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PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Present:

Cr Lara Carli	Councillor
Cr Julie Shannon	Councillor
Jayde McBurnie	Melton City Council
Bonnie Coogan	Melton City Council
Elyse Rider	Melton City Council
Christine Levy	Melton City Council
Genia Sawczyn	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
Gehan Shehab	Department of Justice and Community Safety
Sarah Chong	MiCare
Rachana Bangara	Brotherhood of St Laurence
Rosanne Smith	Victoria Police – in lieu of Zorka Dunstan
Sharon Horton	Mackillop Family Services
Peter Webster	Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation

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, Melton City Council

1. Welcome

Cr Carli welcomed everyone to the meeting and B Coogan announced apologies.

2. Apologies

Cr Bob Turner	Councillor
Cr Sophie Ramsey	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 Tregea	Hope Street Youth and Family Services
Shai Diner	Hope Street Youth and Family Services
Melissa Wilson	Victoria Police
Kalimna Andy	Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Service

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Martin Ha	Community Plus
Nikki Pillios	Mackillop Family Services
Semiha Gundogan	Mackillop Family Services

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 9 February 2021 were shared with the Committee on 16 February 2021. The minutes were adopted by Council at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 15 March 2021.

5. Business Arising**5.1 Preventing Family Violence Advisory Committee Membership**

B Coogan advised that Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation have rejoined the Committee and Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Service are a new member. B Coogan noted that she is following up a Department of Education and Training (DET) contact to invite a Respectful Relationships representative for the Melton area to join the Committee.

Action

G Sawczyn to share DET contact with B Coogan.

5.2 Service Advocacy Update

J McBurnie shared that Council is continuing its ongoing advocacy for placement of an Orange Door in the City of Melton. J McBurnie added that Council is undertaking a piece of work on service attraction, which aims at facilitating services to locate in the City of Melton. J McBurnie noted that the Council will be in touch with Committee members to inform this work.

Cr Carli echoed that it would be beneficial to have an Orange door site in the Melton Township. Cr asked when Council could expect a decision from the State Government on the location, noting the long wait for such an important service. J McBurnie noted the original announcement date was December 2020.

Actions

B Coogan to advise Committee when announcement on Orange Door location is made.

J McBurnie to contact Committee members about service attraction planning.

5.3 Stand Up Take Action Forum and Workshops

B Coogan gave an overview of the Stand Up Take Action Forum that was held in March. The Forum was online with 45 participants and Council has been offering a series of workshops to sporting clubs and community groups. B Coogan shared that a Club Respect workshop had taken place with Caroline Springs Football Club and encouraged Committee members to get in contact if they knew of community groups who would like to host a workshop. Cr Carli congratulated J McBurnie and B Coogan on their work in organising the forum, and reiterated how powerful Rosie Batty's story was and how fortunate Council was to have her speak at the event.



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Action

Committee members to contact B Coogan if they know of groups who would like to host one of these workshops.

6. General Business

6.1 Equality and Respect Plan Amendments

J McBurnie provided an overview of the Gender Equality Act which came into effect on 31 March 2021, and its legislative requirements for internal gender equality work at Council. J McBurnie noted that Council is well placed to do this work as they already have a gender equity action plan as part of the Equality and Respect 2030 strategy. J McBurnie shared that resourcing for a Gender Equity Officer has been approved and that there will be a Council briefing on the Act on 24 May.

Action

J McBurnie to give update on amendments at the next meeting.

6.3 Member Updates

Mackillop Family Services

S Horton noted that she may be a permanent Committee member going forward. S Horton shared that Child First are looking at promoting community education with schools, universal services, having a visual presence and Q&A sessions.

Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation

P Webster noted that they have had a few changes over the last 12 months, with four staff members and two additional staff recently appointed. Kirrip are hosting a community forum on 26 May for community members to ask questions of Child Protection and Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA).

Melton City Council

C Levy shared that the Melton Family Violence Network has begun meeting for 2021. C Levy noted that Council is keen to hear about the Orange Door and how that will affect her team's work. C Levy added that the family service sector is doing a lot of training and upskilling with families that are experiencing violence where parental relationships are unstable.

MiCare

S Chong shared that they are coming to the end of the Safer and Strong Communities program and are looking for participants for a Multicultural Reference Group. G Sawczyn commented that she would like to learn about learnings and how we can embed them into our work. G Sawczyn added that the multicultural area of State Government are now in her Department, and will contact them to see if there are any more statewide projects that will target Melton specifically.

S Chong added that in multicultural communities there is often a fear of authorities and child protection being associated with taking children away. P Webster agreed and stated that Kirrip have similar difficulties with their community. J McBurnie asked C Levy if this conversation would be useful to take to the Melton Family violence Network.

Action

S Chong to share promotional material with Committee.

C Levy to continue next steps of discussion with Melton Family Violence Network.

Brotherhood of St Laurence

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R Bangara shared that her agency sees power imbalances when dealing with NDIS clients and their families. R Bangara added that she wants to find resources on how staff can have incidental conversations with clients about their families and their situations in a non-intrusive way. R Bangara asked committee members to get in touch if they had resources to share and further ideas on this topic.

Action

Committee members to advise R Bangara of resources that provide tips on having conversations with clients about their family and living situation.

Cr Carli commented on how enjoyable it is to hear members share these updates and how much is learnt from these discussions. Cr Shannon echoed Cr Carli's comments and stated how encouraging it is to hear everyone working together and the continued importance of hearing about these uncomfortable issues that our community is facing.

7. Next Meeting

Tuesday, 11.00am-1.00pm, 3 August 2021, on Microsoft Teams.

8. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 12.01pm.