



Date	Wednesday 20 th May 2026
Time	1pm - 3pm
Location	Richmond Town Hall, Councillors Room
Chair	Councillor Sharon Harrison
Minute taker	Community Development Officer – Active Ageing
Content Manager Reference	D26/213514

Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations and to their Elders past, present and future.

Attendees

Councillor/s	Deputy Mayor Councillor Sharon Harrison, Councillor Sarah McKenzie
The Chair	Deputy Mayor Councillor Sharon Harrison
Committee members	Christine Gibbs, Jono Morris, Catherine Comans, Janet Pope, Debra Chapman, Mary Natoli.
Council Officers	Lauren Krnjacki (Senior Coordinator, Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion, Access and Aging Well), Jess Barry (Lead – Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion), Sarah Mathers (Community Development Officer – Ageing Well)
Guests	Lee Dowler (Strategic Transport Planner) Philip Mallis (Strategic Transport Planner)
Apologies	Michael Glover, Sandra Heeps, Peter Hille, Nhung Do

Item number	Item title or subject	Minute notes
1.	Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country	The Chair - Deputy Mayor Cr. Sharon Harrison
2.	Declarations of conflict of interests of interest	None
3.	Ageing Well Policy	<p>The Senior Coordinator, Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion, provided an overview of the Ageing Well Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates discussed at the March 2025 meeting have been incorporated, and the policy is now available on Council's website. Actions under the policy are being progressively reviewed. • As part of the Council Action Plan, a Social Connection Guide and a Food Security Guide will be released later this year. • Council's annual budget includes seven funding agreements that support social participation for older people. • The Universal Design Policy and Disability Inclusion Policy,

		<p>which intersects with several Council policies, will be placed on public exhibition from 1 June to 5 July 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to a question from a committee member regarding exercise initiatives, the Senior Coordinator, Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion, outlined existing programs including <i>Move for Life</i> and weekly exercise classes at the Djerring Centre. • The Chair queried how the Ageing Well Policy aligns with the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and sought advice on the timing of the associated action plan. The Senior Coordinator, Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion, advised that this will be reported at the next meeting. • Lead - Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion, provided additional information on Council supports, including accessible transport options such as community buses. <p>Matters Raised by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlighted the importance of progressing from policy development to implementation and requested regular updates on delivery. • The impact of changes to the My Aged Care system, particularly for low-income residents who may not meet eligibility requirements. The committee member also requested that a visual overview of the aged care system be provided at a future meeting to support understanding of service gaps and pressure points. Concerns were also noted regarding reliance on My Aged Care funding for services such as Willowview Centre and the role of Council in supporting affected residents. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested by the Chair - Deputy Mayor Cr. Harrison that Officers to provide regular updates on the implementation of the Ageing Well Policy as a standing agenda item. • Suggested for Ageing Well Team Officers to arrange an explanation of aged care system funding as it affects community members. A Committee member with knowledge in the area offered to assist/possibly present.
4	Yarra Kerbside Management and Parking Strategy	<p>The Strategic Transport Planner provided an overview of transport and parking matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that delivering transport outcomes within Yarra is complex due to limited space and increasing demand on kerbside areas. Officers highlighted ongoing work in collaboration with Councillors and the Committee. • Officers advised that Council currently manages approximately 450 accessible parking spaces and that parking

revenue is approximately \$165,000 per annum.

- Emerging priorities were outlined, including increasing tree canopy coverage from 17 per cent to 22 per cent over the next five years, as well as electric vehicle charging infrastructure. It was also noted that recent State Government changes are impacting Council's approach to parking provision.
- The Chair advised that a potential extension of a bus route from Burnley Station to Victoria Gardens is under consideration, subject to State Government approval.
- Officers noted that kerbside space has remained largely unchanged over time, while demand and competing uses have increased significantly.
- Cr. McKenzie raised concerns about the increase in rideshare usage and associated impacts on road safety, particularly for cyclists, noting the importance of safe infrastructure.
- The Strategic Transport Planner provided an overview of demand-based parking models. The Committee was invited to provide input on priorities.
- The Chair acknowledged the need for a multi-faceted approach to transport challenges and advised that further investigation into parking configurations is underway.
- Officers noted the importance of assessing current approaches, including identifying what is working well and where improvements can be made.
- The Strategic Transport Planner highlighted that Australian standards for parking can result in larger space allocations, which may reduce overall parking capacity, and that this is considered in Council's approach.
- Cr. McKenzie emphasised that creating supportive environments is key to enabling behavioural change.
- The Chair raised that equity barriers intersect with parking access, so an intersectional approach is needed.
- The Strategic Transport Planner advised that Committee members and the broader community will be invited to participate in upcoming engagement sessions on transport and parking.

Matters Raised by the Committee:

- Concerns regarding short-term business parking permits.
- A committee member reiterated a request for the introduction of a community transport bus service in Yarra, noting the success of a similar model in the City of Port Phillip.
- Discussed car-share models and services like 'Go-Get'

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problems with people sharing parking permits. • The importance of transparency and highlighted the need for community education regarding parking options • Suggested parking studies should be undertaken alongside broader work to improve transport options and reduce reliance on private vehicles. • Queried whether permit pricing could vary based on vehicle size (small or large) or type (EV vs combustion engine). • Acknowledged the need to reduce reliance on cars while ensuring that older residents are supported to remain mobile and connected. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Transport Planner to take on notice matters raised regarding parking permits and community transport options. • Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion Team Officers to invite Committee members to upcoming engagement sessions on transport and parking as advised by Strategic Transport who are organising these.
5	Care Finder Update	<p>The Lead – Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion provided an overview of the Care Finder (CF) program, as outlined in the agenda and supported by presentation slides as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program commenced in 2023 in response to the Aged Care Royal Commission. It’s designed to support vulnerable community members to navigate aged care and related services, rather than directly provide services. • Eligibility for Care Finder is targeted, with individuals required to meet specific vulnerability criteria, including experiencing one or more barriers to accessing support. • The strengths of the program were noted, including the provision of ongoing check-ins and intensive navigation support. • It was noted that unmet need in Yarra is significant, with CF cases presenting to the Wintringham CF service as complex compared to other LGAs. Contributing factors in Yarra include: homelessness, risk of eviction, social isolation, mental health, AOD, and fear of engaging with the aged care system. • It was further noted that waitlists for aged care packages are extensive across LGAs and CF helps people waiting to access funds. • Sought feedback from Committee regarding Wintringham Care Finder service’s offer to provide outreach in Yarra through libraries, a setting that they’ve identified is a low barrier, non-threatening environment and increasingly used as a community hub by people experiencing hardship. In

addition, Yarra's home library service has indicated they would like information on aged care services for customers.

Matters Raised by the Committee:

- Noted that libraries may not effectively reach the most vulnerable residents.
- Suggested that strengthening referral pathways through trusted services may be more effective than establishing a contact point for Wintringham CF in libraries.
- Raised concerns regarding the restrictive eligibility criteria for CF and the challenges this creates for supporting people who fall outside the program.
- Noted that many vulnerable individuals are under 65 years of age and therefore ineligible for CF.
- Highlighted broader system challenges, including barriers to accessing My Aged Care services.
- Suggested that community connector roles may be better situated within trusted service providers, such as health or homelessness services.
- Supported trialling outreach approaches, including libraries, while also noting the potential value of partnerships with organisations such as Cohealth (who already have a CF service but maybe could offer broader help to those who aren't eligible)
- Change to local service provision, including the relocation of Launch Housing services in Richmond, will influence service access for vulnerable community members.
- Discussion included consideration of alternative approaches, such as co-location of CF workers within existing services and opportunities for Wintringham to train and build capability among Council staff, including library staff and Officers working in the homelessness area.

Actions:

- Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion Team Officers to review feedback regarding outreach approaches, including Wintringham CF in libraries and capacity building via Council Staff training.
- Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion Team Officers to investigate how referral pathways to Care Finder and related supports currently operate via Council's Aged Care Support Unit.
- Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion Team Officers to clarify information on community connector models previously considered by Council and AAAC.

6	Ageing Well Update	<p>The Community Development Officer – Ageing Well, provided an update on upcoming Ageing Well activities and initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair acknowledged the success of recent events, including the <i>Dancing from the Heart</i> dance series. <p>Matters Raised by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised concerns regarding risks associated with the use of mobility devices and highlighted the need for increased access to occupational therapy (OT) support.
	Any Other Business	<p>The following matters of General Business were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing Well Team Officers noted that a funding agreement with U3A is currently under consideration and highlighted the value of the partnership, acknowledging that implementation requires time. • The Chair acknowledged that accessibility remains a priority and invited further feedback from committee members. • Councillor McKenzie provided an update on cohealth, noting recent developments and ongoing community concern regarding transparency and service continuity. It was advised that both State and Federal Governments are engaged, and that Council will continue advocacy efforts. Broader challenges across the community health sector were also noted. • The Chair encouraged advocacy to Council regarding priority areas for seating improvements. <p>Matters Raised by the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection on a recent meeting between U3A and Council, noting the importance of the engagement and expressing appreciation for improved collaboration. Acknowledged Council’s ongoing support for U3A, while noting that recognition of the organisation’s value had improved over time. • Suggestion that community connector roles could include referrals to organisations such as U3A. • Highlighted the importance of supporting individuals across the life course, noting experiences of women returning home from hospital and the need for connection to appropriate services and supports. • Raised concerns regarding the availability of seating in parks and streets, noting that public spaces are not always designed with older residents in mind. The importance of accessible seating to support rest, social connection and time spent outdoors was emphasised. It was noted that the provision of additional seating, including through memorial seating programs, could support more age-friendly environments.

		<p>Reference was made to best practice guidance, including spacing of seating in line with World Health Organization age-friendly principles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted that seating design should consider social interaction, including placement of benches to encourage connection. • Raised concerns regarding accessibility of Council services and the website, noting difficulties in locating information and contacting Council, particularly in relation to disability parking. The current system was described as complex and challenging to navigate, particularly for older residents. The importance of improving digital accessibility was emphasised. • Suggested opportunities for Council to learn from other municipalities in supporting older residents, including the development of an Ageing Well e-newsletter to promote programs and services. • Suggested initiatives such as digital mentoring programs to support older residents with technology use, including online safety and communication tools. • Highlighted the need to support older residents to build confidence and capability in using digital devices, noting the social benefits of increased digital inclusion. • Noted work being undertaken through the Falls Prevention Alliance and encouraged continued advocacy for community health services. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion Team to note feedback regarding accessibility of Council services and website navigation and consider opportunities for improvement. • Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion Team to explore options for an Ageing Well e-newsletter and digital inclusion initiatives. • Councillors to continue advocacy regarding community health services, including Cohealth.
Meeting closed		The meeting closed at 3pm.
Next scheduled meeting		Wednesday 12 August 2026