Minutes

Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, 5 November 2026

Unconfirmed

MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN
ACCESS AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE MEETING ROOM GUYUGWA (CASUARINA LIBRARY MEETING ROOM), 17 BRADSHAW TERRACE, CASUARINA
ON THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2026 AT 1:30 PM

PRESENT:

Chairperson Tiffany Brown
Council on the Ageing NT Cecilia Chiolero
Community Member Bryony Crowe
Community Member Ella McGugan-Wevill
National Disability Services NT Wendy Morton
Community Member Helen Pachos
Community Member Rikki Dehne
Member Clarence McCarthy-Grogan

OFFICERS:

Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services, Angela O'Donnell
Senior Coordinator Community Inclusion, Andrew Aragala

APOLOGY:

Community Member Jorge Palma
Department of Infrastructure and Logistics Simon Gillam
Department of Lands Planning and Environment Alison Warwick

NOT PRESENT

Community Member Jessica Simmons

GUESTS:

Youth Engagement Officer, Community, Jess Moon

Unconfirmed

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Unconfirmed

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

City of Darwin acknowledges that we are living and working on Larrakia Country. We acknowledge the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of the Darwin region. We pay our respects to the Larrakia elders past and present and support emerging Larrakia leaders now and into the future. City of Darwin is committed to working together with all Larrakia to care for this land and sea for our shared future.

Council on the Ageing NT Cecilia Chiolero was not present at the commencement of the meeting at 1:31 pm.

2 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC036/26

Moved: Community Member Bryony Crowe
Seconded: Community Member Ella McGugan-Wevill

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1:31 pm.

CARRIED 7/0

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC037/26

Moved: National Disability Services NT Wendy Morton
Seconded: Community Member Helen Pachos

THAT an apology from Community Member Jorge Palma, Department of Infrastructure and Logistics Simon Gillam, and Department of Lands Planning and Environment Alison Warwick be received.

CARRIED 7/0

3.2 ABSENCE WITHOUT PERMISSION

NOTED

THAT in accordance with Section 47(1)(o) of the *Local Government Act 2019* Community Member Jessica Simmons was absent from the meeting without permission

3.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

Nil

Unconfirmed

3.4 LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTED

Nil

4 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

4.1 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE GRANTED

Nil

4.2 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE REQUESTED

Nil

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

5.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

Nil

5.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY STAFF

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC038/26

Moved: Community Member Helen Pachos
Seconded: Community Member Ella McGugan-Wevill

That Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting minutes of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting held on 3 September 2026 be amended and confirmed.

CARRIED 7/0

THAT the minutes of the Access and Inclusion Advisorry Committee Meeting held on 3 Septmeber 2026 be confirmed subject to an administrative amendment on item 11 – General Business, to reflect Organisational Member Cecilia Chiolero requested an update on the implementation of the Notice of Motion regarding accessibility and free parking for disability permit holders, previously reported under Committee Resolution AAIAC026/26.

Council on the Ageing NT Cecilia Chiolero joined the meeting at 1:36 pm.

Unconfirmed

7 MOVING OF ITEMS

7.1 MOVING OF ITEMS INTO CONFIDENTIAL

Nil

7.2 MOVING OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS INTO OPEN

Nil

7.3 MOVING CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS TO OPEN AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

Nil

8 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

Nil

9 OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 YOUTH TEAM PROGRAM

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC039/26

Moved: National Disability Services NT Wendy Morton
Seconded: Council on the Ageing NT Cecilia Chiolero

THAT the report entitled Youth Team Program be received and noted.

CARRIED 8/0

9.2 UPDATE ON PARKING FOR DISABILITY PERMIT HOLDERS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC040/26

Moved: Council on the Ageing NT Cecilia Chiolero
Seconded: Community Member Ella McGugan-Wevill

THAT the report entitled Update On Parking For Disability Permit Holders be received and noted.

CARRIED 8/0

Unconfirmed

9.3 COMMITTEE MEETING DATES 2027

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC041/26

Moved: Council on the Ageing NT Cecilia Chiolero
Seconded: Community Member Helen Pachos

1. THAT the report entitled Meeting Dates 2027 received and noted.
2. THAT the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee sets the following schedule for the meetings for the remainder of 2027:
    a. Meetings to be held on Thursdays
    b. Meetings to be held on:
        i. 4 March 2027
        ii. 3 June 2027
        iii. 5 August 2027
        iv. 7 October 2027
    c. Meetings to be held from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm.
    d. Meetings to be held at the Casuarina Library Meeting room with the option to meet online when needed.

CARRIED 8/0

9.4 COMMITTEE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Moved: Chairperson Tiffany Brown
Seconded: Community Member Ella McGugan-Wevill

1. THAT the report entitled Committee Member Spotlight be received and noted.
2. THAT an Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Member Spotlight be trialled as a standing agenda item of the Committee's meeting program for the first meeting in 2027.

CARRIED 7/1

Unconfirmed

10 MEMBER REPORTS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC042/26

Moved: Council on the Ageing NT Cecilia Chiolero
Seconded: Chairperson Tiffany Brown

THAT the following Member verbal updates be received and noted.

Community Member Ella McGugan-Wevill

- Ella provided an update on recent correspondence and meetings with City of Darwin's Community Inclusion Team regarding opportunities to support community access and participation. Ongoing discussions are being undertaken to identify suitable options for community use.

National Disability Services NT Wendy Morton

- Wendy raised concerns regarding changes to disability and community support funding arrangements and the potential impact on service availability and social participation opportunities. Wendy noted that any future accessible programs considered by City of Darwin should be designed to support a broad range of community members affected by service changes, rather than targeting a single cohort.
- Wendy sought information on how City of Darwin is responding to changes in the service delivery landscape. City of Darwin representatives noted that Council's role is limited in relation to Commonwealth-funded service programs (for example, the NDIS); however, Council continues to support community participation, inclusion initiatives, advocacy, and partnerships where appropriate.

Council on the Ageing NT Cecilia Chiolero

- Cecilia noted the importance of considering older people and carers of adults with complex disabilities when designing programs and services. She also emphasised that digital delivery methods may present barriers for some community members and encouraged consideration of alternative access pathways that do not rely solely on technology. Cecilia further noted the value of recognising social support programs as an important component of community wellbeing and inclusion.

Community Member Helen Pachos

- Helen highlighted the needs of carers supporting adults with complex disabilities, including those with significant communication and physical support requirements.

Community member Tiffany Brown

- Tiffany highlighted the needs of the Deaf community and the importance of ensuring information, programs and engagement opportunities are accessible through appropriate communication formats and supports.

CARRIED 8/0

Unconfirmed

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 GENERAL BUSINESS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC043/26

Moved: Community Member Ella McGugan-Wevill
Seconded: Chairperson Tiffany Brown

THAT the following General Business be received and noted.

An update was provided by Andrew Aragala, Senior Inclusion Officer, on progress implementing the Access Strategy.

Key achievements since the previous meeting included accessibility initiatives for the Christmas Pageant, rollout of the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower program, expansion of on-demand Auslan interpreting through Convo Access, the introduction of communication boards, and increased community engagement activities.

The Committee was also updated on current priorities, including digital accessibility improvements, disability access capital works, DiversAbility FUN DAY, and raising awareness of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee across Council.

CARRIED 8/0

12 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the next Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee be held on Thursday 4 March 2027, at 1:30pm (Open Section followed by the Confidential Section), Meeting Room Guyugwa (Casuarina Library Meeting Room), 17 Bradshaw Terrace, Casuarina.

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC044/26

Moved: Member Clarence McCarthy-Grogan
Seconded: Council on the Ageing NT Cecilia Chiolero

THAT the open section of the meeting be adjourned at 3:10 pm.

CARRIED 8/0

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 4 March 2027.

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CHAIR

Unconfirmed