



Minutes Banyule Disability & Inclusion Committee

25 October 2023

Disability & Inclusion Population Committee |

Minutes



Meeting details

Date of meeting	Wednesday, 25 October 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
Angela Bergman	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Shannon Joyce	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Laila Fernandez	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Allan Leenaerts	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Aaron Williams	Brotherhood of St Laurence (Local Area Coordinator)
Ros Melling	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Emma Lowe	Belgravia Leisure representative
Merryn Lawson	BANSIC representative

Council staff

Sherryn Prinzi	Banyule City Council (Coordinator, Community Impact)
Laura Cattapan	Banyule City Council (Acting Manager, Connected and Resilient Communities)
Steph Ashby	Banyule City Council (Social Policy Lead)

Guests

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Gina H	Community member observer

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Sarah Hockey	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Kath Brackett	Banyule City Council (Director, Community Wellbeing)
Cr. Champion	Co-Chair
Jakob W-H	Community member observer
Rocio Silva	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member

1. Introduction

- Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians and Banyule Diversity Statement
- Visitor Gina H introduce as community member guest.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Council reports all actions from previous meeting have been complete.

Agenda Item	Progress
Action 1: Council to share consultation link to Housing Strategy with committee members.	Complete
Action 2: Sherryn to provide contact details for committee to share additional feedback to Hannes Team in minutes.	Complete
Action 3: Sherryn to distribute the BSL PowerPoint on NDIS changes with minutes.	Complete
Action 4: The Accessible Communications Guide to be attached to the minutes.	Complete
Action 5: Committee asked to review the 15 new actions and provide comment via email to Sherryn.	Complete
Action 6: Committee will be invited to share views on event planning in coming meetings.	On agenda for discussion.
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.	Complete
Council to undergo Expression of Interest (EOI) process to fill committee vacancies.	Complete. Nominations for membership can be made via Council website at any time. https://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/About-us/Community-advisory-committees/Disability-and-Inclusion-Committee Four new members are being sought to fill membership gaps.

3. New business

3.1 Banyule Gambling Policy review consultation

Steph Ashby, Social Policy Lead, presented an overview of Council's Draft Gambling Policy. Noted the ambition to support communities to understand the harm of gambling and prevent people from being impacted. Steph noted the policy is covering all sort of gambling, however gaming machine losses is the only information readily available to demonstrate impact.

The Committee were invited to discuss their views the steps Council propose to take to reduce gambling harm and make comment on what we have got right, what's missing and what we should consider changing.

Discussion

Member asked if there was any data on people with psychosocial disabilities. Anecdotally, member suggests that people with compulsive behaviours are more likely to be impacted by gambling harm. Council have not identified such data.

Member made the observation that people who have a lot of time and are seeking things to do locally go to gambling venues, and states this has been their experience in West Heidelberg. As a financial counsellor, noted that there are very few presentations of people with gambling issues. Provided an example of one of her service users experience with online gambling.

Member wanted to know if we had data on age groups. Council said data is difficult to obtain and there has not been an age group analysis.

Member asked about what other councils are doing and how we align. Council states that the approach is similar.

Question was raised about venues on Council land. To Council's knowledge, the only venue on Council land is the Montmorency-Eltham RSL. Will investigate if West Heidelberg RSL is on Council land.

A member proposed that Council should ban all gambling in Banyule. Committee were advised that the Victorian Government govern gambling. When asked about why we have to listen to the State Government, it was noted that Council is obliged to follow all laws under the Victorian Local Government Act. The Chair noted Council can and is taking steps to advocate to reduce EGMs and gambling outlets in Banyule. Our current advocacy position is informed by the Northern Region Alliance of councils.

The link between liquor licences and gambling was raised. The association between these was noted.

The early conditioning of children to gamble was raised. Examples provided include chance and reward incentives such as at McDonalds.

Committee members discussed options to provide for the needs of community members, by looking at alternatives for people to engage with. Noted that people need low cost connection opportunities, and Council to make use of community buildings and advertise opportunities to connect in a range of recreation and leisure activities. Member asked if it was possible to survey people to see what activities gamblers would be interested in participating that would move them away from gambling. It was proposed to look at what social activities venues were offering and making these available in other community settings.

It was noted that Council needs to educate the community on gambling impacts and opportunities to connect and ensure information is effectively distributed.

The option to ban gambling in Banyule was further discussed. The perspective that gambling organisations have a morally corrupt business model and in 50 years it is predicted that the issue will be viewed similarly to tobacco.

Action

Action 1: Steph to investigate if other gambling venues are situated on Council land.

Action 2: Sherryn to send members the link to the Shaping Banyule Gambling Policy consultation page to share further feedback. <https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/Gambling>

Recommendation

The Disability and Inclusion Committee recommendation for Council to take a strong stance against the presence of gambling venues and outlets in Banyule and consider adopting a stronger advocacy campaign that aims to eliminate EGM's and other gambling activities in Banyule.

3.2 Resilient and Safe Banyule Framework consultation

The Committee were informed of a new Framework called Resilient and Safe Banyule, which will replace the expired Safer Banyule Plan. The Framework will be a roadmap for Council to help make our community stronger and safer. It will focus on things like keeping people healthy, bringing folks together, and being ready for challenges.

The Committee are asked to discuss the five focus areas:

- Health and wellbeing
- Social inclusion and connection
- Strong and dynamic local economy
- Sustainable natural and built environment
- Communication, information and education

Discussion

Member said Council could be doing more for people with disability and this includes providing more groups that encourage social connection.

Member noted that BANSIC have a social connection program on Tuesdays called Social Circle and that type of program could be adapted to the needs of people with disability.

Member noted that Council could partner with other local services, like Banyule Community Health, to develop more opportunities to connect.

Action

Action 3: Merryn to explore the options of promoting the BANSIC Social Circle group and discuss other opportunities to provide social connections for people with disability.

Action 4: Committee to provide further comments by 29 October. <https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/ResilientBanyule>

3.3 Banyule Volunteer Policy consultation

Action 3.2 We will review our website information on volunteering to better support people with disability to connect with local volunteering and job opportunities.

Laura Cattapan provided a brief overview of Council's drafted volunteer policy. Committee invited to provide comment on the draft policy, included in briefing papers, by emailing laura.cattapan@banyule.vic.gov.au.

Action

Action 5: Council to provide committee with Volunteer policy with minutes of meeting.

4. Committee priorities

4.1 Inclusive Business Guides

Inclusive Banyule Action 3.1 We will review the Inclusive Business Guides to support businesses to uplift inclusive practice for people with disability.

Council is reviewing the Inclusive Business Guides. Documents included in briefing papers to committee.

Committee were invited to review the Age & Disability Friendly traders self-assessment checklist and Disability Guide for traders' documents and make suggestions for improvements.

Discussion

Committee noted that grouping older adults and disability together is problematic.

Committee noted that the principles of access are universal and questioned why separate guides are needed based on identity. Committee discussed the Good Access Good Business guide model. The committee then discussed finding a new way to create an integrated guide to reflect the needs of a range of community members.

Committee discussed the value of providing education to business rather than just producing guides. It was noted that there is a role within the Social Enterprise and Local Jobs team that supports businesses to uplift their inclusive practices.

Action

Action 6: Council to find the similarities between all-inclusive Banyule business guides and come back to the committee with options that reflect an intersectional approach.

Action 7: Committee members to advise Sherryn on what they want to keep from the existing guide, noting the value of the self-assessment tool.

4.2 Events and celebrations

Inclusive Banyule Action 3.13 We will continue to elevate visibility and awareness of people with disability through events, advocacy and days of celebration.

Council reports on the project for International Day of People with Disability. An event is being planned on Monday 4th December, in partnership with VALID, to launch the Zine project. A lunch is being organised to launch this project and committee members will receive an invitation to attend.

Committee are asked to comment on other ways Council can meaningfully elevate visibility and awareness of people with disability, particularly during Disability Pride Month in July 2024.

Discussion

Committee discussed how more events to acknowledge this day could be organised. It was discussed that any organisation in Banyule could host an event and this year, Council would not be hosting more than one event.

Belgravia noted that there will be activities at WaterMarc throughout the week and whilst activities are not yet published, they would welcome the ideas of community.

The committee discussed ideas for Disability Pride Month in July 2024. Ideas tabled included free access to leisure centres, free social events that include lunch, sporting events that are all abilities. Council are asked to ensure events are widely promoted.

A further idea called Artability and Writeability was proposed, with the option to run a project and display works during Disability Pride Month.

Laura reminded committee that community groups can apply for Banyule Community Grants to deliver projects.

4.3 Accessible Community Buildings

Inclusive Banyule Action 3.4 We will create access guides for Council's major civic facilities and community halls for hire.

Committee were asked to provide advice on the important information to include in information about Council's community buildings.

Discussion

Committee members suggested the following information should be considered:

- Parking and entry
 - Number of parking spaces
 - Size of parking space
 - Distance from parking to entry, surface type, gradient, ramp access, tactile treatments
 - Electric car charge availability
- Restroom facilities
 - Accessibility of facilities - is there a fully adaptive bathroom including change facilities
 - Hoist availability
 - Symbols guide
 - Gender neutral toilets
- Accessibility features
 - Wheelchair accessibility
 - Tactile features for vision impairment
 - Sensory maps and availability of sensory rooms
 - Hearing loops
 - Braille features
 - Prayer rooms
 - Key signs in community languages
- General
 - Opening times
 - Videos about what to expect
 - Guides to way finding in the building
 - Lighting levels at different times of the day
 - TIS symbols

Action

Action 8: Council to share link to new reporting <https://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/UX-shortcuts/Report-something>. and Sherryn to work with Communications to advocate for a tab for reporting accessibility issues.

5. Other updates (20 minutes)

5.1 Belgravia Leisure inclusion initiatives (10 minutes)

Discussion

Emma provided an update on the free Certificate 1 course for people with intellectual disability under 25 years and school leavers offered at WaterMarc. Ten places are available. The aim is to support people to gain work experience, skills and employment.

Emma provided an update on WaterMarc's new Immersion Therapy program which involves scuba diving in the pool. The reported benefits include increasing movement in water for people with physical disabilities, opportunities to participate in activity that levels the playing field for people with mental health issues and neurodiversity. The program will be officially launched in November and whilst it is expensive, it is an NDIS approved program. The program

featured in an ABC article <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-23/clinical-trial-into-immersion-therapy-for-brain-spinal-injuries/102972692>

Action

Action 9: Sherryn to share link to Certificate 1 program and the Immersion Therapy program with minutes.

5.2 Brotherhood St Laurence update (5 minutes)

As required, BSL to provide an update on NDIS and supports for people with disability in Banyule.

Discussion

Aaron noted that the new NDIS user portal will be launched any day and that BSL are busy training to prepare for the impending changes. Reminded committee that all new participants will use the new program and existing users will be transitioned upon plan renewal.

5.3 Updates from the Committee (5 Minutes)

Updates from the Committee Members invited.

Discussion

No comments from the committee. Cr Castaldo noted that mayor elections are happening in November and it is likely he will not Chair this committee in the next period. Cr Castaldo thanked the committee for their contributions and noted the value he experienced from participating in the discussions.

Committee members thanked Cr Castaldo for his efforts as Chair.

6. Close and date of next meeting

Next meeting 5.30-7.00pm 6 December 2023, **1 Flintoff St Greensborough**