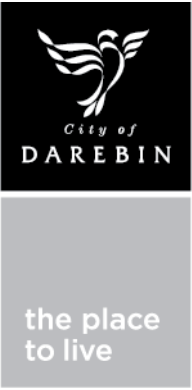


Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

Monday 7 March 2022
Meeting Minutes



Present

Acting Chair:

Jess Fraser, Manager Equity and Wellbeing

Community Representatives:

Helen Caligiuri, Ray Jordan, Edward Manuel, Emma Grey, Zione Alepha Phiri, Virginia Mahoney

Carers:

Brooke Underwood, Jo Banks

Service Providers:

Pauline Risoli (National Disability Insurance Agency)

Council staff:

Katherine Kiley, Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion
Jade Myconos, Community Development Officer

Guest speaker:

David Logan, Transport Planner, Darebin City Council

1 Present and Apologies

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

Apologies:

Cr Williams, Cr Lawrence, Liz Ellis, George Jiang, Judith McLean, Kathy Kondekas

All attendees introduced themselves.

2 Matters arising from the previous minutes

Actions pending: No actions pending. Governance to be invited to September meeting to discuss improving accessibility of the current Terms of Reference for Council Advisory Committees.

3 Endorsement of December meeting minutes

The minutes from the last meeting, held on Monday 6 December and emailed to members on 13 December 2021 were endorsed.

- 4 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*).

Following items added to General Business:

Katherine Kiley added an item to discuss potentially changing future meeting day.

5 Vale Karen Bloomberg

Katherine Kiley, Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion

Karen passed away peacefully on Thursday 27 January 2022. She was a new member to DDAC and attended our induction session last year and our meeting in December. We were contacted by those close to Karen and asked to inform the committee that she “enjoyed being a member of this committee as she was keen Darebin considered access in all its forms - we hope you can keep up the good work.”

Karen was an incredibly generous person and a strong advocate for people with disability especially in relation to non-verbal communication. She had a long and varied career in speech pathology and academia and was a pioneer and founding member of Key Word Sign Australia and worked hard to put Key Word Sign on the map. We are so grateful for the time, knowledge and skills she shared to improve access and inclusion in Darebin.

DDAC members added the following:

- At the previous meeting Karen was very passionate about making the Terms of Reference for Council advisory committees more accessible. If we can make this happen then we can ensure her work is still being done.
- She was a strong voice in those two meetings and her knowledge will be greatly missed, I'm sure.

6 Transport Strategy Refresh and Electric Vehicles Changing Policy

David Logan, Transport Planner, Darebin City Council

The Transport Strategy has been around since 2007 and guides what gets put on the ground including infrastructure, maintenance and programs. The refresh is an opportunity to review which policy and action items are still useful and applicable to the Darebin community and council’s mission regarding transport. The strategy was last refreshed in 2014/15. The Current refresh will incorporate:

- Changes to State and Federal Government policy, including Movement and Place, Plan Melbourne, Victoria’s Bus Plan, Victorian Cycling Strategy etc.
- New Infrastructure, including the Level Crossing Removal Projects and new railway stations, North East Link, Mernda Railway Extension etc.

- Changes to Council policy and context, including Climate Emergency declaration, Safe Travel Strategy, Walking Strategy, Principal Pedestrian Network etc.
- Societal changes, including COVID-19, Electric Vehicle transition, working from home, online shopping etc.

The Key changes to Darebin's transport strategy will be:

- **Parking Management:** Continue to manage access to parking in areas where demand is greater than supply with consideration of accessibility, economic development, equity and improving the quality of parking supply in new developments.
- **Community Safety:** Promote community safety around public transport, with emphasis on protecting at-risk members of the community. This includes embedding community safety into council's design practices, advocating for safe community travel and developing programs designed to promote safe travel.
- **Freight:** Investigate and implement options to better manage freight transport. This will consider the changing nature of freight (online shopping increasing), the freight industry, the transport network, key stakeholders and regulators.
- **COVID-19:** Monitor changing transport behaviours and needs arising from COVID and make temporary adjustments if needed during outbreaks to support community safety.
- **Electric Vehicles (EV):** Develop policies to manage increasing demand for public, commercial or private Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure. Improve access to EV charging in Darebin.

DDAC provided the following feedback:

- Lack of accessible tram stops in Darebin. Need to strengthen advocacy to State Government and Yarra Trams to improve tram access.
- Advocate for accessible bus stops. While there are main corridors for trams, there are large areas of Darebin serviced only buses. Strengthen advocacy to Public Transport Victoria to improve the accessibility of the bus network.
- Community safety:
- How to protect the at risk?
- Advocacy for increase in accessible parking at major retail and activity areas, including those not managed by Council such as Northland.
- Improved access for footpaths and safety for mobility scooters.
- Consideration of priority of use between motor vehicles and pedestrians.
- Clarity needed about who is responsible for what. Inform the community who they can contact to report issues and seek changes. This includes roads, footpaths, parking, utilities etc.

ACTIONS:

Feedback opportunities to be included with the DDAC minutes for committee members to provide further feedback.

7 Disability Advocacy

Seeking input from members about creating an advocacy platform for Disability.

Council is developing an Advocacy Strategy which focuses on identified issues and opportunities in the 2021- 2025 Council Plan. Council can play a key role in supporting and driving community advocacy campaigns, where action, support and funding are needed from state and federal level of Government to achieve goals.

The committee were asked what priority issues in relation to disability in Darebin should be part of the advocacy strategy.

DDAC members discussed the following advocacy priorities:

- **Transport:** Advocating for public transport improvements including accessible trams and tram stops.
- **Access to businesses:** Many businesses don't have ramps, grip rails, spaced tables and chairs for ease of movement. Advocate for changes to legislation and building codes to require access. Suggestions to co-fund or offer grants to retrofit buildings. Suggestion to provide information and support to businesses and potentially create a "sticker" to indicate accessibility level. Promote businesses which are doing good things in terms of access.
- **Schools and Disability Awareness:** Advocate for more inclusion awareness training in schools, especially regarding invisible disability and chronic conditions.
- **Sensory impairment and disability access:** Advocacy for people with vision and hearing impairments, including navigation and inclusion.

DDAC discussed the following internal priorities:

- **Footpath and kerb maintenance and safety:** particularly for people who use motorised wheelchairs, scooters and walking frames. Consideration for consistency across different council areas.
- **Accessible sporting clubs:** Consideration of a database of accessible sporting clubs to assist people finding accessible clubs and venues.
- **Temporary road management when works undertaken by Council and other large providers:** Safety considerations when temporary structures and yellow covers or ramps are installed. These often pose an access and safety risk for people with physical mobility disabilities. Advocate for community to be informed prior to works being undertaken, and for access and safety to be the priority.

- **Libraries:** Advocate for libraries to provide programs and services for older people with disability, not just children.
- **Support Groups:** Can Council provide information or a database about what support groups are available in Darebin, specific to disability type for example.

This feedback will support the development of the advocacy paper in relation to people with disability and future priorities for DDAC and the Access and Inclusion team.

8 General Business

Council Updates:

Recruitment for Community Development position

Katherine Kiley, Senior Team Leader, Access and Inclusion

The Community Development officer role (previously filled by Ania) is currently advertised and is an identified role for a person with lived experience of disability.

ILC grant application

Jade Myconos, Community Development Officer

Darebin applied for an Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Grant to run an Employment Forum in Darebin.

Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan updates

Katherine Kiley, Senior Team Leader, Access and Inclusion

The Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan has been completed and is available on the website. A small number of hard copies have been printed for those needing hardcopy formats and to bring to events. Updates have been sought from teams across Council on their actions in the disability action plan – these updates will be reviewed and compiled into a progress report that can be shared at our next meeting.

Good Access is Good Business

Jade Myconos, Community Development Officer

Darebin has purchased the development and delivery of Good Access is Good Business resources to support businesses to be more accessible. The resources include access checklists and handbooks for local businesses and services.

DDAC training

Katherine Kiley, Senior Team Leader, Access and Inclusion

Most members voted to have training by Voice at the Table (VATT). We have been informed that VATT are currently developing a new training module that should be ready to run in April. The committee will be informed when we receive further updates and can arrange a training time.

Vince memorial update

Katherine Kiley, Senior Team Leader, Access and Inclusion

Information is still being sought about the appropriate memorial including potential tree, plaque or award. Once more information is collected regarding possible options, costs, locations, policies etc. Vince's wife Roseanne will be informed to support decision making.

Sharing member emails

Katherine Kiley, Senior Team Leader, Access and Inclusion

There has been a request to share member emails. Currently all emails are sent privately. If any members have an objection with sharing email addresses, please let me know now or after the meeting via email. If there are no objections the next minutes will be sent openly to all addresses.

Future DDAC meeting day

Katherine Kiley, Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion

Neither Councillors were able to attend the meeting today due to a clash with a last-minute Council budget meeting. Councillors have regular meetings on Monday's which may continue to cause a clash with DDAC meetings. The committee was asked if there is another day that would suit everyone and asked to respond via email. We will stick with the same system of the first day of each month in March, June, September, December from 11am – 1pm.

ACTION:

DDAC to contact Katherine Kiley if they object to sharing email addresses.

DDAC to contact Katherine Kiley if there are any days of the week, they cannot meet on the first of the month from 11am -1pm.

9 Meeting feedback – everyone

DDAC members provided the following feedback:

- Too much on the agenda. Pare back so we have more time to discuss.
- Hybrid meeting are more accessible. Wants the opportunity to attend virtually to continue in future.
- Need more time for discussions. Likes the idea of sharing email addresses. Members can meet informally if people want to.

Next meeting: Monday 6 June 2022

11:00am – 1:00pm

Location TBC