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Submission to Future Melbourne Committee

City of Melbourne, Council Meeting Room, Melbourne Town Hall Administration Building
23 June 2020, 5.30pm – Meeting No.78
Agenda Item 6.3 – Melbourne A Great Place to Age strategic plan

The ‘Melbourne: A Great Place to Age’ strategy plan will be a useful document to guide future activities. It is sufficiently detailed and addresses, if not focuses on, issues such as the digital divide. However, the SRA feels that the importance of face to face contact should also be given due emphasis.

Of concern is the size of the budget allocation of \$80,000 for the stated number of 14,000 people aged 60 and over currently in the City of Melbourne. This is only \$5.71 per person. Also given that some of this amount will need to cover salaries of any program, the initial impact is not likely to be significant.

The Purpose, Principles, Outcomes and Actions, while appearing in various layouts in the document, are sufficiently precise to generate programs and to measure delivery against the expected outcomes. Although some specific mention of the role of community centres such as the Boyd Community Hub would firm up that prospect. Similarly the expansion of ‘building community in high-rise developments’ to ‘building community in *and between* high-rise developments’ would improve the efficacy of any programs and build cohesion in the broader community.

One thought is around the outcome “Safety: Older people live in safe and accessible homes and communities” on p20/21

The actions largely focus on the communities aspect but don’t really touch on the homes aspect other than “We will facilitate accessible housing for older people” through the Affordable Housing Strategy.

A topical issue these days is the extent of the obligation on OC’s to install accessible ramps, automated doors, grab rails etc for new or existing residents due to aging or disability. This is especially the case where residents are “Aging in Place” – a subject that the strategy should have, but hasn’t, considered. This subject is usually discussed for living in a detached dwelling but rarely discussed for apartment living.

Modifying this action item to be “We will facilitate accessible and affordable housing for older people through the Affordable Housing Strategy and by enabling residents to age in place” would strengthen this outcome/action a little.



The SRA commends the City of Melbourne's long involvement in the WHO's programs on Active Aging and we look forward to hearing of the City of Melbourne's contributions to these efforts and to seeing the benefits that can flow from such international cooperation. The publications on Age Friendly strategies by some of the participating cities as well as WHO itself seem to provide many examples of possible programs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Penna", is written over a thin horizontal line.

Tony Penna
President
Southbank Residents Association