

## Minutes

### Disability Advisory Committee



<b>Date</b>	28 October 2025
<b>Time</b>	3.00pm-5pm
<b>Location</b>	Richmond Town Hall, Councillors Room
<b>Chair</b>	Councillor Sharon Harrison
<b>Minute taker</b>	Jess Barry
<b>Content Manager Reference</b>	

### Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations and to their Elders past, present and future.

### Attendees

<b>Councillor/s</b>	Councillor Sharon Harrison, Councillor Edward Crosslands
<b>Committee members</b>	Stephanie Gotlib, Katarina Radonic, Diep Nguyen, Keren Stephens, Madeleine Ruskin, Grant Guppy, Anne Holloway, Lisa Brumtis
<b>Council Officers</b>	Patrick O'Gorman – Senior Governance Coordinator, Malcolm McCall – Manager Ageing, Equity & Community Development, Lauren Krnjacki – Coordinator Access and Ageing Well, Jess Barry – Lead Ageing, Disability, Inclusion & Wellbeing, Laurice Young – Community Access & Inclusion Officer
<b>Guests</b>	Mel Miller-Yule – Climate Emergency Response Lead, Michael Oke – Sustainability Unit Manager, Katy Daily – Energy Innovation Lead & Kathryn Pound – Manager Parking & Compliance, John Antonio Sanchez - Coordinator Parking Services
<b>Apologies</b>	Collette O'Neill

Item number	Item title or subject	Minute notes
1.	Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country	Acknowledgment of country given by Cr. Harrison Introductions given
2.	Declarations of conflict of interests of interest	None declared
3.	Governance of the DAC	An overview of the item was provided by Senior Governance Coordinator which outlined the following matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Induction process</i></li> <li>• <i>Purpose of advisory committees</i></li> <li>• <i>Discussion on the Terms of Reference for the DAC</i></li> <li>• <i>The roles within the committee</i></li> <li>• <i>Minimum attendance of 3 meetings per year</i></li> <li>• <i>Conflicts of interest – to be declared and secretariat can offer support</i></li> <li>• <i>Privacy and transparency</i></li> <li>• <i>Reimbursement for expenses – e.g. transport, childcare, interpreters</i></li> </ul> Matters raised by the committee <i>None</i>

		<p>Actions (if any)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>None</i></li> </ul>
4.	Future meeting dates	<p>An overview of the item was provided by Cr. Harrison which outlined the following matters .....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Best options for meeting times and locations for meetings in 2026 were put to the committee</i></li> <li>• <i>Manager Ageing, Equity &amp; Community Development put it to the committee that we have a meeting in December at Richmond Townhall – Councillors Room</i></li> </ul> <p>Matters raised by the committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The committee agreed that meeting will be in December</i></li> <li>• <i>The committee agreed that meeting will be in Richmon Town Hall</i></li> <li>• <i>A committee member raised a concern that it isn't appropriate for carers and support people that aren't on the committee to come to the DAC meetings</i></li> </ul> <p>Actions (if any)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Access and Ageing Team will send out a poll to determine next meeting</i></li> <li>• <i>The committee to be advised on protocol of carers and support people's attendance at meetings</i></li> </ul>
5.	Interim work plan	<p>An overview of the item was provided by Coordinator Access and Ageing Well which outlined the following matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Playspace strategy</i></li> <li>• <i>Kerbside and parking strategy</i></li> <li>• <i>Local law review</i></li> <li>• <i>Community Infrastructure Plan</i></li> </ul> <p>Matters raised by the committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A committee member asked how DAC discussions and ideas feed into the work of Council</i></li> <li>• <i>Cr Crosslands and Cr Harrison note that DAC feedback helps council to advocate for disability</i></li> <li>• <i>A committee member raised that the back entrance to the Richmond leisure centre is not accessible</i></li> <li>• <i>A committee member raises beautification and Environmental Sustainable Design (ESD) should consider people with disability</i></li> </ul> <p>Actions (if any)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Access and Ageing Team to put footpaths on the workplan for the group</i></li> </ul>
6.	Yarra Home Energy Upgrades program	<p>Sustainability Unit Manager introduced team then an overview of the items were provided by Climate Emergency Response Lead and Energy Innovation Lead outlining the following matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Overview of the Energy upgrades program</i></li> <li>• <i>Advised how community members can apply</i></li> <li>• <i>Possible solutions to overcome barrier/hazard of power cords running from dwellings across way paths to vehicles</i></li> </ul> <p>Matters raised by the committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A committee member raises that something that rises above the kerb will always be an issue for accessibility</i></li> <li>• <i>A committee member raises that there are flat power cords – which might mean it doesn't raise up above the footpath</i></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A committee member raises safety, vandalism and theft when powering an EV at home with a cord across a path</i></li> </ul> <p>Actions (if any)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>None</i></li> </ul>
7.	Update on the Disability Access and Inclusion Policy	<p>An overview of the item was provided by Coordinator Access and Ageing Well which outlined the following matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How community members engaged in generating ideas in the past and background</i></li> <li>• <i>Parks and spaces, transport, participating and supporting jobs as part of disability frameworks</i></li> <li>• <i>Past work done with DAC</i></li> <li>• <i>National, state and local government disability frameworks</i></li> <li>• <i>Victorian state government universal design policy</i></li> <li>• <i>Systemic reforms – we have opportunities to embed the policy across Council systems</i></li> </ul> <p>Matters raised by the committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A committee member felt the draft ideas for the policy has an emphasis on physical disability</i></li> <li>• <i>Cr Crosslands and Cr Harrison note they want to have that disability lens across our systems</i></li> <li>• <i>At the next DAC meeting (December) the Access and Ageing team will present a draft (copies to be provided to DAC before meeting)</i></li> </ul> <p>Actions (if any)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>At the next DAC meeting (December) the Access and Ageing team will present a draft (copies to be provided to DAC before meeting))</i></li> </ul>
8.	Local Law Review	<p>An overview of the item was provided by Manager Parking &amp; Compliance which outlined the following matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What local laws cover</i></li> <li>• <i>What is being reviewed</i></li> <li>• <i>The Local Law review will go to council meeting in November</i></li> <li>• <i>A disability review of a local law review will focus on accessibility</i></li> </ul> <p>Matters raised by the committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>None</i></li> </ul> <p>Actions (if any)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Manager Parking &amp; Compliance to come back again to engage</i></li> </ul>
Other Business		<p>The following matters of general business were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Accessible parking at private residences</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>A committee member raised that they should have a bay for their exclusive use</i></li> <li>○ <i>Coordinator Parking Services explained that as accessible bays are provided on public roads they must be for public use (for anyone with a disability parking permit)</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Manager Parking &amp; Compliance states we cannot allow an individual exclusive use of an accessible parking space – but we are going to relook at</i></li> <li>○ <i>Coordinator Parking Services states that we are looking to increase the amount of accessible parking bays and has strong understanding of area and disability access and reiterates that they are open to feedback.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Cr. Harrison will advocate to see what we can do to increase quality and amount of accessible parking through the kerbside and parking strategy</i></li> <li>○ <i>A committee member asks the timeframe to review to install an accessibility bay – Coordinator Parking Service states 2-4 weeks in typical scenario and a DDA compliant bay can take a bit longer as engineering input is needed.</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cohealth – Fitzroy &amp; Collingwood have announced they will no longer bulk bill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Council is concerned those on the lowest income will lose access to health services. Council want to retain these valuable services locally – and to allow bulk billing for longer appointments – Council will stand its own advocacy campaign and committee if the matter is not resolved</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Actions (if any) None</p>
Meeting closed		<i>The meeting closed at 5pm</i>
Next scheduled meeting		TBA