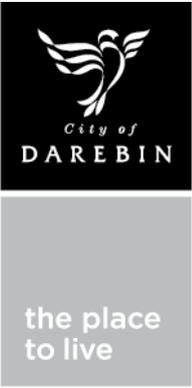


Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

Monday 6 February 2017
Meeting Minutes



Present

Community Representatives:

Matthew Zammit, Vince Pirrottina, Helen Caligiuri and Ray Jordan.

Carers:

Jo Banks

Council staff:

Shadi Hanna, Manager Aged and Disability
Christine Mulholland, MetroAccess Officer

Guest speaker:

Robert Phillips, Statutory Planning, Darebin Council

1 Present and Apologies

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, acknowledged the traditional owners and apologies were noted.

Apologies: Cr Susanne Newton, Katrina Knox (Director Community Development), Judith McLean (carer), George Jiang (carer), Maysa Abouzeid (community representative), Edward Manuel (community representative).

Council would like to acknowledge the sad and sudden passing of Patricia Woodcroft-Lee. Patricia was a member of this Committee for 7 years. She was a strong voice at the table and a great advocate for people with disabilities and people with vision impairment. Council made a memorial donation to Vision Australia where she used to work and Christine and Cr Newton attended her funeral to pay respects on behalf of the Committee.

Council would also like to say thank you to Marian Myers-Braun who recently finished up at Darebin. Marian worked as the Disability Access Planner and Acting Coordinator Community Participation and Development for the last 12 months.

2 Matters arising from the previous minutes

Actions pending:

- Gail Abbott to circulate list of services that link volunteers up with people with disability wanting support and/or social connection.
- 'Drop off zone' item (October 2016): Revisit the discussion with Transport Management regarding the installation of disabled parking bays to standards.

- 3 Round table check-in** (*This is an opportunity for members to add items to the agenda, prioritise agenda items, report back on events, updates or issues that may have come up since the last meeting and table any other issues*).

Ray and Vince were due to attend a platform testing session by Yarra Trams at their Preston Depot. The session will be testing a bridging plate between low floor trams and platform stops. Unfortunately there are gaps, and the gaps differ platform to platform.

Ray mentioned he was recently invited to speak to Yarra Trams OH&S representatives and the Bus Union regarding disability access.

4 Town Planning and disability access – Robert Phillips, Statutory Planning

Robert outlined the role of Town (Statutory) Planning and providing disability access under the National Construction Code. The full presentation is attached, some key points include:

- ‘Town Planning’ looks at land use and development, ‘Building Services’ looks at methods of construction.
- Council as a Responsible Authority, is unable require developers to provide above and beyond the minimum standards in the National Construction Code (NCC) in providing disability access. Council can only consider what the Act requires us to consider.
- Council’s role at the planning stage can only be as an advocate for disability access.
- Disability access is picked up through building services and building permit requirements.
- Access to premises for people with disability is incorporated into the building legislative regime through the National Construction Code (NCC) 2016 (formerly the Building Code of Australia).

Disabled access in new buildings:

Full compliance with the disability access provisions of the NCC is required in new buildings - including access for persons with a physical impairment, features for the visually impaired and a sound loop for the hearing impaired.

Disabled access in existing buildings:

Alterations that require a building permit will require that an existing building, or the part undergoing the works, are to comply with the NCC disability access provisions.

Existing buildings, where no building work is to be carried out, are not required to be upgraded to current NCC standards, including compliance with disability access requirements.

Robert also provided an example of an accessible apartment development being built in Fairfield. A private developer has approached Council regarding permission to amend their original planning permit for an apartment development in Fairfield. They wish to change the plans to include 11 dwellings at a platinum rating for pre-identified residents with disability access requirements. The platinum rating refers to the [Livable Housing Design Guidelines](#). A

'livable house' is designed and built to include key easy living features that make them easier and safer to use for all occupants. There are three levels of performance, ranging from basic requirements through to best practice in livable home design.

- **Silver Level:** Eight core livable housing design elements Focuses on the key structural and spatial elements that are critical to ensure future flexibility and adaptability of the home.
- **Gold Level:** Enhanced requirements for most of the core livable housing design elements plus additional elements.
- **Platinum Level:** Some further enhanced requirements for the core livable housing design elements plus all remaining elements. All 16 elements are featured in the platinum level. This level describes design elements that would better accommodate ageing in place and people with higher mobility needs.

Better Apartments Standards:

- New standards have been developed for Apartments in Victoria, providing a consistent framework for the design and assessment of apartment developments in Victoria. The standards will apply to all apartments and adopt the same performance based approach currently used to assess residential developments (ResCode).
- The standards will be implemented in the Victorian Planning Provisions in March 2017.
- In terms of disability access - the standards will ensure entrances to buildings and apartments provide safe, functional, and efficient movement for residents and visitors.

Attachments: Better Standards summary and master document and Livable Housing Guidelines.

Actions:

- Write advocacy letter to Preston Market developers encouraging them to consider Liveable Housing Guidelines in constructing apartments on the site.
- Provide details on the bathroom layouts for the Fairfield development.
- Invite Building Services to future meeting to discuss their role in disability access after a planning permit is granted. What is Council's role/interaction with private Building Surveyors?

5 Aged and Disability updates – Shadi Hanna and Christine Mulholland

Back in April last year Council decided to not be an NDIS service provider. However, Council did make the decision to invest more in disability capacity building and advocacy. Shadi provided an update on what the investment will look like. Shadi was able to report that the investment will include 2 new positions within Aged and Disability.

One will be a 'Transition Support Officer' role, focussing on supporting eligible HACC clients to transition to the NDIS. The other role 'Access and Inclusion Officer' will be focussing on access and inclusion of people with disability in Darebin with a particular focus on economic, social and recreation settings. The Disability Planner role, currently vacant, will be retitled to

'Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion', with the MetroAccess and Access and Inclusion Officers reporting to it.

Shadi also reported Council have been working with BSL and DHHS to engage and support our HACC clients with their transition. At this point in time approximately 100 clients are in the process of transitioning, with the majority of HACC recipients transitioning in May/June in line with the phasing schedule.

Christine went over the 'wish list' items that were identified in the December 2016 meeting. These items will be dated and be combined with the 'drop off zone' to ensure they are addressed and not forgotten about. The full list will be brought to each meeting and can be added to at any point in time. Some upcoming conversations and opportunities that coincide with some of the wish list items include:

- Physical access to public spaces – traders and major precinct spaces and locations
- Public awareness campaign on the experience of disability – emphasis on working with traders
 - With the announcement of the new Access and Inclusion position, the focus will be on working with Economic Development and local businesses raising awareness about providing accessible and inclusive premises and employment opportunities.
- Housing options and challenges for people with disabilities
 - MetroAccess Officers in the north west were recently engaged by an Officer: NDIS Project Housing Development Lead from Uniting (a combination of all Uniting Care agencies) to discuss running a Housing Options Roadshow followed by the development of a Northern Disability Housing Network. More details to come.

6 General Business

- There are vacancies in the committee membership. Currently membership comprises 2 service providers, 3 carers and 6 community representatives. Given the last formal recruitment campaign was back in 2015 and we always aim to have more names on paper than are often able to attend each meeting, it was suggested a formal recruitment take place this year.
- In January Christine forwarded an invite from Yarra Council's DAC to collaborate on a public forum discussing the future needs of people with disability in the environment of the NDIS reform. The majority of members expressed an interest to work with Yarra. Christine will circulate the next steps when more details come to hand.
- Members have been invited to attend a joint advisory group meeting to provide feedback into the new Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021.

When: Monday 6 March, 6-8pm

Where: Anglican Parish of Jika Jika, cnr Murray Road and High Street, Preston.

RSVP: to community.wellbeing@darebin.vic.gov.au

*If you require any support to attend or participate in this event please let us know when you RSVP.

- Ray is travelling back to the USA and will be back for the December meeting. In the meantime he is contactable and very active on email.

Action: A formal recruitment campaign will be conducted in 2017. Christine will wait until the additional Officers/resources are on board to conduct recruitment.

7 Meeting feedback – everyone

Members noted they liked the presentation from Planning; the content was really useful and explained in a manner that was user friendly and easy to understand.

Next meeting: Monday 3 April 2017