

Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

Monday 4th June 2018
Meeting Minutes

Present

Councillors and Co-Chairs:

Cr Susanne Newton

Community Representatives:

Helen Caligiuri, Edward Manuel

Carers:

Jo Banks, Judith McLean

Service Providers:

Gail Abbott, Encompass House

Kathy Kondekas, Melbourne Polytechnic

Council staff:

Shadi Hanna, Manager Aged and Disability

Katherine Kiley, Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion

Poy Bhensri Naemiratch, Regional Capacity Building Project Lead.

Zoe Howard, Metro Access Officer

1 Present and Apologies

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

Apologies: Cr Julie Williams, Matthew Zammit (community representative), Vince Pirrottina (community representative), Ray Jordan (community representative), George Jiang (carer).

2 Matters arising from the previous minutes

Actions pending:

- Concerns regarding paper disability parking permits being issued.
Katie Kiley advised that Civic compliance are currently sourcing a new supplier to manufacture the permits due to their own concerns about the printing material.
Civic compliance are happy to laminate the current paper permits for residents upon request.

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).*

- Katie Kiley introduced Poy Bhensri Naemiratch, the new Regional Capacity Building Project Lead. This new, six month position will work with the North Eastern

Metropolitan Area Councils (NEMA) and Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL) Partnership Project. Poy will work across each of the NEMA Councils (Banyule, Darebin, Yarra, Nillumbik, Whittlesea) and BSL to conduct a community mapping project, which has a regional approach to community capacity building and social inclusion.

4 Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC)

Zoe Howard, Metro Access Officer presented on the NDIS' *Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC)* Framework.

- Zoe advised that the Metro Access Officer role will be funded by Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for a final year until 30th June, 2019. After this date we will need to apply for funding through ILC grants.
- Zoe explained that ILC will fund activities that build the capacity of people with disability to participate in the community, as well as activities that build the capacity of communities to become more inclusive of people with disability. Unlike the rest of the NDIS, ILC doesn't provide funding to individuals. It will provide grants to organisations to carry out activities in the community.
- ILC grant applications must demonstrate a strong evidence of need and strong outcomes for people with disability, their families and carers. ILC projects must fall within the following 'Activity Areas':
 - Information, Linkages and Referrals;
 - Individual Capacity Building;
 - Community Awareness and Capacity Building; and
 - Capacity Building for Mainstream Services.

DDAC provided the following feedback:

- *Who* we worked with is the first and most important point to consider when developing ILC initiatives. DDAC highlighted the importance of being person centred in our initiatives and suggested adopting an assertive outreach approach for employment initiatives to support people with disability rather than focus solely on local businesses.
- Cr Newton suggested an awareness campaign for local businesses and asked whether Council should consider awards for local businesses who are leaders in access and inclusion.
- Kathy Kondekas, Melbourne Polytechnic stated that students are highly supported on their work experience placements, however it is difficult to find businesses willing to accept students for work placements.
- How do we know our community and what they need? Katie and Zoe commented that they attended the launch of The University of Melbourne's *Melbourne Disability Institute (MDI)*, which is a new, interdisciplinary research institute. Speakers at the

launch noted the importance of building evidence and data to inform and measure the impact of policy. Katie and Zoe stated that we will need to conduct our own community consultation to know our community at a local level and develop an evidence of need to inform ILC initiatives.

A 'brainstorm' session was held to identify current gaps and needs in our community, and to discuss potential ILC projects. DDAC made the following suggestions within each *ILC Activity Area*:

Information, linkages and referrals

- Need: centralised resources for information provision for people with disabilities, their families and carers.
- ILC Idea: A drop in centre
 - People with disability could attend the centre for information about employment, NDIS, services in Darebin.
 - Capacity building programs could be run in the centre
 - Businesses could also approach to increase inclusion
 - The drop in centre could have a different focus each day and utilise staff from different organisations
- Questions Raised:
 - Who is best placed to initiate and run this centre?
 - Who would we work with to make this happen?
 - Where would this be located?
 - Who would be responsible for managing and staffing the centre?
 - Could connections be made with Northland Youth Hub?

Individual Capacity Building

- Need: Provide assistance to NDIS participants who don't have the necessary supports to develop an Individual Funding Package.
- ILC Ideas:
 - Self-advocacy coaching for participants
 - Run workshops in the drop in centre (see above)
 - Provide resources to people with disability, their families and carers to assist with planning process eg. how to develop a document to bring to planning meetings, what language to use, how to 'pre-plan for the plan'
 - Peer support: meeting one on one to provide support and advice to other participants, family members or carers

- Providing supports to carers to address attitudes to change, sustainability of current supports
- Providing a platform and coaching for carers to self-advocate within the NDIS
- Questions raised:
 - Could Council provide a letter of support for individuals applying for NDIS to illustrate their needs?
- Need: Employment opportunities for people with disability
- ILC Ideas:
 - Provide opportunities to build life skills and employment skills outside of the typical vocations provided to people with disability.
 - Ensure employment initiatives are person centred and provide individualised support to a person with disability to obtain and retain employment, rather than working solely with local businesses.

Capacity Building of Mainstream Services

- Need: Availability of short Term Accommodation (respite) options available under NDIS.
- ILC Ideas: Systemic advocacy
- Questions raised:
 - DDAC asked whether Respite for Older Carers (ROC) is still available since the NDIS
 - Who is best placed to advocate within this space?

Community Awareness and Capacity Building

- Need: A responsive and sustainable employment initiative for people with disability.
- ILC Ideas:
 - Access and inclusion awareness for local businesses
 - Individual support to people with disability
 - Change culture, ideas and perceptions within businesses.
 - The drop in centre could provide resources for employers and potential employees.
- Questions:

- Who will the 'go to person/organisation' be for information on employment?
- Is council best placed to do this?

ACTIONS:

Katie to follow up with Respite for Older Carers (ROC) under NDIS

5 General Business

Items raised in Round table check-in:

- Zoe Howard has been successful in the Metro Access Expression of Interest process and will continue in the Metro Access position until 30th June, 2019. Zoe was previously contracted in the role for a three month secondment until 30th June, 2018.
- Zoe raised that the Access and Inclusion team was invited by the *Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO)* to participate in a public transport advocacy strategy associated with bringing concerns about the *Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002* (Transport Standards) to the attention of the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. AFDO have drafted a letter in partnership with disability organisations and have invited us to endorse the letter and add our support to their advocacy strategy. AFDO are seeking to meet with the Minister to discuss multiple issues, including: that compliance with the Transport Standards is not enforceable and places financial and administrative burden on people with disability to raise and settle a complaint; that the inability for the Transport Standards to enforce compliance results in reduced accessibility; a number of recommendations from the previous two reviews have not been implemented. DDAC was asked whether they would like to support the strategy.
- Katie gave an update on the Final Draft of the Oakover Village Housing Diversity Report. Feedback was provided to Strategic Planners following the presentation of the Preliminary Draft report during the last DDAC meeting. The Final Draft of the Oakover Village Housing Diversity Report includes the following recommendations for Liveable Housing Guidelines Standards:
 - An increase in the minimum provision of Gold living standard housing on public land to 75% (100% of all social housing and 50% of private dwellings).
 - Require a minimum provision of 20% of gold living standard housing on private land for developments over 10 dwellings.

ACTION:

Zoe to distribute AFDO letter for feedback from DDAC - DDAC members to respond to advise whether they wish to support the advocacy strategy.

Katie to distribute Housing diversity report with DDAC minutes

6 Meeting feedback – everyone

Feedback was that the meeting was “productive” and that the group valued having the opportunity and the time to share their personal experiences and ideas.

Next meeting: Monday 6th August 11:00am – 1:00pm

Function Room, Preston