

Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee Meeting – Thursday 26 July 2018
Meeting commenced at 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Minutes are yet to be confirmed. They will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting to be held on 13 September 2018.

Attendees:

Cr Kylie Spears (Chair), Ron Major, Jenny Newman, Melinda Spencer, Cara Hudson, Amelia Milroy, Andrea Salmon, Ross Taylor

Support:

Fiona Burridge, Jack Mulholland, Grant Meyer, Jo-Ann Rogers (admin support)

Guest speakers:

Item 3 – Kim Henderson, NDIS Transition Coordinator

Item 4 – Leanne Robb, Community Engagement Senior Advisor

Item 6 - Adam Cooper, Team Leader Youth and Children's Services and Amy Corcoran, Community and Online Engagement Officer

Item 8 - Noelene Greene, Senior Community Development Officer and Fiona Burridge, Community Development Officer

1. Opening of meeting

Welcome by Cr Kylie Spears

1.1 Apologies:

Cr Tony Dib, Judith Lenthall, Phil Medley, Jacob Matthew, Michelle Egan and Angela Fitzpatrick

a. Conflict of Interest Declaration/Minutes/Business Arising

No conflicts of interest were declared.

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 17th May 2018 having been previously circulated, were taken as read and subsequently confirmed.

Minutes Moved by: Andrea Salmon

Seconded by: Cara Hudson

2. Welcome to:

- **Amelia Milroy** – a new committee member. Angela introduced herself and spoke about her current role at Nadrasca.

3. NDIS overview - Kim Henderson, NDIS Transition Coordinator

An overview of the NDIS rollout was provided to the Committee. Out of 398 clients, approximately 198 clients have transitioned to date. Kim's role has been to oversee transition and assist with pre-planning/planning. Discussion was held on areas of concern where Council could look at assisting the community. Two main areas were mentioned – carers support and mental health. Many carer support groups were disappearing or starting to charge those who care for someone on the NDIS. Organisations can apply for funding for

programs through the NDIS 'Information Linkages and Capacity Building' program. Council runs Pathways for Carers - a free program for carers of someone with a disability which is independent of NDIS. This is a program where carers learn from each other and receive information from guest organisation representatives.

Discussion was held around NDIA service providers with it being noted that Council is not a service provider. This could be beneficial to some areas such as Leisure and Youth Services and could possibly enable Council to further assist those on NDIS. This would need to be investigated further.

4. Community Engagement - Leanne Robb, Senior Community Engagement Advisor

Leanne introduced herself and spoke about her role at Council. She is working with different departments of Council to ensure community engagement is a key part of planning processes, especially with large projects (e.g. Croydon Community Precinct). Leanne acts as an engagement advisor and resource for all Council projects, including community projects with Council support.

The Committee highlighted that it is important for Council to understand the needs and aspirations of our community, and for the community to understand Council's role in the planning and development of the municipality. Discussion was held around ensuring engagement is easy to understand (eg provision of easy English options and use of pictures).

5. Break

6. Youth Resource - Adam Cooper, Team Leader Youth and Children's Services and Amy Corcoran, Community and Online Engagement Officer

Amy Corcoran is Council's Community and Online Engagement Officer working with young people across Maroondah. Her role includes engaging with young people to establish their needs, advocating for Maroondah's youth, monitoring and maintaining Council's youth social media platforms and website.

Discussion was held on youth resourcing options with an online platform considered to be the best option for this age bracket. Currently there are few youth specific resources available.

'No Wrong Door' is an online youth service directory initiated by Maroondah, Knox & Yarra Ranges councils. It's a great resource but needs to be reviewed, especially in regards to accessibility. It could offer links to further information pages, video walk through of events, transport options, wet weather options.

The Committee suggested that consideration be given to an Easy English option, font sizing, pictures, read speaker. Discussion also took place regarding how best to engage young people, promotion of resources (eg online games, YouTube, cinemas, universities, other youth organisations), utilising carers/support workers of young people as an engagement tool. It was noted that sometimes anxiety can be a deterrent to someone attending an event. Consideration should be given to offering quiet spaces, advertising easily accessible transport, along with considering electronic prompts and sensory overload.

7. Braille signage – Cr Kylie Spears

Tactile street signs have been trialled by the City of Brisbane and the City of Cairns. Samples were shown to the Committee with discussion on whether they would be a valid option for our community. Consideration would need to be given to resources, cost and maintenance i.e. vandalism and graffiti. Council will seek to investigate the success of the program in Brisbane and Cairns. VicRoads would also need to be consulted as they own some of the infrastructure. The Committee suggested that it would be good to discuss this program with Vision Australia to seek their perspective. It was also suggested that the program could possibly be trialled at Ringwood Station. These signs would be for people who are blind rather than vision impaired as they are in braille.

Action – Fiona Burridge to contact Vision Australia and Jack Mulholland to contact City of Brisbane and the City of Cairns for feedback.

8. Disability Policy and Action Plan - Noelene Greene, Senior Community Development Officer and Fiona Burridge, Community Development Officer

The current Disability Policy and Action Plan runs from 2014 to 2018. Therefore, Council has started working on the next Disability Plan. This Plan will run from 2019 to June 2021 to ensure it aligns with Council's Healthy and Wellbeing Plan and the review of Maroondah 2040.

The project team consists of Noelene Greene, Jack Mulholland and Fiona Burridge. Consultation commenced at the Maroondah Festival Café Consult marquee in November 2017. Assistance was provided by Committee members Cara and Geoff who did a wonderful job engaging with our community. Over 570 responses were received with the community nominating Accessible Facilities, Transport, Housing/Employment as the top priorities. The community were also given the option to add 'other ideas' for consideration. Further consultation will be undertaken over the next few months. The Committee will be provided with regular updates throughout the project, through DAC meetings and via email as necessary.

9. Member update

Jack – Continuing to advocate with PTV for shelter at Croydon train station. Working with Sage Hotel and QIC on accessible parking.

Jenny – Ringwood Lake – would be good to have markers so emergency personnel can locate someone.

Ross – Me-Well, a subsidiary of Neami offering services under NDIS, Ross to email information to Jack and Fiona.

Grant – Affordable Housing Policy is now available for comment – exhibition concludes on 27 July 2018. Winter Shelter – seven Maroondah churches have banded together to offer housing for the homeless over the winter months.

10. Close of meeting 11.30 am

The next meeting will be held on 13 September 2018.