

MAROONDAH DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2019 ACHIEVEMENT REPORT



PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the activities of the Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee during the 2019 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.

The Committee acts in an advisory capacity to Council and has no delegated authority to make decisions. 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 2019 was Cr Kylie Spears. The other delegated Council representative during 2019 was Cr Tony Dib.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2019, 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.

- During regular Committee meetings, consultation was undertaken on the following Council projects:
 - Croydon Community Precinct Master Plan.
 - Maroondah 2040 Interim Review Project
 - Reimagining Tarralla Creek Project
 - Council's new Children's and Families Strategy
 - HE Parker Reserve Sporting Pavilion
 - Design of Council's Operations Centre
 - Maroondah's Liveability and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2031
- A tour of Ringwood Lake Park was undertaken with consideration of disability needs, followed up by a discussion on the inclusive concepts that could be introduced in other Council playspaces in the future.
- Members participated in a review of the Terms of Reference for the Committee.
- Committee members were provided with an opportunity to participate in the development of Council's draft Maroondah Vegetation Strategy.
- A tour of Maroondah Nets from a disability perspective.

Objective 1 (continued...)

- The Committee provided feedback to Council on the 2019 Maroondah Festival, including the new sensory garden. It was suggested that an Access key to be provided next year.
- Opportunity to complete PTV's survey on their handling of planned/unplanned disruption of services.
- Committee members participated in a Carers Hub Consultation Workshop at Karralyka and an opportunity to complete the Carers Hub survey.
- Some members participated in the public consultation for the Royal Commission into Mental Health.
- Works were completed on the Wicklow Ave zebra crossing near Croydon Station to ensure accessibility, as requested by a member of the Committee.
- Committee members were invited to attend a youth workshop to make Melbourne more inclusive for young people with disabilities.
- Members were provided with an opportunity to apply for the Public Transport Access Committee.
- A number of members attended Council's Maroondah 2040 Interim Review workshop at Karralyka in October 2019.
- An opportunity to participate in community consultation for the Maroondah's Arts and Cultural Development Strategy 2020-2025.

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.

- Advice was provided regarding Customer Service and communication accessibility.
- The Committee was consulted on raising the wellbeing of children, young people and families in Maroondah; specifically, regarding methods for approaching and engaging with children with a disability and their families.
- Committee members participated in the interactive *Islands* activity by Playable Streets, with feedback provided to Council's Arts Activation Coordinator.
- Several committee members applied to be a part of the Victorian Disability Advisory Committee.

Objective 3

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

- After extensive consultation with the Committee and the broader community during 2018, the draft Disability Policy and Action Plan 2019-2021 was provided to the Committee in early 2019 for review and feedback. This Plan was formally adopted by Council on 29 April 2019.

Objective 4

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

- One committee member participated in Public Transport Victoria's (PTV) International Day for People with Disability, sharing his personal experiences of using public transport with their employees.

- The 2018 Disability Advisory Committee Achievements Report was presented at the Council meeting on 18 March 2019.
- One committee member was chosen to be the Chrisalis Foundation Ambassador for 2019.
- Committee members were provided with an opportunity to participate in an Ausdance Public Flashmob held at Croydon Town Square.
- A photo of the Committee was placed on Council's website, in the *Maroondah Disability Policy and Action Plan 2014-2018 Final Report*, and in the *Maroondah Disability Policy and Action Plan 2019-2021*.
- Some members attended the formal opening of Croydon Town Square with the new Changing Places facility in April 2019.
- One committee member is studying to be an Access Consultant. After discussions with the Access Institute and Eastland, this member was authorised to complete an Access Audit on a section of Eastland Shopping Centre.
- Several committee members assisted at the *StressLess and look after your mental wellbeing* community event in October 2019.
- One committee member joined the Victorian Autism Plan Advisory Group.
- A number of committee members were involved in the Communities of Wellbeing Appreciative Inquiry - *Flourishing together: Building wellbeing in Maroondah*. During August 2019, where the future health and wellbeing needs of our community were explored.
- Committee members attended the Official Opening of Maroondah Nets.
- The Committee participated in Council's Volunteer Recognition Evening in December 2019.

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.