



CITY OF HOBART

AGENDA

Community, Culture and Events Committee Meeting

Open Portion

Wednesday, 10 July 2019

at 5:30 pm

Lady Osborne Room, Town Hall

THE MISSION

Our mission is to ensure good governance of our capital City.

THE VALUES

The Council is:

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| about people | We value people – our community, our customers and colleagues. |
| professional | We take pride in our work. |
| enterprising | We look for ways to create value. |
| responsive | We're accessible and focused on service. |
| inclusive | We respect diversity in people and ideas. |
| making a difference | We recognise that everything we do shapes Hobart's future. |

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Business listed on the agenda is to be conducted in the order in which it is set out, unless the committee by simple majority determines otherwise.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

| | |
|---|------------|
| 1. CO-OPTION OF A COMMITTEE MEMBER IN THE EVENT OF A VACANCY | 4 |
| 2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES..... | 4 |
| 3. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS | 4 |
| 4. INDICATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST | 5 |
| 5. TRANSFER OF AGENDA ITEMS..... | 5 |
| 6. REPORTS | 6 |
| 6.1 Dr Edward Hall Environment Grants..... | 6 |
| 6.2 Proposed Council Policy Amendments - City of Hobart Grants Program | 11 |
| 6.3 Provision of English Language Classes in Hobart..... | 30 |
| 6.4 Community Safety Commitment - Approval..... | 42 |
| 6.5 Housing and Homelessness Update | 61 |
| 6.6 Conference Reporting - Welcoming Cities Symposium - Brisbane - 2 - 4 April 2019 | 71 |
| 6.7 Applications Approved Under the Delegated Authority of the Director Community Life for Quick Response Grants..... | 76 |
| 7. MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN | 79 |
| 7.1 Pill Testing | 79 |
| 7.2 City of Hobart's Reconciliation Action Plan Commitments | 104 |
| 8. COMMITTEE ACTION STATUS REPORT | 108 |
| 8.1 Committee Actions - Status Report..... | 108 |
| 9. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE | 120 |
| 10. CLOSED PORTION OF THE MEETING..... | 121 |

**Community, Culture and Events Committee Meeting (Open Portion) held
Wednesday, 10 July 2019 at 5:30 pm in the Lady Osborne Room, Town Hall.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Harvey (Chairman)
Sexton
Dutta
Ewin
Sherlock

Apologies:

Leave of Absence: Nil

NON-MEMBERS

Lord Mayor Reynolds
Deputy Lord Mayor Burnet
Zucco
Briscoe
Thomas
Denison
Behrakis

**1. CO-OPTION OF A COMMITTEE MEMBER IN THE EVENT OF A
VACANCY**

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Open Portion of the Community, Culture and Events Committee meeting held on [Wednesday, 8 May 2019](#) and the Special Community, Culture and Events Committee meeting held on [Monday, 17 June 2019](#), are submitted for confirming as an accurate record.

3. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

Ref: Part 2, Regulation 8(6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

Recommendation

That the Committee resolve to deal with any supplementary items not appearing on the agenda, as reported by the General Manager.

4. INDICATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Ref: Part 2, Regulation 8(7) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

Members of the committee are requested to indicate where they may have any pecuniary or conflict of interest in respect to any matter appearing on the agenda, or any supplementary item to the agenda, which the committee has resolved to deal with.

5. TRANSFER OF AGENDA ITEMS

Regulation 15 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

A committee may close a part of a meeting to the public where a matter to be discussed falls within 15(2) of the above regulations.

In the event that the committee transfer an item to the closed portion, the reasons for doing so should be stated.

Are there any items which should be transferred from this agenda to the closed portion of the agenda, or from the closed to the open portion of the agenda?

6. REPORTS

6.1 Dr Edward Hall Environment Grants File Ref: F18/30845; 17/49

Report of the Director City Planning and the Director City Innovation of
30 May 2019.

Delegation: Council

REPORT TITLE: DR EDWARD HALL ENVIRONMENT GRANTS**REPORT PROVIDED BY:** Director City Planning
Director City Innovation**1. Report Purpose and Community Benefit**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to propose a number of changes to the operation and administration of the Dr Edward Hall Environment Grants (DEHEG).
- 1.2. A consistent approach to the management and delivery of the City's various grants streams provides clarity and consistency for both applicants and the organisation.

2. Report Summary

- 2.1. The DEHEG were established in 2010-2011 as an annual grant program to assist schools, community groups and businesses to undertake projects relating to urban sustainability including: waste reduction, energy efficiency, air and water quality, food gardens, climate change, sustainable transport and local biodiversity.
- 2.2. Since that time the program has provided funding for 61 projects enabling the community to undertake \$625,000 worth of urban sustainability projects that would not have occurred otherwise.
- 2.3. The grants have been extremely popular with each grant round being oversubscribed with applications of a high standard.
- 2.4. Until 2018, the DEHEG grants were administered and managed through the City Planning Division as the division responsible for the grant program objectives.
- 2.5. A holistic review of the management of grants offered by the City of Hobart has identified a number of issues and opportunities for improvement, including;
 - 2.5.1. Inconsistency in approach around management, delegations for approval, acquittal processes; timeframes for reporting and monitoring.
 - 2.5.2. Duplication of effort and resources across divisions in the delivery and administration of grants.
 - 2.5.3. Confusion within the community as to, which grant to apply for and when; and the process and timing for applications.
- 2.6. The review has identified efficiencies to be gained through centralisation of administration and management of the City's suite of grants.

- 2.7. The review also identified considerable synergies and overlap between the DEHEG and the City's existing Waste Reduction Grants, which were established in 2015 to support the City of Hobart Waste Management Strategy 2015-2030.

3. Recommendation

That:

- 1. The Dr Edward Hall Environment Grants and the Waste Reduction Grants be combined to form the City of Hobart Urban Sustainability Grants in order to avoid duplication and overlap, and to broaden and increase their scope.***
- 2. The City of Hobart Urban Sustainability Grants focus on waste reduction, energy efficiency, air and water quality, food gardens, climate change, sustainable transport and local biodiversity***
- 3. The City of Hobart Urban Sustainability Grants provide an annual grant budget of \$55,000, comprised of the existing allocations of \$35,000 from the DEHEG and \$20,000 from the Waste Reduction grant streams.***
- 4. The City of Hobart Urban Sustainability Grants be administered by the Community Life Division.***
- 5. The City of Hobart Policy: Applications for Grants – City of Hobart Grants Program be amended to include the City of Hobart Urban Sustainability Grants, including the provision of technical input and support from the within the relevant operational areas of the organisation.***
- 6. The City Planning Committee's Terms of Reference be amended to remove reference to the Dr Edward Hall Environment Grants.***

4. Proposal

- 4.1. Based on the review, a number of proposals are put forward for consideration by the Committee:
 - 4.1.1. The alignment of delivery and coordination with all City of Hobart grant programs with the Community Life Division, to deliver a more efficient grants program to the community through the rationalisation of communications and promotion, grants guidelines, assessment, acquittal, management platforms and approval processes.
 - 4.1.2. The existing DEHEG and Waste Reduction Grants be combined to become the City of Hobart Urban Sustainability Grants program, with an annual grant budget of \$55,000,

comprised of \$35,000 from the DEHEG and \$20,000 from the Waste Reduction grant streams.

4.1.2.1. These grants would focus on the delivery of urban sustainability outcomes across: waste reduction, energy efficiency, climate change, air and water quality, food gardens, sustainable transport and local biodiversity.

4.1.2.2. Technical and expert input be provided around guidelines, strategic direction and the assessment processes for these grants, from within the City's relevant operational areas of Council, including climate change, transportation and waste education, together with other specialist input from City of Hobart experts, as appropriate.

5. Implementation

5.1. In the event that the Committee support the consolidation of grants, the following actions would be necessary:

5.1.1. The City Planning Committee's Terms of Reference would be amended by the deletion of reference to its delegation for approval of the DEHEG.

5.1.2. The new Urban Sustainability Grants stream would be included in the City of Hobart Policy *Applications for Grants – City of Hobart Grants Program*.

5.2. A rationalised approach to all City of Hobart grant programs, under the umbrella of one division, supported by technical and specialist advice and support for each program, will enable a streamlined process delivering better outcomes for the community.

6. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations

6.1. The DEHEG and Waste Reduction Grants both align to and further a broad range of strategic objectives and support actions across the Goals of:

- Urban Management
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Strong Safe and Healthy Communities

6.2. The grants also further the Community Vision and its Identity Statements and Pillars. They enable the community to realise urban sustainability opportunities that are inherent to Hobart's unique lifestyle and community captured in the Vision Statement.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. Funding Source and Impact on Current Year Operating Result
 - 7.1.1. The 2019 DEHEG (\$35,000) and Waste Reduction Grants (\$20,000) are funded through the Community Planning and Coordination Budget the within the 2018/2019 Annual Plan.
- 7.2. Impact on Future Years' Financial Result
 - 7.2.1. No impact arises from this report.
- 7.3. Asset Related Implications
 - 7.3.1. There are no asset related implications.

8. Environmental Considerations

- 8.1. The grants have inherent environmental considerations and further strengthen Hobart's community response and participation in matters of urban sustainability: waste reduction, energy efficiency, climate change, air and water quality, food gardens, sustainable transport and local biodiversity.

9. Marketing and Media

- 9.1. An Urban Sustainability Grant program would enable marketing and promotion of themes and issues relevant to City programs and topical issues across the community.

10. Delegation

- 10.1. This matter is reserved to the Council.

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.



Neil Noye
DIRECTOR CITY PLANNING



Peter Carr
DIRECTOR CITY INNOVATION

Date: 30 May 2019
File Reference: F18/30845; 17/49

**6.2 Proposed Council Policy Amendments - City of Hobart Grants
Program
File Ref: F19/65185; 18/279**

Report of the Manager Future, Engaged and Active Communities and the
Director Community Life of 4 July 2019 and attachment.

Delegation: Council

REPORT TITLE: PROPOSED COUNCIL POLICY AMENDMENTS - CITY OF HOBART GRANTS PROGRAM**REPORT PROVIDED BY:** Manager Future, Engaged and Active Communities
Director Community Life**1. Report Purpose and Community Benefit**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to make policy changes to the Council Policy *Applications for Grants - City of Hobart Grants Program* as part of a required annual review of the Policy.
- 1.2. The policy changes reflect the proposals for the Dr Edward Hall Environment Grants (DEHEG) and the Waste Reduction Grants that is concurrently being considered by this committee.
- 1.3. The amendments to the Policy will provide improved governance, better meet the community expectations and streamline the existing program to provide timely outcomes.
- 1.4. All variations to the existing Policy are shown at **Attachment A** to this report.

2. Report Summary

- 2.1. The report details amendments to the Council Policy *Applications for Grants - City of Hobart Grants Program* as a result of
 - proposed changes to the DEHEG and the Waste Reduction Grants; and
 - the required annual review of the Policy.
- 2.2. The independent report outlining the proposed changes of the DEHEG and the Waste Reduction Grants are tabled for discussion at this Committee meeting.
 - 2.2.1. Amendments to the policy in relation to the DEHEG report have also been included in the amendments as shown at Attachment A to this report.
- 2.3. The annual review of the Policy has identified a number of small points requiring clarification. The proposed amendments aim to improve the Policy's readability and effectiveness in demonstrating good governance and transparent decision-making.

3. **Recommendation**

That contingent on the outcome of the reports relating to the proposed changes for the Dr Edward Hall Environment Grants and the Waste Reduction Grants, the recommended amendments of the Council Policy Applications for Grants – City of Hobart Grants Program be endorsed / adopted.

4. **Background**

- 4.1. Since the establishment of the Council Policy *Applications for Grants - City of Hobart Grants Program*, the Council has approved the consolidation of grants issued by the City of Hobart into a single policy.
- 4.2. Proposed amendments to the Policy are to:
 - 4.2.1. Formally incorporate the updated sustainability grants, currently delivered as the DEHEG and the Waste Reduction Grants, into the Policy.
 - 4.2.2. Merge the Events and Civic Banner Quick Response Grants.
 - 4.2.3. Address issues of clarity within the existing Policy.
 - 4.2.4. Provide details for programs or activities that were not referenced in the existing Policy.
- 4.3. The last review of the Policy was 21 January 2019 to address the delegation of authority.
- 4.4. This report is premised on the approval and adoption of the report “Dr Edward Hall Environment Grants” dealt with in previous business.

Grants Policy review

- 4.5. The Policy is reviewed annually to ensure the governance and decision making in administering the City of Hobart Grants Program is transparent, aligned to the Council strategies and policies, and following good practice. The following are the key changes proposed to the existing Policy and are detailed in context as per Attachment A to this report.
- 4.6. A **Grant Briefing Document** has been created to provide an introduction to the City of Hobart Grants Program and outline the administrative process which is undertaken.
- 4.7. **Accredited Schools** have been defined as an acceptable applicant for the City of Hobart Grants Program.

- 4.8. The merger of the Events and Civic Banner Quick Response Grants into a single grant called **Activation Quick Response Grants**.
- 4.8.1. The Event Quick Response Grants provide up to \$1,000 towards the use of City event equipment, such as bean bags and umbrellas. The value of the grant pool is \$3,000 per year.
- 4.8.2. The Civic Quick Response Grants provide up to \$1,000 towards the installation of banners using the City's civic banner program. The value of the grant pool is \$8,000 per year.
- 4.8.3. Both grants are issued as "in-kind" grants based on the Council's fees and charges, with no cash going directly to the applicant.
- 4.8.4. Applicants cannot successfully apply for each grant as a project can only receive funding once per financial year.
- 4.8.5. Merging the two grants into an Activation Quick Response Grant will provide the same opportunities for potential applicants and increase the funding pool to \$11,000.
- 4.9. The definition of the **Quick Response Grants** in the Policy has been clarified.
- The Community Christmas Activation Grants are unique as they operate for a defined time period of time and offer a maximum of \$750 per grant.
 - Additionally, there are two Quick Response Grants which offer in-kind support only (Venue Support and Events).
 - Amendment to clauses for assessment for Quick Response Grants as the process is more responsive to enable a short processing time. This includes the formation of an internal assessment panel followed by final approval from the Director Community Life, as per the delegated authority.
- 4.10. Additional amendments have been proposed to improve the readability of the document but do not effective the intent or have direct bearing on the Policy.
- 4.11. The formal inclusion of the **Urban Sustainability Grants** as the aggregation of the Dr Edward Hall Environment Grants and Waste Reduction Grants, should the Committee approve the recommendations outlined in the report, *Dr Edward Hall Environment Grants*.

Budgetary Control

- 4.12. To support the central administration of the City of Hobart Grants Program, all funds supporting the grant streams have been centralised into one budget function and are not transferable between grant streams. The minimum annual allocation for each grant stream and some grant categories are defined as part of the budget process.
- 4.13. Additionally, the proposed revision reflects the indexation of City Partnership grants.

5. Proposal and Implementation

- 5.1. Once the proposed amendments to Council Policy *Applications for Grants - City of Hobart Grants Program* are endorsed by the Council the updated policy will come into effect.

6. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations

- 6.1. The provision of the City of Hobart Grants Program responds to City of Hobart strategies, most specifically:

6.1.1. *The Capital City Strategic Plan 2015-2025:*

- Offers opportunities for all ages and a city for life
- Is recognised for its natural beauty and quality of environment
- Is well governed at a regional and community level
- Achieves good quality development and urban management
- Is highly accessible through efficient transport systems
- Builds strong and healthy communities through diversity, participation and empathy
- Is dynamic, vibrant and culturally expressive.

6.1.2. The Governance priority area of activity in the *Capital City Strategic Plan 2015-2025* states that: "The organisation is relevant to the community and provides good governance and transparent decision-making."

6.1.3. The Economic Development, Vibrancy and Culture priority area of activity in the *Capital City Strategic Plan 2015-2025:*

- Partnerships with Government, the education sector and business to create city growth.
- Cultural and creative activities build community wellbeing and economic viability.

6.1.4. The City of Hobart *Social Inclusion Strategy 2014-2019*:

- Recognising that diversity in the community is one of Hobart's greatest assets.
- Ensuring that the needs and aspirations of the most disadvantaged people in the community are addressed.
- Identifying and understanding the root causes of disadvantage and giving priority to supporting early intervention and prevention approaches.
- Promoting and providing equity and access to all our activities, programs, facilities and services.

6.1.5. *Creative Hobart Cultural Strategy* - the City as:

- A platform for creativity.
- An incubator of diversity and excellence in the arts and culture.
- A connector of creative people and the community.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. Funding Source and Impact on Current Year Operating Result

7.1.1. There is no impact on the current financial years resulting from this proposal.

7.2. Impact on Future Years' Financial Result

7.2.1. There is no direct impact on future year's financial result.

7.3. Asset Related Implications

7.3.1. There are no asset related implications.

8. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations

8.1. It is considered that this proposal provides operation benefit, improves governance and assists in mitigating risks associated with lack of transparency and the potential perception of interference in the process.

9. Environmental Considerations

9.1. The City of Hobart Grants Program will, wherever possible, support the objectives of the City of Hobart Waste Management Strategy 2015-2030. In particular, applicants must outline their commitment to sustainable events, certified compostable food packaging and reducing waste to landfill.

10. Social and Customer Considerations

10.1. The amendments to the Policy provide clarity and improve the understanding of the City of Hobart Grants Program for Council officers and the community engaging in the program.

11. Marketing and Media

11.1. The proposed changes to the Council Policy *Applications for Grants – City of Hobart Grants Program* does not present a marketing or media opportunity.

12. Community and Stakeholder Engagement

12.1. The Community Development Officer - Grants, Community Activation Coordinator, Manager Future, Engaged and Active Communities and Manager Inclusive, Resilient and Creative Communities, as well as Environmental & Climate Change Projects Officer, Cleansing & Solid Waste Policy Coordinator, Marketing & Business Engagement Officer and Senior Advisor City Marketing and Sponsorship have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

13. Delegation

13.1. This matter is delegated to the Council.

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.



Luke Doyle
**MANAGER FUTURE, ENGAGED AND
ACTIVE COMMUNITIES**



Tim Short
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY LIFE

Date: 4 July 2019
File Reference: F19/65185; 18/279

Attachment A: Applications for Grants - City of Hobart Grants Program Policy
↓

City of Hobart

Policy

Title: Applications for Grants –
City of Hobart Grants Program

Category: Community Services and Events

Date Last Adopted: 21 January 2019

1. Objectives

The policy sets out the City of Hobart's approach to managing the City of Hobart Grants Program.

The objective of the grants program is to encourage and support community and cultural organisations as well as small businesses and accredited schools to develop and deliver Hobart-based events, projects and activities that have community, cultural, urban sustainability or economic outcomes that align with [the Future Directions within](#) the City's Vision and Strategic Plan.

2. Background

The City makes available grant funding to assist community, cultural, accredited schools, other organisations and businesses through its grants program.

The grants program provides transparent and equitable governance for the City's support of projects with the intention of assisting the community, organisations, and businesses in the Hobart municipal area.

The term "grant" is defined as non-repayable funds or products that are disbursed from one party (grant maker) to a recipient (grant seeker). All support provided through the City of Hobart Grants Program, be it cash or in-kind is referred to as a "grant" and recognised as hard costs.

Sponsorship relationships held by the City of Hobart are different, and defined as a commercial arrangement in which a sponsor provides a contribution of money, to support an activity, for a certain specified benefit.

This policy can be read in conjunction with the Grants Briefing Document, which outlines the administrative process of the program.

3. Policy

That:

1. The City makes grant funds available to assist community, cultural, business, accredited schools and other organisations through its grants program.
2. The General Manager is delegated to authorise administrative changes to the grants program guidelines in line with this policy, as required throughout the implementation of the program.
3. All grant funds are contained within a single budget function that shall be reserved solely for this activity.

— Under each stream there are a number of grant categories.

~~4. The funding allocation to each grant stream is not transferable to other grant streams.~~

~~— The grant streams and the respective categories and total funds available for each stream and/or category are listed in the following table.~~

~~5. The total amount of funds on offer each financial year will be no less the allocation than listed as listed below.~~

~~4.1. The grant streams and the respective categories and total funds available for each stream and/or category are listed in the following table.~~

| Grant Streams | Available Categories | Funding Amounts (\$) | Funding Allocation 2019-20 |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Creative Hobart | — Major Cultural Organisations | — Over \$10,000 | - <u>\$100,000</u> |
| | — Medium Creative Hobart | — \$7,000 to \$15,000 | |
| | — Small Creative Hobart | — \$1,000 to \$5,000 | |
| | - Quick Response | - Up to \$1,000 | |

| Grant Streams | Available Categories | Funding Amounts (\$) | Funding Allocation 2019-20 |
|----------------------------|---|--|----------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Medium</u> - <u>Small</u> - <u>Quick Response</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>\$7,000 to \$15,000</u> - <u>\$1,000 to \$5,000</u> - <u>Up to \$1,000</u> | - <u>\$165,000</u> |
| Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Small Community</u> - <u>Quick Response</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>\$1,000 to \$5,000</u> - <u>Up to \$500</u> | - <u>\$92,000</u> |
| Event | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Event Partnerships</u> - <u>Event Medium</u> - <u>Quick Response</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Over \$20,000</u> - <u>Under \$20,000</u> - <u>Up to \$1,000 (in-kind only)</u> | - <u>\$300,000</u> |
| | - <u>Medium</u> | - <u>Under \$20,000</u> | - <u>\$190,000</u> |
| | - <u>Quick Response</u> | - <u>Up to \$1,000 (in-kind only)</u> | - <u>\$11,000</u> |
| Community Christmas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Community Christmas Activation Quick Response</u> - <u>Community Christmas Carols</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Up to \$750</u> - <u>\$1,000 - \$15,000</u> | - <u>\$75,000</u> |
| | - <u>Activation Quick Response</u> | - <u>Up to \$750</u> | - <u>\$10,000</u> |
| Marketing | - <u>Shopfront Improvement</u> | - <u>Up to \$5,000 (matched funding)</u> | - <u>\$48,000</u> |

| Grant Streams | Available Categories | Funding Amounts (\$) | Funding Allocation 2019-20 |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Trader Marketing - Civic Banner Quick Response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Up to \$8,000 - Up to \$1,000 (in-kind only) | |
| Venue Support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quick Response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Up to \$1,000 (in-kind only) | - \$15,000 |
| City Partnerships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small - Large | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$10,000 - \$30,000 | - \$130,000 (as at June 2018 – excluding annual indexation) |
| Urban Sustainability | | - Up to \$5,000 | - \$55,000 |

5.6. ~~The Each grant streams category, except for City Partnerships, for Event Grants, Medium Creative Hobart Grants, Small Creative Hobart Grants, Small Community Grants and Shopfront Improvement Grants will be available to the public twice yearly opening in August and February at set times each year, as listed in the following table. Where there are multiple rounds, the grant grant funding allocation pools will be distributed between both rounds. The Local Trader Marketing Grant will be available to the public once a year for a two month period from February to March.~~

| Grant Rounds | Grant Categories | Round Opens | Round Closes | Assessment |
|-------------------------------|--|--|------------------|------------------|
| <u>Biannual Rounds</u> | - <u>Creative Hobart Medium</u> | <u>August</u> | <u>September</u> | <u>September</u> |
| | - <u>Creative Hobart Small</u> - <u>Community Small</u> - <u>Event Medium</u> - <u>Shopfront Improvement</u> | <u>February</u> | <u>March</u> | <u>March</u> |
| <u>Local Trader Marketing</u> | | <u>February</u> | <u>March</u> | <u>April</u> |
| <u>Annual</u> | - <u>Major Cultural Organisations</u> - <u>Event Partnerships</u> - <u>Community Christmas Carols</u> - <u>Urban Sustainability</u> | <u>June</u> | <u>July</u> | <u>July</u> |
| <u>City Partnerships</u> | <u>By invitation only for an ongoing agreement up till 2022, dependent on annual acquittal from participating organisations.</u> | | | |
| <u>Quick Response Grants</u> | - <u>Creative Hobart</u> - <u>Community</u> - <u>Activation</u> - <u>Venue Support</u> | <u>Opens in June for activity in July. Closes when the funding is fully allocated.</u> | | |



| | | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Community Christmas Activation | 14 September | 14 November | September to November |
|--|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|

6-7. The following criteria will be applied to the City Partnership grants.

- [Events that have been delivered within the City of Hobart for at least ten \(10\) years and have a significant usage of City of Hobart facilities and personnel.](#)
- [City Partnership grants or are for events that are determined by the Council to warrant ongoing partnership status due to them acting as a significant event for the community.](#)
- Small to mid-sized community, cultural or commemorative events that are not eligible to apply for Event Partnership Grant funding;
- Events that are held on or in City of Hobart property or venues and that utilise City of Hobart infrastructure, services and/or equipment; and
- This program does not provide support for sporting or recreational focussed events and activities.
-

[Organisations will be invited by the City to become a City Partner, based on the above criteria, previous support and size of the event.](#)

The City Partnership grants will be provided through a five (5) year partnership agreement with each of the following organisations:

- Small
 - Festa Italia
 - Greek Orthodox Church and Benevolent Society of St George (Hobart) (Estia Greek Festival)
 - The City of Hobart Eisteddfod
 - Theatre Council of Tasmania * (4 year partnership)
- Large
 - The Royal Hobart Regatta
 - The Sandy Bay Regatta
 - RSL Tasmania, Hobart ANZAC Day Commemorative Committee

* Four (4) years to bring in line with all other partnerships completion date

City Partnership funded organisations are not eligible to apply for funding through any other City of Hobart grant [funding stream](#).

Each organisation funded through the City Partnership grant stream will provide an annual report to Council [via SmartyGrants, which that](#) includes information on expenditure and utilisation of City of Hobart financial and in-kind support as well as other details on the delivery of the event.

[The value of each individual city partnership is indexed at a council determined rate annually for the life of the agreement.](#)

[The City Partnerships will be reviewed at the end of each agreement period.](#)

7. [Approximate Timing of Grants:](#)

| Round 1 | Round 2 |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open Round - August ● Close Round - September ● Assessment - September <p>Major Cultural Organisations, Event Partnership Grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open Round - June ● Close Round - July ● Assessment - July ● Report to Committee/Council - August/September (except for Community Christmas Carols) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open Round - February ● Close Round - March ● Assessment - March |
| <p>City Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Five (5) year agreement, dependent on annual acquittal from participating organisations. <p>Community Christmas Activation Quick Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open Round - 1 October ● Close Round - 31 October ● Assessment - November <p>Local Trader Marketing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open Round - February | |



| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close Round - March • Assessment - April | |
|---|--|

~~8.1. All grant streams, apart from City Partnership, have quick response grants, which are available throughout the financial year each year until such time as the annual budget allocation is fully utilised. The quick response grants for Creative Hobart, Event Grants and Marketing Grants will be for a maximum of \$1,000 per grant, with the Community Grants providing a maximum of \$500 per grant. Quick Response Event Grants are for in-kind support for the loan of equipment only and are not available for cash.~~

9.8. Major Cultural Organisation Grants and Event Partnerships will only be advertised once a year and applications will open in June. Multi-year funding is available in these grant streams.

- (i) Major Cultural Organisations are defined as follows:
 - (a) Based in the City of Hobart
 - (b) Report an annual income of at least \$1.5 million
 - (c) Employ professional, permanent staff
 - (d) Deliver year-round public outcomes in Hobart
 - (e) Are infrastructure-based organisations with public presentation space and
 - (f) Operate on a not-for-profit basis.
- (ii) Major cultural organisations are also eligible to apply for [the project support through the City's other grant rounds streams in Community, Creative Hobart and Events in the twice-yearly grant rounds](#), in addition to any annual organisational grant.
- (iii) Successful applicants for Event Partnerships cannot apply through the City's other funding streams for the same project.

9. All grant streams, apart from [Urban Sustainability and City Partnerships](#), have Quick Response Grants, which are available throughout the financial year each year until such time as the annual budget allocation is fully utilised, [with the exception of the](#)

- (i) Given the specific remit - ~~Community Christmas Activation Grants~~, ~~The Community Christmas Activations Quick Response Grants~~ are open to the public from ~~1~~between 1-31 October each year.
- (ii) The Quick Response Grants for Creative Hobart, ~~Event~~Activation, ~~Venue Support Grants~~ and Marketing Grants will be for a maximum of \$1,000 per grant, with the
- (iii) Community Grants providing a maximum of \$500 per grant and ~~Community Christmas Activation Grants~~ providing a maximum of \$750.
- (iv) Quick Response ~~Event~~Activation and Venue Support Grants are only for in-kind support for the loan of equipment only and/or use of a Council venue, and are not available for cash.
- (v) Quick Response Grants will be considered when they are received throughout the year, and they will not be offered through specific funding rounds and will be processed within 5 weeks of application.
10. All assistance available to applicants is provided by way of grants, and not rate reductions (except pensioner remissions), waiving of fees and charges or rental subsidies.
11. Where the City is unable to provide the full financial support requested by an applicant under this policy, any lesser financial assistance by the City will involve consultation with the applicant at time of a grant offer being made.
12. As part of the application process, ~~the~~ City officers may consult with an applicant regarding possible modifications to their proposal which would address more appropriately the Council's strategic objectives.
13. City officers will have three working days to contact applicants after the grant round has closed to clarify technical points such as eligibility, if necessary, or to request the provision of supplementary information that would assist the assessment panel in its deliberations.
14. Applications will be assessed according to the guideline documents for each grant stream as provided on the City of Hobart's website.
15. Assessment panels will assess applications for each grant stream (with the exception of quick response grants). The panels will comprise at least one external representative from the community, cultural, business, sustainability or event sectors as appropriate, as well as City officers. The panels will assess applications against the assessment criteria set out in the grant guidelines.
- (i) For Quick Response Grants, an internal assessment panel of City officers will independently assess applications against the criteria set out in the grant guidelines.

16. There are three pathways for the assessment panels' recommendation to be reviewed for approval, as outlined in the below table and as referenced in the City's delegation register.

| <u>Grant Rounds</u> | <u>Grant Categories</u> | <u>Approval</u> |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| <u>Biannual Rounds</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Creative Hobart Medium</u> - <u>Creative Hobart Small</u> - <u>Community Small</u> - <u>Event Medium</u> - <u>Shopfront Improvement</u> | <u>Delegated to General Manager</u> |
| <u>Local Trader Marketing</u> | | <u>Delegated to General Manager</u> |
| <u>Annual Round</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Major Cultural Organisations</u> - <u>Event Partnerships</u> | <u>Community, Culture and Events Committee</u> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Community Christmas Carols</u> - <u>Urban Sustainability</u> | <u>Delegated to General Manager</u> |
| <u>City Partnerships</u> | | <u>Community, Culture and Events Committee</u> |
| <u>Quick Response Grants</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Creative Hobart</u> - <u>Community</u> - <u>Activation</u> - <u>Venue Support</u> - <u>Community Christmas Activation</u> | <u>Delegated to Director Community Life</u> |

15-17. For Grant-grant programs that offer request amounts between \$1,000 and \$20,000 the assessment panel recommendations will be referred to the General Manager for approval. For Grant programs that offer request amounts over \$20,000 the assessment panel recommendations will be referred to the Council's Community, Culture and Events Committee via an officer report and then onto the Council for consideration.

~~16-18.~~ The reports will detail the outcome of the assessment process, and in particular who were the successful and unsuccessful applicants.

~~17-19.~~ Deputations/presentations by applicant organisations to the Council's Community, Culture and Events Committee or the Economic Development and Communications Committee shall not be permitted following the closing date of the grant round.

~~18-1.~~ Quick response grants will be considered when they are received throughout the year, and they will not be offered through specific funding rounds.

~~19-20.~~ Quick Response Grants Will be approved under the Associate Director Community and Culture's general delegation or for the marketing grants under the Associate Director Communications and Marketing's Director Community Life's general delegation (as referenced in the City's delegation register), whereby they are able to approve grants to organisations for \$1,000 or less, where the organisation has not received a Quick Response Grant more than once in a calendar year subject to other guidelines and principles. The total delegated amount will have an upper limit in line with the budget allocation for each Quick Response Grant stream as approved by the Council.

~~20-21.~~ Where new Quick Response Grants have been awarded, this information would be provided to the relevant Council Committee at its next meeting. These reports would not be subject to Council determination as they would be provided for information only.

4. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.

4.5. Legislation, Terminology and References

Hobart: A community vision for our island capital

Capital City Strategic Plan 2015-2025

[City of Hobart Grants Program Briefing Document](#)

[City of Hobart Grant and Partnership Acknowledgment Guidelines](#)

Delegations Register – Community, Culture and Events Committee and Economic Development and Communications Committee Terms of Reference

| | |
|---|--|
| Responsible Officer: | Director Community Development Life |
| Policy first adopted by the Council: | 21 September 2015 |
| History | |
| Amended by Council | 21/12/2015 |
| Amended by Council | 25/1/2016 |
| Amended by Council | 6/6/2016 |
| Amended by Council | 25/7/2016 |
| Amended by Council | 21/11/2016 |
| Amended by Council | 22/5/2017 |
| Amended by Council | 5/6/2017 |
| Amended by Council | 4/12/2017 |
| Amended by Council | 19/3/2018 |
| Amended by Council | 4/6/2018 |
| Amended by Council | 18/6/2018 |
| Amended by Council | 21/1/2019 |
| Next Review Date: | July 2019 |

6.3 Provision of English Language Classes in Hobart
File Ref: F19/66425; 17/204

Report of the Manager Inclusive, Resilient and Creative Communities
and the Director Community Life of 3 July 2019.

Delegation: Council

REPORT TITLE: PROVISION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES IN HOBART**REPORT PROVIDED BY:** Manager Inclusive, Resilient and Creative Communities
Director Community Life**1. Report Purpose and Community Benefit**

- 1.1. This report provides a response to the Notice of Motion 9 January 2019, “That a report be provided to detail the current provision of English language classes in Hobart; to provide examples of services provided in other cities; and to explore the possibilities for increased provision of intensive English language services in Hobart in collaboration with the State Government.”
- 1.2. Language is one of the most important factors for successful settlement in a new country. English language proficiency is vital for participation in education, work, sense of belonging and for involvement in the broader life of the community. Without adequate language skills, new arrivals can struggle to integrate and contribute to the community. Students quickly fall behind in their studies; adults struggle to find work; and daily tasks such as shopping and accessing services can prove challenging. Intensive English language courses upon arrival ensure that migrants and humanitarian entrants start off their new life with the best possible chance of success.
- 1.3. Currently, there are a number of gaps in the provision of English as an additional language (EAL) services in Hobart. Advocacy and support for improved EAL service provision in Hobart would be appropriate.

2. Report Summary

- 2.1. In Tasmania there is currently no central specialist intensive language course offered for school-aged students needing English as an additional language (EAL) support.
 - 2.1.1. Government schools with a significant number of migrants provide some level of intensive English classes, however often the numbers are smaller than needed to run these classes.
 - 2.1.2. Where there are smaller numbers of students needing EAL support, they are placed in mainstream classes with support from EAL teachers in class where possible and a number may be withdrawn daily for English classes.
- 2.2. The Department of Education notes that the low numbers of EAL students in Tasmania makes it hard to offer direct English courses. There are rarely sufficient numbers to form a class size group of newly arrived students.

- 2.3. Education and service providers indicate that EAL students arriving in high school, or even mid to late primary school, will finish their schooling at a significant disadvantage to their peers.
- 2.4. TasTAFE English Language Services offer a range of courses in English for adults 18 years and over and a range of conversation classes with homework support and tutoring being offered through Libraries and service providers. These programs are well supported and well utilised, but they do not always meet visa work or study requirements and there are clear gaps for certain cohorts.
- 2.5. There is a real need for tailored classes for a number of cohorts who struggle to access the current offering including those students who aren't progressing fast, parents with young children, the elderly, people with a disability and young men at risk of disengaging and/or offending.
- 2.6. Reports are that progress in the education system from high school to college and beyond to further education or employment is highly problematic for many of our newest Tasmanians and this impacts their capacity to participate in work and further study. There are opportunities to strengthen communication and transition processes to improve outcomes.
- 2.7. A number of Australian cities of a similar size to Hobart do offer intensive English courses for students, although the Department of Education are clear that the low numbers here in Tasmania make it difficult to offer targeted courses.
- 2.8. It is noted that whilst service provision to migrants and humanitarian entrants is not the mandate of Local Government, advocating for the needs of this community is a key role for the City of Hobart and is in accordance with the City of Hobart's *Multicultural Strategy 2014-2019*.
- 2.9. It is therefore proposed that the Council write to the State Government outlining the gaps in EAL service provision that have been identified and encouraging a serious exploration of the opportunities to improve the EAL service provision.
- 2.10. Council officers will continue to engage with stakeholders on this issue and work to support initiatives or trial projects in these areas through our grants program and/or through the provision of facilities to hold classes.

3. **Recommendation**

That:

1. ***The Council write to the State Government regarding the gaps identified in EAL service provision, encouraging an exploration of the opportunities to improve the EAL service provision and offering appropriate support to address these gaps.***
2. ***Council officers continue to engage with stakeholders on this issue and work to support current or new initiatives as appropriate through the grants program and/or through the provision of facilities to hold classes.***

4. **Background**

Current Provision of English Language Support in Department of Education Schools

- 4.1. In Tasmania there is currently no central specialist intensive language course offered for school-aged students needing EAL support.
- 4.2. Government schools with a significant number of migrants provide some level of intensive English classes, however often the numbers are smaller than needed to run these classes.
- 4.3. Where there are smaller numbers of students needing EAL support, they are placed in mainstream classes with support from EAL teachers in class where possible and a number may be withdrawn daily for English classes.
- 4.4. Reports are that this style of language support seems to work well in primary school, where children are on-the-whole well supported but it becomes more challenging in high school. Without sufficient language skills students quickly fall behind and bullying and racism are more commonplace, causing further stress and anxiety for students.
- 4.5. The location of students is a big factor in the ability to provide support. It is much easier to provide comprehensive support services when the numbers of EAL students at a school are large enough to warrant the increased cost. Where there are smaller numbers, the availability of teacher time will be less.
- 4.6. The Department of Education have indicated that where there are humanitarian entrants students, they will ensure that EAL support is provided, even in the case of a single student in school.
- 4.7. With the low numbers of EAL students here in Tasmania it is very hard to offer the services they really need. There are rarely sufficient numbers to form a class size group of newly arrived students.

- 4.8. On two occasions over the past few years, when there have been large intakes of school-aged new arrivals, the Department of Education have offered intensive English programs.
- 4.8.1. Firstly, in 2013 in response to the large intake of young humanitarian entrants housed at Pontville Detention Centre and secondly in 2016 in response to large expected numbers of young Syrian humanitarian entrants arriving. The latter were put into an intensive language program for 6-7 weeks before moving into mainstream classes.
- 4.8.2. Reports are that this program was problematic as the numbers were still too small to run effectively. The groups started with up to 20-25 students, in ages ranging from 4-18 and with varying levels of existing English and study capacity. It was very challenging to provide appropriate offerings for this diverse group, even for a short period.
- 4.9. To improve the wellbeing support offered throughout schools, the English as an Additional Language Program, Department of Education, has recently appointed two CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) social workers, one in the north and one in the south of the State. It is still early days for this program, but teachers and school Social Workers are reporting that having the CALD Social Workers there to support and demonstrate best practice, has increased their confidence in working with CALD students which is a positive outcome.

Non School-Based, Government Funded English Programs

- 4.10. TasTAFE English Language Services offer a range of courses in English for living, working and studying in Australia, including courses for students with no English language through to Certificate III in Spoken and Written English.
- 4.11. The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training and is offered by TasTAFE here in Hobart. The AMEP offers 510 hours of English Language tuition to help migrants and humanitarian entrants settle in Australia. TasTAFE currently have 207 students enrolled in the AMEP.
- 4.12. TasTAFE also offer the targeted Young Migrant Education Program (YMEP), a full time youth program for students aged 18-24 years. This program draws younger students from the other English Courses to provide a more tailored, age appropriate program.

- 4.13. The Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) Program is a Federally Funded program that is designed for job seekers who wish to improve their employment opportunities through strengthened English language, reading, writing or numerical skills. It is free for eligible job seekers registered with Centrelink or Job Services Australia. The SEE program is offered by Workskills and TasTAFE and is currently at capacity. This program has a strict cap on numbers and eligibility criteria. Students must demonstrate the capacity to progress in their English skills and so, whilst there are many students who move from General English or AMEP to SEE, there are a number who are not able to progress and so are unable to access further formal English study upon completing the AMEP program.

Coversation Classes and Other Informal Support

- 4.14. The Hobart Library offers two English conversation classes each week for beginners to intermediate. These classes are volunteer run and generally run to capacity with between 15 and 20 participants at each class.
- 4.15. The Library had been running a more formal English language class of one two-hour session per week with term based enrolments. They found that attendance dropped off during the term, with students struggling to commit to attending each week. Staff indicate that perhaps classes with fixed enrolments were not the best fit for this cohort. This offering is being reviewed with this maybe being reinstated in the future.
- 4.16. CatholicCare has been running 'Let's Talk' conversation classes for just over a year and they are going really well. On the whole the students who attend this program have finished at TAFE and don't yet have the language skills needed to go onto other study or employment. Classes are well attended with between 20 and 30 people each week.
- 4.17. The Migrant Resource Centre and Clarence Council Youth Programs both currently offer migrant youth homework programs to support students in their schooling.
- 4.18. Multicultural Youth Tasmania has recently launched the Multicultural Youth Language in Focus: English (MY LiFE) program. MY LiFE will provide academic English tutoring in a class environment for Year 9, 10 and 11 students beginning in term 3, 2019. MY LiFE aims to support young people who have:
- a higher level of English proficiency and competency, but still requiring further assistance and scaffolding for academic development in preparation for tertiary ad VET study; and
 - high personal motivation and interest in further education after college.

Private English Courses

- 4.19. There are a number of private colleges offering English courses with a range of courses including a high school bridging course for younger students. The minimum English proficiency level for entry into this program is intermediate. Full time course fees at the various colleges range from \$230 - \$500 per week.

Gaps in service provision

- 4.20. There is an identified need for tailored classes for those low level students who aren't progressing fast. Once they have completed 1-2 years of General English or AMEP at TasTAFE, some students move into the SEE program, however as it is a requirement for this course that students demonstrate the capacity to progress, there are a number who just don't progress. These students would benefit from a very low level conversational/relational program that gets them out and about and practicing the skills they have. These students often don't fit well in the conversation classes, as these have many students at a higher level and they cannot keep up.
- 4.21. There are a number of other groups that struggle to access the current offering and really need support. These include parents with young children, the elderly and people with a disability.
- 4.22. Reports are that the transition from college is highly problematic for many of our newest Tasmanians. Many flounder in the schooling system, without adequate English to really progress they complete Year 12 without the results or the language skills needed to transition into other education - even into a Certificate III or Certificate IV level course. These students finish Year 12 and apply to TasTAFE, or even UTAS with no understanding that they may not be ready. They get rejected time and again and then their defences go up. They suddenly feel lost and without options. This indicates a lack of clear feedback to these students during their college years, regarding their skills and capacity to progress to further education and/or the need for continuous and ongoing feedback to these young people throughout their transition.

- 4.23. A number of years ago Hobart saw a large intake of 'women at risk' arriving with young children. Anecdotal reports from education providers and service providers indicate that there are now a number of young men aged 18-24, the sons of these women, who, having graduated school are finding it hard to get work or to progress to further meaningful study. Many of these men are angry and dis-engaged, they are getting into trouble with police and getting caught up in the court system. These young men have had a lack of positive male role models in their lives, have struggled with education due to lower levels of English language proficiency, and are the victims of increasing bullying and racism, both in school and whilst out and about in the City. They are highly at risk and need targeted support and educational services. It is important to note that this observation has not been supported by police in their reporting.
- 4.24. The lack of an intensive English program for school aged children in Tasmania means that unless they have the resources to pay for private courses, they have no alternative but to go straight into mainstream classes. Given the Department of Education indicates that it currently takes between seven and ten years for a new arrival to develop English skills equivalent to their peers, students arriving in high school, or even mid-late primary school, will finish their schooling at a significant disadvantage. Whilst they can then go on to English classes at TasTAFE, they have missed the opportunities to learn effectively during high school which impacts their capacity to participate in work and further study. These students would highly benefit from a significant, intensive English program offered upon arrival.

Current Provision other Cities

- 4.25. When looking to other cities to consider their language service provision, it is important to consider the migrant population figures. Figures provided by the Department of Home Affairs show that during 2017-18, 2,775 migrants indicated that Tasmania was their State of intended residence. This amount comes to 1.7 per cent of the total number nationally and sits just above the Northern Territory at 1.5 and just below the ACT at 2 per cent. It would be difficult to compare the Tasmanian context to either NSW (52,251 people or 32.2 per cent of the total) or Victoria (41,005 people / 25.2 per cent of the total).
- 4.26. Given the figures above, the ACT and Northern Territory offer potentially comparable examples.
- 4.27. In the Northern Territory, the Department of Education offer a year of intensive English for students arriving in grades 5-12. Students can access a further semester offered if deemed appropriate. This program is offered within a select number of schools and transport assistance is offered to students who are required to travel long distances to access the program.

- 4.27.1. EAL support is also offered in schools for students who have transitioned from intensive English programs to mainstream schooling.
- 4.28. The ACT Department of Education offers primary and secondary Introductory English Centres (IECs) for students with English as an additional language or dialect. Students must be a new resident in Australia, or be a kindergarten student with minimal exposure to English, and be deemed to have Beginning English language proficiency. Primary students can access an IEC program for two terms with a possible one term extension. Secondary students can access the program for three terms with a possible one term extension.
- 4.29. Wollongong has a similar population size to Hobart, is classed as a regional area and is identified as a priority settlement location for female, humanitarian entrants who are at risk. Over the past five years there has been an average of 252 humanitarian entrants settled in the district. As a result of being a priority settlement location, Wollongong has the only Intensive English Language Centre in regional NSW. Since the Centre opened in 1979, nearly 3,000 EAL students have enrolled. The Centre accepts 11-18 year olds and is co-located with the Warrawong High School. The Centre also assists students with English language tuition and welfare support.

Opportunities

- 4.30. TasTAFE English Language Services have developed a test that they provide to students when they arrive at the service. This test gives a strong indication of the students study skills and language skills and provides the feedback needed to guide the student in their future study and work decisions. It is suggested that offering this test in upper high school and again in college would be highly beneficial to students, giving them an accurate picture of where they are at.
- 4.31. TasTAFE English Language Services have convened a CALD Education Community of Practice with the aim of improving transitions from college to University or TAFE. Members of this community of practice include TasTAFE, the University of Tasmania, college teachers, high school teachers, the Migrant Resource Centre and Catholic Education. We understand that to date, the level of engagement from Department of Education teachers has not been adequate to progress the issues raised. This is an area for advocacy to improve communication and collaboration between schools at TasTAFE through this mechanism.
- 4.32. There is currently no clear tracking of culturally and linguistically diverse students as they transition from high school to college and beyond. It would be highly beneficial to develop and maintain a clear picture of the progression of students through schooling and to future study or work, to enable data driven responses.

- 4.33. The City of Hobart is well placed to continue to advocate for services for those specific cohorts that would benefit from targeted service provision. The City can support trial projects in these areas through our grants program and/or through the provision of facilities to hold classes.
- 4.34. Whilst it is noted that the numbers of students needing EAL support does make the provision of a dedicated service challenging, it is still the reality that provision of an Intensive English Language Service in Hobart would be highly beneficial and should continue to be considered as an option as/when the numbers of migrants and humanitarian entrants increases.

5. Proposal and Implementation

- 5.1. It is proposed that the Council write to the State Government regarding the gaps identified in EAL service provision, encouraging an exploration of the opportunities to improve the EAL service provision and offering appropriate support to address these gaps.
- 5.2. It is further proposed that Council officers continue to engage with stakeholders on this issue and work to support current or new initiatives as appropriate through the grants program and/or through the provision of facilities to hold classes.
- 5.3. It is noted that whilst service provision to migrants and humanitarian entrants is not the mandate of Local Government, advocating for the needs of this community is a key role for the City of Hobart and is in line with the City of Hobart's *Multicultural Strategy 2014-2019*.

6. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations

- 6.1. Support for the improved EAL Services aligns with Pillar 2.2.1 of the Council endorsed *Hobart: A community vision for our island capital*:
"We make Hobart the most inclusive city in the world, a city that welcomes all";
and Pillar 2.2.8:
"We support each other to have our needs met and flourish. We all have opportunities to access and contribute to Hobart life."
- 6.2. The Council's Participation in the Welcoming Cities Network aligns with Strategic Objective 4.1 of the *Capital City Strategic Plan 2015-2025*:
"Community connectedness and participation realises the cultural and social potential of the community";
and Strategic Objective 1.1.6:
"Develop relationships with other cultural and educational institutions as opportunities arise."

6.3. Participation in the Welcoming Cities Network strongly aligns with the City of Hobart's *Social Inclusion Strategy 2014-2019* and *Multicultural Strategy 2014-2019*.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. There are no financial implications from this report.

8. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations

8.1. It is noted that whilst service provision to migrants and humanitarian entrants is not the mandate of Local Government, advocating for the needs of this community is a key role for the City of Hobart and is in accordance with the City of Hobart's *Multicultural Strategy 2014-2019*.

8.2. Legal, risk and legislative considerations are minimal for this proposal.

9. Environmental Considerations

9.1. There are no specific environmental considerations as a result of this report, however any future partnership initiatives will be delivered in alignment with the City of Hobart's Towards Zero Waste to Landfill strategy.

10. Social and Customer Considerations

10.1. Advocacy and support for improved EAL services in Hobart is in line with the Community Vision for our Island Capital and would further our reputation as a welcoming and inclusive city.

11. Marketing and Media

11.1. The City of Hobart website could provide information regarding English Language programs offered as a point of referral for new arrivals and people considering a move to Hobart.

12. Community and Stakeholder Engagement

12.1. The City of Hobart's Networking for Harmony Multicultural Advisory Group were consulted in the development of this report, along with a range of private and government education and service providers who provided direct input and referrals.

12.2. Further community engagement is not deemed necessary at this stage.

13. Delegation

13.1. This is a matter for Council's determination.

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.



Kimbra Parker
**MANAGER INCLUSIVE, RESILIENT
AND CREATIVE COMMUNITIES**



Tim Short
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY LIFE

Date: 3 July 2019
File Reference: F19/66425; 17/204

6.4 Community Safety Commitment - Approval
File Ref: F19/67720; 17/90

Report of the Manager Inclusive, Resilient and Creative Communities and the Director Community Life of 4 July 2019 and attachment.

Delegation: Council

REPORT TITLE: COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITMENT - APPROVAL**REPORT PROVIDED BY:** Manager Inclusive, Resilient and Creative Communities
Director Community Life**1. Report Purpose and Community Benefit**

1.1. This report is seeking the Council's approval of the final Community Safety Commitment 2019 as shown at **Attachment A** to this report.

1.1.1. The Commitment will provide a policy setting and action plan to guide the City's work in community safety.

1.1.2. The Commitment will demonstrate to the community the positive ongoing work of the City in this area and outline our commitment to collaborative action.

2. Report Summary

2.1. The Draft Community Safety Commitment was endorsed for community engagement by the Council at its meeting of 18 February 2019.

2.2. The Commitment will provide a policy setting and action plan to guide the City's work in community safety, demonstrating to the community the positive ongoing work of the City in this area and outlining our commitment to collaborative action.

2.3. This Community Safety Commitment reflects the community's aspirations articulated through the Community Vision and aligns strongly with the *Capital City Strategic Plan 2015-2025* and the *Social Inclusion Strategy 2014-2019*.

2.4. Council officers engaged with a wide range of community partners on the topic of community safety over an extended period leading to the development of the draft Commitment.

2.5. A community engagement process was undertaken utilising the Your Say Hobart platform and further face-to-face meetings with community partners. Feedback received was strongly supportive of the draft Community Safety Commitment.

2.6. The only suggested change to the document following community engagement is the addition of CatholicCare as a community safety partner.

3. Recommendation

That:

- 1. The Council approve the Community Safety Commitment 2019.**
- 2. The Commitment will be reviewed annually in consultation with the community safety partners.**

4. Background

- 4.1. The City of Hobart Safety Strategy 2004 was developed in conjunction with the State Government under the Capital City Partnership Agreement and was launched in July 2004. As this strategy is now out of date, there is the need for a new document to outline the City's community safety agenda.
- 4.2. The City of Hobart has continued to provide strategic community safety action over the past decade, building on the work of the Safety Strategy 2004 and working in collaboration with a wide range of strategic partners.
- 4.3. Council officers have engaged comprehensively on the topic of community safety with community partners over an extended period. This engagement directly informed the draft Commitment, with further community consultation taking place since February this year through the Your Say Hobart website and further face-to-face meetings with community partners.
- 4.4. The purpose of the City of Hobart Community Safety Commitment 2019 is to provide information to the community about the actions being undertaken to maintain the City's reputation as a safe and liveable city, whilst remaining vigilant to emerging issues and trends. The Commitment outlines five broad actions by which to achieve this:
 - Partnership and Collaboration
 - Recognition of priority populations
 - Acting locally on global issues
 - Ongoing action
 - Flexibility to respond to new and emerging challenges.
- 4.5. This Community Safety Commitment reflects the community's aspirations articulated through the Community Vision, providing a framework from which to examine community safety. The Commitment outlines key partnerships and focus areas and sets out clear goals and priorities for action in the coming financial year.

- 4.6. The City of Hobart has a range of internal and external partners with whom we collaborate and consult with through varying forums to respond to community safety issues. Reference and Advisory Groups form the bedrock of our knowledge and keep us abreast of emerging issues. These forums and partners are identified in the Commitment in order to not only recognise their important work, but to also show the breadth of investment the City of Hobart has in the welfare of its citizens.
- 4.7. Hobart experiences community safety challenges similar to other Australian and international capital cities. These are global challenges that require nuanced local responses. Three significant global challenges have been identified as having significant impact on our local government area requiring response. These are: safety in public places; alcohol and other drugs; and violence against women and children. The Safety Commitment speaks to what we are already doing in response to these identified issues, as well as listing areas of exploration to enhance the work already being undertaken.
- 4.8. The format of a concise, annual commitment has been chosen to enable yearly revision of the action items, thereby ensuring responsive outputs.
- 4.9. The Commitment format provides a short, accessible document that outlines our Approach, Partnership Actions for the Proposal and Implementation.
- 4.10. It is intended that the Commitment will be reviewed and updated annually in consultation with our community safety partners.

5. Proposal and Implementation

- 5.1. It is proposed that the Council approve the Community Safety Commitment 2019.
- 5.2. Council officers will use the Commitment to guide their work over the coming financial year.
- 5.3. The Community Safety Commitment will be reviewed annually, with input from community partners and a revised Commitment will be developed for each financial year.

6. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations

- 6.1. The Community Safety Commitment strongly aligns with and directly responds to the Council-endorsed *Hobart: A community vision for our island capital*; in particular, to the following:

“Identity Statement 3.4 - Our city feels friendly and safe - but we know not everyone experiences our city this way, and we could do better.

Pillar 1.3.3 - We create and retain spaces where people feel connected with Hobart, each other and the environment, where we are safe, engaged and inspired.”

- 6.2. The Council’s development of a Community Safety Commitment aligns with Strategic Objective 4.3 of the *Capital City Strategic Plan 2015-2025*:

“Strategic Objective 4.3: Build community resilience, public health and safety.”

- 6.3. The Community Safety Commitment strongly aligns with the *City of Hobart Social Inclusion Strategy 2014-2019*.

- 6.4. The Safety Commitment also aligns with relevant State Government strategies including: *Breaking the Cycle - A Safer Community*, *The Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2013-2018* and the *Towards Zero-Tasmanian Road Safety Strategy 2017-2026*.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. There are no financial implications from this report.

8. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations

- 8.1. Legal, risk and legislative considerations are minimal for this proposal. Risks will be monitored throughout the implementation period.

9. Environmental Considerations

- 9.1. There are no specific environmental considerations as a result of this report, however any projects or initiatives undertaken are in line with the Council’s *Towards Zero Waste to Landfill* strategy.

10. Social and Customer Considerations

- 10.1. City of Hobart staff have engaged with a wide range of community partners over an extended period. This engagement has directly informed this final Commitment.
- 10.2. This Community Safety Commitment reflects the community’s aspirations articulated through the *Community Vision* and aligns strongly with the *Social Inclusion Strategy 2014-2019*.

- 10.3. The Commitment will demonstrate to the community the positive ongoing work of the City in this area and outline our commitment to collaborative action on community safety issues.

11. Marketing and Media

- 11.1. The Community Safety Commitment will be made available on the City of Hobart website.

12. Community and Stakeholder Engagement

- 12.1. The draft Community Safety Strategy was directly informed by community safety partners during the development phase and they have been invited to have input into the endorsed draft Commitment.
 - 12.1.1. Feedback from these partners has been highly complementary of the Commitment. They have advised that the areas identified are on point and reflect the types of issues they are seeing in the community. These partners have indicated a willingness to continue to work with the City of Hobart on developing responses to the identified issues.
 - 12.1.2. The suggestion was made to include CatholicCare in the list of community safety partners. As a key member of Networking for Harmony and an active partner with the City of Hobart, CatholicCare have now been included in the final document.
 - 12.1.3. A further suggestion was made to include the homeless in the list of priority populations. This has been added to reflect the importance of focussing on the safety needs of this cohort.
- 12.2. Broader community engagement on the Commitment was undertaken during March 2019. The Engaged Communities team facilitated consultation through the Your Say Hobart website.
 - 12.2.1. Responses to Your Say Hobart were limited, with a total of four responses. Comments included: concerns at the over emphasis of violence against women and children and the apparent lack of inclusion of violence against men; Council requested to consider residents' views when Development Applications are submitted by proposed licensed venues; support for increasing and improving CCTV coverage; and support for Council to work with partners to prevent violent deaths such as those experienced in Melbourne.
 - 12.2.1.1. This feedback has been acknowledged and will be considered as safety initiatives are further developed.

12.3. The Community Safety Commitment will be reviewed annually with input from community partners and a new Commitment will be developed each financial year to include minor revisions and new actions.

13. Delegation

13.1. This is a matter for the Council's determination.

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.



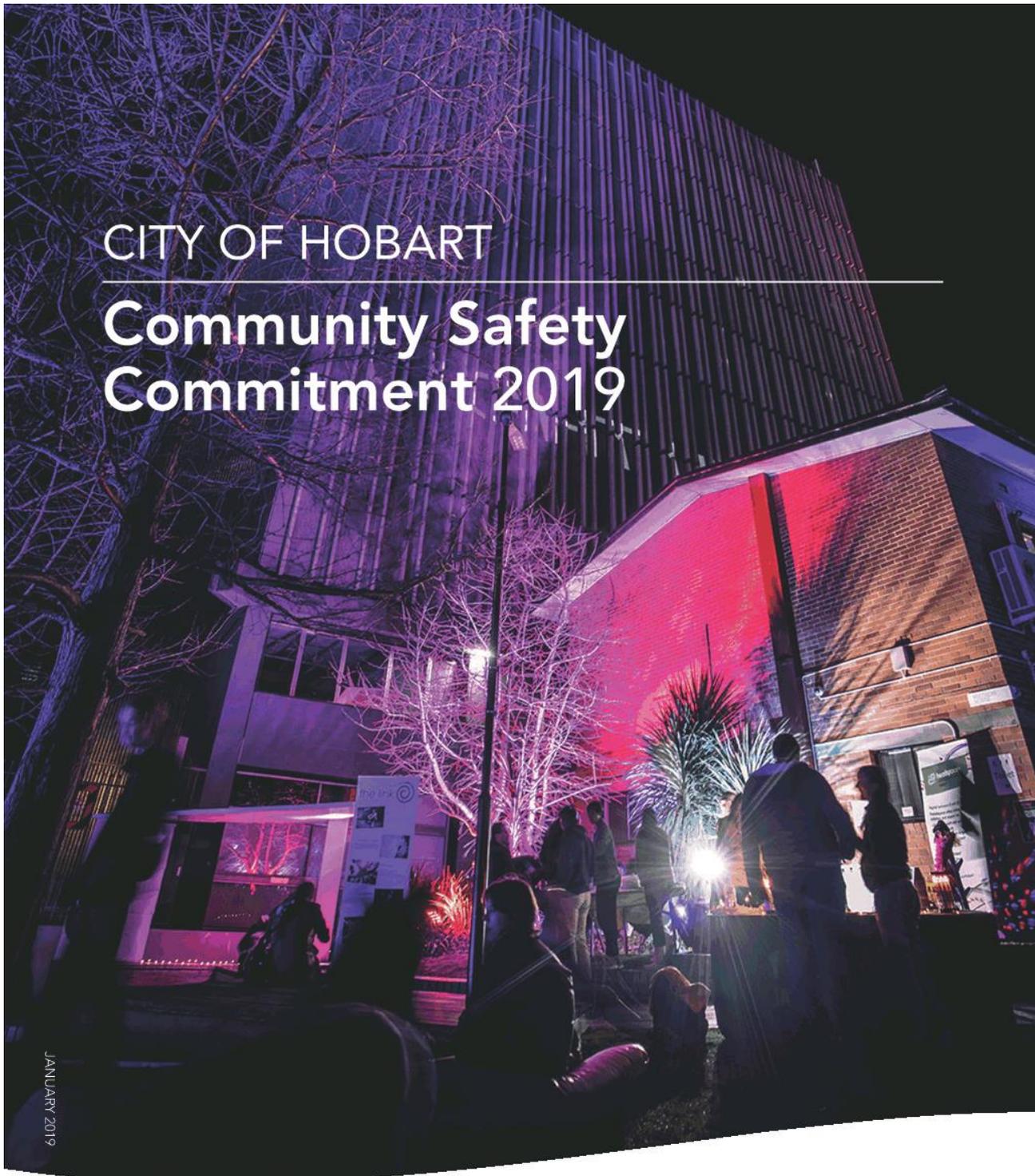
Kimbra Parker
**MANAGER INCLUSIVE, RESILIENT
AND CREATIVE COMMUNITIES**



Tim Short
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY LIFE

Date: 4 July 2019
File Reference: F19/67720; 17/90

Attachment A: Final Community Safety Commitment 2019 ↓



CITY OF HOBART

Community Safety
Commitment 2019

JANUARY 2019



City of HOBART

INTRODUCTION

Hobart is a beautiful, liveable and safe city. 'Our city feels friendly and safe, but we know not everyone experiences our city this way, and we could do better' (*Identity Statement 3.4**). We aspire to be a safe city where everyone feels safe and is safe, including in public places; a city in which we look after one another.

This Community Safety Commitment reflects the community's aspirations articulated through the Community Vision, providing a framework from which to examine community safety. The Commitment outlines key partnerships and focus areas and sets out clear goals and priorities for action in 2019. The City of Hobart makes this Commitment in the knowledge that when people are connected to their community, they hear their community, they care for their community; making it a safer place for everyone.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FROM THE COMMUNITY VISION FOR OUR ISLAND CAPITAL

Our city feels friendly and safe – but we know not everyone experiences our city this way, and we could do better.

*Identity Statement 3.4**

Diversity in culture, nationality, ethnicity, race, gender, sexuality, ability, age, body, family, recreation, profession, personal strengths, income level, language, education, life experiences and more make up each of us and, together, make up our city. We recognise and embrace the rich complexity diversity brings to our lives—we are all part of creating Hobart's identity.

*Pillar 2.2.3**

We create and retain spaces where people feel connected with Hobart, each other and the environment, where we are safe, engaged and inspired.

*Pillar 1.3.3**

Our connections are one of our biggest assets, and we encourage each other to build strong networks between people, businesses, education and government. We connect industry sectors with jobseekers. We enable clever and resourceful people to find each other and collaborate.

Pillar 4.4.1

We recognise and face inequalities, poverty and disadvantage in our communities.

*Pillar 2.2.7**

We make Hobart the most inclusive city in the world, a city that welcomes all.

*Pillar 2.2.1**

Hobart's isolation and scale have required resilience. We know that future challenges will demand that we work hard and work together. But we are our best selves in times of adversity and vulnerability. We are caring, helpful and supportive of everyone at all times but especially when things get tough. We flourish in times of hardship.

*Pillar 2.6.1**

* Denotes reference to the Community Vision for our Island Capital (hobartcity.com.au/Council/Strategies-and-plans)



STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This Commitment aligns with the mission, values and goals of the Capital City Strategic Plan 2015-2025 and the Social Inclusion Strategy 2014-2019 (hobartcity.com.au/Council/Strategies-and-plans). In particular, the Commitment responds directly to the following goals from the Capital City Strategic Plan:

- Partner with stakeholders to promote Hobart as a safe and culturally receptive city with a quality urban and natural environment.
*Strategic Objective 1.2.2**
- Implement strategies for positive ageing, youth, equal access, children and families and multicultural programs.
*Strategic Objective 4.1.2**
- Build capacity and resilience so the community is prepared for emergency situations.
*Strategic Objective 4.3.1**
- Engage and support the community to address safety and social issues within the night-time economy.
Strategic Objective 4.3.8

* Denotes reference to the Capital City Strategic Plan 2015-2025 (hobartcity.com.au/Council/Strategies-and-plans)



COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERS

We use our connections and networks to enable participation in civic life. Our strong partnerships support collaboration across councils, community organisations, businesses and other levels of government.

The City of Hobart draws upon our reference and advisory groups to guide our community safety action. These groups are integral to our work, providing advice and perspective and partnering actively on projects:

- Access Advisory Committee
- Children and Families Network
- Community Sector Reference Group
- Events Coordination Committee
- Hobart Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Hobart Older Persons' Reference Group
- Housing with Dignity Reference Group
- Networking for Harmony Multicultural Advisory Group
- Youth Action Priorities
- Youth Advisory Squad

The City of Hobart continues to build upon existing partnerships whilst creating new strategic partnerships to enable cohesive, collaborative responses to our local challenges.

Key partners include:

- Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council
- Bicycle Network of Tasmania
- Business community
- Capital Cities Council of Lord Mayor's, Safe Cities Network
- CatholicCare Tasmania
- Colony 47
- Council of the Ageing
- Crime Stoppers
- Department of Communities Tasmania
- Department of Education Tasmania
- Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management
- Department of State Growth Tasmania
- Drug Education Network
- Equal Opportunity Tasmania
- Greater Hobart Councils
- Liquor Licensing Commissioner
- Local Government Association of Tasmania
- Local security agencies
- Local traffic committees (Glebe, Lenah Valley/Mount Stuart, South Hobart, West Hobart)
- Migrant Resource Centre
- Multicultural Council of Tasmania
- National Association for Prevention of Child abuse and Neglect
- RACT
- Road Safety Council of Tasmania
- Salvation Army
- Shelter Tasmania
- Southern Homelessness Sector Network
- Tasmanian Hospitality Association
- Tasmania Police
- Taxi industry
- The Link Youth Health Service
- Tobacco Control Unit, DHHS
- University of Tasmania
- Waterfront Business Association
- Youth Network of Tasmania

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION 2019 – 2020

We think globally and act locally. As local government, it is important that we recognise the significant global safety challenges and consider how they impact us at the local level, responding proactively in collaboration with our partners.

The City of Hobart recognises that not everyone's experience of safety is the same. We acknowledge these particular populations for priority action:

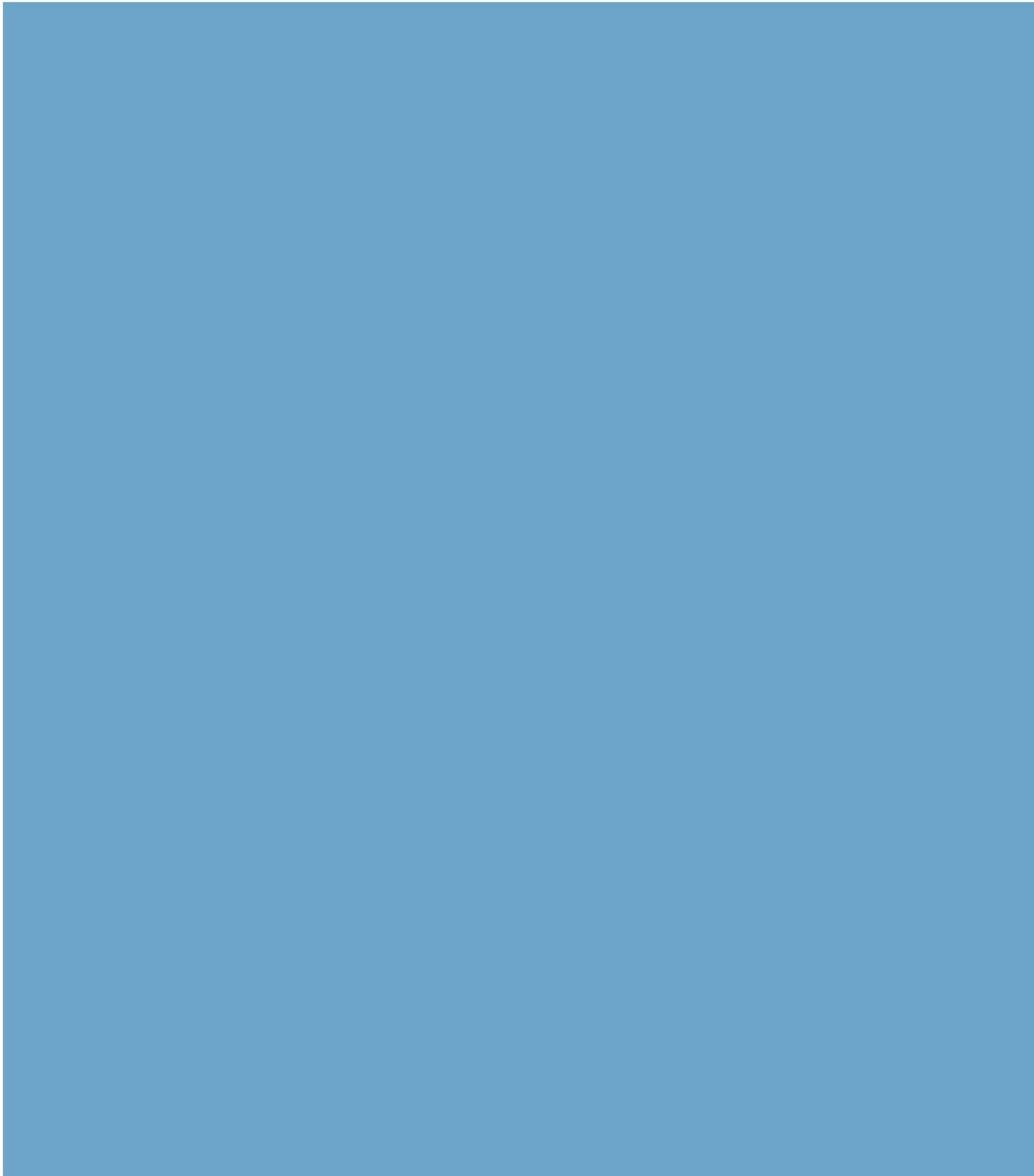
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Children and young people
- Homeless
- LGBTIQ
- Multicultural Communities
- Older persons
- People with a disability
- Visitors to the City
- Women

The City of Hobart has chosen three significant global challenges to act locally on during 2019, ensuring that Hobart remains a place where everyone feels safe and is safe. These are detailed below.

| GLOBAL CHALLENGES | | |
|---|---|--|
| Safety in public spaces | Alcohol and other drugs | Violence against women and children |
| LOCAL FOCUS AREAS | | |
| Building security Climate change (including heat stress) Community resilience in disaster recovery Competing road needs of pedestrians/motor vehicles/bicycles Congestion Graffiti Homelessness/rough sleeping Increased visitation numbers Local terrorism threats Perceptions of safety Personal safety at festivals and events Prejudice, discrimination, vilification, xenophobia Public order Response to disasters Safety at public transport hubs Safety in bushlands Safety online Seasonality | Access to treatment services Alcohol and/or drug impairment for road users Community cohesion and inclusion Drug education Drug misuse and trafficking Employment stress Housing stress Late night entertainment Mental health and wellbeing Misuse of alcohol and other drugs at festivals and events Public order | Access to education, information and resources Accommodation sharing Child safety Community cohesion and connection Elder abuse Employment stress Family violence Housing stress Public transport safety and availability Safety in public places Safety online Sexual violence |

| CURRENT AND ONGOING ACTION | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aboriginal Programs | Community Grants Program | Children and Families Programs |
| CCTV | Late night public toilet initiative (at Salamanca Square) | Child safety training |
| Community Engagement Framework | Liquor license monitoring | Community Grants Program |
| Community Grants program | Public toilet educative posters initiative | Delivery of homelessness and anti-poverty initiatives |
| Creative Hobart Strategy | Smoke free public places and outdoor dining areas | Family Violence Policy - support for staff experiencing family violence |
| Emergency Management and Recovery Plans | Street Teams Project | Positive Ageing Programs |
| Equal Access Strategy | Youth Programs | Youth Programs |
| Fire Management Plans | | |
| Graffiti Management Plan | | |
| Healthy Hobart | | |
| Housing and Homelessness Strategy | | |
| International Student Ambassador Program | | |
| Multicultural Programs | | |
| Place making and activation | | |
| Positive Ageing Programs | | |
| Public art, including Playful Cities | | |
| Racism. It Stops with Me | | |
| Road Safety Projects | | |
| Safe work practices and maintenance of assets | | |
| Smoke free public places | | |
| Use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles | | |
| Wayfinding | | |
| Youth Programs | | |

| NEW INITIATIVES AND GOALS | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Development of a Reconciliation Action Plan</p> <p>Explore opportunities for multicultural business start-up mentoring</p> <p>Explore opportunities to reduce stigma/negativity of young people in public spaces</p> <p>Formalise work in support of LGBTIQ inclusion</p> <p>Participation in the Welcoming Cities initiative</p> <p>Safety in crowded places project</p> <p>Smart City initiatives including CCTV operations hub</p> | <p>Build clearer processes for considering safety issues regarding liquor licensing and planning applications</p> <p>Create a network of stakeholders associated with the late night economy to be able to respond collaboratively to associated challenges</p> <p>Explore opportunities to further reduce the incidence of smoking in the City</p> | <p>Exploration of collaborative initiatives to directly respond to family violence. Examples of initiatives that will be explored are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information provision, web and print • Training frontline staff to recognise and respond to family violence <p>Explore potential for the introduction of Ask for Angela program in licensed premises</p> |



Hobart Town Hall,
Macquarie Street,
Hobart, TAS 7000
T 03 6238 2711
F 03 6238 2186
E coh@hobartcity.com.au
W hobartcity.com.au

6.5 Housing and Homelessness Update
File Ref: F19/91266

Memorandum of the General Manager of 5 July 2019 and attachments.

Delegation: Council



City of **HOBART**

MEMORANDUM: COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND EVENTS COMMITTEE

Housing and Homelessness Update

Introduction

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Council with an update on matters relating to the Homelessness Forum and the Greater Hobart Housing Alliance.

Background

At its 3 June 2019 meeting the Council resolved as follows:

The City of Hobart acknowledge the reality of the housing and homelessness crisis and convene and coordinate an urgent meeting to be facilitated by Council officers within the next seven days.

Invitees to the meeting include the Minister for Housing and Human Services Roger Jaensch, social housing, shelter and homelessness service providers, church groups, greater Hobart Councils, Council's Housing with Dignity Reference Group, federal government representative, relevant businesses and other stakeholders who can assist in immediate solutions to the crisis.

Homelessness Forum

In response to the 3 June 2019 Council decision, a Homelessness Forum was held on 20 June 2019 with invitations sent to a range of key stakeholders representing all levels of government and the community and business sectors.

In attendance on the day were over 50 representatives (**attachment A**) who discussed a wide range of matters resulting in agreement that a Greater Hobart Housing Alliance be formed.

A copy of the notes from the Forum are provided for Elected Members (**attachment B**).

Greater Hobart Housing Alliance

The first meeting of the Greater Hobart Housing Alliance was held on 5 July 2019. A copy of the agenda is attached (**attachment C**).

The Alliance comprises Mayors from Hobart, Clarence, Glenorchy, Kingborough, Huon and Brighton Councils; Department of Communities; TasCOSS; Shelter Tasmania; Housing Support Services; Colony 47; Hobart City Mission; Anglicare; CatholicCare; Salvation Army; the Property Council and Master Builders Australia.

The Alliance is charged with progressing and prioritising the key actions from the Homelessness Forum.

The Lord Mayor attended the meeting along with Councillor Ewin in her capacity as City of Hobart representative on the Housing with Dignity Reference Group. It was noted that the Co-Chair of the Housing with Dignity Reference Group, Alderman Thomas was unable to attend the meeting. Elected Members are advised that the notes from the Housing with Dignity Reference Group are uploaded to the HUB.

The Alliance will continue to meet with further updates on progress to be provided to the Council.

'Housing All Australians' Project

As part of the city-wide discussions about solutions to homelessness, a briefing was provided by Robert Pradolin from the national 'Housing All Australians' project on 2 July 2019. The 'Housing All Australians' strategy is for the provision of pop-up shelters in empty buildings. The group aims to harness the ability of the private sector and collaborate to address the chronic shortage of low income affordable housing. The public event was well attended with approximately 25 people in attendance.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. That the Council note the discussion notes from the Homelessness Forum.**
- 2. The Council endorse the Lord Mayor's ongoing participation as the City of Hobart representative on the Greater Hobart Housing Alliance with regular progress updates to be provided to the Council.**

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.



N D Heath
GENERAL MANAGER

Date: 5 July 2019
File Reference: F19/91266

- Attachment A: Homelessness Forum Attendees ↓
- Attachment B: Homelessness Forum notes ↓
- Attachment C: Greater Hobart Housing Alliance Agenda ↓

List of Attendees
Homelessness Forum

Anglican Church
Baptist Church
Council of Homeless Persons
C3 Church
Department of Communities
Tasmania
Hobart City Church of Christ
Velocity Church
Brighton Council
Developer - Capital Investments
University of Tasmania
Clarence City Council
Glenorchy City Council
Hobart City Council
Huon Valley Council
Kingborough Council
Anglicare
Catholic Care
Salvation Army
Colony 47
Hobart City Mission
Shelter Tas
TasCOSS
Hobart Women's Shelter
Bethlehem House
Traders in Purple
Mission Australia
Aged & Community Services Australia
(ACSA)
Lived Experience Reference Group

City of Hobart Homelessness Crisis Forum – Meeting Notes

Meeting Notes

Homelessness Crisis Forum

Thursday 20 June 2019

Lord Mayor's Court Room, City of Hobart

8 am – 10.45 am

- 1. Lord Mayor, Councillor Anna Reynolds welcomed attendees to the forum**
- 2. General Manager, Nick Heath provided the program outline and ground rules**
- 3. What are the issues/why are we here?**
 - N'didi Okwechime from Colony 47 and Pattie Chugg from Shelter TAS spoke to participants regarding the current issues and what they would like to see from this forum
- 4. Comments from Federal and State Government**
 - The Hon Michael Sukkar MP, Federal Minister for Housing & Assistant Treasurer/Federal Minister for Deakin spoke from a Federal Government perspective
 - The Hon Roger Jaensch MP, Minister for Housing, Human Services and Planning spoke from a State Government perspective
- 5. Issues identified – whiteboard notes**
 - Multi-Faceted approach required – diversity of options
 - Pets are a very important consideration
 - Older Women are an increasing cohort
 - Shelter – short term doesn't work for everyone
 - High Rents, extreme housing stress – costs up 44%
 - Need for social connection to community
 - Increase in families presenting for assistance
 - Drug and alcohol / mental health are often factors
 - High numbers / volume of demand – unable to support numbers
 - Not enough affordable Housing – so many out of reach
 - Need for active voice of Consumers to be part of discussions
 - Need for specialised services – Youth, DV, Disability to be included
 - Safe options with safeguards are critical
 - Building Code DDA restrictions – Shop Tops are available but non-compliant
 - Urban Growth Boundaries need to be considered
 - Increase Newstart Allowance– cannot afford private rental on this amount

City of Hobart Homelessness Crisis Forum – Meeting Notes

- Federal Debt – State cannot build housing – repaying debt could be spent on the provision of more social housing
- Planning/ Zoning needs consideration – particularly inclusionary zoning
- Accurate Data required: numbers sleeping rough/ couch surfing/ overcrowding – very hard to identify the extend of the issues
- inadequacy of hotel rooms = Airbnb demand = non-affordable housing

6. Brainstorming/discussion of potential initiatives/solutions (whiteboard notes)

Crisis Options/ Initiatives (4 weeks)

- Service providers – Gov't to support funding to increase for extra beds
- Opening up underutilised homes/rooms in private homes
- Promote options – direct to Housing Connect – owners/funding share homes
- Increased funding for transition service providers (bottom up)
- Upcoming forum – 2 July – developers /philanthropic/ private development
- Hot Showers – increase availability
- Emergency buses for immediate support
- Local Government should provide service coordination and support
- Greater Hobart Councils to commission data collection / critical demand
- Additional housing supply/ wrap around services with pathways
- Target working poor/ living in cars/ couch surfing
- Investigate empty office buildings
- Immigration opportunities for housing transition
- Focus on people sleeping rough – make shelter available every night
- Select Committee into Housing Affordability – encourage submissions
- Fairness/equity lens for support
- Workforce development – TAFE
- Formation of alliance of Local government Mayors/ Shelter, TasCOSS etc
- Shared messaging (from alliance) - NIMBY
- Promotion of the ability of State Gov't to respond to need
- Provide opportunities for community to contribute – send messaging on how
- Assessment of immediate shelter opportunities for rough sleeping – such as churches etc.
- Form alliance – Local Gov't Mayors; Department of Communities; Community Sector; Shelter Tas; Property Council; Master Builders

Short Term (3 – 6 months)

- Planning amendments to fast track initiatives IPD (State Gov't)
- Airbnb – revisiting short term visitor requirements / legislation
- Philanthropic support for partnerships with Local Gov't including disability housing
- Planning directives – support landowners – temporary/short term eg. plumbing requirements / permits etc.
- Incentivise building over underused carparks
- Shelters – temporary options to be transitioned to long term permanent infrastructure

City of Hobart Homelessness Crisis Forum – Meeting Notes

- Development of clear targets across the whole of community – with tracking measures
- Demountable and modular housing such as units at caravan parks etc.
- Incentives for landlords to improve liveability (energy/ efficiency) – encourage diversity
- Quality of housing stock and liability needs to be maintained
- Regional Land Use Strategy Review (key areas) – restricting housing supply – pressure points – with strong consultation
- Safety of boarding houses – inclusive growth, Local Gov't support

Long Term solutions/ initiatives

- 900 social housing homes required each year for 10 years (currently 5% - target 10%)
- Blended communities – target social and affordable housing – Huntingfield – 15%
- Planning diversity if required
- Head of Power
- Incentivise developers through the planning scheme
- Inclusionary zoning implemented
- Short term housing – 40 year commitment
- Investigate Finland social housing model
- Investigate shop top options
- Consider changes to incentivise negative gearing for affordable housing
- Decentralisation – services need to be available
- Tax reform – GST relief on sale for developers of social housing
- Tradable tax incentives
- Urgently review the regional land use strategy which is a major barrier
- Inclusive housing – greater Hobart City Council 3 – 5 year targets
- Airbnb levy – pay for homelessness services

7. Potential targets to aim for (from participants)

- 900 social housing homes each year minimum
- No Tasmanians sleeping rough
- All Tasmanians to have a home to live in
- Identify needs to develop appropriate outcome required
- Project to get relevant data – Greater Hobart Councils
- Demand Analysis to set goals and targets based on what the problem looks like - we don't know how many families are living in crisis
- Set target first – No southern Tasmanian families living on the streets - Unanimous agreement
- Greater Hobart Mayors commit unanimously to resources the collection of data
- Definition of affordable – rent to income ratio (income gap will grow) +increase supply + approach everyone engages with
- Bricks and Mortar + support (system-wide challenge)
- Identify separate sub sets beyond affordable housing
- Transition of people from crisis into long term with exit strategies in place

City of Hobart Homelessness Crisis Forum – Meeting Notes

- Data is critical; Wage earners as couch surfers will never be with Housing Connect. Mums and kids living in cars – bigger challenges to identify and manage
 - Pop-up shelter in empty office buildings
 - Income stream – immigration policy (Inclusive Hobart) 12 months to permanent residence – 400-500 seeking accommodation on immigration scheme
 - Medium income - negative gear/deduct insurance policy as tax deduction
 - Houses cold in winter – landlords have no incentive to make improvement (not tax deductible) ie window glass replacement
 - Centralised model – RHH additional beds demand for more housing in Hobart
 - Owner/ Builder - red tape is a big barrier
 - Don't throw good planning out the window – ensure safeguards are in place for good long term outcomes
 - Funding for homelessness. Lisbon has levy that goes into affordable housing fund
 - Target – “Keep families together”
-



GREATER HOBART HOMELESSNESS ALLIANCE

MEETING NO. 1 – 5 JULY 2019 - 12 TO 2PM

AGENDA

- 1. Lord Mayor Councillor Anna Reynolds welcomes attendees**
- 2. Appointment of Chairman for this meeting**
- 3. Round the table introductions**
- 4. Items for discussion:**
 - 4.1 Governance Model for alliance / development of TOR etc.
 - 4.2 Alliance resourcing
 - 4.3 Whiteboard lists – go through actions / priorities / lead agencies
 - 4.4 State Government – Update on \$5 million fund allocation process
 - 4.5 Councils – specific key local issues
 - 4.6 Other Issues to be discussed
 - Public goodwill – how do we harness and direct support
 - Sector Standards - how do we ensure initiatives consider safety
 - Code blue protocols – such as operates in other cities
 - Zero Adelaide Collective Impact Model – potential workshop/forum
 - Richmond Fellowship 24/7 potential model – business case
 - Sleeping Pod Bus – arrival date – management model
 - PCYC / temporary accommodation proposal
 - Showers / toilet facilities – identify need
 - 4.7 Development of an ownership grid of actions
 - 4.8 Media Statement
 - 4.9 Other business
- 5. Closing comments and next meeting details**

**6.6 Conference Reporting - Welcoming Cities Symposium - Brisbane - 2
- 4 April 2019
File Ref: F19/64636; 16/118**

Memorandum of the General Manager of 1 July 2019 and attachment.

Delegation: Committee



City of **HOBART**

MEMORANDUM: COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND EVENTS COMMITTEE

**Conference Reporting - Welcoming Cities Symposium -
Brisbane - 2 - 4 April 2019**

Councillors Mike Dutta and Zelinda Sherlock have submitted the attached report in accordance with Clause 3(H)(2) of the Council's policy titled *Elected Members' Development and Support*.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. That the information be received and noted.**

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.

N D Heath
GENERAL MANAGER

Date: 1 July 2019
File Reference: F19/64636; 16/118

Attachment A: Report - Welcoming Cities Symposium - Brisbane - 2 - 4 April 2019 ↓

Date: 15/05/2019

MEMORANDUM: *COMMUNITY CULTURE AND EVENTS*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT – CR. SHERLOCK AND CR. DUTTA

Name of training / activity: WELCOMING CITIES SYMPOSIUM

Provider:

Location: BRISBANE

Date: 2ND TO 4TH APRIL 2019

Final cost:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Registration | \$220.00 |
| Flights | \$554.00 |
| Accommodation | \$175.75 |
| Daily Allowance | \$40.00 |
| TOTAL | \$989.75 |

Development need: Gain knowledge and understanding of practical ways that Council can create an Inclusive Community.

Targeted outcome: Our Community Vision states: " We celebrate our diversity and include each other in the city life. We make Hobart the most inclusive city in the world, a CITY THAT WELCOMES ALL." With this in mind, from this Symposium we sought to glean further insight into how other Councils around the country are making this possible.

Report:

WELCOMING CITIES OVERVIEW

We were not sure what to expect from attending this event, could this be just another "junket!?" There was an element of, we believe, healthy skepticism, which can serve, to some degree, as a basis of objective observation.

We were encouraged to attend this Symposium by the Lord Mayor, considering HCC had recently signed up to be a member of the Welcoming Cities initiative. We were pleasantly surprised because we found it inspiring, challenging and beneficial. In addition, it provided a very good platform to network and learn from so many others who are actively involved in local councils and aim to create a more socially cohesive society. We, as local government representatives, are best placed to understand the "complexity and diversity of our communities and facilitate a whole-of- community approach." This Symposium was a

celebration highlighting, with concrete examples and evidence, the role of local municipalities to include and welcome refugees, students and migrants to our communities.

“Welcome to Australia was conceived and named amid a political climate in which civility and our international responsibilities as good neighbours were being traded for expediency and populism. That the brand, and sentiment behind, Welcome to Australia even needed to exist indicates the culture of division and toxic response to humanitarian settlement, migration and visible minorities. As a name, Welcome to Australia, highlights the principle of the receiving community embracing newcomers. The name has served the movement and organisation well.

Over the past seven years Welcome to Australia has grown and evolved. Our approach is less about us (everyday Australians) and them (new arrivals), and far more about a collective approach. And in a country where First Nations still strive for recognition and treaty the initial welcome to Australia must be led by First Peoples and Traditional Custodians. As a movement and organisation, Welcome to Australia is maturing and with it the time is right for us to mark that change. Welcoming Australia is a subtle but important shift that is both aspirational and inclusive.

Welcoming Australia promotes a nation in which everyone can belong, participate and thrive in social, cultural, economic and civic life. Welcoming Australia suggests, and requires, a coordinated whole-of-community approach to migration, settlement, cultural diversity and inclusion.

Welcoming Australia is both who we are and who we strive to be". (Source: welcoming.org.au).

SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS

1. “AN AUSTRALIA WE CAN ALL CELEBRATE” ~ PROF. ANITA HEISS
2. INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE: KENAN MALIK .
 - Three Myths About Diversity
3. National Keynote: ABDUL RIZVI
 - Immigration policy
 - Challenges
4. Building an Evidence Base for Policy and Practice in Local Communities:
 - REBECCA WICKES AND JOHN VAN KOOY
5. Developing Leading Practice: Showcasing Local Government Welcoming Initiatives:
 - JAC TORES-GOMEZ (City of Greater Bendigo)
 - JUNE ROUNT AND HAIDEE KALIRAI (Welcoming Cities New Zealand)

Presentations and wrap-up of the Symposium can be found at:

https://welcomingcities.org.au/symposium2019-wrapup/?mc_cid=9d16e46463&mc_eid=cafca9ac04

OUTCOMES RELEVANT TO THE CITY OF HOBART

- To ensure that new arrivals have access to council services and cultural assets by actively removing barriers. For example, how we use the English language in our print material when communicating with our community. The HCC Newsletter could be reviewed. Signs, in key sights or places, in other major languages.
- To actively advance or look at ways to bring reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres islander people and involve them in the decision making processes
- To create and provide opportunities for the various migrant groups and include them in council activities where practicable
- To highlight some of the stories and contributions of the new migrants in the HCC Newsletter
- To devise ways so that new comers can have the opportunity to succeed in our community
- That during 'Communication From the Chairman' time, community members are given an opportunity to come and present anything relevant to the city of Hobart, within a timeframe of a maximum of 3 minutes

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report be received and noted.

**6.7 Applications Approved Under the Delegated Authority of the
Director Community Life for Quick Response Grants
File Ref: F19/67698; 18/279**

Memorandum of the Director Community Life of 3 July 2019 and
attachment.

Delegation: Committee



City of **HOBART**

MEMORANDUM: COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND EVENTS COMMITTEE

**Applications Approved Under the Delegated Authority of
the Director Community Life for Quick Response Grants**

The Director Community Life submits for information the attached table of Quick Response Applications approved under delegated authority.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received and noted.

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.

Tim Short
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY LIFE

Date: 3 July 2019
File Reference: F19/67698; 18/279

Attachment A: Quick Response Applications Approved Under Delegate
Authority ↓

**APPLICATIONS APPROVED UNDER THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY OF
THE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY LIFE
FOR QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS – FILE REF: 18/279**

| Applicant | Project Description | Grant Stream | Value of Grant \$ excl | Date of Approval |
|----------------------------|--|--------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Yabbo Thompson 9/6/2019 | <i>Risking Light, Forgiving the Unforgivable film</i> The project screened Risking Light, Forgiving the Unforgivable, as an event in Reconciliation Week raising funds towards a commemorative plaque for the Stolen Generations in Tasmania. Through the stories of Mary Johnson, who grieves a murdered son in USA; Debra Hocking, a victim of government-sanctioned genocide; and Kilong Ung, who survived the terror of the Khmer Rouge, the documentary challenges beliefs about forgiveness and asks "What would the world look like if we could learn to forgive one another?" | Community | \$500 cash & in-kind | 24/5/2019 |

7. MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

7.1 Pill Testing

FILE REF: F19/39420; 13-1-9

Councillor Ewin

Motion

“That in order to minimise the harms associated with illicit drug use at festivals, events, pubs, clubs and venues, Hobart City Council:

1. Provide in-principle support for the provision of drug analysis services (commonly known as pill testing) at major events and festivals held in the City of Hobart.
2. Call on the State Government to commence the necessary action to facilitate a trial of pill testing in Tasmania as soon as possible.
3. Communicates information explaining the purpose of pill testing and the reasoning for the Council’s support to the residents of the city.”

Rationale:

“Pill testing is first and foremost a health issue. A significant number of people attending festivals and venues in the City of Hobart take unlawful drugs contained in pills, powders and liquids. These substances can contain contaminants and uncertain strengths, which can lead to preventable harm and mortality. This harm can be easily avoided by implementing pill testing.

According to research, of 1000 ecstasy users, 70% of pills are taken in a public setting (clubs, dance parties and festivals). Of those surveyed, 82% said they would use pill testing if provided.

Local governments provide or facilitate this service in several European countries including France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Germany and Spain. Domestically, the City of Port Phillip passed a similar motion in 2017, and is renewing its push for the Victorian State government to allow a trial to be implemented.

Pill testing is supported by the Australian Medical Association, The Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council of Tasmania, the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, and The Royal Australian College of Medical Practitioners among many others, and is considered best practice and a key harm minimisation strategy for our community.

Pill Testing Australia is the provider for these services. The process for service provision is that of enabling policy, rather than legislative changes (such as decriminalisation or legalisation). Police, government and Pill Testing Australia work together to deliver the service to ensure safety and transparency at all times. People considering using an illicit substance come to a collection point to have the substance tested in order to discover what they really may be taking. Their phones are confiscated to ensure privacy, and they are taken through the process with a qualified chemist and a doctor who explain the makeup and effects of the substance. This enables people to make informed choices about what they are about to do, to understand the risks better, and what to do in the event of an adverse outcome. Throughout the process, people are never advised that it is safe to take drugs, consumption of drugs is never promoted, and people are not judged for the decisions they make in regard to drug use.

Pill Testing Australia provides a free trial for the initial service, so there is no cost to Government or festival/event organisers in the first instance. The service is then costed at \$4,000 for each festival/event, which is a cost absorbed by the festival promoters.

At the recent Groovin the Moo festival, the lives of seven young people were potentially saved by a pill testing trial- patrons discarded their drugs after testing alerted them that their pills contained a substance (n-ethylpentylone) which recently caused the deaths of several people in New Zealand.

In the interests of minimising harm to vulnerable members of our community and the recent appetite displayed by members of the State Government to investigate pill testing, I believe now is the perfect time for us to add our voice in support of pill testing.

Further information and resources:

https://www.drugpolicy.org.au/pill_testing

<https://www1.racgp.org.au/newsgp/racgp/racgp-president-backs-calls-for-pill-testing-follo>

<https://ama.com.au/gp-network-news/ama-backs-pill-testing-festivals>

<https://www.racp.edu.au/news-and-events/media-releases/racp-writes-to-nation-s-leaders-there-is-sufficient-evidence-to-support-pill-testing-trials>

<https://www.examiner.com.au/story/5896052/calls-voiced-for-pill-test-trial-committee/>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-16/pill-testing-in-tasmania-gets-liberal-sue-hickey-support/10903312>

http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/january-2019-media_7939.htm

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2017/dec/05/portugals-radical-drugs-policy-is-working-why-hasnt-the-world-copied-it>

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/alcohol/alcohol-tobacco-other-drugs-australia/contents/impacts/health-impacts>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/australia-s-second-pill-testing-trial-in-canberra-overwhelmingly-successful>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/apr/29/pill-testing-at-groovin-the-moo-festival-potentially-saves-seven-lives-organisers-say>

<https://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/node/301000974>

<https://harmreductionjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12954-018-0216-z>

Also please see attachments from the ATDC on FAQs and their position statement (well worth the read)!!”

The General Manager reports:

“In line with the Council’s policy in relation to Notices of Motion, I advise that the matter is considered to be within the jurisdiction of the Hobart City Council as it aligns with strategic objective 4.3 of the Strategic Plan 2015-2025 (Build community resilience, public health and safety).”

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Attachment A: | Pill Testing Australia - Summary of Discussion |
| Attachment B: | Pill Testing Position Statement |
| Attachment C: | Groves 2018 Article - Worth the Test Pragmatism Pill Test |



The information below summarises the points provided by Gino Vumbaca, President of Harm Reduction Australia to participants of the Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council's pill testing information session on Monday, 18 March 2019

Who are Pill Testing Australia?

Pill Testing Australia (www.pilltestingaustralia.com.au) is auspiced by Harm Reduction Australia. Harm Reduction Australia was formed in 2015 and is a national organisation for individuals committed to reducing the health, social and economic harms potentially associated with drug use. For more information visit www.harmreductionaustralia.org.au

Who is Gino Vumbaca?

Gino Vumbaca is the Co-Founder and President of Harm Reduction Australia.

How does a pill testing service work?

There are five key stages to the process.

1. Patrons entering into a pill testing service are greeted by a counsellor or peer worker who talks them through the process. The patron signs a waiver form and hands over their mobile phone (no photos are allowed within the pill testing station to ensure confidentiality).
2. The patron provides a sample/scraping of their drug, which is provided to the chemist, who uses mobile drug analysis technology to assess the contents of the drug.
3. Once complete, the patron speaks to a medical professional (e.g. a GP) who will talk them through the substances identified in the drug and the risks associated with consuming the drug. **Never at any stage does the medical professional tell the patron that the drug is safe or condone drug use.**
4. The patron is offered the opportunity to take a wristband with a number that corresponds to the results of their drug analysis results. In the case of a serious medical emergency, paramedics can take this wristband to the pill testing station and access information on what substances the patron may have consumed.
5. The patron then speaks one final time to a counsellor or peer worker who provides the patron with additional information on the risks of drug use, advises them of where the amnesty bin is (if the patron chooses to dispose of their drug) and provides them with information on what to do in the case of an emergency.

How long does it take to have the drug analysed?

The process takes approximately 12-15 minutes.

What information does the pill testing technology provide?

The drug analysis technology used by Pill Testing Australia will identify the substances within the drug. It does not test for purity. The technology has the capacity to identify more than 30,000 chemical compounds and substances.

Do the staff in the pill testing station tell a patron that a drug is safe?

Never. Pill testing is first and foremost a medical intervention that provides education and information to patrons who are considering consuming an illicit drug. All patrons are encouraged to dispose of their drugs in the amnesty bin.

Can the staff in the pill testing station insist a patron discards their drugs?

No. The staff in the pill testing station are not authorised to request a patron discard their drugs. The pill testing services will also never take possession of the drugs themselves.

What happens to the pills that are discarded into the amnesty bin?

The contents of the amnesty bin are collected and disposed of by ambulance staff.

What happens if a patron who has had their drug analysed, chooses to consume it and has a negative reaction?

Every person who seeks to use the pill testing service signs a waiver form to confirm that they understand the purpose of the service being provided to them, and that they waive their right to seek damages from Harm Reduction Australia if they chose to ignore the medical advice provided. There is also clear legal advice that pill testing protocols are designed to reduce the likelihood of harm and it would therefore be very difficult to contend that it created or added to any harm caused.

Could the staff in the pill testing station be charged with possession of an illicit drug?

No. The staff in the pill testing station do not take possession of the drug. While they undertake an analysis of the drug, it is the patron who places a sample/scraping for the testing equipment and then disposes of sample into amnesty bin.

What happens if the pill testing service identifies a lethal substance?

The pill testing service staff have no legal authority to remove or confiscate the drug from the patron even if it contains a lethal substance. In this instance, the pill testing staff would warn the patron and ask them to dispose of the drug into the amnesty bin. The pill testing staff will also provide information to the festival organisers to warn patrons that there are dangerous drugs within the festival.

What happens if an unknown substance is detected?

If an 'unknown' substance is detected, this would be considered as a serious 'red flag' and the patron would be provided with a severe warning regarding the risks of consuming that drug. The pill testing staff will also provide information to the festival organisers to warn patrons that there are dangerous drugs within the festival.

Could the pill testing technology 'miss' a dangerous substance when it analyses a drug?

Highly unlikely. The equipment used by Pill Testing Australia is the most sophisticated available in the market to use in the festival environment. Its capability was demonstrated during the ACT trial where the technology was able to even identify a European brand of toothpaste in one of the drugs tested.

If a patron had their drug analysed and they decide to take the drug but then suffer an overdose, could the festival promoter be liable for this?

Harm Reduction Australia indemnify the festival promoters for anything that occurs within their pill testing service. Harm Reduction Australia also has their own public liability insurance specifically for the pill testing service.

Where is the pill testing services located within a festival?

At the ACT *Groovin the Moo* festival, the pill testing station operated from within the medical precinct. Due to the parameters of the trial, Pill Testing Australia did not actively promote their services, and it was all through word of mouth.

Are the staff delivering pill testing services qualified health professionals?

Yes, the staff delivering the pill testing services are qualified health professionals. At the ACT trial, qualified chemists, nurses, ED doctors and counsellors volunteered their professional skills and time to the delivery of the pill testing service.

Can people consume drugs while in the pill testing station?

No. The pill testing station is staffed by medical professionals delivering a health service. While the service is conducted in a non-judgmental manner, drug use within the station is not permitted.

Are pill testing stations a 'safe-haven' for the illegal supply of drugs?

No. The pill testing station is staffed by medical professionals delivering a health service. Any suspicious activity would be immediately reported to police.

Can a drug dealer use the pill testing services to test their supply?

No. Staff within the pill testing station would never allow a suspected dealer (in possession of multiple drugs) to use their service.

What protocol are required with police?

In the ACT trial, the protocols used were based on those currently in place for needle and syringe programs. Police are still able to enter the pill testing stations (and would be called to respond to any emergencies) but they did not actively patrol the medical precinct area. Having a supportive relationship with police was essential. There is little benefit for police to target one patron with one pill and jeopardise the success of an important public health service.

Why is pill testing important at music festivals and events?

The prevalence of drug use at music events and festivals is very high, and most patrons of pill testing stations are often first time or only occasional drug users. The risk of a serious health issue or death is also very high, as proven by the five deaths in New South Wales during the 2018-19 summer festival period.

How did the pill testing trial in the ACT eventuate?

The ACT trial was the result of extensive consultation with ACT ministers, and the ACT government and then the development of an advisory committee, focused on establishing a 'supportive policy environment' to facilitate the trial. Additionally, extensive consultation was undertaken with the ACT Police Minister, and Commissioner for Police regarding how it would be implemented on the ground. Having police involvement and support for a trial of pill testing is critical.

What was the most commonly found drug during the ACT trial?

The results of the ACT trial indicate that methamphetamine and ketamine were common substances identified. Commonly, this result was unexpected to the patron who believed they were in possession of ecstasy. There is a perspective that this may be due to suppliers purposely misleading patrons that their drugs are ecstasy, which is more expensive to purchase.

Was the Pill Testing Australia's presence supported by other health organisations in the ACT?

Yes. The pill testing station had the full support of the other organisations within the medical precinct, and the *Groovin the Moo* festival organisers. ACT Ambulance staff were specifically grateful for Pill Testing Australia's presence.

How much does Pill Testing Australia charge to provide a pill testing service?

Pill Testing Australia has committed to providing every state or territory a free trial. Pending the success of the free trial, the cost of future services would be charged at a cost-recovery rate of approximately \$3,000-4,000 per festival. The overall cost is kept low due to the pill testing service being supported by health professionals who volunteer their services.

Would Pill Testing Australia provide their services in Tasmania without government support?

No. Government support is critical to ensure that the service can be effective.

Can pill testing services be adapted to the needs of each Tasmanian festival?

Yes. Pill Testing Australia would work with each festival to find a delivery model that worked for them. For example, Dark MOFO is delivered over three weeks, and a fixed-site pill testing service could be explored for the duration of the festival. On-site services can also be arranged for festivals over single, or multiple days.

Are there any other pill testing services in Australia?

No, Harm Reduction Australia through Pill Testing Australia are currently the only organisation in Australia with the technology and resources to deliver pill testing services.

Does Harm Reduction Australia make a profit through the pill testing services?

No. The delivery of pill testing services is not a money making exercise. Pill Testing Australia are supported through volunteers, and the equipment has been purchased using the personal funds of Gino Vumbaca and other Harm Reduction Australia members. Gino Vumbaca also did not accept any payment for his visit to Tasmania.

Does Harm Reduction Australia receive any government funding?

No, and this is a purposeful decision on behalf of Harm Reduction Australia to ensure they can remain independent.

Why are pill testing services only being explored for music festivals when we know party drugs are used more widely?

There is potential for pill testing services to also operate outside music festivals and events. This includes the potential for the services to be provided at needle and syringe program sites (to combat concerns of fentanyl). There is also the opportunity to provide 'fixed site' pill testing services (as they do in other countries) where the services are permanently available for the community to access. There are no current plans to expand into these areas at the moment.

Is there any information on the type of drugs that caused the overdoses in New South Wales?

Not yet with a coronial inquest about to commence in New South Wales. While this process should identify the substances consumed it won't be able to confirm if those substances were what those individuals thought they were consuming.

Is there evidence on the success of pill testing?

Yes. Pill testing services have been available in a range of countries overseas for up to 20 years. These statistics are widely available, including the recently released results of the UK pill testing evaluation. The 2018 *Groovin the Moo* trial was evaluated by Harm Reduction Australia. The 2019 *Groovin the Moo* service will be independently evaluated by the Australian National University.

Will pill testing services be offered in the ACT again?

Yes, approval has been provided by the ACT government to have pill testing services at the 2019 *Groovin the Moo* festival. Due to the success of the first trial, Pill Testing Australia will be able to actively promote their services this time and they are anticipating much larger numbers, and will double their team onsite.

Is the ACT Government encouraging other state and territory governments to trial pill testing?

Yes. In April this year the ACT Government will host all state and territory health ministers and provide them with a tour of the Pill Testing Australia pill testing station on the day before the *Groovin the Moo* festival opens. The health ministers will be walked through the station and provided with information on how the health promotion service works, view the technology and talk to the health professionals on-site.

Do they think any lives were saved at *Groovin the Moo* because pill testing services were available?

Yes. At *Groovin the Moo*, two pills containing the lethal n-ethylpentylone were identified.

What are some of the other benefits of pill testing?

There are a range of additional health and community benefits to pill testing:

- If a bad batch of drugs is detected, the pill testing service can alert the festival organisers who can then communicate that message to patrons.
- If a patron has a bad reaction to a drug they have consumed, if that individual has had their drug tested at the pill testing station, ambulance officers will be able to use the wristband provided to the patron to obtain information from the pill testing station regarding what substances were found in the drug that they consumed.
- The drug analysis testing results are shared with government law enforcement and community health professionals to inform the types of illicit drugs circulating within the community.
- Pill testing services are a highly cost-effective health promotion tool. The 2019 *Groovin the Moo* festival will cater for up to 20,000 attendees. Pill Testing Australia is expecting to provide their services to a minimum of several hundred patrons. For an investment of \$3,000 - \$4,000, this is a highly cost-effective health promotion tool.

Which Tasmanian festivals attended the Pill Testing Australia discussion?

Dark MOFO, Falls Music and Arts Festival and Party in the Paddock. A Festival Called PANAMA and Mona Foma were apologies.

Do the major music festivals want a trial of pill testing in Tasmania?

Yes.

atdc

Alcohol, Tobacco and other
Drugs Council Tasmania Inc.



Pill Testing Saves Lives

- The ATDC supports pill testing based on the evidence of its effectiveness as a harm reduction strategy
- The ATDC calls for the convening of an advisory committee of relevant stakeholders and experts to investigate options for trialling pill testing at Tasmania's music festivals and events.

February 2019



Alcohol, Tobacco and other
Drugs Council Tasmania Inc.

Summertime in Australia goes hand in hand with music festivals. A time where our young people should be enjoying themselves during a well-earned break from their studies or work commitments. Unfortunately the 2018 summer season will be remembered as one that was plagued by multiple drug related deaths and serious illness at music festivals across Australia, and a moment-in-time when community calls for pill testing was the loudest than in any other time in history. This includes Tasmania.

Across Australia, there is growing awareness that regardless of moral views or the legality of illicit drug use, the reality is that people, particularly young adults, take drugs and will continue to do so despite the government's and community's efforts to prevent drug use.

This drug use is evidenced through the 2016 National Drug Strategy Household Data Survey, that identified 43 per cent of Australians over 14 years of age reported using an illicit drug in their lifetime. Despite it being down the list of illegal substances ingested (behind marijuana, misuse of pharmaceuticals and cocaine), Australians are among the leading consumers of ecstasy in the world with 2.1 million of our population having used the drug at least once, and three per cent taking it at least once a year.

The real problem lies in the fact that recreational party drugs, like ecstasy and MDMA are unregulated, meaning the quality and strength is anyone's guess, with manufacturers often 'topping up' the pills with potentially deadly ingredients which cannot be detected until it is too late. People taking these pills are not aware of the composition of what they are taking and have no way of informing themselves.

This is where pill testing is critical, because death and serious illness from drugs taken at music festivals can be minimised by allowing suitably qualified and trained personnel to conduct pill testing in environments where we know that drug use is common, such as music festivals and events.

Drug analysis services, commonly known as pill testing, work by analysing a small sample of the pill (including powders or liquids) with results being available within 20 minutes. Pill testing stations aim to prevent people from taking dangerous or contaminated substances, while also giving the health staff conducting the testing a unique opportunity to provide face to face advice to people about the risks of drug taking.¹

Pill testing is now common place at music festivals in Europe and has proven to drastically reduce and even eliminate deaths. Testing first emerged in the early 1990s in the Netherlands where it is now part of national drug policy and pill testing services are routinely available in Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Spain, Portugal and France.

Since the introduction of pill testing, Portugal has had zero deaths at music festivals, and research from Austria found that 50 per cent of those who used the drug testing service believed that the results influenced their drug taking behaviour.

¹ For more information on the merits of pill testing and its evaluation, see <https://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/sites/default/files/ndarc/resources/Global%20review%20of%20drug%20checking%20services%20operating%20in%202017.pdf>



Alcohol, Tobacco and other
Drugs Council Tasmania Inc.

Two thirds decided not to consume the drugs that were shown to have impurities, and those who took them anyway, consumed less than planned and said they would warn their friends of the inherent risks.²

The results of Australia's first pill testing trial at the *Groovin the Moo Festival* in Canberra in 2018 proved the merits of pill testing.³ Of the 128 festival goers who had their drugs tested, five threw their pills in the amnesty bin provided after receiving the test results and 42 per cent of those who had their drugs tested said that their drug taking behaviour would change as a result of the testing.

At *Groovin the Moo*, drugs belonging to two festival attendees were found to contain n-ethylpentylone, an often lethal substance responsible for mass overdoses in Europe in recent years. Dr David Caldicott, Emergency Consultant at the Emergency Department of the Calvary Hospital in Canberra led the pill testing team at *Groovin the Moo*. Dr Caldicott reported that after analysing these potentially fatal pills "*the Healthcare Commander of the festival and the Chief Health Officer of the ACT knew about them within 5 minutes. No hospital, no law enforcement, nothing and nobody works it out that fast and that is part of the beauty of this process.*"⁴

The ATDC acknowledges that young Tasmanians engage in risky behaviours, and is of the view that we can, and should, attempt to maximise their safety and reduce the potential harm from illicit drug use. If young Australians were dying in high speed car accidents, in workplace accidents or participating in extreme sports at the same rate as they are at music festivals, there would be public outcry for changes to how we mitigate risks associated with such activities. Yet our young people who experiment with drugs are currently not being afforded the same care and protection.

Societal concerns about pill testing include the fear that endorsing pill testing gives the impression of condoning illicit drug use. Common reported concerns is that pill testing is merely 'quality assurance for drug dealers', or that it encourages drug use.

The ATDC strongly opposes this view. Both Dr Caldicott and Professor Alison Ritter, Director of the Drug Policy Modelling Program at UNSW say that there is no research or evidence to support the view that pill testing increases drug use. Both say pill testing is about targeting people who already have the intention of consuming illicit substances and helping to mitigate their risk. The Alcohol and Drug Foundation supports this view and states that '*drug checking does not promote illicit drug taking, and people who choose to get their substances tested have already purchased them with the intention to use them*'.⁵

There is also the concern that pill testing is not always particularly accurate, and that proper analysis of pills requires sophisticated laboratory equipment and suitably qualified technicians and medical staff. Through credible organisations, such as Pill Testing Australia, Tasmanians have access to the contemporary technology and staff to provide pill testing

² European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, *Inventory of on-site pill testing in the EU*, accessed at <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index1577EN.html> on 7 January 2019.

³ Refer to Groovin the Moo Final Report for more detailed information on its success - <https://www.harmreductionaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Pill-Testing-Pilot-ACT-June-2018-Final-Report.pdf>

⁴ Claudia Long (2018) *Pill testing at festivals has hidden benefits that could reduce drug taking*, ABC News, accessed at <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-20/pill-testing-splendour-in-the-grass/10008522> on 7 January 2019.

⁵ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/health/2018-12-21/guide-to-pill-testing-at-australian-music-festivals/10638732?pfmredir=ms&fbclid=IwAR2-cXgtI4SYL0bMvRN94xCC6tnOPvoBq-1U9ECalzGSTT46YZpPcwq8> accessed on 7 January 2019



Alcohol, Tobacco and other
Drugs Council Tasmania Inc.

services in our State. Pill Testing Australia welcomes the opportunity to be involved in pill testing in Tasmania, ensuring that the level of services provided to Tasmanians would be the most advanced available.

Another concern is that pill testing services could leave people with a false sense of security that the makeup of the pill is 'safe'. This is not the case. The onsite staff at pill testing stations are qualified health professionals and do not endorse drug use, or promote any illicit drug use as safe. The inherent risks involved in drug taking would be provided to Tasmanians, in a non-judgemental safe environment. The 20 minutes whereby an individual is waiting for the results of the analysis, provides a rare opportunity for health professionals to discuss drug use, risks and harm reduction strategies – this opportunity for a brief intervention should not be undervalued.

Arguments for and against pill testing in Tasmania comes down to the issue of whether we continue to only take a zero tolerance/criminal justice approach to drug taking at music festivals and events, or do we adapt and incorporate additional harm reduction approaches.

It is the ATDC's position that the zero tolerance/criminal justice approach cannot continue to be the only approach, and that adopting harm reduction approaches, in this case pill testing, is critical. It is an evidence-based approach that will reduce the risk of drug related deaths or serious illness in Tasmania.

Harm reduction approaches align with the Australian National Drug Strategy that endorses illicit drug harm minimisation through services such as the availability of needle and syringe programs, opioid substitution programs and supervised injecting centres (currently available in New South Wales and Victoria). Providing information and advice about the toxicity and risks associated with illicit drug use is no different.⁶

The ATDC's position on pill testing is echoed by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, the Rural Doctors Association of Australia, the Australian Medical Association, the Australian Nursing Midwifery Association, the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, the Ambulance Union State Council, the Public Health Association of Australia, Family Drug Support Australia, and the Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation. At the local level, it is also supported by Tasmanian community organisations including the Youth Network of Tasmania and Community Legal Centres Tasmania.

Tasmania has regular music festivals, including Falls Festival, Dark Mofo, and Party in the Paddock, and the ATDC is concerned that it is only a matter of time before a young Tasmanian dies, or suffers serious illness. Therefore, the ATDC supports the introduction of pill testing at Tasmanian music festivals and events, as a matter of urgency.

As such, the ATDC is calling for the convening of an advisory committee of relevant stakeholders and experts to investigate options for trialling pill testing at Tasmanian music festivals and events.

Pill testing will strengthen our harm reduction strategies, produce valuable new data and information on illicit drug use in Tasmania and most importantly, save lives.

⁶ For more discussion on how pill testing fits within the current National Drug Strategy, see <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5891912/>

Groves *Harm Reduction Journal* (2018) 15:12
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12954-018-0216-z>

Harm Reduction Journal

RESEARCH

Open Access



'Worth the test?' Pragmatism, pill testing and drug policy in Australia

Andrew Groves

Abstract

Background: Recent deaths of young Australian music festival attendees from 'party-drug' overdoses have sparked debate about the effectiveness of drug policies. Australia is widely lauded for its harm minimisation approach to drugs, and yet, over the last 30 years, it can be argued its policies have been fragmented, sometimes inconsistent and contradictory. The present article examines the root of this inconsistency, using it as a foundation to advocate for drug policy reform. In keeping with the goals of the National Drug Strategy to promote policy innovation, there is an opportunity to learn from international studies which have shown promising findings in the reduction of party-drug use and its harms through application of pill testing.

Method: This paper evaluates Australia's National Drug Strategy and pill testing through a lens of pragmatism, to determine whether there is space for testing practices in contemporary policy. Specifically, the paper analyses current drug policy literature and research studies, examining a range of key drug use indicators, social and political debate and research evidence.

Results: The need for policy reform, attitudinal and cultural shifts and development of stronger cross-sectoral partnerships is highlighted, to ensure a rational and logical approach that genuinely tackles drug policy-making and strategy from a broad public health perspective.

Conclusions: Using a theoretical frame of pragmatism and drawing from national and international research evidence, this paper recommends the integration of pill testing into Australia's harm minimisation strategy.

Keywords: Pill testing, Harm minimisation, Pragmatism, Australian drug policy, Party-drug use

Background

Young people have long been associated with drug consumption, often displaying patterns of use distinct from the general population [1–3]. Like many other countries, the emergence of dance-music culture and 'raves' in Australia in the 1970–1980s bolstered the relationship between drugs and youth, creating dynamic settings in which consumption of so-called 'party-drugs' such as methamphetamines, ecstasy and other psychoactive substances has become common [4, 5]. For many young people (i.e. 18–29 years old), attendance at dance-parties and music festivals is a rite of passage within a hedonistic lifestyle where identity and social capital are built, pleasure is 'consumed' and alcohol and other drugs (AODs) are ubiquitous. However, youth party-drug use is typically

viewed by politicians, criminal justice professionals and the community as deviant, linked to risk-taking, transgression and individual corruption [6], manifest in a range of physical, psychological and social harms [1]. Indeed, there have been several deaths of young music festival attendees in Australia [7–9], which have held youth party-drug use at the forefront of political, social and media agendas. However, notwithstanding the tragic loss of young lives, what is concerning is that these fatal overdoses, and several 'near-misses', may have been avoided through more pragmatic and amoral drug policy and practice. Pill testing offers an alternative, yet it remains at the fringe of policy debate, shrouded by punitive praxis and government reticence despite support in the community.

Policy and practical 'problems'

Similar to recent experiences in the UK [10, 11] and Europe [12], Australian AOD policy is at a significant

Correspondence: andrew.groves@deakin.edu.au
School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Deakin University, Burwood campus, Melbourne, Victoria 3125, Australia



© The Author(s). 2018 **Open Access** This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made. The Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication waiver (<http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>) applies to the data made available in this article, unless otherwise stated.

junction. At the policy level, the implementation of the seventh iteration of the National Drug Strategy (NDS) demonstrates commitment to consistent, ongoing national drug policy [13] in response to the problem of drugs, both illicit and illicitly used (i.e. pharmaceuticals, alcohol and tobacco), under the philosophy of harm minimisation. The NDS outlines a series of principles addressing this philosophy, which prioritise delivery of evidence-informed responses, collaborative interdisciplinary partnerships and a trifurcated approach targeting demand, supply and harm reduction [13]. With regard to party-drugs, however, the application of this policy is contested. While the NDS claims the 'balanced adoption of effective demand, supply and harm reduction strategies' ([13]:1), in practice, the distribution of resources, action and policy reform across its 'three pillars' falls short of this claim. As discussed below, there are considerable funding gaps in AOD treatment [14], zero-tolerance remains the bastion of public policy and resources are principally expended on law enforcement [15, 16]. While in practice, it is not an either/or approach to supply, demand and harm reduction, nor are these domains mutually exclusive, clearly a balanced approach has not yet been achieved.

At the practical level, problems exist regarding the capacity of policy to recognise and respond to emerging patterns of problematic use, where novel, unknown drugs have entered markets [17] at a time when regular users have increased consumption of more potent forms, such as ice (crystal methamphetamine) and MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine) [18, 19]. The current framework does not fully capture these nuances, constrained by hegemonic notions of abstinence. Instead, the goal should be to reduce the harms that occur when people use these unknown or more potent drugs, given the serious risks. Notably, despite law enforcement efforts and legislative changes [20], current harm reduction initiatives have been largely ineffective [21, 22], evident in monitoring data where certain groups of young people appear to resist social controls by continuing to use party-drugs. As noted in previous studies [23–25], this is because many young people see drugs as playing a normative and peripheral role in their lives, revealing an important transition in patterns of use, where party-drugs have become more mainstream, used by a heterogeneous cohort of ordinary young people [25]. This apparent normalisation has occurred alongside a trend where some users are unaware of what they are taking, engaging in 'opportunistic' purchases of drugs at clubs or music festivals rather than prior to events from more trusted networks [26].¹ Although no use is 'safe', these ad hoc practices substantively increase the risks as suppliers are more likely to be strangers, who may have a greater propensity to adulterate drugs with cheaper

and/or alternative substances [28, 29]. Reports have increased of ecstasy pills containing large amounts of methamphetamine [30] and other toxic substances (e.g. rat poison), with others recorded as very high-purity [18], which could seriously harm users. In combination, the rise in problematic patterns of use, the emergence of novel substances and imbalanced policy highlight the need for targeted and more pragmatic responses to youth drug use.

Pill testing/drug checking

Pill testing is a harm reduction strategy used internationally, also known as drug checking or adulterant screening [31, 32], which emerged in the early 1990s in the Netherlands [33] where it is now part of official national policy. Similar initiatives have since been implemented in other European nations including Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Spain and France, albeit primarily administered and funded privately [12, 34]. Organisations such as *DanceSafe* also operate in the USA focused on harm reduction through peer-education, where a language of pragmatism has been established [34, 35]. Testing involves dance-party and music festival attendees volunteering a sample of their drugs for analysis by scientists, who provide information concerning composition and purity [32]. In Europe, this is typically undertaken in mobile facilities located near or inside venues to allow timely feedback to users (approx. 30 min). Results are then 'posted' anonymously on information boards or event websites (often using red/yellow/green colour-coding), so users can review feedback clearly and discreetly. These practices are possible through partnerships between event promoters, healthcare services and local police and a strong harm reduction philosophy [36, 37]. Most importantly, this approach has the capacity to influence consumption behaviour where, in contrast to relying on the strength of broad anti-drug campaigns, testing in situ can alter behaviour at the time of consumption, primarily shaped by peers and social networks [38], including health workers [39, 40]. Testing can also involve offsite analyses prior to events, encouraging planning among users, though it is less common as these services often require users to provide identification, increasing the perceived risks of being identified by police [41].

Pill testing is well supported at the local level in Europe, with self-report data from users, accounts from key stakeholders (including police) and wider community endorsement that it provides 'safer' drug settings by warning users about harmful and/or unexpected substances [34, 41]. Although research on its effectiveness is mixed (discussed below), there is practical evidence that pill testing has helped to reduce overdose frequency, improve healthcare services, and increase knowledge of

harm reduction principles [34, 41, 42]. Increased publicity for support services, advocacy for public health campaigns and opportunities for monitoring and research are further benefits observed internationally, which have fostered evidence-informed and more effective prevention and treatment [34, 36]. These outcomes have also served to extend discussion beyond notions of individual criminality and morality to encompass social, economic and welfare debates, challenging conventional thinking about concepts like harm, risk and social responsibility by considering social contexts of drug use to understand the relationship that individuals and environments have on drug-related harms [43]. It is important, however, to emphasise that drug use is dangerous and cannot be conceptualised as risk-free, nor is pill testing a 'silver bullet', with some well-documented concerns [44]. Instead, this article argues that pill testing needs to be viewed through a lens of pragmatism, where for certain users in certain settings, it is about providing young people with information about drugs and their use so they can make more informed choices to limit the associated harms, as well as making important practical changes to the settings in which drugs are used.

As discussed herein, such thinking appears confronting within the Australian drug policy landscape, where current discourse is dominated by dogma, moral conflict and criminal justice debate. Yet, this has not always been the case, as Australian drug policy has a fragmented history [45–47], shaped by the changing vagaries of various political, social and moral forces. The aim therefore is to determine whether pill testing 'fits' within this larger narrative and lay the foundation for more cogent drug policy, providing a valuable national framework that may be applicable to other international policy settings. Through this lens, the article examines Australia's drug policy framework, evaluating a range of key indicators, current social and political debates, and contemporary research evidence. Together with discussion of previous examples of rational policy-making, this data will be used to offer support and provide a roadmap for implementation of pill testing as a more pragmatic strategy and to contribute to discussion of harm minimisation.

Methods: The National Drug Strategy: fragmentation, contradiction and pragmatism?

The question of how pill testing would fit within the NDS is thought-provoking because arguably, it could already. The NDS outlines Australia's response to alcohol, tobacco and other (illicit) drugs and provides a national framework for coordinated action to limit their use and associated harms [1]. The strategy has been committed to this approach since its inception in 1985, established then as the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse (NCADA). As noted in the introduction, the

overarching focus and language of the NDS has been the improvement of public health and minimisation of harms associated with drug use [1, 19]. This was a substantive ideological shift away from traditional conceptualisations of drug use and drug users, which prior to the 1980s were often viewed in terms of disease metaphors (i.e. as 'sick') or as the behaviour of a deviant underclass [48]. In this way, harm minimisation was a pragmatic response that sought to shift debate (and policy-making) away from moral judgements about drug use [49]. It was a pivotal moment in Australian policy, signifying the recognition that because drugs have become a persistent feature of contemporary society, an innovative approach was needed to reduce drug-related harms, rather than simply criminalise users. Demonstrating this, one of the priorities of the 2017–2026 strategy is to prevent and reduce adverse health, social and economic consequences associated with AOD use, by

'providing opportunities for intervention amongst *high prevalence or high risk groups and locations*, including the implementation of *settings-based approaches to modify risk behaviours*...systems to facilitate greater diversion into health interventions from the criminal justice system, particularly for... *young people* and other at-risk populations who may be experiencing disproportionate harm...[and a]... focus on evidence-based strategies shown to reduce alcohol and other drug hospital presentations, reduce the spread of blood-borne virus, decrease road trauma...and *decrease overdose risk*, with translation of this evidence to address new and emerging issues' ([13]:23, emphasis added).

Many of these goals are consistent with the rationale for pill testing. So, while their achievement using this approach would not be without difficulty and would require cooperation between law enforcement, health and community sectors, such interdisciplinary partnerships, are already claimed as a success of the previous iteration of the NDS [13], as well as initiatives in other countries [41]. Why then, is there reticence among policy-makers to integrate pill testing into current Australian policy and practice?

This conservatism is symptomatic of a larger malaise in Australian crime control, where in recent decades, drug policy can be described as fragmented and contradictory [45–47]. Similar to the penal policies in the UK and USA in the late 20th century, Australian policy has been increasingly volatile and incoherent, fluctuating—often abruptly—between what Garland ([46]:450–9) characterises as adaptive strategies, focused on prevention and partnerships, and strategies of denial, which stress enhanced state control and expressive punishment. These

swings are the result of the normalisation of high crime rates and the state's acknowledgment of their inability to remedy this problem, creating a predicament for governments [46, 47]. As explored by O'Malley ([45]:181), this predicament is shaped by a 'recurring ambivalence' where governments seek to divest themselves of the chief responsibility for the delivery of crime control but recognise the political consequences of doing so. This is an enduring dilemma that helps to explain the fragmented and contradictory nature of recent policy. Indeed, the essence of Garland's argument remains as valid as it did more than 20 years ago as contemporary governments continue to struggle with various 'crime problems' (e.g. illicit drugs), in a politicised policy and social landscape where the state is 'confronted by its own limitations' ([46]:462), manifest in the perceived failure of criminal justice agencies and the state generally to control crime.

Garland's framework resonates further with Australian drug policy where, in an attempt to decentralise control but without undermining law and order agenda, politicians and other key actors have altered the discourse of drug policy and criminal justice debate by focusing on the effects of drug use rather than its causes [45, 47]. For example, a recent national campaign features content illustrating the effects of illicit drugs on victims, describes the costs for the community and draws on community fears of crime [50]. This discursive shift has several implications for how drug use is understood and regulated by the state. Firstly, this approach shows that while adaptive strategies are possible, such as prevention initiatives and partnerships between police and health-care providers, for certain groups of offenders (i.e. drug users), they are often 'politically difficult and institutionally radical', susceptible to moral opposition, failures of political will and conflicts of partisan politics ([47]:348, [51]). This results in policy that is inconsistent and vulnerable to changing political and public interests.

Secondly, by focusing on the effects on victims and the community and exposing debate to the vagaries of politics and the media, this approach positions the needs of society against those of the individual. Bull and colleagues [52] argue that this sets a path for policy where the objectives of support services and police conflict, and where harm minimisation goals become linked to more intensive, zero-tolerance policy, reinvigorating the debate about drugs as a problem of moral values. Placing the harms to society in opposition to, or above the harms to users, has the added consequence of the exclusion or 'othering' of drug users, in effect curtailing notions of social citizenship [46]. This has a much broader bearing on our understanding of crime and its control, not merely drug policy, as it creates a tension between two contradictory criminologies: of 'the self' (where the offender is rational and unremarkable) and of

'the other' (who is the dangerous outcast) [45, 47]. This duality produces two distinct but related possible responses by the state: denial of responsibility for the problem and the increased use of punishment as evidence of 'doing something'. This article shows that the Australian Government appears to have employed both responses in relation to the problem of party-drugs, with consequences for pill testing initiatives.

The challenges posed by pill testing reflect broader difficulties faced by policy-makers in balancing the goals and perceptions of public health and criminal justice responses to drugs. These stem partly from the duality of Garland's criminologies, where despite conceptualisation of the ordinary, rational offender, for certain crimes such as drug use the field of crime control is largely shaped by a 'collective experience of...insecurity' regarding the 'other' ([47]:347). Policy then, is often emotive, dominated by campaigns displaying graphic imagery of abuse, dependence and addiction [50, 53]. Similarly, calls for reform are often used by politicians and the media as opportunities to (re)activate moral debates. A legacy of the 20th century is that the drug problem is seen as a 'war' to be won [24], so in-line with increased anxiety about crime generally, drug policy has become a political tool through which zero-tolerance principles have flourished. For instance, research evaluations of recent advertising campaigns reveal most participants reported abstinence as the primary message conveyed [51]. The government has, in effect, displaced responsibility to users and their families to reduce drug-harms by avoiding 'bad choices' or 'just saying no'. This has followed a period of largely conservative policy-making overwhelmed by supply reduction strategies, with far greater funding (65%) directed to law enforcement (e.g. roadside testing, diversion), compared with harm reduction initiatives (2.2%) [15]. In relation to party-drugs, this has meant that while some valuable programs have been implemented, including the provision of 'chill-out' spaces and medical services at events [54], overall, programs for users have been limited. Moreover, while there is merit in an economic argument, the power of this data is its demonstration of an inability to control crime, the exclusion of users and a punitive approach that, despite evidence of its ineffectiveness [55, 56], is 'too inscribed and too politically potent to be easily dismantled by rational critique' ([46]:450). However, historically, pragmatic reform in the area of Australian drug policy is possible.

Pragmatism: looking back to move forward?

As noted in the introduction, Australia's drug policy domain is contested. In contrast to punitive criminal justice strategies, there have been initiatives successfully trialled and implemented nationally that follow principles of harm minimisation and public health. These examples

are central to the arguments presented herein, because they demonstrate effective praxis, as well as give shape to the theoretical lens through which this paper is viewed. Specifically, they address what Rhodes terms the 'risk environment' [43], that is, the need for emphasis on public health to drive discourse and action away from exclusively targeting theories of individual pathology, toward recognition of the social and environmental influences on behaviour and how problematic activities such as drug use might be better managed through more pragmatic means and cooperation. Drawn from research on HIV infection, Rhodes' framework [43] is particularly instructive because it can be used to better understand both the epidemiology of drug use, as well as how policy-makers, practitioners and the community might work together to reduce the associated harms. It highlights the need to share responsibility for tackling drug use across the community, given that drug-related harm intersects with criminal justice issues, health, vulnerability and various social problems—complex challenges faced by young people that require interdisciplinary and comprehensive responses. For example, while not without its own criticisms, the introduction of the Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative (IDDI) in 1999 officially signalled the utility of an operational relationship between police, health and support agencies [57]. The IDDI was created to reconcile tensions between these sectors, establish a more positive relationship and develop best-practice in responding to drug use. Among a range of rehabilitation and support programs, the IDDI also fostered development of several harm reduction-oriented policing strategies for local law enforcement, including Arrest Referral Schemes, where police refer minor drug offenders to assessment and education services, in lieu of criminal conviction, which research indicates is beneficial for police and leads to subsequent harm reductions (e.g. fewer days in incarceration) and increased support-seeking behaviour among drug users [52, 58, 59].

Another positive collaboration was marked by the introduction of Needle Syringe Exchange Programs (NSEPs) and the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) in Sydney, the largest capital city in Australia, located in New South Wales (NSW). The NSEPs were first trialled in 1986 [60], with the MSIC established in 2001 [52]. While, historically, there was conflict between police and health workers linked to these initiatives, legislative reforms and changes to NSW police operating procedures encouraged police to 'exercise discretion; work collaboratively and develop a positive relationship with local NSEPs; and promote the legal operation and positive outcomes of NSEPs to the wider community' ([52]:311). These changes complemented policy reform within NSW police, where overdose policies were amended to consider community interest and avoid pursuit of minor possession charges in non-fatal overdoses,

reforms subsequently adopted by all other states and territories [52]. This has contributed to arguably more effective responses to drug use (see p.12). However, these strategies are not without fault, nor does reform occur in a vacuum, often affected by economic, social and welfare policies and community attitudes within a wider political context. Consequently, making assumptions about the value of pill testing based solely on the introduction of the NSEP and MSIC is inappropriate. While indicative of more pragmatic responses to drug use (e.g. heroin), there were specific conditions that led to their introduction, which are temporally distal from the current context and argument presented. Primarily, the motivation for these initiatives came from general concerns regarding public health and the threat posed by HIV, related to the lack of access to safe injecting equipment and/or spaces and harms associated with needle-sharing [61]. These policies were not necessarily about supporting drug users, but avoiding an HIV epidemic. It is crucial then to acknowledge that similar momentum has not developed for pill testing, where drug use remains an 'us and them' problem and users are socially excluded.

Nonetheless, these are examples of pragmatic responses that sought to reduce drug-related harms, as well as foster cross-sectoral partnerships. Moreover, there is evidence some of these initiatives and reforms occurred during the 'Howard era', whose term of Liberal-National coalition (centre-right liberal conservative) government spanning more than 10 years (1996–2007) is usually associated with zero tolerance [62]. Alex Wodak, Director of the Alcohol and Drug Service at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney, argues the 'tough on drugs' narrative and opposition to harm reduction that came to be associated with the Howard Government did not unilaterally translate into practice [63]. While Commonwealth funding was increased for abstinence-oriented treatment and support services [64], the Howard Government contemporaneously delivered—albeit discreetly—enhanced funding for NSEPs [63]. The lessons learned from the NSEPs are discussed further below, but it is clear that, ideologically, much more can be garnered from this and other examples. The message is that, although challenging, it is possible to pragmatically respond to drug use within a heavily politicised policy environment, by better understanding the nature of the problem and the responsibility to address it.

Results: Key indicators of the need for a more pragmatic approach

Since the emergence of dance-music culture in Australia, a variety of drugs including ecstasy and methamphetamines have been associated with this scene, used by young people to enhance their experiences [65]. The most recent National Drug Strategy Household

Survey (NDSHS) report in 2016 revealed 11.2% of Australians aged 14 years and over have ever tried ecstasy with 2.2% reporting use in the last 12 months [19]. Data are similar for use of methamphetamines with 6.3% reporting lifetime use and 1.4% revealing recent use [19]. Although these figures are lower than other western nations [44, 66], and demonstrate stable or declining rates of use, they reveal that more than 2.2 million Australians have used ecstasy, and more than 1.3 million have used methamphetamines in their lifetime. However, it is not the numeric value but the location and nature of use and associated harms that are of most concern. Firstly, although not representative, a sample drawn from the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) identified that up to 70% of this use occurs within clubs, dance-parties and music festivals [26]. This is supported by the representative NDSHS data, confirming them as important sites of analysis [19].

Secondly, there appear to be significant shifts in the forms of drug use in the dance-party scene, particularly among youth. This follows national trends, where those aged 20–29 are the most likely to have consumed illicit drugs generally, with more than a quarter (28%) reporting use in the previous 12 months [19]. Internationally, the prevalence of ecstasy and methamphetamine use among youth attending dance-parties is greater than general population rates [37, 42], which also describes the Australian experience [3]. Indeed, while overall rates of use of both substances reported in 2013 and again in 2016 represent a decline from peaks in 2007, these results mask the level of drug use among specific youth subgroups which has remained stable or increased. Sindicich and Burns [26] report that although recent users of ecstasy largely reported consistent use, typically two or three times a month, a quarter of the sample reported an increase to weekly use. During this period, similar patterns were identified among current methamphetamine users, with the use of the more potent 'ice' more than doubling, and a comparable increase observed in the proportion of users who consumed daily/weekly [65]. Although ecstasy use has not reached the levels observed in 2007, methamphetamine use has surpassed these benchmarks [19]. Again, the value of these findings is less in the absolute numbers and more about the behavioural patterns they suggest: chiefly, increased use of more potent substances, concentrated among a novel youth subgroup.

Equally important is the capacity of monitoring systems to respond to changes in drug markets, in order to track and respond to new groups of users. The primary form of monitoring in Australia is the EDRS, which compares interviews with regular ecstasy and other drug users and key professionals, with several key indicators to map trends in drug use, price, purity and availability.

In 2015, the EDRS revealed that ecstasy and methamphetamines were readily available and primarily of moderate quality/purity [26]. For ecstasy, although a third of users reported purity as moderate (35%), with a further 20% reporting high-purity pills, more than a quarter perceived levels to be fluctuating (29%). For methamphetamines, the data followed national trends with a shift toward ice, which was far more accessible (97% reported either 'easy' or 'very easy') and where purity was rated as either moderate (34%) or high (46%), although this form also experienced the greatest perceived fluctuation (15%) [26]. These figures describe accessible drugs that vary markedly in quality/purity, which is problematic as even moderate variations exacerbate already significant risks. Caution must be taken when interpreting these figures though, as they relate to relatively new and capricious drug use settings (e.g. music festivals). The EDRS also relies on data from sentinel groups of regular users (approx. 800 in 2016), as well as professionals (e.g. GPs, police, treatment providers) who interact with them, to determine consumption patterns [26]. Previous research [24, 25] has revealed that party-drug users, however, are a heterogeneous group of consumers, many of whom are educated, socially and economically stable and who rarely come into contact with criminal justice, treatment or support services. Many do not consider themselves more than 'occasional' users [25], so are not captured by existing data collections. In addition, although cross-sectional surveys are effective in evaluating users' perceptions of consumption habits and online marketplace analysis (e.g. the recently shutdown 'Silk Road') [67] has emerged as a contemporary method to track drug sales, because drug samples are not scientifically tested, these perceptions and sales cannot be linked with what is actually consumed [68].

Wastewater analysis is another nascent form of monitoring used in the last decade in Australia [69, 70] which provides data about the level and type of drug use through testing of excreted drug residues in sewage/wastewater. This process is similarly limited in its scope to fully examine and minimise the harms associated with party-drug use. To date, these tests have focused primarily on defined geographical areas and broad population analyses (e.g. large catchment areas in capital cities and rural areas [69]), which prevents the linking of compositional data to what young people think they are taking, and sensitivity to changes in consumption trends of particular groups. Although wastewater analysis has been undertaken at Australian music festivals [71], again, only small-scale population data can be collected as this method is unable to record finer demographic detail. For example, data on gender, age and ethnicity of users, differences in route of administration, the number of users (i.e. occasional use by many or heavy use by a few)

and the different forms of drug used (e.g. ice versus speed) cannot be distinguished using wastewater analysis [72]. This method is further constrained by lag-times in data collection and analysis, incomplete databases and its retrospective approach, occurring once drugs have been taken, making it less responsive to market changes and less preventative in terms of the harms experienced and individuals' decisions to use drugs [67].

Another concern relates to the threats posed by new psychoactive substances (NPS), which have emerged in Australia [30, 68] following rapid rises in Europe [12, 32, 73] and popularity at dance-parties and music festivals. These substances, also known as analogues or synthetics, are designed to mimic established drugs [17] and often comprise new, untested chemicals used by drug manufacturers to replace others either in short supply or banned through changes to possession, production and importation laws. This means their contents and effects are unpredictable, placing users and the community at further risk of harm due to an ever-increasing number of 'unknowns'. This risk is demonstrated in recent findings from the USA and Canada, where several studies identified the introduction of fentanyl in the illicit drug market [74, 75]. Specifically, evidence suggests a wide range of pills (e.g. MDMA) and other drugs (e.g. methamphetamine, cocaine) have been laced with fentanyl, highlighting the potential danger of relying solely on existing practices and technologies, as often local laboratories or other facilities (e.g. hospitals, police) do not have capacity for fentanyl testing or detection of new analogues [74]. While drug use cannot be conceptualised as 'safe', greater knowledge of these substances arguably improves policy and treatment options. In recognition of this, questions regarding NPS were first incorporated into the NDSHS in 2013, where approximately 80,000 (0.4%) of the population indicated lifetime use, primarily 20–29 year olds [67]. This population has increased steadily since [19], although levels of use are likely underreported as these substances are characterised by psychoactive properties that imitate existing drugs. Users may therefore be unaware of what they are taking, confounding both monitoring and treatment efforts. Although no deaths linked to fentanyl have been confirmed in Australia, the presentation of 10 drug-affected youth in one night at Royal Perth Hospital in 2013 [30] demonstrates the devastating consequences of new 'batches' of unknown substances. Pill testing then may serve as an additional mechanism through which to maintain pace with shifts in drug use trends and contribute to more effective prevention and treatment. Certainly, pill testing cannot be a stand-alone tool; rather, best practice would be its integration into the current NDS to provide both general data on consumption trends and market fluctuations and specific information to users to reduce drug-related harms.

Discussion: Research evidence: 'What works?'

Like most debates about policy reform, a key question in the rationale for pill testing is whether it 'works'. The literature is complicated and, to date, no studies have fully tested in a controlled way, whether pill testing reduces harms. Most evaluations concern attitudinal change (e.g. what people *would do* [20]), legal issues and the integrity of various analytic procedures, with others describing program features or contextually relevant praxis [76], so although not within the scope of this paper, a large, multi-site systematic review of testing practices is needed. Nevertheless, part of the paradox of pill testing comes from expectations of drug policy and practice generally, where effectiveness is often measured in language of abstinence. As a robust body of literature has shown [48, 77], however, abstinence is a goal that displays ignorance of reality. A much broader definition is needed, which demarcates effectiveness more pragmatically, as any strategy shown to improve public health or reduce the prevalence or severity of drug-related harms. For example, connecting users with support services, increasing education and awareness, monitoring market changes and encouraging avoidance of dependence are strategies shown to be effective in Europe [41, 77]. Despite this, like in the UK [10, 77], Australian policy-makers have appeared to take limited account of these findings. Only recently has meaningful debate begun on some of these issues in an unprecedented drug summit, convened in 2016 by the Australian Parliamentary Group on Drug Policy and Law Reform (APGDPDR). It is too early to gauge the full impact of the summit, other than its symbolic value in bringing together key stakeholders, and their collective agreement that the current approach is not working [78]. It is logical then, to seek further guidance on drug policy reform.

In many ways, Australia's experience mirrors recent trends in the Netherlands [41], Portugal [79], and Switzerland [37], particularly in terms of rates of ecstasy and methamphetamine use and the emergence of NPS. Over the last 20 years, the political landscapes in these countries have similarly been characterised by growing concerns over the social exclusion and marginalisation of drug users, sparking substantive policy reforms. Although policy transfer is not 'one-size-fits-all', influenced by community attitudes, individual rights, broader political structures, and the different ways (drug) problems are experienced [77], much can be learned from these examples. In Portugal, for instance, pill testing was implemented alongside comprehensive changes to policy, discourse and philosophy about their drug problem. Personal possession of all drugs was decriminalised in 2001, following radical shifts in social thinking (akin to Rhodes' approach [43])—that conceptualised drugs as a public health concern, leading to increased resourcing

of prevention, treatment and social reintegration programs [80]. Although attitudes to drugs are more liberal in Europe [41], suggesting caution in any comparative analyses, the literature indicates that, in particular settings, pill testing can reduce the prevalence of harms for users, influence youth decision-making and positively impact drug markets. In terms of the latter, pill testing has been shown to affect the manufacture and distribution of pills [41, 81]. By accurately identifying drug content and purity/potency, the Netherlands' Drug Information and Monitoring System (DIMS), for example, has informed national warning campaigns, which has pushed dangerous, low-quality substances from the market [41, 81]. Another benefit has been, over time, the composition of tested pills has begun to more closely correspond with expectations [32, 76], increasing overall drug-quality, while alleviating some of the strain on under-funded healthcare and support agencies by reducing the prevalence of overdoses and hospital admissions [15].

Most notably, pill testing has been shown to positively affect users' behaviour, contradicting claims often used as the rationale for criminalisation that 'soft' options encourage increased uptake and use, particularly among youth [68, 82, 83]. Evaluation of the *chEckiT* project in Austria reported approximately half of users whose drugs were tested indicated that information about quality/purity would influence their decision to take them [36]. If presented with a negative result, two thirds reported they would not consume their drugs and would also warn friends against consumption [36, 76]. This corresponds with research from the Netherlands [37], which revealed no increases in the use of most party-drugs (or poly-drug use) because of pill testing and provision of drug information. This also supports evaluations of the reforms in Portugal, where pill testing, as part of a wider public health approach, in fact reduced problematic use, related harms and burden on the justice and healthcare systems [79, 80]. Similarly, when users access testing sites (e.g. at festivals), it allows health and support workers to establish contact with this hard-to-reach population and provide advice about the support available [34]. This is crucial as it is often the first interaction these young people have with any type of support service [31, 37], given they represent a diverse and well-balanced cohort, who are less likely to come into contact with the criminal justice or healthcare systems. Furthermore, party-drug users appear to be highly receptive to harm reduction and prevention measures and/or messages when they are delivered face-to-face and by more trusted sources [42], even among dependent and poly-drug users [37]. As found by several studies, the contact users have with support workers, combined with factual information concerning

individual drug purchases and other market information, provide a strong foundation for subsequent health-conscious behaviour [41, 84]. Because young drug users often dismiss government messages as untrustworthy, they are also better persuaded by well-informed peers or professionals [40, 41]. This strategy has long-term benefits, shown to increase users' motivation for subsequent participation in follow-up counselling sessions [32, 37], providing impetus for support of peer-education and peer-led interventions.

A final feature of pill testing is that it enables monitoring of drug-forms, patterns of consumption and the characteristics of users [37]. The party-drug scene is typified by the use of a large range of substances, the composition of which is expectedly variable and inconsistent. Widespread testing within this setting enables collection of long-term trend data about what users are actually taking, useful for identification of current markets and drug-taking methods [32, 42]. This would in turn build academic research capacity, improve prevention planning and enhance knowledge and research methodology, through directly linking users' perceptions with their consumption rather than relying on self-report or broad population studies. This may also influence existing supply and demand reduction efforts where, for example, many users report reliance on online networks and/or websites that provide more comprehensive information on drug purity, availability and effects than is available through official sources [82]. The dissemination of more accurate drug information from pill testing, through these online channels (e.g. social media, online forums), could identify and force out of the market websites or dealers found to be sharing inappropriate and/or incorrect information, which is likely impact supply routes, helping police to direct their resources. Beyond this, compared with retrospective analyses (e.g. wastewater analysis), in situ pill testing has the capacity to act as an early warning system to identify the emergence of new drugs more quickly, which is critical given the recent surge in NPS [73, 85]. Overall, these factors allow policy-makers and support services to be more responsive to dynamic market shifts and build knowledge for the development of targeted prevention initiatives. In Australia, however, unquestionably drug policy debate is over-shadowed by philosophical and moral conflict, so for pill testing to be possible requires broader acceptance and a clear direction for its implementation.

Support in the Australian context

A number of policy models set out a way forward for the introduction of pill testing, which has, in fact, already been trialled in Australia, albeit briefly [86, 87]. In the 'Enchanted Forest' raves in South Australia from 2000 to 2001, a group of physicians with the backing of

the Australian Medical Association (AMA), several harm reduction non-government organisations (NGOs) and the 'understanding of local authorities' examined ravers' pills in an attempt to reduce consumption [88, 55]. Indicative of the contentious and fragile nature of drug policy though, these trials were terminated after only a short period by the Howard Government [86, 89]. Despite limited opportunity, the research was able to identify large variations in pill composition, emergence of new substances and discrepancies in police testing procedures [88], providing a platform for more comprehensive follow-up, as well as indication of local-level support from experts and health practitioners.

A wealth of empirical data also reveals considerable community support for pill testing, challenging punitive criminal justice responses to drug use. Several studies [76, 90] and the 2013 NDSHS report [65] suggest many Australians see little value in punitive sanctions (e.g. imprisonment, increased fines) for drug use. Instead, referral of users to treatment or education programs appears the preferred response (approx. 45%), with only drug manufacture and distribution perceived to warrant harsh penalties. Drawing from a large ($n > 2300$) internet survey of young Australians, Lancaster and colleagues [76] report the majority back the implementation of pill testing (82.5%), as well as other harm reduction initiatives (NSEPs 76%, 'chill-out zones' 65.6%). An even greater level of support was reported in a survey conducted at a major Australian music festival in 2016, where most participants (86.5%) believed testing services could help to reduce harm for users [3]. These findings describe a cohort that values information and seeks to engage in safer practices, regardless of whether they use drugs. Notably, many youth also appear to translate this drug knowledge into behavioural change, with an Australian study finding more than three-quarters of regular ecstasy users would not take an 'unknown pill' [91]. A similar result was identified in a more recent sample of users at Australian dance-parties or music festivals [29], where 90% reported seeking information about drug contents in the last 12 months. Most of these respondents (60%) had encountered unexpected substances or problems with drug purity during this period, which motivated them to alter their behaviour with more than half warning friends (51%), many deciding not to consume their drugs (39%) and more than a quarter reducing the amount they consumed (28%) [29]. Most respondents also reported they would use a form of self-testing (94%), onsite event testing (94%) or a fixed-site (i.e. 'drop-in') service, and valued services that provided comprehensive, individual feedback rather than only when dangerous results were found. This reinforces previous claims that young people can be persuaded to make rational decisions and are willing to use testing

services, which may elicit positive behavioural change at the time of use, reducing some drug-related harms [84].

If pill testing is to be discussed constructively, the final piece of the puzzle is the maintenance of cross-sectoral partnerships. Strong links must be (re)forged between government, police, AOD treatment services and research institutions, as well as with nightclub and music festival industries. There is already movement from within the latter for such partnerships [92, 93]. However, as noted by these groups, the success of any initiative is contingent upon the extent of support from key stakeholders—health, police and government—to serve as 'drug policy actors' [11], [5], [94]. These agencies need to lead innovation in thinking and practice, as there remains considerable political capital in the debate that will otherwise impede creation of better drug policy. For example, the police are a critical element in any approach, as to be meaningful, policy must avoid the trap of net-widening and tacitly supporting harm reduction, while allowing police to 'pick up' users elsewhere within the system [10, 79]. Harm reduction-oriented policing initiatives must also be clearly defined, well-resourced and widely supported given police play a complex role as an initial contact for many users and conduit for providing case management, links to drug treatment, job training, housing assistance, legal advocacy and counselling [60]. There have been examples of successful initiatives, one of which I will discuss briefly before concluding.

The aforementioned NSEPs and MSIC in Sydney are examples of positive law enforcement-health partnerships. Radical at the time, the trajectory of the relationships between police and healthcare and treatment providers, support services and NGOs provides fertile ground for discussion and the foregrounding of future reforms, as there was a discernible shift in thinking and application that led to positive outcomes for the community (e.g. reduced public drug use and associated 'litter') and for users (e.g. safer spaces and access to treatment and support). Indeed, the response to drug use in this particular context shifted from a situation of law enforcement opposition and policing practices that largely undermined the operation of these programs, to one where legislative reforms and organisational policy changes facilitated the effective operation of treatment and support services and their ongoing cooperation with NSW police [51]. For instance, possession of injecting equipment or drug paraphernalia was an offence, creating obvious risks for individuals seeking assistance, as well as the NSEPs or MSIC themselves, as organisations that dispense drug-related equipment and provide information regarding their use, while seeking to create a safer, supervised space for people to use their drugs without police interference. In NSW, the solution was

reform of the relevant drug control legislation [95], which permitted health and support service personnel within the NSEPs to provide equipment and information to users, or a supervised space in the MSIC without exposing them to prosecution under the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act* (NSW) 1985 [96]. A *Commissioner's Instruction* was also circulated in NSW in 1988, which shaped police operational practice to follow harm reduction principles, directing police to avoid unnecessary patrols of the areas surrounding the NSEPs and MSIC and to use discretion to prevent the discouragement of users seeking help, while ensuring dealers did not take advantage of the perceived leniency [51].

In summary, what was created was a more supportive, public health-focused environment where users were exempted from prosecution and legal constraints related to drug use and/or possession while on the premises and where discretion was applied in policing the surrounding area. To do otherwise would have undermined the purpose of these important and ongoing policy initiatives, analogues of which have since been implemented in most other jurisdictions. Though there are some clear differences in the rationale and application of these initiatives, the success of NSEPs and the MSIC suggests there is scope for a comparable response to party-drug use, with ongoing collaboration and engagement between law enforcement and health services facilitated through an integrated policy comprising pill testing.

Conclusion: worth the test?

The problem of drugs—both illicit and illicitly used—is a feature of contemporary social life, for which alternative strategies are needed to reduce the harms for users, their families and the wider community. From analysis of key data and the wider literature, it is evident certain forms of problematic party-drug use are concentrated among a small proportion of young club and music festival attendees, challenging the limits of current Australian drug policy and practice. In these dynamic spaces, party-drugs such as ecstasy and methamphetamines are readily available and widely used, with recent evidence of increased consumption of more potent forms (i.e. MDMA and ice) by young people. Pill testing is needed to monitor the quality/content of drugs used, as well as the rapid rise of NPS, which pose significant risks to users and those who share the social spaces of clubs and music festivals.

Pill testing is not a novel concept; in fact, its objectives are consistent with Australia's NDS, as well as several extant programs. Notwithstanding a strong philosophical rhetoric of harm minimisation, in practice, government policy remains conservative in its approach, prioritising law enforcement strategies and zero-tolerance policies. This is despite evidence of their limited effectiveness, as

well as growing support from experts, academics and the community highlighting the need for an alternative approach. Several national surveys and empirical studies have shown that although drug use is illegal, there is a widespread support that harm reduction and public health-focused strategies are, at least, equally worthwhile. Nevertheless, achievement of these goals requires movement beyond entrenched philosophical and moral arguments, which have historically played a part in producing fragmented and contradictory drug policy. Drawing from Garland [46, 47] and O'Malley [45], it is clear the Australian government is concerned that retreat from a tough stance represents a capitulation in an already failed 'war on drugs'. This article then shows the need to move away from the politics of drug policy toward more evidence-based strategies to maximise the safety of young people that choose to use drugs who, if given the opportunity to do so more safely, will likely 'grow out' of use, without the stigma and harms associated with criminalisation. While unambiguous, zero-tolerance messages are unrealistic and disregard contemporary patterns of youth drug use. In contrast, pill testing offers an alternative message; that drug use *is* dangerous, and informing users about what they are taking and the risks not only demonstrates social responsibility for this marginalised group but also that young people have the capacity for rational decision-making and may desist from drug use because they see the risks for the first time.

Taking a more pragmatic view of harm reduction by expanding measures of effectiveness beyond abstinence, to include increased awareness, reduced consumption and other behavioural changes (e.g. peer information sharing), this article has argued pill testing can be an effective harm reduction tool in a range of contexts, with support for its implementation in Australia and opportunities for its broader application in other countries and drug use settings. Evidence suggests pill testing offers several advantages, facilitating long-term data capture, contributing to knowledge on the nexus between consumption habits and perceptions of use, positively influencing drug markets and overall drug quality, while also enabling essential contact between users and support services. Pill testing also encourages cross-sectoral partnership, greater social inclusion and youth agency (including peer-education and engagement), where the task of harm reduction is understood as a shared social, public health responsibility. Indeed, Australian policy-makers should look to and learn from other policy settings, notably Portugal, with the similarly broad aim of lessening the burdens on healthcare systems, overcrowded criminal justice institutions and families, while also reducing problematic use. In this way, pill testing serves as a platform for more nuanced discussion of

drug policy ideas and applications, particularly the need for innovative responses, to avoid the deaths of more young Australians. Australia is in the position to, at the very least, conduct comprehensive trials of pill testing and related strategies (e.g. DIY pill testing kits), to enable evidence-based decision-making. Pill testing cannot eliminate the harms of drug use, but it is not intended to. It represents a model that best functions as one part of a much wider harm reduction strategy, to provide less punitive and more pragmatic responses to drug use for the protection of a generation of young club and music festival attendees, clearly establishing its worth in the Australian drug context.

Endnotes

¹This is likely a response to the increased use of 'sniffer-dogs' at recent music festivals, despite considerable criticism and research evidence of their ineffectiveness [27].

Abbreviations

ACIC: Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission; AIHW: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; AMA: Australia Medical Association; AOD: Alcohol and other drugs; APGDPLR: Australian Parliamentary Group on Drug Policy and Law Reform; DIMS: Drug Information Monitoring System; DIY: Do-it-yourself; EDRS: Ecstasy and Related Drug Reporting System; EMCDDA: European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction; HIV: Human immunodeficiency virus; IDDI: Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative; MDMA: 3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine; MSIC: Medically Supervised Injecting Centre; NCADA: National Campaign Against Drug Abuse; NDS: National Drug Strategy; NDSHS: National Drug Strategy Household Survey; NGO: Non-Government Organisation; NPS: New psychoactive substances; NSEP: Needle and syringe exchange program

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the anonymous reviewers and editors for their valuable feedback, on this as well as previous iterations of the paper.

Funding

Not applicable

Availability of data and materials

Not applicable

Author's contributions

The author read and approved the final manuscript.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable

Consent for publication

Not applicable

Competing interests

The author declares that he has no competing interests.

Publisher's Note

Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Received: 15 January 2018 Accepted: 25 February 2018

Published online: 10 April 2018

References

1. Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS). National Drug Strategy 2010–2015: a framework for action on alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Canberra: MCDS; 2011. Available from: [http://www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au/internet/drugstrategy/publishing.nsf/Content/DB4076D49F13309FCA257854007BAF30/\\$File/nds2015.pdf](http://www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au/internet/drugstrategy/publishing.nsf/Content/DB4076D49F13309FCA257854007BAF30/$File/nds2015.pdf)
2. Odgers P. Adolescent substance use. In: Hamilton M, Kellehear A, Rumbold G, editors. Drug use in Australia: a harm minimisation approach. Melbourne: Oxford University Press; 1998. p. 111–29.
3. Day N, Criss J, Griffiths B, Gujral S, John-Leader F, Johnston J, Pit S. Music festival attendees' illicit drug use, knowledge and practices regarding drug content and purity: a cross-sectional survey. *Harm Red J*. 2018;15:1–8.
4. Hando J, O'Brien S, Darke S, Maher L, Hall W. The illicit drug reporting system (IDRS) trial: final report. National Drug Strategy Monograph, no. 31AGPS: Canberra; 1996.
5. Laslett A, Rumbold G. The epidemiology of Australian drug use. In: Hamilton M, Kellehear A, Rumbold G, editors. Drug use in Australia: a harm minimisation approach. Melbourne: Oxford University Press; 1998. p. 30–47.
6. Kellehear A, Cvetkovski S. Grand theories of drug use. In: Hamilton M, Kellehear A, Rumbold G, editors. Drug use in Australia: a harm minimisation approach. Melbourne: Oxford University Press; 1998. p. 48–59.
7. Crouch B. Stereoscopic drug deaths: should we be testing illegal drugs to see if they're safe? *The Advertiser*. [Internet] 6 Dec 2015. Available from: <http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/stereoscopic-deaths-call-for-inquest-into-deaths-at-music-festival/news-story/40bbeb4339e0f3af7c5f9fcb195bac4>. Accessed 1 Apr 2016.
8. McClellan B, Fyfe-Yeomans J. Stereoscopic music festival: police despair as Sylvia Choi, 25, dies after taking ecstasy. *The Daily Telegraph*. [Internet] 30 Nov 2015. Available from: <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/stereoscopic-music-festival-police-despair-as-sylvia-choi-25-dies-after-taking-ecstasy/news-story/2392528f4ed8d68497ffe3371ff05f9e>. Accessed 1 Apr 2016.
9. Kyriacou K, McCormack M. Mount Lindesay New Year's party turns deadly. *Courier Mail*. [Internet] 2 Jan 2017. Available from: <http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/mount-lindesay-new-years-party-turns-deadly/news-story/4d3f9d4f1058cd834cbe8741964acc45>. Accessed 30 Nov 2017.
10. Shiner M. Drug policy reform and the reclassification of cannabis in England and Wales: a cautionary tale. *Int J Drug Policy*. 2015;26:696–704.
11. Austen L. Police and crime commissioners: emerging 'drug policy actors'? *Safer Communities*. 2016;15:4–10.
12. European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). European drug report 2015: trends and developments. Lisbon: EMCDDA; 2015.
13. Department of Health. National Drug Strategy 2017–2026. Canberra: Department of Health; 2017.
14. Ritter A, Stoope M. Editorial: alcohol and other drug treatment policy in Australia. *Med J Aust*. 2016;204:138–9.
15. Ritter A, McLeod R, Shanahan M. Government drug policy expenditure in Australia - 2009/10. Drug policy modelling program, monograph 24 Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre; 2013. Available from: <https://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/resource/24-government-drug-policy-expenditure-australia-200910>. Accessed 12 Jan 2017.
16. Ritter A, Chalmers J, Berends L. Health expenditure on alcohol and other drug treatment in Australia (2012/2013). *Drug Alcohol Rev*. 2015;34:397–403.
17. Bright S. Not for human consumption: new and emerging drugs in Australia. Prevention research Melbourne: Australian Drug Foundation; 2013.
18. Stafford J, Breen C. Australian trends in ecstasy and related drug markets 2016. Findings from the ecstasy and related drugs reporting system (EDRS). Australian Drug Trends Series No. 172 Sydney: NDARC. UNSW Australia; 2017.
19. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). National Drug Strategy Household Survey detailed report 2016. Drug Statistics Series No. 31 Canberra: AIHW; 2017.
20. Hughes C. The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline: 1985–2016, Drug policy modelling program. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre; 2016.
21. Caldicott D. We can't eradicate drugs, but we can stop people from dying from them. *The Conversation*. [Internet] 16 Feb 2016. Available from:

- <https://theconversation.com/we-cant-eradicate-drugs-but-we-can-stop-people-dying-from-them-54636>. Accessed 23 Oct 2016.
22. Skeer M. Why it's important to just say no to bad drug policy. *The Conversation*. [Internet] 30 Mar 2017. Available from: <https://theconversation.com/why-its-important-to-just-say-no-to-bad-drug-policy-74799>. Accessed 8 Dec 2017.
 23. White B, Degenhardt L, Breen C, Bruno R, Newman J, Risk PP. Benefit perceptions of party drug use. *Addict Behav*. 2006;31:137–42.
 24. Groves A. Rethinking the methamphetamine situation: perceptions of risk and current policy dialogue. *Current Issues Crim Justice*. 2014;26:195–217.
 25. Groves A. Young People's perceptions of the risks of methamphetamine use in Adelaide nightclubs: a quantitative study. *Flinders Law J*. 2015;17:95–126.
 26. Sindicich N, Burns L. Australian drug trends 2015: findings from the ecstasy and related drugs reporting system (EDRS). Australian drug trends conference, Sydney. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre; 2015.
 27. Hughes C, Moxham-Hall V, Ritter A, Weatherburn D, MacCoun R. The deterrent effects of Australian street-level drug law enforcement on illicit drug offending at outdoor music festivals. *Int J Drug Policy*. 2017;41:91–100.
 28. Coomber R. The adulteration of illicit drugs: what dealers do to illicit drugs, and what they think is done to them. *Addict Res*. 1997;5:297–306.
 29. Barratt M, Bruno R, Ezard N, Ritter A. Pill testing or drug checking in Australia: acceptability of service design features. *Drug Alcohol Rev*. 2018;37:226–36.
 30. McCutcheon D, Oosthuizen F, Hogggett K, Fatovich D. A bolt out of the blue: the night of the blue pills. *Med J Aust*. 2015;202:543–4.
 31. Ritter A. Six reasons Australia should pilot 'pill testing' party drugs. *The Conversation*. [Internet] 12 Nov 2014. Available from: <https://theconversation.com/six-reasons-australia-should-pilot-pill-testing-party-drugs-34073>. Accessed 12 Jan 2017.
 32. Ventura M, Noijten J, Bucheli A, Isvy A, van Huyck C, Martins D, Nagy C, Schipper V, Ugarte M, Valente H. Drug checking service: good practice standards. Europe: Nightlife Empowerment & Well-being Implementation Project (NEWIP); 2015.
 33. Winstock A, Wolff K, Ramsey J. Ecstasy pill testing: harm minimization gone too far? *Addiction*. 2001;96:1139–48.
 34. Kriener H, Billeth R, Gollner C, Lachout S, Neubauer P, Schmid R. An inventory of on-site pill-testing interventions in the EU. Vienna: EMCDDA; 2001.
 35. Dundes L. DanceSafe and ecstasy: protection or promotion? *J Health Soc Policy*. 2003;17:19–36.
 36. Kriener H, Schmid R. Check your pills. Check your life. ChEck ITI High quality on-site testing of illicit substances: information, counselling and safer use measures at raves in Austria. *DrugText*. [Internet] 2005. <https://www.pdf.investintech.com/preview/72856708-1d0a-11e8-b174-0cc47a792c0a/index.html>. Accessed 14 Jan 2017.
 37. Hungerbuehler I, Bucheli A, Schaub M. Drug checking: a prevention measure for a heterogeneous group with high consumption frequency and polydrug use—evaluation of Zurich's drug checking services. *Harm Reduct J*. 2011;8:16–22.
 38. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. *Young Australians: their health and wellbeing*. (Cat. No. PHE 140) Canberra: AIHW; 2011.
 39. Gamma A, Jerome L, Liechti ME, Sumnall HR. Is ecstasy perceived to be safe? A critical survey. *Drug Alcohol Depend*. 2005;77:185–93.
 40. Murphy PN, Wareing M, Fisk J. Users' perceptions of the risks and effects of taking ecstasy (MDMA): a questionnaire study. *J Psychopharmacol*. 2006;20:447–55.
 41. Brunt T, Niesink R. The Drug Information and Monitoring System (DIMS) in the Netherlands: implementation, results, and international comparison. *Drug Test Anal*. 2011;3:621–34.
 42. Chinet L, Stephan P, Zobel F, Halfon O. Party drug use in techno nights: a field survey among French-speaking Swiss attendees. *Pharmacol Biochem Behav*. 2007;86:284–9.
 43. Rhodes T. The 'risk environment': a framework for understanding and reducing drug-related harm. *Int J Drug Policy*. 2002;13:85–94.
 44. Winstock A, Griffiths P, Stewart D. Drugs and the dance music scene: a survey of current drug use patterns among a sample of dance music enthusiasts in the UK. *Drug Alcohol Depend*. 2001;64:9–17.
 45. O'Malley P. Volatile and contradictory punishment. *Theor Criminol*. 1999; 3:175–96.
 46. Garland D. The limits of the sovereign state strategies of crime control in contemporary society. *Brit J Criminol*. 1996;36:445–71.
 47. Garland D. The culture of high-crime societies: some pre-conditions of 'law and order' societies. *Brit J Criminol*. 2000;40:347–75.
 48. Lang E. Drugs in society: a social history. In: Hamilton M, Kellehear A, Rumbold G, editors. *Drug use in Australia: a harm minimisation approach*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press; 1998. p. 1–13.
 49. Rumbold G, Hamilton M. Addressing drug problems: a case for harm minimisation. In: Hamilton M, Kellehear A, Rumbold G, editors. *Drug use in Australia: a harm minimisation approach*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press; 1998. p. 130–44.
 50. Smethurst A. Anti-ice ads aimed at partying school leavers. *Daily Telegraph*. [Internet] 24 Sep 2017. Available from: <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/anti-ice-ads-aimed-at-partying-school-leavers/news-story/332c6e2df8d50e923d15482b1f1d50a6>. Accessed 8 Dec 2017.
 51. Stancombe Research & Planning. National drugs campaign 2015 research evaluation: quantitative research report. Prepared for the Australian Government Department of Health; 2015.
 52. Bull M, Denham G, Trevaskes S, Coomber R. From punishment to pragmatism: sharing the burden of reducing drug-related harm. *Chin J Comp Law*. 2016;4:300–31.
 53. Seear K, Fraser S. Beyond criminal law: the multiple constitution of addiction in Australian legislation. *Addict Res Theory*. 2014;22:438–50.
 54. Drug and Alcohol Services of South Australia and South Australia Police. *Guidelines for safer dance parties*. Adelaide: DASSA; 2006.
 55. West S, O'Neal K. Project DARE outcome effectiveness revisited. *Am J Public Health*. 2004;94:1027–9.
 56. Resiak D, Mpofu E, Athanasou J. Drug treatment policy in the criminal justice system: a scoping literature review. *Am J Crim Justice*. 2016;41:3–13.
 57. Hughes C. Evidence-based policy or policy-based evidence? The role of evidence in the development and implementation of the illicit drug diversion initiative. *Drug Alcohol Rev*. 2007;26:363–8.
 58. Bull M. Just treatment: a review of international programs for the diversion of drug related offenders from the criminal justice system. Queensland: QUT; 2003.
 59. Barry C. Fentanyl and the evolving opioid epidemic: what strategies should policy makers consider? *Psychiatr Serv*. 2017;69:100–3.
 60. Dolan K, MacDonald M, Silins E, Topp L. Needle and syringe programs: a review of the evidence. Canberra: Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing; 2005.
 61. Fry C, Fox S, Rumbold G. Establishing safe injection rooms in Australia: attitudes of injecting drug users. *Aust NZ J Publ Health*. 1999;23:501–4.
 62. Mendes P. Social conservatism vs harm minimisation: John Howard on illicit drugs. *J Econ Soci Policy*. 2001;6:1–15.
 63. Wodak A. Is the Howard government tough on drugs? *Soc Res Briefs*. 2004;7:1–2.
 64. Miller S. Evaluation and monitoring of the National Drug Strategy 2004–2009: final report. Kenmore: Siggins Miller; 2009.
 65. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). *National Drug Strategy Household Survey detailed report 2013*. Drug Statistics Series No. 28 Canberra: AIHW; 2014.
 66. McCambridge J, Mitcheson L, Winstock A, Hunt N. Five-year trends in patterns of drug use among people who use stimulants in dance contexts in the United Kingdom. *Addiction*. 2005;100:1140–9.
 67. Burns L, Roxburgh A, Bruno R, Van Buskirk J. Monitoring drug markets in the internet age and the evolution of drug monitoring systems in Australia. *Drug Test Anal*. 2014;5:840–5.
 68. Butterfield R, Barratt M, Ezard N, Day R. Drug checking to improve monitoring of new psychoactive substances in Australia. *Med J Aust*. 2016; 204(4):144–6.
 69. Lai FY, O'Brien J, Thai PK, Hall WD, Mueller JF. Trends in methamphetamine residues in wastewater in metropolitan and regional cities in south-east Queensland, 2009–2015. *Med J Aust*. 2016;204:151–2.
 70. Tscharke BJ, Chen C, Gerber JP, White JM. Temporal trends in drug use in Adelaide, South Australia by wastewater analysis. *Sci Total Environ*. 2016;565:384–91.
 71. Lai FY, Thai PK, O'Brien J, Gartner C, Bruno R, Kele B, Ort C, Prichard J, Kirkbride P, Hall W, Carter S, Mueller JF. Using quantitative wastewater analysis to measure daily usage of conventional and emerging illicit drugs at an annual music festival. *Drug Alcohol Rev*. 2013;32:594–602.
 72. Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission. *National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program: report 1*. Canberra: ACIC; 2017.
 73. Vidal Giné C, Fornis Espinosa I, Ventura Vilamala M. New psychoactive substances as adulterants of controlled drugs. A worrying phenomenon? *Drug Test Anal*. 2014;6:819–24.

74. Klar S, Bordkin M, Gibson E, Padhi S, Preedy C, Green C, Lee V. Fentanyl overdose events caused by smoking contaminated crack cocaine—British Columbia, Canada, July 15–18, 2016. *Health Promot Chron Dis Prev Can.* 2016;36(9):200–1.
75. McCall Jones C, Baldwin GT, Compton WM. Recent increases in cocaine-related overdose deaths and the role of opioids. *Am J Public Health.* 2017; 107(3):430–2.
76. Lancaster K, Ritter A, Matthew-Simmons F. Young people's opinions on alcohol and other drug issues: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre. Canberra: Australian National Council on Drugs; 2013.
77. Babor T, Caulkins J, Edwards G, Fischer B, Foxcroft D, Humphreys K, et al. *Drug policy and the public good.* Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2010.
78. Australian Parliamentary Group on Drug Policy and Law Reform. (APGDPLR). Parliamentary Drug Summit 2016, 2 Mar 2016. Available from: <https://greens.org.au/sites/greens.org.au/files/Participant%20Pack.pdf>. Accessed 23 Feb 2017.
79. Hughes C, Stevens A. What can we learn from the Portuguese decriminalization of illicit drugs? *Brit J Criminol.* 2010;50:999–1022.
80. Murkin G. Drug decriminalisation in Portugal: setting the record straight. Bristol: Transform, Getting drugs under control; 2014.
81. Spruit I. Monitoring synthetic drug markets, trends, and public health. *Subst Use Misuse.* 2001;36:24–47.
82. Inciardi J. *The war on drugs IV: the continuing Saga of the mysteries and miseries of intoxication, addiction, crime and public policy.* Boston: Pearson; 2008.
83. Benschop A, Rabes M, Korf D. *Pill Testing-Ecstasy & Prevention. A scientific evaluation study in three European cities.* Amsterdam: Rosenberg Publisher; 2003.
84. Barratt M, Lenton S, Allen M. Internet content regulation, public drug websites and the growth in hidden internet services. *Drug Educ Prev Polic.* 2013;20:195–202.
85. European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and Europol. *EU drug markets report: in-depth analysis.* Luxembourg: EMCDDA–Europol Joint publications, Publications Office of the European Union; 2016.
86. Caldicott D. What is drug checking and why do we need it in Australia? *The Conversation.* [Internet] 1 Dec 2015. Available from: <https://theconversation.com/what-is-drug-checking-and-why-do-we-need-it-in-australia-51578>. Accessed 23 Nov 2016.
87. Purtil J. Will the Stereosonic drug death bring back pill testing? *TripleJ Hack.* [Internet] 1 Dec 2015. Available from: <http://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/will-sylvia-choi%27s-stereosonic-death-change-pill-testing-policy/6991736>. Accessed 23 Nov 2016.
88. Camilleri A, Caldicott D. Underground pill testing, down under. *Forensic Sci Int.* 2005;151:53–8.
89. Caldicott D. We need to increase the chances of our kids surviving their unavoidable brush with drugs. *The Advertiser.* [Internet] 4 Dec 2015. Available from: <http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/opinion/david-caldicott-we-need-to-increase-the-chances-of-our-kids-surviving-their-unavoidable-brush-with-drugs/news-story/b325023bb1838945abd589c0024be86>. Accessed 12 Jan 2017.
90. Hughes C, Ritter A, Chalmers J, Lancaster K, Barratt M, Moxham-Hall V. Decriminalisation of drug use and possession in Australia—a briefing note. Sydney: Drug Policy Modelling Program, NDARC, UNSW; 2016.
91. Johnston J, Barratt M, Fry C, Kinner S, Stoope M, Degenhardt L, George J, Jenkinson R, Dunn M, Bruno R. A survey of regular ecstasy users' knowledge and practices around determining pill content and purity: implications for policy and practice. *Int J Drug Policy.* 2006;17:464–72.
92. Dobbin M. Rainbow Serpent Festival wants to test ecstasy pills. *The Age.* [Internet] 2 Dec 2015. Available from: <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/rainbow-serpent-festival-wants-to-test-ecstasy-pills-20151202-gldkrm.html>. Accessed 12 Oct 2016.
93. Aubrey S. Stereosonic music festival organisers support introducing pill testing. *News.com.* [Internet] 2 March 2016. Available from: <http://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/health/health-problems/stereosonic-music-festival-organisers-support-introducing-pill-testing/news-story/2a5f5dd47503c71e364e19bf0babd016>. Accessed 12 Oct 2016.
94. Seddon T. Explaining drug policy: towards an historical sociology of policy change. *Int J Drug Policy.* 2011;22:415–9.
95. Drug Misuse and Trafficking Regulation 2000. (NSW) s. 2, cl. 4-6.
96. Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 (NSW) ss. 36A-36P.

Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central and we will help you at every step:

- We accept pre-submission inquiries
- Our selector tool helps you to find the most relevant journal
- We provide round the clock customer support
- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- Inclusion in PubMed and all major indexing services
- Maximum visibility for your research

Submit your manuscript at
www.biomedcentral.com/submit



7.2 City of Hobart's Reconciliation Action Plan Commitments
FILE REF: F19/78847; 13-1-9

Councillor Sherlock

Motion

“This motion seeks for the following items to be given consideration in the development of the City of Hobart’s Reconciliation Action Plan Commitments:

- 1) The development of a sign, or series of signs, at key access points to the city to provide a welcome in the language of our Tasmanian Aboriginal Community/Palawa people and/or an acknowledgment of the Traditional Custodians of the land in Hobart. For example:
 - a) Signs could be erected alongside existing welcome signs on Davey Street and the Brooker Highway.
 - b) Community engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal Community/Palawa people should be undertaken to discuss and agree upon the language, design and theme of each sign.
- 2) That Council write letters to primary schools, high schools and colleges in the Hobart City Council municipality to encourage the flying of the Aboriginal flag. For example:
 - a) If the institution currently flies the Aboriginal flag, a letter of acknowledgement and support could be sent.
 - b) If the institution does not currently fly the Aboriginal flag, a letter of encouragement could be sent alongside relevant literature and information.
 - c) Consideration could be given regarding the Council’s provision of financial support for institutions to be able to purchase an Aboriginal flag.
 - d) Council could also write to the State Government to seek encouragement and support for an increased number of schools flying the Aboriginal flag.”

Rationale:

“The land upon which Hobart was built always was and always will be Aboriginal land. Our First Nations People, representing the oldest, continuing culture in the world, are the custodians of this place and as such should be recognised visually at the entry points to our city and through the flying of the Aboriginal flag within the context of institutions of education and learning.

The Community Vision for our Island Capital document includes the following statements that directly support this motion:

We are proud of our history, lineage and ancestry (Identity Statement 2.1).

We recognise the Tasmanian Aboriginal community and their heritage and culture as the foundation of this place (Pillar 2.1.1).

These statements directly lend support to the following aims of the project to develop a Reconciliation Action Plan as included in the Report dated 6 February 2019:

2.4.4 Increasing the visibility of the Aboriginal Community, language, heritage and culture across Hobart, both for residents of and visitors to our city.

2.4.6 Showing leadership on reconciliation in Tasmania and demonstrating the importance and value in reconciliation to the broader community thereby increasing our reputation as an inclusive, proactive and connected City.

Historically, in Tasmania there has been a lack of recognition of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community/Palawa people and of the 40,000 plus years of culture and history. While history cannot be changed, it is imperative that we take heartfelt and practical steps to visually recognise our heritage as a country, and specifically within the local communities around Hobart.

Many Councils around the country (see attached Appendix A) have led by example through the development of welcome signs and similar visual acknowledgements. They demonstrate the multifaceted ways in which language and symbols play a significant role in recognition and equitable treatment of our First Nations People.

It is noted that whilst education is the role of the State Government, the Council can, nevertheless, encourage a culture of respect, awareness and recognition across educational institutions within our city, something which seems vital for our younger generation of citizens.

Out of respect for our people, our history and moving forward through collaboration, this motion seeks to visually pay respect to elders past, present and emerging.”

The General Manager reports:

“In line with the Council’s policy in relation to Notices of Motion, I advise that the matter is considered to be within the jurisdiction of the Hobart City Council as it aligns with the Council’s consideration of a Reconciliation Action Plan.”

Attachment A: Welcoming Signs

Appendix A



8. COMMITTEE ACTION STATUS REPORT

8.1 Committee Actions - Status Report

A report indicating the status of current decisions is attached for the information of Elected Members.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information indicating the status of current decisions be received and noted.

Delegation: Committee

Attachment A: Status Report

COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND EVENTS COMMITTEE – STATUS REPORT

OPEN PORTION OF THE MEETING

June 2019

| Ref | Meeting | Report / Action | Action Officer | Comments |
|-----|--|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | <p>RAINBOW FLAG Council, 21/8/2017, Item 15 and Council, 17/6/2019, Item 21</p> | <p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council utilise a row of up to six of the existing flagpole holes located towards the Argyle Street side of the Town Hall Forecourt, shown in the plan marked as Attachment A to the minutes of the Open Finance and Governance Committee meeting of 12 June 2019, to enable the co-ordinated display of flags. 2. A policy be developed to manage the flagpoles on both the Town Hall and Council Centre buildings, including the display of flags and those occasions when the Town Hall poles will be temporarily removed for civic purposes. 3. The purchase and installation of the flagpoles estimated at \$7200 be funded from the Corporate Property function of the 2018/2019 Annual Plan. | <p>Director City Governance</p> | <p>Complete</p> |

| Ref | Meeting | Report / Action | Action Officer | Comments |
|-----|---|---|------------------------------------|--|
| 2 | <p>LATE NIGHT TOILET PROVISIONS - SALAMANCA / WATERFRONT PRECINCT Council, 23/10/2017, Item 15 and Council, 19/3/2018, Item 17</p> | <p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The operating hours of the Salamanca Square public toilets be extended to 3 am on Friday and Saturday nights, and during limited special events (such as pre-Christmas extended trading in Sullivans Cove and New Year’s Eve) for a further year from 30 March 2018 to 30 March 2019 inclusive, with a review after 3 months and a report to Council identifying potential cost savings and efficiencies. 2. The costs of cleansing, security, and related maintenance associated with this continued trial be met by an additional budget allocation of \$18,286 within the Community Planning and Coordination function of the 2017-18 Annual Plan, and a further new budget allocation of \$53,939 within the Community Planning and Coordination function, to be considered as part of the preparation of the 2018-19 draft budget. 3. A further report be prepared exploring options for the longer term provision of late night public toilets to service the Salamanca/Sullivans Cove precinct, with this being informed by further engagement with key community, government and business stakeholders. | <p>Director Community Life</p> | <p>Item 1 is completed. This matter will be considered as part of the Toilet Strategy review and after the Parliament Square toilets coming online.</p> |

| Ref | Meeting | Report / Action | Action Officer | Comments |
|-----|---|---|----------------------------|--|
| 3 | SIGNAL BOX RETENTION Council, 4/12/2017, Item 11 | Motion "That if Council agrees in-principle that the Signal Box Project has been a great success for livening the streets of Hobart and reducing the impact of tagging graffiti, a further report be prepared outlining what steps will be needed to continue the painting of Signal Boxes beyond the funded Signal Box Project, either to renew or place new art, including but not limited to: (a) If Council will need to take over managing the project from Urban Smart Projects; (b) Exploring a range of funding possibilities including part or calling for crowdfunding of future re-paints; (c) The involvement of current artists; and (d) The need for any agreement with the Department of State Growth (or its future iterations) in continuing the painting of the Signal Boxes." | Director Community Life | A response to this matter will be provided as part of an overall report looking at the entire public art program as a result of the current review of the Public Art Strategy and will be prepared for the August meeting. |
| 4 | LOCAL FOOD STRATEGY Council, 18/12/2017, Item 6.2 and Council, 23/7/2018, Item 15 | That: 1. The Council endorse the development of a draft food strategy or framework. 2. The draft strategy or framework be reported back to the Council for approval at the appropriate time. | Director Community Life | Research has commenced and the report will be provided at the August meeting. |

| Ref | Meeting | Report / Action | Action Officer | Comments |
|-----|--|--|------------------------------------|---|
| 5 | <p>INCLUSION ZONING Council, 18/6/2018, Item 13 and Council, 8/10/2018, Item 11</p> | <p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A report be prepared that provides options for the Council to seek State Government support for legislative changes that gives the Council a “Head of Power” under the Local Government and/or <i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Acts</i> specifically allow the Council to require the provision of affordable and/or long term rental apartments/housing in certain developments and or precincts. That the report also consider: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Further planning incentives such as bonuses to density, building envelopes, dwelling unit factors or permitted height allowances similar to those within the Commercial Zone of the <i>Hobart Interim Planning Scheme 2015</i> for affordable and/or long term rental accommodation; (b) Guidelines for binding agreements between the Council, developers and/or social housing providers to manage any affordable housing provided in accordance with any new head of power outlined above; and (c) Options to require any dwellings approved under bonus provisions to remain on the rental market for a minimum of 5 to 10 years depending on the development or planning bonuses. 2. The matter be included as part of the Council’s review of its <i>Housing and Homelessness Strategy</i>. | <p>Director Community Life</p> | <p>The issue of affordable housing and homelessness has been a strong focus over the past two months with a Homelessness Crisis Forum being held and a greater Hobart Homelessness Alliance formed. This work has required staffing resources to be fully utilised in this area. Stakeholder forums will be held in August/September.</p> |

| Ref | Meeting | Report / Action | Action Officer | Comments |
|-----|--|--|------------------------------------|--|
| 6 | <p>HOUSING WITH DIGNITY REFERENCE GROUP Council, 3/12/2018, Item 12 and Council, 18/2/2019, Item 14</p> | <p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council approve the establishment of a Housing with Dignity Reference Group comprising of community members with lived experience of homelessness or severe housing stress. 2. The draft Terms of Reference, as attached to the minutes of the Open Community Culture and Events Committee of 6 February 2019, be endorsed with the following amendments: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Two elected members participate in the reference group, b) An elected member be appointed as Chairman for the first year of the operation of the reference group, c) The reference group may, at its first or subsequent meetings, determine a joint chair arrangement with the elected member being joined by a person with lived experience. 3. The operation of the reference group be reviewed after one year of operation. 4. Alderman Thomas be appointed as Chairman and Councillor Ewin be appointed as a member of the Housing with Dignity Reference Group. | <p>Director Community Life</p> | <p>There have now been three meetings of the reference group with an agreement that meetings be held monthly until the end of the year. Notes from the meetings are provided on the Elected Representatives Hub</p> <p>Complete.</p> |

| Ref | Meeting | Report / Action | Action Officer | Comments |
|-----|--|--|---|--|
| 7 | <p>CITY OF HOBART GRANTS PROGRAM - AUGUST 2018 RECOMMENDATIONS Council, 3/12/2018, Item 15</p> | <p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council approve the recommended level of funding to the respective applicants for assistance under the 2018-19 Community Development Grants Program under the streams of Community, Creative Hobart, and Events as outlined below: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The projects recommended for full funding and partial funding from round one 2018-19 of the Community Development Grants Program as detailed in Attachment A to item 4.1 of the Open Special Community Culture and Events Committee agenda of 3 December 2018. 2. The Council note the projects not recommended for funding from round one 2018-19 of the City of Hobart Grants Program as detailed in Attachment A to item 4.1 of the Open Special Community Culture and Events Committee agenda of 3 December 2018. 3. The value of the recommended projects is \$40,070.73 for Community Grants, \$59,985 for Creative Hobart Medium, \$14,650 for Creative Hobart Small Grants, and \$95,000 for Event Grants. 4. The Tasmanian Theatre Council be approved for \$10,000 for the Tasmanian Theatre Awards to be funded from within the Community and Culture operational surplus for 2018/19. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) An annual allocation under the Community Development Partnership Program be created at the value of \$10,000 per annum. (ii) The Community Development Partnership Program be reviewed to determine if other partnerships should be included in future years. | <p style="text-align: center;">Director Community Life</p> | <p>All applicants have been notified of the grant outcomes - completed.</p> <p>A draft partnership agreement with the Tasmanian Theatre Council has been developed - completed.</p> <p>A report reviewing the City Partnership Program to Determine other potential partnerships has been deferred to the August meeting of the committee.</p> |

| Ref | Meeting | Report / Action | Action Officer | Comments |
|-----|--|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | 5. Any funds from any grant program will be rolled into the following equivalent grant round within this financial year. 6. The funding for the grants be attributed to the Community Development Policy Management activity in the 2018-19 Annual Plan. 7. All funding applicants be advised accordingly. 8. The total grant provision be recorded in the 'Grants, Assistance and Benefits Provided' section of the City of Hobart's Annual Report. | | |
| 8 | ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES IN HOBART Council, 21/1/2019, Item 12 | Motion "That a report be provided to detail the current provision of English language classes in Hobart; to provide examples of services provided in other cities; and to explore the possibilities for increased provision of intensive English language services in Hobart in collaboration with the State Government." | Director Community Life | A report is included on this agenda. |

| Ref | Meeting | Report / Action | Action Officer | Comments |
|-----|---|--|----------------------------|---|
| 9 | FOOD VAN PROGRAM Council, 18/2/2019, Item 12 | Motion "That the Council undertake a review of the Food Van Program and associated relevant regulations including other temporary food service structure to ensure: 1) The guidelines and food and hygiene regulations are contemporary and preserve a 'level playing field', especially when permanent food vans are located near established businesses that pay rates and other fees; 2) The relevant planning schemes are contemporary and that the use categories in the schemes respect the fact that temporary and permanent food vans may be located close to existing businesses. In particular those businesses seeking to trade in permanent positions; and 3) That consultation occurs with relevant peak bodies and stakeholders. In preparing the report, an analysis be included of trends and requirements in other cities that operate food truck programs." | Director Community Life | Current activity is focussed on drawing together stakeholder groups to undertake the initial review. Stakeholder meetings were completed with compliance, environmental health and parking to address initial issues. The full meeting is yet to be held. |
| 10 | DEVELOPMENT OF A RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN Council, 18/2/2019, Item 15 | That: 1. The Council endorse the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan which will include an extensive engagement process. 2. The draft plan be reported back to the Council for approval at the appropriate time. | Director Community Life | The first round of engagement with staff and Aboriginal stakeholders is now close to completion. Officers received a higher level of interest in this project than anticipated and strong positive themes are emerging. RAP commitments are being drafted in response to this engagement and will be presented for discussion at the workshop with Elected Members on 27 August. |

| Ref | Meeting | Report / Action | Action Officer | Comments |
|-----|--|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 11 | COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITMENT Council, 18/2/2019, Item 17 | That: 1. The Council endorse the draft <i>Community Safety Commitment 2019 – 2020</i> , attached to item 6.5 of the Open Community Culture and Events Committee agenda of 6 February 2019. 2. The Council endorse community engagement on the draft <i>Community Safety Commitment 2019 - 2020</i> . | Director Community Life | A report is included on this agenda. |

| Ref | Meeting | Report / Action | Action Officer | Comments |
|-----|---|--|---|--|
| 12 | <p>THE TASTE OF TASMANIA POST FESTIVAL REPORT Council, 18/3/2019, Item 11</p> | <p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council resolve to commit to a three-year in principle budget for The Taste of Tasmania of \$1.6 million annually, contingent upon the following funding arrangement: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Direct Council investment of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) \$1.1M for 2019/20; (b) \$1M for 2020/21; and (c) \$900,000 for 2021/22; (ii) \$250,000 - \$500,000 per annum cash grant from the Tasmanian Government; (iii) \$80,000 per annum PW1 hire fee waiver; and (iv) Maximising the generation of sponsorship and commercial revenue streams over the three year period. (v) The Council write to the Federal Government seeking funding assistance for the event. 2. The Council delegate to the General Manager the full operational responsibility for the delivery of The Taste of Tasmania including the setting of all fees and charges pursuant to section 22 of the Local Government Act 1993. 3. The General Manager be authorised to finalise discussions with the State Government concerning on-going funding for The Taste of Tasmania as soon as possible. 4. The Council to be advised of the outcome of the negotiations. 5. At the conclusion of three years the General Manager undertake a full review of The Taste of Tasmania and report back to the Council accordingly. | <p style="text-align: center;">Director Community Life</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completed (i) to (iii) - no further action. 2. Noted - no further action. 3/4. Noted. 5. Noted - no further action in 2019. <p>The State Government recently announced their commitment to providing \$500,000 over two years. Conversations are now being had with the State Government to determine deliverable as required as part of their investment.</p> |

| Ref | Meeting | Report / Action | Action Officer | Comments |
|-----|--|--|----------------------------|--|
| 13 | DRAFT PUBLIC ART FRAMEWORK Council, 15/4/2019, Item 18 | That the Council endorse the draft Public Art Framework, marked as Attachment A to item 18 of the open Council Agenda of 15 April 2019, and that it be released for community engagement. | Director Community Life | Public consultation closed in May. Final draft to be presented back to the Council by August / September 2019. |
| 14 | REVIEW OF THE CAPITAL CITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2015–25 Council, 17/06/2019, Item 17 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council endorse the draft Capital City Strategic Plan 2019-29 and it be released for community and stakeholder engagement for a period of 21 days. 2. A further report be provided detailing the outcome of the community and stakeholder engagement, and the final document for approval. | Director Community Life | Community and stakeholder engagement has started, the closing date for submissions is 9 July 2019. Final draft will be presented to the Council in August 2019. |
| 15 | SOCIAL INCLUSION INDEX - CONNECTED COMMUNITY PROGRAM Council, 17/6/2019, Item 15 | Motion "That a report be provided considering the addition of a Social Inclusion Index (SII), as an initiative of the Connected Community Program within the Connected Hobart Action Plan. The index would serve to support and measure the impact of, and potential actions for, homelessness in Greater Hobart." | Director Community Life | A report considering this matter and the scope of the index will be started in July. |

9. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Section 29 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.
File Ref: 13-1-10

An Elected Member may ask a question without notice of the Chairman, another Elected Member, the General Manager or the General Manager's representative, in line with the following procedures:

1. The Chairman will refuse to accept a question without notice if it does not relate to the Terms of Reference of the Council committee at which it is asked.
2. In putting a question without notice, an Elected Member must not:
 - (i) offer an argument or opinion; or
 - (ii) draw any inferences or make any imputations – except so far as may be necessary to explain the question.
3. The Chairman must not permit any debate of a question without notice or its answer.
4. The Chairman, Elected Members, General Manager or General Manager's representative who is asked a question may decline to answer the question, if in the opinion of the respondent it is considered inappropriate due to its being unclear, insulting or improper.
5. The Chairman may require a question to be put in writing.
6. Where a question without notice is asked and answered at a meeting, both the question and the response will be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.
7. Where a response is not able to be provided at the meeting, the question will be taken on notice and
 - (i) the minutes of the meeting at which the question is asked will record the question and the fact that it has been taken on notice.
 - (ii) a written response will be provided to all Elected Members, at the appropriate time.
 - (iii) upon the answer to the question being circulated to Elected Members, both the question and the answer will be listed on the agenda for the next available ordinary meeting of the committee at which it was asked, where it will be listed for noting purposes only.

10. CLOSED PORTION OF THE MEETING

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee resolve by majority that the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to regulation 15(1) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* because the items included on the closed agenda contain the following matters:

- Confirmation of the minutes of the closed portion
- Questions without notice in the closed portion

The following items are listed for discussion:-

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Item No. 1 | Minutes of the last meeting of the Closed Portion of the Council Meeting |
| Item No. 2 | Consideration of supplementary items to the agenda |
| Item No. 3 | Indications of pecuniary and conflicts of interest |
| Item No. 4 | Questions Without Notice |