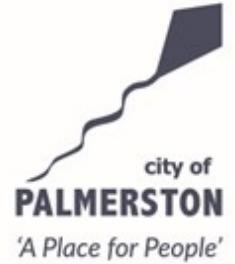


AGENDA



COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2025

The Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting of City of Palmerston will be held in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston, NT 0830 commencing at 5:30 PM.


Council business papers can be viewed on City of Palmerston's website palmerston.nt.gov.au or at the Council Office located at Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston NT 0830.

ANDREW WALSH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

2 OPENING OF MEETING

3 APOLOGIES

4 AUDIO/AUDIOVISUAL CONFERENCING

4.1 Request for audio/audiovisual conferencing

4.2 Audio/Audio visual conferencing previously granted

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

5.1 Committee members

5.2 Staff

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of minutes

THAT the Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting held on 25 March 2025 pages 49 to 54 be confirmed.

6.2 Business arising from previous meeting

7 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

8 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

8.1 Moving confidential items into open

8.2 Moving open items into confidential

8.3 Confidential items

Nil

9 OFFICER REPORTS

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Meeting

Agenda Item:	9.1.1
Report Title:	Community Inclusion Update - May 2025
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 10 June 2025
Author:	Community Inclusion and Projects Officer, Tree Gillam
Approver:	General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl

Community plan

Cultural Diversity: In Palmerston we celebrate our cultures in a way that values our diversity.

Purpose

This Report provides the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee with a Community Inclusion update.

Key messages

- City of Palmerston is dedicated to fostering a community where all individuals have equal rights to access Council services, activities, events, and facilities.
- The development of the 2026-2028 Disability Inclusion and Access Plan has commenced.
- City of Palmerston's Recreation Centre became the 2nd Dementia-Friendly building in Palmerston, with Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell receiving a certification of achievement from the CEO of Dementia Australia, Tanya Buchannan.
- City of Palmerston is installing strobe lights on existing fire alarms to ensure they effectively alert deaf individuals when the alarm is activated.
- A review of access issues for carers and people with disabilities is being conducted, focusing on the location of all-abilities parking bays at the Recreation Centre entrance.

- Sanctuary Lakes Playground now has two (2) disability access and inclusion elements.

Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Community Inclusion Update - May 2025 be received and noted.
2. THAT the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee provide advice and input into actions that could further strengthen the outcome of the Disability, Inclusion and Access Plan:
 - a.

Background

City of Palmerston (CoP) is committed to creating a community where every individual is given equal rights in their ability to access Council services, including activities, events, and facilities. In July 2021, Council adopted the Inclusive Diverse Accessible (IDA) Policy Framework, created as a supporting document to City of Palmerston's Community Plan. In alignment with the IDA, Council adopted the Disability Inclusion and Access Plan 2022 – 2025 (DIAP) in September 2022.

The Disability Inclusion and Access Plan (DIAP) was developed in collaboration with people with disability as well as those who have lived experience of the challenges faced by people with disability. The DIAP establishes a series of goals and corresponding actions, designed to remove barriers to fair participation in Council services, programs, and events. This was the first plan developed by City of Palmerston to improve access and inclusion for Palmerston residents and visitors.

The development of Disability Inclusion and Access Plan 2026–2028 is currently in progress.

Discussion

Disability Inclusion and Access Plan 2026-2028

A working Group is being formed toward the development of the DIAP 2026–2028. The group will include key services and community members identified through a public expression of interest.

City of Palmerston will be working with a consultant to support the DIAP Working Group. Together, we will consider future goals and actions to improve access and inclusion across Palmerston. Consultation will aim to gather meaningful input from residents with lived experience, ensuring the plan is authentic and meets the diverse needs of our community.

The Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee is invited to discuss the Disability Inclusion and Access Plan and suggest actions Council could consider in addressing and enhancing the Plan outcomes.

The 2022-2025 DIAP being **Attachment 9.1.1.1** is provided to the Committee as an update on achievements to date. Actions currently in progress from the existing DIAP will be carried over into the draft 2026–2028 Plan.

Dementia Australia (DA) –Dementia-Friendly Facility - Recreation Centre

The Recreation Centre has become the 2nd Dementia-Friendly building in City of Palmerston, thanks to collaboration between Council staff and Dementia Australia.

On 3 May 2025, Tanya Buchannan, CEO of Dementia Australia, presented Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell with a certificate recognising this achievement.



CEO CoP, Andrew Walsh, Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell,
CEO Dementia Australia, Tanya Buchannan, Tree Gillam and General Manager
Community, Konrad Seidl

Following the presentation, a morning tea was held where the CEO discussed advocacy efforts regarding the [National Dementia Action Plan 2024-2034](#) and highlighted Dementia Australia's strategic priorities:

- Stigma and Discrimination,
- Brain Health and Risk Reduction,
- Enabling People Impacted by Dementia to Thrive, and
- Workforce Upskilling.

Deaf Awareness Fire Alarms

Following the Deaf Awareness Training, City of Palmerston explored ways to make the Recreation Centre more accessible for people who are hard of hearing or deaf.

A solution was identified to install strobe lights on existing fire alarms with the word Fire written beside each alarm, providing a visual alert to ensure that people who are hard of hearing are aware when the alarm is activated. This is especially important in noisy environments where audible alarms may not be easily noticed.

An audit of the Library and Civic Plaza is underway to install the lights on all existing fire alarms, further enhancing accessibility across city facilities.

During the dementia walk-through, it was found that the existing evacuation plans were too small. To address this, larger, more visible evacuation plans to be installed in the Recreation Centre, Library and Civic Plaza.

All Abilities Parking

In response to feedback regarding access issues at the Recreation Centre for carers and people with disabilities, City of Palmerston is installing one new all-abilities parking bay and three (3) drop-and-go bays on Frances Drive.

Following an audit of accessible parking bays in Civic Plaza and the CBD, works will be conducted to ensure bays conform with current standards.

Additionally, a new small waiting area in the foyer, featuring three (3) seating bays, chairs, and a table, has been well-received, providing a comfortable space for people to wait while their carer retrieves the car.

Council remains committed to improving accessibility and exploring further solutions.

Sanctuary Lakes Playground

This month, the playground at Sanctuary Lakes, Gunn has been enhanced with two (2) additional disability access and inclusion features.

The first improvement is the installation of wheelchair-accessible ramps around the castle structure, which will improve mobility and inclusivity for children using wheelchairs.

The second addition is an interactive Auslan hand sign symbol play activity, promoting inclusive communication and engagement for children who use sign language.

These upgrades aim to create a more accessible and inclusive environment, fostering social interaction and play opportunities for children of all abilities.



Wheelchair accessible ramp to the Castle



Auslan Hand Sign Symbol play activity

Consultation and marketing

In preparing this Report, the following City of Palmerston staff were consulted:

- Senior Project Manager
- Project Support Officer

In preparing this Report, the following external parties were consulted:

- Managing Director Defend Fire

Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

Budget and resource implications

There are no budget or resource implications relating to this Report at this time.

Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

- 1. Community Safety**
Failure of Council to effectively plan and deliver its role in community safety.
- 4. Inclusion, Diversity and Access**
Failure to balance meeting needs of Palmerston's cultural mosaic.

Strategies, framework and plans implications

This Report relates to the following City of Palmerston Strategies, Framework and Plans:

- [Disability Inclusion Access Plan 2022-2025](#)
- [Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework](#)

Council officer conflict of interest declaration

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

Attachments

- 1. 20250403 DIAP Tracking Document for Wellbeing Meeting [9.1.1.1 - 10 pages]**

DISABILITY INCLUSION AND ACCESS PLAN (DIAP) – TRACKING DOCUMENT

KEY:

Year of implementation,
embedded actionYear commenced, in
progress

Not yet commenced

Civic Engagement					
Goal	Action	Year of implementation			Progress Notes
Goal 1 More people with disabilities are involved with Council's consultation, planning and advisory activities.	1.1 Recruit people of all abilities from diverse backgrounds for City of Palmerston committees.	22/23	23/24	24/25	Expressions of interest for committee memberships are inclusive and aim to attract a diverse range of community stakeholders.
	1.2 Include guidance about recruitment and engagement with people with disabilities in committee establishment documents e.g. Terms of Reference				Conduct a review of Palmerston's network membership requirements, including external communications and network marketing, to ensure that accessibility evolves in alignment with the current needs of both network members and the community.

	1.3 Implement an Accessible and Inclusive Guide for consultation and committee convenors covering content and format of documents and meetings e.g. Easy Read, Auslan, Large Print, Audio, Braille etc.				Explore the ability to access Council plans and Strategies in different languages, with the aim of meeting Palmerston's diversity.
	1.4 Include community forums and consultations in planned events				Integration of City of Palmerston's Community Engagement Policy and Practices.
Goal 2 People with disabilities have more opportunities to use and develop their leadership and advocacy skills	2.1 Develop, promote and support leadership and civic engagement programs and activities.				Promote existing Networks and Committees and build capacity and leadership skills through training and programs.

Community Leisure and Social Participation					
Goal	Action				Progress Notes
Goal 3 More people with disabilities are participating in Council's community social, recreation and leisure activities and events.	3.1 Ensure that plans for events and activities are designed for all abilities and include identifying and addressing barriers such as promotional material format, physical access, sensory environment, toilets/change rooms, drop-off zones, parking, transport, and timing.	22/23	23/24	24/25	Event plans consider accessibility and barriers to inclusion, which include wheelchair access for events held on grass, all access ramps for major events such as Palmerston Youth Festival and Australia Day. Promotional materials available in hardcopy, radio advertisement newspaper advertisement, social media platforms and City of Palmerston Website. Low sensory retreat spaces have been incorporated into major events such as Geekfest Top End and Christmas Wonderland.
	3.2 Report feedback from people with disability after events and activities.				Feedback is collated and used to inform future projects and event planning.
	3.3 Consult young people with disability to identify how we can improve activities for youth and young adults.				Broaden networking opportunities by attending established groups to ensure consultation with young people.

	3.4 Develop and implement 'Accessible and Inclusive Events Guidelines.'				Development of the guidelines is in progress.
	3.5 Include clear information about accessibility in promotional material and advertising for events in accessible formats.				Refreshed branding and style guides have enhanced the readability of promotional materials and are more easily recognisable as Council initiatives. Subtitles accompany all television advertising.
	3.6 Distribute promotion material for events and activities through disability groups, networks, and service providers.				Strong networks have been established. All relevant projects and events are shared at network meetings and via various digital channels.

Economic Participation

Goal	Action	Year of implementation			Progress Notes
Goal 4 More local employment for people with disability.	4.1 Ensure Council's employment and volunteer policies and procedures meet national standards for inclusion and accessibility.	22/23	23/24	24/25	Conduct a review of employment and volunteer policies against the national standards.

	4.2 Encourage and support local businesses and organisations to access NT and Australian government disability employment programs.				Provide workshop opportunities for local businesses.
	4.3 Purchase goods and services (within local government procurement policy requirements) from local organisations that are run by or employ people with disabilities.				Vendors employing people with disabilities are used to conduct various activities for the Council, such as fabrication and the supply of services.
Goal 5 More local businesses and organisation benefit from customers and patrons with disability.	5.1 Encourage and support local businesses to be disability confident, accessible, and inclusive through Council's business networks and forums.				Research and implement support for local businesses to become confident with accessibility and inclusivity and provide this information through Council networks and forums.
	5.2 Review and identify opportunities to increase access and inclusion in the commitments and actions in the Palmerston Local Economic Plan.				Review A review will commence before the end of 2025.
	5.3 Promote the NT Government's disability information hub ¹¹ through Council's local business networks.				Action will commence before the end of 2025.

Built and Natural Environment					
Goal	Action	Year of implementation			Progress Notes
Goal 6 Council facilities and buildings are inclusive and accessible for people of all abilities.	6.1 Regular accessibility reviews of all existing venues, facilities, equipment, and furnishings.	22/23	23/24	24/25	The establishment of priorities for enhancing accessibility features at existing Council facilities has commenced, with all venues being reviewed.
	6.2 Review infrastructure developments, redevelopments, and refurbishments to ensure they meet accessibility and inclusion standards and Universal Design principles.				SWELL Palmerston has been designed to support people of all abilities. All new park designs and refurbishments incorporate all abilities play equipment. All future design projects embed access and inclusion.
	6.3 Seek feedback from and involve people with disability inclusion and access reviews and plans.				Input will be sort during the process of developing the 2025-2028 Disability, Inclusion and Access Plan.
	6.4 Implement the access and inclusion improvements in the City of Palmerston Play Space Strategy, which supports the NT Disability Strategic Action Plan 2022 -2025.				The DIAP representative is involved in the park redevelopment and refurbishment projects. The redevelopment of Marlow's and Sanctuary Lakes Playground was undertaken in consultation with representatives from Community Development (owners of DIAP), who provided advice on access and inclusion improvements. As a result, the designers have considered things such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muted/natural colour palette for play elements and soft fall to avoid sensory overload

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More inclusive play elements such as birds nest swing sets, multi-user spinning activities, and ramp access to platforms and slides and • Musical elements to increase the sensory play experience of the parks.
	6.5 Install more accessible signage, including visual aids and graphics, Braille, and tactile markers				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of priorities for enhancing accessibility features at existing Council facilities. • Council is working with Darwin Plastic Makers to trial the development of tactile symbols for waste bins so that vision impaired people are aware of which bin is for general waste and which is for the recycling waste stream.
	6.6 Review and identify opportunities to increase and improve accessible toilet and changing rooms in development, redevelopment and refurbishment plans and strategies.				All Council facilities have accessible features, including bathroom provisions. Opportunities to increase accessibility are identified and reviewed during the asset renewal processes.
Goal 7 Transport and parking in Palmerston are more accessible.	7.1 Review and identify opportunities to improve transport and parking access in the commitments and actions in infrastructure plans such as the Central Palmerston Area Plan.				City of Palmerston collaborates with Transit Safety and public bus provider CDC to ensure safe and accessible travel. Parking in Palmerston is free to remove any barriers that may prevent access to essential amenities.

Communication					
Goal	Action	Year of implementation			Progress Notes
Goal 8 Council information is provided in accessible formats.	8.1 Review the Council website, social media and council documents to ensure compliance with national standards and guidelines.	22/23	23/24	24/25	Implementation of City of Palmerston's brand refresh to improve readability and brand recognition of all documentation, including reports, promotional material, and policies.
	8.2 Provide information in accessible formats such as large print, Plain English, Easy Read, dyslexic font, audio recordings, captions, Auslan and Braille				Adapt and implement new communication tools and tactics by providing accessible information to meet the community's growing or changing needs.
Goal 9 Palmerston residents have accessible choices when communicating with Council.	9.1 Provide multiple accessible and inclusive communication options including online posters and newsletters, captions for audio visual communication, telephone and in person.				City of Palmerston offers face-to-face engagement, email, phone, social media, newsletter, letters delivered door to door, and website communication strategies. Captions are added to all audio-visual communication.
	9.2 Review and update Council enquiries, feedback, and complaints' mechanisms to ensure people of all abilities have clear and easy ways to communicate with Council.				Promotional and information-sharing materials are provided in clear and simplistic formats. The community has a wide range of engagement opportunities available to them.

Community Leisure and Social Participation					
Goal	Action				Progress Notes
Goal 10 Council's commitment to inclusion and access to people of all abilities is embedded in our culture.	10.1 Assign a lead team within Council to champion this plan.	22/23	23/24	24/25	The Community Development Team leads the implementation and education for internal and external stakeholders.
	10.2 Provide staff with Disability awareness, mental health first aid and other relevant training, prioritising training that is developed and delivered by people with disability and people with lived experience.				City of Palmerston employees are provided with training during the onboarding process and periodically during employment.
	10.3 Ask people with disability and people with lived experience about their experiences with Council.				People with disabilities are engaged through events programs and when using facilities. Surveys are provided to key stakeholders to complete with clients. International Day of People with Disability is used as an opportunity to engage with people with lived experience
	10.4 Include questions about disability inclusion and access in Staff surveys.				Inclusion questions have been added to internal questionnaires.

	10.5 Nominate Council staff and Palmerston citizens for exceptional work in promoting inclusion, diversity, and accessibility to local, Territory and Australian inclusion awards programs.				Employees and Elected Members support awards programs and opportunities for community recognition.
Goal 11 Inclusion and Accessibility principles are applied across all Council services, programs, and activities.	11.1 Ensure that online services meet the Australian Governments Digital Service Standard Criteria.				Regular reviews are conducted on City of Palmerston's website using Monsido software to maintain standards.
	11.2 Include inclusion and accessibility in internal Council services and work planning processes				Reflected in all planning processes, including training, team building, and personal development opportunities.
	11.3 Identify opportunities to increase inclusion and accessibility in reviews of Council policies, procedures, and processes.				Policies and procedures are reviewed as per the review schedule and opportunities to improve practice are embedded.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Meeting

Agenda Item:	9.2.1
Report Title:	Community Services Network Update
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 10 June 2025
Author:	Community Development Officer, India Etherington
Approver:	General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl

Community plan

Cultural Diversity: In Palmerston we celebrate our cultures in a way that values our diversity.

Purpose

This Report provides Council with an update from the Palmerston Kids Network meeting and the Palmerston and Rural Youth Services Network meeting.

Key messages

- The 3rd Palmerston Kids Network (PKN) was held at the Palmerston Recreation centre on 23 May 2025.
- The 3rd Palmerston and Rural Youth Services (PARYS) Network meeting was held at the Palmerston Recreation Centre on 20 May 2025.
- The 2nd Palmerston Seniors Network meeting was held on 7 May 2025.


Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Community Services Network Update be received and noted.

Background

Palmerston Kids Network

Palmerston Kids Network (PKN) brings together a dedicated group of professionals from various organisations committed to delivering essential services and programs for children aged 0-12 and their families. PKN meetings offer a vital platform for collaboration, allowing members to exchange information, address community concerns, and spark innovative



initiatives. These gatherings are an excellent opportunity for sector updates, enabling the sharing of valuable resources and insights that help the entire community.

Palmerston and Rural Youth Services Network

Palmerston and Rural Youth Services (PaRYS) is a large group of professionals representing organisations providing services and programs paramount to improving the future for Palmerston young people. The Network provides a much-needed collaborative space for services to share funding opportunities, community programs and events for Palmerston youth. The agenda features a regular Service Spotlight segment, where organisations present an overview of their services, followed by a discussion and question and answer session to address any barriers to inclusion.

Palmerston Seniors Network

Palmerston Seniors Network (PSN) offers a collaborative platform for networking, sector updates, and raising awareness of critical issues affecting seniors in the Palmerston community. A dedicated group of 10 members consistently takes part in the Network, representing a diverse range of senior-focused organisations and service providers in the region. This committee fosters communication, advocates for seniors, and addresses key concerns impacting this demographic.

Discussion

Palmerston Kids Network (PKN)

PKN was held on 23 May at the Palmerston Recreation Centre with the following organisations in attendance.

- Danila Dilba
- Autism NT
- Services Australia
- Australian Childhood Foundation
- 54 Reasons
- Kentish Community Services

The service spotlight for the 3rd PKN of 2025 was facilitated by Chanel Baily from the Australian Childhood Foundation, launching their new program, *Safe Connections*. It is designed to support children, young people and families who are presenting or have been affected by Harmful Sexualised Behaviours and provides both a clinical approach and counselling for families.

Other topics discussed:

- Current events and activities that City of Palmerston will be facilitating, including the variety of free events available to the public.
- A working group for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day in August 2025.
- A working group to begin planning the community event that celebrates the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, Children's Week, and commence planning for Article 42 of the Charter which is *Everyone must know Children's Rights*.

- The release of the Australian Early Development Census data that is due for release by mid-June 2025.
- Addressing the deficit of adequate service mapping in the Palmerston region, strategies to create and monitor this mapping and how as a region we can contribute to this mapping efficiently.
- Multicultural and culturally diverse events that will be available to the public such as the Darwin Community Expo and a guest speaker who will be sharing their unique settlement experience as a refugee to Australia.
- Plans for NAIDOC week celebrations and discussion about engagement opportunities for organisations.
- The ongoing success of the Hippy program in both educating families and preparing children, who are unable to attend formal schooling, to be school-ready.
- Autism NT have now completely re-branded, increased the adult caseloads to accommodate Palmerston residents who have Autism Spectrum needs, and their successful recruitment of clinicians and staff to begin Autism assessments for children to reduce the financial burden to families who require a diagnosis.
- Children who are in foster care or out of home care will now have increased representation in Palmerston with a new State Coordinator and Advocacy Lead Officer being appointed locally to plan and implement ongoing support.
- Discussion to form a working group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day in August 2025 has commenced and PKN members will work in partnership with Aboriginal Controlled Organizations and Providers to implement this annual celebration with City of Palmerston support.

PKN will reconvene for their 4th network meeting on the 23 July 2025 with further working group and sector updates.

Palmerston Rural and Youth Services Network (PARYS)

The PARYS Network was held on Tuesday 20 May 2025 the Palmerston Recreation Centre. The following organisations were in attendance:

- Services Australia
- Larrakia Nation
- PaRBA
- Office of Youth Affairs
- Legal Aid NT
- Catholic Care NT
- PYC
- Litchfield Council Shire
- Be You/Headspace
- Clinic 34
- Team Health
- The Salvation Army
- NDIS
- Catholic Care NT
- Canteen
- Ruby Gaea
- City of Palmerston Library
- CAAPS

Topics covered during the meeting included:

- Clinic 34 provided a service spotlight on their mini youth-oriented sexual health sessions to upskill service providers and youth workers with current, meaningful approaches to sexual health education for youth.
- Numerous organisations have expressed increased interest and capacity for community engagement opportunities such as at sporting events, in school contact, council events etc.
- There are at least four (4) new youth programs available in the Palmerston area including an All abilities Basketball session with PaRBA, Ruby Gaea are working on creating a “Young Voices for Action” Network to reduce Sexual Violence, Team Health are slowly increasing attendance at the Tuning into Kids for Dads program which is designed to provide wellbeing support and guidance for young dads and Litchfield Shire Council are utilising their facilities in Berry Springs to upskill youth in that area to obtain their First Aid qualifications and White Card
- Discussion was shared about the most practical means of Legal Aid NT delivering a service spotlight on current Laws that impact on young people and how service providers can share this information into their networks effectively. Legal Aid will create a presentation for the PARYS meeting set for 22 July 2025’.
- A detailed update was provided to the network on behalf of City of Palmerston, including an overview of all CoP’s upcoming dry season events, that the Long-Term Financial Plan 2026–2035 is now available on the website for consultation, and a summary of the remaining business workshops scheduled for 2025.
- Other areas considered hot topics that will be addressed in the July 2025 meeting will be the increased reporting/presence of youth gang related crime, bus interchange anti-social behaviours and volatile substance use in public spaces.



PARYS members taking part in sexual health education with Clinic 34

Palmerston Seniors Network (PSN)

The most recent PSN meeting was held on 7 May 2025. 11 members attended the 2nd meeting of 2025. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, with a special welcome given to the newest member, the representative for Palmerston Probus Club.

City of Palmerston updated the group on actions from the previous meeting, advising that the lights in the gazebo at Cunningham Park had been fixed at the beginning of February.

An update was given on dry season events and links to where to find them on City of Palmerston's [Website](#).

The following organisations gave updates:

- COTA
- PROBUS
- Healthy Living NT
- NT Breathe Easy S.T.A.A.R.S/Simply Craft
- Air NT
- PLSA
- Rotary Darwin
- 50+ Club
- Dementia Australia
- Services Australia
- Arthritis and Osteoporosis NT (AONT)

Topics covered during the meeting included:

- Scared Seniors: Seniors being afraid to go out at night and no longer go walking in the evening. They are also finding on their morning walks, in certain locations large number of rough sleepers, which also makes them feel unsafe.
- Cost of Living: Cost of living is so high all over Australia. Financial counselling is available through organisations such as Catholic Care, Anglicare, Sommerville and Vinnies.
- Food Bank: With the cost of living so high, it has been suggested that CoP staff approach Food Bank as a guest speaker to give the Network an update on what they provide, who is eligible and how to access the vouchers.

Consultation and marketing

There was no consultation or marketing required during the preparation of this Report.

Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

Budget and resource implications

There are no budget or resource implications relating to this Report.

Risk, legal and legislative implications


This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

4. Inclusion, Diversity and Access

Failure to balance meeting needs of Palmerston's cultural mosaic.

Strategies, framework and plans implications

This Report relates to the following City of Palmerston Strategies, Framework and Plans:

- 
- [Disability Inclusion Access Plan 2022-2025](#)
 - [Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework](#)

Council officer conflict of interest declaration

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

Attachments

Nil

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Meeting

Agenda Item:	9.2.2
Report Title:	Library Wellbeing Events and Programs
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 10 June 2025
Author:	Library Services Manager, Hayley Arkinstall
Approver:	General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl

Community plan

Family and Community: Palmerston is a safe and family friendly community where everyone belongs.

Purpose

This Report seeks to inform the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee of the programs the library delivers that contribute to community wellbeing.

Key messages

- The library provides a diverse range of programs that cater to different age groups and community needs that are designed to support literacy, social interaction, mental health, and personal development.
- In recent months, the library has delivered Youth Week Recording Studio Experience, All-in Activities and National Simultaneous Storytime along with the regular library programming.
- Upcoming events include Afternoon Art Adventures, School Holiday Program, and Science Week.
- The library partners with external organisations to provide information sessions and community support.
- Programs for all ages to encourage lifelong learning and community connection.

Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Library Wellbeing Events and Programs be received and noted.

Background

The library has a strong history of delivering programs that support literacy, community engagement, and wellbeing. Through supporting external services, facilitating spaces for external programs and library staff delivering programs internally and outreach programs, the library offers an array of activities that cater to different demographics. These programs align with the library's mission to be a hub for information, learning, and social connection.

Discussion

Library programming is an important service that the library delivers. Programs bridge the economic gap and give people the opportunity to participate in social and educational activities which decreases isolation and loneliness, provides entertainment, encourages lifelong learning and teaches new skills, especially job seeking and digital skills.

Along with regular programming, the library has held several larger events in the recent months targeting specific groups of the demographic. These include:

Recording Studio Experience

The library delivered a Youth Week program in April which was centred around the Gulwa Recording Studio. A barrier to using the recording studio is the knowledge needed to use the sound recording equipment. The library hired the services of a professional sound technician for the week so that young people had the opportunity to either learn the technology skills of content producing or have their content produced.

This event helped to develop their technological skillsets and give an outlet for their creativity, all while developing a professional product. It was a successful event with 16 young participants attending and included a variety of talent from two (2) bands, four (4) solo artists, a voice over artist and two (2) participants wanting to learn the technological side. The event was such a success that the library will be planning to possibly deliver it as an annual event and during school holidays, pending grant funding.



National Simultaneous Storytime

On 21 May, the library held an event for National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS). NSS is an annual event that is supported by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), where each year a children's book is written and illustrated by an Australian author

and illustrator and then read simultaneously throughout Australia in libraries, schools and any other organisation that wish to participate.

This year *The Truck Cat* by Deborah Frenkel was chosen and to go with the theme, the library held a storytime in Goyder Square which featured a volunteer fire truck, a garbage truck, ranger's Ute, ambulance and police car for the attendees to explore. The event also had a jumping castle, petting zoo, face painter and free BBQ. The event was well attended by approximately 150 people and promoted a love of reading and lifelong learning and social inclusion. The event was featured in the NT News with quotes from the attendees such as:

- "I attended last year, but it was just inside and normal story time, and today we are celebrating it as an event, so it is making a big difference, and I like it a lot."
- A participant whose son loved the petting zoo so much said: "He's having so much fun"
- "We didn't know it was on ... but it's very friendly and open"
- "It's just something so close to home"
- "It's a free and open event, so it makes it so much more inviting for everyone to just feel welcomed."
- "We're just very excited to be here; the children are very excited to get out and about and do some things."
- Another participant said the children were most excited about the jumping castle, but she noted "once they saw the sausages, that's all they wanted".



All-in Activities

All-in Activities is a new regular fortnightly program that is aimed toward the adult demographic. The library was expecting to attract the senior demographic, however along with seniors, there has been a large participation from across the adult age groups.

Participants can attend and follow an instructional art class, create art of their own desire or simply play board games and socialise with other attendees. The classes have had large attendance and popularity, and with feedback advising that participants would like to attend weekly, which will be explored in the new financial year.

This program encourages lifelong learning, promotes creativity and increases socialisation and has been attracting approximately 10 to 20 participants per session.

In the upcoming months the library will continue with our usual programming of:

- Storytimes,
- Nurserytimes,

- Gadgets & Games,
- Lego Club, Code Club,
- Geek Squad, All-in Activities,
- NBN Digital Literacy classes.

And facilitating the space for external organisations such as:

- the Information Hub- which is where external community organisations promote their services,
- Danilla Dilba running the after-school youth program,
- DJ Charly delivering DJ workshops.



The library will also be holding the following programs and events:

Afternoon Art Activities

With the popularity of our art classes during Late Nights at the Library and All-in Activities, we received feedback from the community requesting a weekend option. In response, Afternoon Art Activities have commenced on the last Sunday of each month where participants can follow along with a local artist and take home their own canvas masterpiece.

School Holiday Program

The library delivers a range of school holiday programs, and the upcoming June/July holidays will feature a variety of arts and craft activities and workshops. NAIDOC Week falls within this period and will feature a variety of Aboriginal-themed activities by Dingo Cockatoo, with additional activities to be confirmed.

Science Week

Science week will take place in August, and the library will host a range of science themed activities in partnership with Charles Darwin University, including creating your own weather station.

The library consistently reviews its programs to ensure they meet the needs of the community. Along with meeting the outcomes of City of Palmerston's Community Plan, the library also works to fulfil the objectives outlined in the Public Library Funding Agreement by adhering to the Library & Archives NT Libraries Connecting Communities Strategic Vision 2023 – 2028. Website found here: <https://lant.nt.gov.au/vision-public-libraries>

Consultation and marketing

There was no consultation or marketing required during the preparation of this Report.

Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

Budget and resource implications

There are no budget or resource implications relating to this Report.

Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

1. **Community Safety**
Failure of Council to effectively plan and deliver its role in community safety.
4. **Inclusion, Diversity and Access**
Failure to balance meeting needs of Palmerston's cultural mosaic.

Strategies, framework and plans implications

This Report relates to the following City of Palmerston Strategies, Framework and Plans:

- [Disability Inclusion Access Plan 2022-2025](#)
- [Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework](#)

Council officer conflict of interest declaration

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

Attachments

Nil



10 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Information

10.2 Correspondence

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

12 NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

THAT the next Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting of Council be scheduled following the 2025 Local Government Election and Declaration of the Poll.

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING



MINUTES

COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2025

The Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting of City of Palmerston held in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston, NT 0830.

Council business papers can be viewed on City of Palmerston's website:
palmerston.nt.gov.au

UNCONFIRMED

Minutes of Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting
held in Council Chambers
Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston
on Tuesday 25 March 2025 at 5:30pm.

PRESENT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Councillor Danielle Eveleigh (Chair) Councillor Sarah Henderson (Member) Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell Nhi Tran (<i>Proxy for Gabrielle Brown</i>), Acting Executive Director, Children and Families Programs Senior Sergeant Siiri-Kai Tennosaar, Northern Territory Representative Sheryl Sephton, Senior Community Member
STAFF	Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Walsh General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl Community Services Manager, Laura Hardman Manager Library Services, Hayley Arkinstall Minute Secretary, Georgina Davies
GALLERY	Nil

Initials: _____

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

City of Palmerston acknowledges the Larrakia people as the Traditional Custodians of the Palmerston region. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future leaders and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

2 OPENING OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:33pm.

3 APOLOGIES

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

1. THAT the apology received from Gabrielle Brown for 25 March 2025 be received and noted.
2. THAT the apology received from Veronica Matipira for 25 March 2025 be received and noted

CARRIED (5/0) - CWAC10/84 - 25/03/2025

4 AUDIO/AUDIOVISUAL CONFERENCING

4.1 Request for audio/audiovisual conferencing

Nil

4.2 Audio/Audio visual conferencing previously granted

Nil

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

5.1 Committee members

Nil

5.2 Staff

Nil

Initials: _____

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of minutes

Moved: Siiri Tennosaar
Seconded: Sheryl Sephton

THAT the Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting held on 5 December 2024 pages 44 to 48 be confirmed.

CARRIED (5/0) - CWAC10/85 - 25/03/2025

6.2 Business arising from previous meeting

Nil

7 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nil

8 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

8.1 Moving confidential items into open

Nil

8.2 Moving open items into confidential

Nil

8.3 Confidential items

Nil

9 OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 Action reports

Nil

Initials: _____

9.2 Receive and note reports

9.2.1 Community Services Network Update

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Siiri Tennosaar

THAT Report entitled Community Services Network Update be received and noted.

CARRIED (5/0) - CWAC10/86 – 25/03/2025

9.2.2 Palmerston Youth Festival Update

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Sheryl Sephton

THAT Report entitled Palmerston Youth Festival Update be received and noted.

CARRIED (5/0) - CWAC10/87 – 25/03/2025

Nhi Tran arrived in Chambers at 5:45pm.

9.2.3 Library Wellbeing Events and Programs

Moved: Sheryl Sephton
Seconded: Siiri Tennosaar

THAT Report entitled Library Wellbeing Events and Programs be received and noted.

CARRIED (6/0) - CWAC10/88 – 25/03/2025

9.2.4 Community Inclusion update

Moved: Councillor Henderson
Seconded: Mayor Pascoe-Bell

THAT Report entitled Community Inclusion update be received and noted.

CARRIED (6/0) - CWAC10/89 – 25/03/2025

Initials: _____

10 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Information

Nil

10.2 Correspondence

10.2.1 Michelle Walker Committee Resignation

Moved: Councillor Henderson

Seconded: Sheryl Sephton

1. THAT the tabled correspondence dated 25 March 2025, 10.2.1 entitled Michelle Walker Committee Resignation be received and noted.
2. THAT the Chair send a letter of thanks to Michelle Walker for her time and service on the committee.

CARRIED (6/0) - CWAC10/90 – 25/03/2025

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

12 NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell

Seconded: Sheryl Sephton

THAT the next Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 10 June 2025 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

CARRIED (6/0) - CWAC10/91 – 25/03/2025

Initials: _____



13 CLOSURE OF MEETING

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Sheryl Sephton

THAT the meeting of the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee held in Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, Palmerston on 25 March 2025 closed at 5:53pm.

CARRIED (6/0) - CWAC10/92 - 25/03/2025

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 5:53pm.

Chair

Print Name

Date

UNCONFIRMED

Initials: