

2022

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING
Work Plan Summary 2021 - 2024**

**Presented by
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Minister for Veterans and Seniors
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ACT
Government

Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing

Work plan summary 2021 – 2024

The Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing (the Council) provides advice to ACT Government on policies and initiatives which support better outcomes for older Canberrans.

The Council members are :

- Prudence Power AM (Chair)
- Cathy Hope (Deputy Chair)
- Louise Bannister
- Joanna Cochrane
- Christine Leopardi
- Jennifer Mobbs
- Philip Piggin
- Wendy Prowse
- Charles Sage
- Juliette Spurrett
- Jane Timbrell
- Thi Nha Tran

In accordance with their Terms of Reference, the Council must develop a work plan of proposed activities for the review and endorsement of the Assistant Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services.

Priority focus areas

The Council's work plan includes two priority areas of focus for the Council. These areas are based on the [Age-Friendly City Plan](#), additional priorities identified by Council members and the skills and capacity of the Council. Importantly, the key goal of both priority focus areas is to encourage positive ageing and tackling ageism in the community, policy making and social systems.

Table 1 Focus areas

PRIORITY FOCUS AREA GOALS	
Promote positive ageing and tackle ageism and discrimination in the community, policy making and social systems Assist in the ACT's COVID-19 recovery and support Canberra's older population through the COVID-19 pandemic-endemic transition	
PRIORITY FOCUS AREA ONE	PRIORITY FOCUS AREA TWO
Supports and services for older people to live the best life they can	Older people are socially included and able to participate, be active in our communities and encouraged to live the best life possible across our communities

Priority focus area actions

Underneath each priority focus area is a series of actions to be undertaken by the Council. The actions were created to:

- a) support the delivery of relevant existing *Age-Friendly City Plan* actions; and/or
- b) progress initiatives that reflect the broader priorities of the Council as they relate to the priority focus areas.

MACA's Budget advocacy and engagement in the Budget process underpins the work plan priorities and actions.

Priority focus area one: Supports and services for older people to live the best life they can

- **Positive ageing** – Scope international research which promotes positive ageing and tackles ageism, and explore opportunities for activating enhanced practice in positive ageing across Canberra and its diverse sectors;
- **Age-Friendly City Plan** – Monitor the progress of the Age-Friendly City Plan and support broader community engagement with the Plan.
- **Affordable housing** – Advocate and provide advice on the housing needs of older Canberrans;
- **Aged care** – Advocate on the social inclusion, connection, rights, and representation of older Canberran aged care residents and home care package participants;
- **Mental health** – Advocate on the health and mental health needs of older Canberrans;
- **Energy** – Research and advocate on the needs and impacts on older consumers of transitions, such as technology changes and responding to climate change;
- **Arts** – Identify, promote, and grow arts and creative initiatives that facilitate artistic engagement and participation in, and contribution to, the arts in Canberra by older Canberrans; and
- **Services** – Promote and advocate on the needs of older Canberrans to ensure adequate service provision, support, inclusion and representation.

Priority focus area two: Older people are socially included and able to participate, be active in our communities and encouraged to live the best life possible across our communities

- **Promote positive ageing** – Scope international research which promotes positive ageing and tackles ageism, and explore opportunities for activating best practice in positive ageing that improves social inclusion, participation and being active in the ACT;
- **Arts** – Identify, promote and grow arts and creative initiatives that contribute to social inclusion and the wellbeing of older Canberrans;
- **Intergenerational connections** – Seek opportunities to educate the broader community on the benefits of intergenerational connections and support and promote intergenerational initiatives;
- **Information and communication** – Advocate for and support the enhancement of ACT Government information to and communication with older Canberrans;
- **Community hubs** – Explore and define alternative models and opportunities related to the creation of community hubs to contribute to the delivery of Age-Friendly City Plan action, *“Undertaking a feasibility study to explore options for developing regional community hubs that have an intergenerational focus”*;
- **COVID-19** – Support the continuing COVID-19 response, including emergency response and social recovery work, to respond to the needs and experiences of older Canberrans; and
- **Dementia-friendly design** – Facilitate stronger connections among people working in the field of Dementia in the ACT and region and support the delivery of Age-Friendly City Plan action, *“Piloting designated dementia-friendly spaces, including hosting dementia-friendly events, within ACT Government shopfronts and at major events across Canberra.”*