the population experts.



Acknowledgement of Country

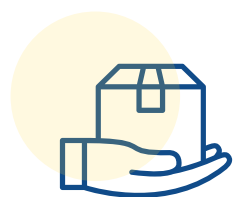
Shire of Mundaring respectfully acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, who are the traditional custodians of this land. We acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the region.

Vision

A community where diversity is respected and people are supported to age in place.

Our Role

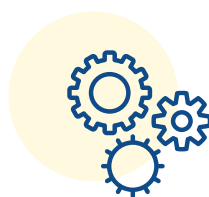
In order to provide clear information to the community about how the Shire can work to support older people, it is important to identify the precise roles that Shire of Mundaring already has and will undertake in the future. Role clarity will ensure that the Shire works within its financial and employee capacity while still producing positive outcomes for the community as a whole, as well as further informing the strategies to be undertaken. These roles are:



Delivery of facilities and services



Regulation



Enabling/
Facilitation



Education

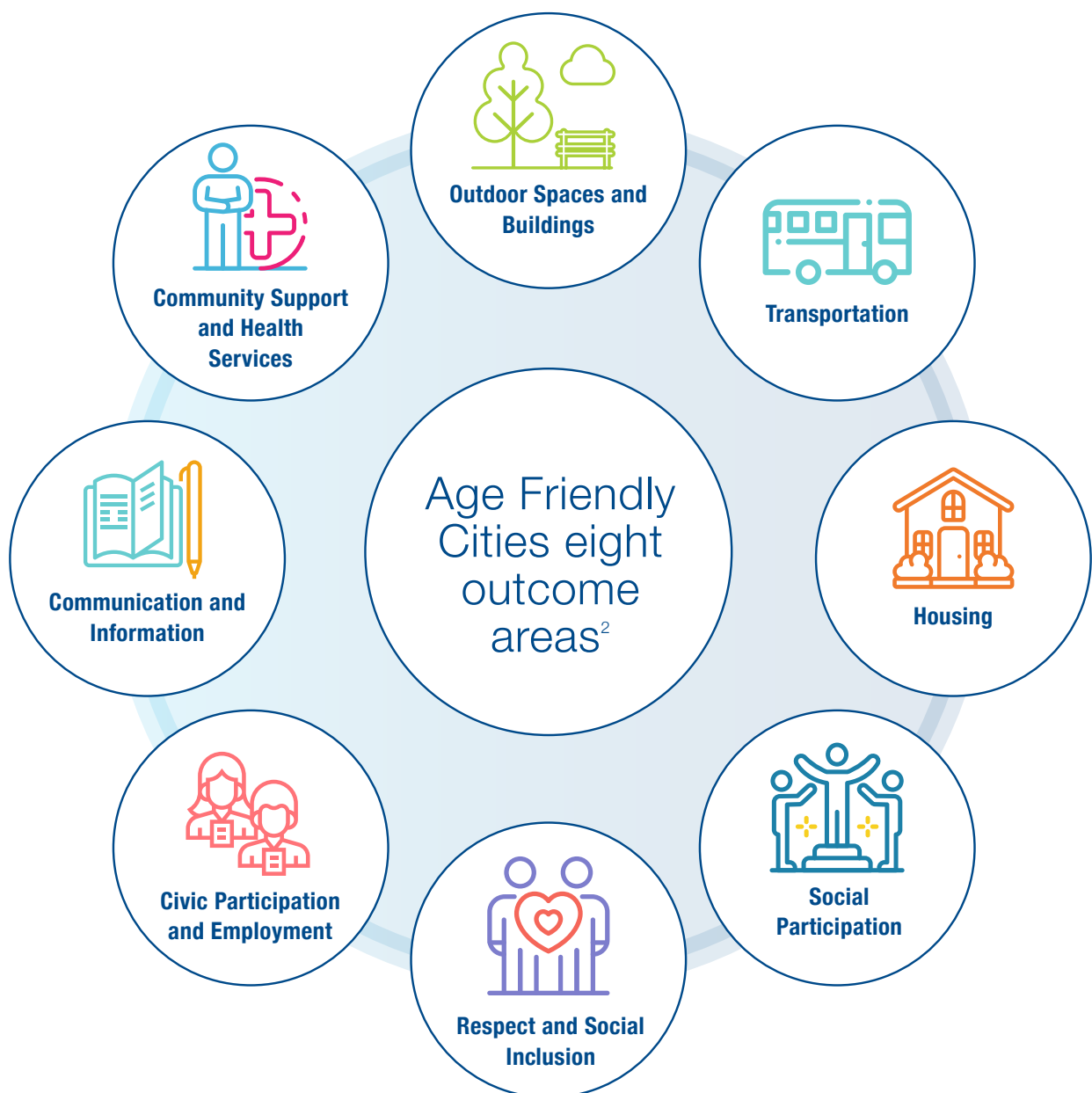


Civic Leadership
and Advocacy

WHO Age Friendly Cities Guide Eight Outcome Areas

The WHO has developed a guide for assessing the 'age-friendliness' of communities. This guide is designed around the concept of 'active ageing', which incorporates aspects of the wellbeing and security of not only older people, but the entire community.

This Age Friendly Informing Strategy incorporates the values, principles and definitions of the WHO's Age Friendly Cities Guide, thus creating an environment that affords opportunities for whole of community to age well into the future.



² World Health Organization 2015. Measuring the age-friendliness of cities: a guide to using core indicators.

National Overview



In 2017, there were 3.8 million Australians aged 65 and over, comprising 15% of the total population. The number and proportion of older Australians is expected to continue to grow. By 2057, it is projected there will be 8.8 million older people in Australia constituting 22% of the population. In addition, there will be changes in the composition of the 65 and over population. For example, it is expected there will be fewer older people aged between 65 and 74 and a greater number of older people aged 75 and over (Table 1)³.

Table 1. Composition of Australia's Ageing Population

AGE GROUP ⁴	2017 PROPORTION OF OLDER POPULATION	PROJECTED PROPORTION OF OLDER POPULATION IN 2047
65-74 Years	57%	45%
75-84 Years	30%	35%
85 Years and over	13%	20%

Older Australians are living longer and are in better health than ever before. Some groups however, continue to face disadvantage that affects both their mental and physical health and their opportunities for social and economic engagement within their communities. Currently, there is no systematic capacity to identify and report on the wellbeing of people from most of these population groups. Also of concern is recent Census data that indicates that one in six homeless people are aged 55 years and over, possibly alluding to the economic challenges faced by many older Australians.

The Productivity Commission has identified the prolonged participation of older people in the workforce, the pressures an ageing population will place on government resources, the obstacles to employment for older Australians, and the importance of improving productivity in the health care sector as major considerations into the future. Other challenges for an ageing population identified by the Australian Government include decreased workforce participation, decline in average hours worked, and the expected provision of more government services as the population ages.

³ ABS 2014. Australian historical population statistics, 2014. ABS cat. no. 3105.0.65.001. Canberra: ABS. And ABS 2017. Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2016. ABS cat. no. 3101.0. Canberra: ABS.

⁴ ABS 2017. Census of Population and Housing: Reflecting Australia – Stories from the Census, 2016. Cultural Diversity in Australia, 2016. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 05 May 2018.

WA Overview

The Government of Western Australia developed a ‘Seniors Strategic Framework’ in April 2019. The new framework summarised current research on, and infrastructure for ageing and outlined the main issues facing older people in the state, the priorities for effective ageing, possible planning pathways, and future priorities. This document identified the following key areas:

- Promoting health and wellbeing;
- Access to essential services;
- Economic security and protection of rights; and
- Welcoming and well-planned communities⁵.

In 2014, the Western Australian Legislative Assembly’s Community Development and Justice Standing Committee produced an assessment of the ‘age-friendliness’ of Western Australia. This assessment focused on a number of key areas including:

- Health and wellbeing;
- Transport;
- Housing;
- Outdoor spaces and built environments;
- Social isolation, respect and inclusion;
- Employment, training and volunteering;
- Communication, information and technology;
- Grandparents caring for grandchildren; and
- Ageing issues in Aboriginal communities⁶.



⁵ Government of Western Australia, 2019. Seniors Strategic Planning Framework.

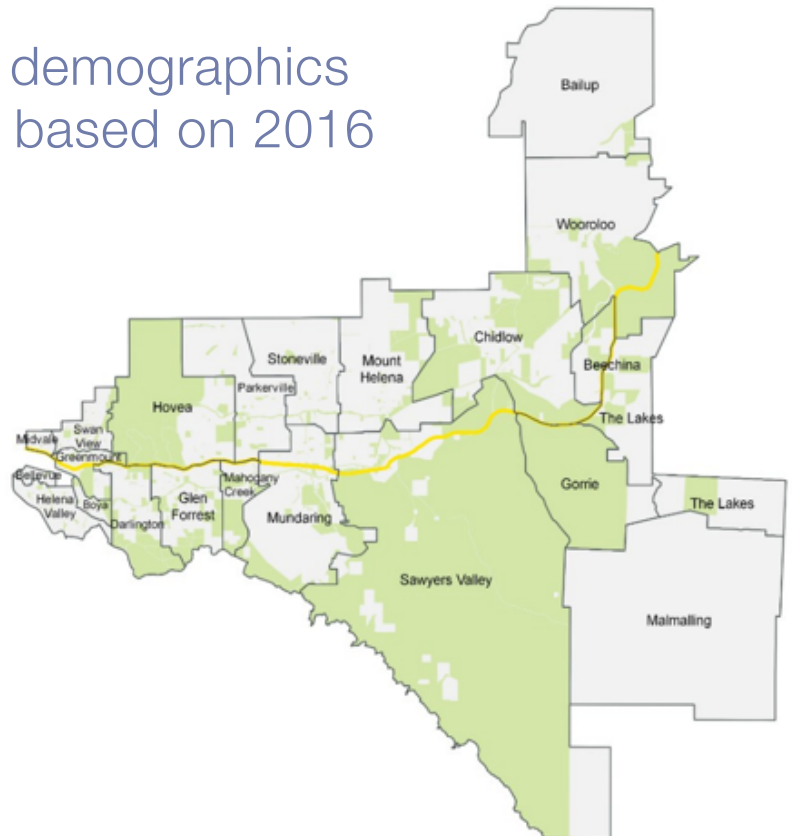
⁶ Western Australian legislative assembly: Community Development and Justice Standing Group, 2014. *Age Friendly WA? A Challenge for Government*.

About Our Community

A snapshot of community demographics in the Shire of Mundaring, based on 2016 Census data.

The Shire of Mundaring is located on the eastern fringes of Perth. The shire is predominantly peri-urban, with residential areas throughout its many town sites.

It encompasses a total land area of 644 sqkm, of which nearly half is national park, state forest or water catchment.

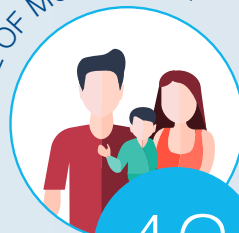


39,139

Estimated resident population for 2018⁷

Average Age⁷

SHIRE OF MUNDARING



42

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



36

Ageing Population⁸

Shire of Mundaring has an ageing population, meaning the population aged 60 and over is growing faster than all other age groups. By comparison, the younger generation is decreasing.



In 2016, the Shire of Mundaring had a lower proportion of children (under 18) and a higher proportion of persons aged 60 or older, compared to Greater Perth (Table 2).

The Age Structure of the Shire of Mundaring provides key insights into the level of demand for age-based services and facilities.

Table 2. Shire of Mundaring - Total persons (usual residence) 2016⁸

Service age group (years)	Number	%	Greater Perth %
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	1,896	5.0	6.5
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	3,316	8.7	9.0
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	3,006	7.9	7.2
Tertiary education and independence (18 to 24)	3,068	8.0	9.4
Young workforce (25 to 34)	4,175	10.9	15.8
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	8,015	21.0	20.9
Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59)	5,842	15.3	12.2
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	4,831	12.7	9.7
Seniors (70 to 84)	3,394	8.9	7.5
Elderly aged (85 and over)	604	1.6	1.8
Total	38,147	100.0	100.0

Need for Assistance⁸

In 2016, 3.7% of the population in the Shire of Mundaring reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability, compared to 3.9% in Greater Perth. During this period, 848 people (60.3%) within the Shire aged 60 and over reported needing assistance with their day-to-day lives.

⁸ Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 and 2016. Compiled and presented by id, the population experts.

Engagement Opportunities



Methods used to gather information and feedback to inform the strategy

This strategy has been developed using information and feedback gathered from local organisations, service providers and community. An Age Friendly Informing Strategy Development Reference Group consisting of 12 members was formed to steer the project. The Reference Group included service providers, community members, Shire staff and an Elected Member.

The Shire's Inclusion and Disability Access Advisory Group (IDAAG) comprising 12 attendees sought feedback from their networks. We invited the community to give feedback on perceptions of community and individual experiences to prioritise local age-friendly issues. We consulted with the community through a number of community engagement opportunities, resulting in 532 responses via the following methods:

- Internal staff interview
- Community survey

- Aboriginal people engaged in yarning opportunities
- Drop in sessions
- Focus groups
- Interactive talk back displays
- Consultation with service providers

The following Shire documents and the associated community feedback have been used in the development of this strategy:

- Strategic Community Plan 2016 – 2026
- Corporate Business Plan 2019/20 – 2022/23
- Local Planning Scheme No 4 (LPS4)
- Local Planning Strategy
- Seniors Informing Strategy 2013 – 2017
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2017 – 2021
- Recreation Facilities Informing Strategy
- Community Health and Wellbeing Informing Strategy 2020 – 2025

Key Findings

Overall, the conclusion is that the Shire of Mundaring is a positive place for an older person to live in: they feel safe and the shire has enjoyable outdoor spaces and a good range of activities and events. Service providers and businesses are respectful of older people and there are good opportunities for volunteering. There is also a good range of facilities and services available.

The main priorities highlighted through consultation include:



Housing

- Appropriate housing design/modifications for frail people or people with disability
- Affordable housing/accommodation for older people



Transportation

- Reliability and frequency of public transport
- Available bus routes to key destinations for older people
- Availability of community transport between townsites within the shire



Communication and information

- Regularity and reliability of distribution of information to older people



Outdoor spaces and buildings

- Limited outdoor seating in parks, along walking trails and at bus stops
- Limited safe crossings along the Great Eastern Highway throughout the shire
- Limited public toilets within the shire and associated signage



Community support and health services

- Limited awareness of available and affordable mental health services

Strategic Priorities and Actions

In response to the key findings, five strategies and associated actions have been formulated to guide the Shire over the next five years to achieve our vision of supporting people to age in place.



Housing

Strategy 1

Liaise with developers and accommodation providers to encourage increased diversity in terms of accommodation options and high care accommodation within the Shire.

Action

1. Continue current efforts to identify potential suitable land for aged person's accommodation development within the Local Planning Strategy.
2. Promote alternatives currently available to residential care such as the Home Care Package Program offered by the Federal Government.
3. Communicate best housing design practice to developers, Shire staff and other relevant stakeholders to encourage age-friendly dwellings.
4. Incentivise universal access design outcomes via ancillary dwelling (increase floor space limits from 70sqm up to 80sqm).



Transportation

Strategy 2

Liaise with transport providers to improve the regularity and routes of public transport within the Shire, particularly beyond the main arterial roads.

Action

1. Increase promotion of existing public transport options to older people in the community.
 - Encourage the display and dissemination of the hard copy Transperth timetables in these locations through local libraries.
2. Support community members to advocate to maintain and improve public transport options.
3. Consider transport and movement networks in any planning advice, approvals or strategies prepared by the Shire.
4. Broadly promote existing community transport.
5. Investigate opportunities to optimise use of existing community transport through dialogue with community transport providers (for example synchronise schedules with identified needs).
6. Investigate options to mobilise different forms of transport to encourage participation in community-based activities.
7. When new development is being undertaken, encourage private business owners to include 'senior specific' (not ACROD) parking bays that are conveniently located close to the entrance of local shopping centres.



Communication and information

Strategy 3

Increase the regularity and diversify methods of communicating with older people in the Shire.

Action

1. Continue to diversify the methods of promotion of services, activities and events to older people.
 - Investigate the feasibility of using radio for important information dissemination.
2. Work with local newspapers to encourage wide coverage, especially in locations with known density of older people.
 - Investigate alternative delivery models.
3. Ensure Shire information is easily distinguishable from junk mail.
4. Continue to cater to those that do not have a computer or computer access.
5. Liaise with community organisations and service providers to promote Shire events and activities to older people.
6. Disseminate the key findings from this strategy through local organisations and community groups to raise awareness of the needs and interests of older people within the Shire.
7. Maintain an Age Friendly Reference Group as a conduit of information into, and from, the older people in the community.



Outdoor spaces and buildings

Strategy 4

Continue with existing high standards of maintenance of outdoor spaces and buildings to ensure amenities and facilities are age-friendly.

Action

1. Reference group to work with community members to identify gaps where additional seating is required and/or seating that requires shelter to improve age-friendliness.
2. Investigate funding and other in-kind resourcing options for the provision of additional outdoor seating.
3. Raise awareness of available public toilet facilities, opening hours and accessibility through promotion of available information.
4. Maintain existing footpaths to ensure safety of use for older people.
5. Continue to develop footpath networks in line with capital works program.



Health and community support services

Strategy 5

Encourage activities and services that contribute to creating a 'mentally healthy' community.

Action

1. Promote National and State mental health awareness campaigns through avenues appropriate for older people.
2. Provide opportunities that facilitate positive mental health outcomes such as programs and events.
3. Promote a wide range of activities and facilities that are attractive for older people.
4. Promote existing mental health services through avenues that are appropriate for older people.
5. Investigate opportunities for improved access to mental health services for older people.
6. Promote volunteering opportunities through development and distribution of Volunteer Bulletin and delivery of Step into Volunteering Workshops.

Evaluation of our Plan



The Age Friendly Informing Strategy is managed by Shire of Mundaring's Community Engagement team. Actions identified are implemented and evaluated by service areas across the organisation.

A formal review will be undertaken at the end of the five-year period as part of the process to develop a new strategy that will set the direction for the next five years. The Shire's internal working group will assist with the review and community consultation will be undertaken to better understand community needs and expectations.



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