

Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

Monday 4 December 2017
Meeting Minutes



Present

Councillors and Co-Chairs:

Cr Julie Williams
Cr Suzanne Newton

Community Representatives:

Vince Pirrottina, Ray Jordan, Edward Manuel

Carers:

Jo Banks

Service Providers:

Kathy Kondekas , Melbourne Polytechnic Work Education
Gail Abbott, Encompass House

Council staff:

Shadi Hanna, Manager Aged and Disability
Gillian Damonze, Coordinator Community Participation and Development
Katherine Kiley, Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion
Luisa Salvo, Metro Access
Kevin Hall, Disability Access and Business Development Lead
Melanie McCarten, Strategy and Business Advisor

Guest speaker:

Kathy Kondekas, Melbourne Polytechnic
Jessica Ziersch, Jobs Victoria

1 Present and Apologies

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, acknowledged the traditional owners and apologies were noted.

Apologies: Katrina Knox (Director Community Development), Matthew Zammit (community representative), Helen Caligiuri (community representative), Judith McLean (carer), George Jiang (carer).

2 Matters arising from the previous minutes

Actions pending:

- Invite Building Services to future meeting to discuss their role in disability access after a planning permit is granted.
- Number of compliant & non-complaint accessible parking bays in Darebin
- Changes to the Disabled Parking Scheme permit form – still waiting on update from VicRoads.

- 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*).

Nothing was raised.

- 4 Life-long Learning Strategy** (Please see attached presentation)

Melanie McCarten provided the following information about the development of the first life-long learning strategy for Darebin:

- Is in the Council Plan (Goal 2) and Action plan for 2018/19
- Intention is to create a community strategy
- Definition includes formal and informal learning throughout people's lives
- Includes learning in pursuit of employment but also for pleasure or interest

Melanie asked the following questions of DDAC:

- *What are the key issues impacting you & our community that lifelong learning would improve or impact?*
- *What are your barriers to participation in lifelong learning activities?*
- *What do you see as Council's role in this space?*

DDAC provided the following feedback:

- Transport is a key barrier including:
 - Transport connections
 - Local and accessible public transport
 - Availability of parking which is accessible and does not have time restrictions
 - Availability of maxi-taxis is limited before 10am and after 2:30pm due to school drop-off and pick-up
 - Events should not be scheduled at the same time as major sporting events or attractions in the community, as this will have an impact on availability of taxis and public transport
- Staff who run the programs must have a welcome and inclusive nature
- People may need support to attend initial classes until they feel comfortable to attend independently
- People with high needs may be unable to attend classes before 11am due to morning routines and support required, this is also the case for evening classes as people may need time for evening routines
- Those who work, however, may require classes to be later or earlier in the day, outside of work hours in order to attend
- There needs to be a range of options / times for the one event to make it accessible
- There must be an individual approach to life-long learning
- Council should not take the lead but facilitate these opportunities
- Learning groups should have appropriate age and skills to support each other, in order to be safe and foster natural socialising and friendship

- Conversely, age and ability do not have to be shared, so long as participants share an interest in the course topic
- Courses are also an opportunity for socialising and making friends
- Educator needs to have the knowledge and awareness to provide assistance to participants and foster engagement with peers
- Course should encourage interaction – first class should be an opportunity to get to know each other - set participants up to get the most of our the course
- Important to set people up for success
- Learning and support should be ongoing in work placements - support employees through the process so they succeed
- Available information about learning opportunities should be collated and provided to community for feedback, including barriers in relation to times / locations
- There are many benefits to learning including:
 - Connecting with others and making friends
 - Learning skills for employment
 - Learning skills for life and independence
 - Learning how to learn and engage with something new
- Consider how courses are advertised to the community and how you target those you would like to participate
- Groups can commence as a social group and over time slowly negotiate and identify what they wish to learn together, such as attending a gallery. Participants can then be supported to organise the outing with support from staff. This will build participant's self-esteem and independence, and participants can take on roles that align with their skills and goals.

ACTION:

DDAC members to send any further feedback regarding the life-long learning strategy to Katherine.kiley@darebin.vic.gov.au

5 DDAC Year Review and Plan (Please see attached presentation)

Membership to DDAC will remain closed due to the current review of Council Committees and the possibility of change in the near future.

DDAC members agreed that:

- It is not appropriate for people to attend DDAC meetings if they are not participating
- National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL) should be invited to attend DDAC meetings
- Those attending meetings must bring something to the table i.e. provide information / seek feedback
- There must be the opportunity for constructive dialogue
- There should be an outcome following a meeting

- There must be balance amongst participants and members so that no one dominates the discussion
- Membership implies two way conversation
- Those attending meeting should represent themselves as well as their organisations
- Those attending meetings must be flexible and open to change – if decisions have been made and will not be changed there is no point in coming to the committee

Kevin stated that as Service Providers are on the committee there may be a conflict of interest for BSL to attend meetings; however they could seek approval. Gail stated that she could step out of the meetings if there was a concern around this in the future.

Katie presented an update in relation to the *Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan 2015 – 2019* (DAIP). Please see the attached presentation. DDAC members stated that they would like regular updates at each meeting in relation to actions from the DAIP.

The agenda items and actions from DDAC meetings in 2017 were discussed and are as follows:

Agenda item or Action	Meeting	DAIP action
Town planning and disability access <i>Letter to Preston Market Developers regarding Liveable housing guidelines</i>	February	Action 1.1 Housing
<i>Feedback to the Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017 – 2021</i>	February	Goal 3: Pathways to Health and wellbeing
Edwards Lake Master Plan	April	Action 1.2.5 Parks
Changing Places – Association of Children with a Disability	April	Action 1.2.2 Changing Places
Joint meeting with AHAB	May	Action 2.1.1 Transport

Agenda item or Action	Meeting	DAIP action
Accessible Parking Bays in Darebin	June	Action 2.3.1 Parking
Housing Options for People with a Disability <i>Housing roadshow sessions for community and sector workers</i>	June	Action 1.1 Housing
Darebin Social and Affordable Housing Strategy <i>Submission to Victorian Parliament regarding Social Housing</i>	August	Action 1.1 Housing
Changing Places – State Government Grant consultation	August	Action 1.2.2 Changing Places
Employment and education pathways	October	Goal 3: Education and employment
Lifelong Learning strategy	December	Goal 3: Education and wellbeing

DDAC members confirmed that the items on the wish list / parking zone remain priorities for 2018 and clarified the specific area/s of interest in relation to each topic.

The following is the wish list for 2018:

WISH LIST / PARKING ZONE	DAIP action
<p>Ongoing installation of accessible parking bays in Darebin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solutions to issues about installing all bays to Australian standards Possible parking permits for employees, committee member in Darebin 	Action 2.3.1 Parking
<p>Public awareness campaign of disability – emphasis on traders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify traders who are accessible and learn from them Traders associations to be invited to DDAC Kevin Hall (Disability Access and Business Development Lead) to discuss work with traders 	<p>Action 3.3.1 Employ</p> <p>Action 6.1.1 Promote</p>
<p>Social connection and inclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing and relevant to all topics 	ALL GOALS

Input into precinct planning projects <i>e.g. Northland Urban Renewal Precinct (NURP)</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input into precinct planning 	Action 2.1 Build environment
Physical access to public spaces – <i>Traders and major precinct spaces and locations</i>	Action 1.2.5 Parks
Housing options and challenges for people with disability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information in relation to Supported Residential Services (SRSs) 	Action 1.1 Housing
<i>Changes to</i> Employment and education pathways for people with disability	Goal 3: Education, employment and wellbeing
Building department: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role regarding disability access post planning permit • Council’s role with private building surveyors 	Action 1.1 Housing

DDAC provided the following feedback:

- DDAC members could be invited to internal meetings in relation to planning. This information will be fed to the relevant officers completing the review of committees.
- Information regarding the topics to be discussed should be sent to members prior to the meetings so they are prepared to provide informed feedback.

ACTION:

Katie to forward feedback from DDAC to relevant officers responsible for the review of committees

DDAC members to send any further feedback or other priorities for 2018 to Katherine.kiley@darebin.vic.gov.au

6 General Business

Council updates:

- **International Day People with a Disability** – Sunday 3 December 2017 was *International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD)*. It is a United Nations sanctioned day held each year on 3 December. It is a day that aims to increase public awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disability. The theme for 2017 International Day of People with Disability is “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all”. The overarching principle of this theme is to ‘leave no one behind’ and empowers people with disability to be active contributors of society. In acknowledgement of this DDAC members were thanked for their

contribution to their community, through your active involvement with this committee at Council.

To mark this day the City of Darebin is hosting an internal morning tea for Darebin staff and has invited Stephen Jolly from Vision Australia to speak. Stephen is a cricket fanatic, presents a weekly radio program and has been blind from birth. Stephen presents a national weekly radio program *Talking Tech* on Vision Australia Radio. He is passionate to see his peers with vision loss exploit the opportunities of today's digital media environment in order to access the content they seek. He has been invited to talk to staff and challenge Darebin to continue to improve access.

DDAC members were invited to attend the event from 10am–10:30am Wednesday 6 December 2017 in the Town Hall.

- **Access Team update** – Katherine Kiley, Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion has been in the role for 6 months now, and it's been a very busy and exciting half a year. As you know Christine Mulholland has taken leave to take a position with the Office for Disability at DHHS. Luisa Salvo is on secondment from the Service Delivery team as the Metro Access officer. We also have Kevin Hall on board in the Disability Access Business Development Lead role.
- **Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre** – On 24 November email was sent with questions from our Leisure department in relation to the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre (NARC):
Your feedback is being sought about:
 - Any barriers to access at NARC
 - Types of programs or services people would like to access at NARC
 - Features / inclusions that would encourage greater use of NARC i.e. Warm water pool
 - Health/wellbeing outcomes that could be achieved by NARC
 - Any other comments

ACTION:

DDAC members to please send any feedback regarding the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre to Katherine.kiley@darebin.vic.gov.au by Thursday 7 December 2017

- Cr Williams and Cr Newton thanked DDAC for a successful year, and wished everyone a safe and happy festive season.

7 Meeting feedback – everyone

No feedback was provided at this time.

Next meeting: Monday 5th February, 11:00am – 1:00pm

Function Room, Preston