

8.5.3

BATHURST LIBRARY - DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COLLECTION

FILE NO: 21.00054

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

REPORT:

In Australia, more than 421,000 people live with dementia. It is the leading cause of death for women, and the second leading cause of death overall. The estimated number of persons with dementia living in Bathurst in 2024 is 781 and estimated to be 1,404 in 2054.

Bathurst Library was recently approached by a community member who wanted to donate a sum of money to the Bathurst Library to fund a project not currently costed and which would be of benefit to the community. The library elected to use this donation of \$10,000 to finance the research, curation and purchase of a new *Mind Alive Dementia Friendly Collection*.

In the development of the new collection and associated webpage, the library engaged with local organisations and services such as Bathurst Dementia Alliance the Dementia Assistance Support Team, the Carers Advocacy Learning and Mentoring, the Aged Care Team and Older People's Mental Health and the Neighbourhood Centre.

Research shows that reading can be a great source of support and comfort to people living with dementia and those that care for them. The new collection is a specially curated selection of resources designed for individuals living with dementia and their caregivers. It features photo boards, puzzles, games, DVDs and books, all crafted to provide mental stimulation, enjoyment and relaxation. The *Mind Alive Dementia Friendly Collection* is available for loan to individuals and institutions.

The new collection was launched during Dementia Awareness Week on Friday 20 September 2024 at the Bathurst Library. A presentation by Anthony Parker from Dementia Australia gave suggestions on how Bathurst can continue to grow as a Dementia Friendly community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This item was funded by a \$10,000 donation to the Bathurst Library from a Bathurst community member.

BATHURST COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN – OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES:

Objective 1: Our sense of place and identity.

Strategy 1.3 Enhance the cultural vitality of the region.

Objective 5: Community health, safety and well being.

- Strategy 5.1 Provide opportunities for our community to be healthy and active.
- Strategy 5.2 Help make the Bathurst CBD, neighbourhoods and the region's villages attractive and full of life.
- Strategy 5.3 Help build resilient, inclusive communities.
- Strategy 5.5 Plan and respond to demographic changes in the community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

01 **Inform** - to provide the public with balanced and objective information to help them understand the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil