

## Minutes – Thursday 3 April 2025

**Chair:** Cr Connie Boglis OAM

**Minute Taker:** Jette Achleitner, Community Engagement Officer

**Community representatives:** Janna McCurdy, Andrew Lauva, Nicholas Nicholau

**Darebin Council staff:** Jeanne Poustie (JP), Manager Supported and Connected Living (SCL); Nathan Korotkov, Senior Team Leader Service Projects; Jette Achleitner (JA), Community Engagement Officer; Danni Hall, Senior Team Leader Social Inclusion; Jennifer Loulie (JL), Principle Urban Designer; Nina Cullen, General Manager Community.

**Apologies/not present:** Cr Gaetano Greco, Leonarda Maria Gravina, George Capozza, Marika Bozinova, Peter Byrne.

Item	Detail	Action
1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country	Meeting starts at 3.07pm  Introduction	
2. Matters arising from previous minutes	No matters arising	
3. Council Advisory Committee review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Terms of Reference indicate that Council's advisory committees' sunset on 30 June 2025.</li><li>• A review of all committees is underway, aligned with Council's strategic plan, and committees will be consulted during this process.</li><li>• New responsibilities for managing the Active Healthy Ageing Advisory Committee have been introduced following some changes in the Supported and Connected Living Department.</li><li>• JP and JA will continue to support AHAAC moving forward.</li><li>• The voice of residents regarding aged care reforms will remain an essential part of the process.</li></ul>	<b>JP:</b> provide update on advisory committee review at next AHAAC meeting

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<p><b>4. Federal Aged Care Reforms - update</b></p>	<p><u>Assessment update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCL previously provided Regional Assessment Services (RAS).</li> <li>• In alignment with Council's expectations, we continue to deliver assessments for entry-level services in Darebin and parts of Yarra. Your Community Health delivers comprehensive and Residential Aged Care Funding assessments in Darebin.</li> <li>• To avoid conflicts of interest (e.g., home support service provision vs. assessment within the same department), the assessment function is now based in Councils Community Services and Development Dept.</li> <li>• This collaboration with other councils and community health providers was initiated by Darebin Council staff.</li> </ul> <p><u>Carefinder</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carefinder is a Commonwealth funded program; to support older, more vulnerable people, connect with aged care services. Darebin created a partnership with Merri-bek and Moonee Valley Councils to win the tender for this program,</li> <li>• This consortium and one other in the Barwon region are the only ones in Victoria that are local government/community health providers.</li> </ul> <p><u>Aged Care Act update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduces a new Code of Conduct for all aged care delivery staff.</li> <li>• SCL continues to monitor and participate in various sector sessions to understand the new regulations.</li> <li>• It is planned that Home Care Packages will transition to the new Support at Home 1 July 2025.</li> <li>• As a Commonwealth Home Support Provider, we have time until 1 July 2027 at which time it is planned that CHSP services will transition to Support at Home.</li> </ul>	<p><b>JP:</b> provide update on Care Connect collaboration at next AHAAC meeting</p> <p><b>JA:</b> Share presentation with members</p>
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	<p><u>Support at Home – Individualised budgets</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case management fees will be capped to 10 percent of a client’s individual budget – reduced from the current 20 percent cap. This reduction will reduce the capacity for Support at Home Providers to be profitable or viable.</li> <li>• Large Support at Home providers will be more likely to be financially viable while smaller organisations may struggle.</li> </ul> <p><u>General discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Part pensioner’ means pensioner that receives income through Super.</li> <li>• 97% of Darebin clients are full pensioners.</li> <li>• Through direct and indirect costs one hour of service costs Council significantly more than the funding from Government.</li> <li>• Council receives \$58 per hour for Domestic Assistance (Cleaning) from Government.</li> <li>• A support worker receives up to \$42 per hour.</li> <li>• Indirect costs include recruitment, induction, training, rostering and administration, supervision, electricity etc.</li> <li>• Government have released details about the new Client Contributions under the Support at Home program. There will be 3 categories, Clinical, Independence and Everyday.</li> <li>• Domestic Assistance and shopping support are examples of the “everyday” service category, and the contribution fee for an Aged Pensioner for these services will be 17.5 percent of the Commonwealth’s unit price.</li> <li>• Personal Care/showering is an “independence” service and will attract a 5 percent client contribution.</li> <li>• The Commonwealth will not set unit prices for the Support at Home program until 2026.</li> </ul> <p><u>AHAAC/Councillor feedback:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is Council’s role to deliver Home Care Packages (HCP)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Council is funded to deliver Commonwealth Home Support Program</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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	<p>(CHSP). CHSP will transition into the Support at Home program by July 2027.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Home Care Packages will end in June 2025 and become part of the Support at Home program. Council has a continuing care program with values aligned Not-for-profit HCP provider Care Connect. Under this partnership, when clients transition to a Care Connect HCP, Care Connect arrange for the client to maintain their relationship with Council services such as Domestic Assistance or Personal Care. Care Connect will be a Support at Home Provider in July 2025.</li> <li>• Ageing population and many people live alone results in social isolation. Council's role to step up and pick up this issue?</li> </ul>	
<b>5. Age Friendly Darebin (AFD) update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of following the recommendation of the AFD report is to support residents to age in place.</li> <li>• We continue to benchmark with other Councils.</li> <li>• Council is developing a Housing Strategy.</li> <li>• SCL is thinking about the growing number of vulnerable women over 55.</li> <li>• SCL provide flexible delivered meals options with Lite n' Easy as well as Merri-bek and trialled a Café meals program.</li> <li>• Support workers take clients to medical appointments and provide flexibility that aligns with the clients' needs, e.g. visiting the cemetery instead of cleaning.</li> <li>• We are funded for Social Support Individual (SSI) to support specific social support needs.</li> <li>• We support 50 carers per year with our carer support program.</li> <li>• Carefinder application for carer support group at three housing estates with vulnerable communities.</li> <li>• SCL will continue to provide AFD updates and invite leaders from across Council to present AFD projects and initiatives.</li> </ul>	<b>JA:</b> Share presentation with members

	<p><u>AHAAC/Councillor feedback:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce a community bus service to key destinations for individuals who are unable to use regular public transport.</li> <li>• Address the impact of negative gearing on the housing market—what actions can Council take to mitigate its effects?</li> <li>• Ensure carer support services are available for those providing care to individuals with disabilities.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for the committee to have a more active role in Council advocacy and discuss potential initiatives.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. High Street Preston Streetscape upgrade</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High Street: We need to concentrate growth, i.e. 6-10 story buildings in centres, where there are commercial hubs, access to public transport and services.</li> <li>• Heritage buildings may be built on on top or behind the building.</li> <li>• Council team to meet with PTV to discuss better use of bus stops.</li> <li>• Consultation closes on 6 April. Results of consultations will be presented in July.</li> </ul> <p><u>AHAAC/Councillor feedback:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure pedestrian crossings are accessible and safe for all, including wheelchair users (e.g., reduce long distances where no pedestrian islands exist).</li> <li>• Increase the number of trees to help lower summer temperatures and provide more shade for pedestrians.</li> <li>• Add more designated pause points with seating to encourage rest and improve accessibility.</li> <li>• Upgrade seating materials to prevent them from becoming uncomfortably hot in the summer.</li> <li>• Restrict large truck access on High Street to reduce traffic congestion and improve pedestrian safety.</li> <li>• Consider removing clearways to create additional parking spaces.</li> <li>• Explore the feasibility of road closures for traffic if parking is relocated behind buildings.</li> </ul>	<p><b>JA:</b> share presentation with members</p> <p><b>JL:</b> Share consultation outcome with members.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stagger bus schedules for routes 552 and 553 to reduce wait times and improve service efficiency.</li><li>• Integrate bus routes with train station connections for smoother travel and more efficient transfers.</li><li>• Prioritise graffiti removal and commission artistic murals to enhance the area's aesthetic appeal.</li><li>• Increase pedestrian space around restaurants and cafés with outdoor seating to maintain smooth foot traffic.</li><li>• Add more public benches at Preston Market.</li></ul>	
<b>7. Close and next meeting</b>	Meeting closes at 5pm. Next meeting on Thursday, 5 June 2025	