



# Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

**Monday 6 December 2021**  
**Meeting Minutes**

## **Present**

**Acting Chair:** Jess Fraser, Manager Equity and Wellbeing Department

## **Community Members:**

Karen Bloomberg, Helen Caligiuri, Elizabeth (Liz) Ellis, Emma Grey, Ray Jordan, Edward Manuel, Zione Alepha Phiri

## **Carers:**

Jo Banks, George Jiang, Brooke Underwood

## **Service provider:**

Pauline Risoli (National Disability Insurance Agency)

## **Council staff:**

Katherine Kiley, Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion  
Jade Myconos, Community Development Officer Economic Participation  
Ania Sieracka, Community Development Officer Access and Inclusion (minutes)  
Jette Achleitner, Community Engagement Officer, Supported and Connected Living (observer)

## **Guest speakers:**

No guest speakers attended this meeting.

---

## **1 Present and Apologies**

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

Virginia Mahoney (community member) and Councillor Julie Williams.

**2 Matters arising from the previous minutes and a 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*).

## **Items added:**

Thank you letter to Matthew Zammit for his contribution to the committee. This letter will be sent to Matthew post the meeting.

## **Actions pending:**

There are no actions pending from the previous meeting.

**3 Welcome to new DDAC committee**

This is the first meeting of the committee with the new and returning members present. All committee members were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves.

#### **4 Commemorating a past DDAC committee member**

##### **Ania provided the following update:**

- One of the longest serving DDAC members Vincenzo (Vince) Pirrottina passed away on 23 September 2021.
- Vince served on the committee for over 26 years, since 1994 when he joined the inaugural Preston Disability Advisory Committee.
- The Mayor of Darebin City Council, Cr Lina Messina, commemorated Vince's passing during a Council meeting in October and extended her sympathy in a letter to Vince's wife.
- Prior to the meeting DDAC members shared the following ideas for how Vince's contributions to the community could be remembered:
  - ❖ holding a morning tea event and planting an olive tree, maybe near a library close to Vince's home
  - ❖ in a collaboration with the organisations Vincent participated in, explore an opportunity to set up an annual award in his honour, related to outstanding commitment to developing inclusiveness and accessibility in area of technology or advocacy.
- Council has from time to time completed memorials, including one in memory of Aiiia Maasarwe.
- Council has a Memorial Policy which will guide this process.

##### **DDAC responded with the following suggestions:**

- The committee liked the idea of planting a tree (olive or native) and setting up a plaque as a permanent memorial for Vince.
- These should be in a place that was significant to Vince, somewhere near his residence (possibly near the Changing Places facility in Preston or Preston Library).
- Vince's wife, Rosanne, should be contacted to seek her view on the committee's commemoration ideas.

**Action:** Ray to contact Vince's wife to seek a permission to share her phone number with Council staff.

**Action:** Ania to draft a letter to Rosanne to outline the ideas to commemorate Vince.

**Action:** Ania to ensure that the implementation of proposed actions is aligned with the relevant policy.

#### **5 DDAC Terms of Reference (ToR) endorsement**

**Ania shared the following update:**

- All comments to the Standard ToR noted at the September DDAC meeting were passed to the Governance Team.
- As a result of this feedback, the Governance Team agreed to include a review of the Standard ToR, 12 months past its implementation.
- The review will provide future opportunities for DDAC to include ideas to simplify this document.
- The committee could prepare for the review through the development of a clear or plain language version of ToR.
- This work could be guided by the DDAC working group and an engagement of an external contractor.
- The existing Standard ToR and DDAC ToR require endorsement from the committee to make the DDAC ToR operational.

**DDAC provided the following comments:**

- All Council documents for the community should be presented in a clear and accessible way.
- The difference between, and specific purpose of, a document in a clear, plain and Easy language should be recognised and considered prior to the development of a document in that format.

**Action:** DDAC endorses the Standard ToR document on condition that it will be reviewed in 12 months and DDAC will be able to provide some suggestions to the document to make it more accessible.

**Action:** The six-monthly DDAC report to Council to include a reflection on the lack of clarity in the current version of the Standard ToR.

**Action:** Invite a representative from the Governance Team to a DDAC meeting in preparation for the 12-month review of the Standard ToR.

## **6 Review of 2021**

**Katie provided the following update:**

- DDAC has been providing access and inclusion advice to Council for the last 27 years.
- In 2021 DDAC priorities included the continued advocacy to the Level Crossing Removal project, focus on transport and footpaths, housing, NDIS and the Autism friendly project.
- Some of the DDAC achievements in 2021 are:
  - ❖ recruitment of new members to the committee
  - ❖ extensive feedback to the Standard ToR document

- ❖ ongoing feedback on the projects to the Level Crossing Removal Authority
  - ❖ feedback to the Getting Around Darebin Accessible Maps project
  - ❖ delivery of the Diverse Photoshoot project
  - ❖ updates to the People with Disability pages on the Darebin website
  - ❖ commemorating a past DDAC member
  - ❖ advice on the International Day of People with Disability celebration (the Light Up Darebin! event) co-designed with the You Am I work experience program working group.
- During the year DDAC was consulted on a range of issues via e-mail and informed about priority topics, including access to COVID-19 vaccines, NDIS reforms and the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

## **7 Priorities for 2022**

**Ania led the discussion on the priorities for next year. The committee decided to focus on:**

- Information sharing with the community in a variety of formats (electronic and physical signs) about assistance available to community members with disability to meet the changing COVID-19 requirements.
- Advocacy to State Government about road and transport safety.
- Advice to Council and State Government on a clear community communication strategies regarding possible footpath travel disruptions and road management plans.
- Raising awareness of different road users on safety around mobility scooters.
- Exploring opportunities to expand existing Council programs and activities to include people of different ages.

In addition to these priorities, the committee will focus on and respond to issues as they arise across different Council areas.

## **8 Work experience program and the IDPwD project**

**Jade reported to the committee on the program and the project:**

- This year five women participated in the 'You Am I' (YAI) work experience program.
- The program was delivered through two-hourly online sessions over 12 weeks.
- Participants engaged with the Access and Inclusion Team to learn about Council as a workplace and event management skills.
- The YAI group co-designed the Light Up Darebin! celebration of the 2021 International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD).
- This saw the Preston Council building and Northcote Town Hall lit up on the weekend of 3 to 5 December with the colours of the IDPwD. on the evening
- The participants developed the Light Up Darebin! booklet, which includes their art and reflections on the day.

## **9 General Business**

Jade provided the following **Economic Participation** updates:

- On 26 October 2021 Darebin held an online Disability Jobs Forum called 'Breaking the Barriers'.
- It featured a panel of keynote speakers with lived experience of disability, or extensive professional experience of disability.
- The forum targeted local employers, job service providers and job seekers with disability.
- It provided an opportunity to connect, learn and discuss the benefits of engaging with and hiring jobseekers that have a disability.
- The forum was attended by around 80 people, with representatives from large employers like Latrobe Uni & [North East Link](#) present.
- Feedback was good with people saying they had learnt a lot about more inclusive employment.
- A similar in-person forum will be possibly repeated next year.

Katie shared the following update about the **Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan**:

- The Plan has now been included on [the Accessibility guides and frameworks page](#) on the Darebin website.

Information about **possible training opportunities for committee members in 2022** will be provided as an attachment to the minutes.

#### **COVID-19 vaccine information**

- In Victoria, people with specific disability support needs in accessing the vaccine can contact the Disability Liaison Officer via email: [DLOcoordinator@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:DLOcoordinator@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

#### **All Aboard Network update**

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

- The network has been busy writing a response to the Australian Human Rights Commission regarding proposed solutions to a suite of [Exemptions to the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport that were granted to the Australasian Railway Association](#).
- Bus safety work focuses on two areas – the experience of people with disability whilst using buses and the development of an education program for bus drivers.
- The [Bus Passenger Experience Survey](#) is open till 12 September 2021. For any survey access support contact Bonnie Watt, PhD Student, Federation University, e-mail: [bwatt@students.federation.edu.au](mailto:bwatt@students.federation.edu.au).
- Network attended a meeting regarding accessibility of regional public transport in regional Victoria.

#### **10 Meeting feedback – everyone**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the meeting.

**Next meeting: Monday 7 March 2022**

**11:00am – 1:00pm**

Onsite or online MS Teams – to be confirmed.

Dates for the meetings in 2022:

7 March

6 June

5 September

5 December