COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

held on 1 December 2014 at 2pm in Melton Community Hall Meeting Room 4

Present: Cr Sophie Ramsey, Mayor, Melton City Council.
Cr Bob Turner, Melton City Council.
Inspector Kathy Rudkins, Victoria Police.
Stephen Cadman, Department of Justice.
Rob Blackley, Deputy Principal and representative for Police Schools Consultative Committee, Catholic Regional College.
Peter Doyle, Coordinator Emergency Management, Melton City Council.
Eleanor Crofts, Community Resilience Officer, Melton City Council.
Kate Waters, Coordinator Social Planning & Wellbeing, Melton City Council.
Kate Hills, Health Promotion Officer, Melton City Council.

Chairperson: Cr Sophie Ramsey, Mayor.

1. Welcome
Cr Ramsey welcomed all committee members and facilitated introductions.

2. Apologies
Cr Nola Dunn, Melton City Council.
Mark Carrazzo, Brimbank Melton Community Legal Service.
Matthew Wilson, Manager Community Planning, Melton City Council.

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests
Nil

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Recommendation
Committee adopted minutes of previous meeting.

5. Business Arising
Council is currently reviewing its Local Law which will include public consultation/exhibition. Provision of a Review update was included on the meeting agenda.

6. General Business

6.1 Safer City Plan 2014-2018
Council’s Health Promotion Officer, Kate Hills provided an update on the development of the Safer City Plan 2014-2018 based on the background paper and community consultation report. In summary, the proposed Plan will be divided into four key themes:
1. Vibrant Places and Spaces.
2. Innovative Partnerships.
3. Connected Communities.
4. Informed and prepared residents.

The following feedback was provided by Committee members on the proposed themes:

- Incorporate some key target groups and geographical hot spots into each theme.
- Include resilience as an outcome of theme four and link this with Council’s Community Resilience Project.
- Ensure consideration of perceptions of safety (e.g. – lighting, graffiti and streetscapes).
- Ensure inclusion of a whole-of-community approach when developing innovative partnerships.
- The work of Victoria Police aligns with all four themes.
- Department of Justice is committed to supporting implementation of the Plan.

The Committee discussed alternative documents to a Plan for this body of work. It was decided that having a Plan is necessary to ensure that all of the work being undertaken in this space is being captured; gaps can be addressed; the community is made aware of the work; and that current projects can be enhanced and improved.

**Action**

Council’s Health Promotion Officer, Kate Hills to update draft themes including key actions and circulate to Committee members for feedback.

### 6.2 Community Safety Day 2014

The annual Community Safety Day was held on Saturday 4 October 2014 at Woodgrove Shopping Centre. Council staff collected evaluation surveys from attendees on the day. Committee members provided the following feedback about the event:

- The event was well received by community members.
- There was a need for additional signage and safety related information.
- The venue was appropriate.
- Inclusion of road safety, number plate attachments and harnesses was well received.
- Conversations with emergency services were effective.

**Action**

Council’s Health Promotion Officer, Kate Hills to circulate evaluation survey results to Committee members.

### 6.3 Future and Proposed Meeting Dates

Committee members discussed how to maximize the value of the Committee as well as meeting structure, frequency and membership:
• Analyse structure of Community Safety Committees in other local government areas.

• Need to consider community involvement especially in hot spot locations. This could be undertaken by holding community roundtables or by engaging with community leaders through existing Council structures to provide feedback on behalf of their communities.

• Consider the role of schools in promoting community safety and how they connect with the outcomes of the Action Plan.

• Consider the link between the Crime Prevention Reference Group and this Committee.

• Could be focussed on the key themes of the Safer City Plan 2014-2018 at each meeting in order to provide a stronger role and input.

**Action**

Council’s Health Promotion Officer, Kate Hills and Council’s Coordinator Social Planning and Wellbeing, Kate Waters are to gather evidence of other Community Safety Committee structures to be presented at next meeting.

**Action**

Council’s Health Promotion Officer, Kate Hills to schedule monthly meetings for February to April 2015 in order to work on structure.

### 6.4 Council Update

#### White Ribbon Day:

Council’s White Ribbon Action team held an internal event attended by approximately 100 male staff members. Council also held a White Ribbon Day breakfast attended by various stakeholders, community members and Council staff. Some staff attended the White Ribbon Day march at Federation Square in which Melton City Council’s banner was prominently featured in some media.

#### Local Law Review:

The first draft of the Local Law Review will be edited by Maddocks Lawyers by March 2015. Following this, there will be a minimum 28 day public exhibition of the draft prior to Council adoption.

#### Graffiti Management Team:

Recruitment and procurement is currently being finalized for the Graffiti Management Team. The team leader is expected to commence in January 2015 with team members recruited in the following period with expected commencement by February 2015. In the interim, graffiti CARs will continue to be actioned by contractors.

### 6.5 Victoria Police Update

#### High Risk Working Group update:

Melton South has been removed as a high risk area since the PSOs commenced. The High Street, Melton precinct has been added and Woodgrove Shopping Centre remains as a high risk area. Victoria Police members are currently convening a committee of shopkeepers from the High Street precinct, however, there have been some difficulties with engagement. Cr
Ramsey suggested a walk through with a Victoria Police member to meet with shopkeepers. Officers from Council’s Economic Development Unit may also be able to assist.

**Action**

If required, Cr Ramsey to liaise with Inspector Rudkins to arrange a walk through with Victoria Police at High Street shopping precinct.

**Crime trends and emerging issues:**

Overall volume of crime has increased with residential burglaries reduced and other burglaries increased. The most concerning data is rate of family violence with recidivists increasing and first timers increasing. The family violence team has now doubled in size. Victoria Police members continue to refer into the community legal service.

### 6.6 Agency Updates

**Department of Justice:**

ICE Prevention Grants are available for up to $100,000 over maximum 3 years. The aim of the grants is to help local communities across Victoria to implement locally driven initiatives to prevent ice and illicit drug use and reduce associated harms. Expressions of interest close on 13 February 2015. It is recommended that local Councils partner regionally if interested in applying for the grants.

**Action**

Council’s Health Promotion Officer, Kate Hills to coordinate a meeting to discuss possible projects for the ICE Prevention Grants.

The Drive Safe Design program is a 12 week program for 12-25 year old youth offenders involving training about safe driving. The program also include poster design and development to support education of other young people.

There has been a structure change at the Department of Justice with the North and West regions now being re-amalgamated.

### 7. Other Business

Nil

### 8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on 2 February 2015 commencing at 2pm in Community Hall Meeting Room 4.

### 9. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 3:30pm.