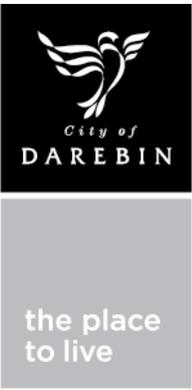


Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

Monday 7 June 2021
Meeting Minutes



Present

Chair: Councillor Julie Williams

Community Representatives:

Ray Jordan, Vince Pirrottina, Helen Caligiuri

Service provider:

Katherine Kondekas (Melbourne Polytechnic)

Council staff:

Shadi Hanna, Manager Aged and Disability

Gillian Damonze, Coordinator Community Participation and Development

Katherine Kiley, Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion

Jade Myconos, Community Development Officer Economic Participation

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

Quentin Mercier – Major Projects Coordinator, Darebin City Council

Guest speakers:

Alastair Gowing – Program Communications and Engagement Lead, North Western Program Alliance

Georgia Halliday – Manager, Stakeholder Relations and Communications, LXP

Adelaide Levis – Senior Communications Advisor, North Western Program Alliance

1 Present and Apologies

Chair delivered Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The following apologies were noted:

Edward Manuel (community members) and Judith McLean (carer).

2 Matters arising from the previous minutes

No matters were raised.

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*).

No items were added.

4 Level Crossing Removal Project (LXP) in Preston update

Alastair Gowing, Program Communications and Engagement Lead, North Western Program Alliance

Georgia Halliday, Manager, Stakeholder Relations and Communications, LXRP

Adelaide Levis, Senior Communications Advisor, North Western Program Alliance

Staff working on the Level Crossing Removal Project provided a following update:

- There are two stations (Bell and Preston) and four road crossings that will be replaced as part of the Level Crossing Removal Project in Preston.
- This work will finish around mid-2022.
- The project is improving transport infrastructure, increasing community safety and access to open spaces around the new station precincts.
- The Urban Design Framework underpins this re-development work.
- Station designs meet relevant access and mobility standards.
- New stations will feature lifts, improved car parking, walking and cycling paths, connection to bus interchange, modern facilities and waiting rooms, elevated platforms and accessible toilets.
- Accessible parking and tactile paving will be located throughout the station precincts.
- Car parking spaces will be replaced at a one-to-one ratio to what is provided currently.
- Periods of disruption will be communicated in advance to the community via public notices at the stations, online, direct SMS and mailouts.
- Trains will continue to run for as long as possible during construction and replacement buses will be available for commuters.
- A wheelchair accessible taxi (WAT) service will be provided free of charge to passengers who cannot use the replacement bus.
- Once the project is finished, DDAC is invited to visit the new stations and check their accessibility.

DDAC provided the following points for consideration:

- The lifts at the new stations need to be able to accommodate ambulance stretchers.
- The connectivity with the Smart Bus service at Preston Station it is important.
- Committee liked the vibrant colour scheme proposed for the new station precincts.
- Design car parks with walkways built into them to increase the security and safety for the community.
- Maintain the number of car parking spaces.
- The whole or part of the drop off zone to be covered with a roof to facilitate access for people who may require more time to exit vehicles.
- Changes, such as the potential requirements for assistance animals, proposed in the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport reforms, need to be accommodated.

Action: Level Crossing Removal Project staff to provide information about how to subscribe to newsletters and SMS alerts to receive project service updates.

Action: DDAC community members to distribute updates about the Level Crossing Removal Project work in Preston throughout their networks.

5 DDAC Terms of Reference (ToR) update

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

Ania shared the following update about the Standard Terms of Reference project received from the Governance Team:

- Changes to the Standard Terms of Reference (ToR) suggested by Council Advisory Committees were incorporated into the project document.
- Councillors will be briefed with this updated version on 7 June 2021.
- If there are no further changes, the finalised document will be put forward to Council for endorsement on 28 June 2021.
- The committee will continue to align the DDAC ToR to the Standard ToR for Council Advisory Committees at the meeting in September.

Action: Ania to invite a member of the Governance Team to the September DDAC meeting to discuss the final outcomes of the project.

6 DDAC Recruitment update

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

Ania provided a following update:

- Recruitment to all of Council Advisory Committees, including DDAC, started in March 2021.
- At the start of April 2021, this process was put on hold until June 2021.
- The pause will allow Council to complete the work on the Standard Terms of Reference for Advisory Committees.
- DDAC received eight applications in March 2021 and four applications since then.
- Five interviews were organised and three were held in March 2021.
- The Access and Inclusion Team is waiting to resume this recruitment.

DDAC discussed the following points:

- The DDAC members expressed their disagreement with the requirement for current committee members to re-apply for their membership, as part of the recruitment project.

7 General Business updates

Getting Around Darebin Access Mobility Map Update

- The Geographic Information System (GIS) Map was included on [the People with Disability website page](#).
- Thank you to community members who provided feedback to the proposed Access Mobility Map.
- This feedback was communicated to the developer (Alpaca) and after some conversations, the developer confirmed that a few of the requested changes, including increasing the contrast of the map, could not be delivered.

Diverse Photoshoot

- The Access and Inclusion Officer has been working on a project that will update the folio of images for the Aged and Disability Department.
- This project covers photos across All Abilities and Age-Friendly activities, and Council venues.
- The photoshoots were organised and had to be put on-hold due to the recent lockdown.
- Thank you to Helen who participated in the photoshoot in April 2021 for the next Council Plan.

Action: Ania to provide the subscription link to [the Your Darebin community e-newsletter](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine information

- Information about changes to COVID-19 vaccine rollout is regularly included in the Disability Access Update e-newsletter.
- From 7 June, some organisations have been setting up [vaccination hubs for people with disability](#).
- The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (Disability Royal Commission) held a one-day hearing on 17 May 2021.
- This hearing examined Australian Government's response to COVID-19 vaccinations for disability community and their support workers.
- The material outlining information discussed during the hearing (opening address, transcript and Video/Auslan) can be accessed on [the Royal Commission's website](#).

New Accessibility Standards in the National Construction Code

- In April 2021, the accessibility standards for new homes were introduced into the National Construction Code (NCC).
- These standards will become mandatory from September 2022.
- All new homes, including houses, flats, and apartments, will be required to meet [the Livable Housing Design Guidelines Silver Level](#).
- This covers a step free path from street to door, a step free entrance door, wider internal doorways to allow wheelchairs, hobless showers, reinforced walls around showers, toilets, and baths, safe to use stairs, and a toilet at the entry level.

Disability Royal Commission

- The Commonwealth Government responded to the increasing calls from the community to extend the duration of the Disability Royal Commission.

- The Commission’s final report is now due on 29 September 2023.
- Protections to those who submit their information to the Commission will also be legislated.

NDIS Reforms update

Over the last couple of years, the scheme has been subjected to a few changes and reforms. The [Information Paper Improving the National Disability Insurance Scheme](#) outlines these reforms. The reforms cover:

- the Participant Service Guarantee – aims to improve participants’ NDIS experience and the transparency, and consistency of NDIS decision-making. [The Participant Service Charter](#) and [the Participant Service Improvement Plan](#) were developed as part of this reform.
- Independent Assessments – designed to ensure fair and equitable access to the scheme (more NDIS information [here](#)). The new NDIS Minister – the Honourable Senator Linda Reynolds put these temporarily on hold but indicated these will be a part of the NDIS future.
- Supporting participants to use their NDIS funding – aims to provide greater flexibility to purchase disability-related supports. This reform introduces changes to the distinction between ‘core’ and ‘capacity building’ line items (more NDIS information [here](#)).
- Streamlining payments for supports to improve processing of claims and payments (more NDIS information [here](#)).
- Early Childhood Early Interventions (ECEI) supports proposes to increase the age limit for ECEI pathway for children to 9 years old (more NDIS information [here](#)).

Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Economic Participation Grant feedback

- In December 2020, the Access and Inclusion Team submitted an ILC grant application for \$265,000.
- The grant was for an inclusive employment event and to provide accessible business mentoring for six months to local businesses.
- In March 2021, the team was notified that we were not successful in our application.

Economic Participation activities update

Jobs Forums

- The Economic Development Team are focusing on COVID-19 economic recovery projects for local businesses that will primarily target local businesses.
- One initiative is a series of Job Forums that will focus on a different employment theme.
- The first forum is focusing on employing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander jobseekers.
- Jade will be supporting the development of the Disability Employment Forum scheduled for August/September 2021 (date is yet to be determined).
- This forum aims to build knowledge, share resources and make connections to support the employment of people with disability in Darebin.

Darebin’s Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Strategy

- This three-year strategy (recently launched) aims to create a welcoming workplace where all employees feel valued and respected.
- It recognises the strength of our diverse community and supports Darebin becoming an inclusive employer for all.
- It includes employment targets for the organisation, set up to increase the employment of underrepresented people in Darebin's workforce.
- The first target quota for the employment of people with disability is 10% of the workforce (currently known to be 5%).

Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan update

- The document has been presented to the Executive Management Team.
- Some clarification and change regarding the language describing the employment goal were suggested.
- The completed document will be presented to the committee at the September meeting.

All Aboard Network update

Ray provided an the following update from the [All Aboard Network](#):

- A submission to the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (DSAPT) was put forward on behalf of the members.
- The [Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communication website](#) includes more information about DSAPT in a range of formats and covering a range of topics.
- The network is participating in research examining wheelchair safety and restrains, hooks and passive restraints on buses.
- Get Skilled Access is conducting a survey into accessibility of Victorian train stops.
- The Accessible Transport Advisory Committee was recruiting new members.
- The network is advising on the work examining the use of school buses to transport people in regional Victoria. School buses are exempt from the DSAPT accessibility requirements.

8 Meeting feedback – everyone

Thank you to everyone who participated in the meeting.

Next meeting: Monday 6 September 2021

11:00am – 1:00pm

Onsite or online MS Teams –to be confirmed.