



# Youth Services Forum Minutes

**Tuesday 12 February 2019  
10am to 11:30am  
Woollahra Council**

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# Youth Services Forum

held on

**Tuesday 12 February at 10:00am**  
**Woollahra Municipal Council Chambers**  
**536 New South Head Road**  
**Woollahra NSW 2028**

## 1. PRESENT & APOLOGIES

Present:	Nick Maxwell	Woollahra Councillor, Chair
	Megan McEwen	Woollahra Councillor
	Andi Smith	Kids Giving Back
	Michelle Plant	Woollahra Libraries
	Paul Kelly	Beaches Outreach Project
	Christina Gold	Jewish House
	Felix Gomez	Jewish House
	Michal Shoham Polonsky	WAYS
	Jesse Wynhausen	Centre 360 Youth and Family Service
	Kira Brandt	Jewish Care
	Julie MacColl	Ascham School
	Judith Schulz	Circles of Learning
	Nicole Fairley	Waverley Council
	Dani Saric	NSW Police ESPAC

Staff: Leah Ferry Community Development Officer

Apologies: James Bowles (Scotts College), Tania Krasinski (Randwick Council),  
 Kathryn Pacis (St Vincent De Paul Society).

## 2. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

## 3. GUEST SPEAKER – Rada Pantzer (Jewish Care)

### Domestic and family violence and its impact on young people

- According to Domestic Violence NSW, 1 in 3 women experience domestic violence more than men. Domestic violence is a pattern of manipulative and coercive behaviour and is about power and control.
- There are many forms of domestic violence that go beyond physical abuse. Some of these include:
  - (1) Financial Abuse – complete control of all money and restricting access to bank accounts or the threat of disconnection if one party leaves the other.
  - (2) Technological abuse – use of social media to defame or expose situations via posting. Use of apps with locators used to stalk, intimidate and harass. Continual text messages, distribution of inappropriate images and revenge porn.

- (3) Verbal abuse – screaming and continual humiliation to put someone down. Gas lighting which involves emotional abuse to manipulate information so the victim thinks they are to blame.
- Domestic and Family Violence can be seasonal, often starting its peak during football finals season, leading into Melbourne Cup, Christmas, back to school time and then dropping again mid-year. Stress and alcohol being a contributing factor to these peak seasons.
  - There have been significant DV reforms and changes to the legislation over the past 3 years that have prevented victims from falling through the gaps.

#### Impact on children and young people

- Domestic violence affects are felt by everyone: the community, family and friends.
- Depending on age, victims can go through massive behavioural changes such as: become reclusive or become violent and act out in their own relationships. Victims often display symptoms of anxiety as a result of underlying grief and loss. Academic rates can be significantly lowered.

#### Domestic and Family Violence Program at Jewish Care

- Work in the space of prevention and awareness offering the following: case work and DV counselling. Education and empowering the person to put strategies into place. Safety orders and exit strategies. Referrals to housing.
- Work closely with mental health family support aged and disability and youth space, crossovers. Jewish Care offers a wraparound service to ensure clients do not fall through the gaps.
- Jewish care sit on the Eastern Sydney Domestic Violence Network which is an interagency network working on projects around prevention and awareness of DV.
- Love Bites – respectful relationships program implemented into schools to increase awareness and give students an understanding of relationship violence indecent exposure to rape. Program aims to challenge their beliefs and attitudes. Talk about consent. Make better choices and help friends make better choices.

#### Discussion following guest speaker

- Relationships Australia offers a “Mens Behaviour Change program” which is DV counselling for perpetrators.

## **4. INFORMATION SHARE AND SERVICE UPDATES**

Michelle Plant (Woollahra Libraries)

- New Youth Community Development Officer at Woollahra Library – will be working on all youth related projects

Kira Brandt (Jewish Care)

- Parenting & Porn', a parent Q&A seminar to explore the impact that exposure to porn has on children and young people, how to approach discussions about sex and porn with your child and the role of porn in sex education.

Michal Shoham Polonsky (WAYS)

- Bondi Blitz will again take place in celebration of Youth Week on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April at Bondi Beach. Flyers will be ready for distribution shortly.
- Schools forum will be held end of May in partnership with Woollahra Council, at Woollahra Council. More details to come.

Dani Saric (NSW Police ESPAC)

- Currently working on rolling out an educational youth program into schools. Range of topics relevant to young people i.e. DV, alcohol and drugs etc. Pilot program with WAYS and RBSC.

Jesse Wynhausen (Centre 360 Youth Services)

- Youth Services covering the eastern suburbs down to La Perouse
- Will be running a Tuning into Teens program later in the year.

Andy Smith (Kids Giving Back)

- Volunteer opportunities for school aged kids, empowering kids to give back. Work with lots of different community organisations in the local area.

Julie McColl (Ascham School)

- Wellbeing Program - connecting the girls directly with the wider community through volunteering

Paul Kelly (Beaches Outreach Project)

- Street based, outreach program that offers transport for young people. Currently rolling out a cyber-bullying project which focuses on counselling for the perpetrator.

Christina Gold ( Jewish House)

- Crisis accommodation and early intervention. Have recently expanded and now have moved to Paddington and Croydon Park and Randwick.

Judith Schulz (Circles of Learning)

- Program focusing on the wellbeing of young children helping them to grow up confident
- . Work with parents and young people.
- Community gardens, therapeutic gardening, arts and crafts, outdoors and recognising nature.

Nicole Fairley (Waverley Council)

- The Innovating Work Experience Project (IWEP) will pilot a co-designed, project-based strategy to assist young people transition to employment.
- The IWEP is open to young people 15 – 24 years of age interested in exploring career paths in the creative and cultural industries.

- Participants will develop and apply industry-specific technical skills and transferable ‘soft’ skills, through youth-led projects that address barriers to participation in work experience and employment
- Youth-led projects may focus on design and planning for events and activities in the community and/ or design and development of marketing tools or appropriate platforms to promote events, or activities or products to young people in the community.
- If clients are interested in participating please get in touch with Nicole.

## **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **6. NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019