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EARLY YEARS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Held on 27 April 2017 at 10.00am in Caroline Springs Civic Centre/Library, Meetings Rooms 1 & 2

Present: Sophie Ramsey, Mayor, City of Melton
Natalie Bakai, Principal, Kororoit Creek Primary School
Fiona Norman, Early Childhood Performance and Planning Advisor SWV Region Brimbank/Melton, DET
Darlene Leach, Manager Early Learning Unit, DET
Gina Suntesic, Senior Project Officer, DET
Leigh Cruickshank, Acting Early Childhood Coordinator, MCC
Karen Curson, Acting Coordinator Early Years Partnerships, MCC
Paul Schwartz, Principal, Wedge Park Primary School
Delia Clarke, Community
Colleen Turner, Western Region Coordinator, VICSEG New Futures
Sarah O'Kelly, Executive Officer Partnerships and Early Years, BPA
Jennifer Robinson, Principal, Kurunjang Primary School
Deirdre Hardy, Manager Community Engagement & Capacity Building, Amaze
Helen Schiele, Senior Early Years Advisor, Independent Schools Victoria
Michelle Marion, Koorie Engagement Support Officer, DET
Luai Leuga, Regional Parenting Services Coordinator, MacKillop Family Services
Nida Kazmi, Senior Practitioner, Caroline Chisholm Society
Jarney Newey, Deputy Area Manager, Child Protection
Danielle Wilton, Family & Community Development Worker TRY Australia
Jessica Siddle, Area Manager, Goodstart Early Learning
Shannon Davis, 2IC, Goodstart Early Learning
Michael Daley, Program Manager, Yooralla
Charry Owens, Project Coordinator Koolin Balit Babaneek Booboop Early Years Project, DjHS
Dev Nedjip, Minute taker, MCC

Chairperson: Natalie Bakai, Principal, Kororoit Creek Primary School

1. Welcome

N Bakai 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.

N Bakai thanked the committee for being re-nominated into the role of chairperson and accepted this position.



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2. Apologies

Vicky Matthews, Manager Families and Children, MCC
Bev Shaw, Maternal and Child Health Coordinator, MCC
Peta Brincat, Community
Chloe Mortimer, Community
Melissa Sappupo, Manager Community Health and Health Promotion, DjHS
Cherie Salmon, Children and Families Program Officer, NWPHN
Helen Cooney, CEO, Caroline Chisholm Society
Troy Watson, Manager Libraries, MCC
Carly Middleton, Operations Manager, TRY Children's Services
Debbie Davern, Area Manager, Goodstart Early Learning
Nicole Skate, Area Manager, Goodstart Early Learning
Genia Sawczyn, Senior Community Participation Officer Brimbank Melton Area, DHHS

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Motion

S Ramsay/ C Turner

D Hardy would like the wording in minutes of meeting held on 16 February 2017 of 'special need families also make up 'culture'' replaced with 'the Deaf community and neurodiverse communities have a culture that needs to be understood and respected.'

5. Business Arising

Nil

6. General Business

6.1 Kindergarten to School transition

Darlene Leach and Gina Suntesic, Early Learning Unit, Early Years and Primary Reform Division, Department of Education and Training

D Leach had an electronic presentation, with copies handed out to the committee.

Reference to acknowledgment of country as can be found in the internal cover of the 2016 Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework was made.

The VEYLDF document was introduced and discussion around the revised edition being based on new evidence from the last 10 years. Copies of the document can be ordered from the DET website. A handout of 'The Ecological Model' (adapted from Bronfenbrenner's 1979) was distributed to the committee as mentioned in the VEYLDF,

D Leach discussed the transitions between stages of learning and the continuity of learning and development from birth to adulthood. There was discussion around the transition process from kindergarten to prep and how schools and early years staff can work together in this process.



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'Transition: A Positive Start to School Resource Kit' has been revised and is now available. Staff will have the ability to utilise interpreters on this platform. Visit <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/professionals/learning/Pages/transition.aspx>

Free, joint professional learning workshops by Deakin University will occur between now and September for professionals. See webpage <https://blogs.deakin.edu.au/transition-to-school/>.

Action

Links and presentation above provided to committee about the 'Transition to School Project' and professional learning workshops.

6.2 Best Start

Leigh Cruickshank, Coordinator Early Years Partnership, Melton City Council

The Best Start Short term outcome feedback plan is being finalised and will be sent to the Committee following the Vulnerable Children working group meeting on Monday 1 May 2017.

Plan Do Study Act cycles are underway with feedback to be provided at the next Vulnerable children working group meeting. It will take time to build the capacity of professionals to utilise this model of improvement. At the practitioner level, time away from direct service is a barrier to expanding the number of PDSAs being undertaken.

Patchwork session was held on March 21 and follow up consultation is being carried out with the legal department to confirm Councils' responsibilities for this program prior to progressing.

The Terms of Reference for the Partnership will be reviewed in line with the Best Start Policy and guideline requirements that have been included in a template from DET.

Action

K Curson to forward Best Start short-term outcomes feedback once finalised after the Vulnerable Children's WG Meeting on 1 May 2017.

6.3 DET update

Fiona Norman, Early Childhood Performance and Planning Advisor SWV Region Brimbank/Melton, DET

F Norman discussed the Maternal and Child Health statewide conference which had a prenatal and mental health focus.

Funding increases to MCH will provide additional outreach, extending enhanced maternal child and health to three years of age, bicultural workers in enhanced teams (this is dependent on the demographics of the municipality), scholarships for nurses, and increasing staffing on the MCH line. Additional funding for playgroups will enable each municipality to have the supported playgroup program.

Applications are open for the 2017-18 Children's Facilities Capital Program Minor Grants round.

F Norman discussed the pre-purchased places for kindergarten professional development day, a collective training opportunity across the sector. There was a focus on trauma, vulnerable children and families, and practical strategies and tools for communicating with families.



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F Norman provided an update on the Brimbank Melton Early Years Lookout Advisor position with a focus on Out of Home Care across the SWV Region.

The closing date for the Early Years Awards nominations is 15 May.

Action

L Cruickshank to forward information from F Norman about grants program to the committee and the budget announcement information as it becomes available.

6.4 DHHS Update Apology from DHHS Representative

Action

K Curson to distribute newsletter from G Sawczyn to the committee.

6.5 MEYP Evaluation Update Leigh Cruickshank, Coordinator Early Years Partnership, Melton City Council

L Cruickshank has emailed and provided copies of the Municipal Early Years Plan 2013-2017 Evaluation Framework to the committee.

Discussion around the MEYP evaluation framework and influences impacting outcomes such as policy and funding changes.

The committee were to participate in an activity to provide feedback, however the meeting ran over schedule.

Action

Activity to be emailed to committee to provide feedback with a phone conversation to follow.

7. Other Business

Nil

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 22 June 2017 commencing at 10.00am at Melton Library and Learning Hub.

9. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 11.57am.