



MINUTES

PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 30 August 2019 at 10.30am in Civic Room 1, Melton Civic Centre

Present: Cr Bob Turner, Mayor, Melton City Council
Cr Ken Hardy, Councillor, Melton City Council
Matthew Wilson, Melton City Council
Christine Levy, Melton City Council
Jayde McBurnie, Melton City Council
Sarah Grace, Melton City Council
Kylie Kitchen, Melton City Council
Elissa Haley, Melton City Council
Evodia Dushimimana, MiCare
Heidi Zwick, MiCare
Sarah Lorrimer, Women's Health West
Genia Sawczyn, Brimbank Melton
Michaela Klaaysen, Department of Justice and Community Safety
Joan Eddy, Djerriwarrh Health Services
Zorka Dunstan, Victoria Police
Fiona Reece, Victoria Police

Chairperson: Cr Bob Turner, Mayor, Melton City Council

1. Welcome

Cr Turner welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced apologies. Cr Turner acknowledged the Traditional Owners.

Members introduced themselves.

2. Apologies

Cr Lara Carli, Melton City Council
Cr Sophie Ramsay, Melton City Council
Cr Kathy Majdlik, Melton City Council
Cr Goran Kesic, Melton City Council
Cr Yvonne Sebire, Melton City Council
Cr Steven Abboushi, Melton City Council
Cr Michelle Mendes, Melton City Council
Rachel Philipps, MiCare

It was also noted that Alice Harris, Melton Specialist School has stepped down from the Committee due to other commitments.

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.



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4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Minutes from the 24 June 2019 meeting were noted.

5. Business Arising

- 5.1 S Grace has arranged training with Women's Health West for preventing and responding to violence for councillors. A date will be determined for early 2020 as part of a Council Briefing.
- 5.2 S Grace has followed up with J Eddy and there was uncertainty regarding the resource. Item closed.
- 5.3 S Grace has spoken with J Eddy who advised that Manager Health Promotion and Community Health will join the Advisory Committee.
- 5.4 Cr Turner advised that he would be meeting with G Ludbrook to discuss legal services within the City of Melton.
- 5.5 S Grace advised that this would be reported on in item 6.2 of the agenda.
- 5.6 G Sawczyn to report as part of member updates.
- 5.7 S Grace advised that a Nepalese community group will be screening a short movie on family violence at the Melton Library on Friday, 18 October. Further details will be circulated to the Committee when available.

Action

S Grace to circulate details of community group movie screening when available.

H Zwick, E Dushimimana and M Klaaysen arrived at the meeting at 10.40am.

6. General Business

6.1 Presentation of Equality and Respect 2030: 2019-2020 Action Plan

J McBurnie presented the 2019-2020 Action Plan for Equality & Respect 2030, with two year rolling action plans to be developed for the remainder of the Strategy. Committee members were given time to review the Action Plan.

G Sawczyn asked about actions relating to youth and neighbourhood houses. J McBurnie responded that the actions for Youth and Neighbourhood Houses are aligned to the appropriate teams under Service Unit in the Action Plan

K Hardy asked to have action 21 clarified. J McBurnie explained that this would be scoping to determine how gender can be considered through the design and planning of new development.

J Eddy arrived at 10.52am



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J McBurnie asked the members if they were happy to recommend to Council the Action Plan be endorsed. Members agreed.

The Preventing Family Violence Advisory Committee recommends to Council that the Equality & Respect Action Plan 2019-2020 (attached) be endorsed.

6.2 Equality and Respect 2030: engaging local businesses

S Grace provided an update about engaging with businesses, which links to action 16 of the Equality & Respect 2030 2019-2020 Action Plan. S Grace will attend the 20 November Venture Melton network to encourage businesses to participate in 16 Days of Activism, as leaders within the community.

C Levy asked about whether businesses could be given something, rather than just spoken to at the event. G Swazcyn advised that there have been some good examples of workplace initiatives, including training for hairdressers to identify and respond to family violence with clients.

Actions

S Grace to attend Venture Melton network on 20 November to promote 16 Days of Activism and determine business interest in gender equity and preventing family violence.

S Grace to determine an appropriate resource that could be given to businesses at Venture Melton.

6.3 Engaging Dads Project

S Grace provided an overview of what had been achieved through the 12 month Engaging Dads project funded through DHHS. The purpose of the project was to challenge rigid gender roles and stereotypes and encourage dads and male caregivers to participate in programs with their children. The project was very successful and has resulted in an increased focus on working with dads across Council teams.

6.4 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

S Grace provided an overview of planned, and proposed activities for the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. The Women's Health West online 16 Days Activist challenge will be promoted to organisations, staff, clients and community. Library Services will be hosting an event on 24 November showcasing women who have excelled in traditionally male-dominated fields.

Decals will be installed at Caroline Springs Library steps and the Melton Amphitheatre on Monday 28 October. Step decal designs were presented to the Committee.

Reusable coffee cups were proposed instead of disposable cups, using the step decals artwork. C Levy and J Eddy proposed that some staff from local organisations may like to purchase the coffee cups, and these would be good to provide at the Venture Melton Network. J Eddy asked if grants or sponsorship could be explored to increase the number of coffee cups. S Grace reported that Council will apply for \$1500 funding from the State Government to support the purchase of these items.

S Grace also presented the idea of having fortune cookies printed with step decal sticker on front, and different 16 Days of Activism campaign messages printed inside to encourage conversation around gender equity.



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S Grace reported that the yarn bombing idea proposed in a previous meeting would divert attention from the Creative Arts Victoria project 'Home Sewn' taking place at the same time. It was proposed that this activity be postponed.

The Committee were supportive of the proposed 16 Days of Activism campaign ideas, and these will be progressed.

Actions

S Grace to provide more details to the Committee on the Libraries event.

S Grace to circulate an order form for Member organisations to purchase branded reusable coffee cups to be added to the overall order.

S Grace to explore option to have branded reusable coffee cups distributed at Venture Melton network.

6.5 16 Days of Activism video campaign

K Kitchen led the Committee through the purpose of the video, to highlight four key local initiatives that are promoting gender equality. This would include dads' playgroups; female change room upgrades in sporting facilities; Women Making It Happen; and Baby Makes 3 program. The video will also include the Committee on the step decals at Caroline Springs Library. The video could be broken into 4-5 shorter videos, providing greater use across multiple platforms.

G Sawczyn and C Levy spoke about the need to represent young people, such as through respectful relationships or sporting clubs. K Kitchen will take these ideas to a videographer to proceed with the video.

Actions

K Kitchen to begin developing video project and source videographer.

K Kitchen to determine opportunity to represent young people through the video.

S Grace to determine details of filming for Committee members at step decals in Caroline Springs and invite Committee.

6.6 Family violence prevention within African communities in Melbourne's west

H Zwick talked about MiCare's new project, working with newly arrived and refugee African communities in Melbourne's West to design and deliver initiatives to prevent family violence. They are currently working to develop a Community Advisory Group who will receive training on key concepts of gender equality and preventing violence against women using an intersectional lens. Committee members interested in supporting the Advisory Group or development of the project can contact H Zwick. The project is being funded through the Department of Premier and Cabinet Safer and Stronger Communities Pilot.

Z Dunstan reported Victoria Police has been involved in a previous project, 'Her Voices,' that has delivered a train-the-trainer project with migrant communities, to build knowledge of family violence and understanding the law.



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K Hardy asked a question about family violence data hot spots. Z Dunstan acknowledged that data only gives an indication of what is happening, and the greatest challenges are around what is not reported. Victoria Police is working with communities they believe are not reporting in a respectful and discreet way.

J Eddy highlighted the UTURN project that is working with high risk youth, including young African Australians who have a link to family violence. Z Dunstan also suggest MiCare link with Melton-Brimbank Community Safety Committee.

Actions

H Zwick to send a summary of the project to be circulated to the Committee with her contact details.

S Grace to follow-up with MiCare to provide useful Melton City Council connections.

Z Dunstan provide contact to MiCare for Melton-Brimbank Community Safety Committee.

6.7 Change of meeting dates 2019/2020

J McBurnie proposed to change future meetings days. B Turner noted evening meeting times may better meet Councillor availability. K Hardy noted this may not suit service providers represented on the committee.

Discussion was tabled around meeting dates and times and further discussion deferred.

It was agreed the next meeting would be on Thursday, 31 October to coincide with the step decal launch.

Z Dunstan and F Reece left meeting at 11.45am

Actions

S Grace to finalise meeting date.

S Grace to include launch of step decals and filming of video for next meeting.

7. Other Business

7.1 Member reports

C Levy reported on Western Integrated Family Violence meeting held at Caroline Springs Library which was very well attended due to presentation on Orange Door roll out. There was also a presentation on the multi-disciplinary centre in Wyndham (Justice Precinct).

S Lorrimar reported on Women's Health West developing training for Councillors on responding and dealing with disclosures of family violence. The western region 16 Days of Activism Working Group is in full swing. 'Consent Empowerment Respect' program on sexual and reproductive health for young people has new resources.



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J Eddy announced that Melissa Sapuppo, Manager Community Health and Health Promotion will be representing Djerriwarrh Health Services on the Committee moving forward. There has been an increase in perpetrator response funding to employ more men's family violence case managers and men's behaviour change facilitators. Working with Department of Corrections to partner on the response initiatives in 2020.

G Sawczyn reported on the suicide prevention initiative being rolled out in Brimbank-Melton linked in with Victoria suicide prevention network and Primary Health Network regions engaged to deliver trials. Melton has seen great relationship building with Neighbourhood Houses. Free suicide awareness training is being delivered on Monday, 21 October. Other work includes upskilling staff and Sudanese community network, in a youth mental health first aid. Cohealth is delivering a suicide prevention mental health project with South Sudanese community across the west.

7. Next Meeting

Thursday, 31 October
10.30am – 12.30pm
Caroline Springs Library, 193 Caroline Springs Boulevard

8. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 11.57am