

Status of Women Advisory Group Meeting Record 22 October 2019



Location:	Central Coast Council Gosford Office Level 1 Committee Room 49 Mann Street, Gosford
Date:	22 October 2019
Time	Started at: 3.11pm Closed at: 4.35pm
Chair	Mayor Lisa Matthews
File Ref	F2017/00176

Present

Mayor Lisa Matthews, Councillor Chris Holstein, Councillor Kyle MacGregor (arrived 3.31pm), Sharryn Brownlee, Margot Castles, Sally Jope, Belinda Kimpton, Sharon Walsh, Julie Vaughan – Director Connected Communities

Council Staff present:

Glenn Cannard – Unit Manager Community Partnerships, Aliesha Carreno – Community Development Worker (arrived 3.20pm), Zoie Magann – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Apologies

Apologies received: Councillor Jillian Hogan, Councillor Jilly Pilon, Councillor Doug Vincent, Danielle Habib

Mayor Lisa Matthews welcomed the Advisory Group and completed an Acknowledgement of Country.

It was noted that Councillors Hogan and Pilon advised Mayor Lisa Matthews of their intention to resign as voting members of the Advisory Group due to difficulty making meetings and to help alleviate the ongoing issues with achieving quorum.

Item 2 Disclosures of Interest

No disclosures were noted.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record from 10 April 2019.

The Advisory Group reviewed the Action Log and noted updates from staff.

Action: Meeting to be set up through the Mayor's Office between Mayor Lisa Matthews and relevant Department of Education Directors regarding Actions 33 and 55.

Action: Staff to review original membership EOIs to target gap in representation and invite candidate to next meeting in consultation with Chairperson.

Item 4 Discuss Priorities Formed at Extra Meeting

The Advisory Group discussed priorities identified at the 30 April 2019 brainstorming session. The below topics were addressed:

- Expanded effort and focus on Women's Week (March 2020): Sally Jope tabled a Central Coast Festival of Women Expo flyer for the group's information. Members are keen for an event to be held by Council to launch Women's Week (2 – 8 March 2020) and International Women's Day (IWD – 8 March 2020).

Action: Staff to explore how Council can support the Central Coast Festival of Women (e.g. media releases / Mayor's Column) and report back to Advisory Group.

Action: Mayor's Office to coordinate a launch event on 6pm Friday 28 February 2020 in preparation for Festival of Women, similar to the one held earlier this year.

- Violence against Women (November 2019): Advisory Group agreed that it's Council's role to disseminate relevant information (as completed in 2018) on this topic.

Action: Glenn Cannard to provide info on what Council is doing in this area.

- Conference ALGWA (October 2019): It was noted that Mayor Lisa Matthews recently hosted an afternoon tea for ALGWA Executives and Council's female Executive Leadership Team members to network. The event was considered a success and ALGWA indicated their interest in holding a women's forum on the Central Coast closer to the 2020 Local Government election.

- Develop positive stories about women – link these into projects Council is already doing: Advisory Group agreed there needs to be a focus on strong comms and promotion of women. Mayor Lisa Matthews will continue to champion this and noted she is considering how best to approach this.
- Continuing to comment and advise Council: continuing function of Advisory Group.
- Internal and external promotion of who SOWAG is: Staff advised Council's website is being updated.

Action: Staff to follow up with Comms / Digital about updating SOWAG bios on website. Advisory Group Support Officer to email members with reminder to provide updated info as desired.

- Guest speakers feature at meetings: no longer considered a priority due to restricted timeframes – would prefer to focus on identified opportunities (launch event and support of Festival of Women (Women's Week / IWD) and comms works (media releases, Council website and Mayor's column).
- Revisit Council website: underway as noted above.

Item 5 International Women’s Day Celebration 2020

This was covered in Item 4 as above. Launch event to be held 28 February 2020 and Council to disseminate info about other celebrations / events taking place.

It was commented that some community members expressed a desire for an IWD march (similar to those held prior to amalgamation) to be organised. Concerns were raised that this can be logistically challenging, and it may be more beneficial to focus efforts elsewhere (e.g. support of Festival of Women Expo).

Action: Mayor Lisa Matthews to speak with Vicki Scott (former Gosford City Council Councillor) about the feasibility of an IWD march and bring info back to Advisory Group.

Item 6 Develop a Calendar for the Remaining Term

The Advisory Group confirmed their focus for the remaining term, further to discussions as part of Item 4.

- Agreed to continue to work on positive stories and attend events to ensure representation.
- Collaboration with ALGWA where possible (ALGWA Conference in March 2020 and potential for women’s forum on Central Coast in lead up to 2020 elections)

It was noted there are events planned in Terrigal and The Entrance as part of the 16 Days of Activism in November organised by external organisations.

Action: Mayor Lisa Matthews to write to Shellharbour City Council to explore option for SOWAG to be involved in ALGWA Conference happening 26-28 March 2020.

Action: Advisory Group Support Officer to circulate link to Lithgow media release regarding SOWAG as provided by Mayor Lisa Matthews.

Action: Advisory Group Support Officer to circulate info on walk to raise awareness of domestic violence happening in November as provided by Glenn Cannard.

Item 7 ALGWA Update

This was covered in Item 4.

Mayor Lisa Matthews advised ALGWA recently held a forum in Orange to focus on getting more women to nominate as candidates for Local Government elections, particularly in regional areas as there is limited female representation. The forum was considered a success and the next one will be held in Griffith (dates to be confirmed).

Action: Mayor Lisa Matthews to share dates and information on ALGWA forum in Griffith with Advisory Group members, who may choose to attend the forum at their own cost.

Item 8 General Business and Close

- a) Equal gender representation on Advisory Groups and Committees: there was an email forwarded for the Advisory Group's information regarding gender representation on Council groups, namely the Central Coast Cultural Plan Working Group. Julie Vaughan (Director Connected Communities) responded to the email directly regarding development of the Cultural Plan and highlighted that although the Working Group was male dominated the internal make up was majority female.

Following discussion, the Advisory Group noted gender representation on existing Advisory Groups and Committees is actually quite balanced.

- b) Domestic violence action: Councillor Chris Holstein highlighted the importance of men standing up to raise awareness of domestic violence and champion change. Councillor Holstein is currently liaising with stakeholders about what men can do and will bring any updates back to the Advisory Group.

Glenn Cannard noted that staff are working on this internally also as part of the Domestic Violence Policy being developed.

- c) Family event at The Entrance: Sharryn Burgess distributed the itinerary for Fright Night at The Entrance, which is a family friendly event organised by The Entrance Chamber of Commerce as supported by Council. Sharryn thanked staff for their support of the event.

The meeting closed at 4.35pm

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 3 December 2019
3pm – 5pm
Central Coast Council Gosford Office
Level 1 Committee Room**