



Minutes Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee

1 March 2023

Meeting details

Date of meeting	Wednesday, 1 March 2023
Time	9.30 to 11.30am
Venue	Level 1, Bellfield Community Hub, Perkins Avenue, Bellfield
Chair/Facilitator	Cr Peter Castaldo
Minutes	Sherryn Prinzi

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.”

Inclusive Banyule 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

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
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
Ambereen Farouque	North East Public Health Unit
Andrew Markakis	Victoria Police
Anna Bauze	Department of Health
Glen Swafford	Age Friendly Committee
Meri Ivanovska	BNLLEN
Uncle Owen Butler	RAP Committee
Brad Byrne	Workforce Australia – Local Jobs NE Melbourne
Barry Curran Other Drugs System Management)	Director South and East System Management (Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs System Management)
Mick Geary	Banyule Community Health Service
Paul Byrne- Moroney	LGBTIQA+ Committee
Sherryn Prinzi	Coordinator Community Impact

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Helen Riseborough	Women's Health in the North
Angela Papoutsoglou	Department of Families Fairness and Housing
Tracey Colbert	Department of Education and Training
Tom Conley	RAP Committee
Jill Gallagher	VACCHO
Michael Graham	VAHS
Sebastian Zeta	Department of Justice
Cr Tom Melican	Councillor Banyule City Council

Items

1. Introduction 9.30-9.40am

Councillor Castaldo facilitated warm welcome and introductions after reading Council's Acknowledgement of traditional custodians and Diversity Statement. Noted resignation of Kerryn Burgoyne from Disability and Inclusion Committee and welcomed new member Paul Byrne- Moroney, representing the LGBTIQ+ committee.

2. Action items from previous meeting 9.40-9.50am

Action item	Action arising
CF: Build an advocacy campaign around priority issues, to assist with positioning and partnerships with State and Federal governments	Ongoing
Item 1: Sherryn to share days of significance calendar with minutes and ask communications to host calendar on website	Complete
Item 2: Council to report back to committee on progress in providing specific grants for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community	Complete Officer acknowledges the request to consider specific grants for First Nations community and this matter will be address within RAP Committee in 2023.
Item 3: Invite population committees to provide feedback on what opportunities they would like to prioritise regarding mental health supports	Complete: See briefing paper
Item 4: Ambereen to discuss role of NEPHU in Banyule	Complete
Item 5: Invite Anna to share overview of where government mental health investments will be delivered in Banyule	Complete
Item 6: Council to bring back results from the 3081 affordable housing discussion to committee	Through late 2022 and early 2023, Council has worked with consultants to undertake an urban design analysis through key strategic sites in 3081. The intent of this study is to identify ways to improve access and connectivity within 3081 through existing assets and potential key future acquisitions. A report can be provided to the Committee after March 2023.
Item 7: Send link to Community Infrastructure Plan consultation to committee members with minutes	Complete
Item 8: Invite population committees to provide feedback on affordable and social housing priorities	Complete- briefing paper outlines responses
Item 9: Next meeting to be held at Bellfield Community Hub	Complete
Item 10: Include in Year 2 Inclusive Banyule Action Plan- Investigate local supports for carers of people with disability and offer mental health first aid training to community organisations	Complete

Item 11: Agenda Municipal Health & Wellbeing priorities in March meeting	Complete
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Item 12: Share Kate Twaites volunteer awards opportunity across networks	Complete
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3. Purpose of Meeting and Business Arising (9.50-10.50)

3.1 NEPHU purpose and contributions to Banyule community

Ambereen Farouque from the North East Public Health Unit (NEPHU) provided an overview of the newly established unit, one of 9 regional units across Victoria. NEPHU includes Banyule, Boroondara, Darebin, Hume, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Whitehorse, Whittlesea, Yarra, Yarra Ranges and Nillumbik. Servicing over 1.8 million people, the catchment is one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse regions in Australia. Austin Health is Banyule's operational and clinical lead, consisting of teams including health protection; engagement, communications and capacity development; public health integrated planning and programs with a mission to bring health services closer to communities.

The vision of NEPHU is: Active, connected and safe communities for all with healthy places, healthy people and a healthier tomorrow. To achieve this vision NEPHU commits to evidence-informed population and place-based responses with a focus on collaborative action in health promotion, prevention and protection activities.

The primary strategy informing the work of NEPHU is the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and success is measured through the Victorian public health and wellbeing outcomes framework, along with a range of other plans and strategies. Within the outcomes framework, NEPHU focuses on Domain 1: Victorians are healthy & well, and more specifically outcome 1: Victorians have good physical health and outcomes 3: Victorians act to protect and promote health.

Since establishment, NEPHU have rapid progress through four key development phases, starting with desktop research, then listening labs, thematic needs assessment and gap analysis to priority setting workshop series. They are working on finalising the NEPHU Health Promotion and Prevention Priorities 2022-23.

NEPHU have produced a Population Health Catchment Planning Stage 1 report, findings from the Listening Lab, a Population Health Profile and a Catchment Planning Workshop Findings Report and will release a recommendations report in the coming weeks.

Moving forward, the key focus areas of NEPHU will include healthy eating, active living, improving sexual and reproductive health, and reducing harmful drug and alcohol use.

Ambereen's team's role is to enhance coordination, alignment and integration in planning, prevention and promotion projects and initiatives, stakeholder capacity development, advocacy and networks and partnerships.

Discussion

Anna noted Department of Health is refining the NEPHU model over time and will refine processes and partnerships through the Local Public Health Units, and further updates are to come. Council is advised to ensure feedback loops are established within Council to facilitate understanding of ongoing conversations with NEPHU.

Brad noted Workforce Australia has similar catchment areas and is working on drawing data together. Noted local context can be lost in the broader analysis of regions.

Ambereen noted the need to focus on priority populations and proposes a deeper dive into suburb-by-suburb data through relationships with local stakeholders.

Felix reflected on the imperative to listen and respond to the voices of people in public health planning and pondered on how to forge connections to support this.

Ambereen noted the need to amplify the work happening under the other VPHW domains.

Felix asked if data was to become publicly available. Ambereen noted that the NEPHU is progressing this through partnerships.

Actions

Action 1: Ambereen to distribute NEPH Population Health Profile to members.

3.2 Department of Health- Mental Health and Wellbeing Division (10.10-10.30)

Barry Curran, Director, Systems Management, Mental Health and Wellbeing Division shared updates and progress regarding Victoria's mental health and wellbeing system.

Noting the two year anniversary of the 2021 Final Report from the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System, and the 74 recommendations, Barry shared information on the \$5 billion investments into the system. With foundations for the future stemming from the Mental Health & Wellbeing Act, Outcomes and Performance Framework and Local Services, the Victorian Government seeks to establish and leverage sustainable partnerships with lived and living experience, in the mental health and wellbeing sector and the Victorian community to deliver a mental health focused program of work.

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Act will commence 1 September 2023 and enactment will establish the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission, Regional Mental Health and Wellbeing boards, Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Victoria, Opt-out non-legal mental health advocacy service, and the Chief Officer for Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Mental health and wellbeing promotion will be underpinned by the State wide Wellbeing Plan, the Victorian Suicide Prevention and Response Strategy, the Diverse Communities Framework, the Social Inclusion Action Groups and Social Prescribing Trials.

In addition, the Victorian Government has invested \$372 million in workforce development, with more than 1600 positions coming online over the next years. This includes scholarships for mental health nurses, social workers, OT's, psychologists, alcohol and other drugs (AOD) practitioners and lived and living experience workers (through a Peer Cadet Program).

By the end of 2023, eight regional bodies will be established to build strong and trusting relationships within their communities and advise the Department of local needs.

Key reform milestones included the establishment of the Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing, Consortium for the Mental Health State-wide Trauma Service, Victoria's first peer-led residential mental health and wellbeing services, Family and Carer led centres, guidelines for integrated Mental Health, Wellbeing and AOD treatment, care and support, and the Balit Durn Durn Centre.

Banyule can look forward to the establishment of an Infant, Child and Family Centre at the Austin Hospital, serving children up to 11 years and their families, and the Hope Outreach Service, also at the Austin.

For regular updates, subscribe through mentalhealth@health.vic.gov.au.

Discussion

Uncle Owen questioned plans to fix the issues related to mental health supports in correctional facilities and supports to transition from the justice system to community.

Barry noted the Departments of Health and Justice are working on the issue but could not comment further on progress.

Jo asked for a contact to discuss the establishment of the new Infant, Child and Family Centre in Heidelberg. Barry to provide local contact.

Jane questioned the matter of social subscribing and asked if a report will be released. Barry noted outcomes will be reported on in the future.

Kath pondered the role of local government in social prescribing, what that might look like in Banyule and how Council might invest. Suggested alignment of approaches would be useful. Barry noted the local team can be contacted for further discussions.

Actions

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Action 2: Barry to provide contact details for Banyule's local team.

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

Council provided an overview of its work toward progressing mental health priorities and focus areas in Banyule. Sherryn noted the report in the March 2023 Committee Briefing Paper and touched on key points related to uplifting mental health supports for young people and gender equity.

Sherryn noted the availability of an online portal to access data on Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Outcomes indicators and will provide a snapshot of Banyule's latest mental health outcomes with the minutes.

Discussion

Brad commented on the need to understand the mental health status of community, post the 2021 Census and pondered if there was a way to generate a more up-to-date snapshot.

Felix suggested that gathering stories of lived experiences was a powerful way to generate more nuanced information, in addition to data.

Jane noted the presentation of sustained levels of anxiety in some community members attending the YPRL service and commented on how readily some community members can be triggered.

Ambereen noted the absence of youth-specific data in snapshots.

Felix questioned whether there are specific cohorts of young people not engaging in local supports. Sherryn noted that there is a greater level of presentation of people who identify as neurodiverse in youth services in Banyule and would take the question on notice.

Sherryn noted that Council will be offering active bystander training to organisations and asked the committee to gauge the possible level of interest in participation. Uncle Owen was keen for such training to be made available at Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal Gathering Place. Jane noted the YPRL's interest.

Sherryn noted Council plan to offer Mental Health First Aid Training to community organisations in 2023/24 in response to comments about increased mental health presentations in local community settings. Brad commented on the training offered to businesses and noted the lack of interest in Yarra. Felix noted that Yarra's NE Richmond Community Health Centre successful delivery of a program and will seek consent to share contacts with Sherryn. Jane noted that people are coming into the libraries to connect with mental health issues, but don't always acknowledge they are mentally unwell.

Actions:

Action 3: Sherryn to attach mental health statistics in Banyule to minutes.

Action 4: Sherryn to consult with Banyule Youth to ascertain information on youth cohorts more likely not to engage in community support activities.

Action 5: Sherryn to provide details of Active Bystander training and work with Uncle Owen to deliver at Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal Gathering Place.

Action 6: Sherryn to include Mental Health First Aid training in Year 2 Inclusive Banyule Action Plan.

4. Standing Agenda Items

4.1 Inclusive Banyule Action Plan (10.50-11.00)

Council noted the report on progress against 2022/23 actions. Made note of progress towards making Council's information more accessible, including the development of Easy English meeting agendas for committee meetings and the development of an accessible communication guide. Committee asked to refer to the progress update in March 2023 Committee Briefing Paper for further details on updates.

4.2 Addressing affordable and social housing (11.00-11.10)

Fae Ballingall, Strategic Planning & Urban Design Coordinator provided an overview of the Housing and Neighbourhood Character Strategy development project. Noted that social and affordable housing was an identified issue within scope and Council seeks to ensure its updated position responds to the needs of the community. Fae commented on the robust analysis that was being undertaken to underpin evidence-informed

decision-making and made note of the development of an interim social and affordable housing policy position to address current opportunities and barriers whilst the Housing Strategy was being developed.

Discussion

Committee members made note of the identified issues including affordability, lack of choice, design issues, and location. Paul made particular note of the need to spread social and affordable housing options across the municipality, not concentrate only on the West precinct.

5. New Business

5.1 Gambling and Harm Minimisation Policy position (11.10-11.20)

Council's Social Research and Community Outcomes Officer, Dr Andrew Whalley provided a brief overview of gambling and harm minimisation issues in Banyule and sought advice from the committee on how Council should proceed with a refreshed position on gambling through policy iteration.

Andrew noted that online gambling flourished during COVID, and despite the closure of venues during lockdowns, electronic gaming machine losses continue to climb in Banyule. Options Council could consider include advocacy to reduce municipal caps on electronic gaming machines, block applications for new venues and engage in the proactive promotion of gambling harm on individuals.

Discussion

Committee members suggested a holistic approach should be considered including addressing youth pathways to gambling, stronger advocacy with peak bodies, making harm visible through community education programs, advocating for tighter controls on predatory, addictive online gaming, addressing the role gambling advertising has in channelling people to their sites, and considering the revenue sports clubs rely on from gambling sponsorships, opening hours could be better regulated.

Felix noted the need to engage community in conversations about what will have the most impact, identifying the groups that are more likely to be vulnerable and offering proactive supports.

Glenn commented on the need to build an ethos and efforts related to improved social connections.

Jane noted the Mill Park Libraries analysis of Libraries After Dark, which demonstrates the benefit of other options for social connection in the evenings.

Uncle Owen noted that Council should be lobbying the Victorian Government for higher returns to the community from gaming venues.

Final comment related to reshaping the narrative from economic merit to social, health and wellbeing deficits that result from gambling activities.

Action

Action 7: Committee to review progress on Gambling Policy development in May 2023.

5.2 Other updates

6. Meeting Close

Meeting closed 12.05pm

Next meeting: 10 May 9.30-11.30 at Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal Gathering Place, Heidelberg West