



MINUTES

RECONCILIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 16 February 2017 at 6.00pm in Civic Room 2, Melton Civic Centre

Present: Bryon Powell, Wadawurrung Aboriginal Corporation
Dawn Davies, Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation
Wanda Bargo, Aboriginal Community Member
Peter Webster, Aboriginal Community Member
Sally Atkinson, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Community Engagement Officer, Melton City Council
Jessica Trijsburg, Coordinator Community Capacity, Melton City Council

Chairperson: Cr Melissa De Santis, Councillor, City of Melton

1. Welcome

Cr De Santis welcomed attendees and did an acknowledgement to country.

2. Apologies

Cr Lara Carli, Councillor, City of Melton
Ron Jones, Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Heritage Council
Philip Wood, Aboriginal Community Member
Karen Jones, Aboriginal Community Member

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Motion

S Atkinson/P Webster

5. Business Arising

Nil.

6. General Business

6.1 Aboriginal Recruitment and Retention policy update

In accordance with our Reconciliation Policy, Melton City Council's Indigenous Employment Strategy will be completed by the end of 2017. This will be completed by collaborating with



MINUTES

community representatives, Council staff, key employers, and employment and educational representatives. An Indigenous Employment working group, hosted by Council, will meet every 6 weeks from May 2017 to December 2017, as part of this process.

6.2 Reconciliation Action Plan 2016-2017

Council organisational cultural awareness training will be held on 9 March 2017. Creating change with organisational culture will take time. Depending on resource allocation further Aboriginal cultural awareness education could take place, including for Councillors. At this stage, Melton City Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Engagement Officer is working with different Council departments, in particular service units, on Cultural Safety audits to improve cultural awareness. A Cultural Heritage workshop will take place for Council staff on 30 March 2017.

W Bargo mentioned that Cultural Safety is more effective if Aboriginal staff are working in service units. That access to a broad range of Aboriginal community services in the Melton area was an issue.

B Powell discussed that community members may not want to identify their Aboriginality, so how do we gain the necessary data to attract funding and services. A community education program may assist in breaking down these barriers.

S Atkinson is currently updating Rivers to Recognition resource, with the Western Region Local Government Reconciliation Network. This will be distributed to civic locations by May 2017.

6.3 Melton's Cultural Heritage Information update

S Atkinson will continue to follow up with Wurundjeri Land Council on the Melton Cultural Heritage educational resource, for their feedback. B Powell is happy to contribute Melton's Wadawurrung history to this document. He has encouraged a resource that also includes more than pre-settlement Aboriginal history.

Action

S Atkinson to email draft Melton Cultural Heritage educational resource to the Reconciliation Advisory Committee for review.

6.4 Djerriwarrh Health Services Art project update

On behalf of Djerriwarrh Health Services, S Atkinson provided an update on the 2016 visit by D Grace, Deputy Chief Executive, to the Reconciliation Advisory Committee, where he discussed the proposed Melton Ambulatory Care Centre, with a designated Aboriginal use space and art work. This has received a mixed community response.

Reconciliation Advisory Committee has asked that several points be clarified:

- Size of Aboriginal meeting room; and
- Lack of privacy by the use of glass walls.

Action

S Atkinson to ask Djerriwarrh Health Services to clarify points raised by the Reconciliation Advisory Committee



MINUTES

6.5 Proposed dates for 2017 RAC meetings

Proposed dates for the remaining 2017 Reconciliation Advisory Committee are:

11 May 2017

10 August 2017

16 November 2017

These were accepted by the Reconciliation Advisory Committee.

6.6 Community Leadership and Grants Programs

J Trijsburg spoke about Council's Community Leadership Program, encouraging Committee Members to apply and/or pass onto their networks.

S Atkinson spoke about Council's Grants program.

6.7 Updates from the community about current events

W Bargo updated the Committee on family violence programs, Sisters Day Out and the Young Love program. She mentioned that it was Red Ochre Week, for women who have died through family violence. Also discussed the Closing the Gap report and Redfern Statement.

Kirrip House update provided by D Davies. Kirrip is running a range of groups, for example Mens, Parents, Elders and Womens Groups, as well as hosting visiting services, such as Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency and Victorian Aboriginal Legal Services. The Kirrip Aboriginal Community House is being well used, since the Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation Program Officer commenced in October 2016.

7. Other Business

Internal Reconciliation Champions Group update provided by S Atkinson. Council is committed to increasing its internal capacity.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 11 May 2017 commencing at 6:00pm in Civic Room 2, Melton Civic Centre.

9. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 7:35pm.