

## 7.1 OLDER PERSONS REFERENCE GROUP (COM41:FH:KJ)

Responsible Committee: Older Persons Reference Group

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. *That Council accepts the resignation of the following persons from the Older Persons Reference Group:  
Mr Don Mahaffey;  
Mr Frank Bannon; and  
and that the Mayor writes to them to formally thank them for their contribution.*
2. *That Council accepts the appointment of the following persons to the Older Persons Reference group:  
Dr Kishor Dabke;  
Ms Lisbeth Calder; and  
Mr Marcus Bromley.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

In August 2003, Council responded to community requests and resolved to establish the City of Monash Older Persons Reference Group (OPRG).

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement on accepting the resignation of two current members due to them reaching the expiration of their two year term and the appointment of three new members to the reference group.

### **BACKGROUND**

The OPRG was established to act as a consultative committee to Council on matters relating to the health, safety and well-being of older people who reside in our municipality.

The group has two main portfolios and that is:

1. To provide Council with strategic direction and advice on its plans and services.
2. To identify services and program gaps that would benefit older residents in our community.

The OPRG has facilitated and been involved in a number of successful projects since its inception in 2003. These include:

- Instigating the Wiser Driver courses, of which Council has held 13 courses with approximately 360 participants.
- Creation and launch of a new Seniors Membership category at Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre (MARC).
- A Positive Ageing Expo has been held successfully for the past three years during Senior's Week, attracting in excess of 300 participants at each event.

- Providing feedback and suggestions for improvement on the PALS (Positive Ageing Life Styles) program.
- Being consulted during the development of both Monash 2012 and the Arts and Cultural Development Strategy.
- Instigated the successful '4 Steps for Life' course. One hundred and sixty people have completed the course.
- Representing the OPRG at a number of seniors forums and speak outs throughout the municipality and State.

### ***CONSULTATION***

The positions were advertised in the Monash Bulletin and also the PALS Booklet. Council received six applications all of whom were interviewed by Councillor McGill as Chair of the Committee and a Council Officer.

### ***FINANCIAL***

Nil.

### ***CONCLUSION***

Council will continue to support the initiatives of the OPRG to ensure services and activities are responsive to the needs of older persons residing within the municipality.