



9.2 **ACCEPTANCE OF THE OLDER PERSONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **TONY KEENAN, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND INCLUSION**

PREPARED BY: **LAURA CATTAPAN, COORDINATOR GRANTS AND COMMUNITY BUILDING**

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present to Council the Older Persons Advisory Committee Annual Report 2021. Refer to Attachment 1 Older Persons Advisory Committee 2021 Annual Report.
- 1.2 To seek endorsement for the Older Persons Advisory Committee to co-opt a new member on to the Committee until the end of the term of the current membership.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The City of Port Phillip's Older Persons Advisory Committee (OPAC) is a formal reference committee to Council and acts as its peak advisory and advocacy body consulting on issues affecting the wellbeing of older people 55 years and over within the municipality.
- 2.2 The OPAC present to Council their Annual Report outlining the breadth of work they have completed and highlighting their key achievements in 2021 (calendar year).
- 2.3 The OPAC request to co-opt a new Committee member, as outlined in the OPAC Terms of Reference - Section 2, . Committee Structure. Refer to Attachment 2 Older Persons Advisory Committee Terms of Reference to ensure membership retains its diversity.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Receives and acknowledges the Older Persons Advisory Committee (OPAC) Annual Report 2021 and thanks the Committee for their work and achievements.
- 3.2 Endorses the OPAC to co-opt a new member on to the Committee until the end of the term of the current membership.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The OPAC, formerly known as the Older Persons Consultative Committee (OPCC), was established in 2000 as a component of Council's response to the International Year of the Older Person and is a formal advisory committee of the City of Phillip. Its community members are appointed by Council and undertake their role on a voluntary capacity. They advise and advocate to Council on wellbeing issues, policies, plans and services impacting older people.
- 4.2 OPAC members attend monthly committee meetings and volunteer additional time on subcommittees and working groups to support their advocacy work and assist Council to deliver events such as the Port Phillip Annual Seniors Festival. Members also represent older persons in relevant forums and are members of other advisory committees and networks within Council and the community.



- 4.3 In 2021 the OPAC developed an action plan in line with their Terms of Reference, the Council Plan 2017-27, and the World Health Organisation Age Friendly Cities Framework. The Action Plan was updated in September to reflect the new Council Plan 2021-31.
- 4.4 The OPAC Objectives and Plan outlines the OPAC's intent to:
- Provide advice on relevant Council policies and planning issues.
 - Undertake advocacy relating to older people.
 - Promote positive ageing in Port Phillip.
- Refer to Attachment 3. Older Persons Advisory Committee 2021 Objectives and Action Plan.
- 4.5 The OPAC Annual Report 2021 outlines the committee's outcomes and achievements, including:
- 4.5.1 Keeping Council informed of the impact of COVID-19 on older residents of Port Phillip, and the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination program.
- 4.5.2 Advising on the City of Port Phillip's Digital Literacy and Older Persons Project 2021. Funded through the Work for Victoria scheme.
- 4.5.3 Recommending Council's support and participation in the EveryAge Counts campaign leading the way to end ageism in Australia.
- 4.5.4 Providing input, advice, and feedback on a range of Council business activities and strategic documents as outlined in section 5.1.1
- 4.5.5 Raising to Council key issues affecting older people in Port Phillip as outlined in section 5.1.2.
- 4.5.6 Participating in OPAC working groups and subcommittees to further develop actions outlined in the OPAC 2021 Objectives and Action Plan, they include:
- 2021 Planning Working Group
 - Seniors Festival Subcommittee
 - 21st Anniversary Working Group
 - Governance Subcommittee – established August 2021
 - South Melbourne Market Working Group – established August 2021
- 4.6 Since the establishment of the current OPAC membership four members have resigned.
- 4.7 In March 2022 the OPAC was approached by a local resident interested in nominating to the Committee. This individual is representative of Port Phillip's diverse community.
- 4.8 At the 4 April 2022 OPAC meeting the Committee unanimously agreed to co-opt the nominee on to the Committee and seek Council's endorsement of their nomination, as outlined in OPAC Terms of Reference under section 2. Committee Structures:
- To ensure diverse representation of older persons the OPAC may co-opt members representative of diverse communities/backgrounds onto subcommittees and working groups.



- With Council endorsement the Committee may co-opt members to replenish the membership, if required.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 The OPAC Annual Report 2021 outlines the contribution, advice and consultation provided to Council by the Committee, along with informing Council on issues impacting older people in the City of Port Phillip, including:

5.1.1 Feedback and consultation on Council activities:

- Draft Council Plan and Budget submission
- Draft Library Action Plan
- Community Facilities Hire
- Establishment of an LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee
- South Melbourne Structure Plan - Phase 1
- Access and Inclusion Plan
- New Customer Portal
- Older Persons Policy
- Fitzroy Street and Homelessness
- Climate Change - current and future actions

5.1.2 Information on matters affecting older persons:

- Action on Climate Change
- Seating and homelessness in Fitzroy Street
- Public lighting in Port Phillip
- Divercity hard copy - petition
- South Melbourne Market
- Fishermans Bend Urban Renewal Area

5.1.3 Engagement with external stakeholders:

- Shrine to Sea Project, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
- Ageism and Elder Abuse Project - Elder Abuse Prevention Action Group, Southern Melbourne Primary Care Partnership
- EveryAge Counts campaign leading the way to end ageism in Australia

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no known legal or risk implications.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 The OPAC Annual Report is drafted and produced internally. There is no expense other than officer time associated with the production.

7.2 Council provided a contribution of \$4,666 for OPAC running costs including volunteer reimbursements, events and meeting refreshments during 2021.



MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 4 MAY 2022

8 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 There is an online distribution of the OPAC Annual Report as well as being accessible on the Council website. The report is available in hardcopy by request only.
- 8.2 Environmental sustainability has been a key objective in the OPAC Objectives and Plan in 2021.
- 8.3 Issues relating to climate change have been included in the OPAC monthly meeting Agendas.

9 COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 The establishment of Council Advisory Committees is integral to Council's Good Governance principles and aligns well with Local Government community engagement processes. Through these Committees, Council recognises and encourages community leadership, and seeks to maximise community feedback in its decision-making process.
- 9.2 Advisory Committees provide advice to Council as well as facilitating community networks to build on local strengths, keeping people informed and connected. They improve public confidence through demonstrating active community participation in the decision-making processes.
- 9.3 The OPAC's contribution has ensured that older persons in Port Phillip have a more culturally enriched, participatory, and inclusive lived experience.
- 9.4 The OPAC provide advice to Council on policies, strategies, projects and services.
- 9.5 Committee members are representative of a range of local groups and services including U3APP, Port Phillip Lions Club, COTA Victoria, Port Phillip Bicycle Users Group, CaSPA Care, Linking Neighbours, Elwood Croquet Club, Port Phillip Multifaith Network and Port Phillip Multicultural Advisory Committee.
- 9.6 The OPAC are an important stakeholder for Council to continue to consult in relation to COVID-19 recovery. The United Nations (UN)' Policy Brief: *The impact of COVID-19 on older persons May 2020*, outlined 'the pandemic has seen older persons at a significantly higher risk of mortality and sickness with people over 80 years old dying at five times the average rate'. The wellbeing, mental health and the impact of ageism and stigma on older persons needs to be addressed. The UN highlight the extreme importance for older persons to contribute to the crisis response and recovery. The OPAC are well placed to assist Council to deliver on this.

10 ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 The work of the OPAC aligns with the following Strategic Direction in the Council Plan 2021-31:

Inclusive Port Phillip

Our Strategic Direction –

A City that is a place for all members of our community, where people feel supported and comfortable being themselves and expressing their identities.

Initiatives

We will partner with:



- our Older Persons Advisory Committee, Youth Advisory Committee, Multicultural Advisory Committee, Multifaith Network and establish other committees, where relevant, to ensure the diversity of our community's experience is represented in decision-making

10.2 The OPCC addresses the following City of Port Phillip Health Priorities:

- Tackling climate change and its impact on health
- Preventing all forms of violence
- Increasing active living

10.3 The OPAC addresses the Port Phillip Community Safety Plan 2019-23, Priority Area 2. Build Resilience:

- Strategy 2.11 Council supports consultative processes and advisory groups to ensure our understanding of community service needs is well- informed and relevant.

10.4 The OPAC Annual Report reflects the committee being active, informed and made up of community members who are from diverse backgrounds.

10.5 The OPAC advocate for the inclusion of older persons in all aspects of community life.

10.6 Council will continue to consult with the OPAC on Council's priorities and key strategies.

10.7 2021 key priorities for the OPCC include:

- Ageism
- Aged Care Reforms/Royal Commission
- Health and Wellbeing, Social and Physical Environment
- Housing
- Environmental Sustainability
- Communication/COVID-19
- Governance

11 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

11.1.1 No implementation is required

11.2 COMMUNICATION

11.2.1 OPAC will be notified of Council's acceptance of the Annual Report and the outcome of the endorsement of the co-opted nominee at their June meeting.

12 OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any material or general interest in the matter.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Older Persons Advisory Committee 2021 Annual Report**
- 2. Older Persons Advisory Committee Terms of Reference**
- 3. Older Persons Advisory Committee 2021 Objectives and Action Plan**