



## **MINUTES**

### **YARRA DRUG AND HEALTH FORUM MEETING**

**MONDAY Feb 4th 2019**

**Meeting at 12.30pm-2pm**

**Richmond Town Hall**

#### **1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of COUNTRY APOLOGIES:**

**Present: Peter Wearne (Chair)** Greg Denham (EO YDHF), Doug McLaughlin (ECCV), Hieng Lim (NJC), Nick Wallis (HRV), Judith Peppard (3CR), Craig Fsher (ReGen), Elissa Buggy (ACSO), Paul Hamilton (cohealth), Sally Mitchell (Resident), Jenny Vran (TOE), Anne Barton (CoY0, Jane Davison (CoY), Cristina DelFrate (CoY), Julia Bennett-Mitrovski (CoY), Michael Van Vliet (CoY0, Colin Hunter (CoY), Melissa van Setten (Nexus)

**Apologies:)** Christa Grapentin (YSAS), Sandra Fox (NRCH), Arry Valstro (YSAS), Sarah Jaggard (CoY), Lisa Kneif (DHHS), Paloma Mochales (DHHS), Kevan Myers (Nexus), Sandra Fox (NRCH),

#### **2. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** minutes of the December meeting were accepted

#### **3. PRESENTATION:**

### **GUEST SPEAKER:**

#### **MAYOR OF CITY OF YARRA - Ms DANA E BOSLER**

The Lord Mayor spoke of her support for the YDHF and that she was committed to drug law reform. She reiterated her council's support for the MSIR and that she believed that the centre had improved the lives of those using the centre and the local neighbourhood. The mayor is committed to a harm minimisation approach and that despite obvious issues in Victoria Street related to the drug market she had spoken with local police who were supportive of the MSIR.

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*A community based response to alcohol and other drug issues*

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#### 4. BUSINESS ARISING:

- **YDHF Strategic Plan** – update/progress report – EO reported that he had met with Ms Paloma Mochales from DHHS who now holds the YDHF portfolio. Ms Mochales was new to the AOD sector and was not across the YDHF issues however approved of the Strategic Plan and that YDHF took the lead on several drug policy issues and was supportive of YDHF pursuing heroin prescribing as a core issue.
- **Correspondence sent to key stakeholders** – update/progress report – Mr Richard Wynne (8/3 4.30pm) and Martin Foley (28/2 11.30am) – EO reported that he had been contacted by the offices of both Mr Wynne and Mr Foley and that arrangements will be made for a EC representative to attend. An issue to be raised with Mr Foley is the ongoing funding of YDHF.
- **Pill Testing** – Update and RSF Report – Nick reported on his experiences at Rainbow Serpent Festival, overall the audience was very well behaved despite heavy police presence and a number of arrests. The Pill Testing campaign had gathered momentum with significant support from medical and health authorities yet despite this governments are still deferring to police for decision making on the issue.
- **Development of new YDHF website** – update/progress report – this matter has not progressed since Nick, Greg and Danny Jeffcote met at the end of 2018.

#### 5. COMMUNITY FORUMS

- **Proposal to conduct ‘Drug Summit’ – high-level event in March-April**
- **Proposal for forum on feasibility of Heroin/Hydromorphone prescribing**
- **Victorian Parliamentary Report – how does it relate to Yarra?**

Membership discussed possible forums in 2019 however agreed that the forum should revert back to its basic function and that is to respond to the issues of the City of Yarra. Therefore a workshop involving key stakeholders facilitated to draw out the key issues for Yarra should be conducted before the end of June. Rather than focus on specific issues the forum should consider the major issues impacting on the lives of people that live, work and are connected to Yarra.

#### 6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

- **EC Positions for 2019-2020** – EO reported that the only new nomination for an EC role was resident (and former cohealth and YDHF EO) Sally Mitchel had been appointed. The next EC Meeting is scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS:**

- **Seeking input for speakers for Monthly Meetings** – Membership was reminded that if they have any suggestions for Monthly Meeting speakers to notify EO
  - **EO Presentation at Griffith University Symposium** – EO gave a summary of his attendance at the Australia-China Symposium on the Gold Coast where he spoke about the MSIR and Harm Minimisation
  - **MSIR Evaluation** – EO informed EC that in December he had met with Prof Margaret Hamilton from the MSIR Evaluation Team and discussed options for the evaluation of the centre including how law enforcement activities might be measured. An evaluation report will be tabled mid-2019.
- 8. CORRESPONDENCE** – EO had mailed to 17 Key Stakeholders a copy of the Annual Report and Strategic Plan. – see meetings with Foley and Wynne

## **9. CURRENT NEWS, UPDATES AND DRUG USE PATTERNS:**

- Hieng reported that there had been a new Director appointed to the NJC: Rachael Downing
- Nick reported that he attended the SSDP Launch he heard not harmed
- Peter reported that he had met with Eastern Health Family Violence AOD workers
- Membership heard that heroin use was increasing amongst people that are homeless in the city and that vulnerable people were being driven into squats and other poor living conditions
- The PHN was holding a forum into homelessness and dual diagnosis in March

## **10. MEDIA**

- EO spoke on 3CR and was interviewed on SKY News about Pill Testing
- QANDA – February 18<sup>th</sup> –several speakers calling for drug law reform appearing

## **11. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:**

- Circulated

## **12. YDHF Meeting: March 4<sup>th</sup> 2019 – 2019 dates to appear on YDHF Website**