

Age Friendly Strategy – Bridging Plan 2025

Surf Coast Shire Council's Age Friendly Strategy 2020-2024 concluded in December 2024. To guide the transition to the next plan, Council has developed a Bridging Plan for the Age Friendly Strategy 2025.

In 2025, Council is defining the outcome and priorities of the new Council Plan and Health & Wellbeing Plan. Then we will draft the new Age Friendly Action Plan 2026-2030 to align with the Council Plan's dates and priorities.

We have also reviewed the Age Friendly Strategy 2020-2024 and a progress report is available on our website. Council has addressed the strategic actions and will continue to focus on the eight key outcome areas in 2025.

1. Transportation
2. Housing
3. Social Participation
4. Respect and Social Inclusion
5. Civic and Economic Participation
6. Communication and Information
7. Community Support and Health Services
8. Public Open Space and Building



Council remains an active member of the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Age-friendly practices help build older people's abilities to:

- meet their basic needs
- learn, grow and make decisions
- be mobile
- build and maintain relationships
- contribute.

The Positive Ageing Advisory Committee (PAAC) continues to contribute to Council while supporting and advocating for the ageing community.

- The PAAC is an outcome of Council's Positive Ageing Review Process and was formed in 2018.
- It is comprised of up to 11 place-based community representatives (reflecting the diversity of the shire), one councillor and three Council officers.
- The PAAC meets every two months to consider Council's role in providing services, programs and facilities to older people, within the context of changing needs and government regulations.
- It provides advice and leadership on the implementation of Council's Age Friendly Strategy.
- In 2023, the PAAC was accepted as an Age Friendly Practice by the WHO Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities .

2025 Actions aligning with the key areas:



Capacity Building courses: including SCAM awareness and Digital Literacy



Capacity building courses: Health speakers, safety in the home, how to self-manage a fall



Continue to work on Community Transport Initiatives



Continue to build and develop collaborative partnerships with relevant organisations and groups across the Shire



Continue to recruit to and maintain an active and contributing Positive Ageing Advisory Committee



Facilitate and partner in providing multi-generational activities and events



Update the “Get Involved” over 55s community resource booklet (hard copy and online version)



Probus Café Conversations Feedback Session, assist with funding the Probus Portal idea



Offer Wiser Driver and Wiser Walker Courses



Plan and deliver a suite of events for Positive Ageing Month within the nominated 2025 theme



Support community and update council resources to navigate the changes in the Aged Care industry



Build internal interdepartmental relationships and partnerships

Progress on the above actions will be reviewed and shared in late 2025, as we move into the development stage of the Surf Coast Shire Age Friendly Action Plan 2026-2030.

Find out more at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/PositiveAgeing.