

Meeting Notes - Meeting No.16

Clarence Correctional Centre - Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

Monday 30 November 2020: 3:30pm – 5:00pm Location: via Zoom

Chairperson: Margaret Harvie

Community representatives present: Julie Perkins, Jason Connell

Local Government representative: Dan Griffin (Clarence Valley Council - CVC)

Northern Pathways representatives: John Myers (John Laing), Glen Scholes (Serco)

Note taker: Tammy Kelly (NorthernPathways)

Apologies: Tania Williams, Geoffrey Jones, Bob Thompson, Martin Oates, Sharron Lee Todd

Item	Description	Details
1.	Welcome, apologies and introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Margaret Harvie (MH) acknowledged that we are meeting on Aboriginal land and welcomed everyone MH noted apologies were received from Tania Williams and Geoffrey Jones. No other formal apologies received.
2.	Declarations of pecuniary and other interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julie Perkins (JP) is the Chairperson of the Gurehlgam Corporation, an organisation that provides services for Aboriginal people.
3.	Correspondence to the CCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MH advised that no correspondence had been received between meetings
4.	Actions Arising from Last Meeting	<p>Action items outstanding from the last meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal Legal Service –Serco to report on meeting/discussion with representatives from the Aboriginal Legal Services and Legal Aid in Coffs Harbour to update them on the progress of the project and support the need for legal services for Aboriginal people. Glen Scholes (GS) spoke about the need for non contact visits impacting the ability to progress this item. Currently there are no legal visits as contact visits. A survey suggested that 81% inmates preferred Audio Visit Link (AVL) visits over contact / personal visits. Going forward the AVL pods will only be used for court and legal visits. All personal visits will be via tablet. ACTION: Further updates at the next meeting – as the Covid situation changes there may be more to report on progress on this item Legacy Plans for the Clarence Correctional Centre - Serco to report to the next meeting information about the legacy plans for the Centre.

		<p>John Myers noted that Legacy Plans have been distributed to the Northern Pathways Board and are awaiting acceptance. GS advised Serco and Northern Pathways will progress with the plan being to present to CCC, but not in a position to report on this at this time</p> <p>ACTION: Serco to update with more details on a potential legacy program to the next meeting.</p> <p>3. Rate of pay issue – GS to update on progress on this issue that had been raised by members of the community.</p> <p>GS noted that Serco is currently progressing discussions around Enterprise Agreements in response to issues of staff retention and development. There will be more information on the progress of this to report for the next meeting.</p> <p>JP asked about shift hours - GS advised Serco are looking at 11 hour and 8 hour shifts to allow a better life work balance. This has has been received favourably by Serco employees.</p> <p>ACTION: Serco to update the next meeting on the progress of the Enterprise Agreements.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Update on significant events since last meeting</p>	<p>NAIDOC week celebrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JM congratulated Serco on a truly good representation of what NAIDOC is about and the showcasing of the diverse cultures in the Centre. • JP noted the NAIDOC event was well run event with everyone enjoying the event and pleased to be part of it. • GS advised all sections of the Centre, Male Max, Female Max and Male Min sections worked together well with respect. <p>Community Sponsorship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Say NO to Domestic Violence GS commenting on Serco being heavily invested in the community with education on domestic violence, both male and female involvement. Coffs Harbour buses are carrying the message with Coffs Harbour city centre highway flags flown by Coffs harbour City Council with a corresponding message. • PCYC sponsorship Northern Pathways and Serco are proud to sponsor the biggest PCYC in NSW located in Grafton.
<p>6.</p>	<p>What we are hearing from the community?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JP advised there were issues related to the length of time taken to get through when telephoning the Centre. The concern was about in particular about first timers with family anxious to know that their family members are ok.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GS advised there are a range of numbers to choose from when calling the centre. A new provider is being engaged to arrange a direct portal line for general telephone enquiries and enquiries around inmates. GS noted Inmates tablets have their telephone list added upon entry to Clarence Correctional Centre. He recognises that it is important to prioritise updating the numbers of those coming new to the centre. Serco will be updating websites to incorporate a Q&A section to address frequent enquiries. JC noted that there had been questions about the Old Grafton Goal and the future use of this facility further to the call for expressions of interest for its future use. GS acknowledged the ratepayers interest in this and he understands that community feedback will be sought. The building is heritage listed with challenges around maintenance of the building. DG noted the ongoing interest/ concern about transport issues with communication/ questions from the local radio station. GS advised that he is monitoring the situation and will raise it with Transport for NSW. Much about the future issues with transport is unknown given that there is little demand with no one coming to the centre during Covid.
<p>6</p>	<p>Centre Operations Update</p>	<p>GS gave a verbal update on Centre Operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Graduating Officers</u> during September and November. 18 CCOs, 1 Trade Instructor, 7 Supervisors and 5 further CCOs commenced. CLA continues to hold assessment centres to attract another 54 CCOs with another assessment due in December 2020, January 2021 and February 2021. Local staff continue to capture the majority hold of positions with 63% coming from across the Clarence Valley and Coffs Harbour local areas. <u>Local Food Procurement</u> - noted the need for a number of Grafton Suppliers to work on logistics to provide supply to CLA. With a total number of inmates to reach 1700 there is a lot of scope for local suppliers. <u>Inmate Employment and Industries</u> – Three new textile industries commencing in December with discussions on potential for Australian General Engineering and Harwood Marine. More commercial discussions are underway. <u>Aboriginal Programs</u> and spaces with specific education and industry programs achieved. A visit from Aboriginal Strategy and Policy Unit in September viewed the Yarning Circles and spaces. <u>Mental Health Review Tribunal</u> – presentation and Q and A session in September to give an overview of the centre and discuss initiatives at CLA around mental health. JM and GS presented to the Chamber of Commerce meeting held in November.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GS noted Grafton Hospital has advised there is currently less presentations of inmates from CLA than was received from the Old Grafton Gaol during its time. • Discussion about postcode desitinations information that shows that inmates do not remain in the local area after release. GS noted only one person to date has remained in the area and that person had family in Grafton. • JM noted Justice Health, which is a section of NSW Health, attended the Centre in the past week in a monitoring capacity with results showing that the level of health service was acceptable (25s area of improvement were cited). They are assisting to work through these issues as the Centre becomes fully operational. • GS mentioned that there is to be a <u>Social Impact Study</u>. MH requested clarification in the context of the baseline study that is part of the EIS requirements. GS noted that this was an additional study in the light of questions about social impacts. Social impacts/ benefits were raised at the Chamber of Commerce meeting. The accommodation houses are looking forward to inmates families visiting to help boost businesses affected by Covid-19 restrictions during the best part of 2020. • MH said that she understood from previous questions raised by the CCC that there might be interest in the scope of this study. GS noted it is best to have the results of the study (datasets). <p>ACTION: GS to provide results of the Social Impact Study at the next meeting.</p>
	<p>Other Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JP enquired about the connection with the NDIS and potential for assessment prior to release from CLA. GS noted the packages cease upon reception to CLA, however discussions will be held to try to reinstate packages on their release. • JP asked about the success of the use of the phone number that they can call on their release – are people using this number? GS responded that this cannot be measured as yet as the design of the system is still occurring. There haven't been calls back to the centre from discharged inmates at this stage. • JP enquired into industry TAFE courses - GS confirmed that these have commenced. The music program has had great response from inmates along with the Storytelling Book programs and other vocational programs.
<p>11.</p>	<p>Next Meeting and close</p>	<p>Next meeting will be held at 3.00pm on Monday 1 March 2021. Serco to provide a tour of some areas at 3.00pm with the meeting commencing at 4.00pm.</p>