

ZkC consulting

SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN AGED CARE STRATEGY



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EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

The Shire of Dandaragan has experienced a period of significant growth over the last decade, which is expected to continue over the next fifteen years, fuelled by the expanding metropolitan area and the recent opening of Indian Ocean Drive. The social, cultural and economic dynamics are also changing. Industries which have supported the community, such as fishing and agriculture are in a period of readjustment. Industry diversification options are limited by environmental constraints and new industries such as the aged/retirement sector are emerging as important contributors to the community's economic prosperity into the future.

- The Shire of Dandaragan experienced 21.1% growth from 1996 to 2006, compared to the State average of 15.1%.
- During the same period, Jurien and Cervantes experienced the greatest population increase within the Central Coast region, rising 83% and 18.5% respectively.
- The growth is forecast to continue, with an expected 40% rise in population between 2006 and 2020, in comparison to a 24% increase across the State.

This Strategy, prepared on behalf of the Shire of Dandaragan, completes a detailed analysis of the shifting local demographics, particularly in relation to its ageing community. As attractive retirement communities, Jurien Bay and Cervantes already have a higher proportion of aged residents compared to the State's average.

- The Shire of Dandaragan's Seniors (aged 70 and over) are expected to increase by 93% between 2010 and 2025.
- By 2025, Seniors (aged 50 and over) are expected to comprise 47% of the entire population and approximately 56.8% of the adult population in Dandaragan.
- These projections are well above the State average, which indicate that in 2025, Seniors (aged 50 and over) will comprise 24.3% of entire population and 29.2% of adult population in Western Australia (WA).

In 2010, senior residents aged 70 and over, comprised 44% of the entire catchment area (including the Shires of Moora, Coorow, Carnamah and Victoria Plains). Although there is an over-representation of the older age cohorts 50-70 years, the number of senior residents begins to fall significantly beyond the 65-69 cohort which may suggest that there is a movement of senior residents away from the area in their elderly years, due to limited aged care facilities in the area. These statistics alone support the case for Jurien Bay to be established as an Aged Care Centre.

It is encouraging that RSL Care has recently commenced development on 98 Independent Living Units within the Jurien Bay Village, to meet the projected demand in the area for seniors' accommodation. Moreover, in addition to housing, the development includes a community centre specifically tailored to seniors, comprising a swimming pool, library, gym, hairdressing salon, a bar and coffee area, commercial kitchen and dining room, rest area, a

men's shed (workshop), a communal lounge, a Senior Citizens Office with meeting rooms and a large activity room (for arts & crafts etc.).

Whilst this development provides an excellent community service to independent seniors living in the area, there are no facilities available for the frail and these residents must relocate in their elderly years to other areas at vast distances, such as Moora (which is 120km's away) or the metropolitan area (which is at least 200km's away).

The current benchmark planning provisions for the frail and aged, based on projections for 2010 within the Dandaragan/Moora MPS (including the adjacent catchment areas of Coorow, Carnamah and Victoria Plains) are as follows:

- There are currently 47 places available (19 flexible high care, 21 flexible low care and 7 flexible community care places).
- There should be 86 aged places allocated, based on the benchmark planning provisions. Only 8 high care and 9 low care places are allocated, all of which are operate from Moora.

Other recent research also confirms the statistical evidence. The Wheatbelt Health Planning Initiative and the interviews conducted as a part of the Central Coast Strategy each state that there has been an increase in the use of hospital beds for older people requiring long term aged care and an increased demand for in home aged care.¹

The findings of this report also demonstrate that the total demand for aged care places is forecast to increase substantially in both the Shire of Dandaragan and the local catchment areas.

- By 2015, the Shire of Dandaragan will require 46 places by 2015, comprising 18 low care, 18 high care and 10 community care). This is expected to increase to 72 places in 2025, comprising 28 high care, 28 low care and 16 community care.
- The total places required by the entire catchment will be 149 places in 2015 (63 low care, 63 high care and 23 community care) escalating to 161 places (63 high care, 63 low care and 35 community care) by 2025.

A lack of age care facilities not only impacts on the needs of current and future senior residents. It also impacts on the Shire's potential to leverage one of its few economic strengths, as an attractive retirement community. Urgent attention is recommended to attract and facilitate the development of residential aged care facilities within Jurien Bay, to service the growing demand.

It is also opportune for the Shire of Dandaragan to advocate and direct resources where possible, to promote planning, service delivery and infrastructure provision to support its communities, particularly the coastal towns, to become best practice aged-friendly communities that are able to effectively compete with other retirement communities in the coastal areas north and south of the metropolitan area.

¹ Central Coast Employment Strategy, UWA p55

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are proposed, in order to address the increasing demand for aged care services and to leverage the economic drivers that this opportunity affords, within the Shire of Dandaragan.

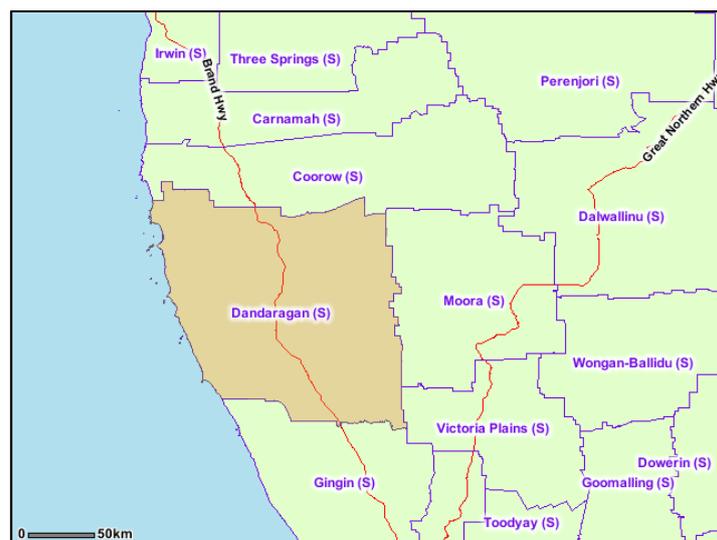
1. With the increased demand on Aged Care Services within the Shire of Dandaragan and Jurien Bay, the Shire of Dandaragan, State and Federal Governments need to work together to provide suitable facilities and services to address those needs.
2. The Shire of Dandaragan needs to progress access to suitable land for the purposes establishing a facility to cater for a residential aged care, which includes provision of low and high care beds, day respite and residential respite, dementia care and other supporting aged services. Suitable land also needs to be identified to expand the Health Centre.
3. The Shire of Dandaragan needs to advocate and direct resources where possible, to promote planning, service delivery and infrastructure provision to support its communities, particularly the coastal towns, to become best practice aged-friendly communities that are able to effectively compete with other retirement communities in the coastal areas north and south of the metropolitan area.

BACKGROUND

The Shire of Dandaragan is located along the central coast of Western Australia approximately 255 kilometres north of Perth. It encompasses five town sites including the primary town centre Jurien Bay, Cervantes, Dandaragan, Badgingarra and Regans Ford (refer Appendix One). Cervantes and Jurien Bay are coastal towns which are popular tourism and retirement destinations. It has a diverse industry base including grain and pastoral farming, rock lobster fishing, tourism, mining, viticulture, agriculture, horticulture and floriculture.

The Shire of Dandaragan is surrounded by the Shires of Coorow and Carnamah to the north, Moora and Victoria Plains to the east and Gingin to the south (refer to Figure 1). It also forms part of the Central Coast Subregion, which is defined by the Department of Planning as all land west of the Brand Highway and all areas between the townships of Dongara to the north and Guilderton to the south.

Figure 1 Map of the Shire of Dandaragan



The Central Coast Employment Strategy, prepared by the Centre for Regional Development, UWA, states the Central Coast subregion is increasingly being recognised as a popular tourist, recreational and retirement destination given the proximity to Perth, lack of crime and natural amenity. The report also states that the subregion is in a unique position to benefit greatly from increased accessibility and greater awareness of the attributes the area has to offer. New industries will play an increasingly important role in the economic diversification of the region, as industries such as fishing and agriculture move into a period of readjustment².

The report also cautions that there is a precedent that coastal development can present itself as something of a paradox. Housing and population growth does not always constitute

² Central Coast Employment Strategy, UWA, p1

development, and there is precedent that these outcomes can in fact lead to high unemployment rates, small shares of commercial investment, high welfare dependence and low incomes. Capturing industry and business opportunities, directing government investment and preparing for anticipated economic and social change is vital³.

Jurien Bay, in particular, is well placed to benefit as a future retirement community as the largest subregional town with a greater concentration of services. It is a critical for the Shire of Dandaragan to leverage the opportunities at hand, in order to benefit from the long term social and economic security that the aged care services and related industries could offer its community.

POPULATION STATISTICS AND FORECASTS

To address the regional nuances, this analysis incorporates the Shire of Dandaragan, as well as the extended catchment area.

Population Trends

The Shire of Dandaragan experienced a 21.1% increase in population during the decade between 1996 and 2006, rising from 2,607 to 3,156 residents⁴. This was the highest growth achieved within the Central Coast subregion, and was significantly higher than the 15.1% increase in the same period achieved across the State (see Table 1).

Table 1 Population Trends 1996 - 2006

Urban/City Locality	Total Population			Population Change 1996 and 2006	
	1996	2001	2006	Actual	%
Jurien Bay (Dandaragan)	636	1153	1164	528	83%
Cervantes (Dandaragan)	480	622	569	89	18.5%
Green Head (Coorow)	245	244	217	-28	-11.4%
Moora	n/a	1723	1605	-118	-6.8%
Statistical Local Area					
Dandaragan	2605	3,078	3,155	550	21.1%
Moora	2573	2584	2433	-140	-5.4%
Carnamah	1039	853	796	-243	-23%
Coorow	1395	1341	1129	-266	-19.1%
Victoria Plains	959	981	947	-12	-1.2%
State					
Western Australia	1,726,095	1,851,252	1,986,247	260,152	15.1%

Source: ABS 2006 Census Community Profile Series: Time Series Profiles (various issues)

³ Central Coast Strategy p1

⁴ ABS, 2006 Census Community Profile Series, Time Series Profile (SLA & UCL, various)

The high level of growth was particularly evident in Jurien, which rose an astounding 83%, increasing from 636 residents in 1996 to 1,164 residents in 2006. Cervantes also experienced very strong growth at 18.5%.

The Shires which are predominantly dependent on the agricultural industries, including Coorow, Carnamah and Moora experienced negative growth.

Population Forecasts

The upward growth trends experienced in the Shire of Dandaragan over the past decade are forecast to continue.

Population projections for the Shire of Dandaragan, prepared by the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC), are summarised in Table 2. These projections confirm that growth is expected to be sustained over the next 15 years.

The report, WA Tomorrow 2005 estimates that the population within the Shire of Dandaragan will rise approximately 40% between 2006 and 2020, from 3,200 to 4,500 residents.⁵ In line with recent trends, the Shire of Coorow and Carnamah are expected to experience further periods of negative growth, yet Moora is forecast to expand in line with the State's average.

Table 2 Population Projections 2006 - 2021

		2006	2011	2016	2021	% Change 2006-2021
LGA	Coorow	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,300	-7%
	Dandaragan	3,200	3,600	4,100	4,500	40%
	Moora	2,700	2,900	3,100	3,400	25%
	Carnamah	700	650	620	580	-17%
State	Western Australia	2,048,500	2,210,400	2,376,400	2,534,600	24%

Source: Western Australia Tomorrow 2005, WAPC, 2005

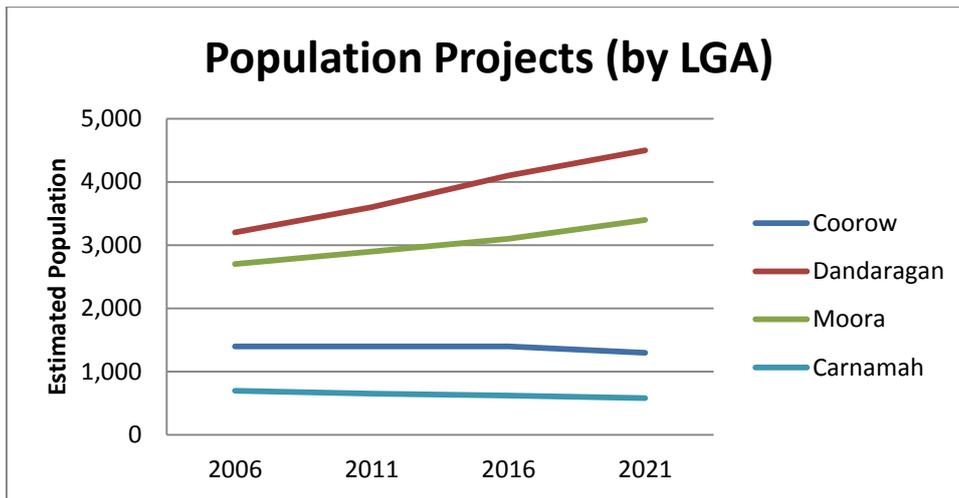
Notwithstanding the impressive growth forecast, it is suggested that the WAPC projections are conservative, according to the Central Coast Strategy. The report surmises that the WAPC forecasts predict a stable-slow decline for the Shire of Coorow and a typical growth in the Shire of Dandaragan (refer to Figure 3). The Central Coast Strategy advises it is more likely that the Shire of Dandaragan will have higher growth rates than Western Australia as a whole, driven by ongoing construction stimuli, availability of residential land, improved access to Perth, attractive coastal lifestyle and improved regional transport links⁶. This assumption is supported by recent anecdotal evidence from Ardross Developments, which

⁵ Western Australia Tomorrow, 2005

⁶ Central Coast Employment Strategy, UWA p8

have reported a significant increase in sales and enquiries, since the opening of the Indian Ocean Drive in late 2010.

Figure 2 2006 – 2021 Population Projections by LGA



Source: Western Australia Tomorrow 2005, WAPC

Ageing Population Trends

As stated above, the coastal areas within and surrounding the Shire of Dandaragan are establishing a reputation as attractive retirement communities. These trends are highlighted in the statistics which demonstrate a higher than average representation of the 50-70 year old cohorts in the area.

In 2006, there were 1,089 senior residents over the age of 50 within the Shire of Dandaragan, comprising 37.7% of the total population. This is significantly greater than the proportion of seniors to total population across the entire State, which accounted 29.7%⁷. Of the senior residents, 365 were over the age of 70, representing 12.6% of the population (compared to 8.4% for WA), and 16 were indigenous residents over the age of 50⁸.

Figures 2 and 3 clearly illustrate that Jurien Bay, Cervantes and Green Head in particular have a higher representation of the 50-70 years cohorts, compared to Western Australia (Figure 2) and the LGA's as a whole (Figure 3)⁹.

Although the percentage of aged people in Jurien is well above the State's average, the cohort of Seniors is even higher in Cervantes and Green Head.¹⁰ Moora, which is the

⁷ ABS, Census of Population and Housing, Cat. No. 2068.0 - 2006 Census Tables, WA (State).

⁸ ABS, 2006 Census Community Profile Series: Basic Community Profile, Dandaragan (SLA)

⁹ ABS, 2006 Census Community Profile Series: Basic Community Profile, (SLA various issues).

¹⁰ Central Coast Employment Strategy, UWA, p4-6

regional centre for all aged nursing facilities within the catchment area at present, has a representation of seniors mostly in line with the State's average.

Interestingly, whilst there is an over-representation of the older age cohorts 50-70 years within the region, the number of senior residents begins to fall significantly beyond the 65-69 cohort, and then becomes in line with the State's average for people aged above 75. This may suggest that there is a movement of senior residents away from the area in their elderly years, due to limited aged care facilities in the area.

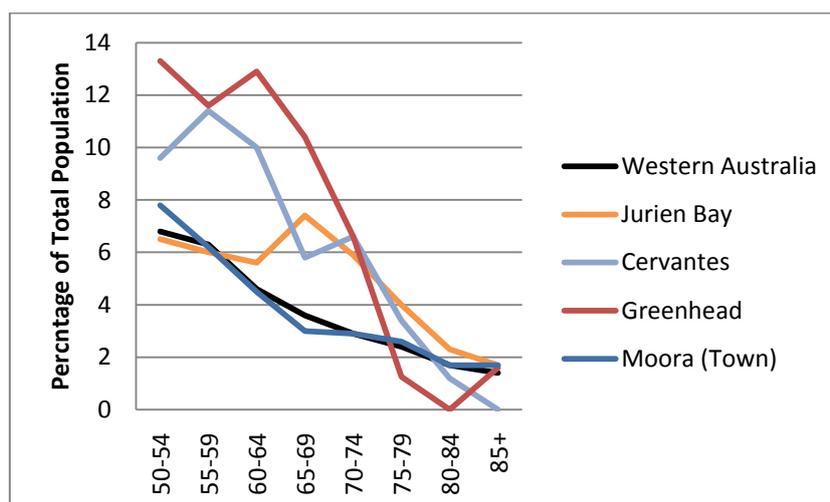
Aged Population Projections - Data Sources

The population projections adopted in this part of the report were sourced from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. The statistics used are customised projections prepared for the Department by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)¹¹. The projections are not official ABS data.

This data was applied to this analysis, rather than the Western Australia Tomorrow 2005 projections, on the basis of relevance to the purpose of this report, to develop an Aged Care Strategy to advocate for better aged care infrastructure and facilities.

The customised projections used in this analysis are for the most part, more conservative than the projections applied in the Western Australia Tomorrow report, for all areas except for the Shire of Carnamah (refer to Figure 5).

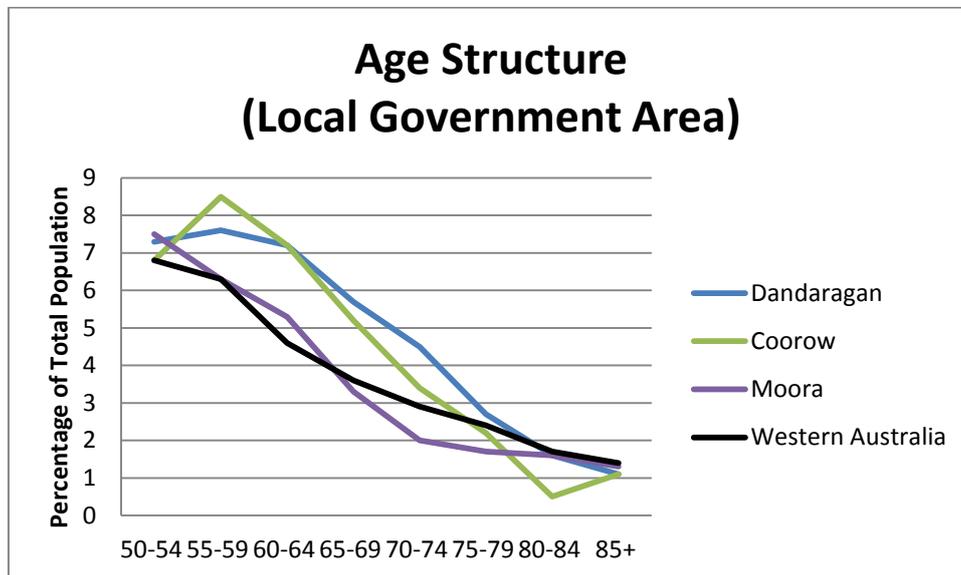
Figure 3 Age Structure - Urban Centre & Locality (2006)



Source: ABS 2006 Census Community Profile Series (UCL various)

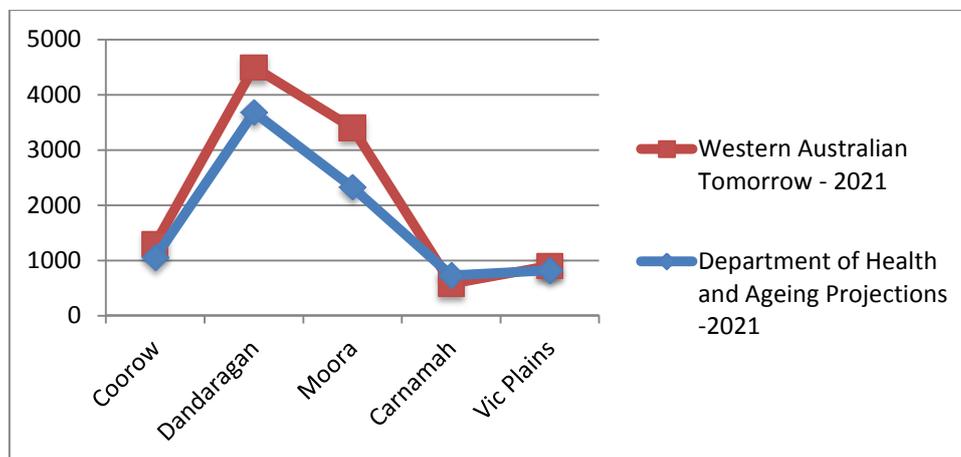
¹¹ This Material was prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for the purpose of the Commonwealth (through the Department of Health and Ageing) and other governments to plan and evaluate aged care. The projections reflect the assumptions made about future fertility, mortality and migration trends. Further information and the explanatory notes and assumptions relating to this data can be found at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ageing-stats-lapp.htm>

Figure 4 Age Structure by LGA (2006)



Source: ABS 2006 Census Community Profile Series (UCL various)

Figure 5 Comparison of WA Tomorrow 2005 and the Department of Health and Ageing customised projections



Source: Western Australia Tomorrow, 2005 (WAPC) & Department of Health and Ageing Statistical Local Area Population Projections, 2007 to 2027

Aged Population Projections

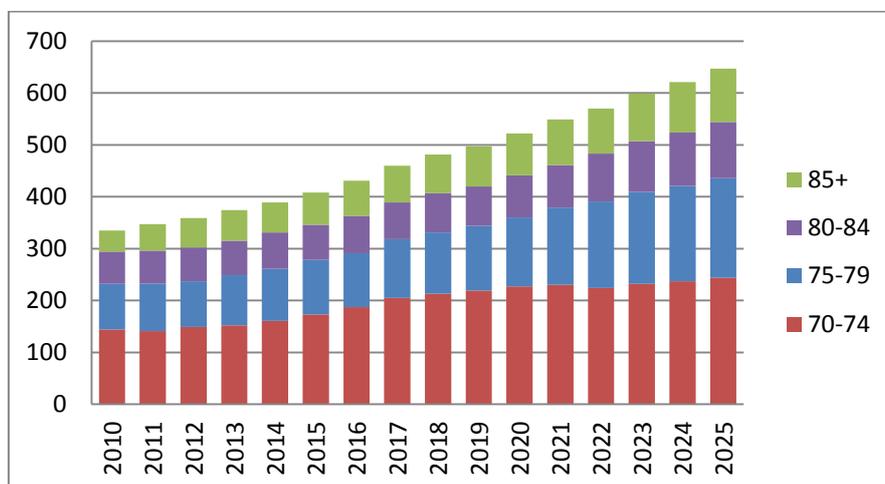
The overrepresentation of senior residents in the Shire of Dandaragan, compared to Western Australia, is expected to further increase over the next 15 years, from 2010 to 2025.

The Shire of Dandaragan is forecast to experience a 93% rise in seniors aged over 70, increasing from 335 in 2010 to 647 in 2025¹² (refer to Figure 6).

The Shire of Moora is also expected to experience strong growth amongst its senior residents, increasing approximately 84% over the next 15 years, from 183 in 2010 to 337 in 2025.

Despite negative growth forecast as a whole, the Shires' of Coorow, Carnamah and Victoria Plains are also expected to experience a rise in the number of senior residents.

Figure 6 Shire of Dandaragan Projected Population 2010 - 2025 (aged 70 and over)



Source: Department of Health and Ageing, Statistical Local Area Population Projections, 2007 to 2027

Table 3 Senior Population Projections by LGA 2010 – 2025 (aged 70 and over)

	Dandaragan	Moora	Coorow	Carnamah	Victoria Plains
2010	335	183	112	52	74
2015	408	226	141	61	96
2020	552	274	176	90	109
2025	647	337	192	115	121
% Change	93%	84%	71%	112%	63%

Source: Department of Health and Ageing, Statistical Local Area Population Projections, 2007 to 2027

The Shire of Dandaragan's proportion of Seniors to the entire population and the adult population is expected to be well above the State average.

Based on the Department of Health and Ageing Statistical Local Area projections, in 2025 Seniors (aged 50 and over) will account for 34.9% of WA's entire population and 42.9% of

¹² Department of Health and Ageing, Statistical Local Area Population Projections, 2007 to 2027

the adult population (aged 15 and over). Seniors aged 70 and over will comprise 12% of the entire population, and 14.8% of the adult population (aged 15 and over).¹³

By 2025, the Shire of Dandaragan's Seniors (aged 50 and over) are expected to increase from 1,276 in 2010 to 1,824 by 2025, comprising 47% of the Shire's entire population, and an astounding 56.8% of the adult population (aged 15 and over). The number of Seniors aged 70 and over is expected to comprise 16.9% of the entire population, and 20.1% of the adult population.

Table 4 - Shire of Dandaragan Aged Population Projections and Proportions of Population

Shire of Dandaragan								
			Seniors (aged 50 and over)			Seniors (aged 70 and over)		
	Forecast Population (Total)	Adult Population (aged 15 and over)	Total Seniors (aged 50 and over)	Proportion of Entire Population (%)	Proportion of Adult Population (%)	Seniors (aged 70 and over)	Proportion of Entire Population (%)	Proportion of Adult Population (%)
2010	3253	2621	1276	39.2%	48.6%	335	10.2%	12.7%
2015	3455	2851	1477	42.7%	51.8%	408	11.8%	14.3%
2020	3646	3031	1646	45.1%	54.3%	522	14.32%	17.2%
2025	3822	3212	1824	47.7%	56.8%	647	16.9%	20.1%

Source: Department of Health and Ageing, Statistical Local Area Population Projections, 2007 to 2027

AGED CARE SERVICES - AN OVERVIEW

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) states that the government planning of service provision aims to maintain a national provision level of operational aged care places and packages for every 1,000 people aged 70 years and over, across the programs administered under the *Aged Care Act 1997*. The current provision target is 113 places and packages per 1,000 persons aged 70 years and over.

The main types of care provided for frail or disabled people, which is administered under the *Aged Care Act, 1997* as outlined by the AIHW are¹⁴:

Residential aged care

Following the introduction of the *Aged Care Act 1997* nursing homes no longer exist as legal entities. Current practice in the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing is to refer to both former nursing homes and former hostels as 'residential aged care homes', 'residential aged care services' or 'residential aged care facilities'.

The Australian Government funds aged care facilities to provide residential aged care to older Australians whose care needs are such that they can no longer remain in their own homes. Facilities provide suitable accommodation and related services (such as laundry, meals and cleaning) and personal care services (such as assistance with the activities of

¹³ Department of Health and Ageing, Statistical Local Area Population Projections, 2007 to 2027

¹⁴ AIHW, Residential Aged Care in Australia 2007-08, p vii-viii

daily living). Nursing care and specialised equipment are provided to residents requiring such assistance.

The residential aged care service must meet certain building standards and appropriate staffing in supplying the provision of that care and accommodation.

Respite care

Residential respite gives short-term care in aged care facilities on a planned or emergency basis. It is care given as an alternative arrangement with the primary purpose of giving the carer or a care recipient a short-term break from their usual care arrangement.

According to AIHW, respite care is an important component of residential service provision. While at any one time the number of respite residents is small, almost half (49%) of admissions to residential aged care during 2007–08 were for respite care.

Community care and flexible care

The largest source of community care assistance is provided through the Australian Government and state/territory funded Home and Community Care (HACC) program administered under the *Home and Community Care Act 1985*.

Community care in the person's home is also provided as tailored packages through Community Aged Care Packages (CACAP). These packages provide care for frail or disabled older people whose dependency and complex care needs would qualify them for entry to an aged care facility, at least for low-level care. They are complemented by Extended Aged Care at Home Packages (EACH) and EACH Dementia, whose aim is to deliver care at home that is equivalent to high-level residential care. EACH Dementia are individually tailored packages of care for approved care recipients who have complex care needs because of behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia that affect their ability to live independently in the community.

Transition Care Places (TCP)

TCP are relatively new and are jointly funded by the Australian Government and the state and territory governments. Transition care can be provided for up to 12 weeks (with a possible extension of another 6 weeks) in either a home-like residential setting or in a person's home. The places are aimed at older people who would otherwise be eligible for residential aged care, and gives them and their families and carers time to consider long-term care arrangements. It also aims to optimise the independent functioning of these older people prior to their making longer term arrangements.

Multi-purpose Services (MPS)

Multi-purpose Services (MPS) are a joint initiative between the Australian Government and those states and territories that need such services. They deliver a mix of aged care, health

and community services in rural and remote communities, many of which cannot sustain separate services.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program

Flexible models of care are also provided under the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program. The services funded under this program provide culturally appropriate aged care, mainly in rural and remote areas. Services delivered under this program are outside the *Aged Care Act 1997*.

From a service use perspective, access to assistance from each of the various types of care requires approval from a multidisciplinary Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT), which operates throughout Australia as a source of advice and referral.

AGED CARE - CURRENT SITUATION & FUTURE PROJECTIONS

Dandaragan / Moora Multi-Purpose Service (MPS)

The Shire of Dandaragan is classified as a part of the Dandaragan/Moora MPS. The catchment areas, as defined in this report, extend as far as the Shires of Coorow and Carnamah to the north, Moora and Victoria Plains to the east and Gingin to the south. In reality, the catchment can extend further afield, to also include the Shires of Chittering, Dalwallinu and Wongan-Ballidu.

As the current catchment centre, most aged care services currently operate from Moora through the MPS. The services currently provided include:

- Residential aged care facilities
 - The Moora/Dandaragan MPS is currently allocated 47 places, including 19 flexible high care places, 21 flexible low care places and 7 flexible community care places.
 - Not all places are allocated, with only 8 high care beds and 9 low care beds operating from Moora.
- Respite Services
 - There are limited residential beds in the acute section of the Moora hospital.
 - There is a day care respite service in Moora provided through MPS.
- Community Care and Flexible Care
 - Home and Community Care (HACC). Service packages include:
 - Cleaning Services
 - Gardening
 - Shopping
 - Transport
 - Assisting with meal preparation
 - Centre Based Day Care

- Respite
- Social Support
- Home Nursing Visits
- Community Aged Care Packages are also available across the Wheatbelt but these details of these packages specific to the local area was unable to be obtained for the purpose of this report.

There is currently no facility within the catchment for secured dementia care. The Shire of Moora estimates that during 2009/10, there were at least 7 people that were required to be relocated out of the catchment to metropolitan and other areas, because this service was unavailable.

There also do not appear to be Transitional Care Packages or any flexible aged care programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, to the knowledge of this report.

The Shire of Dandaragan is serviced locally by a Health Centre at Jurien Bay which currently includes two accident and emergency beds (not offered for overnight stays) and 2 full time doctors. There is also an ambulance service and an accident and emergency service. The local government currently pays \$100K per annum for these doctors, which are provided by a private GP Health Service, Independent Practitioners Network (IPN).

RSL Care has indicated it intends to apply for Community Aged Care Packages (CACP) once construction is completed on the Jurien Bay Village.

Aged Care Places - Detailed Analysis

The current number of allocated aged care places for the Dandaragan / Moora MPS reasonably services the Shire of Moora, but is not sufficient to extend to the surrounding catchment areas, particularly the Shire of Dandaragan.

The current target ratio for federally funded aged care service provision places is 113 places per 1000 people aged 70+ years, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50+. Currently the 113 places are made up of:

- 44 High level (nursing home) places.
- 44 Low level (hostel) places.
- 25 Community Care places.

Based on the population projections, there were approximately 335 persons aged 70 and over living in the Shire of Dandaragan in 2010 which would equate to 38 places (15 high care, 15 low care and 8 community care packages). In 2010, there were approximately 183 people aged over 70 living in the Shire of Moora, which would equate to 21 places (8 high care, 8 low care and 5 community care packages). According to the current benchmark for the provision of aged services against the population projections, there should be 56 places allocated for the Shires of Moora and Dandaragan.

If these statistics are extended to include adjacent catchment areas of Coorow, Carnamah and Victoria Plains the number of places increases to 86 comprising 34 high care, 34 low care, 18 community care (in comparison to the 47 places currently allocated).

The current aged places allocated in Moora (i.e. 8 low care and 9 high care) could therefore be reasonably argued as appropriate for the Shire of Moora alone, but are far from adequate to service the surrounding catchment areas, particularly the Shire of Dandaragan and its expanding retirement communities of Jurien Bay and Cervantes.

Changing Demographics and Emerging Economic/Social Trends

As highlighted above, changing demographics and emerging economic and social trends are fuelling expansion of the coastal communities.

Traditionally there has been a strong relationship between the coastal and the inland Wheatbelt communities. Many farming families purchased holiday homes in coastal towns, and later followed as retirees relocating permanently. The relocation back to Moora for nursing facilities has been a seamless transition for many of these retirees, who in most cases, return to familiar environs and closer family roots in their later years. With more retirees from the metropolitan area, the dynamics have changed and Moora is no longer a viable option for nursing care, for these residents.

In recent decades Moora has successfully established itself as a quality Aged Care Centre and will continue play a very important role in the provision of aged care services. However, the changing demographics and social trends along the coastal strip are escalating demand for aged services within the Shire of Dandaragan, particularly its primary town centre, Jurien Bay. Both Shire's recently signed an MOU which recognises the need for established service centres in both Moora and Jurien Bay, for aged care facilities.

Table 5 demonstrates that the Shire of Dandaragan already has a far greater number of Seniors aged 70 and over than the Shire of Moora.

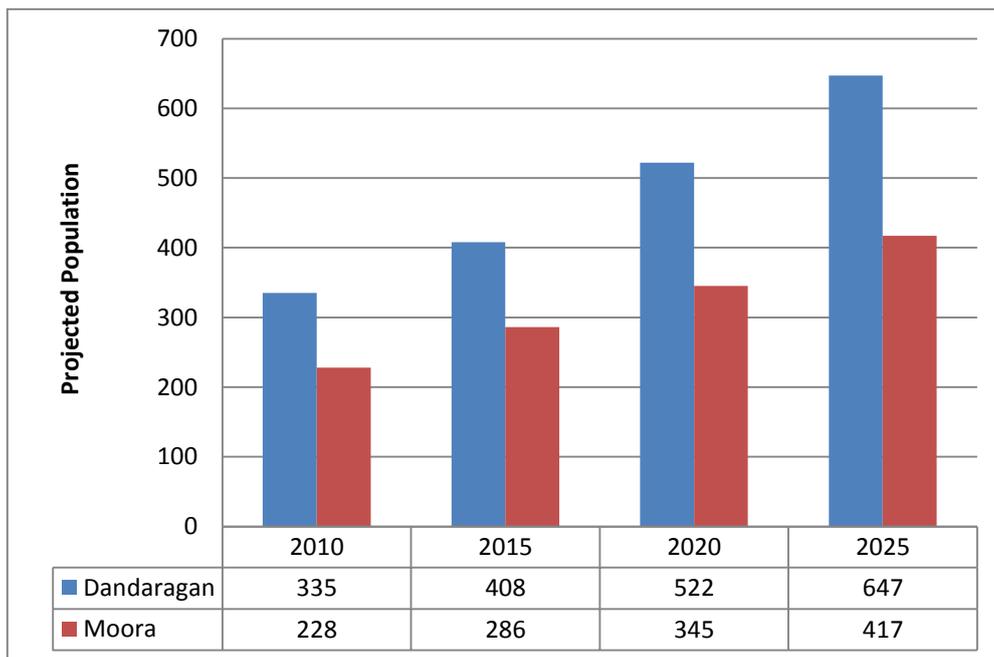
Figure 6 shows the distribution of aged residents over 70 within the Dandaragan and Moora catchment areas. It demonstrates that in 2010, approximately 44% of all residents of the entire catchment aged 70 and over were from the Shire of Dandaragan. This is in stark comparison to the Shire of Moora, whose residents over 70 and over comprised 24% of the entire catchment.

Figure 7 demonstrates that the population distribution across the local government areas is expected to remain relatively stable over the next 15 years, with Shire of Dandaragan's senior residents comprising 46% of the entire catchment, in 2025. These statistics support the case for Jurien Bay to be established as an Aged care/Health centre, in its own right.

This proposition was also supported by the Wheatbelt Health Planning Initiative in 2009. A priority needs health analysis was completed for the Coastal district, including the Shire of Dandaragan, as a part of the Wheatbelt Health Planning Initiative. It highlighted a need to establish Jurien Bay as a regional health hub over the next 5-7 years, and to promote a wide

range and increased level of services locally for older people including retirement villages, independent living units, home and community care, day centres, residential aged care (low and high care), residential and in-home respite care and dementia care¹⁵. The Wheatbelt Health Planning Initiative and the interviews conducted as a part of the Central Coast Strategy also confirmed that there has been an increase in the use of hospital beds requiring long term aged care and increased demand for in home aged care.¹⁶

Table 5 - Shires of Dandaragan and Moora - Aged Population Comparisons (aged 70 and over)

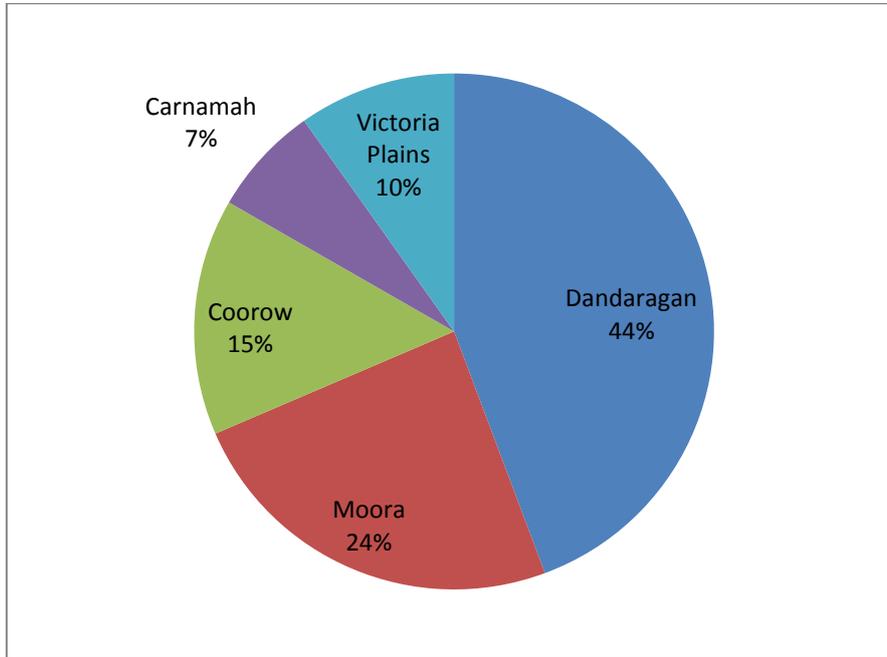


Source: Department of Health and Ageing, Statistical Local Area Population Projections, 2007 to 2027

¹⁵ Wheatbelt Health Planning Initiative, Report of Consultations, p57

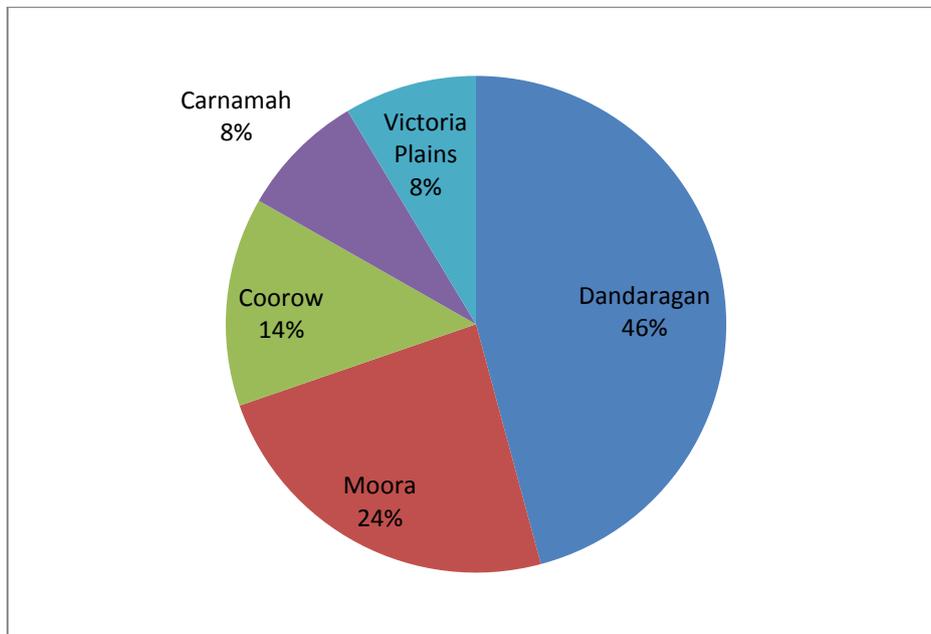
¹⁶ Central Coast Employment Strategy, UWA p55

Figure 7 Seniors Aged 70 and Over - Population Distribution by LGA, 2010



Source: Department of Health and Ageing, Statistical Local Area Population Projections, 2007 to 2027

Figure 8 Seniors Aged 70 and Over - Population Distribution by LGA, 2025



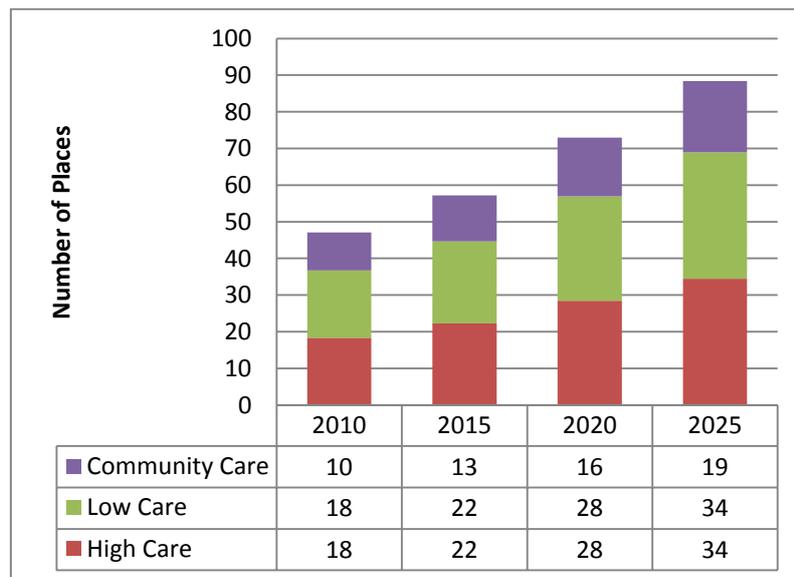
Source: Department of Health and Ageing, Statistical Local Area Population Projections, 2007 to 2027

On account of the significant population growth forecast for Seniors aged over 50, the number of aged care places required in the future is going to substantially increase.

By 2015, based on population projections prepared for the Department of Health and Ageing, the Shire of Dandaragan will require approximately 36 nursing beds and 10 community care packages, totalling 46 aged care packages. The number of places is expected to further increase to 57 beds and 16 community care packages by 2025 (totalling 73 aged care packages) (refer to table 7).

The senior residents from the coastal towns within the Shire of Coorow, are also expected to migrate to Jurien Bay rather than Moora, for residential aged care in their elderly years. Based on ABS data in 2006, of the senior residents living in the Shire of Coorow, 62% (aged 50 and over) and 70% (aged 70 and over) resided in Green Head and Leeman¹⁷. Assuming that the Shire of Coorow's total proportion of seniors living in coastal communities remains stable, the immediate catchment for the Shire of Dandaragan is expected to demand approximately 44 nursing beds and 13 community care packages in 2015 (totalling 57 aged care packages). These projections are expected to increase to approximately 69 nursing beds and 19 community care packages, totalling 88 aged care packages by 2025 (refer to Table 6)¹⁸.

Table 6 - Shire of Dandaragan Catchment - Aged Care Places (based on planning provision targets)



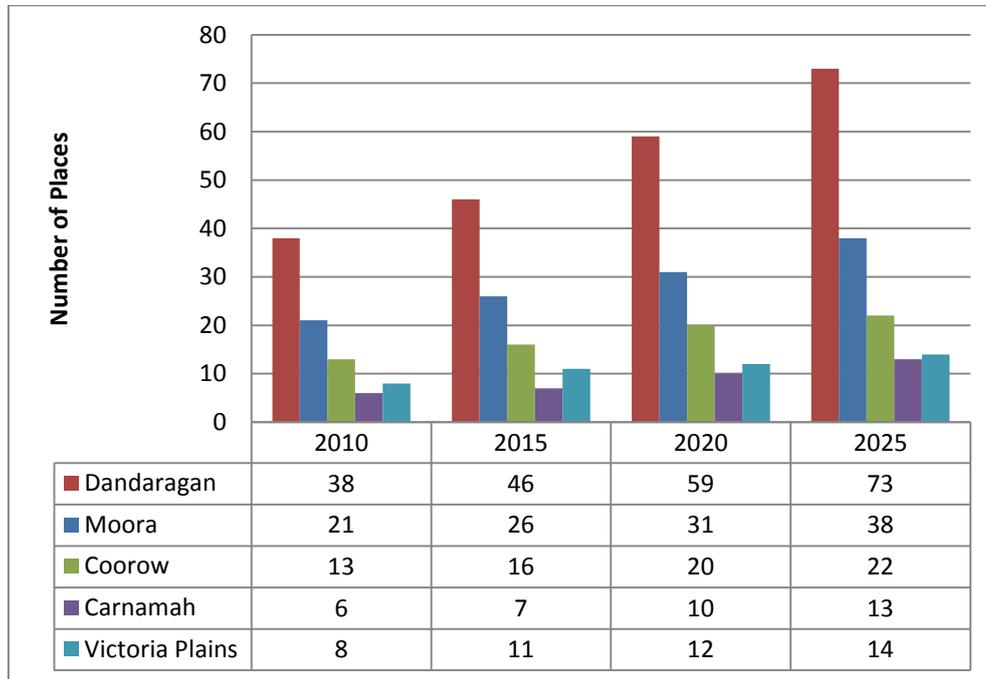
Source: Department of Health and Ageing, Statistical Local Area Population Projections, 2007 to 2027 and ABS 2006 Census Community Profile Series.

By 2025, the number of places required for the broader catchment area of Moora, Dandaragan, Coorow, Carnamah and Victorial Plains is estimated to be 106 places by (comprising 41 low care, 41 high care and 23 community care) and 160 places (comprising 63 high care, 63 low care and 35 community care) by 2025 (refer to Table 7 and 8).

¹⁷ ABS, 2006 Census Community Profile Series: Basic Community Profile, Leeman & Green Head (UCL)

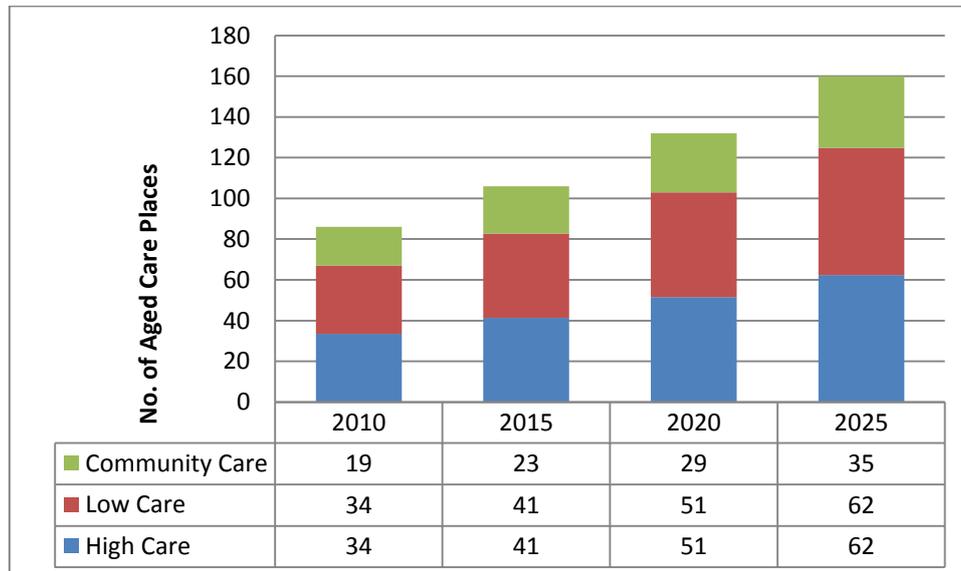
¹⁸ These statistics were derived using the current planning provision targets applied to federally funded aged care service provision places, based on the population projections derived by the Department of Health and Ageing Statistical Local Area projections. The population projections assume the total forecast senior residents aged 70 and over within the Shire of Dandaragan, plus 70% of senior residents living within the Shire of Coorow.

Table 7 - Total Estimated Aged Care Places by LGA (based on current planning provision targets)



Source: Department of Health and Ageing, Statistical Local Area Population Projections, 2007 to 2027

Table 8 Estimated Total Aged Care Places for the Dandaragan / Moora MPS Catchment



Source: Department of Health and Ageing, Statistical Local Area Population Projections, 2007 to 2027

PLANNING FOR AN AGEING COMMUNITY

Meeting the demands for an Ageing Community extends beyond infrastructure and investment attraction for residential aged care facilities. The provision of appropriate services will require a proactive approach by the Shire of Dandaragan and the State Government to ensure that all facets of planning, service delivery and infrastructure are taking the specific future needs of the changing local demographics into consideration.

The Central Coast Employment Strategy acknowledges that Aged Care is indeed emerging as both a significant employment generator and viable industry. Expanding health care services that are relevant to the local demographics will meet the increasing demand and foster a growing area of employment, particularly for skilled positions. The Strategy cautions that there are two major challenges facing health service delivery in the Central Coast region.

- The availability of a coordinated range of quality health services across the dispersed population; and
- Attracting and retaining health workers, particularly doctors, nurses and allied health workers.

The strategy acknowledges that residents expect to see a migration of health services to coast with a growing population, but addressing the time lag between immediate demand and government investment and provision will be fundamental.¹⁹

Many areas within the Southwest of Western Australia are well established as attractive retirement communities. In response to its growing demands of the ageing community in the South west, an Active Ageing Strategy was prepared by the South West Development Commission.

The Southwest Active Ageing report highlights that ageing trends have profound implications for how infrastructure, services and facilities are designed for seniors so that they can live active and fulfilled lives. The report explains that the concept of active ageing is a relatively new and diverse set of ideas and much of the current planning for social infrastructure for seniors is often based on narrow ideas of seniors' needs and aspirations, and modes of providing services, programs and infrastructure that are inconsistent with the philosophy and intent of active ageing. Full and proper planning is recommended as essential to deliver appropriate services and infrastructure if communities are to fulfil the goals of active ageing, for a growing older population.²⁰

A best case example illustrated in this report, was a project delivered by the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River. The Shire used the World Health Organisation (WHO) Age Friendly Communities Research Framework to assess their facilities and infrastructure and it was perceived as a useful model that could be adopted by other local authorities. The Age

¹⁹ Central Coast Employment Strategy p56

²⁰ Southwest Active Ageing Research Project, p8-9

Friendly Communities Framework²¹ identifies eight aspects that overlap and interact to create an age-friendly community:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings.
- Transport.
- Housing.
- Social participation.
- Respect and social inclusion.
- Civic participation and employment.
- Communication and information.
- Community support and health services.

This document also highlights the importance of an accessible and inclusive local environment to older people's quality of life, and draws attention to the range of issues and factors that determine whether communities and places are age-friendly, including the physical and social environment, local policies, infrastructure, services, and programs.

Augusta-Margaret River is also coastal community that has some similar characteristics in terms of its attraction as retirement community, to the Shire of Dandaragan. There is bound to be benefit from the lessons learnt in this community. A similar holistic approach to integrated planning is recommended for the Shire of Dandaragan to meet the future demands of its own Ageing Community, tailored to the specific local needs.

²¹ World Health Organisation, 2007

APPENDIX ONE - SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN - MAP

Shire of Dandaragan District Map

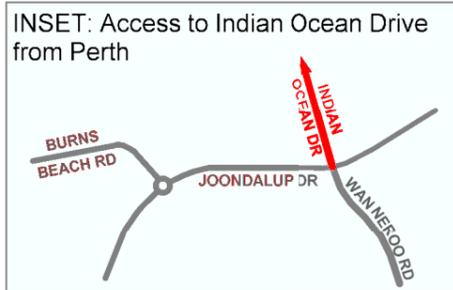


- Features:**
1. Crescent Dune
 2. Grey
 3. Hanson Bay Lookout
 4. Molah Hill
 5. Mount Lesueur
 6. Pinnacles
 7. Saint Annes Church
 8. Sandy Cape
 9. Vern Westbrook Walk Trail
 10. Wedge Island
 11. Wolba Wolba Cottage

- Rural Estates:**
30. Alta Mare
 31. Hill River Heights
 32. Jurien Bay Heights
 33. Koorinal Vale
 34. Marine Fields

Legend

- Unsealed Road
- Sealed Road
- Main Highway
- Towns
- National Parks & Reserves
- Ocean



Distances in Kilometres

	Badgingarra	Cervantes	Dandaragan	Geraldton	Jurien Bay	Moora	Perth
Badgingarra		66	44	219	62	59	215
Cervantes	66		90	222	26	125	204
Dandaragan	44	90		279	99	36	189
Geraldton	219	222	279		196		
Jurien Bay	62	26	99	196		121	231
Moora	59	125	36		121		
Perth	215	204	189		231		



Map Prepared for the Shire of Dandaragan



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