CITYwatch

AMANDA SPALDING with Bob Holland

What services does Council provide?

Bob: While we wait for people to take up the opportunity to tell our readers why they should be elected to Council next September I thought I would ask you to tell us more about the services Council provides to the people of Orange?

Amanda: Council provides a lot of services to the public, so I thought we should concentrate on one area at a time. So, let's look at the Community, Recreation and Cultural Services Department that provides the following services: Central West Libraries, City Presentation, Community Services, Cultural Services (Art Gallery and Museum) and Performing Arts and Venues.

This area of Council is widely recognised as well run and providing excellent very visible services, particularly Libraries, Sporting Facilities, Cultural Services and Performing Arts Venues.

I am not actually clear what is meant by City Presentation, so perhaps someone can enlighten me.

Community Services is perhaps less visible than sport and cultural areas and it is my experience that the services delivered are excellent. It provides the following services:Aboriginal ServicesChildren's ServicesChoices at HomeDisability SupportMigrant SupportOrange Community GuideVolunteeringYoung People

ABORIGINAL SERVICES

In 2005 Orange City Council adopted this *Statement of Commitment*. It was developed to demonstrate to the entire Orange community that it is genuine about its responsibility to the Aboriginal community and to working in unison to achieve reconciliation. The Commitment states:

Orange City Council recognises the Wiradjuri people as the traditional owners and custodians of this local government area. Orange City Council and the Aboriginal community are committed to working together in the process of reconciliation.

We support and advocate the advancement of the Aboriginal peoples of Orange and will cooperate to ensure the preservation of cultural practices, traditional sites and significant places. Council supports expressions of cultural identity.

Orange City Council and the Aboriginal peoples of Orange believe in a future characterised by social justice and community. Together, we seek to build a society free of racism and prejudice where Aboriginal peoples feel a strong sense of belonging and are able to participate fully in the life of the community.

Orange City Council and the Aboriginal community will engage in an active partnership to develop programs and services, which meet the needs of our citizens.

Council provides services and works with the Aboriginal community to deliver on this commitment.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Council runs the following Children's Services that are a separate business activity that makes a small profit each year. In my experience Child Care centres are the subject of extensive external scrutiny to ensure that they are safe and provide quality services.

- Courallie Park Preschool and Early Education Centre
- Anson Street After School Care
- Orange Family Day Care and Occasional Care
- Spring Street Preschool and Early Education Centre
- Yarrawong Preschool and Early Education Centre

CHOICES AT HOME

Choices at Home offers a range of services to assist people to remain living independently in their own home for longer. Services include:

- Meal services
- Help at home
- A chat and a cuppa

- Getting out and about – social support services
- Volunteering

There are fees for service with Choices at Home. Orange City Council endeavours to keep all fees to a minimum. For those clients who are assessed as not having the capacity to pay, payment plans can be arranged.

DISABILITY SERVICES

Orange City Council provides a range services for people living with a disability and their carers. These services are delivered in accord with : the NSW Disability Service Standards

- Australia wide Home and Community Care (HACC) Standards and guided by the Orange Community Strategic Plan and the Orange Disability Action Plan.

Further information including a Mobility Map can be found at:

https://www.orange.nsw.gov.au/disability-services/

MIGRANT SUPPORT

The Orange Migrant Support Service provides information, referral and individual casework support to newly-arrived refugees and vulnerable migrants living in Orange, with outreach services to Cabonne, Forbes and Parkes local government areas. Orange City Council's Migrant Support Officer is funded through the Department of Social Services.

THE AIM OF THE MIGRANT SUPPORT SERVICE IS TO:

- Provide information, referral and casework services for refugees and vulnerable migrants of up to 5 years residence in Australia;
- Provide community support through information sessions and group development;
- Offer support for, and partnership with other providers to ensure their awareness of settlement needs and

the facilitation of cultural awareness training throughout the year;

- Offer assistance for Culturally And Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community members to integrate into the community.

ORANGE COMMUNITY GUIDE

Council provides the Orange Community Guide with up to date information on services available to the community.

VOLUNTEERING

A range of volunteering roles exist with Choices at Home and these include shopping, daily telephone calls, group activities, delivering meals and more. Council trains volunteers and further information can be found at:

https://www.orange.nsw.gov.au/choices-at-home/?tab=Volunteering

YOUTH SERVICES

Orange City Council organises facilities and activities for young people in Orange including:

- Youth Services Interagency – for providers to get together and share information and ideas;
- Youth Action Council - the current Youth Council consists of 15 young people aged from 12 – 24 that reside or attend school within the Orange Local Government Area;
- Youth Award - a monthly award with the aim of recognising and celebrating young people in our community;
- National Youth Week - is the largest celebration of young people in Australia in April each year.
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If you would like to discuss any of the matters that Bob and I raise in our conversations, please feel free to contact me at aespalding2@bigpond.com or on 0417 288 246.