Wattle Range Council Social Issues Planning Committee

Minutes of the Social Issues Planning Committee meeting held at the Millicent Council Chambers, George Street, Millicent on Tuesday 10 May at 1 pm.

1. **PRESENT:**

   Evonne Lambert (AC Care), Melissa Snook (AC Care), Dennis Clifford (St Vincent de Paul), Peter Zeitz (Housing SA), Romlea Smith (Centre Care) Cr John Drew (WRC), Karen Lock (Community Health), Cr Glenn Brown (WRC), Ben Gower (WRC), Steve Chapple (WRC), Paula Bennet (WRC), David Hill (Department of State Development)

2. **APOLOGIES:**

   Moira Neagle (Community), Sarah Marzec (WRC), Cheryl Brennan (AC Care), Major Kevin Grant (Salvation Army), John Shelton (MHS)

3. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES:**

   3.1 Wattle Range Social Issues and Planning Committee Meeting

   That the minutes be presented and confirmed.

   Moved: Cr John Drew
   Seconded: Melissa Snook

   CARRIED

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

   4.1 Red Cross transport service

   - Volunteers SA training is only available for secondary services. Greg Baxendale, Regional Coordinator South East Region is newly appointed.
   - Other ideas to progress this clarification around the training with Greg needs to be discussed first.

   4.2 Volunteer Matching Initiative

   Posters and launch has been actioned and is currently being put together for Millicent and Surrounds and this program will be rolled out for other communities as the year progresses. There are over 100 positions across the communities. WRC will look at how this is made into a sustainable program and how the program can advance with technology etc.

   4.3 Public Health Forum

   A new committee has been formed “Millicent and Surrounds Health Support Group” its constitution has been formed and has been submitted to the Office of Business and Consumer Affairs.

   4.4 Youth Week

   Report to Council shortly.
5. **REPORTS**

5.1 **Youth**  
5.1.1 **Youth Week update**  
Council Report will be made available soon. Circus Elements came down to the council area and performed workshops at Penola High School, Kangaroo Inn Area School and two workshops at Millicent High School, these were well received. WRC also held the first Youth Recognition Awards, this was well received across the schools and young people and WRC will look at this for the next financial year. The final program was a Family Fun Day organised by the combined Scouts and Guides, which included archery tag, sumo wrestling, climbing wall and it is estimated that there was over 1000 people attend. WRC will consider how this is rolled out in 16/17.

5.2 **Support for Families**  
5.2.1 **Food Parcels**  
Denis Clifford reported that AC Care had 35 for March and April. St Vincent de Paul had 31 families assisted. ADRACARE assisted 17 families. Salvation Army assisted 34 families. A total of 117 families assisted for March and April. The general public are not aware of this level of assistance, this is relatively stable for this time of year across food/gas etc. We look to do a hand up, not a hand out and assist 3 times, before we look at different ways to assist.

The underlying cause to these issues is unemployment, along with that some of these people would find it hard to find employment in a long term arrangement.

Vinnies looking to get some programming around assistance with power bills, especially as we move into winter.

Daily living skills programs as such are not funded within the community at the moment.

Heating systems in Housing Trust Homes are not being used in an effective manner, nor do they heat more than one room, thus costing the tenant a lot of money. Some education around heating may need to be looked at.

**ACTION**  
Ben Gower to look at the State Government fund that assisted with the swap out of regular light globes to LED’s.

David Hill reported that Department of State Development (DSD) fund training through a new initiative WorkReady.

TAFE courses are offered with an upfront assessment of need as a pre-requisite. TAFE as fee-free Language Literacy and Numeracy courses with potential Learner Support Services may be available.

Tanya Plunkett from TAFE can further talk about this.

WorkReady is the new funding initiative of the State Government. It has four elements;  
1 – Subsidised training list with funding mostly through TAFE
2 – Job First subsidised training list with funding mostly through private training providers
3 – Jobs First Employment Projects to fund activities such as soft skills that lead disadvantaged groups into employment
4 – Skilling for the future (yet to be released)

Local WorkReady providers include:
ACE – ac.care, Naracoorte Lucindale Council, Mount Gambier Men’s Shed
Wattle Range Council could become a provider and be funded to deliver certain programs through infrastructure such as the library.

Funded activities in the region include:
Career Development Centre in Mount Gambier (also provides phone outreach services)
Work Preparation through Gramac Solutions and Di-Monty. Delivers a 5-day intensive to assist disconnected people with job searching skills. Has been run in WR before and could be considered again. Attendance/commitment would need to be improved.

“Hidden Job Market” approx. only 20% of all jobs are advertised and most are found via word of mouth and networking.
- “Licence Ticketing Program” - the smaller licence activities, such as St Johns etc. that will look at co-funding this. Available through Gramac Solutions in Mount Gambier. Maximum 50% co-contribution, maximum $500, not for the actual licence. Must be connected to a job opportunity.
- Unemployment rate for the small area market WR is sitting at Dec 2015 6.7%, Dec 14 was 5.5% (which is consistent with the region). Comparing against Mount Gambier with 8.3%. website: [https://www.employment.gov.au/small-area-labour-markets-publication](https://www.employment.gov.au/small-area-labour-markets-publication)
- DSD has established industry leaders groups across the state who provide advice on direction. Transport inequity has been highlighted as the biggest issue raised for the LC region and is now what DSD regionally will be focussed on, where are the gaps, where can holes be plugged on passenger transport inequity. i.e. lifting those people who can get around to contribute to the community. A discussion paper will be put back to the Industry leaders group, with a range of actions for the Government to consider and this may be raised with the Minister.

**ACTION:**
David Hill to send Steve Chapple links to unemployment data for the WRC area

6. **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

6.1 Guest Speakers:

Centacare Family Connections Program, Melissa Woolford and Romlea Smith

Work with families to provide a mobile parenting program in the WRC area. They work with these families through soft engagement, such as playgroups, social skills groups in schools, personal grooming in schools etc. We work in partnership with Millicent
North and are looking for Penola connections. Work collaboratively with events with other groups. We partner with Migrant Resources as well.

Programs
The aim of the program is to build families own capacity, so they build their own support networks, so they know where to go when issues do arise. We want to build relationships with the families that currently attend our groups and can find the support they are looking for. We do house visits, though this can be a bit limited. We run an open play group at McCarthur Park. There is a strong focus on healthy childhood development and encouraging child/parent relationship development, learning through play and encouraging that literacy aspect, due to the arising issue of this development. This also helps new families meet locals with children of a similar age, as well as Kindergarten Staff etc. This also helps children to prepare for Kindergarten, and work on social skills etc., especially if the children haven’t been to Child Care. Children 0-5yo, 10am-11:30am on a Friday morning, completely free, we provide fruit and all the activities.

Penola
Penola are trying to establish a playgroup there, but don’t want to duplicate what is already there, so we are looking at programs that don’t cross over with what is already on offer. So if you have any advice, please send through.

How do people establish the link with you?
- Look at social media, especially through Facebook, which gives us a visual media.
- Advertise in various ways.
- Look to have good connections with other services to connect families with our services.
- We help out at community events to support these.
- We are taking the AEDC Trailer to the Coonawarra Arts Festival to raise our profile in this community (21 May, 10-1pm, Penola Memorial Park)

ACTION
WRC will send the contact details of the Kangaroo Inn Area School Principle.

ACTION
Centacare Family Connections email the poster to Sarah Marzec and she can circulate and distribute the poster to the Social Inclusion Committee.

Foot paths
Are they going to be sealed or are they going to be left as they are? Vinnies have had an issue with clients hurting themselves.

ACTION
Steve Chapple to check with Engineering.

Along Williams Road and Short Street, where the Telecom boxes are, a lot of those boxes have cracked and are trip hazards.

ACTION
Steve Chapple to raise this with Engineering.
6.2 Liquor Licencing Accord

Steve Chapple discussed the Liquor Licencing Accord, where they bring together all Liquor Licences, we have 74 holders within the WRC and we will meet with them every 2 months. Tomorrow there is a meeting at 10am in Penola, with the likes of the Gaming Commission etc. If you have an interest in attending these meetings, let us know.

6.3 Seniors Week October 2016

Steve Chapple discussed, if you would to be involved, let us know, we are looking to roll this out further than Millicent. We can put you out on the calendar of events.

6.4 Role of the Committee

Cr. Glenn Brown, we have been meeting regularly, and we definitely have great transmission of communication, but we are looking for actions out of the committee. There is room within our charter to resolve greater issues and action further things.

Want to make the meeting worthwhile for the meeting to attend, but we would also like to see us working together to bring resolution to issues as a team, i.e. the discussion around the poverty within the WRC to do something about this issue? How do we do something about it, to improve the figures? Do we need a local food bank? Otherwise we aren't improving the situation. We could plan a program and then seek funding? We could look at what employment is in the district and how we can get our most disadvantaged workers into these roles and then once they get there how to keep them there? Could “job ready” program then link them to the “hidden job market”?

If you have a project idea David’s team has some options within DSD

WRC would like this committee to be a little more proactive to find solutions to the issues, rather than just reporting the issues. Perhaps this is something we can think about and look at the benefits we can bring to the community and then we can discuss this at the next meeting?

**ACTION**
The agenda to have a “project for the community” to be discussed at the next meeting.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Circular 1 covers ‘South East Community Legal Education’
Circular 2 covers ‘Reminder: 2016 SA Volunteer Awards’
Circular 3 covers ‘Sports Community Newsletter’
Circular 4 covers ‘Rosie Batty Presentation live streaming into Millicent’
Circular 5 covers ‘Is your organisation in need of volunteers?’
Circular 6 covers ‘Invitation Youth Recognition Awards presentation night’
Circular 7 covers ‘Family Fun Day’
Circular 8 covers ‘Youth Recognition Awards’
Circular 9 covers ‘Youth Network Grants’
Circular 10 covers ‘Conservation Volunteers Australia’
Circular 11 covers ‘MoneySmart Rookie’
Circular 12 covers Reminder: Youth Survey Closes
Circular 13: covers ‘Youth Recognition Awards’
Circular 14: covers ‘Penola Mental Health and Wellbeing Group’
Circular 15: covers ‘Limestone Coast Service Directory’
8. **NEXT MEETING:**

1pm - 2:30pm on Tuesday 12 July 2016 at the Millicent Council Chambers

**Summary Table of Actions**

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