

Minutes

Disability Advisory Committee



Date	26.08.2026
Time	3.00pm – 5.00pm
Location	Richmond Town Hall, Councillors Room
Chair	Deputy Mayor Cr. Harrison
Minute taker	Jess Barry
Content Manager Reference	D2026/0340060

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

Councillor/s	Deputy Mayor Cr. Sharon Harrison (Chair)
Committee members	Stephanie Gotlib, Madeline Ruskin (online), Collette O'Neill, Concetta Tahir, Keren Stephens, Katarina Radonic
Council Officers	Lauren Krnjacki – Senior Coordinator, Ageing Well & Disability Inclusion, Jess Barry – Lead Ageing Well & Disability Inclusion and Laurice Younge – Community Access & Inclusion Officer
Guests	Brad Speechley Senior Team Leader - Civic Compliance, Michael Giannetta, Senior Geospatial Intelligence and Data Analyst and Merle Zierke Policy Advisor
Apologies	Grant Guppy, Lisa Brumis, Anne Holloway and Cr. Edward Crosslands

Item number	Item title or subject	Minute notes
1.	Welcome and Introduction	The Chair gave: - Acknowledgment of Country - Attendance & apologies – including online attendees - Standing item: next meeting date reminder: <i>Tuesday November 24th 2026 at 3.00-5.00pm Richmond Town Hall Councillors Office</i>
2.	Governance of the DAC	The Chair led discussion of: - Declaration of Conflicts of interest - None - Adoption of the previous minutes - Actions arising from previous minutes were addressed including; - Council out of hours phone number – (03) 9205 5555 first two options for parking and noise should take callers to an Officer, other options allow a voice message to be left and advise to lodge online - CCTV camera in Ken st near primary school – Officer has inquired - Abbottsford convent board and Council's role with the convent – Council does not have a role - City of Melbourne (CoM) City Access Permit Model (Parking) – Relevant Council team is considering - Kerbside and Parking Strategy consultation – Next

		stage will be next year ○ Universal Design & Disability Inclusion (UDDI) Policy – progress update – is going to Council Workshop with view to being adopted at Council Meeting October 13th 2026 Matters raised by the committee: • <i>A committee member raised The Leadbeater Hotel encroaching on footpath space – Response: Council is aware of issue</i>
3.	Dogs in Yarra	The Senior Team Leader - Civic Compliance provided an overview of the laws and regulations relating to dogs in Yarra, including: • Patrolling parks and street focus is on unregistered dogs • Reported dog attacks are high in Yarra but are usually minor incident such as a small nip –the Domestic Animals Act Section. 29 outlines what a dog attack is • Severity of injury is part of how dog attacks are treated • Shopping strip areas - lots of people don't walk their dog on lead but regulations are that they should be on lead • The rules are that dogs are on lead where it's not a designated off lead area – this does not change if the dog is trained to listen when off lead • Yarra is running campaigns about dogs on lead and picking up dog waste (e.g. The 'Dog Poo Fairy') • Education is preferred over fines • If you have a matter of concern speak to Yarra's Officers • Weekend – one officer is working on a weekend • Dogs in Pub Motion part of Yarra Council lobbying about dogs – Outcome is Food Safety Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) is not reviewing the rules on dogs. So they remain not being allowed inside venue areas where food is served. Matters raised by the committee • <i>A committee member raised fear of dogs where it intersects with disability – especially on Smith Street people not having a dog on a lead, it's stopping access to shops for people with fear of dogs, and people are rude when asked to put their dog on the lead – Response: Yes it does seem to be a growing trend not have dogs on lead but the rules are they need to be on lead in shopping areas.</i> • <i>A committee member talked about venues and dogs – this can stop access for eating for people with fear of dogs if they aren't on a lead and are where you don't expect them to be/where animals are prohibited - Response: Where animals are and are not allowed in venues is controlled by the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 and not Council</i> • <i>A committee member asked if dogs are allowed inside the supermarket? Response: Speak to centre management</i> Actions: • The Senior Team Leader - Civic Compliance to look into a campaign about on the lead education with animal registration communication, a reminder about dogs on lead on Council website or in the Yarralife and encourages people to report – complaints are followed up • The Lead Ageing Well & Disability Inclusion will link to the

		Local Laws in the email with the minutes
4.	Accessible Maps Project	An overview of the Accessible Maps Project was provided by <i>the Community Access & Inclusion Officer</i> and <i>the Senior Geospatial Intelligence and Data Analyst</i>, including: • Behind the map: Underlying Data – the map uses a GIS system and under the map is all the data – multiple data sets across formats were used to get it into one usable map format • The City of Ballarat Accessibility Map and the City of Melbourne Interactive Access Map were used as benchmarks of useable municipality access maps • The data was collated with multiple excel files combined into one dataset • Design principle of being simple was the focus • Categories include – buildings, parks, accessible parking, accessibility information with yes or no answers • Works by clicking for information, toggling on and off functionality. • There is a form embedded, a ‘community survey’ – where Yarra staff members can get feedback from the community and action it • Plans for useability widget • You can turn toggles off – which means the data is not overwhelming • Finalising the data – the team is now working to clean the data and fill in any gaps and finalise the application Matters raised by the committee • <i>A committee member raised – is the map for physical disability only?</i> Response: No also neurodiversity, sunflower organisations/venues and for intellectual disability - can change colours and sizes of information • <i>Suggestion by a committee member to liaise with the Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability (VALID) for an easy read version for everyone</i> Actions The Community Access & Inclusion Officer to look into liaising with VALID for an easy read map
5.	Loneliness and Social Connection in Yarra	The <i>Policy Advisor</i> provided an overview of Loneliness and Social Connection in Yarra, including: • Background to the project • A third of people in Yarra experience loneliness • Some barriers to social connection include – cost, and not knowing what is available – so connecting people to free events could be a great solution • There are over 100 initiatives supported by Council that offer social connection • Positive interactions boost confidence and that reduces social isolation • A Yarra Community Activity Guide has been created • A community activity map coming next • Social connection 101 training has been run for Yarra staff Matters raised by the committee

		• <i>What is offered in the guide?</i> Response: The Policy Advisor ran through the main offerings. • <i>Significant reduction in social participation funding in the NDIS – will we have increased capacity given this gap?</i> Response: This is an unknown at this time but we are predicting that social connection support at a local level will become more important • <i>Opportunities for younger people as active citizens – for youth not working but want to contribute actively to the community – there is not that much in Yarra, most activities are geared towards older people – it's a gap we have, young school leavers age-group is disconnected</i> • <i>Meaningful participation is important – not just busy work, examples: Ethical Jobs search/database, Neighbourhood houses, Foodbank, beautifying the streets</i> • <i>Not good to have group information just on social media – big barrier is that the Council website is not up to date and also not many phone numbers are listed</i> • <i>Support on how to access social media is offered via libraries</i> • <i>Social connection should also be considered for DV victim-survivors</i> Actions: • The Lead Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion will email a link to the Yarra Community Activity Guide with the meeting minutes
6.	Inclusive communication and optimising the DAC	An overview of Inclusive communication and optimising the DAC was provided by <i>the Lead Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion</i> which outlined the following matters: • Inclusive communication and approaches to thinking about disability – the Social Model of Disability and a Human Rights and strengths-based approach • Inclusive meetings – including members who attend online • Optimising the DAC – Terms of Reference (ToR) and keeping focused on our purpose. Matters raised by the committee • <i>Personal preferences vary</i> • <i>People are people but we are here for disability</i> • <i>Should be putting a disability lens on discussions</i> • <i>Start by asking questions, rather than what you think</i> • <i>Certain things can be triggering due to different experiences and histories</i> • <i>Would be helpful if people who came to ask DAC's advice asked considered questions aligned with the Social Model of Disability</i> • <i>Guide presenters more on topics and ask them to think about what they want to get out of the presentation</i> • <i>Presenters should ask DAC what they are after more specifically</i> • <i>Forewarning DAC about topics that will discuss and what the questions will be – in advance of the meeting will make it more accessible</i> • <i>Suggest better to go through the Chair during discussions</i> Actions

		• The Ageing Well & Disability Inclusion team to give clearer advice for presenters and guide presenters to clearer question aligned with Social Model of Disability • The Ageing Well & Disability Inclusion team to look at a guide of topics we are talking about and what is wanted from the DAC before the meetings • The Lead Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion will email a link to the DAC Terms of Reference with the minutes
Other Business		The following matters of general business were raised: • <i>The statistical information in the front matter of the Universal Design and Disability Inclusion (UDDI) Policy Draft – food security was high for people with disability, do we have budget to address this?</i> - Response: there is no direct budget but we do advise and food relief providers apply for grants • <i>A Yarra food connection map is coming which will indicate emergency food relief, food programs, community gardens - the Policy Advisor and/or team will present at the next meeting</i> • <i>There are Barriers to food relief it has to be accessible as possible.</i> • <i>New social enterprise in City of Melbourne, new café The Daily Hood Café – open employment NDIS registered</i> • Emergency preparedness will be discussed next meeting – there is a heat plan coming from the Yarra sustainability team Actions • The Lead Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion will email a link to the Health and Wellbeing profiles and snapshots with the food security statistical information for Yarra in it with the meeting minutes
Meeting closed		5.00pm
Next scheduled meeting	Last meeting of the year	Tuesday November 24 th 2026 at 3.00-5.00pm Richmond Town Hall Councillors Office