



# AGE FRIENDLY SUBURBS

## REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

**The ACT Government is committed to ensuring community infrastructure is accessible and inclusive to people of all ages and abilities.**

The Age Friendly Suburbs Program is focused on improving path network infrastructure and connectivity in suburbs that have a large proportion of residents aged over 55 years and include aged care and retirement facilities.

Reid, O'Connor, Scullin and Chifley are the next four suburbs to receive upgrades as part of the program. These suburbs were identified as in need of improvements through an assessment of community path requests, the condition of existing infrastructure and information from the public including the Council of the Ageing (COTA).

Improvements in each of these suburbs have been identified through community path requests including Fix My Street data and suburb-wide desktop and on-the-ground analysis. Following engagement with targeted stakeholders, including community and resident associations in each suburb, the broader community were invited to provide feedback from 12 October to 23 November 2022.

## THE CONVERSATION

### Online survey

An online survey, via the YourSay website, was open during the consultation period for the community to have their say on the Age Friendly Suburbs Program. A total of 22 surveys were completed. The community was also invited to provide feedback via email and Facebook.

### Community pop-ups

A pop-up session was held in each suburb between 20 and 29 October 2022 to promote the consultation and meet with members of the community face-to-face to hear their thoughts.

## WHO WE ENGAGED

**The consultation targeted local residents of Reid, O'Connor, Scullin and Chifley as well as people who frequently visit these suburbs.**

We promoted the consultation via:

- the Our Canberra print newsletter and electronic newsletter
- a pop-up at the Geerilong Gardens Playground in Reid, the O'Connor shops, the Scullin shops and the Chifley shops
- ACT Government Facebook and Twitter
- letters to the aged care facilities in the four suburbs
- City Services website
- an email to key stakeholders including COTA and relevant resident associations.

A total of 50% of survey respondents were 55 years of age or older and 27% of survey respondents identified as having mobility needs or requirements.



## WHAT WE HEARD

The key insights below represent the most common themes raised across all feedback channels.

### Key insights from the community

Please note: The below is a summary and does not list all the feedback received

#### General feedback

- You'd like to see improvements to the existing path network to repair cracked, broken and uneven paths and prevent water from pooling.
- Improved connections including where kerb ramps do not currently connect to a path and where there are desire lines, but no formal path is provided.
- Wider paths to allow people to pass each other, including people using mobility aids.
- Consideration of a speed limit reduction in some residential streets.
- Improved lighting along popular paths to provide high visibility at night, particularly in older suburbs where streetlights may not meet current standards.
- You also asked for more seating, pedestrian crossings and traffic calming measures.

#### Reid

- The top three path improvements prioritised in the survey included an upgrade of the kerb ramps on Booroondara Street (near house numbers 13/15), a new kerb ramp and 10 metre path on Booroondara Street (near house numbers 42/44), and repairing the existing path on Currong Street (near house number 14).
- Traffic speed was identified as a concern on Coranderrk, Currong, Euree, Elimatta and Booroondara Streets and speed limit reductions were suggested.
- Traffic calming measures were suggested to improve safety on Booroondara Street, Cooyong Street, Coranderrk Street between Elouera and Currong Streets. There was also a request for stop signs on Euree and Elimatta Streets.
- You requested more pedestrian crossings on Coranderrk Street including near its intersections with Currong, Boolee, Cooyong and Booroondara Streets. You also highlighted that there is no footpath on the Glebe Park side of Coranderrk Street where there is currently a desire line.
- You identified the need for a kerb ramp and path connection at the corner of Boolee and Currong Streets.
- Trip hazards were identified on Coranderrk and Euree Streets and issues were also highlighted on Amaroo Street between Euree and Coranderrk Streets. You would also like to see a path on the south side of Amaroo Street.
- You also let us know, vegetation blocks some of the path connections in Reid limiting access and the community would like to see a seat installed at bus stop 3099 on Gooreen Street.

#### O'Connor

- The top three path improvements prioritised in the survey included modifications on the approaches to the bridge adjacent to the O'Connor oval to reduce water pooling, new paths and kerb ramps to improve access from Blubell and Pedder Streets to O'Connor oval, and a new kerb ramp and path connection on Macpherson Street near O'Connor shops.
- You highlighted the need for path repairs on Hart, Macpherson, Tate, Finn, Robinson, David and Miller Streets including the need for drainage improvements in some areas.
- You told us Cockle Street has kerb ramps which do not connect to paths and that there is a need for kerb ramps to make it safe to cross the Macarthur Avenue median.
- A pedestrian crossing in the Cockle and Miller Streets laneway was suggested to link to the path on Tate Street.



- You would like to see the path on Macarthur Avenue near Hovea Street extended through the land on the eastern side of Pedder Street and the path on the southern side of Macarthur Avenue between Pedder Street and Sullivans Creek widened.
- Improvements are needed to the path connecting Hardman Street to Macpherson Street.

### **Scullin**

- The top three path improvements prioritised in the survey included a new 70 metre path in the open space between Belconnen Way and Frewin Place, a new pedestrian refuge and kerb ramp upgrades at the Mackinolt Street and Ross Smith Crescent intersection, and a new 90 metre path near the Southern Cross Drive and Ross Smith Crescent intersection.
- You told us you would like the existing path on Keith Street to be completed to McGinness Street.
- The need for better drainage and lighting at the underpass between Scullin and Florey, between Scullin oval and Barnard Circuit, was identified.
- The path on Ross Smith Crescent between the intersections with Mackinolt and Chewings Streets was identified as in need of repair due to tree roots uplifting the pavement.

### **Chifley**

- The top three path improvements prioritised in the survey included a new 80 metre path and kerb ramps in the open space between Anderson Drive and Hindmarsh Drive/Melrose Drive, a new 55 metre path in the open space adjacent to the intersection of MacFarland and Eggleston Crescents, and a new 35 metre path in the open space adjacent to the MacFarland Crescent and Waldock Street intersection.
- Concerns were highlighted about the speed of some streets in Chifley including Eggleston and MacFarland Crescents and a speed limit reduction was recommended.
- You told us you would like to see new paths along several streets, including but not limited to, Lamb Place, Lyle Place, Board Place, Barff Place, Threlfall Street and Anderson Street.
- Traffic calming measures were recommended including on MacFarland Crescent to the south of Wilsmore Crescent, a new pedestrian refuge island on Eggleston Crescent, and speed humps on Charteris Crescent near the play space.
- Drainage improvements were recommended near the Waldock Street path and near the Eggleston Crescent and Plunkett Street underpasses where there are often slip hazards following rain events.
- You also let us know you'd like to see path repairs on Eggleston Crescent, and better access around Chifley Place including new kerb ramps.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

Feedback from this engagement will help shape the final age friendly improvements to be delivered in Reid, O'Connor, Scullin and Chifley. Designs will be finalised in the first half of 2023 and construction will start in the second half of 2023.

Updates will continue to be provided via the YourSay page. If you have any questions about this project or would like to be kept updated on its progress, please email [communityengagement@act.gov.au](mailto:communityengagement@act.gov.au).

### Key Timings

**12 October 2022:** Community consultation opens on the Age Friendly Suburbs Program in Reid, O'Connor, Scullin and Chifley

**23 November 2022:** Community consultation closes

**February 2023:** What We Heard report released [[we are here](#)]

**First half of 2023:** Final designs released

**Second half of 2023:** Construction to commence

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

**100+**

we received 109 pieces of feedback in total via YourSay, Facebook, email and pop-ups

**22**

a total of 22 people completed the YourSay survey

**130**

we received 130 comments on social media

**14**

we received 14 submissions via email

**720+**

we received 726 page views on YourSay

**50+**

we spoke to a total of 55 people at the community pop-ups

**19,360+**

we reached 19,362 people via ACT Gov Facebook

**55%**

over half of the survey respondents (55%) were satisfied with the engagement experience