

**Aged Care Changes Forum
Local Government NSW
28 June 2016**

City of Parramatta Council update on future of aged care funding:

The City of Parramatta has operated services for older people for 21 years including Social Support, Meals on Wheels, Carers Support and Lawn Mowing and Gardening all of which now receive funding from the Department of Health.

We support approximately 700 older people; have a staff team of 26 and 140 volunteers. We also provide services for younger people with a disability.

Over the last 18 months and ongoing we are undertaking a process of reviews to ultimately determine the best way forward for our services, with the options of doing nothing, doing the same or doing something different.

General

- Council has no history of being a direct provider of core aged care services. Its capability to effectively compete in a new market of consumer directed care for the provision of direct core residential or community care services is very limited.
- However, Council has strength in its historic provision of leisure and learning, food and other social inclusion services. It also has capacities in providing information to consumers and advocating for organisations and individuals within service provision markets that operate in its geographical footprint.
- Council also has the potential to partner and collaborate with other providers and scale up a diverse offer of services.
- Council also has a history of innovating service models and facilitating initiatives based on evidence – Social Role Valorization
- Council has a historic funding commitment to assist older people and people with disabilities in its local government area.

Specific

- We have started to identify innovations in the delivery of food services and packaging these with other social support options. We hope to trial some of this in the next 6 months
- We have started to discuss with existing community aged care package providers opportunities to provide social inclusion and support activities as part of a broader service offering to their clients
- We have started to broker a limited number of carer respite services for those caring for people with disabilities

- With boundary changes which for Parramatta, introduces a new demographic of older person, we are starting to think about new ageing well offers across the health, fitness, food, learning and support domains which could be of both direct interest to older people and also a key element of prevention in community aged care packages in the future
- We are also wondering what an information and advocacy service for consumers that is independently operated and has Council support might look like
- Will undertake qualitative and quantitative research to demonstrate the outcomes and dollar value of the social inclusion service.

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