

HEALTH & WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RECRUITMENT

Report Author: Coordinator Health and Wellbeing

Responsible Officer: Director Communities

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public.

SUMMARY

Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan sets out the strategic direction for improving health and wellbeing for all residents across the municipality. It reflects Council's commitment to promoting health and wellbeing and creating inclusive, healthy and connected communities.

To ensure the community voice is at the forefront of the development, implementation, and evaluation of the current and future Health and Wellbeing Plans, it is proposed a revised Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee is established with diverse community representation, ensuring community is engaged in all stages of health and wellbeing planning and implementation

A Terms of Reference for this Committee is attached to the report which outlines the governance arrangements for the new Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee and recruitment process.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

- 1. Approve the establishment of a revised, community led, Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee..***
- 2. Approve the Terms of Reference and process for recruitment, of a diverse array of community members, to the Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee.***

- 3. *Note the contribution of members previously appointed to the Health and & Wellbeing Advisory Committee who will now form a Professional Network.***
- 4. *Acknowledge the appointment of Cr Sophie Todorov to the newly revised Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee.***

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 endorsed 12 October 2021.

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan sets out the strategic direction for improving health and wellbeing for all residents across the municipality. It reflects Council's commitment to promoting health and wellbeing, and creating inclusive, healthy and connected communities.

Council Officers have reviewed the current Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee (the Committee) arrangements and established the Committee only consists of service providers, highlighting the gap and need for the community voice to be represented in health and wellbeing discussions.

It is proposed that the current Committee shifts to a professional network to retain sharing sector updates, identify shared goals and opportunities for collaboration, and coordinate collective advocacy with Council. Shifting this group to a professional network is supported by the current Committee.

It is therefore recommended a new Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee consisting of a diverse representation of the Yarra Ranges community is established.

The new Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee (the Committee) will be established by Council for the purposes of:

- Being a voice to Council for people with an interest in community health and Wellbeing in Yarra Ranges;
- Assisting Council in the consultative process and providing feedback on Council processes, policies and supporting Council's decision making with regard to health and wellbeing; and
- Monitoring the achievement of objectives under the Health and Wellbeing Plan and supporting the four-yearly development of new Plans.

The new Committee will ensure the Yarra Ranges community are at the forefront of decision making and implementation of Council's Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025. It will also allow for deliberative engagement, enabling community to consider relevant

facts from multiple points of view, to think critically about options, and enlarge their perspectives. There are strong benefits in capacity building both for Council staff that engage with the Committee and for participating community members.

The recruitment process will ensure Council is maximising the opportunity to recruit a diverse group of community members and provides an opportunity for Council officers working in other business units to present and seek input on their work relating to community health and wellbeing.

Options considered

There were three options that were considered as part of the Committee review:

1. Retaining the current membership of the Committee;
2. Bringing community members onto the existing Committee; and
3. Forming a new community centred Advisory Committee with diverse community representation.

Members of the current Committee agree that community representation, participation and voice are vital to successful health and wellbeing outcomes. It was agreed that a separate community focused group would achieve the greatest input and opportunity for community voice to be prioritised.

Furthermore, current members felt as though an Advisory Committee that was community centric would be of benefit to the ongoing professional network which already has strong connections and no longer requires a formal advisory function.

Recommended option and justification

It is recommended that Council support the establishment of a new Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee with diverse community representation, to provide insight into Council projects, policies and processes that contribute to community health and wellbeing.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

There is no additional expenditure associated with establishing a new Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee. All incurred costs will be supported through the current operational budgets.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

This report contributes to the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan:

- Connected and Healthy Communities and the Yarra Ranges Health and Wellbeing Plan, which promotes inclusive and equitable communities.

The Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee directly relates to the Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021–2025 as well as other related Council Plans including the Equity, Access and Inclusion Strategy and Youth Plan.

RELEVANT LAW

In Victoria, the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 gives state and local government specific responsibilities to plan for and contribute to protecting and improving health and wellbeing.

The Act requires a state public health and wellbeing plan and municipal public health and wellbeing plans to be prepared sequentially every four years. The new Committee will help deliver upon actions within our current Plan and assist in the development of the next iteration (2026-2030).

The Public Health and Wellbeing Act, also states that Local Government should *"...provide for the involvement of people in the local community in the development, implementation and evaluation of the public health and wellbeing plan"*.

In recruiting committee members, the aim is to achieve a committee that is diverse and representative of the community. This includes but is not exclusive to Aboriginality, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, culture, nationality, refugee or asylum seeker background, migration or visa status, language, religion, ability, age, mental health, socioeconomic status, housing status, and geographic location.

This takes into account the requirements of the Gender Equality Act and Council's commitment to equity and inclusion.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental impacts arising from the recommendations in this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This Committee will provide an additional avenue for meaningful longer term community engagement with regard to community health and wellbeing.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The proposed approach in this report is a reflection of continuous improvement in the way Council engages with community and enables community voice and influence into health and wellbeing projects, policies and plans.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Refreshing the Committee and undertaking the recruitment process will ensure Council recruits a balanced representation of people within the Yarra Ranges community.

The Terms of Reference bring clarity to the role and responsibilities of the Committee, its members and those who support it. An induction process will further strengthen

members understanding of the Committee scope and the skills, knowledge, and perspective each member brings to the committee.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

1. Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee Terms of Reference