

STAYING IN PORTARLINGTON (SIP) - PORT REPORT JULY 2017

July 10 Springdale Forum

This well attended forum organised by SIP and BACA (Bellarine Aged Care Association), hosted by Springdale Community House, explored the importance of consumer directed care as part of changes to community based care under the Commonwealth Government's My Aged Care program.

Responses from this forum and upcoming similar events in other Bellarine towns will be compiled to identify what is wanted from the agencies that provide services to assist older people to continue living at home in their communities.

We envisage a Bellarine-wide forum in 2018 to present the overall findings and to seek commitments from service providers in implementing changes that will reinforce consumer control so that the vision of My Aged Care can be realized –

"to make it easier for older people and their families, and carers to access information on ageing and aged care, have their needs assessed and be supported to find and access services."

COTA News

Victorian Council on the Ageing (COTA) has released the findings of a survey of more than 4000 50+ people on accessing information and getting around their communities.

The issues below, among others, need to be addressed:

- Older people being forced to use private transport to access the services they need. People with a disability and those living in rural areas also finding it difficult to access services because of limited transport options
- Improvements for older people seeking information about financial services, government pensions, concessions and health care
- Constant staff turnover and automated telephone messaging services which make searching for information difficult
- Problems with navigating aged care sites such as myGov and My Aged Care

You can read COTA's full report at www.cotavic.org.au

Our local bus service

SIP President Jenny Wills thanks Lisa Neville, MP for Bellarine, for ongoing support for our local bus service, and congratulates NBTAG and the three northern Bellarine community associations on the State budget outcome - this will ensure continuation of the shuttle bus service in our communities.

Jenny recently returned from an overseas holiday and reports that *public transport in Prague is not only excellent but also free for residents and visitors over 70!*

Retirement villages and Retirement parks/'lifestyle parks' and the concerns associated with these forms of 'downsizing' were featured in our May Port Report article. You can view this on our website.

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