

Disability Advisory Committee

Date	9 December 2025
Time	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Location	Richmond Town Hall, Councillor's Room
Chair	Cr. Edward Crossland
Minute taker	Renée Utting - Business Support Officer Lead & Jess Barry – Lead Ageing, Disability, Inclusion & Wellbeing
Content Manager Reference	N/A

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

Councillors	Cr. Sharon Harrison, Cr. Edward Crossland
Committee Members	Stephanie Gotlib, Katarine Radonic, Keren Stephens, Grant Guppy, Collette O'Neill, Anne Holloway, Lisa Brumtis, Concetta Tahir, Madeline Ruskin (online)
Council Officers	Malcolm McCall – Manager Ageing, Equity & Community Development, Lauren Krnjacki - Senior Coordinator Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion, Jess Barry – Lead Ageing, Disability, Inclusion & Wellbeing, Laurice Younge – Community Access & Inclusion Officer
Guests	Sam Hewitt - General Manager Infrastructure and Environment, Jennifer McIntyre – Coordinator Strategic Projects, Parks and Delivery, Tara Jolfaei- Open Space Project Manager, Sarah Jade Chung - Strategic Engagement Coordinator, Ewan Richmond - Communications and Engagement Officer
Apologies	Diep Nguyen

Item	Subject	Minute Notes
1	Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledgement of Country Introduce any new committee members and those who have joined for the first time Attendance and apologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledgment of country given by Cr. Crossland Introductions given Attendance and Apologies noted
2	Governance of the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of minutes of the previous meeting Actions arising from previous meeting 	<p>An overview of the item was provided by the Chair which outlined the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from the previous meeting have been adopted Actions arising from previous meeting – 2026 meeting dates <p>Actions (if any) Council Officer - Lead Ageing, Disability, Inclusion & Wellbeing will provide dates for 2026 meetings</p>

		waiting for Councillor Support Unit to confirm dates
3	<p>Universal Design and Disability Inclusion Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the draft and collect feedback 	<p>An overview of the item was provided by Council Officers: Senior Coordinator Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion and Lead Ageing, Disability, Inclusion & Wellbeing which outlined the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presentation of the Universal Design and Disability Inclusion Policy Draft outlining the priority areas and Universal Design components • Committee members were asked to give feedback on the 6 priority areas outlined in the policy and then to provide feedback on the Universal Design component <p>Matters raised by the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that accessible and inclusive information is prioritised, for example, entry and exit signs • Focus on rights-based language throughout the policy • Faster response times from parking enforcement officers when accessible parking bays have been taken by vehicles that do not display permits • Accessible parking bays in Yarra assigned to individuals for their exclusive use • Members would like more information about how data was collected for the policy, for example, did we benchmark against other LGAs? • Multiple points in the policy could be combined to simplify • No acknowledgment about governance and citizenship in the policy • Can Council provide an audio version of the policy so that vision-impaired people can access the information more easily? • No acknowledgment about what Yarra City Council has already achieved towards disability inclusion goals – Council should specify that we will continue to achieve these goals, for example, the improvements that have already been made to footpaths

		<p>Actions (if any)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Officer - Lead Ageing, Disability, Inclusion & Wellbeing set a timeframe for members to read the Universal Design and Disability Inclusion Policy independently and then provide feedback via email
4	<p>Quarries Park Upgrade Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation about the Quarries Park upgrade and collection of feedback 	<p>An overview of the item was provided by Council Officers: Coordinator Strategic Projects, Parks and Delivery and Open Space Project Manager, which outlined the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Quarries Park Playspace upgrades design • The upgrade is being undertaken as the current equipment requires replacement, but Yarra residents would like to retain as much of the historical features as possible • Need to find a balance between the need to retain the historical feel and the need to create an inclusive space • More than 70% of respondents to the most recent survey regarding the upgrades are happy about the current plans <p>Matters raised by the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DAC would like to confirm how many people with a disability have been consulted about the project • the proposed park is not accessible for wheelchairs (barriers include non-wheelable surfaces such as sand) • the disability inclusive equipment is isolated from the other play equipment – this hampers inclusion • Seats are only available on south side of the park, so there needs to be more options for seating • Can sand/beach mats or other solutions be incorporated so that people using a wheelchair or other mobility aid can access equipment in the sand zones? • Parents with disability will need to be able

		<p>to access play areas to supervise their children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A barrier so that children can't head towards the creek/river would be helpful • Can the flying fox be accessible to all children Because it will be fantastic and all-abilities should be able to participate – could have an all abilities/accessible flying fox seat next to the current planned flying fox as this is done in other playspaces • Can a person with disability easily get from the plaspace to the toilets (including accessible toilets) and parking (including accessible bays)? If not, this should be addressed, if so, can it be communicated? <p>Actions (if any)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Officer - Lead Ageing, Disability, Inclusion & Wellbeing everyone know about the timeline for providing feedback on the Quarries Park Upgrade
5	<p>Community Engagement Policy Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the review and collect feedback 	<p>An overview of the item was provided by Council Officers: Strategic Engagement Coordinator & Communications and Engagement Officer which outlined the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current policy has been reviewed and benchmarked against 12 other LGAs to identify improvement areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aligning more closely to the Local Government Act ○ Improving the ways to engage people who are hard to reach • Council officers asked the following question to guide feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are the barriers to participation? <p>Matters raised by the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A committee member stated a preference to receive information from females rather than males • A committee member advised that people need to be fairly active in the community to receive information via the current available channels, so people who cannot advocate for themselves often miss out • Community members from Culturally And Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds are sometimes fearful of government so they do not want to provide feedback –

		<p>need options for anonymous feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology can be a barrier for many people who do not want to participate in social media, or who do not know how to use certain browsers • People do not want to provide an email address because of email spam • Council needs to provide a variety of options for engagement • A committee member noted that people do not feel heard when they provide feedback because Council does not respond with an outcome • It takes too many clicks to find policy and plan documents on the Council website • Council should provide a short plain language summary for policy and plan documents that are complex <p>Actions (if any) Council Officer - Lead Ageing, Disability, Inclusion & Wellbeing everyone know about the timeline for providing feedback on the Community Engagement Policy Review</p>
6	Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A committee member raised that the Yarra News publication needs to prioritise disability more <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was noted by Council Officer - Senior Coordinator Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion that there are plans to implement this with a section dedicated for this purpose
7	Meeting Complete	Meeting closed at 3:09pm
8	Next Scheduled Meeting	Tuesday, 24 February 2026