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PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 3 August 2021 at 11.00am, online.

Present:

Cr Lara Carli	Councillor
Cr Sophie Ramsey	Councillor
Cr Julie Shannon	Councillor
Christine Levy	Melton City Council
Jayde McBurnie	Melton City Council
Donna Wyatt	Melton City Council
Bonnie Coogan	Melton City Council
Pauline Hobbs	Melton City Council
Lisa Prentice-Evans	Victoria Police
Melissa Sapuppo	Djerriwarrh Health Services
Martin Ha	Brimbank Melton Community Legal Service
Niki Pillios	MacKillop Family Services
Sharon Horton	MacKillop Family Services
Gehan Shehab	Department of Justice and Community Safety
Evelyn Afotey	Women's Health West
Genia Sawczyn	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
Sarah Chong	MiCare
Peter Webster	Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation
Sue Scott	Hope Street Youth and Family Services
Colleen Keeffe	Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Service
Laura Powell	Department of Education and Training
Michelle Galea	Department of Education and Training
Kelly Stanton	Family Safety Victoria
Georgina Grundy	Family Safety Victoria

Quorum: *Quorum for the committee will require attendance of a minimum of one (1) Councillor, one (1) Council Officer, and comprising 30% of external agency committee members.*

Chairperson: **Cr Lara Carli, Councillor**

Minute Taker: **Jayde McBurnie, Coordinator Social Planning and Wellbeing**

1. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed all attendees to the meeting and proceeded with the Acknowledgment of Country. 'Melton City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the people of the Kulin Nations, and pays respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.'

2. Apologies

Cr Bob Turner	Councillor
Rachana Bangara	Brotherhood of St Laurence
Melissa Wilson	Victoria Police
Kalimna Andy	Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Service

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the Preventing Family Violence Advisory Committee meeting held on 11 May 2021 were adopted by Council at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 28 June 2021.

5. Business Arising**5.1 Gender Equality Act update – B Coogan, Melton City Council**

B Coogan provided an update on Council's implementation of the Gender Equality Act, noting implementation was on track as per the legislated requirements and timelines, and explaining processes and resources which have been established.

Cr Ramsey sought clarity regarding the delivery of Gender Impact Assessment's on Policies and how recommendations would be documented for the awareness of the Policy Review Panel. J McBurnie confirmed that relevant officers are determining a consistent way of documenting this and would communicate any changes to the Policy Review Panel.

6. General Business**6.1 Safer and Stronger Communities Project – S Chong, MiCare**

S Chong provided an overview of the outcomes and learnings from the implementation of the Safer and Stronger Communities project. Cr Ramsey and Cr Shannon expressed their interest for the presentation to be provided to the Committee alongside the noted report (once available), to learn more about the project's outcomes. L Powell enquired as to if there was an opportunity for Respectful Relationships (RR) staff to connect with community leaders. S Chong agreed to share L Powell's contact details with relevant community leaders, and the presentation and report to the Committee.

Action

S Chong to share L Powell's contact details with relevant community leaders.

J McBurnie to circulate S Chong's presentation and report (when available) to Committee members following the meeting.

11.30am G Grundy and K Stanton arrived.

6.2 Orange Door update – G Grundy and K Stanton, Family Safety Victoria

G Grundy and K Stanton presented on the delivery of the Orange Door in Melton, confirming that 40 per cent of the resourcing for Orange Door Brimbank-Melton (at least 30 staff) would be located in the City of Melton, with the intent to open by late 2022. Cr Carli expressed excitement to receive an update confirming distribution of resourcing to the City of Melton. Cr Shannon noted the significant need for the services for residents and asked about its role in



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connecting clients with housing services and support. K Stanton clarified that the Orange Door would not include additional housing support but would work with clients to access existing services.

M Sapuppo reiterated excitement for the Melton Orange Door site and expressed concern regarding the shortage of Social Workers in the region. N Pillios shared that Child First had a productive first meeting with Family Safety Victoria (FSV) and that partial funds will be provided to Child First early. K Stanton responded that the learning from service partners has been invaluable and MacKillop Family Services, Women's Health West, and Melton City Council have been fundamental in bringing the service to the City.

Cr Ramsey asked how Councillors can help with supporting the next steps to ensure a successful and effective rollout. K Stanton responded with the following ideas: understanding the model and system deeply, building community awareness of the service system and making sure that people understand where they can get help.

M Ha asked for a brief overview of the legal services that the Orange Door will provide. K Stanton responded that Orange Door staff do not provide legal advice but will connect clients with legal services such as Brimbank-Melton Community Legal Centre, raising an opportunity for partnership.

P Webster noted the increase in family violence over the recent lockdown periods, and emphasised the importance of the service being culturally appropriate to meet this demand. K Stanton confirmed that the Orange Door roll out would involve an Aboriginal Advisory Committee, which FSV would engage Kirrip in relation to.

Cr Carli thanked K Stanton and G Grundy for their time, noting it would be beneficial to have FSV return in future to brief the Committee. K Stanton expressed openness to future presentations to the Committee where requested.

Action

J McBurnie to share presentations and requested materials with the Committee members on behalf of G Grundy and K Stanton.

6.3 Preventing Family Violence presentation – E Afotey, Women's Health West

E Afotey provided a presentation on the drivers of violence against women. Cr Carli thanked E Afotey for the presentation and reiterated members comments on how powerful the Change the Story video was. Cr Carli noted that Councillors could share the video with their networks.

Cr Ramsey noted that physical violence can leave scars and asked if women experiencing psychological or emotional abuse need to show evidence of this, to access support. E Afotey responded that evidence is not required to access support, if someone discloses violence they are believed. Cr Ramsey commented that it is great to see this change in attitudes.

12.33 C Levy and N Pillios left the meeting.

Action

J McBurnie to share presentation and video links to the Committee.

6.4 16 Days of Activism planning – J McBurnie, Melton City Council

J McBurnie raised the opportunity for a special meeting of the Advisory Committee to discuss and plan for a collaborative delivery of the upcoming 16 days of activism. Committee members expressed support for the idea.

Action

J McBurnie to schedule a special meeting of the Committee for shared planning for the 16 days of activism.

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6.5 Member updates – All**Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation**

P Webster noted that Jacqui Watkin (Dhelk Dja Regional Coordinator) could be invited to attend this Committee. J McBurnie noted Council would reach out to Jacqui to determine interest in joining the Committee.

12.56pm L Powell left the meeting.

12.59pm – Cr Shannon left the meeting.

Department Families Fairness and Housing

G Sawczyn shared that *Economic Equity for Victorian Women* has been established to lead an Inquiry into issues of inequality such as unequal pay and workplace barriers to women's participation. The Inquiry is now open to submissions and organisation's are invited to send submissions to by Sunday 8 August 2021. G Sawczyn noted that at the next meeting of the Committee an update can be provided regarding funding allocation through the '*supporting multicultural and faith communities grant program*'.

Action

J McBurnie to contact J Watkin regarding interest in joining the Committee.

G Sawczyn to share information regarding submissions to the noted Inquiry.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is a special meeting of the Committee, it is to be held on Tuesday 14 September, commencing at 11.00am, held online via Microsoft Teams.

The next regular meeting of the Committee, it is to be held on Tuesday 9 November, commencing at 11.00am, held online via Microsoft Teams.

8. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 1.03pm.