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EARLY YEARS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Held on 16 February 2017 at 10.00am in Botanica Springs Children's and Community Centre, Community Room

Present: Sophie Ramsey, Mayor, City of Melton
Lara Carli, Councillor, City of Melton
Leigh Cruickshank, Coordinator Early Years Partnerships, MCC
Bev Shaw, Coordinator Maternal and Child Health, MCC
Vicky Matthews, Manager Families and Children, MCC
Vicki Tattersall, Manager, Salvation Army, CAPPS
Melissa Sappupo, Manager Community Health and Health Promotion, DJHS
Fiona Norman, Early Childhood Performance and Planning Advisor SWV Region Brimbank/Melton, DET
Michelle Marion, Koorie Engagement Support Officer, DET
Colleen Turner, Coordinator Western Region, VICSEG New Futures
Peta Brincat, Community
Delia Clarke, Community
Chloe Mortimer, Community
Charry Owens, Koolin Balit Project Coordinator, DjHS
Genia Sawczyn, Senior Community Participation Officer, DHHS
Helen Schiele, Senior Early Years Advisor, Independent Schools Victoria
Paul Schwartz, Principal, Wedge Park Primary School
Sarah O'Kelly, Executive Officer Partnerships and Early Years, BPA
Carly Middleton, Operations Manager, TRY Children's Services
Sharon, Allison, Director, Goodstart Early Learning Melton
Jessica Siddle, Area Manager, Goodstart Early Learning Melton
Deirdre Hardy, Manager Community Capacity Building, Amaze
Mike Daley, Manager, Yooralla
Luai Leuga, Coordinator Western Region Parenting Services, MacKillop Family Services
Troy Watson, Manager Libraries, MCC
Dev Nedjip, Minute Taker, MCC

Chairperson: Vicky Matthews, Manager Families and Children, MCC

1. Welcome

V Matthews welcomed all attendees.

V Matthews acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are gathered and paid respects to their elders both past and present.

L Cruickshank acknowledged Jodie Ann Knox for her contribution to the committee and acknowledged Jodie's passing.



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2. Apologies

Natalie Bakai, Principal, Kororoit Creek Primary School
Helen Cooney, CEO, Caroline Chisholm Society
Cherie Salmon, Children and Families Program Officer, NWPHN
Julie Barber, Customer and Service Delivery Manager, Scope
Jennifer Robinson, Principal, Kurunjang Primary School
Emma Orchard, Child Protection, DHHS
Lee Wheeler, Pelican Early Learning Melton

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Motion

V Tattersall / P Schwartz

That the Committee adopt the minutes of the Early Years Partnership Committee meeting held on 24 November 2017.

5. Business Arising

Updates on actions from last meeting provided.

S Ramsey discussed how the online directory is a success and commended the committee for their contribution.

6. General Business

6.1 Purpose of the Partnership

Speaker, Leigh Cruickshank, Coordinator Early Years Partnership, Melton City Council.

- L Cruickshank had an electronic presentation highlighting the goals, purpose and responsibilities of the partnership.
- Membership categories are reviewed each year and terms of reference will be revisited by the committee executive.
- The advocacy role of the committee was discussed.

Action

L Cruickshank to invite new members to future meetings via email.

6.2 Nominations and election of chair and executive member

Speaker, Leigh Cruickshank, Coordinator Early Years Partnership, Melton City Council.

- V Matthews acknowledged and thanked N Bakai as the chairperson and M Sappupo as the executive member for 2016. V Matthews declared the position of Chair and executive member vacant and informed that there had been nominations invited from members via email for the positions of Chair and executive member. N Bakai was the



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only nomination for chairperson and M Sappupo was the only nomination for executive member. V Matthews called for further nominations from the members present. As no further nominations were received, Natalie Bakai was declared chair person and Melissa Sappupo was appointed to the executive member position. for 2017.

6.3 CALD community – Essan Dileri, MCC Intercultural Development Officer

Speaker, Essan Dileri, Intercultural Development Officer, Melton City Council.

- Essan provided an electronic presentation discussing the dynamics of culture and terminology around this, including acculturation and enculturation.
- G Sawczyn DHHS asked how Melton City Council is incorporating interculturalism. Essan provided that there is a four-year intercultural plan.
- P Schwartz mentioned the difficulties in schools and how the absence of a language school in Melton would benefit. Essan invited data to be forwarded to him to assist in advocacy around this issue.
- D Hardy stated that special need families also make up 'culture'.

Action

L Cruickshank to share E Dileri's contact details and electronic presentation with the committee.

6.4 Best Start and MEYP update

Speaker, Leigh Cruickshank, Coordinator Early Years Partnership, Melton City Council.

- An update on the Vulnerable Children's Working Group was provided and how services are developing PDSA (Plan-Do-Study-Act) cycles.
- The Municipal Early Years Plan (MEYP) evaluation needs to take place, with the development of a new plan occurring in the second part of the year. The MEYP is the strategic plan for children aged 0-12 years and combines data, feedback from families, children and services into a plan to improve outcomes for children in the municipality.
- Discussion was held around how the evaluation will take place. Leigh informed the committee that this would include completion of the endorsed evaluation framework. It will include parent carer surveys which will measure progress against benchmark of data from previous years.
- Leigh explained Council's responsibility for the development of the MEYP, how the document belongs to everyone and the ways service providers can participate in this process.

Action

L Cruickshank to distribute evaluation framework for Municipal Early Years Plan 2014-17 to the committee.

6.5 DET update

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

- Fiona informed the committee that there is a new regional director, Sharon Donald, for the South West Region.



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- DET, DHHS and local government are in the draft stage of the development of an Early Years Compact which will define how the three can work together regardless of who is in government at the time.
- There is a new office in Keilor for Brimbank/Melton. Local area staff will be based in the community they work with.
- The National Disability Insurance Scheme was discussed. S Ramsey raised concerns about the scheme. Fiona acknowledged these concerns and explained that her scope only included the early years.
- "Look Out" a virtual education support centre established for school aged children in Out of Home Care is moving into the early years space and are currently recruiting for an early years advisor.

6.6 DHHS update

Speaker, Genia Sawczyn, Senior Community Participation Officer, DHHS

- An update on Taskforce 1000 working group was provided.
- Family violence prevention grants and funding was discussed.
- Roadmap to reform update will occur later in the year.

6.7 Assessment for Learning project, report from participants

Speakers, Andrew Comley, Assistant Principal, Kororoit Creek Primary School and Early Years Leader, Kororoit Creek Kindergarten and Christine Allen, Group and Education Leader, Goodstart Early Learning, West Melton.

- The Assessment for Learning project's purpose was to establish an inquiry into assessment practices in the early years. There was generally very positive feedback about the project from participants who formed a facilitated multidisciplinary professional development group who met regularly over a period of 9 months
- Andrew and Christine each discussed their participation in the project from different perspectives including how assessment tools are being used and their effectiveness.
- Written feedback on the project was provided by Deanna Patti, speech pathologist from Djerriwarrh Health Services who was unable to attend the meeting.

7. Other Business

Nil.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on 27 April 2017 commencing at 10.00am in Caroline Springs Library.

9. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 11.54am.