Ageing Well in Moonee Valley



City of Moonee Valley



Moonee Valley City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which Moonee Valley is located—the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation; we pay respects to their Spirits, Ancestors, Elders and their community members past and present. Council also extends this respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples who call Moonee Valley home.

Artwork by Wurundjeri artist, the late Judy Nicholson.

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“

What would help me to age well is...

Ageing well in Moonee Valley depends on genuine accessibility to health care, social interaction, transport and housing. This will allow people to remain independent but still be connected with the community.”

Sameer, Community Advisory Panel member

Foreword

Moonee Valley City Council is committed to making Moonee Valley a place where people feel valued, connected and supported as they age.

We recognise that older people want to participate and be included in their communities, have purpose and stay active and healthy as they age.

Older people are a vital and important part of our community. We celebrate the diversity of older people who live, work in and visit Moonee Valley and we respect and respond to their individual differences, preferences and backgrounds.

Why we developed the framework

It is important that we plan for, and respond to, the changing needs of older people and the individuals, communities and organisations that support them. Local government has an important role to play in creating age-friendly cities and communities and addressing barriers to healthy and active ageing.

MV2040 is a long-term community vision that guides how we will make Moonee Valley a 'healthy, vibrant and welcoming community'.

The Council Plan 2025-2029 (incorporating the Health Plan and Disability Action Plan) outlines our strategic directions for the four-year Council term. Under the theme 'Fair' (Queente Boordup), Council has committed to:

'3.1 Prepare and implement a framework to support our community to age well in Moonee Valley'

Ageing Well in Moonee Valley is a strategic planning framework which will guide Council when prioritising activities to support people as they age.

Following finalisation of the framework, an implementation plan will outline the specific programs and projects to be delivered by Council, along with our communities and partners to address identified priorities.

Next steps

We are committed to ensuring that this framework, and the forthcoming implementation plan, is informed by older people and the communities and organisations that support them.

We will be having conversations with older people in our community, as well as local organisations and our employees, to further understand the aspirations of older people, barriers to ageing well in Moonee Valley and priority areas for action by Council.

Ageing in Moonee Valley

Ageing well

'Ageing well' emphasises the importance of healthy, active and positive ageing across the life-course and does not refer to a definitive age cohort of older adults.

The framework refers to people aged 50 and over, recognising the benefits of preventative approaches to health and wellbeing and the importance of active preparation and planning for ageing. This wider age range also recognises that people may be ageing prematurely due to their physical and social environments.

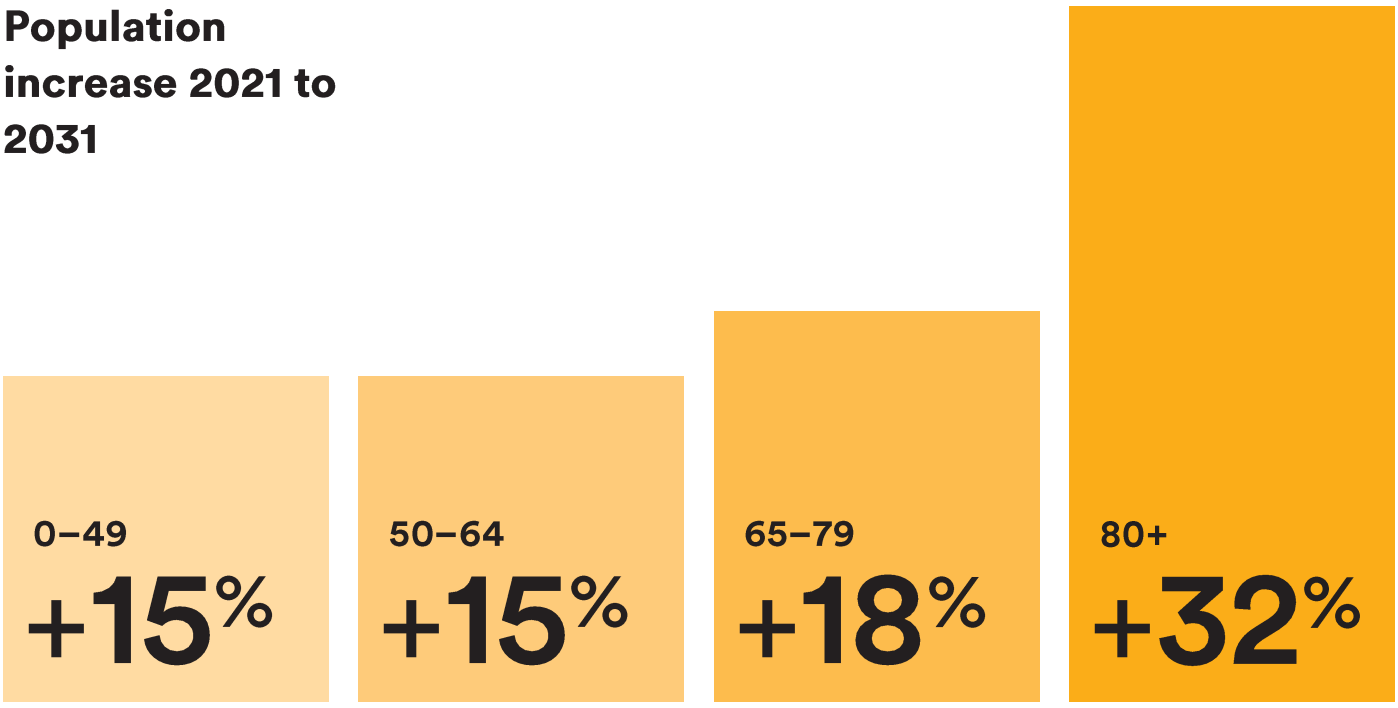
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To 'age well' is to live a life of health, meaning, autonomy and connection – supported by environments and systems that honour each person's dignity and preferences.

Ageing population

People aged 50 years and over make up approximately 35 per cent of the population of Moonee Valley. Over the next ten years, the number of people in this age group is projected to increase from approximately 43,000 to 51,000.

Population increase 2021 to 2031





“

What would help us to age well is...

Access to services to allow us to age well in our own home.”

Susan (left)

Access to accessible transport and social activities.”

Mary (right)

Community Advisory Panel members

Community contribution

Older people make a significant contribution to Moonee Valley in many ways including workforce participation; providing assistance and care for family, friends and neighbours; volunteering and participation in civic life.

Workforce participation

47%

residents aged 50+
are engaged in the labour force.
1 in 5 residents aged between 65 and 79 years are employed.

Volunteering

12%

residents aged 50+

Caring responsibilities

21%

people aged 50+
were providing unpaid assistance to others.

Diversity of older adults

People aged over 50 are not a single, uniform group: they have diverse backgrounds in terms of cultural background, gender and sexuality. The diversity of older people in Moonee Valley adds to the vibrancy of the community and is one of our greatest strengths.

We will continue to recognise and celebrate the diversity in individual and community experiences, identities and aspirations.

Gender

53%

residents aged 50+ are women On average, women live longer than men and account for 82 per cent of local centenarians (people aged 100 and over).

Newly arrived

27%

overseas born residents had arrived in Australia in the previous 10 years, in comparison only 4% of overseas born residents aged 50 and over are newly arrived.

First Nations

0.3%

population aged 50+ identify as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung of the Kulin Nation are the Traditional Owners of the land on which Moonee Valley is located.

Cultural and linguistic diversity

41%

residents aged 50+ born overseas are engaged in the labour force. The top countries of birth for residents aged 50 and over include Italy, Greece, Malta, Vietnam, China, England and New Zealand.

34%

residents aged 50+ speak another language other than English at home, with the most commonly spoken non-English languages including Italian, Greek, Maltese, Croatian, Vietnamese, Cantonese and Arabic.

9%

residents aged 50+ have limited or no proficiency in English and this increases to 24 per cent for people aged 80 and over. It is particularly important to note the main languages of older people with limited English fluency which are: Italian, Vietnamese, Greek,



“

What would help me to age well is...

Meet with people! Feel connected.”

Renato, Community Advisory Panel member

Impacts of ageing

Ageing impacts people in different ways. More services and support may be needed at key transitional events that may occur later in life such as retirement, loss of spouse, change in ability or becoming a carer.

Many older people face disadvantage and other barriers that may affect their health and wellbeing and opportunities for social and economic engagement.

14%

people aged 50+
require assistance with core activities. The need for assistance increases to 53 per cent for people aged 80 and over.

>1,000

residents aged 50+
are living with dementia (including Alzheimer's). Approximately 13 per cent of residents aged 80 and over have dementia.

Poverty

39%

residents aged 50+
are living in poverty. The proportion of people living in poverty increases to 71 per cent amongst those aged 80 and over.

Mental health

9%

residents aged 50+
have a mental health condition (including depression or anxiety).

Living alone

19%

residents aged 50+
live in a lone person household.



Draft

“

What would help me to age well is...

Ageing well means being supported, as my needs change, to stay as healthy and connected as possible. It means the services I need are easy to find and access, and there are appropriate opportunities to continue to contribute to the community.”

Silvio, Community Advisory Panel member

How we developed the framework

Age-friendly cities

Ageing Well in Moonee Valley identifies priority areas under three themes that align with the eight domains of the internationally recognised World Health Organisation (WHO) Age Friendly Cities framework.

The WHO Age Friendly Cities Framework describe the features of a community where older people can live healthy, active, connected and meaningful lives.

The framework recognises that ageing well is not just about an individual's circumstances and choices — it's about the environments and social structures around us.

The WHO Age Friendly Cities Framework provides a clear, credible and well tested structure for consultation and planning how we support our ageing community. It helps us to consider a wide range of opportunities to support older people to age well, including accessible public buildings and open spaces, transport, housing, social connection, information and access to services.

WHO Age Friendly Cities Domains	Ageing Well in Moonee Valley Themes
Respect and social inclusion Civic participation and employment	**Respect** Older people are celebrated and valued and encouraged to actively participate in their communities
Social participation Transportation Outdoor spaces and buildings Housing	**Belonging** Older people are socially connected and can easily access places and spaces in their neighbourhood
Community and health services Communication and information	**Support** Older people have equitable access to information and services

Community advisory panel

In February 2026, the Council's Community Advisory Panel came together to consider the following remit:

> *Council is preparing an Ageing Well in Moonee Valley Framework that aligns to the WHO Age Friendly Cities domains.*

> *To inform this work, we are asking the panel to identify a maximum of 10 local priorities to support ageing well in our community.*

The panel included 43 residents, selected from households across Moonee Valley to reflect our diverse demographics, life experiences and locations.

"

What would help me to age well is...

The ability to continue to access and engage with the physical and social environment in my neighbourhood and across Moonee Valley in all its diversity."

Debra, Community Advisory Panel member



At the end of three panel sessions, the Community Advisory Panel proposed 13 priorities that informed the development of this framework:

- Preventative approach to dealing with isolation and loneliness
- Provide accessible, reliable and timely information
- Facilitate access and connection to trusted service providers and tradespeople
- Provide and maintain safe, well-lit, connected footpaths that support older people's mobility
- Ensure parks, sports grounds and leisure centres are welcoming and age-friendly
- Support alternative transport such as community transport
- Advocate for age-friendly and accessible transport initiatives
- Provide support and services for people with, or moving to, insecure housing
- Strengthen access to home and community care through information and navigation services
- Support safe pedestrian crossing environments
- Facilitate support for people who are nearing retirement
- Provide subsidised gardening services for older residents and people with disability
- Improve access to health services

The framework was also informed by conversations with Council staff, local service providers, community organisations, funding agencies and other key stakeholders.

Theme 1: Respect

Older people are celebrated, valued and encouraged to actively participate in their communities.



Our Commitment

Older people feel safe and respected and do not experience discrimination based on their age.

The diverse views of older people are actively sought and considered to inform the development, implementation and monitoring of Council activities.

A range of flexible opportunities are available for older people to continue to develop, use and share their skills and expertise.

Older people participate in fulfilling arts and cultural activities.

Priorities

1.1 Facilitate community activities and events that highlight and celebrate the value, diversity and wisdom of older people

1.2 Partner with specialist organisations on initiatives for the prevention of, and response to, family violence and elder abuse

1.3 Promote and support consultation opportunities for older people that inform Council decision-making

1.4 Support older people to connect with local volunteering, mentoring and employment opportunities



“

What would help me to age well is...

Make Moonee Valley a safe and inclusive place for older people.”

Kathleen, Community Advisory Panel member



“

What would help me to age well is...

Staying active in the community and enjoying facilities and meeting people and making new connections in our city.”

Craig, Community Advisory Panel member

Theme 2: Belonging

Older people are socially connected and can easily access places and spaces in their neighbourhood.



Our Commitment

Older people have secure housing and transport options that are affordable, accessible, and available when needed.

Older people have access to local and affordable opportunities for social connection and physical activity.

Buildings, parks and open spaces are designed and maintained with the needs of older people in mind.

The amenity and safety of local neighbourhoods is enhanced with the age-friendly features such as footpaths, pedestrian crossings, lighting and toilets.

Priorities

2.1 Support older people and their carers to access a diverse range of programs that support social connection and physical wellbeing

2.2 Provide and maintain safe, well-lit, connected footpaths and pedestrian crossings

2.3 Advocate for age-friendly and accessible transport initiatives

2.4 Provide accessible parking near key services and community facilities

2.5 Support access to alternative transport options such as community transport

2.6 Provide support and services for older people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness

Theme 3: Support

Older people have equitable access to information and services.



Our Commitment

Information about local services, activities and events is timely, accessible and available in a range of formats.

Older people and their carers receive timely access to services and supports to promote, maintain and restore health, and support independent living.

Priorities

3.1 Provide community education and information for individuals at key life transitions (including approaching retirement, onset of chronic health conditions, becoming a carer and/or entry into aged care services)

3.2 Provide individual navigation support to connect older people and their carers to the services and supports they need, particularly vulnerable groups facing barriers to access

3.3 Partner with sector stakeholders to ensure health and community support services are available and meet the diversity of individual needs

3.4 Provide older people with support to strengthen their resilience and preparedness for extreme weather and service disruptions

3.5 Ensure access to services and programs that support people remaining safe, independent, and living at home.

“

What would help me to age well is...

Being able to access subsidised home help (gardening, cleaning, personal care, etc) as well as accessible parking and social supports, which will assist me to remain living independently and stay involved as a community volunteer.”

Anita, Community Advisory Panel member



Legislative and Policy Context

In the development of the draft Ageing Well in Moonee Valley framework, we were informed by current federal and state legislation and policy and Council's other strategic plans and policies.

Australian

Aged Care Act (2024) and Aged Care Rules (2025)

Age Discrimination Act (2004)

Disability Discrimination Act (1992)

National Carer Strategy 2024-2034

Victorian

Local Government Act (2020)

Public Health and Wellbeing Act (2008)

Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006)

Family Violence Protection Act (2008)

Disability Act (2006)

Powers of Attorney Act (2014)

Guardianship and Administration Act (2019)

Carers Recognition Act (2012)

Health Records Act (2001)

Equal Opportunity Act (2010)

Gender Equality Act (2020)

Ageing Well in Victoria: An action plan for strengthening wellbeing for senior Victorians 2022-2025

Inclusive Victoria: State Disability Plan 2022-26

Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023-27

Moonee Valley City Council

Moonee Valley 2040 (MV2040)

Council Plan 2025 – 2029 incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and the Disability Action Plan

Bagarru Bagarru Djerring Reconciliation Plan 2022-25

Gender Equality Action Plan

Prevention of Family Violence Policy and Statement of Commitment

Igniting Creativity in Moonee Valley 2023-27

Capital Works Plan

Asset Plan 2021-31

Moonee Valley Planning Scheme

Road Management Plan

Local Area Traffic Management Plans

Open Space Strategy

Public Toilet Strategy

Advocacy Strategy 2021-25

Interpreters – Language Line

عربي	03 9932 1471	Somali	03 9932 1476
廣東話	03 9932 1472	Español	03 9932 1477
Hrvatski	03 9932 1473	Türkçe	03 9932 1478
Ελληνικά	03 9932 1474	Việt ngữ	03 9932 1479
Italiano	03 9932 1475	All other	03 9932 1480

National Relay Service

This free, 24-hour phone service helps people who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech impairment. It also supports anyone calling a person with a hearing or speech impairment.

Your call is private and your information will not be shared.

TTY/voice calls: 133 677
Speak & Listen: 1300 555 727
SMS relay: 0423 677 767
Website: relayservice.gov.au

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