

2.4 ADVISORY COMMITTEES - APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

(Author: TE)

Responsible Director: Russell Hopkins, Director Community Services

RECOMMENDATION*That Council:*

1. *Endorses the appointment of the following five people to the Disability Advisory Committee for a two-year term:*
 - Revathy Sembuganathan*
 - Christine Wilson*
 - Catherine Maguire*
 - Wanda Egerton (previous member reapplying)*
 - Iain Cunningham (previous member reapplying)*
2. *Endorses a two-year extension for the following seven existing Disability Advisory Committee members:*
 - Zoe Broomhead*
 - Helen Haughton*
 - Heather Miller*
 - Peter Hocking*
 - Linda Teng*
 - Tess Marotta*
 - Sharon Roxby (representing OC Connections)*
3. *Endorses the appointment of the following seven people to the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee for a two-year term:*
 - Chloe Codling*
 - Jesse Laughlin Jones*
 - Christina Dilipkumar*
 - Naiwen (Nevin) Xu*
 - Yoshi Nakajima*
 - Al Eli Baxter*
 - Jenni Wentworth*
4. *Endorses a two-year extension for the following seven existing LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee members:*
 - Asher Cameron*
 - Brett Hayhoe*
 - Christine Minto*
 - Emily Griffith*
 - Gregory Storer*
 - John Tzimas*
 - Tess Marotta*

5. *Endorses the appointment of the following nine people to the Gender Equity Advisory Committee for a two-year term:*
 - Poornima Balasubramanian*
 - Sabah Saab*
 - Revathy Sembuganathan*
 - Sarah Chong (representing MicCare)*
 - Hui Jun Heng*
 - Erica Zhou*
 - Rebecca Hateley*
 - Florine Baerlocher*
 - Louise Gracey*

6. *Endorses a two-year extension for the following four existing Gender Equity Advisory Committee members:*
 - Natalie Czerniawski (representing Monash University)*
 - Nandini Sengupta*
 - Christopher Unwin*
 - Emily Pham*

7. *Thanks to the following outgoing members for their time and valuable contributions:*
 - Michael Embury, Caterina Kasiaras and Mona Singh from the Disability Advisory Committee;*

 - Mark Hao, Nicole Flynn, Pierce Soulsby, Andrew Paolucci, Thanura Tyler Ediri and Yohana Jury from the LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee; and*

 - Tania Rose, Shamiso Murambi, Alex Mills, Prabha Arachchige, Jade McNamara, Jasmine Howlett from the Gender Equity Advisory Committee.*

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to recommend the appointment of new members to the Disability Advisory Committee, Gender Equity Advisory Committee and the LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee; as well as to thank outgoing members for their contributions.

BACKGROUND

Council convenes and supports a range of Advisory Committees which provide expertise and advice; and share information on issues related to their particular areas of interest as required by their Terms of Reference.

This report relates to membership of three of Council's Advisory Committees:

- The Disability Advisory Committee, which aims to provide Council with advice on issues relating to the needs of people with a disability, carers and their families.
- The Gender Equity Advisory Committee, which aims to provide Council with advice on improving gender equity within the Monash community, to actively encourage women's full and equal participation in community life; and assists with the implementation of Council's Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan and Gender Equity Framework.
- The LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee, which aims to provide Council with advice on strengthening the representation and inclusion of people who identify as LGBTIQ+ within the Monash community and to contribute to the implementation of Council's LGBTIQ+ Action Plan.

The contribution of time, experience and expertise by many community members through their membership of these Committees and forums is valuable in ensuring that Council hears directly from representative stakeholders in relation to a range of issues.

DISCUSSION

Representatives on the Advisory Committees serve a term of two years, with an additional two-year period of possible extension. Given that a number of current members are due to finish their terms across the three committees, there are currently vacancies for new members.

In order to recruit for these positions, community members were invited to express their interest in joining each of the committees and then group interviews were held with Councillors as panel members, to select new members when considered against the criteria for the relevant advisory committees. Many applications were received for all three of the advisory committees.

All recommended members meet the criteria of the respective terms of reference and have been appointed from a broad and talented set of applicants.

All positions on all three of the Advisory Committees are now filled. Council would also like to thank outgoing members for their significant contributions to these three Advisory Committees.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report is in line with Council's Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025, Gender Equity Framework; and LGBTIQ+ Action Plan.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Engagement with the community on matters of importance to them is a key responsibility of Local Government and Advisory Committees are one way of establishing formal mechanisms to share information and seek input and advice from the community.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The operation of Council's Advisory Committees ensures that many community members have the opportunity to engage with Council on matters of importance to them, consistent with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* in relation to the right to take part in public life.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A Gender Impact Assessment has not been undertaken specifically on the selection of new members of the Advisory Committees. However, by their nature the Advisory Committees support Council to apply an intersectional gender lens to its work and ensure that Council can better reflect on the different ways that people access, use and benefit Council's services. By having a diverse range of voices at the table, Council is better able to promote gender equality as required under the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

CONCLUSION

This report recommends the appointment of the following five people to the Disability Advisory Committee:

- Revathy Sembaganathan
- Christine Wilson
- Catherine Maguire
- Wanda Egerton (previous member reapplying)
- Iain Cunningham (previous member reapplying)

It is recommended that Council reappoints the following seven existing members for a two-year extension on the Disability Advisory Committee:

- Zoe Broomhead
- Helen Haughton
- Heather Miller
- Peter Hocking

- Linda Teng
- Tess Marotta
- Sharon Roxby (representing OC Connections)

For the LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee, it is recommended for Council to appoint the following seven new people, each for a two-year term:

- Chloe Codling
- Jesse Laughlin Jones
- Christina Dilipkumar
- Naiwen (Nevin) Xu
- Yoshi Nakajima
- Al Eli Baxter
- Jenni Wentworth

for Council to endorse seven existing LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee members for a two-year extension:

- Asher Cameron
- Brett Hayhoe
- Christine Minto
- Emily Griffith
- Gregory Storer
- John Tzimas
- Tess Marotta

It is recommended that for the Gender Equity Advisory Committee, Council endorses the appointment of the following nine people each for a two-year term:

- Poornima Balasubramanian
- Sabah Saab
- Revathy Sembuganathan
- Sarah Chong (representing MicCare)
- Hui Jun Heng
- Erica Zhou
- Rebecca Hateley
- Florine Baerlocher
- Louise Gracey; and

also endorses two-year extensions to four of the existing members of the Gender Equity Advisory Committee:

- Natalie Czerniawski (representing Monash University)
- Nandini Sengupta
- Christopher Unwin
- Emily Pham

The following outgoing members have provided a valuable contribution during their time on their respective Committees and should be thanked for their time and input:

- Michael Embury, Caterina Kasiaras and Mona Singh from the Disability Advisory Committee;
- Mark Hao, Nicole Flynn, Pierce Soulsby, Andrew Paolucci, Thanura Tyler Ediri and Yohana Jury from the LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee; and
- Tania Rose, Shamiso Murambi, Alex Mills, Prabha Arachchige, Jade McNamara, Jasmine Howlett from the Gender Equity Advisory Committee.