

7.2 GENDER EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS
(TE)

Responsible Committee: Gender Equity Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council endorses the appointment of the following five people to the Gender Equity Advisory Committee, each for a two-year term:

Emily Pham
Christopher Unwin
Jade McNamara
Nandini Sungupta
Prabha Arachchige

2. That Council endorses two-year extensions for the following eight existing committee members:

Jasmine Howlett
Fiona Marshall
Diana Hansen
Tania Rose
Debbie Lee
Shamiso Murambi
Alex Mills
Kirsty Kain

3. That Council acknowledges and thanks the outgoing committee members for their contribution over the four-year term:

Gauri Kapoor
Poonam Mehra
Puvana Sivakuma
Elleleen Springer
Lucy Wickham

4. That Council notes the revised Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Gender Equity Advisory Committee.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to recommend the appointment of five new members to the Gender Equity Advisory Committee (GEAC) and recommend revisions to the GEAC Terms of Reference

BACKGROUND

The role of the GEAC 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 A Healthy & Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017 – 2021 and Gender Equity Strategy 2015-2020.

At the November 2020 Council meeting, Council appointed three Councillors to the Gender Equity Advisory Committee, increasing Council's representation on this Committee. The Terms of Reference have subsequently been revised to reflect this increase.

This Committee comprises of up to 14 community representatives appointed by Council. There can also be up to three Councillors on the Committee. Due to a number of members completing their four-year term, the GEAC currently has five vacancies.

In addition to the new members, there are eight members recommended to remain on the committee for a further two years, as an extension of their initial term. These members are Jasmine Howlett, Fiona Marshall, Diana Hansen, Tania Rose, Debbie Lee, Shamiso Murambi, Alex Mills and Kirsty Kain.

There is also one existing member, Bailey Webb, who is in the second year of their initial two-year term in 2019.

DISCUSSION

Due to the five vacancies on the GEC, Council invited nominations from people living or working in the City of Monash who have:

- Knowledge and understanding of the needs and issues relevant to gender equity
- An interest and involvement in local and/or broader community partnerships, advocacy, networks or activities
- The ability to contribute to the strategic development of gender equity initiatives at local government level
- Direct links to local community populations and/or organisations
- Experience and/or understanding of the role of an advisory committee

Council received a total of 12 nominations to join the committee. A group interview was held on Tuesday 9 March, chaired by Cr Rebecca Paterson,

Cr Anjalee de Silva and Cr Stuart James with support from officers. While all nominees clearly demonstrated a commitment and capability to contribute to the Committee, the following five applicants were considered most suitable for membership of the Committee:

- Emily Pham
- Christopher Unwin
- Jade McNamara
- Nandini Sungupta
- Prabha Arachchige

All recommended applicants meet the membership criteria set out in the Committee's Terms of Reference and offer a broad range of skills, experiences and educational qualifications to that of the existing members.

These new members, in addition to the nine current members, will bring this committee to its full capacity.

Council acknowledges the contribution of the outgoing committee members for their contribution to the GEAC over the four-year term:

- Gauri Kapoor
- Poonam Mehra
- Puvana Sivakuma
- Elleleen Springer
- Lucy Wickham

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report is in line with Council's *A Healthy & Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021*

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Members of GEAC contribute to the strengthening of Council's advocacy, policy development, planning and program implementation to promote gender equity and the prevention of violence against women.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

This report is in line with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and in particular with the following rights: freedom of expression; and taking part in public life.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications resulting from this recommendation.

CONCLUSION

This report recommends the appointment of the following five people to the Gender Equity Advisory Committee, each for a two-year term:

- Emily Pham
- Christopher Unwin
- Jade McNama
- Nandini Sungupta
- Prabha Arachchige

That Council endorses two-year extensions for the following eight existing committee members:

- Jasmine Howlett
- Fiona Marshall
- Diana Hansen
- Tania Rose
- Debbie Lee
- Shamiso Murambi
- Alex Mills
- Kirsty Kain

That Council acknowledges and thanks the outgoing committee members for their contribution over the four-year term:

- Gauri Kapoor
- Poonam Mehra
- Puvana Sivakuma
- Elleleen Springer
- Lucy Wickham

That Council notes the revised Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Gender Equity Advisory Committee.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1: Revised Gender Equity Advisory Committee Terms of Reference