



# Minutes Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee

2 August 2023

## Meeting details

<b>Date of meeting</b>	Wednesday, 2 August 2023
<b>Time</b>	9.30 to 11.30am
<b>Venue</b>	Shop 48, Bell Street Mall, Heidelberg West
<b>Chair/Facilitator</b>	Cr Peter Castaldo
<b>Minutes</b>	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.”

## 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.”

## Attending members

<b>Attendee name</b>	<b>Affiliation/Organisation</b>
Cr Peter Castaldo	Mayor Banyule City Council
Robyn Ellard- proxy for Jane Cowell	Yara Plenty Regional Libraries
Felix Neighbour	Department of Families Fairness and Housing
Anna Bauze	Department of Health (online)
Glenn Swafford	Age Friendly Committee
Paul Byrne- Moroney	LGBTIQA+ Committee
Brad Byrne	Workforce Australia – Local Jobs NE Melbourne
Tracey Colbert	Department of Education and Training
Karen Dynon- proxy for Meri Ivanovska	BNLLEN

## Apologies

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation/Organisation</b>
Position vacant	North East Public Health Unit
Tom Conley	RAP Committee
Jill Gallagher	VACCHO

Sebastian Zeta	Department of Justice
Uncle Owen Butler	RAP Committee
Andrew Markakis	Victoria Police
Helen Riseborough	Women's Health in the North
Cr Tom Melican	Councillor Banyule City Council
Angela Papoutsoglou	Department of Families Fairness and Housing
Michael Graham	VAHS
Danella	Ngarra Jarra Aboriginal Health Unit- Austin Hospital
Mick Geary	Banyule Community Health Service

## Guest speakers

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Emma Butterworth Emily Harriss	Banyule City Council

## Council staff

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Kath Brackett	Director Community Wellbeing
Jo Wilson	Manager Resilient and Connected Communities
Sherryn Prinzi	Coordinator Community Impact

## Items

### 1. Introduction

Acknowledgement of traditional custodians

Diversity Statement

Introductions and apologies.

### 2. Action items from previous meeting

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

Action item	Action arising
Item 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.	Complete
Item 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.	Complete

Item 3: Council to share contact details between Ngarra Jarra Aboriginal Health Unit and KESOs to discuss mental health referral and support options.	Complete
Item 4: Council to investigate feasibility of local mental health alliance.	For discussion
Item 5: Committee members interested in the Inclusive Employment Program to contact Jane Nixon jane.nixon@banyule.vic.gov.au for further information.	Ongoing
Item 6: Housing Strategy consultation	Update to be provided in this meeting
Item 7: Tom Conley to share information from the Mental Health Practitioners Network on gambling with Council officers	No update received.

### 3. Purpose of Meeting and Business Arising

The purpose of this meeting:

- Receive information on the Banyule Housing Strategy and provide input
- Discuss preparing for social prescribing in Banyule
- Receive an update on the completion of Council’s Inclusive Banyule actions and proposed year 2 actions
- Receive a progress update on the Voice referendum community education program

#### 3.1 Banyule Housing Strategy (9.45-10.10)

Council invites the community to join the discussion about housing issues and opportunities in Banyule and feedback from the Committee will be used to directly inform Council’s Housing Strategy and Neighbourhood Character Strategy.

Three ‘Pillars’ organise the themes which come out of the Discussion Paper:

- Driving Housing for All – focused on location and scale, diversity, affordability and innovation
- Elevating Good Design – ensuring housing quality architecture, enhanced liveability, sustainability and accessible design outcomes
- Valuing Preferred Neighbourhood Character – protecting what is valued and creating pride and sense of identity in our local neighbourhoods

You can download the Housing Discussion Paper on Shaping Banyule here:

<https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/HNC>.

Speaker: Emma Butterworth

#### Discussion

Council should consider:

- Map where affordable housing exists or planned for across the municipality.
- Take steps to ensure all areas of the municipality are considered.
- Make Council’s role explicit - what is within the remit?
- Consider “Not in my backyard” syndrome.
- Integrating design requirements, e.g. landscaping.

Think about the commercial drivers, where developers are trying to maximise profit. E.g. re-development of land makes it large and expensive to be able to sell for profit (e.g. Southern part of municipality - enormous tower blocks, prestige units).

Ensure policy and planning scheme are up to date.

Downsizing at the right time – how do people get advice, what is the cost, what is the alternative? How can people still stay local?

Accessible housing – for people with different capacities. Making this an organic planning requirement rather than a retro-fit.

Consider how the Urban Food Strategy fits with the housing policy.

Comment: A committee member noted the value of Council's role in this space – especially with the risk of state government taking council planning controls. It is important to protect these policies that have been developed using community consultation and engagement.

Emma noted that the walking tours to talk about medium and high density development, getting feedback and discussing good design elements are working well and two more will occur in Ivanhoe and Heidelberg. Noted the upcoming community workshops, with dates and locations found on Shaping Banyule.

### Action

Action 1: Committee invited to complete Shaping Banyule Survey by 31 August 2023.

## 3.2 Mental health supports in schools (10.10-10.20)

Tracy, Senior Well Being & Engagement Officer from the Department of Education, shared an overview of the mental health supports available in schools. Tracy discussed the supports available for children in school, with specific reference to young people who identify as LGBTIQ+. Key information shared included:

- Mental health supports are available in school through a mental health fund – this is an evidence-based menu that schools can utilise to bring in external supports.
- Mental health promotion and support provided by practitioners in schools, who lead mental health practice, with a focus on health promotion and prevention. These practitioners coordinate support through external services.
- Actions taken to support students varies between schools and the needs of students.
- Toolkits are available for schools and for parents.
- Over the next four years, programs will be implemented in primary schools, with a whole of school approach adopted, centred on wellbeing, advocacy, student voice and agency. The difference between primary and secondary is in primary they are teacher trained (rather than allied health) with specialist wellbeing training with support from Uni of Melb with a Community of Practice.
- 'Nip it in the Bud' program developed to support teachers to address early warning signs.

### Discussion:

A common theme was identified- young people do not want to continue to explain mental health concerns and needs to school staff- they expect interactions with suitably trained professionals.

Committee asked what is happening to address LGBTIQ+ community not feeling safe to disclose in schools. Tracy commented on the Safe Schools program, aimed at upskilling school communities and staff. Member noted that Safe Schools doesn't include intersex people.

Committee asked about the breadth of the issues and the approach to addressing stigma. Tracy commented on the following activities:

- Focusing on identifying the early warning signs
- Mental health first aid – for staff but also young people
- Awareness and promotion
- Primary school – it is being aware of the early warning signs of anxiety and depression
- Focusing on mild to moderate mental health issues
- Will work with more formalised services to support the acute end of the spectrum

Committee asked about the statistics on the levels of support required by students. Tracy noted that anecdotal evidence suggests increased presentation of acute presentations requiring Tier 3 level access to services.

Committee questioned how parents and carers find out about supports available. Tracy notes that access to information is promoted but each school will do this differently.

Committee notes that some local primary schools who are proactively supporting LGBTIQ+ questioning children have commented on backlash from parents. Questioned how this might be addressed and what schools and parents might need to help. Noting a good conversation for the LGBTIQ+ committee to address.

### Action

Action 2: Tracy and Paul to connect to discuss Intersex inclusion in Safe Schools.

Action 3: DE and Council to scope the development of a community forum for parents to discuss early warning signs of mental health impacts and how to access supports.

Action 4: LGBTIQ+ Committee to address how to support gender questioning children and role of local government in facilitating community conversations.

### 3.3 Mental Health First Aid Training (10.20-10.40)

In preparation for social prescribing trials in the City of Banyule, Council plan to provide community-based organisations with appropriate resources and tools to manage and respond to presentations of mental health conditions of residents in community spaces and places.

To prepare, Council seeks to trial a mental health first aid training course for organisations/ community leaders, develop a mental wellbeing referral resource and consider the establishment of a local mental health alliance.

#### Discussion

Committee notes that this is an appropriate adjunct to the social prescribing model.

Multicultural communities report stigma and lack of understanding of mental wellbeing, and organisations that may represent a good connection include the Somali organisations (Somali Voice, Himilo and SACOV). Use demographic data and connections to determine other cultural groups that might benefit. First generation migrants might benefit.

Considering the upcoming Voice to Parliament referendum, should consider community leaders who are in front facing roles for training.

LGBTIQ+ and First Nations seem to be highest need – also suggestion to include Multicultural communities.

Committee notes that existing community programs offered through organisations are a good way to disseminate information, including Baby Café, homework clubs and women's only nights at OLC.

Other community leaders to consider include Scouts, sporting clubs, dance teachers, librarians etc.

Due to the limited places, Council should consider training local champions to make it sustainable.

Committee suggest the project is labelled a pilot, test the approach and consider ways to scale.

Committee suggest that post training follow up is required and ensure that participants understand how the training can be practically applied across the community.

#### Action

Action 5: Council to scope and define an appropriate training model and bring back proposal to the committee.

## 4. Standing Agenda Items

### 4.1 Inclusive Banyule Action Plan (10.40-10.55)

The first year's actions of the Inclusive Banyule Plan have now been finalised and the achievements of the first year are tabled for discussion. The committee were asked to review and comment on the Year 2 Inclusive Banyule actions, which will be delivered between September 2023 and June 2024.

#### Discussion:

Committee noted the expansion of actions and the attempt to represent intersectionality across the actions.

Committee agreed the actions are tangible, focused next steps and noted that population committees were to be engaged in review, prior to the action plan being presented to Council.

#### Action

Action 6: Council to present Inclusive Banyule actions to population committees for comment before implementing the plan.

### 4.2 Referendum on Voice (10.55- 11.10)

- Provide an overview on the joint committee yarning circle event and other community education events delivered to date.

- Committee invited to discuss ways to share information with communities that need support to make an informed decision.

Speaker: Uncle Owen and Cr Castaldo

### Discussion:

Committee noted the success of the joint committee yarning circle and made the following comments:

- Suggested a large town hall community event that covers both sides of the argument. Cr Castaldo noted that a community forum was held but organisers were unable to find an appropriate “no” perspective speaker. Instead invited a constitutional lawyer to answer questions factually.
- YPRL proposes that libraries represent a place to find credible information for both sides of the Voice to Parliament. Noted that media literacy was an important skill to foster- understand what you are reading, where it is coming from, who is writing it, to determine if it is credible. Relying on facts rather than emotions is an appropriate strategy to consider. YPRL suggest the library is a good place to host future discussions.
- Member noted that it is unclear whether community expect Council to hold information sessions, and Council needs to be cognisant of how the support for the Uluru Statement of the Heart might be perceived as an endorsement of the yes vote, as such Council may not be viewed as independent.
- Committee agreed the role of Council is to provide pathways to information, and it was suggested that the most important information is to differentiate between the Voice (federal) and Treaty (State).

### 4.3 Advocacy update (11.10-11.15)

Refer to briefing paper for details. As Council have not formally endorsed the advocacy priorities, Committee were asked to accept information in briefing paper as indicative priorities, and can expect to receive a formal update in due course.

## 5. New Business

### 5.1 Other updates (11.15-11.30)

#### Banyule Community Bus

Glenn, representative of the Age-Friendly Committee, spoke about the principles of the Community Bus project, and states that the community bus was launched and acknowledged the Age-friendly committee participation in the project. The bus seeks to address accessibility, and is free to user. Council acknowledged the limitations of the bus and noted that expansion was impacted by NEL link project.

The route has 29 new stops, acknowledge the amount of advocacy and permissions needed to be sought.

Glenn congratulates the Council for its implementation and encourages all organisations to promote its use, gather feedback and promotes the evaluation of data to understand what would happen after the pilot period ends.

### Discussion

YPRL suggests that an activity could be held at a branch to attract people to use the bus, and Ivanhoe would be an ideal location.

### Action:

Action 7: The link to the Community Bus timetable to be emailed to Felix and a copy attached to the minutes.

Action 6: Council to explore programming options in locations on the route to attract community bus users and to connect residents to the community organisations and programs.

### NDIS update

Sherryn noted that the NDIS are implementing a new user portal called PACE and the role of the local area coordinator, the Brotherhood of St Laurence will shift from writing NDIS plans to providing intake support, and community engagement and connections.

#### Action

Action 8: Sherryn to distribute information about upcoming NDIS changes and information sessions with the minutes.

[https://www.ndis.gov.au/news/events?f%5B0%5D=event\\_category%3A73](https://www.ndis.gov.au/news/events?f%5B0%5D=event_category%3A73)

## 6. Meeting Close

Next meeting: 8 November 2023, Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub