**Greater Shepparton LGBTI+ Community Alliance**

**Meeting Minutes – 21 February 2019**

**3:00pm - 5:00pm**

**Venue: La Trobe University Campus- Fryers Street Shepparton**

**Attendees:** Michelle Harmer, Georgie Poort, Christina Bassani, Suzanne Muntz, Allyn Evans, Janelle Graham, Nicole Reidy, Joel Board, Zubaidah Shaburdin (guest speaker, Rural Health), Chris Parnell, Kasey Holyman, Matt Walker, Ken Campagnolo.

**Apologies**: A. Watson, K. Green, Damien Stevens-Todd, Sam Birrell, Alan Arthur/Mia Baker, Fern Summer, Kerri Ford, Paul Briggs/Katrina Mohamed, Seema Abdullah, Nicole R, Tricia Quibell, Tessa Murnane.

1. **Welcome to all and apologies**
2. **Acknowledgment Of Country**
3. **Introductions and pronouns**
4. **Confirmation of Minutes** 12 December 2018 – Moved: Chris Parnell, Seconded: Georgie Poort.
5. **Meeting agenda –** No discussion of changes to upcoming meeting dates at this point (see point 7d.)
6. **Welcome guest speaker Zubaidah Shaburdin from Rural Health**

Research project: Increasing inclusion in rural, generalist health services: creating a process of change.

Zubaidah described the scope of the project, which health services were involved, and what stage 2 involves now that they are up to this phase in the project. The health services involved are Kyabram District Health Service, Primary Care Connect, Headspace and Maternal and Child Health Service.

Stage 2 involves seeking responses to the question of why people don’t access services. The project wants to engage in a meaningful approach, rather than come in ask questions and then leave. There has been work done on plain language for the surveys for the participants, and the team are still at the pre-gathering stage, but looking for venues to access individuals to participate. This is not a specific ATSI research project, it is aimed at all marginalised groups and those not accessing services. Some suggestions were made at this time by several members of the meeting suggesting potential participants, including independent minors at Youth Foyer and those accessing other services connected to the Alliance members.

Zubaidah stated that the hopes of this research project was to create a toolkit or work practice framework for health services providers/agencies to identify and remove any barriers that may be stopping some community members from accessing their service. She discussed some of the barriers being White privilege, how clinicians/health providers use language, unconscious bias, and any other practice that may be having a negative impact on those who they would want to use their service.

1. **4 Priority Project Groups.**
2. Medical/endocrinology group – Uniting representative/Kasey, Katie and Christina will be the key Alliance members in this group. Invite Wodonga Service to come and share some of their successes and how they achieved them.
3. Training/research group (mapping) – Michelle, Chris and Uniting representative with their best practice background will be the Alliance members for this group. Daniel Witthaus from Ro Allan’s Roadshow will be coming to Shepparton, Georgie will discuss time and date with Damien.
4. Events group – (Pride Cup, BBQ fundraisers etc). No volunteers as yet. Need to do a mailout to ask for volunteers. Discussion moved to discussing difficulties for some smaller groups being involved in activities. Suggested an upcoming meeting be used as an opportunity to encourage smaller groups outside the immediate GV area. The lack of capacity for smaller groups getting established may be encouraged by this inclusion. June meeting will be in Benalla, 3-5pm. Georgie will talk with the individuals that expressed the desire to be involved from Benalla. Matt suggested that potential to approach the new GM AFL Region General Manager Jamie Macri, to see if this organisation may be able to be involved. Other suggestions for pride cup volunteers were the Sports and Rec students at GOTAFE or the SEDA program. Valley Sports may be another community organisation that may be able to be involved, a new staff member Nadia may be a potential contact. Final option of a downscaled event, or handing over to Echuca to represent the North Region of Victoria.
5. Visual/safety group – no volunteers as yet. Refer to events (c) regarding discussion on Pride cup, potentially GV Water as an organisation may be able to be involved with their staff as a community engagement event/support.
6. **New Business**

8.1 GV Pride has two small grants available during the year, of approximately $250-$300 dollars, GV Pride membership is a requirement to apply for the grants. Michelle is going to apply for one to cover the costs with holding the June meeting in Benalla.

8.2 Age friendly communities – Michelle touched briefly on the World Health Organisations report, and mentioned there were 8 steps to achieving this, and inclusiveness was an area communities need to be mindful of for the aging members of the community.

8.3 TGV – 2 workshops are being provided, the story of lived experience.

8.4.1Rainbow Tick Gateway Services is looking to achieve this in Wangaratta. The Process to achieve this is huge. Cost and policy requirements are extensive and can be a barrier to achieving it. Locally, Vincent Care have gone through the process. Check with Daniel what low income organisations can do to tackle this issue. Kasey will investigate what their organisations experience was.

8.4.2 Council has spaces and support for local businesses to hire, however the cost is $5000. Georgia asked if anyone had contacts that know of free space to create an office presence.

8.4.3Question raised as to whether Council should create a service for LGBTI+ initiatives, with a contact of Joel and Amanda Tingay, Joel felt this could be a service/position that could be attached to a strategy or action plan from the council’s service plan.

8.5 Midsumma carnival – no members attended. Pride March, GV Pride attended. Rainbow Ball in Wodonga, went really well, with local members travelling to Wodonga. It was an excellent event with thorough organisation. A letter was received by the Alliance expressing lament that while this event was great for the young people, and acknowledging the event for the elder community, there was a lack of similar events for those in the in between age ranges.

**9. General Business**

9.1 Contact list – please update if you have changes

9.2 Alliance members asked to reach out to other members who don’t regularly attend the meetings and try to re-engage with them, invite new people along etc. Perhaps some are not receiving emails or invites?

9.3 On a bright note, Christina shared how GV Water is now getting 4 flag poles and new flags to replace their current configuration. This came about from a conversation by Christina and a member of the leadership there, and demonstrates the power of being a great Ally

9.4 Harmony Day – GV Pride are hosting Queer Stories Event at La Trobe Uni Shepparton Campus.

**10. Action Log**

Christina and Joel will look at anything on the communications charter and terms of reference that needs addressing.

**11. Other Business**

Benalla representative arrived at 4.50pm, misunderstanding of the time of the meeting. Was briefed on the presentation of the letter, and an offer of holding the June meeting of the Alliance in Benalla to reach out to the small group within that community.

Ken shared a story on how he took two young people from the Benalla community to the Pride march, and they loved the experience, but more importantly, they nabbed a ‘selfie’ with Dan Andrews, and he expressed a desire to catch up at some stage in the near future with the boys regarding their experiences living in a rural town.

Ken also mentioned his ‘library box’ and a brief discussion was held on how libraries should be supporting youth without making them feel awkward or not wanting to seek resources should their parents find out. Some suggestions were made as to solutions to his concern.

**12. Calendar of Events (standing item to be updated as required):**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Event/Day** | **Special Comments** |
| March 21 | Queerstories: Shepparton Festival | (<https://www.facebook.com/queerstoriesaus/>) |
| March 31 | Transgender Day of Visibility |  |
| May 17 | IDAHOBIT DAY |  |
| August 30 | Wear It Purple Day (last Friday in August annually) |  |
| October 31 – Nov 6 | OUTintheOPEN Festival 2019 |  |

**13. Next Meeting**

**Date:** 17 April T**ime:** 5pm – 7pm

**Venue:** Uniting **Address:** 219-225 Wyndham Street

**RSVP**: gpoort@vt.uniting.org.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date/Time | Venue | Minutes | Chair | Guest speaker/event |
| February 21st  3-5pm | La Trobe Uni, Shepparton | Suzanne / Christina | Michelle Harmer | Zubaidah Mohamed Shaburdin |
| April 17th (in lieu of Anzac day) 5-7pm | Uniting Shepparton |  | Kasey Holyman |  |
| June 20th  3-5pm | BENALLA  Uniting will drive their mini bus (12 seater) |  |  |  |
| August 15th  5-7pm |  |  |  |  |
| October 17th  3-5pm | GSCC Boardroom |  |  |  |
| December 19th (if too late possibly the 12th instead) 5-7pm |  |  |  |  |

**Meeting closed at 5.06pm**

**Greater Shepparton LGBTI+ Community Alliance Action Log**

| **Number** | **Date of Introduction** | **Action** | **Who** | **When** | **Progress** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | 21/02/2018 | Communications plan | All Alliance members | Ongoing |  |
| **2**  **2.i** | 12/12/2018 | Individuals to self-nominate for chairperson of each small group (4) and then engage with other Alliance members to join small working party for 2019  Send out email through Mailchimp list with short, sharp message asking for people to join wither of the two other groups and help support the alliance. | All Alliance members  Damien | Ongoing  Within two weeks of the meeting if possible | Medical and Training groups have had members join. Other two need members to join. |