

# We did it!!! - Thanks Pingelly Community

## \$377,750 grant for 'Virtual Village'

Following last year's successful campaign in Pingelly to give ageism the boot, we have been awarded \$377,750 grant over 3 years from the Australian Government's Senior's Connected Program to start "The Village" across Wandering, Wickepin, Cuballing, and Pingelly.

The Village will support older people to live at home in their community and not need to leave as they get older. The Village has no walls, fences or special buildings but is connected by participating members supporting one another, a concierge service and technology.

"The main objective is to make sure older people do not feel lonely, isolated or worried about how to cope as they age, no matter where they choose to live" said David Freebairn, Chairman of the Pingelly Somerset Alliance Inc.



Federal Member for O'Connor Rick Wilson said the local Village Hub would enable seniors in the small, isolated communities around Pingelly, Wickepin, Cuballing and Wandering to live safely at home.

"We know digital and social connections are essential to support older Australians to live independently and this is more important than ever during the coronavirus pandemic," Mr Wilson said.

Pingelly residents will participate in establishing The Village and be kept informed as it progresses.

Maintaining a healthy body, active mind, community connections, safety and security are all membership benefits along with getting help as needed.

Belonging to The Village will be similar to living in a lifestyle village or retirement village without having to move. Membership cost will be minimal.

The concierge service will be similar to those in large hotels or cruise ships – welcoming, enthusiastic, knowledgeable and helpful whilst coordinating The Village activities and events or connecting members to those already happening in the community.

The National Grant Manager of the Village Hubs is Independent Living Assessment (ILA) and are overseeing the startup of 10 Villages Hubs across Australia.

ILA General Manager Andrea Morris says, "We are really looking forward to working with each of the new Village Hubs to establish a place where older community members can reconnect, meet new people, have fun and socialise, join in activities they may never have tried and ultimately feel less lonely and more connected."

The Village is one component of *Staying in Place* – a project to help people stay in their own home in their community until end of life. The other components are accommodation options, access to all home based care and support services funded by the State and Commonwealth, locally based reliable workforce and volunteers, latest information, technology and research.

The Pingelly Somerset Alliance Inc is the agency responsible for getting the funding to start The Village and is also progressing *Staying in Place*. Please see their website at [pingellysomersetalliance.com.au](http://pingellysomersetalliance.com.au)

For more information, please contact Helen Morton – Project Officer on 0418 925 861