

Purpose

Show Christ's love to elderly people who are experiencing loneliness in our community by providing connection and friendship.

Character and Competence Expectations

Relational, prayerful and share Christ's concern for vulnerable people within our community.

The Aged Care Visitor

The aged care visitor works in conjunction with Orange City Council's Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme. The council liaison connects the visitor to the elderly person, meeting with them for the initial visit and supporting them throughout the process.

The visitor is also a part of an OEC team that meets once a term to pray and think through how to address spiritual questions that may arise.

The visitor aims to build a genuine relationship with their elderly companion either in their home or aged care facility. They are welcome to discuss faith if there is opportunity, and invite them to ministry activities of OEC if the companion would like to do so.

Children under the age of 18 are unable to attend visits, in compliance with Orange City Council's work, health and safety guidelines.

Role in practice

There is a requirement of twenty visits per year, usually spread over one hour per fortnight. There is flexibility if the visitor needs to go away for an extended period of time.

Visitors and companions decide together how they would like to spend their time (eg talking, playing a board game, going for a walk).

If there are difficulties in the relationship or concerns about the person they are visiting they are to contact the Orange City Council Aged Care program support worker.

Requirements

- National Police Check (reimbursed by Orange City Council)
 - AVVS application and council volunteer application
 - Attend council induction (1 hr) and online training (approx 1 hr)
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Commitment and appointment

The visitor will commit to 12 months with their elderly companion.

Visitors who are representing OEC will be approved by their congregational minister.

Leader Support

- The Orange City Council liaison will support volunteers if there are concerns about the elderly person, the relationship or safety. They also run optional monthly training to support the volunteers in their work.
- The team leader will support volunteers through prayer, training in having spiritual conversations and linking with other OEC ministries (eg Seniors) if there is opportunity.

What will happen next?

The team leader ministry will connect you with the Orange City Council liaison to start the official process.

