

Report to the Future Melbourne People City Committee

Agenda item 6.5

City of Melbourne's Relationship Declaration Register- Intention to Cease Applications

3 April 2018

Presenter: Linda Weatherson, Director City Communities

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval that no new applications be accepted for the City of Melbourne's Relationship Declaration Register (the Register).
2. The Register, the first of its kind in Victoria, was established by Council on 27 March 2007. It provided civic recognition of all relationships including those from the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities.

Key issues

3. More than 1500 couples have declared their relationships and had them recorded in the Register in the last decade.
4. In December 2008, following the establishment of the City of Melbourne's register, the Victorian Government introduced a relationship register.
5. The recent amendment to the *Marriage Act 1961* (Cth) in December 2017 achieved marriage equality.
6. Given the changes at both State and Commonwealth level, it is considered that the City of Melbourne's Relationship Declaration Register cease accepting new applications, effective immediately. Couples who are already recorded on the register will continue to have their personal information securely stored and if their relationship ends, for this to be reflected at their request.
7. Any Victorian couples wishing to register their relationship rather than get married may do so through the Victorian Government's relationship register.

Recommendation from management

8. That the Future Melbourne Committee approves no new applications being taken for the City of Melbourne's Relationship Declaration Register.

Attachment:

1. Supporting Attachment (page 2 of 2)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. There are no direct legal issues arising from the recommendation from management.

Finance

2. To February 2018 year to date, the Relationship Declaration Register has achieved \$16,874 in revenue. It is expected that by the end of the 2017-18 financial year, due to decreases in registrations, the register will be approximately \$25,000 below budgeted revenue of \$44,000.

Conflict of interest

3. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Stakeholder consultation

4. Periodical surveys of customers utilising in the Relationship Declaration Register have been undertaken, to help understand and improve service needs. No further consultation has been undertaken.

Environmental sustainability

5. The Relationship Declaration Register has been stored digitally and in hard copy. In 2016–17 all paper files were converted into a digit format and have been maintained as an online register.