



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### House Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities

Inquiry into the Australian Government's role in the development of cities

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Issue date: Thursday, 8 February 2018

## Cityscapes key to aging gracefully

The implementation of a National Active Aging Policy would ensure urban development supports people of all ages to thrive, according to Australian law academic, [Ms Christie Gardiner](#).

Ms Gardiner is scheduled to appear before the [House Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities](#) during a public hearing in Canberra tomorrow, as part of the Committee's inquiry into the Australian Government's role in the development of cities.

According to Ms Gardiner, age friendly cities create social and economic opportunities for both individuals and the communities they belong to.

"Urban environments have been shown to either inhibit or improve the health of older persons..." Ms Gardiner said.

"Age friendly cities can actively reduce social isolation, psychological distress and improve the health and well-being of older persons by promoting improved accessibility to services, mobility, independence, and autonomy."

Committee Chair, Mr John Alexander OAM MP, agreed that ensuring cities support Australians of all ages to enjoy and active and engaged lives is very important.

"The Australian Government has signalled its commitment to age-friendly urban development through its support of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals," Mr Alexander said.

"As more and more Australians of all ages choose to live in urban environments it is critical that all levels of government work together to plan and develop accessible cityscapes and infrastructure."

The Committee will also discuss the potential for a national population policy, infrastructure planning and development, as well as strategies to improve the environmental sustainability of cities during the public hearing.

**Public hearing details: 9.30 am – 11.50 am, Friday, 9 February 2018, Private Dining Room One, Parliament House, Canberra**

9.30 am: [Council of Capital City Lord Mayors](#)

10.00 am: [Ms Christie Gardiner](#)

10.50 am: [Sustainable Population Australia](#)

11.20 am: [Australian Institute of Landscape Architects](#)

11.50 am: *Close*

The hearing will be broadcast live at [aph.gov.au/live](http://aph.gov.au/live)



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Further information on the inquiry, including the full [terms of reference](#), is available on the [Committee website](#).

### **Media enquiries:**

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### **For background:**

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Interested members of the public may wish to track the inquiry via the Committee's [website](#). Click on the blue 'Track Committee' button in the bottom right hand corner and use the forms to login to My Parliament or to register for a My Parliament account.