Ingenia Communities has launched its 2022 'Ingenia Connect' program, designed to support residents to live independently. (Pictures: Supplied)

Community connection keeping older Aussies healthy

Ingenia Communities has launched its 2022 'Ingenia Connect' program, designed to support residents to live independently by proactively connecting them to services and support.

Historically, the average length of stay for Ingenia Gardens residents is 3.3 years, but the most recent resident data has shown that this increases to 4.5 years for residents who are part of the Connect program.

"Ingenia Connect builds relationships with local health and community services to tailor care and support to individuals, removing the need for residents to find services themselves," says Ingenia Gardens and Ingenia Connect portfolio manager, Madonna Jackson.

"Our residents then choose the provider they feel most comfortable with, giving peace of mind to families."

Ms Jackson says that the new Ingenia Connect program has been built on the considerable learnings gained from delivering care programs over the last 14 years.

"We have had proven success with our care and support services, and I'm really excited to see what we can achieve this year. Starting from the perspective of 'connection', our vision for the new program is to establish relationships with residents as they transition into living at an Ingenia Gardens Community.

"I'm looking forward to working with our key partners this year including Silver Chain, myHomecare and Five Good Friends who service different geographic regions," Ms Jackson says.

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the number of Australians using home care and aged care increased in the decade from 2010, demonstrating the need to do more to support senior Australians' health and wellbeing both within and before they reach aged care.

Silver Chain commercial business development manager Dorothy Fuller says she is excited about the partnership this year and how close engagement with Western Australia and Victorian residents will enable Silver Chain to co-design bespoke support programs for older Australians.

"Everything we do at Silver Chain aligns with Ingenia Connect's purpose to help older Australians live independently for as long as possible, which is why this is such an important partnership," Ms Fuller says.

"By working closely with Ingenia Gardens and the individual communities we are hoping to help people form a different view of 'care' – one that's about being proactive, about making life a little easier and extending their independence for as long as possible."

If maintaining your independence for longer in a low-maintenance home within a friendly community appeals to you, call the Geelong Community Managers on (03) 5248 8426 or (03) 5248 5011, or the Grovedale Community Manager on (03) 5241 3011 or visit www.ingeniagardens.com.au