



## MINUTES

### EARLY YEARS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

held on 20 June 2019 at 10:00am in Taylors Hill Youth & Community Centre

**Present:** Cr L Carli, (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr S Ramsey, Councillor  
B Ball, City of Melton  
G Callander, Djerriwarrah Health Services  
K Curson, City of Melton  
J Gemoh, Children and Parenting Support Services  
J Macfarlane, Foundation House  
J Newey, Department Health and Human Services  
F Norman, Department Education and Training  
S O'Kelly, BPA Children's Services  
C Owens, Djerriwarrah Health Services  
S Restuccia, City of Melton  
E Smith, Try Australia  
N Smith, Early Childhood Family Services  
L Semini, Try Australia  
D Tschujasehenko, City of Melton - (minute taker)  
R Viojo, City of Melton  
D Wright, Victorian Inclusion Agency

**Chairperson:** G Callander, DjHS

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#### 1. Welcome

G Callander welcomed all attendees and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are gathered and paid respects to their elders both past and present. It was noted that the agenda format for this meeting has been altered as the AEDC presentation has been open to stakeholders across the municipality. The formalities of the meeting will follow the AEDC Presentation.

#### 2. AEDC Presentation

##### **Cathie Nolan, AEDC Project Director, DET**

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) is a survey of children in their first year of primary school completed every three years by teachers across Australia. Five domains are measured through AEDC; physical health and well-being, emotional maturity, social competence, language and cognitive skills, communication and general knowledge. There has been four sets of data with the most recently released being the 2018 data, this has allowed tracking of populations over time.

Data can be accessed from the AEDC data explorer website including a Community Profile and Community Summary for each local government area, demographic and survey data

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can be broken down into individual suburbs. Examples of survey questions were shared, as was data from the City of Melton. Two case studies were shared identifying how AEDC data has been used in planning and program delivery.

When using the data it is important recognise that there are many variables that impact, look at the context and consider the whole community as well as any complementary data we might have. Discussion was held about the importance of interpreting the AEDC data together with local knowledge that we have about the Melton communities.

The Comprehensive Monitoring Project was introduced to the Committee, this is a project is reconceptualising Early Childhood Polices and Programs to strengthen lifelong health, looking at the first 1000 days and moving to the first 10,000 days to include pregnancy, infancy, toddlerhood, preschool, middle childhood, adolescence, emerging adulthood, young adulthood and next generation and monitoring at these stages to frame policies and programs.

C Owens questioned access to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children data, C Nolan explained that permission needs to be provided by specific communities, information is currently provided to local Aboriginal controlled organisations and they decide how their information is shared.

**Action**

C Nolan to contact C Owens to identify which Aboriginal controlled organisations have access to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander data.

K Curson to share the PowerPoint presentation with the Committee.

**3. Apologies**

A Connor Simon, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency

C Fisher, Tweedle

C Middleton, TRY Australia

D Nedjip, City of Melton

H Schiele, Independent Schools Vic

T Watson, City of Melton

J Read, Department Health and Human Services

C Reich, City of Melton

**4. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests**

Nil.

**5. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting****Motion**

Cr S Ramsey/B Ball

That the Minutes of the Early Years Partnership Committee Meeting held on 2 May 2019 and adopted by Council at the Ordinary Meeting held on 24 June 2019 be noted.

The Committee noted in the Minutes that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday 27 June 2019 commencing at 10:00am in the Botanical Springs Children's and Community Centre Community Room and that this next meeting has been brought forward to Thursday 20 June 2019 commencing at 10:00am in the Taylors Hill Youth and Community Centre meeting room.



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### 6. Business Arising

Nil.

### 7. General Business

#### 7.1 Best Start update

##### **Karen Curson, City of Melton**

Best Start continues to work on increasing attendance of children in MCH, Supported Playgroups, Early Start Kinder and 4 year old kindergarten. Part of this work has included being involved in the evaluation group for the Koolin Balit project, which has recently been completed. Discussion was held around the success of the program within the municipality and the group acknowledged the work of C Owens and the Pathways Workers in the success of this project

##### **Action**

K Curson to arrange for the Koolin Balit evaluation to be presented to the Committee.

#### 7.2 DET update

##### **Fiona Norman, Early Childhood Performance and Planning Advisor (ECPAPA), DET**

F Norman circulated a DET fact sheet regarding the roll out of 3 year old Kindergarten to support communicating information to stakeholders and the community. Further information will be provided as part of the Government's communication strategy.

School readiness funding has been well utilised by Kindergartens who are currently completing their mid-year review surveys and will soon be identifying needs for 2020 school readiness plans.

The 2019-20 Children's Facilities Capital Program has been launched, in addition to the new Inclusive Kindergartens grants round. Applications for the Inclusive Kindergartens program grants close at midnight on Friday 12 July for equipment grants, and midnight on Friday 9 August for buildings and playground projects. The Victorian School Building Authority team are available to assist with the process and to answer any questions from prospective applicants.

Discussion was held around the available grants. B Ball stated that Council is looking into current needs and that there are plans to apply for grants through the grants program once the needs are clarified.

Awaiting further update as to the Machinery of Government changes which will involve Maternal and Child Health and Supported Playgroups moving from DET to DHHS.

##### **Action**

F Norman to share information for circulation to the Committee.

#### 7.3 DHHS update

##### **Jarney Newey, Deputy Area Operations Manager – Case Management, DHHS**

DHHS Child Protection staff met with four Melton MCH nurses. 10 staff in total attended. Both agencies got value from the session and were able to learn more about service delivery complexities from each other.

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Child Protection has begun a partnership with the Royal Children's Hospital. This partnership provides regular secondary consults for children known to Child Protection, to assist with identifying health, wellbeing and developmental needs.

Salvation Army are no longer providing Out of Home Care effective 1 June 2019, foster care will now be provided through Oz Child. Oz Child is to be located around Sunshine, the location has not yet been confirmed.

DHHS is undertaking an audit of Out of Home Care children currently attending Early Start Kindergarten, 4 year old kindergarten, Childcare and the level of attendance at School. This will look at specifically at eligibility and whether children are enrolled in appropriate services. The purpose is to build the capacity of the workforce to understand what supports and services are available for caregivers and ensuring children are placed in the right services to meet their needs.

**8. Other Business**

L Carli provided information about a booklet produced by the organization Amaze available to support families of children with Autism. A number of attendees were aware of this booklet.

**Action**

B. Ball to arrange the Amaze Booklet to be sent to all providers and raised at the quarterly provider meetings.

K Curson to send a link to the booklet to the Committee.

J. Macfarlane questioned the wording in the DET promotional video around Early Start Kindergarten (ESK). Specifically the wording of 'other family services' in regards to refugee and asylum seekers accessing ESK. It was confirmed the video was referring to Integrated Family Services. F. Norman acknowledged that there are discussions occurring at DET in regards to extending the eligibility, however no change as yet.

**Action**

F. Norman to seek further clarification to be provided to the Committee.

K. Curson to share the ESK video link with the Committee, PowerPoint document highlighting eligibility and ESK Brimbank Melton flyer once finalised.

**9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 15 August 2019 commencing at 10:00am in Caroline Springs Library and Civic Centre.

**10. Close of Business**

The meeting closed at 12:10pm.