Age-Friendly Community Development Program

Designing interactive programs for older adults

Tracey Swann on behalf of Laura Peut

Redland CITY COUNCIL

Funded by Queensland Government

How it started

- Grant from Qld Dept of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety to support “An Age-friendly Queensland: The Queensland Seniors Strategy 2024-2029”
- Funded a dedicated library project officer 2 days a week from September 2025 to June 2026

Objectives

- To work with community partners to develop and deliver interactive programs for older residents to help build community connections and improve health outcomes, especially cognitive decline
- To develop a train-the-trainer model so that carers and support workers feel confident to bring their clients to the library to engage in meaningful activities

What we did

- 20 activities delivered over 7 months
- Over 260 participants engaged through programs and outreach
- Focus on technology, cognitive wellbeing, creativity and lifelong learning
- Strengthened partnerships with community groups and aged care providers
- Age-friendly Libraries Working Group

Makerspace

“I made a new friend today and we are going to come back and use the space together.”

“I had done an induction and booked to use the equipment a few times, but on the day would cancel as I felt too scared. This session has boosted my confidence, and I will be back.”

10-Step Sticker Project

You will use in the Makerspace:

- Cricut maker 3
- Laptop
- Light Grip Cricut mat (blue)
- Weeding tool
- Squeegee tool

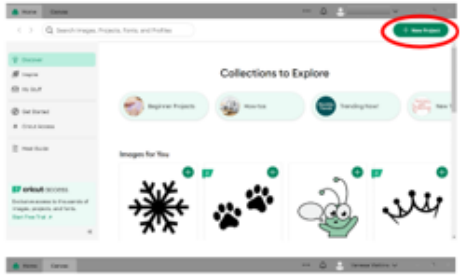
You will need to bring:

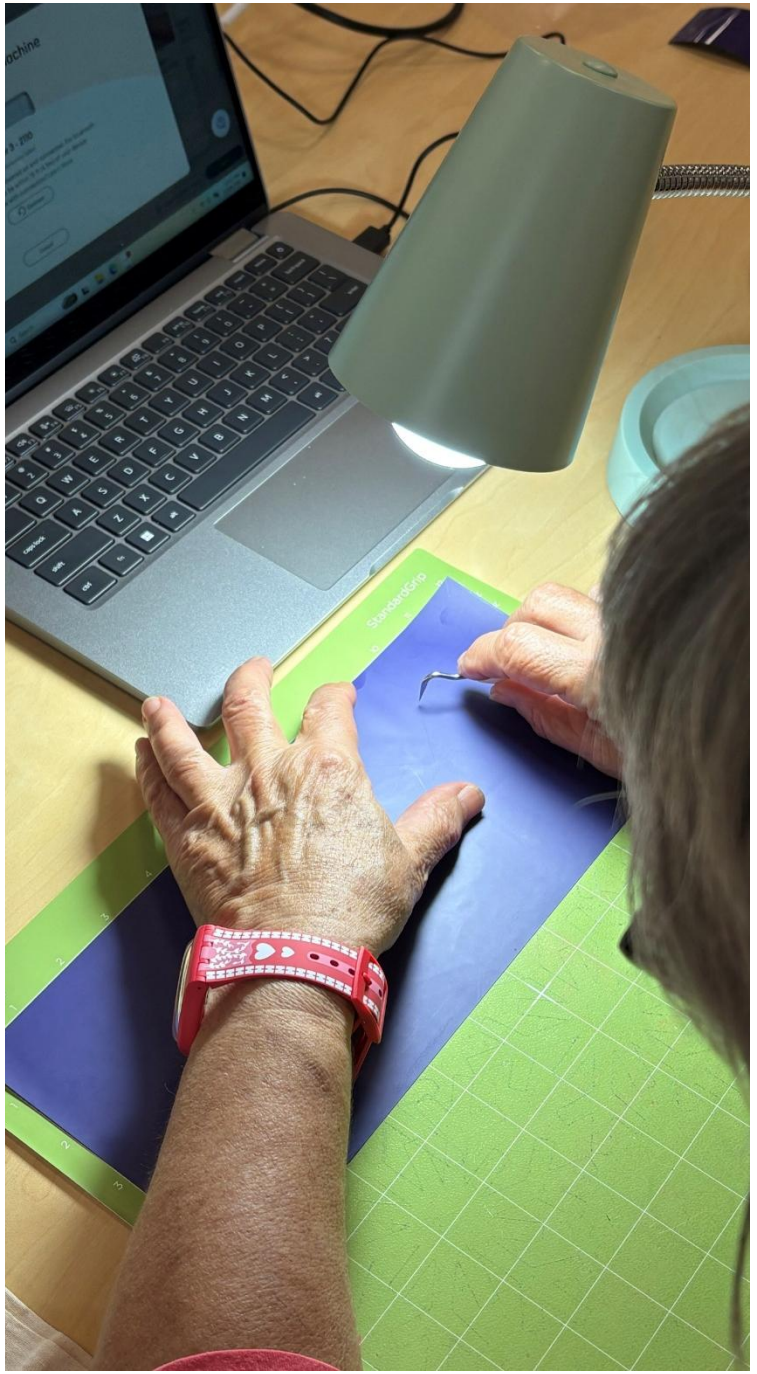
- Sticker Vinyl (suitable for use in Cricut)
- Transfer tape

Step 1 – Open the Cricut Design Space app and sign-in

Open the Cricut Design Space app on the laptop and sign in (if signing in for the first time Click **Create Cricut ID,** enter your email and create a password).

Click **New Project**, on the drop-down menu Click **Blank Canvas**.

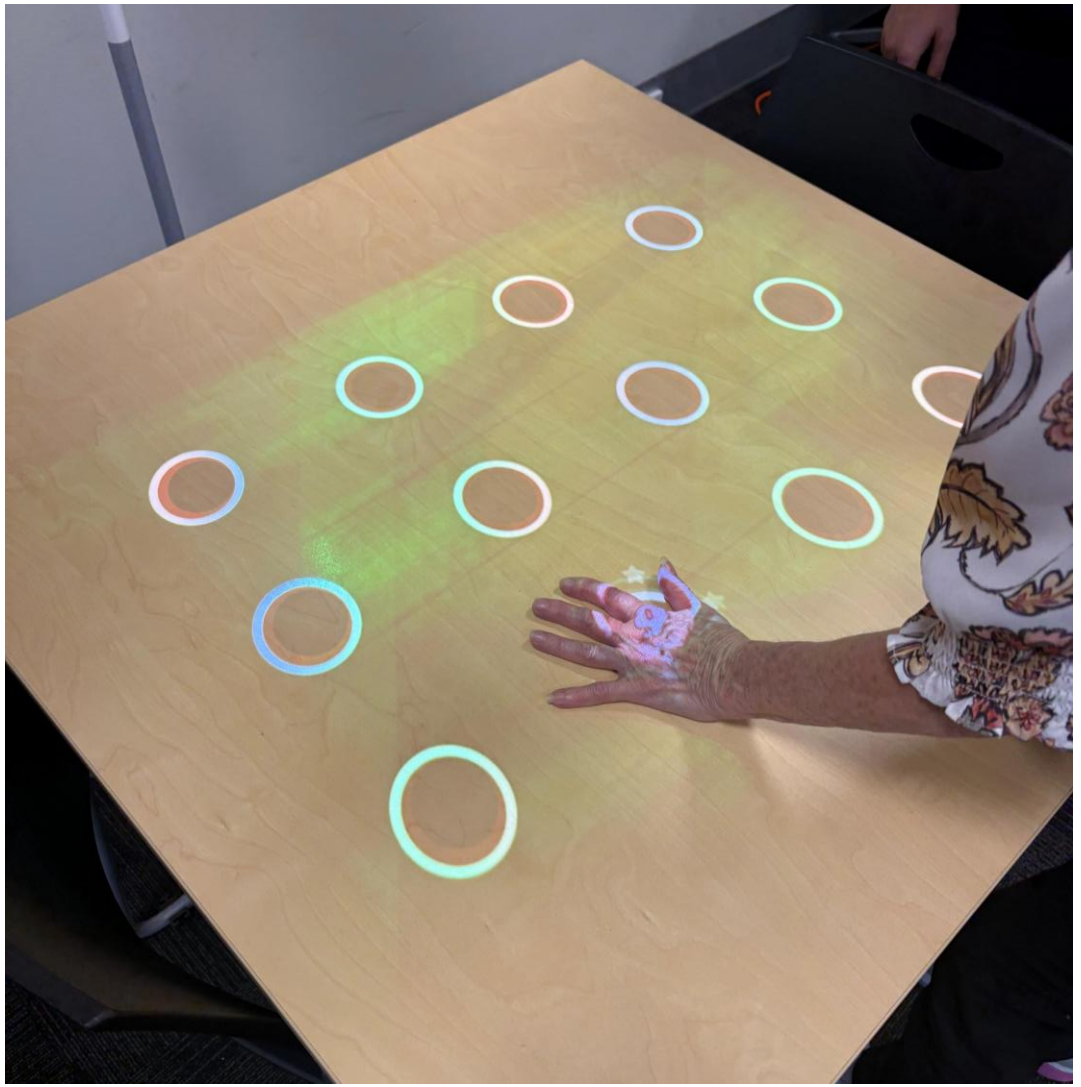




Embroidery Cheat S
Key Manual Pages:
Winding a bobbin: pg. 10
Threading the machine: pg. 12
Built-in Needle Threader: pg. 13
Setting fabric in the hoop: pg. 19
Selecting designs: pg. 23
Design chart: pg. 75
NEVER TOUCH OR MOVE THE A
please use the stylus

creativebug

Brain Boosters



Building capacity through partnerships

Meeting people where they are

- Taking library experiences to older adults beyond our walls
- Provide flexible service delivery options
- Build awareness
- Strengthen relationships
- Create ongoing engagement

Age-Friendly Libraries Working Group

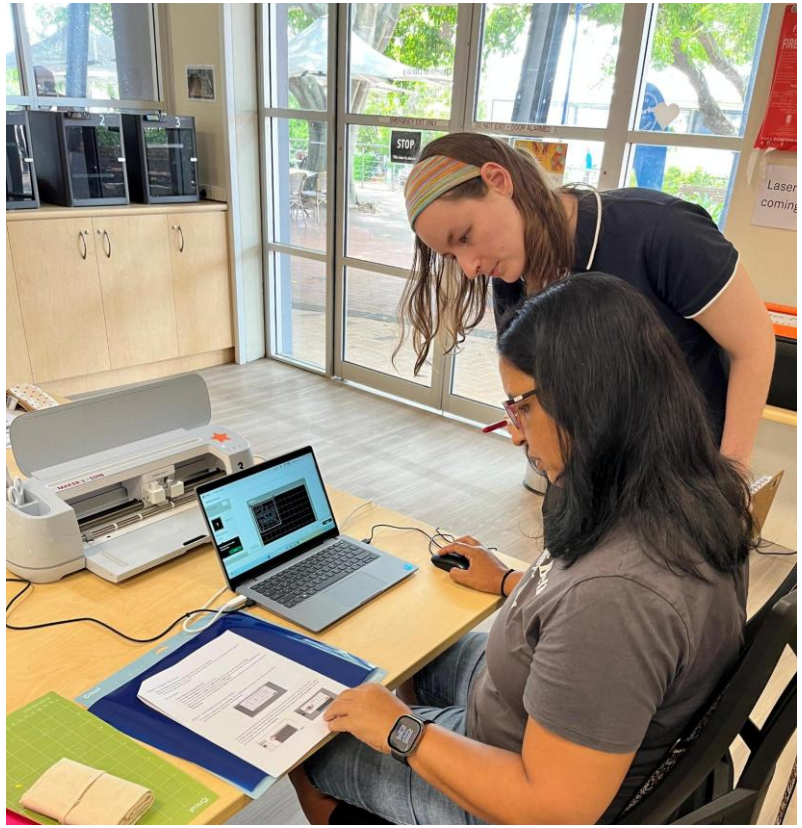
Our 5 Focus Areas

1. Best Practice Research
2. Strategy & Policy Review
3. Community Voice
4. Physical Space & Equipment Audit
5. Program Development & Pilot Delivery

Project outcomes

- Increased participation of older residents in structured group activities, supporting social connection and community engagement.
- Improved confidence in accessing and using library spaces, services and technology.
- Greater awareness of library services among community groups supporting older people.
- Better relationships with community organisations and service providers.
- Increased awareness of age-friendly principles for library staff.

Sustainability of grant funded initiatives



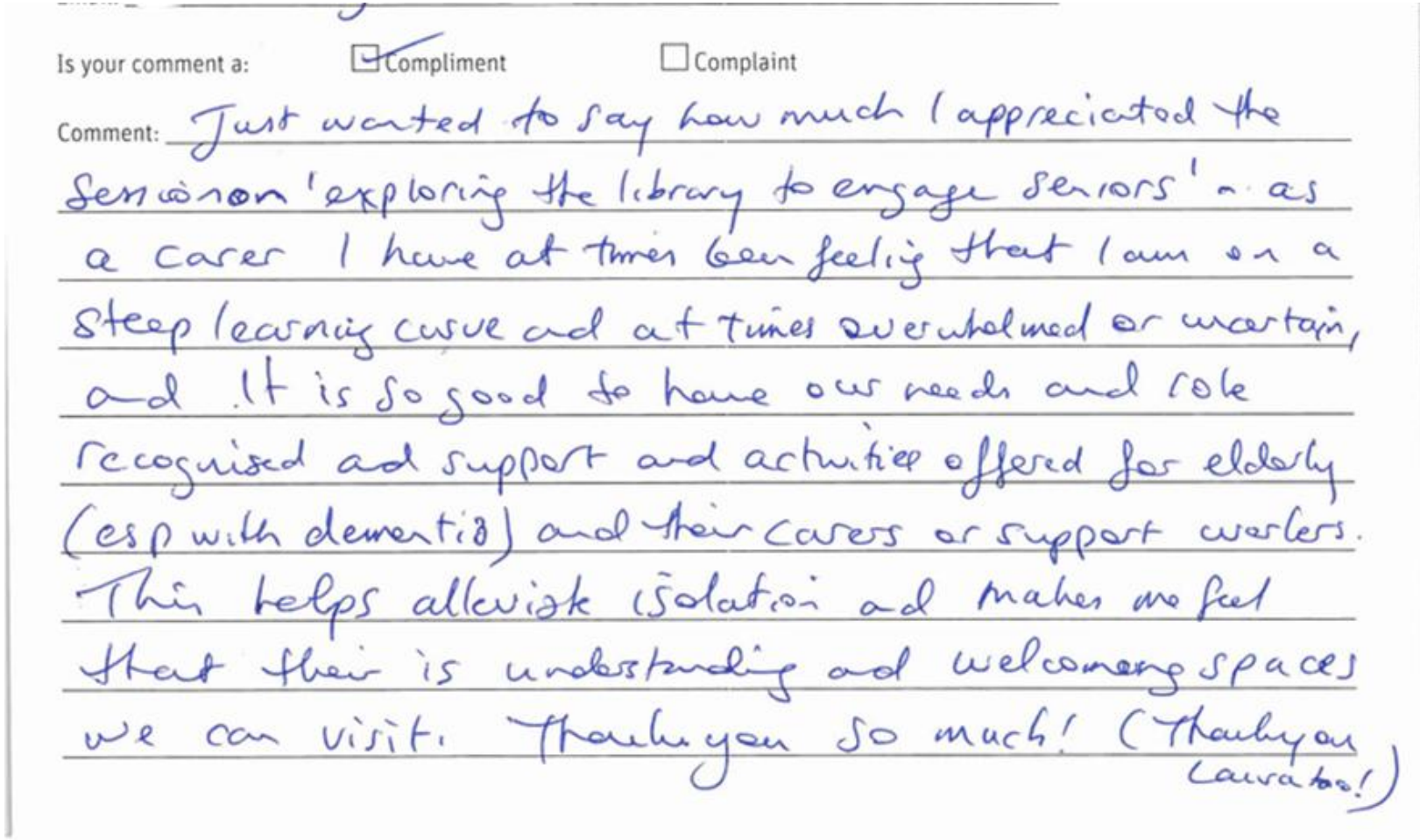
- Staff-led needs of the older person committee
- Accessibility improvements in our spaces
- Ongoing staff training
- Community partnerships
- Outreach opportunities
- Evaluation and adaptation

Practical takeaways

- Ask older adults what they want from their library
- Start small and adapt as you go
- Make technology fun, low-pressure and accessible
- Build flexibility into your service model
- Take the library into the community

In conclusion

Age-friendly is not a program, it's how we deliver services!



Is your comment a: ☑ Compliment ☐ Complaint

Comment: Just wanted to say how much I appreciated the session on 'exploring the library to engage seniors' - as a carer I have at times been feeling that I am on a steep learning curve and at times overwhelmed or uncertain, and It is so good to have our needs and role recognised and support and activities offered for elderly (esp with dementia) and their carers or support workers. This helps alleviate isolation and makes me feel that their is understanding and welcoming spaces we can visit. Thankyou so much! (Thankyou Laura too!)