



MINUTES

PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting occurred on 12 May 2020 at 10.30am via Microsoft Teams

Present: Cr Lara Carli, Mayor
Cr Bob Turner, Councillor
Matthew Wilson, Manager Community Planning
Jayde McBurnie, Team Leader Health Promotion and Planning
Sarah Grace, Health Promotion Officer
Genia Sawczyn, Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services
Rachana Bangara, Senior Local Area Coordinator, Brotherhood St Lawrence
Talia Tringali, Lawyer, Brimbank Melton Legal Centre CommUnity Plus
Lian Tu, Settlement Social Worker, MiCare
Melissa Sapuppo, Manager Community Health and Health Promotion,
Djerriwarrh Health Services
Ken Anderson, Sergeant, Victoria Police

Chairperson: Cr Lara Carli, Mayor

1. Welcome

Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting and greeted Rachana Bangara, Senior Local Area Coordinator, Brotherhood St Lawrence as a new member. Committee members welcomed Rachana to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Cr Steven Abboushi, Councillor
Cr Sophie Ramsey, Councillor
Cr Kathy Majdlik, Councillor
Cr Goran Kesic, Councillor
Cr Yvonne Sebire, Councillor
Cr Ken Hardy, Councillor
Cr Michelle Mendes, Councillor
Zorka Dunstan, Local Area Commander, Victoria Police
Kate McCluskey, Acting Coordinator Social Planning and Wellbeing

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.

MINUTES

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

Minutes from meeting held 18 February 2020 were adopted by Council at the Ordinary Meeting held 26 March 2020.

5. Business Arising

Nil.

6. General Business**6.1 Terms of Reference and Membership**

S Grace reported that the Committee's updated Terms of Reference were presented to the Policy Review Panel and adopted by Council at the Ordinary Meeting held 2 March 2020. Membership is complete with the addition of new member Rachana Bangara, the Senior Local Area Coordinator at Brotherhood St Lawrence.

Action

J McBurnie to circulate Terms of Reference to Committee.

6.2 Orange Door Advocacy

M Wilson informed the Committee that Council officers met with the Senior Advisor from Family Safety Victoria to further advocate for a primary Orange Door site in the City of Melton. Advocacy is ongoing and an announcement is expected soon.

Cr Carli thanked Council officers for their commitment and acknowledged the projected population growth and the need for family violence services locally.

6.3 Equality & Respect 2030 Action Plan 2020-2022

J McBurnie reported that the second Equality and Respect action plan was currently in development, in collaboration with departments across Council. COVID-19 has prevented the review of the action plan in a Committee meeting, however there will be an opportunity for input by Committee members by email.

Action

J McBurnie to offer opportunity for Committee members to provide input on the 2020-2022 Equality & Respect Action Plan via email.

6.4 Preventing Family Violence Symposium 22 April 2020

J McBurnie noted that due to COVID-19, the Preventing Family Violence Symposium scheduled for 22 April 2020 was postponed.

Cr Carli thanked S Grace for her great work in planning for the Symposium.

J McBurnie acknowledged that it might be some time until gatherings of the intended size can be held, and enquired as to the possibility of online delivery. M Sapuppo acknowledged that an online or webinar format could fulfil the goals of the symposium and offer increased reach. R Bangara highlighted that COVID-19 has changed the mindset of how people feel they could connect, and online delivery could create broader audience. G Sawczyn acknowledged the importance of keeping prevention on the agenda. B Turner acknowledged



MINUTES

the opportunity online platforms have provided for Council to continue engaging with community. Cr Carli noted J McBurnie could enquire as to the possibility of delivering the Preventing Family Violence Symposium online.

Action

J McBurnie to enquire as to the feasibility of delivering the Preventing Family Violence Symposium in an online format.

6.5 COVID-19 Prevention and Response to Family Violence

K Anderson reported the Victoria Police were operating as usual, but taking extra precautions. He reported there have been some restrictions with the courts, including long waits.

M Sapuppo updated that Djerriwarrh Health Services has significant service delivery changes including the cessation of group programs, such as Men's Behaviour Change and Women's Family Violence Support programs. M Sapuppo reported all clients from these programs are currently supported by one-on-one case management via phone or online.

T Tringali updated that CommUnity Plus is delivering all appointments via phone or online. She noted CommUnity Plus are being more flexible for clients, to ensure client safety in recognition of situations where the victim is still living with the perpetrator and has limited privacy.

G Sawczyn stated she would circulate recent State Government announcements to J McBurnie for sharing with the group. G Sawczyn noted the 'Call it out' bystander campaign soon to be delivered via several platforms.

Action

G Sawczyn to send J McBurnie relevant State Government announcements to disseminate to Committee.

6.6 Member Reports

K Anderson reported that Victoria Police had observed an exacerbation of existing family violence concerns, and increased severity of incidents. A slight increase in reports have been observed. Notably there were 11 reports on 11 May alone. For April 2020 there were 150 reports in Melton area and 80 reports in the Caroline Springs area, compared with 140 reports and 46 reports, respectively, in April 2019.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on 4 August 2020 commencing at 10.30am at Melton Civic Centre, Civic Room 2.

8. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 11.25am.