**Greater Shepparton LGBTI+ Community Alliance**

**Meeting Minutes – May 9th, 2019**

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

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

**Attendees:** Michelle Harmer, Georgie Poort, Christina Bassani, Allyn Evans Chris Parnell, Kasey Holyman, , Ken Campagnolo, A. Watson, Damien Stevens-Todd, Kyle Podesser, Michelle Robbins, Sarah Roberts, Katie Clavarino,

**Apologies**: Christina Bassani,

1. **Welcome to all and apologies**
2. **Acknowledgment Of Country**
3. **Introductions and pronouns**
4. **Confirmation of Minutes:** April 17th meeting cancelled due to lack of numbers in attendance –

**Minutes of previous meeting February 9th** Moved: Georgie Poort, Seconded: Michelle Harmer.

1. **Meeting agenda –** Changes in dates and meetings to encompass DPC- Roadshow Business
2. **Welcome guest speaker: Kasey Holyman – Process Mapping the process and identifying pathways for gender affirmation**

Kasey Holyman provided a mapping and overview of the work undertaken by the Diversity Project in supporting young people (under 25) and their families, transitioning to gender affirmation. There are a number of components including, psychological, social, medical, legal, surgical, and systems not communicating with other. A clear overview of the gender affirmation process can be can be found here: <https://www.deakin.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1676797/Deakin-University-Gender-Transition-Guide.pdf>

ACON NSW <https://www.acon.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ACON-TGD-Strategy-Discussion-Paper.pdf>

Murray PHN Pathways- the Murray Public Health Network is also examining local pathway

Kasey facilitated a very insightful discussion, including this Alliance attempts to work better at lobbying for access to services for people wishing to affirm their gender. We all recognise regional deficits for service and support, for clients and their families. HEY project funding covers funding for young LGBTIQA+ Youth groups, under the age of 25, (Diversity Project, Way Out Wodonga, Gender clinic, case managers, )

However the glaring lack for services for people over the age of 25 years.

Coming out options

Initially people work through coming out, and a social/familial transition process (affirming gender exploring change of appearance). People may take inappropriate medication, explore binders/packers (i.e. products- Pack pee play and decorative, breast forms) cost and access

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Child | Young Person | Adult |
| GP, Nurse, Psuchologist/Psychiatrist | 2 GP’s | 18 - Equinox Model – Public hormone therapy protocols |
| DSM5 Gender Dysphoria | DSM5 Gender Dysphoria | Limited number of psych visits covered by Medicare  Need Psych consent DSM5 Gender Dysphoria |
| Family support networks and consent | Supportive parents U/16  Referral to Royal Children’s Hospital  As many as necessary ongoing Psych visits available 6-18 months waitlist with Psych face to face  Accommodation, costs, medical expenses | Monash Gender Clinic- First visit face to face then Psychiatrist/Gender psychologist can Skype/Blu Jeans) |
| Bulk Billing | Bulk billing |  |
|  | Navigating  process, affirmation whilst in a secondary school community | Navigating process, at work |

Legal: Currently, have to have surgery to change sex, on birth certificate. A change of name and change of pronoun, (New Tasmanian legislation has an optional re sex on Birth Certificate)

Hormonal options:

The Endocrinologist at GV hospital works with Diabetes, and so we have service gaps.

Endocrinologist checks the level of hormones in bloods and creates scripts. A script can be for HRT (Hormone Replacement Therapy) Oestrogen, Estragon, = Tablet, and Testosterone = injected. Puberty Blockers may also be prescribed. The Heidelberg based service refills scripts, but costs PBS/HCC. Ongoing questioning by professionals every step of the way, but clients have been thinking about this the whole time (The whole process is reversible)

Surgical options:

Breast removal or augmentation, lower genital surgery (create penis or vulva/vagina) hysterectomy, facial feminisation, (not covered under Medicare) Plastic surgery 15’000 upwards depending on requirement.

Social/mental/financial health:

Requires support through the process, what if there isn’t any? Is the person transitioning in a work place, what is required for this? Other considerations include transport, housing, financial stress, new clothing, make-up, and safe space to heal.

Knowing what services are available, virtual pride centre, AoD services, family violence, intersectionality, No funding provided to voluntary LGBTIQA programs, nor specific LGBTIQA programs in organisations.

Lack of gender specific case management, and there needs to be an understanding of SOGI (Sexual Orientation Gender Identity). People over 25years no access to structured case management.

1. **4 Priority Project Groups:**
2. Medical/endocrinology group – Uniting representative/Kasey, Katie, Christina

GV Health Executive interested in Transgender Pathway

1. Training/research group (mapping) – Michelle, Chris and Uniting - mapping haven’t occurred to date. Specific training required in Alliance and broader workplaces. Rainbow Tick Accreditation training Gateway – current, Vincentcare – in train) means part of any practice includes embedded policies, right through workplaces. Murray PHN, medical students and GP ‘s require training. TGV Elders training March, 25 people in attendance, both Kilmore and Seymour requesting additional training. Another training session to be included as part of Out in The Open 2019)
2. Events group – (Pride Cup, BBQ fundraisers etc). GV Pride organising social events.

No GV Pride Cup this year Benalla and Echuca play off 15th June, to include Ardmona Murchinson and Tallamba. Out in The Open festival will be a week long program in November 2019. Carnival events occur on Sunday this year, not the Saturday, as in previous years.

1. Visual/safety group – report back Benalla Shire flying Pride flag at IDAHOBIT. Range of flags available $25.00 from GV Pride.
2. **General Business** COP DPC June 12th at Benalla BPAC- Survey to be circulated top 5 issues to Alliance Members. (Georgie) Michelle an apology for COP on Annual Leave.Awaiting formal invitations from DPC.

Rainbow Ready template is an alternative to the HOW2.

GV Pride Grants 200.00 June and July

1. **New Business –** New members to Alliance (Welcome) Kyle Podesser – Rumbalara Rainbow Tick

Michelle and Sarah Roberts (ex Gateway Gender Service) now at GOTafe Shepparton Campus – Inclusion and Equity branch. Congratulation to Way Out Wodonga and the Albury Wodonga Alliance for the success of the Regional Youth Rainbow Ball

**10. Action Log -**

**11. Other Business**

**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 | Vincent Care 30 people attended  Gateway health 2 x events |
| May 17 | IDAHOBIT DAY | GOTAFE, Latrobe Uni, Vincentcare, and Uniting BBQ Flag raising celebration |
| August 30 | Wear It Purple Day (last Friday in August annually) | Organise July 23rd meeting |
| October 31 – Nov 6 | OUTintheOPEN Festival 2019 |  |

**13. Next Meeting**

**Date:** July 23rd T**ime:** 3pm – 5pm

**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 | Meeting cancelled as quorum not set |
| June 12th  Benalla Regional Roadshow  DPC | BPAC  Benall Performing Arts Centre |  |  |  |
| June 20th  3-5pm | BENALLA  Uniting will drive their mini bus (12 seater) |  |  | Meeting cancelled as Roadshow took precedence |
| 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**

Invite Wodonga Service to come and share some of their successes and how they achieved them.

**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. |