



# PARTICIPATE

POSITIVE AGEING PLAN  
2020-2025



**Macedon  
Ranges**  
Shire Council

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



**Macedon Ranges Shire is on the land of the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples. These Traditional Owners and Custodians have a living culture with distinct cultural and legal rights and an ongoing connection to this Country with obligations for its management and care.**

**We acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in this region.**



THE STORY OF

# PARTICIPATE





## An introduction

**PARTICIPATE is a five year plan that responds to the needs, priorities, aspirations and challenges of older people in the shire. This plan replaces the Positive Ageing Plan 2016-2020.**

The name PARTICIPATE has been chosen in response to the community engagement process, expressed the desire of older people to participate in and be recognised within, community life.

PARTICIPATE recognises that the term ‘older people’ covers a large age range. The attributes, needs and interests of older people are as diverse as with any other population group and, as we live longer and more active lives this is likely to become even more the case. Age, like gender, sexuality, race, class and other attributes, affects people in different ways at different times.

An ‘age-friendly’ Macedon Ranges needs to cater for the diverse interests, abilities and lifestyles of older people. It also values and respects their contributions and recognises the benefits they add to the community.

Macedon Ranges Shire  
Total Population

Aged 65+

20.4%



2036

19.7%



2026

16.5%



2016

# SITUATION

## Older people in the Macedon Ranges

The number of older people (aged 65+) in the Macedon Ranges totalled 7,688 in 2016

That equalled 16.5 per cent of the total population

By 2036, this number is expected to grow to 13,247 (20.4 per cent) (forecast.id Census 2016)

Over 750 people with dementia resided in the shire in 2016

This is expected to increase to 5,787 people by 2050 (Dementia Australia 2017)

There are 298 (0.6 per cent) people living in the shire who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (forecast.id Census 2016)



**We engaged a consulting firm**



**We reviewed and analysed the findings**



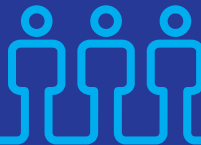
**We consulted 977 people via surveys, pop-ups, workshops and meetings**



**We drafted our Positive Ageing Plan**



**We launched *Participate***



**We engaged almost 1000 people in the development of *Participate***





**We made a Positive  
Ageing Community  
Consultation Plan**



**We showed the draft  
to the community**



**We asked Council to  
support *Participate***

**PARTICIPATE**

**THE HOW**

# From our consultation and 310 survey results we found

The main issues affecting older people are:



**Transport**



**Health and Wellbeing**

Most common ideas for an **Age-friendly Macedon Ranges**:



**Clubs, Groups, Events and Activities**



**Footpaths**

Most common ideas of what an **Age-friendly Macedon Ranges** looks like in the future:



**Socially Connected and Inclusive**



**Respected and Valued**

# WE FOUND



**Safety**



**Social Connection  
and Isolation**



**Accessible Health  
Services**



**Accessible  
Housing**



**Support Services  
and Maintaining  
Independence**



**Advocacy  
and Support**

# THE PRIORITY ACTION AREAS

We found that an age-friendly shire is one where older people can move around easily and safely and access services and activities needed to live active, healthy, valued, connected and independent lives within a supportive and strong community.

## Older people want to be:

- Able to move around safely and easily
- Connected and social
- Respected
- Healthy
- Able to access supports they need
- Safe
- Valued
- Able to contribute to community
- Able to access housing that supports independent living



# **PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMUNITY**

## **What's important to older people**

### **Staying socially connected and active**

Deliver accessible and inclusive programs, activities and events

Support the community to deliver a diverse range of activities inclusive of older people that support social connections

Support the contribution of older people, as workers and volunteers, to the Macedon Ranges' economy

### **Living well in the community**

Support people to live safely and independently in the community

Enable and empower people to make informed decisions about their needs and interests

Support and advocate for the interests of the community in a changing aged care sector



## Needs are recognised in infrastructure, housing and the built environment

Improve accessibility of Council facilities and buildings

Deliver improvements that support older people to move around safely and easily

Collaborate with community to identify and respond to transport needs

Actively seek and respond to the needs of people of all ages and abilities in planning processes

## Being respected and valued by the community

Deliver opportunities for older people to contribute to community decision-making processes

Inform older people about Council decisions that affect them

Promote older people's rights and reduce risks to their safety

Recognise and celebrate age-friendly aspects of the local community

Deliver initiatives to address ageism and promote age-friendly practices

# PARTICIPATING

**Everyone – no matter what their age – has the right to a life with dignity, purpose, meaning and opportunity.**

**When older people are able to participate fully in their community, we all benefit.**








SUPERVISOR

CROSSING  
SUPERVISOR

STOP





Read the Positive Ageing Plan 2020-2025:  
PARTICIPATE on our website  
[mrsc.vic.gov.au/PARTICIPATE](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/PARTICIPATE)



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Shire Council

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