

The Committee Manager
Legislative Assembly Legal and Social Issues Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Email to oldervictoriansinquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au

20 Jan 2022

I am [REDACTED] and making this submission as an older Victorian.

I am with non-English speaking background from Taiwan many years ago and have been involved in supporting multicultural older Chinese (Chinese from various countries as East Timor, Indo-china, Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong and China PRC) community since 2005 and people are now mostly in their 80s and the younger ones are in 60s. I wish to make the following points:

1, Social Isolation services

Though numerous, an individual's social services still insufficient. Please continue your support.

2. Digital literacy

Habitually we rely on our children/young family members, friends, libraries and kind hearted community people. However, I would recommend the committee to consider a matching-buddying network program for the interested ones.

3. Access culturally appropriate Aged care and home care services

English speaking ones know to approach Council On The Ageing (COTA) to assist queries.

Non-English speaking people would have to rely on bilingual social workers and/or of a Chinese specific agencies for information and services supply.

Please continue your support.

4. Ideas of advance the physical and mental health and wellbeing of Victoria's multicultural seniors including global practices.

One wants a trusted "companion" to do things with and/or to chat or shop together or have a cup of tea/coffee so to spend time together.

I recommend teaching of the importance of relationship buildings since our early stage of migration.

5. Others

5.1 Migrant selection to include English learning capacity

5.2 Matching migrant/refugee with a buddying group or an organisation or individuals to work on a better understanding of the local culture of the local context.

5.3 Civic education of value, rights, responsibilities and obligation to the society. .

To understand and transfer one's state into the citizenship involves education to assume societal values, responsibilities and obligations not just welfare and rights. I recommend sufficient points via assessment to obtain citizenship.

If you require further information, please feel free to call me at [REDACTED]

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Edith Chen