

Local Government Mayoral Taskforce supporting People Seeking Asylum

Minutes – Executive Meeting No. 4 Wednesday 31 October 2018

Brimbank City Council, 301 Hampshire Rd, Sunshine

Chairperson: Mayor, Cr Youhorn Chea (CGD)

Attendees: Cr Roz Blades (CGD), Cr Matthew Kirwan (CGD), Peter Johnstone (CGD), Fran McKechnie (CGD)-Minute Taker, Mandy Bathgate (Darebin Council), Mayor, Cr Margaret Giudice (Brimbank City Council), Terri Soumilas (Brimbank City Council), Mayor Natalie Abboud (Moreland City Council), Nelum Buddhadasa (Moreland City Council), Laura Cattapan (City of Port Phillip).

Guests: Connor Parker (The Agenda Group-TAG), Seamus Bradley (The Agenda Group-TAG)

Apologies: Mayor, Cr Kim Le Cerf (Darebin City Council), Cristina Del Frate (Yarra City Council), Cr Misha Coleman (Yarra City Council).

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/Comments	Follow up Actions / Who
Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgement of traditional owners • Apologies noted 	
Endorsement of Minutes of Previous Meeting	Moved: Cr Roz Blades Seconded: Peter Johnstone	
Review of Outstanding Action Items	Actions carried forward to next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Johnstone • Cr Matthew Kirwan
Back Your Neighbour (BYN) Update on Media and Public Advocacy campaign for the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons for delaying the launch 	<p>The launch was delayed due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair Mayor, Cr Youhorn Chea not being available ○ To allow more time to prepare campaign collateral ○ Not wishing to clash with the Victorian State Election campaign. Pre poll campaigning attracting additional media interest. <p>Cr Natalie Abboud expressed concerns around Back Your Neighbour name and clashing with Amnesty International's 'My New Neighbour' campaign for community sponsorship for refugees. A suggestion was if the campaign name could be changed.</p> <p>Connor Parker and Seamus Bradley (TAG) responded that they had done a review to ascertain if a name change would still achieve the Taskforce's objectives. They explained that 'neighbour' was one of a limited number of tag-lines available that could resonate with the general public audience and give sufficient impact for the campaign. Taskforce Exec agreed to continue with the name.</p>	

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<p>Back Your Neighbour (BYN) Update on Media and Public Advocacy campaign for the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons for delaying the launch • New date and venue • Progress with videos, social media and other collateral • Media approach • Campaign roadmap for the next month including launch program • What we need from Taskforce members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New date and venue: Monday 3 December, 8am-12pm. 60 Leicester Street, Carlton. • Campaign videos are under production. One completed video showcases Ramzi, a lifesaver who sought asylum in 2012. • Media Approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 27.11.18 - Fairfax media will be contacted. ○ 28.11.18 - The selected launch spokesperson will be coached by The Agenda Group. ○ 30.11.18 – Finalise digital media packs for distribution including media release fact sheet, key messages and raw video footage. ○ 1&2.12.18 – Distribute media call via Media Net. ○ 3.12.18 – Launch date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 6am Early morning talkback radio ➢ 8am Room Set Up ➢ 8.30am Guests arrive. SBS, The Guardian and The Age will tentatively be present on the day ➢ Launch commences • Local media embargoed until launch. • The Agenda Group will send link to resources for Council to see all updates including campaign materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send link to resources- The Agenda Group

MAV Motion for the October State Council – Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion for the October State Council was passed WITH 94% in favour. There was no debate. 	
VLGA Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VLGA has offered their facilities 60 Leicester St, Carlton for the Campaign launch. • VLGA will also post a short message on their website with a website link to the Taskforce itself and promote the launch. • VLGA will manage the launch bookings through Eventbrite. 	
NSW Council Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 21 October Cr Blades, Cr Kirwan and Peter Johnstone met with councillors from eight councils at the LGNSW Conference in Albury. • Cr Blades addressed the Australian Labor Party Caucus councillors. • Cr Kirwan met with 20 Greens councillors in an attempt to move the SRSS advocacy campaign nationally. • Strong support for the campaign was received. • Outcomes included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sydney Council passed a motion against SRSS cuts. A copy of the resolution has been requested ○ Labor Party Caucus was supportive ○ Greens Councillors were supportive ○ Cr Kirwan floated different models of partaking in the Taskforce <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mayoral Taskforce to decide on acceptance 2. Organise themselves with access to Taskforce collateral resources 3. Councils to participate individually ○ Five councils wish to join the Taskforce as quickly as possible. Randwick City Council and Inner West Council wish to progress immediately. ○ Four councils want to organise themselves with access to the Taskforce's collateral and resources. ○ Two councils wish to be distinct in NSW. • Attending Taskforce members agreed to the first model and national consistent messaging is needed. • Refugee Council of Australia has previously noted that NSW has the most marginal seats leading to the Federal election. Hence support for reversal of SRSS cuts in NSW would be powerful. <p>It was noted the journey to Albury was worthwhile and successful.</p>	

Member Council Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Hobsons Bay wish to join the Taskforce Executive. Cr Johnathon Marsden had advised they are prepared to pay \$5000. • Acceptance of City of Hobsons Bay to the Taskforce Executive was passed by attending meeting members. 	
SRSS Situation & Sector Advocacy	Forward to next meeting.	
Regional/Local Updates a) Northern Alliance b) PSAAR Taskforce (South-East) Regional Material Aid/Humanitarian Response Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Alliance was forward to next meeting. • PSAAR Taskforce had discussions with South East Water representatives who informed them of the assistance offered to people experiencing financial difficulty with their water bills. General financial counselling is also offered to people seeking asylum. • In conjunction with ASRC – Home Share Melbourne. Pilot project to offer a room for three months with a possibility of a six month arrangement. The roll out of this housing to South East suburbs could occur early 2019. • Monash Health undertakes a unique fundraising to keep people in their housing. 	
Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor, Cr Youhorn Chea thanked the Taskforce for the work undertaken and accomplished to date. 	

**Next Meeting: Wednesday 5 December, 1:00pm-4.00pm,
Moreland City Council,
90 Bell Street Coburg**