

## DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

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Report Author: Disability Inclusion Officer  
Responsible Officer: Director Communities  
Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

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*The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.*

### CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public.

### SUMMARY

The Disability Advisory Committee (the Committee) was established in 2012 as an advisory committee to Council.

The Committee provides:

- An advisory process for Council's roles and responsibilities to ensure all aspects of the business are accessible to people with a disability and their families.
- A consultative process for a wide range of Council activities and initiatives.
- Advice to support Council's decision making.
- A mechanism to support monitoring of progress in meeting the objectives of the Equity Access and Inclusion Strategy.

This report presents an Annual Report of the Committee's activities (Attachment 1).

### RECOMMENDATION

***That Council receive and note the Annual Report of the Disability Advisory Committee.***

## **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Endorsement of the new Disability Advisory Committee members and acknowledgement of retiring members' contributions at Council's 13 December 2022 meeting.

## **DISCUSSION**

### ***Purpose and Background***

The Committee has been established for the purpose of:

- Being a voice to Council for people with lived experience of disability;
- Assisting Council in its consultative process and providing feedback on Council processes and policies to support Council's decision making; and
- Monitoring the achievement of objectives of the Equity, Access and Inclusion Strategy which outlines how Council will work to increase participation of people with disability.

The Annual Report is presented to Council in accordance with the reporting requirements in the Committee Terms of Reference. It details the key achievements of the Committee over the previous 12-month period and sets out plans and goals for the next 12 months.

The key goals of the Committee over the next 12 months include:

- Induct new Committee members;
- Provide strategic advice on the development of major strategies and plans;
- Monitor the achievements of objectives within the Equity, Access and Inclusion Strategy and inform the initiation of the new strategy which is due in 2024; and
- Continue to advocate on the impacts of COVID-19 and other emergencies, on people with disability and their family members.

## **FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

The costs associated with the operation of the Committee are met through the current approved departmental budget. There are no additional costs associated with the preparation of the Annual Report. Operational and capital budgets across the organisation include expenditure to meet the strategic goals and commitments for disability access and inclusion.

## **APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES**

This report contributes to the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan:

### *Connected and Healthy Communities:*

Ensuring communities are safe, resilient, healthy, inclusive and socially well-connected and that quality services should be accessible to everyone. Ensuring that our spaces are age-friendly and help promote good health.

### *Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025:*

Support mental wellbeing and promote inclusive and equitable communities.

## **RELEVANT LAW**

Disability Act 2006

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

### ***Economic Implications***

While there are no economic impacts arising from the recommendations in this report, the work undertaken by the Committee has increased member's capacity to participate meaningfully in the economic life of the community of Yarra Ranges.

### ***Social Implications***

The Annual Report illustrates the positive social impacts of work undertaken by the Committee for Council, for both the members, Council and wider community.

### ***Environmental Implications***

There are no environmental impacts arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Annual Report was reviewed by the Committee and endorsed at their meeting on 1 February 2023.

## **COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

No collaboration with other Councils, Governments or statutory bodies was sought.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

There are no risks associated with the recommendations in this report. The report mitigates risk by meeting standards required for transparency and reporting of the work of delegated committees of Council. Over time the Committee has become the 'go to' forum for consultation on new strategies, plans and projects to ensure access and inclusion are genuinely considered.

## **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

## **ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT**

1. Disability Advisory Committee Achievements 2022