

Ageing well in Melbourne

Following the City of Melbourne's 2024 review of council-funded healthy ageing programs, community engagement took place from March to May 2025 to better understand the local older population priorities.

The feedback received through this engagement will inform the City of Melbourne's healthy ageing service model.

Who participants were



599 survey participants



All participants were over 55. The most common age groups were 65-69 years (23%), and 70-74 years (18%)



Participants' attributes mainly included being born overseas (32%), and speaking a language other than English at home (15%)



Two focus groups and round tables, plus two email submissions



Women made up the majority of participants (70%), followed by men (28%)



Most participants lived in homes that they owned outright (69%), and most commonly lived alone (43%)

What participants said

Planning for the future

The majority of participants were actively planning for their future (82%), with the ways they were doing so outlined below:



Health and wellbeing was the most common focus of planning, including via living healthy lifestyles, partaking in activities, and making social connections.



Getting **Medical and legal affairs** in order was also commonly raised, particularly preparing a will and Power of Attorney.



Financial planning was a focus, including organising savings and looking into superannuation management.



Housing and living arrangements was a key planning consideration, including via downsizing and house modification.

Top priorities to age and live well

1st priority 2nd priority

Programs, activities or groups

33% 19%

Information, access to support

15% 17%

Feel comfortable to get around city

13% 15%

Places to connect with, feel welcomed

11% 17%

Housing that suits my needs

8% 6%

Accessible parks, public buildings

6% 12%

Employment, ability to retire when ready

6% 4%

Volunteer opportunities

3% 6%

Easy access to council services

2% 4%

Other

6% 3%

Programs, activities, and groups were described as supporting wellbeing and social connection. Extensions and updates to the current offerings were requested.

Access to easy-to-use **information** was raised as being important.

Participants wanted to **feel comfortable** in the city in order to leave their homes and connect with the community. Feedback was provided on the current sense of local safety.

Social connection was described as generally important, and positive for wellbeing.

Neighbourhood facilities



City Library was the **library** visited by the most participants (37%), followed by Library at the Dock (19%).



The majority of participants did not attend any **recreation centre** (72%), though those who did mostly visited Melbourne City Baths (16%).



Most participants did not attend any **neighbourhood centres** (76%) or **houses** (81%). The most commonly visited facilities were in Kensington and South Yarra (each 11%), and Kensington Neighbourhood House (9%).

Other requested focus areas

Participants were asked if there were any other areas that the council should focus on. Key areas were:



Services



Safety and accessibility



Recreation



Improved communications



Unique points of view

Members of **multicultural communities** were more likely than overall participants to attend neighbourhood centres and houses.



People with a disability were more likely than overall participants to prioritise information and access to support and services, and housing that suits their needs.



People who identified as **LGBTIQ+** were more likely than overall participants to want to participate in advisory committees.



Women were more likely than men to be planning for their future, and to see programs, activities, or groups as a priority to living and ageing well.

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Trying to be more organized about finances etc, but a lot more work to do on wills, health plans etc.

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I like the feeling of belonging to a community where I can be myself and not judged by age and abilities.

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I've discovered that ageism is the most invisible and unacknowledged form of discrimination... This makes employment extremely difficult. But if I can remain employed for as long as possible, then I am active and contributing, and not drawing on government resources. I would love to be able to find an employment agency that linked older people with businesses that are willing to employ them, rather than looking down on them.

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There are no neighbourhood centres neighbourhood houses in CBD, yet permanent population has substantially increased. This needs to be addressed as a priority.

