



# Senior Territorians Advisory Council

## Minutes of Meeting

**Date: 21 & 22 July 2010**

**Venue: Andy Mc Neil Room Alice Springs Town Council Alice Springs**

**Wednesday 21 July 2010**

ITEM No.	ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION OFFICER
1	Attendance	<p>Meeting opened at 10 am. Janet welcomed members and thanked them for their attendance.</p> <p>STAC: Janet Durling (Chair), Art Libien (Deputy Chair), Brian Hilder, Lillian Mann, Colin Hardaker, Kathy Martin and Graham Kemp</p> <p>Department of Health and Families (DHF): Samantha Livesley (A/Senior Manager Community Services), Sally Bevis (Executive Officer).</p>	
2	Apologies	STAC: Banambi Wunungmurra.	
3	Previous Minutes	<p>Confirm minutes of 28 April 2010 meeting. Moved: Brian Hilder. Seconded: Art Libien</p>	
4	Business Arising	Business arising from minutes directed to the Work Plan for action.	

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5	Correspondence	<p>All correspondence listed in Attachment 1 was tabled and noted. Loraine Braham's resignation due to health reasons was noted. Janet acknowledged the contribution Loraine has made to STAC. Loraine's expertise and knowledge will be missed.</p>	
6	Office of Senior Territorians (OST) Overview	<p><u>Membership of STAC:</u> Samantha Livesley advised a recommendation for a member from Alice Springs has been made to the Minister is awaiting approval. She also reflected on the lack of engagement with STAC by Banambi Wunungmurra. <b>Action: STAC agreed that Samantha should speak with Banambi to ascertain his future intentions in respect to STAC commitments.</b></p> <p><u>Budget</u> STAC were advised that there was a need to be mindful of the level of expenditure. The allocation for 2010/2011 is \$25,000 and is mainly used for attendance at meetings. <b>Action: A formal budget report to be presented to the next meeting.</b></p> <p><u>Aged Care Packages</u> Sam provided a brief overview of Aged Care packages including Commonwealth responsibilities as part of new health reforms.</p>	<p>OST</p> <p>Exec Officer</p>
7	Chair's report	<p>Chair's written report was tabled and accepted. Janet advised that she was confident about her access to Minister's Office. Issues still seeking resolution included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the PATS Scheme</li> <li>• Affordable housing</li> <li>• Transport services particularly in rural and regional areas.</li> <li>• Feedback on 2030 plan</li> </ul> <p>The new legislation on concessional stamp duty raised by STAC to assist seniors downsizing and agreed as part of the 2010/2011 budget was welcomed. Janet advised she had been active in raising the profile of STAC through contact with various seniors groups including the Palmerston Seniors Committee of Palmerston Town Council, U3A and COTA.</p>	

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		<p>Key issues revealed from discussions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing requirements in regional and rural areas</li> <li>• Need for better communication through focal seniors' point, newsletters or websites to let seniors know of existing services.</li> </ul> <p>Outcomes of meeting discussions and actions to be incorporated into Work Plan.  DHF has supported the attendance of Janet at the Ageing North Conference held in Darwin on 12 and 13 August 2010</p> <p><b>Action: Janet to provide report to DHF</b></p>	
8	Member's Reports	<p>Member's written reports were accepted.</p> <p>Issues included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate bus shelters in rural area</li> <li>• Metro mini busses not subsidised for wheelchair pickups as per taxis</li> <li>• Continued monitoring of trial mini bus for transport from rural areas to RDH</li> <li>• The need for bus services in Katherine and Tennant Creek</li> <li>• Evidence of Age Card costs inequitable to free Drivers Licence available through NTPCCS</li> <li>• Bone density testing availability</li> <li>• Increased cost of living in regional areas through supermarkets charging "freight costs"</li> <li>• Provision of quality food in rural and remote areas</li> <li>• Need for computer awareness</li> <li>• Support required for participants and volunteers to attend Masters Games</li> <li>• Input into future housing developments to ensure they are "senior friendly"</li> <li>• Help required by seniors for simple home maintenance jobs</li> <li>• Review NTPCCS to include subsidy for gas heating</li> <li>• Raising profile of seniors through the Australia Day Senior Territorians Awards</li> <li>• Raising STAC profile</li> </ul> <p>Actions incorporated into Work Plan.</p>	

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9	Commitment to Work Plan	<p>STAC agreed feedback gathered from consultations in developing the Work Plan needs to be incorporated into the Active Ageing Framework 2008-2012.</p> <p>As part of this process the Framework must also be assessed and reviewed.</p> <p><b>Action: Review and assessment of Active Ageing Framework to be key agenda for the next meeting.</b></p> <p>STAC submissions to Minister on</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. allowances payable under PATS, and</li> <li>2. intra territory travel under NTPCCS submission on reviewing concessions is still pending.</li> </ol> <p><b>Action : Chair to resolve with Minister</b></p>	<p>Exec Officer</p> <p>Chair</p>
10	Guest Speakers	<p>Mary Miles, Director of Nursing, United Church Frontier Services, Old Timers gave a comprehensive overview of services available through their facility.</p> <p>This also gave STAC an awareness of respite services that outreach into remote communities through the Carer Respite Centres.</p> <p>Main issues for Old Timers included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for accommodation for carers</li> <li>• Recruitment and retention of staff</li> <li>• Problems associated with visas for staff recruited from overseas, particularly Zimbabwe</li> <li>• Cost of employing relief agency staff from interstate</li> <li>• Future plans for development</li> <li>• Funding needed for replacement of the facility bus</li> </ul> <p>Representative from Hetti Perkins did not attend.</p> <p><b>Action: STAC Executive Support to request a written report on services for circulation.</b></p>	<p>Exec Officer</p>
11	Other Business	Forwarded to Day 2.	
12 /13	Action Items	STAC agreed on action items to be incorporated into Work Plan.	
14	Meeting closed	Meeting Closed 4pm to continue discussion on 22 July 2010.	

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<b>DAY 2 Thursday 22 July 2010</b>																			
1	Meeting opened	9.45 am – recap of discussion from previous day.  Lorraine Braham welcomed.																	
2	Guests	<p>Representatives from Alice Springs Town Council and various Seniors organizations provided an overview of their activities and issues.</p> <p>Guests Included:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="613 651 1534 917"> <tr> <td>Teresa Clonan</td> <td>Alice Springs Town Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan Dawson and Margaret Borger</td> <td>National Seniors Association</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rhonda Schembri &amp; Meredith Mitchell</td> <td>Probus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trish van Dijk</td> <td>U3A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jenny Mostram</td> <td>COTA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rhonda Picard &amp; Rita</td> <td>Alice Senior Citizens</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anita Rogers</td> <td>DHF HAAC Program</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Louise Robinson</td> <td>DHF - Service Development</td> </tr> </table> <p>Issues of concern raised in regard to social activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for fundraising for equipment</li> <li>• Lack of communication and networking in regard to activities available among the groups</li> <li>• Need to attract new members</li> </ul> <p>Other issues, for Alice Springs seniors generally, included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land availability and affordable housing to allow seniors to downsize</li> <li>• Better transport around town centre</li> <li>• Isolation</li> </ul>	Teresa Clonan	Alice Springs Town Council	Jan Dawson and Margaret Borger	National Seniors Association	Rhonda Schembri & Meredith Mitchell	Probus	Trish van Dijk	U3A	Jenny Mostram	COTA	Rhonda Picard & Rita	Alice Senior Citizens	Anita Rogers	DHF HAAC Program	Louise Robinson	DHF - Service Development	
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3	Summary by Chair	<p>Janet thanked all guests for their attendance and their reports and confirmed that the issues raised are in keeping with Work Plan priorities for STAC.</p> <p>Janet congratulated the Alice Springs Town Council on their engagement of the different seniors groups and the provision of the seniors' hall facility as a focal point for information and activities for seniors.</p> <p>Information from the various organisations shared through newsletters and notice boards will also be emailed to STAC to keep members up to date with current activities and issues.</p> <p>Organisations also kindly agreed to distribute beyondblue information packs to their members as part of Seniors Month celebrations. Key message "depression is not a normal part of ageing"</p>	
4	Productivity Commission Inquiry into Aged Care	Samantha provided an overview of the current Productivity Commission Inquiry into Aged Care. Noted by STAC	
5	Seniors Policies	<p>As part of the assessment and review of the Active Ageing Framework STAC agreed to look at other State and Territory policy documents in regard to seniors.</p> <p><b>Action: Information to be disseminated for review at next meeting</b></p>	Exec Officer
6	Guest Speaker	<p>Sarah Fairhead Director Capital Works, Department Local Government &amp; Regional Services did not attend.</p> <p><b>Action: Executive Support to seek written report on housing development and planning in Alice Springs region.</b></p>	
7/8	Other Business	<p>Janet, Samantha and Sally were invited to attend the Seniors Coordinating Committee meeting held on 21 July at the Alice Springs Town Council following STAC meeting day 1.</p> <p>At this meeting, Janet provided an overview of STAC priorities and Work Plan and asked the Committee to keep STAC informed about seniors needs in Alice Springs.</p> <p>Main issues from this meeting included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport in town area, particularly for seniors accessing medical services</li> <li>• NTPCS to provide a concession on bottled gas for heating</li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for networking within the different seniors groups.</li> </ul> <p>Meeting requested that a member from STAC fill the vacant position on the Seniors Coordinating Committee previously held by Loraine Braham.</p> <p>Kathy Martin agreed to take on this role.</p>	
9	Recap of Meeting	Integration of STAC priorities as part of the assessment and review of the Active Ageing Framework to be subject of next meeting's agenda.	
10	Next Meeting	Darwin 21 October 2010	
11	Meeting Close	3pm	

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Janet Durling  
Chair