

Item 5

Matters for Tabling

5.1 Disclosures of Interest

Disclosure of Interest returns that have been lodged in accordance with the City of Sydney Code of Conduct will be laid on the table.

Recommendation

It is resolved that the Disclosures of Interest returns be received and noted.

5.2 Petitions

Reinstate Evening Aquarobics at Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre

Councillor Scott gives notice that, at the meeting of Council on Monday, 9 December 2019, she will table and speak to a petition with the following terms:

We the undersigned bring to the attention of the Council the ongoing attrition of aquarobics classes at Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre (ITAC). Three years ago there were three evening classes on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Thursday was cancelled, then Monday, and now Tuesday evening classes have been cancelled. ITAC management have conducted no consultation, nor have they made any attempts to promote these classes to the community or members.

This is grossly unfair. There are now no evening classes and members who work full time or have other duties during the weekdays can only access weekend classes. While most attend one or both weekend classes this is not enough as at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity is recommended on most, preferably all, days. Aquarobics fits into three of the four recommended types of activity; being a moderate, flexibility, and low-level strength activity; recommended by Department of Health for older people.

Because these aquarobics classes are low or no impact they are accessible to all ages and level of fitness and are particularly important for community members with morbidity and/or mobility issues. Our experience is that most participants are women over the age of 40 many limited in their options for moderate intensity physical activity. We all enjoy the freedom of movement that comes with aquarobics and value the physical and psychological health benefits, though maybe not while we are doing the class as it's a real workout!

Repeated attempts from members to voice their concerns have been ignored by ITAC management and we have formed a view they do not recognise the value of these classes to the community especially those who cannot participate in regular exercise. Therefore, the undersigned petitioners ask the Council to intervene in the management of Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre and order ITAC to reinstate evening aquarobics classes on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Recommendation

It is resolved that the Petition be received and noted.