



MINUTES

PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 9 November 2021 at 11.00am, online.

Present:

Cr Lara Carli	Councillor
Cr Sophie Ramsey	Councillor
Cr Julie Shannon	Councillor
Christine Levy	Melton City Council
Jayde McBurnie	Melton City Council
Ruairi Cleary	Melton City Council
Georgina Nix	Melton City Council
Lisa Prentice-Evans	Victoria Police
Martin Ha	Brimbank Melton Community Legal Service
Niki Pillios	MacKillop Family Services
Gehan Shehab	Department of Justice and Community Safety
Sarah Chong	MiCare
Peter Webster	Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation
Genia Sawczyn	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

Quorum: *Quorum for the committee will require attendance of a minimum of one (1) Councillor, one (1) Council Officer, and comprising 30% of external agency committee members.*

Chairperson: Cr Lara Carli, Councillor

Minute Taker: Ruairi Cleary, Health Promotion Officer

1. Welcome

The Chairperson Cr Carli welcomed all attendees to the meeting and proceeded with the Acknowledgment of Country. *'Melton City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the people of the Kulin Nations, and pays respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.'*

Cr Carli welcomed new member Ruairi Cleary, Council's Health Promotion Officer, noting that R Cleary would be Council's key contact for Committee members moving forward.

2. Apologies

Cr Bob Turner	Councillor
Elyse Rider	Melton City Council
Rachana Bangara	Brotherhood of St Laurence
Melissa Wilson	Victoria Police
Kalimna Andy	Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Service
Michelle Galea	Department of Education and Training
Evelyn Afotey	Women's Health West

MINUTES

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the Preventing Family Violence Advisory Committee meeting held on 14 September 2021 were adopted at the ordinary meeting of Council 25 October 2021

5. Business Arising**5.1 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence – Georgina Nix/Ruairi Cleary, Melton City Council**

G Nix provided an update on Council's 16 Days of Activism campaign, including the suite of activities being delivered. R Cleary provided an overview of the campaign evaluation, including data collection methods and timelines.

Cr Ramsey sought clarity regarding data collection and how we can effectively encourage community members to provide feedback online. R Cleary confirmed that offering a variety of survey questions and data collection methods will support community members to remain anonymous and feel comfortable providing feedback. Cr Shannon enquired about ensuring there were family violence support service contact details available with campaign communications. J McBurnie confirmed that resources will feature the 1800 RESPECT contact information.

Cr Ramsey sought clarity on why three campaign events were being delivered on November 25. G Nix mentioned that several of the events are externally facilitated, which resulted in activities being scheduled around external availability. G Nix noted the possibility of recording some events so that they can be viewed later. G Sawczyn enquired about the involvement of sporting clubs in the campaign, and whether there were any opportunities for engagement. J McBurnie mentioned that the campaign toolkit – which explains how to get involved – will be going out to sporting clubs through the recreation department.

Cr Carli suggested all campaign promotions be included on Council's main communication channels to maximise reach. G Nix noted this was planned. G Sawczyn expressed support for the program and stated that it was great that a robust evaluation was being developed.

C Levy sought clarity on the Women in Sport Breakfast and whether it was being delivered online or in person. C Levy also requested the campaign microsite be put at the front of our corporate website. G Nix noted the event was online at this stage, and intent to action the placement of the campaign microsite link. Cr Carli highlighted that the Respect Victoria virtual background was blurry, and Cr Ramsey also suggested including the 1800 RESPECT to promote support services to community members. Cr Shannon suggested including the full contact information rather than '1800 RESPECT' to promote accessibility.

Action

G Nix to action placement of campaign microsite on Melton City Council corporate website, and modify the virtual background prior to circulation.

G Nix to facilitate circulation of resources to local businesses and sport and recreation clubs.

G Nix to ask B McKenzie to schedule the events in Councillor calendars and explore the recording of online events for later viewing.

6. General Business**6.1 Orange Door update – N Pillios, MacKillop Family Services**

N Pillios provided an update on the Brimbank-Melton Orange Door, highlighting the following. First leadership meeting for local delivery took place in October, with a follow up planned in November. The leadership group is utilizing local data to inform service delivery planning. The



MINUTES

Orange Door hub is intended to be open September 2022 in Sunshine, despite delays in construction due to Covid-19. Recruitment phase currently underway for Orange Door team, with some recruitment challenges due to mandatory qualifications.

Cr Ramsey expressed desire to have the site available in the City of Melton. N Pillios said that this demand in the City of Melton has been stressed and that one of the major outposts will be in Melton; however, they have not yet identified a building. J McBurnie highlighted that many options have been provided by Council. Cr Ramsey reiterated that there is a site available near where the hospital site is being built. Cr Shannon reiterated support for Orange Door service in the City of Melton and sought clarification on whether the primary site in Sunshine needed to be established prior to having the outpost in Melton operational. C Levy highlighted that Melton City Council had been informed at a previous advisory committee meeting that there would be an outpost available in Melton. Cr Ramsey reiterated support and highlighted Council's commitment to supporting development and delivery of outpost.

S Chong sought clarification on the consultations that occurred with community members from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, highlighting that MiCare had not yet been consulted. N Pillios acknowledged that Brimbank-Melton is a unique, diverse community, and that it was important Family Safety Victoria understood the needs of this community. N Pillios highlighted an opportunity to re-invite hub implementation managers to next PFVAC meeting to provide update. J McBurnie sought clarity on the construction of a new building in Sunshine, noting Family Safety Victoria previously communicated that this was not a possibility in relation to a Melton location. Cr Carli thanked N Pillios for presentation on Orange Door and reiterated Council's ongoing advocacy for hub in Melton. Cr Ramsey highlighted that Council has buildings available to operate as a hub and reiterated Council's commitment to Orange Door service in the City of Melton. N Pillios confirmed she would take the Committees questions to the hub leadership group.

Action

N Pillios to raise questions raised by committee members to Orange Door hub leadership group for consideration.

N Pillios to extend an invitation to the hub implementation leaders to the next Committee meeting to provide an update.

6.2 Member updates – All

Melton City Council

C Levy shared that Council's community care workers are now being offered elder abuse training.

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

G Sawczyn noted that grants have been awarded for multicultural and faith-based organisations to deliver primary prevention and early intervention activities with multicultural communities. G Sawczyn will circulate information through attachment in the meeting minutes.

MiCare

S Chong also shared that MiCare has successfully received funding from the Federal Government for their settlement, engagement and transition support program focused on women's safety which will support the rollout of the pilot women's group in the Western Region. S Chong highlighted that MiCare together with the African Women and Families Network, the Burundi Cultural Ladies and the Fijian Cultural Community of Victoria, will be producing a film discussing what respect means to them and in their communities. G Sawczyn sought clarity on whether MiCare were looking to do any targeted delivery of program to specific cultural or language groups. S Chong indicated they will be targeting those falling in the settlement services category, such as newly arrived communities.

Victoria Police

MINUTES

L Prentice-Evans provided update from Victoria Police in relation to family violence statistics noting that Melton is tracking above the state average for total family violence crime. L Prentice-Evans shared that from 1 October to 9 November 2020, Melton recorded 200 incidents of family violence and Caroline Springs recorded 66, with 50 percent of these resulting in intervention orders or applications at court. Cr Shannon sought clarity on trends relating to the high number of callouts. L Prentice-Evans highlighted that they had observed a high rate of adolescent and youth violence, as well as intimate partner violence. P Webster highlighted that Kिरrup has local Aboriginal justice workers who can provide assistance with such matters. C Levy raised the possibility of inviting a guest speaker to speak to the Committee on the issue of youth related family violence. L Prentice-Evans noted she could circulate a university paper related to the law and order response to youth related family violence in Victoria and New South Wales.

Brimbank Melton Community Legal Service

M Ha shared that they have observed an increase in requests for legal assistance in relation to Family Violence in the recent reporting quarter, as well as increased numbers at the Sunshine and Bacchus Marsh courts where they deliver duty law services. M Ha provided an update related to the health justice partnership with Western Health, highlighting that delivery will be returning on site in the coming weeks. M Ha also noted that Brimbank Melton Community Legal Service has been supporting the development and growth of the African-Australian legal service which will provide support to the African Australian population within Melton. This service is currently delivering legal information only and will provide pathways for African-Australian law students to gain local experience in practice.

12.31 N Pillios left the meeting

Cr Ramsey highlighted her support for this advisory committee and thanked all attendees for their updates and activism in the prevention of family violence. Cr Carli echoed Cr Ramsey's sentiments and thanked Council staff for their work on the campaign and for the Coordination of the Committee.

Action

G Sawczyn to circulate information related to grant funding for multicultural and faith-based organisations.

L Prentice-Evans to circulate paper related to law and order response to youth related family violence.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee it is to be held on Tuesday 15 February, commencing at 11.00am, held online via Microsoft Teams.

Cr Carli noted that R Cleary would be circulating calendar invitations to the 2021 meetings in coming weeks.

8. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 12.36pm.