

Meeting notes

Community Inclusion & Wellbeing Reference Group (CIWRG)

Date	12 December 2022	Time	11am
Venue	Barrington Room, Yalawanyi Ganya	Note-taker	Lyndie Hepple
Present	Cr Dheera Smith; Cr Katheryn Stinson; Alex Mills; Paul De Szell; Donna Hudson; Lyndie Hepple; Felicity Carter; Mydie Keegan; Gemma Green; Craig Partridge; Bruce McNamara carer for John Temple; Tim Larrit; Margaret Guider; Chris Rowsell		
Apologies	Melissa Walker; Arthur Chapman; Alison Trudgeon; Steve Prohm, Corrina Routh		

Meeting items

Item	Key points/actions
1	Acknowledgement of Country – Cr Dheera Smith
2	WHS – Toilets, Tea/Coffee, Evacuation procedure
3	<p>Introductions: Round Table</p> <p>Cr Dheera Smith – Chair of this Reference Group.</p> <p>Cr Stinson (née Smith) – has been a Councillor since 2008, chaired former CIWRG and is the back-up Chair for this group.</p> <p>Donna Hudson – a member of the governance team, attending this meeting to do the induction, then handing over to Lyndie Hepple.</p> <p>Alex Mills – Manager Libraries & Community Services. Relatively new to Council. Oversees Library, Community Development and Resilience teams.</p> <p>Felicity Carter – a President Forster Neighbourhood Centre; Board member Forster Women’s Refuge, interested in contributing to an inclusive community, is well connected to and is an advocate for, the Worimi Community in the Forster area.</p> <p>Mydie Keegan; representing One Door Mental Health, is President Gloucester home mod team, is involved in local fire brigade and community halls. Is an advocate for inclusion of all people in all aspects of life.</p> <p>Gemma Green – representing the Manning Suicide Prevention Network; is focussed on increasing community wellbeing around mental health and suicide prevention and safe spaces.</p> <p>Craig Partridge - representing Wesley Mission, focussed on helping other services to help people.</p>

Margaret Guider – a former schoolteacher; Chair of Forster Community Health Committee, is active in the library with homework help and family history. Is interested in good outcomes for young people in the community.

Chris Rowsell – lives in Old Bar, has a daughter with disability who has challenges with access, hoping to part of changes to help.

Bruce McNamara – a provides support for John Temple.

John Temple – not everyone is disabled. People have the wrong impression of people's abilities. Advocate for empowerment for people with disability.

Tim Larrit is the Regional Manager for Home in Place (formerly Compass Housing). Manages property portfolio (700 social housing properties) and temporary accommodation options. Keen to help address homelessness in MidCoast.

Paul De Szell – Director Liveable Communities which is one of 3 directorates. Focuses on all services except roads, water and sewer. Directorate covers multiple portfolios and approximately 630 employees.

Lyndie Hepple is the Coordinator of Community Development. Supervises a small team which is responsible for several formal Council strategies, including Youth Strategic Plan, Aboriginal Action Plan, Ageing Strategy and Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

4 **Induction**

Donna Hudson provided folders to each community member. Explained that Council is heavily legislated. Folders provide relevant information to make it easy to understand.

Folders include:

- Community Strategic Plan
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- Code of Conduct (members are considered volunteers and must comply with the Code of Conduct),
- Guidelines which underpin all committees and reference groups
- Terms of reference – the purpose of the Community Inclusion & Wellbeing Reference Group is to provide strategic advice and feedback, to assist Council in making the MidCoast an accessible, inclusive and cohesive community, where all people can participate fully in community life, regardless of the age, ability or background.
- Conflicts of Interest were explained, and it was noted that people's perception is their reality. The onus is on individuals to declare conflicts.

Members were asked to sign the Confidentiality Agreement.

The Privacy Act doesn't allow us to share personal information, so members were asked for permission for their email addresses to be added to a CIWRG distribution list. All members in attendance give their permission and further, gave permission for their phone numbers to be shared within the group, if necessary.

Members gave permission for their photo to be taken – to be arranged for the next meeting.

5	<p>Meeting frequency and dates</p> <p>Members around the table provided the days they were available for meetings. The most common preference and availability for future meetings is Mondays at 10am, beginning in February. The Group agreed meetings would occur on the first Monday of every month, unless that day is a public holiday, then the meeting will move to the second Monday.</p> <p>Meetings will occur quarterly, but the group may call additional meetings as required.</p> <p>Subsequent note: The Barrington meeting room is not available at 10am, so meetings will be scheduled for an 11am start.</p> <p>The meeting schedule for 2023 is therefore:</p> <p>Monday 6 February</p> <p>Monday 1 May</p> <p>Monday 7 August</p> <p>Monday 6 November</p>
6	<p>Overview of Activities</p> <p>Lyndie Hepple provided a short presentation about the MidCoast LGA, demographics and the formal strategies for which the Community Development team is responsible. Suggested that the CIWRG could assist with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback for the Aboriginal Action Plan which is expected to be placed on Public Exhibition at the end of January • Evaluation of the Youth Strategic Plan, which expires in 2023 • Ideas to assist with implementing the Ageing Strategy and Disability Inclusion Action Plan <p>Other suggestions for action include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness • Integration in schools • Training in Profile.id <p>It was suggested that the CIWRG could be involved in assisting the Aboriginal community understand the Referendum on Indigenous constitutional recognition. Paul De Szell advised that Council (and its committees) can't be involved in politics or political activity.</p>
7	<p>Other business</p> <p>Felicity Carter noted the lack of Aboriginal representation and that it is intimidating for Aboriginal community members to put themselves forward for Council committees. Suggested Natalie Bolt who has a senior role at Community Resources be invited to attend as a guest.</p>

Next meeting

Date	Monday 6 February	Time	11 am
Venue	Barrington Room, Yalawayni Ganya	Note-taker	Lyndie Hepple