



Minutes Banyule Disability & Inclusion Committee

23 August 2023

Disability & Inclusion Population Committee |

Minutes



Meeting details

Date of meeting	Wednesday, 23 August 2023
Time	5.30-7.00pm
Venue	<i>Wilim Ngarrgu</i> Community Meeting Room 2, Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub - 275 Upper Heidelberg Rd, Ivanhoe.
Chair/Facilitator	Cr. Castaldo
Minutes	Sherryn Prinzi

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians

“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.”

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
Cr. Castaldo	Chair
Laila Fernandez	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Aaron Williams	Brotherhood of St Laurence (Local Area Coordinator)
Merryn Lawson	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Ros Melling	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member

Guests and Council staff

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Emma Butterworth	BCC (Senior Strategic Planner)
Rocio Silva	Community Member guest
Angela Bergman	Community Member guest
Sherryn Prinzi	Banyule City Council (Coordinator, Community Impact)
Hannes Berger	BCC (Coordinator Arts & Culture)
Liz Harvey	BCC (Community and Social Planner)

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Parvin Ahadi	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member

Dani Stramandinoli	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Allan Leenearts	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Shannon Joyce	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Emma Lowe	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Sarah Hockey	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Alisha Rotella	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Donna Pritchard	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Elizabeth Parry	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Cr. Champion	Co-Chair
Kath Brackett	Banyule City Council (Director, Community Wellbeing)
Jo Wilson	Banyule City Council (Manager, Connected and Resilient Communities)

Items

The quorum for this meeting was not achieved.

1. Introduction

Members were welcomed, acknowledgments read and welcomed Aaron as an ongoing member of the Committee, representing Brotherhood St Laurence.

Angela and Rocio were introduced as guests, attending as observers.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Agenda Item	Progress
Council to investigate statistics on carers and barriers to employment	In progress, results will be shared at next meeting.
Council to consider committee suggestions for recommendations for website updates	In progress. Disability Panel of experts met on 7 August to confirm recommendations for website improvements. Councillors briefed 21 August on next steps. Accessibility measures are being scoped in preparation for next steps to website development.
Distribute Accessible Communications Guide to committee when published.	Accessible Communications Guide ready for early release. Accessibility of PDF being built for final release. Guide to be attached to meeting minutes.
Council to report issues with parking at Olympic Village to Transport Team	Complete
Council to provide feedback to Arts & Culture team and request action on Boulevard lights	Complete - Arts and Culture Team and Transport invited to speak to committee
Visual stories for events- Details of company to be passed Arts and Culture	Details of company not obtained

3. New business

3.1 Housing Strategy Consultation

Banyule is preparing a new Housing Strategy and seeks feedback from the committee to inform its development. The Committee has previously provided information on Social and Affordable housing concerns including:

- Rent to buy programs should be offered
- Liveable housing – planning program that a certain number must be accessible - Accessibility of social housing should be considered in design - Making accommodation suited to individual needs
- Wrap around supports needed to accommodate needs of residents
- Having a say before decisions are made on housing stock
- Smaller developments - people with disability don't necessarily respond well to overcrowded living conditions
- Friendships – keeping people together
- Council having a NDIS expert to support community to help people understand their options

Building on this information, Council seeks to engage in a broader discussion on housing and neighbourhood character in Banyule. Committee were provided details in August Briefing Paper.

- Emma noted the 2022 preliminary discussion paper and the establishment of an interim social and affordable housing policy as a result.
- Anticipating increase of 16,359 people, and 7,030. Households are getting smaller - need to make sure housing is suitable for future populations and design needs for ageing and disability communities.
- Key issues heard - quality of design - new dwellings not being designed to appropriate standards and needs to meet universal design principles.
- Affordability - people on low to moderate income ranges are least likely to experience housing affordability or be able to rent in Banyule. Need to look at new ways to provide housing options including co-housing, secondary developments or tiny houses, and unlocking land for more affordable housing, and greyfield renewal - looking at the whole precinct.

Pillars proposed to be included in the new Housing Strategy:

- Housing for all
- Elevating good design
- Valuing preferred neighbourhood character

Discussion

Q: Abandoned houses - can these be used? Noted owners could be waiting for planning approval. This matter has been discussed at Council. Emma says there is a State Government tax on unoccupied houses.

Barriers to accessing universal or accessibly designed homes:

- age of the homes is an issue.
- More education may be required to build in accessibility features in the future.
- Cost may be a barrier to making adjustment to homes, especially if not receiving support from the NDIS Access funding.

Q: Can Council make it mandatory to create accessible housing? Emma says 10% need to be accessible in any new development but when a developer advertises a property to be accessible, it may not necessarily be accessible for all people. Developers may misunderstand the needs of people.

Other ideas for housing options?

-Communities of tiny houses, not just in backyards. Incentivising private land holders to make space for tiny houses. There are standards for dwellings including apartments - need to explore how they apply to tiny houses. - Rent to buy is a solution we should consider for people on lower incomes (run by private companies). More help for people with disability to get a loan. Very difficult to find the information needed to find support options- legal and financial supports, options available.

-Not all people wanting to live in high rises.

Community consultation on the Housing Discussion Paper is live until 31 August 2023. During this time, we are encouraging the community to provide feedback and engage in discussions through our online survey which is available on the Shaping Banyule page: <https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/HNC>

Action

Action 1: Council to share consultation link with committee members through email.

3.2 Banyule events access and inclusion

Council's Arts and Culture Coordinator, Hannes Berger, engaged in an informal discussion on Council's upcoming events including Carols and Malahang Festival.

Hannes noted his team delivers 5 major festivals, excluding Youth Fest which is co-designed and delivered by youth with the Youth Team. Malahang Community Festival in West Heidelberg is taking place in November, in Banyule's largest multicultural suburb. The festival includes performances, sporting activities, community stalls, food trucks, activities.

The Arts and Culture Team have already considered the following elements to increase accessibility:

- Accessible parking options
- Planned in locations that can be accessed by public transport
- Social stories
- Sensory friendly - Zoning of activities, to group busy and loud activities together and plan for quiet areas including sensory friendly tent.
- When promoting, trying to provide a map to provide information to participants about what to expect.
- Where possible, install temporary pathways to increase accessibility to more areas of the event.
- Accessible toilets.

Discussion

Are food trucks required to be accessible? The team have not considered this factor before. QR codes for ordering may be an option.

Boulevard Lights discussion

- Not a Council event/ festival. Residents decorate homes and people go to see.

- Council's involvement is safety of street and amenity concerns. If Council were to deliver such an event, it would never be delivered in this location because of its complexity.

- Last year consulted with local residents about the tradition of Boulevard Lights, found that there is a strong sense to keep tradition alive, people loved it but won't necessarily decorate. Biggest challenge is traffic congestion and the amount of visitors, and thought Council had a role. 30% disliked the event. Some wanted it to expand. Council has no control over decorations.

- Safety concerns for people with physical disabilities. Ros happy to be the person to provide additional information as a resident on the street. Considered last year as a back step in safety. Proposes half the road should be accessible to pedestrians. Water filled barriers did not work for residents, and it did not extend to the whole street. Street dark and felt quite unsafe. Not a lot of traffic control on the street. Traffic travelling in two directions was challenging. Electric scooters zipping in and out of the crowd.

- Currently having discussions with EMT in two weeks to plan next event, then community engagement in September.

Action

Action 2: Sherryn to provide contact details for committee to share additional feedback to Hannes Team in minutes. Hannes.berger@banyule.vic.gov.au

3.3 NDIS update

Aaron Williams, Local Area Coordinator, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Greensborough. Aaron outlined changes to the NDIS intake system and information sessions available for professionals and community members.

Changes to how the NDIS operates

- New computer system being rolled out offers new portal for participants and providers
- Longer and more flexible plans – 3-5 year plans are being considered
- Meeting with delegates - participants will be able to meet with their NDIS delegate but method of meeting not clearly defined.
- Training is being provided before rollout to end of October 2023.
- Participants will be brought into the new system over time when plans come up for renewal.

Partner role

- Local Area Coordinator (LAC) will no longer be responsible for writing the NDIS plan, but still involved in helping people with advice and gathering evidence and will send information to the NDIA. Freeing up time to work with community.

Access will change

- All access will be via partners and all participants will be offered a Community Connections Plan, regardless of NDIS access status.
- Access Request Form will no longer be used, National Contact Centre (NCC) will direct participants to the local Partner, to build a strong plan, and if not eligible encouraged to develop a community connections plan.

Community Connections Plan

- Help people access supports outside of the NDIS.
- BSL will collate community connection information.

- Role of BSL is to help organisation make their activities and services accessible and support participants to identify the right opportunities to connect with community.

NDIS planning

- BSL no longer involved in planning.
- Help gather information and support to the participant.
- Funding will be more flexible, not rigidly tied into categories, and funding will be delivered in instalment, quarterly.

Discussion

Angela suggests all new information for participants should be in one place - LAC responsible for providing one stop information portal.

Q: To what extent will partners have education/ experience to explain decisions and options available to participants? Aaron suggests that this will occur as business as usual professional development.

Q: How will people know to go to BSL? Aaron suggests the BSL will actively promote.

Q: Can people reapply for NDIS if unsuccessful? Yes, as many times as they wish.

Action:

Action 3: Sherryn to distribute the BSL PowerPoint with minutes.

4. Standing Agenda Items

Due to time constraints this next section of the agenda was not covered in detail.

4.1 Website Updates

Sherryn shared final recommendations from the Disability Website review and next steps via the August Briefing Paper.

Committee members who participated on the Disability Panel of Experts were acknowledged for their contributions and thanked for their time.

4.2 Accessible Communications Guide

Council announced that the Accessible Communications Guide is being prepared to finalisation, with accessibility functions being built into the document.

Action

Action 4: The Accessible Communications Guide to be attached to the minutes.

5. Council and Community Updates

5.1 Year 2 Inclusive Banyule Action Plan

Following the completion of the Year 1 Inclusive Banyule Action Plan, which included 26 inclusion actions, the committee were invited to review the 15 actions specifically related disability inclusion in the 2023-24 Year 2 Inclusive Banyule Action Plan.

Action

Action 5: Committee asked to review the 15 new actions and provide comment via email to Sherryn.

5.2 Days of Significance events 2023-24

Committee was informed Council intend to host two events- International Day of People with Disability in December 2023 and Disability Pride Month in July 2024.

Action

Action 6: Committee will be invited to share views on event planning in coming meetings.

5.3 Extension of Committee Term and Honorariums

Cr Castaldo thanked the Committee for their valued contributions over the past two years and announced the current term will be extended to September 2024, to align with Council's general election cycle.

Action

Action 7: Sherryn to contact Committee members to invite extension of the term to September 2024, and write to members who have not regularly attended the meetings to inform them of the end of their term.

Action 8: Council to undergo Expression of Interest (EOI) process to fill committee vacancies.

5.4 Updates from the Committee

No updates noted.

Close and date of next meeting

Next meeting 5.30-7.00pm 25 October 2023