

Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

Tuesday 5 March 2024
Meeting Minutes



Present

Chair:

Cr Williams

Community Representatives: N/A

Carers:

Brooke Underwood, Jo Banks, George Jiang

Service Providers:

Kathy Kondekas (Melbourne Polytechnic)

Council staff:

Tobi Evans, Acting Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion

Guest speakers:

Bronwyn Ryan-Mercer, Senior Producer

Naretha Williams, Festivals and Events Coordinator

Martti Martinson, Strategic Project Officer

1 Present and Apologies

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

Apologies:

Helen Caligiuri, Emma Grey, Elizabeth (Liz) Ellis, Judith McLean

2 Matters arising from the previous minutes

Actions pending: No actions pending.

3 Endorsement of December 2024 meeting minutes

The minutes from the last meeting, held on Tuesday 5 December and emailed to members on 12 December 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:

- Do you think we should introduce a disability category? If yes, who would we celebrate and what would we celebrate them for?
- Should we celebrate a group, organisation or individual leader?
- What can Council do to make sure that a disability award category changes attitudes and raises awareness about disability?"

(note: Cr Williams left at 5:30pm)

Summary of conversation:

- Two DDAC members supported the award category, especially for businesses and organisations. Members highlighted that there are significant gaps in disability access and inclusion, and introducing this award would be a good way to award effort and encourage businesses to be more accessible.
- One DDAC member did not support the award category because it may be seen to segregate disabled people from the rest of the community.
- DDAC members advised that other groups (e.g. LGBTIQA*) should also have dedicated award categories.

ACTIONS:

- Given that only carers/service providers were able to attend the meeting, project officers will follow up with the Access and Inclusion team to ensure that people with disability are included in the conversation.

8 LGBTIQA* Action Plan

Purpose:

Darebin Council is currently developing our LGBTIQA* Action Plan.

We would like feedback on the action plan from the DDAC.

Summary of presentation:

- Martti gave a presentation about Council's work on LGBTIQ+ Inclusion and the intersection between LGBTIQ+ and disability.

Questions to DDAC:

- How can we make sure Darebin's work on LGBTIQ+ inclusion is disability affirming?

DDAC provided the following feedback:

- People disability who are LGBTIQ+* must be involved in this process of developing the plan.
- Council needs to understand the positive and negative experiences of LGBTIQ+* people with disability and hear their voices.
- There is a growing number of young people who are trans and gender diverse. It is important to involve their voices in this work.
- DDAC members highlighted for the importance of accessible communication.

(Note: Cr Williams returned to the meeting at 6:30pm)

9 Darebin Disability Advisory Committee Updates

Tobi Evans, Acting Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion

- Tobi gave an update on DDAC recruitment.
- DDAC times/days will be discussed when new members join us later in the year.
- Bundoora Homestead visit has been paused because of short staffing in the team.

10 General Business

Council Updates:

Tobi Evans, Acting Senior Team Leader, Access and Inclusion

- Katherine Kiley and Neda Nejad are both currently acting in different roles.
- Tobi is acting in Katherine's role until the end of June and we are welcoming a new team member (Tamara Coles) who will backfill Tobi's role.
- The organisation is currently in the early stages of developing the next Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.
- Update on IDPwD 2024 and 2023/2024 projects.

DDAC provided the following feedback:

- DDAC members would like to see the word disability normalised because there is a growing uptake of the word among community.
- DDAC members found a focus on 'disability community' an affirming way to talk about disability.

10 Meeting feedback – everyone

- Enjoying meetings and looking forward to more members.

Next meeting:

Tuesday 4 June 2024, which may change subject to Councillor availability and member preference.

5:00pm-7:00pm

Online