

COMMUNITY LEARNING BOARD

MINUTES: Meeting held on Thursday 26 June 2014
Melton City Council Community Hall, Room 4 from 2.00pm -4.00pm

PRESENT:

Cr Sophie Ramsey	Chair; Councillor Representative, Melton City Council
Trish Heffernan	Deputy Chair; CEO, Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services
Frances O' Reilly	CEO, Merrimu Services
Colleen Bergin	CEO, YouthNow
Jane Sultana	Treasurer, U3A
Jim Asimakopoulos, OAM	Coordinator, Abilities Awareness Program DEECD
Pam Madej	CEO, Melton South Community Centre
Michael Tudball	Manager, Economic Development & Advocacy, Melton City Council
Michael Scholtes	Manager, Learning Communities, Melton City Council
Peter Blunden	Executive Officer to the Learning Board, Melton City Council
Hallie Wyant	Minutes; Learning Communities Administration Officer, Melton City Council

APOLOGIES:

Kelvin Tori	CEO, Melton City Council
David Reynolds	Principal, Melton Secondary College
Graeme Brown	Executive Officer, BMLLEN
Ian Gudgeon	Principal, Melton Specialist School
Jane McLennan	Director VE Strategy, Victoria University
Janine Blachford	Principal, Creekside College Caroline Springs
Kathryn Dishon	Principal, Melton Secondary College
Leigh Cruickshank	Coordinator, Early Years Partnership Melton City Council
Anne Shepherd	Brotherhood of St. Lawrence

CHAIRPERSON: Cr Sophie Ramsey, Melton City Council

WELCOME:

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL LANDOWNERS:

The Chair acknowledged Traditional Landowners.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: Meeting of Thursday, 1 May, 2014

T Heffernan moved to accept minutes, M Tudball seconded. Minutes accepted.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: Nil

BUSINESS ARISING:

Action 1: Learning Plan Evaluation – moved to ‘General Business’ below

Action 2: VU Campus Update - P Blunden for J McLennan

Discussion: Jane McLennan has identified a desire to get key people together to discuss options for the VU Melton Campus’ future. Professor Peter Dawkins, VU Vice-Chancellor, has been asked to clarify the future of the Melton Campus via a letter sent from the Board on 14 April 2014 signed by the Chair. A reply has yet to be received.

Recommendation:

Review progress and report to Community Learning Board by next meeting (J McLennan)

GENERAL BUSINESS:

What Makes Melton ‘A Learning City’: Learning Plan Evaluation 2014

Discussion led by *P Blunden*

A summary Community Learning Plan Evaluation progress report was given and discussion facilitated.

The Literature Review is almost complete. It lines up with the UNESCO Commitment and the National Learning Communities Framework as discussed. The Community Learning Board, EDLL and SILL objectives were also summarised. The following points were made for consideration in the new Learning Plan:

- The Learning Cities approach reaches across a range of Council initiatives, programs and partnerships;
- ‘Leadership’ listed under the Key Elements slide discussed needs to be more clearly defined e.g. ‘Leadership to drive change’;
- Age ranges in the lifecycle need to be discussed further to lend consistency to statistics gathered across programs and to further focus initiatives. Life Cycle Ranges being discussed include those set around the ABS Service Age Groups:

○ Pre-school	0-4
○ Primary School Age	5-12
○ Secondary School Age	13-17
○ Young Adult	18-24 (30?)
○ Adult	25-65
○ Pre retirees	55....
○ Older Citizens	65 +

- **Goals for Children.**

Early intervention and vulnerable group access to Kinder programs is becoming more critical and a likely priority for the next Learning Plan;

- **Goals for Youth**

Young people’s pathways to school, training and career will also be critical in the coming years. It is anticipated that the Government’s ‘Earn and Learn’ policy will have a negative effect on vulnerable young people.

A collective community strategy to address the needs vulnerable young people is critical given Federal Government budget cuts. Programs currently addressing this need have been discontinued.

- **Goals for Adults**

There is a need to review informal to formal learning opportunities due to later retirement age; re-skilling and employment needs may differ across older age groups and access to lifelong learning and leisure opportunities takes on more significance. Men's Shed and U3A were noted as excellent resources for community inclusion in learning and leisure activities.

- **Goals for Economic Development**

Strategies to strengthen direct linkages and supports from training to employment, including, employability skills, skills for the future and re-training opportunities remains a priority. This has also been identified as a priority in the Council's Economic Development and Tourism strategy. A community approach to providing a skilled workforce is a business attracter and should have a positive impact on employment. Fostering business commitment to skilling its own work force and providing opportunities for business incubation will also lift economic activity and employment.

- **Goals for Social Inclusion**

Pathways, careers and transitions for people with a disability, indigenous, CaLD groups and disengaged community members remains an issue. Accessibility to learning and leisure programs and a citizen's curriculum (health, digital, civic and financial capacity) are needed to ensure all citizens have the opportunity to have fulfilled lives.

- **Setting priorities and Success Measures**

Discussion and decisions are needed about how the Learning Board sets its priorities and plans projects and initiatives with partners. The question of who owns initiatives and takes responsibility for them at the end needs to be built into planning at the beginning. Participative Action Research and the Impact Assessment Tool will assist in ongoing evaluation and review.

The Learning Board discussion around priorities will be incorporated into the final evaluation document.

Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government(ACELG), Project Update *'Measuring Collective Impact Tool' presentation by P Blunden*

Peter introduced the *draft* Measuring Impact Tool. Starfish Consultancy has been engaged to work with Peter Blunden to develop the Tool. The Tool is being developed as a part of Melton City Council's contribution to the Measuring the Impact project with the Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government, Gwydir Shire Council and the Australian Learning Communities Network.

It is anticipated that the Measuring Impact Tool will be of benefit to community organisations, government departments and even business or business groups that utilise partnerships to achieve measurable collective goals.

The Measuring Impact Tool is has been designed to be practical and manageable for practitioners to assist with evaluating and tracking learning community (partnership) progress towards achieving its goals and the collective impact that has been made in achieving those goals.

The Tool is presented on an Excel Spreadsheet and has three sections:

Section 1: Partnership Strength

Measures and calculates the level of engagement and the importance of the contribution made by participating organisations or partners to achieving agreed goals,

in the Learning Board's case, achieving Learning Plan Goals. A % level of partnership strength is calculated.

Section 2: Success Measures

Measures and calculates the outcome or level of achievement of a goal and also gives it a sustainability score. An average of each component of outcome and success measure is made along with the percentage partnership strength measure.

Section 3: Collective Impact Assessment

The tool takes the average outcome and sustainability strength and the % Partnership Strength Measure and plots them on the Impact Assessment Graph. The level of impact the delivery of each identified goal (high, medium or low) can then be demonstrated graphically.

The Learning Board provided feedback and made suggestions for improvement of the Measuring Impact Tool including:

- The Tool, particularly the Section 1: Partnership Strength demonstrates transparency between partners and their chosen level of commitment. In making decisions to agree to partner in an initiative partners can be freely clear about the level of priority the initiative has for them and what level of resources they can or are willing to contribute.
- It was agreed that the term 'risk' should be replaced with a word that more aptly describes what is being measured and defined to reduce ambiguity and confusion in reading the Impact Measurement chart;
- 'Sustainability' is a critical factor and needs to be incorporated into the success measures section.

Next Step

A half day forum is to be organised for Learning Board, EDLL and SILL Working Groups and other invited relevant stakeholders to:

- Review the Research and Evaluation Report
- Frame the Missions, Goals and Success Measures for the next Community Learning Plan due in October/November 2014

Recommendation:

Organise Forum venue and invite attendees by Monday 6 July – P Blunden

Working Party and Project Reports

a. *Economic Development LL - M Tudball*

Minutes were distributed with the Learning Board Papers. A Learning Plan evaluation workshop was facilitated. Information from the SWOT Analysis and discussion points will be fed into the review of the Community Learning Plan.

The BMT website has been restructured and will link to the Melton Jobs Hub. BMT was a runner up in the National Local Government Awards.

b. *Social Inclusion LL - F O'Reilly*

The SILL Minutes were sent to Board members. Careers and transitions will be the key focus of the Work's 4 Me Partnership going forward. The SILL Learning Plan Evaluation and SWOT Analysis data has been captured.

c. *Early Years Partnership – P Blunden for L Cruickshank*

A copy of the **Municipal Early Years Plan 2014-2017** was distributed to Learning Board members. The Early Years Working Group conducted a recent Kindergarten Open Day, which was highly successful. The Kindergarten

enrolment process, Maternal & Child Health issues and vulnerable family access to kinder were issues discussed. There may be funding underway to support vulnerable families. Politicians at various levels are lobbying for universal access to Kinder and trying to bring to forefront of concerns.

Cr S Ramsey mentioned that a goal around early childhood be considered as a priority for the new Learning Plan. If we 'get in early' with children and families and emphasise Early Learning we have a better chance of improving future learning and life outcomes for children. Goals and initiatives that address this may be seen as favourable by Council.

d. **School Provisioning** - P Blunden

M Tudball spoke to an advocacy strategy to convince State Government to provide new schools in Melton. Given Melton's rapid growth school provisioning and the issues surrounding will become critical if not by State Government.

Emerging Issues

▪ **State & Federal Government Funding: Implication for the Community** – T Heffernan

Trish spoke to a paper she prepared on the impact of the 'Federal Budget 2014-2015. Trish identified key programs that have been cut and will impact on the services to our community and the organisations that deliver them (see attached). Key programs include:

- Youth Connections
- School, Community and Business Partnership Brokers;
- The Access Program; and
- Priority Employment Areas Consultants

All of the above cuts have a negative impact on Learning Board member organisations that deliver these programs and will lead to staff losses. It is considered essential that in the drafting of the new Community Learning Plan and in advocacy strategies thought is given to how the Melton Community can fill the gap left by these vital programs.

▪ **VU Melton Campus** - see *BUSINESS ARISING Action 2*.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Jim Asimakopoulos spoke at Melton West about disability awareness. He received much enthusiasm and excellent feedback and feels there is definitely much more work for him in Melton.

NEXT MEETING:

A Forum is to be organised for Wednesday, 30 July, 9.00am-2.30pm at Tabcorp Park, Melton. Details will be provided within a week of this meeting.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, 28 August, 2.00-4.00 pm, Meeting Room 4, Community Hall

The meeting closed at 3:55 pm.