



MINUTES

EARLY YEARS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

held on 23 July 2020 at 10:00am, online – Zoom

Present:

- Cr L Carli, Mayor
- Cr S Ramsey, Councillor
- C Reich, City of Melton
- A Brand, Community Member
- V Sharma, Community Member
- S O'Kelly, BPA Children's Services (Chair)
- M Boyd, Brotherhood of St Laurence
- J Weber, Caroline Chisholm Society
- C Owens, Djerrivarrh Health Services
- H Zwick, VICSEG New Futures
- S Prestney, City of Melton (Proxy – T Watson)
- B Ball, City of Melton
- D Wright, Victorian Inclusion Agency
- M Costa – Government Primary School
- R Wilkinson – Catholic Education Office
- R Macumber – VACCA
- S Mudie – TRY Australia
- M Andrews, Department of Education and Training
- J Gemoh, Salvation Army
- K Ramazanoglu, City of Melton
- C Reid, City of Melton
- E Dileri, City of Melton – (Proxy – K Curson)
- L Xerri, City of Melton - (minute taker)

Chairperson: S O'Kelly, BPA Children's Services

1. Welcome

S O'Kelly welcomed all attendees and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land, the Kulin Nation and paid her respect to their Elders both past, present and emerging and extended her respect to any Aboriginal people present at the meeting.

2. Introductions

3. Apologies

- G Callander, Djerrivarrh Health Services
- T Watson, City of Melton
- K Curson, City of Melton

4. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.

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

D Wright/ J Webber

That the Committee confirm minutes of the Early Years Partnership Committee Meeting held on 21 May 2020.

6. Business Arising

K Curson to submit the updated Terms of Reference to the Policy Review Panel, in line with Council processes. This wasn't actioned.

The new Local Government Act axed advisory committees altogether. Council is still making decision to provide advice on the future of the advisory committees. E Dileri to inform the Committee about the decision of Council once made public.

7. General Business**7.1 Spatial distribution of the population growth in the City of Melton**

Katarina Ramazanoglu, Social Research Officer, Melton City Council presented on the City of Melton's population growth. Here are the highlights of her presentation.

- City of Melton's growth (5.2%) has been larger than Australia (1.5%) and Victoria (2.1%) respectively.
- Melbourne's western region is one of the fastest growing regions of Australia (this growth is based on pre-COVID-19 data). Most of this growth will happen in City of Melton and Wyndham.
- Around 10,000 of people move into the City of Melton annually
- The present population of the City is approx. 180,000. With the current growth rate the population of the City will reach under 500,000 by 2050.
- There will be a significant increase in the 0-4 and 5-9 age groups. This will have a dramatic impact on the current service provisions.

Action

K Ramazonoglu to send a copy of the presentation to E Dileri to be shared with the EYP Committee members.



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7.2 Three year old funded kindergarten in Melton

Christine Reid, Kindergarten Capacity Officer, Melton City Council presented on Three year old funded kindergarten in the City of Melton. Here are the highlights of her presentation

- Victorian State Government announced that there will be a provision for kindergarten for every three year old. The evidence suggests that two years are better than one year when it comes to early years learning.
- Research suggests that taking part in a quality kindergarten program at an earlier age leads to positive effects on a child's development.
- The roll out for three year old kindergarten in Melton will commence in 2022 and will scale up to 15 hours by 2029.
- Currently the initiative is in the consultation/feedback stage. There has been a delay in community consultation due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- The capability of the current central enrolment process, technology and workforce need to be reviewed.
- Community Infrastructure plan is being drafted in collaboration with the Kindergarten Infrastructure Service Plan (KISP)
- There will be an additional Kindergarten Improvement Officer for the Brimbank/Melton Area

Some concerns were raised in relation to 33 children in a 3 year old kindergarten room. the reasoning was explained around the number, as well as the proposed staffing structure if the number of children increases to 33. There will be two kindergarten teachers and one assistant.

Action

C Reid to send a copy of the present to E Dileri to be shared with the EYP Committee members.

7.1 Vulnerable Children's Working Group TOR

The Vulnerable Children's Working Group met on 15 June 2020. The draft TOR was discussed and finalised in the meeting. The Working Group requested that the EYP Committee discuss and approve the draft TOR.

It was requested that the language on the Objectives and Responsibility of the Members sections of the TOR be improved.

Action

E Dileri to review the language on the Objectives and Responsibility of the Members sections of the TOR and circulate the document to the partnership for comment.

7.2 Members updates and information sharing

DET update

Michelle Andrews, Early Childhood Performance and Planning Advisor, Department of Education and Training presented DET's update to the Committee. The summary of her presentation is as follows:

- New Kindergarten Adviser to be appointed soon who will support the EYM and Early Childhood during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Early Childhood services to remain open. Four year old kindergarten (sessional) to remain free for term 3.

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- Early Childhood Services to receive partial funding to support families who are experiencing difficulties with fee payment.
- School Readiness Funding to support families who are still continuing with schooling at home.
- Early Years Services will continue to limit visitors to services.
- There is a draft KISP which has recently been developed.
- Second Year funding applications; there has been no changes to the current policy. Children will still need to meet the application criteria.
- Information Sharing, commencement of phase two has been delayed. This has been moved to commence within the first half of 2021.

Action
M Andrews to send a copy of DET's Update to E Dileri to be shared with the EYP Committee members.

DHHS update
No update is available.

Action
No update is available

8. Other Business

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17 September 2020 commencing at 10:00am. The venue is yet to be confirmed.

10. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 12.04pm.