

Subject: Status of Women Advisory Committee – Minutes and Outcomes of Meeting
30th July 2015

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File No:	COR2009/1352	
Document Ref:	D15/	
Venue:	Room 1, Level 5, Civic Centre	
Date:	Thursday 30 th July 2015	
Time:	Started at: 6.30pm	Closed at: 8.20pm
Chair:	Councillor Denise Pendleton	
Meeting Support (MS):	Linda Smith	
Staff Convenor:	Jonathan Nanlohy	
Circulation:		

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	
	x	Ms Victoria Brookman	Community Representative	
	x	Ms Nora Alexanian	Community Representative	
	x	Ivy Pang	Community Representative	
	x	Ms Julie Lowes	Guest	
x		Therese Mackenzie	Guest	
		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	
x		Millie Colahan	Guest	
x		Susan Varnon	Guest	
x		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
x		Bianca Dubb	Guest Speaker	Ryde Family Services
x		Cathy Milne	Guest Speaker	Elderly Abuse Hotline and Resource Unit

Additional Attendees

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Name	Position Title	Organisation
Linda Smith	EA to the Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde

Details	Action	Responsibility and Date
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies:</p> <p>Jonathan advised that Cllr Pendleton would not be able to attend the meeting.</p> <p>The guest speakers Kathy Milne and Bianca Dubb were introduced to the group.</p>	Noted as above	

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<p>2. <u>Information talk on domestic violence</u></p> <p>Talk by Bianca Dubb</p> <p>The speech presented by Bianca is attached to these minutes.</p> <p>At the completion of her presentation, Bianca answered a series of questions from the group.</p> <p><i>Are refuges and affordable housing at maximum capacity?</i></p> <p>Refuges have regular turnover with a maximum three month stay permitted.</p> <p>Motel accommodation is utilised if no vacancy is available at refuge for someone in desperate need.</p> <p>People seeking refuge accommodation are usually housed outside the area they normally live in.</p> <p>At the conclusion of refuge stays, efforts are made to obtain a subsidy from Housing NSW which allows people to rent in the private market. The subsidy is available for two years.</p> <p><i>What is the age range of people who seek refuge accommodation?</i></p> <p>All ages. Due to health issues some people need to be admitted to hospital or aged care facilities rather than a refuge.</p> <p><i>Do people from multicultural backgrounds approach refuges often?</i></p> <p>Many recent arrivals fear the immigration department becoming involved and deportation occurring.</p> <p>Some people have a fear of police due to the treatment they received in their homeland.</p> <p>A domestic violence liaison officer works in this area to assist with these concerns.</p> <p>A woman on a visa can still remain in this country even if they leave their partner.</p> <p>Women are to be encouraged to go to the police if they are suffering domestic violence.</p> <p>An AVO is not a criminal charge so it can be sought without fear of deportation for either the victim or persecutor.</p> <p><i>How can we get the message out?</i></p> <p>This is something for the committee to determine.</p> <p>Jonathan provided e.g. of Burwood Court magistrate who now conducts sessions to demystify the proceedings involved in a court case for domestic violence.</p>	<p>The information was noted.</p> <p>Various avenues for providing additional support and information were noted and discussed. Jonathan to follow up as appropriate.</p> <p>Examples for consideration include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media articles, social media items, information on Council's website, conducting more events to support initiatives 	

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<p>It was noted that meetings are sometimes held for sufferers of domestic violence where people speak about what domestic violence is and what can be done. Police are in attendance and women report they feel safer after talking about the subject.</p> <p>Since 2013, there has been a 50% increase per year in domestic violence. This is in part due to changes in the way the subject is thought of. Much more publicity and community awareness now.</p> <p>Publicity on the subject is alerting more people to the issue and they realise that they are sufferers.</p> <p><i>Education of males and role of schools</i></p> <p>It was noted that it is necessary to educate young men – not just talk to women.</p> <p>Funding is available to provide training in schools.</p> <p>Multicultural training is also occurring in schools.</p> <p>There is a need to break down the barrier in the ethnic community regarding attitudes to police.</p> <p>There are lots of resources for immigrant women in existence.</p> <p>Jonathan advised of the event (barbecue) held last year with CALD community leaders and the police.</p> <p>This began an empowerment process – anti racism and anti-violence.</p> <p>The Community Migrant Resource Centre and South Korean Women’s Associations are in the planning stages of working with Council to develop a low key culturally appropriate support and awareness approach working with women from Afghan, Iranian and Korean communities. It is important for mothers to teach their sons good behaviour.</p> <p>Relationships Australia, Lifeline and Enough is Enough do provide for men who want to improve their behaviour. Though funding is generally poor. Men’s shed is also helpful in this regard.</p> <p>Domestic violence occurs in same sex situations and also to men by women.</p> <p><u>Information talk by Kathryn Milne Elder Abuse Hotline and Resource Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elder abuse is an internationally recognised term. - Elder abuse is similar to domestic violence but includes neglect and requires that you be in a relationship of trust. - It does not include scams, abuse in nursing homes, financial rip offs etc. - It occurs where the perpetrator should have the best interest of the elder person at heart but doesn't. 	<p>Suggested avenues for support the multicultural community include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website information • Drop in centre activities • Community workshops • Community barbecues 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NSW set up a body to look at this issue in 2013. Other states had been active in this area since the mid 1990's. - Only five staff are employed to cover the state of NSW. - Lots of calls about abuse are made by neighbours, home care workers, meals on wheels. Community transport staff etc. - NSW and QLD have an anonymous helpline. - The service aims to help neighbours deal with the situation - The service runs awareness and education campaigns. - Statistics suggest 5% of elder people may suffer abuse in any year. - Issue is not gender based for either victims of perpetrators. - Men are more often the victims of neglect - Amongst intimate partners, violence can escalate when men retire. - Children are however the biggest number of perpetrators. - Adult sons are often neglectful - Adult daughters are often physically or emotionally neglectful - Sometimes this is due to inheritance impatience or inheritance preservation. - Sometimes children want to impose their will on parents ie when parent has a new partner and the adult child does not think the level of care is suitable. - To assist with Elder Abuse the emphasis is on creating positive aging messages. - In addition, groups such as police, ambulance, GP's etc. are being upskilled so they recognise signs. - Articles are places in senior publications and Dept. of Housing newsletters. - Sometimes people who were abused as children then abuse their parents. - Govt providers are required to report abuse but private carer staff are not. As a result, more wealthy people can suffer abuse without it being reported. - Activities such as art competitions can be used to disseminate information in a subtle and informal manner. - Limited finances means community groups are often encouraged to spread the word. - Work with interagency groups is also vital for communication in the community - A lack of services for older male victims. - Social isolation is a big risk factor - Local government can help with lunch programs, day programs and other means to increase people's independence so they are not dependent on others so much. - Libraries are also an excellent means of providing information in a subtle way. - Greater access to health services would avoid carer fatigue and provide respite. - Challenging behaviour such as dementia can cause people to act in ways they wouldn't normally. 	<p>Consideration to be given to some of the areas highlighted where Council could become more involved i.e. dissemination of information, provision of activities.</p> <p>Jonathan to investigate and report.</p>	

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<p><u>Other Items</u></p> <p>Jonathan advised that he had met with Bianca to discuss applying for a grant to build a safer community for women</p> <p>He advised that if successful, the grant would be used to look at improvements for women from diverse cultures.</p> <p>Funds would be used to map how to gather information and look at interagency sharing of information and how to work directly with communities.</p> <p>Jonathan also provided the group with advice regarding the “Ryde Project” which is examining homelessness in the local area.</p> <p>The suggestion was made that to provide information to groups such as the homeless, that an approach similar to that used by Sydney City Council “Honeypot” could work well. This is where people are encouraged to attend an event with the promise of receiving items they want and then whilst they are there, they are provided with details and information which can assist them.</p> <p>Gunjan spoke about the walk being undertaken to raise awareness of homelessness.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>	
<p>Confirmation of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Thursday 5th November Civic Centre, Level 5, Room 1 6.30pm-8.00pm Topic will be Work Life Balance.</p> <p>Jonathan will send a summary of issues raised at the planning meeting and is asking for suggestions as to guest speakers.</p>		