



# MINUTES

## INTERCULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held on 24 November 2021 at 6.30pm on Zoom

### Present:

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Cr Steve Abboushi    | Councillor  |
| Cr Lara Carli        | Councillor  |
| Cr Bob Turner        | Councillor  |
| Abe Dunovits         | Community Service Organisation representative                 |
| Dal Khadka           | Local Intercultural Community representative                  |
| Liuvao Logo          | Local Intercultural Community representative                  |
| Altaf Ali Mohammed   | Local Intercultural Community representative                  |
| Durba Dhiman         | Local Intercultural Community representative                  |
| Madhvi Tandon        | Local Intercultural Community representative                  |
| Patrick Kariuki      | Local Intercultural Community representative                  |
| Sana Zia             | Local Intercultural Community representative                  |
| Vonivate Tawase Drui | Local Intercultural Community representative (left at 7.22pm) |
| Vera Mitrovska       | Local Intercultural Community representative                  |
| Christina Akon       | Local Intercultural Community representative                  |
| Essan Dileri         | Team Leader Diversity & Intercultural (Ex Officio)            |

### In Attendance:

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Kelly Preece     | Financial Counsellor, Gambling Help Australia                             |
| Sarah Frazer     | Resource Educator, Melton City Council (left at 7.30pm)                   |
| Elyse Rider      | Manager Community Planning, Melton City Council                           |
| Lachlan McKenzie | Senior Health Promotion Officer, Gambling Help Australia (left at 7.47pm) |

**Quorum:** *Quorum will consist of two (2) Councillors, one (1) Council Officer, plus six (6) Local Intercultural Group and Community Services Organisation representatives.*

**Chairperson:** Cr Lara Carli

### 1. Welcome

Cr Carli welcomed all attendees to the meeting and opened the meeting with an Acknowledgment of Country.

**2. Apologies**

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Cr Moira Deeming  | Councillor                                     |
| Dongling Ye       | Local Intercultural Community representative   |
| George Oliapuram  | Local Intercultural Community representative   |
| Liuvao Logo       | Local Intercultural Community representative   |
| Laura Di Pasquale | Community Service Organisation representative  |
| Kimberly Stephens | Access & Support Outreach Officer (Ex Officio) |
| Dayane Mardesich  | Community Capacity Coordinator (Ex Officio)    |

**3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests**

Nil

**4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting****Motion**

Mover/Seconder P Kariuki/ D Khadka

That the Committee note that Council adopted the Minutes of previous committee meeting held on 29 Sep 2021 at its Meeting held on 22 Nov 2021.

CARRIED

**5. Business Arising**

- Nil

**6. General Business****6.1 Update on Actions from previous meetings**

- E Dileri to circulate Peter Balbata's presentation to all committee members. **Actioned**
- E Dileri to circulate Menka Kitanovski's contact details and information she shared to Committee. **Actioned**
- Menka Kitanovski to send the information to E Dileri to be circulated. **Actioned**
- E Dileri to pass on Community Grants Officer's contact details onto the Committee. **Actioned**
- Committee members to send flyers and information about their community events to E Dileri to circulate. **Actioned**

**6.2 Problem Gambling – Gambler's Help**

Gambler's Help Northern works in six LGA's including Melton. Gambler's Help is part of Banyule Community Health – funded by Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation.

Team consists of:



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- Therapeutic Counsellors
- Financial Counsellors
- Venue Support Workers
- Lived experience programs
- Community Engagement Program (Health Promotion Worker's)

The services are available for everyone for free. We can help clients with managing their debts and organising payment plans with their creditors. We function as a circuit breaker. We also offer in language services in a variety of community languages. We also use interpreters when required. Our services are clients focused. People come to us for treatment because of stigma (public stigma and perceived stigma), shame and gambler's fallacy.

Gambling harm is a complex issue which rarely occurs as an isolated problem. This could be as a result of one or a combination of the following causes:

- Drug and alcohol abuse/dependence
- Anxiety and depression
- Inter-generational transmission of problem gambling
- Family violence

How Gambler's Help can assist people?

#### Financial Counselling

- Provide information to help the client make decisions to resolve their financial problems
- Provide information on protecting assets from gambling behaviours
- Help family members (and gamblers themselves) to protect their income from gambling behaviours
- Act as a circuit breaker between creditors and the client (breathing space)

#### Debts

- Protecting client from harassment
- Reviewing contracts
- Negotiation of payment plans
- Access to money to ensure bills and rent are paid

In 2015-16 the social and economic cost of gambling harm to the community in Victoria was estimated at over \$7 billion:

- \$1.3 billion on financial costs
- \$1.5 billion on emotional and psychological costs
- \$2.1 billion relationships and family
- \$1 billion crime
- \$500 million in lost productivity
- \$1 billion – costs to the Victorian government

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Sports betting losses increased 44% in 2020/21:

- o \$2.38 billion lost in Victoria alone
- o Over half a million people opened an account with Sportsbet alone, and lost almost a billion dollar.

Cr Carli commented that problem gambling is a big concern for our community especially for younger cohort and asked how Council could help in preventing the harm in our community from problem gambling and promoting your services to our residents?

L McKenzie responded that Council could promote our services through their information channels. Gambling Help will ensure to visit Melton more often and develop partnership with local service providers. Council could also promote more alternative recreational activities and options for people who feel lonely. If there is a new application for pokies venue, Council could bring that to their residents' attention.

Cr Carli also asked what age group accessed their services.

K Preece said our clients come from mixed age groups – sportsbet attracts young age group while pokies draw mid to older age groups. Our services are only available for 18 years and older but we witnessed clients who were 12 years old. Betting companies target younger people.

D Dhiman wanted to know if they still consider crypto currency as a form of gambling.

K Preece said it depends on how one plays. Crypto and any trading can be gambling if it is reactive and short-term, but not if it is a considered and planned investment.

Cr Turner asked if they worked from the same office in Banyule.

K Preece responded that she works from five different locations including in Melton – stationed at Western Psychology Services.

Cr Turner expressed his concerns about online gambling especially on phones. He suggested that gambling ads be banned from media.

A Mohammad asked who funds their services and is State government looking at some kind of balance or prevention. Is there a way for us to do some advocacy?

L McKenzie said our program is funded by the State Government. He said government receive taxation and gambling is a source of revenue. He said hopefully government will get the balance right in terms of advertising. The Alliance for Gambling Reform initiated by VLGA can be contacted for information on advocacy.

Cr Carli commented that we need to promote messages through our network about the harm and causes of gambling. If we inform people and let them know about available services, hopefully this will help.

D Khadka said that he was part of the Gambling Working Group at Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria Research. They researched the harm of gambling in new and emerging communities. One of the findings of the research indicated that younger people with no jobs and not studying tend to start online gambling often with smaller amounts. Before they realise, they are gambling away bigger amounts of money. The research also found that these younger people often lack the literacy about the harm of problem gambling especially online gambling.

**Action**

E Dileri to send a copy of Gambling Help presentation along with their contact details to the Committee.

E Dileri to circulate relevant updates from Alliance for Gambling Reform to the Committee



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### 6.3 Recycling and proper water disposal

S Frazer presented on Melton Waste Services. There are three bins used by the residents of the City of Melton.

- General waste bins (landfill)
- Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) bins
- Recycle bins

Melton landfill facility is in Ravenhall. We use landfill in Australia as we are a big country and have more land as compared to other countries with less land. Landfill pollutes our earth.

FOGO bins are for food and garden waste. FOGO waste goes to a plant in Bulla where it is turned into compost. You can put meat and pasta in FOGO bins as opposed to home compost because they use high heating and have the right technology too. You can still use home composting if you wish to. FOGO is an extra service for people of Melton.

Recycling facility is located in Laverton. Visy Recycling runs the facility. It is important to keep recycling bins loose because the facility is run by razer technology machines. People are there to only manage rubbish. There is a lot of contamination in recycling bins. The rate of recycle bins contamination in Melton is 32% which his pretty high.

Melton Recycling Facility is located at 33 Ferris Road, Cobblebank. The following services are available:

- Transfer Station
- Resale Shop
- Permanent drop off site
- Free Green waste disposal in November and December for Melton residents

Melton Waste education is run at schools and community groups. We also perform waste audits and bin inspections.

A Mohammad said the cost associated with landfill could be an issue for some people and this may result in waste dumping in Melton. Is there a way to look at the cost?

S Frazer said unfortunately it is costly to dispose of waste. The amount Council charges is only to cover cost of operation. Council doesn't make any profit off waste management. One way to save cost is to separate your waste. You many find ways to dispose of your waste for free. For example, you can join the Detox Campaigns that take place in the City of Melton and dispose of your waste.

Cr Carli asked the Committee to inform Council about any waste dumping in your areas. Fencing your property while building can prevent waste dumping too.

#### Action

E Dileri to share S Frazer's presentation and contact details with the Committee.

### 6.4 New Plan Development

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E Rider started her presentation by informing the Committee about the launch of 16 Days of Activism on 25 November 2021. Council has organised a few events to raise people's aware of issues related to family violence. She asked everyone to join the events organised by Council.

S Zia asked if a local women's group could be part of the 16 Days of Activism events and activities. The women in this group work on issues related to domestic violence and discrimination.

E Rider responded that we would be happy to connect you with Council's Social Planning team.

**Action**

E Dileri to connect S Zia with Council's Social Planning Team and Community Engagement Team of Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission with regards to her work in the community.

Council is in the process of working on its new Intercultural Plan. Council has recently undertaken some background research to build the foundation of the plan. The Melton City Council and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 will inform development of the new Intercultural Plan, which will deliver on the theme of - A safe City that is socially and culturally connected.

The previous Intercultural Plan 2017-2021 affirmed Melton City as an Intercultural City. Melton City uses an intercultural approach which builds on Melton City's reputation, and increases local and international standing amongst cities of similar population size in relation to a proactive approach to diversity.

She further explained that an Intercultural Plan is a City's shared vision and strategy which:

- realises the diversity advantage & the resources that different groups bring,
- upholds pluralism, intersectionality, equality and interaction,
- supports effective handling of conflict for creativity and innovation.

It does this by developing a shared:

- Vision
- Commitment
- Intercultural governance
- Inclusive narrative
- Participatory policy-making
- Impact evaluation.

We are keen to engage IAC and your community networks in the process of developing Council's the renewed Intercultural Plan.

The new Intercultural Plan development will also be informed by the Intercultural Cities Index indicators/themes which are:

- commitment



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- education
- public services
- intelligence/competence
- governance
- neighbourhood policies
- business & labour market
- mediation
- media

The Project Control Group (PCG) for the new plan development is the Intercultural Advisory Committee. This PCG will be kept informed throughout the process and be able to provide strategic advice and input.

Community Planning is leading the process of engaging teams across Council to inform the new plan. This will include a Steering group whose members will come across different Council areas which will include Engagement & Advocacy, City Design & Strategy, Recreation & Youth, Libraries & Arts, Legal & Governance, Families & Children, Community Care, People & Culture.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement is proposed to include:

- In-person community engagement - interviews and workshops at community gatherings across the City
- Online community engagement – survey and online workshops
- Internal meetings & workshops - staff at Council and Councillors briefings & workshop.

The Plan will be presented to Council for adoption.

### Action

E Dileri to connect S Zia with Social Planning Team for information about family violence outreach and information for community groups.

### 6.5 African Communities Working Group (ACWG)

E Dileri informed the Committee about the Expression of Interest for the new Africa Communities Working Group term. He added that Council has recently employed Wazih Razib, Diversity and Intercultural Project Officer. He will look after the ACWG within Council.

Cr Carli requested if Wazih Razib be invited to the next IAC meeting to meet the Committee.

### Action

E Dileri to share African Communities Working Group's Expression of Interest with the Committee.

E Dileri to invite Wazih Razib to the next IAC meeting.

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**6.6 Updates from members**

Cr Carli invited members to provide any updates from their respective communities.

No updates.

**7. Next Meeting**

23 Feb 2022

**8. Close of Business**

The meeting closed at 7.57 pm.