**Media Release**

**25 May 2022**

**New Providers Announced for Moorabool’s Aged Care Services**

As part of its transition out of direct service delivery roles in aged and disability services, Council is pleased to have been informed of the appointment of two new providers to service delivery in Moorabool community.

Silver Chain Victoria has been appointed by the Commonwealth Government to provide aged care services to residents over 65 years of age and Mecwacare has been appointed by the State Government to provide care for Council’s clients aged under 65 living with a disability. Silver Chain will take on approximately 700 clients, while Mecwacare will transition approximately 40 clients.

Council is now in the process of working closely with Silver Chain and Mecwacare to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible for all clients. Letters have been posted to all clients to introduce the new service providers and to further explain the transition. Dedicated Council staff are available to answer any questions from clients or carers regarding the transition of services to the new providers.

The appointment of new service providers to Moorabool has occurred as a result of Council’s confirmed decision to cease delivering aged and disability services to Moorabool residents from 1 July this year.

A change in Federal Government policy arising from the Royal Commission into Aged Care made it clear that local government does not have a meaningful role to play in the future delivery of aged care services and this is demonstrated in other Council’s throughout Victoria also making the same decisions.

“Although local government will no longer be delivering these services, our priority is making sure those in our community who accessed these services continue to receive a very high standard of care,” Moorabool Mayor Cr Tom Sullivan said.

“We obviously also had Council staff affected by this decision, and we’re pleased to know Silver Chain has communicated their intent to retain as many affected employees as possible should staff wish to continue working in this space. Mecwacare have also expressed an interest in potential recruitment of Moorabool staff, which is a great outcome for both staff and clients.”

“Council has worked very closely with clients and staff throughout this whole process – they have been the priority – and we will continue to ensure open and transparent communication and a smooth transition for clients and staff.

“Once service delivery ceases, Council will continue to have dedicated resources within the organisation, to provide support and information to the local community to ensure service referrals and links to relevant services occur and to help the community navigate the aged care and disability systems,” Cr Sullivan said.

More information on the transition is available on our website: <https://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/Services-and-support/Moorabool-families/Active-Ageing-and-Diversity>