

Status of Women Advisory Group Meeting Record 8 September 2020



Location:	Zoom Meeting
Date:	8 September 2020
Time	Started at: 3.07pm Closed at: 4.11pm
Chair	Mayor Lisa Matthews
File Ref	F2017/00176

Present

Mayor Lisa Matthews, Councillor Chris Holstein (left 4.03pm), Councillor Kyle MacGregor (left 3.56pm), Councillor Doug Vincent, Sharryn Brownlee, Danielle Habib (left 3.59pm), Sally Jope, Sharon Walsh, Phil Cantillon – Acting Director Connected Communities (on behalf of Julie Vaughan)

Council Staff present:

Glenn Cannard – Unit Manager Community Partnerships, Aliesha Carreno – Community Development Worker, Zoie Magann – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Apologies

Apologies received: Margot Castles, Belinda Kimpton, Monique Tovo, Julie Vaughan – Director Connected Communities

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

Item 2 Disclosures of Interest

Councillor Doug Vincent declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest for Item 4 with regard to discussions about working with the Department of Education (DOE), as his children are enrolled in the public school system and his wife works in the sector.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record from 2 June 2020.

The Advisory Group reviewed the Action Log, noting most actions are in hand but have been delayed due to restrictions in place from COVID. Mayor Lisa Matthews confirmed she is meeting with the ALGWA Executive shortly and will follow up on related actions, as well as meeting with the Department of Education Directors.

Item 4 Revisit Priorities and Action Plan for 2020/21

The Advisory Group revisited the priorities discussed at the last meeting, with a view to develop a plan of action for identified areas.

The below key points were noted:

- Partnership with local schools to be refined following meeting with DOE Directors. Keen to focus on supporting young women in leadership.
- Also waiting on ALGWA meeting to determine scope of SOWAG involvement in events such as online forum.
- Members support establishment of a Rewards and Recognition Program, which would involve an award being sent from Mayor's office to local students for displaying strong leadership qualities and/or civic mindedness. Certificate has significant value as can be used in resume or for applications to other programs. Discussions held regarding scope of award and limitations (i.e. primary school/high school, public/private sector, female/male students). Noted there are 55 public primary schools in LGA.
- Suggestion about developing a formal Women's Strategy – would likely be workshopped by current Council and put forward to new Council following Local Government elections next year. Related discussion about current HR policies and concept of 50/50 representation in internal leadership roles. Noted an interesting presentation was provided to the recent Social Inclusion Advisory Committee regarding this matter.

Action: Advisory Group Support Officer to liaise with Megan Rowe about presentation provided to Social Inclusion Advisory Committee on HR policies and women in leadership, for sharing with the group.

Item 5 Global Sisters Project – Launch held 21 August 2020

The Advisory Group discussed the Global Sisters Project. A launch event was held 21 August 2020 which members were invited to attend. Sharon Walsh attended the event and was very impressed with the program.

Action: Representative from Global Sisters to be invited to a future meeting to discuss organisation and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Item 6 Updates from Advisory Group Members

Each Advisory Group member was given the opportunity to share any updates or thoughts they have with the group.

The below key points were noted:

- There has been some violent and challenging behaviour witnessed in schools recently, particularly with children from DV backgrounds. Organisations are looking at offering programs for supporting young men and discouraging violent behaviours.
- Noted there continues to be challenges with hosting events and catering for groups with regard to COVID restrictions. Staff continue to modify services and functions to meet demand.
- There appears to be common themes across some Advisory Groups with regards to concerns raised (challenges faced by youth, cultural diversity, service providers struggling to meet needs) – it was suggested a letter be sent to Department of Community Justice to request ongoing community

support. Staff noted Council has a Working Together Staying Stronger Grant Program aimed at supporting local community groups and organisations.

Action: Update on Love Bites program to be provided at a future meeting.

Action: Mayor Lisa Matthews to explore option for sending letter to Department of Community Justice about funding opportunities available for community support.

Action: Staff to circulate information on Working Together Staying Stronger Grant Program for members to share with networks.

Item 7 General Business and Close

No general business was discussed.

The meeting closed at 4.11pm.

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