

Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 9 October 2019

Time	6:03 pm – 8:06 pm
Venue	Ngake – Room 16.09, Tahiwī, 113 The Terrace, Wellington

Members present

Chair	Jocelyn Kua
Members	Natalia Fareti, Sunia Foliaki, Kira Hundleby, Ofania Ikiua, Aseri Kua, Sai Lealea, Alvin Mitikulena, Lisa Pouvalu
Councillors	Councillor Teri O’Neill
Staff	Sean Johnson (Democracy Advisor), Kate Hodgetts (Senior Policy Advisor)

Minutes

2. Meeting Procedures (Continued) 6:00 pm

2.5. Sai lead the group in the opening prayer.

3. Discussion 6:05 pm

3.5. Increasing Voter Enrolment in Pacific Communities

Erin Marsh from the Electoral Commission discussed with the group ways to increase voter enrolment and turnout among Pacific communities for the 2020 Central Government Elections.

Erin spoke about her role as the Registrar of Electors for the Wellington Region and how the Electoral Commission had been working with Pacific leaders to increase their engagement with Pacific communities.

She noted that fono were held throughout 2019 across the country to get ideas and that they were currently working through this to identify which ones were achievable.

She noted that they had no specific stats about voting turnout of Pacific people because they cannot keep information on ethnicity. However, on average, there was lower enrolment in areas with a higher Pacific population.

She asked PAG to pass on any specific places they could go or people they could work with to engage with Pacific communities.

This was followed by questions. Topics of discussion included:

- How the Electoral Commission can best work in the limited time left before the election.
- Why the Electoral Commission cannot collect more data on ethnicity.

- How the Electoral Commission is working matching the demographics of areas to the demographics of voting booths in those areas.
- What exactly is stopping Pasifika people from coming to voting booths?
- The need to have Pasifika people standing in elections and how this will encourage more Pasifika people to vote.
- Online voting.
- The slight increase in Pasifika people voting at the last election.
- The differences between regional and national offices of the Electoral Commission and the different work they do to help Pacific communities with voting.
- The possibility of the notional office of the Electoral Commission having a Pacific Advisory Group of their own.
- The importance of making voting a fun communal activity.
- Erin noted that her team would be employing a Pacific Engagement Advisor for the first time and that she would share details with the group when they became available.

(Cr O'Neill arrived at 6:13 pm)

(Kira arrived at 6:17 pm)

(Sunia arrived at 6:38 pm)

(The meeting adjourned from 6:41 pm to 6:45 pm)

3.6. Proposed Public Health Bylaw

Kate Hodgetts discussed the proposed Public Health Bylaw with the group.

In June 2019 Council agreed to progress towards a public health bylaw to manage hygiene and health risks at beauty salons and other appearance industry businesses.

The scope of the Bylaw would include services that pierce the skin/tissue, services that risk piercing the skin/tissue, services that risk burning the skin/tissue, and other appearance industry services.

Kate posed the following questions to PAG:

- What is the level of awareness of tattoo related health risks among Pacific people?
- Are there many tufuga ta tatau and other Pacific tattooists using traditional practices in Wellington?
- How best can WCC connect with them?
- What are PAG's thoughts on challenging areas for regulation such as mobile operators and events?

Kate noted that this discussion with PAG was part of pre-engagement, and that PAG will have the opportunity to formally submit on the Bylaw as part of the formal consultation process in August/September 2020.

At the start of her presentation Kat also passed on thanks from Helen Bolton of the WCC Policy Team for PAG's input on the review of the Parking Policy. 8u

4. Councillors Update

7:13 pm

4.5. Councillor O'Neill updated the group on her work between PAG meetings. The following particular points were noted

- She thanked PAG for their public participation on the Fale Malae paper. She noted that they spoke very well, and that Councillors appreciated their input.
- The Mayoral Taskforce: Three Waters had been created with community representatives and experts to investigate ongoing issues with Wellington's water services.
- Council had considered the Cemeteries Management Plan.
- Council is considering what to put in the Annual Plan Consultation Document.
- She was working with stakeholders in the Motukairangi/Eastern Ward in responding to a series of thefts and seeing what WCC could do in their limited role.

(Cr O'Neill left at 7:26 pm)

1. Meeting Procedures (Continued)

7:25 pm

1.2. Apologies were received from the following members:

- Cr O'Neill, Kira, Sunia – for lateness;
- Merio, Anthony – for absence.

Resolved That the Pacific Advisory Group accepts the given apologies.

Sai Lealea / Ofania Ikiua

CARRIED

1.3. The minutes of the previous meeting were presented for confirmation.

Resolved That the Pacific Advisory Group accepts the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and correct record with minor changes.

Jocelyn Kua (Chair) / Sunia Foliaki

CARRIED

1.4. No announcements were made.

4. Members Updates

7:29 pm

4.1. Members of the group provided updates.

Alvin provided an update on the status of COVID-19 and what members could do as best practice.

Sunia encouraged other members to present to PAG.

Ofania noted that people in the Niuean community had questions about COVID-19 but that a prominent doctor in the community had been providing updates.

Natalia noted that there was a new Pacific Language week would be running from Sunday 10 May to Sunday 16 May, Rotuman Language Week. She reemphasised comments from previous PAG meeting that it would be good to see WCC put out relevant flags for each of the Pacific Language weeks.

Sai requested that Sean find an update on the review of the Pasifika Festival and also find some more information on the Advisory Groups review.

Kira noted that the Papua New Guinea High Commissioner, Dr Nathan Kane, has recently been farewelled from Wellington. She also noted that it had been good to speak at the Strategy and Policy Committee regarding the Fale Malae and that it was good to see more of how Council works and that there was lots of Pacific support in the room.

Jocelyn checked if everybody had received an email from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet regarding the unveiling of the Pacific Memorial at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park on the 18th of April. Jocelyn thanked Aseri and Kira from speaking at the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting with her on the Fale Malae and reiterated Kira's comments about it being good to see such a strong Pacific presence in the room.

2. Discussion

6:05 pm

2.3. PAG Annual Report

Discussion continued on the PAG Annual Report.

The following key areas were agreed upon to form the basis of the report:

- Pasifika Community Engagement – Ofania, Natalia
- WCC Policy Feedback – Sai, Alvin
- Presentations to PAG – Lisa, Aseri, Sunia
- Arts and Culture – Kira Jocelyn

Actions

- Members to work on their sections of the report between meetings.

5. Closing Prayer

5.1. Lisa lead the group in a prayer for the victims of youth suicide.

Aseri lead the group in a closing prayer.

(The meeting closed at 8:06 pm)