

7.2.1 COMBINED ADVISORY COMMITTEES ANNUAL REPORT - 2025

Responsible Director:	Tanya Scicluna, Director Community Services
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RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Notes the activities of the City of Monash Advisory Committees identified in this report, during 2025, and thanks all members for their time and contributions.
2. Notes the resignation or completion of term of the following representatives and thanks them for their valuable contribution:
 - a) Peter Hocking, Tess Marotta, Heather Miller, Sharon Roxby and Linda Teng from the Disability Advisory Committee.
 - b) Pornima Balasubramanian, Rebecca Hateley, Emily Pham and Erica Zhou from the Gender Equity Advisory Committee.
 - c) Brett Hayhoe, Tess Marotta, Christine Minto, Gregory Storer and John Tzimas from the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee.
 - d) Oksana King, Mohamed Mohideen and Rajmohan Ramanathapillai from the Multicultural Advisory Committee.
 - e) Eddie Hu, Caroline Perry, Pari Balsara-Minstry and Eva Kladou from the Positive Ageing Reference Group.
 - f) Aditi Sanghi, Osandi Liyanage, Sanjoli Patra, Yixi Qin, Lavanya Sharma, Saathvika Arun, Tyson Husson, Jill Xu, Heerag Khan and Arjun Kapoor from the Monash Youth Committee.
3. Notes the successful appointment of Loo, Bree Wang, Chloe Boucherat, Raghad Yousif, Gaji Rajapaksh, Nika Sahebi, Kety Li, Chloe Jolme, Neerav Jain, Able Joseph, Ana Donnellon, Angela Huang and Shivika Verma to the Monash Youth Committee in 2025.
4. Endorses the appointment of Charlie Paterson, Shreya Kalani, Celeste Sharma, Adhyen Kathpal and Kyley Chen to the 2026 Monash Youth Committee.

INTRODUCTION

At its Meeting on 24 September 2019, Council resolved that its Advisory Committees provide annual updates. This report provides an update of the activities associated with a number of Council's Advisory Committees during 2025, noting that a dedicated detailed report on the Environmental Advisory Committee will be reported separately on the achievements and outcomes of that committee.

COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

A healthy, safe and connected community

A community where all people have the opportunity to experience enhanced levels of social, emotional, and physical wellbeing.

A council with good governance, strong leadership and community involvement in decision making

A Council that provides governance and leadership for the benefit of our community through community engagement, advocacy, decision making and action.

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. Council representatives to each Committee are nominated on an annual basis.

This report provides an update on the activities of a number of these Advisory Committees during 2025, including the:

- Disability Advisory Committee
- Gender Equity Advisory Committee
- LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee
- Junior Advisory Group
- Multicultural Advisory Committee
- Positive Ageing Reference Group
- Positive Ageing Network Forum
- Monash Youth Committee
- Clayton Activity Centre Committee
- Glen Waverley Activity Centre Committee
- Oakleigh Activity Centre Steering Committee

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 community representatives in relation to a range of social and community issues.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications to this report.

CONSULTATION

Community consultation was not required.

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 GIA was not completed because this agenda item is not a 'policy', 'program' or 'service'.

CONCLUSION

An outline of the activities and achievements of many of Council's Advisory Committees is included in this report for Council's information.

Disability Advisory Committee

Purpose

The aim of the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) is to provide Council with advice on issues relating to the needs of people with a disability, their carers and families.

Committee Responsibilities

- Provide advice to Council on issues and barriers that affect people with disabilities and their carers.
- Advocate on behalf of people with a disability.
- Consider and provide advice to Council on key Government initiatives, programs and reviews.
- Contribute to the promotion of Council and community collaborations that support and promote the inclusion of people with disabilities.
- Provide advice to Council with its communication, engagement and consultation with people with disabilities.

Committee Composition

The DAC membership will consist of:

- Up to three (3) Councillors.
- Fourteen (14) community representatives including:
 - Up to twelve (12) community members living or working in Monash.
 - Up to four (4) community organisations, agencies and service providers that have a focus on provision of services to people with a disability in Monash.

All DAC positions are voluntary positions.

The 2025 membership of the DAC included:

- Cr Shane McCluskey
- Cr Cameron Little
- Iain Cunningham
- Wanda Egerton
- Peter Hocking*
- Catherine Maguire
- Tess Marotta*
- Heather Miller*
- Sharon Roxby (representing OC Connections)*
- Miriana Gazivoda (representing OC Connections)
- Revathy Sembuganathan
- Linda Teng *
- Christine Wilson.
- Rebecca Farrell
- Fairley Wijesinghe
- Malcolm Ian Fraser
- Philip Ryan
- Samantha Snowden-Finch
- Carly Grace
- Emily Raymond

*These members resigned from DAC during 2025 and Council thanks them for their valuable contributions. April's meeting was an opportunity for incoming members to meet outgoing members and recognize their contributions.

Frequency of Meeting

The committee meets bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month for a duration of two hours. The expectation is that each member attends a minimum of 60% of all meetings, exceptions are made when needed.

Additional meetings can be called as required, and the DAC may establish Working Groups/Parties to address specific issues as they arise.

Key matters discussed over the past 12 months

Meeting Date	Attendees	Topics discussed
15 Feb 2025 Informal meeting (no Cr available)	<p>Councillors: none available</p> <p>Officers: Barb Wallace, Tracey Egan, Jacqui Dynan, Penny Miles (Consultant)</p> <p>Community Members: Christine Wilson, Peter Hocking, Wanda Egerton, Iain Cunningham.</p> <p>Apologies: Cr Cameron Little, Cr Shane McCluskey, Fee Harrison, Miriana Gazivoda, Linda Teng, Tess Marotta, Revathy Sembuganathan, Catherine Maguire.</p>	<p>Consultation: Monash Events</p> <p>Updated Terms of Reference</p> <p>Monash Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disability Advisory Committee recruitment update - Communication Boards - Council and Health Plan Consultation - Bin Lid Shapes <p>Have your say consultations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Active Reserves Signage and Sponsorship Policy - Brandon Park Reserve Pavilion <p>Advocacy & Information Sharing</p>
17 April 2025 Online via Zoom	<p>Councillors: Cr Cameron Little</p> <p>Officers: Barb Wallace, Renee Heckman, Sally Whelan, Fiona Fernandes, Alyssa Huxtable</p> <p>Community Members: Christine Wilson, Wanda Egerton, Iain Cunningham, Miriana Gazivoda, Revathy Sembuganathan, Linda Teng, Rebecca Farrell, Fairley Wijesinghe, Malcolm Ian Fraser, Philip Ryan, Samantha Snowden-Finch, Carly Grace, Emily Raymond</p> <p>Apologies: Cr Shane McCluskey, Fee Harrison, Tess Marotta, Catherine Maguire, Peter Hocking</p>	<p>Matters Discussed</p> <p>Welcomed new members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rebecca Farrell - Fairley Wijesinghe - Malcolm Ian Fraser - Philip Ryan - Samantha Snowden-Finch - Carly Grace - Emily Raymond <p>Thanked and acknowledged outgoing members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linda Teng - Heather Miller - Peter Hocking <p>“Close the loop” presentation by Community Strengthening and Corporate Performance Team with an update on the development of the Community Vision, Council Plan and Health Plan and how their feedback has been incorporated.</p> <p>Updated Terms of Reference and conflict of interest discussion.</p> <p>Monash Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access Keys - Pathways for Carers - Communication boards - Disability Awareness Training - First Nations Training

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergency Preparedness <p>Have your say consultations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shape your Monash for four years and beyond - Improving flood planning <p>Advocacy & Information Sharing</p>
20 June 2025 Online via Zoom	<p>Councillor: Cr Cameron Little</p> <p>Officers: Barb Wallace, Renee Heckman, Andrew Shaw, Chris Van Der Ark, Margherita Barbante</p> <p>Community Members: Christine Wilson, Wanda Egerton, Iain Cunningham, Revathy Sembaganathan, Malcolm Frazer, Catherine Maguire</p> <p>Apologies: Cr Shane McCluskey, Fee Harrison, Miriana Gazivoda, Revathy Sembaganathan, Fairley Wijesinghe, Phil Ryan, Rebecca Farrell, Emily Raymond, Christine Wilson.</p>	<p>Matters Discussed</p> <p>Presentation: Glen Waverley Civic Precinct Project (GWCP) Update</p> <p>Monash Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carers Sound Meditation Sessions - Disability Awareness Presentation to Department of Health – Storms February 2024 - Emergency Preparedness - Communication boards and Access Keys <p>Have your say consultations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Creative Arts Program for Monash - Economic Development Strategy 2025-2030 <p>Advocacy & Information Sharing</p>
21 August 2025 Online via Zoom	<p>Councillor: Cr Shane McCluskey,</p> <p>Officers: Barb Wallace, Janae Scott, Kristy Green, Yanthi Nilam</p> <p>Community Members: Wanda Egerton, Malcolm Fraser, Christine Wilson, Fairley Wijesinghe, Emily Raymond, Carly Grace</p> <p>Apologies: Cr Cameron Little, Fee Harrison, Iain Cunningham, Catherine Maguire, Samantha Snowden-Finch, Revathy Sembaganathan, Rebecca Farrell, Philip Ryan</p>	<p>Matters Discussed</p> <p>Consultation: Propose waste charges.</p> <p>Update on Proposed Dog Enrichment Features Jack Edwards Reserve dog off-leash area, Oakleigh</p> <p>Monash Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Advisory Group MAPh 6pm Night 27 August 2025 • Student on Placement – Respectful Relationships Mapping Project. • Communication boards and Access Keys – reviewing the final documents. • Carers Sound Meditation Sessions 19 September 2025 in partnership with Age well team and the Region Dementia Awareness Month Calendar. • Disability Awareness Presentation to Statewide Municipal Emergency Management Group – Storms February 2024 • Emergency Preparedness session will take place in October, the DAC will be invited to attend. <p>Have your say consultations:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancements to the dog off-leash area at Whitehaven Crescent Reserve, Mulgrave <p>Advocacy & Information Sharing</p>
16 October 2025	<p>Councillor: Cr Cameron Little</p> <p>Officers: Barb Wallace, Renee Heckman</p> <p>Community Members: Wanda Egerton, Fairley Wijesinghe, Emily Raymond, Catherine Maguire (online), Phil Ryan (online), Kirsty(Carer), Samantha Snowden - Finch, Rebecca Farrell, Carly Grace (online)</p> <p>Apologies: Cr Shane McCluskey, Fee Harrison, Iain Cunningham, Revathy Sembuganathan, Philip Ryan, Christine Wilson, Malcolm Fraser, Miriana Gazivoda</p>	<p>Presentation: Glen Waverley Civic Precinct Project (GWCP) Update</p> <p>Emergency Preparedness Barb presented on actions undertaken as part of the Council Plan to increase awareness of Emergency Preparedness and Resilience for priority cohorts such as people with disability, their carers and multi-cultural communities.</p> <p>Thriving Children submission to parliament. Renee updated the group on the City of Monash's Submission. The submission highlighted the importance of inclusive, culturally safe, and community-led early childhood services to support children with developmental delays and disabilities.</p> <p>Monash Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint Advisory Group at MAPH, event - Student on Placement – Respectful Relationships Mapping Project - Carers Sound Meditation Sessions with Age well team part of regional Dementia Awareness Month Calendar - Emergency Preparedness session was piloted with Australian Red Cross at Mackie Rd Neighbourhood House - IDPWD <p>Have your say consultations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Road Management Plan 2025 - Leases in 2026/27 <p>Advocacy & Information Sharing</p>
11 Dec 2025 OPTIONAL Informal end of year celebration In Person	<p>Officers: Barb Wallace, Renee Heckman</p> <p>Community Members: Wanda Egerton, Fairley Wijesinghe, Emily Raymond, Phil Ryan (online), Kirsty(Carer)</p> <p>Apologies: no apologies recorded as it was an informal end of year celebration</p>	<p>Consultation: Monash Economic Development Strategy</p> <p>Advisory Committee Survey Results</p> <p>Presentation : A year in review – Barb</p> <p>International Day of People with Disability</p> <p>Monash updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Real life Resilience – Ashwood High School - Access Keys article and socials - Attended a Lunch at Waverley Industries

		<p>- Hidden Disability Sunflower Foundation Training</p> <p>Advocacy & Information Sharing</p>
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Achievements 2025

- Provided a disability, access and inclusion lens and strategic advice to several of Council's Plans and Strategies, including the new Council Plan and Health & Wellbeing Plan.
- Provided advice on Glen Waverley Civic Precinct Project.
- Supported council events, such as Sir John Monash Awards.
- Provided feedback to Library Services on their programming.
- Provided feedback on Monash's Thriving Children submission to parliament.

Proposed Activities for 2026

- Continue to provide advice to Council on Council's plan and programs and developments.
- Support Monash to recognise days of significance.
- Explore opportunities to take part in regional activities with other disability advisory committees.
- Provide support and guidance across Council to improve access and inclusion for people with disabilities and their carers.

Terms of Reference (ToR)

The ToR underwent an annual review in 2025 and was updated to align with the current Advisory Committee Policy, along with some other minor updates, and will be reviewed in the first meeting for 2026.

Gender Equity Advisory Committee

Purpose

The aim of the Gender Equity Advisory Committee is 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 assist with the implementation of Council's Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan and Gender Equity Framework.

Committee Responsibilities

- Advocate for gender equity within the Monash community and beyond.
- Provide feedback and advice to Council on the gender equity implications of its policies, plans and services.
- Consider funding and other opportunities as they may arise.

- Provide advice to Council on gender equity issues.
- Contribute to the promotion of Council and community collaborations that support and promote gender equity and the prevention of violence against women.

Committee Composition

The GEAC membership consists of:

- Up to three (3) Councillors.
- Fourteen (14) community representatives including:
 - Up to twelve (12) community members living or working in Monash.
 - Up to four (4) community organisations, agencies and service providers who have a focus on gender equity and/or women's health and wellbeing.

All GEAC positions are voluntary positions.

From time to time, GEAC may establish working groups, and may co-opt additional members, including Council officers, if it is considered that additional skills and experience would benefit a specific project or add value to the general performance of the Committee.

In 2025 the GEAC membership consisted of:

- Cr Rebecca Paterson (Chair)
- Cr Anjalee de Silva
- Florine Baerlocher
- Poornima Balasubramanian*
- Jayde de Bondt (representing Monash University)
- Naarah Haime
- Rebecca Hateley*
- Hui Jun Heng
- Tamra Keating
- Michelle Lazarus
- Katie McKee (representing Women's Health East)
- Angela Nguyen
- Emily Pham*
- Revathy Sembuganathan
- Avantiika Singh
- Anita Stocky
- Joanne Yu
- Erica Zhou*

*These members had the last GEAC meeting of their terms in February 2025, and Council thanks them for their valuable contributions.

Frequency of Meeting

The GEAC meets every two months for a duration of two hours.

It is expected that each member attends a minimum of 60% of all meetings.

Additional meetings can be called as required, and the GEAC may establish Working Groups/Parties to address specific issues as they arise.

Key matters discussed over the past 12 months:

Meeting Date	Attendees	Topics Discussed
10 February 2025 Hybrid - Monash Civic Centre and Zoom	<p>Attendees: Cr Rebecca Paterson (Chair), Emily Pham, Florine Baerlocher, Hui Jun Heng, Erica Zhou, Katie McKee</p> <p>Council Officers: Tracey Egan, Fee Harrison, Amey Rountree</p> <p>Apologies: Cr Anjalee de Silva, Rebecca Hateley, Revathy Sembuganathan, Poornima Balasubramanian, Jayde de Bondt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monash Community Grants Program • International Women's Day 2025 Update • Thanks to departing members
14 April 2025 Hybrid: Monash Civic Centre and Zoom	<p>Attendees: Cr Rebecca Paterson (Chair), Avantiika Singh, Angela Nguyen, Hui Jun Heng, Joanne Yu, Katie McKee, Michelle Lazarus, Naarah Haime, Revathy Sembuganathan, Tamra Keating</p> <p>Council Officers: Tracey Egan, Liz Fitzgerald, Sally Whelan, Rebecca Walton</p> <p>Apologies: Cr Anjalee de Silva, Florine Baerlocher, Jayde de Bondt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions – new and continuing members • GEAC Terms of Reference • Integrated Planning Project Update
3 June 2025 Hybrid: Monash Civic Centre and Zoom	<p>Attendees: Cr Rebecca Paterson (Chair), Angela Nguyen, Anita Stocky, Florine Baerlocher, Hui Jun Heng, Michelle Lazarus, Naarah Haime, Revathy Sembuganathan</p> <p>Council Officers: Tracey Egan, Elena Leddra, Liz Fitzgerald</p> <p>Apologies: Cr Anjalee de Silva, Avantiika Singh, Jayde de Bondt, Joanne Yu, Katie McKee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free From Violence Project Update • Free From Violence Project Discussions
4 August 2025 Online via Zoom	<p>Attendees: Cr Rebecca Paterson (Chair), Cr Anjalee de Silva, Angela Nguyen, Anita Stocky, Florine Baerlocher, Hui Jun Heng, Joanne Yu, Naarah Haime, Tamra Keating</p> <p>Council Officers: Fee Harrison, Liz Fitzgerald, Andrew Shaw, Margherita Barbante, Kristy Green, Yanthi Nilam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glen Waverley Civic Precinct Project • Waste Charge Consultation • 16 Days of Activism Planning

	<p>Apologies: Avantiika Singh, Jayde de Bondt, Michelle Lazarus, Revathy Sembukanathan</p>	
6 October 2025 Hybrid: Monash Civic Centre and Zoom	<p>Attendees: Cr Rebecca Paterson, Cr Anjalee de Silva, Angela Nguyen, Anita Stocky, Hui Jun Heng, Katie McKee, Michelle Lazarus, Revathy Sembukanathan, Tamra Keating</p> <p>Council Officers: Tracey Egan, Liz Fitzgerald</p> <p>Guests: Melanie Chapman and Jane Brierty (Women's Health East)</p> <p>Apologies: Avantiika Singh, Florine Baerlocher, Jayde de Bondt, Joanne Yu, Naarah Haime</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Bystander Training
1 December 2025 Hybrid: Monash Civic Centre and TEAMS	<p>Attendees: Cr Rebecca Paterson, Florine Baerlocher, Hui Jun Heng, Michelle Lazarus, Angela Nguyen, Tamra Keating</p> <p>Council Officers: Tracey Egan, Liz Fitzgerald, Amey Rountree, Janice Lane</p> <p>Apologies: Cr Anjalee de Silva, Jayde de Bondt, Naarah Haime, Katie McKee, Revathy Sembukanathan, Avantiika Singh, Anita Stocky, Joanne Yu</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monash Community Grants Program • Draft Economic Development Strategy • Results of GEAC Member Survey • Reflections on 2025 and Planning for 2026

Achievements 2025

- Advocated for a Notice of Motion to be put to Council on Building Councillor Understanding of Violence Against Women.
- Provided a gender lens over key guiding policies, programs and services, including the Glen Waverley Civic Precinct Plan, Waste Charge, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, and Draft Economic Development Strategy.
- Participated in Active Bystander Training to build capacity to build capacity in identifying and challenging sexism and other forms of discrimination, including racism, ableism, homophobia and transphobia.

Proposed Activities for 2026

- Continue to provide advice to Council on Council's policies, programs and services through a gender/intersectional lens.

- Continue to assist in the implementation of Council's Gender Equity Framework, Health and Wellbeing Plan, and sustainability of the Free From Violence project.
- Continue to provide advice on Council's International Women's Day and 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence events.
- Build an understanding of the other Diversity Equity and Inclusion portfolios at Council including Access and Inclusion, First Nations, LGBTIQA+ and Multicultural partnerships.

Terms of Reference (ToR)

The ToR was reviewed in 2025 by members of the Gender Equity Advisory Committee.

LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee

Purpose

Council endorsed the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee at the 15 December 2020 Council meeting as part of its ongoing commitment to better recognise, represent and connect with members of Monash's lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex, queer/questioning and asexual communities (LGBTIQA+). The plus (+) sign serves to signify and acknowledge the inexhaustive nature of this collection of terms, and the fact that language can and does evolve to find new terms for describing the diverse ways in which people can experience gender, sexuality, and sex characteristics.

The aim of this Committee is to provide Council with advice on strengthening the representation and inclusion of people who identify as LGBTIQA+ within the Monash community and to contribute to the development and implementation of Council's LGBTIQA+ Action Plan.

Committee Responsibilities

- Advocate for equality and inclusion for the LGBTIQA+ communities in Monash.
- Provide feedback and advice to Council on the impact of its policies, plans and services on the LGBTIQA+ communities.
- Assists and provides advice to Council on the implementation of the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan.
- Consider funding and other opportunities as they arise.
- Support Council to engage and consult with local LGBTIQA+ groups and communities.
- Provide advice to Council on issues and barriers that affect people who identify as LGBTIQA+.
- Contribute to the promotion of Council and community collaborations that support and promote the inclusion of people who identify as LGBTIQA+.

Committee Composition

The LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee membership consists of:

- Up to three (3) Councillors
- Fourteen (14) community representatives including:

- Up to twelve (12) community members living, working and/or studying in Monash representing the diversity of the Monash LGBTIQA+ communities and allies.

- Up to four (4) community organisations, agencies and service providers who have a focus on providing services to the Monash LGBTIQA+ communities.

All LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee positions are voluntary positions. Monash City Council employees are ineligible to sit on the Committee.

From time to time, the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee may establish working groups and invite additional members, including Council officers, if it is considered that additional skills and experience would benefit a specific project or add value to the general performance of the Committee.

In 2025 the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee membership consisted of:

- Cr Nicky Luo (Chair)
- Christina Dilipkumar
- Jesse Laughlin Jones
- Persephone Wentworth
- Naiwen (Nevin) Xu
- Oliver Wright (term began in March 2025)
- Mark Bowness (term began in March 2025)
- Jamie Belle Heal (term began in March 2025)
- Eliana McGann (term began in March 2025)
- Ayan Dasvarma (term began in March 2025)
- Leigh Yang (term began in March 2025)
- Brett Hayhoe (term ended in March 2025) *
- Tess Marotta (term ended in March 2025) *
- Christine Minto (term ended in March 2025) *
- Gregory Storer (term ended in March 2025) *
- John Tzimas (term ended in March 2025) *
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* These members terms ended on the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee during 2025 and Council thanks them for their valuable contributions.

Frequency of Meeting

The LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee meets every two months for a duration of two hours.

It is expected that each member attends a minimum of 60% of all meetings.

Additional meetings can be called as required, and the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee may establish Working Groups to address specific issues as they arise.

Key matters discussed over the past 12 months:

Meeting Date	Attendees	Topics Discussed
24 February	Attendees: Cr Nicky Luo (Chair), Persephone Wentworth, Gregory Storer,	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Terms of Reference Review Updates• Council Updates• Pride Picnic

Hybrid: In person at the Civic Centre and Online via Zoom	<p>Brett Hayhoe, John Tzimas, Jesse Laughlin Jones, Christina Dilipkumar, Christine Minto, Naiwen (Nevin) Xu</p> <p>Council Officers: Renee Heckman, Jacob Turner</p> <p>Apologies: Fee Harrison (MCC), Tracey Egan (MCC), Tess Marotta</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pride Picnic Advertising • Future Planning
28 April Hybrid: In person at the Civic Centre and Online via Zoom	<p>Attendees: Persephone Wentworth, Jesse Laughlin Jones, Christina Dilipkumar, Mark Bowness, Jamie Belle Heal, Eliana McGann, Ayan Dasvarma, Leigh Yang</p> <p>Council Officers: Tracey Egan, Jacob Turner, Alyssa Huxtable, Fiona Fernandes, Sally Whelan</p> <p>Apologies: Cr Nicky Luo (Chair), Fee Harrison (MCC), Renee Heckman (MCC), Naiwen (Nevin) Xu, Oliver Wright</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Plan and Health & Wellbeing Plan consultation • LGBTIQA+ Terms of Reference and Context Setting • Pride Picnic • Member check in and updates
30 June Hybrid: In person at the Civic Centre and Online via Zoom	<p>Attendees: Persephone Wentworth, Jesse Laughlin Jones, Christina Dilipkumar, Mark Bowness, Jamie Belle Heal, Ayan Dasvarma, Leigh Yang, Naiwen (Nevin) Xu, Oliver Wright</p> <p>Council Officers: Renee Heckman, Jacob Turner, Christine Van der Ark, Andrew Shaw, Margherita Barbante, Kristy Green, Yanthi Nilam</p> <p>Apologies: Cr Nicky Luo (Chair), Fee Harrison (MCC), Tracey Egan (MCC), Eliana McGann</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glen Waverley Civic Precinct • Waste Charge • Review Calendar of Days of Significance • Rainbow Tick Update • Member check in and updates
25 August Hybrid: In person at the Civic Centre and Online via Zoom	<p>Attendees: Persephone Wentworth, Jesse Laughlin Jones, Christina Dilipkumar, Mark Bowness, Oliver Wright</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime Prevention • Transgender Day of Remembrance event • LGBTIQA+ Website Page • Member Update • Member check-in and Council updates

	<p>Council Officers: Tracey Egan, Jacob Turner</p> <p>Apologies: Cr Nicky Luo (Chair), Fee Harrison (MCC), Renee Heckman (MCC), Eliana McGann, Leigh Yang, Naiwen (Nevin) Xu, Jamie Belle Heal, Ayan Dasvarma</p>	
27 October Hybrid: In person at the Civic Centre and Online via Teams	<p>Attendees: Cr Nicky Luo (Chair) Persephone Wentworth, Jesse Laughlin Jones, Christina Dilipkumar, Oliver Wright, Leigh Yang, Naiwen (Nevin) Xu, Jamie Belle Heal, Ayan Dasvarma</p> <p>Council Officers: Tracey Egan, Jacob Turner</p> <p>Apologies: Fee Harrison (MCC), Renee Heckman (MCC), Eliana McGann, Mark Bowness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transgender Day of Remembrance event Pride Summit Pride Picnic Member check in Council updates
15 December Hybrid: In person at the Civic Centre and Online via Teams	<p>Attendees: Persephone Wentworth, Jesse Laughlin Jones, Mark Bowness, Oliver Wright, Leigh Yang, Jamie Belle Heal, Ayan Dasvarma</p> <p>Council Officers: Jacob Turner, Janice Lane, Alley Dyson</p> <p>Apologies: Cr Nicky Luo (Chair), Fee Harrison (MCC), Tracey Egan (MCC), Renee Heckman (MCC), Christina Dilipkumar, Eliana McGann, Naiwen (Nevin) Xu</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monash Community Grants Program Pride Pool Party Economic Development Strategy LGBTIQA+ Action Plan progress Advisory Committee Survey 2026 Schedule Member check in Council updates

Achievements in 2025

- Provided LGBTIQA+ inclusion advice on Council's plans including the Council Plan and Health and Wellbeing Plan.
- Provided LGBTIQA+ inclusion advice for programs and strategies such as the Monash Community Grants Program and the Economic Development Strategy.
- Provided feedback on events such as the Strengthening Sports Clubs Through Inclusion workshop and Pride Picnic.

Proposed Activities for 2026

- Continue to provide advice to Council on Council's policies, plans and programs such as the Climate Resilience Plan and support for LGBTIQA+ young people through Monash Youth Services.
- Explore opportunities to increase LGBTIQA+ visibility at events and provide feedback on LGBTIQA+ events such as the Pride Picnic and Active Monash's Pride Pool Party.
- Continue with assisting the implementation and completion of Council's LGBTIQA+ Action Plan and any potential consultations.
- LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee members will provide feedback to Council officers on the plans and programs within the diversity, equity and inclusion space including multicultural, disability, first nations, and gender equity. Providing this feedback from an LGBTIQA+ lens will improve Council's efforts in ensuring intersectionality is at the forefront of Council's work in the local community.

Junior Advisory Group (JAG)

Junior Advisory Group (JAG)

Purpose

Monash Council is committed to being a Child and Young People Friendly City (CYPFC) and has endorsed the *Victorian Charter for Child Friendly Cities and Communities*.

The Junior Advisory Group (JAG) plays a vital role in amplifying the voices of children and young people in Council matters. It reflects Council's commitment to fostering inclusion and providing meaningful opportunities for young residents to engage in civic life and contribute to decision-making.

The JAG also supports Council's obligations under the *Local Government Act 2020* and aligns with key strategic directions, including the *Imagine Monash in 2040 Community Vision* and the *Council Plan 2025–2029*.

The Junior Advisory Group

- Connects children with Local Government and Councillors.
- Enables local primary school students in Grades 3–8 (ages 8–14) to voice concerns or questions.
- Provides opportunities for children to be consulted on Council business and matters that affect them.
- Offers a forum for children to participate as active citizens.

Composition

The JAG comprises students from Monash primary schools and the Mayor (or Deputy Mayor).

In 2025, Council appointed Mayor Paul Klisaris and, following the Mayoral changeover, Mayor Stuart James to represent Monash Council at JAG meetings.

The JAG is coordinated and supported by Council's Child and Young People Engagement Officer.

Frequency of Meetings

Traditionally, the JAG meets twice per year, in the second and fourth quarters.

2025 Activities

The first JAG meeting for 2025 was held on Wednesday, 4 June at the Monash Civic Centre in Glen Waverley. Mayor Paul Klisaris attended the session, which brought together 23 students from five Monash primary schools, along with their teachers. Students participated in a consultation to inform Council's *Children, Youth and Family Services Infrastructure Plan* and engaged in a question-and-answer session with the Mayor.

The planned November JAG meeting did not proceed due to limited school availability and the Mayoral changeover period.

Additional to the scheduled JAG meetings for 2026, a session was held with students to 'close the loop' on a previously held consultation in 2024 on the *Health and Wellbeing Plan*.

Future Direction

On 25 November 2025, Council resolved to transition the Monash Junior Advisory Group (JAG) from a formal advisory committee to a program within the Children and Young People Engagement portfolio, reflecting its primary role in civic learning, inclusion and child and youth participation. This change supports a more flexible, age-appropriate engagement model, with the Mayor of the day representing Council (and the Deputy Mayor as proxy), while continuing to value children's voices in the organisation's engagement practice.

The Junior Advisory Group will continue in 2026. A review of meeting dates will be undertaken, with the aim of scheduling sessions earlier in the year to better support school participation, avoiding conflicts with Council commitments and reducing end-of-year pressures.

Multicultural Advisory Committee

Purpose

The aim of the Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) is to provide Council with advice on a range of multicultural issues.

Committee Responsibilities

- Provide feedback and advice to Council on its policies, plans and services that impact CALD communities.
- Consider and provide advice on key Government initiatives, programs and reviews.
- Advocate on behalf of CALD communities.
- Consider funding and other opportunities as they may arise.
- Assist Council to promote the benefits of cultural diversity within the Monash municipality and beyond.

- Provide advice to Council with its communication, engagement and consultation with CALD communities.

Committee Composition

The Multicultural Advisory Committee membership will consist of:

- Up to three (3) Councillors.
- Fourteen (14) community representatives including:
 - Up to twelve (12) community members living or working in Monash,
 - Up to four (4) community organisations, agencies and service providers that have a focus on provision of services to CALD communities in Monash.

All MAC positions are voluntary positions.

The 2025 membership of the MAC included:

- Cr Elisha Lee (Chair)
- Cr Nicky Luo
- Cr Shane McCluskey
- Mohamed Mohideen*
- Oksana King *
- Rajmohan Ramanathapillai *
- Eman Armanous
- Malinda Zhu
- Nira Rahman
- Philip Liberatore
- Amit Patel
- Hussen Mahamed
- Mohit Sidana
- Quynh Nguyen
- Samar Geid
- Shamilla Thuruganaselvam
- Victor Wang
- Saied Rezawi & Helen Tran (representing MiCare)
- Amber Huang (representing Migrant Information Centre, Eastern Region)

*Oksana King and Mohamed Mohideen finished their terms on MAC, and Rajmohan Ramanathapillai resigned from the committee in 2025. Council would like to thank them for their valuable contributions.

Frequency of Meeting

The committee meets bi-monthly, on the second Thursday of the month for a duration of two hours. The expectation is that each member attends a minimum of 60% of all meetings.

Additional meetings can be called as required, and the MAC may establish Working Groups/Parties to address specific issues as they arise.

Key matters discussed over the past 12 months:

Meeting Date	Attendees	MATTERS discussed
6 February 2025 Hybrid: In person at the Civic Centre and Online via Teams	<p>Councillors: Cr Elisha Lee and Cr Shane McCluskey</p> <p>Officers: Kate Wijeyesinghe, Tracey Egan, Amey Rountree</p> <p>Community Members: Raj Ramanathapillai, Amit Patel, Saied Rezawi (MiCare), Oksana King, Mohamed Mohideen, Nira Rahman, Emy Armanous.</p> <p>Apologies: Cr Nicky Luo, Philip Liberatore, Malinda Zhu, Amber Huang</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monash Community Grants Program • Member presentations - Mohamed & Oksana • Terms of Reference Review • Updates from Monash Council • Networking, Advocacy and Information Sharing
Thursday 3 April 2025 Hybrid: In person at the Civic Centre and Online via Teams	<p>Councillors: Cr Elisha Lee and Cr Nicky Luo</p> <p>Officers: Kate Wijeyesinghe, Renee Heckman, Rebecca Walton, Fiona Fernandes, Sally Whelan, Georgia Head</p> <p>Community Members: Amit Patel, Eman Armanous, Helen Tran (MiCare), Hussen Mahamed, Mohit Sidana, Philip Liberatore, Quynh Nguyen, Samar Geid, Victor Wang</p> <p>Apologies: Amber Huang, Nira Rahman, Raj Ramanathapillai, Shamilla Thiruganaselvam, Cr Shane McCluskey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of new members • Council Plan & Health & Wellbeing Plan Consultation • Networking, Advocacy and Information Sharing • Update from Council
Thursday 5 June 2025 Hybrid: In person at the Civic Centre and Online via Teams	<p>Councillor: Cr Elisha Lee</p> <p>Officers: Renee Heckman, Kate Wijeyesinghe, Georgia Head</p> <p>Community Members: Amber Huang (Migrant Information Centre), Amit Patel, Eman Armanous, Hussen Mahamed, Malinda Zhu, Mohit Sidana, Nira Rahman, Philip Liberatore, Quynh Nguyen, Samar Geid, Saied Rezawi (MiCare), Shamilla Thiruganaselvam, Victor Wang.</p> <p>Guest speakers: Sara Coe, Mark Rogers & Ding Cai (Victoria Police), Dr Ajay Niranjan.</p> <p>Apologies: Cr Nicky Luo, Cr Shane McCluskey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety & Prevention • Caste Discrimination • Update from Council • South East Anti-Racism Network Introduction • Networking, Advocacy, Information Sharing
Thursday 7 August 2025 Hybrid: In person at the Civic Centre and Online via Teams	<p>Councillors: Cr Elisha Lee, Cr Nicky Luo, Cr Shane McCluskey</p> <p>Officers: Renee Heckman, Kate Wijeyesinghe, Andrew Shaw, Yanthi Nilam, Trav Finlayson</p> <p>Community Members: Amit Patel, Eman Armanous, Helen Tran (MiCare), Hussen Mahamed, Malinda Zhu, Mohit Sidana, Nira</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glen Waverley Civic Precinct • Proposed Waste Charge • Update from Council

	<p>Rahman, Philip Liberatore, Samar Geid, Shamilla Thiruganaselvam, Victor Wang</p> <p>Apologies: Amber Huang (Migrant Information Centre), Quynh Nguyen</p>	
Thursday 2 October 2025	<p>Councillors: Cr Elisha Lee, Cr Nicky Luo, Cr Shane McCluskey</p> <p>Officers: Renee Heckman, Kate Wijeyesinghe</p> <p>Community Members: Amber Huang (Migrant Information Centre), Amit Patel, Saied Rezawi (MiCare), Hussen Mahamed, Mohit Sidana, Nira Rahman, Quynh Nguyen, Samar Geid, Shamilla Thiruganaselvam, Victor Wang.</p> <p>Guest speakers: Debbie Day (Victoria Police), Rohail Akhtar and Gerard Jess (AFL Community Connect, Collingwood FC)</p> <p>Apologies: Eman Armanous, Malinda Zhu, Philip Liberatore</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria Police – Neighbourhood Policing Forum AFL Community Connect Update from Council
Thursday 4 December 2025 Hybrid: In person at the Civic Centre and Online via Teams	<p>Councillor: Cr Elisha Lee</p> <p>Officers: Renee Heckman, Kate Wijeyesinghe, Janice Lane, Sara Saba</p> <p>Community Members: Amber Huang (Migrant Information Centre), Amit Patel, Eman Armanous, Helen Tran (MiCare), Hussen Mahamed, Malinda Zhu, Nira Rahman, Philip Liberatore, Samar Geid, Shamilla Thiruganaselvam, Victor Wang.</p> <p>Apologies: Cr Nicky Luo, Cr Shane McCluskey, Amber Huang, Mohit Sidana, Quynh Nguyen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Economic Development Strategy Monash Community Grants & Partnerships Program 2026 Planning Update from Council

Achievements 2024/2025

- Provided a multicultural lens and strategic advice to several of Council's Plans and Strategies, including the new Council Plan and Health & Wellbeing Plan.
- The Committee put forward a submission to the Victorian Multicultural Review.
- Supported the Multicultural Partnerships Officer with expertise on several projects and events, e.g. waste & sustainability programs, and Refugee week.

Proposed Activities for 2026

- Continue to provide advice to Council on Council's plan and programs through a multicultural/intersectional lens,
- Continue with assisting in the implementation of Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan,
- Continue to provide advice on important cultural celebrations, including Cultural Diversity Week and Refugee week, as well as Council services and programs as needed.

Terms of Reference (ToR)

The ToR underwent an annual review in early 2025 and was updated to align with the current Advisory Committee Policy, along with some other minor updates, and will be reviewed in the second meeting for 2026.

Positive Ageing Reference Group – 2025

Purpose

The Positive Ageing Reference Group (PARG) is established to provide advice and insights on matters related to positive ageing. The group aims to promote active and healthy ageing, address challenges faced by people as they age, and contribute to the development of inclusive policies and initiatives at the City of Monash (Council).

Objectives of the PARG:

1. Provide Council with advice and recommendations on the implementation of the Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021 – 2025. Including the three main pillars:
 - a. Active and Healthy Communities.
 - b. Engaged, Confident and Connected Communities.
 - c. Safe and Respectful Communities.
2. Contribute to the development and review of Council strategies, policies, and plans, including reporting annually on committee activities and achievements.
3. Serve as the primary forum for Council consultation on issues impacting people as they age.

PARG is currently composed of six community members, four industry members and one Councillor. The 2025 membership of the PARG included:

Councillor:

- Cr Brian Little (Chair)

Community Members:

- Pam Brown
- Ian Bjorkman
- Caroline Perry
- Eddie Hu
- Monique Renaut
- Marged Goode

Industry Members:

- Professor Matthew Pase – Monash University
- Pari Balsara-Minstry – Wavecare Counselling
- Jacinta Jarutis – Medical and Aged Care Group - Residential Aged Care
- Eva Kladou - Pronia

At the conclusion of 2025, members Eddie Hu, Caroline Perry, Pari Balsara-Minstry and Eva Kladou resigned. Recruitment for new PARG members will commence early in 2026.

Summary of 2025 Meetings:

The committee meets bi-monthly, on Thursday for a duration of two hours. The expectation is that each member attends a minimum of 60% of all meetings.

During this term, the committee has been involved in the following key initiatives:

Date	Attendees	Summary
24 April 2025 Clayton Community Centre	Officers: Terry Larkman, April Paterson Members: Ian Bjorkman, Monique Renaut, Marged Goode, Caroline Perry, Eddie Hu, Pam Brown, Jacinta Jarutis, Eva Kladou, Matthew Pase Guests: Sally Whelan, Bec Waldron Apologies: Cr Brian Little, Pari Balsara-Mistry	Corporate Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shape Monash Survey Integrated Planning Engagement: Council Plan, Vision, Health and Wellbeing Plan Group discussion – Social Inclusion prioritise in Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025 – 2029 Social Inclusion Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Road Safety Week PALS Dementia Friendly Communities Monash commitment to CHSP-Funded Programs Changes to Social Support Programs Age Well Network Forum Dementia Action Week – EMR Roadshow Intergenerational Initiatives Monash Age Well Leadership Awards
26 June 2025 Clayton Community Centre	Officers: April Paterson and Terry Larkman Members: Ian Bjorkman, Marged Goode, Caroline Perry, Eddie Hu, Pam Brown, Jacinta Jarutis, Eva Kladou, Matthew Pase, Pari Balsara-Mistry Guest: Jacqui Dynan Apologies: Cr Brian Little, Monique Renaut	Glen Waverley Civic Precinct Consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of project Approved design Creative Programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion on preliminary feedback Next steps Co-Design Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dementia awareness video General themes Key messages Gaps in community knowledge Social Inclusion Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation for Health and Wellbeing Plan & Age Friendly Cities PALS Seniors Festival – program Poetic Portraits World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) Dementia Action Week Roadshow Aged Care Act

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers' Sessions
28 August 2025 Clayton Community Centre	Councillor: Cr Brian Little Officers: April Paterson, Terry Larkman Members: Ian Bjorkman, Monique Renaut, Marged Goode, Eddie Hu, Jacinta Jarutis, Eva Kladou, Pari Balsara-Mistry Guest: Julie De Napoli Apologies: Matthew Pase, Caroline Perry, Pam Brown	<p>Guest Speaker Julie De Napoli, shared her lived experience of being a carer for her husband Frank, diagnosed with dementia (approximately 10 years ago).</p> <p>Social Inclusion Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seniors Festival • Advisory Committee Networking event • Carers' Sessions • Dementia Action Week Roadshow • Shape Monash – Budget <p>Council News:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic centre development – community feedback
23 October 2025 Clayton Community Centre	Councillor: Cr Brian Little Officers: Terry Larkman, April Paterson Members: Ian Bjorkman, Monique Renaut, Marged Goode, Pam Brown, Matthew Pase Apologies: Caroline Perry, Eddie Hu, Jacinta Jarutis, Pari Balsara-Mistry, Eva Kladou	<p>Age Friendly Monash</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview • Age Friendly Survey <p>Evaluation for Health and Wellbeing Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared details <p>Social Inclusion Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poetic Portraits • Vanguard Healthcare Singapore visit • Dementia Action Week Roadshow wrap-up • PALS key events 2026 <p>Council Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged Care Act • Monash Council – Net Zero update • State government changes to: tree planning, Vicsmart fast approvals
11 December 2025 Clayton Community Centre	Councillor: Cr Brian Little Officer: Terry Larkman Members: Ian Bjorkman, Monique Renaut, Marged Goode, Pam Brown, Matthew Pase Apologies: Caroline Perry, Eddie Hu, Jacinta Jarutis, Pari Balsara-Mistry, Eva Kladou, April Paterson	<p>Age Friendly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age Friendly Survey – final draft <p>PARG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resignations • Dates for 2026 • Speaker requests for 2026 <p>Social Inclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PALS Changes to booking system and program

Age Well Network Forum – 2025

Purpose

The **Age Well Network Forum** serves as a platform for community group leaders, service providers, and experts to come together with the goal of enhancing the lives of older adults within the City of Monash. The forum fosters collaboration, education, and innovation to ensure the provision of high-quality services and programs that promote social inclusion, healthy ageing, and lifelong learning.

Participation and Representation:

Eligibility: Open to community group leaders, service providers, local council representatives, and other professionals working to support older adults within the City of Monash.

Diversity: Attendees are encouraged from a range of sectors, including health, social services, education, and recreation, to provide a broad perspective on ageing well.

Commitment: Attendance is voluntary.

In 2025, Councillor Brian Little served as the Council representative for the Age Well Network Forum.

Discussion Overview:

The Age Well Network Forum met twice in 2025 at various locations (see below).

Standard Agenda Items:

- Community Grants Update
- Guest Speaker
- Age Friendly Monash Update
- Positive Ageing Lifestyle Programs, Seniors Festival, and Social Inclusion Update
- Councillor Update
- Group Updates
- General Business

Summary of 2025 Meetings

The forum meets quarterly, for a duration of 1.5 hours.

During this term, the committee has been involved in the following key initiatives:

Date	Attendees	Summary
29 February 2025 Glen Waverley Sports Hub	Community: 14 Council: 7	Council Updates and questions: Cr Brian Little Feature Community Group: Tamil Seniors Citizen Fellowship – Siva Sundaralingam Guest Speaker: Carer's Network – Nicky Skinner & Tania Hallisey Age Well Team Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Network Forum engagement and changes• Age Friendly Monash

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHSP • PARG • PALS – Winter 2025 • Seniors Festival 2025 • Poetic Portraits <p>Guest Speaker: Community Outreach Officer – Stacy Kemp</p>
20 May 2025 Halcyon Dementia Day Centre	Community: 12 Council: 8	<p>Council Updates and questions: Cr Brian Little</p> <p>Event Planning for the 2025 Monash Seniors Festival:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terry Larkman • Circolo Pensionati Italiani di Oakleigh e Clayton • Chinese Association of Monash • Natalie Harris – Events Officer <p>Age Well Team Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PALS – Spring 2025 • WEAAD – Your Home, Your Choice • Monash Awards • Age Well Network Forum Update <p>Feature Community Group: Waverley Garden Club – Melissa Mackerath & Mary Tai</p>

Monash Youth Committee

Purpose

The Monash Youth Committee (MYC) is an inclusive group of young people, committed to creating greater connections between young people and Monash Council. MYC discuss and act on issues affecting young people living in the City of Monash.

The Committee has the following objectives:

- a.** To function as a consultation panel of young people that provides input into the development of Council policy and planning frameworks.
- b.** To act as a conduit for the promotion of young people's ideas and achievements.

MYC provides an opportunity for -

- Council and other organisations to consult with the committee on various topics and issues; and
- MYC members to develop their skills and have a voice about the issues important to young people of Monash.

- Cr Shane McCluskey
- Cr Cameron Little
- Gaji Rajapaksh (Chair)
- Ana Donnellon
- Angela Huang
- Annie Zhou
- Harindra Mendum
- Heerag Khan
- Jason Bao
- Lavanya Sharma
- Liam Noveloso
- Lucas Chee
- Marcus Chee
- Melody Zhang
- Sabrina Cheng
- Thomas Maguire-Nguyen
- Tyson Husson
- Vismaya Rao
- Chloe Boucherat
- Jill Xu
- Shishta Jain
- Navya Kumar
- Yixi Qin
- Neerav Jain
- Able Joseph
- Natalie Loo
- Bree Wang

- Raghad Yousif
- Kean Pan
- Nika Sahebi
- Kety Li
- Chloe Jolme
- Shivika Verma

Meeting	Attendees	Matters Discussed
12 February	<p>Councillors: Shane McCluskey and Cameron Little</p> <p>Officers: Bill Kendall and Ben Heard</p> <p>Members: Ana Donnellon, Angela Huang, Annie Zhou, Gaji Rajapaksh, Harindra Mendum, Heerag Khan, Jason Bao, Lavanya Sharma, Liam Noveloso, Lucas Chee, Marcus Chee, Melody Zhang, Sabrina Cheng, Thomas Maguire-Nguyen, Tyson Husson and Vismaya Rao</p> <p>Apologies: Chloe Boucherat, Jill Xu, Shishta Jain, Navya Kumar and Yixi Qin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed location for public toilets (Glen Waverley North Reserve) • Past MYC advocacy campaigns • Voting for MYC roles
12 March	<p>Councillors: Cameron Little</p> <p>Officers: Bill Kendall and Ben Heard</p> <p>Members: Cr Shane McCluskey, Ana Donnellon, Angela Huang, Annie Zhou, Gaji Rajapaksh, Heerag Khan, Jason Bao, Lavanya Sharma, Liam Noveloso, Lucas Chee, Marcus Chee, Sabrina Cheng, Chloe Boucherat and Yixi Qin</p> <p>Apologies: Tyson Husson, Harindra Mendum, Melody Zhang, Jill Xu, Thomas Maguire-Nguyen, Shishta Jain, Navya Kumar, and Vismaya Rao</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Federal election issues impacting young people • Identifying guest speakers for 2025 MYC meetings
9 April	<p>Councillors: Shane McCluskey</p> <p>Officers: Bill Kendall and Ben Heard</p> <p>Members: Cr Cameron Little, Ana Donnellon, Annie Zhou, Gaji Rajapaksh, Harindra Mendum, Jason Bao, Liam Noveloso, Sabrina Cheng, Chloe Boucherat, Navya Kumar, Jill Xu, Thomas Maguire-Nguyen, Vismaya Rao and Shishta Jain</p> <p>Apologies: Angela Huang, Heerag Khan, Yixi Qin, Melody Zhang, Lavanya Sharma, Tyson Husson, Lucas Chee and Marcus Chee</p>	<p>Guest Speakers:</p> <p>Maddy Cursio, Health Promotion Officer, Rebecca Walton, Senior Social Policy & Advocacy Officer</p> <p>Sally Whelan, Service Planning Coordinator, Fiona Fernandes, Coordinator of Corporate Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monash Councils Integrated Plan • Road safety in Monash • Nominations and voting for MYC roles
May 14	<p>Councillors: none</p> <p>Officers: Bill Kendall and Ben Heard</p> <p>Members: Cr Shane McCluskey, Cr Cameron Little, Ana Donnellon, Annie Zhou, Gaji Rajapaksh, Angela Huang, Harindra Mendum, Heerag Khan, Sabrina Cheng, Chloe Boucherat, Navya Kumar, Jill Xu, Thomas Maguire-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glen Waverley Civic Precinct • Bogong Ave, Car park • Youth crime and bail laws reform • Suburban Rail Loop issues

	<p>Nguyen, Able Joseph, Raghad Yousif, Lucas Chee, Marcus Chee, Tyson Husson, Bree Wang and Shishta Jain</p> <p>Apologies: Neerav Jain Yixi Qin Melody, Jason Bao, Liam Noveloso, Zhang, Natalie Loo, Lavanya Sharma, and Vismaya Rao</p>	
June 11	<p>Councillors: Shane Mccluskey and Cameron Little</p> <p>Officers: Bill Kendall and Ben Heard</p> <p>Members: Ana Donnellon, Annie Zhou, Gaji Rajapaksh, Harindra Mendu, Jason Bao, Liam Noveloso, Sabrina Cheng, Chloe Boucherat, Navya Kumar, Jill Xu, Thomas Maguire-Nguyen, Neerav Jain, Able Joseph, Raghad Yousif, Lavanya Sharma, Lucas Chee, Marcus Chee, Tyson Husson, Vismaya Rao and Shishta Jain.</p> <p>Apologies: Heerag Khan, Angela Huang, Yixi Qin Melody Zhang, Natalie Loo and Bree Wang</p>	<p>Guest Speaker: Sean Kearny, Community Engagement officer at Each Gamblers Help</p> <p>Matthew Veal, Senior Project Manager Suburban Rail Loop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young People and Gambling Suburban Rail Loop impacts on Monash young people
July 9	<p>Councillors: Shane Mccluskey and Cameron Little</p> <p>Officers: Bill Kendall and Ben Heard</p> <p>Members: Ana Donnellon, Annie Zhou, Gaji Rajapaksh, Angela Huang, Harindra Mendu, Sabrina Cheng, Chloe Boucherat, Thomas Maguire-Nguyen, Raghad Yousif, Lavanya Sharma, Lucas Chee, Marcus Chee, Bree Wang and Vismaya Rao</p> <p>Apologies: Neerav Jain, Able Joseph, Heerag Khan, Liam Noveloso, Navya Kumar, Jason Bao, Yixi Qin, Melody Zhang, Natalie Loo and Jain Shishta</p>	<p>Guest Speaker: Jaclyn Mahood and Sarah Davis, Victorian Police</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bail laws and youth crime New Glen Waverley Precinct designs Monash Friends of Vemassee
August 13	<p>Councillors: None</p> <p>Officers: Bill Kendall and Ben Heard</p> <p>Members: Cr Shane Mccluskey, Cr Cameron Little, Gaji Rajapaksh, Angela Huang, Heerag Khan, Sabrina Cheng, Yixi Qin, Navya Kumar, Thomas Maguire-Nguyen, Shishta Jain, Lavanya Sharma, Lucas Chee, Marcus Chee, Neerav Jain and Natalie Loo</p> <p>Apologies: Ana Donnellon, Arjun Kapoor, Annie Zhou, Bree Wang, Able Joseph, Chloe Boucherat, Vismaya Rao, Harindra Mendu, Liam Noveloso, Raghad Yousif and Melody Zhang</p>	<p>Guest Speaker: Michelle Hart-Crombie, Team Leader Children & Youth Monash Public Library Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Activities for Libraries. Under 16 on social media ban. MYC working group to provide feedback on proposed Glen Waverley Precinct.
Sept 10	<p>Councillors: Shane Mccluskey and Cameron Little</p> <p>Officers: Bill Kendall and Ben Heard</p> <p>Members: Gaji Rajapaksh, Angela Huang, Navya Kumar, Thomas Maguire-Nguyen, Shishta Jain, Chloe Boucherat, Harindra Mendu, Lavanya Sharma, Lucas Chee, Marcus Chee, Melody Zhang, Neerav Jain, Bree Wang, Raghad Yousif and Natalie Loo</p> <p>Apologies: Ana Donnellon, Sabrina Cheng, Annie Zhou, Able Joseph, Vismaya Rao, and Liam Noveloso</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Perseverance Joint advisory Meeting Nominations Monash Budget
Oct 8	<p>Councillors: Shane Mccluskey, Cr Elisha Lee and Cameron Little</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road Safety in Monash

	<p>Officers: Bill Kendall and Ben Heard</p> <p>Members: Ana Donnellon, Gaji Rajapaksh, Neerav Jain, Melody Zhang, Bree Wang, Raghad Yousif, Natalie Loo, Kean Pan, Nika Sahebi, Kety Li, Chloe Jolme and Shivika Verma.</p> <p>Apologies: Shishta Jain, Navya Kumar, Angela Huang, Annie Zhou, Sabrina Cheng, Thomas Maguire-Nguyen, Able Joseph, Chloe Boucherat, Vismaya Rao, Harindra Mendum, Lucas Chee, Marcus Chee, Liam Noveloso, and Lavanya Sharma.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Machete collection bins in Victoria Kerbside Glass Service and Hard Waste Consultation
Nov 12	<p>Councillors: None</p> <p>Officers: Bill Kendall and Ben Heard</p> <p>Members: Cr Shane McCluskey, Cr Cameron Little, Gaji Rajapaksh, Angela Huang, Melody Zhang, Sabrina Cheng, Navya Kumar, Annie Zhou, Lavanya Sharma, Lucas Chee, Marcus Chee, Neerav Jai, Nika Sahebi, Kety Li and Natalie Loo</p> <p>Apologies: Ana Donnellon, Thomas Maguire-Nguyen, Shishta Jain, Bree Wang, Able Joseph, Chloe Boucherat, Vismaya Rao, Harindra Mendum, Raghad Yousif, Kean Pan, Chloe Jolme and Shivika Verma and Liam Noveloso</p>	<p>Guest Speaker: Ashleigh Webb, CEO Kallan Lodge Library Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for Kallan Lodge libraries for youth in Monash. Developing a sustainability project in 2026

Achievements for 2025

In 2025, the MYC undertook the following:

- A youth 'Shout Out' training session delivered by Centre for Multicultural Youth, the speaker covered topic including cultural diversity, identity and leadership.
- Provided feedback to Victorian Governments, Legislative Assembly Economy and Infrastructure Committee, sharing their experiences relating to education, training and employment.
- Provided advice and feedback on the Health and Wellbeing Plan, Community Vision and Council Plan.
- Provided written feedback to Shape Monash on the proposed new civic precinct for Glen Waverley.
- Provided feedback Senior Project Manager, Suburban Rail Loop on disruptions to public transport impacting Monash young people.
- Advocated for improved Road Safety Around Monash Schools.
- To advocate for Kallan Lodge libraries at Monash Hospital and/or headspace Syndal in 2026. Kallan Lodge library establishes and maintains literature and music libraries for young people to access within Australia's mental health facilities.

Members for endorsement or reappointment

During 2025 MYC received ten resignations. These resignations predominately related to committee members increasing work, school, or university commitments. These members have been active and valuable representatives through their involvement in and contribution to MYC in 2025: Ms Aditi Sanghi, Ms Osandi Liyanage, Ms Sanjoli Patra, Ms Yixi Qin, Ms Lavanya Sharma, Ms Saathvika Arun, Mr Tyson Husson, Ms Jill Xu, Mr Heerag Khan and Mr Arjun Kapoor.

To fill vacancies, the MYC continually seeks membership from young people aged 15 – 25 who live, go to school, or work in the City of Monash. In 2025 Ms Natalie Loo, Ms Bree Wang, Ms Chloe Boucherat, Ms Raghad Yousif, Mr Gaji Rajapaksh, Ms Nika Sahebi, Ms Kety Li, Ms Chloe Jolme, Mr Neerav Jain, Mr Able Joseph, Ms Ana Donnellon, Ms Angela Huang and Ms Shivika Verma were successful in their application for MYC.

The Committee seeks the endorsement of the appointment of Charlie Paterson, Shreya Kalani, Celeste Sharma, Adhyen Kathpal and Kyley Chen to the 2026 Monash Youth Committee.

As a result of the resignations and appointments in this report, the group will have 25 endorsed members of young people. Currently, there are no places available for a new MYC member in 2026.

Clayton Activity Centre Committee

Purpose

The purpose of the Clayton Activity Centre Committee is to provide high level advice and input into major projects and Council strategies in Clayton, including implications for Council arising from the Suburban Rail Loop project in Clayton and near Monash University, and be a conduit for consultation and engagement between Council and the Clayton Traders Association, local residents and other traders and key stakeholders in Clayton.

The Committee will assist Council to make the most of current and future opportunities for improving the amenity and liveability of Clayton as a place to work, rest, study and play. It is important for Council as a landowner and the local planning authority to take a coordinated approach and ensure that the Clayton Activity Centre can continue to grow and be vibrant.

Committee Composition

In 2025, Councillor Paul Klisaris and Councillor Cameron Little (who acted as Chair) served as the Council representatives on the Clayton Activity Centre Committee.

Objectives

The committee looks at matters such as:

- SRL Precinct Planning and impacts from SRL works
- Better amenity in the town centre and improvements
- Trucks on Clayton Road and parking matters
- Parking and traffic issues in the Activity Centre

Frequency of Meeting

The Committee was scheduled to meet every two months, or as required. Meetings alternated between in-person sessions held in Clayton and online formats. In 2025, the Committee convened once, on 31 October.

Glen Waverley Activity Centre Committee

Purpose

The purpose of the Glen Waverley Activity Centre Committee is to provide high level advice, direction and input into major Council and State Government projects and strategic policy initiatives for the Glen Waverley Activity Centre (GWAC).

The key areas of focus for the preceding 12 months include:

- The sale of Central Car Park
- Landscape design of the Council Reserve adjacent to the Central Car Park land that was sold
- Suburban Rail Loop Project including road closures, traffic management and SRLA's precinct plan
- The Kingsway Rejuvenation Project
- The Glen Waverley Civic Precinct Project
- Engagement with the Glen Waverley Traders Association

Committee Composition

In 2025, Councillor Paul Klisaris, Councillor Nicky Luo, Councillor Rebecca Paterson and Councillor Geoff Lake (who acted as Chair) served as the Council representatives on the Glen Waverley Activity Centre Committee.

Objectives

The objectives of the GWAC Committee are:

- Provide input and advice to Council on opportunities, Council and State Government driven strategic development issues and major projects in the Activity Centre.
- Actively support and assist Council's consultation with, engagement and advocacy to the State Government, relevant stakeholders and the broader community in relation to the GWAC.
- Assist with shaping and encouraging a reinvigorated Kingsway streetscape which prioritises pedestrians, outdoor dining and other activity over cars.
- Recommend to Council appropriate projects or development opportunities for the GWAC.
- Assist Council in determining priorities and strategic directions for the Activity Centre.

Frequency of Meeting

The Committee meets on a monthly basis or as needed. In 2025, the Committee met on five occasions: 4 February, 11 March, 6 May, 30 September and 9 December.

Oakleigh Activity Centre Steering Committee

Purpose

The purpose of the Oakleigh Activity Centre Steering Committee is to provide high level advice and input into major Council and State Government projects for the Oakleigh Activity Centre and be a conduit for consultation and engagement between Council and the Oakleigh Business and Traders Association, local residents and other traders and key stakeholders in Oakleigh.

The Committee will assist Council to make the most of current and future opportunities for improving the amenity and liveability of Oakleigh as a place to work, rest, study and play. It is important for Council as a landowner and the local planning authority to take a coordinated approach and ensure that the Oakleigh Activity Centre can continue to grow and be vibrant.

Committee Composition

In 2025, Councillor Paul Klisaris, Councillor Josh Fergeus and Councillor Stuart James (who acted as Chair) served as the Council representatives on the Oakleigh Activity Centre Steering Committee.

Objectives

The key objectives of focus for the preceding 12 months include:

- Public Realm Improvements North and South of Railway Station
- Huntingdale Streetscape Plan

Frequency of Meeting

The Committee was scheduled to meet online every two months, or as required. In 2025 the Committee convened once on 24 February.

ATTACHMENT LIST

Nil