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PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 14 December 2018 at 10.30am in Civic Room 1, Melton Civic Centre

Present: Cr Bob Turner, Mayor, City of Melton
Cr Lara Carli, Councillor, City of Melton
Cr Melissa De Santis, Councillor, City of Melton
Cr Michelle Mendes, Councillor, City of Melton
Cr Sophie Ramsey, Councillor, City of Melton
Matthew Wilson, Manager Community Planning, City of Melton
Christine Levy, Coordinator Family Services, City of Melton
Liz Smith, Acting Coordinator Social Planning and Wellbeing, City of Melton
Mary D'Elia, General Manager Community Programs, MacKillop Family Services
Joan Eddy, Manager Counselling, Djerriwarrh Health Services
Glen Ludbrook, Lawyer, Brimbank Melton Community Legal Centre
Normal Vella, Program Manager, Hope Street Youth and Family Services
Adrienne Campbell, Team Leader Agency Performance and System Support,
Department Health and Human Services

Chairperson: Cr Bob Turner, Mayor, City of Melton

1. Welcome

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

2. Apologies

Cr Ken Hardy, Councillor, City of Melton
Cr Steven Abboushi, Councillor, City of Melton
Cr Goran Kesic, Councillor, City of Melton
Cr Kathy Majdlik, Councillor, City of Melton
Peter Webster, Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation
Helga Jennings, Department of Health and Human Services
Stephanie Dziunka, Department of Justice and Regulation
Gehan Shehab, Department of Justice and Regulation
Kathy Rudkins, Inspector, Victoria Police
Ken Anderson, Sergeant, Victoria Police
Alice Harris, Melton Specialist School
Shelley Tait, City of Melton
Rachel Phillips, MiCare
Patrizia Favorito, Women's Health West

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

October meeting minutes noted.



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5. Business Arising

- 5.1 S Tait circulated the Working with Fathers Forum Invitation with the Committee in July.
- 5.2 S Tait liaised with P Webster around opportunities to link Council's Engaging Dads Project with the Kirrip Men's Shed Program and share learnings.
- 5.3 S Tait included 'meeting frequency' on the October Committee meeting agenda.
- 5.4 No committee members contacted S Tait expressing their interest to work together to recognise the 16 Days of Activism for 2018.
- 5.5 P Webster sent the Young Love program flyer with S Tait who shared it with the Committee.
- 5.6 S Tait included 'action planning workshop' on the October Committee agenda.
- 5.7 L Smith to organise for an invitation to be sent to Respect Victoria to attend a strategic Committee meeting in 2019.

Action

L Smith to organise for an invitation to be sent to Respect Victoria to attend a strategic Committee meeting in 2019.

6. General Business

6.1 Free From Violence Grants Program (Baby Makes 3)

L Smith shared with the Committee that Council had been successful in its Free From Violence grant application and received \$33,252 to implement the Baby Makes 3 program in the City of Melton. The program provides couples with the opportunity to participate in group discussions about their transition to parenthood, and equal and respectful relationships. Group facilitators are currently being recruited. The program will be offered to all first time parents in 2019.

6.2 Engaging Dads project

L Smith provided an update to the Committee on the Engaging Dads project. The project seeks to deliver programs and activities across the municipality to engage more fathers/male caregivers and their children in Council services. The first milestone for the project was the delivery of a four week science program at the Melton Library and Learning Hub. Fathers reported that they enjoyed themselves, felt extremely welcome, and were interested to participate in similar events held in the evenings in the future. For some fathers it had been their first time to the library, or a library event. Promotional material for 2019 programs will be shared with the Committee.

Action

S Tait to share Engaging Dads promotional material with Committee for 2019 programs (when available).



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6.3 Support and Safety Hub advocacy

M Wilson informed the Committee that there are no specific updates since the previous meeting. Council have advocated to the state government to consider Station Road in Melton for a future Support and Safety Hub site. Council will watch, with close interest, where other sites are located, especially in the inner west.

Cr De Santis suggested that Council contact the new Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, Gabrielle Williams, to present the benefits of a Support and Safety Hub being located in the City of Melton.

Action

M Wilson to contact the office of Gabrielle Williams MP to advocate for a Support and Safety Hub to be located in the City of Melton.

6.4 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

L Smith shared that Council delivered a number of activities to promote the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence campaign for 2018. These included:

- 'Melton Says No to Violence' flags were created and flown at the Melton and Caroline Springs Civic Centres.
- The Caroline Springs Library hosted an author talk by Susannah McFarlane, 'Feisty Fairytales' on Saturday 24 November 1-2.30pm.
- The Recreation Team partnered with Djerriwarrh Health Services and Leisure Networks to hold the Women In Sport Breakfast on Tuesday 11 December 7.30-9am at Tabcorp Park.
- A social media campaign was implemented to raise awareness and educate the community on how violence against women can be prevented.
- Council partnered with Women's Health West to support the Preventing Violence Together regional online 16 Days of Activism campaign. This provided an online platform for communities across the west and beyond, to participate in 16 days of action to deepen their understanding of the prevention of violence against women.

Cr Ramsey shared that she had received positive feedback from community members that Council should be commended on its 16 Days of Activism campaign.

Cr De Santis enquired if Council had plans to broaden awareness raising activities such as social marketing signage on rubbish trucks and similar opportunities. Cr Carli spoke of examples of high profile installations seen in other municipalities that she agreed to share with L Smith. Cr De Santis and Cr Carli requested that more community-facing events and campaigning be undertaken to ensure that more people across the community are aware of the issues. M Wilson suggested that a Council Briefing could be held in 2019 to further discuss this.



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Cr De Santis and Cr Carli asked questions relating to the Preventing Violence Together partnership that is led by Women's Health West. M D'Elia suggested that the Committee could compile a list of relevant networks and committees that would be useful reference for the Committee. L Smith also suggested that P Favorito be invited to speak about the Preventing Violence Together partnership at the next meeting.

Action

Cr Carli to send L Smith information about other municipalities' family violence awareness raising installations.

L Smith to organise a Council Briefing to discuss councillor ideas for awareness raising and education.

S Tait to coordinate the compilation of a list of relevant family violence networks for the Committee.

S Tait to invite P Favorito to provide the Committee with an overview of the Preventing Violence Together partnership.

6.5 Equality and Respect 2030 Strategy

L Smith presented a draft action plan to demonstrate the work that has been delivered in the first six months of the Equality and Respect 2030 Strategy. A total of 28 actions have been delivered. The draft action plan will be circulated with the meeting minutes.

Action

S Tait to share the draft Equality and Respect 2030 Strategy action plan with the Committee.

6.6 Gender Equality Map

L Smith provided an overview of the Gender Equality Map project that Council is piloting with the state government. Both Melton and Darebin municipalities are taking part in the pilot to obtain data of local community experiences in relation to gender equality and inequality through interaction with the built and natural environment, local services and infrastructure. Further information can be found at <https://melton.genderequalitymap.vic.gov.au/page/welcome>

6.7 Stop Domestic Violence Conference

A number of councillors and council officers attended the national Stop Domestic Violence Conference in the Gold Coast on 3-5 December 2018. Cr Turner provided an overview and highlighted how well Victoria's work in this space was showcased.

Cr Carli commented that she thought the conference was brilliant and informative. Cr Carli shared that she learnt about the importance of awareness raising and education. G Ludbrook commented that family violence awareness raising is not enough; prevention is key and important in challenging men, boys and unhealthy masculinity.



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7. Other Business

7.1 Member reports

Hope Street Youth and Family Services

N Vella shared that a high percentage of the young people engaged at Hope Street are displaced or homeless as a result of family violence. Training has been provided to staff on how to manage family violence cases.

MacKillop Family Services

M D'Elia shared that MacKillop Family Services will relocate to the Melton Health and Community Services building in Barries Road, Melton on 10 January 2019. She also promoted that Melton Headspace is now officially open.

Djerriwarrh Health Services

J Eddy shared that the Djerriwarrh Health Services health promotion team are responsible for leading the prevention of violence against women within their organisation. The organisation has received two year funding for the rainbow tick family violence accreditation program. They are also relocating to the Melton Health and Community Services building.

M Wilson left the meeting at 11.50am.

Melton Family Violence Network

C Levy reported that the Melton Family Violence Network partnered with Bunnings to host a Ladies Night for 120 women as part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign. C Levy also congratulated Djerriwarrh Health Services for their role in the Women in Sport Breakfast; she thought it was a fabulous event to promote gender equity.

Brimbank Melton Community Legal Centre

G Ludbrook is based at the Melton Library and Learning Hub five days a week and is advocating for an additional lawyer to be based in Melton. A lot of the legal issues seen stem from family violence.

Department of Health and Human Services

A Campbell introduced herself to the Committee as a proxy for H Jennings.

8. Next Meeting

Friday 22 February 2019 10.30am – 12.30pm.
Civic Room 1, Melton City Council.

9. Close of Business

Cr Turner thanked members for their involvement in the Committee this year.

The meeting closed at 12.05pm.