

# Status of Women Advisory Group Meeting Record 14 April 2020



Location:	Skype Meeting
Date:	14 April 2020
Time	Started at: 3.04pm    Closed at: 4.07pm
Chair	Mayor Lisa Matthews
File Ref	F2017/00176

## **Present**

Mayor Lisa Matthews, Councillor Chris Holstein, Margot Castles, Danielle Habib, Monique Tovo, Sharon Walsh, Glenn Cannard – Unit Manager Community Partnerships (on behalf of Julie Vaughan – Director Connected Communities)

## **Council Staff present:**

Aliesha Carreno – Community Development Worker, Zoie Magann – Advisory Group Support Officer

## **Item 1            Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Apologies**

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Apologies received: Sharryn Brownlee, Sally Jope, Belinda Kimpton, Julie Vaughan – Director Connected Communities

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

Mayor Lisa Matthews provided a brief update on the current situation with COVID-19 and Council's approach.

## **Item 2            Disclosures of Interest**

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No disclosures were noted.

## **Item 3            Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record**

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The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Records from 3 December 2019 and 11 February 2020.

The Advisory Group reviewed the Action Log. Most actions have now been completed or closed off as no longer relevant.

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#### **Item 4                      Feedback from IWD Events**

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The Advisory Group discussed the launch event that was held on 28 February 2020 for the Festival of Women and International Women's Day.

It was noted that the event was well attended, however it would be worthwhile exploring the option for online attendance (e.g. livestreaming) in the future to encourage further engagement.

The presentation provided by Amanda Shields – Culture and Heritage Officer – LALC Darkinjung was highly commended, and the Advisory Group would like to continue hosting such events with external speakers in the future.

**Action:** Staff to follow up with Comms team about photos from the event for sharing with and promotion of the Advisory Group.

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#### **Item 5                      Update on ALGWA Events**

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Mayor Lisa Matthews provided an update on recent ALGWA events. It was noted that the Forum in Griffith was cancelled due to the situation with COVID-19, however the Kiama one still went ahead with approximately 35 attendees.

The NSW ALGWA Conference 2020 was also postponed, and is now expected to be hosted by Fairfield City Council in 2021.

Mayor Lisa Matthews also noted that a project is currently underway to connect women and share how they are faring with consideration to COVID-19. Advisory Group members were invited to share any comments they have on their experience via email.

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#### **Item 6                      Updates from Advisory Group Members**

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Each Advisory Group member was given the opportunity to share any updates or thoughts they have with the group. The below comments were captured:

- Discussion about why federal funding for employment support as result of COVID-19 doesn't apply to Council. Noted there will be a Mayoral Minute to lobby support for local government to next Council meeting.
- Good news story: interactions with people in public spaces have been largely positive since introduction of social distancing guidelines.
- Heightened concerns about people living in domestic violence situations:
  - Many different factors can increase risk: work and school are often escapes and many are now closed, rainy weather forcing children to stay inside, increase in alcohol purchase/consumption and online gambling.
  - Difficulties with communicating and providing support to affected individuals due to being 'locked down' with aggressor.
  - Groups liaising with Central Coast Community Council to increase support – suggest Council consider comms strategy to promote the services and help available.
- Noted challenges regarding opportunities for community members to establish sense of connectedness – increased difficulty given current situation.

- Some key projects and research have been postponed due to situation with COVID-19, but are expected to continue in time.
- As of Friday 10 April 2020, there are approximately 123 confirmed cases of COVID-19 on the Central Coast. Majority of cases are returned overseas visitors. 64 have recovered and close contacts are in isolation. Some helpful links:
  - <https://preview.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>
  - <https://www.hopkinscentre.edu.au/>

**Action:** Mayor Lisa Matthews to share further stats on COVID-19 with Advisory Group, following meeting with local police.

## **Item 7                    General Business and Close**

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- a) It was noted there are challenges in supporting a community of our size, but staff are looking into how best to work with the community and different sectors to improve access to services. A strong focus on connections and looking out for one another is essential.
- b) The Local Government Elections set for September 2020 have been postponed until 2021. This means Advisory Group will continue to operate for at least another year, so would be beneficial to develop action plan for next 9 months (with considerations to current climate and working online). Potential priorities: supporting people in domestic violence situations, housing for those in need, children being at home, connecting people and providing accessible solutions – all link to how best we can support our community.

**Action:** Advisory Group members to consider priorities for next 9 months and share ideas via email for discussion.

**Action:** Staff to follow up on list of accommodation made available locally for people in need and share with Advisory Group.

The meeting closed at 4.07pm

**Next Meeting:            Tuesday 2 June 2020**  
**3pm – 5pm**  
**Location TBC**