



Plans for the Mallee aged

Mildura Rural City Council is now drawing up a strategy to help its older residents, following a series of public meetings, including one in Ouyen.

The council's manager of community care services Lisa Barham-Lomax said while the numbers were low at the Ouyen meeting a number of key issues were raised.

They included:

- Wanting to strengthen connections between older people and younger people.

- The Ouyen community want a multi-purpose centre to house a range of activities, including those for older people, but not focused on older peo-

ple.

- A men's shed type facility.
- People are moving into Ouyen from the smaller surrounding towns.
- There is a need for more housing options for people wanting to downsize from larger homes.
- Difficulty getting tradespeople to carry out smaller home modifications tasks.
- The public housing/units in Ouyen are always full.
- The steps on to public transport and buses are too high.
- It is difficult to get transport on discharge from hospital.
- There is a need to encourage people to take up physical activities to support their health and wellbeing.

- There is an anticipated increase in demand for home care services.

- Travel impacts on the ability of health care professionals to see more people as a lot of time is spent driving to do home visits.

- Travel and funding from Government needs to recognise the costs of travelling and distance within the municipality.

"With an increasing ageing population we have planned the strategy to look at not only what people's support needs are, but their health goals and aspirations for the future in relation to recreation and accessible age-friendly communities," Ms Barham-Lomax added.