

**ITEM MAYORAL MINUTE - TOUCHED BY OLIVIA
FOUNDATION THE LIVING ROOM**

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

The City of Canada Bay has been proudly involved with the Touched by Olivia Foundation since its launch in 2007 and our community was the first in Australia to have a wonderful all-abilities and inclusive play space at Livvi's Place in Timbrell Park, Five Dock.

Since inception the foundation has continued to grow, with award-winning playspaces now in over 40 communities across Australia and many more scheduled for the coming years. Inclusion is central to the work of Touched by Olivia and Council was proud to again partner with the Foundation for the first Livvi's Café — a social enterprise that offers inclusive employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Touched by Olivia is now seeking Council's support for the next step of their mission to create a more liveable, connected and ultimately inclusive community with their 'Living Room' concept.

The City of Canada Bay will be home to the Foundation's first 'Living Room': an indoor/outdoor community space in Timbrell Park where everyone is welcome. Their ambition is to replace the existing kiosk café with a more multi-functional centre which includes an expanded service.

The Living Room would be managed by Touched by Olivia and operate as a venue that would invite members of the community to:

- Drop-in, chat and socialise in a safe, relaxed environment, during set opening times. In this respect the Living Room would represent an inclusive space for good old fashioned fun and conversation
- Attend programs and workshops that are aimed at addressing and supporting the needs of the community
- Hire for events and parties.

By supporting Livvi's Cafe and the work of Touched by Olivia, the City of Canada Bay can help to provide support and employment opportunities for people who need them.

This offers the City of Canada Bay the opportunity to:

- Continue to be recognised as a social innovator and take a leadership role in the social enterprise space through the expanded facility
- Conduct research into various aspects of inclusion within the play, program and employment environment

- Provide fundraising support to contribute to the capital costs.

I would like Council to fund the design development for this project and engage with our local community to see how we can help bring about the best outcomes for the program and the park.

Council needs to work with our local residents and park users to look at how a well-designed facility can enhance the park as we did successfully when we created the Conservatory at Cabarita Park. Early engagement will be critical to the success of this project. I seek Council's support to fund a community design project to help move this vision forward and support the Touched by Olivia Foundation. The purpose of funding a design for the Living Room is to:

- Manage a sensitive design that maintains and protects our park
- Engage the community in the development of this important project
- Support the further fundraising effort by the foundation.

With a detailed approved plan, the foundation can lead a more successful fundraising campaign to support the capital cost of this project. Touched by Olivia has already secured \$10,000 thanks to a Federal Government grant which must be applied towards an upgrade to Livvi's Cafe by 30 December 2020.

This month they launch Planktober, a community challenge campaign, another in a long line of great initiatives. Their track record in delivering corporate and community funds to match Council funding is unparalleled in our City, and I believe that this is a sound model which Council should encourage for a wonderful project that will benefit our community enormously.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The design development will require funding and staff time. The process needs to deliver a concept design, and community engagement.

Funding in the order of \$33,000 will need to be allocated.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Council support the development of a plans for a Living Room development.
2. THAT Council allocate \$33,000 of Sections 7.12 funding at the quarterly review.
3. THAT the final design is brought back to Council for further consideration.

