

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SENIORS COORDINATING COMMITTEE
 ON WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2020 4:00PM
 ANDY MCNEILL ROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, TODD STREET

1. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT:

Mayor Damien Ryan (*Chair*)
 Lowell Wood, Dementia Australia
 Fran Kilgariff, Council of the Ageing (COTA)
 Kate Lewis, Anglicare NT
 Sue Jones, National Seniors of Central Australia
 Edna Saunders, Probus Club of Alice Springs
 Shauna Hartig, Country Women's Association
 Nerida Holmes, Relationships Australia (*Guest*)
 Stephanie Milosavljevic, Family Law Pathways Network (*Guest*)
 Hayley Ross, Walking Netball, NetballNT (*Guest*)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jeanette Shepherd, Manager Community and Cultural Development
 Clare Fisher, Manager Library Services
 Kiri Milne, Community Development Officer
 Telly Ociones, Executive Assistant (*Minutes*)

13th Alice Springs Town Council Seniors Coordinating Committee	17 Jul - 19	21 Aug - 19	18 Sep - 19	16 Oct - 19	20 Nov - 19	19 Feb - 20
Mayor Damien Ryan	✓	A	Meeting cancelled – no quorum	✓	✓	✓
Councillor Jamie de Brenni	✓	A		✓	✓	A
Councillor Catherine Satour				✓	✓	A
Councillor Glen Auricht	✓	✓				
Edna Saunders	✓	✓		--	✓	✓
Ian Towns	✓	✓		✓	✓	A
Lowell Wood	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Fran Kilgariff	✓	✓		A	A	✓
Shauna Hartig	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Sue Jones	A	A		✓	✓	✓
Kate Lewis	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Val Hoey		✓		✓	✓	--
Geoff Sloan	✓	A		A	✓	A
Rhiannon Fletcher / Belinda Staniforth		✓		✓	A	A
Bronwyn Arnold	✓ Proxy	✓ Proxy		--	--	--

✓	Attended	A	Apology received
✓ Proxy	Proxy attended in place of committee member	--	No attendance and no apology recorded

The meeting commenced at 4:00pm.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Jamie de Brenni
Councillor Catherine Satour
Geoff Sloan, General Member
Belinda Staniforth, Catholic Care NT
Ian Towns, University of the 3rd Age
Robert Jennings, Chief Executive Officer
Simon Duke, Acting Director Corporate and Community Services

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Nil

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee meeting held 20 November 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Moved: Sue Jones
Seconded: Lowell Wood

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**4.1 Seniors Dance Classes**

In response to interest expressed in the 'over 50s' dance classes run by GUTS Dance studio and facilitated by Lauren Jones, Council is pleased to announce that a pilot program of eight (8) therapeutic dance movement classes tailored towards people living with dementia or experiencing cognitive impairment will take place.

The classes will be held in the Andy McNeill Room each Tuesday from 10:00am to 11:00am, beginning 26 March 2020 and will be a gold coin donation. The program is funded by a partnership between ASTC, Dementia Australia and Disability Advocacy Service. Council officers are in the process of finalising the promotional material which will be distributed to SCC and its networks.

The Community Development Officer is also in the early stages of arranging a series of introductory dance classes for pensioners/ concession card holders and over 65s through GUTS Dance that will occur later in the year.

5. DEPUTATION:**5.1 Stephanie Milosavljevic, Family Law Pathways Network**

The Family Law Pathways Network (FLPN) is an initiative of the Attorney-General's Department. Funding is auspiced through Relationships Australia and networking events are facilitated by different organisations throughout Australia. It was established to support service providers and professionals working with separating and separated families.

The aim of the Alice Springs FLPN is to support professionals to work collaboratively, to build strong working relationships and improve overall assistance to families experiencing

separation. This is achieved through the provision of information on services, promotion of cross-sector awareness, development and distribution of resources and coordination of multi-disciplinary training and events for professionals. For families making their way through the family law system, a clear pathway is formed when they understand their legal and non-legal options for resolving a dispute, and can access services best suited to their situation.

The Alice Springs FLPN has a website which includes information, fact sheets, Professional Development opportunities, Webinars, FLPN events and a Service Directory. The FLPN Service Directory is designed to enable separating families and those professionals who are supporting them, with easy access to information on a range of services and referral pathways in the family law system and community service sector.

When families separate, there are different ways in which families can make decisions about their children. The Family Law Flowchart has been developed to help families understand their options in the family law system. This includes such options as a private family agreement, mediation or accessing the Federal Circuit Court of Australia. The back page of the Family Law Flowchart includes information on a range of services for separating families. Here is the link to FLPN website for the flowchart- <https://www.alicesprings.familylaw.org.au/fact-sheets/>

The Alice Springs FLPN services the areas around Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.

The Community Development Officer asked about the rights of grandparents particularly when kids are involved and the service available with this system. Stephanie Milosavljevic advised that in Alice Springs, there are two options. They can go to the NT Legal Aid Commission for assisted mediation through a process called family law conferencing. This option involved lawyers. The other option is through Relationships Australia via a family dispute resolution process. Lawyers are not involved in this process but family dispute resolution practitioners. Parties who are in conflict can be supported to communicate with each other about what is important for them and how to make decisions relevant to resolving their dispute.

The Chair thanked Stephanie Milosavljevic for her presentation.

5.2 Hayley Ross, Walking Netball, Netball NT

Walking Netball is a modified version of netball designed for senior women and men, but at a walking pace. Walking Netball will improve your health outcomes by helping you stay active and social, regardless of fitness or age. It provides an opportunity for players to have fun, meet with friends and develop social networks. It is an initiative brought by Netball NT and COTA.

Netball NT is running a free weekly competition through Term 1, (*12 February until 8 April 2020*) every Wednesday from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the Pat Gallagher Netball Centre, Undoolya Road. These fun and social competitions are open to men and women aged 55yrs or older.

To register please contact Hayley Ross: email participationsouth@netballnt.org.au or phone 0428 779 700.

Hayley Ross also promoted the All Abilities Come and Try Netball. People with a disability of any age and gender are invited to come and try learning the skills of netball. Cost is free. For more information contact thornydevils@outlook.com.au

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

6.1 Upcoming Council and Community Events

The Manager Community and Cultural Development reported on the following upcoming events:

- RSL lawn sale is taking place Saturday 22 February at 8am, 20 Schwarz Crescent.
- Single Use Plastics Information Session - 27 February 5pm, Andy McNeill room - Council with the Arid Lands Environment Centre invite the community to attend an information session on eliminating Single Use Plastic (SUP). Find out about how to transition away from SUPs to planet-friendly alternatives at this important community presentation.
- Night Markets – The first night market for 2020 will be held in conjunction with the opening of the FABalace Festival, 5 March 2020.
- March 2020 is Multicultural Fitness Month – 7 March to 29 March, held at three different locations showcasing interactive cultural fun. It is a one-hour class from 8:00am each Saturday mornings for all for all ages and fitness abilities. Cost is free.
 - 7 March – Latin American – Civic Centre lawns
 - 14 March – Bollywood – Francis Smith Park
 - 21 March – African – Araluen Park
 - 28 March – Wing Chun Art – Civic Centre lawns
- International Women's Day (IWD) Breakfast, 9 March 2020, DoubleTree by Hilton A/S - a panel of women will provide inspirational and thought-provoking commentary on issues relating to the IWD theme "An equal world is an enabled world" - #EachforEqual. Sponsored by the Women's Museum of Australia and Old Gaol Alice Springs.

6.2 Senior Relationship Services

Nerida Holmes advised that Relationships Australia has a new service called Senior Relationship Services. It is a free support service for people aged 65 years and over who are experiencing, or are at risk of abuse. Everyone is welcome to attend the opening on Wednesday 26 February at 3pm at 5/11 Railway Terrace.

6.3 Parrtjima Festival 2020

Mayor Ryan advised that the annual Parrtjima - A Festival in Light, which will deliver its fifth annual program between Friday, April 3 to Sunday, April 12 returns to Alice Springs. The festival will continue its free ten-day public celebration of Indigenous arts, culture, music and storytelling and its focus on dazzling light installations in the Todd Mall, as well as at tourism and conservation facility Alice Springs Desert Park Precinct.

6.4 Update from Manager Library Services

The Manager Library Services gave the following update:

- All About Women – 8 March, 11:00am to 4:30pm, in celebration of International Women's Day. This will be a festival of incredible local music, panel discussion from strong female local leaders and a collaborative art project. There will be a live streaming of the All About Women Festival from the Sydney Opera House. This is a free event, but bookings are essential as places are limited. Lunch and afternoon tea are provided.
- The Alice Springs Library, Friends of the Strehlow Research Centre and David Roennfeldt invite you to the launch of the journal of proceedings from Friends of the Strehlow 2018 Symposium and the book *laakinha rraatja* Western Arrernte Literacy 1877- 2017 how the Hermannsburg area language has been put in writing.

The event is at 6 pm on Thursday 27 February 2020 in Alice Springs Public Library to be launched by Rev Cannon Brian Jeffries. Cost is free and no bookings required.

- The Library has completed its full stocktake collection since 2012. There are 53,000 items the Library has currently on hand.
- 18,000 visitors in the Library for the month of January 2020. The Library has 13,000 members, which is about 45% of the population of Alice Springs.
- An online Library Lovers Loyalty Club will be launched in two months-time. This is about rewarding people for reading, attending events, giving book reviews, etc.

6.5 Community Grants from Council

Council's Community Grants program for 2020 closes 5pm Monday 24 February 2020. Interested community members and community organisations are invited to apply for one of the following grants:

- Community Assistance (up to \$1500)
- Community Development (up to \$5000)
- Youth Development (up to \$5000)
- Araluen Community Access (up to \$2000)
- Sustainability Initiatives (up to \$2500) – **new**

The application forms and grant guidelines have been updated, please read through carefully before applying.

6.6 Seniors Month Planning

The Alice Springs Convention Centre has been confirmed as the venue for this year's Senior's Still Got Talent competition. Council officers are in the process of finalising the program for the Still Got Talent competition, Mayoral morning tea, Library event and new activities to run such as gardening related event. Mayor Ryan suggested doing a joint venture with the Community Garden. A morning tea can be arranged with one of the community groups.

Fran Kilgariff advised that the cut off date to send activities or functions for the Seniors Month calendar is 7 June 2020. COTA is running Seniors Health and Wellness Day on Friday 21 August 2020 at Yeperenye Shopping Centre.

6.7 Update on the NDIS Act Review

The Community Development Officer reported the following update regarding the NDIS Act Review:

A review of the NDIS Act and the development of the NDIS Participant Service Guarantee, has been published on the Department of Social Services website. Independent reviewer David Tune's final report has now been made public, with a summary of the findings and the 29 recommendations made by Mr Tune include in your papers.

What happens next?

The Government will soon make a response to the report and we will email you again to tell you where to read the response.

The Government will then suggest proposed changes to the legislation, based on the review's findings. This will include setting the proposed Participant Service Guarantee into law.

Results of the consultations

People all around Australia were able to have their say.

The Review team received 201 submissions, more than 1700 responses to the online survey, and heard directly from people with disabilities, carers, family members and support workers at community workshops and focus groups held all around Australia.

What the review recommends

Mr Tune provided his report to the Australian Government in December 2019. He found the NDIS Act and its accompanying rules are broadly fit for purpose but that some areas of the NDIS Act are unnecessarily rigid and do not allow flexibility. The review made recommendations to improve NDIS processes and remove barriers in the law that make it difficult for the NDIA to effectively support people with disability. Mr Tune made 29 recommendations but overall suggests:

1. Introducing a Participant Service Guarantee that sets out standards the NDIA must meet including:
 - clear expectations for how long processes will take to complete
 - more transparency in how the NDIA makes their decisions
 - better service delivery from NDIA staff and their Partners in the Community.
2. Improving people's experience with the NDIS by:
 - providing more flexibility in using NDIS funding
 - allowing plans to be amended
 - participants being provided drafts of their plan before it is approved
 - better supporting children and families
 - clarifying access for people with psychosocial disability
 - providing better connections to supports where markets are undersupplied
 - enhancing online systems so people can track where their requests are up to.
3. The NDIA and governments working together to:
 - clarify how the NDIS works with other service systems
 - help people navigate, engage with and understand the NDIS
 - create resources that help participants decide which supports they should use.

6.8 Services Australia: Payments and Obligations for Older Australians

Su-san Nagy of Services Australia (formerly known as the Department of Human Services or Centrelink) has offered to do a presentation on payments and obligations for Older Australians. The presentation runs through:

- payments and services that are offered by Centrelink, Medicare and Child Support
- age pension claiming and entitlements, benefits of claiming Online
- MyGov – what it is all about
- online services – what you can do online
- how to appeal decisions

In preparation, for those who haven't already created a MyGov account, but are interested to use online services, please follow the link to online help, to set up a MyGov account, <https://my.gov.au/LoginServices/main/login> People will also need to have their own email address.

If you are interested or know people that might be, could you please let me know, and we are wanting to set up a session in the Library perhaps.

6.9 NT Concession Cards

Lowell Wood received complaints from clients about some delays with the NT Concessions card.

Discussion ensued and it was suggested that Geoff Sloan may be able to provide further clarification on this matter.

ACTION:

Community Development Officer to follow up delay with concessions cards with Geoff Sloan.

6.10 Probus Club of Stuart AGM

Edna Saunders advised that the Probus Club of Stuart will have its annual general meeting on 11 March 2020 at 10:00am at the Gillen Club. Nominations for all positions are required.

7. NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, **18 March 2019** at 4:00pm in the Andy McNeill Room

8. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING:

The meeting closed at 4:50pm.