

Community Inclusion and Wellbeing Reference Group

Date	Friday 27 September 2019	Time	9:35a.m – 11:56a.m
Venue	Manning VIC	Note-taker	Michelle Palmer
Present	Cr Katheryn Smith, Karen Fuller, Mark Norris, John Price, David Isbel, Michelle Palmer, Paul De Szell, Jane Stevenson, Mave Richardson, Hannah Earley, Dennis Christensen, Jenny Tisdell, Chris Jones, Anna Burley		
Apologies	Judy Hollingworth, Felicity Carter, Kylie Atkinson, Bree Katsamangos		
Not present	Cr David Keegan		

Meeting items

Item	Key points/actions
1	Acknowledgement of Country
2	Declaration of any conflicts of interests Nil
3	Introductions Brief introductions by all attendees
4	Action items update The group reviewed progress on action items from their previous meeting.
5	Updates from invited guests Dennis Christensen, Jenny Tisdell and Chris Jones updated on their projects
6	General discussion The group had general discussion on relevant issues.

Next meeting

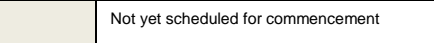


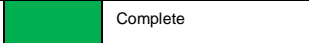
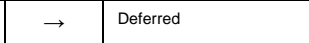


Date	Friday 29 November 2019	Time	9:30a.m.–11:30a.m.
Venue	Committee Room MidCoast Council Gloucester		

Community Inclusion and Wellbeing Reference Group

Action items update

Item No	Description	Date Raised	Action for	Due Date/ Timeframe	Status Update as at 27/09/19
1	Consult aboriginal community on aboriginal representation on the reference group.	29/3/19	HE	27/8/19	HE advised no meetings have taken place by local aboriginal land councils since the last CIWRG meeting. Discussions are ongoing. HE to attend until a member is found.
2	Arrange new provider representative on the CI&WRG following Charles Broadfoot's resignation.	31/5/19	PDS	27/8/19	Dementia Australia have not replied
3	Invite Dennis Christensen to attend next meeting to discuss Council's Vibrant Spaces	26/7/19	MP	27/8/19	
4	Invite Jenny Tisdell to attend next meeting to discuss Council's community directory	26/7/19	MP	27/8/19	
5	Invite Chris Jones to attend next meeting to discuss his vision for the future of libraries	26/7/19	MP	27/8/19	

Key:

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Community Inclusion and Wellbeing Reference Group

Action items update

- Aboriginal representative
 - Consultation is continuing with the Aboriginal community trying to find representatives
 - Suggestion of an open chair for Aboriginal representatives so all regions are adequately represented
 - Suggestions for Forster and Taree have been received
 - Group asked to nominate suitable candidates
 - Difficulty in finding people to be part of the Land Council CEO Reference Group
 - Suggested that people are approached one-on-one to discuss
 - Appointment of three representatives is preferred as constant revolving door would raise issues with continuity
 - Lack of representative shouldn't roadblock the group from extending an invitation to guests
- Dementia Australia - Follow up no answer

Updates from invited guests

- Dennis Christensen
 - Council's Vibrant Spaces strategy was established to make town centres across LGA more inviting and inclusive to everyone
 - Setup to assist small businesses and bring the community together in our town centres
 - Concerns were raised about placement of goods and their impact on accessibility
 - Elderly, parents with prams, wheelchairs, walkers, mobility scooters, people with vision impairment etc.
 - Since the merge there are no access committees and lapses have occurred
 - A committee member has had injuries as a result of placement of items on the footpath
 - Shorelining technique is utilised by people living with vision impairment where a wall or path is utilised for orientation
 - Shorelining is difficult or impossible because of tables and chairs against walls as well as goods being displayed
 - Concern is with acquired vision loss eg. as a result of macular degeneration, as skills are recent and may not have experience or agility to avoid obstacles
 - Dennis ensures compliance in line with Council policy
 - Dennis is first point of contact and rangers have actively been removed from enforcement as they are regulatory focused
 - Group to arrange an accessibility walk through Taree to see first-hand the issues faced by people living with disability
 - Public art and murals were discussed and Council is currently reviewing this option
- Jenny Tisdell
 - Live demonstration of Council's community directory mymidcoast.com.au
 - Due for launch in October
 - Information is managed by organisations listed and is updated every 24 hours
 - Free to list and manage

- Jenny is checking on availability of accessibility options for website and app
- Need for strong mechanism to determine uptake
- Will launch seamlessly from MCC website
- Chris Jones
 - Library has a brief to provide service to everybody and encompasses a very broad group
 - People are only excluded if they are naughty!
 - Services provided from pre-birth through to elderly
 - Fastest growing category is 85+
 - In 1987 at a conference Chris was told libraries would be dead within 5 years because of internet so library offered internet services. Then they offered ebooks. Then wifi and now streaming content is offered.
 - Every time something comes up libraries “let the enemy in” which makes them even busier
 - Libraries started as a place for the collection but are now continually evolving
 - Focus has shifted from thinking about books to thinking about readers
 - In 2000 a study was done asking what people got from their libraries - first was safety and second was social interaction
 - Libraries are now viewed as spaces of inclusion and safety
 - Some people like to come in at busy and chaotic times because it is their social interaction
 - Libraries also offer IT staff, outreach team, events, children’s programs, adult literacy, author talks, online content, study space, meeting space. There is always internet and a place to meet with comfy furniture, infrastructure permitting
 - Downloadable audio content is fastest increasing services
 - Bookstart works with community nurses to provide book pack to new mums
 - Attended future planning session – common theme where does future lie? Lies in longer opening hours, community spaces, significant online content, shared spaces
 - Library has various functions
 - A lot of dislocated people in the community eg. homeless and an increasing number of people who “march to different drums”
 - Challenging behaviours are also increasing
 - New library designed in Forster where library collection will not be getting bigger but shelving will be more accessible, more meeting spaces, powerpoints, wifi, comfy furniture, activity areas – basically community loungerooms!
 - Home library service brings the library to community and is only partly about delivering books but also companionship
 - Volunteers are indispensable
 - Accessibility of CCTV for people living with vision impairment and accessibility of book return was raised
 - Need to promote adult literacy tutoring
 - New Forster library is designed with playgroup, visits from pre-schools and school groups in mind
 - School visits and school outreach programs and partnerships were discussed
 - Poetry awards were run previously by Fellowship of Australian Writers and Friends of Australian Libraries and young people were interested at the
 - Can HSC study nights be expanded across region in Gloucester for example. Partner with a school for volunteers etc
 - New library at Forster due to open September 2020
 - Libraries commended by the group for the value they add to the community

General business

- Reported that Manning Valley U3A circulated a petition to exclude members living with disability
 - Anecdotal reports that derogatory comments about race and ability have been made by U3A office bearers, members and facilitators
 - Question was asked whether U3A utilises any Council facilities
 - A quick review of the constitution shows it may be unlawful
 - When discrimination does occur who do you go to?
- A letter was tabled outlining Community Transport's intention to cancel services due to reduction in NDIS funding
 - 84 people under the age of 65 currently access this service
 - David Gillespie was on steering committee for NDIS and would be good person to approach
- The need for charging points for mobility scooters was raised. Can these be available in libraries?
- Volunteer clearing house to be discussed at next meeting
- Lighting at Manning VIC is dim and more suitable venue should be considered in the future