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EARLY YEARS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

held on 17 August 2017 at 10.00am in Botanica Springs Children's and Community Centre, Community Room

Present: Cr Sophie Ramsey, Mayor, Council
 Leigh Cruickshank, Coordinator Early Years Partnerships, Council
 Fiona Norman, Early Childhood Performance and Planning Advisor SWV Region Brimbank/Melton, DET
 Brendan Ball, Manager Families and Early Years, Council
 Katarina Ramazanoglu, Social Research Officer, Council
 Sarah O'Kelly, Executive Officer Partnerships and Early Years, BPA
 Peta Brincat, Community Representative
 Delia Clarke, Community Representative
 Charry Owens, Project Coordinator Koolin Balit Babaneek Booboop Early Years Project, DjHS
 Carolynne Reich, Acting Maternal and Child Health Coordinator, Council
 Troy Watson, Manager Libraries, Council
 Helen Schiele, Senior Early Years Advisor, Independent Schools Victoria
 Michelle Marion, Koorie Engagement Support Officer, DET
 Colleen Turner, Western Region Coordinator, VICSEG New Futures
 Delia Clarke, Community Representative
 Deirdre Hardy, Manager, Community Engagement & Capacity Building, Amaze
 Jessica Siddle, Area Manager, Goodstart Early Learning
 Sharon Allison, Director, Goodstart Early Learning
 Jo Read, Team Leader Community Participation, DHHS
 Brett Collison, Principal, St Dominic's Primary School
 Dev Nedjip, Minute Taker, Council

Chairperson: Brendan Ball, Manager Families and Early Years, Council

1. Welcome

B Ball welcomed all attendees and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are gathered and paid respects to their elders both past and present.

2. Apologies

Natalie Bakai, Principal, Kororoit Creek Primary School
 Paul Schwartz, Principal, Wedge Park Primary School
 Chloe Mortimer, Community Representative
 Luai Leuga, Regional Parenting Services Coordinator, MacKillop Family Services
 Jennifer Robinson, Principal, Kurunjang Primary School
 Cr Lara Carli, Councillor, Council
 Helen Cooney, CEO, Caroline Chisholm
 Carly Middleton, Operations Manager, TRY Children's Services



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3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Motion

J Siddle/Sarah O'Kelly

That the Committee adopt the minutes of the Early Years Partnership Committee meeting held on 22 June 2017

5. Business Arising

Action from previous meeting; F Norman provided feedback to the committee on behalf of B Heathfield about improving reading achievement for CALD families. Actions from previous meeting provided and now complete.

6. General Business

6.1 AEDC Outcomes, unpacking the current data

Leigh Cruickshank, Coordinator Early Years Partnership, Melton City Council

L Cruickshank had an electronic presentation to view. Copies of the AEDC domains and information about vulnerability percentages were handed out to the committee.

L Cruickshank explained that the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) is a population based measure looking at how Australian children have developed as they start school, what is working well and what needs to be improved or developed. There is now a new multiple strength indicator that measures developmental strengths in social and emotional development.

L Cruickshank unpacked percentages of developmental vulnerability comparing Melton to Victoria and Australia and presented area maps. Discussions were held around the AEDC data. Committee members were given the opportunity to provide feedback on post it notes.

AEDC data is available online, this includes information for each LGA.

Action

L Cruickshank to forward AEDC link to the committee

6.2 MEYP outcomes and parent/carer survey

Leigh Cruickshank, Coordinator Early Years Partnership, Melton City Council

L Cruickshank had an electronic presentation where key areas and major themes from the Municipal Early Years Plan evaluation were unpacked. It was identified that rates have increased in MCH attendance, breastfeeding, immunisation, and kindergarten participation. Participant profiles were examined; this included cultural background, age, gender, and household type. Affordability, connections in the community, activities and programs, safety, education and care, and infrastructure, were areas of concern in the open comments section.

It was mentioned that MEYP is not a complete representation of the community, and only of those that participated.



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Discussions were held around unpacking the data further and for the committee to provide feedback on the evaluation.

6.3 Planning profiles for Early Years

Leigh Cruickshank, Coordinator Early Years Partnership, Melton City Council

L Cruickshank had an electronic presentation to view. The new integrated plan is to replace the MEYP.

Focus areas of the new plan are;

- access and information
- built and natural environment
- education, training, lifelong learning and jobs
- human development/capital (self-actualisation)
- health and wellbeing
- social connectivity
- safety
- having a voice

Discussion and feedback was given by the committee for L Cruickshank to provide in the consultation process.

Action

L Cruickshank asked the committee to email any other ideas for consultation.

6.4 DET update

Fiona Norman, Early Childhood Performance and Planning Advisor SWV Region Brimbank/Melton, Department of Education and Training

F Norman provided an update on when the Brimbank/Melton team is to move into their offices in Keilor.

Over 100 participants attended the Early Childhood Reform forum from the sector. F Norman reiterated that the investment into early childhood is a four year reform.

F Norman attended and presented on the Early Years at a recent principals forum.

Updates were provided on the Victorian Early Years Framework, transition statements, and the Regional Business Plan. Transition statements are available online and can be completed electronically, but not on the portal at this stage. Transition statements and parent opinion surveys are available in a number of languages.

Designated school boundaries and the importance of providing families with information about this before school was also acknowledged.

6.5 DHHS update

Jo Read, Team Leader Community Participation, Local Connections, Brimbank Melton Area, Department of Health and Human Services

J Read provided an update on funding for early intervention and the family violence project. There will be changes to working with family services, who are aiming to reach 2000 families.



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6.6 Best Start and Vulnerable Children Working Group

Leigh Cruickshank, Coordinator Early Years Partnership, Melton City Council

L Cruickshank provided an update on the last quarter and first annual report, PDSA cycles, and Patchwork. Permission forms for Patchwork are in progress to get the program underway.

6.7 New census data

Katarina Ramazanoglu, Social Research Officer, Melton City Council

K Ramazanoglu had an electronic presentation to view. Census data provided was from the available 2016 census data and in comparison to the 2011 census.

Population highlights, growth, age structure, birthplace, languages spoken at home, religion, disability, housing and households, income, unemployment, and emerging communities were examined.

Melton is the fourth fastest growing LGA in Victoria. Discussion around need for services and infrastructure to provide for this growth was highlighted.

More information about City of Melton demographics is available on the council website.

Action

L Cruickshank to forward the presentation to the committee.

7. Other Business

C Turner provided an update to the committee about new funding for 10 new playgroups across Victoria.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 12 October 2017 commencing at 10.00am at Melton Library and Learning Hub.

9. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 12.11pm.