

Memorandum of Understanding Between City of Port Phillip and its and its Indigenous Community

Introduction

The development of a MOU with the Port Phillip Indigenous community was endorsed by Council on the 16th of December 1998. It sought to achieve common goals to advance reconciliation and to apply the citizenship rights of the Port Phillip Indigenous community.

The MOU was appropriately developed and launched in March 1999 and along with the Indigenous Action Plan firmly demonstrates the City of Port Phillip's commitment towards its goals.

This 2002 version represents a review and thus an update of the original MOU. The formulation of a new stream-lined approach to advising Council on all issues relating to service provision for the Indigenous community and Indigenous issues affecting all the community, underpins the strategic approach of the 2002 version.

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Commitment

Signatories to the Memorandum:

- Mayor, City of Port Phillip
- Binjirru ATSIC Regional Council ATSIC
- Ngwala Willumbong Cooperative
- Elders and representatives of the Kulin Nation people
- Indigenous community representative/s
- CEO, City of Port Phillip

Understandings

The City of Port Phillip has demonstrated a commitment to working collaboratively with the Indigenous community in striving to improve its service outcomes and thus the quality of life of the Indigenous community

This document outlines a set of principles with a strategic framework that ensures council is action -oriented towards its goals



Key characteristics of this document and the Indigenous action plan are rooted in the principles of human rights

Principles

Council

- acknowledges that Indigenous Australians were the first people on this land
- is committed to providing a formal framework for the Indigenous community to have an impact on Council decisions
- is committed to working with the Indigenous community and supporting the efforts of non-Indigenous Australians in understanding Indigenous culture and values
- will continue to demonstrate commitment to change in response to its evaluations of programs and services
- will take a leadership role in facilitating change within the general community towards services and programs that impact on the Indigenous community

Principles

The Indigenous community

- is committed to working with Council in the developmental process of providing accessible and appropriate local government services for the benefit of their community and therefore the whole community
- is committed to working together so that its programs and services have a greater opportunity to create sustainable change

Collaboration & Communication

- The City of Port Phillip will receive policy advice and guidance from a dynamic, new Indigenous Advisory Committee
- Membership of this committee will be drawn from Indigenous programs and services who are directly effected by Council's operations
- Key senior Council representatives will also be integral to this initiative
- This new stream lined approach will allow for a coordinated effort by Indigenous and non-Indigenous stakeholders
- Assessment and evaluation of Council's service effectiveness to its diverse community will be more culturally sensitive

Employment & Economic development

- Council's Indigenous Recruitment Strategy forms the basis of its commitment to Indigenous employment and economic development in the area
- In addition to this strategy Council will provide leadership and direction to develop further employment and business opportunities within the wider community



Culture & respect

Management and protection of sites of Indigenous cultural significance

- Public land for which Council is the responsible authority, and that is an identified site of cultural significance, or that may be site of cultural significance, subject to native title interest, is required to be protected by Council according to relevant legislation
- Furthermore, Council will develop a formal Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management and Protection Protocol, in accordance with the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984
- The Indigenous Advisory Committee will provide advice to Council for the programming of significant cultural reconciliatory events reconciliatory events

Social Justice & Equality

- Council remains committed to its Indigenous Action Plan Action Plan and its process of evaluation and review in line with Council's planning process
- The new Indigenous Advisory Committee will form an integral part of this evaluation and review

