

## 2023 Yarra Ranges Council Disability Advisory Committee achievements

Project	Achievements/Milestones
<p><b>Informing the development and review of Council Policy and Strategy</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community Engagement (from Council's perspective) and the role of the DAC in Community engagement</li> <li>2. Community Engagement Policy review</li> <li>3. Health and Wellbeing Plan progress update</li> <li>4. Access and Equity Strategy review</li> <li>5. Active Recreation for People Plan</li> <li>6. Upper Yarra Development Strategy</li> <li>7. Aquatics Strategy</li> <li>8. Housing Strategy review</li> </ol>
<p><b>Place Planning</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Input to the Collins Place Kilsyth design. Site visit at Collins Place with DAC member and Council staff.</li> <li>2. Yarra Junction, Upwey, and Mooroolbark Place Plans, including site visit to Yarra Junction with DAC member and Council staff.</li> <li>3. Belgrave Hub consultation update</li> <li>4. Kilsyth Recreation Reserve Draft Master Plan</li> <li>5. Morrison Reserve Draft Master Plan</li> <li>6. Lilydale Lake Draft Master Plan</li> <li>7. Community Heart in Lilydale Project (CHIL)</li> <li>8. Lions Park upgrades and site visit by DAC member</li> <li>9. Opportunities to engage on Council's Shaping Yarra Ranges website.</li> </ol>

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<b>Events, Celebrations and Leadership of DAC members</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Annual Yarra Ranges International Day of People with Disability community event held <b><i>Connecting with Tech - transforming lives through technology.</i></b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Council staff with disability participated and contributed towards event planning, including the MC for the event.</li><li>- Promotional stories and photos created with DAC members and shared on social media.</li><li>- Celebration of the DAC contributions and achievements during the first year of 4-year term.</li><li>- Acknowledgement of Cliff Wise, DAC member who passed away in 2022. Cliff served two Terms on the DAC since its establishment in 2012 and his wife Wendy Wise joined the event so we could thank her for his contributions to the Yarra Ranges community.</li></ul></li><li>2. DAC members participate in the Women's Health East launch event of the Margins to Mainstream <i>Guide to best practice co-design and consultation with women with disabilities.</i></li><li>3. Council's International Women's Day community event held at the Civic Centre. DAC member with lived experience gave a great speech and received positive feedback.</li><li>4. Changing Places Awareness Day. Information shared with DAC on location of Changing Places toilets in Yarra Ranges and updated information on Council website including a link to the National Toilet Map.</li><li>5. DAC member awarded the Pre-accredited Learner Award (skills for work) at the Annual Learn Local Awards ceremony. She also joins the Youth Advisory Group and receives an Honourable mention in the Passionate Advocate Award Category as part of Yarra Ranges Council's Celebrating YOUTH Awards.</li><li>6. DAC members participate in the Vic Health <i>This Girl Can</i> activities and photo shoot.</li></ol>

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>7. DAC member participates in Council's Poetic Portraits exhibition and publication as part of the Over 50s Festival celebrating the rich and diverse life stories of Yarra Ranges residents over 50.</li><li>8. DAC member graduates from Council's Community Changemakers leadership development program 2023.</li><li>9. DAC member joins the Committee of Management for Lilydale Community House.</li><li>10. Preparing for an emergency workshop for those who need extra support held at Mt Evelyn Community House. DAC member attends and shares information with DAC.</li><li>11. Twelve editions of the Yarra Ranges Disability Inclusion newsletter created by Council and distributed to the community. The content includes promotion of the DAC activities and profiles members' contributions.</li></ol>
<b>Internal Advocacy</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Waste Management system – feedback from DAC on proposed changes to collections and how Council can assist people with disability needing bins for continence pads.</li><li>2. Kilsyth Sports Centre improvements, including the installation of a Changing Places toilet at the reserve.</li><li>3. Council's Minor Works team provides an update on the Belgrave South Netball Club building and improvements to disability access.</li><li>4. Update on newly constructed accessible parking bays in Mt Evelyn and asphaltting works improving access to buildings adjoining Mt Evelyn Community House and Reading Room.</li></ol>

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	<p>5. Access issues at Karwarra Gardens raised by previous DAC member. Council received funding to concrete over 200m of Karwarra Garden's paths to improve disability access and generally improve access for all weather conditions. Sealing a large portion of the path network has greatly improved access.</p> <p>6. Overview of playspace design process including an example of playspace renewal works for Bluegum Drive Playspace in Badger Creek that ensure the space is more accessible and inclusive.</p> <p>7. Overview of Cultural Development role including information on accessible events and grant application process to ensure funded events consider inclusivity in their event planning and delivery.</p> <p>8. The issue of accessibility and inclusion with school holiday programs for children who are neurodiverse was raised by a DAC carer member. Early Years team member attends DAC meeting to provide overview of Early Years activities and programming. Seeks feedback on inclusive programming. As a result, an inclusive Lego session was trialled in the program.</p> <p>9. Overview of Communications team and process to highlight the work of the DAC using internal and external communication channels.</p>
<p><b>Other Projects</b></p>	<p>Induction of the Disability Advisory Committee 2022-26 on February 2023.</p>
<p><b>External Advocacy</b></p>	<p>1.The CHAOS Network (of community houses) and SwinLocal (a network with Swinburne Uni and 21 Learn Locals) received funding to deliver a Carers Employment Support Program through DFFH. The project linked over 100 carers in 2022/23 into vocational opportunities such</p>

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	<p>as adult learning, training, employment or volunteering. A DAC Carer member, Mt Evelyn Community House and Council were members of the Project Reference Group. DAC Carer member joined the project as a participant.</p> <p>2. Newly recruited DAC member is now Lead Carer for the Healesville Pathways for Carers walks.</p> <p>3. DAC carer member continues to co-lead the Pathways for Carers walks in Mt Evelyn. The Lead carers continue to invite Council staff as guest walkers including Council's Bushland Management Officer, Community Engagement team members and Council's Healthy Aging Officers.</p>