

MEETING NOTES

Community Inclusion & Wellbeing Reference Group

Date	1 May 2023	Time	11am
Venue	Barrington Room, Yalawanyi Ganya	Note-taker	Lyndie Hepple
Present	Felicity Carter, Margaret Guider, Gemma Green, Tim Larritt, Mydie Keegan, Christopher Rowsell, Stephen Prom, Craig Partridge, Paul De Szell, Alex Mills, Lyndie Hepple		
Apologies	Cr Dheera Smith, Cr Katheryn Stinson, Arthur Chapman		

Meeting Items

Item	Key points/actions
1	Welcome Acknowledgement of Country
2	Previous notes and action list. Lyndie Hepple provided an update on the action list.
3	Apologies received from Crs Smith and Stinson were noted. Paul De Szell chaired the meeting in their absence. Apologies were also received from Arthur Chapman prior to the meeting.
4	<p>Presentation: Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP). Lyndie Hepple presented on Council's progress in delivering year one actions and outcomes for the Disability Inclusion Action Plan.</p> <p>Paul de Szell advised that Council has recently adopted a new policy (Reasonable Adjustments Policy) which provides for adjustments to workplaces and practices to accommodate the needs of people with disability.</p> <p>A copy of the presentation is included with these notes. Note that the picture of accessible viewing platform at Diamond Beach is incomplete and will be completed shortly.</p>
5	<p>Presentation from Manning Suicide Prevention Network. Mydie Keegan delivered a presentation on the work of the Manning Suicide Prevention Network. A copy of the presentation is included with these notes.</p> <p>Discussion about what the group could do to assist. Agreed to assist in raising awareness of the Speed Networking event on 16 August.</p> <p>A similar Suicide Prevention Network exists in Forster and will be invited to the event.</p> <p>Action: Lyndie to check whether there is a group in Gloucester.</p>

6	Presentation from Mission Australia – Transition to Work Program. The presenter didn't arrive to make the presentation.
6	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Home in Place reported that there has been a good response to fire at Ronald Road on 30 March – managed to place people into temporary accommodation. Six dwellings were completely lost but all 18 were affected.</p> <p>Felicity Carter reported that the women's shelter has been seeking transitional housing for women moving out of the new 10-bedroom shelter. A local philanthropic family is purchasing a property which will provide 6 units for women.</p> <p>Forster Neighbourhood Centre has moved into its new location at the former Bottle Shop next to the Lakes and Ocean Hotel.</p> <p>A memorandum of understanding has been signed between Home in Place, Mission Australia and Community Housing Limited for community development activities in this area. The MOU will ensure the three providers collaborate on projects in the three major social housing areas – initially community greening, waste control, assisting tenants with waste control, etc.</p> <p>Home in Place was asked whether there is any engagement with First Steps Count. Tim Larritt advised that the Bushlands Estate Action Group (BEAT) meets fortnightly to manage anti-social behaviour in partnership with the Police and PCYC to make improvements in the estate for all residents, eg trying to engage with young people, introduce more youth programs, support for residents (parenting programs etc). First Steps Count has engaged with the group, but the relationship is in its infancy.</p>
	<p>Follow up from 6 February:</p> <p>Alex Mills advised that following Leonie McGuire's presentation on partnerships with the Police, the State Government has committed to funding for social workers to be embedded in police stations and first response locations. Interested local area commands must express an interest in order to receive the funding. Paul de Szell advised he had an upcoming meeting with Chris Schilt and would make him aware of the update.</p>

Next meeting

Date	7 August 2023	Time	11 am
Venue	Barrington Room, Yalawanyi Ganya	Note-taker	Lyndie Hepple



MIDCOAST COUNCIL'S DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

2022/2023

FOCUS AREA 1-

POSITIVE COMMUNITY ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOURS



PEOPLE LIVING WITH A DISABILITY ON THE MIDCOAST ARE RECOGNISED AND VALUED

- Celebrations for International Day of People with Disability 2022 occurred in partnership with Dundaloo Support Services and Manning Regional Art Gallery
- Over 150 artworks from people with disability were submitted and are still on display at the Gallery
- Exhibition opening happened on IDPwD 2022



COMMUNITY EVENTS SPONSORED BY COUNCIL ARE INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE

- The MEC has commenced its 'Upgraded accessibility to improve inclusion for all MEC patrons' project funded the NSW Govt Creative Capital fund.
- The project aims to install external footpaths to the Flett Studio, automatic doors for the MEC Foyer, hand rails and quiet room in the main auditorium, plus wheel chair lift to the stage.

FOCUS AREA 2-

CREATING LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES



FOOTPATH SAFETY AND CONNECTIVITY

- 11 applications have been submitted for path improvement projects identified in the PAMP
- 5 shared projects have been funded and in the design/construction phase



OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORT ARE IMPROVED AND PROMOTED

- Improvements in the active transport network raised through 'Community Conversations' and work requests are monitored to identify community supported projects

ENSURE ADEQUATE ACCESSIBLE PARKING BAY PROVISION

- Ongoing surveys conducted to inform the adequate provision for accessible parking bays
- All project briefs for new works ensure these are compliant with standards and guidelines where they apply



COUNCIL AMENITIES MEET THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

- Tuncurry Fazio Park amenities currently under construction – these will include an adult change table within the facility
- Provision of accessible linkages from point of entry to amenities provided at Tea Gardens Providence Park, Taree MEC Building Extension, Tuncurry John Wright Park and Bulahdelah Lions Park
- Tea Gardens Pool upgrade complete – the pool now includes a new ramp, wider pathways, a wider entrance to change areas and an all-access bathroom
- Upgrades to Wingham Library include an accessible toilet and a passenger lift for access to the upstairs meeting rooms



COUNCIL'S RECREATIONAL SPACES MEET THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

- Playgrounds across the MidCoast have received upgraded equipment, improving access for all
 - John Debert Park, Smiths Lake
 - Marjorie Debert Park, Forster
 - Lansdowne Recreating Reserve
 - King George V Park, Gloucester
- Forster Main Beach Masterplan is due to be updated in the 2023/24 financial year and MCC has committed to including Wheelchair beach access to this plan
- The new viewing platform off Jubilee Parade in Diamond Beach has been designed to support all inclusion access from carpark, pathway, ramp to viewing platform.

DIAMOND BEACH VIEWING PLATFORM





**LOCAL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS
CAN EASILY FIND INFORMATION
ABOUT ACCESSIBLE
ACCOMMODATION AND EXPERIENCES
ON THE MIDCOAST**

- The Barrington Coast website has ‘Accessible Accommodation’ as a sub-category in the directory
- A new blog post by Barrington Coast outlines ‘Lookouts you can drive up to’
- Awaiting a new blog story by multi-award winning Diane Denton (from Seafarers Diamond Beach) about accessible holidays in the Barrington Coast; Still require further blogs about accessible experiences.



FOCUS AREA 3 –

ACCESS TO MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT



MIDCOAST COUNCIL IS AN ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE PLACE OF WORK AND PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY FEEL SAFE AND COMFORTABLE WORKING HERE

- MidCoast Council engaged the Australia Network on Disability (AND) to complete a Recruitment Review – a report from this review was provided in October 2022
 - This review involved AND undertaking assessments of Council’s recruitment policies and procedures, including interviews with hiring managers and reviewing Council’s job advertisements
- An Action Plan has been developed in accordance with the recommendations provided by the Australian Network on Disability. Many of the recommendations have been actioned. Council will continue to implement the remaining actions through 2023.

PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY ARE INCLUDED ON COUNCIL INTERVIEW PANELS

- Council is currently updating our online employee database to allow accurate reporting of diversity information – this will make it more efficient to identify employees with disability at MCC and potentially invite them to be on interview panels

LIAISE WITH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE BENEFITS OF EMPLOYING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

- Dundaloo Support Services regularly presents at Forster Tuncurry Business Chamber and Team Taree Functions – Council has worked with Dundaloo through this to help create local partnerships between them and local businesses
 - Dundaloo now provide cakes and slices to The Junction Café, located at Yalawanyi Ganya

FOCUS AREA 4 – BETTER SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

COUNCIL STAFF ARE AWARE OF THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE DISABILITY

- Disability Inclusion awareness training will be included in Council's scheduled Corporate Induction Training Plan
- Council's Training and Development Team is in the process of trialling and uploading a Disability Awareness Module into Council's digital onboarding platform

PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITY ARE INCLUDED IN ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND THEIR IDEAS ARE CONSIDERED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS FOR SERVICES, FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

- Council's reviewed Community Engagement strategy has been adopted
- All Community Relations team members joining the Engagement, Communication and Education (ECE) department are put through IAP2 Certification – this is ongoing
- The ECE department are in the process of investigating Accessibility training for the digital team



Manning Suicide Prevention Network



- *Raising Awareness* • *Reducing Stigma*
- *Boosting Community Wellbeing*

Our Story



- Established in 2019 under the Wesley Lifeforce Suicide Prevention Program.
- Original focus to raise awareness and encourage community participation.
- First strategic plan finalised in 2020 with three main objectives:
 - 1. Advocate for Headspace in Taree
 - 2. Provide education and training.
 - 3. Knowing who is who.
- Auspiced by Manning Valley Neighbourhood Service - support, sponsorship and guidance.
- Annual signature event of Speed Networking first held in 2021.

Who Are We?

- A local community group dedicated to reducing the incidence and impact of suicide in our local communities.
- Volunteer-based group of dedicated community members and organisation/service members.
- A local community group inclusive of lived experience from ideation, attempts and bereaved.
- Volunteer-based group dedicated to supporting and improving community wellbeing.



Our Mission

- To actively empower our community to create connections and have conversations to change the culture around suicide.



Our Vision


- To create a connected, informed and compassionate community preventing suicide.



Our Values

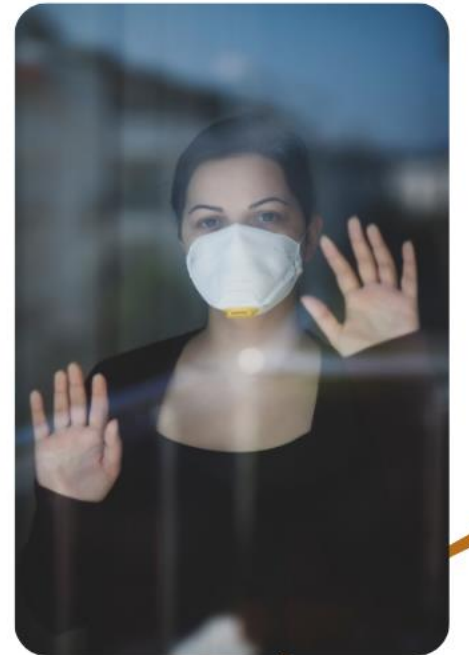
- Connection
- Integrity
- Inclusivity
- Empowerment
- Longevity

What We Do

- Raise awareness, reduce stigma and boost community well-being.
 - Provide suicide prevention education and training opportunities.
 - Raise awareness of services in our local community including how, when and where to access them.
 - Advocate on behalf of the Manning community.
 - Host and attend events and training to support community wellbeing.
 - Assist local issues with local solutions.
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- A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide consisting of two thick, wavy lines. The left line is a dark brown color and curves upwards from the left edge towards the center. The right line is a lighter, golden-brown color and curves upwards from the right edge towards the center, meeting the first line.

Our Challenges

- Bushfires.
- Floods.
- COVID.
- Volunteers and member engagement.
- Community engagement.
- Partnership development



Where We Do It



Why We Do It

Taree-Gloucester region lost 48 people to suicide (registered) between 2017 and 2021.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Australian men.

2020-2021
Taree-Gloucester region hospitalised 44 intentional self-harm patients.

Average Age:
M: 42 years
F: 41 years

Suicide occurs more often in older age groups.

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander die by suicide at twice the rate of non-indigenous.

Suicide is the leading cause of death in 15-24 year populations. (2021)

Ex-servicemen are a higher risk than the general population.

Females are more likely to attempt suicide than males.

Highest rates of suicide occur in lowest socio-economic areas.

The highest proportion of deaths by suicide occur in people aged 30-59

Since 2008, the highest rate of suicide is among males 40-49 and over 85's.

Low education can increase risk of suicide by 2.6 times.



Strategic Plan 2022 - Current

- Develop and establish partnerships for interviews and publishing of lived experience stories.
- Host suicide prevention training in local areas:
 - ✓ Taree
 - ✓ Harrington
 - ✓ Old Bar
 - ✓ Wingham
- Support or revive exiting programs
 - ✓ Speed Networking event (3rd Annual on 16th August 2023).
- Attend local events to engage community.

Looking Ahead

- Developing related and supportive community resources.



- Improve diversity.

- Developing and partnering on community programs.

- Improve visibility.



- Access funding, grants and fundraising opportunities.

- Evaluate community hub concept to consolidate the network and umbrella services.



The Manning Suicide Prevention Network has been through many challenges just like the whole of our community over the past few years.

Our team is dedicated to being a productive, inspirational and pivotal presence in our community, and to do that, we need as much community and organisational engagement as possible.

Meetings: 3rd Thursday of Each Month – 5.30pm-7pm

Summary





Manning Suicide Prevention Network

manningspn@gmail.com



FB/ManningSuicidePreventionNetwork

References:

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2022. Australian Burden of Disease Study 2022. Cat. no. BOD 37. Canberra: AIHW.
Wesley Lifeforce