
Municipal Association of Victoria

Creating Environments for Positive Ageing

Local Government Initiatives



MAV/COTA Positive Ageing Project Overview

- Joint project of MAV and COTA
- Funded by Office of Senior Victorians
- 3 year project
- Project objectives
 - Build capacity of local government to plan for ageing populations
 - Provide leadership in promoting 'age-friendly' communities which create opportunities for senior Victorians to live active and fulfilling lives
 - Demonstration projects



MAV/COTA Positive Ageing Project Overview

- Demonstration Projects
 - Funded projects
 - Phases 1 & 2 - 14 projects funded
 - Phase 3 - 17 projects funded
 - Mostly small budget projects
 - Projects addressing Environments for Positive Ageing
 - WHO Global Age-Friendly Cities Project
 - Hindmarsh Scooter Project
 - Banyule – Greensborough Access Project
 - G21- Guidelines for Walkable Coastal Communities
 - Knox – Age Friendly Shopping Centres
 - Manningham – Age Friendly Access to Jackson Court



WHO – Age Friendly Cities Project

- International project
- MAV/COTA Positive Ageing Project involved
- Maribyrnong Council along with 32 other cities around the world
- Participative process to identify the key elements of an age-friendly city



WHO – Age Friendly Cities Project

- Development of Checklist
 - Outdoor spaces and buildings
 - Transportation
 - Housing
 - Social participation
 - Respect and social inclusion
 - Civic participation and employment
 - Communication and information
 - Community and health services

WHO – Age Friendly Cities Project

- Project Outcomes
 - Used by older adults to assess their local environments
 - Small rural towns application further developed in Canada
 - Structure to be used by:
 - Brimbank – establishing local groups of older people to use the assessment tool in their local communities
 - Murrinidindi – focus of questionnaire for Positive Ageing Strategy
 - Other councils – focus of discussion with the community around positive ageing issues

Hindmarsh Scooter Project

- Positive Ageing Strategy in place
- Research identified high % of scooter users in Hindmarsh
- Many complaints about footpath safety
- This project:
 - Improve accessibility to social, work and leisure opportunities
 - Audit pathways and access in Dimboola, Rainbow, Jeparit and Nhill
 - Develop local access and safety information
 - Identify safe routes

Hindmarsh Scooter Project

- Project Outcomes
 - Mobility Maps for each town being finalised
 - Insert maps in 'Stay Safe' brochure
 - Awareness raising in community and council of older people's mobility issues and needs
 - Successful funding application for path improvements in Dimboola, Nhill, Rainbow & Jeparit
 - Improved safety for older people, scooter users, walking frame users and people with prams

Banyule –Greensborough Access Project

- Identify need for improvements in urban design to improve accessibility
- Raise awareness of physical needs of older people
- Provide a voice for older people
- Development of walkability tool
 - Connected
 - Comfortable
 - Convenient
 - Convivial
 - Conspicuous
- Engaging older people in assessing the environment and identifying issues

Banyule –Greensborough Access Project

- Design principles
 - Disabled car parks
 - Seating
 - Well designed toilet facilities
 - Signage
 - Handrails
 - Level footpaths
 - Prominent public transport
 - Mobility information

Banyule – Greensborough Access Project

- Project Outcomes
 - In-principle adoption of walkability design standards
 - Schedule of works
 - Future improved walkability within Greensborough Principle Activity Centre
 - Raised awareness of issues with implications elsewhere in Banyule

G21 – Guidelines for Walkable Coastal Environments

- Ageing population
- Sea change impacts
- Maintaining coastal environment qualities
- Port Arlington, St Leonard's, Indented Head

- Equitable access to town centres
- Exploration of the issues of walkability of coastal settlements
- Engagement with older adults – 'walkshops', bus tours
- Identified universal appeal of shared streets as a solution to coastal traffic and pedestrian conflicts, comfort and amenity particularly for the ageing community
- Design solutions
- Most importantly – whole of Council approach and commitment to achieving outcomes

G21 – Guidelines for Walkable Coastal Environments

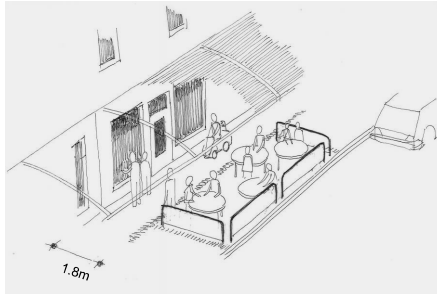
- Issues identified by older people:
 - Gopher/café conflict
 - Gopher/vehicle conflict
 - Design of traffic safety measures
 - Roads with no footpaths
 - Difficult footpaths due to steep slopes, slippery surfaces, narrow or discontinuous path
 - Unmade roads with no footpaths in areas of established and valued street planting
 - Missing links with key pedestrian routes
 - Its far too difficult to walk to shops/town centre
 - Creeks and drainage lines form barriers to movement

G21 – Guidelines for Walkable Coastal Environments

- Managing access to ecologically sensitive areas
- Few opportunities to enjoy beautiful views, rest or relax
- Misunderstanding between sections of the community
- Coastal areas are subject to more severe weather
- Parking on footpaths provides barrier to pedestrian movement
- Busy roads act as barrier to pedestrian movement to beach, parks and shops
- Minimising the sense that coastal roads are psychological barriers that divide the coast from the township

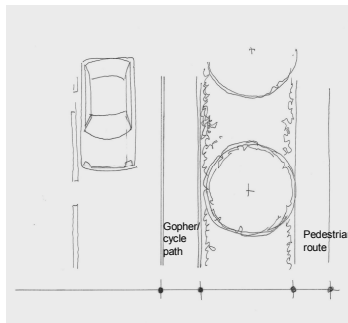
G21 – Guidelines for Walkable Coastal Environments

- Project Outcomes
 - Gopher/café conflict
 - Design solution option



G21 – Guidelines for Walkable Coastal Environments

- Gopher/Vehicle Conflict
 - Design solution option



G21 – Guidelines for Walkable Coastal Environments

- Unmade roads with no footpaths in areas of established and valued street planting
 - Design Solution option



G21 – Guidelines for Walkable Coastal Environments

- Its too far/difficult to walk to shops/town centre



Knox – Age Friendly Shopping Centres

- Identify issues impacting on use of shopping centres by older people
- Survey of older adults explored issues including:
 - Outdoor spaces
 - Transport to the centre and car parks
 - Access to buildings, shops and services, stairs and escalators
 - Wheelchair access
 - Toilets
 - Places to rest
 - Personal safety – lighting, traffic management, pavements
 - Keeping body & mind fit
 - Design and location of shops
 - Attitudinal issues

Knox – Age Friendly Shopping Centres

- Project Outcomes
 - Much better understanding of issues facing older people using shopping centres
 - Gaining commitment from shopping centre management
 - Developing information to assist centre management and shop owners to create age-friendly environments
 - Development of brochure to guide centre management and shop owners in addressing the issues in their environments
 - Universal application

Manningham – Age friendly & accessible pedestrian and cycling access to Jackson Court Neighbourhood Activity Centre

- Development, promotion and implementation of measures to encourage and increase walking & cycling to Jackson Court
 - Maintain and enhance the emphasis on pedestrian and cycle friendly environments to encourage good health outcomes
 - Encourage a sense of community at the neighbourhood level by enhancing local and community meeting spaces
 - Compliment the development of Jackson Court Urban Design Masterplan
- Audit existing conditions, including infrastructure
- Consult to identify measures that can increase older people walking and cycling to Jackson Court

Manningham – Age friendly & accessible pedestrian and cycling access to Jackson Court Neighbourhood Activity Centre

- Survey residents within 600 metres
 - Many respondents older in age
 - Jackson Square plays a significant role in people's lives
 - Most people walk there
 - Need for:
 - Additional street amenities – seating, drinking fountains, bicycle racks
 - Better footpaths
 - Better lighting
 - Safer crossing points
 - Home delivery service

Manningham – Age friendly & accessible pedestrian and cycling access to Jackson Court Neighbourhood Activity Centre

- Project Outcomes
 - Whole of Council approach
 - Development of a Pedestrian and Cycle Plan
 - Input of information to Master Plan
 - Commitment to changing the environment through better design and capital works improvements
 - More people walking and cycling to the centre
 - Improved comfort, safety and access for older people

Summary

- Recognition that there are many issues in our public environments that limit participation by older people in community life or activities to support daily life
- A wide range of issues have been addressed through the projects
- Local government is making a difference
- The MAV/COTA project has provided an incentive for these issues to be addressed
- Whole of Council solutions are the way forward for most issues
- Material will be available from the projects – sharing the learning