

Report to Future Melbourne Committee

Agenda item 7.1

Participation at Preventive Health Conference, Darwin, April - May 2024

5 March 2024

Presenter: Councillor Dr Olivia Ball

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for Councillor Dr Olivia Ball to travel to Darwin to attend the Preventive Health Conference 2024 between 30 April and 2 May 2024.
2. Convened by the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA), the Preventive Health Conference is an annual Conference aimed at providing a platform to engage, challenge and exchange ideas, where pivotal issues for building prevention in Australia are discussed and where delegates can learn from the experience, opinions and perspectives of sector leaders and their peers.
3. City of Melbourne (CoM) is a member of the PHAA, the peak body for leading conversation in public health policy across Australia.

Key issues

4. Local government is a target audience for the Conference which will feature 16 presentations from researchers, practitioners and policy makers involved with the Australian Prevention Partnership Centre through research, collaboration or as a member of one of the funding partners.
5. The theme for the 2024 Conference is '*Building prevention success stories*'. The topics to be covered include vaping and smoking cessation; community co-led design; nutrition and physical activity; preventing the health impacts of climate change and celebrating past prevention success.
6. As the Portfolio Lead of Health, Wellbeing and Belonging, Councillor Dr Ball's participation is considered beneficial as many of the important public health topics for Melbourne's community are being discussed at the Conference. The themes and issues align with a number of key strategies, initiatives and programs, namely:
 - 6.1. Delivery of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan which establishes the overall aims and priorities to improve and promote the public health and wellbeing of people in the municipality.
 - 6.2. Delivery of policies and programs to improve the public health of Melbourne's community. These include addressing food insecurity through a Community Food Relief Plan and Food Policy; tobacco control, smoking and e-cigarette use through the Smoke-free Melbourne Policy; the creation of smoke free areas in Melbourne and providing cool spaces during hot weather to prevent heat stroke.
 - 6.3. Programs supporting mental health and minimisation of harm from alcohol, drugs and gambling.
 - 6.4. Supported short-term accommodation solutions through the Make Room project.
 - 6.5. Services and programs for families, youth and children.
 - 6.6. Climate change, resilience and public health.
7. The estimated cost of Councillor Dr Ball's participation is \$3,650.

Recommendation

8. That the Future Melbourne Committee approves participation by Councillor Dr Olivia Ball in the Preventive Health Conference in Darwin between 30 April and 2 May 2024 at an estimated cost to Council of \$3,650.

Supporting Attachment

Finance

1. The estimated cost to CoM associated with proposed travel is \$3,650 and includes airfares (\$1,285), accommodation (\$1076), registration fees (\$649) and incidental costs (\$640).
2. Costs will be met from the existing budget allocation.

Conflict of interest

3. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a general or material conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Health and Safety

4. In travelling to Darwin, Councillor Dr Ball will undertake standard personal safety and awareness precautionary steps which apply to interstate travel.

Relation to Council policy

5. The Executive Officer Councillor Liaison has confirmed that the travel proposal accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Council Expenses Policy.
6. CoM's membership of PHAA and the work undertaken in areas covered in the Conference program support the following:
 - 6.1. Delivery of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.
 - 6.2. Objectives underpinning the Smoke-free Melbourne Policy.
 - 6.3. Draft Fair Access Sport and Recreation Allocation Policy and Action Plan.
 - 6.4. Skate Melbourne Plan 2017-27.
 - 6.5. Community Garden Policy.
 - 6.6. Melbourne: A Great Place to Age 2020-24.
 - 6.7. City of Melbourne Transport Strategy 2030.

Environmental sustainability

7. The carbon emissions resulting from air travel will be offset with the purchase of credits.