Seniors Programs and Participation

Presentation to Public Library Network Victoria meeting

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Tuesday 26 March 2019
Objectives

- Reach older people through you
- Assist older people to get better connected
Victorian Seniors Card program overview

The Victorian Seniors Card program is managed by the Seniors Programs and Participation Unit in the Department of Health and Human Services.

Operating since 1991, the Victorian Seniors Card program acknowledges and celebrates the contribution seniors have made and continue to make to our communities and the State of Victoria.

The program encourages older people to keep active and engaged in the community by providing incentives and making it more affordable to get out and about.

Eligible seniors are those over 60 years of age and working less than 35 hours a week. These seniors receive the Seniors Card which entitles them to discounts from around 4,000 participating businesses, and discounted public transport.
Commissioner for Senior Victorians

- Advise Government on policy issues
- Identify key advocacy issues
- Actively engage with older people & stakeholders
- Public and community education
- Referral of individual matters
- Libraries Change Lives - Library Champion

Report: Ageing is everyone’s business – a report on isolation and loneliness and senior Victorians
Commissioner for Senior Victorians

Promotion of libraries: 2018 Seniors Card magazine

Commissioner's blog

An ode to libraries

Published 15 February 2019 by Gerard Manour

Like many other days in our calendar, Valentine's Day can invoke a range of emotions among people. Some love it, enjoying the opportunity to celebrate romantic or friendship love. For others, Valentine's Day may evoke feelings of sadness, perhaps loss, or even loneliness. Whatever your perspective, I'd love to know what you think about this year's version.

My favourite personal stories about libraries however, are my simplest ones. The library is a place to go and spend time with people I care about, learn something, or simply be with people old and new.

Most recently, I spent wonderful time at the library with my grandchildren. I had a huge amount of fun, and so did the grandchildren.

That's the thing about libraries. To quote my friend Chris Bukochnik, CEO of Casey Cardinia Libraries: 'Public libraries are welcoming, safe places where people of all ages and stages can gather, learn and grow.'

If I had to write an ode to libraries, it would be a list of my favourite things:

- They are meeting places for family, friends, colleagues and communities.
- They have free internet access and classes on how to use technology.
- Art and culture are embedded in libraries. Not just through books, but through music, video, art classes, even performances.

So that's it. Would you write a poem or an ode to libraries? What do you love about them?

I'd love hearing from you. Share your stories on our Facebook page and on our website Libraries Change Lives Victoria.
Commissioner for Senior Victorians

Ambassador for Elder Abuse Prevention
- Create awareness of elder abuse in the community
- Focus on prevention

Publication: Your voice – Trust your choice

Chair
- End of Life and Palliative Care Implementation Advisory Group
- Strengthening Seniors Inclusion and Participation Reference Group
Seniors Programs and Participation

Strengthening Seniors Inclusion and Participation In Bendigo

One of the activities in the project included a library site activation and engagement to review & refresh programs and activities at libraries.

New program offerings through this project included reminiscing kits to be used in libraries, shared reading groups, author tours and comedian events, brain training workshops (Bendigo, Heathcote, Boort and Wederburn), book making for seniors - telling their own stories and digital literacy programs (Axedale, Inglewood, Elmore and Boort).
Seniors Programs and Participation

Printed publications distributed through the Public Libraries

- Seniors Card application forms (since 2018)
- Seniors Card magazine
- Seniors Festival program (many years)
- Your voice trust your choice (July-Sept 2018)
Seniors Programs and Participation

Promoting libraries through our communication channels:

- Stories in the Seniors Card Magazine
- Facebook:
Seniors Programs and Participation

Funded Programs with Public Libraries and Telstra

• Tech Savvy Seniors
• Social Seniors program

Promoting libraries through our communication channels:

• Stories on Seniors Online Get Involved section:  
Public Library video – Bayside Library

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVp0E15Jlw
Opportunities for discussion

• Strengthen opportunities between libraries and our programs + the Commissioner for Senior Victorians

• Formalise a feedback channel

• Promoting the work libraries do in terms of social isolation and loneliness ie. transitions, intergenerational opportunities, and volunteering

• Share more publications – such as the Commissioner’s community newsletter

• Age-Friendly partner organisations