

Council's Aged and Disability Services under review

The Australian Government is making a number of changes to how aged and disability services are delivered. To prepare for these changes, Murrindindi Shire Council is about to begin a review of its aged and disability services.

Murrindindi Shire Council Community Services Portfolio Councillor Sandice McAulay said the Council review will take about six months but there won't be any changes to the services Council provides during the review.

"We know how important it is for our seniors and people with disabilities to have access to high quality care and support. In reviewing delivery of the service in Murrindindi Shire, our goal is to make sure that everyone has access to services that best meet their needs," Cr McAulay said.

"The Federal Government's National Aged Care Reform and National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) aims to improve the choice of services and flexibility of access available to users of aged and disability services.

"As a result, new funding models are being introduced that may change the way service providers, such as Council, deliver their aged and disability services to the community. Aged and disability services will always be needed in our communities and there is a range of ways they can be delivered.

"One of the first steps in our review is to talk to the community about what they want to see from aged and disability service providers in the future. I really encourage everyone to pop along to one of these sessions to share their thoughts and ideas. We need the input of those members of the community who use or are affected by these services to ensure the decisions that come out of this consultation reflect everyone's point of view. These consultations will be happening in Alexandra and Yea on 10 September – you can find out more about them at www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/aanddreview

"In addition to the two community consultations, we will also be talking with Council officers who currently provide these services to consider our organisation's capacity to meet the community's needs and expectations.

"Once all the research is done and feedback collated, we will develop a series of recommendations about how aged and disability services can best be delivered to the Murrindindi Shire community within the new Federal Government funding framework.

"While this is a period of significant change in the aged and disability sector around the country, here at Murrindindi Shire Council, our goal remains ensuring the best possible outcomes for our communities," Cr McAulay added.

If you have any questions or concerns about the review or the community consultation sessions, please contact Council's Community Services team on 5772 0333.