



LGBTQ Local Democracy Group Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 10 December 2025

Inner West Pride Centre, 1A Bedford St, Newtown

Meeting commenced at 6.06pm and concluded at 8.00pm.

Attendees

Community members

Council officers

Councillors /Guests

Ev Synnott (ES)	Kate Dingle (KD - Convenor)	Roxanne Kitts (RK) Vocational Specialist, Headspace
Francesca Variale (FV)	Sarah Taylor (ST - Co-convenor)	
Veronik Verkest (VV)	Caitlin Castell-Brown (CCB)	
Jody Toomey (JT)		

Chairperson

ST

Acknowledgement of Country

Welcomed members to the meeting and provided an Acknowledgment of Country.

Apologies and membership changes



Apologies from Erin Spencer (ES), Dean Adams (DA), Jess Gifkins (JG), Astrophel Gates (AG), Chad Barnier (CB), Beth Firipis (BF)

Disclosures of conflicts of interest

None reported.

Endorse previous meeting minutes

Minutes endorsed.

Discussion Items

Agenda Item	Discussion summary	Agenda item outcome/action (as required)
Item 1 Community Programming - Intergenerational programming & bookclub - Caitlin Castell-Brown (Community Wellbeing Officer, IWC)	CCB discussed the idea of hosting a monthly LGBTQ+ book group that could be intergenerational. Members discussed focusing on a social LGBTQ+ group that involved a different activity and location each month. Suggestion to connect with Pride History Group, Queer Screen and the Inner West Pride Centre.	CCB to incorporate LDG feedback into program brief.

<p>Item 2</p> <p>Queer Careers Expo – Roxanne Kitts (Vocational Specialist, Headspace)</p>	<p>RK is organising a pilot Queer Career Expo at Ashfield town hall, supported by IWC, on Friday 12th and Saturday June 13th, 2026.</p> <p>The expo aims to bring together a roomful of employers (up to 60 stallholders) who have each made a commitment to inclusive hiring, providing pathways to safe and accepting workplaces for members of the LGBTQIA+ community.</p> <p>Members supported the idea and discussed some resources with RK.</p>	<p>More info: Queer Careers Expo</p>
<p>Item 3</p> <p>Pride Walk Update (KD)</p>	<p>KD shared Inner West Pride Walk update including information discussed at the Inner West Pride History Walk roundtable that was held with key community contacts to discuss the proposed shortlisted sites. The shortlist has been informed by a series of consultations held since May 2025.</p> <p>Members reviewed the Inner West Pride Walk Update from Council meeting on 9 December 2025.</p> <p>The Inner West Pride Walk will be launched during Council's Feel the Love 2026 event on Friday, 20 February. The event will include an LGBTQIA+ history panel on local sites and people of importance.</p>	
<p>Item 4</p> <p>Feel the Love History Panel –</p>	<p>Members discussed using the Feel the Love History panel on 20 February as an introduction to the Inner West Pride History Walk, suggesting a detailed focus on one or two locations, followed by Q</p>	

<p>Kate Dingle (Community Wellbeing Co-Ordinator, IWC)</p>	<p>& A. Members suggested finding stories that could become a key focus of the panel, including input from the audience.</p>	
<p>Item 5 Wellbeing Team Grants Feedback (KD)</p>	<p>KD presented information about the projects funded in the current grant round; a number of LGBTQ+ focussed projects received funding across a variety of grant streams, but it was noted that Council does not capture this specific data in its reporting. Several successful projects also met a broad variety of intersectional needs, including - but not limited to LGBTQ+ communities.</p> <p>Suggestion to capture more statistical data on LGBTQ grant projects and to track these metrics each year.</p>	<p>ST to circulate a copy grant applications report, which was adopted by Council.</p>

<p>Previous and upcoming events / dates of significance:</p>	<p>Trans & Gender Diverse Swim Night – 24 October</p> <p>SDH and Friends Laneway Market – 14 November</p> <p>Inclusion Festival – Queer Daze 29 Nov, My Dog Saved My Life 30 Nov, Let’s Talk about Sex! 30 Nov</p> <p>Transgender Day of Remembrance – 20 Nov</p> <p>World Aids Day – 1 December</p> <p>Twenty10 Housewarming – 6 Dec</p> <p>Queer Careers Expo – 12 & 13 June 2026</p> <p>Sydney Mardi Gras– 13 Feb to 1 March 2026</p>	
<p>Opportunities for collaboration with other LDG’s</p>	<p>To be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	<p>ST to re-circulate policy challenge questions and links to other LDG minutes.</p>
<p>Other Business</p>	<p>Meeting Dates for 2026 – discussed meeting in late January 2026.</p> <p>LDG Priorities for 2026 – members to think about any priorities for the group to consider in 2026.</p>	

Next meeting

TBC