

Call to bring back wild dog bounty

SHOOTERS and Fishers MLC Daniel Young has called for the return of the state's wild dog bounty, scrapped last June last year in favour of a baiting regime.

Mr Young said with wild dogs costing the state's livestock industry up to \$18 million a year, the reinstatement of the \$100 per dog bounty was supported by farmers.

He said the state recently committed to ongoing funding for the fox bounty at \$10 a fox, and in 2014-15 more than 100,000 scalps were claimed.

Mr Young said baiting was only a temporary fix and was "ethically questionable".



Time to act on isolation

New age-friendly declaration

UNITED FRONT – Minister for Ageing Martin Foley says an age-friendly plan will help reduce social isolation.

STATE and local governments in Victoria will work together to plan for age-friendly communities that help reduce isolation as figures show more than 185,000 older Victorians will be socially isolated by 2031.

Minister for Ageing Martin Foley launched a new report on social isolation, Ageing is Everyone's Business, in April 14 and signed a new age-friendly declaration with the Municipal Association of Victoria to launch a co-ordinated approach to the issue.

The report by Commissioner for Seniors Victorians Gerard Mansour recommends developing an integrated seniors action plan with a focus on areas including promoting purpose as people age, strengthening seniors' inclusion at the local level, strengthening referral pathways for elder abuse, community education and personal mobility and transport.

It says research suggests 10 per cent of people over 65 are socially isolated, with a further 12 per cent at risk of social isolation.

Particularly at risk are people in rural areas, those on low incomes, those at risk of homelessness or elder abuse, single people with no children, and recent immigrants from countries with a different language background.

On the positive side, the report says older people who remain engaged contribute substantially to the community, with more than 12 per cent of Victorians over 60 providing unpaid care to another person in 2011.

Health impacts of social isolation include high blood pressure, mental health issues and increased risk of cognitive decline, heart disease and stroke.

Suggested actions include strengthening information provided to seniors about activities and opportunities for involvement in their area, and better planning for transport options including ensuring buses are accessible and stop at seniors centres and other key locations, support to use transport and support for micro-transport opportunities including volunteer drivers.

Help to access online information and services was also identified as vital to promoting inclusion.

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Call-out for volunteers

LINK Community Transport urgently needs new volunteers as demand for the service expands with the roll-out of the NDIS.

The not-for-profit organisation provides door-to-door transport for seniors, people with disabilities and their carers, to help them stay involved and access social and recreational activities.

New volunteer drivers and office-based volunteers are needed to support the transport and logistics team.

LINK has been established since 1991.
 ■ Phone 1300-546-528,
www.linkcommunitytransport.org.au

Life Activities, sign up

LIFE Activities Club Heidelberg is looking for new members to join its day and evening activities.

These include table tennis, cards, tai chi, walking, computer class, swimming, golf, caravan and coach trips, and eating out.
 ■ Details on 9457-2623 or 9459-2659.

Springvale VIEW

SPRINGVALE Evening VIEW Club will meet at Sandown Greyhounds Entertainment Centre, Springvale, at 6.30pm on June 27.

There will be a bottle and box auction. All ladies are welcome.
 ■ Details from Margaret, 0409-234-128.