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EARLY YEARS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

held on 2 May 2019 at 10:00am in Caroline Springs Library

Present: Cr Sophie Ramsey, Councillor, City of Melton
Brendan Ball, Manager Families and Early Years, City of Melton
Genevieve Callander, Manager Paediatric Services, DjHS
Nicole Smith, Area Manager, ECMS
Troy Watson, Manager Libraries, City of Melton
Fiona Norman, Early Childhood Performance and Planning Adviser, DET
Sarah O'Kelly, Executive Officer Partnerships and Early Years, BPA Children's Services
Charry Owens, Project Coordinator Koolin Balit Babaneek Booboop Early Years Project, DjHS
Carolynne Reich, Maternal and Child Health Coordinator, City of Melton
Colleen Turner, Western Region Coordinator, VICSEG New Futures
David Wright, Inclusion Manager, Victorian Inclusion Agency
Delia Clarke, Community Representative
Jo Macfarlane, Early Years Support Officer, Foundation House
Jocelyn Gemoh, Interim Program Manager, Salvation Army - CaPSS
Andrea Curran-Bennett, Team Leader Therapy, SCOPE
Dawn Tschujasehenko, Playgroups Supervisor, Melton City Council
Jo Read, Team Leader Population, Health and Community Wellbeing, DHHS
Karen Curson, Coordinator Early Years Partnership, City of Melton
Dev Nedjip, Minute Taker, City of Melton

Chairperson: Genevieve Callander, Manager Paediatric Services, DjHS

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.

2. Apologies

Cr Lara Carli, Councillor, City of Melton
Blayne Wallis, Acting Principal, Kororoit Creek Primary School
Janelle Taylor, Koorie Engagement Support Officer, DET
Jarney Newey, Deputy Area Manager, Child Protection
Carly Middleton, Operations Manager, TRY Children's Services
Veronica Hunt, Program Manager Children and Parenting Support Service, Salvation Army
Danielle Wilton, Family and Community Development Worker, TRY Children's Services
Penny Lyne, Residential Services Nurse Unit Manager, Tweedle

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil

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

S O'Kelly / S Ramsey

That the Committee adopt the minutes of the Early Years Partnership Committee meeting held on 14 February 2019.

5. Business Arising

Committee members were given the opportunity introduce themselves to the partnership as there are new members attending.

6. General Business**6.1 Best Start update****Karen Curson, Coordinator Early Years Partnerships, City of Melton**

Best Start work in the first quarter of 2019 has focused on working in partnership with the Melton Refugee Communities of Practice, this is a joint project between Foundation House and Best Start to support understanding of the Refugee and Asylum Seeker experience and how to better engage these families within Early Years Services.

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

AEDC data from 2018 is now available, with data sets for 2009, 2012, 2015 and 2018. There have been fewer changes between 2015 & 2018 results, compared to previous collections. Changes in data were looked at in relation to vulnerability across the domains, in Australia, and more closely Melton. Some suburb level changes in relation to vulnerability indicators were unpacked. F Norman reports that schools will get their own AEDC profiles. F Norman encourages members to examine the community profiles

State Budget has been delayed until the end of May due to the Commonwealth Election.

Funding of \$5 billion for 15 hours three year old kindergarten will begin its roll out from 2020 in regional LGA's with existing capacity. Ernst and Young have been appointed to assist with capacity assessment. LGAs and EYMs have received information in relation to Grants for this process. Scholarships and incentives to support training for early childhood teachers is available.

Early Years Awards nominations for 2019 are now open, a handout was provided. A new interactive website now available; www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au. School Readiness Funding for SWV has been approved and implementation commenced.

Discussed the Brimbank Melton Early Years Compact; a ten year agreement between DET, DHHS and local government – represented by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV). An evaluation of the compact is currently occurring since last



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agreement. Priority areas include increasing participation in early years services of (Children in Out of Home and Children Known to Child Protection;) to increase participation of Aboriginal families in early years services, and increase referral of children and families at risk of family violence from MCH services. Work highlighted has increasing connections with the Child First Alliance and Child First funded agencies and providers, and VACCA, to continue the focus with the Koolin Balit Funded projects, and greater linkages and connections with Family Violence Agencies and Supports in preparation for Orange Door Family Violence Hubs.

Action

F Norman to share information with K Curson to be shared with members.

6.3 DHHS update

No update provided.

6.4 Shared purpose – gathering information on local networks and working groups

Karen Curson, Coordinator Early Years Partnership, City of Melton

Members were asked to note down local networks and working groups that they are a part or aware of in the City of Melton and how these connections are important for the partnership.

Discussion was held around networks involving schools as this was identified as a gap currently. F Norman discussed how DET play a role in this connection.

Action

K Curson to collate feedback from committee.

6.5 Development of Operational Plan for the Partnership

Karen Curson, Coordinator Early Years Partnership, City of Melton

Committee members were asked to give feedback in groups after looking at feedback collated from the February meeting on what the partnership would like to focus on and advocate for, from medium to high impact, whilst being governed by the Terms of Reference. This feedback will be used to support the new operational plan for the partnership.

Action

K Curson to collate feedback for development of new operational plan.

7. Other Business

Discussion was held around the kindergarten application fee waiver as a barrier for families, including how to make this process more transparent and accessible for families.

Action

B Ball to review policy in preparation for next calendar year, to ensure the waver is accessible and available to eligible families.

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8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 27 June 2019, commencing at 10:00am in Botanica Springs Children's and Community Centre Community room.

9. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 12:10pm.