

**Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board Meeting  
5.00pm to 6:30pm Red Room  
Meeting Minutes - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Chair:** Gillian Damonze  
**Minutes:** Gillian Damonze/ Fionnuala Spillane

**Community Representatives Attendance:** Audrey Grace, Mary Castellini, Marika Bozinova, Nick Nicholaou, Geoff Richards, Draga Kostandinova, Virginia Herts, Amanda Scott and Robyn Vote, Fred Psaropoulos

**Councillor Representatives Attendance:** Cr Gaetano Greco and Susanne Newton

**Darebin Council Representatives Attendance:** Gillian Damonze (Co ordinator of Community Participation and Development), Robyn Mitchell (Acting Manager, Aged & Disability Department); Jette Achleitner, (Community Understanding and Engagement Officer), Mel McCarten (Strategy and Business Adviser – Libraries) Jacinta Stevens (Director Civil Governance and Compliance) and Fionnuala Spillane, (Community Development Officer).

**Apologies:** Lyn Austin, Cr Lina Messina, George Jiang, Cindy Bux and Jan Goss

**Observer:** Wyn Stenton

Item	Key Discussion Points	Action – Who/When
<b>1. Welcome, present, apologies</b>	We welcomed Wyn Stenton who has expressed an interest in participating on the Board and attended as an observer.	
<b>2. Life Long Learning Strategy Consultation</b>	Mel McCarten informed the Board about the process of developing the Life Long Learning Strategy. She had three questions for the Board: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. What do the Board see as the key issues?</b></li> <li><b>2. Barriers to participation</b></li> <li><b>3. Councils role in this space</b></li> </ol>	Copy of presentation; 3 questions and link to be sent to the Board. (GD)  Members to submit additional ideas either via link or directly

	<p>Suggestions made by the Board included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Learning topics for older community members (some obvious, some not eg carers of young children)</li> <li>- Different needs for the range of ages in the older bracket (50+, 65+, 80+)</li> <li>- Learning activities can happen in a range of facilities e.g. leisure centre between other classes</li> <li>- Intergenerational learning is important – goes both ways (learner and teacher)</li> <li>- Informal learning as part of social connections e.g. adopt a grandparent, living library (borrow a person)</li> <li>- Respect for the knowledge, wisdom and experience of our older community members</li> <li>- Access to transport is critical</li> <li>- Targeted timing of activities</li> <li>- Awareness of opportunities – holistic approach, explore radio</li> <li>- Schools as community centres</li> </ul>	to Gillian
<p><b>3. NDIS</b></p>	<p>Robyn Mitchell (Acting Manager Aged and Disability updated the Board on progress under the NDIS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30<sup>th</sup> September marked the end of the official “transition phase” of Home and Community Care (HACC) to National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) for the North East Metropolitan Area (NEMA) councils.</li> <li>• Darebin staff have been systematically working with clients and their planners to make sure that the change for those with approved access and plans occurs smoothly.</li> <li>• The Home and Community Care Program for Younger People (HACC PYP) continues to be available for people aged under 65 who are not eligible for the NDIS or have chosen not to transition. HACC PYP however has a limited</li> </ul>	

	<p>(entry level) scope and staff will continue to explain to those eligible the comparative benefits of entering the NDIS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All new referrals for people under 65 who are clearly NDIS eligible will be directed to the NDIA. Council is not funded to assist people eligible for the scheme beyond 30 September 2017.</li> <li>• Clients who are still waiting to have their NDIS plan approved will have a one month transition period to move from Council services to a new provider.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. Aged Care Reforms</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The last Board meeting provided opportunity for feedback about the community consultation overview and a draft version of the survey.</li> <li>• One of your key suggestions about the consultation plan was to hold focus groups, which has been taken up and we are in the process of organising those with an external researcher.</li> <li>• A lot of the feedback from this committee was incorporated into the survey which went through a few more versions, was finally approved and went live on line on 4<sup>th</sup> September. It was also included in the Springtime brochure and is going out to clients this week.</li> <li>• Overall we are on track with this information and research phase of the consultation, and very pleased with how it is going.</li> <li>• The community forums are on next week <b>Thursday 19 October (10am – 11.30am) and 5.30pm – 7.00pm)</b> to be held at the Preston Shire Hall at 286 Gower Street Preston. We will have COTA for Older People doing a presentation explaining what the Aged Care Reforms are. They use peer educators so it is well pitched to community members.</li> </ul>	

There will be lots of Aged & Disability staff on hand and a few relevant local agencies who can all answer peoples questions about the new system. We will also have copies of the survey there and other activities and opportunities for people to make comments and suggestions.

Members of the Board were provided with the Springtime Events brochure highlighting information about the Aged Care Forums as well as the hard copy survey.

The subject of the reforms generated robust conversations that included the following comments/ concerns/ observations:

1. The existing survey does not include a specific question asking community whether or not Council should remain a provider of aged care services.
  - The general community does not know about or understand the changes. More is needed to build on the awareness and knowledge.
  - Information gathered through the survey as well as the community forums and focus groups will inform the development of a discussion paper that we will invite submissions to. The Committee might like to submit a response to that paper.
2. The role of advocacy – systemic and local  
There is a need for systemic advocacy to address the issues introduced with the new aged care reforms e.g. system issues and inequities that will impact vulnerable communities such as people from CALD communities, older people who do not have access to computers who

	<p>may fall through the gaps, people with disabilities, people who are not connected to family or have a social connection.</p> <p>→ Council staff will be working with COTA and other organisations to develop community information sessions about aged care targeting seniors clubs and older people in general.</p> <p>Observations were made that Council has not done advocacy work to respond to the reforms.</p> <p>→ Impetus for aged care reform commenced in 2011 with the Living Longer Living Better policy passed into legislation. System changes have been /are being progressively implemented since then.</p> <p>→ The Commonwealth has responsibility for aged care services.</p> <p>→ A report has been tabled in parliament regarding recommendations for the next wave of changes by the Commonwealth <i>Future reform – an integrated care at home program to support older Australians’</i></p> <p>Council recently responded to a discussion paper seeking views on the reforms to date, and how best to achieve an integrated care at home program model for older people in the future. A copy will be forwarded to the Board.</p> <p>From these discussions it was the view of both Councillors that further work is needed to identify advocacy priorities that raise awareness and can realistically effect change to achieve a</p>	<p>AHAB members will be invited to come along to these sessions to raise the Board’s understanding of the community’s understanding of the reforms.</p> <p>Gillian to send a copy of Aged and Disability response to the discussion paper:</p> <p><i>Future reform – an integrated care at home program to support older Australians’</i></p> <p>Advocacy to be explored at the Aged Care Reform working</p>
--	---	--

	positive impact for older people. Particular concern was expressed for those who are likely to experience the new system as a barrier to accessing services. F	group – 13 November
<b>5. Enquiry in to Public Housing</b>	Nick Matteo was scheduled to provide an update re the Draft Housing Strategy. This has not been finalised. Council will be submitting a submission to the Inquiry into the Public Housing Renewal program. A draft letter has been written on behalf of DDAC and the Board. Consultation with DDAC took place on 2 November. Due to limited time AHAB members were unable to provide input. However the draft letter and Council submission had been distributed. An updated version will be forwarded for further input by DDAC and the Board. The Council submission is due on Friday 3 November.	GD to forward the DDAC input to the proposal.  Additional input is welcome from AHAB members.
<b>6. Melbourne Water</b>	Gillian, Nick, Audrey, Virginia and Geoff met with Peter Clarke and two others from Melbourne Water in relation to the St. Georges Road works. Issues raised with Melbourne Water reflected the letter sent to the Minister for Water – Response from Melbourne Water included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Line of sight requirements, and demands to reinstate the existing trees means that separate bicycle and pedestrian paths were not possible.</li> </ul> Council's Safe Travel Strategy is due for review providing opportunity to raise issues particularly on barriers that prevent people with limited mobility from walking which extends to how safe people feel on bike paths.	
<b>7. Transport Management</b>	Transport Strategy is up for review, staff from the Transport Management Team will be invited to the next AHAB meeting.	

<b>8. Council budget</b>	Next meeting Councillors would like to hear from AHAB about Council's spending priorities for the next year. The budget is up for development.	
--------------------------	--	--

**Next Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 5pm**

**Function Room**