



# Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2019  
Meeting Minutes

## Present

### Community Representatives:

Helen Caligiuri, Ray Jordan, Vince Pirrottina, Edward Manual

### Carers:

Jo Banks

### Council staff:

Shadi Hanna, Manager Aged and Disability

Katherine Kiley, Acting Co-ordinator, community participation and development

Zoe Howard, MetroAccess Officer

Ania Sieracka, Community Development Officer Access and Inclusion

### Guest speakers:

Adrian Lee and John Webster, Future Focus Group, Committee for Melbourne

Alistair Gowing, Georgie Holliday, Ruby McKinnon, North West Project Alliance

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## 1 Present and Apologies

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

### Apologies:

Cr Julie Williams (Councillor), Gillian Damonze (co-ordinator, Community Participation and Development), George Jiang (carer), Judith McLean (Carer), Gail Abbott (Encompass House), Kathy Kondekas (Melbourne Polytechnic), Matthew Zammit (community representative).

## 2 Matters arising from the previous minutes

### Actions pending:

- Invite Building Services/Planning Compliance to DDAC

- 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:

No items added to general business.

## 4 Committee for Melbourne

*Adrian Lee and John Webster, Future Focus Group*

Members of the Committee for Melbourne's 'Future Focus Group' presented on the 'Street-Ability Project' (See attached presentation).

The Committee for Melbourne is an apolitical, not-for-profit member based organisation which aims to shape Melbourne as a leading global city. The City of Darebin is the Committee for Melbourne's newest member and has been chosen as the location to run the Street-ability project, which aims to make Preston Central Autism friendly. Council will partner with the Future Focus Group (a subset of the Committee for Melbourne) and Amaze, the peak body for people with autism in Victoria. The partnership will work with ten local businesses to provide education about the autism spectrum, undergo an environmental assessment by Amaze, and identify opportunities to improve or modify the environment to be more Autism-Friendly. Other deliverables of the project include producing a map of Preston Central's Autism-friendly services and businesses, an awareness raising event in Autism Awareness month (April), and the aim to create sustainable initiatives in stage two of the project.

**DDAC recommended the following locations who could be targeted:**

- Public transport (buses, trains, train stations)
- Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre (DAEC)

**DDAC provided the following feedback:**

- Physical access and maps are one facet of being Autism-friendly, education is the most effective approach so people understand how behaviours present and strategies to deal with these
- Work with Preston Market to educate about behaviours, reactions and communication difficulties
- Small businesses are better to approach than larger organisations, as relationship building with staff on the ground is key to real change
- Identify ways to provide ongoing education for new staff
- DDAC made recommendations for the design of quiet rooms, including considering other people in the room, equipment, colour of the room, avoiding TVs but provide computer access, appropriate sensory toys
- Education should be provided by a person with lived experience of Autism

Presenters advised that the quiet rooms would be designed by Amaze and welcomed any further feedback from the committee.

**ACTIONS:**

Katherine Kiley to forward DAEC contact details to Future Focus Group.

**5 Level Crossing Removal Project, Reservoir**

*Alastair Gowing, Georgie Halliday, Ruby McKinnon, North West Program Alliance*

Members of the North West Program Alliance presented the plans for the High Street, Reservoir Level Crossing Removal Project (see attached presentation).

Construction on the level crossing removal has begun. A new station will be built, featuring an above ground island platform with access via lifts and stairs. The bridge design means work can occur while keeping the Reservoir train station open, and trains will run for most of the construction, minimising impact. Low floor buses will be available during train replacement bus services, and taxis on standby if required (commuters can also book taxis for pre-planned journeys). Commuters will be given two weeks' notice for weekend works and four weeks' notice for weekday works that will disrupt journeys. A new, functioning station will be available by the end of 2019, however it will not be complete or fully DDA compliant at this stage. All completion works, final elements and DDA compliance will occur in 2020.

**DDAC provided the following feedback regarding station accessibility:**

- Recommend the construction of a Changing Places Facility at the site
- Safety concerns raised regarding the creation of open space for unsocial behaviour in the plaza
- DDAC should be consulted during all stages of the design stage whilst meaningful input into designs and accessibility can be made, and people with disability should be extensively consulted during design phase.
- Consider level crossings where footpaths meet the roads
- Walls of the lifts should be see through where possible for people who experience claustrophobia. The lifts should also include a mirror to see when reversing out using a wheelchair for mobility
- Lifts should be positioned closer to the front of the carriage, where people using wheelchairs and mobility scooters must board, to avoid travelling along a crowded platform
- Extend the 'roll in roll out' feature along the entire platform so people can board along the train
- Opportunities for rests and shelter from the wind should be provided for people using mobility devices
- Toilets are incredibly important, and some elements of the newly developed Mernda, Hawkstowe and Middle Gorge Stations are inaccessible. Design should consider people with limited upper limb range of motion and strength, and sitting balance. Specific examples of good toilet design provided to presenters
- Way finding signage should be clear and accurate, particularly regarding physical access

**The North West Alliance group advised that:**

- The plaza will include a waiting room, staff and ticket boxes, kiosk and PSO office. The station will be well lit, and aims to have good passive surveillance and CCTV for safety

- The landscaping and some of the plaza are still in the design stage
- The group are happy to attend DDAC for more feedback and to provide updates
- The scope of the level crossing removal does not include changes to the surrounding roads, intersection or bus loop
- The plaza aims to separate pedestrians and cyclists to avoid conflict
- 90 additional car spaces will be created in Regent Station. An underground car park would fall within PTV parking policy and is out of scope for the project

**ACTION:**

DDAC members to forward additional feedback to Katherine Kiley or North West Program Alliance

## **6 Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan Update**

*Katherine Kiley, Acting Co-ordinator, Community Participation and Development*

Katie discussed the draft Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) Community Working Group Recruitment (see attached). The document presents draft ideas for recruiting the working committee to create the new DAIP. The project will likely be funded, and conversations will start at the Kite Festival, where a graphic recorder will speak to community about “What does inclusion mean to you?” Advertising for the working group will run through the Leader, Darebin Community News, social media, Council newsletters, Email, phone conversations, meetings and through networks.

### **DDAC provided the following feedback:**

- The plan should be kept as the “*Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan*” rather than the “*Disability Access and Inclusion Plan*”
- Weekend meetings are good for working people but meeting times should be open to change based on committee membership
- Council should provide alternative options to attend meetings such as Skype
- If the committee were to tour Darebin, examples of good and bad access and inclusion should be shown, to depict what is and isn’t working, and how do we reach where we want to be?

## **7 General Business**

### **Council Updates:**

- Welcome Ania Sieracka to the Access and Inclusion Team. Ania joins us as Community Development Officer (Access and Inclusion). Ania has a Masters of Public Health and Bachelor of International Studies. She previously worked for Huntington’s Victoria as a Quality and Community Engagement Coordinator, and has previously worked at Austin Health as Consumer Participation Support Officer.

- Zoe updated DDAC on current MetroAccess projects: Autism Awareness training has been arranged for staff in Autism Awareness month; free carer workshops are running in April for community, planning for housing workshops, and ongoing conversations to create access guides and social stories for Council events and services.

#### **8 Meeting feedback – everyone**

**Next meeting: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 11:00am – 1:00pm**

Function Room, Preston