

Age-Friendly Communities in Western Australia – a collaborative approach

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Get Ready, Get Set, Go! We are off and ageing with the rate this century far greater than any other. First over the line will be older people ahead of children - the first time in the history of humankind. What does this mean for local communities, cities, and towns?

The World Health Organisation's Age-Friendly Communities framework is gathering momentum across the world. In Australia it's a growing movement with several cities members of the WHO's Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities and many more communities using the approach.

A partnership in Western Australia between State, Local and the Council on the Ageing Western Australia is steering the way for communities to be listening to their older people, and responding through strategic planning and actions on the ground that make a difference to local environments. Across Australia, the Council of the Ageing and State and Local governments are joining together to ensure a collaborative response to our ageing communities. In Western Australia the State Department for Local Government and Communities, local government including urban and rural communities, and the Council on the Ageing Western Australia are working together to promote age-friendly communities and to implement and support initiatives that will make a real difference.

This presentation will share information on our State Age-Friendly network initiatives and how this collaborative partnership has developed. It will also highlight how municipalities have imbedded the work into "business as usual" to ensure sustainability of the work. Examples of innovative age-friendly projects from Western Australia will also be showcased that respond directly to the needs of older people.