

### **Background and Introduction**

The Peninsula Advisory Committee for Elders (PACE) was established by the Mornington Peninsula Shire in 2006, as one of the key outcomes of the Council's five-year *Elder Citizens Strategy* of 2002.

The role of PACE is to advise Council on how best to respond to and meet the current and future needs of elder citizens on the Mornington Peninsula, as part of the Shire's Positive Ageing Actions, within the *We All Belong Strategy 2024-2029*. This strategy outlines the Council's approach to working in partnership across key life stages (children, young people, older adults) and population groups (people with disability, LGBTIQ+ and multicultural communities) over the next five years.

The first PACE meeting for 2025 was held in February and meetings were held monthly through to November, with a break in July. This annual report summarises the main activities carried out by PACE during 2025.

### **Councillor Delegate on PACE Committee**

The 2025 Councillor Delegate to PACE was Cr Cam Williams who provided invaluable support and advice to PACE on a range of issues during the year.

### **2025 Chair and Deputy Chair**

At the November 2024 PACE meeting, the nominations and election of the 2025 PACE Chair and Deputy Chair were held. Dina Tanphanich was re-elected Chair and Vicky Davison was re-elected Deputy Chair.

### **Membership**

In January 2025, PACE had 11 Committee Members. In June 2025, Helen Vidler (member from 2021) resigned and in July 2025, Merrin MacKay (member from 2023) also resigned.

In November, Leonie Kingsley (member from 2018) and Yaqirah Herut (member from 2023) advised that they would not be continuing as PACE members in 2026.

Two new members, Sally Alsop and Rosemarie Draper, joined in November 2025.

Names of all 2025 PACE members are listed in Appendix I.

### **Expressions of Interest for new PACE members**

As a result of the resignations of some committee members, an Expression of Interest for new members was advertised in May/June, targeting the Western Port and hinterland area, there being no remaining members from this area. However, there were no successful candidates and another EOI was advertised in September, targeting all areas on the Mornington Peninsula. As listed above, there were two successful candidates who joined in November.

### **PACE Delegates on Shire Committees/Networks**

In 2025, PACE members nominated to represent PACE on a number of Shire Committees/Networks and selected external network groups. These are listed in Appendix II.

### **PACE Working Groups**

In 2025, PACE re-affirmed its commitment to the following PACE working groups.

- Preventing Elder Abuse Working Group
- Housing Working Group
- Social Participation/Social Isolation Working Group
- Transport Working Group

Reports from the currently active PACE working groups are attached (Appendix III)

### **PACE Terms of Reference**

In 2025, the Terms of Reference working group continued to monitor developments relating to the Shire's Committee Management Policy and its associated Terms of Reference.

A detailed response to the draft Committee Management policy was submitted by PACE on 7 March, and PACE was subsequently advised that a number of PACE's recommendations were accepted in the final draft policy. These included the recommendation that the proposed non-renewal fixed term of membership of only two years, be extended. The final policy now includes a fixed term of three years, renewable for another term of three years. A new clause on a grievance process was also included.

However, the policy, approved by Council on 22 July, included a specific clause (which PACE had not been advised of) which excluded PACE's involvement in the selection process of new applicants.

PACE was assured that there would be some flexibility in the Terms of Reference for each advisory committee. When the standard Terms of Reference document was provided to PACE on 13 October, the ToR working group, in consultation with the Shire's Positive Ageing Team, developed it to suit PACE's specific circumstances. In particular, PACE proposed the inclusion of a clause which would allow the Chair/Deputy Chair to be involved in the recruitment and selection process of new candidates.

This clause was, however, later amended to allow PACE only to be involved in the EOI process, not the selection process. PACE continues to advocate for this clause to be included.

At the time of this report, this matter has not yet been resolved.

### **Mayor and CEO at June Meeting**

PACE issued an invitation to both the Mayor, Cr Anthony Marsh and the newly appointed CEO, Mr. Mark Stoermer to attend a PACE meeting. PACE was delighted that both accepted and attended the June meeting.

The Chair provided an overview of PACE, its history and activities/achievements in recent years. The Convenors of the PACE working groups then provided a special report on their goals, activities and achievements.

PACE appreciated the opportunity to present to both the Mayor and the CEO and their feedback on PACE as an advisory committee to the Shire was positive.

### **Shire Presentations to PACE**

PACE invited Shire officers to present on topics of interest or of concern to the older community members and on positive ageing. These presentations provided an opportunity for PACE members to respond to and give feedback on the issues discussed.

The following is a list of the presentations in 2025:

- Liz Orlov, Acting Team Leader, Community Wellbeing on the Shire's draft Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029
- Virginia Richardson, Community Resilience Officer, on the Shire's Community Disaster Resilience Strategy
- Dawn Low, Coordinator Community Engagement and Jonny Brownbill, Coordinator Digital Strategy on SHAPE.

The Shire's newly appointed Community Connectors also gave a number of presentations and reports to PACE about their activities and drop-in sessions in the community to inform people of ways of accessing Aged Care and developments/changes in this area. At the October PACE meeting, an update on changes to the Support at Home Program was provided.

### **Formal Submissions to the Shire**

PACE also provided written submissions to the Shire on the following:

- MPS Budget Challenge 2025-2026. The five priorities nominated by PACE were:
  - Aged, Family & Youth Services
  - Community Crisis and Homelessness Support
  - Road Safety & Maintenance
  - New Footpaths
  - Community Facility Upgrades
- Needs Assessment Survey for the MPS Community Infrastructure Action Plans (January).
- Committee Management Policy (March). A number of recommendations by PACE were accepted (see item under PACE Terms of Reference above).
- Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 (July). A number of recommendations by PACE were also incorporated, as advised in a follow-up.

### **PACE Participation in Events**

During the year, PACE Committee Members participated in meetings and events held in partnership with the Shire, on a range of issues related to older community members and positive ageing. These activities included:

- Supporting and assisting in a Legal Rights Forum held on 5 June (as part of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in June), which was organised by the Shire. A second Legal Rights Forum was held in November in Hastings specifically for the Western Port area. Feedback on both was very positive.
- Volunteering in the delivery of an event to acknowledge Dying to Know Day on 7 August, which had over 120 attendees. The event was delivered as part of the Shire's Death and Dying Network. This is the second time this event was held and like the first event in 2024, the feedback was very positive.

- Supporting and assisting in the *Work for Money and Enjoyment* forum held on 28 October targeted specifically at people aged 50+, which was organised by the Shire. This event was well received.
- PACE hosted, together with the Shire, an information stand at the Get Active Expo at Camp Manyung on 1 October, as part of the Seniors Festival during the month of October. PACE and the Shire have participated in this annual event for a number of years.

### **Peninsula Transport Assist (PTA) AGM**

PTA helps local residents get to crucial medical appointments, other community services as well as for social occasions.

On 17 October, the Chair was the guest speaker at PTA's AGM. Attendees at the AGM were presented with an overview of PACE as well as other services which the Shire brings into the homes of residents who may be housebound. The Chair provided information on two such services – Meals on Wheels and the Home Library service. The Chair encouraged PTA's volunteer drivers to spread the word and provide information (and the flyers provided) on these two services to their clients who use PTA services, and this was reinforced by PTA.

### **Seniors Exercise Parks**

Together with the Shire's Positive Ageing Team, PACE has, for a number of years, been advocating for Seniors Exercise Parks to be established on the Mornington Peninsula. In 2025, two such parks were installed, in Mount Martha and Hastings. Equipment at these parks is specially designed for exercises particularly suited to older people.

In February, PACE members participated in a promotional video for the launch of the parks and were very impressed with the actual equipment, which they enthusiastically tried out. Try out sessions for the public were organised by the Shire during the Seniors Festival in October, which were favourably received by those who attended.

### **Communications Workshop**

On 2 October, PACE members participated in a focus group conducted by Conversation Caravan. as part of a broader review of the Shire's communication processes targeted at the older cohort in the community; to better understand how older residents receive information about events and activities and issues of relevance to positive ageing.

### **LGPro Workshop**

In March, the Shire organised the inaugural workshop conducted by LGPro (Local Government Professionals Inc) on “Understanding Local Government for Advisory Committee Members” for members of advisory committees to Victorian Shires.

The workshop was aimed at providing advisory committee members with the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the local government sector and Council’s expectations, supporting them in being successful in their roles.

The workshop was very instructive and informative. It was very well presented and very well received by PACE members as well as the members of the Disability Advisory Committee, who were also in attendance.

### **Workshop on Ageism**

In 2024, the Elder Abuse/Ageism working group approached the Australian Human Rights Commission to run a workshop on ageism (What’s Age Got to Do with It – Busting Myths about Older People”). In 2025, this workshop was organised for 27 November for PACE members as well as relevant Shire staff and was again very well received.

Dina Tanphanich  
Chair

## APPENDIX I

### 2025 PACE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

	<u>Year Joined PACE</u>	
Sally ALSOP	2025	
Marg D'ARCY	2020	
Rosemarie DRAPER	2025	
Vicky DAVISON (Deputy Chair)	2022	
Jennifer GIELB	2023	
Yaqirah HERUT	2023	(Not continuing in 2026)
Dinka JAKOVAC	2018	
Leonie KINGSBURY (Immediate Past Chair)	2018	(Not continuing in 2026)
Merrin MACKAY	2023	(Resigned in July 2025)
Gregg NICHOLLS	2020	
Dina TANPHANICH (Chair)	2021	
Winston TROOD	2016	
Helen VIDLER	2021	(Resigned in June 2025)

## APPENDIX II

### 2025 PACE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AS DELEGATES/PROXIES OF SHIRE AND NON-SHIRE COMMITTEES/NETWORKS

COMMITTEE/NETWORK	DELEGATE	PROXY
<b><u>Shire Committees/Networks</u></b>		
AAA Housing	Vicky Davison	Marg D’Arcy
Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)	Gregg Nicholls	Dina Tanphanich
Mornington Peninsula Seniors Network	Yaqirah Herut	Leonie Kingsbury
Peninsula Ethnic Seniors Committee (PESC) (Discontinued in September 2025)	Marg D’Arcy	Vacant
Mornington Peninsula Volunteer Network (MPVN)	Jenny Gielb	Winston Trood
Dying to Know Network	Marg D’Arcy	Leonie Kingsbury
Positive Ageing Working Group (two positions for Chair and Deputy Chair)	Dina Tanphanich Vicky Davison	N/A

<b><u>Non-Shire Committees/Networks</u></b>		
Respecting Seniors Network Steering Committee	Gregg Nicholls	Vacant
Media Liaison Officer for PACE Events	Yaqirah Herut	

## Appendix III(a)

### **REPORT FROM THE HOUSING WORKING GROUP FOR THE PACE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

One of the ongoing key issues identified by PACE, as of concern to older people, is the availability and affordability of appropriate housing. In 2022 a Housing Working Group (HWG) of PACE members was established to investigate this further.

During 2025 members of the HWG have continued to meet regularly. Shire staff with involvement in housing issues have reported on the work they have been doing at each meeting in order that PACE can be informed and give feedback.

Following a presentation by the Shire's Planning Department on how to read plans, relating to the development of aged care facilities and retirement villages, the HWG documented a set of guidelines to enable them to provide informed comment on future applications. Discussions were also held with Planning regarding options to encourage more diversity - especially two bed dwellings - in new housing stock.

The Convenor of the HWG continued to represent PACE, and highlight the needs of older residents, as a member of the Shire's Triple A Housing Committee.

Following the success of an earlier Roundtable organised by the Southern Women's Action Network (SWAN) with the Victorian Minister for Housing, the Convenor of the HWG attended a second such event in December, at which the key guest was the Federal Government's Special Envoy for Housing and Homelessness, and tabled the question "How can the Federal Government support older women suffering mortgage or rental stress to prevent them becoming homeless?"

Vicky Davison  
Convenor

## Appendix III(b)

### **REPORT FROM THE PREVENTING ELDER ABUSE WORKING GROUP FOR THE PACE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

The main focus of the EAWG continued to be advocating for the Victorian Government and agencies reliant on them for funding, to recognise the full breadth of elder abuse which occurs both in families and with trusted friends, neighbours and others. Single women living by themselves are particularly vulnerable.

Our previous Convenor Helen Vidler resigned from PACE in June. She was thanked for her enormous contribution and ongoing advocacy for preventing elder abuse in our community.

One further meeting was held with Paul Mercurio, the Member for Hastings, and Member for Eastern Victoria, Tom McIntosh. Following ongoing requests, we were able to meet with the Minister for Ageing, the Hon Ingrid Stitt in July. This meeting was attended by Paul Mercurio, one of his advisors, Dina Tanphanich and Gregg Nicholls. We canvassed the full range of issues that the Working Group has been concerned about. We await any changes that may result following our representations.

We continued to attend the Mornington Peninsula and Frankston elder abuse prevention network, *Respecting Seniors Network*, to support and influence the focus of their work to include a broader understanding of elder abuse when educating the community about how ageism drives the abuse of older people.

Members of the EAWG have kept abreast of the latest webinars available from Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN), Council on the Ageing (COTA) Australia, and Elder Abuse Action Australia (EAAA), to make themselves fully aware of national thinking about a range of issues pertaining to elder abuse and ageism.

We supported Peninsula Community Legal Centre (PCLC) to conduct forums in Safety Beach and Hastings on legal issues relevant to older people including Powers of Attorney and Wills.

We also jointly planned and supported a second forum focused on ageism conducted by the Australian Human Rights Commission jointly with the Shire of Mornington Peninsula held in November.

Gregg Nicholls  
Convenor

## Appendix III(c)

### **REPORT FROM THE SOCIAL PARTICIPATION/SOCIAL ISOLATION WORKING GROUP FOR THE PACE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Social Participation/Social Isolation working group was established in 2024. The PACE Committee felt that older people restricted to their homes, physically or by circumstances, were more vulnerable to being socially isolated. This can lead to issues with elder abuse and physical and mental health.

Scope of the working group:

- Identify useful research and information to inform our work
- Provide advice to PACE on policy and actions that the Council could adopt that would increase social participation and decrease social isolation
- Work with Council and other relevant bodies to identify the level of social isolation within the Mornington Peninsula community
- Identify groups within the community that help support social isolation and decrease social isolation

This year we have had many holdups due to illness, people taking holidays, etc. But now we are back on track. The team have worked out various areas where we can have a positive effect on the wellbeing and loneliness of the older people on the Mornington Peninsula.

#### **Carers Victoria**

Carers Victoria will be presenting to PACE in the March meeting next year. Their presentation will focus on the issues unpaid carers face, the supports available to them, and how we can help spread the word about Carer's groups or workshops. Also, as we are an advisory committee for the elderly living on the Mornington Peninsula, we would like to be able to advice the council on how to include unpaid carers more in their agenda.

#### **Gardening Initiative**

Earlier this year, the team had a meeting with the Shire's Volunteer Management Team Leader who had several ideas for how we could help older people who are restricted to their homes with little assistance. We thought the volunteer gardening initiative was a great idea. Having volunteers assist older people with enough gardening to keep their home safe and neat looking, and maybe having time for a chat or cuppa.

Due to recent Shire cuts and restructuring that project is now not possible. Hence our team came up with the idea to contact Brush with Kindness, part of Habitat for Humanity. They have volunteers who provide gardening and minor home maintenance to families, disabled and the elderly with the aim of allowing them to stay in their homes longer. They have been contacted.

### **Social Prescribing**

Our team felt that Social Prescribing was a good project to support. Social Prescribing is a way for health services to get people to engage more in activities provided by volunteers and local community organisations in their local community. Local Connections, an initiative of the State Government Department of Health has been running a trial which completed this year. One of the trials was run in Frankston and is currently being evaluated. They replied that they will advise us once their results are made public.

### **Dementia Australia**

Dementia Australia have been contacted and we will hopefully be able to organise a presentation next year.

Jenny Gielb  
Convenor