



3rd October, 2006

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANDWICK WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, 90 AVOCA STREET, RANDWICK, ON TUESDAY, 10TH OCTOBER, 2006 AT 5:30 P.M.

Committee Members: His Worship, the Mayor, P. Tracey, Belleli, Hughes, Matson, Nash, Procopiadis (Deputy Chairperson), Woodsmith (Chairperson)

Quorum: Four (4) members.

NOTE: AT THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2004, THE COUNCIL RESOLVED THAT THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE BE CONSTITUTED AS A COMMITTEE WITH FULL DELEGATION TO DETERMINE MATTERS ON THE AGENDA.

1 Apologies/Granting of leave of absences

2 Confirmation of the Minutes

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2006.

3 Declaration of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interests

4 Addressing of Committee by Members of the Public

5 Urgent Business

6 Community Services

6.1 DIRECTOR, CITY PLANNING REPORT 86/2006 - REFUGEE WEEK 2006 2

6.2 DIRECTOR, CITY PLANNING REPORT 87/2006 - CHILDREN'S WEEK 2006. 7

7 Confidential Items (Closed Session)

8 Notices of Rescission Motions

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GENERAL MANAGER

Director, City Planning Report 86/2006

SUBJECT:	REFUGEE WEEK 2006
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DATE:	28 September, 2006	FILE NO:	F2004/07704
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REPORT BY: DIRECTOR, CITY PLANNING

INTRODUCTION:

Refugee Week will be held from 22 October to 28 October and has been highlighted yearly in Australia since the 1980s. The Week aims to recognise the positive contribution refugees have made to Australia; help people understand the many challenges refugees face coming to Australia; focus on how the community can provide a safe and welcoming environment for refugees, and displaced persons, as well as educate the public about who refugees are and why they come to Australia.

It is recommended that Council support Refugee Week as a commitment to and acknowledgement of Randwick City's culturally diverse community.

It is also recommended that Council support a proposal by the Mayor of Leichhardt who has written to Council seeking Randwick City Council's support to fund for asylum seeker and refugee program initiative.

ISSUES:

Last year Council celebrated Refugee Week by becoming a Refugee Welcome Zone auspiced by the Refugee Council of Australia, with a formal council declaration displayed in the Customer Service Centre. Council also placed a banner on the Anzac Parade façade of the Bowen Library and Community Centre building at Maroubra.

Displaying Banner Supporting Refugee Week

This year the Multicultural Advisory Committee has recommended that Council support local organisations planning to celebrate Refugee Week and displaying a street banner, during Refugee Week. The wording on the banner reads "Randwick City Council supports Refugee Week".

Contribution to Support Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Council has been approached by the Mayor of Leichhardt to join City of Sydney, Hornsby, Fairfield, Willoughby, Marrickville and Canterbury Councils in supporting a project known as the Balmain for Refugees (BFR), to fund a Refugee Coordinator for 20 hours per week for 12 months. The Coordinator assists the Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation (BASf) to raise funds, develop networks and provide resources for asylum seekers living in desperate conditions in the community, who are denied the right to work or access government benefits. The project was endorsed at the 2005 LGA Conference. Currently, approximately 100 individuals and families are supported by BFR and BASf. Councils have been asked to contribute \$2,000 each to support this project.

Due to the timing of meetings, this issue has not yet been discussed at Council's Multicultural Advisory Committee.

This report recommends Council support local organisations celebrating Refugee Week, display a banner and contribute \$2,000 to support and provide resources for asylum seekers and refugees.

RELATIONSHIP TO CITY PLAN:

The relationship to the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 2: Vibrant and diverse community

Directions 2b: Enrich our range of community services that meet our community's needs.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The financial impact to Council for the display of the banner is in the order of \$400. The Balmain for Refugee donation amounts to \$2,000. The total \$2,400 cost can be funded from the 2006/7 Community Development budget.

CONCLUSION:

By celebrating Refugee Week and contributing to the Refugees fund, Council will demonstrate its commitment to refugee issues. Historically, Randwick City played a role in accommodating refugees in hostels in the 1950s and many former refugees have made Randwick City their home.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

- a) Council support the Refugees' Fund and contribute \$2,000; and
- b) Council display a street banner on the Bowen Library and Community Centre building during Refugee Week.

ATTACHMENT/S:

Letter from Mayor of Leichhardt Council.

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SIMA TRUUVERT
DIRECTOR, CITY PLANNING

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COLIN ROSENFELD
COMMUNITY PROJECTS
OFFICER

Office of the Mayor Randwick City Council

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Records Received

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10 August 2006

Cr Ted Seng
Randwick City Council
30 Frances Street
Randwick NSW 2031

Dear Cr Seng,

I am writing to ask your Council to join Leichhardt, City of Sydney, Hornsby, Fairfield, Willoughby, Marrickville and Canterbury Councils in supporting the following important project which was endorsed at the 2005 LGA conference in Mudgee. The project provides regular financial and professional (medical, dental, legal) support to asylum seekers who are living in desperate conditions in communities across NSW. The situation faced by asylum seekers on Bridging Visa Es or released under Habeas Corpus orders means they have no adequate means of survival. These families and individuals are released from detention but prohibited from working or receiving any income support and are denied access to the public health system.

In response to this situation, Leichhardt and Sydney City Councils in late 2004 agreed to fund **Balmain for Refugees (BFR)** to employ a Refugee Co-ordinator for 20 hours a week for 12 months. The Co-ordinator assists the **Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation (BASF)** raise funds, develop support networks and provide resources for asylum seekers in the community who are denied the right to work or access any government benefits. In late 2005 Hornsby, Fairfield, Willoughby, Marrickville and Canterbury joined the City of Sydney and Leichhardt in funding the project for a second year. The funds to employ the coordinator will be exhausted by the end of 2006.

In order to allow this valuable work to continue, I am asking Councils across NSW to join together to fund the project for a further 12 months. Approximately 100 individuals and families across Sydney and regional NSW are currently being supported by BFR and BASF.

The Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation was officially launched on 11 June 2003 by a broad coalition of churches, human rights groups, unions, political representatives, and individuals. The Foundation seeks donations to financially assist asylum seekers on Bridging Visa Es or released under Habeas Corpus orders and who have no adequate means of survival. In just over three years, more that \$500,000 has been raised by the foundation through events and personal contributions. Despite this magnificent effort, these funds will run dry in October this year (see attached BASF newsletter) unless significant additional donations are received.

Asylum seekers urgently need financial assistance because the Federal Government denies those on BVEs and Habeas Corpus orders the right to work or to access government benefits of any kind including Medicare, social security or even free access to public schools for their children.

These asylum seekers live in absolute poverty. At times there may be no food in the house, children may need urgent medical attention and clothing. There is nothing to do and nowhere to go. They live close to despair, relying entirely on the good-will of friends and the community. Those families, friends and community networks who provide board and offer accommodation are often themselves struggling to survive financially. But asylum seekers dare not work because they will be returned to detention and their employers fined. Every month, BASF provides supplementary living assistance to approximately 100 individuals and families, including men, women and children to enable them to survive.

In order to stretch BASF resources, these recipients are being paid between \$50 and \$80 for an individual and \$150 per family per week, depending on their circumstances. In some cases, a small one-off lump sum is given to an individual. Due to the high cost of accommodation and the location of support communities, very few of these individuals and families live in the Leichhardt or City of Sydney LGAs. It is likely that you already have some living in your own area.

We are asking each Council in NSW to contribute \$2,000 to the project. If twenty councils gave \$2,000 the project could continue for 12 months. Any additional money donated would allow the position to be expanded beyond its current 20 hours. I ask your council to seriously consider this request and support the continuation of this valuable work. For further information contact Stuart Gibb, Team Leader Community Services on 9367 9279.

Yours sincerely



Cr Nick Dyer
MAYOR

Director, City Planning Report 87/2006

SUBJECT:	CHILDREN'S WEEK 2006
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DATE:	28 September, 2006	FILE NO:	F2004/07700
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REPORT BY: DIRECTOR, CITY PLANNING

INTRODUCTION:

Children's Week is an annual week-long event from 21 – 29 October 2006. The week aims to promote the talents, skills and abilities of children and young people under the banner of 'a caring world shares'.

The activities proposed for this year are in partnership with a range of community service providers that will encourage participation of children across Randwick City with a range of targeted activities. The proposed program includes:

- Launch of Sustainability Children's Resource Collection and workshops, and Council's Brochure on Safe Parking Outside Schools Brochure and Transition to School kit
- Sports Afternoon and BBQ at La Perouse Public School
- Playgroup Workshop – Simple and inexpensive activities for children 0-5 years
- Eastern Suburbs Children's Festival Event
- 5 workshops for parents of children – including stress, discipline, self esteem and social skills, eating issues
- Cooking for parents and children (dependent on Tafe availability).

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on the planned Children's Week activities.

ISSUES:

Children's Week is an opportunity for Council in partnership with community based service providers and other Government departments to provide fun, children focused activities for families and children within the Randwick LGA as well as reinforce Council's commitment to providing activities which benefit all members of the community.

The following is a summary of the proposed activities planned for Children's Week 2006:

Randwick City Council Launch – Tuesday 24 October 4.30-5.30pm

Sustainability Children's Resource Collection

Early Childhood and lower Primary environmental education workshop series

Safe Parking Outside Schools Brochure

Transition to School Kit.

Council will use this opportunity to promote new resources available targeting families with children. The launch of the sustainability collection and workshops will encourage the Education system to adapt environmental and sustainability measures in day care centres and primary schools.

The Road Safety brochure developed by Council's Road Safety Officer will be launched, encouraging a greater understanding of road safety issues for parents of children attending school for the first time. Lastly the launch of Randwick Council's Transition to School Kit will ensure that service providers are aware of the kit and promote to parents. The kit will be distributed free of charge to service providers and Council's libraries.

Sports Afternoon and BBQ – Wed 25 October 3.30-5.30pm

This afternoon activity will be held in collaboration with the Maroubra Police and Community Youth Club (PCYC) and Department of Sport and Recreation. The afternoon will involve outdoor sports activities, PCYC Games Truck and a BBQ. These activities will take place at La Perouse Public School Grounds. The event will be promoted to local primary schools. The aim of the event is to provide local primary school aged children with a fun activity that incorporates sport and physical education.

Playgroup Workshop – Simple and cheap activities for children 0-5 years

The NSW Playgroup Association will implement a workshop to be held at Kooloora Community Centre targeting existing playgroup users and encourage new users to attend. The workshop will showcase activities that use existing household items to engage and play with their children.

Eastern Suburbs Children's Festival Event Sunday 22 October 10.30-3.30pm

Waverley Park, Waverley

This event incorporates playgroups across the Eastern Suburbs region and aims to provide a fun event where families and children and socialise, encouraging a stronger sense of community and showcasing benefits to Playgroups.

Parent Workshops

The workshops including Stress, Discipline, Self Esteem, Eating will be run over consecutive weeks across Randwick City and launched during Children's Week. Facilitators from Learning Links, South East Sydney Area Health and Community Health, Randwick TAFE will be contracted to implement the forums across the City.

RELATIONSHIP TO CITY PLAN:

The relationship to the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 3: A vibrant and diverse community

Direction: Strong Partnerships between Council, community groups, and government agencies

Key Action: Encourage and seek opportunities to expand appropriate community services

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The financial impact to Council for the above activities will be approximately \$3,100 which has been allocated within the 2006/2007 Community Development Budget. An application for \$500 has also been made to NSW Department of Community Services through their NSW Children's Week Grants Program. Council is yet to receive confirmation whether we have been successful in receiving the funding.

CONCLUSION:

The proposed program for Children's Week is an opportunity for children and parents to participate in local community events, gain new skills, be inspired and to showcase their own abilities.

The activities will provide continued visibility of Council's commitment to servicing all people in the community including children and families.

The delivery of Children's Week activities across the City demonstrates Council's commitment to Community Development and help foster positive relationships between Council and the local community.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorse the proposed activities planned for Children's Week 2006.

ATTACHMENT/S:

Nil

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SIMA TRUUVERT
DIRECTOR, CITY PLANNING

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MELINDA LEVES
ACTING COMMUNITY PROJECT
OFFICER

