

2024 Yarra Ranges Council Disability Advisory Committee achievements

Project	Achievements/Milestones
Informing the development and review of Council Policy and Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Streets and Roadside Trading Policy review 2. Community Engagement Policy review update 3. Health and Wellbeing Plan progress update 4. Access and Equity Strategy review and Draft Disability Action Plan 2024-28 5. Paths and Trails Plan 6. Healthy Ageing Plan 7. Upper Yarra Development Strategy 8. Aquatics Strategy 9. Housing Strategy review 10. Draft Parking Management Framework
Place Planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working with Council staff to improve signage for the ramp access to Lions Park in Lilydale. Site visits at Lions Park with DAC member and Council staff. Following the visit, six arm rests installed on seats in the park and line marking on the ramp to help with navigation. 2. Site visit from the main street to the Yarra Centre in Yarra Junction with DAC member and Guide Dogs Victoria and Council staff to identify barriers to access for people with low vision. 3. Healesville Urban Design Framework (UDF) overview and community engagement 4. Monbulk Urban Design Framework overview and discussion around future UDF consultation and how can we draw on more specific feedback around accessibility 5. Site visit by DAC member at Mt Evelyn Community House. Council explore different options to renew the existing ramp entrance

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	<p>and ensure wheelchair and mobility scooter users can navigate the turning circle with ease.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Kilsyth Urban Park consultation 7. Morrison Reserve Master Plan consultation and DAC member provides feedback on proposed adaptive bike trails and infrastructure for the Morrison Reserve Youth Activation and Bike Park Project in Mt Evelyn. 8. Lilydale Lake Master Plan consultation 9. Healthy Ageing Plan consultation 10. Open Space Plan consultation
Events, Celebrations and Leadership of DAC members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tenth annual Yarra Ranges International Day of People with Disability community event held <i>Rethinking Disability – Shifting Perspectives and Embracing Diversity</i>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disability Advisory Committee members participated as panel members at the event. ○ Council staff with disability participated and contributed towards event planning, including 2 staff who MC'd for the event and one staff as panel member with lived experience. ○ Promotional stories and photos created with DAC members and shared on social media. ○ Celebration of the DAC contributions and achievements throughout 2024. ○ Acknowledgement of Chris Reed and Ian Lawther, DAC members who passed away in 2024. They served two Terms on the DAC since its establishment in 2012. Ian's wife Pam Lawther joined the event so we could thank her for Ian's contributions to the Yarra Ranges community.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accessible communication lunchbox session delivered at Council's Civic Centre as part of Global Accessibility Month. Session attended by Council staff and DAC members and co-facilitated by a person with lived experience. 2. DAC members attend the Women's Health East (WHE) workshop for women with disabilities to discuss and learn from each other about issues that affect women with disabilities including gender inequality, ableism and other intersecting inequalities. 3. DAC member contributes towards the Women's Health East (WHE) resource <i>We are the Experts</i> and attended the Celebration of the completion of the WHE Margins to Mainstream (M2M) Project. M2M is an innovative and proven program preventing violence against women with disabilities. 4. DAC members' images taken in the Vic Health <i>This Girl Can</i> photo shoot are shared on social media and promotional campaigns for Council. 5. DAC member participated in a photo shoot as part of the updating of Council's Early Years resources and promotional material to ensure it meets accessibility requirements. Family and Children's services promotional material review. 6. DAC members participate in Community Emergency Resilience workshops to help communities become better prepared for the aftermath of emergencies such as storms, floods and bushfires. 7. DAC member successfully applied for a Grant under the Victoria Government's <i>Connecting Carers in their Community</i> Small Grant Round. 8. DAC members attend the opening of the Chirnside Urban Park and enjoy the accessible features of the park. 9. DAC member promotes Carers Week and Pathways for Carers walks on Yarra Valley FM

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	<p>10. DAC members attend site visit and evaluation workshop for the newly constructed Changing Places toilet at Kilsyth Sports Centre. This Accessible Toilet was developed through the Preparing Australian Communities fund, in conjunction with input from our previous and current DAC members. Changing Places toilets have automated change tables and ceiling hoists making outings more manageable and enjoyable, reducing stress for people with disability and their families</p> <p>11. Ten 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.</p>
Internal Advocacy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seeking feedback on inclusive programming and promotion of our cultural venues in Yarra Ranges. 2. Council's Minor Works team provides an update on the Belgrave South Netball Club building and improvements to disability access. 3. Recreation pages on Council website feedback and discussion on accessible features and images.
External Advocacy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DAC member attended Carers Australia Roundtable discussion in Canberra for carers from a multicultural background to inform National Carer Strategy. 2. DAC carer member is Lead Carer for the Healesville Pathways for Carers walks. Council staff attending walks include the Community Development Officer Yarra Valley and the Housing and Homelessness Officer. 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 Community

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	Engagement team members and Council's Healthy Aging Officers. The Project Coordinator Community Mental Wellbeing consults with carers on the Mental Health information on Council's website.