

# City of Belmont

## Age-Friendly Advisory Group (AFAG)

### Meeting Notes:

Date: Thursday, 19 February 2026  
Time: 10:00am – 12.00pm  
Location: Belmont Hub Ground Floor Meeting Room 1, Library  
Entrance, 213 Wright Street, Cloverdale  
Chair: Gauri Thanasingam  
Notes Taker: Shubh Jhajhra

### Age-Friendly Advisory Group Members:

- Marzel Norton (MN), City of Belmont, Manager Economic & Community Development
- Gauri Thanasingam (GT), City of Belmont, Coordinator, Community & Cultural Engagement
- Shubh Jhajhra (SJ), City of Belmont, Community Engagement Officer
- Cheryl Dunne (CD), Community Member
- Chris Trembath (CT), Community Member
- Manfred Heldberg (MH), Community Member
- Monica Fitz (MF), Community Member
- Befriend Inc, Stakeholder
- Belmont Men's Shed, Stakeholder
- Belmont Senior Citizens Club, Stakeholder
- Chorus, Stakeholder
- Elder Help Community Centre Inc., Stakeholder
- Forget Me Not Café, Stakeholder
- Hall & Prior, Stakeholder
- MercyCare Aged Care, Stakeholder
- Seniors Recreation Council, Stakeholder
- Umbrella Community Care, Stakeholder

### Apologies:

- Marzel Norton (MN), City of Belmont, Manager Economic & Community Development
- Cheryl Dunne (CD), Community Member
- Monica Fitz (MF), Community Member
- Belmont Senior Citizens Club, Stakeholder

- Hall & Prior, Stakeholder
- Umbrella Community Care, Stakeholder

## Agenda Items:

### 1. Acknowledgment of Country

### 2. Welcome & Apologies

### 3. Round table introductions

- Brief roundtable introductions

### 4. Key Presenter

- 4.1 Ubuntu delivered an overview of the Seniors 1-on-1 IT Support Pilot Program. It was advised that the program has commenced for the current year, with booking details available via the flyer provided.

### 5. Notes & Outstanding Actions from the Last Meeting

- Options to expand exercise programs for seniors in Belmont, including low-mobility and falls-prevention programs, were discussed, along with the feasibility of reintroducing the Stay Sharp program, including potential partners, costs and community demand.
- Opportunities to address social isolation and loneliness through upcoming programs, partnerships or targeted initiatives were identified for further consideration at a future meeting.
- The need to progress pedestrian and accessibility audits in high-use areas for older residents was reiterated, with internal responsibility and timeframes to be further clarified.
  - Update: The Works team has been consulted and advised that footpaths are managed across Assets, Design and Sustainable Transport. To progress accessibility improvements, specific details are required, including the exact location and description of the access issue. Members and community feedback should be submitted via the City's online reporting tools:
    - [General Access and mobility issues](#)
    - [Potholes and surface defects](#)

### 6. Age-Friendly Strategy

- 6.0 Members participated in activities and discussion relating to the ongoing development and identification of priorities for the Age-Friendly Strategy.

## **7. Community Safety Update**

- 7.1 An update on community safety was provided to members. Further details are contained in the PowerPoint presentation attached to the meeting notes.

## **8. General Business**

- 8.1 Members were advised of an upcoming free [Disability awareness training](#) session on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 for the City of Belmont community, delivered by Inclusion Solutions. The session will cover different types of disability, common barriers, and practical actions to support inclusion. The training is open to residents, volunteers, community groups and anyone interested in creating a more inclusive community.
- 8.2 Members were advised that the rollout of ACROD bay monitoring on privately owned but publicly accessible business parking areas had commenced. Businesses are able to opt in to authorise City of Belmont Rangers to monitor and enforce correct use of ACROD bays, subject to approved applications and compliance with required signage and line-marking standards. A communications plan was noted as being developed to promote the program to local businesses.
- 8.3 MY (Seniors Recreation Council) discussed opportunities to expand IT support services for seniors beyond one-on-one sessions to include workshops. It was noted that a Seniors Tech Expo is being planned for October in conjunction with the City of Belmont. MY also highlighted that a number of other services within Belmont currently provide IT support to seniors, and opportunities to better showcase available services to seniors were discussed. The importance of keeping exercise programs affordable for seniors was also raised, with CountUSIn identified as a low-cost option that may be accessible to seniors.
- 8.4 FH raised concerns about increasing social isolation among seniors as they age and the associated challenges. FH suggested exploring the inclusion of home visits within the City of Belmont's volunteer programs; however, it was noted that similar services are already delivered by other organisations,

and incorporating these into the City's volunteer system may present challenges.

- 8.5 MY also referenced the Umbrella Multicultural Home Visitor Scheme as an existing support service.
- 8.6 GT suggested inviting representatives from relevant organisations to present at a future meeting.
- 8.7 Chorus WA raised concerns that volunteers from some organisations are required to personally absorb costs such as police clearances, which can act as a barrier to volunteering. It was noted that the City of Belmont covers these costs as part of its volunteer onboarding process.
- 8.8 Further discussion occurred regarding the establishment of peer support groups and opportunities to leverage existing seniors groups to support connections among older residents. It was noted that My Aged Care currently plays a role in facilitating access to such services.

## **9. Round Table Update**

- 9.1 East Metropolitan Health Service provided a brief update on the service launch, with further updates expected mid-year.
- 9.2 MercyCare advised that IT sessions for seniors were delivered in February at MercyCare centres.
- 9.3 Men's Shed noted that the Belmont Men's Shed marked its 10-year anniversary on 27 February.
- 9.4 Belmont Senior Citizens Centre advised that membership numbers have increased and provided a general update on centre activities. It was noted that space limitations are impacting the delivery of Tai Chi sessions, and the City will liaise with the Centre to explore possible options.

## **10. Next Meeting: 21 May 2026**