14.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR JAY - MENTAL HEALTH IN THE MUNICIPALITY

I, Councillor Beti Jay, give notice that I intend to move the Motion outlined below at the Meeting of Council on 2 December 2026:

That Council:-

1. Notes that mental health and wellbeing is not currently one of the five named health priorities in the Plan for Port Phillip (including Budget) 2025–35, although it is relevant across the existing health priorities and their underlying social determinants. The Plan also records that Port Phillip performs worse than the Victorian average on mental health and wellbeing measures.

Short Term

2. Requests the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate provide a strategic assessment to Council, by March 31 2027, drawing primarily on existing Council information and relevant publicly available evidence as well as existing organisational partnerships and relationships. The assessment will:
   a) update the relevant Council health profile and evidence base relating to mental health and wellbeing in Port Phillip;
   b) map existing Council policies, services, programs, infrastructure, community development activities, partnerships and advocacy functions that contribute directly or indirectly to positive mental health and wellbeing outcomes, including through the social determinants of health;
   c) clarify Council's role and sphere of influence in supporting mental health and wellbeing relative to the responsibilities of the Victorian and Commonwealth governments, including where Council can appropriately contribute through planning, advocacy, partnerships and community wellbeing activities;
   d) identify relevant recommendations of the Victorian Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System that align with the responsibilities and sphere of influence of local government;
   e) undertake targeted stakeholder validation through existing Council partnership and engagement mechanisms, where appropriate; and
   f) assess options for strengthening mental health and wellbeing outcomes through existing Council priorities, or recognising mental health and wellbeing as a standalone health priority.

Medium Term

3. Requests that the report referred to in clause 2 include options for consideration as part of the Year 3 (2027/28) refresh of the Plan for Port Phillip, including how mental health outcomes could be further strengthened through existing and future Plan actions, and consideration of any:
   a) identified youth-specific mental health needs or gaps relevant to Council's role and sphere of influence; and

b) the impacts of ageing and social isolation, and the mental health and wellbeing needs of migrant and culturally diverse communities, where relevant to Council's role and sphere of influence.

Long Term

4. Notes that the findings of the report referred to in clause 2 may inform consideration of mental health and wellbeing as part of the full review of the Plan for Port Phillip scheduled for 2028/29, including whether mental health should continue to be addressed through the existing health priorities or be recognised as a standalone health priority for the next four year Council term.

5. Notes that this motion calls only for an officer report and does not commit Council to any expenditure, change in service levels or contractual arrangement, consistent with Governance Rule 24.3.

Supporting Information

Port Phillip has 112,669 residents and is expected to grow by more than 60,000 residents by 2041. Approximately one-third of residents were born overseas. 41% of households are lone-person households and 34% of people aged 60 and over live alone. Social housing comprises 6.5% of total dwellings. Council's housing and homelessness health profile reports 86 people on the by name list, including 25 people sleeping rough and 61 people in temporary or emergency accommodation.

The plan for Port Phillip (including budget) 2025-35 sets five formal health priorities: improving housing and food security; preventing all forms of violence; reducing isolation and loneliness; increasing active living and physical activity; and tackling climate change and its impacts on health. Each can influence mental health and wellbeing.

While the provision of clinical mental health services is primarily the responsibility of state and federal governments, local government plays an important role in creating the conditions that support positive mental health and wellbeing. Through planning, community development, social cohesion initiatives, public spaces, housing advocacy, sports and recreation, community safety and partnerships with health and community service organisations, councils can influence many of the social determinants that contribute to mental health outcomes.

Mental health and wellbeing are influenced by a range of social determinants, including social connection, discrimination, access to resources, employment and housing. Mental health conditions and substance use disorders also contribute materially to Australia's burden of disease.

Port Phillip has high levels of renting, with 44.0% of households privately renting and 48.8% renting overall, including social housing. Housing circumstances and security are among the social determinants that can influence health and wellbeing.

The plan itself records that port Phillip performs worse on mental health and wellbeing measures compared to the broader Victorian population. The plan records an alcohol and drug hospitalisation

rate of 21.6 per 1,000 residents, against a Victorian rate of 8.5, and names mental illness as a contributing driver of rough sleeping in the municipality.

The plan's only actionable mental-health-related commitment is an advocacy position calling on the Victorian government to implement the recommendations of the Victorian mental health royal commission, with no local, council-funded action recorded alongside it.

This motion seeks more information in the form of an officer report, consistent with governance rule 24.3, and does not commit council to any expenditure, service change, or contractual arrangement.