

New Youth Justice Centre – Community Advisory Group

The Department of Justice and Regulation established a Community Advisory Group in June 2017 to help guide development of the new youth justice centre and ensure the local community is informed and engaged as the project progresses.

Following an open call for expressions of interest from Wyndham community members in April 2017, four Wyndham community representatives have been appointed to the Community Advisory Group, as well as three Wyndham City Councillors and one council officer.

The Community Advisory Group also includes an Independent Chair and representatives from the local Indigenous community, the Department of Justice and Regulation and Victoria Police.

The Community Advisory group will use their local connections to share information about the project with the Wyndham community and provide feedback from community members to the Youth Justice Redevelopment Project team and the Government. They will also help to identify and shape future community engagement opportunities.

The group will meet regularly through the design and construction of the new youth justice centre.

Summaries of the Community Advisory Group meetings are available on the project website:

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/youthjusticecentre>

Youth Justice Redevelopment Project

Summary of Community Advisory Group - Meeting One

Meeting details

Meeting title:	Community Advisory Group	No:	1
Date:	Monday, 19 June 2017	Time:	4pm to 6pm
Location:	Duncans Road, Werribee		

Attendees

Community Advisory Group Members: Justin Giddings (Chair), Barbara McLure, Marisa Berton, Lisa Heinrichs, Kim McAliney, Walter Villagonzalo, Peter Maynard, Natalie Walker, Peter Bitton (for Martin Allison), Annette Vickery, Richard Wittmack, Len Norman, Peter Ewer, Garry Jackson.

Other attendees: Minister for Families and Children Jenny Mikakos and Adviser; and project support staff (Dijana Dragovic, Vanessa O'Shaughnessy, Clare Gleghorn and Heidi Wearne).

Apologies

John Menegazzo, Martin Allison

Meeting overview

Opening

The meeting was opened by the Minister for Families and Children, Jenny Mikakos. Ms Mikakos highlighted the important role of the Community Advisory Group in contributing to a significant state project that will bring economic opportunities to Wyndham City.

The Minister also outlined the Government's broader focus and investment to improve the youth justice system and the Government's renewed focus on rehabilitating young offenders, while also ensuring the safety of the community.

Update on the project

The Department of Justice and Regulation provided an update on key project activity, including:

- Appointment of principal and security consultants is underway – these consultants will be involved in the design of the centre
- Melbourne Water site survey has been completed, and land valuation and subdivision processes are underway
- Phase one of the ecological survey is complete, with phase two to involve the engagement of an environmental expert
- A Reference Group made up of sector representatives and other experts is being established. This group will provide input on the operations and design of the youth justice centre, as well as rehabilitation programs etc.

- Upcoming activity will include work with a cultural heritage consultant, engagement with the Regional Aboriginal Party, and a community traffic management survey to be completed by VicRoads.
- Early works on the site are expected to begin in March-April 2018, with construction commencing in mid-2018.
- The department is looking to best practice examples nationally and internationally to inform the design of the centre - the presentation included examples of modern justice facilities in Australia and abroad to provide context.

Terms of Reference

- Draft Terms of Reference were presented, which outline the roles and responsibilities of Community Advisory Group members.
- The Chair asked members to carefully review the Terms of Reference and provide feedback to the project team before the next meeting. Initial feedback from members was that more detail should be provided in the Code of Conduct to ensure all members are clear about their role.

Youth Justice Facility Development Plan

- The Department of Justice and Regulation outlined the Youth Justice Facility Development Plan that the Community Advisory Group will help to develop. The plan will help guide the design and development of the youth justice centre, and will include a number of environmental and other issues and considerations.
- An example plan, put together for the Ravenhall project, was reviewed and discussed.
- Questions were raised about whether the Youth Justice Facility Development Plan will include an emergency management plan, how water flows will be managed on the site, connection to utilities, environmental ratings and the involvement of community groups/programs in landscaping and beautification of the exterior of the youth justice centre. These will be considered as part of detailed design.
- Concerns were raised about birds that fly in a flock in the area at certain times of the day. The observation will be considered and the department confirmed similar issues have been effectively managed at other facilities.
- There was discussion around how many apprentices will be employed by the project and the percentage of indigenous workers to be employed.
- Up-to-date artist's impressions/designs will be provided once the principal consultant has been selected.
- The possibility of a local skills audit was discussed as a step in preparing the local workforce to apply for youth justice roles within the new facility, and related jobs. This idea will be pursued further at future meetings.

Community information and engagement

- An overview of community engagement activity to date was presented, and potential community engagement opportunities and support for Community Advisory Group members were tabled for discussion.
- Community Advisory Group members endorsed the idea of providing community information sessions in Little River and Werribee.
- It was acknowledged that the April community information sessions held in Point Cook - while well received – were held at an inconvenient location for some residents. It was explained that the Government had committed to holding information sessions before Easter and was restricted by venue availability.
- It was decided to hold the next Community Advisory Group meeting in Little River to provide an opportunity for local residents to meet members.

- A further targeted expression of interest process will be proposed to the Little River community at the Little River session on Monday, 24 July for consideration. This change will necessitate further edits to the Terms of Reference.
 - A site visit will be arranged for Community Advisory Group members, so they can help to address confusion among community members about the location of the youth justice centre site near Cherry Creek.
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Key meeting outcomes

- The Community Advisory Group will meet on the second Monday of each month, with the exception of the next meeting which will take place on Monday, 24 July.
 - The next meeting on 24 July will be held in Little River and will be followed by a session with the Little River community.
 - A further targeted expression of interest process will be proposed to the Little River community at the Little River session on Monday, 24 July for consideration. This change will necessitate further edits to the Terms of Reference.
 - Community Advisory Group members to send feedback on the Terms of Reference and to submit expressions of interest for the role of Deputy Chair ahead of the next meeting.
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New Youth Justice Centre

Summary of Community Advisory Group Meeting Two

Meeting details

Meeting title: Community Advisory Group	No: 2
Date: Monday, 24 July 2017	Time: 4pm to 5.15pm
Location: Little River Mechanics Institute Hall, 8 Rothwell Road	

Attendees

Community Advisory Group Members: Justin Giddings (Chair), Barbara McLure, Marisa Berton, Lisa Heinrichs, Kim McAliney, Walter Villagonzalo, Peter Maynard, Natalie Walker, Martin Allison, John Menegazzo, Richard Wittmack, Len Norman, Peter Ewer and Garry Jackson.

Other attendees: Louise Baring.

Apologies

Annette Vickery

Meeting overview

Opening

The meeting was opened by the Chair who thanked members for viewing the youth justice site at Little River prior to the meeting, stating it was valuable to view the location. Chair encouraged members to show people where the site location is and perhaps organise a time to show local community members. Following the meeting, the Little River Community Information session will take place to gain interest in residents and/or business owners joining the Community Advisory Group.

Deputy Chair appointment

Barbara McCure has been appointed as Deputy Chair of the Community Advisory Group for one year. John Menegazzo will serve as Deputy Chair in the second year.

Terms of Reference

- Updated Terms of Reference which outlines the roles and responsibilities of Community Advisory Group members was discussed.
- Two Appendix were added to the Terms of Reference, including a Code of Conduct and Social Media and Media protocol to ensure all members are clear about their role and to cover areas such as social media.
- Question was raised on how decisions would be made on what information from community would be passed onto the Department of Justice and Regulation or discussed at meetings. It was decided that all concerns and/or information or questions

raised by community should be passed onto the group and the Department. The role of the group as a conduit for community to provide feedback to the project and the project to the community.

- Question on Appendix was raised by the Wyndham Council that they have a separate role to speak about the project through their social media, separate to what it is outlined in the draft media and social media protocols. It was agreed that the Appendix would be updated to reflect council's role and to ensure the Department of Justice and Regulation has visibility of their social media posts/commentary on the project.
- Question was raised about what evidence is used to inform the number to allocate for mental health beds in the facility and a concern that 12 mental health beds was not sufficient enough. Department of Justice and Regulation confirmed specialist mental health support will be available at the centre in addition to that which is available through the mental health bed allocation.

Update on the project

The Department of Justice and Regulation provided an update on key project activity, including:

Key appointments

- Appointment of lead architect (principal consultant) and the security consultant are in the final procurement stages. Both of these consultants will be involved in the design of the centre.
- Once finalised and the procurement process has been completed they will be invited to attend the Community Advisory Group to discuss the design principals they will be designing to. They will also be developing the masterplan for the site which will be shown to the Community Advisory Group once it has been documented.

Cultural heritage

- The cultural heritage process has commenced with the initial meeting with Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation (WAC), trading as Wadawurrung, who are the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for Wadawurrung country. The date for the complex assessment has been booked in for October 2017 over a five day period.
- It was noted that as part of the initial meeting that the discussions highlighted that components of the Avalon corridor are highly sensitive areas. Some older aerial images located by the States consultants, Biosis, indicated some potential rocky outcrops which will be investigated as part of the complex assessment.
- Details of the assessment will be presented to the Community Advisory Group for information.
- It was suggested presentations are done for the next Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee in the Western Metro Region and Barwon region to ensure they are briefed on the project.

Planning amendment

- Notification to surrounding residents (2km radius) will be sent informing them of the rezoning of land to special use zone. A copy of the planning documentation will be available to those that wish to see it.

- Members requested a copy of the residential letter drop for the Planning Scheme Amendment to be sent to them for information.

Youth Justice Facility Plan

- Work will commence on the Youth Justice Facility Plan which when finalised will contain the outcomes of the site surveys.
- It is anticipated that this document will be substantially complete by the end of this calendar year.

Environmental surveys

- Flora and fauna reviews are underway. The spiny rice flower is the first targeted survey to start and the tiles have been marked out for the legless lizard surveys that will take place later in the year.
- All surveys will be made available as part of the facilities development plan.
- A request will be made to the environmental consultant to present to the Community Advisory Group at a meeting later in the year.

Economic opportunities for City of Wyndham

- Economic opportunities for City of Wyndham were discussed and how the community can benefit from job opportunities available during construction etc. The Industry Capability Network process was explained and the Council reinforced that they are keen to ensure community and local businesses are aware of how they can register for the process.

Community Advisory Group representation

- Question was raised about experts being included on the Community Advisory Group to help inform community consultation and engagement where required on youth justice and the building of the new Youth Justice Centre. The Department of Justice and Regulation confirmed that when specialist expertise is required to help guide, inform or educate the Community Advisory Group, they will be made available to present to the Group and discuss any key matters. For example the Project Architect to explain the design principals for the centre, or any other representative if agreed.

Youth justice custodial services

Len Norman, Director of Custodial Services and Community Advisory Group member, presented on Victoria's youth justice custodial services.

The presentation outlined;

- Youth offending trends and data
- Culture, policies, practices and management at the Centres.

The presentation highlighted:

- Victorian youth justice system treats children and young people who are involved in the criminal justice system differently from adults.
- Youth Justice system is guided by legislation and policy to divert young people from entering or progressing further into the criminal justice system, to provide better rehabilitation of high risk offenders, and to deliver pre-release, transition and post-release support programs to reduce their risk of re-offending.

- Approach to minimise the number of young people being remanded by supporting them to remain in the community where appropriate, maintaining their important connections to family, education, health services and community networks.
- Education is embedded into youth justice centre, with the example of Parkville which provides an innovative and specialist curriculum which includes literacy and numeracy skills, sport, personal development, music, art and wellbeing instruction, along with vocational classes.

Discussion was had on the age of young people in youth justice custodial services and the range from 10 years to 25 years. It was noted that age was not a sole deciding factor to the placement of young people in a youth justice centre, factors such as vulnerability, maturity etc. would determine the appropriateness of their placement in a facility.

Key meeting outcomes

- The next Community Advisory Group meeting will be on 14 August in Werribee where future community engagement opportunities will be discussed.
- An expression of interest process will commence for representation from Little River.
- Community Advisory Group members to review and endorse the updated Terms of Reference.