



HUNTER AGEING ALLIANCE



Together, we can better plan for older people and make the Hunter an age-friendly community

The Hunter Ageing Alliance was launched on March 17 with a limited audience of about 30 stakeholders due to COVID-19 guidelines. Since then, over 60 individuals and 12 organisations have signed the Pledge to make Newcastle and Lake Macquarie age-friendly cities.

Since the launch, we have established an email address and website and are currently applying for NGO status under the Fair Trading legislation. This allows us to apply for grants and other financial support.

We have met with Sharon Claydon's office and with NSW politicians, Tim Crakanthorpe and Jodie Harrison. Tim Crakanthorpe then arranged for a meeting with Jo Haylen, Shadow Minister for Ageing.

We met with the Planning Department of Newcastle Council, represented by the Acting Director, Ashlee Abbott, as well as Simon Massie and Susan Denholm. They are enthusiastic about working with HAA on their forthcoming Social Strategy Planning. We also discussed environmental issues and housing options.

Meetings are also being held with Hunter New England Local Health District to discuss important aged care issues particularly in dementia, chronic disease and in the care of older people in residential aged care facilities; with NSW politician, Sonia Hornery; with Alice Thompson, CEO of the Committee for the Hunter; and with Robert Fitzgerald, NSW Commissioner for Ageing and Disability. We are hoping to discuss with Mr Fitzgerald options for putting our activities in dealing with elder abuse on to a sustainable footing.

IN THIS ISSUE

WHAT HAS THE ALLIANCE BEEN UP TO?

WHERE TO NEXT?

OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION

OUR VISION AND MISSION



Next steps

- Increase the number of people and organisations signing the Pledge.
- Get established as a registered NGO and apply for grants
- Hold a webinar on age friendly communities
- Run a World Café to discuss priorities and generate actions
- Present to a Newcastle Institute Forum on Ageing
- Set up teams of people to work on each strategy



A Mission Statement, as well as Visions and Strategies, has been developed. The areas in which strategies will be developed are:

- Making it easier for people to find information about activities and services for older people
- Environmental improvements to make Newcastle and Lake Macquarie into cities that are friendly for older people to live and visit.
- A range of housing options that allow older people to remain in their own neighbourhoods within small, friendly communities. This will include increased availability of low-cost housing and emergency accommodation.
- Minimising the adverse effects of social isolation, including vulnerability on extreme heat days
- Aged health care issues, particularly in dementia assessment and management, chronic disease management and the medical/nursing aspects of residential aged care.
- Elder abuse
- Late-life care, including legal planning, supported accommodation and end-of-life care.

We are looking for people to join teams working on the above issues. For each strategy, measurable goals will be set so that we can determine our effectiveness.

Mission

Inspired by the decades we can look forward to beyond the age of 70, the Hunter Ageing Alliance will lead the transformation of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie into age-friendly communities.