

# Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

Tuesday 5 December 2023  
Meeting Minutes



## **Present**

### **Acting Chair:**

Katherine Kiley (Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion)

### **Community Representatives:**

Jo Banks (arrived late) Emma Grey (left early), Elizabeth (Liz) Ellis,  
Helen Caligiuri, Brooke Underwood

### **Carers:**

George Jiang

### **Service Providers:**

N/A

### **Council staff:**

Neda Nejad (Community Development Officer, Economic Participation)

Tobi Evans (Community Development Officer, Access and Inclusion)

### **Guest speakers:**

N/A

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## **1 Present and Apologies**

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

**Apologies:** Councillor Williams, Judith McLean

## **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 Tuesday 5 September and emailed to members on 8 September 2023 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.

[Note: Emma left the meeting.](#)

### **5 Good Access is Good Business (Neda Nejad)**

#### **Summary of presentation:**

- Overview of the Good Access is Good Business project.

#### **Questions to DDAC:**

- Which type of Darebin local business needs to improve access the most?

#### **DDAC provided the following feedback:**

- Music in cafes and restaurants being too loud.
- Businesses having steps at the entrance (even when they have an accessible toilet).
- Cafes without accessible toilets or which have accessible toilets but make them inaccessible by using them as storage or clocking accessways.
- Schools and sport stadiums not being accessible because they have stairs.
- Airconditioning and comfort in venues is also important.
- Businesses need to consider communication as a part of accessibility. For example, cafes and restaurants need to improve menus including pictures.

**Questions to DDAC:**

- What are the biggest access and inclusion barriers in local business in Darebin?

**DDAC provided the following feedback:**

- Attitudes and communication. People are unable/unwilling to speak directly to disabled people and either ignore them or talk to the person they are with.
- Lack of representation and awareness of disabled people leads businesses to make assumptions.
- It would be good to see something like the [‘Change your reaction’ campaign](#) by [Amaze](#) for disabled people more broadly.

**6 2022 Reflection/2023 Planning**

**Purpose:** To review and reflect on the DDAC’s activities in 2023 and to plan priorities for 2024.

**Summary of presentation:**

- Review of DDAC’s 2023 priorities
- Review of DDAC activities and consultations in 2023
- Reflection activity on 2023 (see questions)
- Planning activity for 2024 (see questions)

**Questions to DDAC:**

- What activities from 2023 did you find most satisfying?
- What activities from 2023 did you find least satisfying?

**DDAC provided the following feedback:**

Most satisfying:

- Special meeting: meeting with the artist to discuss the disability pride mural was very interesting.

- Writeability was a great opportunity and gave the chance to learn and meet people.
- Exciting to have Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre (NARC) open in the local area where needed and so accessible.
- Virtual tour of Bundoora homestead.
- Pierre Gorman award and what funding is available.
- Meetings on site are valuable (e.g. Last year's review of the new Preston and Bell stations).

Least satisfying:

- Writeability inconsistency was frustrating - this can be passed on to Writer's Victoria.
- Would have loved to have seen NARC before it opened - missed opportunity - this could still happen in 2024.
- Dry topics e.g. parking permits - though this is very important.
- Presenters with a lack of flair.

#### **Question to DDAC:**

- I would like you to imagine it's next year – the end of 2024 – 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:**

- Revisiting past topics that have been raised but not finalised (e.g. Darebin community awards).
- Members enjoyed the summary of 2023 and would like to see a log of achievements from previous years to track the wins as we go and measure impact.
- Meeting face to face would be enjoyable (e.g. special meetings, Christmas drinks, celebration of DDAC).
- Interested in face to face meetings/special meetings/drinks
- Nominate DDAC for Victorian Disability award - recognise long standing achievement and hard work.

**ACTIONS:**

- George to let Tobi know when the Victorian Disability award opens in 2024.

## **7 Darebin Disability Advisory Committee Updates**

*Tobi Evans, Community Development Officer*

- We have had resignations from Edward, Casey, Virginia, Ray, Pauline and Zione.
- Expression of interest for DDAC is currently open - will be open until February 2024.
- Bundoora Homestead Site visit to take place in 2024. The social script is being developed and will be sent to members who will then be invited to visit the Homestead to review access.
- More information to come in 2024.

**ACTION:**

Tobi to follow up on Bundoora Homestead Social Script and organise DDAC special meeting.

## **8 General Business**

*Tobi Evans, Community Development Officer (Access and Inclusion)*

### **Update: International Day for People with Disability**

- Darebin Council is partnering with the Northern Autism Network and the High Street Bells Choir to run events that will celebrate disabled people in 2024.
- More updates to come.

**9 Meeting feedback – everyone**

No feedback.

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

**5:00pm-7:00pm**

Online