

# Darebin Disability Advisory Committee (DDAC)

Monday 2 December 2019  
Meeting Minutes



## Present

### Councillor and Chair:

Cr Susanne Newton (chair), Cr Julie Williams

### Community Representatives:

Edward Manual, Ray Jordan, Vince Pirrottina

### Carers:

Jo Banks, Judith McLean

### Council staff:

Shadi Hanna, Manager Aged and Disability

Katherine Kiley, Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion

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

Jade Myconos, Community Development Officer Economic Participation

### Guest speaker:

Georgia Halliday, Senior Stakeholder Relations and Communications Advisor Level Crossing Removal Project

Adelaide Levis, Rail Communications Advisor Metro Trains.

---

## 1 Present and Apologies

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

### Apologies:

Helen Caligiuri, Matthew Zammit (community representatives), George Jiang (carer), Kathy Kondekas, Gail Abbott (service providers), Gillian Damonze, Coordinator Community Participation and Development and Steph Murdica, Metro Access Officer.

## 2 Matters arising from the previous minutes

### Update on Actions Pending:

- Northcote Plaza Shopping Centre management have explained the issue with the accessible toilet was a mistake as the cleaner turned the sensor off and forgot to reset it.

## 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:

Cr Julie Williams asked whether the music available through Darebin libraries will be updated to include new and current releases.

Jo Banks requested an update on the Autism Friendly StreetAbility project.

**ACTIONS:**

Katie to find out from Caz whether community members can access current music releases through the library service.

**4 Level Crossing Removal Project presentation**

*Georgia Halliday, Senior Stakeholder Relations and Communications Advisor Level Crossing Removal Project*

*Adelaide Levis, Rail Communications Advisor Metro Trains.*

**Staff from the Level Crossing Removal Project provided the committee with the following information:**

- Replacement of the level crossing in Reservoir is progressing according to plan.
- From 3 December 2019 there will be a temporary closure of the station and the trains will be replaced by buses.
- The Reservoir station will re-open on Monday 16 December 2019.
- At this time there will be a temporary access to the platforms via stairs.
- Lifts will be available at the station from mid-2020.
- For community members with access needs a Wheelchair Accessible Taxi will be on a standby from 6.00am to 10.00pm to provide transport between Reservoir and Regent stations.
- Customer Service staff will be assisting community members at Reservoir, Regent and Ruthven stations and will arrange Wheelchair Accessible Taxi, as required.
- Once the station is opened to public, the security of the public plaza will be maintained by lighting, cameras and the presence of the Protective Services Officers.
- The Level Crossing Removal Project will keep the community informed about the developments throughout December, including pop-ups and printed collateral.
- The North West Program Alliance, responsible for the Level Crossing Removal Project, is a State Government initiative that involves a range of stakeholders, including City of Darebin and learnings between projects will be shared.
- The Gladstone Street pedestrian crossing in Reservoir is closed for an upgrade and will re-open on 20 December 2019.

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

- Maintenance of lifts should be scheduled after hours, and not during the day.
- Information about various accessibility features of the stations could be included in the Darebin GIS map.
- It is important to ensure community safety and security in the new public plaza.

- The connection between the new station at Reservoir and the surrounding streets may become an issue with increased commuters using limited crossings.
- This will provide opportunity for Council to advocate for the upgrade of the existing pedestrian crossings.
- The upgrade of the Gladstone Street pedestrian railway crossing could be accompanied by an upgrade of the existing High Street pedestrian crossing and the nearby bus stop.
- The decor of the new stations can be linked to the character of the area, similar to Footscray station's mural, presenting the local culture and character of the suburb.

#### **ACTIONS:**

Level Crossing Removal Project to provide information regarding the lifts at Reservoir station.

The upgrade of the local train stations to be a topic for DDAC in 2020.

## **5 Review of 2019 and planning for 2020**

*Katie Kiley, Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion*

### **Katie provided a review of the activities undertaken by DDAC in 2019:**

- Committee for Melbourne presented on the StreetAbility Autism Friendly project.
- Level Crossing Removal Authority presented plans for the Reservoir Level Crossing Removal Project.
- Started planning for next Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan.
- Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL) presented about their role as Local Area Coordinator (LAC) and community development.
- Discussed the history of disability in Darebin and the Darebin Heritage website.
- Provided feedback regarding the process to request accessible Parking Bays.
- Started planning for International Day People with Disability (IDPWD).
- Discussed priorities for Economic Participation position.
- Introduced the new Age Friendly Navigation Program and Volunteer Service.
- Reviewed Access and Mobility Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping.
- Informed about the range of Darebin Library Services.
- Level Crossing removal project returned to provide an update on Reservoir.
- Reviewed actions in 2019 and started planning for 2020.

### **DDAC provided the following comments:**

- It was a very busy year with many activities and events by the committee and staff.
- The launch of the Changing Places facility was a highlight.
- The installation of a mirror in the lift at 350 High Street building was an achievement.
- Ray noted that the inclusion of community members with a disability at regular Council events and meetings is perceived as 'business as usual'.
- In 2020 transport and footpaths will be a priority for DDAC.
- The Age Friendly Darebin review also raised the importance of providing smooth footpaths for pedestrian travel. Issues on Edwardes Street were identified.

**Cr Newton provided an update on the Review of Council Committees project:**

- Following the review several committees will be ceasing.
- These committees will be replaced by a range of representative working groups convened to respond to issues as they arise.
- The Review recommended DDAC continue.
- It was suggested DDAC meet four times per year, and extra working group meetings may be convened to address issues as they arise.
- DDAC Terms of Reference (TOR) will be reviewed.
- Recruitment will be undertaken for new members for DDAC to ensure diverse representation.

**DDAC provided the following comments:**

- Four meetings may not be enough, as there is a lot of work taking place.
- There is a value in setting up a separate working group to address different issues, including transport.
- The current committee membership appears to be well thought through and includes representation from people with a lived experience of disability, carers and service providers.
- Member numbers should be increased as people get unwell and miss meetings.
- There is a lack of representation from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members.
- The current recruitment documents are appropriate.

**ACTION:**

Katie to follow up about the state of the footpaths in Edwardes Street with City Works.

## **6 General Business**

**The Darebin Access and Inclusion Working Group and Community Engagement update:**

- The next Access and Inclusion Plan is being developed with the assistance of a working group of community members with a lived experience of disability.
- The group has been meeting since October to create a community engagement plan.
- The community engagement has commenced, with the development of a survey and Your Say page and will continue throughout December and January.
- The community feedback will be reviewed in February and the new Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan is scheduled to be completed by April.
- Staff will attend a workshop on 6 December 2019 to review the progress of the current Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan.
- The intention is to have an annual staff workshop to review the progress of actions in the Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan.

**ACTION:**

DDAC members to distribute the Community Engagement Survey throughout their networks

### **International day of People with Disability event/s:**

- A joint event will be held on 10 December to celebrate International Day of People with Disability and Human Rights Day.
- Staff and community are invited to attend the screening of a short film Amar, followed by a Question and Answer panel with some of the cast and crew.
- There will be also opportunity to take part in all abilities Zumba and hear rock band The Northcote Rebels.

### **Information, Linkages and Capacity Building funding application:**

- Darebin partnered with external organisations to apply for three projects:
- Diversexy to be delivered with CoHealth. The Project will develop a peer-educator led sexual health training program.
- The Strut Your Stuff Project to be delivered in collaboration with SPAN community Neighbourhood House and provide opportunities for engagement in art and fashion for community members with a disability.
- The StreetAbility Autism Friendly Project to be delivered with AMAZE.

### **Jade provided an update on the StreetAbility Project:**

- The StreetAbility Autism-friendly project was launched in October 2019.
- A number of Darebin-based services undertook audits and received an Autism Friendly sticker to display.
- Applied for funding to expand the project with Amaze and City of Wyndham.
- The first year of the project will focus on Council services, the second on community services, and the third to .
- The second and third years will include services external to Council and Darebin.

### **Inclusive Employment Forum:**

- This is an annual event for local businesses and disability employment services to network and build capacity in this space.
- Businesses find it difficult to respond to the needs of employees (particularly men) who disclose MH issues.
- The forum identified a need for resource development and capacity building.

## **7 Meeting feedback – everyone**

The meeting was very productive and presented a lot of information. The Committee discussed a range of different topics and issues.

**Next meeting: To be confirmed**