

# Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

Tuesday 2 June 2024  
Meeting Minutes



## Present

### Chair:

Cr Williams

### Community Representatives:

Helen Caligiuri, Liz Ellis, Emma Grey, Maria Matthews, Rocio Silva, Kiz Blanca-Jackson

### Carers:

Brooke Underwood, Jo Banks, George Jiang

### Service Providers:

Kathy Kondekas (Melbourne Polytechnic)

Trisha Donnelly (M&A Support Services)

### Council staff:

Neda Nejad, Community Development Officer (Economic Participation)

Gabrielle Dietrich, Acting Community Development Officer (Access and Inclusion)

### Guest speakers:

Bronwyn Ryan-Mercer, Senior Producer

Naretha Williams, Acting Festival and Events Coordinator

Megan Haberle. Place Leader

---

## 1 Present and Apologies

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

**Apologies:**

Tobi Evans, Acting Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion

Max Taylor, Darebin Disability Advisory Committee Member

Judith McLean, Carer

**2 Matters arising from the previous minutes**

**Actions pending:** No actions pending.

**3 Endorsement of March 2024 meeting minutes**

The minutes from the last meeting, held on Tuesday 5 March and emailed to members 15 March 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).*

**Following items added to General Business:**

No items were added.

**7 Darebin Community Awards – Disability Category**

*Bronwyn Ryan-Mercer, Senior Producer*  
*Naretha Williams, Festivals and Events Coordinator*

### **Purpose:**

Darebin Council holds annual Community Awards to recognise our community members.

We are considering adding a disability category and would like to seek feedback.

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

- Name of new category
- Selection criteria (draft only):

“Award is open to individuals as well as organisations and groups. This award recognises and promotes the outstanding contributions of an individual, group and or organisation that is working to create an inclusive Darebin where people with disability are valued, respected and can contribute to the community.”

- Below points to consider:
  - How has the organisation/project strengthened, enhanced or supported the lives of people with a disability in Darebin?

### **Summary of conversation:**

- Discussion on why limited to only one Disability Award?  
Example to add another award for emerging young person active in disability/inclusion – to get young people active in the community. Question on what is considered young? Over 18, under 25?

- Bronwyn wants interested DDAC members to be part of the selection panel for awards. Bronwyn talked about the awards in general, who is invited, the list of categories etc
- Suggestion to name the award after someone who has been active in the Darebin community? Examples given were:
  - [Uncle Kevin Coombes](#)
  - Vince Pirrottina
  - Rocca Salcedo
  - [Leslie Hall](#)
- Discussion on the definition of disability in Darebin – include mental illness
- Suggestion to look at different Councils criteria for selection of award recipient. Example [Merri-Bek Council criteria](#)
- Acknowledge/recognise people in the community. Example was given of a local taxi driver driving people for over 40 years, John (taxi driver) taking people to physio appointments, pick up milk, pick up recycling, help people up the stairs etc. Suggestion they can be life-time achievement award or Citizen of the Year, not necessarily selected for the Disability Award
- Discussion - is this award for disability advocacy, disability work or person with disability? Recipient to be person with disability or able person/organisation? Concern people with disability are only selected for this award and are overlooked for the other award categories.

## 8 Update: Outdoor Dining and Trading Policy and Design Guidelines

*Megan Haberle, Place Leader*

**Purpose:** We will report back on the feedback the DDAC gave on this project in 2023.

### **Summary of presentation:**

- Policy has been endorsed by Council - starts 1 July 2024

- Parklets established during COVID were well received by community. When the State Government funding ceased, Council needed to make decisions on what to do. Council decided to develop a new policy, allowing parklets to remain
- Requirements for businesses: accessible entry, paths of travel, wheelchair turning areas, accessible tables and chairs, and accessible toilets.
- Community was consulted on the process and gave feedback. There was a lot of online feedback.

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

Q. Will accessibility of businesses be monitored ongoing?

A. Once permit is approved, ongoing checks by Council will not be necessary, unless there is a complaint from community.

Q. How many parklets are in Darebin?

A. Nine businesses want to re-establish, and five businesses want to establish new parklets, twelve parklets altogether at this stage.

Q. Can you report policy breaches with the Snap, Send, Solve app?

A. Yes absolutely.

Q. Are there safety bollards considered as well, if needed?

A. There are wheel stops on either end of parklet and signage on the roads for drivers warning them of parklet up ahead.

## **9 Darebin Disability Advisory Committee Updates**

- General discussion on access to NDIS and not everyone can go on it and some people choose not to. For example, getting a diagnosis can be a political matter, as it may alter chance of getting a visa to stay in the country.
- Discussion on specific place to find information on disability activities in Darebin (hard copies). Information and activities available at local libraries, neighbourhood houses etc.

- Question asked on what Council is doing for July Disability Pride Month. Various events and activities on offer through Darebin partner organisations and neighbouring Councils
- Enquiry about Council policy being wheat (correction 'meat') free in Darebin venues and community centres. Organisers make sure they ask about food allergy and/or diet requirements before a Council event.
- Discussion on Yarra Trams re-instating the 86 tram stop – may not be accessible? Concerns with shop fronts in Tyler St. Accessible stop near Preston Market, Plenty Rd and Murray Rd needed. Could we reach out to other Councils doing advocacy in this space. Example Disability Resource Centre (DRC) advocacy in Brunswick area.

**ACTIONS:**

- Council to follow up with Yarra Trams – accessible tram stop on the 86 line
- Reach out to other disability organisations that are campaigning about accessible tram stops? DRC has done advocacy on trams in the Brunswick area

## **10 General Business**

### **Council Updates:**

- No Council Updates

## **11 Meeting feedback – everyone**

- N/A

**Next meeting:**

**Tuesday 3 September 2024, which may change subject to  
Councillor availability and member preference.**

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

Online