

Media Release



Katrine Hildyard MP Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well

Tuesday, 18 August 2026

Age friendly SA Grants build inclusive communities

South Australians are being supported to stay active, connected and healthy as they age, with the State Government awarding more than \$186,000 in Age Friendly SA Grants to five local councils across the state.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge has received \$50,000 to develop its first Active Ageing Strategy, helping shape services, programs and infrastructure that support older residents to remain engaged in community life.

Guided by the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities Framework, the strategy will establish Council's role in promoting positive ageing and provide a roadmap for future age-friendly initiatives. It will also help inform the district's broader Community Wellbeing Strategy.

The other four grants will support an Ageing Well Expo in the Flinders Ranges, a community engagement and wellbeing pilot to inform the City of Charles Sturt's first Ageing Well Strategy, a season of creative arts and cultural activities in Loxton Waikerie, and an adaptive gardening program at Onkaparinga's Elizabeth House Positive Ageing Centre.

Age Friendly SA Grants help organisations deliver initiatives that help create more inclusive, accessible and age-friendly communities, in line with the priorities of the Age Friendly SA Strategy.

Additional Ageing Well funding has also supported projects in the Murray region, including \$50,000 to promote Advance Care Directives between 2023 and 2025, \$50,000 for the Murray Bridge Community Centre's Social Seniors program, awarded in February 2026, and almost \$5,000 for the Murray Bridge Croquet Association to purchase age-friendly equipment through the 2023-24 grant round.

Ageing Well grants are among several Department of Human Services funding programs that invest millions of dollars each year in community projects, services and initiatives. Other programs include Grants SA Social Impact Grants, Julia Farr grants empowering people with disability, Multicultural Affairs grants and Office for Autism grant programs.

For more information, visit dhs.sa.gov.au/ageingwellgrants.

Media contact: Deb O'Callaghan 0466 577270

premier.sa.gov.au

Quotes attributable to Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well Katrine Hildyard

Every South Australian deserves the chance to age well in a community that values their contribution and supports them to stay active, connected and independent.

This funding will help a number of organisations and communities to do just that, including the Rural City of Murray Bridge who will use funds to plan for the future, so older residents in this growing regional community can live well with access to the activities and supports they choose to help them do so.

These Age Friendly SA Grants reflect our government's commitment to backing people across our state to be active, connected and empowered to live their life well and thrive, whatever decade in which they were born..

Quotes attributable to Murray Bridge Mayor Wayne Thorley

We are grateful for the support from the State Government, in recognising that supporting people through their later years had broad reaching benefits for the whole Murray Bridge community, especially as our city plans for growth.

Proactive planning is critical to ensure we can support our community members as they age. While we know there are other State and Federal Government mechanisms to support older people, there is still a role for Council to play in terms of ensuring our built environments, services and programs keep people living safe and well later in their life and beyond retirement.

This strategy will build on the recently adopted Community Wellbeing Strategy which draws on the knowledge and experience of local organisations, service providers and subject matter experts to help Council define its roles and focus its efforts where it matters most.