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PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 14 June 2019 at 10.30am in Civic Room 2, Melton Civic Centre

Present: Cr B Turner (Mayor)
Cr L Carli (Deputy Mayor)
E Clark, Melton City Council
S Dziunka, Department of Justice and Community Safety
L Falconer, Women's Health West
K Kitchen, Melton City Council
C Levy, Melton City Council
R Phillips, MiCare
J Read, Brimbank Melton, Department of Health and Human Services
L Smith, Melton City Council
S Tait, Melton City Council
T Tregoea, Hope Street Youth and Family Services
M Wilson, Melton City Council

Chairperson: Cr B Turner (Mayor)

1. Welcome

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

2. Apologies

Cr S Abboushi, Councillor
Cr K Hardy Councillor
Cr G Kesic, Councillor
Cr K Majdlik, Councillor
Cr M Mendes, Councillor
Cr S Ramsey, Councillor
SGT.K Anderson, Victoria Police
H Bell, Mackillop Family Services
J Eddy, Djerriwarrh Health Services
A Harris, Melton Specialist School
G Schwarz, Department of Health and Human Services
G Shehab, Department of Justice and Regulation
P Webster, Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation
Insp Zorka Dunstan, Victoria Police

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.



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4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Minutes from the 10 May 2019 meeting were noted.

5. Business Arising

- 5.1 S Tait completed the update of Council's website information around preventing and responding to violence against women.
- 5.2 S Tait will organise preventing and responding to violence training for councillors in 2019-20.
- 5.3 J Eddy to share Djerriwarrh Health Services family violence response conversation resource with the Committee (carried over).
- 5.4 J Eddy to liaise with the Djerriwarrh Health Service internal prevention and response departments to discuss the potential re-delegation of this Committee to a staff member from the prevention team (carried over).
- 5.5 Cr Turner to organise a meeting with G Ludbook and management of the Brimbank Melton Community Legal Service to discuss the need for additional local legal services (deferred).
- 5.6 S Tait shared the Department of Education and Training's Respectful Relationships presentation and contact details with the Committee.
- 5.7 S Tait contacted the Committee about their ideas for a 16 Days of Activism slogan for the decal installation.
- 5.8 S Tait contacted Council's Economic Development team about existing opportunities to engage with local businesses.

Action

S Tait to organise preventing and responding to violence training for councillors in 2019-20.

J Eddy to share Djerriwarrh Health Services family violence response conversation resource with the Committee (carried over).

J Eddy to liaise with the Djerriwarrh Health Service internal prevention and response departments to discuss the potential re-delegation of this Committee to a staff member from the prevention team (carried over).

Cr Turner to organise a meeting with G Ludbook and management of the Brimbank Melton Community Legal Service to discuss the need for additional local legal services (deferred).

6. General Business

6.1 Baby Makes 3

S Tait provided the Committee with an update on the implementation of Baby Makes 3 in the City of Melton. A total of 62 parent couples have attended the program since February 2019. The program is delivered over three weeks and held in the evenings. The program is advertised to new parents through Council's New Parent Group Program and program uptake has been strong at both Arnolds Creek Community Centre and Caroline Springs Library.

In addition to the three week program, Council delivers Family Nights prior to week one of the program to help engage both parents in a social setting to provide parents with



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additional information about Baby Makes 3. To date 53 parent couples have attended Family Night since February, and eight more Family Nights are scheduled to run for 2019 to support the program.

It was reported that Council's Maternal and Child Health Service were engaged in Baby Makes 3 principles training to help support service knowledge, awareness and promotion of the program.

6.2 Equality and Respect 2030: engaging local businesses

R Philips arrived at the meeting at 10.45am.

In relation to the Committee's intention to engage local businesses in the prevention of violence against women, S Tait shared that Council's Economic Development team is able to support the Committee with this engagement. S Tait shared that the upcoming business networking events for 2019-20, known as Venture Melton, will be held in November, February and May. The Economic Development team is supportive of Council officers attending a future event and introducing the topic to attendees to gauge their interest in receiving a future tailored event.

L Falconer highlighted the importance of pitching the message to businesses in an appropriate way. M Wilson agreed that the pitch should speak to businesses' responsibilities as workplaces and employers in supporting their staff and clients in preventing and responding to violence against women, and what their role could be in the promotion of gender equality.

Cr Carli suggested that Council create a promotional post on the Venture Melton Facebook page to gauge member interest in attending a networking event with a gender equity or preventing violence against women in the workplace focus.

Action

S Tait to post on the Venture Melton Facebook page to gauge member interest in attending a future networking event with a gender equity or preventing violence against women in the workplace focus.

6.3 Slogan development: 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

C Levy arrived at the meeting at 11am.

S Tait provided the background context to the development of a slogan for decal installation to recognise the 16 Days of Activism for 2019, explaining that it had stemmed from recent Committee meetings and a Council briefing in April. S Tait highlighted how this community awareness raising initiative responds to Goal 1 Strategy 1.1 of Council's Equality and Respect 2030 Strategy.

S Tait then introduced K Kitchen and E Clark from Council's Communications team who took the Committee through a number of slogan alternatives to base the discussion on. The draft slogans reflected the evidence base and national framework for the primary prevention of violence against women. The Committee was mindful to create a slogan that was in easy English and phrasing that would be accessible to a wide age range in the community.

The slogan that the Committee developed and agreed on was: 'We can end violence against women. Be a role model. Step up. Speak out. Respect women.'

Council will work with a graphic designer to have the slogan graphically designed for installation during the 16 Days of Activism campaign in November 2019.



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C Levy left the meeting at 11.35pm.

7. Other Business

7.1 Member reports

Cr Carli raised a point for further discussion at a future meeting about the Committee proactively planning for prevention of violence against women projects that Committee members could jointly apply for grants for. M Wilson acknowledged the importance of identifying local community needs in regards to violence prevention and encouraged the Committee to bring their ideas to future meetings.

J Read shared that the state government is providing funding to work with African communities around family violence. R Philips confirmed that MiCare are the provider who have received funding to deliver this initiative in Melton, and have engaged with Council's Intercultural Development Officer to streamline engagement.

J Read shared that the Department of Health and Human Services and the Primary Health Network Place Based Suicide Prevention Trial is currently being delivered across the Brimbank/Melton region. J Read highlighted there may be opportunities to explore interventions in relation to family violence as the data is showing a high number of people who experience mental health issues are experiencing violence including family violence. J Read will provide an update of this work at the next meeting.

L Falconer left the meeting at 11.50am.

Cr Turner made reference to communication he had received from a community member who wished to promote their violence prevention video during the 16 Days of Activism in the City of Melton. M Wilson offered that Council can support this initiative with the provision of a venue space and the promotional material could be shared with the Committee.

Action

J Read to provide an update on the suicide prevention community engagement project at the next Committee meeting.

L Smith to share the details of the community led family violence video with the Committee.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Friday 9 August 2019 commencing at 10.30am in Civic Room 2, Melton City Council.

9. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 12.00pm.