

Item 13.1

Notices of Motion

Ageism Awareness

By Councillor Ellsmore

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note that:

- (i) ageism, or discrimination based on age including prejudice against older people, has a profound impact on our communities. Ageism negatively affects the job prospects, confidence, physical and mental health, quality of life and control over life decisions of older members of the community;
- (ii) in 2021, the World Health Organisation found that "Ageism has been shown to cause cardiovascular stress, lowered levels of self-efficacy and decreased productivity";
- (iii) another major area where age discrimination impacts older Australians is employment. The employment participation rate of Australians aged 55-64 years old is 67.2 per cent, and lags behind comparable countries such as New Zealand (78.4 per cent), Germany (74.4 per cent) and Japan (77.9 per cent). Almost 223,000 Australians aged 55-64 years are on Newstart payments - actively looking for work but unable to get a job. This is the largest of any other age group;
- (iv) Deloitte Access Economics, undertaking modelling on behalf of the Australian Human Rights Commission, has estimated that if five per cent more people aged 55 or older were employed, there would be a positive impact of \$48 billion on the national economy annually;
- (v) addressing ageism is good for both the community and our local economies. The drivers and causes of ageism can be addressed by shifting negative attitudes and addressing discrimination in employment, healthcare, aged care, housing, digital inclusion and economic security; and
- (vi) EveryAGE Counts is an advocacy campaign aimed at tackling ageism against older Australians. The EveryAGE Counts campaign has written to the City of Sydney Councillors and the Council, asking for Council to support action against ageism;

(B) Council agree to:

- (i) support the EveryAGE Counts campaign to end ageism, joining with others in our communities to create a society where every person is valued, connected and respected regardless of age; and
- (ii) promote awareness of upcoming Ageism Awareness Day, which will be held on 7 October 2022; and

- (C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) investigate other opportunities for the Council to support the campaign and address ageism in our communities, including Council signing the campaign pledge to stand for a world without ageism, training and information for Council staff about ageism, education and awareness raising about ageism in the wider community, and advocacy to State and Federal Parliamentarians; and
 - (ii) report back to Council about these, and other potential actions, that Council could take to support the campaign and address ageism.

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