

Summary of Public Questions

4 September 2018



This record is provided as a summary of the questions asked by members of the public during Public Question Time at a meeting of the Yarra City Council. This summary includes the names of questioners, the subject matter of questions, the person providing a response and whether or not an answer was provided. An audio recording of the Council Meeting (including Public Question Time) is available on Council's website for twelve months following the meeting. **If a question is taken on notice, any response provided after the meeting is included here in red text.**

7.1 Ms Olivia Guhl - Supervised Injecting Facilities

Question:

I am currently studying journalism at Monash University and at the moment working on a story on Drugs and Alcohol, and after speaking with the Drugs and Alcohol Foundation decided to look into the Richmond North Safe Injecting Room.

A portion of the media have highlighted the negatives of this trial, depicting worried shop owners, residents and heroin addicts loitering around local schools, despite the huge success the Sydney Safe Injecting Room has had.

Does Council believe as advocates of the program, do you believe that the trial is having a poor outcomes on select member of the community or is it just the media sensation?

Response:

The Mayor advised that Council has always been supportive of a safe injecting room and advised Ms Guhl that a meeting be arranged to discuss her questions.

The Deputy Mayor advised that a range of statistics have been released on Friday by the Victorian Governments website and approximately 130-140 avoided deaths by overdose that were reported, a great success to the community. The Herald Sun has an agenda around making a good news story into a bad news story and having worked with people in the harm minimisation sector, it is a good news story. Some of the negativity around having the location next to the school is not supported by the school itself and having the facility as part of a community health centre as opposed to a stand-alone facility has been a brilliant move.

7.2 Ms Paul Evmorfidis - Rates

Question:

I believe that my property has been over-valued, it has been valued one million dollars more than the other year. I am a pensioner, I am finding it difficult to pay these rates, it's virtually taken my pension away. I don't work and have other bills.

I would like the value of my property reviewed.

Response:

The Mayor advised that there is the ability to re-evaluate property. The Chief Financial Officer will be able to discuss the matter in detail and advise on the form to

complete.

7.3 Mr Craig Ruxton - Community Issues Only

I have lived in Richmond for 30 years and want to know why Council is worrying about Federal and State Government issues instead of looking after the residents. You're not here to deal with federal and state issues you are here to represent the community. Once Council can do this, I will be a very happy boy.