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PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held on 9 February 2021 at 11:00am in Microsoft Teams (online)

Present:

Cr Lara Carli	Councillor
Cr Sophie Ramsey	Councillor
Nicole Misurelli	Melton City Council
Kylie Kitchen	Melton City Council
Jayde McBurnie	Melton City Council
Bonnie Coogan	Melton City Council
Emily Ciantar	Melton City Council
Genia Sawczyn	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
Sarah Chong	MiCare
Melissa Wilson	Victoria Police
Rosanne Smith	Victoria Police – in lieu of Zorka Dunstan
Nikki Pillios	Mackillop Family Services
Sophie Mast	Women's Health West

Quorum: *Quorum for the committee will require attendance of a minimum of one (1) Councillor, four (4) external agency committee members.*

Chairperson: **Cr Lara Carli, Councillor**

Minute Taker: **Bonnie Coogan, Health Promotion Officer**

1. Welcome

Cr Carli welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced apologies. Cr Carli acknowledged the Traditional Owners.

2. Apologies

Cr Bob Turner	Councillor
Cr Julie Shannon	Councillor
Melissa Suppupo	Djerriwarrh Health Services
Martin Ha	Brimbank Melton Community Legal Service
Gehan Shehab	Department of Justice and Community Safety
Sophie Mast	Women's Health West
Tegan Tregoe	Hope Street Youth and Family Services
Rachana Bangara	Brotherhood of St Laurence

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3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Meeting notes of the Preventing Family Violence Advisory Committee held on 8 December 2020 were shared with the Committee on 21 December 2020. The December meeting did not reach quorum therefore minutes were not adopted by Council.

5. Business Arising**5.1 Chair of the Committee**

J McBurnie asked members for nominations for 2021 Committee Chair. Cr Ramsey moved for Cr Carli to be Chair of the Committee for 2021. This was seconded by M Wilson and there was consensus from the group.

Recommendation

Mover Cr Ramsey/Seconder M Wilson

Cr Carli to Chair 2021 meetings of the Committee

5.2 Preventing Family Violence Committee Terms of Reference

J McBurnie gave an overview of the updated Terms of Reference and noted that four Councillors are delegated to the Committee, however up to nine councillors can attend. The Committee is still seeking representation from an Aboriginal Community Organisation and an educational institution. Cr Carli enquired if the vacant positions could be advertised on social media. J McBurnie encouraged Committee members to share contacts in the first instance and said that social media could be used if no new members are sourced.

Action

Committee members to advise J McBurnie of contacts from educational institutions or Aboriginal community organisations that may be interested in joining.

5.3 Future Meeting Locations

J McBurnie shared that she had received feedback from the Committee that they have preferred meeting online and suggested they consider meeting online for future meetings, with one in-person meeting per year. Cr Carli noted that the online format had been positive and allowed more members to attend than usual. N Pillios agreed that the online format is helpful but the dynamic changes when meeting is in-person. R Smith agreed that if the Committee met once in person in 2021 that would enhance connections. The Committee reached consensus that it would meet online, with one in-person meeting for the final meeting of the calendar year.

Action

B Coogan to organise meetings to be held online via Microsoft Teams, with the exception of one in-person meeting for the final meeting of the calendar year.

5.4 Service Data and Advocacy Update

J McBurnie advised the Committee that there has been a significant increase in family violence rates during the pandemic, and Council Officers are currently seeking service access data for City of Melton residents. J McBurnie shared that Council is continuing its advocacy for an Orange Door location in the City of Melton. Cr Carli asked if Family Safety Victoria (FSV) have advised an outcome, and stressed the importance of close access to public transport if located in the City of Brimbank to enable access for City of Melton



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residents. J McBurnie reported that an outcome had not been publically announced however that FSV have discussed a secondary access point which could potentially be in the City of Melton.

Actions

S Mast to share family violence service access data from Women's Health West with J McBurnie when available.

J McBurnie to liaise with P Hobbs (Advocacy Advisor) and provide an update regarding Orange Door Advocacy at next meeting.

6. General Business

6.1 Family Violence Event Branding and Promotion

K Kitchen arrived at 11.30am.

K Kitchen presented the proposed title and taglines for the preventing family violence forum in March for feedback from the Committee. Cr Carli stated that she liked the 'Standup, Take Action' title and the 'Everyone has a role to Play' tagline. Cr Ramsey and S Mast agreed. There was consensus from the Committee that the title of the event should be 'Stand Up, Take Action' with the tagline 'Everyone has a role to play in promoting gender equality and preventing family violence'.

J McBurnie advised that Council would appreciate Committee members promoting and attending the event. Committee members agreed to promote the event. Cr Carli asked if it was possible to promote the event using banners, as is done for NAIDOC and other events. R Smith suggested shopping centre advertising and to use billboards at key traffic points. N Misurelli added pavement stencils for high traffic areas. J McBurnie thanked Committee members for the suggestions.

Action

J McBurnie K Kitchen, and B Coogan to explore promotion opportunities suggested by the Committee.

6.2 Gender Equality Act and Equality & Respect 2030 Action

N Misurelli gave a brief overview of the Gender Equality Act (the Act), which comes into effect on 31 March 2021. S Mast shared that Women's Health West have been approved by the Victorian Government to be on a panel of providers to support organisations with the Act. J McBurnie shared that to include provisions of the Act, Council will need to do an update of the Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) which will be a public facing document. Cr Carli asked when the plan will come through for endorsement, J McBurnie noted it would be a discussion item in the May meeting and then for endorsement at the August meeting, with the GEAP required to be completed by October 2021 and published on Council's website.

Action

B Coogan to add Equality & Respect Action Plan amendments for discussion on May agenda.

6.3 Member Updates

Department Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)

G Sawczyn advised that the Department of Health and Human Services has separated into two departments, DFFH and the Department of Health. Family violence will sit in DFFH.

Action

G Sawczyn to provide breakdown of areas and DFFH update to circulate with minutes.

Mackillop Family Services

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N Pillios provided an update on Child First, as the demand has increased dramatically with 60 per cent of referrals coming from Victoria Police through L17's. N Pillios added that the Brimbank Melton Children and Family Services Alliance are implementing a Safer Together model, which 40 staff have participated in so far. S Mast shared that Women's Health West had previously run a similar program and offered N Pillios resources.

Action

S Mast to share report and evaluation on previous Safer Together program to N Pillios.

Micare

S Chong advised that the preventing family violence Project Coordinator role is now full time. For International Women's day Micare is working with five groups of women in the community to share stories on women in leadership.

Women's Health West

S Mast stated that Women's Health West are currently overwhelmed with family violence cases, in 2020 there were over 16,706 referrals. R Smith added that family violence rates will only increase in Melton given the population growth. S Mast noted the importance of working together to promote understanding of service provider process when the police submit an L17 referral.

S Mast shared that each women's health service in the State have been funded to employ five bilingual health workers to speak to migrant women about COVID-19 vaccination. J McBurnie noted data regarding key diverse groups in the municipality by suburb and low proficiency of English could inform prioritisation of bilingual health workers.

Cr Carli thanked everyone for sharing the information in the updates as they had been very helpful and are important conversations to have.

Action

J McBurnie to share information on proficiency in English for population groups in the City of Melton.

7. Next Meeting

Tuesday, 11.00am-1.00pm, 11 May 2021, on Microsoft Teams.

8. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 12.20pm.