

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE Monday 27 April 2026

SUPPORT HUB FOR AN AGEING COMMUNITY DELIVERING STRONG EARLY OUTCOMES

From navigating online banking to staying socially connected, older residents across the community are being supported to live safer, more confident and connected lives through the Support Hub for an Ageing Community.

Funded by the United Way Glenelg Lewis Court Fund and delivered by Portland Neighbourhood House, the initiative is responding to the growing need for practical information, advocacy and social connection for older residents. The program focuses on supporting vulnerable seniors to better navigate services, build digital and financial confidence, and remain engaged through accessible education and community activities.

United Way Glenelg Executive Officer Nicole Carr said the program reflects the importance of investing in preventative, community-led supports for an ageing population.

"Initiatives like the Support Hub for an Ageing Community are critical in ensuring older residents feel confident, informed and connected.

By providing practical education and trusted local support, we're helping people maintain independence while strengthening their overall wellbeing and sense of belonging."

During the summer period, Portland Neighbourhood House delivered two highly sought-after workshops in partnership with Beyond Bank, focusing on Online Banking and Scam Awareness. Both sessions reached capacity, highlighting strong local demand for support in safely navigating digital financial systems and recognising fraudulent activity.

Complementing the workshops, Neighbourhood House produces and distributes a quarterly *Ageing Well* newsletter dedicated to topics impacting older residents. Articles covered practical areas such as energy savings for pensioners, respite care, planning final farewells, and "12 Ways to Improve Ageing Well." The publication also promoted a wide range of local social and wellbeing opportunities from Tai Chi and art classes to craft groups and social afternoons, encouraging older residents to remain active and connected.

A recent *Writing Your Own Eulogy* workshop also offered a surprisingly uplifting and reflective experience. Participants were guided to think about their lives, values and the legacy they wish to leave, creating space for meaningful conversations, laughter and connection. Far from being sombre, the session was as empowering and deeply positive, helping individuals appreciate their own stories and the impact they've had on others.

Writing Your Own Eulogy workshop will run again on Thursday 14th May 2026, 5.45pm at Glenelg Libraries.

Margaret Van Veen from Portland Neighbourhood House said the initiative is delivering meaningful outcomes for older people in the region.

"The response from the community has been incredibly encouraging. Our workshops have been at capacity, and the Ageing Well newsletter has connected many older residents with practical supports, activities and financial assistance they may not have otherwise accessed.

We're looking forward to delivering the remaining workshops, including Dementia Awareness and continuing to build opportunities that support confidence, wellbeing and social connection for older people across our community."

The Support Hub model has been designed to create lasting benefit, building knowledge, confidence and service connections that continue beyond the funded period through volunteer involvement and ongoing community partnerships.

Photo: Liane Alexander – Margaret Van Veen - Arene Moir - Meredith Newman Debens - Jeanette Beaglehole, attend the Writing your own Eulogy workshop.

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