

Darebin Gender Equity Advisory Committee
Meeting minutes



Date: Tuesday 25 June 2024 (Meeting 2)

Meeting time: 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Meeting venue: In person (Darebin's Birnum Djirri room, Preston) with hybrid attendance.

Present

Chair:

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis,

Councillors:

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis,

Community representatives:

In person: CLJ, ZB, MT, LR, GDS, RV, JWN, MB,

Online: ES (WHIN), SL.

Council staff:

- Kathie Duncan (Coordinator Equity and Diversity)
- Jade Myconos (Gender Equity Officer)

Guest presenters:

- Jade Myconos, Gender Equity Officer, Darebin City Council.

Apologies:

Cr. Susan Rennie, AW, LB, RG, SD, AG.

Minute taker:

Jade Myconos

1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Acting Chair opened the meeting at 5:35pm and acknowledged the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Land, the Wurundjeri people, and paid respect to their Elders, past and present.

2. Welcome and apologies

The Chair introduced themselves and welcomed everyone. Apologies were noted.

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3. Actions arising from previous minutes

The Gender Equity Officer informed the Committee there are no outstanding actions from the previous meeting as follows:

Actions: Nil

Comment: N/A

4. Endorsement of minutes

26 March 2024 meeting minutes were adopted.

Moved: CLJ

Seconded: MT

5. Conflict of interest

WHIN declared a potential conflict of interest for the Free from Violence Program agenda item. It was determined WHIN could participate in the discussion, noting the conflict particularly relates to any discussion of fee for service training provision of which WHIN is a provider.

6. Other business

- Community safety – RV
- New program 'Community Talks Sex' - CLJ

7. Free from Violence – program overview and 'Health Check' questions

Darebin's Gender Equity Officer, Jade Myconos, presented the FFV Program and led the committee through program 'Health Check' questions to discuss as a group.

Summary:

In March 2024, Darebin City Council was one of 12 Victorian Councils to receive \$212,500 through the [Free from Violence Program](#) Local Government Grant Program 2024-27. The aim of the program is to build upon Council's work to prevent family and gender-based violence across the whole of Council as a leader, connector, employer, and service provider.

The funding will employ a part-time officer to lead the implementation of the whole of Council Free from Violence program and deliver a suite of training and resources for staff and where appropriate, community. Promoting cultural inclusion by centring the rights of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse people will be a key focus of this role.

A whole of Council 'Health Check' has been commenced with Darebin staff. Today is an opportunity for GEAC to respond to the Health Check questions. The Health Check will assist with Free from Violence planning for year one of the program.

Member discussion and feedback:

Refer to separate document, *Appendix A* for comprehensive Health Check discussion from today's meeting (25 June 2024).

ACTION:

1: Jade to keep the committee updated on the Free from Violence program.

8. General business

1. New program called 'Community Talks Sex'. The program is aimed at parents of school aged children. The purpose is to socialise parents to concept around sex and sexuality to assist parents to support young people, including young people with disability and young LGBTQIA+ community members. The program invites a panel of experts to talk to parents about topics including consent, legal frameworks, sexually transmitted infections, gender, gender equity. The program will be open to the public and run from neighbourhood houses at this stage.

When it is finalised, CLJ will share more information with the Committee about the program.

2. Feedback from community members about not feeling safe. Recent media coverage about gender-based violence in Australian communities has prompted discussion in the community art group Committee member RV facilitates. Key points raised:

- Women, particularly women who are migrants or newly arrived in Australia often do not feel safe travelling in Darebin, especially at night.
- Council to be mindful with afterhours events to ensure safe ways of travelling to and from event have been thought out – particularly for those travelling alone.
- Jade shared, recently we (Council Officers) have been hearing from women in East Reservoir and East Preston about not feeling safe walking around their local area, particularly at night. There has been discussion with the Community Safety Officer and Community Development Officers to plan what Council can do in response to this feedback. Jade to invite someone to talk to GEAC at an upcoming meeting.

ACTION:

- 1: CLJ to circulate Community Talks Sex program information to members (when available).
2. Jade to invite Community Safety Officer to future meeting to discuss community feedback about not feeling safe, particularly at night in certain areas of Darebin.

9. Meeting feedback

Members shared feedback including:

- Having less guests on the agenda was good- it allowed for good discussion.
- Appreciate having more information about content of presentations sent with agendas. Good that the reading is optional if people don't have time, but also good for people who would like to do pre-reading or preparing.
- Jade encouraged members to provide feedback at any time to make the meetings more accessible and inclusive for everyone.

10. Meeting end.

- The Chair thanked everyone for their time.
- Noted that future will likely involve providing feedback on the Council Plan development.
- The meeting was closed at 7.30pm
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12. Next meeting

Was scheduled for Tuesday 24 of September 2024 however due to upcoming Council elections, this date will be moved forward to an earlier date. Jade will notify members as soon as the new date is confirmed.