

Local Government Mayoral Taskforce supporting People Seeking Asylum

Minutes – Executive Meeting No. 2 - Wednesday 19 September 2018

City of Yarra, Richmond Town Hall, 333 Bridge Rd, Richmond

Chairperson: Cr Youhorn Chea (*Greater Dandenong*)

Attendees: Lynley Dumble (*Brimbank*), Mayor Kim Le Cerf (*Darebin*), Mayor Paul Klisaris (*Monash*), Fee Harrison (*Monash*), Mayor Cr Daniel Nguyen (*Yarra*), Cristina Del Frate (*Yarra*), Aldo Malavisi (*Yarra*), Nelum Buddhadasa (*Moreland*), Cr Matthew Kirwan (*Greater Dandenong*), Peter Johnstone (*Greater Dandenong*), and Fran McKechnie (*Greater Dandenong*) – Minute Taker.

Apologies: Mayor Margaret Giudice (*Brimbank*), Deputy Mayor Misha Coleman (*Yarra*), Cr Roz Blades (*Greater Dandenong*), Terri Soumalis (*Brimbank*), Mandy Bathgate (*Darebin*), Cr Josh Fergeus (*Monash*) and Deputy Mayor Natalie Abboud (*Moreland*).

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/Comments	Action / Who
1. Endorsement of Minutes of Previous Meeting	Endorsed by consensus	
2. Review of Outstanding Action Items	Cr Matthew Kirwan noted that a closing date for Executive Membership had not been set and this would be discussed in the agenda.	
3. General Update on SRSS Situation	<p>Peter Johnstone explained latest info from Victorian SRSS service providers and RCOA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In August 2018, 400 people nationally were exited from SRSS – 180 in Victoria. The majority were single males. There will be three more waves exited in 2018 of single females and males. 27 September is the proposed date for next exits commencing from the system. This will impact approximately 400 nationally. It is estimated approximately 1,200 people nationally will have their payments cut by the end of the year. 	Info only.

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<p>4. SRSS Public Advocacy Media and Communication Support Services</p>	<p>a) EOI Brief and rationale for two stage approach - Cr Matthew Kirwan outlined the brief's objectives as follows.</p> <p>Primary objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To influence the Federal Government to reverse the cuts, or at least delay or reduce the negative impacts of their implementation (for example, by less harsh implementation of the work ready assessment.) 2. To seek resources for individual people seeking asylum and support services from the State Government. <p>Secondary objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. To raise awareness of Council activity and initiative in this space, but only in such a way that it does not affect achievement of the primary objectives. <p>Cr Matthew Kirwan explained the process taken to arrive at the \$5,000 suggested contribution amount from each member Council. Modelling of the proposal and budget of \$40,000 was based on the two month state-wide City of Monash's 2014 Enough Pokies campaign.</p> <p>Stage 1 of the SRSS campaign will run late October to early December after which the nature and worth of having a Stage 2 campaign would be assessed. Cr Kirwan passed on thanks to Moreland Deputy Mayor Natalie Abboud for her advice on this process.</p>	<p>Info only.</p>

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<p>5. SRSS Public Advocacy Media and Communication Support Services cont ...</p>	<p>b) Contributions so far from Member Councils Cr Kirwan reported the following co-contribution pledges towards the Public Advocacy, Media and Communication Support Services Assignment:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Brimbank City Council</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Darebin City Council</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Greater Dandenong City Council</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maribyrnong City Council</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monash City Council</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moonee Valley City Council</td> <td>\$1,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moreland City Council</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Port Phillip Council</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yarra City Council</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>TOTAL PLEDGES</u></td> <td><u>\$41,000</u></td> </tr> </table> <p>Possible contributors still being followed up: Ballarat, Banyule, Hobsons Bay, Whittlesea and Wyndham.</p> <p>c) Responses from EOI for SRSS Public Advocacy Media and Communications Support Services Peter Johnstone summarised the proposals and outlined the conversation with The Agenda Group highlighting the importance of a relatable and appealing spokesperson with a narrative that resonates with the general populace. An inner city location for a launch in October is suggested to deal with media interest peaking in November with the State Election. See attached summary of responses appended to these minutes.</p> <p>d) Selection of service provider. Meeting agreed that the Agenda Group and Social Change Projects were the best candidates. Greater Dandenong to interview those two companies and inform Executive Taskforce members via email recommendation to enable procurement by end of the week. The Executive presented key questions and challenges that they wanted put to both companies.</p> <p>e) On boarding of service provider – once endorsed company will be immediately on-boarded.</p> <p>f) Launch of Campaign (nature/date) - End of October. Location close to the CBD, potentially in the City of Maribyrnong.</p>	Brimbank City Council	\$5,000	Darebin City Council	\$5,000	Greater Dandenong City Council	\$5,000	Maribyrnong City Council	\$5,000	Monash City Council	\$5,000	Moonee Valley City Council	\$1,000	Moreland City Council	\$5,000	Port Phillip Council	\$5,000	Yarra City Council	\$5,000	<u>TOTAL PLEDGES</u>	<u>\$41,000</u>	<p>Cr Matthew Kirwan and Peter Johnstone (<i>Greater Dandenong</i>)</p>
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6. Consideration of Draft Joint MAV Motion for the October State Council	<p>A Joint MAV Motion was suggested by Mayor Kim Le Cerf from the City of Darebin. Cr Matthew Kirwan outlined that the wording of the motion had been modelled on the joint statement agreed to at the Roundtable on the 31st July updated with currently known information.</p> <p>No changes required to the rationale but the followed reworded motion has been devised: “Given the impact on people seeking asylum living in our communities becoming destitute as a result of the changes to the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) program, MAV calls on the Federal Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reinstate the previous eligibility criteria, and provide adequate income and case management support for people seeking asylum while they seek sustainable employment; 2. Provide greater resourcing to reinforce the capacity of community service and voluntary organisations to assist people seeking asylum to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Live safely in local communities; and b) Receive emergency relief and material aid support until such time as they receive a substantive visa or are deported.” 	<p>Joint motion to be lodged by Cr Matthew Kirwan with the MAV by Friday, 21st September. It will be moved by the Greater Dandenong MAV delegate Cr Sean O'Reilly at the MAV State Council meeting on Friday, 19th October.</p>
7. Finalisation of Strategic Objectives	<p>Edit to Subheading 2 - Overall Strategic Direction, point 4</p> <p>Highlight lack of logic of policy change and the possibility of some people displaying 'antisocial' behaviour. It was agreed to reword the sentence due to the phrase 'antisocial' behaviour being misconstrued.</p>	<p>Reworded Point 4 – Peter Johnstone (Greater Dandenong)</p>

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10. Working with the Advocacy Campaigns of Other Partners	<p>Peter Johnstone outlined the planned meetings between the City of Greater Dandenong and the Refugee Council of Australia (a teleconference) and the ASRC in the coming week. Partnership supporting advocacy would be discussed, not only for the City of Greater Dandenong but also for the Taskforce more broadly. Cr Matthew Kirwan extended the invite to those meetings to other Executive Members.</p> <p>Cr Matthew Kirwan outlined how Rural Australians for Refugees are assisting trying to get rural and regional Councils involved.</p>	<p>Update Exec Councils at next meeting - Peter Johnstone (City of Greater Dandenong)</p>
11. Regional/Local Updates	<p>City of Greater Dandenong – Peter Johnstone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Greater Dandenong Prototype Status – Councils are invited to trial the new software package • City of Greater Dandenong provided feedback re – PSAR Taskforce (South-East) Regional Material Aid/Humanitarian Response Collaboration August Strategic Summit. Summit was successful with numerous agencies and Councils coming together to share information. • Greater Dandenong Local Advocacy Update - Cr Matthew Kirwan talked about the receptive local media coverage and mentioned that rather than spend time at this meeting on other details he would send out a link to our advocacy page. <p>Northern Alliance – Cristina Del Frate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Alliance (Yarra, Darebin, Whittlesea, Moreland) currently focussed on resource mapping • NASAVIC – advocacy to State Government – no formal reply received as yet • ASRC discussion – housing is a critical need – currently budgeted for \$800,000 but meeting demand • BSL has employment assistance and developing an internal strategy, employment pathways with links to advocacy showing that for every \$1 spent on adequate support another \$3 is generated 	<p>Send out link to Greater Dandenong SRSS Advocacy page – Cr Matthew Kirwan</p>
12. General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic Participation: Strengthening Councils' Engagement Practices – Brochure distributed. 2018 Victorian Local Government Multicultural Issues Network Annual Forum Hosted by the City of Greater Dandenong at the Springvale Town Hall 397 - 405 Springvale Rd, Springvale on 11th October 2018, 8.30am – 3.30pm 	<p>For Info only</p>
12. Close of Meeting	<p>3.35pm</p>	

**Proposed Next Meeting: Wednesday 10 October, 1:00pm-4.00pm,
Darebin City Council, 274 Gower Street, Preston.
The November meeting to be held at Brimbank City Council**