

MEDIA RELEASE

Inaugural Community Wellbeing Advisory Forum members for the Alexandrina region

10 February 2021

Alexandrina Council held their first Community Wellbeing Advisory Forum on Thursday 4 February at Strathalbyn Neighbourhood Centre, with 17 inaugural Forum members and another thirteen interested members of the public in attendance.

Alexandrina Council is taking a fresh approach to engaging with the community through the development of this forum to inform the work of Council in the wellbeing space. Members were nominated through an Expression of Interest process in late 2020, resulting in the appointment of 20 forum members from across our region including two Elected Members, Councillors Margaret Gardner and Karyn Bradford; representatives from each of the region's community and neighbourhood centres; and other community representatives.

Facilitated by Moira Were AM, participants engaged in a series of activities throughout the evening exploring wellbeing in Alexandrina through the lens of determination, creativity, energy and resilience. Outcomes were a shared understanding of wellbeing and what we value, and how we as individuals and communities can move our wellbeing aspirations forward using a strengths-based, solutions-focussed approach. Outcomes of the forum will inform the work of Alexandrina Council's Community Wellbeing Team.

Participants valued the opportunity to hear a range of perspectives and connect with others, with one participant commenting, *"there was great idea-sharing and the opportunity to think outside the square"*. Participants were also eager to ensure that a diversity of voices are heard, and welcome participation from the youth, indigenous, LGBTQIA+ members, and other passionate group members in our community at future forums. All members of the public are welcome to attend and participate.

The Community Wellbeing Advisory Forum will convene every 2-3 months during 2021 to further explore key issues related to wellbeing. Future dates will be promoted on social media and Council's website and readers can follow Council on Facebook.com/AlexandrinaCouncil and Instagram @AlexandrinaCouncil. For more information visit www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/wellbeingforum



The inaugural Community Wellbeing Advisory Forum members

B: Jai Goulding, Di Gordon, Cliff Sweetman, David Hammond, Heather Webster, Marie-Claire Levi, Suzie Jokic, Melissa Robinson

M: Cr Margaret Gardner, Carole Perry, Gidge Hunter, Eric March, Cr Karyn Bradford

F: Diana Dan, Lucia Pichler, Stuart Jones

Absent: Wendy Fraser, Peter Harrison, Christine Putland, Sally Roberts