



# MINUTES

## COMMUNITY LEARNING BOARD

Held on Thursday 23 June 2016 at 2.00pm, Melton Library & Learning Hub

**Present: Board Members**

Kelvin Tori, CEO, Melton City Council  
Chris Bracher, Community Development Manager, Woodlea  
Colleen Bergin, CEO, YouthNow  
Graeme Brown, EO, BMLLEN  
Jane Sultana, Secretary, U3A  
Michael Seagrave, Business Development Consultant, Bendigo Kangan Institute  
Trish Heffernan, EO, Djerrivarrh Community & Education Services  
Colleen Turner, Coordinator, VICSEG New Futures  
Pam Madej, EO, Melton South Community Centre  
Matthew Wilson, Manager Community Planning, Melton City Council  
Dr Michael Gruis, Assistant Principal, Lakeview Senior Secondary College  
David Reynolds, Principal, Melton Secondary College  
Michael Scholtes, Manager Libraries, Melton City Council  
Peter Blunden, Lifelong Learning Coordinator, Melton City Council  
Karen Jones, Administration Officer, Melton City Council

**Chairperson:** Cr Sophie Ramsey, Councillor, City of Melton

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**1. Welcome**

Michael Gruis was welcomed to the board and introduced himself as the Assistant Principal of Lakeview Senior Secondary.

**2. Apologies**

Jim Asimakopoulos OAM, Project Officer, Abilities Awareness Program, DET  
Frances O' Reilly, CEO, Merrimu Services  
Ollie Gladwell, General Manager, Practical Outcomes  
Russell Bray, Senior Advisor to the DVC Education Programs Federation University  
Nick Smith, Campus Head, Heathdale Christian College  
Dr Rob Brown, Vice President, Government Relations, Victoria University  
Mark Corrie, CEO, Western BACE  
Leigh Cruikshank, Coordinator Early Years Partnerships, Melton City Council

**3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests**

No conflicts of interest were identified.

**4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting**

**Motion:**

M Scholtes / J Sultana

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held 28 April 2016.

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## 5. Business Arising

### 5.1 Identifying guest speakers (P Blunden)

David Reynolds, Principal, Melton Secondary College

### 5.2 Business Breakfast Planning (P Blunden)

P Blunden reported MatchWorks will be the major sponsor for the business breakfast. WCIG will have a trade stall, Speedex have sponsored 160 show bags and a number of organisations will add information to the show bags.

The business breakfast invitation has been sent to a number of local businesses through the internal database, a press release will be published in next week's community newspaper and the flyer is advertised on the back of the Term 3 Learning Directory.

## 6. General Business

### 6.1 Guest Speaker

Department Education & Training (DET) Structure and Priorities for Melton Schools

Speaker: David Reynolds, Principal, Melton Secondary College

D Reynolds presented about the significant changes in the education department, including new state wide measures targeting broader learning for life categories.

Areas for improvement in our schools were discussed and included:

- Learning for life
- Happy, Healthy and Resilient kids
- Breaking the Link
- Pride and Confidence

To improve student outcomes, teachers are being trained to engage with students and families on an emotional level not just an academic level. Melton Secondary College is working with the Melton LGA to lift achievement for all students and partnering with Berry Street to engage students in order to lift student confidence and build resilience. Schools also use the services of psychologists to assist with student's wellbeing.

A range of different strands have been added to subjects with extra funding for three local schools. The high population growth has started to affect the growth in schools seeing a rise in the number of enrolments. The plan is aligned to the curriculum and expectations are that outcomes will be achieved over 5-10 years minimum at a State level.

### 6.2 Working Party Reports

#### 6.2.1. Economic Development and Lifelong Learning (G Brown)

Minutes were circulated with the Learning Board papers.

A budget allocation for youth programs has been made to the Western BACE for the Youth Empowerment Project.

Draft mapping of State and Federal Government employment programs delivered in Melton were presented. G Brown and P Blunden will be extending this mapping exercise to all seven local government areas participating in the program.

A Draft Western Youth Employment Partnership Terms of Reference was presented.

Jobs Lab has commenced at Melton Library and Learning Hub and Caroline Springs Library. Jobs Lab will operate for 2 hours per week alternating between

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each library.

Transition to work is being delivered in Melton by Salvation Army Employment Plus and Youthnow is delivering the Brimbank contract.

T Heffernan advised that Djerriwarrh Community and Education Service (DCES) were successful in gaining State Government Funding with Yarraville Community Centre for the Department of Education and Training (DET) Reconnect Program. Reconnect targets young people 15-24 years of age assisting them to reengage in employment, education and training.

G Brown reported on the BMLLEN years 6-7 transition project. The project was established to gauge issues relating to disengagement from schooling of young people in the transition process. 24 Primary schools were targeted. Early findings found that 1,150 primary students were transitioning to 59 different secondary school destinations. These figures may be an indicator of transience being a factor. An analysis of the findings is under way and the report will be available shortly.

The Community Learning Board is keen for a similar project to take place in Melton. G Brown indicated that DET will not allow the Unique Student Identity Number (USI) or the Victorian Student Number (VSN) to be used to track the destinations of students, even if student identities and privacy is protected. The Brimbank project, with some difficulty, could only go ahead with the agreement and cooperation of the schools to share student information.

**Recommendation:** That the Community Learning Board prepare a case to advocate to the Department of Education and Training (DET) to gather early school leaver data and make use of student identity numbers to track destination of students at all transition points between schools and other providers.

### 6.2.2 Social Inclusion and Lifelong Learning (SILL) (C Bergin)

Minutes were circulated with the Learning Board papers.

There was discussion around the need to offer a program similar to Ticket to Work to disability students in mainstream schools.

Abraham Jongroor reported there are 60 young people involved in the Youth Engagement Project in Melton and Wyndham. Eligible new arrival young people are currently travelling to Braybrook for the Western English Language School for 6-12 months before transitioning to a mainstream school. Abraham expressed concern and would like the language school to be delivered to students in Melton to avoid the need to travel. A lot of eligible Melton families are not sending their children to the school due to the travel requirements. In an effort to identify the eligible families Abraham has spoken with the Western English Language School to explore the possibility of running programs in Melton. Abraham and P Blunden will meet with Melton City Council's Intercultural Development Officer for further advice and support.

Warren Penna advised the Men's Sheds are currently mentoring students in the education system. P Blunden suggested that this would make a good presentation for the Community Learning Board.

### 6.2.3 Vulnerable Children's Working Group (L Cruickshank)

L Cruickshank was an apology and the report was deferred.

### 6.3 Executive Officer's Report

P Blunden reported on his presentations to Wyndham City Council's Education Training and Employment Portfolio Committee. The presentation traced Melton's development as a Learning City. P Blunden also reported on the fledgling LearnWest Network. Brimbank, Wyndham and Moonee Valley Councils now have Community Learning Plans. The

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network hopes that each Western Region Local Government will have a Community Learning Plan or similar by the end of their next Council planning period.

### 7. Other Business

#### 7.1 Farewell and Thank you

P Blunden has resigned from his position as Lifelong Learning Coordinator, Melton City Council, effective 28 July 2016. Cr Sophie Ramsey thanked Peter for his great work and involvement over the years as Executive Officer, Community Learning Board.

M Scholtes will leave Council effective 22 August 2016. Cr Sophie Ramsey thanked Michael for his great work and involvement over the years.

#### 7.2 Executive Officer Replacement

M Wilson advised the Position Description is currently being reviewed for the Lifelong Learning Coordinator role. Support will be provided until the position is filled. If the position is not filled by 28 July, M Wilson will be the contact point.

#### 7.3 C Turner trip to South Sudan

C Turner visited South Sudan last week and provided a brief overview of the trip to the Board. C Turner will present a more detailed briefing at next meeting.

#### 7.4 Presentations for the next meeting

- Victoria University Melton Skills & Job Centre: Kelly Gluyas
- Update on the activities of the Western BACE (Mark Corrie)
- Trip to South Sudan: C Turner

### 8. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 4.00pm