

Policy

Age Friendly Community

Version 1.1

Adopted by Council at its meeting on Thursday 21 May 2015

Minute No: 264

Division:	Community and Natural Resources
Section:	Community and Cultural Services
File Reference:	
Historical Reference:	NA

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Policy Objective

The objective of this Policy is to outline Council's commitment to develop and support an age friendly community in the Tweed. The Policy is informed by the United Nations *Principles for Older Persons* outlined in the Policy Statement below. The United Nations Principles provide the overarching policy framework for the World Health Organization *Global Age-friendly Cities Guide* which is an implementation plan to assist communities across the globe in planning for an ageing population.

The Tweed Age Friendly Community Policy precedes and supports the Tweed Age Friendly Community Plan that will use the World Health Organization *Global Age-friendly Cities Guide* as a framework to ensure that all facilities, services, programs and activities owned or managed by Council are accessible and inclusive of older people.

In line with the *NSW Ageing Strategy 2011*, the policy recognises the *future* needs of people 50 years and over and the *current* needs of people 65 years and over (over 50 years for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders).

The commitments under the Policy and through implementation of the Tweed Age Friendly Community Plan have implications and responsibilities for all sections of Council.

Definitions

Access (sometimes referred to as universal access) means that regardless of ability or age a person can approach, enter, pass to or from and make use of an area and its facilities without assistance.

Age friendly community is one that adapts its structures and services to be accessible and inclusive of older people with varying needs and capacities

Inclusion refers to a sense of being included in the social life of the community and treated with equality and dignity.

Older resident/older person means a person aged 65 years or over or 50 years and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and applies to Tweed residents and visitors

Policy Background

Council has obligations through international, national and state legislation and guidelines to ensure that facilities, services, programs and activities are accessible and inclusive of residents of all ages.

The proportion of Tweed Shire's population aged over 65 years is 23% (compared with 14.7% for NSW and 14% nationally) and demographic forecasting indicates a 48% increase of people in this age bracket by 2036, amounting to 29,515 seniors. The population of seniors in the Tweed Shire is 53% more than the state average and 64% more than the national average (ABS, 2011).

The need to accommodate and plan for this growing population is a crucial concept in the planning of age-friendly communities. This includes providing opportunities to maintain health through physical activity, social connection and inclusion, mobility and access to services and safety.

Policy Statement

Tweed Council recognises that all members of our community, irrespective of age, play an important role in building and maintaining a vibrant and sustainable region. Council takes a leadership role in ensuring the provision of services, facilities and programs that are accessible, affordable and encourage the participation of all residents, regardless of age.

This policy commits Tweed Shire Council to the United Nations *Principles for Older Persons*:

Independence

Older people have control over decisions that affect them and are able to live in environments that are safe and adaptable to personal preferences and changing capacities.

Participation

Older people participate actively in the formulation and implementation of policies that directly affect their well-being and share their knowledge and skills with younger generations. They are able to seek and develop opportunities for service to the community and to serve as volunteers in positions appropriate to their interests and capabilities.

Care

Council's role in development and service planning enables older people's access to appropriate and affordable services and residential care in their local community. This also enables older people to benefit from family and community care and protection.

Self-fulfilment

Older people have access to affordable educational, cultural, spiritual and recreational resources and places to pursue opportunities that enhance their wellbeing.

Dignity

Older people are treated fairly regardless of age, gender, racial or ethnic background, disability or other status, and are valued independently of their economic contribution. They are able to live in dignity and security free of exploitation and physical or mental abuse.

Policy Implementation

These commitments will be achieved through the implementation of the Tweed Age Friendly Community Plan which is informed by the World Health Organisations *Global Age-friendly Cities Guide 2007* and the *NSW Ageing Strategy 2011*.

Related Legislation and Policy

- *Commonwealth Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act 1987*
- *NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1997*
- *Commonwealth Age Discrimination Act 2004*
- *NSW Ageing Strategy 2011*
- *Tweed Shire Council Access and Inclusion Policy 2014*

Compliance

N/A

Forms

N/A

Review Period

This policy will be reviewed in 2016 and thereafter in association with review period for the Age-friendly Community Strategy and Action Plan.

Useful Links

[**Tweed Shire Council website**](#)

[Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW, Anti-Discrimination Guidelines for Local Councils 2011](#)

Version Control:

Version History		
Version #	Summary of changes made	Date changes made
1.1	<i>New Policy placed on exhibition - minor changes incorporated</i>	<i>May 2015</i>
1.1	<i>Adopted by Council</i>	<i>21 May 2015</i>