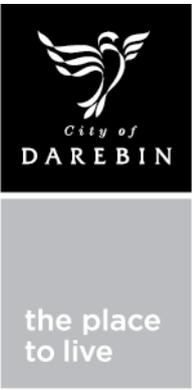


# Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

Monday 2 March 2020  
Meeting Minutes



## **Present**

### **Councillor and Chair:**

Cr Julie Williams, Cr Susanne Newton

### **Community Representatives:**

Ray Jordan, Helen Caligiuri, Vince Pirrottina

### **Carers:**

George Jiang, Jo Banks

### **Council staff:**

Shadi Hanna (Manager Aged and Disability)

Gillian Damonze, Coordinator Community Participation and Development

Ania Sieracka, Community Development Officer Access and Inclusion (minutes)

### **Guest speaker:**

Che Sutherland, Coordinator Transport

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## **1 Present and Apologies**

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the following apologies:

### **Apologies:**

Edward Manual and Matthew Zammit (community representatives), Judith McLean (carer), Kathy Kondekas (Service Provider), Katherine Kiley, Community Participation and Development, Jade Myconos Community Development Officer Economic Participation.

## **2 Matters arising from the previous minutes**

### **Actions pending:**

There are no actions pending from previous meeting.

- 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*).

### **Following items added to General Business:**

Update on the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building funding round and the Opening Doors resource and Council's preparation for COVID-19.

## **4 Oakhill Village Tram Stop**

Che Sutherland, Coordinator *Transport Strategy, Darebin City Council*

**Che provided a following update to the Oakhill Village Tram Stop:**

- This tram stop, located on the corner of Plenty Road and Tyler Street in Reservoir, was closed some years ago due to concerns from VicRoads regarding safety and delay to traffic by the new E-class trams.
- The removal of the city-bound stop created the largest gap between tram stops anywhere in Melbourne.
- Council has been continually advocating to the Department of Transport to reinstate the stop.
- Yarra Trams indicated it may be possible to reinstate the stop, either to the south or north of the old stop.
- Due to the funding restrictions the new stop would be a kerb-access stop and as such will not be DDA-compliant.
- Yarra Trams would be supporting this temporary non-compliant stop using Section 33.7, which considers 'unjustifiable hardship'.
- Yarra Trams would like to consult with relevant stakeholder groups in community to understand whether there would be any objections to this proposal.

**DDAC provided the following points for consideration for Council:**

- The committee's preference would be for Yarra Trams to continue its work towards a long-term solution to deliver accessible stop to the community at this location.
- The committee would like to see the Yarra Trams' list of priorities to understand how raising the issue about accessible tram stops could be addressed.
- Council and the committee could support the community campaign in the local media lobbying for the accessible stop at this location.
- The committee suggested if Yarra Tram were to build a shorter accessible stop, passengers could get on and off the tram through the front door only with the doors outside of the tram stop to remain closed when the tram is stationary.
- Passengers would receive information about this limitation through recorded messages at the stop before.
- Another option could be to build a tram stop that could service both directions of travel (like the tram stop in Westgarth).
- To increase safety around stationary trams, Yarra Trams could consider equipping trams with cameras and lower the Stop warning signs, so they are visible to the drivers.
- There also some safety issues regarding the tram stop at the Plenty and High Street intersection.

**5 Darebin Disability Access and Inclusion Plan survey feedback**

*Ania Sieracka, Community Development Officer Access and Inclusion, Darebin City Council*

**Ania provided the following points about the development of the Darebin Disability Access and Inclusion Plan survey feedback:**

- The Community Engagement Strategy, co-designed with the Access and Inclusion Working Group, was implemented over December 2019 and January 2020.
- Data was collected using the Access and Inclusion survey and through comments posted on the Your Say Darebin Project page.
- The survey was implemented face-to face through Pop Ups and Pop Ins in the community and on-line.
- Over 120 responses were received, and data was thematised to assist with the development of the new vision for accessible and inclusive Darebin.
- Staff at Council already participated in a Staff Forum at the start of December 2019.
- The themes will support staff in relevant to develop annual actions (underpinned by the vision) to respond to the issues raised by the community.

DDAC commended and thanked the team for the work undertaken for the Community Engagement Strategy.

**6 Review of the committee – Terms of reference and support structures (meeting and minutes)**

*Ania Sieracka Community Development Officer Access and Inclusion, Darebin City Council*

Ania repeated information reported by Cr Newton at the December 2019 meeting regarding the Council's review of the committees. As indicated by the Council report, DDAC will continue until the end of 2020 with four meetings planned for this year. There is also an option for out of session meetings, if issues arise and extra meetings are required.

Gillian informed the committee that following the review, Council is undertaking further work to understand how to support the work of remaining committees. Council officers will be reviewing and aligning terms of reference of all committees.

The committee voiced its concern to reduce the number of meetings from six to four and suggested measuring and capturing any impact it may have on its work. The committee provided the following feedback to the current Terms of Reference:

- To standardise the phrase 'living, working, studying and visiting Darebin' in the purpose and objectives of the committee.
- To include a phrase 'in a changing landscape at a local, State and National level' in objective 3 referring to committee's advocacy and lobbying activities.
- To update objective 5 to state 'To respond and contribute to relevant...'
- To update the last objective to 'To monitor the implementation of the Darebin Disability Access Plan on ongoing basis'.

Gillian noted that there has always been flexibility if additional meetings were needed to work on a project or if more time was needed to explore an issue more deeply. This will remain an option for DDAC if additional meetings are needed.

## **7 Recruitment of new committee members**

*Ania Sieracka Community Development Officer Access and Inclusion, Darebin City Council*

Ania refreshed the discussion about recruitment from the December 2019 meeting. The Council review of committees provides a good opportunity to consider gaps in representation and discuss opportunities for recruitment.

### **The committee provided the following feedback:**

- The committee agreed it was important to include service providers as they offer different perspective.
- Recruitment should be targeted and opened to the general community.
- Recruitment should target service providers and care workers who work with someone in the community across housing and mental health areas and are young adults who study in Darebin and people with invisible disabilities.
- Voice at the Table has contact list of community members who live in Darebin and are interested in participation.
- Employers, such as Bunnings, and community organisations, such as Northern Church etc, SPAN could be targeted.
- Committee could consider creating databases of people who would like to contribute but are not comfortable with structured meetings and would like to participate outside of the meetings.
- Recruitment timeframe – before next meeting.

## **8 Priorities for 2020**

*Ania Sieracka Community Development Officer Access and Inclusion, Darebin City Council*

### **Ania confirmed and updated priority areas for the committee in 2020. These include:**

- Regular updates about the level cross removal project including ramps and access
- Transport
- Footpaths
- Housing
- Updates to NDIS
- Autism Friendly project updates.

## **9 General Business**

### **Letter of Thank You**

Ania drafted a 'Thank You' letter to Gail Abbot from Encompass House who resigned from the committee at the end of January 2020. The committee provided feedback and the letter will be signed by Cr Williams and sent to Gail.

### **You Am I project update**

Ania provided a project update on behalf of Jade who is the Project Manager. You Am I is an employment project, offering six-weeks placements for women. It is scheduled to start on 23 March 2020. The five original placements have been extended to eight due to some flexibility in budget and the availability of eight staff mentors. Council received 12 expressions of interest to participate and participants are currently being interviewed.

Placements will take place across:

- Aged and Disability
- Civic Services
- Libraries
- Farm
- Decibels
- Youth Hub
- Climate Emergency and Sustainable Transport

These placements are unpaid. Participants will receive up to \$1000 in incentives to participate, including all travel costs covered, training and fitted for work referrals.

#### **Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) grants update**

Ania informed the committee that the results of the recent Economic and Community Participation ILC grants funding program have recently been announced. Unfortunately, none of the three projects that Darebin partner for with Amaze, SPAN and CoHealth were successful. The full list of successful applicants can [be viewed on the ILC website](#).

**Lifts at the Reservoir Train Station** are still not operational.

#### **Opening Doors resource**

Helen has shared with the committee a new renting resource 'Opening Doors'. This resource has been developed by the Action for More independence and Dignity in Accommodation.

#### **Council's preparation for COVID-19**

Preparing for any emergency, including readiness for pandemic is part of Council's Emergency Plan response. All direct care service staff in Aged and Disability Department is required to take universal precautions. In addition, Mayor and councillors have been promoting local Chinese services

#### **10 Meeting feedback – everyone**

The meeting was very productive and addressed a range of different topics and issues.

## **Next meeting: Monday 1 June 2020**

**11:00am – 1:00pm**

Function Room, Preston