



MINUTES

PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 20 April 2018 at 10.30am in Civic Room 2, Melton Civic Centre

Present: Cr Bob Turner, Mayor, Melton City Council
Cr Sophie Ramsey, Councillor, Melton City Council
Cr Melissa De Santis, Councillor, Melton City Council
Cr Lara Carli, Councillor, Melton City Council
Matthew Wilson, Manager Community Planning, Melton City Council
Christine Levy, Coordinator Family Services, Melton City Council
Liz Smith, Team Leader Health Promotion and Planning, Melton City Council
Sarah Grace, Health Promotion Officer, Melton City Council
Inspector Kathy Rudkins, Victoria Police
Sergeant Ken Anderson, Family Violence Liaison Officer, Victoria Police
Mary D'Elia, General Manager Community Programs, MacKillop Family Services
Glen Ludbrook, Lawyer, Brimbank Melton Community Legal Centre
Alice Harris, Wellbeing Leader, Melton Specialist School
Rachel Phillips, Settlement Social Worker, MiCare
Joan Eddy, Manager Counselling, Djerriwarrh Health Services
Jo Read, Department of Health and Human Services
Tess La Fontaine, Manager, Women's Health West
Norman Vella, Program Manager, Hope Street Youth and Family Services
Tegan Tregoe, First Response Team Leader, Hope Street Youth and Family Services

Chairperson: Cr Bob Turner, Mayor, MCC

1. Welcome

Cr Turner welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced apologies. Cr Turner also did an acknowledgement of country.

2. Apologies

Cr Michelle Mendes, Councillor, Melton City Council
Cr Steven Abboushi, Councillor, Melton City Council
Cr Goran Kesic, Councillor, Melton City Council
Cr Ken Hardy, Councillor, Melton City Council
Cr Kathy Majdlik, Councillor, Melton City Council
Helga Jennings, Department of Health and Human Services
Stephanie Dziunka, Department of Justice and Regulation
Peter Webster, Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation
Patrizia Favorito, Women's Health West

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

December meeting minutes noted.



MINUTES

5. Business Arising

- 5.1 J Eddy will share the Djerriwarrh Health Services family violence report with the Committee.
- 5.2 L Smith sent the draft Promoting Gender Equity to Prevent Violence against Women Strategy to the Committee for feedback.
- 5.3 P Favorito shared the Family Safety Victoria presentation with the Committee.
- 5.4 M Wilson has moved forward in approaching Family Safety Victoria about advocating for a Support and Safety Hub to be located in the City of Melton.
- 5.5 L Smith sent International Women's Day flyer to the Committee.
- 5.6 K Anderson provided a verbal breakdown of the local family violence statistics.

Actions

J Eddy to share the Djerriwarrh Health Services family violence report with the Committee.

6. General Business

6.1 Welcome to Hope Street Youth and Family Services

L Smith welcomed N Vella and T Tregua from Hope Street Youth and Family Services to the Committee.

6.2 Victoria Police narrative: attending a family violence incident

K Anderson shared the most recent local family violence statistics, highlighting the recent serious incidents in Diggers Rest. He then provided a narrative of a de-identified family violence case to illustrate the risk assessment process and Victoria Police's role.

Cr De Santis asked what work could be done in the early years to tackle the issue. J Eddy spoke about the rollout of Respectful Relationships education through the Department of Education and Training and noted that the Foundation level curriculum is suitable for early years. S Grace informed the Committee that gender equity professional development training for early years workers is being delivered by Council on 2 May 2018.

G Ludbrook shared what the legal process is that follows Police intervention in a family violence incident. He raised that unfortunately legal aid is not available to support clients with issues such as property settlements that may be part of a family violence case.

T La Fontaine spoke about a positive partnership between Women's Health West and the Women's Legal Service Victoria in recognition of the legal challenges associated with family violence.

Cr Ramsey, in response to K Anderson's narrative, enquired about the wellbeing of Victoria Police. K Rudkins explained that support and debriefing is available to Police Officers.



MINUTES

6.3 Support and Safety Hub advocacy

M Wilson explained that there is limited information at this stage surrounding the Support and Safety Hub for the Brimbank Melton region. The pilot sites are currently being implemented in other regions and DHHS is watching closely to learn from their experience.

M Wilson also spoke about the possible future projects regarding women's refuges. Nineteen refuges will be delivered across Melbourne by the state government and one of those will be in the Brimbank Melton region. There are ongoing conversations about one being located in the City of Melton and M Wilson's team is working diligently to provide traction.

Discussions have also taken place with the Department of Housing in regards to the Family Violence Housing Fund. The entirety of the fund was committed very quickly and M Wilson is awaiting further budgetary announcements to continue advocacy around family violence housing in the City of Melton.

Cr Ramsey queried the system for deciding on Support and Safety Hub locations. M D'Elia explained that each of the 17 Department of Health and Human Services regions will be allocated one Hub. M D'Elia also spoke about how the staffing, intake and information sharing processes at the Hubs may work.

Cr Carli requested that an invitation be sent to Minister Natalie Hutchins as soon as possible to attend a future Committee meeting.

Actions

L Smith to organise for an invitation to be sent to Minister Natalie Hutchins to attend a future Committee meeting.

6.4 Equality and Respect 2030 Strategy

L Smith provided an update on Council's *Equality and Respect 2030: A Strategy to prevent violence against women by promoting gender equity in the City of Melton*. She thanked Committee members who provided feedback on the draft Strategy and explained that the draft had gone to a Councillor Briefing on 9 April and would be presented to Council for adoption at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 30 April.

Actions

L Smith to organise for an invitation to be sent to Minister Natalie Hutchins to attend the launch of Equality and Respect 2030.

6.5 Free From Violence state government updates

S Grace informed the Committee of a number of key initiatives that the state government has delivered as part of *Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy*. The initiatives include:

- Go Women Local Government
- Gender auditing tool pilot
- Preventing of violence against women media campaign "Respect Women: Call it Out"
- 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence campaign



MINUTES

- Gender Gap App online platform to report gender inequality (being piloted in the City of Melton and City of Darebin).

S Grace shared information about a new fines scheme that provides an exemption to victims of family violence.

S Grace also mentioned that there is Free From Violence funding available of up to \$100k for local government to deliver primary prevention initiatives in 2018-19.

Action

S Grace to send Safe and Strong report card to Committee.

S Grace to send information about fine exemptions for victims of family violence to Committee.

S Grace to send new Free from Violence 'Respect Women: Call It Out' Ad campaign

7. Other Business

7.1 Member reports

Hope Street Youth and Family Services

N Vella informed the Committee of a youth homelessness project that they are currently working on.

Djerriwarrh Health Services

J Eddy shared that the family violence support group in Melton has been running for 30 years. The support group is a partnership with Djerriwarrh Health Services, Women's Health West and Melton City Council.

Women's Health West

T La Fontaine provided an update on family violence case management that has five new providers. She highlighted that there has been limited uptakes from City of Melton residents and is keen to explore how this can be improved.

MacKillop Family Services

M D'Elia reported that Child First is extremely busy at the moment, particularly with referrals.

8. Next Meeting

Tuesday 19 June 6.00-8.00pm, Civic Room 2, Melton City Council.

9. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 12.00pm.