

MAROONDAH DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2018 ACHIEVEMENT REPORT



PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the activities of the Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee during the 2018 calendar year.

BACKGROUND

The Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee (the Committee) was established in 2010. Since that time, it has provided important linkages between Council, people with disabilities and their carers. Through advice and advocacy, the Committee promotes social inclusion and participation of people with a disability in the community.

The Committee consists of up to 14 members. This comprises of a maximum of six positions for people with a disability, two positions for carers of people with a disability (including one carer of a child), a maximum of three service providers, two Councillors and at least one Council Officer.

Whilst playing an important role, the Committee has no delegated authority to make decisions and acts in an advisory capacity to Maroondah City Council. Meetings are held bi-monthly, except in January & December, and are conducted in accordance with Council's meeting procedures.

The chair of the Committee is a Councillor as appointed by Council. The Committee chairperson for 2018 was Cr Kylie Spears. The other delegated Council representative during 2018 was Cr Tony Dib.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2018, the Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee successfully actioned the following objectives consistent with its Terms of Reference.

Objective 1

Provide advice to the Council on policy, programs, service development, research initiatives and planning issues in relation to people with disabilities at a strategic and operational level.

- Consultation was undertaken with the Committee on the following:
 - Croydon Community Precinct project during the early concept stage
 - Design of Croydon Town Square
 - Changes to Council's Street Activities Policy
 - Reimagining Tarralla Creek Project, with an opportunity to provide feedback on Melbourne Water's concept design
 - Development of the HE Parker multi-sports complex including discussions relating to ramp access, accessible seating for spectators and a Changing Places facility with a shower
 - Ringwood Lake Park play space and inclusive play equipment/environment. Further consultation is planned in 2019 to review the play space for future design ideas for other play areas
 - Realm Extension with the opportunity for feedback on the design. In particular, sensory needs within Realm Extension and Council's ability to employ people with disabilities
 - Proposed Karralyka redevelopment with further discussions planned for 2019.
- A letter of support for the Australian Building Codes Board NCC 2019 Vol 1 was submitted by Cr Kylie Spears on behalf of the Committee, regarding an inclusion to the Unisex Accessible Sanitary Compartments Additional Features seeking to encourage a consistent design and building approach for multi-residential, commercial, industrial, and public assembly buildings.
- Feedback was sought on Council's Draft Parking Framework.
- A Committee member reported slippery floors at Aquahub. The floor was fully gurneyed and is being regularly monitored.
- Advice was sought from the Committee regarding the Maroondah Leisure Pricing Policy.
- New Aquahub gym equipment was reviewed with an invitation to members to visit the gym for a trial.

Objective 1 (continued...)

- An update on Council's Disability Discrimination Act Construction Program with the opportunity to comment on possible future projects.

Objective 2

Provide advice and guidance in relation to strategies for effective consultation and collaboration in Council activities with a diverse range of stakeholders reflective of the Maroondah community.

- The Committee was consulted and invited to participate in the Rawcus Flash mob held in Ringwood Town Square during October 2018. A review was undertaken with Committee with suggestions provided on how to ensure future flash mobs continue to be inclusive.
- Feedback was provided regarding an online youth resource.
- Council's Community Engagement Officer attended a meeting to discuss effective engagement methods for people with disabilities.

Objective 3

Provide advice to Council in the development and review of the Disability Policy and Action Plan.

- The Committee reviewed implementation progress of priority actions from Disability Policy and Action Plan 2014-2018.
- Discussion was held on possible consultation options for the next Disability Policy and Action Plan 2019-2021.
- A consultation workshop held with the Committee in September 2018 regarding key issues facing people with disabilities, with consideration to how Council can look at dealing with these issues. Discussion was also held to identify what Council has been doing well within the disability sector.

Objective 4

Promote the positive image of people with a disability within the municipality of Maroondah.

- Members of the Disability Advisory Committee were involved in several photo shoots depicting people with disabilities out and about in Maroondah.
- A Committee member provided advocacy to Public Transport Victoria and the Member for Croydon (MLA) regarding some of the challenges he faces with the Croydon Railway Station.
- Council was provided with positive feedback regarding the playspace redevelopment at Ringwood Lake Park from a community member who is a carer of a son with cerebral palsy.
- A number of members participated in Council's Volunteer Recognition Evening 2018.

CONCLUSION

Over the past twelve months, the Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee has provided invaluable information, advice and advocacy to Council and the community on a range of disability matters. It has contributed to the Maroondah community being a more accessible and inclusive place for people of all ages and abilities.