

**Subject:** Status of Women Advisory Committee – Minutes and Outcomes of Meeting  
5<sup>th</sup> November 2015

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<b>File No:</b>	COR2009/1352	
<b>Document Ref:</b>	D15/148547	
<b>Venue:</b>	Room 1, Level 5, Civic Centre	
<b>Date:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2015	
<b>Time:</b>	Started at: 6.30pm	Closed at: 8.20pm
<b>Chair:</b>	Councillor Denise Pendleton	
<b>Meeting Support (MS):</b>	Linda Smith	
<b>Staff Convenor:</b>	Jonathan Nanlohy	
<b>Circulation:</b>		

**Committee Role:****The primary role of the Status of Women Advisory Committee is to:**

- Provide advice to Council on improving the ways in which women in the City of Ryde are able to participate and engage actively in all aspects of community and civic life.

**Committee Members as per the Terms of Reference**

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
x		Councillor D Pendleton	Chairperson	City of Ryde
		Councillor G Simon	Delegate	City of Ryde
	x	Councillor Jane Stott	Delegate	City of Ryde
x		Ms Margarita Grunberg	Community Representative	
	x	Ms Rose Torossian	Community Representative	
	x	Ms Marg Somerville	Community Representative	
x		Agnes Shim	Community Representative	
		Ms Victoria Brookman	Community Representative	
		Ms Nora Alexanian	Community Representative	
		Ivy Pang	Community Representative	
x		Ms Julie Lowes	Guest	
		Therese Mackenzie	Guest	
x		Dawn Nettheim	Guest	
x		Robyn Gaspari	Guest	
	x	Jynene Helland	Guest	
	x	Cheryl Kistan	Guest	
	x	Beth Kosnik	Guest	
	x	Penny Pedersen	Guest	
x		Suzanne Marks	Guest	
x		Angelika Hollo	Guest	
		Belinda Mao	Guest	
		Millie Colahan	Guest	
		Susan Varnon	Guest	
		Julianna Yang	Guest	
x		Gunjan Tripathi	Acting SUM – Community and Culture	City of Ryde
x		Jonathan Nanlohy	Social Policy and Planning Coordinator	City of Ryde

**Additional Attendees**

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Name	Position Title	Organisation
Deb Maio	Guest Speaker	Side by Side Advocacy
Belinda Foyle	Guest Speaker	West Ryde Neighbourhood Childrens Centre
Linda Smith	EA to the Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde

Details	Action	Responsibility and Date
<p>1. <b>Introductions and Apologies:</b></p> <p>The attendees and apologies were noted.</p> <p>Gunjan outlined the new organisational structure implemented at Council.</p> <p>She advised that all areas of operation have now been aligned to provide consistent service delivery and customer interface opportunities.</p> <p>Gunjan also spoke briefly about the proposed Council merger discussions which have been occurring between City of Ryde and neighbouring Councils.</p> <p>All Councils must submit final responses to the State Government by 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 regarding proposed amalgamations.</p>	Noted as above	

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<p>2. <b>Minutes and matters arising</b></p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015 were adopted.</p> <p>Jonathan provided an update on events since the last meeting.</p> <p>Council has submitted an application with Ryde Family Services for funding of \$135,000 over three years under the Building Safer Communities for Women Program.</p> <p>If successful, the money would be received over three stages.</p> <p><u>White Ribbon Activities</u></p> <p>On 19<sup>th</sup> November a photo shoot will be held at the Civic Centre and merchandise will be available for purchase.</p> <p>Staff and advisory committee members are asked to attend the event and take the white ribbon pledge.</p> <p>A workshop was held at Burwood Court and Organised by Council staff and Ryde Local Area Command to explain the workings of the court regarding domestic violence was well attended by 25 front line staff.</p> <p>Campbelltown Council has shown interest in undertaking the same information session.</p> <p>The information gathered for Domestic Violence related court services is being translated into a number of relevant community languages for Ryde residents including. Chinese, Korean, Farsi and Arabic.</p>	<p>The information was noted.</p>	

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<p>2. <b><u>Work Life Balance</u></b></p> <p>Discussion on this topic was separated into three areas: Arresting vulnerability, caring for children with a disability and challenges in childcare.</p> <p><u>Arresting vulnerability</u></p> <p>Gunjan spoke on the booklet recently compiled by staff titled “Arresting vulnerability”.</p> <p>It notes that major issues in Ryde are homelessness and people on the verge of homelessness.</p> <p>Many working families struggle financially.</p> <p>Most families in the local area have both parents working and this places stress on the family group as it is difficult to provide child care, rent and food payments.</p> <p>7.1% of families are jobless – this could be due to breaks in contractual employment.</p> <p>13% of families are single parent families</p> <p>6.2% of people are unemployed.</p> <p>There are also a large number of people suffering mental illnesses.</p> <p>This is partly due to the fact that Ryde is the home to many service organisations which assist people with mental illness.</p> <p>Council is working on three main areas as a result of the above findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A policy of affordable housing</li> <li>- Advocacy and lobbying</li> <li>- Innovation and program development</li> </ul> <p><u>Caring for children with a disability</u></p> <p>Deb Maio provided the following information:</p> <p>Most people with a disability are not on a disability pension</p> <p>The Side by Side Advocacy Group is staffed with volunteers except for the coordinator.</p> <p>It’s role is to assist people with intellectual disabilities.</p> <p>It assists people who may be in danger of losing their home, who have issues with the justice system etc.</p> <p>Families are most at risk when they are isolated.</p> <p>Having a child with a disability often results in isolation.</p> <p><u>Challenges in childcare</u></p>	<p>The information was noted</p>	

Details	Action	Responsibility and Date
<p>Belinda Foyle provided the following information.</p> <p>Many people enrol in long day care before the child is born.</p> <p>Single parents and parents of children with special needs or those of high risk are given priority for places available.</p> <p>Over 200 families are on the waiting list.</p> <p>The centre at West Ryde caters for 51 children per day.</p> <p>7 of these have disabilities of some type.</p> <p>Funding of \$30,000 pa is received from the Education Department.</p> <p>Childcare and before and after care is needed in the area.</p> <p><u>Where could Council do more?</u></p> <p>The group considered ways in which Council can assist with the above issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Members and staff could write to State Members highlighting the issues .</li> <li>- There is a need to keep the focus of gathering facts.</li> <li>- It was noted that early intervention is cost effective in the long run.</li> <li>- It is important to reach people whilst they are vulnerable not past that point.</li> <li>- Council could approach the government and state that more affordable childcare places are needed.</li> <li>- Early intervention is important</li> <li>- Need to advocate for more affordable child care including before and after school care.</li> <li>- Could look to see if there are any local resources, especially buildings, which are not fully utilised and which could be used for care.</li> <li>- Could libraries be used better to care for children.</li> <li>- Do Council's policies include everyone who needs help</li> <li>- Is the infrastructure provided accessible</li> <li>- Approaches to be made by individuals and Council to local members of parliament.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Confirmation of Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 Civic Centre, Level 5, Room 1 6.30pm-8.00pm</p>	<p>Noted</p>	