

Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

Tuesday 6 June 2023
Meeting Minutes



Present

Chair:

Mayor Williams

Community Representatives:

Emma Grey, Elizabeth (Liz) Ellis (left early), Helen Caligiuri

Carers:

Jo Banks (arrived at 6pm)

Brooke Underwood

Service Providers:

Pauline Risoli (National Disability Insurance Agency)

Kathy Kondekas (Melbourne Polytechnic)

Council staff:

Katie Kiley, Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion

Tobi Evans, Community Development Officer, Access and Inclusion

Guest speakers:

Caz Smith – Darebin Libraries

Sarah Werkmeister – Arts Officer, Bundoora Homestead

1 Present and Apologies

Chair welcomed all present to the meeting, did an acknowledgement of Country, and noted the following apologies:

Apologies:

Zione (Zee) Alepha Phiri, Judith McLean, George Jiang

2 Matters arising from the previous minutes

Actions pending: No actions pending.

3 Endorsement of March 2023 meeting minutes

The minutes from the last meeting, held on Tuesday 7 March and emailed to members on 14 March were endorsed.

4 Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

5 Access Invitation and Check In

No changes were requested.

6 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).

Members requested an update on NARC when we know more about the opening.

Following items added to General Business:

No items were added.

(Note: Mayor Williams stopped chairing and continued to participate via the phone at 5:37pm).

7 Pierre Gorman Awards

Caz Smith – Darebin Libraries

Purpose:

Darebin Libraries are interested in applying for a Pierre Gorman Award grant to run disability programs and would like feedback from the DDAC.

Summary of presentation:

- Caz provided an overview of the libraries and their services, as well as what they have already done to improve accessibility.
- Caz gave an overview of the Pierre Gorman award, which provides funding of up to \$25,000 for public libraries to deliver innovative disability programming.
- Previous award winners have used the funding to run community programs, upgrade infrastructure and programming, and provide capacity building for staff.

Questions to the DDAC:

- What would the DDAC like to see the libraries do as part of their award application?

Summary of conversation:

- DDAC members were interested in the home library service and asked for more information.
- Most DDAC members were members of Darebin libraries, but many had not been to a physical library for a long time.
- DDAC members highlighted the importance of hybrid events for disabled people and requested that more library programs and events become hybrid.
- Caz invited DDAC members to provide further feedback after the meeting.

ACTIONS:

- Tobi to distribute Pierre Gorman Awards info and Caz contact details to DDAC with minutes.

8 Bundoora Homestead Accessibility Audit

Sarah Werkmeister – Arts Officer, Bundoora Homestead

Purpose: Bundoora Homestead has requested that the DDAC visit the site to check its accessibility.

Summary of presentation:

- Sarah introduced herself and Bundoora Homestead.
- The DDAC saw a [virtual tour of Bundoora Homestead](#).
- Sarah explained what Bundoora Homestead has already done in relation to improving accessibility.
- Bundoora Homestead is interested in having the DDAC members do an access audit in July/August using the new social script that is currently being developed.

Questions to DDAC:

- Bundoora Homestead would like to know how the DDAC would like the site to improve accessibility based on their experiences and/or the virtual tour.

DDAC provided the following feedback:

- The entry doors seem narrow and may not be accessible for someone using a larger mobility device.
- Community members raised concerns about the 'sensory overload' in the building, especially the café.
- One solution from the DDAC was to have an audio engineer visit the site, and to install a foam insert into the roof (noting that it is possible to install temporary 'no drill' inserts).

9 Darebin Disability Advisory Committee Updates

Tobi Evans, Community Development Officer

- Tobi will organise the Special Meeting at Bundoora Homestead and will keep the Committee updated.
- A community member with a historic connection to the DDAC and disability activism has reached out to us and offered to speak to the DDAC about disability history in Darebin.
- The committee expressed interest in the opportunity and recording Darebin's disability history (potentially with Darebin Heritage).

10 General Business

Council Updates:

Tobi Evans, Community Development Officer

- The disability social group project with Action on Disability in Ethnic Communities (ADEC) successfully ran two forums (online and in person) in May and we are currently planning next steps.

- Tobi provided an update on the Disability Pride Mural at Preston Library.

DDAC Members:

- Interested to know whether Darebin Council can access the funding for disability in the state budget.
- Raised frustration around the disability sector being short staffed, yet not being promoted more widely as a career.

10 Meeting feedback – everyone

- A community member noted that the 5-7pm meeting time is difficult because of work and requires notice to move work meetings around.

ACTIONS:

- Tobi to send reminder of future meeting dates and times to DDAC with minutes.

Next meeting:

Tuesday 5 September 2023, which may change subject to Councillor availability and member preference.

5:00pm-7:00pm

Online