

Age Friendly City Plan 2019-2024

Introduction

The City of Fremantle's Strategic Community Plan 2015- 2025 aims for Fremantle to be an environment where it is easy for people to live safe, happy and healthy lives. It seeks to celebrate and support diversity and improve community inclusiveness and participation for all.

According to 2016 Census data the City of Fremantle has both a higher median age and a larger proportion of people over 55, compared to Western Australia. As a destination city it also attracts visitors of all ages.

The City's journey to becoming an age friendly city started in 2010 and in 2016 the City was accepted as a member to the World Health Organisation Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. The WHO age-friendly cities guide highlights eight interconnected domains that cities and communities can address to better adapt to the needs of older people:

- The built environment
- Transport
- Housing
- Social participation
- Respect and social inclusion
- Civic participation and employment
- Communication
- Community support and health services.

To prepare a new Age Friendly City Plan a review of the City's progress commenced in 2018. A Working Group with representatives from community members, key organisations, City staff and Elected Members met throughout the review to guide the process. Over 150 people were engaged either online, through surveys, at events or via one-on-one meetings and their input informed the development of new and revised actions for the City.

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the Age Friendly City Plan is to prioritise positive ageing opportunities for the Fremantle community and a great place for older people to visit.

The plan is organised in line with the eight WHO age friendly city domains and covers actions the City can lead, facilitate or promote as well as advocate for where the responsibility sits outside local government. The Plan represents a whole-of-organisation approach and will be supported with an implementation plan. To maintain its status as a WHO global age friendly city the plan will need to be evaluated in three years.

1. Social participation

Provide a range of lifelong learning activities that encourage older people to participate in community life.

- 1.1 Provide activities and courses at various locations that encourage participation and increase social participation.
- 1.2 Provide affordable programs that encourage older people to try new and different sports or other forms of physical activity.
- 1.3 Advocate and promote programs and initiatives which target respect, inclusion and social participation.

2. Community Support and Health Services

Assist people in Fremantle to age positively and actively by providing appropriate information and support to maximise health and wellbeing.

- 2.1 Improve communication between the City and Fremantle-based aged care providers by offering opportunities for networking meetings.
- 2.2 Facilitate opportunities which provide information to older people to navigate ageing well and healthy lifestyles.
- 2.3 Promote My Community Directory which provides details on the range of services and activities for older people in the Fremantle area.

3. Civic participation and employment

Create opportunities for older people to actively participate in the community through civic involvement.

- 3.1 Community engagement will be accessible, well-promoted and flexible, engaging older people to have their say.
- 3.2 Support local organisations to recruit and retain volunteers through Volunteer Fremantle.
- 3.3 Facilitate opportunities for older people to share their skills and knowledge on a paid or voluntary basis.

4. Communication and information

Provide accessible information on aged care services in a variety of formats.

- 4.1 Promote the programs and activities provided by the City of Fremantle for older people in a range of formats.
- 4.2 Ensure the City of Fremantle website meets accessibility guidelines set out by Vision Australia and the Disability Services Act.
- 4.3 Community engagement opportunities are well-promoted and offered in a range of formats.

5. Outdoor spaces and buildings

Ensure that older people have the same opportunities as other people to access the City's buildings, facilities, parks, reserves, playgrounds and beaches.

- 5.1 Regular upgrades in the Fremantle local government area where better seating, shading, footpaths and pedestrian crossings are required as part of ongoing capital works.
- 5.2 Provide accessible community facilities for older persons.

6. Respect and Inclusion

Provide activities that promote positive images of older people of diverse cultures and increase community participation.

- 6.1 Celebrate the achievements of older people through a range of events, activities and media.
- 6.2 Maintain a range of initiatives that encourage inclusive, intergenerational and cross cultural relationships.
- 6.3 Provide educational opportunities and workshops for older people that enable access to new technologies.
- 6.4 Provide opportunities for older people to contribute to community led programs and activities.

7. Transportation

Ensure that older people are able to move around their community easily through public and active transport.

- 7.1 Advocate to the State Government authorities to improve public transport for older people.
- 7.2 Continue to contribute to the funding of the Central Area Transit (CAT) Service to allow for easy mobility around the Fremantle central business district.
- 7.3 Advocate for a light rail transport system in Fremantle.
- 7.4 Encourage mobility and social connection by promoting trails for walking, cycling or access by mobility device in the Fremantle local government area.
- 7.5 Advocate for shelters and seating to be provided at all bus stops.

8. Housing

Ensure that there is provision of housing which is diverse and affordable to meet the current and future needs of the older people.

- 8.1 Advocate for statutory changes to the planning system to promote accessible and ageing appropriate housing.
- 8.2 Establish partnerships with local community housing providers to enable the provision of affordable housing in large development projects and sites.