

## HEALTH & WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Report Author: Executive Officer Health & Wellbeing  
Responsible Officer: Director Communities  
Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

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*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

This report recommends appointments to the new Community Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee (HWAC) committee to Council. It allows for community voice and a consultative process for a wide range of activities and initiatives, as well as advice to support Council's decision making and monitors the achievement of objectives of the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan.

The Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee is appointed by Council for a 4 year term. The process for recruiting a new advisory committee has been conducted and recommendations are presented in this report for Council endorsement.

### RECOMMENDATION

***That Council endorse the recommended appointments to the 2022-2026 Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee.***

### RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

- Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.
- Yarra Ranges Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021 – 2025.

## **DISCUSSION**

### ***Purpose and Background***

An expression of interest seeking interested community members was advertised through Council's website, social media, local media and through communications to the broader sector and other relevant local and peak community organisations.

The recruitment process involved written applications (17 received) followed by shortlisting candidates for interview (9 interviewees). Interviews were conducted by a panel including a Councillor and Council's Executive Officer Health & Wellbeing, and Indigenous Participation Plan Project Officer. Upon completion of a first round of interviews, seven successful candidates were recommended.

While a significant number of applications were initially received for the committee, the panel noted the lack of applications from diverse community members including young people under 35 years, CALD community members, Indigenous community members, LGBTIQ+ community members, people with young families, sporting clubs and other hard to reach communities. Therefore, the panel undertook a second round of active recruitment to fulfil the five vacant places available on the committee.

A second recruitment round included advertisement through Council's internal and external partners, network meetings and promotion through e-mail and word of mouth. A further six expressions of interest were received, followed by shortlisting candidates for interview with a further five successful candidates recommended for the proposed committee of 12.

### ***Options considered***

Council is presented with a group of proposed representatives (12) who:

- Represent diversity of gender (5 men, 7 women), ages 16–75yrs, lived experience with mental illness, person living with a disability and chronic health conditions and unpaid carers. Youth, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse and LGBTIQ+ community members are also representative in this group;
- Represent nine townships across the Yarra Ranges including Chirnside Park 3116, Lilydale 3140, Montrose 3765, Mt Toolebewong 3777, Chum Creek 3777, Olinda 3788, Sherbrooke 3789, Silvan 3795 and Mt Evelyn 3796; and
- Bring the skills and expertise of multiple sectors including urban farming, health, education, National Disability Insurance Scheme, volunteer groups, local business owners and various other community services.

The new HWAC includes one former member of a Yarra Ranges Council advisory group, with the majority having experience with advisory groups outside of Council and at least half are new members with no prior committee experience. This provides a balance of experience and fresh perspective to this important advisory committee. The proposed HWAC members and the experience they bring are noted in Attachment One.

It is the intention for the role and influence of the HWAC to:

- Represent community voice to Council about health and wellbeing in the Yarra Ranges;
- Assist in the consultative process and provide feedback on Council's processes and policies;
- Support Council's decision making and monitor the achievement of objectives under the Health and Wellbeing Plan; and
- Support the development of new plans

The HWAC continues to be a critical advisory committee for council officers to gain insight and input into processes, projects, plans and strategies. This work will continue and strengthen with the new HWAC.

### ***Recommended option and justification***

That Council endorse the recommended appointments to the HWAC listed in Attachment One.

## **FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

The expenditure associated with the operation of the Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee is met through the approved operational budget. This includes the costs of advertising the Advisory Committee recruitment and ongoing operational expenditure.

## **APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES**

This report contributes to the following strategic objectives:

- The Council Plan: Connected and Healthy Communities; and
- Yarra Ranges Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021 – 2025.

The Committee will also be a key advisor for the development of Yarra Ranges Council's upcoming Disability Action Plan (2023).

## **RELEVANT LAW**

The proposed representatives align with the requirements of the Gender Equality Act 2020 in ensuring diverse representation.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

### ***Economic Implications***

There are no economic implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### ***Social Implications***

The social impacts of the HWAC include:

- Our community having a voice and being heard;
- Representing community on important local issues;
- Influencing projects to include the needs and aspirations of people living in the Yarra Ranges; and
- Engaging with other people with a shared commitment to improving access and inclusion for all.

### ***Environmental Implications***

There are no environmental implications for this recommendation.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable.

## **COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

No collaboration with other Councils, Governments or statutory bodies was sought.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

*The Risk:* To attain 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.

*Options Considered:* The recruitment process undertaken has ensured Council recruits a balanced representation of people living in the Yarra Ranges who can provide advice to Council across a diverse range health and wellbeing issues relevant to Council's role and responsibilities. The Terms of Reference (Attachment Two) bring clarity to the role and responsibilities of the Committee, its members and those who support it.

## **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. Proposed Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee members 2022-2026
2. Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee Terms of Reference