

Report by Yvonne Yun, Acting Manager Community Services

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That Council acknowledge the findings from the Community Development Advisory Committee Survey.**
- 2. That Council endorse the preparation of initiatives to respond to the survey findings in accordance with the aims and objectives of the Strathfield 2025 Community Strategic Plan.**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Council on the results of the Community Development Advisory Committee Survey.

REPORT

Survey overview

Relevant community organisations within the Strathfield local government area (LGA) were invited in early March 2013 to participate in the Community Development Advisory Committee Survey.

The aim of the survey was to provide Council with an understanding of their needs and interests, of the issues that are of importance to this sector, and of their views of Council policies and services as well as initiatives that support the local community.

The objective of the survey was to gather sufficient data and quality feedback to assist development of Council strategies and initiatives that are aligned with the needs and interests of the community within the framework of the Strathfield 2025 Community Strategic Plan.

The survey has provided Council with valuable data in regard to local community service organisations and provides a basis for further research into areas for further development.

Of the eleven organisations invited to respond, 54.5% completed the survey of 13 questions. Organisations were equally split between 50% being run by volunteers, whilst 50% rely on a paid workforce. This was mirrored exactly with respondents being paid employees of the organisation.

One third of the organisations surveyed were locally based and supporting the needs of LGA residents only, whilst two thirds, whilst based locally, provided services to residents from other areas. None of those who responded were based outside of the local area. 66% of those who responded received public funding.

The survey also asked organisations to identify which of the following roles would be most effective for Council in supporting the community:

Mentor
Partner

Resource Provider
Educator
Advocate

Of those organisations that responded, 83.3% believed that Council's role should be as a partner with 16.7% seeing Council's role as a resource provider.

This survey has provided Council with very valuable insight into areas that require greater development and chief amongst these would be improved engagement with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities and the development of new channels for communication with our community.

REFERRAL FROM OTHER DEPARTMENT

The survey was facilitated with support from the Community Liaison Officer.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

Report approved by:

Neale Redman
Director Corporate Services