

MEETING DETAILS

Date	Monday 20 April 2026
Time	11:00am to 12:30pm
Location	Barossa Regional University Campus, Meeting Room 4
Chair	Bec Normington
Members present	Bec Normington (Barossa Village), Jenny O'Brien (Barossa Council), Neale Gerlach, Naomi Graetz (Angaston Medical Clinic), Courtney Mudge (Lutheran Homes Barossa), Michelle Schupelius (Lutheran Homes Barossa)
Apologies	Kate Shelby-James, Elaine Wilson, Peter Matwijiw

WHAT WE DISCUSSED

Year 1 action priorities

The shared intent is create something that will outlast the committee's current membership and deliver real wins for older adults in the Barossa. Actions were considered across two lenses -- preventative work that builds long-term wellbeing, and activation work that creates visible early outcomes.

Dementia-Inclusive Communities

A discussion on Dementia-Inclusive Communities. The group noted that 70% of people living with dementia in the community are still at home, and that the social isolation experienced by carers is a significant and often overlooked dimension of the challenge. A recent regional study found that 13% of respondents identified as having carer responsibilities. The group agreed this is a strong candidate for a Year 1 action and will continue to develop the concept, with a particular focus on carer support and community awareness.

Wellbeing Resource Hub website

Phase 1 due to be launched in May 2026. The site will include an interactive Community Directory, a searchable map and program list covering services, events, programs, and locations across the Barossa. The group raised important questions about sustainability and reach: older adults still rely heavily on Facebook and local newspapers, and people new to the region may not easily discover the directory. How the site will be promoted and maintained as a living resource over time was flagged as an important ongoing consideration.

Transport, social connection, and safe spaces

The group continued to discuss the three priority themes that emerged from the March meeting: transport access, social connection and isolation, and safe and welcoming spaces. These themes were confirmed as the core focus areas for the group's action planning.

Partner Circle development

The group discussed progress on building the Older Adults Partners Circle -- the broader group of organisations and individuals who stay connected to the committee's work without attending every meeting. A spreadsheet to map potential partner circle members was shared via Teams for members to review and contribute to before the next meeting.

NEXT STEPS

- Neale Gerlach to continue developing the Dementia-Inclusive Communities concept, with a focus on carer support and community awareness, ahead of the Action Setting Workshop
- All members to review and contribute to the Partner Circle spreadsheet shared via Teams