**Age Friendly City**

GovHack Project 2018, Canberra

Project 77

Recent population projections indicate that the number of Canberrans aged 65 years and over is growing rapidly and will continue to grow into the future. This growth will be faster in some suburbs than others. The proportion of older Canberrans also differs markedly across suburbs.

As we age, our housing, transport and social needs change. Our Age-Friendly Planning Tool will help town planners, government and private enterprise plan how to make Canberra more inclusive for older Canberrans. The tool combines population projections with health, services and infrastructure data to identify areas requiring increased support and development, now and into the future.

The age friendly planning tool exposes a visualisation front-end on both desktops and mobile. It relies on an analytics backend that does data processing and storage up in the cloud. This architecture enables flexibility and mobility on the part of the user and allows the system to scale for higher performance.

Our planning tool will make a big difference for older people in Canberra such as the residents of Valacio Saint Antonios, an aged care facility. Lucy who volunteers at Saint Antonio’s told us that the footpaths in the area are too narrow and the residents can’t walk side by side or use their mobility scooters. Many parks and community spaces in the area also have poor wheelchair accessibility. This discourages residents from exercising and socialising with friends outdoors.

Our tool can help government and private enterprise plan for the future by targeting areas that have a growing number and proportion of older residents. For instance, a private business could use the tool to plan the location of its next aged care residence by cross-referencing population projections with location of current facilities. In addition, the ACT government could also use the tool to identify areas where facilities (such as footpaths, bus stops and medical centres) need to be upgraded to better support the changing community. In this way, the tool can help improve the quality of life of residents such as those in St Antonios.

These are just some examples of the many ways our planning tool can be used to make Canberra a more age-friendly city. Additional data sets such as the location of hospitals, community services and prevalence of disability can be added to the tool to build a more complete understanding of our city. The tool could also be further developed to serve ageing populations across Australia and internationally.

Thanks for watching. From all of us in Project 77, Gov Hack 2018