

SENIORS FORUM

WAGGA WAGGA



THANK YOU

Thank you for attending the Wagga Wagga Seniors Forum on Thursday 13 February 2020. A total of 70 people attended. This summary provides an overview of the discussions at the Wagga Wagga Seniors Forum.

WHAT YOU TOLD US

Responsible Growth

Attendees were asked 'How do you feel about a larger, growing population'.

Responses:

- Most people considered population growth a good thing, with some people describing it as essential, as long as it was done in a considered manner
- Many people emphasised the need for growth to be matched with appropriate services and infrastructure



"Growth is good but only if it is sustainable, considers a holistic approach (water, environment, social) and not just economic and jobs"

"We need growth, with services, roads, health, transport, jobs"

- A few people thought growth was inevitable and some were apprehensive about the growth due to existing strains on services and infrastructure.

"Current services and roads can't cope with current population"

Attendees identified the services and infrastructure needed to support a larger, growing population.

The most mentioned topics were:

Transport

- Improve public transport, especially for older people (currently unaffordable and times inconvenient, buses often empty)
- More public transport for people with disability and restricted mobility
- More parking, especially in medical precinct
- Improve timetabling for trains and buses
- Increase lanes on Gobba bridge or duplicate

Health

- More staff in hospital/medical services on the ground as opposed to in administration
- Improve palliative care

Services and infrastructure for elderly

- Aged care: increase professional, follow up staff
- Increased investment in public and private aged care facilities to match population growth



Other infrastructure and services identified:

- Water security
- Fix Lake Albert: needs beautification, concern over diverting water from River. Better management of Lake. Council need more state money to fix
- Retail: need shopping centre in Estella
- Footpaths and access: paths that support people with limited mobility

"Schools and shops when building new suburbs"

"Police force: no appointment yet for the planned specialist elder abuse officers"



- Arts: large entertainment facilities
- Location of public toilets
- Strengthening partnerships between agencies
- Promote tourism in Wagga Wagga

"No aged care strategy for Wagga at local level"

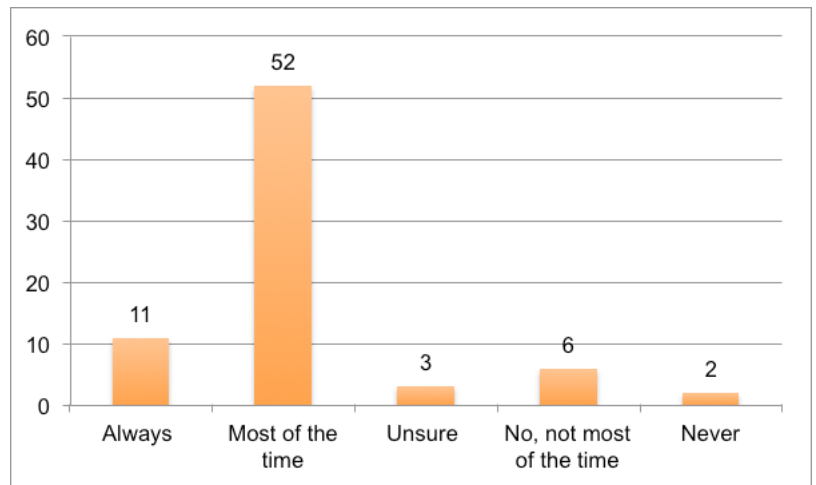
"End of life: poor services support, palliative care (SW part-time), increase services"

“Some shopfront services e.g. Service NSW, NSW Guardian and Trustee. Somewhere to go to talk to someone, not online”

Safe Supported Communities

Attendees were asked 'Do you feel supported and safe in your community'.

70% OF ATTENDEES STATED THEY FELT SAFE 'MOST OF THE TIME' IN THEIR COMMUNITY.



Attendees were then asked what does a safe and supported community look like. Multiple people recognised that many factors contribute to social issues, which reduce a community's safety and support networks.



“Address underlying problems behind crime”

“Tendency to solve issues in isolation rather than small parts of one big issue”

The most common themes to emerge from responses to what a safe and supported community looks like were:

Support youth

- More training and employment options
- Greater diversity of entertainment
- Council's Youth Council Officer to provide more publicity on what is going on in the Wagga Community

“Keeping youth focused - employment pathways, work, transport, education at TAFE”

“Well funded, early intervention for young people and their families wrap around services for families”

Social housing - presentation and maintenance

- More social housing
- Better maintenance of properties

“Scheme where public housing residents pay more and work towards eventual ownership - to improve presentation and preservation of housing stock”

Services and infrastructure for elderly

- Aged care: increase professional advisory, follow up staff
- Increased investment in public and private aged care facilities to match population growth

Build sense of community

- Reactivate neighborhood watch
- Support groups

Address homelessness

- More accommodation for homeless people

Support parents

- Educate parents

Other themes that emerged in responses:

- Surveillance cameras
- Street lighting
- Police
- Education and control of drugs
- Transport
- Financial support for seniors
- Support the disadvantaged and reporting abuse.



NEXT STEPS



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.

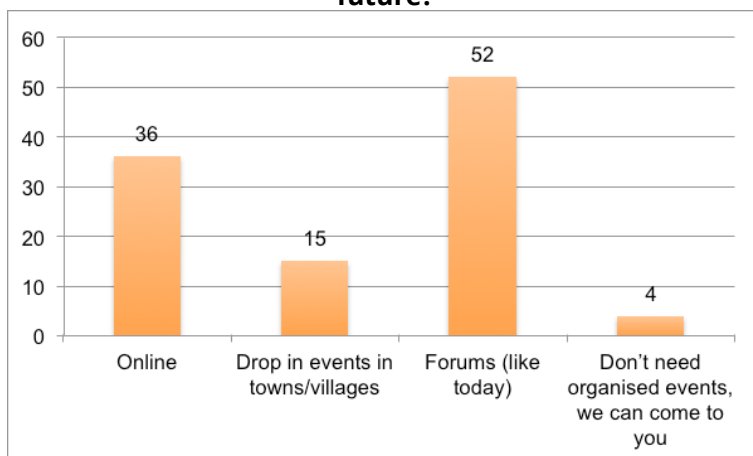
Future engagement

Most people said they would like to provide feedback in the future at forums, while a large number of people also said they would like to provide feedback online.

Planning has begun for a followup forum and you will be sent details as they are confirmed.

Online surveys will be developed as topics emerge that are open for feedback and will be available at joemcgirr.com.au/your-say.

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



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

www.joemcgirr.com.au | www.facebook.com/DrJoeMcGirrMP
waggawagga@parliament.nsw.gov.au | 64 Baylis Street | (02) 6921 1622