

Active Ageing Strategy

Government of Western Australia

Generations Together: 2004 – 2008 Report



Department for Communities
Government of Western Australia
Office for Seniors Interests and Volunteering

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The Challenge

Responding to the ageing of the population is set to be one of the world's greatest challenges. As we enter the 21st century, global ageing will put increased social and economic demands on all countries. The World Health Organisation (WHO) argues that if nations, societies and communities actively plan and respond now, we will be prepared to meet this challenge successfully. They articulate the active ageing process as a way of thinking and working to “optimise opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age” (World Health Organisation 2002).

Worldwide, the proportion of people aged 60 and over is growing faster than any other age group. Between 1970 and 2025, a growth in older persons of some 694 million or 223 per cent is expected. In 2025, there will be approximately 1.2 billion people over the age of 60; by 2050, it is anticipated there will be 2 billion (*Active Ageing: A Policy Framework* WHO 2002).

Western Australian demographics

In Western Australia, those born at the start of the post-war baby boom are now turning 60 and by 2025, seniors will account for a quarter of our population.

In June 2006, 16.3 per cent of Western Australia's population was aged 60 and over, slightly lower than the national average of 17.6 per cent. Seniors made up 20.4 per cent of the State's adult population (aged 15 and over).

In 2024–25, this figure will be much higher. Seniors will account for 24.3 per cent of WA's entire population, and 29.2 per cent of the adult population (*Western Australia's Seniors* Topic Sheet No.1 OSIV).

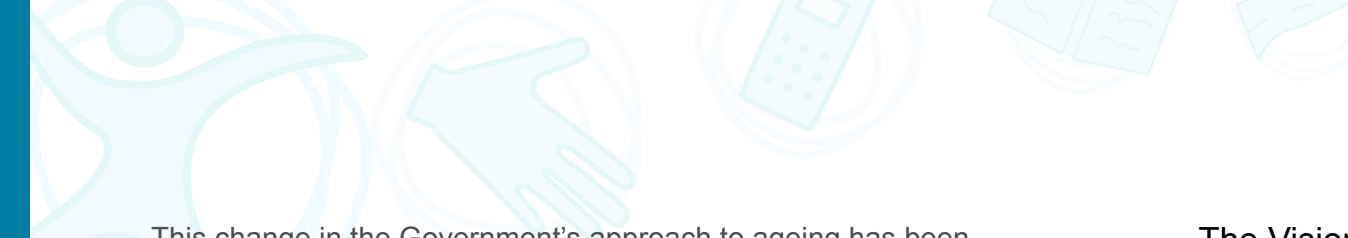
The pressures that will be placed on the economy by the increase in demand for public services have been well documented. There are also many positive impacts on our society with the ageing of the population. The unpaid work undertaken by seniors (people aged 60 and older), including volunteering, child minding and caring, is of enormous value, both socially and economically.

In a report, *State of Ageing in WA* commissioned by the Office for Seniors Interests and Volunteering from Access Economics (2007), it is estimated that the unpaid work undertaken by Western Australian seniors could save the Western Australian economy \$2 billion, and the Federal economy an estimated \$4 billion by 2024–25. It is important that we recognise this value and ensure that we approach policy making with the view that our ageing population is an asset, not a burden.

A significant change in the Government's response

The Active Ageing Strategy changes the way the Government works to support ageing and older people. The strategy:

- Focuses on a global issue and provides a whole-of-government planning and policy framework;
- Requires agencies to work together across government and the community to achieve identified outcomes; and
- Is underpinned by the 'lifecourse approach' to policy and program development. This approach acknowledges the important influences of earlier life experiences, gender and culture and the specific impact of these on later life.



This change in the Government's approach to ageing has been acknowledged by the World Health Organisation as an example of leadership in ageing policy and practice.

'*Better Planning: Better Futures*' encapsulates the Government's vision that the public sector has a major part to play in creating "the best opportunities for current and future generations". It focuses public agencies on goals and outcomes that will guide agencies in planning and ensuring that services and programs are complementary, responsive and meet the needs created by an ageing population.

Active Ageing provides a framework for policy development and collaboration across the Western Australian public sector that fits within the *Better Planning: Better Futures* vision and, together with the community, will shape and develop responses to the population ageing challenge.

The Vision

The vision for the Active Ageing Strategy is that "In ten years' time, increasing numbers of older Western Australians are measurably healthier, more physically active, and growing numbers are valued active participants in the workforce and in community and cultural life. Strong, mutually beneficial intergenerational connections promote a sense of belonging and security. Attitudes to ageing are positive across the community" (Vision Statement, Active Ageing Taskforce, March 2003).

The strategy includes five identified priority areas under which government initiatives will be developed. The priority areas are:

1. Health and Wellbeing;
2. Employment and Learning;
3. Community Awareness and Participation;
4. Protection and Security; and
5. Planning and the Built Environment.

Western Australian Community

Taskforce Vision

- Increasing numbers of Western Australian seniors are measurably healthier, physically active, and valued in community
- Strong intergenerational connections
- Attitudes to ageing are positive across the community

Government's Key Priorities	Health and Wellbeing	Employment and Learning	Community Awareness and Participation	Protection and Security	Planning and the Built Environment
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life expectancy • Mental and physical functioning • Disease risk • Physical participation • Mental and physical risk factors • Falls • Long-term health conditions • Disability rate • Activity limitation • Happiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour force participation rate • Employment rate • Unemployment rate • Increased learning • Computing skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive ageing • Productive ageing • Valued and respected in community • Volunteering • Group/club membership • Community participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income protection • Perceptions of safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local area access • Transport issues

How will the Strategy continue to develop?

The Western Australian Government established the Active Ageing Taskforce in 2002 to consult with the community and recommend a policy framework that would guide active ageing for the next ten years. The Taskforce presented its report in 2003. In 2004 the State Government responded with the release of *Generations Together: the Western Australian Active Ageing Strategy*.

The strategy focused on collaboration across government and resulted in a successful multilateral budget bid. A Government commitment of \$3.1m for new initiatives was provided for the first four years. This funding was allocated over seven government agencies for a range of initiatives. All initiatives have been completed or are in the process of completion. The strategy also includes a larger number of initiatives that were funded within existing agency resources and supported active ageing principles.

The majority of government agencies accounted for their commitment to active ageing in Budget Statement and annual reporting mechanisms, with particular focus placed on workforce management, service delivery and community engagement. A structured monitoring and review process has been established to ensure that the strategy remains a dynamic document and a driving force for change. This includes regular progress reports (completed in December 2004 and January 2006) and a final report (July 2007).

Measuring the effectiveness of the Strategy

The Office for Seniors Interests and Volunteering was funded to develop “an Active Ageing Scorecard to report on community indicators of active ageing around the State”. Benchmark indicators were developed for each of the five priority areas. The indicators are a set of population indicators measuring how well the State is progressing towards achieving active ageing and the ten-year vision

set by the Active Ageing Taskforce. The benchmark indicators were released in 2006; they will be updated in 2009 and again in 2012.

The 2006 benchmark indicators identified that policies and strategies were particularly required to address the following areas:

1. Improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
2. Increasing involvement in physical activities, particularly among female seniors;
3. Encouraging healthy eating, particularly among male seniors;
4. Improving the social participation of seniors, particularly male seniors;
5. Reducing or managing physiological risk factors (high blood cholesterol, high blood pressure and obesity);
6. Increasing employment opportunities, particularly for female seniors;
7. Encouraging access to and training in computers and the internet, particularly for female seniors;
8. Improving financial security, particularly for female seniors and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander seniors; and
9. Improving attitudes towards ageing in the general community and among seniors themselves.

This information will assist in providing the strategic direction for future initiatives.

Where to from here?

In May 2007, a process was put in place to further encourage all government agencies to be aware of and be engaged in the next four years of the Strategy. Information on the strategy has been distributed to 127 government agencies and offices. Currently, approximately 70 government agencies are involved in the ongoing development of the Strategy. Agencies are now in the process of developing new initiatives, either independently or in partnership with other agencies. These new initiatives will be presented in the next phase of the Strategy, from 2008–2012. Funding will be sought for some initiatives; others will be unfunded.

The Active Ageing Strategy represents a whole of government response to a major change in our social and economic environment. Although the role of the Office for Seniors Interests and Volunteering and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet is to coordinate and support the process, the responsibility for commitment and action lies with all of us.

Key Priority 1 - Health and Wellbeing

The Active Ageing Strategy incorporates a holistic view of health, emphasising resources for the retention of good health and prevention of illness, including the support of family and carers and promotion of the personal, social and environmental facilitators of wellbeing in a manner that is culturally appropriate and informed

Initiatives: Funded under the Strategy				
Initiative	Total funding allocated	Key Agencies	Outcomes/Indicators	Implications for future planning
A Depression Prevention and Awareness Program for older people, service providers and carers and families	\$455,000	OSIV	Increased understanding that depression is not a normal stage of ageing. Indicator 4.3, 4.13	Depression awareness to be ongoing through relationships with key stakeholders. Increased emphasis to be place on prevention, social isolation and loneliness.

The following strategies were undertaken:

1. A Scoping Project was undertaken to outline the issue and recommend strategies to raise community awareness of depression. This was completed in 2005.
2. The topic sheet, *Staying Mentally Healthy* was produced and widely distributed throughout the State. The sheet provided detailed information and education on the issue of depression and specific contact information. It was completed in 2005 and updated in 2007.
3. Have-a-Go TV program: this was aired in 2005 and 2006 and provided broad scale community awareness raising.
4. A successful public forum on the issue of depression was co-hosted with The Council on the Ageing.
5. A self-assessment depression awareness card was developed as a joint initiative with beyondblue: the national depression initiative. This was widely distributed among general practitioners and pharmacists.
6. One-off small grants were developed specifically for rural areas. The grants were to support activities that focused on physical activity and a healthy lifestyle in order to counteract symptoms of depression, particularly in the lead-up to the festive season.
7. A joint universities research project is being undertaken to overcome the deficit in knowledge surrounding older people's understanding of depression. This information will assist the development of education campaigns.
8. Laughter workshops were presented during Seniors Week as a positive mental wellbeing activity.
9. A Yellow Ribbon intergenerational project was provided by senior mentors to high school students to increase awareness and prevention of suicide.
10. A joint workshop was conducted in Singapore with the Singapore Action Group of Elders. Key stakeholders and non government organisations from WA and Singapore examined the issue of mental wellbeing and developed and recommended actions to improve understanding.

11. The Healthy Parks, Healthy People Seniors Park-based Activity program was a joint initiative with the Department of Environment and Conservation. The program provided opportunities for seniors to experience new physical, educational, creative and social activities which aimed to enhance wellbeing and increase activity as a prevention for depression.
12. Get to Know your Neighbour Day was launched for the first time in Western Australia in 2007 and encourages a greater sense of community and belonging.
13. A speakers program was developed jointly with a non government organisation and has a focus on increasing awareness of depression.
14. A self-help booklet is being developed as a preventative and awareness raising tool.

A health promotion response to complement the Falls Policy for Older Western Australians	\$95,000	DOH	Decreased prevalence of falls. Indicator 4.10	The evaluation has provided information for ongoing activities, including suggestions for capacity building and sustainability of the program.
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The strategy was an extension of the Stay On Your Feet (SOYF) Program and included:

1. A media campaign to promote awareness of falls prevention strategies; and
2. A small grants scheme to promote falls prevention activities at a local level.

Research to identify and raise awareness of the transitional stages of ageing in later life	\$52,500	OSIV	Ageing perceived as a productive stage of life. Indicator 5.2	Established a framework for future planning.
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This initiative, completed in 2006, enabled identification of the life transition stages that seniors believed had the most important continuing influence, positive or negative, on their present lives and identified:

- Which life transitions have the most impact on successful ageing;
- Other factors associated with successful ageing; and
- Established that the majority of seniors are ageing successfully.

Initiatives: Funded within existing resources

Initiative	Key Agencies	Outcomes
Implementation of a state-wide falls policy among seniors	DOH	Promoted the prevention of injury due to falls.
Living Longer Living Stronger program	DOH, OSIV	Ongoing program which assisted strength training in seniors.
Conduct a Carers Symposium	OSIV	The 2004 Symposium built on the 2001 Symposium and continued to identify key issues for carers and identify best practice models. This information is used to advise government, expand initiatives to support carers (in keeping with the Government's Caring for Carers policy) and build the capacity and sustainability of the community care sector and carers.
Carers Recognition Bill	OSIV	The <i>Carers Recognition Act 2004</i> came into effect on 1 January 2005. There is growing awareness of the legislation within the public health and disability sector, which is driving the development of specific initiatives to meet the compliance requirements of the legislation.
Establish a Carers Secretariat	OSIV	A dedicated carers policy function was established within OSIV with the main purpose of supporting the work of the Carers Advisory Council.
Support Stay On Your Feet Learning Circle program	DOH, OSIV	The program has concluded and an evaluation report has been produced.
Adult Pneumococcal vaccinations	DOH	An ongoing immunisation program for non-Indigenous people over 65 years and Indigenous people over 50 years.

Key Priority 2 - Employment and Learning

The Active Ageing Strategy promotes policies and programs to encourage employers to attract and benefit from older workers' skills and experiences. It assists employers to retain older employees through innovative workplace practices, phased retirement and life-long learning. It assists mature employees to maintain and develop their skills and to profit from and contribute to the workplace as they age.

Initiatives: Funded under the Strategy				
Initiative	Total funding allocated	Key Agencies	Outcomes/Indicators	Implications for future planning
Develop a Mature Workers Promotional Campaign to promote the involvement of mature employees and flexibility in employment options for older workers	\$100,000	DOCEP	Increased numbers of mature workers remaining in the workforce. Indicator 7.1	Developing and marketing strategies that successfully attract and retain mature workers is a business and government imperative. Extending the Mature Age Employment advertising campaign. Further research into life-work balance. Access to flexible working arrangements in the Public Sector.
<p>The Mature Age Employment Strategy was launched in 2005 and has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and development of a Mature Age Employment Strategy; • Identification and promotion of a range of flexible work arrangements; • Market research to test the current perceptions of mature age employment; • Development of a dedicated section on the Department's website; • Development of a range of publications for both public and private sectors; • Organisation of a national/international Work Life Balance Conference; • Liasion with GESB and other central Government agencies to increase flexibility in government superannuation schemes; • Development of a statewide advertising campaign; • Organisation of a breakfast and half-day seminar to address retaining mature age talent in the workforce; and • Numerous press releases and further case studies for newspaper articles. 				

Initiatives: Funded within existing resources

Initiative	Key Agencies	Outcomes
Conduct an inquiry and make recommendations for the elimination of unfair discrimination in the workplace in relation to the gender pay gap	DOCEP	Inquiry completed 2004. In 2006, a Pay Equity Unit was established in the Labour Relations Division of DOCEP to implement recommendations from this inquiry.
Improve retirement transition and maintain intellectual capital within the workplace by developing flexible work and superannuation options	PSM, DOCEP, GESB	Ongoing development to encourage the retention of Mature Age Workers.
Research the special needs of female retirees	OWP	Research was undertaken on the current status, options and issues in relation to retirement incomes for women. The report found many factors contributed to women accumulating less superannuation than men. The information from the report was crucial to the production of the brochure, <i>SuperWoman – Women and Superannuation, Securing your Future</i> , produced in August 2006. This targets all women and was an outcome of fundamental research focussing on barriers women face through the life course which, in turn, impacts on the level of post-retirement income.
Continue to fund 'Profit from Experience' programs for mature employees	DET	Outcomes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased employment prospects; • Increased self-esteem and confidence; • Ability to participate in life long learning opportunities that support individual career goals; • Increased awareness and access to career information; • Increased ability to make career-enhancing decisions; • Maintain work-life balance; and • Specific publication addressing the potential impact of the ageing workforce on the teaching profession.

First Click/Second Click	DET	Increased computer literacy skills accessing existing resources. This allows seniors general access to a broader range of information and communication.
Encourage retirees and pre-retirees to consider lifestyle and financial issues when planing for their future years	OSIV	The booklet, <i>Western Australian Guide to Planning for an Active Retirement</i> was launched in 2004. Retirement planning forums were held to promote the need to plan for retirement in all areas of life, not just financial planning.
Develop and promote phased retirement and complementary workforce practices in the public sector	PSM, DOCEP	Publications were developed which supported this process. They included <i>Meeting the Challenge: Attracting and Keeping Public Sector Employees</i> (2007), 2006 Retirement Intentions Survey and <i>Better Planning Better Futures</i>
Consider the inclusion of ageing and phased retirement in the State's Equity and Diversity Plans	DPI	The results of the case study undertaken by DPI are seen as opportunities to be evaluated across government

Key Priority 3 - Community Awareness and Participation

The Active Ageing Strategy addresses ageing and older people as a vital resource for the community as well as indicators of the wellbeing of our society. It enhances the capacity of the community to employ and benefit from the experiences and skills of ageing and older people. It assists older people to continue to be active and informed participants in our society and to sustain their diverse cultural heritage.

Initiatives: Funded under the Strategy				
Initiative	Total funding allocated	Key Agencies	Outcomes/Indicators	Implications for future planning
Extend the Active Ageing strategy to regional areas	\$350,000	OSIV	Increased understanding of active ageing in the regional areas. Indicators 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4.	Expansion of the role and further coverage to regional Western Australia
Two Community Linkage Officers were employed to facilitate and support intergenerational awareness and communications				
Support and facilitate active ageing at the local level – Grants Program	\$1,350,000	DLGRD, OSIV	Increased understanding of ageing at the local level. Indicators 5.3, 5.4	Encouraged take-up of active ageing by community organisations in local communities.
A major partnering strategy with local government, supported by a grants process, encouraged and facilitated local engagement and acknowledgement of ageing and older people around the State. Sixty-three grants were approved for funding in the first two rounds. The third and final round of funding has been announced and funding will be provided in 2007. An evaluation will be undertaken at completion of the program.				
Research to understand and promote recreational participation in regional Western Australia	\$210,000	DSR	Increased physical activity for seniors in regional areas. Indicator 4.5	To provide a best practice model for future delivery of programs.
Research was undertaken to collect information regarding the capacity of industry service providers to cater for seniors' recreation activities in targeted areas of regional WA. Key findings indicated considerable gaps in both training and service provision for seniors.				

Initiatives: Funded within existing resources

Initiative	Key Agencies	Outcomes
Recognise, support and promote the role of volunteers in achieving active ageing via the Volunteering Secretariat	OSIV	<p>The Volunteering Secretariat provides funding to fifteen Volunteer Resource Centres around the State, whose role includes providing information and support to attract individuals to participate in volunteer work. This linkage encourages the community participation of older people with the aim of decreasing social isolation and loneliness.</p> <p>Grant funding is made available for the celebration of Thank a Volunteer Day in December each year. Celebratory events held around the State include many older people who are recognised and thanked for their contribution.</p>
Publish a Cultural Diversity topic sheet	OSIV	A Cultural Diversity Topic Sheet has not yet been produced. However, it is anticipated the Western Australian Census data will be released shortly to enable the publication of the Topic Sheet prior to the end of the financial year 2007/2008.
Fund and support Intergenerational Playgroups	OSIV	<p>An evaluation of the Intergenerational program identified that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children, parents and seniors benefit from the intergenerational interaction; • Intergenerational awareness and community building increased; and • There was a reduction in social isolation.
Undertake a Seniors Community Participation Survey	OSIV	The Community Attitude Survey is conducted annually. The report informs direction for future planning regarding seniors participation level in both activities and the general community. Information was also collected on levels of happiness and whether seniors felt valued and respected by the community.
Publish a grandparent's resource kit	OSIV	In consultation with grandparenting groups and non-government organisations, the document, <i>Grandfamilies: A Resource Guide for WA Grandparents Raising Grandchildren</i> , was produced in 2005. This document provides recognition and support to grandparents and will be updated on a regular basis.
Establish a steering committee involving grandparents and grandchildren to determine future directions and to develop support activities for both groups	OCY, OSIV	A Focus Group was held early in 2004. This led to a number of camps being held throughout 2004 for children cared for by their grandparents. In 2005, a Grandfamilies Committee was convened with the aim of supporting the future directions and planning activities of grandfamilies. It was found that the children themselves needed to be more involved in the process. Wanslea has been a key provider in this program and has identified that to provide a sustainable Grandfamilies program, reliable funding sources need to be established.

Guide for State Government Concessions	DPC, OSIV	Published current document which identifies all state government concessions.
The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Seniors' Days Activities	DSR, OSIV, DCD	Ongoing Seniors' Activity Days for Indigenous people in both metropolitan and country areas.
Develop an Indigenous Partnership program to support active ageing in Indigenous communities	OSIV, DIA	A grant was provided to a traditional group in the Kimberley to conduct cultural activities that bring old and young people together.

Key Priority 4 - Protection and Security

The Active Ageing Strategy provides a framework for across government initiatives and community and private sector partnerships to increase social and economic security and protection of older people.

Initiatives: Funded under the Strategy				
Initiative	Total funding allocated	Key Agencies	Outcomes/Indicators	Implications for future planning
Develop an Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance to inform government policy and promote community and professional awareness and understanding of elder abuse	\$42,000	OSIV, OPA, DOH, WAPS	Increased understanding of elder abuse. Indicator 9.5.	The Alliance is an ongoing project. As projects are developed, the aim is to raise awareness of the issue of elder abuse within the community, so that this issue is understood, recognised and responded to appropriately.
<p>The Alliance developed a three-year strategic plan for 2005–2008 which has five goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To raise community knowledge and understanding of elder abuse; 2. To provide policy advice on elder abuse; 3. To expand the breadth and quality of knowledge of elder abuse; 4. To support the provision of adequate elder abuse prevention and protection services; and 				

5. To promote professional education and training in elder abuse issues.

The Alliance has produced an elder abuse protocol, designed and commenced delivering a training program to support the implementation of the protocols in specific workplaces and has developed community education initiatives targeting service providers, the general population, older people, Indigenous seniors and CALD seniors.

Develop an Elder Abuse program to identify and develop local responses to elder abuse in Indigenous and culturally diverse communities.	\$50,000	OPA	Development of relevant responses to elder abuse for Indigenous and CALD seniors. Indicator 9.5.	Both reports are preliminary and a lead agency will take responsibility for carrying the findings forward to the second phase of Active Ageing. Specifically, the Indigenous report has lead to the launch of an action research project aimed at assisting Aboriginal staff working with older Aboriginal people and their families to identify, prevent and respond to the mistreatment of older people.
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Two research projects were undertaken:

1. Investigation into Elder Abuse in Aboriginal Communities. This resulted in the report, *Mistreatment of Older Aboriginal People in Aboriginal Communities* that was launched in 2005.
2. An investigation was commissioned into Elder Abuse in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities. This resulted in the report, *Care and Respect: Elder Abuse in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities* that was launched in 2006.

These reports are an important step in assisting communities, service providers and government agencies to understand the issue of elder abuse in Aboriginal and CALD communities and to take appropriate measures to identify and deal with it.

Feedback on the reports has been consistently positive – from both Aboriginal and CALD communities and government agencies. However, this research is only a first step and action on the reports’ recommendations is now required from across the whole of government.

Initiatives: Funded within existing resources

Initiative	Key Agencies	Outcomes
Provide funding to grandfamilies where grandparents are living with and caring for their grandchildren.	OSIV, OCY	A number of camps and other respite activities have been funded each year. In 2006–07, nine projects were undertaken, including weekend and short breaks, farm stays and one-day events. Evaluation reports indicated a high level of satisfaction with the events. Grandparents felt strengthened as a result of being recognised and because of the informal support networks that developed from these events.
Develop Elder Abuse prevention initiatives to raise awareness	OSIV	<p>The pamphlet, <i>Older People's Rights</i> has been produced and widely distributed. Work has commenced with the banking and finance sector to identify strategies to assist the industry to identify and respond to financial abuse of older people. A public forum was held to provide information to older people about elder abuse.</p> <p>A seminar, <i>The Financial Abuse of Older Adults</i> held in June 2007 provided information on current research, legal issues and new developments.</p> <p>A Rights Centre for Older People was opened in 2007. The Centre provides legal information, advice and legal advocacy to older people experiencing abuse and community legal education to service providers.</p>
Development of a National Policy on Elder Abuse Prevention	OSIV	Establishment of an ongoing national working group to address cross-jurisdictional issues relating to elder abuse. This issue is currently being considered by the Senior Officials Forum on Population Ageing which reports to the Community and Disability Services Ministerial Advisory Committee.
Publish an information sheet on Crime and Safety for Seniors	OSIV	The information sheet will be completed upon release of the Western Australian data for the General Social Survey, produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. It is anticipated that this sheet will be published before the end of 2007.

Key Priority 5 - Planning and the Built Environment

The Active Ageing Strategy promotes and extends existing initiatives to make our community more accessible for ageing and older people and to improve planning, services and design to meet the needs of our diverse ageing population. The Strategy and long term planning across government is informed by ongoing, accurate economic and social modelling.

Initiatives: Funded under the Strategy				
Initiative	Total funding allocated	Key Agencies	Outcomes/Indicators	Implications for future planning
Undertake a community transport study to improve coordination and avoid duplication of transport in regional centres	\$25,000	DPI	Increased access to viable transport options in the regional areas. Indicator 8.1, 8.2.	Provides factual basis for future planning.
The study involved identifying one representative town and making an assessment of what needed to be done to provide community transport services within available resources. A number of strategies were proposed to improve available services. The second stage of the Active Ageing strategy may be an opportunity to progress some of the recommended strategies.				
Undertake an active ageing scorecard and diversity analysis to report on community indicators of Active Ageing in WA. Undertake research to analyse regional, gender and cultural impact of active ageing.	\$315,000	OSIV	Development of Indicators: taking a Benchmark measurement in 2006. Follow-up measurement studies will be carried out in 2009 and 2012.	The indicators will be repeated in 2009 and 2012 and will provide measurement and accountability for the strategy.
Several reports were commissioned: 1. The Active Ageing Benchmark Indicators were developed for each of the priority areas. The benchmarks indicated that policies and strategies must continue to facilitate active ageing among Western Australia's seniors.				

2. The Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Seniors: Community Participation Research Project focused on the community participation of CALD seniors. It found that the number of older immigrants from non-English speaking backgrounds has been growing at five times the rate of the Australian-born population, that many of the issues that affect culturally and linguistically diverse seniors highlighted in the report also affect the general seniors population, that local community centres increase the opportunity for community participation, and that a lack of proficiency in English and lack of transport play a vital role in community participation.
3. The findings in the reports, A Report on the Seniors Community Participation Survey, June 2004, and State of Ageing in WA: Report by Access Economics, February 2007, are being used to inform the directions for future planning.

Develop an Active Ageing Housing Program to consult on and develop innovative and accessible housing options for the ageing population in regional and metropolitan WA	\$80,000	DHW, OSIV	Increased ability to age successfully in place. Indicators 10.3, 10.4	The review of services is currently being undertaken and will inform how to address the issues in the second phase of active ageing.
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The Program included:

1. A review of services to determine the adequacy of current community-based home, garden and maintenance services and programs in Western Australia that support older people to remain in their own homes;
2. Developing options and making recommendations that will support the development of programs and services; and
3. Holding a key stakeholder forum, attending a national housing conference and liaising with international speakers to inform a response to the State Housing Strategy and issues addressing older people and housing.

Initiatives: Funded within existing resources

Initiative	Key Agencies	Outcomes
Improve transport accessibility in new subdivisions by involving transport planners in the subdivisions and approvals process	DPI	Integrated planning through the State Planning Strategy, State Transport Plan, Transport Assessment Guidelines for new developments and State Infrastructure Strategy. The <i>Liveable Neighbourhoods</i> policy also provides an integrated planning and assessment policy for the preparation of structure plans and subdivisions for new urban development in the metropolitan area and country centres.

Review the Residential Design Codes for special purpose dwellings	DPI, WAPC	The current Residential Planning Codes of WA control residential development in terms of built form and housing density. The provisions of the <i>Liveable Neighbourhoods</i> policy apply to the broader design of urban form and subdivision layouts for predominantly residential developments, and will take into consideration the specific design and planning issues associated with retirement and lifestyle villages and accommodation.
Identify the essential criteria for meeting the Universal Design principles in housing design, planning policies, codes and guidelines	DPI	<i>Liveable Neighbourhoods</i> provides an integrated planning and assessment policy for the preparation of structure plans and subdivision layouts to guide the further development of Perth and the regional cities and towns of Western Australia.
Planning for Indigenous communities	DPI	Provides more efficient delivery of services and improved quality of life.
Operational Plan for Indigenous Housing, Infrastructure and Essential Services (2007–08)	DHW	A range of data sources are accessed to capture relevant information to help address the needs of older Indigenous people.
Accessible Communities Awards	OSIV, DSC	The Accessible Communities Awards are held to showcase and promote initiatives that improve access and inclusion for people with disabilities and seniors. Among the six categories within these awards is a specific Seniors Award.
Develop new laws to protect residents who live in caravan parks as their principal place of residence	DOCEP	The <i>Residential Parks (Long-stay Tenants) Act 2006</i> was passed through the Legislative Council in July 2006.

Develop a memorandum of understanding with the World Health Organisation to formally acknowledge the status of Active Ageing in WA	OSIV	<p>A memorandum has been developed. Major outputs from this include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The development of the <i>Western Australia's Seniors – Active Ageing Benchmark Indicators</i>, which will be used to measure Western Australia's progress towards achieving active ageing among our seniors and realising the vision of <i>Generations Together</i>. 2. The involvement of Western Australia in the development of the WHO Age Friendly Cities Index project. This project aims to examine the environmental and social determinants of active ageing to help make the settings of daily life more age-friendly.
Develop international relationships and training programs	OSIV	Ongoing joint initiative with the Singapore Action Group of Elders to enhance and support sector workforces, build capacity of service providers and achieve world standard delivery of programs and services for seniors through a skilled and committed workforce
Age Friendly Cities Project	OSIV	The World Health Organisation and cities worldwide have partnered to identify major physical and social barriers to active ageing. This shared learning will result in a practical 'Age Friendly Cities Guide' to be launched internationally in October 2007. The guide will facilitate active ageing planning.
State of Ageing Report	OSIV	<p>Commissioned by OSIV and undertaken by Access Economics, this report found that Western Australian seniors make an enormous contribution to the community through their unpaid work in child care, volunteering and caring.</p> <p>The value of this work to the economy is considerable. As a high proportion of seniors are retired, their unpaid work is less likely to impact on their ability to take part in the paid workforce, and therefore the adverse impact on the formal economy is minimised.</p> <p>A topic sheet is currently being produced.</p>
Implementing the Building Better Communities program	DPI	A <i>Network City</i> policy has been developed through wide-ranging consultation. The policy has been endorsed and is a long-term metropolitan planning strategy that will contribute to the building of better communities.

Implement improvements to the Metropolitan Fringe Development and Transport Services Strategy	DPI	This is updated annually through the Metropolitan Development Program, which assesses services provided to newly developing areas, including public transport and road issues.
Conduct a pilot study into the accessibility of 'conventional suburbs'	DPI	Ongoing research comparing conventional suburbs and liveable suburbs is being undertaken.
Perth Central City – Access and Mobility e map	DPI	People with disabilities and seniors may now be able to get accessibility information about Perth via the DPI website or the City of Perth website. The information is regularly updated.

Appendix 1: Agency Acronyms

DCD	Department for Community Development	OSIV	Office for Seniors Interests and Volunteering
DET	Department of Education and Training	OWP	Office for Women's Policy
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation	PSM	Public Sector Management
DHW	Department of Housing and Works	WAPC	Western Australian Planning Commission
DIA	Department of Indigenous Affairs	WAPS	Western Australian Police Service
DLGRD	Department of Local Government and Regional Development		
DOCEP	Department of Consumer and Employment Protection		
DOH	Department of Health		
DPC	Department of the Premier and Cabinet		
DPI	Department for Planning and Infrastructure		
DSC	Disability Services Commission		
DSR	Department of Sport and Recreation		
GESB	Government Employees Superannuation Board		
OCY	Office for Children and Youth		
OPA	Office of the Public Advocate		

Appendix 2: List of publications mentioned in this report

A Report on the Seniors Community Participation Survey, June 2004

Active Ageing at the Local Level Initiative

Active Ageing Benchmark Indicators 2006 and Summary

Active Ageing: Facilitating Participation
Report of Active Ageing – Phase One

Alliance for the Prevention of Elder Abuse: Western Australia - Brochure

Alliance for the Prevention of Elder Abuse: Western Australia - Strategic
Plan

Care and Respect: Elder Abuse in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
Communities

Community Transport for a Regional Centre
(Report yet to be approved for release)

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Seniors: Community Participation
Research Project and Summary

Elder Abuse Protocol: Guidelines for Action

Generations Together - A Guide to the WA Active Ageing Strategy

Generations Together - A Progress Report of the WA Active Ageing
Strategy

Generations Together - A Progress Report of the WA Active Ageing
Strategy - 2006

Generations Together - Active Ageing Strategy 2004 - 2008
Summary

Healthy Parks, Healthy People: Seniors Calendar of Events 2007

Know Your Neighbour Day

Mature Age Employment Strategy

Mistreatment of Older Aboriginal People in Aboriginal Communities

Older People's Rights

Self Assessment Depression Awareness Card

Senior Participation - Facts and Stats

Scoping Project - Older People and Depression, March 2005

State of Ageing in WA: Report by Access Economics, February 2007

Staying Mentally Healthy: Topic Sheet 7 plus updated version

Stay on Your Feet WA

Transitions in Ageing Research Project 2006 and Summary

50 Pluses Staying Active: Actively Ageing in the Peel and Great
Southern Region

Electronic versions of these publications are available on relevant
WA Government agency websites and on CD upon request to the
Department for Communities.

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