

MINUTES
Randwick City Council
Access Advisory Committee
Meeting held on Thursday 9 February 2017, Randwick Room

Present

Gary Ella	Randwick City Council
Frida Kitas	Randwick City Council
Cr. Kathy Neilson	Randwick City Council
Cr. Murray Matson	Randwick City Council
Melinda Ross	Sunnyfield
Andre Lawrence	Flourish Australia
Lilia Londono	Ability Links Eastern Sydney
Ron Wood	Community Representative
Tess Protey	Community Representative
Judy Nicholas	Community Representative
Sharon Lee	Aftercare Eastern Suburbs
Juliette Walker	Community Representative
Sue Mayerhofer	Community Representative
Marie Tsigaropoulos	Junction Neighbourhood Centre

Apologies

Vince Bates	Headeast
Kim Tipoki	Holdsworth Community
Patricia Garvie	Aftercare Eastern Suburbs
Chris Donnellan	Randwick City Council
Donna Shrubsole	Flourish – Australia
George Gergely	Community Representative
Nadia Samperi	Ability Links – East Sydney

3. Introductions: Cr. Neilson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 10 November were confirmed.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Council Merger Update

Gary Ella, Coordinator Community Development gave an update on the proposed Council merger with Waverley and Woollahra Councils. In the event the merger proceeds, Committee members will be issued with a letter from the new Council explaining the structure of the new Committee and to seek their interest in continuing to be involved with the Committee. The letter will provide greater detail about the proposed meeting structure and membership. Until the proclamation occurs, the ACC will continue to convene as usual. Gary thanked members for their patience with the process.

Action: For information.

5.2 World AIDS Day Film Screening

RCC hosted a special screening of the documentary 'TRANS the Movie' at the Ritz Cinema Randwick to mark World AIDS Day on Thursday 1 December. The screening was well attended and aimed to increase awareness of the transgender community in the wider community. RCC also had an information table to raise awareness, reduce stigma, demonstrate support for people living with HIV and encourage HIV testing. Proceeds raised from the film screening were donated to local charity, The Bobby Goldsmith Foundation and the Children's AIDS Fund International which provides a range of treatment, care, educational assistance, nutrition and food to limit the suffering of HIV impacted children and their families living in Malawi, Africa. Frida gratefully acknowledged the Red Ribbon WAD Grant from SESLHD HIV/AIDS & Related Programs Unit.

Action: For information.

5.3 NDIS Readiness Forum

RCC hosted an NDIS Readiness Forum in preparation for the roll-out of the scheme in Eastern Sydney from 1 July 2017. The Forum was held on Wednesday 23 November from 7-9pm at Randwick Town Hall. The Forum was a great success with over 100 residents in attendance and included presentations from My Choice Matters, Sylvanvale, Ability Links NSW, St Vincent de Paul Society and Inner Sydney Voice. Participants were given the opportunity to learn about the design and roll-out of the NDIS, how to access the NDIS and how to get ready and make the most of the scheme. Based on participant feedback, RCC will investigate the possibility of delivering more targeted sessions for Carers and consumers in 2017.

Action: For Information.

5.4 The Spirits of Prince Henry Twilight Tour

RCC in partnership with the Prince Henry Hospital Trained Nurses Association held *The Spirits of Prince Henry Twilight Tour* on Saturday 12 November from 6.30 – 10pm at the Nursing and Medical Museum, Little Bay. The Twilight Tour explored the paranormal history of the former Prince Henry Hospital from a nurses' perspective and was huge hit, with over 90 people in attendance. Participants also learned ghost hunting techniques and took part in a paranormal investigation conducted by the Eastern States Paranormal Team.

Action: For Information.

5.5 International Day of People with a Disability

To celebrate International Day of People with a Disability (IDPWD) Holdsworth Community in partnership with Randwick City Council hosted a 'Night of Sparkle', dinner and dance on Saturday 3 December from 5.30-9pm at the Prince Henry Centre, Little Bay. 'A Night of Sparkle' was an outstanding success with over 90 people in attendance. This local, community event enabled people of all abilities to attend and celebrate with their family members, friends, Carers and other supporters.

Action: For information.

5.6 Access issues from previous meeting

Cr.Neilson confirmed that RCC has allocated funds to upgrade the lift at Lionel Bowen Library, Maroubra to improve access for patrons. Cr.Neilson is liaising with City Services to provide better ramped access to Randwick Community Centre and the Environmental Park via Dooligah Avenue, Randwick.

Action: Cr.Neilson to provide an update at the next meeting.

5.7 The Touch of Silk – Free Play Reading

The Touch of Silk play reading by Betty Roland was held on Saturday 19 November at the Lionel Bowen Library Theatre from 1pm. The reading was directed by acclaimed actor Lex Marinos, over 90 people were in attendance. The free play readings are designed to meet the creative interests of older and less mobile residents who may face a number of barriers to community participation. Frida will organise additional readings for 2017.

Action: For information.

6. General Business

6.1 Disability Inclusion Action Planning

The NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 requires Councils to prepare a Disability Inclusion Action Plan by July 2017. A Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) will demonstrate Council's commitment to improving physical access and inclusion for people with a range of needs. Randwick City Council and Waverley Councils are currently developing a joint Disability Inclusion Action Plan to improve the way people with disability access services and participate in community life. The action plan will cover every aspect of Council business such as services, facilities, events and access to and within the public domain.

The key DIAP focus areas are **community attitudes and behaviours, liveable communities, meaningful employment and systems and processes**. Randwick and Waverley Councils are committed to ensuring an inclusive community for everyone and will be inviting a range of stakeholders to participate in the development of the plan. Frida advised the Committee that as part of the community consultation process they will be invited to participate in a choice of two workshops in either April or May (venue/dates to be confirmed).

The community consultation workshops will be held for people living with disability, family members, Carers and service providers. Frida encouraged members to participate in the workshops, as their input will directly inform the actions of the plan. Members agreed to cancel the Access Advisory meeting scheduled for April and attend one of community workshops instead.

Action: Frida to circulate flyers/details to members re DIAP Community Consultation Workshops and arrange community transport for members, as required.

6.2 Mindful Relationships Seminar

RCC in partnership with Carers NSW will hold a Mindful Relationships Seminar on Saturday 11 February at Lionel Bowen Library from 10am to 1pm. The seminar is designed for Carers and community members to develop a more mindful approach to relationships and will be facilitated by Fiona Goodwin, an experienced Mindfulness facilitator. Participants will learn how to navigate

difficult relationships more smoothly, deal more effectively with disappointment and frustration and break repetitive patterns of relation to other. Flyers tabled.

Action: For information.

6.3 Seniors Week 2017

Frida gave an overview on planned events and activities for Seniors Week including: *Back to Prince Henry* on Saturday 11 March at the Prince Henry Nursing and Medical Museum, Little Bay. Your Brain Matters presentation on Wednesday 15 March from 7-9pm at Margaret Martin Library Randwick and *The Spirits of Prince Henry* Twilight Tour on Saturday 18 March from 6.30-9.30pm at the Nursing and Medical Museum, Little Bay. In addition, RCC has organised the 'Kamay Cultural Experience' – a guided Tour and Talk with Community Cultural Leader and Elder, Dean Kelly on Tuesday 7 March from 10am – 2pm. Older people and Carers will have the opportunity to learn about traditional medicine and bush tucker and how to play the clap sticks and throw a boomerang. Fred's Bush Tucker will serve a catered a lunch. Flyers and posters tabled.

Action: For information.

6.4 The Recharge Scheme

Frida informed the Committee that a community member contacted her to request that Council consider implementing the Recharge Scheme program after he experienced an access issue with his wheelchair at Coogee Beach. Frida gave the Committee an overview of The Recharge Scheme and the benefits it would offer residents and visitors to Randwick City. The scheme was developed to support people who use electric mobility scooters or wheelchairs who found they were isolating themselves through fear of being stranded by a flat battery. The scheme would involve RCC providing designated areas within the LGA to enable people to safely recharge their electric mobility scooter or wheelchair battery, free of charge. Offering Recharge point locations in Randwick City will assist people to plan their trips accordingly. The Committee agreed the scheme was an excellent innovation and would demonstrate Council's commitment to creating a more accessible, inclusive and welcoming environment for people of all abilities.

Action: Frida to investigate the scheme further and provide an update at a future meeting.

6.5 New Access Issues

Tess Protey raised a potential access issue on Darley Road near the roundabout at Randwick TAFE – there are a number of boats and trailers permanently parked near the site, forcing community transport buses to double-park when picking up and dropping off clients. Crs. Matson and Neilson agreed to organise a meeting with the Council rangers to see if anything can be done to alleviate the situation. Cr.Neilson suggested that Frida invite a guest speaker from Vision Australia to provide an overview of services and support programs they provide for blind people and people with vision impairments.

Action: Cr.Neilson to provide an update at the June meeting. Frida to arrange for a guest speaker from Vision Australia to present at a future meeting.

7. Guest speaker: Joanne D'Arcy | Direct Services Manager | Windgap

Windgap Foundation was formed in 1953 to provide services to people with an intellectual disability. They support people aged 16-65 years and do not typically provide support services to children. Windgap have 7 residences located in the Randwick, Botany and City of Sydney local government areas to enable residents to live independently in the community. They provide trained staff to support residents with various levels of need. With the introduction of the NDIS from 1 July in Eastern Sydney, people will have greater access to services they were restricted to in the past. People will be receiving services for the first time, which means many older parent Carers will need support to understand and navigate the system for their adult child with a lifelong disability.

To assist people to understand this new funding environment, Windgap have developed resources, including a booklet explaining the basics of the NDIS and a 1300 helpline number for families who want to know more about NDIS, as there is still a lot of confusion in the community about the scheme.

In addition, Windgap run 5 services including day programs to give people opportunities for community participation and social inclusion, Youth Employment Programs to provide work experience for people who have left school. They have a supported employment program (LAW) in Eastlakes for people who are retired or approaching retirement and programs to upskill people in numeracy and literacy.

Windgap formed a Carer Support Group in 2016 and they also have 'Making Airwaves', a unique program which provides people with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to learn radio presentation and production skills. Brochures and resources tabled. Frida thanked Joanne for attending the meeting as a guest speaker.

Action: For Information.

8. Information Share:

- Sunnyfield are running vacation care programs in Campsie and in the Sutherland Shire, they are looking at offering the program to families living in the Eastern Suburbs.
- Ability Links will be organising a disability awareness raising event at Pacific Square on Saturday 4 March with a range of services including Spinal Cord Injuries Australia, JNC and Guide Dogs Australia. There will be different interactive activities and guest speakers.
- JNC are organising a Harmony Day event in late March at Alison Park Randwick with Randwick Council and other service providers.
- JNC programs for March include Tai Chi and 'Let's get Digital.'
- Partners in Recovery confirmed funding for their programs has been extended for the next two years. They will continue to accept referrals and may still need to work in a similar capacity even when NDIS operating in the region.

9. Correspondence: Nil

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 8 June 2017.

