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Brief: LONGEVITY

## New focus on town's olds

**VINCENT'S new taxi voucher transport system and security alarm provision are both products of a novel project in association with Curtin University.**

Curtin Research into Aged Care Services boffin Duncan Boldy told the *Voice* the council had adopted a "process of seniors' consultation" in facilitating healthy ageing for the area.

"Actively involving seniors themselves in planning and implementing health-promoting strategies at a local level is extremely empowering," Prof Boldy said.

The project included a postal survey – using a questionnaire developed in consultation with seniors – seeking comments on a range of aspects relevant to creating a senior-friendly and health-promoting community.

"Vincent seniors expressed particular concern regarding personal and home safety, transport, attitudes towards seniors, physical access and home support. Priority issues are now being tackled by group workshops," he said.

Vincent has a population of about 25,000, with an increasing population aged 75 plus, he said, and about half of those aged 55+ do not speak English as a first language.

The project will form the core of the professor's address to the 2nd International Conference on Healthy Ageing and Longevity now underway at the Brisbane Convention Centre.