

Homelessness Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday 23 January, 2023

3.00pm - 5.00pm

Macquarie House, Civic Square

MEETING OPENING: 3.10pm

Chair, Councillor Tim Walker, welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced himself to new committee members. Councillor George Razay was unable to attend.

1. STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor Walker provided Acknowledgement of Country.

2. ATTENDEES

Committee:

Stephen Avery	Community member representative
Oliver Macdonald	Community member representative
Stephen Hill	Launceston City Mission
Elizabeth Ward	Anglicare Tasmania
Nic Green	CatholicCare Tasmania
Justine Brooks	Homes Tasmania

City of Launceston:

Councillor Tim Walker	Chair - Councillor City of Launceston
Dan Ryan	General Manager Community & Place
Michelle Ogulin	Acting Manager Liveable Communities
Nindarra Wheatley	Inclusion Officer
Michele Polley	Note taker

Neighbouring Council Representatives:

Councillor Ben Dudman	Meander Valley Council - representative or proxy
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3. APOLOGIES

Councillor Simone Lowe	Georgetown Council
Allison Mayne	Community Member Representative
Roderick Brown	Salvation Army
Darren McKay	Community member representative
Louise Cowan	Shekinah House
Sam Grace	St Vincent de Paul Society
Nathan Johnston	Tasmania Police
Jo Marshall	Homes Tasmania
Kath Hawkins	Community Development, City of Launceston

Councillor Anne-Marie Loader
Councillor Jess Greene

Meander Valley Council
West Tamar Council

Non Attendance

Kate Ross
Councillor Janet Lambert
Liz Bowerman
Councillor George Razay
Liz Page

Community Member Representative
Northern Midlands Council
St Vincent de Paul Society
Councillor City of Launceston
City of Launceston (on annual leave)

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

5. CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillor Walker outlined the Code of Conduct for the Homeless Advisory Committee.

6. AGENDA PROPER

Introductions

The Chair welcomed new committee members and facilitated introductions.

Committee Purpose

Committee purpose was reiterated for new committee members.

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Moved: Stephen Hill

Seconded: Nic Green

Action Item Updates from Previous Meeting

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	UPDATE
Convene a forum for surrounding councils' community development (or equivalent) staff to connect & focus on homelessness, aiming to better understand homelessness in other municipalities.	Kath Hawkins	An initial meeting was held in late 2022 however staff changes and Christmas leave have prohibited this from occurring again.
Discuss a mechanism to provide homelessness outreach workers with a conduit to be able to report to the Homelessness Advisory Committee.	Dan Ryan	Item brought forward.
Statement of available homelessness services	Louise Cowan	Ongoing.

Dr Razay would like to circulate an article he authored: The Tale of Two Cities.	Cr Dr George Razay	Cr Razay not present. Item to be re-tabled.
The vacant committee position, ideally for a person with lived experience will be offered to the next person in the application process. They will be invited to complete the process and attend Homeless Advisory Committee meetings.	Kath Hawkins	Oliver Macdonald accepted
Circulate the Sleeping Rough information template.	Jo Marshall	Jo not present at meeting. Item to be re-tabled

Key Goal Progress

The updated Terms of Reference is scheduled to be presented to the Council meeting of 25 January 2023.

Priority action items

No further updates.

Homelessness Action Plan development

No further update. Nindarra Wheatley, Inclusion Officer introduced and provided brief on her role with council.

Service Updates

None tabled.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Advance to Zero. Dan Ryan spoke to the Advance to Zero documents shared via email and sought feedback on the scope to develop a local By Names List.

It was agreed that a By Names List (or similar shared data source) was important to effectively identify and understand the number of people who are homeless in the community, what factors are contributing to this, where resources and advocacy are best allocated, and what changes are occurring.

Questions were raised from the floor regarding list ownership, administration requirements, permission protocols, and the impact on service providers. The importance of effective privacy and control measures was also identified. A query was raised in regard to the capacity to depersonalise and share existing data to remove duplication.

It was agreed that additional information was required in order to progress any discussions on the suitability of a local By Names List. Further work would be undertaken to source this information with out of session discussions to be had with relevant stakeholders to progress this further. A discussion paper is to be provided at the next Committee meeting.

Dan Ryan presented a draft Protocol outlining City of Launceston's commitment to how it approached our homeless community. The Protocol will be circulated for comments and feedback.

The management of rubbish at homeless camp sites was raised. Currently many service providers make rubbish bags available, which are generally well utilised, however the removal of the bags from site is not always easy. Dan Ryan to raise this matter with City of Launceston cleansing crews on how this could potentially be managed/addressed.

It was noted through this discussion that a collaborative approach between City of Launceston officers and outreach workers should be applied when engaging directly with our homeless community. In some instances, these conversations may be best had by a City of Launceston officer so that the trust that has been developed with outreach workers is not compromised. In this scenario, it was suggested that a conversation be had between parties in order to identify the most appropriate approach.

A query on who was responsible for the management of the homeless lockers in Royal Park was raised in order to initiate a conversation around availability given the high demand for storage. It was confirmed that Strike It Out manage this facility.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTING TO COUNCIL

No report considered by Council for this period.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

None tabled

10. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday 21 March 2023	1pm -3 pm	Macquarie House, Civic Square - 2nd floor. Intercom button pushed for entrance into building. Access via stairs or lift.

11. SESSION REVIEW

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	UPDATE
Discussion paper to be developed on the By Names List.	Nindarra Wheatley / Dan Ryan	To be provided in advance of next meeting

Protocol to be circulated and comments/feedback requested	Dan Ryan	To be provided in advance of next meeting
Discussion with City of Launceston cleansing crew on management of rubbish at homeless camp sites.	Dan Ryan	Update to be provided at next meeting
Convene a forum for surrounding councils' community development (or equivalent) staff to connect & focus on homelessness, aiming to better understand homelessness in other municipalities.	Nindarra Wheatley	Update to be provided at next meeting

Meeting closed at 5.10pm