

2.2 ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

(Author: RH)

Responsible Director: Russell Hopkins

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Notes the activities of its Advisory Committees during 2020.*
2. *Notes the resignation of:*
 - *Ms Vrinda Mahesh, Mr Karthik Muralim, Ms Tatyana Wilson, Ms Anna Zhang, Ms Shriya Gupta, Mr Ani Prakash, Ms Veronica Levey, Mr Darren Chee and Ms Laura Wang as members from the Monash Youth Committee;*
 - *Di Gow, Leanne Grosvenor and Vicki Hayes from the Disability Advisory Committee;*
 - *Shivan Arora and Harvey Foenander from the Multicultural Advisory Committee, with Esha Zahid completing her term;*
 - *Dorothy Bysouth from the Positive Ageing Reference Group; and acknowledges their contributions to the City of Monash.*
3. *Endorses the appointment of Mr Jonathan Lee, Mr Jacob Biviano, Mr Raghav Baheti, Mr Vibhu Desilva and Mr Alan Wang to the 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 2020.

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 2020, including the:

- Disability Advisory Committee
- Gender Equity Advisory Committee
- Junior Advisory Group
- Multicultural Advisory Committee
- Oakleigh Activity Centre Advisory Committee
- Positive Ageing Reference Group

- Positive Ageing Network Forum
- Monash Youth Committee

It should be noted that some scheduled meetings were cancelled during 2020 due the impacts of COVID-19, although many were able to be held virtually.

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 its most important stakeholders in relation to a range of social and community issues.

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.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

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. Scope of the committee's key functions include:

- Identify barriers and issues that impact on people with a disability
- Advocate on behalf of people with a disability and their carers
- Provide advice to Council on the Equitable Access Program
- Consider and provide advice to Council on key Government initiatives, programs and reviews
- Assist Council to promote access and inclusion as this relates to people with a disability
- Identify needs and opportunities as they may arise.

Appointments to the Disability Advisory Committee are for a two-year term and members may continue for an additional two-year term only.

Committee Membership

The DAC membership will consist of up to 16 members. The 2020 membership of the DAC included:

Councillors

- Cr Shane McCluskey (Chair)
- Cr Lynnette Saloumi

Resident Representatives

- Helen Houghton
- Wanda Egerton
- Smrity Bagga
- Zoe Broomhead
- Ian Cunningham
- Michael Embury
- Caterina Kasiaras

Local Organisations providing disability services in Monash

- Vicki Hayes (OC Connections)

There are currently six vacant positions on this committee. Three of these vacancies arose following resignations. Di Gow and Leanne Grosvenor both resigned during 2020 and Vicki Hayes gave notice of her resignation from the committee in October, following her resignation from OC Connections. The further three positions remain unfilled, with officers seeking to recruit new members in 2021.

All DAC positions are voluntary positions.

The DAC is convened by Council's Access & Inclusion Community Development Officer.

Summary of 2020 Meetings

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

It should be noted that the Disability Advisory Committee meetings during 2020 did not reach a quorum of attendance by committee members. The primary reason for this has been the challenges presented by COVID-19 and members' accessibility to attend meetings via Zoom. Officers have provided ongoing support and guidance to committee members to encourage them to join online meetings. While agenda items have still been in keeping with the purpose of the committee, it is accepted that meetings were less formal but still an excellent way to continue to maintain regular connect with committee members and their networks throughout the pandemic.

Meeting Date	Attendees	Topics discussed
20 February In person	Attendees: Cr Lynnette Saloumi (Chair) Wanda Egerton Ian Cunningham Michael Embury Vicki Hayes Council Staff: Barb Wallace Siobhan Wood Simon Harrex Apologies: Cr Shane McCluskey Caterina Kasiaras Zoe Broomhead Leanne Grosvenor Helen Haughton Smrity Bagga NB – quorum not reached for this meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about the new Sensory Zone to be included at the 2020 Clayton Festival • Local access issues raised for follow up by Council • Consultation on Council's Gambling Policy: Presented by Simon Harrex, Health Promotion Officer • Upcoming consultation survey regarding loneliness in the Monash community, to inform a new framework to guide Council on how best to address this issue: Presented by Siobhan Wood • Information about the State Government consultation on the 2021-2024 State Disability Plan. Encouraged DAC members to provide feedback. • Advocacy & Information Sharing

16 April	Meeting cancelled	Meeting cancelled due to COVID-19. Committee to receive additional support to transition to an online meeting format in June
18 June Online via Zoom	Attendees: Cr Shane McCluskey (Chair) Cr Lynnette Saloumi Vicki Hayes Wanda Egerton Council Staff: Barb Wallace Siobhan Wood Sandra Smith Apologies: Ian Cunningham Zoe Broomhead Caterina Kasiaras Vicki Hayes Smrity Bagga Michael Embury NB – quorum not reached for this meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about impacts of COVID-19 restrictions and supports available • Consultation on O’Sullivan Road Streetscape (the pedestrian entry of The Glen): Presented by Sandra Smith, Landscape Architect, Monash City Design team • Community Engagement Policy consultation (DAC members attended separate online consultation workshops to support the development of this policy) • Advocacy & Information Sharing
20 August Online via Zoom	Attendees: Cr Shane McCluskey (Chair) Cr Lynnette Saloumi Wanda Egerton Michael Embury Helen Haughton Council Staff: Barb Wallace Siobhan Wood Luke DePasquale Shannon Stabb Apologies: Helen Houghton Ian Cunningham Zoe Broomhead Caterina Kasiaras Vicki Hayes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the Community Connector Program (CASI Initiative) and Council’s role in providing emergency relief and psychosocial support during the pandemic • Consultation on Monash’s SwimSafe campaign targeted at adult vulnerable swimmers and non-swimmers, as well as those with pre-existing medical conditions or disabilities: Presented by Luke DePasquale (Active Monash Area Manager-Operations) and Shannon Stabb (Active Monash Area

	NB – quorum not reached for this meeting	<p>Manager - Aquatics and Inclusion)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy & Information Sharing
<p>15 October</p> <p>Online via Zoom</p>	<p>Attendees:</p> <p>Cr Shane McCluskey (Chair)</p> <p>Cr Lynnette Saloumi</p> <p>Wanda Egerton</p> <p>Helen Houghton</p> <p>Michael Embury</p> <p>Guests:</p> <p>Maxine Parker</p> <p>Judy O'Connor</p> <p>Council Staff:</p> <p>Barb Wallace</p> <p>Siobhan Wood</p> <p>Luke DePasquale</p> <p>Shannon Stabb</p> <p>Apologies:</p> <p>Ian Cunningham</p> <p>Smrity Bagga</p> <p>Zoe Broomhead</p> <p>Caterina Kasiaras</p> <p>Vicki Hayes</p> <p>NB – quorum not reached for this meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Maxine Parker and Judy O'Connor from Access Ability Australia about Access Keys - accessibility guides that provide information about accessing venues and events • Advocacy & Information Sharing

Gender Equity Advisory Committee

Purpose

The role of the 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 the implementation of Council's Gender Equity Strategy 2015-2020.

Committee Responsibilities

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.

The committee assists in the implementation of Monash's Gender Equity Strategy.

- Advocates for gender equity within the Monash community and beyond
- Provides feedback and advice to Council on the gender equity implications of its policies, plans and services
- Considers funding and other opportunities as they may arise
- Provides advice to Council on gender equity issues
- Contributes 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 17 representatives and will include representation from Council, Community organisations, agencies and service providers who have a focus on gender equity and/or women's health and wellbeing, plus community members living or working in Monash. 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. Non-Council members currently appointed to other Council Advisory Committees will be ineligible for GEAC membership.

In 2020 the GEAC membership consisted of:

- Cr Rebecca Paterson (Chair)
- Cr Stuart James
- Cr Anjalee de Silva
- Jasmine Howlett
- Elleleen Springer
- Fiona Marshall
- Diana Hansen
- Tania Rose
- Debbie Lee
- Shamiso Murambi
- Alex Mills
- Jessica Anson
- Gauri Kapoor
- Poonam Mehra
- Puvana Sivakumar
- Jayde McBurnie
- Bailey Webb

Appointment of Committee Members

Nominations were originally invited from community members interested in joining the Gender Equity Advisory Committee in mid-2018.

At its 25 September 2018 meeting, Council endorsed the appointment of the following eight people to the Gender Equity Advisory Committee, each for a two year term:

- Jasmine Howlett
- Elleleen Springer
- Fiona Marshall
- Diana Hansen
- Tania Rose
- Debbie Lee
- Shamiso Murambi
- Alex Mills

Council also endorsed two year extensions for the following five existing committee members:

- Jessica Anson
- Gauri Kapoor
- Poonam Mehra
- Puvana Sivakumar
- Jayde McBurnie

At its 30 April 2019 meeting, Council endorsed another appointment to the committee for a two year term:

- Bailey Webb

Frequency of Meeting

The GEAC meets bi-monthly for a duration of two hours. It is expected that each member attend 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
17 February In person	Attendees: Cr Paterson (Chair) Cr Lynette Saloumi (Delegate for Cr Stuart James) Diana Hansen Debbie Lee Tania Rose Alex Mills Gauri Kapoor Poonam Mehra Council Staff: Kerryn Jansons (Delegate for Fee Harrison) Simon Harrex Laura Newstead Apologies: Cr Stuart James Fee Harrison Puvana Sivakumar Fiona Marshall Jacinda Enrich Jazzy Howlett Shami Murambi Elleleen Springe Katie McKee Bailey Webb Jessica Anson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on Council's Gambling Policy: Presented by Simon Harrex, Health Promotion Officer • Overview and discussion on Gender Impact Assessment pilot for Monash Council. • Loneliness Policy upcoming consultation. • 2020 GEAC Planning. • International Women's Day Monash Event Planning for March. • Advocacy & Information Sharing from GEAC members.
14 May Online via Zoom	Attendees: Cr Rebecca Paterson (Chair) Cr Stuart James Diana Hansen Tania Rose Puvana Sivakumar Alex Mills Gauri Kapoor Poonam Mehra Rachel Soh (Delegate for Katie McKee) Council staff: Fee Harrison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on the Impact of COVID19 on Family Violence and Gender Equity in Monash • Overview of the key gender equity projects from Monash Council • Discussion on the current Council consultation Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Loneliness Policy Consultation ○ Social Housing Policy Consultation

	<p>Laura Newstead</p> <p>Apologies: Debbie Lee Fiona Marshall Jazzy Howlett Shamiso Murambi Elleleen Springer Katie McKee Bailey Webb Jessica Anson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New Community Engagement Consultation
<p>12 October</p> <p>Online via Zoom</p>	<p>Attendees: Cr Rebecca Paterson (Chair) Cr Stuart James Alex Mills Diana Hansen Fiona Marshall Jazzy Howlett Katie McKee Poonam Mehra Puvana Sivakumar Tania Rose</p> <p>Council staff: Fee Harrison Laura Newstead Liz Fitzgerald</p> <p>Apologies: Bailey Webb Debbie Lee Elleleen Springer Shami Murambi Jessica Anson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation by Liz Fitzgerald, CLUBS Project Officer on Community Leaders United by Sport (CLUBS) and This Girl Can campaign. ● 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based violence planning : 25th Nov – 10th Dec
<p>22 December</p> <p>Online via Zoom</p>	<p>Attendees: Cr Rebecca Paterson (Chair) Cr Anjalee de Silva Cr Stuart James Alex Mills Katie McKee Poonam Mehra Tania Rose Bailey Webb</p> <p>Council staff: Fee Harrison</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcomed Cr Anjalee de Silva to the committee ● Debrief on the 16 Days of Activism campaign ● Gender Equity project summaries for Monash Council ● GEAC Membership for 2021 ● Consultation of the Pathways to Equality project lead by Emma-Louise Smith ● International Women’s Day Planning

	<p>Tracey Egan Emma-Louise Smith Russell Hopkins</p> <p>Apologies: Debbie Lee Elleleen Springer Shami Murambi Diana Hansen Fiona Marshall Jazzy Howlett Puvana Sivakumar Gauri Kapoor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on GEAC meetings for 2021
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Achievements 2019/2020

- Assisted in planning Council's first Intersectionality workshop with all six Advisory Committees
- Provided a gender lens and strategic advice to several Council's Plans and Strategies. For example, increasing female membership at the Aquatic Centres during the MARC Needs Assessment
- Provide strategic advice on Council's submissions and Statements, e.g. Tribute to Eurydice Dixon, Gender Equality Bill
- Successful for a number of funding opportunities to work across a range of settings in Monash, e.g. playgroups, sports clubs, faith-based
- Assisted with organising key Council events, e.g. International Women's Day and 16 Days of Activism
- Supported the Gender Equity Coordinator with expertise on a number of projects, e.g. CLUBS Program

Junior Advisory Group

Purpose

Connecting Young People with their Local Government/Councillors. This platform enables Monash students in Grades 4 to 6 to raise any concerns or questions they may have as active citizens in their community.

Composition

Eight to 14 students and two Councillors attend each session, typically held twice per year around April/May and during Children's Week in October.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there was only one Junior Advisory Group meeting in 2020, held on Thursday 3 December via Zoom. Crs James and Paterson attended with students from six local primary schools:

- Glendal Primary School
- St Mary Magdalen's Primary School
- St Leonards Primary School
- Oakleigh Grammar
- St Christopher's Primary School
- Oakleigh South Primary School

Questions asked by the young people covered topics such as off-leash parks, building permits, voting for Councillors, drainage at Scotchmans Run Reserve, traffic around schools, community gardens, and the condition of the family change rooms at MARC.

Multicultural Advisory Committee

Purpose

The aim of the Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) is to provide Council with advice on a range of multicultural issues. Scope of the committee's key functions include:

- Consult on issues affecting Monash's culturally and linguistically diverse community and provides feedback and advice to Council on its policies, plans and services that impact people of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds
- Assist Council to promote the benefits of cultural diversity within the Monash municipality and beyond and provide advice to Council with its communication, engagement and consultation with CALD communities
- Advocate on behalf of the CALD community of Monash
- Consider current needs and opportunities as they may arise

Appointments to the Multicultural Advisory Committee are for a two-year term and members may continue for an additional two-year term only.

Committee Membership

The MAC membership consists of up to 16 members. The 2020 membership of the MAC included:

Councillors

- Cr Shane McCluskey (Chair)
- Cr MT Pang Tsoi
- Cr Lynnette Saloumi

Resident Representatives

- Lena Kodeljian

- Bala Balamurugan
- Jimmy Jian Min Lin
- Theresa Ssali
- May Hu
- Richard Ng
- Isata Victoria Mandoh

Local Organisations providing CALD communities services in Monash

- Konstantina Kouroutsidou (Pronia – Australia Greek Welfare)
- Sally Brooks (Migrant Information Centre, Eastern Region)

There are currently four vacant positions on this committee. Three of these vacancies arose following resignations from Shivam Arora and Harvey Foender and with Esha Zahid completing her second term in 2020.

All MAC positions are voluntary positions.

The MAC is convened by Council's Multicultural Community Development Officer.

Summary of 2020 Meetings

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

Meeting Date	Attendees	MATTERS discussed
February In Person	Attendees: Cr MT Pang Tsoi (Chair) Cr Lynnette Saloumi Lena Kodeljjan Richard Ng Jimmy Jian Min Lin May Hu Council Staff: Siobhan Wood Pamela Kosij Lynne Kent Anna Mezzetti Apologies: Cr Shane McCluskey Esha Zahid Sally Brooks Bala Balamurugan Theresa Ssali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation of MAC members on new creative partnership activities to increase diverse participation – presented by Lynne Kent, Cultural Development Officer • Consultation regarding Council's sustainability programs relating to gardens for wildlife, tree education and volunteer habitat improvement groups, to better engage with CALD communities – presented by Anna Mezzetti, Senior Sustainability Office • Advocacy & Information sharing

	Konstantina Kouroutsidou Harvey Foenander Isata Victoria Mandoh	
April Via Zoom	Attendees: Cr Shane McCluskey (Chair) Cr Lynnette Saloumi Konstantina Kouroutsidou Sally Brooks Bala Balamurugan Jimmy Jian Min Lin Theresa Ssali May Hu Richard Ng Isata Victoria Mandoh Council Staff: Siobhan Wood Pamela Kosij Apologies: Cr MT Pang Tsoi Lena Kodeljian Esha Zahid Konstantina Kouroutsidou Harvey Foenander	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from MAC members on how the Pandemic has impacted the local CALD community • Update from Monash Council on work in response to Covid-19 – Emergency Management & Community Response Teams, Monash Loneliness Policy & Resilience Framework • Advocacy & Information sharing
June Via Zoom	Attendees: Cr Lynnette Saloumi (Chair) Konstantina Kouroutsidou Sally Brooks Lena Kodeljian Bala Balamurugan Jimmy Jian Min Lin Theresa Ssali May Hu Richard Ng Isata Victoria Mandoh Council Staff: Pamela Kosij Siobhan Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement Policy and invite to consultation workshop - Diana Bell, Consultation & Research Coordinator • Active Monash Consultation on the Implementation of the Swim Safe Program: Presented by Luke DePasquale, Area Manager Operations, Safety & Training; Matt Haanappel, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator; Shannon Stabb, Area Manager Aquatics. • COVID-19 Restrictions - Council Services and Facilities Update • Advocacy & Information sharing

	<p>Diana Bell Mathew Haanappel Luke DePasquale Shannon Stabb</p> <p>Apologies: Cr Shane McCluskey Cr Pang Tsoi</p>	
<p>August Via Zoom</p>	<p>Attendees: Cr Shane McCluskey (Chair) Cr Pang Tsoi Cr Lynnette Saloumi Konstantina Kouroutsidou Sally Brooks Lena Kodeljian Jimmy Jian Min Lin Theresa Ssali May Hu Richard Ng</p> <p>Council Staff: Siobhan Wood Pamela Kosij</p> <p>Apologies: Isata Victoria Mandoh Bala Balamurugan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the Community Connector Program (CASI Initiative) and Council's role in providing emergency relief and psychosocial support during the pandemic • Advocacy & Information sharing
<p>October Via Zoom</p>	<p>Attendees: Cr Shane McCluskey (Chair) Cr MT Pang Tsoi Jimmy Jian Min Li May Hu Lena Kojadelian Theresa Ssali Konstantina Kouroutsidou</p> <p>Council staff: Pamela Kosij Siobhan Wood Travis Hearn Helen Carey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October Safety Month: Presentation by Travis Hearn, Community Safety Officer • Monash Libraries' Digital Mentors program: Presentation by Helen Carey - Learning Technologies Librarian/Team Leader • Advocacy & Information sharing

	Apologies: Cr Lynnette Saloumi Isata (Victoria) Mandoh Sally Brooks Bala Balamurugan Esha Zahid Richard Ng	
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Oakleigh Activity Centre Advisory Group

Purpose

The Oakleigh Activity Centre Steering Committee provides oversight and co-ordination of major projects across the Oakleigh Activity Centre.

Frequency of Meeting

The Committee has not met within the last 12 months, however there remain significant projects that are current in the Oakleigh Activity Centre. The impact of COVID-19 pandemic has delayed the progress of these projects. As the State emerges from the pandemic and restrictions, it is anticipated that projects will be re-activated.

Positive Ageing Reference Group

Purpose

The PARG is an inclusive group of older people, committed to ensuring Monash is an Age Friendly City and advocating on the issues and aspirations of our older residents. PARG members are interviewed for selection and can remain on the committee for three terms (six years).

The purpose of the Positive Ageing Reference Group (PARG) is to inform and advise Council on issues, barriers and aspirations of our older adult community. Since 2003, PARG has provided advice on Council's Positive Ageing Strategic Plan and then the Age Friendly Plan. In particular, PARG guided Council on the journey to become an Age Friendly City with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2013 onwards.

PARG is represented by 12 community members and two Councillors. The term for the community membership is two years. Community members are appointed by Council following a public expression of interest. The current membership is from June 2018-2021.

One member (Dorothy Boysouth) resigned in this time frame and, due to COVID-19, has not been replaced.

PARG meets six times per calendar year (usually every second month). The format of the meetings is:

- Welcome, attendance and apologies
- Conflict of interest
- Age Friendly update
- Social Inclusion update
- Positive Ageing Librarian update
- Active Monash update – Prime of Life membership and other special programs
- Community Support update
- Councillor update
- Other Business

	13 Feb	9 April no meeting due to COVID	15 May Zoom	11 June Zoom	9 July Zoom	6 Aug Zoom	26 Nov Zoom
Cr Brian Little	x		Y	Y	Y	x	Y
Cr Lynette Saloumi	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	NA
Annette Anakotta	Y		Y	x	x	x	Y
Marlene Bottrell	Y		x	x	x	x	x
Elaine Forde	Y		Y	Y	x	Y	x
Janet Goodwin	Y		Y	Y	x	x	Y
Mark Learmonth	x		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Constantine Mandalis	Y		x	x	x	x	x
Jennifer Sheppard	Y		x	x	x	Y	x
Qin Shi Gao	overseas		x	x	Y	Y	Y
Phil Terry	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Irene Triroulis	Y		x	x	x	x	x
Andrea Whitty	Y		Y	Y	x	x	x
Betty Wilderman	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	x
Jenny Hiscock	Y						
Pat West	guest						
Carol Syer	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sallenna Skye	x		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jackie Grieves	guest						
Michelle Jones	guest					guest	
Stacey Faletoese	Y		x	Y	x	Y	x
Vicki Chisholm	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
April Williams	guest						
Carolyn Court	guest						
Susannah Petris						guest	

Key initiatives

During 2020 the committee has been involved in:

Increasing Places to Rest - Development of a process to map existing and additional seating across all the 32 grid zones in Monash. Undertook a mapping exercise that is currently being merged into a central spreadsheet to be added to the Council GIS mapping system.

Loneliness Framework - Feedback provided to Community Strengthening on the impact of Ageing and Loneliness.

Feedback and Advice on Social Inclusion Programs - Provide feedback on the key activities and make suggestions to support council staff in the delivery of the Positive Ageing Lifestyle (PALS) program and the Monash Seniors Festival program.

Zoom Meetings - During COVID-19 lockdown members were supported by Council staff to attend Zoom meetings. Increasing confidence, awareness and knowledge of Tech savvy skills.

Positive Ageing Directory - Review and provide feedback on the newly developed Positive Ageing Directory to be launched in early 2021 as a resource for older residents to connect with their community.

Representation - One member was selected by the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) to be on the Victorian Commissioner for Seniors Victorian Senior Advisory Group by the Director, Seniors Programs and Participation Seniors, Ageing and Carers Branch, Health and Wellbeing Division.

Monash University Initiative - Monash Council has partnered with Monash University in their bid for an Industrial Transformation Training Centre in Optimal Ageing. PARG Members invited to be on the Monash University Optimising Ageing Centre focus group.

Feedback and advice

- Provide advice/feedback and ideas on social inclusion opportunities to be planned and organised in the Positive Ageing Lifestyle Program – PALS.
- Support with the evaluation of the Age Friendly Action in the Integrated Health Plan.
- Provided feedback on the Loneliness Framework in relation to older residents.

Positive Ageing Seniors Network Forum

Purpose

The Seniors Forum provides an opportunity for any committee member of a seniors group and staff from local not-for-profit service providers (i.e. South East Volunteer Service, Neighbourhood House) to find out the latest news from Council on matters such as community grants, halls management, Age Friendly update and opportunities to be involved and Council initiatives. There is no interview or selection process to attend this forum as it is not an official advisory group.

The purpose of the Positive Ageing Seniors Network Forum is to meet with key Council staff from various departments to be informed by Council on various issues that may be relevant to their group, club or organisation.

Numbers and groups that are represented at each forum meeting are varied depending on their availability, including Councillors. There is no term for the community membership to attend and no appointment of community members by Council.

The Positive Ageing Seniors Network Forum typically meets three times per calendar year, however during COVID-19 all meetings were suspended due to lockdown. One meeting was hosted by Zoom in November 2020, which covered a range of matters:

- Community Grants update
- Community Halls update
- Age Friendly update
- Positive Ageing Lifestyle, Seniors Festival and Social Inclusion update
- Councillor update
- Group updates

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 take action on issues affecting young people living in the City of Monash.

The Committee has two broad 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 positive promotion of young people's ideas and achievements.

Achievements for 2020

The MYC continued to meet monthly during 2020, initially face to face, then when COVID restrictions were introduced, via video conferencing platforms. This provided both an opportunity for Council and other organisations to consult with the committee on various topics as well as an opportunity for the members to develop their skills and have a voice about the issues important to the young people in Monash.

See below for dates and Councillor attendance. Councillors McCluskey and Paterson were the Council representatives for 2020 and Cr James attended as Mayor.

22 January 2020	Cr James
12 February 2020	Crs James, McCluskey and Paterson
11 March 2020	Crs James and Paterson
8 April 2020	Crs James, McCluskey and Paterson
13 May 2020	Crs James and McCluskey
10 June 2020	Cr McCluskey
8 July 2020	Crs James and McCluskey
12 August 2020	Crs James, McCluskey and Paterson
9 September 2020	Crs James and McCluskey
14 October 2020	Crs James, McCluskey and Paterson
11 November 2020	No Councillor Attendance
December 2020	No formal meeting

In 2020, the MYC has undertaken the following:

- Had a past member, Dr Mizna Shahbaz, talk to the group about COVID anxiety, providing clear facts about COVID-19 and how individuals can minimise risk. She also spoke about self-care and looking after family and friends. This presentation occurred in May 2020. Committee members reported that they appreciated the presentation and subsequent discussion.
- Undertook media training facilitated by the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVIC) providing members of the committee with the opportunity to learn how young people can have a stronger voice through the media. Five members put their names forward for further training so that they could join a pool of YACVIC young people who are media trained and interested in being interviewed on youth related issues.
- In November 2020 a member of MYC, Evonne Lu, was announced as one of 31 finalists and representing the City of Monash in the *Takeover Melbourne* storytelling competition. *Takeover Melbourne* is a new initiative from the ABC in partnership with VicHealth, Resilient Melbourne and the Centre for Multicultural Youth, amplifying the voices of young Melburnians (aged 12 to 18 years).
- Wrote a letter Federal MP's to voice their concerns on behalf of Monash Young people in regards to changes made to the Higher Education Support Amendment (Job-Ready Graduates and Supporting Regional and Remote Students) Bill 2020.
- After being actively involved in advocating for a *headspace* service in Monash, have continued to support the project with some members continuing active representation in the co-design meetings for Monash's *headspace* Syndal development.

The current working groups for MYC are:

- a) Environment
- b) Community Engagement

The Environment Group facilitated a social media ECO Challenge where community members were encouraged to complete nine environmentally friendly challenges including, ride, recycle, repair and plant something. The project was promoted on youth services social media and had 14 entries where community members provided photos of themselves completing challenges.

The Community Engagement Group developed a range of social media activities promoting fun and inclusion during lock down. The Community Engagement Group facilitated eight online quizzes with an engagement of more than 150 people and the also developed a 30-day Health and Wellbeing challenge for youth services social media.

Members for endorsement or reappointment

At the end of 2020 MYC received nine resignations, predominately related to committee members increasing work, school or university commitments. These members have been active and valuable representatives of young people through their involvement in and contribution to MYC: Ms Vrinda Mahesh, Mr Karthik Muralim, Ms Tatyana Wilson, Ms Anna Zhang, Ms Shriya Gupta, Mr Ani Prakash, Ms Veronica Levey, Mr Darren Chee and Ms Laura Wang.

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. Mr Jonathan Lee, Mr Jacob Biviano, Mr Raghav Baheti, Mr Vibhu Desilva and Mr Alan Wang were successful in their application for MYC subject to Council's endorsement.

As a result of the resignations and appointments in this report the group will have 16 endorsed members of young people. Currently there are five places available for new MYC members in 2021.