

VLGA Child Friendly Cities and Communities– Network Meeting minutes

Friday 30 November 2018, 1.00-3.00pm

Venue: LGPro Offices-Level 3, 58 Lorimer Street, Docklands, VIC

Chair: David Wright (Victorian Inclusion Agency)

Minutes: Karina Viksne (Moonee Valley Council)

Attended: Cath Black, Georgia Jacobs, Christine Foran, Jenny Rukuwai (Maribyrnong City Council), Sherryn Prinzi (Banyule City Council), Liz O’Loughlin (Booroondara Council), Hayley Crawford (City of Port Phillip), Nicole Lindsey (Brimbank City Council), Amy Forward (City of Greater Dandenong), Caroline Meier (Knox City Council), Kate Beveridge (Cardinia Shire), Ann Addinsall, Virginia Lloyd (City of Casey), Claire Sideras (City of Monash), Anne McGregor (Moreland Council), Jo Smale (Darebin Council)

Apologies: Molly Jones (Brimbank City Council), Sarah O’Donnell (Yarra City Council), Amy Treyvaud (Ballarat)

Agenda	Notes/Actions
<p>Welcome and Introductions Acknowledgement to Country</p>	<p>David Wright commenced the meeting.</p>
<p>Guest Speaker</p> <p><u>Kate Beveridge:</u> Healthy Children’s Facilitator, Cardinia Shire</p> <p>Student Leader’s Conference, Cardinia Shire Developed and organised by children, 100 school leaders from primary schools across the Shire participated in the first Student Leaders Conference ‘Listening to children in our community’.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to presentation • Overview: • Grade 6 Student leaders from schools across Cardinia were invited to participate • Students leaders guided the planning over 9 months • Key messages were about ‘listening’ rather than ‘hearing’ • Student leaders designed the poster – the stars reflecting children’s bright ideas • A convenient location was identified, with train access • Name badges, Goody bags etc were organised by the Student leaders • At the conference, approx. 100 students participated • 3 Student leaders MC’d the conference with teachers as back up • 2 questions were posed to the group: 1. One thing you like about Cardinia; 2. One thing to make the community better • ‘Get to know you’ activity was along the lines of Bingo with selected questions • 4 Council departments participated seeking information and feedback from students 1. Strategic Planning; 2. Recreation; 3. Outdoor space; 4 Youth • Councillors attended as observers only

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During break/food, an impromptu ‘Dance off ‘between students took place • Key speaker from Pakenham Secondary School engaged students with his journey as a refugee and messages of leadership • During lunch – students were outside, actively connecting with one another • Leadership activities completed the afternoon • Overall very positive feedback received by all • Key messages: Hearing from schools/students – their voice, Listening to children in our (Cardinia) community, Involvement in design processes. • Students signed the Charter and presented this to Council at a later date • A video was developed with participation, feedback from children • Next steps: Staying focussed on the local context; Training for Council staff; shifting the premise that children are least likely to contribute to Council decisions; Recognising children are future residents
<p>9th Child in the City World Conference, Vienna, Austria A leading conference on child friendly policies and research. More than 350 international youth professionals, policy makers and planners attended the conference. Hear what’s happening around the world and what others are doing to be child friendly in their city.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to presentation and Conference website https://www.childinthecity.org/ • Overview: • Field trips started the conference, a great way of connecting with participants • Focus on urban design redevelopment (post war) • Acknowledgements that architects designed, with no involvement of children • Tim Gill provocation that ‘consulting with children is not working’ – based on sporadic success, rather than embedded change • Recognition that local context is important • Observations: Surprised with lack of participation of children at conference; Highlighted the great work in Victoria; Consolidated how important it is to include children • Next steps/Opportunities: Staff training; Continuing to encourage/support staff; Identify Ambassadors; Continue consulting with children; Promote great work

<p>Acknowledging new Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter signatories</p> <p><u>Sherryn Prinzi</u> Youth & Family Services Strategic Development Officer, Banyule Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The framed VLGA Victorian Charter Child Friendly Cities and Communities was presented to Sherryn Prinzi, acknowledging Banyule City Council becoming a signatory • Sherryn presented a brief overview of Banyule’s journey to becoming a signatory: • The CY&F Advisory Committee were actively involved and key advocates in presenting to Council • Children have been supported to present to Council – progressing a welcoming, inclusive community approach to children’s participation • Next steps: Continue to promote and progress the Child Friendly Cities and Communities momentum
<p>Guest Speaker</p> <p><u>Claire Sideras</u> Child & Young People Friendly City Project Officer, Monash Council</p> <p>Monash specifically engaged a project officer to develop and promote being a Child and Young People Friendly City. Hear what processes are being implemented to benefit their youngest citizens.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to presentation • Overview: • Monash has specifically engaged a Project officer to progress the municipality as a Child and Young People Friendly City • Initially age range was to 24 years • This was changed to up to (and including) 17 years, in recognition that this age bracket has less opportunities for voicing their views and opinions (ie. Voting from 18 years) • Key messages: Supporting our (Monash) children residents who will become our adult residents; CFCC is not a massive investment, it is a shift in perspective • Overview of process: • Analysing what is being offered • Consultations undertaken incorporating Resilience survey results, Feedback Bytes • Establishing Junior Advisory Groups • Raising awareness • Posters created for staff and for children • Next steps (complimentary processes): Continuing Junior Advisory Groups (3 per year proposed); Student e-bulletins, webpage, Customer Service engagement (TBC); Engaging with key staff at schools; Increasing lead time for engaging with schools/planning

<p>Advisory Group Update/Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent activities of the Advisory Group • Nominations and Endorsing CFCC Advisory Group membership for 2019 • Reflections on 2018 Network meetings and planning for 2019 – Ideas, topics, themes, priorities for next year’s Network meetings. This is your Network – consider how the Advisory Group can best respond to your interests and needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cath Black provided an overview of the year’s activities: • Network meetings and Advisory Group have been an inspiring and positive space • This year has seen a shift in meetings and dynamics– from theme based (Policy, Early, Middle Years, Youth), to more varied topics based on emerging interests and identified priorities • The Vic CFCC Network/Advisory group continues to focus on raising the profile and advocating for children as active citizen’s/children’s agency and best practice • Guest speakers, case studies, communities of practice, collective impact presentations etc well received • An ongoing interest to find champions in local communities, other organisations beyond Local Government eg Gowrie, Museum etc <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Group: • David Wright, a long standing member of CFCC Advisory Group was recognised and acknowledged for the valued contributions and commitment to the Group • New member nominations discussed • Interested new members to email: cath.black@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au • VLGA current auspice • Terms of Reference notes up to 12 members • Meetings generally 2 weeks after Network meetings • Commitment from members to share responsibilities across the year • Continue to respond to the broader communities’ interests of CFCC • Ideas to be explored: streaming meetings; consolidating meetings with LGPro SIG – participants, key stakeholders, meeting topics complementary (TBC, including time of meetings for 2019)
<p>Feedback & Wrap Up</p> <p>What benefit did you get from participating in today’s meeting?</p>	<p>General discussions, with feedback forms completed to inform planning for 2019 meetings.</p> <p>Thanks to everyone – MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!</p>
<p>Network Meeting Dates for 2019 (Fridays)</p>	<p>Please note the following in your diaries for 2019 CFCC meetings:</p> <p>15 March, 1-3pm: Victoria’s Commissioner for Children and Young People – Liana Buchanan 31 May; 16 August; 25 October</p>