



# Minutes Banyule LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee

21 October 2021

**Present****Members**

Nevena Spirovska (Vic Pride Lobby)

Fleassy Malay (Mother Tongue)

Lara H

David L-M

Will D

Nicole E-H

Richard P

Harper F

Jason T

Morganne B

**Councillors**

**Chair:** Councillor Peter Castaldo

**Council Staff:** Myfan Jordan (Community Planner); Theonie Tacticos (Co-ordinator Community & Social Planning); Cheree Hunter (Acting Mgr, Disability, Aged and Community & Social Planning)

**Apologies**

Cr Alison Champion, Shev A., Nathan S., Kath Brackett

**Guests:** Cllr Tomas Lightbody (Manningham); Paul Byrne-Moroney (Intersex Human Rights Australia)

Item/Time	
I. Welcome and apologies	<p><b>Welcome</b> and Apologies – Cllr Alison Champion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians:</b>  <a href="#">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.</a></li> <li>• <b>Inclusive Banyule Statement</b>  <a href="#">Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders. Council is committed to access, equity, participation and rights for everyone; principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.</a></li> <li>• <b>Update regarding former Mayor (Cllr Rick Garotti)</b>            Cllr Castaldo spoke to the group about Cllr Garotti's recent presence at the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission review of Labor Party branch stacking. Mr Garotti has taken a leave of absence from his role as a councillor, effective immediately, and stepped down as mayor and Deputy Mayor Cllr Tom Melican has taken his place. Cllr Castaldo reassured the committee that Council takes the matters raised very seriously, but as the IBAC hearings are underway, he was unable to make further comment at this time.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meeting protocols (virtual/hybrid):</b></li> </ul>
	<p><b>Actions arising from previous minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Action:</b> Nev to send through Pride Lobby position on toilets to MJ (Transgender Vic will provide details after the statement has gone through their committee. Nev will share then)</li> <li>• <b>Action:</b> Myfan to share ‘Pride and Power’ report with minutes (complete)</li> <li>• <b>Action:</b> Would a guest speaker from Austin gender clinic would be useful? – majority agreed ‘yes’. <b>Myfan to follow up in early 2022 (invitation sent)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Actions arising for discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adding the ‘A’ to the acronym?</b> At the June meeting of the LGBTIQ+ Committee (last term), there had been discussion in relation to adding the ‘A’ (for asexual and aromantic or ‘Ace’) to the Rainbow acronym. This was aided by a guest from Asexuals Australia. The committee had recommended that the incoming committee consider this positively. Pros and cons were discussed. It was agreed that inclusion was important – and minority groups shouldn’t be made to feel unvalued or invisible. However, inclusion would need to be meaningful and include engagement and consideration in the pending Action Plan. The ‘+’ would remain. On the other side, other groups, such as Non-Binary, are not explicitly recognised. Changing the acronym will need to be agreed by Council. A vote asking, ‘should we adopt the ‘A’ as an addition to the existing acronym?’ secured majority agreement. <b><u>Recommendation: to Council</u></b></li> <li>• <b>Public/gender neutral toilets – next steps for Council?</b> Myfan had spoken with the Northern Councils’ LGBTIQ+ Network (Yarra, Darebin, Moreland, Nillumbik, Whittlesea &amp; Banyule) about aligned stance and wording to progress this issue, which was agreed in principle. We explored options for signage. VPL have examples – Myfan will upload to the new Teams Channel for the committee <b><u>Action: Nevena to share signage with Myfan or upload to Teams channel</u></b></li> </ul>
<b>3/ Council updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LGBTIQ+ Teams Channel: Myfan explained how the new channel would work as a place to share documents and conversation out of session.</li> <li>• One place left for Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee (IBAC) – Fridays are difficult for most members. One member had already agreed to represent the committee and another agreed. Further information and follow up calls will come before the first meeting on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November. <b><u>Action: IBAC contact officer Danielle Clark will contact reps before meeting.</u></b></li> </ul>
<b>4/ Member updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Round robin</b> – the committee discussed the pending (next days) relaxation of Covid restrictions. Many felt wary, with some unable to have vaccination. A member reminded the group of the strain on (Covid and other) staff working at the Austin. Members also shared excitement to see friends. Everyone wished the community well, particularly those with health considerations.</li> </ul>
<b>5/ Advocacy items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vic Pride Lobby:</b> Following the nomination of Ravenhall Corrections Centre for a GLOBE Community Award for Trans and Gender Diverse (TGD) inclusion,</li> </ul>

	<p>there had been advocacy and an open letter opposing. This had led to Ravenhall's withdrawal. Further information was shared in the chat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Passing of the Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill</b> in Victoria will increase access for LGBTIQ+ community, plus regional and rural. Partners can now be identified as donors.</li> <li>• <b>Launch of the 'It Takes More'</b> campaign: VPR has identified only 2.5 Victorian MPs from the Rainbow community and aims to encourage others. Further information was shared in the chat. <a href="#">It Takes More   About</a></li> <li>• <b>Create opportunity/space gathering space:</b> for local Queers to physically meet each other. Could Banyule Council help with this somehow? Perhaps a regular meeting (place)? A member responded with details about Alphabet Soup Heidelberg (ASH), which takes place once a month at the Sycamore Tree in Heidelberg. When this reopens after refurbishment, updates will be shared. ASH is for Trans and Gender Diverse, Queer people and allies, currently online. BCC has supported ASH but may be able to support further, through the Social Enterprise program.</li> <li>• <b>Advocating for a Queer memorial/place of remembrance (in Banyule?)</b> inscribed to remember the names of those local community members who have suffered oppression or died, including from HIV/AIDS. This suggestion received strong support, with the suggestion it could be linked with a Queer meeting place. TT said Council could explore this, and potentially make a formal recommendation to progress and then develop the idea in partnership with the committee. <b>Action: Myfan to share Dropbox file re Memorials on LGBTIQ+ Channel (complete)</b> <b>Action: Memorial and Queer space to be on next agenda for further discussion</b></li> </ul>
6/ Guest – Paul Byrne-Moroney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Director of Intersex Human Rights Australia:</b> Paul spoke about his work for Banyule as a former committee member, as well as Intersex Awareness Day and recent advocacy around human rights for Intersex people, particularly in relation to consent for surgeries on children. November 8 brings Intersex Day of Remembrance/Intersex Solidarity Day. Paul spoke of how the work in Victoria has been leading the way including “I am Equal” and pending changes in the Equal Opportunity Act and the Conversion Practices’ Bill which will make it illegal to discriminate against people with Intersex Variation and to operate/treat on children (unnecessarily) without consent. The changes to the legislation will stop this. Paul also spoke of the importance of Council including Intersex consideration explicitly within any Action Plan – for example, considering service changes. Paul welcomed committee members to contact him. <b>Action: Myfan to follow up with P B-M re pending Action Plan</b></li> </ul>
6/ LGBTIQ+ Action Plan engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The community engagement session exploring what enables/supports community members to participate in (council and other) services, in social and cultural life, was postponed. We had previously explored barriers to accessing services, employment and banks and utilities. This session was to focus on ‘enablers’ – such as specified staff at services in Banyule; local partnerships; spaces etc. What is working? What can Council do? <b>Action: Myfan to progress offline and ongoing item on agenda</b></li> </ul>
7/ AOB?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any other business? The Chair asked the committee about inviting other Councillors to attend the committee meetings, as it was a great opportunity for them to learn about LGBTIQ+ issues (no more than three including Chair at a meeting). There was support for this from the committee. <b>Action: Peter to invite other Cllrs?</b></li> </ul>

<p><b>8/ Close and date of next meeting</b> 7.05pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cllr Lightbody commented on the proceedings positively.</li><li>• <b>Next meeting Thursday 2 December, 5.30-7pm</b></li></ul>
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