



Minutes LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee

2 December 2021

LGBTIQ+ Committee Minutes



Meeting details

Date of meeting	Thursday, 2 December 2021
Time	5,30 – 7pm
Venue	Teams
Chair/Facilitator	CLlr Peter Castaldo
Minutes	Myfan Jordan (Community Planner – LGBTIQ+)

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians

“Our meeting is being held on the Traditional Land of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and, on behalf of Banyule City Council, I wish to acknowledge them as the Traditional Custodians. I would also like to pay my respects to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders, past, present and emerging, and to acknowledge other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Elders joining us today.”

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.”

Attendee

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
CLlr Alison Champion	Deputy Chair
Cheree Hunter	BCC – Acting Manager Aged and Community Planning
Michelle McNamara	Transgender Victoria
Lara H.	
David L-M.	
Richard P.	
Nathan S.	
Shev A.	
Will D.	
Jason T.	
Nicole E-H.	Committee Rep to Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee (IBAC)

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Fleassy M.	Mother Tongue Poetry and Earth CERC co-op (organisational member)
Morganne B.	
Harper F.	
Theonie Tacticos	BCC – Coordinator of Community & Social Planning

Amber R.

Gabriele R.

Kath Brackett BCC – Director of Community Programs

Nevena Spirovski Vic Pride Lobby

Items

1. Introduction

Acknowledgement of traditional custodians
Diversity Statement

1.1 The Chair acknowledged Transgender Awareness Week, Trans Day of Remembrance and World AIDS Day. He welcomed all, including Cllr Champion.

2. Actions arising

2.1 – Adding the 'A' has been recommended to Council

2.2 – Inviting someone from Austin Gender Clinic to future meeting

2.3 **Action: Michelle to send through contact details of person at Austin (complete)**

3. Updates from Council

3.1 - Teams Channel for LGBTIQ+ Committee: any issues? Not everyone is using the Channel. Please let Myfan know if you need any assistance.

3.2 - Call for another nominee to the Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee – one more representative needed? No one was able to nominate at this time.

3.3 - Transgender Awareness Week and Trans Day of Remembrance – a week of Teams' posts to All Staff were shared on the Teams Channel, with the aim of increasing knowledge, breaking down barriers and addressing myths. Most were linked to Council best practice, such as using pronouns on email signature. Social media also went out in recognition of the significance of Trans Day of Remembrance.

3.4 - Midsumma and Pride March: BCC will partner with neighbouring councils in a stall at Midsumma and we have booked 30 places for the Pride March. Committee members will be invited to join us.

4. Updates from members

4.1 – World AIDS Day video was made by BCC, an interview of committee member and his experiences of losing his long-term partner to HIV/AIDS and hopes for an AIDS/LGBTIQ+ memorial for Banyule.

4.2 – A second member told the meeting of his recent accomplishment in developing a World AIDS Day app for Thorne Harbour Health, for which he had received formal recognition by way of an award. BCC had celebrated this achievement on our social media. There was further discussion of the impacts and experiences of HIV/AIDS

4.3 – Michelle requested names and organisational affiliations are put in the agenda

4.4 – Covid continues to impact the local community (as opposed to LGBTIQ+ community). One example discussed was the member living at Murundaka Cohousing community.

4.5 – Religious Discrimination Bill – Uniting Church's response has been sent to Myfan. Uniting have made a public statement against the proposed Bill, in recognition of the harm caused by the debate and if the Bill is passed. Acknowledgement that some church people are progressive, while others can be very conservative. Some Christian orgs support the Bill and this can result in negative assumptions for more progressive churches such as United.

4.6 – Another member reported links with Common Equity Housing as co-convenor of Freedom to Be (LGBTIQ+ people of faith backgrounds).

4.7 – Michelle is Treasurer of Transgender Vic and member of the Australian GLIBTQ Multicultural Council. the latter has written letters to MPs re the Religious Discrimination Bill Inquiry and posted information around making submissions into the chat. Michelle requested committee names and any organisational representation by included in the agenda for meetings

Action: Myfan to embed names/orgs in agenda template (complete)

5. Update from Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee rep

5.1 – The first two meetings of IBAC have focused on social isolation and rebuilding connection after Covid. Mapping priority areas for the next 12 months: family violence, social housing and employment, mental health/social isolation as a result of Covid. How to link in with other orgs and identify funding for potential projects? Two presentations to IBAC re Family Violence and Social Housing were heard. The rep also raised the impact of the Religious Discrimination Bill on the community, as requested by the TGV rep. Our rep is a social worker and emphasised the lack of targeted services for the LGBTIQ+ community experiencing family violence and also in maternal and child healthcare being more inclusive. Myfan encouraged committee members to feed into the agenda and continue the conversation in the Teams Channel. The current timeslot for meetings (Fridays 1-3pm) will remain for the time being and our rep will share the agenda and request feedback in advance.

6. Advocacy

6.1 – Further discussion of the Religious Discrimination Inquiry (Senate/Parliamentary joint committees). This could include mentioning the Bill will override State and council by-laws in relation to protection from discrimination. Michelle shared details and encouraged colleagues to make personal submissions as 'case studies' are valued. Relevant date of 21st December. Myfan could collate personal points into Council's submission if that is helpful. Council has endorsed a formal position previously, so we will be able to reiterate this (as the short timelines means formal endorsement is challenging). Normally advocacy positions would go before and be endorsed by Council. A member also made the point that advocacy will continue beyond the Inquiry dates and that an updated Council position is still key for future advocacy.

Action: Myfan/Cheree to progress actions around inputting into the Religious Discrimination Bill Inquiry

6.2 – Census questions to collect much needed data on LGBTIQ+ Australians. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has an excellent best practice standard on asking around questions on gender and sexual identity but these are not in the current (2021) Census, excepting a confusing question around gender identity, due to political pushback etc. The good news is that there is another 'life survey' pending from the ABS which may provide some meaningful data but advocacy around the Census is still needed.

Action: Myfan to note Census LGBTIQ+ data as a future presentation/agenda item in the first half of 2022.

7. Engagement session

7.1 Myfan suggested a future conversation to better understand barriers to accessing services, including local services: counselling, maternal & child and family services, and family violence services rarely offer LGBTIQ+ expertise. Community-led services overwhelmed – long waitlists. What is working locally? What would you like to see in Banyule? What partnerships and 'enablers' (might) Council advocate for? What's the 'magic wand' vision for Banyule?

7.2 Myfan shared news of the Inclusive Neighbourhood Houses initiative, including the 'Safe House' concept, which would identify NHs as safe places for queer youth, multicultural women – for everyone, but with initial pilots on sessions/spaces for particular groups. Council is arranging LGBTIQ+ Mental Health First Aid training for NH staff and volunteers early in 2022 to support this concept for Rainbow community. NHs outside of the region have also expressed interest in this concept. A member suggested bringing in community groups to meet in NHs. Myfan added that a fund for recognition and awareness events had also been established. A Greenhills 'All Bodies' Clothes Swap event is one pilot with a focus on LGBTIQ+ and Disability inclusion. Myfan encouraged members to email with any ideas.

8. AOB

8.1 - A committee member raised the issue of having received unsafe political messaging in the post and Cllr Champion encouraged further discussion. Myfan apologised for not having put the item in the agenda, due

to it coming in late. An example was shared in the chat and the matter discussed more fully? How might Council show support and counteract misleading information going out to the community? All agreed this was a harmful development. Potential actions included a complaint to Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission. There was no formal action arising.

8.2 Would the committee like these meetings extended by 15 or 30 minutes?

There was a brief discussion around the meetings often running out of time, due to only being 1.5 hours. One member suggested cutting the 'round robin', but the contact officer felt this was best practice as it enabled name checking every one present, including less heard voices. No decision was made at this point.

Action

- **Action: Michelle to send through contact details of person at Austin (complete)**
- **Action: Myfan to embed members' names and affiliations in the agenda template (complete)**
- **Action: Myfan/Cheree to progress actions around inputting into the Religious Discrimination Bill Inquiry (see Teams Channel for draft letter and social media)**
- **Action: Myfan to note Census LGBTIQ+ data as a future presentation/agenda item in the first half of 2022.**

Recommendations

N/A