

YARRA CITY COUNCIL

HUMAN SERVICES & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

**to be held on Tuesday 7 March 2006 at 6.30 pm
at the Richmond Town Hall**

Councillor Membership

Cr Annabel Barbara (Chair)
Cr Paul D'Agostino
Cr Jackie Fristacky
Cr Kathleen Maltzahn
Cr Gurm Sekhon

Council Officer Attendees

Lydia Wilson (Chief Executive Officer)
Geoff Cockram (Director Corporate Services)
Jane Homewood (Director City Development)
Craig Kenny (Director Community Development)
Bryan Lancaster (Director Asset Management)
Erin Nairn-Marcon (Governance Adviser)

I. ATTENDANCE

II. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

III. COMMITTEE BUSINESS REPORTS

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***Welcome to the City of Yarra.
Council acknowledges the
Wurundjeri community as the first
owners of this country.
Today, they are still the custodians
of the cultural heritage of this land.***

***Further to this, Council acknowledges
there are other Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander people who have lived,
worked and contributed to the
cultural heritage of Yarra.***



Public participation at Council and Committee meetings

PoLICY

1. Council welcomes the opportunity for members of the public to address the Finance and Resources Committee, the Planning and Community Development Committee, the Internal Development Approvals Committee, and in certain circumstances, Council.
2. The following guidelines shall apply to public submissions:
 - (a) in any matter before and under discussion by Council or a Committee, where a member of the public has been invited to make a submission, a **five-minute** restriction shall be placed on the speaker;
 - (b) the Chairperson shall have the sole discretion as to extending the speaking time or varying the conditions of these guidelines in any other respect;
 - (c) it is the responsibility of the minute clerk or the Chief Executive Officer to advise the Chairperson when the times allocated or extended as permitted pursuant to this policy have expired;
 - (d) there will be no time restriction imposed on submissions made pursuant to section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, however submitters will be encouraged to accord to the spirit of these guidelines;
 - (e) where prior notice has been given, Council officers will facilitate arrangements to enable members of the public to nominate representative speakers on their behalf where necessary. In circumstances where a group of people wish to make a submission on the same subject and no prior notice given, a representative speaker on the group's behalf shall be encouraged;
 - (f) all public comment is to be made prior to commencement of debate on matters to be determined;
 - (g) any person accepting the Chairperson's invitation to address the meeting shall confine himself or herself to the subject under consideration;
 - (h) people making submissions shall address the meeting as a whole and the debate shall be conducted at the conclusion of submissions; and
 - (i) town planning permit applicants shall be given an opportunity to present their submission before objectors and may exercise a right of reply following the hearing of all submissions.
3. The general provisions of these guidelines shall be made known to all intending speakers and members of the public, prior to the commencement of business at meetings.

Responsible Officer	Approval date:	Document No.	Page:
Manager Governance	Approved: Council 22 July 1996 Amended: Cnl 10 February 1997 Reviewed: 31 October 2003	govcni.pol.00022	1

HUMAN SERVICES & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

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CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

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2.1 Child Care – Supply and Demand in Yarra

File:

Responsible Officer: Manager Family and Children's Services

Purpose

1. The report '*Child Care Supply and Demand in Yarra – Issues and Responses*' (attachment 1) represents the first stage in the development of a Council response to childcare availability and access issues experienced by Yarra families of children aged from birth to early secondary school age. It analyses current child care supply and demand, considers known and likely changes to supply, and proposes roles and actions for Council to pursue in the future. The next stage will utilise this information into local area child care planning, to occur in conjunction with Council's wider neighbourhood planning processes and timelines

Background

2. Yarra's Municipal Early Years Plan 2005-2007 (MEYP) was developed to review progress and to determine future actions across the care, health and educational service systems for children aged 0 – 6 years and their families.
3. The MEYP identified issues in relation to access, availability and affordability of child care for Yarra families, and proposed a number of actions to respond to the issues.
4. In May 2005, media attention and community interest became focussed on low supply levels of child care in inner metropolitan Council areas. A delegation of parents attended a Yarra City Council meeting in response to the lack of available child care to support families in Yarra, and to call on Council to address the shortage.
5. In response to community concerns, the Inner South Mayors Group was formed and the Mayor of Yarra at that time, Councillor Kay Meadows was an active participant. With a broad range of child care issues as its focus, the group developed a survey which was circulated to each of the 8 participating Councils.
6. Key issues identified included an undersupply of child care, in particular long day care and occasional child care, affordability for families and high land costs acting as a disincentive for prospective child care developers.
7. The 2005/06 Council budget included an allocation to assess child care access and supply issues.

Consultations

8. Community consultations undertaken during the development of the MEYP provided strong indications that demand for all types of child care was high, most particularly for children aged under 3 years and that long waiting lists were a source of great frustration for parents. Service affordability was also identified as a major issue for many families.

9. Local consultations with parents of school aged children undertaken as a part of the development of the Service Performance Plan for Yarra's Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) services in late 2004 revealed a need for increased care provision for children attending primary school and early secondary school before and after school, on pupil free days and during 10 weeks of annual school holidays.
10. The Early Years Reference Group was established in late 2005 to advise and monitor the implementation of Yarra's MEYP. Its membership is diverse and includes key informants with an interest in Family and Children's Services.

Financial Implications

11. In the 2005/2006 financial year, Council's financial contribution to service provision for families and children is in the vicinity of \$2.9 m. Of that sum, \$950,000 is spent on child care and related support
12. Recommendations can be achieved within current budget allocations.. Should Council wish to consider future expansion of Council managed child care places, these will be considered in line with Council's annual budget preparation processes.

Economic Implications

13. Improved access to child care places will assist more working families in Yarra to obtain child care support they require.

Social Implications

14. Access to child care has been articulated by a number of working families as a major issue.
15. Initiatives currently being implemented by Council include the trialling of a Centralised Waiting List, the introduction of a Priority of Access Policy to be applied to waiting lists, and the trial of a Fee Subsidy Scheme. These initiatives are designed to improve accessibility to Council managed child care services for Yarra families, including vulnerable and low income families whose access to formal child care has in the past been limited.
16. There are strong indications that child care supply is increasing in Yarra and that this trend will continue over the next 2 years. Access and supply will continue to be monitored by Council.
17. Based on information to hand, it would appear that Council's intention to support the creation of more child care places is largely being realised, with 600 or more additional places currently under consideration. Council should continue to monitor and report on supply and service demand on at least an annual basis.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

18. The Council Plan, Municipal Public Health Plan, Municipal Strategic Statement, Asset Management plan and Open Space Master Plan all identify specific

objectives to plan for more integrated services for children and families across Yarra.

19. A Council commitment to local level planning for early years services including child care, ensures that neighbourhoods are child and family friendly and that appropriate services and facilities are available.

Proposal

20. The report '*Child Care Supply and Demand in Yarra – Issues and Responses*' represents the first stage in the development of a Council response to childcare availability and access issues experienced by Yarra families of children aged from birth to early secondary school age. In doing so, it analyses current child care supply and demand, considers known and likely changes to supply, and proposes roles and actions for Council to pursue.
21. In Yarra, the supply of places in Long Day Care, Occasional Child Care and Outside School Hours Care have all increased over the last year, and current indications are that this trend is set to continue. There are more than 600 additional long day care places currently under consideration.
22. Recent Commonwealth Child Care supply data indicates that there are 99.4 places for each 100 children aged 0-4 years whose parents (both parents in couple families or lone parent) work or are engaged in study or training. Based on this data, Yarra has the highest number of places per 100 of target population in metropolitan Melbourne. The limitation of this data is that it does not take account of the families who travel from other municipalities to utilise child care in Yarra
23. Yarra faces a complex task in endeavouring to establish the actual number child care places required in the municipality. The challenge that it faces is to offer priority in Council managed services to its own residents.
24. The introduction of a centralised wait list for Council managed child care services will improve understandings of community demand and will enable a Priority of Access Policy to be applied to the allocation of available places. This initiative should increase access for Yarra residents.
25. As a community with significant numbers of low income and disadvantaged families, Council should continue its efforts to improve affordability and access to services, especially for the most vulnerable families. The impact of Council's trial of a funded fee assistance program should be evaluated. Whilst the fee assistance program is a positive initiative, it should be emphasised that the Federal Government has both the responsibility and the mechanisms for addressing affordability for families, and Council should continue to raise this point.
26. Council plays a significant and valued role in relation to child care. Its activities, encompassing service delivery, facility and infra structure provision, funding, planning and advocacy are all strongly supported by families and service providers alike, and these should all continue.

27. There are financial limitations to Council significantly expanding its role in service delivery and it should pursue its work to encourage other parties to provide child care in the municipality.
28. The issue of Council's ageing community and Council operated child care assets which are likely to require significant injection of funds to remain safe and compliant with industry regulations will require further attention. Current policies for children's and family services favour multi purpose integrated services capable of responding to a broad range of needs. Co location and integration of services will improve safety for staff and access to services for families. Refurbishment of single purpose services should be considered within the context of opportunity for development of integrated service model. The development of a detailed Family and Children's Asset Management Plan will provide guidance in this area.
29. It is proposed that local area child care planning be integrated to occur in conjunction with Council's wider neighbourhood planning processes and timelines.

RECOMMENDATION

30. That:
 - (a) the information and directions contained in the report 'Child Care Supply and Demand in Yarra – Issues and Responses' be accepted by Council;
 - (b) Council continue to monitor child care supply and demand on at least an annual basis and that this information be reported to Council annually;
 - (c) Council continue its efforts to improve affordability and access to services, especially for Yarra's most vulnerable families;
 - (d) Council endorse the continuation of its efforts to support local families and children's activities, through child care service delivery, facility and infrastructure provision, funding, planning and advocacy;
 - (e) Council accept that there are financial limitations to Council significantly expanding its role in child care service delivery and it should pursue its work to encourage other parties to provide child care in the municipality;
 - (f) a detailed Family and Children's Asset Management Plan be developed and reported to Council; and
 - (g) local area child care planning be integrated to occur in conjunction with Council's wider neighbourhood planning processes and timelines.

CONTACT OFFICER: Celia Haddock
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Attachment 1 – Child Care Supply and Demand in Yarra – Issues and Responses



Adobe Acrobat
Document

2.2 Smith Street – Discussion Paper

Executive Summary

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to inform Council of progress on the issues of public behaviour in Smith Street and to:

- (a) seek Council support for wide distribution of the Discussion Paper “Strengthening Aboriginal Communities in Smith Street – A Service Model” which has been developed by the Street People Committee;
- (b) seek Council endorsement of a funding proposal through the Emerging Issues Grants program; and
- (c) seek Council support for an advocacy campaign in relation to the service model set out in the Discussion Paper.

Key Issues

The service model outlined in the Discussion Paper has three key components:

- (a) Sobering Up Centre, to accommodate severely intoxicated persons and to monitor health and well-being whilst they sober up, to refer to other services and to divert intoxicated persons from the public hospital and justice systems;
- (b) Community Cultural Centre, a gathering place that is run by local Aboriginal people, that provides opportunities to meet and connect, to experience culture and to provide pathways out of poverty, harmful alcohol consumption and other disadvantage; and
- (c) Mobile Assistance Patrol, to provide a means of transporting persons who are intoxicated to an appropriate place that ensures they will not harm themselves or others. A pilot of this model has recently been funded by Department of Justice.

Financial Implications

The Discussion Paper contains a number of actions for Council, some of which can be achieved within existing budgets, others require new initiative funding in 2006-07. Council’s current allocation to the issues of public behaviour is \$57,000 per annum through the grants program and significant officer time and other Council resources. The proposals in the Discussion Paper require funding from the State Government and other sources (Commonwealth, Philanthropic) to be achieved.

Social Implications

The proposals in the Discussion Paper aim to address long standing social issues in the community. The solutions proposed are based on achieving real and lasting change and on creating new opportunities for Aboriginal people in Yarra who experience extreme disadvantage.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

A number of Council Plan actions directly relate to this report. The key strategy being the implementation of the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan and in particular the Social Justice strategy contained in the Plan.

PROPOSAL

The report proposes that Council supports the model outlined in the Discussion Paper and the wide distribution of the Discussion Paper. It is also proposed that Council approves immediate short term responses for funding through its Community Grants program. The report seeks Council support for an advocacy campaign to achieve funding for the proposed service model. Implicit in this is Council's continued support for the work of the Street People Committee and the partnership approach that has been taken to date.

2.2 Smith Street – Discussion Paper

File: 50/15/03/01/07
Responsible Officer: Coordinator Community Advocacy

Purpose

1. The purpose of the report is to inform Council of progress on the issues of public behaviour in Smith Street and to seek Council:
 - (a) support for wide distribution of the Discussion Paper “Strengthening Aboriginal Communities in Smith Street – A Service Model” which has been developed by the Street People Committee;
 - (b) endorsement of a funding proposal through the Emerging Issues grant program; and
 - (c) support for an advocacy campaign in relation to the service model set out in the Discussion Paper.

Background

2. Council has been involved in developing a response to public behaviour issues in Smith Street for some time. These issues include people who drink at harmful levels on the street, with consequences including harm to themselves, harm to others and anti-social behaviour such as aggression to passers by, violence to others in the group and damage to property.
3. While drinking and anti-social behaviour is not confined to any one demographic group, Council has been involved with and facilitated the work of the Street People Committee which has sought to respond specifically to the needs of Aboriginal people who are affected by harmful levels of drinking. A key assumption of this work is that services for Aboriginal people will extend to non-Indigenous persons also.
4. Council received correspondence from the Small Business Commissioner in relation to this matter in 2004, 2005 and early 2006 which was prompted by complaints from Smith Street traders. Initially this correspondence called for imposition of a Dry Zone in Smith Street through introduction of a local law. This approach was considered and not adopted by Council for the reasons that it would:
 - (a) simply displace the problem to another area;
 - (b) be discriminatory towards Aboriginal people who are gathering in Smith Street; and
 - (c) not be a responsible way to address the social and health issues manifest in the street behaviour.
5. In October 2004 Parkies Vic Inc and VACSAL called a meeting of key players: Aboriginal organisations, local governments, Police and traders to discuss a service model to meet the needs of Aboriginal people drinking in Smith Street.

The cities of Melbourne, Darebin, Port Phillip and Yarra all attended meetings; with Melbourne and Yarra taking driving roles in the resultant Street People Committee (SPC).

6. The SPC aimed to develop a culturally appropriate service model that would address the specific disadvantage faced by the Aboriginal community. The committee encouraged trader participation with some traders attending the meetings. A meeting with traders late in 2004 revealed high levels of frustration and the strongly held opinion that the street behaviour affected businesses badly. At this meeting the central position of the SPC approach was articulated; this is not the problem of a single entity (such as Council or the Police), but is a problem for all sections of the community and that we need to work together to solve it. The collaborative approach of the SPC has reflected this statement.
7. Over the past year the SPC has met regularly and developed a position outlined in the Discussion Paper "Strengthening Aboriginal Communities in Smith Street – A Service Model" (the Discussion Paper). This position has been informed by research including a study tour to Adelaide where representatives of the two local governments, Parkies Vic Inc and Police took an intensive look at the coordinated approach to similar needs in Adelaide. The service model is outlined in detail in the Discussion Paper (Attachment One) and is summarised in the following extract:

"The proposed service model aims to address harmful levels of drinking and the impact this has on the Aboriginal community and as such has a component of culture that underpins it. The Street People Committee has worked collaboratively, to identify appropriate service models and gaps in existing services. The proposed service model has three key components:

- (a) Sobering Up Facility, to accommodate severely intoxicated persons and to monitor health and well-being whilst they sober up, to refer to other services and to divert intoxicated persons from the public hospital and justice systems;
- (b) Community Cultural Centre, a gathering place that is run by local Aboriginal people, that provides opportunities to meet and connect, to experience culture and to provide pathways out of poverty, harmful alcohol consumption and other disadvantage; and
- (c) Mobile Assistance Patrol, to provide a means of transporting persons who are intoxicated to an appropriate place that ensures they will not harm themselves or others. A pilot of this model has recently been funded by Department of Justice.

The paper advocates that a response to the needs of the Aboriginal community requires a partnership approach. This means support from all levels of government, the community sector and local business is needed for the proposed model to succeed. Most importantly, it needs the ownership and endorsement of the Aboriginal community and Aboriginal organisations".

Consultations

8. The Street People Committee has consulted with a range of organisations as follows:
- (a) Parkies Vic Incorporated (member);
 - (b) Victoria Police (member);
 - (c) Homeground Services (member);
 - (d) North Yarra Community Health Centre (member);
 - (e) Neighbourhood Justice Centre Project Team;
 - (f) Small Business Commissioner;
 - (g) Businesses on Smith Street and other traders;
 - (h) Department of Human Services (Regional) (member);
 - (i) Rotary Cluster (sub regional group);
 - (j) Turning Point (member);
 - (k) Victorian Aboriginal Health Service;
 - (l) Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Ltd;
 - (m) Salvation Army;
 - (n) St Vincent's Hospital;
 - (o) Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (member);
 - (p) Ngwala;
 - (q) Aboriginal Advisory Group (City of Yarra);
 - (r) Councillors;
 - (s) City of Melbourne (member);
 - (t) City of Port Phillip (attends SPC);
 - (u) City of Darebin;
 - (v) MAYA Healing Centre (attends SPC);
 - (w) Regional Aboriginal Justice Agreement Committee – Department of Justice (RAJAC);
 - (x) Local MPs;
 - (y) Yarra Drug and Health Forum; and

- (z) Chair Neighbourhood Advisory Team (Collingwood Neighbourhood Renewal).
9. An Information Tent was held by Council with the support of the SPC in October 2005 and this provided an opportunity to talk with passers by, residents, traders and Parkies about the issues for the street. Feedback was mostly positive on this initiative - it was seen as a constructive that the Parkies could meet and network with Police, traders, Councillors and local resident representatives.
 10. In February 2006 Council representatives and members of Victoria Police met with senior representatives of State Government departments: Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, Department of Justice - Regional Aboriginal Justice Agreement Committee, Department of Human Services and the Department for Innovation Industry and Regional Development. The meeting was called following representations to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the focus of the meeting was to talk through the proposals in the Discussion Paper and assess the level of government support and potential funding sources. No commitments were made at the meeting by government department representatives and further meetings will need to occur.
 11. This report is seeking Council's support for wider consultation through general release of the Discussion Paper to the community. A community meeting for Aboriginal organisations and Parkies is being planned by the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service and will canvas support for the service model as proposed in the Discussion Paper.
 12. A further meeting with Business on Smith Street was held on 1 March 2006 was attended by traders, Council Officers, Victoria Police and the Liquor Licensing Commissioner. The meeting was productive with traders offering a number of suggestions and support for the model being proposed for Smith Street.

Financial Implications

13. Council provided \$57,000 in the 2004-05 grants (Emerging Issues Program) and the same amount of funding is allocated in the current financial year. To date in 2005-06 only \$25,000 has been allocated and it is proposed that the existing grant recipients' allocation towards addressing the needs of Aboriginal people in Collingwood be doubled. This would result in Homeground Services and North Yarra Community Health being able to increase their existing service provision which provides:
 - (a) case management/recreational programs for Indigenous women and men; and
 - (b) Allied Health Support for Indigenous women.

Both organisations have worked successfully with local Aboriginal people and have the respect and trust of the community. This level of trust is critical to their capacity to deliver services. This proposal means that each organisation would receive \$25,000 in the current financial year towards these programs. This would facilitate a real and practical increase in response to the needs identified for Aboriginal people in the area.

14. The Discussion Paper includes an Action Plan which has short, medium and long term actions. There are two key objectives in the Action Plan:
- (a) To reduce public drinking and the related harm and anti-social behaviour and to seek ways to improve health and well-being of those drinking; and
 - (b) To promote the strengths of Smith Street, Collingwood and build a strong retail and cultural precinct.

To date Council has made a significant financial commitment to this work through officer time, grant funding and new initiative funding (Aboriginal history walk for Smith Street Precinct). Some of the actions outlined in the Action Plan would require a New Initiative allocation in the 2006-07 budget process.

15. Proposed actions which Council would have responsibility for and which have financial implications either within existing budgets or requiring new funding, include:
- (a) consultation with the Aboriginal community (existing budget);
 - (b) consultation with traders, residents and other stakeholders (existing budget);
 - (c) provision of information to traders on service referrals e.g. ready reckoner to drug, alcohol and other services (new initiative); and
 - (d) implement actions from the Yarra Aboriginal Partnerships Plan such as markers for significant places, mural depicting Aboriginal history of the area (new initiative).

In addition other work is already in progress through the Smith Street Structure Planning process including: promoting the unique character of Smith Street, planning for the look and feel of the street into the future, street planting and improvements to the Gertrude and Smith Street corner. The ICEPT and IMAP processes include safer design concepts in any upgrades of street furniture.

16. The Action Plan as attached contains full details of the proposed actions, many of which require a cross Council approach by key branches including: Open Space, Statutory and Strategic and Economic Planning, Community Amenity and Culture and Community Planning. The critical actions of establishing a Sobering-Up Centre and a Community Cultural Centre require substantial funding from the other levels of government. Council may consider whether or not it has any properties which would be suitable for such services.

Economic Implications

17. The direct and indirect economic implications that this proposal will have for the Yarra community and businesses include the strengthening of the trading area of Smith and Gertrude Streets. The successful implementation of the service proposal contained in the Discussion Paper would bring employment pathways for Indigenous people, possible construction contracts and potentially entrepreneurial development into the area through the proposed Community Cultural Centre.

Environmental Implications

18. The environmental implications of the proposals within the Discussion Paper require further consideration and discussion across Council departments to assess opportunities. There is potential to use more Indigenous plants for low area planting and thus build awareness of Indigenous heritage.

Social Implications

19. The social implications of the proposed actions are significant. The Discussion Paper proposes meaningful solutions to long term social issues. There are some short term actions and also longer term actions which require significant resource allocations by all levels of government to succeed. The approach outlined in the paper encompasses community strengthening, increased access to services, increased cooperation across the various stakeholder groups and increased community ownership of both the problems and the solutions and strengths in Smith Street.
20. Anecdotal reports from Smith Street indicate that increased community ownership and responsibility has started to build from the work done already, for example:
 - (a) an initiative by one trader to call in a key member of the Aboriginal community to settle down anti social activity on the street;
 - (b) reports of the Aboriginal community taking the initiative to take people home who have had too much to drink; and
 - (c) positive proposals from traders and residents eg: attitudinal survey in Smith Street.
21. The Discussion Paper contains several actions that would promote the Aboriginal history and significance of the area and promote the diversity of Smith Street as a real strength and point of difference.
22. The service model proposed in the Discussion Paper clearly aims to bring new and culturally appropriate services into the area that do not currently exist. This is seen as a significant benefit to the area.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

23. The Council Plan strategies relating to this report include:
 - (a) consolidate Yarra as a place of ongoing special significance to the Victorian Aboriginal community and the strengthen understanding of Aboriginal culture;
 - (b) support Wurundjeri Reconciliation and Aboriginal social justice; and
 - (c) undertake a holistic approach to health and well-being issues.

These strategies relate directly to the Discussion Paper and the work Council has been engaged in with the Street People Committee.

Legal Implications

24. Council has not sought legal advice on the matters contained in the report.

Proposal

25. The report proposes that Council supports the model outlined in the Discussion Paper and the wide distribution of the Discussion Paper. It is also proposed that Council approves immediate short term responses for funding through the grant program. The report seeks Council support for an advocacy campaign to achieve funding for the proposed service model. Implicit in this is Council's continued support for the work of the Street People Committee and the partnership approach that has been taken to date.

RECOMMENDATION

26. That Council supports the wide distribution of the Discussion Paper to all sections of the community, government representatives and departments and the media.
27. That Council approve an increased allocation of Emerging Issues funding to Homeground Services and North Yarra Community Health to enable them to extend services for Aboriginal people in Collingwood and Fitzroy. This allocation will comprise the following grants under the 2005/06 EIP program:
- (a) \$25,000 to Homeground Services to provide recreational and case management services to Aboriginal people in Yarra with a direct focus on recreation as a pathway to recovery; and
 - (b) \$25,000 to North Yarra Community Health to extend the Indigenous Allied Health Worker's hours for the delivery of a range of health supports.
28. That Council supports an ongoing advocacy campaign to State and Commonwealth Governments seeking funding for the services outlined in this report, specifically for:
- (a) a Sobering Up Facility; and
 - (b) a Community Cultural Centre.
29. That Council considers new initiative bids to implement the actions outlined for Council responsibility in the Action Plan in the 2006-07 budget process.

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Attachment 1 – Discussion Paper, Strengthening Aboriginal Communities in Smith Street



Adobe Acrobat
Document

2.3 Development of Positive Ageing Strategy

Executive Summary

Purpose

This report advises Council of the proposal to undertake community consultation and develop a Positive Ageing Strategy and Action Plan.

Key Issues

With an ageing population, councils are being encouraged to develop a strategy to plan for the needs of older residents into the future. This will be considered in the context of the changing needs of older residents, including health and social status, intergenerational relationships and the opportunities and challenges in building community capacity. The Strategy will assist Council in undertaking its role as a service provider, planner and provider of significant physical infrastructure.

Financial Implications

The Plan will have implications for the future development of assets and link to forward planning of capital works programs. In addition, the Action Plan will raise issues that may require the re-orientation of existing funding, new funding and/or action to seek funding at other levels of government.

Social Implications

The development of the Strategy and Plan is critical to future planning and assisting Council in identifying how best it can meet the social, health and well-being needs of older residents. It will test current thinking, utilise foresight planning and through community consultation provide a framework for decision-making, particularly around the provision of assets.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications.

Development of the Strategy and Plan is consistent with the core principles and strategic objectives set out in the Council Plan.

PROPOSAL

That Officers initiate the development of the Positive Ageing Strategy and Action Plan and Councillors indicate an interest in being members of the Steering Committee.

2.3 Development of Positive Ageing Strategy

File:

Responsible Officer: Aged & Disability Services Manager

Purpose

1. This report is to inform Councillors of the proposal to undertake a community consultation between March and August 2006 to develop a Positive Ageing Strategy and Action Plan to form the basis of a 'whole of Council' response to the opportunities and challenges of an ageing population in Yarra.

Background

2. The United Nations initiated discussion internationally in April 2002, when it convened the Second World Assembly on Ageing and developed the International Plan of Action of Ageing 2002. The Plan is a practical tool to assist policy makers to focus on the key priorities associated with individual and population ageing and focuses on four major tenets for ageing communities covering: lifelong development; inter-generational relationships; the relationship between population ageing and development and the situation of older people. (Reference: Commonwealth of Australia 2001. National Strategy for an Ageing Australia. An Older Australia. Challenges and Opportunities for all. Canberra.)
3. Governments around the world were encouraged from this initiative. The Australian Commonwealth Government urged state and local governments to plan proactively and develop innovative, compassionate, sensitive and inclusive policy to build the capacity of a community to plan and provide services for their burgeoning ageing population.
4. While Council supports older residents through many direct and indirect programs (leisure services, HACC services, neighbourhood houses, social support grants, accommodation etc), it does not have a specific strategy to guide its approach to supporting older residents. Increasingly, State Government and other funding bodies are aligning programs and funding opportunities to directions set out in local Positive Ageing Plans. The preparation of a Strategy and Plan will provide a coherent approach and focus for the next 10 years.
5. As part of the recent focus on asset management, social infrastructure and neighbourhood planning across Council, the preparation of a Positive Ageing Strategy and Action Plan will also guide Council in making decisions about the future use and development of assets (senior citizens' centres, community halls and hubs etc). The Plan will be utilised to guide capital works and asset management plans.

Initiation of Strategy Development

6. Council is well positioned to have a positive and crucial impact on the growing older population through its:
 - (a) intimate knowledge of the local community and identification of the diversity of older people;

- (b) provision of infrastructure and facilitation of developments to ensure the physical, social and economic environment of Yarra is favourable to the overall well-being of older people;
- (c) planning and provision of services and programs that are flexible and locally appropriate to their needs of older people;
- (d) community participation in local decision-making and development of community networks; and
- (e) advocacy on behalf of the local community with other government and non-government organisations. (Reference: Australian local government population ageing action plans 2004 – 2008.)

Scope of Project

7. The project scope will comprise of the following components:-
 - (a) community consultation and assessment of current and future seniors 55 years + needs 2006 – 2016, inclusive of all representative groups in the City, based on foresight planning processes;
 - (b) investigation of new trends and development in the provision of services and approaches, locally and internationally, based upon integrated planning principles;
 - (c) consultation with current senior centre users and local community groups regarding the development or replacement of Council owned community facilities and social infrastructure across Yarra;
 - (d) consultation with all Branches in Council;
 - (e) consultation with non-government organisations and key services in Yarra providing services for seniors 55 years +;
 - (f) Department of Human Services regional staff and regional councils as appropriate;
 - (g) consultation with business corporations to gauge their interest in partnering or collaborating with local government and participating in planning pro-actively to create age-friendly communities; and
 - (h) to research and identify current and future attitudes towards ageism and propose strategies to implement an ageist education module for use across Council and throughout the non-government sector in Yarra.

Consultations

Integrated Planning

8. Council has primary responsibilities for planning and maintaining the physical environment, its assets and infrastructure and is a major planner and provider of cultural, recreational and sporting activities, personal care and social support in the City. City services, assets and infrastructure are essential components for

a community to engage people 55 years + as active citizens in the future developments of services in the municipality. The City of Yarra adopts an integrated planning methodology which “puts the needs of people and communities at the heart of the urban planning process and encourages decision-making based on human health and well-being” (Reference: Kenny. C (2005) Discussion Paper – Asset Management – Community Hubs. City of Yarra) when determining future asset and social infrastructure Strategy plans.

9. An integrated planning process is inclusive of all services across Council. The Positive Ageing Strategy will plan services for people 55 years + strategically across the ‘whole of Council’. The Action Plan, which will be a major component to the Strategy Plan, and will incorporate actions to engage:
 - (a) other Branches across Council to meet Council Plan objectives;
 - (b) all key stakeholders providing services across the aged care sector in the City of Yarra; and
 - (c) residents, members of community groups, and business representatives.
10. The consultation process and the outputs and outcomes to the consultation will be influenced by and driven by the following key Council policies:
 - (a) Council Plan (incorporating Sustainability Principles);
 - (b) Community Consultation Policy;
 - (c) Neighbourhood Planning, North Fitzroy;
 - (d) Municipal Public Health Plan;
 - (e) Draft Social Infrastructure Management Plan; and
 - (f) Aged & Disability Services 2005/06 Service Plan.

Steering Committee and Councillor Membership

11. The project will be managed by the Coordinator, Community Development, and sponsored by the Manager, Aged & Disability Branch and will be guided by a Steering Committee. The Committee’s primary responsibility will be to:
 - (a) ensure meaningful engagement across Council;
 - (b) ensure meaningful engagement from the community and non-government organisations;
 - (c) oversee the achievement of key milestones and provide advice on the Strategy Plan and the Action Plan content and presentation;
 - (d) approve the Ageist Education Module;
 - (e) provide local community and sector-wide expert advice on all issues relevant to the needs of people 55 years + living in Yarra;

- (f) ensure key cultural stakeholder engagement and buy-in to the project; and
 - (g) recommend the adoption of the Positive Ageing Strategy Plan and Action Plan to Council.
12. Membership will be drawn from the community and represent key older persons, relevant stakeholders non-government organisations, Council, Community Health Centres, State Government, Allied Health services and other aged related care services. A business representative will be invited onto the Committee.
13. Councillor representation is also sought on the Steering Committee. This will include chairing the Committee and providing leadership of the project. Meetings would be held fortnightly in March and April and monthly between May to November.

Outputs of the project

14. The consultation will achieve the following outputs:

Key Issues Discussion Papers

- (a) a detailed paper providing an overview of international and national best practice, providing evidenced based data to support future policy direction;
- (b) an abbreviated paper for public circulation is to be provided on hard copy to all participants before each consultation;

Positive Ageing Strategy and Action Plan

- (c) draft and final Positive Ageing Strategy 2006 – 2016;
- (d) draft and final Positive Ageing Action Plan 2006 – 2016; and

Education Ageist Module

- (e) draft and final Education Ageist Module.

Financial Implications

15. The development of the Strategy and Plan will be funded through the 2005-06 capital works program initiative – Community Needs and Facility Assessment project. The development of this Strategy was identified as a necessary first stage in determining future directions for existing and any proposed new community facilities to be utilised by older residents and groups.
16. In terms of the outcomes of the Strategy and Plan, resource implications (including responsibility – local, state or other funding sources) will be considered as part of the planning process. Detailed analysis will arise as part of any proposal to initiate particular projects. Implications for capital works will be considered as part of Council's overall program planning.

Social Implications

17. The consultation will provide Council with the opportunity to facilitate effective engagement of older people in decision-making processes.
18. The consultation will develop a bank of knowledge on population ageing and future demographic shifts which will create a stronger evidence base, to inform Council's policy development. The Strategy and Action Plan is seen as critical to guide Council's response to an ageing population and to address the needs of both existing older residents and the baby boomer generation.
19. Important questions and assumptions to be tested will include:
 - (a) What is Local Government's role in continuing to support the needs of the growing older population?
 - (b) What are the key opportunities and challenges that require a local government response to its ageing population?
 - (c) What innovative and inclusive policy could Yarra adopt to take full advantage of the opportunities presented by an ageing population?
 - (d) Are purpose built inclusive community neighbourhood infrastructures which plan for engagement of all local people the best way to build community capacity?
 - (e) Is Yarra's present asset and social infrastructure currently meeting the needs and able to meet the future needs of the ageing population?
 - (f) What type of facilities should Council invest in over the coming years – stand-alone centres, neighbourhood based / community hubs, special purpose buildings?
 - (g) If age is affected by physical and social environments and life opportunities as much as it is by chronological age, what advantages do active and engaged lifestyles and early intervention for those who require ageing related support, assist in preventing or better managing the onset of age relate illness?
 - (d) Ageism, breaking down the barriers through awareness. Positive attitudes to ageing and older people are essential in promoting inclusiveness and integration within the community. Do organisational cultures, stereotype and marginalise Yarra's ageing population?

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

Future Planning for Aged & Disability Services

20. The Positive Ageing Strategy Plan and Action Plan is a critical piece of work in order to plan for an ageing population in promoting age friendly communities. Numerous councils throughout Australia have developed a Positive Ageing policy to guide their decision making processes, based on a full understanding of older person needs in their communities. The Positive Ageing Strategy and Action Plan when completed will be the framework to build the capacity of Yarra to plan for an ageing population and provide leadership in promoting 'age

friendly' communities. It will guide asset management plans and future capital works expenditure.

RECOMMENDATION

21. That Officers initiate the development of the Positive Ageing Strategy and Action Plan and that Councillors indicate their interest in being members of the Steering Committee.

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Attachment 1 – Key Milestones and Timelines
Attachment 2 – Project Initiation Chart



Adobe Acrobat
Document

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS REPORTS

The following items were deemed by the Chief Executive Officer to be suitable for consideration in closed session in accordance with section 89 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*. In accordance with that Act, Council may resolve to consider these issues in open or closed session.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the meeting be closed to members of the public, in accordance with section 89 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, to allow consideration of matters prejudicial to Council and/or a third party.
2. That all information contained within the Confidential Business Reports section of this agenda and reproduced as Council Minutes be treated as being and remaining strictly confidential in accordance with the provisions of sections 77 and 89 of the *Local Government Act 1989* until Council resolves otherwise.