**Immunisation Policy and Transparency:**

**1.0 Policy Existence and Scope**: **Who: KW**

• Can Knox Council confirm whether it has an immunisation policy, procedures, and practice guidelines, including protocols for responding to instances of vaccine harm or injury?

• If such guidelines exist, can you provide documentation of their contents and implementation?

**Discussion:**

Good evening Mayor Cooper, Councillors, CEO and Executive Leadership Team,

In recent years, there has been a growing body of peer-reviewed medical and scientific studies from around the world raising serious concerns about vaccine safety. These studies particularly highlight issues surrounding MRNA vaccines and their potential risks, as well as the broader impact of over-vaccination on children, including increasing reports of vaccine injuries and potential effects on brain development. This is an issue that cannot be ignored.

As the level of government closest to the people, Knox Council has a responsibility to act transparently and reassure residents that it is prepared to address these concerns. We, as residents, deserve to know if the Council has a formal immunisation policy, procedures, and practice guidelines in place. Specifically, does Knox Council have clear protocols for responding to instances of vaccine harm or injury? If such guidelines exist, we ask the Council to make them available to the public.

This is not just about policy; it’s about accountability and preparedness. Vulnerable groups, including children, rely on robust systems to safeguard their health. Transparency in this area is essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring that informed decisions can be made at every level.

I urge Knox Council to confirm whether such policies exist and, if so, to provide documentation of their contents and implementation. Only through openness and accountability can we ensure the health and safety of our community is truly prioritized.

Thank you. [KW]

**1.0 Verbal Answer provided by Matt Kelleher, Director of City Liveability (as per Livestream recording 25-11-2024)**

Mayor Cooper - I refer your question to the Director of Liveability, Matt Kelleher.  
  
*“Through you, Mayor, and thank you for your question, Ms Worth. When I answer your question, I'm going to use an acronym quite a lot, and it's called AEFI. So AEFI stands for Adverse Events Following Immunisation. So it's an official term that's used quite a lot that refers to issues that might happen after someone's vaccinated, so AEFI is the acronym. So, Knox City Council's immunisation program is primarily focused upon vaccinating infants and children as part of the National Immunisation Program. The service offers a range of vaccines for children and adults, including meningococcal, whooping cough, chickenpox, and flu. Council does not vaccinate for COVID, nor travel vaccines or a range of other vaccines. All vaccines used by Council are approved by the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration, TGA. Council has a procedure titled Emergency Procedures at Immunisation Sessions in the event of an adverse event following immunisation, so AEFI. This procedure follows the guidelines provided by the Australian Government's Australian Immunisation Handbook. In response to any AEFI following immunisation, regardless of whether the symptoms were related to the vaccine or not, the event is reported to Safe Vic, and Safe Vic is the surveillance of adverse events following vaccination in the community, for the acronym. Safe Vic is the central reporting service in Victoria for any significant AEFI, which then notifies the TGA. Reporting AEFIs enables rapid investigation of any potential vaccine or system problems by state and national health authorities. And following on to your second question, as mentioned, Council's procedure follows the Australian Immunisation Handbook, which is publicly available from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care at*[*immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au*](http://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/)*. Council's procedure was last updated in August of this year. The procedures are an internal document which assists the immunisation service identify the symptoms and type of AEFI and the steps required for various roles in caring for a patient with AEFI. And it's reporting to Safe Vic. The procedure is able to be provided as it is based on publicly available information.”*

**Immunisation Policy and Transparency:**

**2.0** **Updates and Accessibility**: Who: BW

• When were Knox Council’s immunisation policies, procedures, and guidelines last reviewed or updated, and what triggered these updates?

• Why are these policies not readily accessible on the Council’s official website, and what steps have been taken to ensure public transparency on this matter?

**Discussion:**

Good evening Mayor Cooper, Councillors, CEO and Executive Leadership Team,

Transparency and accountability are the cornerstones of good governance, particularly when it comes to public health. Residents have a right to expect clarity and openness from Knox Council regarding its immunisation policies. That’s why it is essential the following questions are answered:

When were Knox Council’s immunisation policies, procedures, and guidelines last reviewed or updated, and what triggered these updates? And why are these policies not readily accessible on the Council’s official website?

Regular reviews and updates are critical to ensuring policies align with the latest scientific evidence, medical advancements, and community needs. If these updates are not being conducted or documented, it raises serious concerns about the Council’s commitment to safeguarding the health and wellbeing of its residents.

Additionally, defaulting to national guidelines or State Government directives does not absolve Knox Council from its legal, ethical, and moral obligations to its residents. Council and its Councillors carry the responsibility to be well-informed when delivering public health services. Failing to do so not only risks the health and safety of the community but also exposes the Council to potential legal liability.

Making these policies accessible and demonstrating accountability through transparency builds trust and ensures residents know their Council prioritizes their welfare. I urge Knox Council to provide clear answers to these questions and to act decisively to fulfill its obligations.

Thank you. [BW]

**2.0 Verbal Answer provided by Matt Kelleher, Director of City Liveability (as per Livestream recording 25-11-2024)**

Mayor Cooper - I will refer your question to the Director of Liveability, Matt Kelleher.

*“Through you, Mayor, There's two questions, one that follows on naturally from the other. Would you like me to answer both questions? Yes.*

*“Through you, Mayor, thank you for your question, Ms Walters. So Council has a number of procedures for immunisation. All procedures are either reviewed annually or more frequently in response to changes to Commonwealth and State immunisation guidelines. As mentioned in response to the earlier question, Council's service and procedures are strongly guided by Commonwealth and State immunisation requirements. And in response to your second question, Council's immunisation program follows the guidelines provided as part of the Commonwealth Government's Australian Immunisation Handbook and the Victorian Government's guidelines for immunisation practice in local governments. Both guidelines are available online and can be reviewed for transparency. Council's immunisation webpage provides all information and web links necessary for our community and clients to be fully informed about the vaccines we provide and have all the information they need before deciding to be immunised, including access to the NIP and Safe Vic. Thank you. Thanks for your question.”*

**MRNA Vaccines and Risk Management**

**3.0** **Policy on MRNA Vaccines**:

• What is Knox Council’s official position or policy regarding the administration and promotion of MRNA vaccines within its immunisation programs?

• How has this position been communicated to the public and relevant stakeholders?

**Discussion:**

Good evening Mayor Cooper, Councillors, CEO and Executive Leadership Team,

There is growing global concern from the scientific and medical community regarding the potential health risks associated with MRNA vaccines. Emerging studies have linked these vaccines to an increased risk of heart failure, blood clots, and even turbo cancers. In light of these alarming findings, it is vital for Knox Council to be transparent with residents about its risk management strategies and position on this critical issue.

Recently, the Port Hedland Council made a decisive move by formally resolving to inform councils and councillors nationwide about these risks. They are calling on local councils to demand immediate action from the Prime Minister, the Minister for Health, and other relevant authorities, including halting the use of MRNA vaccines and ensuring the public and medical professionals are informed.

Knox residents deserve answers to the following questions: What is Knox Council’s official position or policy regarding the administration and promotion of MRNA vaccines in its immunisation programs? And how has this position been communicated to the public and relevant stakeholders?

As a local government, defaulting to national or state guidelines does not absolve Knox Council from its duty to prioritize the safety and wellbeing of its residents. Councillors carry legal, ethical, and moral obligations to be informed and proactive in addressing these concerns. Transparency is not optional—it is essential for maintaining trust and ensuring accountability.

Knox Council must clarify its stance and take steps to communicate openly with the community. Residents have the right to know how their health and safety is being protected.

Thank you.

\*\*\*\* Question 3 not tabled by Mayor or answered in meeting due to time constraints. Answer still sought.

**MRNA Vaccines and Risk Management**

**4.0** **Legal Advice and Risk Assessment**: **Who – PR**

• When did Knox Council last obtain independent legal advice or conduct a corporate risk assessment concerning its legal exposure to potential claims of vaccine injury?

• Can Knox Council provide evidence of such risk assessments, including findings and actions taken to mitigate liability or address potential risks?

**Talking Points:**

Good evening Mayor Cooper, Councillors, CEO and Executive Leadership Team,

As residents, we entrust Knox Council with safeguarding the wellbeing of our community and ensuring public services are delivered responsibly and transparently. However, with increasing global concerns around the risks of certain vaccines—particularly MRNA vaccines—questions around legal and ethical accountability have become unavoidable.

It is vital that Knox Council answers this question: When did the Council last obtain independent legal advice or conduct a corporate risk assessment concerning its potential legal exposure to claims of vaccine injury? Additionally, can the Council provide evidence of these risk assessments, including any findings and actions taken to mitigate liability or address potential risks?

Councils across Australia, like the Port Hedland Council, have begun raising alarm over emerging medical evidence linking MRNA vaccines to significant health risks, including heart failure and blood clots. These concerns highlight the need for all councils to proactively assess their legal responsibilities and exposure. Simply deferring to national or state guidelines does not protect Knox Council from potential liability if harm arises under programs it administers.

Transparency on this matter is not just about legal compliance; it’s about ethical leadership. Residents deserve to know whether their Council has adequately prepared for these risks and what measures are in place to protect public health while safeguarding ratepayer funds from legal claims.

Knox Council must demonstrate accountability by sharing this information openly. Failure to do so not only erodes trust but also leaves the Council vulnerable to questions about its diligence and responsibility in protecting the community it serves.

Thank you. [PR]

**4.0 Verbal Answer provided by Matt Kelleher, Director of City Liveability (as per Livestream recording 25-11-2024)**

Mayor Cooper - I will refer your question to the Director of Liveability, Matt Kelleher.

*“Thank you for your questions, Mr. Riddell.*

*So, in 2021 and 2022, Council requested audits be undertaken of the Council-run immunisation sessions to assess and evaluate effectiveness and efficiency of internal controls embedded in the provisioning of immunisation services and to identify potential risks and opportunities to improve related practices. As advised in the previous answers to previous questions, Council provides immunisation services in line with the Australian Immunisation Handbook and the Victorian Government's Local Government Immunisation Best Practice Guideline. So, in response to your second question, all recommendations from the audits and risk assessments have been implemented to ensure our immunisation program meets best practice. The audits were provided by a third-party auditor to Council for internal purposes only, and we do not have the permission of the auditor to release these reports publicly.”*