

Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

Monday 5 December 2022
Meeting Minutes



Present

Chair:

Cr Williams

Community Representatives:

Emma Grey, Elizabeth (Liz) Ellis

Carers:

George Jiang

Service Providers:

N/A

Council staff:

Katie Kiley, Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion

Jade Myconos, Community Development Officer, Economic Participation

Tobi Evans, Community Development Officer, Access and Inclusion

Guest speakers:

N/A

1 Present and Apologies

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

Apologies: Edward Manuel, Zione Alepha Phiri, Jo Banks, Judith McLean, Helen Caliguiuri, Brooke Underwood, Pauline Risoli (National Disability Insurance Agency), Kathy Kondeka (Melbourne Polytechnic)

2 Matters arising from the previous minutes

Actions pending: No actions pending.

3 Endorsement of September meeting minutes

The minutes from the last meeting, held on Monday 5 September and emailed to members on 12 September 2022 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:

No items were added.

5 2022 Reflection/2023 Planning

Purpose: To review and reflect on the DDAC's activities in 2022 and to plan priorities for 2023.

Summary of presentation:

- Review of DDAC's 2022 priorities
- Review of DDAC activities and consultations in 2022
- Reflection activity on 2022 (see questions)
- Planning activity for 2023 (see questions)

Questions to DDAC:

- What activities from 2022 did you find most satisfying?
- What activities from 2022 did you find least satisfying?

DDAC provided the following feedback:

- most satisfying were the consultations that took place at regular meetings and were early in the project planning stage.

- They enjoyed the opportunity to actively discuss options and provide input that could be used as the project developed, and with a view to return to the conversation later in the project.
- The Parking Permit consultation was particularly satisfying because members felt the people running the project came to DDAC earlier in the piece and genuinely wanted and valued feedback.
- In addition, these more satisfying consultations were framed with an understanding that disabled people would be significantly affected by the project.
- members also enjoyed the joint committee meetings and different types of meetings, such as the visit to Preston and Bell Rail Stations.
- members found least satisfying the consultations at regular meetings that took place late in the project when there was little genuine interest in feedback because it was too late and/or difficult to implement at that stage.
- members felt they were being told about projects as opposed to actively discussing projects.
- There was little interest in feedback and the presenters came to the meeting with pre-conceived ideas about what the feedback would be.
- George's idea to nominate the DDAC for volunteering awards was a positive action.

Question to DDAC:

- I would like you to imagine it's next year – the end of 2023 – and you're looking back on a year with DDAC that was satisfying, joyful, and productive. What did we do? And how did we do it?

DDAC provided the following feedback:

- members would like to be directive and specific about how they are engaged in consultations, when these happen in the project, and what they are being consulted on.
- members need to be confident giving advice/feedback, which includes the presenters being ready to consult with the DDAC at the right time and in the right way.
- The DDAC clarified that they cared most about the timing of the consultation rather than the topic, because disability elements are involved in almost everything.
- It is vital that consultations with the DDAC take place earlier in the development stage.
- members thanked Tobi for processes around the DDAC, specifically the well organised meetings, emails on the day as a reminder, and taking feedback on board with email subject lines.
- The Mayor raised the topic of in-person or online meetings and the majority of DDAC members present preferred online meetings because they were more accessible. Some were ambivalent but there was no strong preference for in-person meetings from members.

ACTIONS:

- Tobi to revise briefing document for future presenters based on feedback.

6) DDAC visit to the new Preston & Bell Rail Station

Tobi, George Jiang, Everyone

The DDAC did an accessibility audit of the new Preston and Bell Rail Stations on 7 November.

Tobi sent audit notes to the committee at the start of November.

Questions to the DDAC:

- What would the DDAC like to do from here?
- What feedback do you have on the visit?

Note: Liz left the meeting after this point.

Summary of conversation:

- The DDAC noted that we have previously been fortunate to have Ray Jordan on the Committee and benefited from his expertise in transport accessibility.
- Tobi provided a review of the feedback from the visit.
- Given that there were minimal accessibility issues with the station, the members suggested that Tobi pass on the feedback to the liaison for Metro Trains/Level Crossing Removal and check whether the issues raised can be addressed.
- Separately, it was noted that there is a need for traffic lights on Cramer Street which should be added to the feedback list.

ACTIONS:

- Tobi to review the feedback list with suggestions about the lights and suggestions emailed by Ray.
- Tobi to send the list of feedback to the relevant officers and discuss options for improving access.

6 Name change for Disability Access Newsletter

Tobi Evans, Community Development Officer

Summary of conversation:

Tobi currently makes the Disability Access Newsletter and has suggested changing the name to the Disability Pride Newsletter.

We would like to hear the DDAC's thoughts on this change.

DDAC Comments:

- Only two members left in the meeting at this stage, so further discussion required with more members in 2023.
- Members present noted mixed feelings about the topic of disability pride because of its association with LGBTIQ* advocacy and its not fitting well with all disabilities.
- Important to keep focus on access and inclusion.

ACTIONS:

- Tobi to add to agenda in 2023.

7 Darebin Disability Advisory Committee Updates

Tobi Evans, Community Development Officer

- Given the need to change meeting times so that Councillors can regularly attend, DDAC members suggested we change the meeting time to outside of business hours.
- The first Tuesday of the month 5-7pm on Teams has been proposed.
- Could you please let us know if this does not work for you by Thursday 16 January 2023?

- If people are having a break over the summer, when will they be on leave?

DDAC Comments:

- Members present were happy with the new meeting times but concerned about workers working all day and then attending after hours.
- None of the members present were taking leave.

ACTION:

DDAC members to advise Tobi if the proposed meeting date does not work for them by 16 January 2023.

8 General Business

Council Updates:

Katie Kiley, Senior Team Leader, Access and Inclusion

Disability Action Plan

- Katie gave an overview of the planned Access and Inclusion Roadshow around the organisation.
- The next Disability Action Plan will be developed shortly.
- It will include relevant actions in the Council Action Plan 2022 – 2023, and Access and Inclusion Unit Plan.

Writeability

- In partnership with Writers Victoria, we're currently running WriteAbility at Preston Library.

Jade Farewell

- Jade is moving to a new role, so Katie farewelled Jade and thanked her for her work.

Jade Myconos, Community Development Officer

Good Access is Good Business

- Darebin branded access guides called Good Access is Good Business resources are now live and available for free download on Darebin's website.
- New Officer in this role will be able to promote the resources to businesses.
- Link shared in chat: [Business resources and support | Darebin Council](#) scroll down page to 'online resources.'
- Note: page is being reviewed for accessibility in 2023.

Employment forum

- We were not successful in our application to the Information Linkages and Capacity Building Program for \$500k to fund an employment forum, training series and business mentorship program about accessible employment for people with disability.

New role

- Jade is now the Gender Equity Officer.

Tobi Evans, Community Development Officer

Social Group

- Tobi is currently working with Action on Disability in Ethnic Communities (ADEC) to start a disability social group in Darebin.
- We will be holding community forums (online and in person) in early 2023 (Feb/March) to hear what the community would like.

Disability Pride Mural

- Tobi provided an update on the Disability Pride Mural for IDPwD, including announcing the artist and the plans to consult with the DDAC on the design in 2023.

10 Meeting feedback – everyone

- Please don't use yellow fluro to highlight things in emails

Next meeting: 7 March 2023, which may change subject to Councillor availability and member preference.

5:00pm-7:00pm

Online