

**2.7 GENDER EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS**

Responsible Committee: Gender Equity Advisory Committee (Cr Rebecca Paterson, Cr Stuart James & Cr Anjalee de Silva)

Responsible Director: Russell Hopkins

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

*That Council:*

- 1. Endorses the appointment of Deborah Wu as the new Women’s Health East Organisational representative for the Gender Equity Advisory Committee for a two-year term.*
- 2. Thanks Women’s Health East Representative, Kirsty Kain, for her contribution.*

**INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to recommend the appointment of one new member to the Gender Equity Advisory Committee (GEAC) and thank one retiring member.

**BACKGROUND**

The role of the committee is to provide Council with advice on improving gender equity within the Monash community, to actively encourage women’s full and equal participation in community life, and assist with the implementation of Council’s Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan and Gender Equity Framework.

**DISCUSSION**

Due to the Women’s Health East representative, Kirsty Kain moving from the organisation, Women’s Health East nominated the new Gender Equality Advisor, Deborah Wu, to take on the role to represent their organisation in GEAC.

Deborah Wu meets the criteria of the Terms of Reference including:

- Knowledge and understanding of the needs and issues relevant to gender equity
- An interest and involvement in local and/or broader community partnerships, advocacy, networks or activities
- The ability to contribute to the strategic development of gender equity initiatives at local government level
- Direct links to local community populations and/or organisations.
- Experience and/or understanding of the role of an advisory committee

**Deborah Wu (she/her) Bio**

Deborah Wu is Gender Equality Advisor at Women’s Health East (WHE), supporting defined entities in the Eastern Metropolitan Region to realise the transformative opportunities of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*. Prior to starting at WHE, Deborah was Inclusion & Diversity Lead at the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA),

where she led the organisation's efforts to address the underrepresentation of groups including women, culturally diverse people and young people in local government decision-making (projects including *Local Women Leading Change*, *REPRESENT Handbook*, and *Step Up, Get Elected*). In this role, she also worked with councillors and council officers on building capacity and capability in gender equality, prevention of violence against women and intersectionality across the Victorian local government sector. Her previous work experience includes roles in State and Federal Government.

Deborah holds a Bachelor of Arts in Politics & International Studies (minor Media & Communications) from the University of Melbourne and a Graduate Certificate in Family Violence from the Chisholm Institute, and was an inaugural fellow of the Trawalla Foundation/University of Melbourne's Pathways to Politics for Women program in 2016.

Council would also like to thank Kirsty Kain who is the retiring GEAC member for her significant contribution to the GEAC.

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report is in line with Council's *Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 and Gender Equity Framework*.

#### **SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The contribution that organisational representative members make through their participation on the GEAC enhances Council's work in the area of Gender Equity and ultimately facilitates opportunities for good advocacy, policy development and service provision for their benefit and the community at large.

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS**

This report is in line with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and, in particular, with the following rights: *freedom of expression; and taking part in public life*.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications resulting from this recommendation.

#### **CONCLUSION**

This report recommends the appointment of Deborah Wu, Gender Equality Advisor at Women's Health East to the Gender Equity Advisory Committee for a two-year term.