

# MINUTES

## KINGBOROUGH DISABILITY INCLUSION & ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Meeting No. 2024 - 4**

**Wednesday 11 December 2024 | 2pm**

NOTICE is hereby given that a meeting of the Kingborough Disability Inclusion & Access Advisory Committee will be held in the Kingborough Council Chambers, 15 Channel Highway Kingston on Wednesday 11 December 2024 at 2.00pm

Cr Paula Wriedt  
CHAIRPERSON

The logo for Kingborough Council, featuring the word "Kingborough" in a serif font, with a green swoosh underline.

## **ATTENDEES**

		<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>APOLOGY</b>
Chairperson	Cr Paula Wriedt	✓	
Deputy Chairperson	Cr Flora Fox	✓	
	David Vickery	✓	
	Di Carter	✓	
	Heather Anderson		✓
	Dr Don Hempton	✓	
	Wendy Wade		✓
	Fran Thompson	✓	
	Kevin Clayton	✓	
	Dr Christine Materia	✓	
	Laura Della Pasqua		✓
	TBA (Baptcare)		
Staff	Bianca Kleine - Community Development Officer	✓	
	Aby McGuire, Community Resilience Officer	✓	
Presenters	Richard Witbreuk, SES Chris Barrell 'Sorry I can't hear you'	✓ ✓	

### **1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Kingborough Council acknowledges the Tasmanian Aboriginal People as the Traditional Owners and ongoing custodians of lutruwita, Tasmania. We pay our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and to their Elders past, present and emerging.

### **2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Moved: Don Hempton  
Seconded: Kevin Clayton

That the minutes of the DIAAC meeting on 9 October 2024 be confirmed as a true record.

**CARRIED**

### **3 PRESENTATIONS**

#### **Richard Witbreuk – SES – emergency preparedness for people living with a disability**

Richard Witbreuk presented on the 'People with Disability Emergency Preparedness project', a joint SES and TFS project.

Discussion followed about the specific needs of elderly individuals with limited mobility, including those living on boats or in caravans in the bush and those receiving aged care.

It was noted that good preparation, early evacuation and clear communication were essential to ensure that people are supported during emergencies, and to consider the following:

- Emergency responders may not be adequately prepared to assist people with disabilities in extreme situations.
- Identify strengths and support needs in everyday life.
- Know your level of emergency preparedness and learn about disaster risk.
- Plan for how you will manage your support needs in an emergency, including transport options.
- Listen to early warnings and evacuate as soon as advisory levels are issued.
- Communicate the plan with people in your support network and address gaps through collaboration.

Discussion followed on:

- Disability Register: the question was raised about the possibility of creating a register for people with disabilities. It was noted that maintaining a register could be challenging due to ongoing changes in people's status. Privacy concerns and the potential misconception that people may be overly reliant on rescues were highlighted as important considerations.
- Door hazards in homes: it was identified that doors in homes may be a hazard during emergencies. If a person collapses behind a door, it may hinder rescuers' ability to enter the room and assist.
- Neighbourhood Awareness: The importance of knowing your neighbours was raised. Encouraging a sense of community and ensuring individuals have control over their own preparedness, were seen as essential steps.
- Emergency Evacuation at Kingborough Sports Facilities: the question was raised about whether the new facilities being built at the Kingborough Sports Centre could be considered for emergency evacuations. The chair suggested to pass on this inquiry to the State Government for further consideration.

Aby McGuire advised that Council's Community Resilience team is preparing the Kingborough Sports Centre as an evacuation centre. The team is working closely with Huon Valley Council. The importance of 'quiet spaces' was raised, as well as evacuation

of pets. The team is seeking input for operational processes, so people who have to seek the evacuation centre in an emergency, can be as 'comfortable' as possible.

### **Chris Barrell 'Sorry I Can't Hear You'**

Chris Barrell presented on his business, *Sorry I Can't Hear You*, which focuses on living with a hearing impairment. He shared personal life experiences and the challenges he faces daily. Chris offers talks aimed at raising awareness and inspiring the community with messages of inclusion, resilience, and capability.

#### **Key Points for Awareness:**

- Face-to-face communication: emphasises the importance of speaking directly to people with hearing impairment.
- Inclusion in conversations: ensuring everyone is included in conversations, regardless of their hearing ability.
- Not talking quietly: speaking softly may make it harder for those with hearing impairments to hear.
- Clarity over volume: clear speech is more important than speaking loudly.
- Hearing aids do not equal 100% hearing: understand that hearing aids assist, but do not fully restore hearing.

Discussion was held about raising awareness and educating the community on various forms of disabilities, particularly invisible disabilities. Cr Wriedt, on behalf of the committee, suggested writing a media release to share Chris's story to help raise awareness about hearing impairment and other disabilities.

## **4 BUSINESS ARISING**

### **Resolutions approved during 4 November Council Meeting:**

Council approved DIAAC to explore the possibility of holding a Disability Expo in 2025 at the Kingborough Community Hub, with potential funding through a community grant. While Baptcare would take the lead in organising the event, DIAAC members would form a sub-committee to assist with detailed planning.

The representative from Baptcare has transitioned to a new role, and no new appointment has been made to join DIAAC at this time. It was noted that three disability expos will be held in Tasmania in October 2025, and it was suggested that the Kingborough event be scheduled for a different month.

### **Proposed Changing Place – Kingston Beach**

Council's facility officer submitted a CAPEX (capital expenditure program) bid for investigation into feasibility of design for the coming financial year.

### **Safety concerns for people using shared pathways**

Concerns were raised regarding safety on local walking tracks, as some cyclists are racing past pedestrians without warning. This is especially problematic during summer due to increased foot traffic, leading to more near-misses. The committee agreed to address this

issue with the Kingborough Council's Bicycle Committee and work on raising awareness about ensuring safety for all users of shared paths.

## **5 CORRESPONDENCE**

Inward:

- Letter received 4 November from Hon Eric Abetz MP, Minister of Transport, re expression of concerns regarding the regulatory framework for wheelchair accessible taxis (WATs) sent by Cr Paula Wriedt on behalf of Council's DIIAC on 30 September.
  - It was suggested that a letter be written to the Hon. Jo Palmer, Minister for Disability Services, requesting that DIAAC be included in the larger consultation process referenced at the end of the letter. The request would also inquire if DIAAC could have representation during the discussion.
- Letter dated 13 November from Hon Felix Ellis MP, Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs regarding door-to door sales in reply to letter sent by Cr Paula Wriedt on behalf of DIAAC on 23 September.
  - As an outcome of the correspondence, Craig Couacaud from CBOS will present on rights relating to charitable collections and door to door sales at the February 2025 meeting.

## **6 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS**

NIL

## **7 OTHER BUSINESS**

- Disability parking permits – concern was raised that some people use other people's disability parking permits. It was also noted that some permit holders may have invisible disabilities.

**NEXT MEETING** – Scheduled for 12 February 2025 at 2PM

## Action Items

What	Who
Create media release to raise awareness of invisible disabilities such as hearing impairment with Chris Barrell from 'Sorry I can't hear you'	Chair, Chris Barrell, EO liaise with Communications
Contact Council's Bicycle Committee to raise safety concerns on shared footpaths, e.g. people with hearing impairment are unable to hear bike bells or warnings from cyclists who travel at high speed.	EO, Anthony Verdouw
Do social media campaign throughout summer 2025 to educate people to consider each other on shared footpaths.	EO liaise with Communications
Follow up with Baptcare regarding a new representative for DIAAC and discuss Disability Expo.	EO
Emergency Evacuation at Kingborough Sports Facilities: Contact State Government and ask the question whether the new facilities being built at the Kingborough Sports Centre could be considered for emergency evacuations.	Chair
Write a letter to the Hon. Jo Palmer, Minister for Disability Services, requesting that DIAAC be included and have a representation during the discussion in the larger consultation process about WATs.	Chair