

Item No: C0522(1) Item 27
Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: TRANS AND GENDER DIVERSE SWIM NIGHT
From: Councillor Liz Atkins PSM and Deputy Mayor Jessica D'Arienzo

MOTION:

That Council:

- 1. Congratulates staff and the LGBTQ Working Group on the success of the Trans and Gender Diverse Swim Night at Ashfield Aquatic Centre on 29 April 2022; and**
- 2. Requests that staff investigate the feasibility of future Trans and Gender Diverse Swim Nights and swim nights for other communities, such as people with disabilities, and refugee families, at Inner West Council Aquatic Centres and bring a report back to Council, including an estimate of costs and whether an entry fee should be charged.**

Background

The inaugural Trans and Gender Diverse Swim Night was held at the Ashfield Aquatic Centre on 29 April 2022. 350 registrations were received and the night was extremely well attended. Friends and connections were made in a safe environment where people were free to drop their guard and be themselves. Councillors in attendance received very positive feedback and requests for a regular night.

Trans and gender diverse people often feel excluded from public pools for a variety of reasons and as a result tend not to use them. Nights such as that held on 29 April demonstrate to that community that they are supported and included, and serve as encouragement to use council aquatic services more generally. However, there will still be people who feel uncomfortable using the pools during normal hours.

Holding regular Trans and Gender Diverse Swim Nights would increase trans and gender diverse people's participation in the community, foster a sense of connection to the community and each other, and encourage a healthy lifestyle. It supports Strategic Direction 5: Caring, happy, healthy communities of the Community Strategic Plan, particularly outcomes 4.1 (Everyone feels welcome and connected to the community) and 4.3 (The community is healthy and people have a sense of wellbeing).

It is likely that if such nights were held more often, more people would participate. People will also become more aware of the inclusive set up of the Ashfield Aquatic Centre, including gender neutral bathrooms and change rooms in addition to gendered facilities, and may be encouraged to use the Centre outside of such nights.

It is not likely that a reasonable entry fee in line with normal entry fees including concession rates would put people off attending.

Social media comment has raised the question of swim nights for other marginalised groups within the community. Any investigation of such potential swim nights should include consultation with relevant groups to ascertain interest.

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.