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### Council adopts Age-Friendly plan

Albany City Council last night adopted the Age-Friendly Albany Plan 2016-2020 to provide a framework for the City to become a more inclusive and welcoming environment for older people.

The 24-page plan has been developed after thorough research into the trends and needs of an ageing population, community and stakeholder consultation and engagement, and builds on a number of key City of Albany strategies and plans.

Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington said joining the age-friendly cities movement – an initiative of the World Health Organization – was a positive step forward.

“About 60 local governments in WA have committed to adopting age-friendly approaches and developing communities that focus on keeping our older generations connected, healthy and active, no matter their age,” Mayor Wellington said.

“Albany is a retiree destination and with our large population of older residents presents a range of challenges that places high importance on the way we plan our community to remain inclusive, accommodating and accessible for everyone.”

Albany’s population percentage of over 60 years is higher than the State average, with the City experiencing significant growth in its population over 50 years between 2001 and 2011 and this is expected to continue.

The World Health Organization’s framework highlights eight key areas which are addressed in the Age-Friendly Albany Plan including transportation, housing, social participation and inclusion, community support and health services.

“The Age-Friendly Plan will help the City deliver benefits for a range of population groups, not just our ageing residents,” Mayor Wellington said.

“While our ageing population is the focus of the plan, the characteristics of age-friendly communities also benefit people with a disability, children and youth, and parents of young children.



“It is important older people feel welcomed, included and respected by everyone, and that they feel they have a contribution to make and can participate and stay connected in the Albany community.”

The Age-Friendly Albany Plan will help the City deliver on its key aims of creating a connected built environment, sense of community, developing and supporting a healthy, inclusive and accessible community, and delivering programs that improve public health and wellbeing.

**END**

*Media Liaison*

[medialiaison@albany.wa.gov.au](mailto:medialiaison@albany.wa.gov.au)

9841 9344 or 9844 2213

