

# Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

Tuesday 5 September 2023  
Meeting Minutes



## **Present**

### **Chair:**

Katherine Kiley (acting Chair)

### **Community Representatives:**

Emma Grey, Helen Caligiuri

### **Carers:**

Jo Banks (left at 6:30pm), Brooke Underwood

### **Service Providers: N/A**

### **Council staff:**

Katie Kiley (she/her), Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion

Neda Nejad (she/her), Community Development Officer (Economic Participation)

Tobi Evans (he/they), Community Development Officer (Access and Inclusion)

### **Guest speakers:**

Josie MacCartney (she/her) – Leisure Major Projects Officer

Jessie Piggott - NARC Venue Manager

Vanessa O'Shea (she/her) - Senior Strategic Planner

Lakshmanan Madhu - Senior Strategic Planner

Jacquie Kilkenny (she/her) – Team Leader Children and Youth – Recreation and Libraries

Amanda Kearley (she/they) – Coordinator Customer Service and Engagement, Recreation and Libraries

Emily Bulger (they/them) – Acting Youth and Children Librarian, Recreation and Libraries

---

## **1 Present and Apologies**

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

George Jiang

Pauline Risoli (National Disability Insurance Agency)

Zione (Zee) Alepha Phiri

Elizabeth (Liz) Ellis

Judith McLean

Kathy Kondekas (Melbourne Polytechnic)

Mayor Williams

### **Apologies:**

## **2 Matters arising from the previous minutes**

**Actions pending:** No actions pending.

## **3 Endorsement of June 2023 meeting minutes**

The minutes from the last meeting, held on Tuesday 6 June and emailed to members on 9 June 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).*

Katie Kiley introduced Neda Nejad, Community Development Officer (Economic Participation), who joined the Access and Inclusion Team in July.

**Following items added to General Business:**

No items were added.

## **7 NARC update**

*Josie MacCartney (she/her) – Leisure Major Projects Officer*  
*Jessie Piggott, NARC Venue Manager*

**Purpose:**

At the June 2023 meeting the DDAC members requested an update on the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre (NARC).

Josie and Jessie provided an update on the NARC Redevelopment Project.

**Summary of presentation:**

- Josie gave an overview of NARC's history, including previous redevelopments, the redevelopment project including community engagement, and issues with the site's accessibility.
- Josie explained how universal design principles had been used in the redevelopment and gave an overview of the new accessibility features.
- Jessie explained the programs and staff training around access and inclusion that will take place once NARC opens.

**Summary of conversation:**

- DDAC members queried when NARC will be completed, which will be in the last quarter of 2023.

- DDAC members were interested in noise reduction. The project lead explained that the architecture is designed to minimise noise and some pools are for people 18+ and will therefore be quieter.
- The project lead noted that there will be a series of opening events, including a sensory splash and play.
- DDAC members were concerned about the visibility between the publicly accessible café and some of the pools. The project lead clarified that community members will have options for areas that are not visible from the café.

**ACTIONS:**

- Tobi to send DDAC information about the NARC re-opening and associated events.

## **7 Housing Strategy Update**

*Vanessa O'Shea - Senior Strategic Planner*

*Lakshmanan Madhu - Senior Strategic Planner*

*Stella Radford – Strategic Planner*

### **Purpose:**

Providing an update on Darebin City Council's draft Housing Strategy.

### **Summary of presentation:**

- Vanessa provided an overview of the Housing Strategy project, especially the community engagement that the DDAC gave advice on in 2022.
- There was good engagement with disabled people thanks to the DDAC's advice.
- The community's priorities included more green space, higher buildings close to amenities, variable size and price of houses,

and flexible housing that can adapt to changing needs (including disability).

- Vanessa explained the current standards for accessible housing and the advocacy that Council is doing in this area.

### **Questions to DDAC:**

1. Your thoughts on our approach to addressing accessibility?
2. What barriers have you experienced in accessing housing that suits your needs? (e.g. lack of supply, no register, long wait times, located far from public transport)
3. What would need to change to ensure you can easily access housing you need?
4. What aspects of accessible housing are most important to you?
5. Are there any groups we should be speaking with during the upcoming engagement process on the draft Housing Strategy?
6. Are there any safe and inclusive places you would recommend for face-to-face engagement with disabled people?

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

- Key issues in housing design in Darebin include kitchen placement upstairs and narrow, steel staircases.
- DDAC members raised the issue of waiting times for emergency housing for people who need accessible housing.
- DDAC members were also concerned about higher housing density, which leads to more pressure on public transport and makes it challenging for some disabled people to get around.

Note: the presenter ran out of time to discuss questions 5 and 6, so these will be distributed to DDAC members with the minutes.

**ACTIONS:**

- Tobi to send DDAC members the questions with the minutes.
- Tobi to send DDAC information about the next round of community engagement about the Housing Strategy.

## **8 Pierre Gorman update**

*Jacquie Kilkenny – Team Leader Children and Youth – Recreation and Libraries*

*Emily Bulger – Children and Youth Library Officer*

*Amanda Kearley – Co-ordinator Customer Service and Engagement*

**Purpose:**

To provide the DDAC with an update on the Pierre Gorman Award application to improve accessibility at Darebin Libraries.

**Summary of presentation:**

- In June 2023 the DDAC consulted on the library's plan to apply for a Pierre Gorman Award to increase accessibility at Darebin libraries.
- While Darebin Libraries are no longer applying for the funding, they be partnering with Gen U and Decibels to develop a youth disability music project.
- Jacquie gave an overview of the project, which is a series of music workshops co-designed with participants and facilitated by disabled musicians from Darebin.

**Questions to the DDAC:**

- What community groups should we be speaking to?

- What would make a music event accessible for you?
- Thoughts on promoting the project for maximum turnout?
- Would the DDAC like to engage with the project regularly?

**DDAC provided the following feedback:**

- Brotherhood of Saint Laurence would be a good community partner (and could provide disabled musicians as mentors and participants).
- DDAC members suggested using existing music venues and networks (e.g. Ragtime in Reservoir) to promote the project and allowing disabled and non-disabled people to attend and be mentors.
- DDAC members are interested in project updates.

**ACTIONS:**

- Tobi to give the project team Emma's email as she is interested in the project.

**9 Darebin Disability Advisory Committee Updates**

*Tobi Evans, Community Development Officer*

- The Special Meeting at Bundoora Homestead has been delayed as staff are still working on the social script.

**10 General Business**

**Council Updates:**

*Katherine Kiley, Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion*

## **Mid-October Special meeting – items:**

- Yarra Trams and the Department of Transport would like to engage with DDAC regarding accessible Tram Stops along route 86.
- The project team working on the Darebin waste consultation would also like to engage with the DDAC.
- DDAC members were happy with either Tuesday 3 October or Tuesday 10 October.

*Tobi Evans, Community Development Officer*

- Tobi provided an update on the Disability Pride Mural launch and Writeability/Artability Salon at Preston Library in August.

*Neda Nejad, Community Development Officer*

- Neda gave a brief update on Good Access is Good Business.

## **10 Meeting feedback – everyone**

- The chat function on Teams does not work if you are on mobile; can DDAC members be send relevant links with the minutes?
- DDAC members were glad lots of consultation is happening.

### **ACTIONS:**

- Tobi to send relevant links with the minutes.
- Tobi to send information about the special meeting in October.

## **Next meeting:**

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

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

Online