

REPORT OF THE DISABILITY ACCESS COMMITTEE MEETING (369.80)

Held on Monday 9 July 2001

Meeting No DA/01/01 commenced at 10.00 am.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Councillor Geoff Preece (Chairperson)
Kath Hayes
Brett Wilson
Beryl Owen
Edwin Dalzeil
Kylie Fawkner
Grant Playford
Emma Bedwin
Owen McKay
Gordon House
Debbie Ellam – Interpreter

Apologies: John Yakulis
Sharna Carter

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chairperson invited Committee members to declare any interest they might have, in accordance with Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act 1993, in respect to the business of this meeting.

No declarations were received.

DA.001 AWARENESS OF ISSUES

Education to all regarding how to create an inclusive community.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that:

- A Clubs need to be educated about how they can promote inclusive use of their facilities.
- B Letters be sent to all local businesses with information about how to make their facilities and service inclusive - and a brief survey asking what they have to offer individuals with disabilities. Information about MLAK and the patrolling of disabled parking bays to be included.
- C Monthly media releases be made to inform the public of Access Committee and educating about specific disability issues.
- D Monthly radio reports on 2CCC re Access Committee

DA.002 MASTER LOCKSMITH ACCESS KEY

There is a need for greater awareness of the location of MLAK and where it is possible to obtain the key.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that:

- A A list be created of MLAK accessible facilities across the coast.
- B Council subsidised MLAK be sought.
- C A report to Council be written detailing the costs and benefits of MLAK.

DA.004 TRANSPORT ISSUES

Transport is an ongoing issue for many people with disabilities – the high cost and lack of transport to meet individual needs mean that many people are dependent upon family and friends – are there some strategies to enable greater independence.

The Quality Ageing Strategy identified the need for a Transport Development Worker – now employed to investigate transport issues on the Central Coast.

Community Transport in Gosford and Wyong have been successful in obtaining additional funding – the taxi subsidy scheme is for young (under 65) people with disabilities for out of hours access and is a taxi voucher to subsidise the transport when Community Transport is unavailable.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that:

- A A copy of Transport Action Plan be obtained.
- B Obtain copy of Community Plan.
- C Some strategies about who we could contact / lobby for more accessible / lower cost transport be determined.
- D A package detailing transport options, subsidies and who to contact for more information be created.
- E An approach to State Transit regarding government buses on the coast - or subsidised transport options be made.
- F Produce a brochure outlining services provided by Community Transport.

DA.005 REVIEW BUILDING CODES AND STANDARDS

There is a need to raise awareness of a problem with building standards regarding door closers.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that strategies be developed after discussions with the Development Section of Council.

DA.006 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Access Committee will approach Council for funding of some projects. It will also link projects to the Development Control Plan within Council in the appropriate sections.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that:

- A Council reports be written as appropriate projects arise.
- B The Committee to make other organisations aware of appropriate funding opportunities.

DA.014 CLUB MONEY

Investigate the possibility of accessing some of the “Club Money” under the Community Development Support Expenditure Scheme (CDSE) through the State Government.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that:

- A An application form be obtained when available in June/July, closing the 1 August 2001.
- B A letter be developed requesting support from local clubs for an Access Map to the Central Coast.
- C CCDN has been approached to consider applying for and administering Club Money for the Access Map should the Committee be successful in applying. Emma Bedwin to provide report to CCDN Management Committee outlining the proposal.

DA.007 ACCESSIBLE BUILDING GRANTS

Accessible Building Grant applications close on 29 June 2001.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that the information be noted.

DA.010 BUILDING MODIFICATION FUNDING

Need for gap funding to enable faster modification of employer’s premises.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that an investigation into the possibility of Council providing gap funding and reclaiming the money from the government be undertaken.

DA.012 ACCESS AWARDS AND PUBLICITY

Businesses need to be rewarded for their efforts to make the community more accessible.

Also the achievements of the Access Committee need to be publicised to raise awareness of the positive things it is possible to do to make a more inclusive community.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that:

- A Advertising & presentation of Access Awards occur annually.
- B Local restaurants, cafes, hotels & other entertainment / tourist venues be encouraged to include an accessibility sign in their advertising if their premises is accessible. The Access Committee establish a monitoring system to ensure that advertised premises are accessible.
- C More information be sought re “Inform” - Perth’s Disability Access Awards.

DA.013 ACCESSIBILITY BROCHURE

The Committee to develop an Access Guide to the Central Coast with other agencies across the Coast. Area Assistance funding was unsuccessful for this project. A report to the Central Coast Regional Organisation of Councils (CCROC) has been written asking for their support of the project.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that:

- A Club Money is to be sought under the administration of CCDN or another non profit/charitable organisation.
- B Committee members to consider who we can approach for funding of the map.
- C Sources of information regarding accessible facilities to be sought to begin compiling database of information for access guide.
- D Contact Wyong Council to begin a united approach to the map.

DA.015 PARKING RANGERS

The Committee discussed the use of Council Parking Rangers to patrol shopping centre carparks to ensure disabled parking bays are being used by those with parking permits only.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that the information be noted.

DA.016 BUILDING STANDARDS AND CODES AWARENESS

There is a need for the Committee to have a greater awareness of Building Standards and Codes. Tony Tuxworth, Manager Regulatory Services, spoke about the process of regulating building compliance. All buildings must comply with the Building code of Australia. Council enforces this, however compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act is addressed by builders individually. Compliance with the Code can be at the minimum or enhanced level and is regulated by the local Council and the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning.

There is a need for increased awareness of inclusive or adaptable housing design.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that:

- A Further consultation required with Tony Tuxworth about ways to have more inclusive design features included on Council's Development Control Plan.
- B Awareness campaign directed at builders – could be an easy to read brochure outlining practical design features.
- C Access Committee to look at including adaptable housing guidelines into a Development Control Plan as some Council's have.
- D Raise awareness of design issues with Council's development section.
- E Provide education to the Works Directorate regarding the importance of the Building Standards and why they are used, so that matters are considered when modifications are made.
- F Memo to be written to Regulatory Operations asking them to consider inserting a clause to allow hardship/variation provisions in development when considering access issues for private buildings.

DA.017 MERRY MAKERS MID WINTER DINNER DANCE

Merry Makers held a Mid Winter Dinner Dance on Saturday 7 July 2001 from 7pm to 11pm. It was targeted at adults with an intellectual disability on a limited income. It was well attended with ninety two (92) people in total, five (5) of whom were paid carers. Unfortunately at 9.45pm the carers stood up and filed out of the dance "with the well trained clientsobediently following". By 10pm all of the people from the group homes had left and the remaining thirty (30) plus dancers thought the night had ended so packed up the hall and left. It appears the walk out was due to a shift change at the group home, however it was Saturday night and everyone was over eighteen (18). It is unlikely that nay other group of people of the age of eighteen (18) would be going home from a party at 10pm on a Saturday night. It appears in this instance that access to equal recreation opportunities was restricted on the basis of having an intellectual disability and living in a group home.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that a letter of concern be sent to Merry Makers to be forwarded to the appropriate organisations, Department of Community Services, relevant group homes etc.

NEXT MEETING **Date:** 13 August 2001
 Time: 10.00 am
 Venue: Main Council Building - room to be advised.

CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The meeting closed at 12.00 pm.

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS****A The Information be Noted**

DA.007 ACCESSIBLE BUILDING GRANTS
DA.015 PARKING RANGERS

B For the Action of the Committee

DA.001 AWARENESS OF ISSUES
DA.002 MLAK
DA.004 TRANSPORT ISSUES
DA.005 BUILDING CODES AND STANDARDS
DA.006 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
DA.014 CLUB MONEY
DA.010 BUILDING MODIFICATION FUNDING
DA.012 ACCESS AWARDS AND PUBLICITY
DA.013 ACCESSIBILITY BROCHURE
DA.016 BUILDING STANDARDS AND CODES AWARENESS
DA.017 MERRY MAKERS MID WINTER DINNER DANCE

C For the Action of Council

Nil.