



9.1 OLDER PERSONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: ALLISON KENWOOD, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND INCLUSION

PREPARED BY: CATHY HORSLEY, TEAM LEADER COMMUNITY BUILDING

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present the Older Persons Advisory Committee (OPAC) Annual Report for 2022 for endorsement (Attachment 1) which informs Council of the achievements over the period January to December 2022.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The OPAC Annual Report 2022 documents the activity of the committee in 2022, including membership representation and nominations, retired members, monthly meetings, subcommittees and working groups, significant consultation and feedback activity, engagement with external groups and events.
- 2.2 In 2022, OPAC activities focused on supporting the development of Council's Positive Ageing Policy. Members of the OPAC were key subject matter experts and stakeholders in the development of the Positive Ageing Policy and provided advice and feedback on the community survey.
- 2.3 OPAC was established in 2000 as an outcome of the International Year of the Older Person and is the peak advisory and advocacy body on issues affecting the wellbeing of older people (55 years and over) within the Port Phillip municipality and seeks to provide advice to Council and its officers on policies, plans and services that affect older people and their interests, and encourage Council to advocate to other levels of government, this includes advocating for significant events, activities and services relating to older persons.
- 2.4 OPAC aims to be representative and advocate on behalf of older persons from our diverse community including people with disabilities, people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex (LGBTI), people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island background, people experiencing financial disadvantage (including people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness) and our multicultural and multifaith communities.
- 2.5 This report seeks endorsement of the Older Persons Advisory Committee Annual Report 2022.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Endorse the Older Persons Advisory Committee Annual Report 2022 (attachment 1)
- 3.2 Recognise the value of work undertaken by the Older Persons Advisory Committee (OPAC) as the peak advisory and advocacy body on issues affecting the wellbeing of older people (55 years and over) within the City of Port Phillip.
- 3.3 Acknowledge the on-going work of the OPAC and thank the Committee for its efforts.



4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

Advice on 2022 Council Business – OPAC Consultations, Feedback, and Information

- 4.1 Over 2022, OPAC members were key subject matter experts and stakeholders in the development of the Council's Positive Ageing Policy. OPAC provided advice and feedback on the questionnaire /survey from the perspective of 'persons with lived experience'. OPAC's feedback was included in the draft policy and the final survey template.
- 4.2 OPAC continued to advocate for older people through the draft Council Plan and Budget submission input process including advocating for activities and service improvements in areas aligned to OPAC key focus areas of: positive ageing, ageism awareness, health, wellbeing and physical environment, housing (particular focus on older women) and housing insecurity, environmental sustainability, and Council communications.
- 4.3 OPAC provided feedback on a range of significant projects and plans including the South Melbourne Structure Plan, Nature Strip Guidelines, Good Design Guidelines, Port Phillip's Paid Parking Proposal, Elwood Foreshore Plan and South Melbourne Market 10-year plan.

Advice Highlighting Matters Affecting Older Residents

- 4.4 The OPAC has continued to consult on matters relevant to older people residing in the City of Port Phillip and deliberated on specific Council matters concerning older people and the broader community. Community trends relevant to Council were identified through OPAC meetings where reports were provided from OPAC representatives. Key activities are listed below.
- 4.5 OPAC were kept informed about the Aged Care Reforms and Council communications and advocated for regular and clear communication to those in receipt of aged care services.
- 4.6 Ongoing advocacy occurred in 2022 for Council to consider upgrading poor public lighting in Barkly Street Elwood/St Kilda.
- 4.7 OPAC established a Sport and Recreation Working Group. This group is passionate about creating opportunities for older people to participate in sporting clubs as active members. There is an opportunity for OPAC to help inform current service planning for sport and recreation.
- 4.8 OPAC instigated a joint special Advisory Committee representatives meeting to discuss the value of on-going collaboration across Committees, to promote intersectionality and how this could become a regular occurrence.
- 4.9 OPAC worked with the Community Building Team through the Linking Neighbours program, in partnership with Port Phillip Community Group and Libraries, to support and inform the delivery of digital literacy classes and digital skills building activities at St Kilda Library.

OPAC Activities and Engagement with External Groups and Organisations

- 4.10 OPAC participated in a tour of the Victorian Pride Centre led by CEO Justine Dalla Riva. Members were impressed with the facilities and the range of services, initiatives, and programs available at the centre.



- 4.11 The OPAC Chair and the Team Lead Community Building gave a presentation to the Association of Public Sector Superannuants Inc. Victorian Chapter, explaining the work of the OPAC and how older people in City of Port Phillip can have their opinions heard by the Council and the community at large.
- 4.12 OPAC worked to support Councils membership of and commitment to the EveryAge Counts campaign. OPAC continues to advocate and raise awareness about ageism against older people and seek ways to end ageism through the delivery of Ageism Awareness Information sessions for staff. Seven sessions were conducted in 2022, with more planned for 2023.
- 4.13 In June 2022, OPAC contributed to Councils acknowledgement of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) by conducting an Ageism Awareness Information session for twelve representatives from Port Phillip community organisations.

OPAC Events 2022

- 4.14 Seniors Festival Summer Series (February to March 2022).

Guided by the OPAC Seniors Festival Subcommittee, this program included events that could not be held during the 2021 October Seniors Festival due to COVID restrictions, and for residents who are not online. The Seniors Summer Series included come and try sporting events, garden open days, cultural events and concerts.

- 4.15 City of Port Phillip Seniors Festival 1 to 16 October - Celebrating Seniors in person!

In 2022 OPAC co-designed the City of Port Phillip Seniors Festival. The festival kicked off with a launch at the Port Melbourne Town Hall which also celebrated the Older Persons Advisory Committee's 22nd birthday. This date also coincided with International Ageism Awareness Day in 2022. The Port Phillip Writes Writing Awards ceremony, in its eighteenth year was the closing event for the 2022 festival. Other 2022 Seniors Festival highlights included the Melbourne Veterans Table Tennis Association event at MSAC, the Victorian Pride Centre Gay and Lesbian Chorus and Switchboard Victoria's free Out and About lunch program.

OPAC Governance – Development of Action Plan

- 4.16 The OPAC Objectives and Planning Working Group was established in 2020 to develop the OPAC objectives and action plan for 2022. The Objectives and Planning meeting held on 4 January 2022 was made up of the OPAC Chair, Deputy Chair and five members of the OPAC who nominated to participate. Council officers, Coordinator Grants and Community Building and Community Building Officer also attended/contributed to provide relevant information and administrative support.
- 4.17 The OPAC Governance Subcommittee was established in 2020 to support the OPAC to develop guidelines and processes to ensure OPAC meetings are running effectively and efficiently. Where appropriate it has a role in implementing decisions taken by OPAC.
- 4.18 In 2022 the Governance Subcommittee utilised the following tools to assist with its stated aim of efficient and effective operations:
- OPAC Governance Sub Committee Guidelines
 - Guidelines for the establishment of OPAC Working Group and Sub-Committees
 - Agenda setting and meeting procedures



- Consultation guidelines for Council officers
- Process for introducing New Items for action by OPAC.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 The 2022 Annual Report has been prepared by staff in consultation with the OPAC Chairperson Freda Erlich and Deputy Chairperson Coralie Ling, and with input from committee members Wendy Priddle, Ian MacDonald, Sue McGowan, Sheila Quairney, Neville Aphoy, Judith Armstrong, Betty Knight, Rosemary Rule, Liz Robson, Georgina Tsolidis, Vasileios Tsiatas.

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 written and produced by internal staff resources. There is no expense other than officer time associated with the production.

7.2 The budget allocation for the OPAC program for the 2021/22 financial year is \$3,500 and a full time position allocates approximately 0.2 FTE of the role supporting the activities of the committee.

7.3 The OPAC are Port Phillip residents who provide their time and skills on a voluntary basis.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 The OPAC are committed to sustainability ensuring all catering provisions for monthly meetings adhere to Council's sustainability guidelines.

8.2 Printing is kept to a minimum with most communication by email.

8.3 To acknowledge the impact of animal agriculture as a major contributing factor to the global climate emergency, all catering provided for 2022 Seniors Festival events (including the celebration of OPAC 22 Years) was plant based.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 The OPAC provides the opportunity for understanding good governance, community and civic participation and sharing of best practice to advocate for older people in the Port Phillip community.

9.2 The OPAC is a formal advisory group to Council and is supported and resourced by the Grants and Community Building Team. In 2022, 15 local residents/committee members regularly attend meetings and organised events in the City of Port Phillip.

9.3 In 2022 the OPAC provided input via consultation on significant projects and plans including the South Melbourne Structure Plan, Nature Strip Guidelines, Good Design Guidelines, Port Phillip's Paid Parking Proposal, Elwood Foreshore Plan and South Melbourne Market 10-year plan.

9.4 The OPAC are Port Phillip residents who participate on a voluntary basis. Participation and engagement with other Advisory Committees and external networks helps to build community connections.

9.5 OPAC members represented the following associations/networks and reported relevant activities at the OPAC monthly meetings; Bicycle Users Group, Council on the Ageing,



Elwood Croquet Club, Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation, Port Phillip Lions Club, University of the Third Age Port Phillip.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

10.1 Since 2000, the Older Persons Advisory Committee has been guided by and aligned to the strategic goals of each Council Plan.

10.2 The activities of this committee aligns with two of the Strategic Directions in the 2021-31 Council Plan:

Strategic Direction 1 – Inclusive Port Phillip, Initiatives:

We will provide: client services and programs that are inclusive and accessible for all, including people who identify as LGBTIQ+, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Indigenous backgrounds, and people experiencing homelessness.

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

Strategic Direction 5 – Well Governed Port Phillip, Initiatives:

We will provide: opportunities for our community to participate in civic life and help share Council policy, services, programs, and decisions by facilitating engagement in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

10.3 The OPAC is a formal advisory group to Council, providing community members the opportunity to participate in civic life to inform Council decision making. The OPAC work with the Council to provide good governance for the benefit and wellbeing of its community.

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

11.1.1 If endorsed, the OPAC Annual Report will be presented to members at the May 2023 OPAC Meeting.

11.2 COMMUNICATION

11.2.1 If endorsed by Council the OPAC 2022 Annual Report will be made available to the community on the Council website including in an accessible version format.

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. OPAC Annual Report 2022 [↓](#)
2. OPAC 2022 Action Plan - Final [↓](#)