



SENIORS FORUM

LOCKHART

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who attended the Lockhart Seniors Forum on Tuesday 18 February 2020. This summary provides an overview of the discussions at the forum.

WHAT YOU TOLD US

Services and infrastructure needed for the community to thrive

"Very lucky have most services we need"

Attendees were asked 'What services and infrastructure are needed for the community to thrive'.

Key themes in responses

Lockhart is well-serviced

- Most attendees were happy with the services and infrastructure available in Lockhart and found it easy to travel to Wagga Wagga for any that aren't available locally
 - Some attendees stated they have to travel to Wagga Wagga for medical services. It was mentioned that more parking with longer time limits is needed in Wagga Wagga, particularly at the hospital, and attendees emphasised they don't want to pay for parking
- Attendees stated Lockhart has reasonable to good aged care services e.g. transport, housing and events for Seniors
- It was also mentioned that Lockhart lends itself to tourism with a great museum and a number of successful local events such as Spirit of the Land and Lockhart Picnic Races

"Valmar transport service is very accessible"

Areas of concern

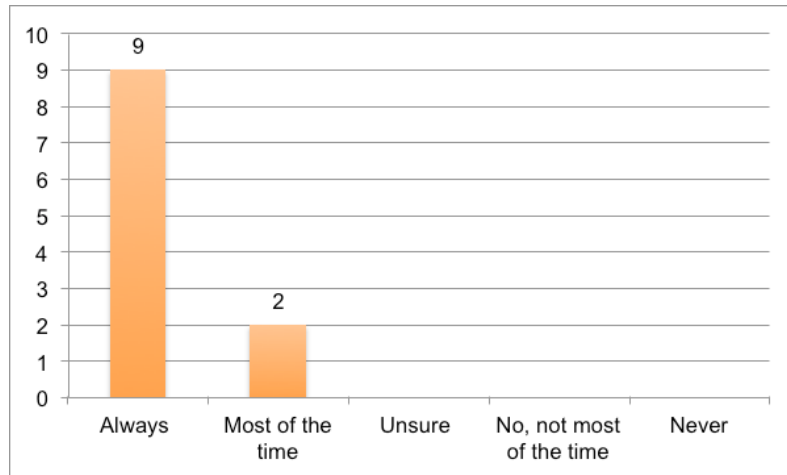
- Some attendees identified Lockhart is an ageing town and may struggle to thrive without growth in population and jobs
 - It was suggested that people be encouraged to live and work in town. According to attendees, many Council and school staff travel to Lockhart for work
- While there are generally good housing options for Seniors, it was mentioned Woodhaven has "turned into more of a nursing home" with a focus on high care and servicing people with dementia

"Don't think can thrive in current state. Need growth, employment"

- A concern raised was that population decline may lead to a Council merger. A merger with Federation Council was described as a potential "disaster" and attendees emphasised it's important to have Council's headquarters in town
- It was stated the road connection to Wagga Wagga could be improved
- Attendees also emphasised the importance of "face-to-face" services and suggested moving all services online was a problem as many local Seniors don't use the internet e.g. Service NSW

A safe and supported community

Do you feel supported and safe in your community?



ALL ATTENDEES STATED THEY FELT SAFE 'ALWAYS' OR 'MOST OF THE TIME' IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

Attendees were then asked 'What does a safe and supported community look like'.

"Nothing in Narrandera that we need here in Lockhart"

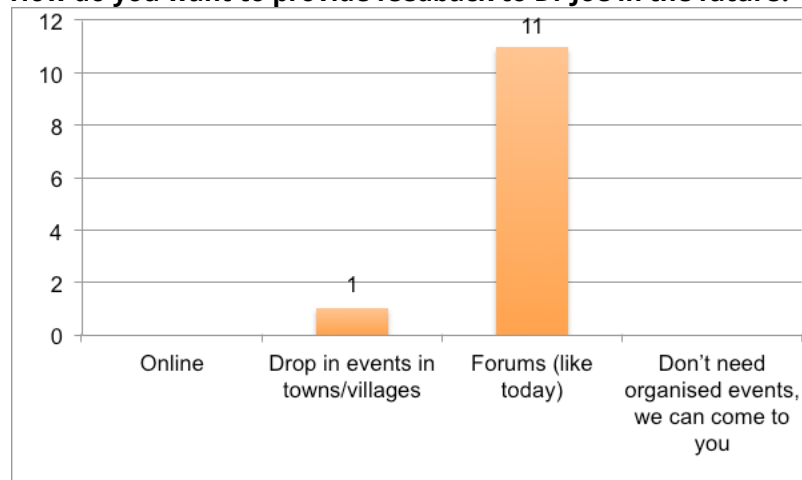
"Council's Magnolia Lodge need to build two bedroom apartments."

Attendees felt safe and supported due to their ability to undertake most day-to-day business and travel with ease. It was suggested individual's felt less safe and supported when there is poor lighting or a shortage of doctors in town.

While there is generally adequate housing option in town, some attendees mentioned there is limited housing for active people who wish to downsize.

NEXT STEPS

How do you want to provide feedback to Dr Joe in the future?



Thank you again for your feedback , which provides details on a number of issues that I can raise with different government services. I will provide an update to you in six months outlining the areas where initiatives have been developed based on your feedback.

Most people said they would like to provide feedback in the future at forums, like this Seniors Forum. Planning has begun to revisit Lockhart, with a pop-up office planned for mid-year (subject to COVID-19) and other events to follow. These events will be advertised through local media including the Daily Advertiser, The Verandah newsletter and Council's newsletter.

Regional Seniors Travel Card is now available. Visit www.service.nsw.gov.au or you local Service NSW office (2 Fox St, Wagga Wagga) to apply. I look forward to hearing your feedback on this initiative.

STAY IN TOUCH

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