

7.1 DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

Responsible Committee: Disability Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Endorses the appointment of the following eight (8) community representatives and two (2) local organisation representatives to the Disability Advisory Committee, each for a two (2) year term:*

- *Helen Haughton*
- *Harini Guddanti*
- *Mona Singh*
- *Sue Rees*
- *Heather Miller*
- *Peter Hocking*
- *Linda Teng*
- *Tess Marotta*
- *Marian Jacobs (representing Waverley Help Mates)*
- *Sharon Roxby (representing OC Connections)*

2. *Endorses the updated Disability Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, reflecting an increase to the number of members appointed to this committee. Membership will increase to eighteen (18) members, consisting of fourteen (14) community representatives, two (2) local organisation representatives and two (2) Councillors.*

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to appoint eight (8) community representatives and two (2) local organisation representatives as new members to the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC).

This report also seeks Council's endorsement of the updated Disability Advisory Committee Terms of Reference in order to support the successful function of this committee.

BACKGROUND

The role of the DAC is to act in an advisory capacity to Council on issues relating to the needs of people with disability, their carers and families and on the implementation of Council's *A Healthy & Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021*.

The Disability Advisory Committee currently comprises of sixteen (16) members, including two (2) Councillors. Following a scheduled review of the Committee's Terms of Reference, it is recommended that an amendment be made to increase the membership of this Committee from sixteen (16) members to eighteen (18) members. The updated TOR also specifies that membership will consist of fourteen

(14) community representatives, two (2) local organisation representatives and two (2) Councillors.

DISCUSSION

The Disability Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference (*Attachment 1*) currently states that the committee should consist of up to sixteen (16) members, which includes two (2) Councillors.

Throughout the last committee term Councillors and Officers observed that some of members experienced barriers to their attendance, in relation to their health, care responsibilities and of course the impact of Covid-19. An unfortunate consequence of this has been that a number of DAC meetings during 2019 and 2020 did not reach a quorum and therefore could not be recorded as formal meetings.

In many ways, the barriers that the DAC members experienced also make for meaningful justification as to why they should be supported to contribute via a Council Committee. It is for this reason that the DAC Terms of Reference have been amended to reflect an increase in the number of community members included on the DAC. The intention is to ensure that we can offer members the appropriate flexibility to manage their personal circumstances, while maintaining the governance requirement of each meeting operating with a quorum of members in attendance.

The recommended amendment to the Disability Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference will therefore state an increase in membership from sixteen (16) members to eighteen (18) members. The TOR will now also stipulate that the membership will consist of fourteen (14) community representatives, two (2) local organisation representatives and two (2) Councillors.

For three weeks in February, Council invited nominations from people living or working in the City of Monash who are interested in joining the Disability Advisory Committee. The criteria for membership includes:

- A person living with a disability
- Carers or family members of a person living with a disability
- Persons interested in and able to represent the views of other Monash residents living with a disability
- Those who are representing a community agency servicing people with a disability within Monash

Council received a total of thirteen (13) nominations for the Disability Advisory Committee. While all nominees portrayed a willingness and capacity to make a contribution on the Committee, ten (10) of these nominees were shortlisted and invited to attend a group interview hosted by Cr Shane McCluskey and Cr Nicky Luo with support from Officers, on Thursday 11 March (via Zoom).

Following the interview, Council endorsement is sought for the following eight (8) community representatives and two (2) local organisation representatives for membership of the Committee:

- Helen Haughton
- Harini Guddanti
- Mona Singh
- Sue Rees
- Heather Miller
- Peter Hocking
- Linda Teng
- Tess Marotta
- Marian Jacobs (representing Waverley Help Mates)
- Sharon Roxby (representing OC Connections)

All recommended applicants meet the membership criteria outlined in the Committee's Terms of Reference and offer a broad range of skills, experiences and educational qualifications and will complement that of the existing members.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report is in line with Council's *A Healthy & Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021*

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The contribution that community members make through their participation on the DAC enhances Council's work in the area of access and inclusion for people with disability, their families and carers and ultimately facilitates opportunities for good advocacy, policy development and service provision for their benefit and the community at large.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

This report is in line with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and in particular with the following rights: freedom of expression; and taking part in public life;

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications resulting from this recommendation.

CONCLUSION

This report recommends that Council endorse the updated Disability Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.

Council's endorsement is also sought for the appointment of the following eight (8) community representatives and two (2) local organisation representatives to the Disability Advisory Committee, each for a two (2) year term:

- Helen Haughton
- Harini Guddanti

- Mona Singh
- Sue Rees
- Heather Miller
- Peter Hocking
- Linda Teng
- Tess Marotta
- Marian Jacobs (representing Waverley Helpmates)
- Sharon Roxby (representing OC Connections)

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1: Disability Advisory Committee Terms of Reference – Updated March 2021