



Disabled in Norwood Payneham and St Peters

Newsletter 3 - November 2012

NEWS

Disability Action Plan

Note that this is now being called an Access and Inclusion Action Plan.

Unfortunately the Plan is now not being put out to public tender as I reported previously, but rather offers are being made to a limited number of firms to make submissions for a contract.

I have seen a copy of the document. One feature is that it does include the requirement for public consultation, but this does not include the possibility of the formation of a continuing residents' committee as I have requested verbally. This gives us no formal mechanism for ongoing input to council – rather like having to knock at a closed door to get a message through in contrast to a welcoming hand opening the door for us. A residents' committee is part of many Australian councils' disability action plans.

The brief for potential contractors is very general and it is impossible to say what specific actions might or might not be included in any contractor's submission. It would seem we will need to be well aware of those matters we consider are imperative to be included in the Plan and make sure they are raised before council passes the Plan.

I am really not expecting much news on this matter till next year, but I feel it is important we stay aware of developments and in the meantime bring to council's attention any

specific matters which need handling as a matter of urgency.

In the meantime I have started developing my own Plan to compare with what council comes up with. It will be based on council's current brief, my own observations, information from residents and a broad study of what other councils around Australia are doing, combined with official standards as mentioned in the last newsletter.

THOSE PESKY FOOTPATHS

My interactions with other residents suggest that both the condition of some footpaths in Norwood, Payneham and St Peters and the available pathway on some busy footpaths are problems.



If you are aware of potential trip hazards such as that shown, I suggest you contact council directly as this is an urgent matter. Some councils have a policy of fixing such hazards within 24 hours.

The limitation on available space to pass others is a problem not only on The Parade e.g.



Just getting a mobility scooter past this shop is extremely difficult, let alone trying to pass anyone else. The tables are on the wrong side of the footpath and there are two A-frames contrary to council policy of one only. Someone with major visual difficulties could easily end up on the ground.

I will compile a list of footpath hazards of various types and request that you help by contacting me with details of location and nature of the hazard.

MEDIA SENSATIONALISM



Recently both Channels 7 and 9 have had reports on mobility scooters implying they and their riders are inherently dangerous.

As a scooter rider I value the freedom it gives me, but at the same time respect the need to follow the rules.

On the first report a woman interstate rode her scooter off a railway platform onto the line. What the cause of this was, was not explained, except that there seemed to be a suggestion that scooters are dangerous beasts. **A scooter in good condition stops immediately the rider lets go of the controls. Scooters must be properly maintained.**

In the second instance two ladies on their way to church were hit by a 92-year-old scooter

rider. One of the ladies ended up in hospital with, I think, two broken ankles and I genuinely sympathise with her on this.

Scooters are, in fact, speed limited, the great majority to less than 10 kmh. Suggestions they have been sighted hooning at 20 or more kmh are laughable. The rider is responsible for maintaining a safe speed for the conditions, but in the event of an accident: "As a service to members of the community with disabilities, the Motor Accident Commission provides users of motorised wheelchairs with third party bodily injury insurance cover at no cost. No application is required. However, the insurance only covers your legal liability for injury to other people as a result of an accident involving your motorised wheelchair." This does not apply in all states.

http://www.dpti.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0015/53205/Motorised_Wheelchairs_Safety_And_Law.pdf

NORWOOD PARADE PRECINCT COMMITTEE

I have written a three page letter to the committee, discussing the retail mix on The Parade, the crowding of footpaths, interior layout of shops, lack of social media use by the ageing and disabled. I hope it will bring various issues to their attention and help them realise there are many thing traders can do to improve conditions without actually spending a lot of money.

My purpose with the letter was to improve the knowledge base for traders with respect to the Disability Discrimination Act and its implications, and hopefully improve their willingness to make The Parade a disability-friendly place.

I am giving my thoughts to some of the difficulties inside supermarkets. Please hit me with your ideas on this.

users.adam.com.au/marcia/DisabilityNPSP.html
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