

Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum

Minutes – Executive Meeting No. 10 – Wednesday 22 May 2019

City of Yarra, 333 Bridge Rd, Richmond

Chairperson: Mayor, Cr Roz Blades AM (*Greater Dandenong*)

Attendees: Cr Victoria Borg (*Brimbank*), Wambui Thirimu (*Brimbank*), Mayor, Cr Susan Rennie (*Darebin*), Cr Matthew Kirwan (*Greater Dandenong*), Marek Krol (*Greater Dandenong*) – Minute Taker, Peter Johnstone (*Greater Dandenong*), Mandy Bathgate (*Darebin*), Mayor, Cr Jonathon Marsden (*Hobsons Bay*), Amber Cassidy (*Hobsons Bay*), Kristen Cherry (*Hume*), Mayor, Cr Natalie Abboud (*Moreland*), Mayor, Cr Danae Bosler (*Yarra*), Misha Coleman (*Yarra*), Aldo Malavis (*Yarra*), Cristina Del Frate (*Yarra*), Jessica Matrakis (*Yarra*), Sarah Hekele (*Yarra*).

Guests: Monica Singh (*Melbourne University*)

Apologies: Mayor, Cr Lucinda Congreve (*Brimbank*), Mandy Bathgate (*Darebin*), Mayor, Cr Shane McCluskey (*Monash*), Fee Harrison (*Monash*), Pamela Kosij (*Monash*), David Henry (*Hume*).

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/Comments	Follow up Actions / Who
Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor, Cr Roz Blades welcomed all representatives attending Greater Dandenong Council. Mayor, Cr Danae Bosler acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land. Apologies noted. 	
Endorsement of Minutes of Previous Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous minutes moved by Mayor, Cr Susan Rennie, seconded by Cr Matthew Kirwan. 	
Review of Outstanding Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting for councils to submit stories for Back Your Neighbour 	
General Update on the SRSS Situation	<p>Peter Johnstone presented latest info from Victorian SRSS service providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports that 148 clients exited from the Greater Dandenong municipality Accurate data still difficult to obtain, but many aid agencies have indicated they are preparing for further strain in response to election result. 	

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<p>Back Your Neighbour Phase 2 Campaign Update</p> <p>a) Online activity update</p> <p>b) Election scorecard</p> <p>c) Victorian Government lobbying meetings</p> <p>d) MAV Motion – 17th May State Council</p> <p>e) Activity Status updates from individual Councils</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase Two update: • Evaluation report for Phase 2 of BYN being prepared by Daniel Scoullar for 7 June 2019. • Election scorecard reached 1,300 engagements. • Greater Dandenong Council had meetings with State Government advisors – Kara Hadgraft (advisor for Martin Foley), Glen Brandum (advisor for Richard Wynn), and Flora Yeh (Luke Donnellan’s advisor). Discussed possible interim funding arrangements to be provided by State Government. Queensland Government funding initiative was presented at meetings, as well as, a breakdown of the cost of withdrawing SRSS at a Greater Dandenong municipal level • Possible future meetings include Harriet Shing MP and Tim Richardson MP • MAV Motion was successfully carried at State Council Meeting – Friday 17 May • Activity status updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hobsons Bay - created 3 minute video detailing the impact that SRSS cuts are having on people seeking asylum and on Laverton Community Integrated Services. https://vimeo.com/333236030 • Yarra - prepared congratulatory letters to Federal MPs. Published article in Yarra News. Promoted BYN on social media. • Brimbank – Council endorsed Brimbank Settlement Strategic Plan. • Moreland – social media promotion and congratulatory letters sent to Federal MPs • Darebin – social media, and BYN promoted in Mayor’s column. Letters to be sent to Federal MPs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation Report – Daniel Scoullar (SCP) • Circulate details of Queensland Government funding among Taskforce – Marek (CGD)

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<p>Next Steps with SRSS Advocacy</p> <p>a) Election outcome and strategy going forward</p> <p>b) ALGA General Assembly Activities (16th – 19th June)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BYN Campaign Taskforce response post-election period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility for mayors and councillors to visit aid agencies and discuss on the ground impact of SRSS cuts. More active approach • Identifying possible Coalition champions in the Senate. • Suggestions made by Daniel post-election: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain certain level of BYN activity. Large number of contacts gathered through petition and social media • Collaborate with peak bodies e.g. Refugee Council of Australia, ASRC, as well as, Council to Homeless Persons, Domestic Violence Victoria. Align our strategies with these organisations • Focus on Federal Government portfolios that SRSS cohort may fall under, rather than simply Immigration Department e.g. employment, health etc. • Connect with supporters and organisations and inform them of achievements and possible future directions • ALGA/Refugee Week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils organising events for Refugee Week and raise SRSS awareness. • Cr Marsden suggested taking BYN/SRSS advocacy posters/laminated A3 to ALGA for promotional opportunities e.g. 'I back my neighbours', 'I support refugees and people seeking asylum' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check if there are possibilities to collaborate with ASRC or Refugee Council of Australia at ALGA General Assembly – Marek (CGD) • Set up WhatsApp group for councillors to coordinate for ALGA – Marek (CGD)
<p>Taskforce Administration, Governance and Membership Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Melbourne Council to decide on membership with Taskforce. • Volunteer to start next week, 2hr/week, work on BYN social media material 	
<p>Regional/Local Updates</p> <p>a) Northern Alliance</p> <p>b) PSAARD Taskforce – South-East Melbourne Regional Material Aid / Humanitarian Response Collaboration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Alliance: No recent updates • PSAARD Taskforce: CLEAR Training being delivered by ASRC. Building capabilities for service providers / case managers / volunteers to work with distressed clients. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate details about CLEAR Training among Taskforce – Marek (CGD)
<p>Other Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 7 June – Mayoral Forum on Social Housing at Greater Dandenong • Sunday 26 May – Community Gathering for Supporting People Seeking Asylum. Organised by Deakin University students in response to election result. Julian Burnside and Robert Richter attending the event. 	

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/Comments	Follow up Actions / Who
Next Meeting:	Wednesday 26 June 2019, 1:00pm-3:00pm Darebin City Council Darebin City Council Chambers, 274 Gower Street, Preston 3072	
Close	2:30pm	

Other proposed meeting dates and venues

- Thursday, 24 July Brimbank
- Wednesday, 21 August Moreland