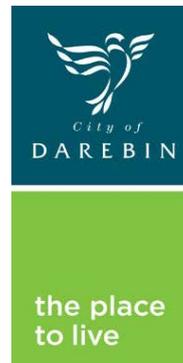


# Appendix B



## Proposed Terms of Reference for Review Panel: Creating an Age Friendly Darebin

### Introduction

Darebin Council is committed to an age-friendly city which values, supports and empowers older people – so that older people can live well, be healthy, be socially connected, and live independently within their community. Darebin Council has a proud history of providing services to older people.

In February 2017, Darebin Council signed the Age Friendly Victoria declaration, which among other things commits to creating an age friendly community, empowering older people, and addressing issues of social inclusion and respect, community support and health services, civic participation and employment, social participation, transport, housing and the built environment.

Darebin Council has an Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2011-2021, and is a significant provider of home support and other services to older people. With major changes occurring in the federal government's funding and provision of aged care, it is timely to conduct an inquiry into how best Darebin Council can create an age friendly community.

Darebin Council's Council Plan 2017-2021 includes six key goals, of which three are particularly relevant to this review:

*“We will improve the wellbeing of people in our community by providing opportunities for them to live their lives well”*

*We will lead on equity and recognize our diverse community as our greatest asset for solving future challenges*

*We will be a leading, modern, and open council to meet our challenges, now and in the future.”*

### Background

The review will consider and recommend how to create an age friendly Darebin, which will include consideration of how the City of Darebin should provide services to older people in the longer term future.

In 1984 the Home and Community Care (HACC) program was implemented by the federal and state governments. The program was embraced and co-funded by Darebin council, and most other local governments in Victoria. It was enthusiastically adopted as a platform for council support of older people and people with disabilities to live independently at home. Darebin Council has been a prominent local provider of home and community support services during that time.

In other states local government did not take up this level of involvement in HACC, and a variety of other models evolved.

The introduction of the federal Living Longer Living Better legislation (2012) and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS, from 2013) introduced a whole new era of aged and disability services across the country. Through changing the mechanisms of funding, the federal government aimed to create better consumer choice for clients.

The Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) commenced roll-out for all states in 2015 (except Victoria and Western Australia). However the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments agreed that special transition provisions would apply in Victoria until 1 July 2019. This saw the continuation of 'block funding', a stability of funding commitment and establishment of a Victorian Regional Assessment Service (VRAS).

Many of Darebin Council's clients do not welcome the federal aged care reforms, do not find the My Aged Care system easy to use and are concerned about future funding reforms. Many clients are concerned about the possibility of having less access to services, or having to transition to a different service provider.

#### *Current status of Council's services*

The Commonwealth Government have announced that they will extend Regional Assessment Services (RAS) and CHSP funding arrangements for an additional year to July 2020. The extension will be a separate one-year contract which is yet to be negotiated and expected to be executed in 2019.

The Commonwealth's stated intention is for a fully open and competitive market to operate after July 2020. However, many aspects of the implementation of the reforms are still emerging and many factors are unknown.

#### *Darebin services and clients*

Darebin Council's core suite of services are: Domestic and Shopping Assistance, Personal Care, Respite, Home Maintenance, Delivered Meals and Social Support Groups. These services have not changed significantly since they originally commenced.

Service volumes for most (not all) of our aged care services have been falling steadily for the past 10-15 years, with some services experiencing sharper declines than others. This experience is shared across most council providers.

Overall, the number of individuals assisted by Darebin Council aged care services has reduced by 27% over the three years from 2013/14 – 2016/17. Service outputs have declined by 13% - 30% depending on the service over those three years. This trend is expected to continue.

There are multiple causes of this decline. The introduction of My Aged Care and the NDIS are key changes that have affected the ratio of arrivals to departures of Darebin Council clients, and there are other factors as well.

Council's current net budget for these services is expected to be over \$6 million in 2017/18.

Other service providers also provide many of these services to Darebin residents. The range of other service providers will increase as the new Commonwealth funding model is implemented.

Given the reforms and changes, service providers across Australia, including affected Councils, have been reviewing the way they provide aged care services.

Darebin Council has been working to analyse information and trends, engaging with the community, and working on regional studies to understand the options for future Council services.

The outcomes of these reforms will have impact on the quality of life for senior citizens in Australia especially as more and more people seek to age in place, in their homes.

## **Purpose**

1. The Advisory Panel on Creating an Age Friendly Darebin will collect and consider evidence, ideas, and community input about how Council can best create an Age Friendly Darebin where older people are valued, supported and empowered to live well, including but not limited to these topics:
  - (a) Social inclusion, social and civic participation
  - (b) Built environment, transport and housing
  - (c) Community support and health services.
2. In considering community support and health services, the panel will consider Council's future role in providing services, programs and facilities to older people post-2020 within the context of the federal My Aged Care system, federal funding reform and changing community needs.

The panel will consider and investigate a range of options, including the following:

- i. Continuation of existing Council services to older people
- ii. Expansion, growth, reduction or adaptation of existing Council services (including consideration of whether council can become a provider of home care packages)
- iii. Transitioning clients of identified existing Council services to other service providers over time
- iv. Establishing new or additional services, programs or facilities for older people.

The impact of competition policy must also be considered when assessing the options.

3. After collecting information and evidence, and hearing community submissions and feedback, the panel will prepare a report making recommendations to Darebin Council on the above topics.

## **Principles for conducting the review**

1. Darebin Council is committed to an age-friendly city which values, supports and empowers older people – so that older people can live well, be healthy, be socially connected, and live independently within their community.

2. Older people must have access to the quality services, programs and facilities that they need. In particular, vulnerable and disadvantaged older people will need additional support.
3. Darebin Council intends to have a long-term role in supporting and advocating for the wellbeing of older people.
4. Darebin Council is committed to maintaining investment in the health and wellbeing of our older residents. Council must also ensure that we spend our resources responsibly for the benefit of older people.
5. Darebin Council cares for its clients and for the Darebin community. We will consult and communicate openly about the decision making process.
6. Darebin Council cares for its staff. We will consult and communicate openly with staff about the decision making process.
7. Darebin Council must at all times comply with legislative and regulatory requirements.
8. The review must take into account that the lifestyle, work and needs of older people are changing and will continue to change into the future.
9. The review must consider innovative models of service provision, initiatives and programs.
10. "Is committed to open and transparent decision making processes and will therefore bring any recommendations emanating from the review process back to an open Council meeting for a decision by Councillors."

### **Scope**

The Advisory Panel on Creating an Age Friendly Darebin will:

1. Review evidence and information about: community views and needs; Council's current aged care services and programs; federal funding reforms; options for future service provision including potential new or expanded services or programs; innovative or best practice initiatives, projects or services in Australia or overseas.
2. Identify any additional information or analysis required
3. Issue a public discussion paper which sets out ideas and options for creating an Age Friendly Darebin, including options for future service delivery.
4. Invite submissions from the community, from staff and from stakeholders in relation to the discussion paper.
5. Specifically invite consultation and comments from:
  - Existing Council clients, including clients and stakeholders from CALD backgrounds
  - Senior citizens clubs, U3A and other groups
  - The Darebin Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board
  - Carers Victoria, Council of the Ageing and other bodies
  - Council staff
  - Service providers, peak bodies, regulatory bodies and relevant unions.

6. Ensure that information materials and information sessions are provided in key community languages.
7. Ensure that submitters have an opportunity to publicly address the panel about their submission, and for the panel to ask questions.
8. Consider evidence, analysis and community feedback.
9. Prepare a preliminary report containing recommendations to the Council.
10. Issue this preliminary report and invite further community submissions.
11. Consider the second round of community submissions.
12. Finalise the report and recommendations to Council.

### **Panel membership:**

The panel will consist of up to two members with each panel member having professional expertise and experience in at least one of the areas below:

- Public health and human services service delivery, public policy and strategy
- Local government service delivery, public policy and strategy

Council will appoint panel member/s and appoint one of the members as chairperson.

### **Resourcing**

Council will provide assistance to the panel to allow for project management, research, writing, administration and to support consultation and engagement activities.

### **Draft timeline**

- Panel commences late May/early June 2018
- Public discussion paper issued July/August 2018
- Consultation and engagement meetings and activities take place July/August – September 2018
- First round submissions close September 2018
- Hearing of submissions at meeting/s held September 2018
- Preliminary report and recommendations issued November 2018
- Second round submissions close mid-December 2018
- Finalisation of report and recommendations to Council – February 2019.
- Council meeting to consider panel's recommendations – March 2019.

The timeline may require amendment as the review proceeds, or as new information emerges about the implementation of federal government funding arrangements.

The panel will wind up immediately after the Council meeting to consider the report in 2019.

### **Meetings**

- Panel meetings will be held as determined by the Chair and supported by Council staff. Public hearings will be open to the public, but meetings of the panel will not otherwise be generally open to the public.
- All meeting minutes and completed reports produced by the panel should be available to the public except where confidential due to staffing or commercial reasons, or personal privacy.