

MINUTES OF THE ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 10 MARCH  
2020 ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL, ANDY MCNEILL ROOM

---

1. **ATTENDANCE**

Mayor Damien Ryan  
Councillor Glen Auricht (Chair)  
Councillor Jimmy Cocking  
Peter Somerville – Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Logistics  
Annemarie Drummond  
Zoe Franey  
Cheryl Knight  
Karen Stewart  
Lucy Markoff – NT Friendship  
Su-san Nagy- Services Australia  
Loyola Grove – Services Australia (*observer*)

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Scott Allen – Director Technical Services  
Kiri Milne – Community Development Officer  
Kristine Capangpangan – Administration Officer (*minutes*)

13th Alice Springs Town Council				
Access Advisory Committee Attendance List 2019/20				
	Aug-19	Dec-19	Mar-20	May-20
Mayor Damien Ryan	✓	✓	✓	
Councillor Glen Auricht	✓	✓	✓	
Councillor Jimmy Cocking	✓	✓	✓	
Peter Somerville	✓	✓	✓	
Annemarie Drummond	✓	A	✓	
Zoe Franey	A	✓	✓	
Cheryl Knight	A	✓	✓	
Carol Muir	✓	--	A	
Brigida Stewart	A	--	--	
Karen Stewart	✓	A	✓	

✓ *Attended*  
 ✓ **Proxy** *Proxy attended in place of committee member*  
 A *Apology Received*  
 -- *No attendance and no apology tendered*

This meeting opened at 1:00pm

**APOLOGIES**

Carol Muir

2. **DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Nil

### 3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Access Advisory committee meeting held 10 December 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

**MOVED:** Peter Somerville

**SECONDED:** Councillor Cocking

**CARRIED**

### 4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

#### **4.1 Mayoral Awards and International Day of People with Disability – (Standing Item)**

Community Development Officer shared with the committee information regarding an article written by Daniel Giles who was the guest speaker at the 2019 Mayoral Awards with regard to his visit at Alice Springs. The committee noted.

The 2020 Mayoral Awards & International Day of People with Disability will be held on Thursday, 3 December 2020. Suggestions for speakers and entertainment ideas for the awards ceremony are encouraged.

#### **4.2 Update on Item 4.3 from Minutes dated 27 August 2019**

##### **ACTION:**

Director Technical Services to provide an update of the onsite visit with Karen Stewart with regard to concerns on the access on Todd Street

#### **4.3 Update on Item 6.1.1 from Minutes dated 10 December 2019**

Director Technical Services reported that the new seating outside the ASALC entrance complies and that no changes are required. The committee noted this.

### 5. **DEPUTATION**

#### **5.1 Lucy Markoff – NT Friendships & Support**

Lucy briefed the committee with information about its services. The following was noted.

- NTFS provide a range of services and support to individuals and families living with a disability and disadvantaged groups
- NTFS recruits, trains and supports workers, carers and volunteers to work in the community
- NTFS offers personalised employment and transition support services to help people identify their job role by determining their own unique skills and talents that is appropriate to them
- A partnership with ASTC commenced on November 2019 with Council currently supporting 8 participants in its Parks Program. NTFS employ support staff to work and train alongside these participants.
- NTFS anticipates expanding to more varied opportunities within Council and other interested businesses in town

The Committee acknowledged and thanked Lucy for her time and presentation.

## **5.2 Su-san Nagy – Services Australia**

Su-san educates staff from various agencies on ways to help customers who have difficulty navigating systems and processes on a number of services.

Services Australia offer a range of health, social and welfare payment services through Medicare, Centrelink and Child Support. More information can be found on <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/>

The Committee acknowledged and thanked Su-san for her time and presentation.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **6.1 Correspondence inwards**

Nil

### **6.2 Correspondence outwards**

Nil

## **7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Committee Priorities for 2020**

Community Development Officer advised the following;

#### Mobility Map

- Technical information regarding water bubblers and ramps has been provided to Council's media team with additional groundwork being undertaken
- An interactive map will be developed by the end of 2020 showing facilities for persons with mobility difficulties including accessible parking, audio tactile traffic lights and service locations. Council will investigate in the later stages whether an option to print will be available.

The committee agreed that an interactive map is a good way forward but believes a printable version should be made available for people without digital access.

#### Charter, Action Plan and Membership

As part of Council's review of Advisory Committees, all committee Charters are being revised. Once updated, the Charter will require endorsement through Council. The Action Plan is also being reviewed by Council and will be actioned when the new Charter is endorsed. Any future updates and progress will be provided to the committee.

The Committee received and noted.

### **7.2 Review of the NDIS Act Report**

A review of the NDIS Act and the development of the NDIS Participant Service Guarantee, has been published on the Department of Social Services website. Independent reviewer David Tune's final report has now been made public, with a summary of the findings and the 29 recommendations made by Mr Tune include in your papers.

#### **What happens next?**

The Government will soon respond to the report and we will provide advice to you on where to read the response once it is issued.

The Government will suggest proposed changes to the legislation, based on the review's findings. This will include setting the proposed Participant Service Guarantee into law.

### **Results of the consultations**

The Review team received 201 submissions nationally, more than 1700 responses to the online survey, and heard directly from people with disabilities, carers, family members and support workers at community workshops and focus groups held all around Australia.

### **What the review recommends**

Mr Tune provided his report to the Australian Government in December 2019. He found the NDIS Act and its accompanying rules are broadly fit for purpose but that some areas of the NDIS Act are unnecessarily rigid and do not allow flexibility. The review made recommendations to improve NDIS processes and remove barriers in the law that make it difficult for the NDIS to effectively support people with disability. Mr Tune made 29 recommendations but overall suggests:

1. Introducing a [Participant Service Guarantee](#) that sets out standards the NDIA must meet including:
  - clear expectations for how long processes will take to complete
  - more transparency in how the NDIA makes their decisions
  - better service delivery from NDIA staff and their Partners in the Community.
2. [Improving people's experience with the NDIS](#) by:
  - providing more flexibility in using NDIS funding
  - allowing plans to be amended
  - participants being provided drafts of their plan before it is approved
  - better supporting children and families
  - clarifying access for people with psychosocial disability
  - providing better connections to supports where markets are undersupplied
  - enhancing online systems so people can track where their requests are up to.
3. [The NDIA and governments working together](#) to:
  - clarify how the NDIS works with other service systems
  - help people navigate, engage with and understand the NDIS
  - create resources that help participants decide which supports they should use.

### **7.3 All Abilities Netball**

The Thorny Devils All Abilities Netball Squad have started their season for 2020. People with disability of any age are welcome to attend Alice Springs Netball Association's All Abilities season, to learn the skills of Netball and get onto the court.

Training is every Tuesday between 4 and 5pm, and games are scheduled Saturdays at midday. For more information please contact Sally on 0423 367 821.

### **7.4 Dance Classes**

In response to interest expressed in the over 50s dance classes run by GUTS Dance studio and facilitated by Lauren Jones, Council is pleased to announce that a pilot program of eight (8) therapeutic dance movement classes tailored towards people living with dementia or experiencing cognitive impairment will take place.

The classes will be held in the Andy McNeill Room each Tuesday from 10:00am to 11:00am, beginning 26 March 2020 and will be a gold coin donation. The program is funded by a partnership between ASTC, Dementia Australia and Disability Advocacy Service. Bookings can be made through Dementia Australia, the Disability Advocacy Service or Council.

The Committee received and noted.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 26 February 2020 at 1:00pm in the Andy McNeill room

The meeting closed at 2:10pm