

5.3 RECOGNITION OF MITOCHONDRIAL DISEASE

Responsible officer: Jarrod Doake, Chief Operating Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Recognises Global Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week.*
2. *Agrees to support the Mito Foundation by lighting up Council offices and Council's Euneva Avenue car park in the colour green on the evening of Saturday 14 September 2019 to mark the beginning of the Global Mitochondrial Awareness Week.*

INTRODUCTION

Council has again been approached by the Mito Foundation to support *Light Up for Mito* by lighting up Council offices and any other suitable buildings in the colour green on the evening of Saturday 14 September 2019 to mark the beginning of the Global Mitochondrial Awareness Week.

BACKGROUND

Mitochondrial disease is a debilitating genetic disorder that robs the body's cells of energy, causing multiple organ dysfunction or failure and potentially death. Currently, there is no treatment or cure for mito and one in 200 people carry the genetic mutations that put them at risk of developing mito.

Mito was once considered rare, but now is thought to affect 1 in 5,000 people, making it the second most commonly diagnosed serious genetic disease after cystic fibrosis.

DISCUSSION

Global Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week (www.gmdaw.org) is an annual event held in the third week of September to raise awareness of mito among the general population and support the mito community in what can often be a very isolating experience.

As part of the awareness, monuments around the world are lit green for *Light Up for Mito*. Monuments or buildings in Victoria that have confirmed their participation for this year's awareness week include the Bolte Bridge, Ballarat Town Hall, Wodonga Water Tower and the Box Hill Town Hall.

Monash Council permanently installed coloured lights on the Council offices and the Euneva car park for the Christmas season. The lights have since been used in support of Global Mitochondrial Awareness Week in 2017.

PROPOSAL

Council has again been approached by the Mito Foundation to support *Light Up for Mito* by lighting up Council offices and any other suitable buildings in the colour green on the evening of Saturday 14 September 2019 to mark the beginning of the Global Mitochondrial Awareness Week.

It is recommended that Council lights up Council Offices and the Euneva car park on the evening.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There is a nominal minor cost to having the lights reprogrammed to green, which can be accommodated within existing budget.

CONCLUSION

This is an opportunity for Council to use existing resources to draw the attention of the general public to mito and to show its support for those in the community who are impacted by this disease.