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**12.1 WRITTEN NOTICE OF MOTION - COMMEMORATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF FORMER PREMIER DON DUNSTAN AC QC – SUBMITTED BY CR CHRISTEL MEX**

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**NOTICE OF MOTION:** Commemorating the 100th Birthday of former Premier Don Dunstan AC QC  
**SUBMITTED BY:** Cr Christel Mex  
**FILE REFERENCE:** qA1039  
**ATTACHMENTS:** Nil

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Pursuant to Regulation 12(1) of the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013*, the following Notice of Motion has been submitted by Cr Christel Mex.

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

1. That staff consult with the Don Dunstan Foundation and Mr Steven Cheng to discuss opportunities to celebrate the 100th Birthday of Don Dunstan in 2026.
2. A report be presented to the Council regarding the outcome of the discussions and any opportunities for the Council's consideration by December 2025.

**REASONS IN SUPPORT OF MOTION**

The Hon Don Dunstan AC QC was one of South Australia's most influential and visionary Premiers, and longtime Member for Norwood. Given next year is the centenary of his birth (on 21 September 2026), I ask that the Administration provide advice on how Council can commemorate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2026.

Don Dunstan's reforms in areas such as multiculturalism, urban planning, arts, social justice, the environment, the hospitality industry and heritage conservation are important to our cultural heritage. These achievements are just as relevant now as they were in the 1970s due to global instability and social injustices that still linger today.

Don Dunstan served as Premier of South Australia across three terms (1967, 1970–1979) and is widely celebrated for his transformative leadership in areas such as social reform, Aboriginal rights, multiculturalism, the arts, and urban renewal.

Members of the community and his family have approached me and other members of Council to enquire how Council can celebrate this important milestone. They want to know what actions, events, or commemorative activities the Council could undertake or support to celebrate the 100th anniversary, in recognition of his significant contribution to our community, South Australia and the nation.

At the suggestion of Don Dunstan's family and close associates, possible commemorative actions are listed below, but are not to the exclusion of other ideas:

- hosting an exhibition in the Cultural Heritage Centre and Norwood Town Hall foyer, perhaps inviting community groups such as the Norwood Football Club and Meals on Wheels to share items and memories from their archives. Importantly, his family members have offered to loan many of his personal artifacts for an exhibition;
- a community picnic where residents bring a plate with a recipe, which could be included in a commemorative cookbook. This could coincide with the Melodies in the Park event, multicultural themed. Could also be a partnership with community groups such as Norwood Writers, resident associations and Maggie Beer (close friend of Don Dunstan);
- proposing that the Osmond Terrace public sculpture exhibit being themed 'Remember - the Future: the 'Don Dunstan Memorial Sculpture Walk'. By dedicating the whole and evolving body of works as part of a memorial to Don, it inveighs his legacy as something perpetual;

- connecting with the Don Dunstan Foundation and schools with educational programs;
- live music or theatre performances (such as “An Audience with Don Dunstan”);
- ‘Meet the Author’ event with his biographer Angela Woollacott (SA);
- offering a float in the Christmas Pageant; and
- panel session with locals and colleagues who knew him.

Just some of Don Dunstan’s achievements can be summarised as follows:

**Urban Planning, Environment & Heritage:**

- Pioneered heritage conservation laws, saving many historic buildings. Especially relevant to our city.
- Pushed for progressive city planning, including support for community-based housing initiatives still in NPSP today.
- Set up the Environment Protection Council (now EPA)

**Food and Wine Culture:**

- Particularly relevant to The Parade, Don Dunstan is remembered for reforming hospitality trading hours. Advocated for outdoor dining, modern culinary diversity, and the development of South Australia’s wine and food reputation. And we can’t forget Don’s Table on The Parade!

**Major Social Reforms:**

- Introduced anti-discrimination laws protecting race, gender, and sexuality.
- Decriminalised homosexuality (SA became the first Australian state to do so).
- Advanced Aboriginal land rights and supported Indigenous cultural preservation.
- Abolished capital punishment.
- Sexual assault within marriage became a criminal offence.
- Appointment of a disability advisor to the Premier.
- Establishment of the Ethnic Affairs Branch.
- Supported the establishment of Meals on Wheels both in Norwood and across the country.

**Cultural Leadership:**

- Championed multiculturalism and encouraged immigration diversity.
- Founded the South Australian Film Corporation, helping launch Australia’s modern film industry.
- Advocated for public festivals and arts funding, establishing Adelaide as a cultural hub.
- Established the Jam Factory in St Peters.

As a highly respected figure internationally, with deep ties to Norwood Payneham & St Peters and South Australia, his 100th birthday presents an opportunity for the Council to honour his legacy and engage the community in reflecting on the values he championed.

**STAFF COMMENT**

**PREPARED BY GENERAL MANAGER, GOVERNANCE & CIVIC AFFAIRS**

A report, as requested in the Motion, can be provided to the Council.

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*Cr Mex moved:*

1. *That staff consult with the Don Dunstan Foundation and Mr Steven Cheng to discuss opportunities to celebrate the 100th Birthday of Don Dunstan in 2026.*
2. *A report be presented to the Council regarding the outcome of the discussions and any opportunities for the Council’s consideration by December 2025.*

*Seconded by Cr Sims and carried unanimously.*