



## MINUTES

### PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 8 December 2017 at 10.30am in Civic Room 1, Melton Civic Centre

**Present:** Cr Melissa De Santis, Councillor, MCC  
Cr Michelle Mendes, Councillor, MCC  
Christine Levy, Coordinator Family Services, MCC  
Liz Smith, Team Leader Health Promotion and Planning, MCC  
Carly Billingham, Community Planning Support Officer, MCC  
Sergeant Ken Anderson, Family Violence Liaison Officer, Victoria Police  
Marlene Dixon, Principal Lawyer, Brimbank Melton Community Legal Centre  
Peter Webster, Executive Officer, Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation  
Rachel Phillips, Settlement Social Worker, MiCare  
Joan Eddy, Manager Counselling, Djerriwarrh Health Services  
Glen Ludbrook, Lawyer, Brimbank Melton Community Legal Centre  
Genia Sawczyn, Senior Community Participation Officer, Department of Health and Human Services

**Chairperson:** Cr Melissa De Santis, Councillor, MCC

---

#### 1. Welcome

Cr De Santis welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land. Introductions of all members took place. L Smith announced apologies.

#### 2. Apologies

Cr Bob Turner, MCC  
Cr Steven Abboushi, MCC  
Cr Goran Kesic, MCC  
Cr Lara Carli, MCC  
Cr Ken Hardy, MCC  
Cr Kathy Majdlik, MCC  
Cr Sophie Ramsey, MCC  
Matthew Wilson, MCC  
Sarah Grace, MCC  
Helga Jennings, Department of Health and Human Services  
Mary D'Elia, MacKillop Family Services  
Stephanie Dziunka, Department of Justice and Regulation  
Patrizia Favorito, Women's Health West  
Stephen Phillips, Victoria Police

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

Nil.

#### 4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

August meeting minutes noted by K Anderson and C Levy.



## MINUTES

### 5. Business Arising

- 5.1 L Smith sent updated Terms of Reference to the Committee for feedback.
- 5.2 It has been agreed that the Mayor will be the Committee Chair, with the Deputy Mayor acting as Chair in the absence of the Mayor.
- 5.3 Office space required for the Keeping Safe Together project to be discussed at next meeting with P Favorito.
- 5.4 16 Days of Activism event promotional material was shared with the Committee.
- 5.5 L Smith contacted Maureen Smith about family violence training opportunities.
- 5.6 A discussion about sending a meeting invitation to the Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence has been added to the agenda.

#### Actions

L Smith to defer office space discussion for the Keeping Safe Together project until next meeting.

### 6. General Business

#### 6.1 New Members

L Smith introduced the new Committee members. P Webster from Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation and R Phillips from MiCare were in attendance. L Smith advised that Emma Baxter from Hope Street is also a new member and will commence attending meetings in 2018. L Smith discussed the delay in appointing a member from the disability sector. L Smith discussed the matter with Council's Metro Access Officer and their recommendation was Women's Health West. Given the Committee already has a representative from Women's Health West, an expression of interest was sent to Council's disability network. Three organisations expressed interest in joining – Campbell Page, Melton Specialist School, and Customised Training. Given that Melton Specialist school is the only specialist disability provider, the Committee decided that they were the most appropriate to join.

C Levy suggested that Campbell Page and Customised Training could be invited to join the Melton Family Violence Network. L Smith will email the organisations and introduce C Levy. G Sawczyn suggested that if the Committee was still looking for further representatives from the disability sector that she could speak to Women with Disabilities Victoria.

Cr De Santis suggested an email be sent to Cr Majdlik in regards to the new appointment given her involvement in the Disability Advisory Committee.

#### Actions

L Smith to send email to Cr Majdlik regarding the appointment of Melton Specialist School.

L Smith to introduce Campbell Page and Customised Training to C Levy and the Melton Family Violence Network.



## MINUTES

### 6.2 Finalisation of Terms of Reference

L Smith discussed that the draft Terms of Reference were sent for feedback from members and feedback was provided by one organisation.

J Eddy asked for a further change to be made in section 4.4 of the Terms of Reference for the Western Integrated Family Violence Committee to be added to the report list from networks and organisations. Members agreed that this was an important addition. The Terms of Reference will be finalised with this change and to add the disability sector representative.

#### Actions

L Smith to finalise Terms of Reference and send to Committee.

### 6.3 Support and Safety Hubs

This was deferred until the next meeting.

#### Actions

L Smith to carry forward the Support and Safety Hubs discussion until next meeting.

### 6.4 Council's Promoting Gender Equity to prevent Violence against Women Plan

L Smith explained that Council has started the consultations for the Promoting Gender Equity to Prevent Violence against Women Plan. The consultation process has been to screen a short video from Our Watch that discusses the link between gender inequality and violence against women, and then ask participants to answer two questions 1) Promoting gender equity is important to me because... 2) Preventing violence against women is important to me because... L Smith shared some of the consultation responses to date and showed how they will bring the community's voice to the Plan. L Smith then conducted the same consultation with the Committee.

### 6.5 Update on 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign and White Ribbon Day

L Smith provided an update on the 16 Days of Activism and White Ribbon Day on behalf of S Grace. The most successful event run during the campaign was the Gender in Film event at Readings Cinema in Melton that applied the Bechdel Test to the Justice League film as a way to discuss how women are portrayed in film. More than 130 community members attended.

M Dixon expressed interest in working with Council next year to deliver a White Ribbon Day event. It was acknowledged that a longer lead in time is required to make this happen.

### 6.6 Melton Family Violence Network

C Levy discussed how productive the last Melton Family Violence Network meeting was and that future planning for 2018 has begun. The possibility of broadening the network to include Brimbank was also raised by G Sawczyn.

M Dixon and G Ludbrook left the meeting at 11.35am.



## MINUTES

### 7. Other Business

#### 7.1 Member reports

##### Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation

P Webster discussed the success of the Young Love program for young women that promotes respectful relationships. Members enquired if there was an equivalent program for young men.

##### Djerriwarrh Health Services

J Eddy congratulated Council and Victoria Police for the UTURN 193 project that is working with Sudanese young people.

R Phillips left the meeting at 11.50am.

##### Department of Health and Human Services

G Sawczyn discussed the \$1.6 million funding for Family Violence Perpetrator Intervention Grants and also shared that a new domestic violence scheme was created. It was discussed that 864 schools have signed up for the Respectful Relationships in Schools program.

##### Victoria Police

K Anderson shared the local family violence statistics and reported that there had been a decrease in the trend of reported family violence incidences in the City of Melton. Cr De Santis asked for a breakdown of these numbers. There was a discussion relating to the limited emergency accommodation options for male victims of family violence.

J Eddy said that she may be able to share the family violence report from Djerriwarrh Health Services to provide some further detail to the Victoria Police statistics.

Cr De Santis asked K Anderson if he could shed some light on why the Family Violence Unit was moved from Melton to Caroline Springs Police Station. Cr De Santis shared some of the community's difficulties in accessing the support they require locally from Victoria Police.

#### Action

K Anderson to provide a verbal breakdown of the local family violence statistics at the next meeting.

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

#### 7.2 Invitation to Family Safety Victoria to attend the next Committee Meeting

Deferred to the next meeting.

### 8. Next Meeting

Tuesday 13 February, 6.00 – 8.00 pm, Civic Room 2, Melton City Council.

### 9. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.