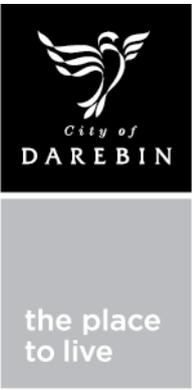


# Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

Monday 7 August 2017  
Meeting Minutes



## Present

### Councillors and Co-Chairs:

Cr Julie Williams  
Cr Suzanne Newton

### Community Representatives:

Vince Pirrottina, Helen Caligiuri, Edward Manuel

### Carers:

Judith McLean, George Jiang, Jo Banks

### Service Providers:

Julie Lew, Melbourne Polytechnic Work Education  
Gail Abbott, Encompass House

### Council staff:

Shadi Hanna, Manager Aged and Disability  
Gillian Damonze, Coordinator Community Participation and Development  
Katie Kiley, Senior Team Leader Access & Inclusion

### Guest speaker:

Nick Matteo, Community Planner

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## 1 Present and Apologies

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

**Apologies:** Katrina Knox (Director Community Development), Christine Mulholland (MetroAccess Officer), Kathy Kondekas (Melbourne Polytechnic) – Julie Lew as proxy, Matthew Zammit (community representative), Ray Jordan (community representative).

## 2 Matters arising from the previous minutes

### Actions pending:

- Invite Building Services to future meeting to discuss their role in disability access after a planning permit is granted.
- Number of compliant & non-complaint accessible parking bays in Darebin

### Actions completed:

- **Questions regarding changes to Disabled Parking Scheme permit application form**
  - Christine contacted VicRoads regarding their announcement of changes to the Disabled Parking Permit Scheme. They are appointing a Project Officer and will be contacting all

Council's to participate in a working group to assist with feedback and implementation of changes.

They did say that changes won't involve repealing current processes, so Council will still be responsible for issuing permits. They have DDAC's contact details and will provide regular updates.

- **Housing Roadshow forums**

- Christine is in the process of engaging Di to offer the Housing Roadshow in Darebin in September/October. The aim will be to offer multiple sessions, to accommodate for numbers, targeting people with disability and their carers (day and afternoon/evening time slots) and the service sector (LAC/planners, Support Coordinators, housing staff etc.).

**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*).

Nothing added in round table check-in.

**4 Darebin Social and Affordable Housing Strategy**

The issue of affordable and liveable public housing has been identified as a priority by the Darebin Disability Advisory Committee in December 2016. Nick provided an overview of Council's Social and Affordable Housing Strategy and sought preliminary comments on the next social housing strategy.

Nick explained:

- The State Government selling off public housing, negative gearing, inadequate Government subsidies and high demand continue to make public housing availability a problem for those most disadvantaged.
- Council's response to the issue has always been bricks and mortar, a commitment they have reaffirmed in the Council Plan.
- Council have identified 11 potential car park sites to be developed into public housing, and funding is being sought from the State Government. Three (3) sites in particular have been identified to 'kick off' as a pilot.
- People with a disability are disproportionately disadvantaged when it comes to Social Housing.
- The Social Housing Policy is currently being updated.
- There has been an increase in the number of people living rough in Darebin. There are 20 known sites and at least 100 people sleeping rough, as well as unknown numbers of people, particularly young people, who may be couch surfing.
- There are 30 registered rooming / boarding houses in Darebin, as well as 150 unregistered and overcrowded boarding houses. There are also an increasing number of older women staying in boarding houses, and unconscionable tenant practices, with no consideration given to resident mix.
- The hope is for Council to open more land for social and affordable housing to help meet the demand. Council will also continue to support homelessness agencies.
- The Strathallan site is being considered for redevelopment into social housing – however there is also a push to have the site remain open, and undeveloped.
- There is a principle of tenure-blind, so that it cannot be identified which accommodations are public and which are private.
- The focus is to have affordable housing close to shops, community facilities and transport.

- Developers want to make housing higher density so there is a higher yield, which is in tension with liveable housing principles.
- The Government no longer publishes waiting times for public housing. Council has requested cumulated, de-identified data from the Government but are meeting resistance.
- State Planning scheme stipulates when there are over 30 apartments, 15% must be public housing.
- The Social Housing Policy and Land Use Policy are to be integrated.
- There are to be 400,000 new residents in Darebin in next 14 years.
- Council to Homeless Persons have a campaign, [100,000 homes for 100,000 people](#).

Nick suggested:

- DDAC could ask Council to be bolder in advocating for housing
- DDAC could provide support to Council in relation to land use for social housing
- Encouraging eligible people to register for public housing (3,000 residents are waiting for public housing in Darebin. A further 7,000 are in receipt of Commonwealth assistance, and would be eligible for public housing but are not yet registered).

**Attachments:** Committee members invited to take part in the Strathallan community reference group- Information in email attached.

**ACTION:**

Aged and Disability to develop a joint submission in relation to public housing for approval by Council committees– this is to include a call to stop redevelopment until intergovernmental conversations can be had and appropriate rules determined.

Nick to send the first draft of the *Social and Affordable Housing Strategy* to DDAC members for comment and input.

## 5 Changing Places, Darebin grant application

DDAC had a presentation about Changing Places from Eddie Chapman, Association for Children with a Disability back in April. Since then the Victorian Government has announced grants for 20 Changing Places across the State.

Katherine explained:

- Changing Place facilities are larger than standard accessible toilets, and have extra features and more space to meet the needs of people with a disability and their carers.
- Changing Places toilets are designed for people who cannot use standard accessible toilets. Each changing place facility has a height adjustable, adult-sized changing bench, a tracking hoist system, space for two people; and is a safer and cleaner environment. Designs and technical specification can be found [here](#).
- State Government funding round is currently open, with grants up to \$100,000 available for Not for Profit organisations and Local Government Areas. Applications due by 13 October 2017.
- State-wide Changing Places survey conducted in September 2017 with Darebin receiving the following votes for the location of a Changing Place:

<b>Darebin</b>	<b>17</b>	Darebin Northcote	1
		Darebin Northcote High St	1
		Darebin Northcote Plaza / All Nations	2
		Darebin Northland Shopping Centre	5
		Darebin Preston Market	4
		Darebin Preston Melbourne Polytechnic campus	1
		Darebin Preston Train Station	1
		Darebin Reservoir Edwardes Lake Park	2

**The following questions were asked and feedback provided:**

**Question: Why do you (Darebin City Council) want to build a Changing Places facility?**

- Changing Places will reduce the stress for someone who needs the facilities and they will be more comfortable and able to enjoy what they do.
- Data could be extracted in relation to the number of Darebin residents who have transitioned to the NDIS to quantify the possible benefits of Changing Places in Darebin.
- Individual organisations such as Yooralla, Scope and Independence Australia may be able to provide statistics in relation to the number of service users who would use a Changing Place. These services could also provide feedback in relation to lost opportunities or changed plans due to not have Changing Places in Darebin, and to quantify the cost of time. They could also identify locations they would like Changing Places to be installed and the benefits Changing Places would add in terms of time and access.
- Without Changing Places we cannot take people out for the whole day.
- Keep the message simple: “Without Changing Places, I cannot leave my home”
- If you do go out, you have to go home again, otherwise you stay at home.
- Medical interventions, such as catheters, are used to avoid being wet. Medical interventions can cause pain.
- People have to stay wet when they go out, which can also leave people prone to infection.
- It is a matter of human rights and human dignity.
- Lots of people gravitate to Darebin because of the accessible services and transport in the area. Identify the things that make Darebin a liveable city.
- Mention the projected population growth in Darebin of 40,000 people over the next 14 years.
- People don’t get to go outside, with the sunshine and the trees; they are always locked in a building.

**Question: What are the expected social, economic, accessibility benefits that the project will deliver to people with disabilities, their families and carers in the community?**

- People who use Changing Places travel in a group of three – “If I don’t go into a shop, they don’t go into a shop”
- There is a clear economic benefit as the person with a disability is not going on their own, they will have family or support from two or three people with them, assisting them to access the community, who will also be spending money at these locations.

- The social and accessible benefit includes access to entertainment and personal shopping, including the ability for people to pick things for themselves and not having to rely on others to shop for them.
- The benefit will be equity and equality.

**Questions: Where are you (Darebin City Council) going to build your Changing Places facility? Why are these locations a good choice for a Changing Place facility?**

- Northcote Plaza / All Nations Park were identified as a preferable location due to the close proximity to the shopping centre, open spaces at the park, the Northcote Library and Yanada House.
- Changing Places locations must consider access to public transport, accessible parking, and entertainment in the area including food, shops and open spaces.
- Sites with multiple functions should be located.
- Consideration should also be given to the exposure to weather when identifying locations. Changing Places in outdoor areas will be weather dependent in the winter months especially.
- Libraries are becoming hubs and have demonstrations, community groups, committee meetings and events, and should be considered as potential Changing Places sites.

**Question: Ideas for a Communications Plan for promoting the Changing Places facility?**

- Individual organisations such as Yooralla, Scope and Independence Australia, as well as other local service providers should be informed.
- Connect with the Disability Liaison Officer at Melbourne Polytechnic.
- Contact: Local disability networks, Advocacy agencies, Adult day services, YMCA.
- Contact DHHS and request forwarded to services in Darebin.
- If promoted in public, including in accessible toilets, tear off tabs could be provided on flyers to provide council contact details.
- Community Residential Units should be informed.
- Communication should include information in relation to the [Master Locksmith Access Key \(MLAK\)](#).
- Code access locks could be considered to make Changing Places more accessible.

**Attachments:** Changing Places presentation attached.

**ACTION:**

Katherine to seek further information regarding the access to MLAK and forward to committee members.

**6 General Business**

**Council updates:**

- The Council Plan 2017-2021 was formally adopted and is available on the [website](#) or in hard copy.
- Expressions of interest were sought for members to participate on Darebin Lifelong Learning Strategy Reference Group; Vince submitted an application to participate.

- Expressions of interest were sought from the Level crossing Removal Authority to participate in the Community Reference Group in relation to the Grange Road Level Crossing Removal Project. Vince nominated to participate, if unavailable Christine will attend in his place. Other members of DDAC invited to nominate. The first meeting is Tuesday August 15th, 6-7.30pm. Following meetings will be in October/November with details to come.
- Yarra Council have proposed to hold a regional public forum to enable people with disability, carers and families to reflect on their experiences following the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The proposal is that North East Metropolitan Area (NEMA) Disability Advisory Committees (DAC) in collaboration with the Victorian Disability Advisory Committee (VDAC) and supported by councils, play a key role in leading the forum. DDAC confirmed they would be interested in leading the development and facilitation of the public forum.
- Current project underway to support clients who receive in-kind supports from council to transition to registered NDIS service providers before 1 October 2017. Clients are being contacted by phone, and letters are being sent to clients and services providers / local area coordinators etc.

**ACTION:**

Katherine informed Yarra Council that DDAC confirmed they would be interested in leading the development and facilitation of the public NDIS forum.

**7 Meeting feedback – everyone**

Members noted that it was a helpful and informative meeting.

**Next meeting: Monday 2 October 2017**