



Minutes Banyule Disability & Inclusion Advisory Committee 24 November 2021

Meeting details

Date of meeting Wednesday, 24 November 2021

Time 5.30 – 7:00pm

Venue Online via Teams

Chair/Facilitator Cr Rick Garotti

Minutes Vicki Martinez

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians

“Our meeting is being held on the Traditional Land of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and, on behalf of Banyule City Council, I wish to acknowledge them as the Traditional Custodians. I would also like to pay my respects to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders, past, present and emerging, and to acknowledge other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Elders joining us today.”

Diversity Statement

“Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders. We are committed to access, equity, participation and rights for everyone: principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.”

Attendee

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Kerryn Burgoyne	Community Representative
Sarah Hockey	Community Representative
Elizabeth Parry	Community Representative
Donna Prichard	Community Representative
Sam Cartledge	Community Representative
Allan Leenaerts	Community Representative
Parvin Ahadi	Community Representative
Sharon Solomidid	Community Representative
Laila Fernandez	Community Representative
Ros Melling	Community Representative
Emma Lowe	Belgravia Leisure
Dani Stramandinoli	Community Representative
Vicki Martinez	Banyule City Council
Theonie Tacticos	Banyule City Council
Cheree Hunter	Banyule City Council

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Alicia Rotella	Community Representative
Kath Brackett	Banyule City Council
Anthea Miles	(no longer in region and resigned from committee)

Items

1. Introduction: Welcome and Apologies

Cr Rick Garotti provided an Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians and delivered the Diversity Statement. Minutes of previous Meeting: Endorsed as correct. Motion carried by all members.

Permission for recording of session endorsed for the purpose of minutes.

2. Council Updates

Council Officers Vicki Martinez and Theonie Tacticos provided an update of key Council projects and initiatives. See attached presentation.

Inclusive Banyule:

Theonie outlined Inclusive Banyule as Council's commitment to deliver an integrated approach to diversity and inclusion across Council and community. First meeting of the Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee (including representatives Sam Cartledge and Kerryng Burgoyne) was held on the 5 November 2021. Other representatives include people from other population committees and senior staff from partner agencies across Banyule. The session explored the recovery and impacts of COVID 19 on community. Reconnection, mental health, housing, family violence and employment were highlighted. A follow up meeting scheduled for 26 November 2021 will identify actions. Sam provided comment and confirmed the outlined priorities and mapping process. Theonie also redefined the four pillars surrounding the Inclusive Banyule: Access, Equity, Rights and Participation.

International Day of People with Disability:

A program of thirteen activities has been developed for International Day of People with Disability celebrations and will be hosted from the 27 November to the 4 December. The programs include community based activities, consultation sessions, celebrations and lunches, training sessions and an art installation. The program has been emailed to members and promotion to networks was encouraged. Partner agencies were thanked for their active contribution into the program. Feedback was sought. Kerryng suggested the importance of conducting awareness training on Autism in the future to staff and community. Commitment was made to deliver ongoing training sessions across the broad disability groups next year.

Watsonia Town Square:

Consultation is being undertaken on Shaping Banyule on the concept designs for the construction of the town square. The Watsonia Town Square Project is a major initiative from the North East Link Funding. An overlay of accessibility and other universal design principles have been applied. Encourage members to provide comment by 3 December 2021.

Covid 19 and Impacts on PWD:

Council is working with the Victorian Department of Family, Fairness and Housing to promote local need and share information. New initiatives include the Safer and Stronger Program which includes: Disability Vaccine

Champions, Disability Liaison Officer, accessible vaccination options and Auslan service request and social scripts.

3. Summary of 1:1 Member Meetings

Members were thanked for making the time to meet with Vicki on a one to one to explore their areas of interest and primary concerns for people with disabilities in community. Using this information, Vicki developed a mind map of all key ideas and this was shared with the members.

Discussion

The group discussed some of the key issues which included: Information Provision and Communication, Accessibility and Universal Design, Business and Community Awareness, NDIS, Inclusion and building understanding, Programs, Events, Activities, Sport and Recreation Options, Peer/Carer Supports, Climate Change, Intersectionality, COVID Impacts, Vocational Opportunities, Service Gaps and Celebration.

The idea of prioritising these options were explored and the inclusion of topic-based discussions at future meetings, whereby speakers and other council officers bought in.

Kerryn highlighted the importance of employment and business awareness. Cr. Garotti advised that the Banner has a major article on social enterprises in Banyule supporting people with disabilities. Cheree also confirmed that Council has a dedicated Inclusive Employment Facilitation Officer Role that has commenced to support community including people with disabilities to access jobs locally.

Action

Action Item 1: Vicki to invite the Inclusive Employment Facilitation Officer to present at the next meeting.

4. Disability Action Plan

Vicki presented on the Disability Action Plan timeframe and on the broader political context and data at a national and state level. (See attached slides)

Vicki outlined the key deliverables and components of developing the plan including gathering evidence and data in November/December and consultation in January to March. A draft DAP will be developed in April ready for Committee and Council endorsement. This draft will then go to public comment and a final endorsement council in June 2022.

Discussion

Discussion centred on the usage of the mind map to help identify priorities for the plan. It was suggested the need to rationalise the areas of interest and conduct some targeted topic discussions. The process of determining priorities were outlined as a matrix of the following information: data and research, the broader state and federal priorities, the community consultation and the committee views. It was also advised that the plan will be a municipal wide plan, where actions will be delivered from across Council and community, along with a few priorities for the committee. The development development of a survey of the mindmap was suggested to help the committee identify 4-5 key priorities for more in-depth discussion.

Action

Action Item 2: Vicki to establish and send out a survey of the mind map to allow members to identify their top choices.

Action Item 3: Vicki to organise a series of face to face/hybrid focus groups in late January/early February to allow for topic discussions based on survey priorities

Action item 4: Vicki to map out the existing work supporting disability inclusion across Council and share with the BDIAC at the next meeting.

Vicki presented additional information to provide a context on the priorities across national and state and provided evidence and data across the demographics, health risks, support service provisions and broad system issues. See attached slides for information.

Discussion

The following areas were highlighted by the members as aligning to local needs based on evidence provided:

- Housing and transitioning to independent housing.
- Schooling – inclusion in mainstream schools and building the capacity of teachers, aids and families on inclusive education. Also important for the general community to understand options.
- Kids with specific learning needs – additional programs needed.
- Transport access.

5. Other Business

Cerge:

Emma Lowe from Belgravia presented on Cerge. Cerge is new technology, a communication platform for organisations to provide personalised service to customers with a disability. It is being trialled at WaterMarc. It offers a needs-based service. Customers can use cerge to advise of needs so staff can prepare in advance ensuring people have a more positive experience. Allows the customer service staff to tailor the experience for each individual. Allows younger team members to gain advice from a more experienced staff member building their capacity also. Emma provided an infographic of the process: download app, choose the business to interact with, preferences are established and these are sent to the team. Cerge have sponsored 50 free passes. Will be launched on IDPWD. Emma was looking for feedback and people to get involved. Donna volunteered her assistance.

Action

Action Item 5: Emma to liaise with Donna on participation and Vicki to send out flier to networks.

Religious Discrimination Bill

Theonie advised that the Bill is being tabled in Federal Parliament next week and that it may have implications for our community. Stated a response is being put together and if people had any comments to forward to Vicki by next week.

Action

Action Item 6: Members to forward comments to Vicki to be considered in submission .

Language

Cr. Garotti raised a reflection on language and the usage of the word diffability. Kerryn outlined how she came about using this word instead of disability. Vicki outlined that language is a key consideration in the review of the Disability Act and State Plan and that there has been significant lobbying by peak bodies and advocacy groups.

Action

Action Item 7: Vicki to keep the members informed on the changes to the Act in relation to language and the use of disability

6. Close and Date of Next Meeting

Meeting was closed at 7:00pm. Next meeting scheduled for 23 February 2022.