

RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL POLICY REGISTER

Policy No: 2.12.1

Reference: Community Services - Service Provision, Policy

POLICY:	POSITIVE AGEING
FUNCTION:	Aged Services
OBJECTIVE:	To establish an initial framework for the progression of ageing issues by Council
DIRECTORATE:	ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

PREAMBLE

The Richmond Valley Community Plan's vision for the future for older residents is for a community:

- where they feel safe and are well cared for;
- where diversity is reflected through age and culture;
- where older residents feel respected by younger people, thus strengthening community bonds; and
- where people of all ages and backgrounds are supported and provided for through quality education, health services and entertainment.

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

- To clarify Council's role and responsibilities in relation to older residents of Richmond Valley Council area.
- To assist Council to prioritise when addressing issues relevant to older residents.
- To facilitate the achievement of a positive, safe and supportive environment for the older residents of Richmond Valley Council area.
- To promote positive ageing.

POLICY

The Richmond Valley Council values and recognises the significant contribution that its older residents make to the community and is committed to planning, providing and advocating for a range of services and facilities that will support the aged population in leading healthy and fulfilling lives. This policy sets out Council's roles and functions in support of this commitment.

Council roles and functions

Leadership

- Develop, implement and monitor the Richmond Valley Council Positive Ageing Strategy.
- Advocate to the Federal and State Governments for increased funding for relevant programs and services that will improve outcomes for older residents.
- Provide Council resources for identified programs.

Planning

- Establish a collaborative and proactive planning approach with local providers, Federal and State Governments and other organisations to identify and address the current and emerging needs of older residents.
- Ensure the needs of older residents are considered in infrastructure design and service planning.

Service delivery

- Deliver positive ageing programs/initiatives.
- Plan, develop and maintain accessible community facilities and open spaces.
- Support and maintain facilities that cater for meeting/activities of Senior Citizens.

For the purpose of all Council documents that relate to older residents, the term “older residents” refers to those residents aged 60 and over.

ACCOUNTABILITY PROCESS

Council's Environmental Development Services Directorate will be responsible for the annual review of the policy.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

- The Council Management Plan

REFERENCE TO OTHER DOCUMENTS

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001), *National Strategy for an Ageing Population, An Older Australia, Challenges and Opportunities for All*.
- Office of Senior Victorians (2003), *Making this The Age To Be in Victoria: A Forward Agenda for Senior Victorians*, State of Victoria, Victorian Government, Department of Human Services, Melbourne.
- Department of Human Services, *Funding and Service Agreement, 2003-2006*.

VARIATION

Council reserves the right to review, vary and/or revoke this Policy from time to time.