

Homelessness Advisory Committee (HAC) Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 21 March 2023

1.00 pm - 3.00 pm

Level 2, Macquarie House, Civic Square

MEETING OPENING: 1.00pm

1. STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor Walker provided Acknowledgement of Country

2. ATTENDEES

Committee:

Stephen Avery	Community member representative
Lynette Cameron	Community member representative
Allison Mayne	Community member representative
Darren McKay	Community member representative
Oliver Macdonald	Community member representative
Rodney Spinks	St Vincent de Paul Society
Elizabeth Ward	Anglicare Tasmania
Nic Green	CatholicCare Tasmania
Roderick Brown	Salvation Army
Louise Cowan	Shekinah House
Justine Brooks	Homes Tasmania
Jo Marshall	Homes Tasmania
Inspector Andrew Hanson	Tasmania Police

City of Launceston:

Councillor Tim Walker	Chair - Councillor City of Launceston
Councillor George Razay	Councillor City of Launceston
Dan Ryan	General Manager Community & Place
Michelle Ogulin	Acting Manager Liveable Communities
Linda Page	Team Leader Community Development
Nindarra Wheatley	Inclusion Officer

Neighbouring Council Representatives:

Councillor Janet Lambert	Northern Midlands Council
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Guest:

Liz Bowerman	Advisor to Lara Alexander MP
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3. APOLOGIES

Sam Grace	St Vinnies
Stephen Hill	City Mission
Nathan Johnston	Tasmania Police
Councillor Simone Lowe	George Town Council
Councillor Anne-Marie Loader	Meander Valley Council

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 committee members and facilitated introductions.

Committee Purpose

The Committee's purpose was reiterated to committee members.

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Moved: Nic Greene

Seconded: Oliver MacDonald

Guest Presentation

Liz Bowerman presented the opportunity to reconvene a version of the Homelessness Response Group given the need for more frequent connection of stakeholders between HAC meetings, and the need for a more agile and cohesive response to day-to-day issues as they arise.

Lara Alexander and Liz Bowerman have identified and contacted members of the previous Homelessness Response Group which have been well received.

City of Launceston is supportive of establishing this group and will provide a representative on the group. The proposed model would see meetings held monthly initially while the group is developing, then bi-monthly in between HAC meetings. It is the intention that this group would feed in to the HAC meetings to provide relevant updates, advice and recommendations as required. It was noted that the naming of this group should ensure that it differentiates itself from the previous Homelessness Response Group.

Liz Bowerman and Nindarra Wheatley will coordinate the group to formalise the reestablishment. This was supported by the HAC.

Action Item Updates from Previous Meeting

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	UPDATE
Discussion paper to be developed on the By-Names List. Update to be provided at next meeting.	Dan Ryan Nindarra Wheatley	CoL has requested information on current available data from Homes Tasmania noting the need to manage confidentiality.
Discuss a mechanism to provide homelessness outreach workers with a conduit to be able to report to the Homelessness Advisory Committee.	Dan Ryan	The soon to be developed response group will provide this conduit

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	Has been circulated to committee

Key Goal Progress

Homelessness Action Plan development has begun.

Priority action items

No further updates.

Service Updates

Head to Health is now in Canning Street with extended opening hours, open until 9pm weekdays. Open on weekends from 10-2pm.

Vinnies reported seeing more clients with rent stress. This was consistent with other service providers represented on the committee. Higher cost of living issues also rising among clients by service providers.

YMCA shower services are being reviewed. This is a work in progress and more information will be circulated to committee when new service is up and running.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

City of Launceston will continue to liaise with relevant stakeholders to develop or join a database for information sharing across service providers that remains confidential for those sleeping rough in our community.

Homelessness Response Group to be re-established that will go under a different name to avoid confusion. Liz Bowerman and Nindarra Wheatley to initiate inaugural meeting. These meetings will be held in the month in between the HAC meetings.

City of Launceston Homelessness Protocol to be included in the Homelessness Action Plan.

Dan Ryan to contact Strike It Out to advise that there is currently not a vacant position on the HAC. It was agreed that this organisation would offer great value to the response group once established and that an invitation to participate would be extended.

City of Launceston to Update Reach Out contact foldout card. Nindarra Wheatley will liaise with service providers to obtain up to date information for an updated version to be created. Suggestion from the committee that a virtual version could be created to be easily updated rather than a reprint of the paper based version each time.

No Fridge recipe book was tabled by Councillor Razay as this could be useful for homeless that do not have access to fridge. Nindarra Wheatley to liaise with service providers and provide an update at next meeting.

Suggestion tabled of an incentive campaign for Air B&B to offer short term rental over winter period. City of Launceston will investigate possibilities.

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 30 th May 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
Continue to liaise and investigate SHIP or By-Names list	Nindarra Wheatley Dan Ryan	Update to be provided at next meeting
Homes Tasmania to investigate the current reporting that is available to allow for consideration of suitability	Jo Marshall	Update to be provided at next meeting
Response group to be re-established	Nindarra Liz Bowerman	Update to be provided at next meeting
Circulate information on updates to YMCA shower services	Nindarra Wheatley	As information is available
Update Reach Out card	Nindarra Wheatley	Update to be provided at next meeting
Advise Strike it Out of HAC position on committee participation	Dan Ryan	
Investigate opportunities for Air BNB short term rentals	City of Launceston	Update to be provided at next meeting

Meeting closed at 3.00pm