
**DISABILITY INCLUSION & ACCESS COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GRIFFITH ON
WEDNESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 1:00 PM**

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Confirmation of Minutes
- 3 Business Arising
- 4 Declarations of Interest
- 5 Presentation – Mrs Suzanne Biondo
- 6 Items of Business
- CL01 p5 Employment Opportunities for People with a Disability
- CL02 p9 New Application for Committee Membership
- 7 p12 Outstanding Action Report
- 8 General Business
- 9 Next Meeting

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Councillor Shari Blumer (Chair), Laurie Testoni (Councillor - Alternate), Colin Beaton (Community Representative), Patricia Cox (Community Representative), Marilyn Hams (Community Representative), Simone Murphy (Community Representative), Mike Neville (Community Representative), Val Woodland (Community Representative), Jaimee Damini (Community Representative), Erin Fletcher (Community Representative)

Director Sustainable Development, Bruce Gibbs; Principal Planner Urban Design & Strategic Planning, Peter Badenhorst; Project Planner, Melanie Vella; Community Development Coordinator, Melissa Canzian and Minute Secretary, Hannah Hall

Quorum = 3

If you are unable to attend this meeting please notify the Minute Secretary prior to commencement of the meeting by email or by telephoning Council on 1300 176 077.

This Committee meeting may be attended remotely and recorded by audio or audio-visual means for administrative purposes. No other recording is permitted.

Acknowledgement of Country

Griffith City Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters, and their deep knowledge embedded within the Aboriginal community.

Council further pays respect to the local Wiradjuri Elders, past, present and those emerging, for whom we acknowledge have responsibilities for the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of the local Wiradjuri people.

**DISABILITY INCLUSION & ACCESS COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
WEDNESDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 1:00PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Shari Blumer (Chair), Colin Beaton (Community Representative), Marilyn Hams (Community Representative), Simone Murphy – Via Zoom (Community Representative), Jaimee Damini (Community Representative)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

Director Sustainable Development, Bruce Gibbs, Urban Strategic Design & Major Projects Manager, Peter Badenhurst, Community Development Coordinator, Melissa Canzian and Minute Secretary, Hannah Hall

1 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Jaimee Damini and Colin Beaton that apologies be received from Councillor Laurie Testoni, Patricia Cox, Val Woodland, Erin Fletcher, Mike Neville and Melanie Vella.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Jaimee Damini and Colin Beaton that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 November 2023, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Hanwood Oval Amenities Block – Adult Change Facilities

For the purpose of informing members of the Committee who were not present at the previous Committee meeting, Councillor Blumer reiterated that Council was able to provide an adult change facility in the Hanwood Oval amenities block within the existing budget. The amenities block includes an accessible toilet, plus a dual use room for sporting referees and an adult change facility. The changing facility will be sectioned off with a hospital-like curtain to provide privacy.

3.2 Request from Helen Dalton, Member for Murray

Mr Gibbs advised the Committee that Council had received a letter from Helen Dalton requesting that Council provide an accessible lane at the Griffith Regional Aquatic Centre. Council Blumer suggested that Council obtain more information from Helen Dalton regarding this request. The Committee agreed and Mr Gibbs advised that he would contact Helen Dalton and report back to the Committee in the new year.

Simone Murphy entered the meeting via Zoom, the time being 1:08pm.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

Ms Damini advised the Committee that Kalinda School successfully held a celebration in conjunction with Gralee School, Leeton.

CL02 WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL UPDATE

Councillor Blumer recognised Councillor Testoni's efforts in organising and executing Wheelchair Basketball. One come and try session has been held with children attending from PCYC, and another to be held at 5pm, 7 December 2023. Councillor Blumer asked Committee members to share the Griffith City Council Facebook post.

Marilyn Hams entered the meeting, the time being 1:14pm.

Melissa Canzian entered the meeting, the time being 1:16pm.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Jaimee Damini and Colin Beaton that the report be noted.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

Councillor Blumer informed the Committee that Ashfield has recently opened a Dementia Park, and noted that the Committee could discuss this in the new year. She asked the Committee to have a think about other items for discussion in the new year.

Ms Murphy thanked the Chair and Committee for the positive impact they have had throughout the year, recognising the achievements by the Disability Inclusion and Access Committee. Councillor Blumer concurred.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Disability Inclusion & Access Committee is to be held on Wednesday, 7 February 2024 at 1:00pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 1:26pm.

Confirmed:

CHAIRPERSON

CLAUSE **CL01**

TITLE **Employment Opportunities for People with a Disability**

FROM **Bruce Gibbs, Director Sustainable Development**

TRIM REF **24/7259**

SUMMARY

Council received an email from Mrs Suzanne Biondo requesting that Council consider creating employment opportunities for people with a disability.

Senior Management have referred the email to the Disability Inclusion and Access Committee for discussion.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee discuss.

REPORT

An email was received from Mrs Suzanne Biondo requesting that Council consider creating employment opportunities for people with a disability.

Senior Management have referred the email to the Disability Inclusion and Access Committee for discussion.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 4.3 Provide and promote accessibility to services.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Email Received from Suzanne Biondo [↓](#)

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Brett Stonestreet

From: Personal Assistant to the GM & Mayor
Sent: Friday, 12 January 2024 9:03 AM
To: Brett Stonestreet
Subject: Email from Suzanne Biondo re: Disability Employment - Lewis Biondo
Attachments: Letter - Disability Employment - Lewis Biondo - GM Brett Stonestreet - 10 Jan 2024.pdf

Hi Brett

Please see the email below.

Regards

Kim

Personal Assistant to the GM & Mayor

p 02 6962 8123



Griffith City Council
a 1 Benerembah Street Griffith NSW 2680
p PO Box 485 Griffith NSW 2680
w griffith.nsw.gov.au

Griffith City Council acknowledges and respects the Wiradjuri people as the traditional custodians and ancestors of the land and waters where we work.



From: Suzanne Biondo <sbiondo777@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 11 January 2024 8:43 PM
To: Personal Assistant to the GM & Mayor <pa@griffith.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Cr Doug Curran <dcurran@griffith.com.au>; Cr Anne Napoli <anapoli@griffith.com.au>; Cr Jenny Ellis <jellis@griffith.com.au>; Cr Shari Blumer <sblumer@griffith.com.au>; Shireen Donaldson <Shireen.Donaldson@griffith.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Letter - Disability Employment - Lewis Biondo

Dear Brett,

Thank you for your email. I sense that the purpose of my email may not have been fully grasped. I acknowledge that the council encourages applications from all members of the community and will engage in participating in available disability support programs and funding options. I will monitor the council website for a position for Lewis and we will assist him to apply.

However, I would like to address a separate issue. I believe the council should be actively working towards creating opportunities for individuals with disabilities to integrate into their diverse workplace. The focus should extend beyond providing positions available to the wider community. Relying solely on competition for such positions puts individuals with disabilities at a clear disadvantage. Instead, there should be a concerted effort to offer support in creating employment opportunities that are equitable.

A role designed to accommodate a person with a disability differs from standard positions. Hence, to achieve equity in employment opportunities across a diverse community, it is essential to incorporate special considerations when creating emerging positions accessible to individuals with disabilities seeking employment. Not all individuals with disabilities will fulfill every criterion listed for a job position, but that does not mean they are incapable of performing the job competently. Lewis serves as a prime example, having successfully completed 18 months of work placement and demonstrated his capability to perform the job to a high standard. I believe this highlights a gap in creating equal opportunities for all individuals.

As an example, companies such as Bunnings have taken steps to provide support in generating employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. As a local government organisation, I believe that council should be at the forefront of leading the community in this initiative. I would like an opportunity to discuss this matter further with you and such could you please advise me of a time and date that would be convenient with you.

Regards,

Suzanne Biondo

Mobile: 0419 016 829

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Personal Assistant to the GM & Mayor** <pa@griffith.nsw.gov.au>

Date: Wed, Jan 10, 2024 at 4:52 PM

Subject: Letter - Disability Employment - Lewis Biondo

To: Sbiondo777@gmail.com <Sbiondo777@gmail.com>

Cc: Annie Featherstone <Annie.Featherstone@griffith.nsw.gov.au>

Hello Mrs Biondo

Please see the attached letter from GM Brett Stonestreet.

Regards

Kim Burgess

Personal Assistant to the GM & Mayor

p 02 6962 8123



Griffith City Council
a 1 Benerambah Street Griffith NSW 2680
p PO Box 485 Griffith NSW 2680
w griffith.nsw.gov.au

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OUR CORE VALUES



CLAUSE **CL02**

TITLE **New Application for Committee Membership**

FROM **Hannah Hall, Governance Officer**

TRIM REF **24/10898**

SUMMARY

Council received an application for membership to the Disability Inclusion and Access Committee from Mr Soheil Derakhshan.

RECOMMENDATION

Committee to discuss.

REPORT

Council received an application for membership to the Disability Inclusion and Access Committee from Mr Derakhshan on Thursday 18 January 2024. The application in attachment A includes Mr Derakhshan's experience and qualifications, involvement in other committees and organisations and his reasons for applying to the Committee.

The Committee Terms of reference states that the Disability Inclusion and Access Committee will have nine (9) community representatives. The Committee currently has eight (8) community representatives, leaving one (1) vacancy.

This report asks the Committee to discuss and consider the application from Mr Derakhshan.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 1.2 Actively engage with and seek direction from our community and stakeholders.

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) Application for Committee Membership - Mr Soheil Derakhshan [↓](#) 10



APPLICATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

APPLICATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

| | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|--|
| Title * | Mr | | |
| Full Name * | Soheil Derakhshan | | |
| Residential Address * | Street Address | | |
| | Address Line 2 | | |
| | City | State / Province / Region | |
| | GRIFFITH | NSW | |
| | Postal / Zip Code | Country | |
| | 2680 | Australia | |
| Mailing Address same as Residential Address * | <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | | |
| Mailing Address | Street Address | | |
| | Address Line 2 | | |
| | City | State / Province / Region | |
| | GRIFFITH | NSW | |
| | Postal / Zip Code | Country | |
| | 2680 | Australia | |
| Primary Contact Number * | | | |
| Alternate Contact Number | | | |
| Email Address * | | | |
| If you are applying for more than one Committee you will need to submit separate applications. | | | |
| Name of the Committee for which you are making application * | Disability Inclusion and Access Committee | | |
| Experience and Qualifications * | Capacity Building and Support Officer at MDAA responsible for Riverina Region. Mental Health Certificate 4, NSW TAFE Master Trainer in NLP (Neuro-linguistic programming), Tad James Postgraduate Diploma in Digital Communications, Monash University | | |
| Involvement in Other Committees or Organisations * | I manage the Griffith office of Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association (MDAA) - aiming to promote, protect and secure the rights and interests of people with disability. I am also the secretary of the Rotary Club of Griffith. | | |
| Reason for applying for representation on this Committee * | I believe I have the relevant expertise and experience to contribute to this Committee thereby assist the the Council on matters relating to access and mobility issues particularly in relation to people with disabilities. | | |
| Signature * | | | |

Date *

18-Jan-24

Privacy Protection Notice

- This information is being collected to process your application for Committee membership.
- This information is voluntarily required to process your request and will not be used for any other purpose without seeking your consent, or as required by law.
- Your information may comprise part of a public register related to this purpose.
- This form will be retained in Council's Records Management System and disposed of in accordance with the Local Government Disposal Authority.
- You can access and correct your personal information at any time by contacting Council.
- For further details on how the Griffith City Council manages personal information, please refer to our Privacy Management Plan.

TITLE Outstanding Action Report

TRIM REF 23/162816

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Outstanding Action Report [↓](#)

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ACTION REPORT**DISABILITY INCLUSION AND ACCESS COMMITTEE – 7 February 2024**

| Date of Meeting | Agenda Item | Action | Action Officer | Comment |
|------------------------|---|--|-----------------------|--|
| 6 December 2023 | 3.2 Request from Helen Dalton | Mr Gibbs advised the Committee that Council had received a letter from Helen Dalton requesting that Council provide an accessible lane at the Griffith Regional Aquatic Centre. Council Blumer suggested that Council obtain more information from Helen Dalton regarding this request. The Committee agreed and Mr Gibbs advised that he would contact Helen Dalton and report back to the Committee in the new year. | Bruce Gibbs | |
| 5 July 2023 | CL03 Griffith City Library Accessibility Policy | Councillor Blumer will contact Wagga Wagga City Council to understand their process of engaging with all of their facilities in the hopes of implementing something similar in the Griffith Community. | Shari Blumer | 5/07/2023: Mr Badenhorst advised the Committee that he will provide solutions to the Committee at their next meeting. |
| 5 July 2023 | CL02 Discussion Regarding digital locks for Accessible Toilets | RECOMMENDED on the motion of Col Beaton and Val Woodland that Council investigate the cost and implementation of digital locks on public amenities. | Peter Badenhorst | |
| 2 February 2023 | Adult Change Facilities | Ms Owen to prepare a letter to Griffith City Council and Griffith Sports Council requesting that Adult Change Facilities be installed in at GRSC. | Ms Owen/Ms Damini | 3/5/2023: Ms Owen sent a letter to the GRSC asking that adult change facilities be considered for their venue. Councillor Blumer advised that the issue will Councillor Testoni and the Sports Council will progress this matter. |

| Date of Meeting | Agenda Item | Action | Action Officer | Comment |
|-----------------|---|--|----------------|--|
| 2 February 2023 | Disability Inclusion Action Plan | RECOMMENDED on the motion of Mike Neville and Laurie Testoni that the Committee will investigate and initiate the review process of future Disability Inclusion Action Plans. | Committee | <p>2/2/2023: Current Disability Action Plan to be distributed to Committee Members.</p> <p>Ms Canzian to investigate review date of other Council's Action Plans as to align GCC review with the same date.</p> <p>3/5/2023: The Committee asked that the Committee be consulted when Council conducts yearly reviews of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan.</p> |