

## Positive Ageing Service Review update



With an ageing population, the Australian Government is changing how aged care and services for people with a disability are delivered. The introduction of choice and competition are the key parts of the reform.

Council is reviewing its Positive Ageing services to ensure the best outcomes for clients and staff.

The review finds that Council has a long history of delivering high quality services, but is a costly service provider. When current funding agreements begin to expire in 2019 the following key changes are important to remember:

- local government will no longer be automatically designated service providers
- it's likely that the Federal Government will either introduce individual funding to clients, or market test services on a regional scale (Council won't be competitive in either of these situations), and
- Council will lose its decision making ability (and therefore its ability to influence good outcomes for clients).

A comprehensive Community Engagement process has been undertaken and Council invited authors to make a verbal presentation to Council on the 12 June in support of their written submissions. This was a new step but an important one, as it gave:

- authors the opportunity to expand on their comments, and
- Councillors the opportunity to hear directly from the community so they are sure that they properly understand the various views and concerns

Because of the Hearing of Submissions, the decision regarding Council's future Positive Ageing role has been deferred, with a decision likely to be made at the Council Meeting on the 24 July 2018. Council's strong commitment to ensuring clients have access to aged and disability services continues. All clients will be provided with a written update after the decision is made.

## Commonwealth Home Support Program fees increase

**Effective 17 August 2018**

Council undertakes an annual review of all fees and charges. The new schedule of fees, only for Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) funded clients, is enclosed together with this newsletter and are also available on Council's website [www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au](http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au). The new fees will apply to all services that are provided for CHSP funded clients on and after 17 August 2018.

## Musical Mornings

Season Two 2018



The Musical Mornings program (at the Geelong Performance Arts Centre theatre) is promoted by the Positive Ageing unit as a great opportunity for Shire residents to socialise and enjoy live entertainment. The ticket includes transport from your nominated township pick up point to GPAC, an allocated seat for each performance and a two course lunch at a restaurant.

Season tickets (all five shows) are \$200. To check availability and to book your tickets please call Julia on **5261 0600** or e-mail [juliac@surfcoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:juliac@surfcoast.vic.gov.au).

### **Thursday 12 July**

B# Band with Tamara Kuldin - Sultry, sassy and cheeky jazz

### **Thursday 23 August**

Bach to Broadway with Bradley Daley & Alison Jones

### **Thursday 13 September**

Bring him home – Simon Gleeson

### **Thursday 8 November**

Great Songs of the war years – with tributes to Vera Lynn, Bob Dylan and Normie Rowe and more.

### **Thursday 6 December**

Christmas with Sylvie Paladino

## Dementia support

Dementia Australia provides a range of support, information and counselling to people experiencing memory loss or dementia - as well as support to their families.

They also regularly provide family information sessions from their Geelong office, located at 318 Pakington Street, Newtown. The next family information sessions are:

- **Effective Communication**  
Wednesday 8 August, 1pm to 3.30pm
- **How Dementia Friendly is Your Home?**  
Wednesday 5 September, 1pm to 3.30pm
- **Coping with changes in behaviour**  
Wednesday 3 October, 1pm to 3:30pm

Bookings are essential, so please contact the Geelong office on **5229 6979** to register or speak with a dementia specialist about other supports.



## AFTER HOURS ON CALL CHANGES

If you have an urgent cancellation please use our on call service **0418 123 347** between 7am and 8.30am, and 5pm and 9pm.

On call is available for urgent issues relating to the services we provide, outside our regular business hours of 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Thank you.

## VISION AUSTRALIA

Are you struggling to see the buttons on your TV remote? Vision Australia has a great selection of daily living aids and assistive technologies for people with blindness or vision impairment.

Phone **1300 84 74 66** or visit their website <https://shop.visionaustralia.org> to find out more.

# Nominate now for the Victorian Senior of the Year Awards



The awards acknowledge older Victorians who volunteer their time to assist, support and encourage others in their communities. The award categories are:

- Premier's Award for Victorian Senior of the Year
- Healthy Active Living Award
- Veterans Community Award
- Promotion of Multiculturalism Award
- COTA Victoria Senior Achiever Awards
- Age-Friendly Victoria Award – for organisations or businesses.

Nominations close on **20 July 2018**.

Download a nomination form at the Seniors Online website [www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festivalsandawards/awards](http://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festivalsandawards/awards) or phone **1300 797 210**.

## JOB SEARCH WEBSITE

Toozly is Australia's largest job search website for people with disabilities.

Whether you are looking for work now or maybe looking for a career change in the future.

Visit Toozly's website [www.toozly.com.au](http://www.toozly.com.au) or call them on 1300-TOOZLY (**1300 866 959**).

## Your voice – Trust your choice

**Tips for seniors making enduring powers of attorney, and avoiding and preventing elder abuse.**

*Your voice – Trust your choice* is a practical guide to help Victorians to safely appoint a power of attorney.

The Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) created a booklet to help guide people when creating a power of attorney.

An enduring power of attorney is where you give someone you trust the legal authority to make decisions on your behalf.

The majority of enduring powers of attorney work well. Unfortunately, in some cases, family members, carers or friends abuse their authority as power of attorney and take advantage of that authority. This is one of the most devastating forms of elder abuse.

The booklet includes helpful tips, case studies, and sample wording to encourage older people to safely decide upon an enduring power of attorney.

This guide will assist you to minimise the risk of abuse when appointing an enduring power of attorney, so that:

- it captures your wishes about decisions that are made on your behalf, and
- the right people are involved in decisions that are made on your behalf.

It is a companion booklet to Office of the Public Advocate's Taking Control: a guide for making enduring powers of attorney.

Both booklets are available on the OPA website [www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au/power-of-attorney](http://www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au/power-of-attorney).

Or contact OPA on **1300 309 337**.

## Scams: if you have any doubt – don't!

Scammers are often professional criminals. Anyone can fall for a scam, because scammers are getting smarter and using more sophisticated tricks to dupe thousands of Victorians every year. You are not alone. In 2017, Victorians made more than 33,000 reports of scams and lost more than \$22 million.

For more information and tips and videos to help avoid scams, contact Consumer Affairs Victoria on **1300 55 81 81** or visit **[www.consumer.vic.gov.au/scamsavvy](http://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/scamsavvy)**.

If you have been scammed, it can help to talk about how you are feeling with someone you trust.

If you experience depression or anxiety as a result of being scammed, you can seek professional help from: Beyondblue: **1300 224 636** or **[www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)**.

SANE Australia: 1800 18 SANE (**1800 18 7263**) or **[www.sane.org](http://www.sane.org)**.

## Palliative care resource

**Leading Aged Services Australia (LASA) have palliative care training materials for carers and families, care providers and staff.**

The Making Choices for Life resource materials includes videos and fact sheets on facilitating a person-centred approach to palliative care.

Topics covered range from advance care directives, law, managing client pain and improving comfort and quality of life, to supporting cultural preferences, emotional responses to death and loss, and accessing bereavement care.

Australians can live well, maintain hope and stay connected with their families and loved ones at this stage of their lives, with good end of life care.

The training materials are freely available from LASA's Palliative Care Resources webpage **[www.lasa.asn.au/palliative-care-resources](http://www.lasa.asn.au/palliative-care-resources)**.



## Want your Positive Ageing newsletter sent by email?

Send us an email to **[scsservicedelivery@surfcoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:scsservicedelivery@surfcoast.vic.gov.au)** with your request. We do not share your email address or any client information, and will only use your email to send you the Positive Ageing Newsletter.