
Maribyrnong LGBTIQA+ Community Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Maribyrnong LGBTIQA+ Community Advisory Group is to advise Council on the needs and lived experience of people who identify as, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, or allied/asexual (LGBTIQA+) in Maribyrnong.

2. Objectives

- 2.1 To inform Council on the emerging needs, issues and barriers facing LGBTIQA+ people in Maribyrnong.
- 2.2 To consider and provide advice to Council on key initiatives, programs and best practice options on culturally safe and inclusive actions that address the needs of LGBTIQA+ people, families and communities.
- 2.3 To work directly with Council to develop, implement and review the *LGBTIQA+ Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025*.
- 2.4 To support Council's commitment in promoting and advocating for equality, inclusion, diversity and human rights of the LGBTIQA+ people within the wider context of the Maribyrnong community.

3. Definitions

- a) **Deputy Chairperson** means an alternative delegate, in the absence of the Chairperson.
- b) **Chairperson** means the means either the Councillor as appointed by Council as its representative to the Group or the relevant Senior Officer of Council Staff.
- c) **Group** means the Maribyrnong LGBTIQA+ Community Advisory Group.
- d) **Community Member** is a member of the Group who is not a Councillor or a member of Council staff.
- e) **Council** means Maribyrnong City Council
- f) **Councillor** means a Councillor of Maribyrnong City Council.
- g) **LGBTIQA+** means an individual or members of the community who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, allied/asexual or other members.
- h) **Council Officers** means employees of Maribyrnong City Council.

4. Role and Responsibilities

The role of the Member is to support Council by providing information and considered advice on the needs of the LGBTIQA+ people, families and communities in Maribyrnong.

In addition Members will provide input into the development, implementation and review of the *LGBTIQA+ Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025*.

The role of Member is to also support Council in promoting and advocating for the needs of the LGBTIQA+ people, and when appropriate, to help disseminate key Council information.

The core responsibilities of the Group are:

- a) Assist Council in understanding the lived experience, local needs and issues associated with LGBTIQA+ people, families and communities.
- b) Provide advice on the development, implementation and review of the *LGBTIQA+ Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025*, and other Council policies and plans that may intersect with LGBTIQA+ life in the city.
- c) Provide a forum to engage and strengthen stakeholder relationships, networks and alliances for the LGBTIQA+ people within Maribyrnong
- d) Identify and advocate for new initiatives and partnership opportunities with Council and LGBTIQA+ people, Victorian Government, community organisations and the private sector.
- e) Promote and advocate for inclusive and safe LGBTIQA+ cultural experiences, businesses, spaces and places, events and festivals in the city.
- f) Provide advice to Council on projects, programs and/or initiatives that would benefit from a LGBTIQA+ perspective.

5. Membership

The Group will be convened by Council and shall comprise:

- a) Up to 3 Councillor representatives appointed by Council as members of the Advisory Group.
- b) At least one senior Council Officer from the Community Service Directorate, namely the Director Community Services or the Manager Community Development, Inclusion and Positive Ageing.
- c) Up to 10 community members.

- d) Up to 3 representatives from community controlled organisations, agencies or service providers who have a strategic link with LGBTIQ+ communities in Maribyrnong.

A broad representation of the community will be sought, based on ensuring a balance of gender, sexual orientation, age range, cultural diversity, disability and faith backgrounds.

6. Dates, Times and Places of Meetings

Times and dates of meetings of the Group shall be at the discretion of the Chairperson, after seeking the views of Members and the Chief Executive.

The Group will hold a minimum of three meetings throughout the year. Additional meetings throughout the period will be subject to the approval of the Chairperson.

Meetings shall be held at the Maribyrnong Town Hall or virtually.

An agenda for meetings held, will be delivered to each Member at least 48 hours prior to the date of each meeting.

7. Membership and Attendance

7.1 Appointments to the Group

Council shall undertake an expression of interest process calling for community members to establish the Group.

The following criteria shall apply for the selection of Members:

- a) Applicants must have a connection with the City of Maribyrnong e.g. live, work, study or have another demonstrated affiliation with the municipality;
- b) Qualifications, skills and other attributes of the applicant;
- c) A broad geographic distribution of applicants, in terms of the physical location and connection within municipality;
- d) Broad representation of applicants that reflect the diversity of Maribyrnong;
- e) Demonstrated knowledge of and commitment to gender and sexual orientation diversity, equality, and inclusion at a local, state, national or international level;
- f) Applicants must have an understanding of needs and risk factors impacting local LGBTIQA+ people, families and communities in Maribyrnong.

7.2 Guest Speaker

The Group may invite suitably skilled persons to attend a meeting at the request of the Chairperson as a guest speaker.

The role of the guest speaker is temporary and advisory and does not form part of the quorum.

7.3 Term of Appointment

Councillor members shall be appointed as members of the Committee for a period of one year, and will be appointed in November each year.

The period of appointment for Community members shall be for the duration of the existing Council term.

The period of appointment for professional membership shall be for the life of the Group, or as deemed necessary by the Chairperson.

7.4 Attendance

A Member shall endeavour to advise the Chairperson and/or Council Officer/delegate of non-attendance at any meeting.

7.5 Failure to Attend Meetings

Any Member who is unable to attend three (3) consecutive Group meetings shall notify the Chairperson or Council Officer/delegate in writing as to their availability to continue to be a member of the Group.

7.6 Resignation of a Member

A Member may resign from the Group by advising the Chairperson or Council Officer in writing.

7.7 Termination of Appointment

Council Officers may terminate a Member's appointment, declare the position vacant and seek to appoint a new member, should a Member breach the Terms of Reference for this Group.

8. Conflict of Interest

Members must disclose a Conflict of Interest in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

In the event of a Conflict of Interest arising the Member:

- (a) Must disclose the interest and clearly state the nature of the interest at the meeting before the matter is considered.
- (b) Must leave the room and not participate in any discussion and/or decision.
- (c) The disclosure must be recorded in the meeting minutes.

9. Quorum

A quorum is the majority of appointed Members, but must include either the Chairperson or Acting Chairperson.

If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, the meeting shall lapse. If a quorum fails after the commencement of the meeting, the meeting shall lapse.

Business that is unfinished at the completion of a meeting may at the discretion of the Chairperson be referred to the next meeting of the Group.

10. Chairperson

Meetings will be chaired by the Councillor appointed as Council's representative to the Group or a Senior Officer of the Community Services Directorate or delegate.

11. Duties and Discretions:

- (a) Act as the Chairperson of the Group, as appointed by Council.
- (b) Acknowledge and value the diverse views of all Group members.
- (c) Listen to, and represent the views of the Group by acting as the link between the Council and the Group.
- (d) Act as an advocate on behalf of the Group on recommendations presented at Council.
- (a) must not accept any motion, question or statement which is derogatory, or defamatory of any Councillor, Group member, member of Council staff, or member of the community.
- (b) must call to order any person who is disruptive or unruly during any meeting.

12. Operations

The Group has no budgetary responsibilities, decision-making powers or delegated authority but serves to make recommendations for Council's consideration.

The Group shall follow the general consensus principle, when determining its preferred position on matters under discussion.

Members will not publicly comment on behalf of the group. Neither will it seek to advocate on the needs of individual organisations.

The Council will provide the necessary support to assist the Group to function effectively including:

- (a) Maintaining contacts details of members.
- (b) Preparing and distributing agendas and prior reading materials.
- (c) Preparing and distributing meeting minutes.

13. Confidentiality

Information discussed, received, used or created by the Group is confidential, unless otherwise stated by the Chairperson.

A Member must not disclose, discuss or make public confidential information, unless authorised by Council Officers.

A Member must not permit any person who is not a member of the Group to view, read, and photocopy, make notes of or in any way record confidential information, unless authorised by Council Officers.

14. Review

A review of the role, function, membership and productivity of the Terms of Reference will be conducted once every four years or as required to ensure currency, effectiveness and stakeholder engagement.

Council retains the right to:

- (a) Review, amend or alter the operations and membership of this Group as it deems appropriate and necessary.
- (b) Revoked these Terms of Reference at any time.

Date of Lodgement: 16 November 2021

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