



Minutes Banyule LGBTIQ+ Committee

19 August 2021

Present**Chair: (Cllr Peter Castaldo)**

Cllr Alison Champion (Deputy Chair)

Council staff: Myfan Jordan (LGBTIQ+ Community and Social Planner); Kath Brackett (Director Community Programs); Theonie Tacticos (Community & Social Planning Co-ordinator),

Organisational representatives: Nevena Spirovska (The Vic Pride Lobby, new member); Fleassy Malay (Mother Tongue Poetry, new member)

Community representatives: Lara H. (returning member); Shev A.; Harper F.; Fleassy M.; Morganne B.; Nathan S.; David L-M.; Will D.; Gabriel R.; Richard P.; Jason T. and Amber R.

Apologies: Michelle McNamara (Transgender Victoria, returning committee member).

I.	Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners:	Chair
1.	<p><i>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 Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region's history.</i></p> <p>Diversity Statement: <i>Banyule is a diverse community, made up of people from different cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, ages, sexualities, genders and identities. Council is committed to inclusion, access and equity for everyone. These principles foster cohesiveness, empower people and improve the wellbeing of the Banyule community.</i></p> <p>(Virtual) meeting protocols were outlined</p> <p>Actions arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite Maddi Cooper to guest (BCC Rainbow Youth Worker) • Including the 'A' in the rainbow acronym – to be scheduled for October meeting 	Chair/All
2	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each attendee introduced themselves and shared personal history/circumstances, priorities and interests, reasons for joining the committee. There was diversity in age range, ethnicity, sexual and gender identity, intersex status, professional skills and more broadly. This diversity was acknowledged and celebrated. 	All
3	<p>Committee protocols:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda setting – email will be sent requesting agenda times • Minutes timing and amendments • Share emails and contact details? • Teams Channel – minutes, agenda, chat function/forum • Confidentiality and a safe space – • Quorum: all in Terms of Reference • Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee (IBAC) (first meeting is 15 October; and the Committee meets four times a year 1-3pm on a Friday). Will be asking for self-nominations (two representatives) before our next meeting. IBAC will bring 	MJ/All

	<p>together a strategic/policy approach to intersectionality; social justice and advocacy. Two for each committee, 'bringing the voice' of your committee/community. Includes local stakeholder organisations and each of the population committees (Disability, Multicultural, LGBTIQ+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and Aged-Friendly)</p> <p>Action: Members interested in nominating to be the email Myfan</p>	
4	<p>Updates from members (Round Robin)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community member is working with BCC and ILCH on a free online poetry event, Words Alive – writers always wanted! Also noted the impact on LGBTIQ+ (and women) people in the Afghan crisis and their families in Australia Organisational member raised issue of Cllr from another municipality advocating against gender neutral toilets to all Victorian councils. A request was made for the Council to issue a stronger statement promoting inclusivity in toilets Cllr Champion updated the group about Council's toilet renewal program and relevant information on the website. <p>Action: NS to send through Pride Lobby position on toilets to MJ Action: MJ to share info re Council's toilet renewal program and on website. Explore stronger position/statement from Council</p>	Committee members
5	<p>Guest speaker – Maddi Cooper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maddi outlined her role as the Council's Rainbow Youth worker which involves: advocacy, facilitating getting youth voices heard, working with schools to get pride groups up, teachers using inclusive non heteronormative conversations. Runs workshops for schools and teachers (content co-developed with Rainbow Space attendees Wear it Purple Day: event shifted online. Theme of 'keep the conversation going' this year: not just about one day of recognition. Also creating interviews / videos with young people from Jets (BCC's creative arts youth facility) Rainbow Space does arts, cooking, events – a safe space. Gender neutral toilets etc. 	
5	<p>Engagement Activity for LGBTIQ+ Action Plan 2022 - 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MJ outlined the history of past Action Plans and role of committee in stewarding and driving the Plan. Discussion opened in relation to issues of access and equity rights for LGBTIQ+ people (in Banyule). This can include physical and social access: essential services, healthcare to meet your needs, language/information, employment. MJ explained the scope of local government: service delivery, influence, partnerships, employer, advocacy are all options but with limits. Nev outlined the findings of the Vic Pride Lobby's (VPL) recent Power and Pride research, which highlighted barriers to access to banks, utilities and other essential services. Some discrimination or barriers resulting from historical systems, e.g. issues with gender affirmation and updating name resulting in repeated requests for legal documents, dead-naming, repeatedly explaining circumstances and personal information, misgendering and so forth. One member of the committee described their personal experience of this with a bank, where they had been asked for legal documents for a prefix change that was later done by a manager in minutes, over the telephone. There were some examples of good practice, but not enough. VPL is working with Consumer Action Law Centre and the Energy and Water Ombudsman to advocate for the recommendations of the report. Another community member raised ongoing issues around binary and heteronormative language. MJ noted that Council had shared an 'LGBTIQ+ Language Guide' as part of the Inclusive Banyule – Inclusive Businesses 	All

	<p>initiative, which had seen interest from traders, but further actions could be put into the pending Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other items raised included a request for information about the new gender clinic at the Austin (further info here or at https://www.austin.org.au/gender-clinic); with another community member noting they travelled out of the municipality to access these services. • One gym was given as an example of positive practice in gender neutral change rooms/toilets. • Information around LGBTIQ+-positive/inclusive healthcare services in Banyule and also Councillors. Issue raised of more inclusive language in “Maternal and Child Healthcare Service” and also (loss of) rainbow playgroups. Inclusive sports project was also raised. • Myfan talked about the potential for working groups to focus on core issues such as inclusive sports under IBAC, as it is intersectional. • including sports clubs as part of the Inclusive Businesses initiative that Council has already commenced. <p>Action: Nev/Myfan to share ‘Pride and Power’ report with minutes Action: MJ to include items raised in pending focus groups for the pending Action Plan Action: contact Myfan out of session with any items of interest/concern, including with an age or other intersectional lens. Further community engagement pending Action: Clarify (with request for agenda items) whether visit from Austin gender clinic would be useful</p>	
6	<p>Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Women only” events supported/run by Council should be explicit in using (Trans and Gender Diverse and non-Binary) inclusive language – not only codes such as the rainbow flag • MJ introduced the launch of the Pivot Cohousing research project. Seeking Trans and Gender Diverse and non-Binary (TGDNB) 16-25 participants. Steering group includes Darebin and Moreland Councils. • Action: Contact Myfan if interested in the Pivot project • Cllr from external local government area has requested to attend October meeting and this was agreed <p>Action: Contact Officer to invite Manningham Councillor to next meeting on 21 October. Next meeting: 21 October 2021, 5.30 – 7.00pm Meeting was formally closed at 7pm.</p>	