

Minutes

Community Health Services- Campaign Advisory Committee



Date	22 April 2026
Time	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Location	Online teams meeting
Chair	Mayor Cr Stephen Jolly
Minute taker	Gaye Stewart, Yarra City Council
Content Manager Reference	D26/179760

Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations and to their Elders past, present and future.

Attendees

Councillor/s	Mayor Cr Stephen Jolly, Cr Sophie Wade
Committee members	Natalie Savin, Mike Naismith, Chris Dite, Elizabeth Gherardin, Heather Hindle
Council Officers	Malcolm McCall (Manager Ageing, Equity & Community Development), Gaye Stewart (Policy Advisor)
Guests	Cr Sarah McKenzie
Apologies	Robyn Williams, Dr Anita Munoz, Glenda Scalise

Item number	Item title or subject	Minute notes
1.	Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country	Mayor Cr. Stephen Jolly acknowledged Country and welcomed the Committee.
2.	Declarations of conflict of interests of interest	No conflicts of interests were declared
3.	Governance	Role of the Committee and pathway to Council understood.
4.	Confirmation of previous minutes and actions	4.1 Adoption of minutes (7 April 2026) 4.2 Actions arising: - Motions submitted to 14 April 2026 Council meeting - Passed - Actions taken – letters sent to state Ministers - Minister for Health, Harriet Shing and Treasurer, Jaclyn Symes sent on 16 April.
5.	Context update	5.1 Independent Review of GP services at Co-Health Mayor It was noted that the Independent Review findings had not been publicly released as at 21 April 2026. It was further noted that, consistent with the Terms of Reference, the full report was not expected to be published, with only a summary anticipated following Government consideration. This meeting was convened to discuss potential next steps considering

		the absence of a Victorian (or Commonwealth) government announcement. The floor was opened to the Committee for discussion. • The Committee was reminded that the report was never expected to be publicly released in full. • It was suggested that limited time had elapsed since Council's correspondence to the relevant Ministers, and that further time may be required for a Government response.
6.	Priority advocacy items	6.1 Public campaign advocacy proposal and discussion of Committee member ideas A brief overview was provided on Council's approved Community Advocacy campaign – <i>Yarra Decides</i>, which is Council's community advocacy campaign in the lead up to the Victorian State election: https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/about-us/advocating-our-community/yarra-decides • It was noted that Yarra Decides is scheduled to launch on 2 May 2026 and will run through to the November 2026 Victorian State election. • It was further noted that "Preserve affordable primary healthcare in Collingwood and Fitzroy" is one of the campaign's key advocacy priorities, supported by the core message: "Speak up for Yarra / Preserve affordable primary healthcare in Fitzroy and Collingwood." 6.2 The following matters were part of a broad discussion and were exploratory in nature: • It was suggested that a summary of the report may not be released, and that a campaign may be required to prompt Government action. A range of potential campaign approaches was discussed, including: • convening a further public meeting • distributing a newsletter to local households • utilising Council communication channels, including digital screens and public information materials • distributing campaign materials at a public meeting • aligning any activity with the Yarra Decides campaign • Concern was expressed about convening a community meeting without a clear purpose or updated information. It was suggested that allowing additional time for a Government response could lead to more effective, targeted action. In this context: • It was noted that only a short period had elapsed since Council's correspondence to the relevant Ministers, including a request for release of the report and a meeting with a delegation • Members considered that clarity regarding Government intentions would support more purposeful advocacy • it was noted that a public meeting without a clearly defined purpose may not be well attended • Clarification was sought regarding the request for a delegation to meet with the Minister for Health • It was noted that competing issues may be affecting community attention and capacity for engagement • Members noted that the Government's response to the

		Review was more significant than the report itself, with the key issue being the actions to be taken to ensure the continuation of services. • Some frustration was expressed regarding the time elapsed since the Review was provided to the Government. • It was suggested that the Government's response may be linked to broader budget considerations. • Members noted that, if a campaign were to be activated, it would be beneficial to engage with other organisations with an interest in the delivery of community health services. Suggested stakeholders included unions, local health and community organisations, and neighbouring councils. Actions: • It was noted that the original deadline of 1 May 2026 will not be met for a State Government response. • Officers to follow up on a date for a meeting with the Minister for Health to receive a delegation from the Committee, including the Mayor and community representatives. • Campaign activity to align with the Council-endorsed Yarra Decides campaign, which is scheduled to launch on 2 May 2026, noting that Council's overarching position is "Preserve affordable primary healthcare in Collingwood and Fitzroy". • Council officers to follow up on the availability of budget for additional actions to occur alongside the Yarra Decides campaign, including: ○ banners on the town halls at Collingwood and Fitzroy ○ digital screens in Council buildings • Officers to make a booking to reserve Fitzroy Town Hall for a community meeting on 15 May 2026 6.3 Any items requiring further development. • The following matters are to be explored further: ○ publicity at the commission towers, including letterboxing, noting that activity on State land may require approval ○ a newsletter providing a community update once further information is available • Members to continue to share ideas regarding possible campaign slogans that can be considered by Council or used in the advocacy activities of community members and organisations.
Other Business		No matters of general business were raised.
Meeting closed		<i>The meeting closed at 7:53pm.</i>
Next scheduled meeting		Meeting on 1 May - 30-minute online meeting at 6 pm