

**ITEM 3. CITIES FOR SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES****FILE NO: S019167-05****SUMMARY**

The City is a member of the National Local Government Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee (NLGDAAC). The NLGDAAC was established in late 2004 by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM). NLGDAAC enables local government's perspective to be considered in Commonwealth and State alcohol and other drugs programming. The City of Sydney has been a member of NLGDAAC since 2004.

The NLGDAAC has invited the City of Sydney to become a foundation member of the Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities Program. This program is designed to assist councils to deliver drug and alcohol harm minimisation programs to local government across Australia within a national accreditation framework.

The Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities Program will deliver a capacity building model that uses the expertise of the local government sector in areas such as public health, education, planning and enforcement, and uses this knowledge to facilitate coordinated community based local responses

The program is supported by a consortium made up of NLGDAAC, CCCLM and International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Oceania, and is designed to assist local governments to deliver drug and alcohol harm minimisation program to their communities across Australia. The Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities Program is being coordinated by the NLGDAAC.

The Lord Mayor is a member of the CCCLM, which provides representation of the special interests of the Capital Cities of the Australian States and Territories with other levels of government. The Lord Mayor is a strong supporter of the work of the CCCLM, and of the NLGDAAC which was created from the CCCLM.

The Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities program builds on the work of the National Key Performance Indicator project which is currently being undertaken by the NLGDAAC. This program aims to provide councils across Australia with measures to determine the impact of drug and alcohol harms on their communities and to measure the improvements in health and wellbeing following interventions to address these harms. The City contributed \$20,000 to this project via a Resolution of Council in June 2006.

The NLGDAAC is initially focusing on enlisting 25 councils as foundation members to help develop the Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities Program, which they are seeking to launch in late 2008. As a foundation member, the City of Sydney would have the opportunity to help shape the program in collaboration with the other foundation members, which include Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane City Councils.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is resolved that:

- (A) the City becomes a founding member of the Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities program; and
- (B) funding of \$10,000 per annum (excluding GST) be provided to the National Local Government Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee for the Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities program from 2008/09 to 2010/11. This will be provided from the Social Policy and Community Support budget.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment A:** National Local Government Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee (NLGDAAC) Designing the 'Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities' Program for Local Governments Report

**Attachment B:** The Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities Program Proposal to the Federal Department of Health and Ageing by the National Local Government Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee (NLGDAAC) 4 September 2008

**BACKGROUND**

1. The National Local Government Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee (NLGDAAC) has invited the City of Sydney to become a foundation member of the Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities Program. This program is designed to assist local government to deliver drug and alcohol harm minimisation programs across Australia within a national accreditation framework.
2. The NLGDAAC was established in late 2004 by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM). NLGDAAC aims to enable local government's perspective to be considered in Commonwealth and State drug and alcohol policy and funding. The City of Sydney has been a member of NLGDAAC since 2004. Other members include capital city councils, regional, remote and suburban councils across Australia.
3. The Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities Program is an adaptation of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Oceania approach to capacity building and culture change through its Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) campaign. CCP is a very successful accreditation program for environmental sustainability. On 2 June 2008, Council approved an accommodation grant to ICLEI, by hosting the NSW Project Office for a period of three years, for an approximate value of \$10,000 per annum (ex GST).
4. The Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities Program is supported by a consortium made up of NLGDAAC, CCCLM and ICLEI Oceania. The program is being coordinated by the NLGDAAC and will be delivered by ICLEI. A copy of the NLGDAAC Designing the Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities Program for Local Government's Report is at **Attachment A**.
5. Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities addresses drug and alcohol programs within the local government sector and uses a social and community sustainability approach.
6. It provides opportunities to achieve accreditation in developing best practice approaches in:
  - (a) public space issues;
  - (b) community engagement;
  - (c) safety and crime;
  - (d) inter-agency coordination and service development;
  - (e) health and welfare of the community; and
  - (f) health and welfare of council employees.

7. Local governments have experience in delivering drug and alcohol harm minimisation programs. These activities include:
  - (a) strategic delivery of alcohol management plans;
  - (b) community awareness raising and information exchange;
  - (c) partnership approaches and programs with community groups, industry, private and public sector agencies, including examples of restricted entry lock-out programs and enhanced transportation options such as taxi rank supervision programs;
  - (d) enacting local laws that incorporate provisions to control the consumption of liquor in scheduled areas, including alcohol-free dry zones;
  - (e) town planning schemes and Acts to control the type, number and trading hours of licensed premises;
  - (f) liquor accords that promote a partnership approach to dealing with the issue of public alcohol consumption;
  - (g) regular safety audits and assessment, and collection of local data;
  - (h) crime prevention through environmental design and provision of lighting, fencing and other environmental measures, as well as safe pedestrian routes;
  - (i) initiatives addressing safe partying, youth and recreational programs, community based information campaigns, and domestic and sexual violence;
  - (j) initiatives that contribute to wellbeing through support to rehabilitate problematic substance users;
  - (k) provision of closed circuit television;
  - (l) provision of public space liaison officers, inspectors of food outlets, and security patrols and guards; and
  - (m) workplace health and safety training for council staff to improve work practices when dealing with intoxicated persons, safer handling of waste management, and clean-up activity of litter and bodily fluids.
  
8. The Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities Program will deliver:
  - (a) a capacity building model that uses the expertise of the local government sector in areas such as public health, education, planning and enforcement, and uses this knowledge to facilitate coordinated community based local responses;
  - (b) a framework that caters for council variation in size, location, complexity and resources and provides flexibility to tailor their program response to achieve the required outcome;

- (c) a program management process, which reflects best practice program design, measurable impacts, systematic approaches to recognition of effort, appropriate linkages to other relevant local government programs and the work of other tiers of government;
  - (d) a nationally consistent set of protocols and standards, with the ability to gather annual quantified data on program results; and
  - (e) an evidenced based program delivery framework structured on internationally recognised programs delivered by ICLEI Oceania.
9. The Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities Program evolved out of a NLGDAAC project to develop a national set of universal Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure improvements in the overall safety and wellbeing of communities as a consequence of local government action on alcohol and other drug issues. A Resolution of Council in June 2006 endorsed the City's commitment of \$20,000 toward the KPI project. The KPI project developed indicators which have been adapted for the ICLEI model. Financial contributions have been provided by the City of Sydney (\$20,000), Melbourne (\$20,000), Perth (\$5,000), Fairfield (\$11,000) and Brisbane City (\$20,000 + \$250,000 seed funding for Cities for the Safe and Healthy Communities Program 2008/09).
10. On 4 September 2008, representatives of the NLGDAAC submitted the Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities Program proposal to the Federal Department of Health and Ageing. The proposal is at **Attachment B**.
11. ICLEI has developed a budget for this proposal, which amounts to around \$780,000p.a. for the first two years, to cover staff, consultancies, program support, data purchase, software creation, overheads and an assistance program for councils. The City's funds (\$10,000p.a. for three years) will contribute to this.

### KEY IMPLICATIONS

12. This best practice model provides the City with an opportunity to provide guidance to other capital city councils and local government across NSW on crime prevention and drug and alcohol policy and program delivery. The City of Sydney is already a leader around many of these issues with our significant policy development to better manage late night economies and to reduce levels of crime. With the City of Sydney's support to deliver the Safe and Healthy Communities Program, councils across NSW will be assisted to undertake appropriate and strategic action to reduce alcohol and drug misuse, and better manage the impacts of this misuse.
13. The Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities Program provides a framework and focus on achieving outcomes in line with Federal and State Government objectives (particularly the *National Alcohol Strategy and National Drug Strategy: Australia's Integrated Framework*) and build on our achievements with evidence based approaches.

14. As a foundation member the City would have the opportunity to help shape the Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities Program in collaboration with the other foundation members, which include Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane City Councils. There is already strong interest in some of the City's innovative work in the area including the Late Night Trading Premises Development Control Plan, Drug and Alcohol Strategy and Safe City Strategy, with the potential for these approaches to become best practice models nationally.
15. With the introduction of the new Liquor Regulation incorporating a new General Bar licence category to encourage the growth of small bars in NSW, the City is developing further innovative approaches, particularly in relation to alcohol and licensed premises, such as a Community Impact Statement referral and assessment protocol.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

16. The City of Sydney has been invited to support the Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities Program by contributing \$10,000 per year for three years, a total of \$30,000 (exc. GST). Funds are available for The Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities Program in the 2008/09 Safe City budget. CCCLM is seeking funding from the Federal Department of Health and Ageing.

### **RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

17. This proposal is in accordance with objectives outlined in a key national strategic document, the *National Drug Strategy: Australia's Integrated Framework*. The *National Alcohol Strategy 2006–2009* reflects objectives in the *National Drug Strategy* to build a plan for action based on collaboration between Australian governments.

### **ANN HOBAN**

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