



MINUTES

Women's Advisory Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre
Council Chambers
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 5 June 2024

at 4:00 PM

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1. Present

Present: Karina Dodd, Rebecca Olive, Smriti Chopra (teams), Alex Erin Ellery, Deone Kinney, Kaye Whitbread, Glenda Anthes, Mayor Maree Statham (until 4.30pm), Cr Cassandra Coleman.

Officers: Cristina Portilla and Shaun Elwood

2. Apologies

Apologies: Emma Mason and Karla Priestly

Officers: NA

3. Acknowledgement of Country

The Mayor acknowledged Wiradjuri Elders past and present of the Wiradjuri nation - the original custodians of the land on which the Lithgow community resides and extended respect to our neighbouring nations.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

There were no minutes for endorsement due to there being no quorum at previous meetings during the past year.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Nil

6. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

7. Discussion Items

7.1. Welcome to new members

New members introduced themselves and were welcomed to the Committee by the Mayor.

ACTION

THAT The Committee note the welcoming of recently appointed new members to the committee

7.2. Women's Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

SUMMARY

Committee members were provided with the Terms of Reference

COMMENTARY

ACTION

THAT The Committee note the discussion of the Committee Terms of Reference and future meeting dates.

7.3. Election of Deputy Chairperson

SUMMARY

The Committee called for nominations for the position of Deputy Chair.

COMMENTARY

Karina Dodd was nominated as Deputy Chair of the Committee.

ACTION

THAT The Committee note the election of Karina Dodd as Deputy Chair of the Committee

MOVED: Cr Cassandra Coleman

SECONDED: Dee Kinney

CARRIED

The Mayor left the meeting at 4.30pm following discussion in Item 7.3. Karina Dodd then chaired the meeting.

7.4. Committee Work Program

The Committee discussed advocacy and community engagement in relation to women and the need to secure funding for local organisations that focus on child protection and domestic violence.

COMMENTARY

The committee discussed the critical importance of advocacy work in influencing Council strategies on community matters. This includes the necessity of advocating at the State level to secure funding to support local organisations focused on child protection and domestic violence.

The committee also discussed the vital role of education in addressing domestic violence, promoting women's safety, and tackling individual isolation, particularly among those living in remote areas, individuals with disabilities, youth, and the elderly.

Furthermore, the committee discussed inviting other organisations to share insights and learn about their specific efforts in these areas.

The committee recommends that Council prepare a position paper to present its recommendations to Kate Washington, the Minister for Families and Communities, and Jodie Harrison, the Minister for Women, to secure funding for local organisations that focus on child protection and domestic violence.

This position paper should provide a detailed analysis and evidence-based rationale to advocate for funding towards early intervention and domestic violence programs. Additionally, it should emphasise the unique circumstances of Lithgow and the significance of considering the locality's demographic and geographic context when allocating new funding.

ACTION

THAT The Committee note the discussion about Advocacy and Community Engagement on its work program and the 2024 Status of Women Report Card.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

Prepare a position paper to the Minister for Families and Communities and Minister for Women, seeking to secure funding for local organisations that focus on child protection and domestic violence.

MOVED: Cr Cassandra Coleman **SECONDED:** Glenda Anthes

CARRIED

8. General Business

NIL

9. Meeting Close

Next Meeting: 13 August 2024 at Lithgow City Council Committee Meeting room

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 5.00pm