

Women's Charter Alliance Advisory Committee Update



This Report provides an update on the activities of the Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Alliance Advisory Committee since endorsement by Council on the 21 February 2012. The report covers the period from 21 February 2012 to January 2013.

About the Committee:

The Committee was formed in response to the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter which was endorsed by Council on 17 August 2010. The aim of the Charter is to support increased participation by women in local government, especially in the areas of gender equity, diversity and active citizenship.

The Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Alliance Advisory Committee is made up of Council Officers and community members and was formally endorsed on 21 February 2012. The Committee aims to progress the Charter principles of gender equity, diversity and active citizenship to create innovative ways to encourage leadership roles for women in all aspects of Council and community decision-making processes.

The Committee meets monthly to progress the Action Plan and discuss/plan activities.

Activity Update:

The below table outlines recent actions/activities undertaken by the Committee:

Project	Outline of Activity/Outcome/Progress
Create a profile for the Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A page was created on the Council website • This page is updated on a regular basis with information about the Committee and its actions, including photos of events.
International Women's Day Celebration – 8 March 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cocktail party style celebration held at the McIntosh Centre from 5pm-7pm on Thursday 8 March 2012 • The event was attended by approximately 140 people • The theme for the event was 'Connecting Girls, Inspiring Futures' • Attendees heard from young female leaders; Jamie Lea and Elaf Al-Tuhmazy and were entertained by Filipino and Indian dancers, including a musical performance by Cindy Doherty • An information display was set up providing information about the Council Elections • Feedback by attendees was positive with most indicating that they would attend future events held by the Committee • Feedback also identified a number of obstructions to women taking on leadership roles:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Family commitments ○ Lack of family support ○ Lack of self esteem/confidence ○ Outdated views on women's societal roles ○ Meeting hours.
Council elections – raise awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Information displays with flyers available were located in the Shepparton, Mooroopna and Tatura libraries and Council Offices Reception area ● Information displayed on Council's website ● A number of information sessions 'Standing for Election' were held, which included targeting Aboriginal, youth and CALD communities and women ● Suggest topics were forwarded to Shepp News to raise awareness of the elections and supporting women in all levels of leadership and decision-making.
Think More Women for Local Government Information Forum – 13 June 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An information session was held on Wednesday 13 June 2012 from 7pm-8.30pm ● There were a total of 28 attendees, with 8 potential female candidates ● The session was facilitated by Lisa McKenzie and attendees heard from Gavin Cator, Jeanette Powell Minister for Local Government, Moira Shire Mayor Councillor Alex Monk and Strathbogie Shire Councillor Colleen Furlanetto ● Attendees heard from the guest speakers about preparing a campaign, being elected, the role of a Councillor, making a difference in the community and experiences of being a Councillor.
Stall at Winter Bush Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Representatives from the committee provided a network opportunity to discuss women's issues.
Community Forum 5 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An invitation was sent out to all community members to come and discuss the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter ● The session was facilitated by Council representative Rosemary Pellegrino and focused on Gender Equality, Diversity & Active Citizenship. ● Presentations of recent achievements were made by Cr Fern Summer who welcomed attendee's participation. Community member Pat Moran presented views on Active Citizenship to inspire others and Council representative Wendy Clark spoke on the importance of considering gender equality in all levels of community and business. Rosemary also presented a summary of Diversity in Greater Shepparton and the importance of women's involvement to include participants from various

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	<p>population groups and cultures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Attendees enjoyed open discussions in response to key questions posed by each speaker relating to the three focus areas.
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Future Projects:

The Committee is currently reviewing its Action Plan which will define actions and activities for 2013. The Action Plan will be presented to Council when prepared and then actions progressed throughout 2013.

Some potential activities identified by the Committee to progress in 2013 include:

- Host an International Women's Day Event "Cooking and Comedy" in the evening, 8 March 2013.
- Increase awareness of the Committee and the Charter principles through media and use of promotional products (stickers, posters)
- Review Committee membership (as per Terms of Reference)
- An annual review of the committee's annual Action Plan
- Develop logo/icon for the Committee

Any queries about the Committee can be directed to Charter Champion, Councillor Fern Summer, or Support Person Jacklyn Lamb.

