

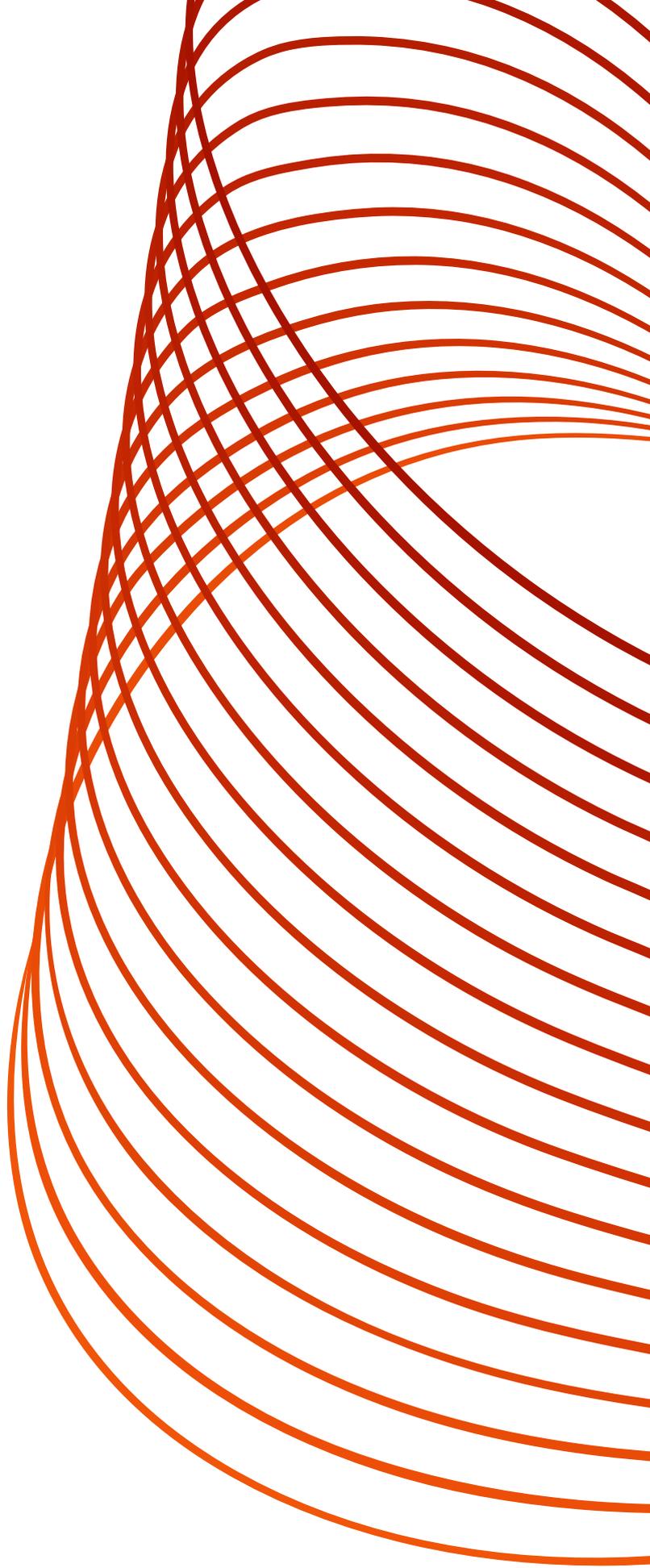
VERSO

Shire of
Narembeen Age
Friendly
Community
Report and Plan

Part of project covering
Corrigin, Narembeen,
Kulin & Kondinin

4 July 2016

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1 About The Project

The Wheatbelt Development Commission's 2014 Integrated Aged Care Plan 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 Narembeen 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.

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.

1.1 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-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.

1.2 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 Narembeen 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" and the Wheatbelt Development Commission Aged Care Planning Guide. Due to practical constraints 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).

1.3 Objectives of the Project

The following objectives informed this project:

1. Obtain and understand the aging community profile of each community within RoeROC,
2. Engage with the senior members of the each community within RoeROC
3. Identify service providers, service levels and facilities for each of the community within RoeROC
4. Engage with service providers of each of the community within RoeROC
5. Establish the perceived needs of seniors within each community within RoeROC
6. Prioritise the needs of seniors within each community within RoeROC
7. Development of an Age-Friendly Community Plan for each Shire within RoeROC

1.4 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 focussed Needs Studies
- service provider research
- relevant Shire document review
- Shire level consultations

- 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 also inform the Narembeen Age Friendly Audit.

2 Research and Document Review

2.1 Targeted demographic profile

Narembeen Shire is located in the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia. Narembeen town is 286 kilometres due east from Perth. The population, as reported in the 2011 Census, was 812. The Shire of Narembeen spans an area of 3,833 square kilometres, which translates to a population density of 0.2 people per km², as compared to WA's population density (June 2011) of 0.9 people per km².

The Shire's population is projected by the ABS to be 831 in 2017; population growth is then projected to decrease to 787 by 2027 although it has to be emphasised that these are only projections, not predictions. Various matters can influence actual outcomes, including a change to previously common patterns in the Wheatbelt which have seen older people leave to obtain care. An effective Age Friendly Plan can help reduce or eliminate this pattern.

The Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) rates Narembeen as Remote, along with all other areas of the RoeROC sub-region except Corrigin (which is rated as Moderately Accessible). Narembeen's ARIA score indicates that it has very 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, Narembeen sits low at thirty sixth in terms of accessibility.

Population projections

55+ population

55+ population data has been provided as this cohort is important in 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.

Narembeen shows steady growth in the 55+ demographic over the next 15 years. The proportion of the population in Narembeen aged 55+ will also increase at a steady rate over the next 15 years. At the census in 2011 the proportion of the population aged 55+ was 32.3%. By 2027 this is estimated to increase to 43.8% (total population projected at 787, with 345 people aged 70+).

The growth projected in the 55+ population is modest compared with the 70+ cohort as shown below. It is a higher figure than all other RoeROC Shires but nevertheless below the Wheatbelt average and well below the WA average of 67.8%. The mismatch between the relative cohort growth rates may bring an increasing level of demand on the age 55+ group which tends to provide formal care (family/friend). This, in turn, implies increased demand for formal care services (funded services and programs) beyond that normally generated by older population growth.

Table 1: Current and Projected 55+ Population

Area	2011 Census	2016 Proj	2021 Proj	2026 Proj	% inc pop 2011-2026
Narembeen	262	319	338	345	31.7%

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

70+ population

Funding of aged care services by the Commonwealth (at home and in residential facilities) is planned according to the 70+ population via "ratios" to guide the funding and 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+ in the population.

Projections show the 70+ aged population of Narembeen increasing 53.2% by 2027. The proportion of the population in Narembeen aged 70+ will also steadily increase over the next 15 years. In 2011 the census recorded a total population of all ages of Narembeen as 812, with 111 people aged 70+, meaning 13.7% of the population came into this demographic. By 2027, that proportion is projected to increase to 21.6% (total population projected at 787, with 170 people aged 70+).

The significant growth in this group in Narembeen over the 15 years from the 2011 census implies a need for and potential availability of more than 50% more aged care places and, presumably, a significant growth in the less intensive Home Support (HACC) program. The issue for Narembeen, as a less populated rural location, is who will be available to provide these services. The 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). The data suggest a need for major growth in available Home Care based on 70+ population growth (and possibly more due to possible current under supply) and a substantial growth in high level Residential Care beds (refer sec. 2.3 and Table 7).

Table 2: Current and Projected 70+ Population

Area	2011 Census	2016 Proj	2021 Proj	2026 Proj	% inc pop 2011-2026
Narembeen	111	136	154	170	53.2%

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

85+ population

Growth of the 85+ population is projected to be extremely low. By comparison the Wheatbelt average 85+ estimated growth to 2026 is 78.1% and the WA average 98.1%. Thus the projection for Narembeen is a complete outlier. Sometimes historic patterns of older emigration to other regions/metro areas to obtain care can influence the projections. If this is the case it is a challenge to ensure services are sufficient in Narembeen to avoid any need for older people to leave their communities.

Table 3: Current and Projected 85+ Population

Area	2011 Census	2016 Proj	2021 Proj	2026 Proj	% inc pop 2011-2026
Narembeen	29	24	28	30	3.4%

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

2.2 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, in 2013, Narembeen was only a little below the Australian benchmark and had increased its score in the previous period. Factors such as a good or bad harvest cycle can strongly influence scores in rural areas. Narembeen is ranked slightly above the middle of WA's 140 local governments.

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, Narembeen had around average or less than average proportions of people aged 55+ (48.1%), and 70+ (67.1%) who had a weekly income of less than \$400. This was around the Western Australian figure for 55+ and lower than both the RoeROC and WA proportions for 70+. Thus older people's average income levels are not relatively low but there is clearly quite a significant number (170+) on incomes around pension level.

Table 5: Median Weekly Income

Area	Age 55+		Age 70+	
	#	%	#	%
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 are only reflective of averages. There will undoubtedly be a considerable variation in economic circumstances among older residents. In practical terms lower incomes translate as service cost sensitivity, constrained availability of capital and, combined with relatively low and static property, a limited revenue base for local government.

2.3 Services Profile

HACC services

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

Table 6: HACC Services Narembeen

Service Type	Available	Frequency	Service Type	Available	Frequency
Allied Health Care (Centre)	No		Goods & Equipment	Yes	As needed
Allied Health Care (Home)	No		Transport	Not funded	
Case Management	Yes	As needed	Home Maintenance	Yes	As needed
Centre Based Day Care	Yes	Weekly	Home Modification	Yes	As needed
Centre Based Meals			Nursing Care (Centre)	No	
Client Care Coordination	Yes	Weekly	Nursing Care (Home)	Yes	As needed
Delivered Meals	Yes	As needed	Personal Care	Yes	As needed
Domestic Assistance	Yes	Daily	Respite Care	Yes	As needed
Formal Linen Services	Yes	As needed	Social Support	Yes	As needed

Source: Survey conducted by Verso Consulting, 2013

Health Services

The Narembeen Memorial Hospital has MPS status as a site for Merredin MPS service delivery. Multi Purpose Services (MPS) are a type of service in regional and remote areas which are established by agreement with the Commonwealth to provide a range of health and aged care services. Within the block funding provided, the MPS model allows for flexible utilisation of resources to provide health and aged care tailored to the unique circumstances of the local community, whether community based or in residential care. MPS in the Wheatbelt are operated by WACHS.

The following table shows the reported bed levels at MPS's in the ROEROC sub region:

Table 7: Summary of reported RoerOC Hospital/MPS Beds

Hospital/facility	Location (LGA)	Acute Beds	Aged - High Care	Aged - Low Care	Respite Beds
Corrigin Hospital (MPS) & Wogerlin House	Corrigin	9 + 2 A&E	5	10	If bed available
Kondinin/Kulin Hospital (MPS)	Kondinin & Kulin	3	5	4	If bed available

Hospital/facility	Location (LGA)	Acute Beds	Aged - High Care	Aged - Low Care	Respite Beds
Merredin MPS – Naremben Site	Naremben	7	7	6	1

There is a local GP service in Naremben. The Council recruited the GP by offering significant incentives including a house and provision of surgery premises. The range of health services available at Naremben is shown in Table 8.

Table 8: Health/Medical Services available in Naremben

Service Type	Local	Visiting/Outreach	Frequency
Carers Programs	No	Baptist Care	Occasionally
Dental	Private Practice		
Diabetes (Education)		Visiting diabetes educator	Every second month
Diagnostic Imaging	Chest & Limb-X rays		
Palliative Care	HACC/Hospital		As required
Pathology	Yes	Pathwest	Weekdays
Pharmacy	Yes		
Physiotherapy		Primary health Merredin	Weekly
Podiatry	No	Private Practice	Resident GP
Rehabilitation	Health/Fitness Centre & Inpatient Physio		Visiting female doctor
Renal	No	Primary health Merredin	As required
Speech Pathology	No		

Source: Survey conducted by Verso Consulting 2012

For specialist and other health services travel is required to Merredin or further afield and this was identified in earlier consultations as a significant problem for older people.

Naremben's Strategic Community Plan 2013-23 notes that: *"the Medical Centre - - - has hosted a permanent GP for the past 11 yrs. It also hosts a visiting female GP, primary health services including a Child Health Nurse, dietician and diabetic educator. The Medical Centre is supported by a resident dentist and a District Hospital which provides services in ante/post natal care, emergency, geriatric, medical – acute, medical – general, paediatrics and palliative care. It also hosts visiting primary health services including an occupational therapist, physiotherapist, counsellors and podiatrist. A Gym and Health Centre is located opposite the Hospital"*. There is also a private dental practice in Naremben.

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.

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 Narembeen against planning benchmarks using estimated transitional ratios (85/1000 70+ & 35/1000) and end point ratios in 2021 (78/1000 & 45/1000).

Table 9: Aged Care Supply/Demand

Actual versus planning ratio Aged Care places				
	2016 (136 people 70+)		2021 (170 people 70+)	
	Residential Care	Home Care	Residential Care	Home Care
Planning ratios	11.5	5	13	7.5
Actual	Unknown	Unknown	?	?

The implications of the above calculation are that the current 13/14 residential care beds are adequate for Narembeen Shire itself now and into the immediate future. However insofar as the MPS also provides for older residents from other areas it may warrant review. Home Care is the unknown factor since it is not clear that there is a significant amount available at present. If so, and going but experience elsewhere in the Wheatbelt, this is likely to be the area of greatest deficit in aged care.

Strategic Community Plan

The Strategic Community Plan is “to guide Council towards the communities vision and aspirations” (p.1) 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 Social, Economic, Environment and Civic Leadership areas. Section 3 of the Strategic Community Plan notes that it not static and is subject to regular review. This Age Friendly Plan can be seen as amplifying of the Strategic Community Plan – especially in respect of its Social Action Statements.

Relevant to an age friendly community the proposed Social area Actions cover, among others, matters to do with retaining the long running GP service, supporting the current level of primary and allied health services, involvement with local and regional aged care accommodation options and providing infrastructure to facilitate opportunities for older residents to remain physically and socially active, particularly for those who are socially isolated.

These strategies are very compatible with an AFC Plan.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

The 2011-2016 DAIP is under review at present. However it is clear from the earlier plan that there are many items which are of relevance to older people. For example the access barriers listed at p. 11 of the DAIP are of significance to older people as much as anyone.

It is clear that there is some overlap between actions under a DAIP and an AFC 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. However the difference is that the DAIP is a statutory requirement on local governments outlining its own responsibilities whereas an effective Age Friendly Plan will involve a wider range of stakeholders.

The Narembeen 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 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 - 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
- Outcome 6 - People with disability have the same opportunities - - - to participate in any public consultation - - .
 - Approximates – Social and civic participation

The following AFC Plan (Sec. 4) follows a similar format as that used in the Narembeen DAIP Implementation Plan to assist the alignment of the two plans.

2.4 Research Findings

Demographic changes

As in most RoeROC shires 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+) will markedly reduce, resulting in a likely extra demand for formal support and care services beyond the actual growth rates of the older populations. However, in Narembeen, whilst the projection estimate for the 55+ population is less than for the 70+ [population (31.7% vs. 53.2%) it is a higher growth prediction for the 55+ group than other RoeROC Shires and the discrepancy is not as great. The projected 85+ growth rate is lowest of all and also dramatically lower than other Shires. This figure is an outlier and may possibly be an artefact. It will be of interest to compare it with projections from the upcoming 2016 census.

Socio economic data

Narembeen shows as having a socio economic profile only slightly below the Australian benchmark on the last report. Among the RoeROC Shires it had a relatively smaller proportion of older people on low incomes at the last census and close to or less than the WA average proportion.

For those of lesser means there are implications ranging from reduced 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.

Services profile

With a hospital providing a range of services, a long standing GP, visiting female doctor, a dentist and a range of health related services Narembeen is relatively well placed for medical and health related services.

On paper there is an adequate supply of aged residential care and a HACC service. However, it is not clear that the community understands the potential for higher levels of care available with Home Care packages or that current providers are active in the Shire. This is an important issue in light of the demographic data (85+ projections) which indicates possible drift of older people away from Narembeen – possibly in response to care needs. Forced departure from their community and families is traumatic for older people and those families and a great loss to the community.

Strategic Community and Disability Access and Inclusion Plans

Narembeen's Strategic Community Plan links the AFC Plan and the Corporate Business Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and other strategic plans. This AFC Plan can be the basis upon which the 2013-2023 Strategic Community Plan responds to the expressed needs of the older community. The Strategic Community Plan contains a range of complementary proposed Actions which mesh well with the tasks identified in the AFC Implementation Plan below. Under the Social aspect of the Plan (p. 14) these include:

- *Continue to retain the Doctor and Dentist in the Shire for a consistent and accessible service*
- *Provide continued medical equipment upgrades to the Narembeen Medical Centre*
- *Strengthen the current Narembeen District Hospital through lobbying and assistance in attracting and retaining health professionals*
- *Support the current level of primary and allied health services in the Shire (including the gym) with a view to increasing the number of services (mental health and dementia care in particular), access to them and appropriate venues for delivery*
- *Participate in local and regional aged care accommodation options, selecting best practice for the Shire, coupled with appropriate and complementary health, recreation and community services e.g. senior citizens, frail aged care*
- *Provide infrastructure and services that facilitate opportunities for our older residents to remain physically and socially active, particularly those that are socially isolated, across the Shire*

The Shire was undertaking the process of review of its DAIP as this AFC Plan was being developed. A number of the DAIP Outcomes share common themes with the AFC 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 which are the responsibility 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.

3 Consultations

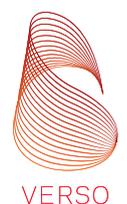
In consultations for its 2016 DAIP Narembeen Shire provided opportunity for respondents to identify features and issues particularly related to the following Age Friendly domains of:

- 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)

Outcomes from this consultation were still being processed at the time of finalisation of this Age Friendly Plan and insofar as issue are identified with implications for the older community of Narembeen these can be include in the Strategies and tasks identified in Table 10 below

An interview was also conducted with the Shire CEO and President who provided their view on possible issues under the age friendly domains. These are noted below as follows:

Outdoor spaces and buildings	
Good features	Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpaths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some areas identified in previous DAIP still need attention • A priority could be to link the Recreation Centre to the town centre/hospital/aged housing/school • Also connect fitness centre • Ramp/kerb work is needed • P.O. doors are still an issue as well as doctor’s surgery (council building)
Transportation	
Good features	Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer drivers organised through health service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of Perth-Esperance bus service – people have to go to Merredin to take train • Ideal response would be bus service to Merredin for train to Perth (at right times)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HACC bus doesn't have wheelchair access
Housing	
Good features	Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are sufficient aged units (2 of 14 vacant) • Entry to units is open and payment is rental • Financing of units is through debenture loan from Treasury under Shire guarantee. Council supports through insurance and maintenance • Universal design has been adopted by council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a general housing shortfall • There is some local capacity for home modification
Respect and inclusion	
Good features	Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an active senior citizens, historical society, men's shed and arts and crafts group • Cross generational activities are common 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are some isolated older people
Social and civic participation	
Good features	Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CRC is supported and auspiced by council • Older people included and not seen as a separate group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None noted
Communication and information	
Good features	Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older people benefit from Shire practices arising from DAIP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not noted
Community support and health services	
Good features	Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP service is "second to none" • There is a GP registrar • Shire is part of the RoeROC groups efforts to recruit and retain services • HACC service "probably adequate"? – includes maintenance at present and operates reasonably flexibly • HACC delivered out of town 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some people come back from the coast at a late age needing services

4 AFC Plan

As mentioned above the following plan follows the format of the DAIP Implementation Plan to facilitate alignment between the two. This proposed plan should be adjusted as necessary depending on relevant outcomes from DAIP consultations and any relevant Age Friendly audit issues.

The following AFC Plan should be supplemented by and pursued in concert with comparable action lines in the Shire's DAIP Implementation Plan and Strategic Community Plan.

Table 10: Age Friendly Community Plan

Strategy	Task	Timeline	Responsibility
Outdoor spaces and buildings			
Facilitate safe and comfortable movement around towns and environs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider identified footpath maintenance and extension issues and factor into works plans 	2016/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish seats and shaded locations 	2017/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire Men's Shed
Provide facilities and spaces to encourage older people to be "out and about"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with other township services to address current access issues identified in DAIP consultations 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire (also as advocate) Retail operators Service clubs
Transportation			
Respond to loss of bus service to Perth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore options for transport service Narembeen/Merredin including coordinated voluntary ride sharing 	2016/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire, WDC Community groups
Housing			
Support availability of age appropriate housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage new housing and developments to have suitable access features (universal design) 	2016/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support seniors retirement units committee 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire, volunteers
Respect and inclusion			
Improve older people's access to regular sporting events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage local sporting clubs or service clubs to consider inviting and/or bringing older people to regular home games 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports Clubs, Service Clubs

Strategy	Task	Timeline	Responsibility
Scope requirements for Narembeen to become a dementia friendly community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish links with Alzheimer's WA to seek their support in creating a dementia friendly program 	2017/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire, Health Service
Social and civic participation			
Maximise older people's employment potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage future Home Care providers to recruit locally among experienced and well older people 	2016/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire, Health Service, Providers
Maintain high level of volunteering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore potential for greater engagement of older school kids including potential incentives for younger people to volunteer 	2016/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire, High School, Volunteer Groups
Communication and information			
Assist older people to use of modern communication media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage connections between older people and high school to enable younger people to assist in use of modern media 	2016/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School, CRC, Seniors Groups
Ensure events are well advertised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage organisers to be active in promoting events e.g. through The Fence Post 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs, Service Groups, Weekly Update editors
Aim to make regular communications available as widely as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage shire staff and community groups to communicate in formats accessible to all 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire, Community Groups
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"> Collaborate with other RoeROC shires to approach Home Care providers to seek provision of Home Care Support interested Home Care providers to establish local outlet e.g. work space Support Narembeen community to seek secure dementia capacity at Health Service 	2016/17 2016/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire, RoeROC (N.B. provider list below) Shire, Health Centre Shire, WACHS
Facilitate other supports for older people to remain at home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider ways in which garden and general maintenance may be made available at cost 	2017/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service Groups, Men's Shed, Local Enterprise, Shire

Table 11: Current Wheatbelt Home Care Providers

Managed From	Provider	Package Level
Across Wheatbelt	WA Country Health Service	Levels 1/2
Girrawheen and Welshpool	Baptistcare Inc.	Levels 1/2/3/4
Pingelly, Toodyay, Northam	Silver Chain Nursing Association Incorporated	Levels 1/2/3/4

Managed From	Provider	Package Level
Narrogin	Town of Narrogin	Levels1/2
Northam	Share & Care Community Services Group Incorporated	Levels 1/2
Northam	Uniting Church Homes	Levels 1/2/3/4
Toodyay	Perth Home Care Services Inc. (now Avivo)	Levels 1/2/3/4
Wagin	Shire of Wagin	Levels1/2