

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
SENIORS COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
ON 17 MAY 2017 at 4:00PM IN THE ANDY MCNEILL ROOM,  
CIVIC CENTRE, TODD STREET

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**1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES:**

PRESENT:

Mayor Damien Ryan – ASTC  
Geoff Sloan – General Member  
Kathleen Nitschke – U3A  
Jill Deer - Alice Springs Senior Citizens Association  
Sue Jones – National Seniors of Central Australia  
Lowell Wood – General Member (Alzheimer’s Australia NT)  
Jenny Mostran – Council on the Ageing  
Chris Westwood – ASTC, Acting Community & Cultural Development Manager  
Skye Price – ASTC, Director Corporate and Community Services  
Mitch Cameron – ASTC, Community Development Officer (*Chair*)  
Telly Ociones – ASTC (minutes)

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Steve Brown – ASTC  
Councillor Dave Douglas – ASTC  
Rosemary Goldner – Catholic Care NT Aged Care  
Enid Harland – Probus  
Bronwyn Arnold – Australian Regional and Remote Community Services  
Shauna Hartig - Country Women’s Association, Alice Springs  
Rex Mooney – ASTC, Chief Executive Officer  
Leon Tripp – ASTC, Community & Cultural Development Manager  
Georgina Davison – ASTC, Manager Library Services

The meeting commenced at 4:00pm.

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That it be a recommendation to Council:

**That the minutes of meeting held on 5 April 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.**

Moved: Jill Deer

Seconded: Sue Jones

**3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**3.1 Seniors Lifestyle Village Update**

Mayor Ryan advised that the seniors lifestyle village has been discussed at the Regional Economic Development Committee and with the Department of the Chief Minister. A sub-committee was set up for this project.

### **3.2 50 Plus Centre Parking**

Work has started for the 50 Plus Centre car parking last week.

The estimated timeline for the completion of this project is July 2017.

### **3.3 Collection of Large Household Waste from Seniors Homes**

Deferred discussion when Enid Harland is available to report back at the next meeting.

### **3.4 NT Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme (NTPCCS)**

Geoff Sloan advised that the current NTPCCS will cease 31 December 2017. Eligibility criteria will remain including having the age pension with the new scheme.

Geoff Sloan overviewed decisions made by the NT Government to the following components for the new concessions Scheme:

- All seniors aged 65 years and over will receive a minimum of \$700 every two years in line with the Government's election commitment.
- The future Scheme will be two-tiered and will offer concessions for eligible pensioners and all seniors.
- Future concessions will be administered via debit card that will be loaded with an annual concession amount and can only be used for specified purchases with identified vendors.
- Informed through consultation, a review of current suppliers (vendors) will be done and the new Scheme should allow for an expansion of choice of concessions available.
- There will be a cap on concessions paid to ensure the Scheme can remain viable, affordable and sustainable.
- The Scheme will be eligible to all NT residents:
- 65 years and over; or
- People receiving the following Centrelink payments: Aged Pension; Disability Support Pension; Carer Payment; Parenting Payment Single; Department of Veterans Affairs Pensions.
- There may be appropriate supports and hardship provisions for low-income earners that may be affected by changes to the Scheme.
- The new Scheme will commence on 1 January 2018.
- Hardship provisions (if required) and medical needs provisions will be incorporated into this review.

Government has requested an independent review of the current Scheme to better understand why some households are claiming very high concessions. This review will be completed by June 2017 and will be used to inform ways to support a more moderate consumption of electricity as well as how to more fairly distribute the funding across all members. The key findings will be made publically available and will inform the community consultation.

A discussion paper will be released to seek community input. This paper will be released by the end of May with consultation to be completed by August.

Discussion ensued on the current scheme.

Kathleen Nitschke enquired about the consultation process timeline. Geoff Sloan advised that a meeting of the Reference Group will be held 19 June regarding community consultation.

### **3.5 Elder Abuse: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – 15 June**

A morning tea to promote 'World Elder Abuse Awareness Day' will be held in the Alice Springs Public Library, 15 June at 10:30am. Potential guest speakers include Rosemary Goldner (Catholic Care NT Aged Care) and Loraine Gibbs (Aged and Disability Advocacy Service). The colour theme for the event is purple.

### **3.6 Seniors Coordinating Committee Charter**

Council is doing a review of all its advisory committee charters to reflect the realities of the new legislation. A draft Seniors Coordinating Committee Charter has been submitted to Council at its May meeting for adoption.

Sue Jones requested that the new Charter be distributed before the next meeting so committee members can peruse.

#### **ACTION:**

Mitch Cameron to provide copies of the new Seniors Coordinating Committee Charter before the next meeting.

## **4. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Australian Association of Gerontology Presentation by Dr Ben Spies Butcher – Monday 22 May**

A presentation about generational equity by Dr Ben Spies Butcher will be held Monday, 22 May at the Centre for Remote Health from 4:00pm to 5:00pm. This is open for everybody.

#### **ACTION:**

Mitch Cameron to forward invitation to Charles Darwin University.

### **4.2 Meeting Protocol**

Kathleen Nitschke raised the issue of meeting protocol to ensure that all Committee members are notified of meeting schedules and cancellation of meetings, either by email or telephone.

Discussion ensued.

### **4.3 Central Australia Health Service Community Forum – 24 May**

The Board of the Central Australia Health Service will hold a community forum Wednesday, 24 May in the Alice Springs Public Library from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Guest speaker Naomi Heinrich, General Manager of the Alice Springs Hospital, will talk about cancer service in Central Australia and the new Oncology Unit at the hospital.

### **4.4 Facebook Page for National Seniors**

Sue Jones requested to have a link on the Council website for the National Seniors Facebook page.

#### **ACTION:**

Mitch Cameron to take up this request to the Council Media Officer.

#### **4.5 Handicap Parking in The Residency**

Sue Jones requested the possibility of placing a handicap parking spot in The Residency, as the locked gate has not been opened for a while.

Mayor Ryan advised to liaise with Dr Mark Crees from the Department of Arts and Museums.

#### **4.6 Hartley Street Crossing Outside Yepereny Shopping Centre**

Sue Jones put forward an issue when exiting Yepereny Shopping Centre to cross Hartley Street. There is no clear vision of oncoming vehicles if you are standing on the right hand side from the crossing.

#### **ACTION:**

Mitch Cameron to bring this up to the Access Advisory Committee.

#### **4.7 Sprinkler System at the Garden Cemetery**

Jill Deer advised that she was at the Cemetery on Mother's Day and the watering system was going everywhere, which is unusual to be on during that time of day.

Mayor Ryan advised that there were a couple of power failures at that side of town over recent weeks. This can be followed up with Technical Services.

Mayor Ryan advised that the Garden Cemetery Chapel will be opened 6 June. Jill Deer complimented the Rose Garden in the Cemetery.

#### **ACTION:**

Mitch Cameron to bring this up with Technical Services.

#### **4.8 Colour Coded Car Parks**

Jenny Mostran enquired whether Council could encourage colour coded car parks in shopping centres for seniors to promote a user friendly town.

Discussion ensued.

#### **ACTION:**

Mitch Cameron to bring this up to the Access Advisory Committee.

#### **4.9 Jury Duty for People Over 70**

Jenny Mostran enquired whether people over the age of 70 do not need to be on jury duty.

Discussion ensued about the capability of some older people to serve on the jury versus people who find it a relief. It can be discriminatory and may be a concern for other groups of people who still want to serve.

#### **ACTION:**

Mitch Cameron to provide additional information about jury duty for seniors at the next meeting.

#### **4.10 Meeting in August**

Mayor Ryan advised that there will be no meeting in August due to Council elections. Council will be in caretaker period from 3 August.

Mitch Cameron reminded everyone of the 'Still Got Talent' event in August.

#### **4.11 Office of the Seniors Ministerial Council Meeting**

Membership for the Ministerial Council has been finalised and its first meeting will be held 2 June.

#### **4.12 Yeperenye Shopping Centre Manager**

Nicole Walsh has been invited to the next Seniors Coordinating Committee to determine what services the Centre can provide to seniors.

#### **4.13 Maintenance Providers Discount for Seniors**

Geoff Sloan enquired how seniors can manage to get maintenance providers who would give a guaranteed discount through the seniors card.

Sue Jones advised that there is a seniors handbook with a list of service providers and discounts for seniors.

Discussion ensued about endorsing the quality of work of some trades people.

#### **4.14 Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment Older Workers Discussion Paper**

Geoff Sloan received a copy of the Discussion Paper which is now going to become the public sector discussion paper for their approach to all the workers over 55 years old. Geoff asked if people are interested for this document to be distributed.

#### **ACTION:**

Geoff Sloan to send the Discussion Paper to Mitch for distribution.

#### **4.15 Commendation to Council Workers**

Jill Deer would like to congratulate all Council staff for their work during the Big Day Out in Harmony and the Anzac Day event.

6. **NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 21 June 2017, 4pm, Andy McNeill room**

7. **CLOSE: The meeting closed at 5:00pm**