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PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 22 February 2019 at 10.30am in Civic Room 2, Melton Civic Centre

Present: Cr Bob Turner, Mayor, Melton City Council
 Cr Lara Carli, Councillor, Melton City Council
 Cr Ken Hardy, Councillor, Melton City Council
 Cr Sophie Ramsey, Councillor, Melton City Council
 Christine Levy, Coordinator Family Services, Melton City Council
 Liz Smith, Coordinator Social Planning and Wellbeing, Melton City Council
 Shelley Tait, Acting Team Leader Health Promotion and Planning, Melton City Council
 Genia Sawczyn, Senior Advisor Population Health and Community Wellbeing, Brimbank Melton Area, Department of Health and Human Services
 Glen Ludbrook, Lawyer, Brimbank Melton Community Legal Centre
 Normal Vella, Program Manager, Hope Street Youth and Family Services
 Joan Eddy, Manager Counselling, Djerrivarrh Health Services
 Inspector Zorka Dunstan, Victoria Police
 Sergeant Ken Anderson, Victoria Police
 Fadak Alfayadh, Team Leader Preventing Violence Together, Women's Health West

Chairperson: Cr Bob Turner, Mayor, Melton City Council

1. Welcome

Cr Turner welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced apologies. Cr Turner acknowledged the Traditional Owners.

2. Apologies

Cr Melissa De Santis, Councillor, Melton City Council
 Cr Steven Abboushi, Councillor, Melton City Council
 Cr Goran Kesic, Councillor, Melton City Council
 Cr Kathy Majdlik, Councillor, Melton City Council
 Cr Michelle Mendes, Councillor, Melton City Council
 Matthew Wilson, Manager Community Planning, Melton City Council
 Peter Webster, Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation
 Mary D'Elia, General Manager Community Programs, MacKillop Family Services
 Helga Jennings, Department of Health and Human Services
 Stephanie Dziunka, Department of Justice and Regulation
 Gehan Shehab, Department of Justice and Regulation
 Alice Harris, Melton Specialist School
 Rachel Phillips, Settlement Social Worker, MiCare
 Tegan Tregea, Hope Street Youth and Family Services
 Natalie McFarlane, Victoria Police
 Marlene Dixon, Community Plus
 Louise Falconer, Director Strategy Advocacy Community Engagement, Women's Health West



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3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

December meeting minutes noted.

5. Business Arising

- 5.1 It was agreed that an invitation to Respect Victoria would be delayed until other meetings have taken place, as referred to in item 5.3.
- 5.2 S Tait shared relevant Engaging Dads project promotional material with the Committee.
- 5.3 L Smith will invite Gabrielle Williams MP to meet with Council to advocate for a Support and Safety Hub to be located in the City of Melton.
- 5.4 Cr Carli sent L Smith information about other municipalities' family violence awareness raising installations.
- 5.5 L Smith organised a Council Briefing for April to discuss Councillor ideas for violence prevention awareness raising and education.
- 5.6 S Tait shared a list of relevant family violence networks and services within the City of Melton with the Committee.
- 5.7 F Alfayadh provided the Committee with an overview of the Preventing Violence Together Partnership.
- 5.8 S Tait sent the draft Equality and Respect 2030 Strategy action plan to the Committee.

Action

L Smith to organise for an invitation to be sent to Gabrielle Williams MP to meet with Council to advocate for a Support and Safety Hub to be located in the City of Melton.

S Tait to coordinate the update of Council's website information around preventing and responding to violence against women and family violence (as discussed in item 5.6).

L Smith to organise preventing and responding to violence against women training for Councillors (as discussed in item 5.7).

F Alfayadh to bring gender equity and preventing violence against women training information to the next Committee meeting (as discussed in item 5.7).

J Eddy to share Djerriwarrh Health Services' family violence response conversation resource with the Committee (as discussed in item 5.7).

6. General Business

6.1 Free From Violence Grants Program (Baby Makes 3)

S Tait shared that the first iteration of the Baby Makes 3 program was delivered in February following the successful recruitment of facilitators in January. In partnership with Moorabool Shire Council, facilitator training took place over 2 days and Council recruited a total of seven facilitators (four women and three men).



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All facilitators are excited to deliver Baby Makes 3 to new parents in the City of Melton. Nine couples attended the program in Caroline Springs at Stevenson's House, and eight couples attended in Melton at Arnolds Creek Community Centre. Feedback has been very positive and evaluation will be completed throughout the project. The next iteration of the program will begin on 26 March and the program is advertised through Council's New Parent Group program.

Cr Ramsey congratulated Council on the success of the Baby Makes 3 program thus far. Cr Ramsey asked how diverse family dynamics are catered for in the program. S Tait responded that the program is open to all families and is specifically tailored to highlight traditional gender roles and how they can impact on the transition to parenthood. G Sawczyn commented that it is fantastic to see the program being held in neighbourhood houses.

6.2 Engaging Dads project

S Tait shared an update on the Engaging Dads project. Following an online survey with dads and male caregivers, Council was able to plan for and deliver its first playgroup specifically designed for dads and male caregivers. The playgroup is delivered at Arnolds Creek Community Centre on Saturday mornings throughout February and March. The first two weeks of the eight week term have been attended by the same nine dads and their children, and the feedback has been very positive. The facilitation of this playgroup is in partnership with the Salvation Army's Children's and Parents Support Service. It is envisaged that following this first term the dads will continue to meet and lead their own playgroup, and plans are underway for the delivery of a dads playgroup in the Caroline Springs area to begin in Term 2 2019.

As part of this project, a photographer has been engaged to update Council's suite of photographic images to challenge gender stereotypes and norms, and engage fathers/male caregivers in Council services and programs.

Council will deliver a second series of Scientwists in the evenings over May and June for dads/male caregivers and their children, this time at Caroline Springs Library and Learning Hub.

Another component of the Engaging Dads project is a dads and kids pizza night in March at Stevenson House to draw local fathers and males caregivers to neighbourhood houses.

Action

S Tait to share Engaging Dads promotional material with the Committee for 2019 programs as they become available.

6.3 Support and Safety Hub advocacy

As discussed in item 5.3.

Action

L Smith to invite Gabrielle Williams MP to meet with Council to advocate for a Support and Safety Hub to be located in the City of Melton.



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6.4 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

S Tait invited the Committee to share their ideas for actions to recognise the 16 Days of Activism campaign in 2019. The Committee requested in 2018 that this be a standing agenda item for all meetings going forward. The Committee agreed to think about ideas for the 2019 campaign to discuss at the next meeting.

Action

Committee members to share their 16 Days of Activism campaign ideas for 2019 at the next meeting.

6.5 Equality and Respect 2030 Strategy

L Smith shared that the draft Equality and Respect 2030 Strategy action plan had been shared with the Committee following the December meeting. In February Council conducted a cross-departmental action planning workshop to inform the 2018-2020 action plan. L Smith reflected that it was a great outcome to have representation from all departments across Council, with over 50 staff in attendance who contributed their ideas for actions. L Smith noted that the 2018-20 action plan will be finalised by June 2019 and L Smith will share the action plan with the Committee when it is available.

6.5 Gender Equality Map

S Tait shared that Council has implemented the Gender Equality Map pilot project in partnership with the state government. The online Gender Equality Map closed on 15 February 2019. Residents contributed 102 posts on the map to highlight the local lived experience of gender equity and inequity. The state government will analyse the data and share the findings with Council.

Cr Hardy left the meeting at 12.15pm.

7. Other Business

7.1 Member reports

Melton City Council

S Tait shared with the Committee the upcoming International Women's Day Council events for 2019:

- Council are hosting a community event on Wednesday 6 March, 10.00am-12.00pm at Taylors Hill Youth and Community Centre. This event will include morning tea and networking, a key note speech by diversity and inclusion speaker Lilian Kikuvi, a panel discussion with Lilian and other inspirational women who live in the City of Melton and a performance by the Indian Mums Dance Club.
- *Feminism and Diversity in Melton* photo series will be launched on the Council's Facebook page, Instagram and webpage on Friday 8 March 2019. It will be accompanied by a photo exhibition in Council facilities. Council interviewed and photographed six local women, asking the question 'What does feminism mean to you?' The photo series will showcase the diversity in ideas of what it means to be a woman in different cultures and communities.



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- Council's Libraries will promote a gender equitable book list for children and a list of female authors through the library app, as well as deliver an e-safety session for women on Wednesday 27 March 2019.

Action

S Tait to share the City of Melton International Women's Day photo series with the Committee.

Brimbank Melton Community Legal Centre

G Ludbrook raised the need for further legal services within the City of Melton to support victim-survivors and families experiencing family violence.

Action

Cr Turner to organise a meeting with G Ludbrook and management of the Brimbank Melton Community Legal Service, to discuss the need for additional local legal services.

Hope Street Youth and Family Services

N Vella shared that a new mobile outreach team has been created to assist rough sleepers and those experiencing homelessness within the City of Melton. N Vella explained that the mobile outreach service has been running for eight months and the demand is high, with the service consistently meeting its targets.

Djerriwarrh Health Services

J Eddy shared with the Committee that Djerriwarrh Health Services is averaging 650 family violence reports of male perpetrators per month for the western region. Approximately 150-170 of the reports reflect the City of Melton. In support of victim-survivors, Djerriwarrh Health Services in partnership with Women's Health West are delivering two women's family violence support groups. The groups are full and feedback has been positive. Djerriwarrh Health Services also deliver two men's behaviour change programs. These groups are also full and conversations have begun with Family Safe Victoria to expand the provision of programs for male perpetrators in the area. In partnership with Good Shepherd in St Albans Djerriwarrh Health Services also facilitate the provision of financial counselling services to residents within the Brimbank and Melton area.

J Eddy posed the question of whether it would be best for Djerriwarrh Health Services to appoint a member of their health promotion team to sit on the Committee, instead of current representation from the services' family violence response arm, given that the Committee is focused around preventing violence.

Action

J Eddy to liaise with Djerriwarrh Health Service internal prevention and response departments to discuss the potential re-appointment of a Djerriwarrh Health Service representative from the prevention team.

Melton Family Violence Network

C Levy shared that the first Melton Family Violence Network meeting for the year was well attended. C Levy shared that she is looking to provide further family violence training to Council staff in partnership with Women's Health West.



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Victoria Police

K Anderson shared recent statistics of reported incidents of family violence within the City of Melton. In January 2019 Melton Police received 141 reports of family violence and Caroline Springs received 58 reports of family violence.

Earlier in the year Inspector Zorka Dunstan joined the Melton Police service, replacing Inspector Kathy Rudkins. Z Dunstan introduced herself and shared her career history. The Committee welcomed Z Dunstan and agreed she will be a great contribution to the City of Melton.

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

G Sawczyn shared that DHHS are funding the Djerriwarrh Health Services Women Making It Happen and Council's Engaging Dad's projects to help improve gender equality and prevent violence against women in the City of Melton. G Sawczyn thanked Djerriwarrh Health Services and Council for their project funded work. G Sawczyn commended Council on its sound delivery of the Engaging Dads and Baby Makes 3 projects to date.

Women's Health West

F Alfayadh introduced the Committee to Women's Health's West's *Act To Prevent Men's Violence Against Women: a guide to community action* as a useful tool to assist Committee members in having conversations with community, and understanding language around preventing violence against women.

Some Committee members expressed that it would be beneficial to move member reports to earlier on the agenda to allow more time for information sharing.

8. Next Meeting

Friday 10 May 2019 10.30am – 12.30pm.
Civic Room 2, Melton City Council.

9. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 12.45pm.