

## Creating an Age Friendly City – Have your Say

Darebin Council is committed to being an Age Friendly City where older residents are active, valued and supported to live the way they choose.

Older people are now living longer and healthier lives which, combined with major Federal Government aged care reforms, means their needs and service expectations are changing.

To make sure Darebin stays a great place to grow older, Council has appointed an independent expert Panel to conduct a broad review of everything it does to support our older residents and we want your input!

The outcomes of the review will help inform our planning for the future.

Kicking off in October we want your input into what our over 65s need to live a happy and healthy life as they grow older.

There are many ways to get involved and have a say.

### **Stage 1 - have your say on a discussion paper**

#### **October and November**

Have your say by:

- feedback online and/or in hard copy
- making a written submission
- visiting staff at various neighbourhood pop-in sessions and Seniors Week events
- presenting your submission at a public hearing

### **Stage 2 – have your say on a draft report and recommendations**

#### **February – March 2019**

- Have your say by making a written submission

## **Why is Council doing this project?**

### **The needs of older people are changing**

Thanks to advances in technology, communications and healthcare, Darebin's older population are living longer, have more active lives and very different interests, needs and expectations to seniors a decade ago. This means that the activities, facilities, housing and services they need, will also continue to change over time. **Federal Government reforms**

The Federal Government is making major, fundamental changes to how the aged care system works across Australia. Within the next two years this will mean more aged care service providers to choose from and substantially less funding available to Council.

Council currently spends over \$13 million each year delivering targeted aged care services like in-home care, delivered meals and help around the house. Of the \$13 million:

- almost \$6 million is from Federal Government funding; and
- almost \$6 million is invested by Council.
- Almost \$1 million is from clients fees.

Although there will be major impacts to the Federal funding available from mid-2020, Council is committed to continuing its level of investment into supporting older people going forward.

In response to these changes, Council is reviewing everything it does to support older people in Darebin to make sure this money is being invested in the best way possible to meet the needs of our changing community.

## The Panel

The review is being undertaken by an independent expert Panel of two people – introducing **Dr Rhonda Galbally** and **Peter Allen**



### **Rhonda Galbally**

Rhonda is well known for her leadership across the public health and community sectors, and as an advocate for people with disability. The many distinguished positions she has held include CEO of the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth), the cofounder and CEO of Our Community Pty Ltd, the Chair of the Royal Women's Hospital, the Chair of the National People with Disability and Carers Council, and Principal Member (chair) of the Independent Advisory Council for the National Disability Insurance

Scheme. Dr Galbally was inducted to the Victorian Honour Roll of Women in 2005 and in 2012 received the Prime Minister's Outstanding Achievement Award at the National Disability Awards.



### **Peter Allen**

Peter is currently based at the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG), where he was Deputy Dean between 2009 and 2015. Previously he had more than 20 years in the Victorian Public Service, with senior positions including Secretary of the Department of Education and Training, Secretary of the Department of Tourism, Sport and the Commonwealth Games, Under Secretary in the Department of Human Services, and Deputy Secretary, Community Services. Previously he was Director of Social Policy and Research at the Brotherhood of St Laurence. Mr Allen has also served as Founding Chair of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority and as a distinguished member of a number of councils and boards.

## The review

The review will look at the big picture question – how do we create an Age Friendly Darebin? – with a focus on three key themes:

**Theme 1: Social inclusion, social and civic participation** – enabling people to be socially connected, make valuable contributions, and easily participate in activities and groups

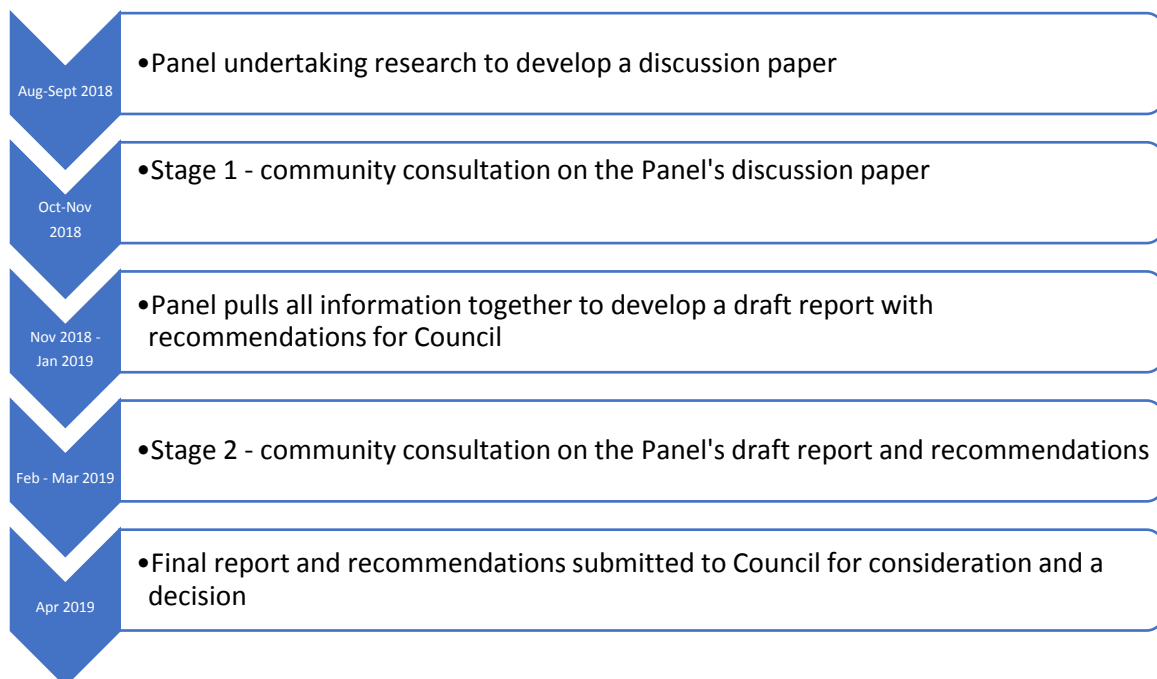
**Theme 2: Built environment, transport and housing** – improving ease and safety for older people to move around at home and in the community

**Theme 3: Community support and health services** – ensuring older people have access to high quality services they need in Darebin

One part of this work includes reviewing the aged care services council provides in light of the impacts resulting from the Federal Government's changes to the aged care system.

The Panel will consider input already received from the community over the past 12 months, and all community feedback received through its consultation activities.

## Review timelines



Council will wait for the panel's final report and recommendations in April 2019 before making any decision about future service delivery.



## **More information**

To get regular updates on the project and reminders about consultation dates, sign up to our Older and Active Newsletter by telephoning 8470 8828.

Information about the project is also be available on Council's website at <https://www.yoursaydarebin.com.au/growingolder> and at Council facilities like libraries, community and leisure centres and neighbourhood houses.

For more information or if you have any questions contact staff member on [AgeFriendly@Darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:AgeFriendly@Darebin.vic.gov.au) or telephone 8470 8828.