



## *Disabled in Norwood Payneham and St Peters*

### *Newsletter 2 - October 2012*

#### **NEWS**

##### **Pedestrian Crossings**

I have been informed by the Dept of Transport and Infrastructure that the unsafe pedestrian crossings at the corner of The Parade and Sydenham Rd have been placed on a priority list for upgrading. When, I don't know.

##### **Agenda for Council Meetings**

I have been assured by Lisa Mara, General Manager, Governance & Community Affairs, that "the agenda will be available on the Thursday prior to the Council meeting." This should bring council practice into line with state legislation which requires "three clear days" notice of the agenda. This will give residents more time to read the agenda before the council meeting on the Monday and consult where needed beforehand with councillors, etc.

##### **Disability Action Plan**

The development of a new Disability Action Plan is proceeding at a snail's pace. A report on the old plan was presented in Feb. 2012. A final report on the report was presented at the Oct. meeting. "This report is a follow on from the February 2012 report." "Once this is done I can then commence work on the recruitment (sic) of a consultant." Rosanna Busolin, Manager, Community Services

I have been insistent on being notified about when and where an advertisement is made for this consultant so that we can maximise input.

At the Oct. meeting Ms Busolin agreed under questioning from Cr Sue Whittington that

residents would be consulted **prior** to the development of the new plan – to be re-labelled "Access and Inclusion Plan". Hooray!

The meeting was also informed under questioning from Cr Whittington that council policies and by-laws on footpath use were not being applied because on at least one occasion when an inspector asked for merchandise or an A-frame to be removed, the shopkeeper complained to a councillor – possibly not current. Don't fall over anything!

##### **Coke Park Playground**

At the Sep. council meeting Mayor Bria acknowledged the fact that the installation of drums and bells at Coke Park playground had not been widely advertised prior to their installation.

At the Oct. meeting after extensive discussion a motion was passed which basically approved the dampening of noise from the offending equipment and a further request to SAPOL re patrols. I await with interest the results of these while wishing the petitioners success in their bid to enjoy their properties at night without excessive noise.

#### **DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT 1992 - SECT 3**

##### **Objects**

The objects of this Act are:

- (a) to eliminate, as far as possible, discrimination against persons on the ground of disability in the areas of:

- (i) work, accommodation, education, access to premises, clubs and sport; and
- (ii) the provision of goods, facilities, services and land; and
- (iii) existing laws; and
- (iv) the administration of Commonwealth laws and programs; and

(b) to ensure, as far as practicable, that persons with disabilities have the same rights to equality before the law as the rest of the community; and

(c) to promote recognition and acceptance within the community of the principle that persons with disabilities have the same fundamental rights as the rest of the community.

Public places that need to be accessible for people with a disability include public footpaths and walkways; educational institutions and libraries; all retail and commercial outlets; recreational venues and public toilets; all types of public transport; medical and paramedical services; entertainment and tourist venues; accommodation facilities; financial and legal services; social and sporting clubs; and government offices and services.

The DDA is applied through various Australian Standards and the Building Code of Australia. Further information can be found via the Australian Human Rights webpage: <http://www.hreoc.gov.au/> Click Disability Rights tab.

## PLAYGROUNDS

An assessment of our playgrounds for use by disabled children and older adults (as in UK) is something on my to-do list.



## AN ANECDOTE

Some months ago I was riding east on my mobility scooter past Dillons, slowly, as it was busy. A fellow who had been facing into Dillons inspecting books suddenly stepped back into my path without looking. I stopped and there was no harm done, but a woman walking in the opposite direction immediately began berating me vociferously.

When I assessed the situation later I realised the problem would not have occurred (and there would have been no footpath rage) had the space between the two rows of book tables been sufficient.

This sort of thing would not happen if our footpaths met Australian Standards for disability.

## WHERE TO NOW?

In the current situation with consultation coming up, I plan to develop a Disability Action Plan myself, informed by your input and other research and observation. I will also be pushing for the establishment of an ongoing committee, a common feature for many Australian councils.

Please let me know of your concerns, both your own, and for others, and your willingness to be involved in future consultation.

Please also invite others interested to contact me.

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