

# Minutes



## Social Inclusion Advisory Committee

**Date:** 16 September 2021

**Time:** 10.03am – 12pm

**Location:** Microsoft Teams

**Chairperson:** Julie Vaughan, Director Community and Recreation Services

**Coordinator:** Glenn Cannard, Unit Manager Community and Culture

### Attendance

#### Members:

Mellita Bate

Cathie Buckley

Jackie Klarkowski

Michael Schell

Glitta Supernova

Deb Tipper

#### Status:

Present (joined 10.07am)

Present

Present

Apology

Present

Present

#### Guests:

Margot Castles, Status of Women Advisory Group

Present (left 11.13am)

Sharon Walsh, Status of Women Advisory Group

Present (left 11.13am)

#### Staff:

Julie Vaughan, Director Community and Recreation Services

Present

Glenn Cannard, Unit Manager Community and Culture

Present

Belinda McRobie, Section Manager Community Development

Present

Zoie Magann, Meeting Support Officer

Present

### 1 Introduction

10.03am

The chairperson welcomed the group and completed an Acknowledgement of Country.

Apologies received were noted. All meeting attendees introduced themselves.

The chairperson called for any disclosures of interest. No disclosures were received.

It was noted that Mellita Bate and Cathie Buckley were formally appointed as members at the [Ordinary Council Meeting held 14 September 2021](#).

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### 2 Previous business

11.13am

*Item deferred to follow item 3.*

The group confirmed the minutes from the previous meeting as noted below, which were distributed to members via email and uploaded to Council's website:

- [Social Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting held 28 July 2021](#)

Deb Tipper noted her concerns weren't adequately captured in Item 8 of the previous minutes, with regard to the Status of Women Advisory Group's request for in-principle support of a Gender Equity Strategy. Deb requested the below be included for this meeting to provide further information.

Concerns relate to the critical cohort that women represent in the area of social exclusion, where women are over-represented in terms of disadvantage in all types of social activity. Council's own figures presented to this group last year showed gender inequity within Council's own staff, in that women were not employed in any category more than 50%.

The action log was reviewed with updates recorded (see page 5).

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### 3 Guests from Status of Women Advisory Group

10.11am

*Item brought forward to follow item 1*

As requested at the last meeting, representatives from the Status of Women Advisory Group (SOWAG) were invited to attend this meeting. Margot Castles and Sharon Walsh joined the group and gave an overview of SOWAG and the background to their request for in-principle support of a Gender Equity Strategy.

The following key points were noted as part of this discussion:

- SOWAG had an ordinary meeting on 7 September 2021, and also met with CEO David Farmer on 8 September 2021 to discuss the Gender Equity Strategy.
- SOWAG want to make a difference with remainder of their term and feel championing a Gender Equity Strategy is an important part of their role. SOWAG are also planning a forum for early 2022.
- Julie Vaughan (Director Community and Recreation Services) reiterated the information provided to SOWAG at recent meetings. Provided overview of how Council's direction is shaped – Community Strategic Plan (10 years) > Delivery Program (4 years) > Operational Plan (1 year).
- SOWAG members will keep pushing for a Gender Equity Strategy. Social Inclusion Advisory Committee members supported this and echoed frustrations that it wasn't being picked up by

Council. Members noted there are obvious signs of inequity (example of icons used on social media – majority of people symbols are male representations).

- Members would like to exchange emails across groups so they can keep in contact about shared interests.

**Action:** Meeting Support Officer to check in with all members about sharing emails and provide list once confirmed.

#### 4 Round table discussion

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*Item addressed as part of other discussions.*

#### 5 Quick recap on projects

11.18am

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Glenn Cannard (Unit Manager Community and Culture) provided an update on current projects.

The following key points were noted:

- Staff have been undertaking work to better understand how Council can engage with the community. Looking to move forward with an online Experience Hub, which is separate to Council's website and will help keep community informed.
- Submissions for the [draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan](#) closed 13 September 2021 and an update is expected to come to Council later this year.
- The draft Social Inclusion Charter was reviewed internally (need to get commitment to actions). Main change was the Strategic Planning Unit agreed to highlight how objectives of Charter are being met in Operational Plan reporting. The updated Charter will be forwarded to members (including SOWAG) and discussed again at next meeting.
- Noted a Quality of Life Survey is being undertaken to measure alignment with the [ACT Wellbeing Framework](#) (flagged as discussion point by a member pre-meeting). Work related to the survey was delayed due to Covid-19 and resourcing, but is in programme for this financial year. Group noted this kind of work is important in measuring social capital.

**Action:** Unit Manager Community and Culture to provide update on following at next meeting: Experience Hub, Social Inclusion Charter, Quality of Life Survey (also invite Strategic Planning rep).

#### 6 Planning session to identify priorities/roadmap

11.30am

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The group discussed areas of focus for the remainder of the term, noting the below:

- Members would like to support SOWAG and development of a Gender Equity Strategy. Sharing of emails across groups will help members stay in contact about shared interests.

- Discussed impacts of Covid and that issues are aggravated by current situation. Acknowledged receipt of the Social Task Force information but feel this group may have been short-sighted and didn't adequately address key issues such as mental health. Noted that new issues continue to emerge (e.g. topic of vaccinations).
- Julie Vaughan noted team no longer has a Cultural Planner or Recreation Planner – positions lost as part of restructure. Although the Social Planner position was retained it is currently vacant. These roles have a direct impact on social inclusion and members like to better understand how these changes affect things.

**Recommendation:** That Council note the Social Inclusion Advisory Committee endorses the move by SOWAG to seek in-principle support from Council to initiate and lead the creation and implementation of a Central Coast Council Gender Equity Strategy.

Regarding the above, it is noted the recommendation by SOWAG was tabled at the [27 July 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting](#) and [Council resolved to reject the recommendation](#).

**Action:** Group to have strategic discussion about Covid and provide advice on Council's approach with consideration of domains of wellness at next meeting.

**Action:** Round table and group planning to remain standing item on agendas.

**Action:** Meeting Support Officer to circulate Community Strategic Plan and any other key documents to members for their review.

**Action:** Director Community and Recreation Services to provide further info on resources and what these impacts mean for social inclusion work at next meeting.

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### 7 General business

11.58am

No further general business was discussed.

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### 9 Close

Next meeting: Thursday 16 December 2021  
10am – 12pm  
Location TBC

Meeting closed at 12.00pm

Minutes approved by the Coordinator and Chairperson on 5 October 2021.

# Action log

Group name



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
7	24/10/2019	The Social Inclusion Advisory Group to be kept informed of the progress of a centralised event calendar.	Unit Manager Community and Culture	22/7/21 Update from Director Community and Recreation Services: Currently not a priority given staff reductions. To be undertaken as part of BAU if/when events are held  16/9/21: Experience Hub is being developed to address this. Action superseded by 39.	Complete
29	14/10/2020	Juan Iocco to provide list of resources for Advisory Group members to share with networks, with view to improve advocacy options and provide support.	Glitta Supernova	28/7/21: Action reassigned to Glitta for following up on behalf of Central Coast Pride.  16/9/21: Juan reminded about action.	Pending
38	16/09/2021	Meeting Support Officer to check in with all members about sharing emails and provide list once confirmed.	Meeting Support Officer		Pending
39	16/09/2021	Unit Manager Community and Culture to provide update on following at next meeting: Experience Hub, Social Inclusion Charter, Quality of Life Survey (also invite Strategic Planning rep).	Unit Manager Community and Culture		Pending

# Action log

Group name



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40	16/09/2021	That Council note the Social Inclusion Advisory Committee endorses the move by SOWAG to seek in-principle support from Council to initiate and lead the creation and implementation of a Central Coast Council Gender Equity Strategy.	Director Community and Recreation Services		Pending
41	16/09/2021	Group to have strategic discussion about Covid and provide advice on Council's approach with consideration of domains of wellness at next meeting.	Members		Pending
42	16/09/2021	Round table and group planning to remain standing item on agendas.	Meeting Support Officer		Pending
43	16/09/2021	Meeting Support Officer to circulate Community Strategic Plan and any other key documents to members for their review.	Meeting Support Officer		Pending
44	16/09/2021	Director Community and Recreation Services to provide further info on resources and what these impacts mean for social inclusion work at next meeting.	Director Community and Recreation Services		Pending