



**GLEN EIRA
COMMUNITY SAFETY, COHESION, HEALTH AND WELLBEING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

The Community Safety, Cohesion, Health and Wellbeing meeting commenced at 6pm.

**Wednesday 26 August 2026
6pm-8pm**

***Yarra Yarra Room
Glen Eira Town Hall, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield***

Present:

<i>Councillors:</i>	Cr Jane Karslake (Chair) Cr Li Zhang Mayor Cr Dr Simone Zmood	Councillor committee member Councillor committee member Guest Councillor
<i>Community Representatives:</i>	Manny Kingsley Bernie Marshall Vassiliki Dandanis Vijay Viswanathan Nandini Kaystha César Albarrán Torres	Community committee member Community committee member Community committee member Community committee member Community committee member Community committee member
<i>Council Officers:</i>	Jane Price Geoff Hills Deidre Pellizzer Harley Moraitis Maureen Campbell	Director Community Wellbeing Manager Community and Economic Development Manager Libraries, Arts and Culture Manager Life Stages Committee Secretary
<i>Apologies:</i>	Deepa Mani Kara Collins Alison Wright Cr Kay Rimbaldo Cr Margaret Esakoff	Community committee member Community committee member Community committee member Councillor committee member Councillor committee member

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Cr Jane Karslake

Cr Jane Karslake welcomed the Committee and acknowledged Traditional Owners and Custodians. Cr Zhang joined the meeting online.

2. Apologies

Cr Jane Karslake

Cr Kay Rimbaldo
Cr Margaret Esakoff
Deepa Mani
Kara Collins
Alison Wright

Councillor committee member
Councillor committee member
Community committee member
Community committee member
Community committee member

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

Cr Jane Karslake

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. Action items from previous meeting

Cr Jane Karslake (Chair)

Title/Item	Action	Update	Responsible Officer	Active/Closed
Public Arts and Heritage Policy	Share link to the Angel of the North sculpture in England.	Link: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angel_of_the_North	Maureen Campbell	Closed
	Notify Committee members when the Policy is available on Council's website.		Deidre Pellizzer	Active

5. Summary of meeting minutes from previous meeting

Jane Price

The previous meeting was held on Wednesday 20 May 2026 and included a discussion on how Council recognises Days of Significance through communications, activities and community-led events. Committee members then considered how best to gather community feedback on significant dates and cultural programming.

Council's Public Art and Heritage Policy was presented, with discussion focusing on how public art can reflect local identity and deliver community value.

The final item presented at this meeting outlined Council's work to support older residents to age well through inclusive services, programs and partnerships that promote health, connection and participation. A brief update was also provided on Council's Draft Antisemitism Strategy.

Minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting on Tuesday 30 June 2026.

6. Items for Discussion

6.1 Homelessness and at risk

Geoff Hills

Geoff Hills presented on Council's *Commitment to preventing and responding to homelessness*. The presentation covered homelessness, vulnerability and rough sleeping in Glen Eira, Council's role and limitations, community responses, referral pathways including Better Health Network and Launch Housing, and next steps.

Members discussed the need for clearer referral pathways, better local data and evidence, and stronger community education. Queries and suggestions were also raised about community support through community pantries, infrastructure and charging facilities to assist people experiencing homelessness.

Officers responded that community members have access to toilets and charging equipment in Council libraries.

Council also supports local grassroots initiatives through grants to organisations and community leaders assisting people experiencing homelessness. Through our partnerships with Neighbourhood Houses, we can ensure we are engaging with those leaders and those community groups who are either in direct contact or can help provide a local voice in activity centres by engaging with residents. The Peninsula Community Legal Centre supports women and children escaping family violence, as well as young people and families experiencing homelessness.

Discussion covered the importance of community members responding with a focus on dignity and respect, requesting welfare checks where appropriate, calling 000 in emergencies, and using referral tools such as Ask Izzy and Community Information and Support Victoria (CISVic).

A copy of Council's *Commitment to preventing and responding to homelessness* will be distributed to committee members with these Minutes.

6.2 Warrawee update

Harley Moraitis

Harley Moraitis provided an update on Warrawee residential aged care and sector reforms. He noted that Warrawee is Council's 90-bed residential aged care facility in Bentleigh East, and that Glen Eira is the only Victorian council still operating residential aged care.

He advised that Council is considering whether to continue operating Warrawee or transition this service to another registered aged care provider. Recent consultation with residents, families, staff and the wider community highlighted the importance of quality and continuity of care, strong relationships, dignity and wellbeing. An Expression of Interest process seeking interest from aged service providers interested in providing future services at Warrawee closed on 14 August 2026, with submissions to be assessed before a potential Request for Tender stage.

Members asked about assurances for residents and families, criteria for any future provider, and quality of care. Harley confirmed that Council would continue operating Warrawee if a suitable provider is not identified. He advised that new Commonwealth standards clearly set out the rights of older people, supported by regulatory safeguards, direct care requirements, star ratings and aged care reforms.

6.3 Libraries overview including programming

Deidre Pellizzer

Deidre presented an overview of Glen Eira's library services, programming and future directions and highlighted they are welcoming, accessible and inclusive spaces that support information, connection, imagination, community safety, cohesion, health and wellbeing.

Libraries continue to prioritise literacy, learning and creativity for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. In the last financial year, around 30,000 new items were added to the collection, e-loans reached their highest level since introduction, and the *Library of Things* continued to provide resources such as home energy kits, digital film scanners, air quality devices and Kobo readers.

Libraries also support study, work, social connection, digital inclusion, access to government services, programming and safe welcoming spaces.

Recent accessibility improvements at Glen Eira libraries have included replacing self-service kiosks with adjustable kiosks, while the Carnegie library locker has supported 24/7 access and recorded more than 2,000 loans in the last financial year.

Programming with libraries spans early literacy, author talks, cultural celebrations, family history, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics), sewing, sustainability, health and wellbeing, storytelling and social connection initiatives.

Future directions include more flexible spaces, improved access, potential extended hours, an outreach service review, digital capability and ongoing community feedback.

Members discussed culturally diverse collections, study spaces, libraries as community spaces, youth engagement, First Nations representation, music and vinyl collections, pop-up or satellite library models, 20-minute neighbourhoods, use of underutilised community spaces, accessibility, and opportunities to involve libraries in public discourse and community education.

Members outlined some of their favourite libraries around Melbourne, including Naarm in the Queen Victoria Market, Monash University Library at the Clayton campus, Library at the Dock, the Dandenong and Springvale Libraries, along with Wheelers Hill. Cr Karslake spoke about the Palmerston North Library in New Zealand and its role as a community hub for public discussion and information sessions.

McKinnon Library was also discussed as an example of a potential satellite library with members noting that future planning could focus less on larger libraries and more on smaller, local sites.

Deidre responded that librarians generally prefer larger sites as more sustainable models.

Committee members were encouraged to email any further ideas to Maureen.

7. General Business

Jane Price

Jane Price noted that agenda items continue to be drawn from ideas generated earlier in the year, with flexibility to add relevant topics as they arise. The November meeting will include planned topics and time for reflection on the year's meetings and improvements for next year.

Reflection of meeting

Members were invited to provide feedback on the meeting. They noted that the homelessness presentation clearly outlined what Council can and cannot do and suggested this would be a useful topic for a future discussion across a broader range of Council services.

Officers noted that acronyms are not to be included in future presentations.

8. Forward Meeting Schedule

Cr Jane Karslake (Chair)

Date	Items	Officer/Member
Wednesday 25 November 2026 6pm - Yarra Yarra Room	Social Cohesion Strategy	Geoff Hills
	Community Safety	Geoff Hills
	Inclusion Framework/Rainbow Roadmap	Geoff Hills
	Reflection of structure of meetings	Jane Price

9. Next meeting

Wednesday 25 November 2026 in the Yarra Yarra Room.

10. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.03pm with Cr Karslake thanking everyone for attending.

Minutes to be confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting on Tuesday 6 October 2026.

Title/Item	Action	Update	Responsible Officer	Active/ Closed
Public Arts and Heritage Policy	Notify Committee members when the Policy is available on Council's website.		Deidre Pellizzer	Active
Homelessness Statement of Commitment	Include a copy of Council's Homelessness Statement of Commitment with the Minutes of this meeting.		Maureen Campbell	Active
Committee members feedback	Committee members to send any further feedback or questions on homelessness, Warrawee or libraries to Maureen for forwarding to relevant officers.		Maureen Campbell	Active