



Youth Services Forum



Minutes

Tuesday 11 May 2021

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Present: Councillors: Nick Maxwell (Chair)

Community

Representative: Kira Brandt et al, Jewish Care
Dani Saric, NSW Police – Local Area Command
Melinda Levies, Randwick City Council
Karen Hamilton, REELise
Scarlett Harrod, St Francis Social Services
James Bowles, The Scots College
Lara Galea, The Shack Youth Services
Courtney Morris. WAYS Youth & Family
Luke, WAYS Youth & Family
Nicole Fairley, Waverley Council
Joshua Wiffen, Randwick Council

Staff: Rachel Bangoura (Community Development Officer)
Michelle Plant (Youth Engagement Officer)

Meeting opened: 10.00am (held using teleconferencing technology)

1. **Opening**
2. **Acknowledgement of Country**
3. **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from:

The Mayor of Woollahra, Councillor Susan Wynne
Rabbi Mendel Kastel, Jewish House
Ellen Heathwood, Stride
Antonia Ottavio, Headspace Bondi Junction
Rebecca Wade, Kids Giving Back
Julie MacColl, Ascham School

Staff apologies: Jacky Hony, Team Leader Community Development

4. **Declarations of Interest**

Nil

5. **Late Correspondence**

Nil

6. **Confirmation of Minutes**

Item No: 6.1
Subject: **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF YOUTH SERVICES FORUM
HELD ON 16 MARCH 2021**
Author: Rachel Bangoura, Community Development Officer

Resolved:

THAT the Minutes of the Youth Services Forum held on 16 March 2021 be confirmed.

Item No: 6.2
Subject: **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
Author: Rachel Bangoura, Community Development Officer

Resolved:

THAT the Forum attendees note that there is no business arising from the previous minutes.

7. Items for Discussion

Item No: 7.1
Subject: GUEST SPEAKER - MELINDA LEVES
Author: Rachel Bangoura, Community Development Officer

Resolved:

THAT Melinda Leves be thanked for attending the Youth Services Forum as guest speaker, noting the following:

Melinda Leves presented to the Forum on the topic - what is consent, healthy and unhealthy relationships, pornography and the impact on young people's relationships and relevant resources.

Melinda Levies is a Community Development Officer for Randwick City Council. Melinda was a lead facilitator for Love Bites across the Eastern Suburbs from 2009-2018 and supported delivery of the program with over 1000 students at various high schools. Melinda has undertaken the role of co-chair of the Eastern Suburbs Domestic Violence for a number of years and has been played a significant role in the development and implementation of community prevention campaigns including the White Ribbon Walk, Bystander training and resources, DFV information sessions for non DFV specialists and internal DFV and bystander training for staff. Melinda is a trained facilitator of MATE, Griffith University Bystander program and Its Time We Talked (formerly Reality and Risk: Pornography, young people and sexuality).

Information presented as per PDF attached.

Item No: 7.2
Subject: DISCUSSION FOLLOWING GUEST SPEAKER
Author: Rachel Bangoura, Community Development Officer

The following be noted as the discussion that followed the Guest Speaker:

Nicole Fairley, Waverley Council

There has been a rise in awareness and focus on this issue since Chanelle Contos came forward especially in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney and many women and girls came forward as a result with personal experiences and disclosures.

Karen Hamilton, REELise

Q – Do you think there is a need for much wider reform in Australia at a Federal level eg. reforms in the legal system.

- There are different laws across States and Territories relating to consent and sex in Australia.
- We need to adopt a 'whole of community approach' to discussions around Consent – to include schools, families and broader community education.
- The consent conversation needs to continue across all areas of our lives.

Rachel Bangoura, Woollahra Council

Q – what is your opinion on single sex schools and sex education?

- It is helpful to involve girls and boys together when educating about respectful relationships and consent.

“Love Bites”

- A train the trainer program
- Available to high schools and primary school age children.
- program has been implemented in single sex schools in the area.
- Currently run by Jewish Care in some Jewish schools
- Waverley College is interested to run the program.
- helps young people find the right language to use around sex and healthy relationships
- uses case studies that students can relate to in discussing healthy relationships.

Karen Hamilton, REELise

- it is very important for young people to have a direct voice in this conversation
- REELise is speaking with Ascham to support a forum to bring the voices of young people into the conversation.

James Bowles, The Scotts College

- This is a complex problem involving difficult conversations.
- The PDHP program at Scotts College takes a 6yr approach to this as kids mature at different stages.
- PDHP topics are taught by particular teachers who feel more comfortable or equipped to deal with the more sensitive topics.
- Boys thrive in the company of other boys.
- Boys are acutely aware of community expectations and conversations about boys at the moment,
- Locker room conversations are changing for the better.
- Pornography is included in the PDHP conversations in the older years.

Melinda Levies, Randwick Council

- Pornography is extremely accessible to kids. It's prolific
- Defining kids ideas of sex and relationships that are not real
- PDHP curriculum should start earlier in school but teachers need to have the skills to be able to talk about these issues including consent and respectful relationships.

Councillor Maxwell, Woollahra Council

- Pornography is becoming more relatable as now anyone can apply for a job to be included in a pornographic film.
 - Not confined to actors anymore with stereotypically good looks and bodies which is concerning.
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Item No: 7.3
Subject: **INFORMATION SHARE AND SERVICES UPDATES**
Author: Rachel Bangoura, Community Development Officer

The following be noted as the information share and services updates:

Karen Hamilton, REELise

- REELise film festival, theme is “your story”
- Encouraging a diverse range of young people to share their stories.

Michelle Plant, Woollahra Libraries

- HSC ‘Ride the Wave’ program starting soon. Please share amongst your networks.

Scarlett Harrod, Centre 360

- Centre 360 now open for consults and referrals
- Open to young people aged 12 – 25yrs living in the Eastern Suburbs

Nicole Fairley, Waverley Council

- Bondi Wave Music Program now taking applications (tutoring young people and bands in music)
- Waverley Youth Consultation Survey now open.

Kids Giving Back

- Offers volunteering opportunities for young people

Kira Brandt, Jewish Care

- Love Bites program currently running at Reddam and Moriah College
- Trying to get some new trainers to train in the program so they can expand the reach into local schools
- The program is now available to year 9 students.

Rachel Bangoura, Woollahra Council

- Consent Talk with Dr Melissa Kang and Wendy Pettifer on this Wednesday 12 May at Double Bay Library. Still a few places left so please share with networks.

8. General Business

Nil

9. Advisings

Nil

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 10 August 2021.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 11.30am.