



Inclusion (Disability, Aged & Carers) Advisory Committee



Minutes

Thursday 11 November 2021

Inclusion (Disability, Aged & Carers) Advisory Committee Minutes

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Present: Councillors: Isabelle Shapiro
Lucinda Regan

**Community
Representatives:** Nessa Joseph
Mervyn Levine
Ruark Lewis
Gabi Simpson

Staff: Jacky Hony, Community Development Team Leader
Patricia Occelli, Director Community & Customer Experience
Vicki Munro, Manager Community & Culture
Roger Faulkner, Open Space and Recreation Planning Team Leader
Vince Caccavo, Landscape Project Officer, Open Space and Trees
Corinna Pierce, Acting Manager Woollahra Libraries
Richard Pearson, Development Manager – Strategic Properties
Jim Koopman, Allen Jack and Cottier Architects
Sebastian Goldspink, Art Gallery Coordinator

Meeting opened: 2.00pm held using teleconferencing technology

1. Opening

Councillor Shapiro welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. Acknowledgement of Country

Councillor Shapiro gave an Acknowledgment of Country.

3. Apologies

Nil

4. Declarations of Interest

Nil

5. Confirmation of Minutes

Item No: 5.1
Subject: Confirmation of the Minutes 19 August 2021 and notes about Art Gallery wayfinding signage consultation.
Author: Jacky Hony, Team Leader - Community Development

(Regan, Lewis)

Resolved:

- A. THAT the Minutes of the inaugural Inclusion (Disability, Aged and Carers) Advisory Committee meeting held 19 August 2021 be received and noted.
- B. THAT the notes from consultations held 13, 15 and 21 September, 2021 regarding wayfinding signage in the Art Gallery be received and noted.

(Levine, Regan)

6. Items for Discussion

Item No: 6.1
Subject: **Council's Draft Playspace Strategy**
Author: Jacky Hony, Team Leader - Community Development

Resolved:

THAT community members of the Inclusion (Disability, Aged and Carers) Advisory Committee reviewed and provided lived experience feedback regarding Council's Draft Playspace Strategy as follows.

The Committee were advised that the Woollahra draft Playspace Strategy 2021 – 2031 is one of three related strategies that Council resolved on 5 July 2021 to place on public exhibition: the other two being the draft Recreation Strategy and Plans of Management for Crown Land Reserves.

Both consultants and staff have compiled Council's draft Playspace Strategy which has been informed by analysing locality-based demographics, auditing the existing 25 play spaces, and consulting with the community through a survey on Council's website, pop-up consultations and notifying local schools.

The draft Playspace Strategy details high-level principles rather than specifics. When asked what elements are of highest importance in a play space, community responses were safety, clean and welcoming, availability of shade, away from roads and variety of equipment. When asked what elements are of highest concern regarding play spaces, inclusion of children living with disability was the second most common response.

The Committee discussed that there are many different types of disability but the community feedback hadn't specified what type/s of disability inclusion was of concern to them, noting Gabi Simpson's previous reference to [Livvis Place](#) resources and best practice information.

Ruark Lewis observed that the sensory sculpture at Rushcutters Bay Park and the sensory garden in William Street are good examples of spaces that are inclusive of people who are sight impaired.

The Committee was informed about some of the equipment installed within Woollahra play spaces that enable inclusion, such as boat swings for persons requiring back support, rubber entry points to cater for persons using wheelchairs, and water bubblers that are of accessible heights with clear space around them.

The Committee were advised of specifics regarding the access upgrade of Plumb Reserve in Fletcher Street. This upgrade was part-funded through a \$120,000 NSW Government 'Everyone Can Play' grant resulting in both natural and artificial shade, full fencing, accessible parking, a picnic table and range of group seating options, a drinking fountain and bottle filling station, all of which are connected through an accessible path network. Requirements of this funding are that 'can I get there, can I play, can I stay?' is considered when developing concept designs.

Gabi Simpson asked whether it was possible to provide an alternative to the popular monkey bars for children with less upper body strength and was advised that, whilst there is a lower set for smaller children as well as a higher set for taller children, there is not an easier piece of equipment adjacent to the monkey bars. Gabi Simpson asked whether future playgrounds could be brought to the Inclusion (Disability, Aged and Carers) Advisory Committee whilst still in the design phase to allow for greater Committee input to the design.

Dillon Street Reserve in Neild Avenue will open soon and is wheelchair accessible from the entry gates at both Neild Avenue and Stephen Street and also throughout the main level of the park but not to the lower section due to the steep topography. Some of the more inclusive elements in the play space include the birds nest swing and the timber balance challenge. The Committee discussed that the specifics of accessibility features of play spaces in Woollahra would be a useful addition to Council's website.

Action: Roger Faulkner to update Council's website to include itemised details of accessibility features of play spaces equipment in Woollahra, including what level of disability can access each feature.

Action: Committee members are welcome to contact Roger Faulkner on 9391 7180 or Roger.Faulkner@woollahra.nsw.gov.au or Vince Caccavo on 9391 7142 or Vince.Caccavo@woollahra.nsw.gov.au at any time regarding opportunities for improving inclusive play opportunities.

Item No: 6.2
Subject: **Programming within Woollahra Libraries**
Author: Jacky Hony, Team Leader - Community Development

Resolved:

THAT community members of the Inclusion (Disability, Aged and Carers) Advisory Committee reviewed and provided lived experience feedback regarding accessible programming in Woollahra Libraries as follows.

A new Library Strategic Plan was launched June 2021 and commits Council to developing and hosting inclusive and diverse programming within the Woollahra Libraries. Woollahra Libraries already offer a Home Library Service but staff have brainstormed how best to approach this and have developed four initiatives to be further explored:

- hosting hybrids events that are accessible both in person and online, the latter to be either in real time or recorded;
- hosting Auslan children's story time sessions on either a monthly or quarterly basis;
- providing sensory story time with quiet refuges, such as a tent, where children can escape to if the environment is too intense; and
- offering a 'bus to book' program where people are brought in to the library, most likely the smaller libraries at Watsons Bay and Paddington.

The Committee were asked if there were other suggestions that might further encourage inclusion.

Gabi Simpson spoke of [Plumtree](#), a not-for-profit, community-based organisation based in Marrickville that provides therapies and support for children aged birth to eight years living with disability or developmental delay and their families at home, in the community, at the Marrickville centre and online. Plumtree receives funding from NDIA and online training is available for staff, for example free training in [Libraries as community connectors](#) that covers creating the right environment and fostering positive attitudes and behaviours.

Nessa Joseph observed the need to provide library customer awareness raising regarding disability inclusion, in addition to staff training. Corinna Pierce advised that a lot of discussion has been had with the community to re-educate the wider public that noise is welcome within the libraries.

Ruark Lewis suggested that, in addition to audio-books, regular author talks and live readings would be accessible for people who are sight impaired. The Committee was informed that, during lockdown, Library staff read twice a week for 30 minutes to interested people living in nursing homes.

Action: *Corinna Pierce to explore the possibility of 'adult story time'.*

Action: *Committee members are welcome to contact Corinna Pierce on 9391 7705 or corinna.pierce@woollahra.nsw.gov.au at any time regarding opportunities for improving inclusive library services and programs.*

Item No: 6.3
Subject: **Rose Bay Community Centre**
Author: Jacky Hony, Team Leader - Community Development

Resolved:

THAT community members of the Inclusion (Disability, Aged and Carers) Advisory Committee reviewed and provided lived experience feedback regarding the Rose Bay Community Centre with a particular focus on the ground floor concept plan as follows.

Copies of the Rose Bay Community Centre fit-out plan were included in the agenda for the meeting so that Committee members were able to review them prior to the meeting. Council is in the process of finalising the design, due February 2022, before submitting a Development Application. Council has resolved to host public meeting/s prior to lodging the DA.

Action: Richard Pearson to notify Jacky Hony when the public meeting is scheduled so that the Committee might be advised and able to attend.

The Rose Bay Community Centre includes four components: a multi-storey car park (the current 95 parking spaces will be increased to 229 spaces); 350m² of retail space; a 750m² community centre; and public toilets. The newly created town plaza on Wilberforce Avenue will provide a meeting place and a space for public art.

Some of the accessibility features of the proposed development include a level accessible egress strip into the plaza, ramps, disabled parking bays directly by lifts and accessible doorway clearances. Accessibility features of the ground floor of the three-storey community centre include:

- access via a ramp and sliding doors;
- public ambulant toilets accessible via a ramp;
- a parents' facility including a change table, child and adult toilet, child and adult basin; and
- a unisex fully accessible adult change table, toilet and shower facility.

Whilst access to the adult change facility from within the community centre requires exiting the building from the café and using the ramp, this does mean that the facility can be used by persons outside the building when the café is closed.

The Committee discussed a number of points, including that there will be designated disabled parking bays in the basement of the car park, designated 'parents with prams' parking, and that the space outside the lifts is sufficient for movement of people with prams and those using wheelchairs.

As this development will include the only fully accessible change, shower and toilet facility within the Municipality and is close to a beach, the Committee thought that the community centre will attract and be well used by people living with disability, parents with prams and persons with limited mobility.

Cr Regan suggested that funding might be available to support the installation of a fully accessible toilet, shower and change facility.

Action: Richard Pearson to discuss with Patricia Ocelli and Vicki Munro whether there are potential grants available to fund a fully accessible toilet, shower and change facility.

Action: *Committee members are welcome to contact Richard Pearson on richard.pearson@woollahra.nsw.gov.au at any time regarding opportunities for improving inclusion at the Rose Bay Community Centre.*

Item No: 6.4
Subject: **Programming within the Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf**
Author: Jacky Hony, Team Leader - Community Development

Resolved:

THAT community members of the Inclusion (Disability, Aged and Carers) Advisory Committee reviewed and provided lived experience feedback regarding accessible programming in the new Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf as follows.

Members of the Committee have previously been consulted regarding wayfinding signage in the Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf prior to it being opened to the public on 4 November 2021. Feedback about experiences of visiting the Gallery is actively being sought now that it is open.

Physical access features of the Gallery include braille, raised text, hearing loop, adjustable desks, accessible bathrooms and a lift that not only provides egress to the gallery but also to Blackburn Gardens from New South Head Road.

Accessibility features of programming at the Gallery include an EOI process that has resulted in applications from both local and inter-state artists. The first exhibition of an artist at the Gallery will include works by an artist living with Down Syndrome who works locally at Inala. Exhibitions scheduled for 2022 include video stories by two deaf artists using Auslan. The videos will also be captioned and voiced so that everyone can access them.

Inclusive events at the Gallery include the option for after- and before-hours tours. Other options being explored are quiet times, for example these may be preferred by people living with dementia, and providing narrative for tours by people who are vision impaired.

Gabi Simpson asked whether ‘sensory mornings’ with dimmed lights and quiet time could be scheduled and was advised that all ideas are welcomed and there will also be programming in the ground floor Cultural Hub that could, for example, be limited to small groups.

Mervyn Levine asked how ‘access’ in terms of appreciating and engaging with the art is being addressed. Sebastian Goldspink confirmed that there will be artists talks that will bring the artwork to life and also that Sebastian Goldspink himself is very happy to talk about the exhibitions, as are the two other Art Gallery staff and the many volunteers.

The Woollahra Gallery is open 10.00am to 6.00pm Wednesday to Friday and 10.00am to 5.00pm Saturday and Sunday.

Action: *Committee members are welcome to contact Sebastian Goldspink on 9391 7926 or Sebastian.Goldspink@woollahra.nsw.gov.au at any time regarding inclusion with the Gallery.*

A copy of Sebastian Goldspink’s presentation is attached.

7. General Business

Item No: 7.1

Subject: GENERAL BUSINESS

Author: Jacky Hony, Team Leader - Community Development

Resolved:

THAT the General Business be received and noted as follows.

Community members of the Committee gave thanks for the opportunity to be consulted on a range of Council works but commented that it would be more fruitful if consultation was to take place prior to works being finalised.

Subsequent to the meeting, staff and Councillors of the Committee agreed that consultations will in future be limited to two matters per meeting to allow more in-depth discussion.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2022 at a date yet to be determined.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 4.00pm.