

Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct Community Advisory Group Meeting Summary

Meeting details

Meeting title:	Community Advisory Group	No:	5
Date:	Tuesday, 13 November 2018	Time:	4.30pm to 5.30pm
Location:	Malmsbury Town Hall, 91 Mollison Street, Malmsbury VIC		

Attendees

Community Advisory Group Members: Andrew Lourey (Chair, General Manager, Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct), Christopher Bromley (community member), Christine Barker (community member), Tony Stephens (community member), Angela Hughes (Council member), Inspector Christopher Large (Victoria Police representative), Lenard Norman (Director, Youth Justice Custodial Services, DJR), Justin Sawyers (Director, Assets, Infrastructure and Major Projects, DJR).

Other attendees: Jan Noblett (Executive Director, Justice Health, DJR), Louise Baring (Communication Manager, New Builds, DJR)

Apologies

Baydon Widdicombe, (Aboriginal community member BADAC), Imogen Baratta (Communications Adviser, New Builds, DJR).

Meeting overview

Opening

The Chair opened the meeting and acknowledged the Open Letter to the community written by members of the group. The Chair thanked them for their open and honest feedback and acknowledged that the speed of CAG summaries being published on the website and communications could be increased.

Previous meeting and minutes

The item of recruitment from the previous meeting was discussed and CAG sought out an update on the campaign and the department confirmed the following:

- Two information sessions regarding job opportunities at the precinct have attracted a large number of applicants, with forty ongoing positions due to commence training in mid-January 2019
- Applications were coming in from the local area but also from Castlemaine, Newstead, Kyneton, Macedon, and Taradale. There was a very high number of quality applicants

- Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct is currently in the process of transitioning away from agency staff. The centre is aiming to phase out all agency by 2019, with a view to only employing permanent staff.

Communications, community feedback and community engagement

Community feedback and communications

Discussion was held on the current community feedback and communications with the community and the following was raised;

- The CAG members would like more communications from the department on the project and more information regarding the expansion works
- The group informed the department that to support communications to the community local newspapers should be targeted to media where possible including the Malmsbury Mail, Midland Express and the Bendigo Advertiser
- The community members on the CAG have established an email address for community members to submit their concerns and feedback, regarding the project
- Feedback has been received a number of emails from community that included;
 - Support for a name change of the precinct
 - Queries regarding fencing and negative visual impacts on the site, including the excavated soil, drum stockpile.

Community information session

- Discussion was held on the appropriateness and value of hosting a community information session about the project and hosting an Open Day for the community to view the bed expansion once completed.
- The department confirmed the handover of the completed build will take place in early March 2019, six weeks after the project is completed.
- After discussion and feedback from CAG members, it was agreed upon that the department should host a drop-in information session combined with an Open Day for the community (once expansion works are complete) and should:
 - include an opportunity for the community to meet precinct staff
 - provide an opportunity to view the expansion and works completed
 - include a sausage sizzle to ensure a warm and friendly atmosphere.
- The group noted an Open Day would be more beneficial than a drop-in session at the Malmsbury Town Hall. The group agreed to keep the option of a drop-in community information session on the agenda, should there be a need/desire to host one in the future.

Discussion was held on the development of a Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct Newsletter to support community information. It was agreed;

- the department develop a newsletter to support generating awareness about the project, the CAG and to keep the community informed through the precinct
- the Newsletter should be available online but in printed copies and distributed;

- Via Mail Drop
- Malmsbury Post Office
- Community Notice Boards.

Fencing, excavated soil and vegetation

Fencing and drum

Discussion on the fencing for the precinct and concerns over the drum stockpile and the drum colour once put on the fence.

Community highlighted that the fence has a large visual impact from the North and South of the Freeway.

Members queried if the drums and posts were to be painted and how the department will minimise any negative impacts.

The department confirmed;

- the fence will be painted a dark or muted colour
- focus throughout that planning process had been on the wire mesh and posts and recognise that drums are more of a concern for community
- Woodland Grey' has been raised as a colour to use for the fence to fit in with Heritage Victoria requirements. The department will seek advice from the architects on the most appropriate colour and share with the group
- painting of the drum and posts will be further confirmed by the department

Members raised if/how the community were informed about the fencing prior to it being erected and the department confirmed;

- Council processes were strictly followed to inform surrounding community members of the fencing, including a letter drop and signage that was located at areas stipulated by the Council.

Vegetation

Discussion on landscaping vegetation and reducing the visual impacts of the facility over time.

The department;

- confirmed planting is taking place in front of the fences
- showed members a revegetation diagram, including rendered images of the fence, which displays what the plans would look like in five years
- agreed to share a remediation and vegetation plan once available (likely the next meeting).

Excavated Soil

Discussion on the excavated soil that is opposite the Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre near the freeway entrance to town and community concern over negative visual impacts.

The department confirmed;

- the building contractor has previously entered into an agreement with Council to use this site, and to level the surface and make it suitable for shredding in the future
- it will instruct the building contractor to bring these works forward
- any future planning and use of this site is a decision for Council.

The department noted a site tour could be organised for at the next meeting, noting this would be valuable to show further the works occurring.

Project update

A presentation on the current progress of construction was given to CAG members and the department noted;

- Construction is progressing, the first sixteen Bed Accommodation (Unit 1) the roofing installation complete, service rough-in commenced, steel windows and door frames currently being installed
- The second sixteen bed Accommodation (Unit 2) the structural steel installation is underway, with roofing to follow.
- The Education Recreation Building precast panel installation is complete with the structural steel underway.
- The Programs Recreation Building precast panel installation commencing week beginning 12 November.
- For the Gatehouse Expansion the External skin blockwork (bricks) is nearing completion with service rough in underway and the door and window frames installed
- Carpark Expansion the site establishment and works is scheduled to commence
- Engagement with Dja Ja Wurrang Clans Aboriginal Coop is occurring on the:
 - the scope of the landscaping works and planned vegetation
 - the procurement and supply of the landscaping package
 - design and artistic input by traditional owners.
- The date for construction completion early March delivery date for completion. The department reiterated the site tour at the next meeting, noting this would be valuable to show further the works occurring

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Justice Health

The Executive Director for Justice Health, Jan Noblett, spoke to the management of health services in youth justice centres as follows;

- Justice Health is a business unit within the Department of Justice and Regulation (DJR) responsible for the health service delivery across the adult prison system and custodial facilities for young people
- Justice Health set policy and standards for primary health and mental health and alcohol and drug treatment across 16 prisons and the youth justice centres
- The Department of Justice and Regulation undertook a tender process, in line with the department's formal tender process, for the provision of primary health and primary mental health services
- Following this competitive process, Correct Care Australasia was appointed sector
- Correct Care Australasia (or its predecessor/s) has been a long serving provider of correctional health services in the Victorian prison system since 1998 and has worked cooperatively and collaboratively with the department. Correct Care Australasia is currently the healthcare service provider for all public prisons in Victoria
- As a health service provider Correct Care Australasia must achieve health service accreditation through a health service accreditation body credentialed by either the Joint Accreditation System Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ), or the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua)
- To support the delivery of health care services to young people in custody the department has developed a new Health Standards Quality Framework that stipulates in detail the service delivery requirements that providers must comply with. This Framework did not previously exist. These standards were included in the tender process and apply to all areas of health care
- To manage services the department has a clinical team that audit service provision on the ground, looking at procedures and files, including audits of electronic medical records
- The services have been lifted by additional funding which will provide increased 24 hour services, including nursing and mental health nurses, increased general practitioner services, nursing staff to administer medications, appointment of an Aboriginal Health Worker. This level of service enables young people to be better managed within Custody and better triaged for any other specialist service
- The department also established relationships with the local hospital when Youth Justice first came over to the department in order to build a clear understanding of what services are in the centre and what medical care can't be delivered.

The VAGO report into Managing Rehabilitation Services in Youth Detention was also raised and the challenges that this report outlined, the department indicated that:

- through a separate open market tender process, Caraniche Pty Ltd was appointed to deliver youth offending programs that target sex offending, violence, family violence, motor vehicle offending and young offenders struggling with alcohol and drug addiction. Additional funding will support an uplift to this service as well.
- Management also acknowledged the need to ensure that staff are available to ensure young people can attend programs and described recent recruitment activity to support the centres.

Other business

Petition for a name change

The petition to change the *Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre to Coliban Youth Justice Centre* was noted by the group and will continue to monitor support raised and receive community feedback on the name change.

Insurance premiums

Discussion was held on community concern over perceived rise of insurance premiums due to incidents occurring at the Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct and:

- Victoria Police confirmed that any incidents occurring at the centre would not influence the Crime Statistics for Malmsbury as police members are able to tick a box that the crime occurred at the precinct
- Victoria Police suggested it would be more appropriate for the community advocate to the Insurance Council of Australia regarding their concerns.

Car parking and smoking on Racecourse Road

Discussion on precinct staff parking their cars and smoking on Racecourse Road that is of concern to community, the department confirmed the General Manager of the Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre will raise this issue with staff.

Floor plan

- Floor plan for the precinct was presented to CAG members who were able to stay to view it.