



SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

SECTION 5.9(2)(c) LGA 1995

Committee Brief

The duties of the committee are:

- a) Examine services provided to seniors in the Shire of Plantagenet.*
- b) Monitor the change in service providers and actual services to aged care.*
- c) Report back to the Council by 26 March 2019.*

A meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee was held at the Shire of Plantagenet Committee Room, Mount Barker at 3:00pm on Wednesday 21 November 2018

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Committee Members:

Cr K Clements, Cr S Etherington, Mrs L Sounness, Mrs J Leahy, Mrs B Mulvihill and Ms F Pengel - (Resolution NO. 201/18)

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Membership

Cr K Clements
Cr S Etherington
Mrs L Sounness
Mrs J Leahy
Mrs B Mulvihill
Mrs F Pengel

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

3.15pm The Presiding Member declared the meeting open

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Members Present

Cr K Clements (Presiding Member)
Cr S Etherington
Mrs L Sounness (Deputy Presiding Member)
Mrs B Mulvihill
Mrs J Leahy
Mrs F Pengel (Manager Community Services)

Guests

Mr R Stewart (Chief Executive Officer)
Ms S Rose (Aged Care Assessment Team)

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Mrs L Sounness, seconded Mrs B Mulvihill

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee held 7 November 2018 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.

CARRIED

4 PROGRESS REPORT AGAINST ACTION PLAN

- 4.1 Sally Rose from the Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) attended the meeting to provide information on the role of the ACAT and the process for accessing Home Care Packages.

Sally discussed the changes to the process since 1 July 2018 and identified the 'My Aged Care (MAC)' website as being the most significant change to how seniors can access aged care services to enable them to remain in their home. The MAC is a computer based system that is beyond the ability and understanding of the most vulnerable seniors.

Sally did identify some advantages to the changes of funding structure, the most significant being that the funds are allocated to the person and not the service provider. This allows for choice not only about which service funds were to be spent on, but also which service provider could supply a service.

Another advantage is that, if savings can be made in service provision (such as family members providing cleaning), the funds saved can be used for capital equipment such as a hospital bed for the home.

A major disadvantage is that this system works best when seniors are in a position to negotiate for the services they need. If a senior is vulnerable they do need to have a person to advocate on their behalf as this system is open to service providers promoting the services they want to deliver rather than based on need.

The committee was informed that there are limited packages available through the Commonwealth. Seniors can wait between two and three years for a level four package (the highest level of Home Care Package), to become available. Clients are often assigned an 'interim package' that can provide services at say, level two until a level four package can be accessed. However, the waiting time for a level two package can be between six and nine months.

There is also a notional allocation that only 15% of all packages can be assessed as urgent. However, it was impressed upon the committee that the ACAT will assess the priority of each client based primarily on the safety of the client and secondly the needs of the carer, regardless of the notional allocation.

The level of funding for each level of Home Care Package was discussed and it was noted that the level 1 package was now around \$8,000.00, roughly equivalent to the funding available for Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) which funded the old HACC services.

It was also noted that prior to 1 July 2018 the WA Home and Community carer Services were funded at approximately \$14,000.00 per annum. With the transition to the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) this figure has been halved.

It was noted that transport and social isolation are the major Issues for Mount Barker in terms of services that are not being provided to the level experienced previously.

One provider is tendering for the transport contract through the CHSP and that they were hoping to have a permanent local presence in Mount Barker. This contract may include services to address social isolation.

Other services provided were discussed with particular attention to the Transition Care Package. This provides extra support for seniors after discharge from hospital following an acute care admission. The program lasted for 12 weeks and an additional 6 week extension can be sought when necessary.

To be eligible for a Transition Care Package, the in-patient needs to be assessed by the ACAT and a service provider engaged prior to discharge from hospital. The biggest issue with this package is hospitals want to

discharge patients as soon as possible, and whilst extra support is required to assist the elderly person to go back home, the discharge takes place too quickly to put the appropriate supports in place.

The assessment, and referral process is very thorough, the paperwork is onerous and needs to be verified by another registered delegate. The process for assessment and approvals of a Transition Care Package may take several days, however, the need to discharge patients quickly actively works against this process.

The Presiding Member thanks Sally for her time in attending the meeting and providing such a large amount of information.

4.2 The committee discussed the priority issues from the information provided to date. These were;

- Transport services for medical appointments and local shopping;
- Isolation and lack of opportunities to socialise;
- Lack of advocacy for seniors during the assessment and referral process;
- Accessibility and function of 'My Aged Care' website particularly for the client base; and,
- Extended length of time to wait for availability of Home Care Packages.

4.3 Mrs Sounness reported to the committee about the 'Services for Seniors' survey. Cr's Clements and Etherington, PVH committee members and Shire staff had handed out surveys at the Mount Barker Co-Op on 14-16 November 2018. PVH had also distributed surveys to several community spaces for seniors to access.

91 surveys had been received and sent on to the consultant for input into the PVH business plan.

Mrs Sounness is hoping to provide the results of the survey at the next committee meeting.

4.4 It was agreed to invite Advocare to attend the next meeting to discuss their services. It was noted they do not have a local office and that they may have to attend by teleconference.

Action: Manager Community Services to invite Advocare to attend the next Seniors Advisory Committee meeting.

5 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 12 December 2018 – 3pm.

6 MEETING CLOSURE

5.00pm The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED:

PRESIDING MEMBER _____ DATE: ____/____/____