



Shire of Corrigin Age Friendly Community Report and Plan

Part of project covering Corrigin, Narembeen, Kulin & Kondinin



August 2016

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1 Message from the President

I am delighted to present the Shire of Corrigin's *Age Friendly Community Plan*. This plan lays out the Shire's goals and intentions for providing future improvements in the lives of our ageing residents and the rest of the community.

The Shire of Corrigin's Age Friendly Community Plan has been developed to define the Shire's commitments to older Shire of Corrigin residents over the coming years. The Shire has undertaken this project to identify how age-friendly the Corrigin Community is, what barriers to ageing exists and how these can be addressed.

The Shire has partnered with residents and the broader community to ensure the Plan is created for, with and by the Shire of Corrigin community.

This project was conducted using an internationally tested model developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which used focus group workshops to look at the following domains of an age-friendly community:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transport
- Housing
- Social participation
- Respect and social inclusion
- Civic participation and employment
- Communication and information, and
- Community support and health services.

Participants were asked to identify issues and features in the Corrigin Community which were currently meeting aged friendly readiness and which required attention.

The workshops indicated that as a community it has a great deal of features that assist with it being an age-friendly community. It also identified a number of key issues that require attention to progress the community to be an age-friendly community. These key issues have been incorporated in the development of the Age Friendly Community Plan and is presented in table 8 of this document.

The plan aims to consider issues arising from an ageing population, identify community Strategies to progress Corrigin's ability to be an age-friendly Community, identify the responsible stakeholders for the delivery of the strategies and the priority of the task / outcomes.

The plan has identified that for the delivery of an age-friendly Community for Corrigin requires the direct involvement, leadership and contributions from a number of stakeholders including but not limited to, State Government, Local Government, Local Providers and local service groups and organisations.

I would like to thank and acknowledge all the community members, stake holders, Verso Consulting and staff for their input in the development of the plan. Based on your vital feedback through consultation, we will continually strive to enhance the opportunities to promote active ageing in our Shire, ensuring older people can contribute and participate in community life. We will also continue to address barriers to services, structures and policies that seniors may encounter in our communities.

The Shire of Corrigin is looking forward to working with all key stakeholders to progress the plan and prepare the Corrigin Community as an age-friendly community.

Cr Lyn Baker
Shire President

2 Message from the Chief Executive Officer

The Shire of Corrigin's *Age Friendly Community Plan* recognises the vital and invaluable contributions that aged persons make to our community. It also provides a forward-thinking approach to enhancing the opportunities and addressing the changing needs of the Shire of Corrigin's older population.

This plan promotes the health and wellbeing of residents and provides opportunities for older residents to maintain social connectedness and remain active in their local community. It has also been developed in conjunction with local community members. The Plan will provide direction for the Shire to identify opportunities to enhance and promote the wellbeing of an ageing population and to guide effective planning, partnership development and community participation.

Planning for the increase in the Shire's elderly population is vital to maintaining the viability of services offered and quality of life for older residents. The growth of our ageing population will bring a number of impacts to our community and the responsibility for addressing these impacts needs to be shared amongst all key stakeholders within the Shire. The Shire is already working collaboratively with its partners to address the needs of our current and future older residents, and will continue to identify new opportunities for partnerships over the life the Plan.

This Plan has been developed following an extensive community engagement and participation process with community members and various stakeholders. Its implementation will involve a number of departments within the Shire, as well as collaboration amongst key Government and community partners.

Seniors play a vital role in our community through their involvement in paid work, as volunteers, as supportive family members and as community leaders. This Plan is an important step in the Shire of Corrigin continuing to be the home to a diverse and harmonious community.

Rob Paul
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Corrigin

3 About The Project

The Wheatbelt Development Commission's Wheatbelt Integrated Aged Care Plan has identified that one of the most effective ways to create a strong community is to adopt an age-friendly approach to planning on a local level. As the ageing population increases, there is a greater priority for local communities to accommodate the lifestyles of seniors in the community. To support the needs of every WA senior, whether they are 60 or 90, a community must be age-friendly.

Older people generally wish to remain in their own home and continue to be part of their community. They wish to feel safe, valued and respected in their own community and local governments have a key role in ensuring this can occur through its own actions but also through stimulation or facilitation of activity by others.

The Shire has developed this plan with support from the State Government. However for an Age Friendly Plan to have full effect it should aim to stimulate partnerships and shared responsibilities. Thus the role of the Corrigin Shire arising from the plan is to act directly on some of the identified tasks but to act in a promotional or fostering role to prompt actions by other stakeholders and community members.

The purpose of an Age Friendly Plan and the research and consultations which underpin it is to inform decisions about activities, initiatives and investments which will make it easier for older people to remain independent and active and remain in their communities. This can be achieved by informing priorities for normal Shire budgeting processes and community development activities, creating clear focus priorities for local community groups and providing direction for government bodies and other stakeholders. It can also identify potential for joint initiatives between stakeholders.

In addition the report be utilised as supporting documentation for funding applications by providing an evidence base and an identified action regime.

An Age Friendly Community Plan is an Informing Strategy under the WA Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework and needs to be resourced and prioritised as necessary in the Shire's ongoing corporate planning process.

3.1 Developing Benefits

Age Friendly Communities are those that encourage "active ageing by optimising opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance the quality of life as people age" (World Health Organisation).

An Age Friendly Community is one which:

- recognises the great diversity among older people
- promotes their inclusion and contribution in all areas of community life
- respects their decisions and lifestyle choices and
- anticipates and responds to ageing - related needs and preferences

A community that exhibits these qualities is not only an Age - Friendly Community it tends to better cater for the whole population, where a wider range of abilities and needs are met. The community, especially seniors, will greatly benefit from Council developing an Age Friendly Community Plan. The plan will identify key areas required to ensure each local government is an age-friendly community.

Short term benefits include, giving seniors a voice about the community that they live in, identify existing and required infrastructure and service levels. The development of an Aged Age Friendly Community Plan, identify outcomes and priorities.

Medium term benefits will include the plan becoming an integral part of Council's Integrated Planning Strategies. Having the plan incorporated into Council IPR will provide a range of actions and responsibilities to effectively implement the plan as well as identifying the required resources and funding.

Long Term benefits will ensure that residents, especially seniors, are provided with the support and infrastructure required to ensure that they are able to continue to live and participate within the community they wish to live in.

3.2 Project Scope

The scope of the project focused on establishing background information for the four participating RoeROC Shires and engaging with communities directly through community and stakeholder consultations in each one. This Plan contains the data and learnings from this activity as it relates to Corrigin Shire which will then be supplemented by outcomes from a local audit of the age friendly Domains.

The approach to the project is largely in line with the Department for Communities' "Age Friendly Communities - A Western Australian Approach". Due to constraints of scale some of the steps and forms contained in that "toolkit" were adapted to reflect such matters as small populations of older people, stakeholder availability for consultations and impracticalities/sensitivities around structuring forums by socio economic status.

The data collected provides evidence to form an Age-Friendly Community Plan for each local government. This plan will identify issues and challenges and a path to become an Age-Friendly Community. This plan can be used to inform strategies for Strategic Community Plans and should be integrated with activities arising out of Disability Access and inclusion Plans (DAIP).

3.3 Objectives of the Project

The following objectives informed this project:

- Obtain and understand the aging community profile of each community within RoeRoc,
- Engage with the senior members of the each community within RoeROC
- Identify service providers, service levels and facilities for each of the community within RoeROC
- Engage with service providers of each of the community within RoeROC
- Establish the perceived needs of seniors within each community within RoeROC
- Prioritise the needs of seniors within each community within RoeROC
- Development of an Age-Friendly Community Plan for each Shire within RoeROC

3.4 Steps taken to develop the Plan

In accordance with an agreed range of activities the following steps have been taken to inform this plan:

- accessing demographic research from earlier Verso Shire level Needs Studies;
- service provider research;
- relevant Shire document review;
- community consultations; and
- recording and assessment of consultation feedback

Each of these activities is reported on below preliminary to the proposed Plan which follows. The material available below can inform a future 'Corrigin Age Friendly Audit'.

4 Research and Document Review

4.1 Targeted demographic profile

Corrigin town is located 229 kilometres from Perth. The population as reported in the 2011 Census was 1,063. The Shire of Corrigin spans an area of 3,095 square kilometres, which translates to a population density of 0.3 people per km², as compared to WA's population density (June 2011) of 0.9 people per km².

The Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) rates Corrigin as Moderately Accessible, with all other areas of the RoeROC sub-region rated as Remote. Corrigin's ARIA score indicates that it has a significantly restricted accessibility to a wide range of goods and services and opportunities for social interaction. Within the catchment of all 43 regional councils in the Wheatbelt, Corrigin sits twenty seventh in terms of accessibility.

The Shire's population is projected by the ABS to be 1,218 in 2017; population growth is then projected to decrease to 1,171 by 2027. This latter estimate still represents a projected increase of 10.2% from the 2011 figure of 1,063.

Population projections

55+ population

Data relating to the population aged 55+ has been provided as this cohort is key to planning for retirement living infrastructure. It also provides a basis for future aged population planning and eligibility for entry into retirement living (ILUs). The size of this population is a broad indicator of the potential demand for older persons' housing.

The growth projected in the 55+ population is modest compared with the 70+ and 85+ cohorts shown below. Beyond the issue of housing this mismatch between the relative cohort growth rates implies an increased level of demand on the age 55+ group which tends to provide formal care (family/friend) and the older groups who need the care. This, in turn, implies increased demand for formal care services (funded services and programs).

Table 1: Current and Projected 55+ Population

| Area | 2011 Census | 2016 Proj | 2021 Proj | 2026 Proj | % inc pop 2011-2026 |
|----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| Corrigin | 405 | 424 | 448 | 473 | 16.8% |

Source: ABS Census 2011 and Customised population projections prepared by ABS for DSS 2012

70+ population

Federal government planning for the funding of aged care services (at home and residential) is based on the 70+ population via "ratios" to guide the provision of aged care places. By 2021 these ratios will provide target funding of 78 Residential Care places, 45 Home Care places and 2 Restorative Care places per 1000 people aged 70+.

The table below indicates that there will be fairly rapid growth in this group over the 15 years from the 2011 census. This implies availability of around 50% more aged care places and, presumably, a significant growth in the less intensive Home Support (HACC) program.

The issue for Corrigin, as a less populated rural location, will be who intends to provide these services. The data suggest a need for a 50% growth in Home Care packages (possibly more due to current under supply) and a substantial growth in high level Residential Care beds.

Table 2: Current and Projected 70+ Population

| Area | 2011 Census | 2016 Proj | 2021 Proj | 2026 Proj | % inc pop 2011-2026 |
|----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| Corrigin | 163 | 185 | 216 | 241 | 47.8% |

Source: ABS Census 2011 and Customised population projections prepared by ABS for DSS 2012

85+ population

The 85+ population growth is projected to be significant. Among this group about 50% will experience “moderate to severe” disabilities. Hence this population is a good indicator of the scale of higher care needs.

Table 3: Current and Projected 85+ Population

| Area | 2011 Census | 2016 Proj | 2021 Proj | 2026 Proj | % inc pop 2011-2026 |
|----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| Corrigin | 35 | 33 | 39 | 50 | 42.9% |

Source: ABS Census 2011 and Customised population projections prepared by ABS for DSS 2012

4.2 Socio Economic and Income data

Socio Economic Indexes for Areas

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has produced a number of indices based on census data which measure the level of 'disadvantage' in a given area. These are known as the 'SEIFA' (Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas). The SEIFA provides an objective scale to determine relative advantage of a particular area against the Australian average, as well as other areas. Factors such as household income, education, profession, household and dwelling size are considered.

The Australia-wide average has been fixed at 1,000, so that generally speaking, an area with a score above 1,000 can be considered relatively advantaged, and an area with a score below 1,000 can be considered relatively disadvantaged. The further away from 1,000 a score, the more or less advantaged the given area.

2011 SEIFA data shows that Corrigin had a SEIFA score somewhat below average overall, although some improvement was evident since the previous census. On the most recent data only Kulin showed a value above the Australian benchmark. The ranking shown for Corrigin means it is the 61st most disadvantaged LGA's out of 140 in WA.

Table 4: SEIFA Values for RoerOC LGAs

| Area | SEIFA Index Value (2008) | SEIFA Index Value (2013) | Advantage Ranking (WA) 2013 |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Corrigin | 951 | 976 | 61 |
| Kondinin | 962 | 984 | 70 |
| Kulin | 977 | 1,006 | 89 |
| Narembeen | 937 | 989 | 78 |

Source: ABS Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), 2008 & 2013

Median Weekly Income

Another measure of relative economic capacity is the number and proportion of people who were receiving an income of less than \$400 per week at the time of the last Census. This was an income level at or around the aged pension.

The following table analyses incomes less than \$400 per week in order to capture the segment of the population who are living on an income just above pension level, such as self-funded retirees who narrowly miss qualifying for the aged pension.

According to the ABS 2011 Census, Corrigin had significant proportions of people aged 55+ (45.4%), and 70+ (60.6%) who had a weekly income of less than \$400. This was higher than the Western Australian figures (42.3% and 56.5% respectively) which means a greater proportion on lower incomes.

Table 5: Median Weekly Income

| Area | Age 55+ | | Age 70+ | |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| | # persons | % of cohort | # persons | % of cohort |
| Corrigin | 184 | 45.4% | 98 | 60.6% |
| Kondinin | 95 | 39.3% | 31 | 54.4% |
| Kulin | 117 | 48.1% | 47 | 67.1% |
| Narembeen | 112 | 42.7% | 60 | 54.1% |
| RoeROC | 508 | 44.1% | 236 | 58.9% |
| Western Australia | 224,089 | 42.3% | 106,602 | 56.5% |

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing 2011

Implications of Socio Economic and Income data

Both sets of data above indicate a moderate level of disadvantage overall in Corrigin Shire. In practical terms this translate as service cost sensitivity, constrained availability of capital and, combined with relatively low and static property, a limited revenue base for local government.

4.3 Services Profile

HACC services

The following HACC services were reported as being provided in Corrigin:

Table 6: HACC Services Corrigin

| Service Type | Available | Frequency | Service Type | Available | Frequency |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Allied Health Care (Centre) | Yes | As needed | Good & Equipment | Yes – for hire | As needed |
| Allied Health Care (Home) | Yes | Varies | Home Maintenance | Gardening & Home Maintenance | Weekly – Monday & Tues when needed |

| Service Type | Available | Frequency | Service Type | Available | Frequency |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---|
| Case Management | Yes | As needed | Home Modification | Advice only | As needed |
| Centre Based Day Care | Yes | Tuesday | Nursing Care (Centre) | No | |
| Centre Based Meals | No | | Nursing Care (Home) | Yes | Fortnightly visits |
| Client Care Coordination | Yes | As needed | Personal Care | Yes | Daily or as required |
| Delivered Meals | 3 course meal | Monday – Friday 1 service a day | Respite Care | No | |
| Domestic Assistance | Yes | Wednesday & Thursday as needed | Social Support | Yes | As required or organised activities |
| Formal Linen Services | Yes | If required | Transport | Yes | Specialist appt. in Narrogin & Merredin |

Source: Survey conducted by Verso Consulting, 2013

MPS (Corrigin Hospital)

There is a Multi-purpose Service (MPS) in Corrigin (run by WACHS) which has funding flexibility to provide services in the areas of acute health, emergency, aged care, primary care and other programs according to community needs. It has a number of inpatient beds, an emergency service and 5 high aged care beds. These latter are not secure dementia beds.

WACHS also operates Wogerlin House which is a 10 bed low care facility not suitable for “ageing in place”. That is, it does not have the physical configuration to allow it to offer residential high care.

Home Care

The higher form of care in the home is designated as Home Care. This Commonwealth program allows more intensive care at home across four levels of funding as an alternative the Residential Care. Home Care “packages” are currently allocated across the Wheatbelt Region to approved providers and MPSs. Earlier aged planning work in the Wheatbelt, reinforced during consultations for this project, revealed low availability of such packages away from the largest centres.

During consultations in Corrigin there was no real knowledge of Home Care being available or that is an alternative to Residential Care.

Comparison of actual versus planning numbers of aged care places

As mentioned above the Commonwealth plans for and funds aged care based on the number of people in a region/area aged 70+. Thus it is possible to compare the availability of aged care places in Corrigin against planning benchmarks using estimated transitional ratios (85/1000 70+ & 35/1000) and end point ratios in 2021 (78/1000 & 45/1000).

Table 7: Aged Care Supply/Demand

| Actual versus planning ratio Aged Care places | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| | 2016 (185 people 70+) | | 2021 (241 people 70+) | |
| | Residential Care | Home Care | Residential Care | Home Care |
| Planning ratios | 16 | 6.5 | 19 | 11 |
| Actual | 15 | Unknown | 15 | Unknown |

It should be noted that while the number of Residential Care places are not in great deficit at present it would normally be the case that most of these would be high care. This is the reverse in Corrigin and probably accounts for the fact that there is a perceived shortage. To serve Corrigin Shire alone by 2021 there should probably be around 12 high care beds (some secure) and 7 low care beds.

In addition, based on planning ratios there should be access to 6.5 Home Care places now and 11 places by 2021; likely more if there is no increase in appropriate Residential Care availability.

4.4 Relevant Documents

The two most relevant documents relative to development of this Age Friendly Plan are Corrigin’s Strategic Community Plan 2013-2023 and its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2014-2019.

Strategic Community Plan

The Strategic Community Plan is described as *“the overarching planning document for the community”* (p.10) with implementation to be through the development of a four year Corporate Business Plan which contains a set of priorities and actions. There are four Focus Areas outlined in the Community Plan. These cover Economic Development, Developing Leadership, Social Development and Environmental Development.

The preface to the Community Plan notes that it is a “live” document subject to continuous development and strategies being amplified. This Age Friendly Plan can be regarded as an amplification of the Strategic Community Plan.

Under the key Focus area of Social Development the Plan notes that *“The community said that health services and retention of the hospital were key areas of concern”* and that *“The retaining and care of elderly local community members was an issue for many residents”*.

To achieve what was nominated as Goal Six the two strategies identified were to:

- Improve the local health services to provide greater and more timely access for the community; and
- Develop aged care facilities in the Shire including low care.

These strategies are compatible with what will follow as the *Aged Friendly Community Plan (AFC Plan)*, although in the case of the second strategy a more achievable approach is also suggested via greater access to higher level aged care in the home. When measuring success is considered under the Community Plan the relevant outcome identified is *“Our residents can reside in the community for the whole of their life”*.

This measure of success is fully compatible with the main outcomes sought from the adoption of Age Friendly Plans.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

The Shire's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) relates the actions which have been taken over successive plans with an appendix detailing actions taken between 2004 and 2011. Many of these actions reflect areas identified in recent age friendly consultations detailed in the following section. It is clear that there is considerable overlap between actions under the DAIP and an Age Friendly Community Plan; which is not surprising given that many older people live with a disability. In future the obvious approach is to align/coordinate planned strategies between the two.

The DAIP Implementation Plan specifies Strategies, Tasks, Timelines and Responsibilities under seven Outcomes related to the specific requirements of DAIPs. A number of those Outcomes align directly to the *AFC Plan* Domains, although they are largely confined to the Shire's facilities and services. These include:

Outcome 2 – People with disability have the same opportunities - - - to access the buildings and other facilities of the Shire - - - .

- Parallels *AFC Plan* - Outdoor spaces and buildings

Outcome 3 – People with disability receive information - - - in a format that will enable them to access - - - as readily as other people - - - .

- Parallels – Communication and information

Outcome 4 – People with disability receive the same level - - - of service - - - .

- Approximates - Respect and inclusion
- People with disability have the same opportunities - - - to participate in any public consultation - - - .
- Approximates – Social and civic participation

The following *Aged Friendly Community Plan* (Section 4) follows the same format as that used in the 2014 DAIP Implementation Plan to assist the alignment of the two plans.

4.5 Research Findings

Demographic changes

The first observation to be made is that the projected growth in the 55+ population lags significantly behind the growth in the 70+ and the 85+ populations. The clear implication of these differentials is that, in future, the relative proportion of the “carer” aged population (55+) in Corrigin will markedly reduce, resulting in a likely extra demand for formal support and care services beyond the actual growth rates of the older populations. The projected growth of the two older cohorts is steady but well below the projections for WA as a whole (47.8% versus 104.4% for 70+ and 42.9% versus 98.1% for 85+).

Socio economic data

The lower than benchmark SEIFA score for Corrigin and the relatively high proportion of 55+ and 70+ people on incomes below \$400 at the time of the last census indicate an average older population of limited means. This has implications for a number of matters ranging from ability to engage in fee paying activities, running a car, home maintenance, housing options and a reduced ability to contribute to support and care costs.

Compensating factors for Corrigin include an engaged older community, which is a source of social capital, an effective Council community development program and staff and relatively accessible primary health care.

Services profile

The services profile obtained indicates a reasonable level of service availability on paper. However the consultation process indicated that there were real limits to availability if an older person was not assessed for HACC services. In addition to this, the availability and type of formal support and care services are quite constrained, particularly care beyond that available under HACC (which itself is becoming subject to new emphasis on 'low level support').

The major issue apparent is the reported need for older people to leave their community to obtain appropriate care. The only option available for higher level care is at the MPS which has a limited capacity with no indication of plans for expansion. Wogerlin House is also limited to its current low care role. The option of higher care in the home seems very limited or non-existent.

Strategic Community and Disability Access and Inclusion Plans

Corrigin's Strategic Community Plan provides the link between the *AFC Plan* and the Corporate Business Plan which outlines the Shire's four year blueprint for actions and priorities. The *AFC Plan* should be the basis upon which the "live" Strategic Community Plan responds to the expressed needs of the older community.

The Shire has a history of development and review of disability access and inclusion and an up to date plan means that there is understanding and a strategy around a number of areas in common with age friendly communities. A number of the DAIP Outcomes share common themes with the *AFC Plan* Domains, particularly Outcome 2 because, while the DAIP is largely focused on the Shire's own role and activities as a responsible public entity, Outcome 2 translates into wide effect because of council's prime responsibility for much local infrastructure.

Because of the common features between the two plans it makes sense to emphasise their alignments. In effect the *AFC Plan* below expands the activity responses and responsibilities beyond those of the Shire while at the same time increasing the range of focus areas and bringing matters to prominence for older residents, who are also the largest cohort of those with a disability.

5 Consultations

A very well attended community forum (60 -70 attendees) was held in Corrigin on the morning of Thursday 21st April 2016. This was followed by an afternoon meeting of stakeholders and service providers (approx. 8 attendees). After some introductory explanation both forums considered the designated Domains of age friendly communities, which, for the purpose of this project were identified as:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Respect and inclusion
- Social and civic participation (combining “Social participation” and “Civic participation and employment”)
- Communication and information
- Community support and health services (formal services)

Participants were asked to identify issues and features in Corrigin Shire which were currently good “age friendly” aspects of their community and other features which needed attention. The outcome of the consultations was as follows, with provider/stakeholder comments in *italics*:

| Outdoor spaces and buildings | |
|--|---|
| Good features | Issues |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very good, well maintained green spaces • Parks well kept • <i>Safety is good</i> • <i>Footpath upgrades are part of council planning</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpaths - many uneven places <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jose St. – between Kirkwood & Gayfer • Centenary Ave. – gaps & poor patching • Walton St. • Hill St. • Needed up to Doctors. Surgery • Cars parked over • Overhanging branches from private properties e.g. Newman Street. • Gophers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramps to road unsafe • Footpath access to Shops & PO • Gutter on Goyder Street outside Club & Town Hall • Speeding in Main Street • Ramp needed to CREC from oval, Recreation Centre east side • <i>Use on highway highly hazardous</i> • Potholes everywhere” in senior citizens’ centre • Wheel chair access needed to police station |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big 4WDs make Main Street make parking unsafe (vision around?) • Shade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shade sails behind hall • Shade trees for cars in Main St. • “Bring back verandahs!” • Seating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needed in Campbell St., near shops, in shops (e.g. chemist & Post Office) • Along Walton Street between hotel & Post Office, school • <i>Council yet to consider a plan</i> • Shops need places to leave walkers |
| Transportation | |
| Good features | Issues |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Telehealth facilities are available and could reduce transport for medical appts. – provide and education session?</i> • Bus available to Narrogin – use should be encouraged to lock in current trial • PATS and fuel card • HACC transport and bus – but could be better advertised • <i>Angel flights utilising volunteer pilots</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many variations on issues to do with transport for medical appointments to Perth, Northam and Narrogin • A paid driver for previously available HACC car? • <i>Volunteers faded away in previous HACC arrangements</i> • Suggest bus route around town • Travel within metro areas after arriving • Overnight stays in Perth (sometimes multi night) due to bus schedule • Establish scooter/gopher hire? • Restrictions on PATS (nearest specialist?) limit its usefulness • Reliance on ageing volunteers • Less availability of younger volunteers due to work commitments • Cost of running car prohibitive – establish local car hire and/or car pool with payment to drivers at affordable rates • “All comers” social drive once week (not HACC restricted) • Get specialist Doctors. to Corrigin to reduce travel needs |
| Housing | |
| Good features | Issues |
| <p>Grouped housing allows for superior access through efficient use of capital infrastructure</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current homes generally not seniors friendly • Handy man needed for small jobs incl. gutter cleaning • Gardener who comes Monday (Senior Citizens village?) doesn't come for 8 weeks if public holiday • Need supported housing to operate between residential low care (Wogerlin House) and high care |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to make planning changes to facilitate higher density builds – <i>planning scheme limits on block sizes</i> • Multiple expressions of high need for appropriate housing with choice of size and entry options • Small units limit family contact e.g. grandchildren staying or supporter to live-in • Cost of “downsizing” versus current house values • Cut back in available HACC gardener availability • Services needed to support people to remain at home • Housing development needs to be central • 26 people registered on seniors housing waiting list |
| Respect and inclusion | |
| Good features | Issues |
| <p>Friendly town, young people courteous – “happy to live in Corrigin; everyone is so friendly and the kids are respectful”</p> <p>Most needs met</p> <p>Plenty of activities</p> <p>Telecentre is very good and inclusive of elders</p> <p>A mutigenerational community</p> <p><i>Older people are our main participants</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Strategic Plan has no vision, goals, targets - just aspirational • Sporting clubs could invite older people to watch home games (& facilitate attendance?) • Seniors themselves need to make and effort • <i>Key stakeholders could liaise to identify isolated individuals (including those in retail)</i> • Dogs need to be controlled better for pedestrians and those on gophers • Volunteers short in hostel for day activities |
| Social and civic participation | |
| Good features | Issues |
| <p>Shire thanks volunteers at volunteer night</p> <p>“We can go to Shire meetings and have a say”</p> <p>Hydro pool allows “excellent inclusion”</p> <p>The “Shed” for games for Seniors Olympics</p> <p>Australia day breakfast</p> <p>Lots of opportunities to volunteer in clubs or groups</p> <p><i>Senior citizens minutes go to council</i></p> <p><i>Shire reps generally attend Senior Citizens meetings</i></p> <p>Tai Chi, walking groups, croquet, gym, light exercise (available or needed?)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reimbursement of expenses for volunteer work • Technology can be a barrier to securing paid work • Not many opportunities for paid work • “The town survives on volunteers” – the next generation needs to step up • Limitations exist since many activities are based on sport • Art club needs to be revamped/organised • Men’s shed may need support to be more active in the community • Younger generation doesn’t have as much time to volunteer • Advertise social events in Windmill |
| Communication and information | |
| Good features | Issues |
| <p>Windmill newspaper is ‘great’</p> <p>Shire Newsletters, Flyers and website</p> <p>“Bush telegraph” works</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There could be more advertising about seniors events – Windmill, radio, notices to organisations, notices in shops • Lack of info about HACC services |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>“No complaints” <i>Advocare is utilised</i> <i>iPads are an easier way in to technology</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance filling out forms would be good • Communication by young people via technology/social media not considerate of seniors without technology skills • <i>Need to spread media formats beyond Facebook</i> |
| Community support and health services | |
| Good features | Issues |
| <p><i>Generally a good level of services including dentist, pharmacist, GP, hospital and HACC</i></p> <p>Could be more age care employment opportunities in Corrigin</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Big gap is Home Care</i> • <i>Wogerlin House can't offer "ageing in place" – not built for high care</i> • <i>People often have to move for higher residential care</i> • Staffing caps at MPS (hospital) • Staff shortages at Wogerlin House • No secure dementia care • HACC is not transparent about services available – run information sessions at MPS • HACC services limited • No information available about Home Care packages • MPS high care needs more capacity and staff • “Know all” service management • Need full time doctor & graduate docs • Regular visits by female doctor needed • Ambulance volunteers very stretched – especially with patient transfers • Halter monitor need at Corrigin – 6 hour trip to get it on and another 6 hour trip to get it back in 24 hours |

6 Age Friendly Community Plan

6.1 Plan status

Table 8 establishes the strategies, task/outcomes, priorities and responsibilities that form the *Age Friendly Community Plan (AFC Plan)*. The *AFC Plan* follows the format of the DAIP Implementation Plan to facilitate alignment between the two. Depending on relevant outcomes from the Age Friendly audit being conducted by Corrigin Shire, the *AFC Plan* may need to be adjusted as necessary.

Corrigin Shire clearly has a very well developed community development function with close connection with the older community. However local governments clearly have finite resources and there is a need to have a broad community effort to get the best outcomes. The Shire itself may sometimes be best placed to take an advocacy or coordination role but will need to make decisions about expenditure priorities based on available resources.

The following *AFC Plan* should be pursued in concert with comparable action lines in the Shire's DAIP Implementation Plan, in partnership with other nominated stakeholders. Importantly, the *AFC Plan* for the whole community and not just for the Shire Council.

For the purpose of the *AFC Plan*, the following abbreviations/acronyms mean the following:

- Shire means Shire of Corrigin
- CRC means Corrigin Community Resource Centre
- WDC means Wheatbelt Development Commission
- Health Services means:
 - WACHS – WA Country Health Services – Government of WA
 - SIHI – Southern Inland Health Initiative – Department of Health
 - HACC – Home & Community Care Program – Department of Health
 - St Johns Ambulance
- Community Groups/Volunteer Groups means:
 - Service Clubs
 - Red Cross
 - Corrigin Senior Citizens Club Inc.
- Service Clubs includes Rotary, Apex, Men's Shed and the like
- WACHS means WA Country Health Services – Government of WA
- SIHI means Southern Inland Health Initiative – Department of Health
- HACC means Home & Community Care Program – Department of Health
- School means Corrigin District High School

- Government agencies means those agencies directly responsible for aged care
- Home Care providers means a service provider who delivers a co-ordinated package of services tailored to meet specific care needs to help aged persons stay in their own home

6.2 Implementation and Monitoring

Implementation of this plan will occur through ongoing corporate planning. Resourcing of any new or expanded initiatives will need to be considered through the due process of the Shire's Integrated Planning and Reporting. This *Age Friendly Community Plan* reflects the Shire's strong commitment to optimising opportunities for health, participation and security for ageing community members. This commitment is aligned to the Western Australia State Government an *Age Friendly WA: The Seniors Strategic Planning Framework*.

The Shire is not the only agency with responsibility for ensuring an age friendly community and the exact contribution it makes is difficult to measure. A large number of other factors influence how the ageing population experience community life across the eight domains of an Age Friendly Community.

However, the Shire will monitor a set of key indicators as outlined below to track the progress of the sector in terms of the overall goal of the *Plan*.

| Indicators |
|---|
| Outdoor Spaces and Buildings |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community satisfaction with Outdoor Spaces and Buildings • Usage of Council facilities |
| Transportation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community satisfaction with footpaths and cycle paths |
| Housing |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the aged housing available |
| Respect and Inclusion |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community satisfaction with access to facilities |
| Social and Civic Participation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior specific events held (including International Day of Older Persons event) • Number of intergenerational events and activities conducted |
| Communication and Information |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community satisfaction with the provision of Shire information • Interagency communication processes established |
| Community and Health Services |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community satisfaction with GP service • Community satisfaction with Home Care services • Increase in services available in the Shire |

Table 8: Age Friendly Community Plan

| Strategy | Task/Outcomes | Priority | Responsibility |
|---|--|----------|---|
| Outdoor spaces and building | | | |
| Facilitate safe and comfortable movement around town and environs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a plan for the continued improvement to the footpath / pathways network within the Corrigin town site. Educate and enforce the use of footpaths / pathways by gophers users | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire Shire, CRC, community groups, service clubs and police |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all footpaths and ramps are properly maintained and are suitably located. | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an Aged Friendly consultancy group to review and priorities issues identified within the workshops | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant community groups, public/private stakeholders & Shire |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all public buildings have wheelchair access | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire, Community groups, service clubs, community , private retailers, health providers |
| Provide facilities and spaces to encourage older people to be “out and about” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a seating and shade development program | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire, service clubs |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shops to provide spaces for walkers | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retailers |
| Transportation | | | |
| Improve arrangements for out of town travel especially medical appointments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure information is freely available and facilitate use of currently available PATS and Fuel Card schemes | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CRC, government offices, health services, Shire |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a volunteer driver recruitment campaign to ensure that the service provision demands can be met. | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HACC service clubs, community groups |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the feasibility and affordability, a community car hire scheme and/or car pooling, | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested community groups |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the feasibility and affordability of a local bus serving Narrogin for seniors. | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CRC, Seniors groups, community groups |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for improvements to TransWA bus service | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire, HACC service, community groups |

| Strategy | Task/Outcomes | Priority | Responsibility |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Improve local travel arrangements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase social bus trips to be inclusive to all seniors. • Promote current availability of HACC transport and bus • Assess demand and feasibility for the provision of gopher/scooter hire | <p>Medium</p> <p>High Medium</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service clubs, Senior Citizens • CRC, health services • Senior Citizens |
| Housing | | | |
| Establish capacity for subdivision of town blocks to enable easier “downsizing” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a town planning scheme which allows for blocks suitable for “downsizing” | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shire |
| Increase availability of appropriate elder housing with flexible entry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate improved communication from all parties around housing options that are available and how to apply | High/Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shire, Senior Citizens, WDC, WACHS/SIHI |
| Develop a housing response to the shortage of higher residential care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine group/cluster housing potential supported by Home Care | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Citizens, Shire, WDC, WACHS/SIHI |
| Respect and Inclusion | | | |
| Improve older people’s access to regular sporting events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adequate number of sporting events, that encourage participation, inclusion and socialisation, are held within Corrigin to meet the needs of the age. | High/Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Groups, sporting clubs |
| Reduce the incidence of isolated individuals or those at risk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key stakeholders (including retail) to establish avenues of communication to convey concerns to relevant service bodies | High/Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, medical and care services, businesses, community groups, Shire, CRC |
| Move toward Corrigin being a dementia friendly community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish links with Alzheimers WA to seek their support in creating a dementia friendly program | High/Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged services, CRC, health services, |
| Social and Civic Participation | | | |
| Establish a variety of opportunities to participate to meet a range preferences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number and type of activities available to the elderly. | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service clubs, |
| Optimise inter-community engagement and mutual support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage/support Service club members to utilise their capacities to offer services to the community | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service clubs |

| Strategy | Task/Outcomes | Priority | Responsibility |
|---|---|----------|--|
| Maximise older people's employment potential | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify programs to engage business sector support to identify skill gaps for interested older people Examine additional ICT training oriented to business requirements Encourage future Home Care providers to recruit locally among experienced older people | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service clubs |
| | | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Human Services, CRC |
| | | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire, providers |
| Maintain high level of volunteering | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate potential for younger people to engage with elders Explore potential for greater engagement of older school kids | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer groups, High School |
| | | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer groups, High School |
| Communication and Information | | | |
| Ensure events are well advertised | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage organisers to be active in promoting events through a variety of formats, including Windmill, Facebook, and website (events Calendar). | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All community groups, Shire, CRC |
| Raise awareness about the nature of formal care supports available and access paths | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemble a range of available printed materials concerning the nature of various support programs and options and make available at CRC Include downloaded/printed copies of materials from My Aged Care website Health Services to make available an information pack in plain language explaining HACC/Home Support | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health, medical & aged services, CRC |
| | | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health, medical & aged services, CRC |
| | | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Service |
| Aim to make regular communications available as widely as possible | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications to be in formats accessible to all. Educate the elderly on the use of social media and technology. | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire, community groups; Health, medical & aged services |
| Reduce communication barriers in official processes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider standard arrangements -to provide assistance to people in completing forms | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government agencies, Shire, Health Service; Health, medical & aged services; WACHS |

| Strategy | Task/Outcomes | Priority | Responsibility |
|--|--|----------------------|--|
| Community and health services | | | |
| Provided necessary formal aged service supports sufficient for older people to remain at home as they age | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approach providers to rectify current gap in availability of Home Care packages Encourage and support the presence of Home Care providers. Increase awareness of HACC availability | High High High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire, approved Home Care providers Health Service, Shire HACC, |
| Increase opportunity for older people to remain in Corrigin through access to appropriate residential care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approach WACHS to ascertain plans to meet increasing demand implied by aged population growth – especially for high care Continue with the development options for development of “cluster housing” initiative to facilitate concentrated Home Care | High Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire and community groups, WACHS Senior Citizens, Shire, WDC, WACHS/SIHI |
| Ensure health service capacity sufficient to meet essential needs for older people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address service and practice gaps identified in consultations e.g. female doctor visits, staff attitude, halter monitor availability in Corrigin Provide alternatives to alleviate demands created by patient transfers to relieve burden on ambulance volunteers | High High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Service, GP clinic, other health and care providers Health Service |