

7.2.1 APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE POSITIVE AGEING REFERENCE GROUP AND EXTENSION OF EXISTING MEMBERS

Responsible Manager:	Mary Martin, Manager Aged and Community Support
Responsible Director:	Russell Hopkins, Director Community Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Endorses the appointment of the following individuals to the Positive Ageing Reference Group (PARG) in accordance with the current Terms of Reference:
 - a. Community Members – Two years
 - i. Marged Goode
 - ii. Eddie Hu
 - iii. Caroline Perry
 - iv. Antionette Renaut
 - b. Industry Members – One year
 - i. Pari Balsara-Mistry
 - ii. Jacinta Jarutis
 - iii. Eva Kladou
 - iv. Matthew Pase
2. Extends the terms of the following community members for an additional two years, concluding in November 2026:
 - a. Pam Brown
 - b. Ian Bjorkman
3. Acknowledges Annette Anakotta, Marlene Bottrell, Elaine Ford, Qin Shi Guo, Mark Learmonth, Udesch Kamher, Constantine Mandalis, Selliah Nalliah, Jennifer Shepherd, Robert Taylor, Phillip Terry, Irene Triroulis and Andrea Whitty for their contribution to the PARG.

INTRODUCTION

The report seeks Council's approval for the appointment of eight new members, being four community and four industry members to the Positive Ageing Reference Group (PARG) and to extend the terms of two current community members as per PARG terms of reference.

COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Good Governance

Effectively communicate and engage with the community.
Maintain the highest standards of good governance.

BACKGROUND

The PARG was established to provide advice and insights on matters relating to positive ageing. The group aims to promote active and healthy ageing, address challenges faced by people as they age, and contribute to the development of inclusive policies and initiatives at Monash City Council.

At its meeting on 27 August 2024, Council approved the revised Terms of Reference for the PARG. The recommendations in this report comply with the Terms of Reference.

The Positive Ageing Reference Group (PARG) is currently comprised of 10 community members and one Councillor. All members have now reached the end of their tenure and were required to reapply if they wished to continue. In this round of recruitment, we have also included industry representation for the first time to enhance the breadth of expertise and insights within the group.

DISCUSSION

New Members 2024

Expressions of interest (EoI) for new members were distributed to senior groups via the Positive Ageing database. In addition, social media platforms, including Facebook and LinkedIn, were utilised to attract new applicants. The opportunity was also shared with local industry professionals across relevant organisations.

A total of nineteen expressions of interest applications were received, comprising of ten community and nine industry. Ten candidates were interviewed in October 2024.

The recommended new members are as follows:

Community Members: - Initial two-year term

- **Marged Goode** – A representative voice for older residents who is not connected to community groups. Marged is passionate about staying active and becoming more involved in community activities.
- **Eddie Hu** – A long-serving volunteer and original Age Friendly Ambassador, Eddie brings experience as a social worker and strong connections to the Chinese community.
- **Caroline Perry** – A member of the Hungarian Club with a strong interest in cultural knowledge sharing and maintaining social connections as we age.
- **Antionette Renaut** – Active in Waverley Life, Older Women's Network, Neighbourhood Watch, and U3A. Antionette has a background in aged care and NDIS and sees ageism, loneliness, safety, and transport as key issues facing older residents.

Industry Members: - Initial one-year term

- **Pari Balsara-Mistry** – Manager of a social support program and psychologist at Wavecare, with insights into the challenges older adults face in navigating technology, community programs, and transport.
- **Jacinta Jarutis** – Coordinator of wellbeing programs at residential aged care homes of Medical and Aged Care Group, a privately run aged care provider. Jacinta is focused on improving access to information for older adults and tackling loneliness.
- **Eva Kladou** – An advocate for CALD communities, Eva has extensive experience supporting the Australian-Greek community, newly arrived migrants, and isolated individuals.
- **Matthew Pase** – Associate Professor at Monash University and Director of the Ageing and Neurodegeneration Research Program. Matthew is passionate about dementia prevention and supporting older adults to live fulfilling lives.

Current Members – Extension of Term

Two existing members have expressed their desire to continue serving on PARG, and it is recommended that their terms be extended to November 2026:

- **Pam Brown** – Joined March 2022
- **Ian Bjorkman** – Joined March 2022

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications to this report.

CONSULTATION

Expressions of interest (EoI) for new members were distributed to senior groups via the Positive Ageing database. In addition, social media platforms, including Facebook and LinkedIn, were utilised to attract new applicants. The opportunity was also shared with local industry professionals across relevant organisations.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

PARG provides the opportunity for access to community perspective to support the delivery of the key Age Friendly Actions in the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan. Community membership is based on public invitation and members selected to provide a balanced representation of the community. Interest has been sought from relevant sector agencies.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no human rights implications to this report.



GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A GIA was not completed because this agenda item is not a 'policy', 'program' or 'service'.

CONCLUSION

To enable the Positive Ageing Reference Group to effectively advocate on behalf of Monash's older residents, it is recommended that Council approve the appointment of the four new community and four industry members and extend the terms of the two existing members until November 2026.

ATTACHMENT LIST

Nil