

## 2.4 APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE POSITIVE AGEING REFERENCE GROUP AND EXTENSION OF EXISTING MEMBERS

Responsible Director: Russell Hopkins

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council:*

- *Endorses the appointment of Pam Brown, Udesh Kamher, Ian Bjorkman, Robert Taylor and Selliah Nalliah to the Positive Ageing Reference Group in accordance with the current Terms of Reference.*
- *Extends the term of the following seven members; Annette Anakotta, Qin Shi Guo, Mark Learmonth, Constantine Mandalis, Jennifer Sheppard, Phil Terry and Irene Triroulis for an additional two years ending March 2024.*
- *Acknowledges the three members; Marlene Bottrell, Elaine Forde and Andrea Whitty retire from the reference group, however as per the Terms of Reference will attend meetings in an Age Friendly Ambassador capacity.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of the five recommended new members to the Positive Ageing Reference Group (PARG) to replace those members who have resigned and extend existing member terms to March 2024.

### **BACKGROUND**

PARG is currently represented by 10 community members and two Councillors (Cr Little and Cr Luo). Three members (Elaine Forde, Andrea Whitty and Marlene Bottrell) are due to retire. This will reduce the PARG membership to seven community representatives.

According to the Terms of Reference for the PARG, if a vacancy arises this position can be filled from members of the community or agencies that represent the older adult community.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **New Members 2022**

An Expressions of Interest (EOI) for new members was circulated at the Positive Ageing Seniors Network Forum in May 2021. The EOI was emailed to the seniors' groups which are on the Positive Ageing and Grants database and information sent via the Positive Ageing Lifestyle email database. A total of five Expressions of Interest applications were received, and all five were interviewed in December 2021 for potential membership in 2022, with a view to recruit a strong membership of 12 community representatives.

Pam Brown, Udesh Kamher, Ian Bjorkman, Robert Taylor and Selliah Nalliah were interviewed and determined to be suitable replacements to fill the vacancies.

- Pam Brown, current member of the Monash Croquet Club and Probus Club. Pam is keen on advocating for older residents to remain active (physically and socially) and engaged with their community, with a focus on loneliness and isolation.
- Udesh Kamher, is a member of two large Indian seniors' groups in Monash. Udesh is passionate about supporting opportunities for cultural groups to come together. He brings a wealth of knowledge from his volunteer roles with the Lions Club and the Salvation Army, and as an active member focuses on conversations with Chinese seniors.
- Ian Bjorkman brings years of experience from his professional career in banking and volunteering with Lions Club, LeCola camps for disadvantaged youth, garden volunteering and personal experience with family experiencing mental health. Ian's focus is on loneliness and building community connections and confidence.
- Robert Taylor, current president of U3A Waverley, is keen to support groups to identify opportunities for collaboration. Robert would like to support seniors to navigate post-covid life and technology.
- Selliah Nalliah is a member of the Tamil Seniors Fellowship. Identifies transport as a barrier to participation and a factor contributing to loneliness and isolation. Wanting to explore how we can better communicate to our older demographic to raise awareness.

### **Current members – extending term**

The following seven members have expressed a desire to remain on the committee and it is recommended that Council endorse a further 2-year term to March 2024 for the following members:

- Annette Anakotta - joined July 2017
- Qin Shi Guo - joined October 2015
- Mark Learmonth - joined October 2015
- Constantine Mandalis - joined July 2017
- Jennifer Sheppard - joined July 2017
- Phil Terry - joined October 2015
- Irene Triroulis - joined July 2017

The three residents listed below were members of PARG from 2013 until February 2021. They were involved in the original Age Friendly Ambassador initiative and helped develop the Age Friendly community engagement framework and the Age Friendly Monash Action plan. As per the ToR these members can continue to attend the PARG meetings in an Age Friendly Ambassador capacity.

- Marlene Bottrell - joined 2013
- Elaine Ford - joined 2013
- Andrea Whitty - joined 2013

***POLICY IMPLICATIONS***

The appointments will assist PARG to continue to represent the community in relation providing advice and guidance on the delivery of Council's Age Friendly Actions as outlined in the Healthy and Resilient Integrated Strategy 2021 - 2025.

***SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

PARG provides the opportunity to access community perspective to support the delivery of the key Age Friendly Actions in the Council Health Plan. Community membership is based on public invitation and members selected to provide a balanced representation of the community. Members of PARG are often involved for an extended period of time and have the opportunity to remain engaged as an Age Friendly Ambassador.

***CONCLUSION***

To enable the PARG to effectively support Monash City Council in advocating on behalf of our older residents it is recommended that Council approves the appointment of Pam Brown, Udesch Kamher, Ian Bjorkman, Robert Taylor and Selliah Nalliah to the PARG until March 2024, extends the term of seven current members to March 2024, and acknowledges the continued involvement of three prior members as Age Friendly Ambassadors.