



Minutes Banyule Disability & Inclusion Committee

15 September 2021

In the Chair	Councillor Rick Garotti	
Councillors	Councillor Alison Champion	
Committee	Nick Bamford, Kerryn Burgoyne, Sarah Hockey, Elizabeth Parry, Sam Cartledge, Allan Leenaerts, Parvin Ahadi, Alisha Rotella, Sharon Solomidid, Laila Fernandez, Ros Melling, Emma Lowe. Dani Stramandinoli	
Council Officers	Kath Brackett, Theonie Tacticos Michael Uniacke	Director Community Services Co-ordinator, Community and Social Planning Disability Planner
Support staff	Daniel Hately Mark Quinn	Auslan interpreter Auslan interpreter
Apologies	Donna Pritchard	

I. Welcome

Cr Garotti declared the meeting open and welcomed all present. He acknowledged the traditional Custodians and read the Council's Diversity Statement.

Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as Traditional Custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region's history.

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.

2. Introductions

Cr Garotti invited those present to introduce themselves and speak on why they sought to join this committee. All committee members spoke. While most had had limited experience with local government, they were keen to learn and to contribute to Council's actions in making Banyule an inclusive and welcoming place for people with disabilities.

3. Committee Terms of Reference

The disability planner gave a run down of the common practices expected of members of Council committees, including conflicts of interests, code of conduct, and the expectation of attending at least 60% of meetings. Requests for particular agenda items should be made at least two weeks prior to the meeting. These and other practices are outlined in the Terms of Reference and the Welcome Pack, sent to Committee members.

3. Disability action plan

The disability planner delivered a brief presentation on the Disability Action Plan for 2022-2025, now being developed. All local governments are required to have Disability Action Plans (DAPs) under the *Disability Act*. They are guides by which the Council undertakes actions over four years to remove barriers to access and inclusion, and to ensure Banyule is a welcoming place for people with disabilities. The committee input will inform the development of the DAP, including the prioritisation of actions.

The following further points were made during a short discussion:

- * The current DAP for 2017-2021, near the end of its tenure, will be reviewed, and any outstanding or continuing actions may be rolled over.
- * The restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic had a significant effect on actions intended this year and last year.
- * The DAP includes how Council works with partners and how Council can advocate on particular issues.

4. Community Engagement Plan

The disability planner referred to the Community Engagement (CE) Plan which helps inform, the DAP. He described the plan as outreach to the community to gain insights and perspectives from the community into the barriers faced by people with disabilities in Banyule, and also what the community would like to see the Council doing in the disability space.

Committee members were invited to respond to these questions. The following key points were noted:

- 1 Education for the general public was critical, particularly for autism and mental illness.
- 1 It was essential that communication strategies be devised so information could be better utilised and reach more people with disabilities, for example, Easy English for people with intellectual disabilities, and social stories for people with autism.
- 1 The Council website should be refined and better organised; some vital information on disability was missing or hard to find.
- 1 The word 'disability' itself should be examined to see if it is the most appropriate term to be used.
- 1 Traders and small businesses need to be educated and made more aware of the particular needs of clients and customers with disability.

Members of this committee could play a valuable role in reaching out amongst their own particular disability networks and so allowing as many people as possible to comment on disability issues to guide the actions in the DAP.

5. Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee

Inclusive Banyule is Council's strategic commitment to addressing inequalities experienced in our community. Meeting quarterly, the Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee (IBAC) will lead external-facing Inclusive Banyule actions, as decided upon by the committee, to address inequalities in the Banyule community. IBAC will provide recommendations to Council on matters of inclusion and will also act as the representative of the five population committee groups.

Membership of the Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee includes representatives of key organisations working in and with the Banyule community, and two representatives from each of the five population committees (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Disability, LGBTIQ+, Multicultural, and Aged-Friendly).

The direction of this committee will be determined by its members, however early on it will look at social inclusion and connection, and will have a role to play in higher-level advocacy. Council's contact officer for IB is Danielle Clarke, who invites enquiries from interested members to her at Danielle.Clarke@banyule.vic.gov.au.

Four members of this committee indicated some interest, however, it is possible that the two spots available to this committee could be shared.

6. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The recent release of the major report of the IPCC predicts drastic events, including a significant increase in the number of days of extreme heat. These adversely affect people with disabilities, and Council needed to take action to ameliorate the impact of climate change for the community in general and for people with disabilities in particular.

There was unanimous agreement. Cr Garotti suggested that actions could be formalised over the next few months and where appropriate, included in the Disability Action Plan as a way for Council to ensure that people with disabilities were included in Council's actions on climate change.

7. Other matters

- 1 There was a query raised on **subcommittees**, how they would work, and how they would relate to this committee. Cr Garotti asked that this be listed on the agenda for the next meeting, and in the meantime anyone with queries about subcommittees to email to the interim contact officer, Theonie.Tacticos@banyule.vic.gov.au

ACTION Contact officer to list subcommittees on the agenda for meeting of 24 November 2021

- 1 A further query asked whether Council had plans for the International Day of People with Disabilities, held on or close to 3 December each year. It was noted that each year Council supports local groups in hosting events for the Day, and there is also an internal event for Council staff. Further information will be sent out on the Teams chat channel for this committee.

8. Next Meeting

This will take place on 24 November, from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. If Covid-19 restrictions remain in place on that date, the meeting will be conducted online, otherwise it will be held in the Griffin Room on level 4 of the Council offices at 1 Flintoff street Greensborough. Advice will be sent out beforehand.

Close

There being no further matters, Cr Garotti declared the meeting closed at 6:56 pm. He thanked thanks to all for their contribution, and thanked the Auslan interpreters for their services.