



# Minutes Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee

10 May 2023

## Meeting details

<b>Date of meeting</b>	Wednesday, 10 May 2023
<b>Time</b>	9.30 to 11.30am
<b>Venue</b>	Barrbunin Beek, Aboriginal Gathering Place, Olympic Park, Catalina Street, Heidelberg West
<b>Chair/Facilitator</b>	Cr Peter Castaldo
<b>Minutes</b>	Bianca Ellis

## Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians

“Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as Traditional Custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region’s history.”

## Diversity Statement

“Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders. We are committed to access, equity, participation and rights for everyone: principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.”

## Attendees

<b>Attendee name</b>	<b>Affiliation/Organisation</b>
Cr Peter Castaldo	Mayor Banyule City Council
Kath Brackett	Director Community Wellbeing
Jo Wilson	Manager Resilient and Connected Communities
Jane Cowell	Yara Plenty Regional Libraries
Felix Neighbour	Department of Families Fairness and Housing
Marc Hodgson	Victoria Police (on behalf of Andrew Markakis)
Anna Bauze	Department of Health
Glen Swafford	Age Friendly Committee
Tiziana	BNLLEN (on behalf of Meri Ivanovska)
Brad Byrne	Workforce Australia – Local Jobs NE Melbourne
Angela Papoutsoglou	Department of Families Fairness and Housing
Tracey Colbert	Department of Education and Training
Tom Conley	RAP Committee
Bianca Ellis	Banyule Council
Andrew Whalley	Banyule Council
Robert Bamblett	Koorie Engagement Support Officer Department of Education and Training

## Apologies

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation/Organisation</b>
Sherryn Prinzi	Coordinator Community Impact

Jill Gallagher	VACCHO
Ambereen Farouque	North East Public Health Unit
Uncle Owen Butler	RAP Committee
Paul Byrne- Moroney	LGBTIQA+ Committee

## Items

### 1. Introduction 9.30-9.45am

Acknowledgement of traditional custodians by Uncle Owen  
Diversity Statement

Introductions and apologies.

### 2. Action items from previous meeting 9.45-9.50am

Action items from previous meeting for noting only. Questions invited.

Action item	Action arising
Item 1: Ambereen to distribute HEPH Population health profile to members	Complete
Item 2: Barry to provide contact details for Banyule's local Wellbeing team	Complete Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals - <a href="mailto:localservices@health.vic.gov.au">localservices@health.vic.gov.au</a> Mental Health and Wellbeing Promotion Office <a href="mailto:MHWPPO@health.vic.gov.au">MHWPPO@health.vic.gov.au</a>
Item 3: Sherryn to attach mental health statistics to the minutes	Complete
Item 4: Sherryn to consult with Banyule Youth to ascertain information on youth cohorts more likely not to engage in community support activities.	Complete
Item 5: Sherryn to provide details of Active Bystander training and work with Uncle Owen to deliver at Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal Gathering Place.	In progress
Item 6: Sherryn to include Mental Health First Aid training in Year 2 Inclusive Banyule Action Plan.	Complete
Item 7: Committee to review progress on Gambling policy development in May 2023	Update to be provided in this meeting
Build an advocacy campaign around priority issues, to assist with positioning and partnerships with State and Federal governments	Ongoing, Jo Wilson to provide update on current advocacy priorities
Item 6: Council to bring back results from the 3081 affordable housing discussion to committee	Update to be provided in this meeting

### 3. Purpose of Meeting and Business Arising

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Discuss and better understand the local approach to the referendum and the potential mental health implications for local First Nations people
- Discuss and better understand mental health supports for First Nations students
- Receive updates on progress on next iteration of the Banyule Gambling policy
- Receive an update on Council's 2023-24 mental health actions associated with the MPH&W Plan
- Receive an update on Council's 3081 strategic sites study and link to social and affordable housing

- Receive an update on Council's Inclusive Banyule actions

### 3.1 First Nations Mental Health (9.50-10.20)

As part of the Australian Government's commitment to implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart, a referendum will be held between October and December 2023 to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

- A) Banyule's Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee working group are leading the local approach to address the referendum in Banyule. The basis of this local approach will be discussed.

Speaker: Zali Mifsud, First Nations Lead, Banyule City Council

#### Discussion

On 5 December 2022, Banyule City Council became third local government area to endorse the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full. Council acknowledged that it was their role to ensure that the community was informed coming up to the referendum that is occurring in October.

The Uluru Statement was developed after a range of Uluru dialogues occurred in 2016, and in 2017 a convention was held at the base of Uluru which invited 250 of the nation's most prominent first nations delegates to come and talk about what those dialogues said and what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people wanted to see and what tangible actions they wanted to be able to move forward with reconciliation with the broader Australian community. At a high level the Statement articulates three reforms: Voice, Treaty and Truth.

- Voice was a call for a first nations voice to parliament to be established and enshrined in the Australian Constitution.
- Treaty is already happening in Victoria. We are the only state who has moved legislation to acknowledge that we will be having a treaty with our first nations people. The process formally began in approximately 2015 in Victoria. The community are in the process of electing the second body of the First Peoples Assembly, which for the next phase of treaty will be sitting down and negotiating with the State Government about what Aboriginal Victorian's inherent rights are as first peoples of this land as something that should have happened when colonisation occurred.
- Truth is currently occurring in Victoria through the Yoorrook Truth Telling Commission. It is establishing the background on what occurred upon Colonisation, which is the first time we're going to hear the history being told by first nations voices. The Commission's findings will shape significant change around treaty in terms of what schools will be teaching and will also be looking at what is happening within our systems (Health, Wellbeing, Early Years etc.) in the State of Victoria from a first nations perspective.

The RAP Advisory Committee is guiding a lot of Council's work in terms of how we engage in the conversation which was unanimously endorsed by Council. This is to ensure our local aboriginal people here in Banyule are having a voice and showing what Council should be doing. It is important to recognise that these words are not Council's, however they are voices of the RAP Committee who should be guiding us in this area.

Council, on the advice of the RAP Committee, are not taking a Political 'Yes' or 'No' position on the referendum at this time. The committee, and Council are more interested in empowering community with accurate information to be informed to make up their own mind.

The RAP Committee recognised that there was a learning opportunity about how to best prepare for the referendum by learning from communities who have been through a significant federal political change campaign process' in recent years, which led the RAP Committee to meet with the LGBTIQ+ Population Committee to learn from the experiences of the Marriage Equality Plebiscite. The outcome of that learning was that while a 'Yes' vote was achieved, the percentages were not significantly different and the emotional impact of knowing the number of people who still fundamentally disagreed with the outcome had lasting effects. These learnings have led the Committee, and Council to recognise the importance of supporting the first nations committee through the entire process, but also whatever the outcome is, we will need to continue that support after the vote, whatever the outcome.

For the Banyule community who do not identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, Council are continuing to provide opportunities to be informed and engaged, and opportunities to have curious conversations, learn from each other and ask the hard questions so people can make informed decisions when it comes to the vote.

#### Action 1

Committee requests Council to develop a succinct one-page summary of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, Council's current position and articulate the principles of having a Voice to parliament addressing some of the misinformation.

- B) As campaigning ramps up, based on advice from the LGBTIQ+ committee, prioritising mental health supports is critical to reducing the individual and community level impacts. Commentary on this discussion between the LGBTIQ+ Committee and the RAP Advisory Committee will be shared for context.

Speakers: Uncle Owen and Paul Byrne- Moroney

#### Discussion

As Uncle Owen and Paul Byrne-Moroney were not in attendance, Zali Mifsud shared reflections and learnings from the meeting of the LGBTIQA+ and RAP Committees.

- C) Ngarra Jarra Aboriginal Health, based at the Austin Hospital, supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people whilst they use the hospital services. Danella will introduce herself to the Committee and will provide a brief overview of the Ngarra Jarra supports.

Speaker: Danella, Manager Ngarra Jarra Aboriginal Health Unit

### Discussion

The Ngarra Jarra Aboriginal Health Unit services Austin's acute work. The whole team are new and are looking at their support to the rest of the Austin with fresh perspective, approaching their involvement and engagement at the Austin from the beginning. In their approach they are considering how they can assist, and what they can do, recognising that they're not going to continue doing things the way they've always been done. Additionally, Austin are looking at employing a Koori Mental Health Worker in the Mental Health Division.

## 3.2 Department of Education- Youth mental health supports (10.20-10.30)

In response to the likely impacts on First Nations young people during the referendum period, the Department of Education's Department of Education Koori Education Support Officer (KESOs) team will discuss supports for First Nations students in Banyule schools.

Speaker: Robert Bamblett

### Discussion

The Koori Education Support Officers (KESO) are based across the state, with 6 in the Northern Region and two KESO's covering the Banyule and Nillumbik areas working from Early Years all the way through to Higher Education. The focus of the role is around Primary and Secondary education, with transition support for both kindergarten/early years and higher education. The role of the KESO is to go into schools, support the school, the student, and the families.

In responding to Youth Mental Health supports, the KESO might connect with the Wellbeing Officers at the school to establish what the issues are and linking them with the most appropriate supports e.g., Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, Berry Street etc. The KESOs work with the school to establish what services the young person and the family would like to access (Aboriginal service or mainstream) to ensure that the service is the one that they want and that they have buy-in for the support options.

Often an action that the KESO might undertake is to establish a Koori Club at a school, as often students don't realise, they have other classmates/students at school who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. Developing these clubs can assist in alleviating some of the anxiety and support better mental health for students. Where there are schools with higher numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, the Koori Clubs saw an improvement in academic results as well as better social, emotional and wellbeing outcomes. The clubs and groups are tailored to each individual school and families to ensure they're the right fit for the community. The KESOs have developed a CAT (Cultural Audit Tool) to ensure that schools are more culturally safe and appropriate for students.

The tool eases schools into the audit in with questions including are you flying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags before getting to the harder questions. Once the audit has been completed it provides a list of recommendations for schools and those recommendations become goals to complete to help build a culturally safe environment. In addition to building positive social and emotional wellbeing, the KESOs aim to build and share positive representation, and more specifically positive male representation outside of sports.

#### Action 2

- Council to share contact details between YPRL, KESOs to discuss opportunities to set up a Koori Homework Club, libraries Wi-Fi Hotspot program and increase support options for community.

#### Action 3

- YPRL to reach out to Brad from Workforce Australia should they require bus drivers to assist in transporting young people to Libraries.

#### Action 4

- Council to share contact details between Ngarra Jarra Aboriginal Health Unit and KESOs to discuss mental health referral and support options.

## 3.3 Banyule Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (10.30-10.50)

Council to present information on proposed 2023-24 good mental wellbeing actions. Committee invited to discuss and provide advice.

Speaker: Jo Wilson, Manager Resilient and Connected Communities

### Discussion

In the briefing paper, Council has outlined the approach being explored for the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and the Mental Wellbeing actions.

The proposed actions take a strength-based approach to mental wellness, awareness, attitudes, lived experience and barriers experienced by people to access good mental wellness and supports.

Council has met with North Richmond Community Health to find out more about their Community Mental Health Project which has seen community leaders trained up in Mental Health First Aid and providing culturally sensitive and safe referral pathways and supports to people who may be experiencing stress, anxiety or need some support for mental wellness.

To implement a similar model, the first step would be to develop a robust referral list of local services including who and what they can offer.

Query from Felix, DFFH about whether Council would consider establishing a local mental health alliance to bring the service providers together to take a coordinated approach to health provision and ensure the royal commission and recommendations are considered in the provision and coordination of services locally. Yarra has a mental health alliance which brings together services including community health for this work.

#### Action 5

Council to investigate feasibility of local mental health alliance.

## 4. Standing Agenda Items

### 4.1 Inclusive Banyule Action Plan (10.50-11.00)

Council notes the report on progress against 2022/23 actions as presented in Committee Briefing Paper. Questions on actions invited.

#### Discussion

Reminder to the group that Council has the Inclusive Employment Program.

#### Action 6

Committee members interested in the Inclusive Employment Program to contact Jane Nixon [jane.nixon@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:jane.nixon@banyule.vic.gov.au) for further information.

### 4.2 Addressing affordable and social housing (11.00-11.05)

Council to discuss and provide a brief update on the strategic property sites in 3081 and progress towards addressing social and affordable housing opportunities.

Speaker: Kath Brackett, Director Community Wellbeing

#### Discussion

Council is still in discussion with Homes Victoria about properties. Council will be going out for Public Consultation on the Housing Policy (due June/July 2023).

#### Action 7

Council to share information with the Committee as it becomes available.

## 5. New Business

### 5.1 Gambling and Harm Minimisation Policy position (11.05-11.20)

As a follow up to the previous brief discussion on Gambling Policy, Council will provide a brief overview of options regarding policy directions and next steps and seek advice from the Committee regarding the approach.

Speaker: Bianca Ellis & Andrew Whalley, Banyule City Council

#### Discussion

Following initial feedback, best practice and contemporary practice, the new Gambling Policy will take a focus on preventative options and measures for gambling harm.

The approach that is currently being explored in the policy development fits within a Public Interest approach.

- Seek to best serve the public good
- Focus on harm prevention and minimisation
- Aligns with Public Health
- Focuses on environments which enable gambling as opposed to individual behaviours

Mental Health Practitioners Network have recently put together information regarding the relationship between gambling and mental health which might assist in the research and pitch being taken in this policy.

BNLLEN have raised concerns about the linkages between gaming and gambling and young people.

#### Action 8

Ensure that Policy aligns to the Northern Council's Alliance advocacy positions on gambling.

#### Action 9

Tom Conley to share information from the Mental Health Practitioners Network on gambling with Council officers

## 5.2 Other updates (11.20-11.30)

Members invited to share updates.

## 6. Meeting Close

Next meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> August 9.30-11.30 at Shop 48, Bell Street Mall, Heidelberg West