



# MINUTES

## EARLY YEARS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

held on 29 November 2018 at 10.00am in Russo Estate, Diggers Rest

**Present:** Karen Curson, Coordinator Early Years Partnerships, City of Melton  
Delia Clarke, Community Representative  
Colleen Turner, Western Region Coordinator, VICSEG New Futures  
Helen Dorning, RM Midwife, DjHS  
Carolynne Reich, Maternal and Child Health Coordinator, City of Melton  
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  
Lara Carli, Councillor, City of Melton  
Sophie Ramsey, Councillor, City of Melton  
Liezl Oliver, Children and Families Program Officer, North West Melbourne Primary Health Network  
Charry Owens, Project Coordinator Koolin Balit Babaneek Booboop Early Years Project, DjHS  
Helen Cooney, CEO, Caroline Chisholm Society  
Proxy, Tara McGowan, Senior Practitioner, DHHS Child Protection  
Tabitha Farrugia, Early Years Adviser, TRY Children's Services  
Ellen Smith, Family Community Worker, TRY Children's Services  
Lyn Saunders, Early Years Advisor, BPA Children's Services  
Jo Macfarlane, Early Years Support Officer, Foundation House  
Christine Hirst, Early Childhood Performance and Planning Adviser, DET  
Kellie Robertson, Acting Playgroup Supervisor, City of Melton  
Dev Nedjip, Minute Taker, City of Melton

**Chairperson:** Helen Cooney, CEO, Caroline Chisholm Society

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### 1. Welcome

H Cooney 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

Chloe Mortimer, Community Representative  
Brendan Ball, Manager Families and Early Years, City of Melton  
Nicole Smith, Area Manager, ECMS  
Genevieve Callander, Manager Paediatric Services, DjHS  
Helen Schiele, Senior Early Years Advisor, Independent Schools Victoria  
Jarney Newey, Deputy Area Manager, DHHS Child Protection  
Carly Middleton, General Manager Children & Youth Operations, TRY Children's Services

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

Nil

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

H Dorning / S O'Kelly

That the Committee adopt the minutes of the Early Years Partnership Committee meeting held on 11 October 2018

**5. Business Arising**

Nil

**6. General Business****6.1 2018 in review****Karen Curson, Coordinator Early Years Partnerships, City of Melton****Helen Cooney, CEO, Caroline Chisholm Society**

An overview of each committee meeting in 2018 was provided with a presentation to view. This included updates on Best Start, Melton: A City for All People Strategy, advocacy in the early years, Foundation House, the NDIS, as well as DET and DHHS updates.

**6.2 Best Start update and 2019 Logic Model****Karen Curson, Coordinator Early Years Partnership, City of Melton**

Copies of the 2019 Best Start Logic Model shared with the Committee.

An overview of the model was provided, with children in out of home care and children known to child protection as a new target group with active outreach and engagement the short-term outcome.

Feedback was sought on the model. F Norman discussed Early Start Kindergarten participation as a strategy.

**6.3 Advocacy document update****Helen Cooney, CEO, Caroline Chisholm Society**

H Cooney updated that a new advocacy officer had been employed at Council and that the partnership will focus their advocacy plans in 2019.



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### 6.4 Plans for 2019

#### **Helen Cooney, CEO, Caroline Chisholm Society**

Committee members were given the opportunity to share two of their achievements for 2018 and one of their plans for 2019.

2019 partnership priorities were discussed with the committee also.

### 6.5 DET update

#### **Fiona Norman, Early Childhood Performance and Planning Adviser, DET**

There has been changes in staffing and portfolios at DET, a handout was provided on the new Brimbank Melton Early Childhood Improvement Branch and an updated Early Childhood agreement for children in out-of-home care.

F Norman provided an update on the MCH line, Parentline, MCH app, parenting website, and early years funding.

The election update on three-year-old kindergarten will require scoping and budgeting, as well as looking at priorities and timelines. Awaiting on confirmation on Minister's and if there are any changes.

F Norman discussed new funding for sleeping, and the demand for support for parents with older children and their sleeping.

There is a new two-year position for a Lookout Early Years Advisor, 0.8 EFT to work across Brimbank Melton, details will be provided when available.

F Norman is awaiting a response from NDIA in relation to how they interface with the Child Information Sharing legislation.

#### **Action**

F Norman to email details of DET update, and to be forwarded to the committee.

### 6.6 DHHS update

#### **Tara McGowan, Senior Practitioner, DHHS Child Protection**

An update was provided on the stabilisation of staffing and their current priority areas. DHHS are to work with MCH in Melton in 2019.

### 7. Other Business

#### **Brendan Ball, Manager Families and Early Years, City of Melton**

The Committee would like to thank and congratulate Leigh Ball for her work with the Early Years Partnership.

S Ramsay thanked the committee for their efforts also, and L Carli discussed the role and purpose of Councillors.

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**8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 14 February 2019. Committee dates for the year will be announced.

**Action**

K Curson to send meeting invites to the committee for 2019.

**9. Close of Business**

The meeting closed at 11.57am