



Disabled in Norwood Payneham and St Peters

Newsletter 6 - June 2013

OUTDOOR DINING POLICY

Yes, the same heading as last time. This matter was not dealt with at the June council meeting but is scheduled for July. Either consult the agenda due out on Council's web page on the Thursday before July 1. Alternatively ring me on 8362 5526 on or after the Friday if you want to go to the council meeting.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Failure of Council to communicate with residents was raised as a matter of serious concern at the meeting of disabled residents/carers, etc. in April.

I would echo those concerns. This impacts not only on the disabled, but residents in general. A recent email to Council had not received any response after a fortnight. A second enquiry revealed that it had been forwarded to a particular staff member who was away ill for some time. I have serious concerns that there is no mechanism to ensure there is a reply which enlightens the original correspondent about the situation and suggests an alternative method of handling the enquiry if required. (This in no way castigates the ill staff member whom I wish well.)

Another problem with communication includes failure to report back to residents on occasion with respect to reports of things that need to be repaired in the council area e.g. footpaths. Communication with the disabled could also be improved if Council developed a voluntary register of disabled.

Often one doesn't know to whom to send an email (or letter if so inclined). The original disappears to a person whose identity is unknown to the sender. Council could benefit from a list of staff terminals and their responsibilities on their web page. This would be similar to the list of councillors already there.

I will follow this up with Council.

TWO VIEWS

I recently heard an older woman express concern that her husband worried about backing out of their driveway because of errant mobility scooter riders on the footpath. In contrast, one of the members of **this** group has expressed concern about drivers backing out of driveways. Two sides of the same coin.

Yes, it is not always easy to know if someone is backing out because of the height of side and front fences. Under Road Rules we all have responsibilities to be careful.

A couple of suggestions. If you are using the footpath, either on a scooter or otherwise, use your **ears** as well as your eyes. If you are backing out of a driveway and there is another person available, get them to check the footpath – otherwise back very slowly so a footpath user has a chance to notice you. And use your horn.

NPSP ACCESS GUIDE

This is progressing slowly, and will be placed online as soon as sufficient content has been generated.

From content already on the page –



Accessible Parking

A reminder that if you are the holder of a Disability Parking Permit and cannot find an accessible parking spot, you can park in ordinary time-limited spaces under the conditions stipulated in Rule 206 of the [Australian Road Rules](#) for longer than normal parking.

Similarly if someone can drop you off in a No Parking zone on somewhere like The Parade you may be able to get closer to the shopping you need to do. See Rule 168.

Do not use either of these rules unless you are satisfied you are entitled to – I give no legal advice.



Buses on The Parade

Buses on The Parade are normally all accessible. In the event of a breakdown they will be replaced by similar buses. To check, phone the depot the day before on 8292 8100 the day before. (Torrens Transit)



A Battery Recharging Plan

Following the pattern of Victoria, the provision of a battery recharging scheme is being pursued. Council has been approached and has agreed in general to the use of Council facilities for this purpose. Other places in the community will be requested to take part if they have appropriate room and a power point. This may help those of you whose trips on scooters and wheelchairs are limited by batteries. Our thanks to Council and the person who raised the idea.



Access to Shops. etc.

I have discovered one business with four large steps. They tell me they have a portable ramp, which they showed me, and which they would put out for customers. Be very careful of any ramps which might have an excessive gradient. While this is limited under various codes we do not wander around with measuring implements in our pockets. **If it doesn't look safe, don't use it.**

ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN

My word from Council today is that “We're in the process of doing consultation with specific groups (i.e. which includes carers and young people). It will be at least 4 weeks before we are ready to start looking at the components of the action plan.”

This does not feel like a very open process – we don't seem to have been asked, although there has already been a lot of input from us.

REPORTING TO COUNCIL

Please report to Council problems such as parking by delivery trucks on footpaths, holes in footpaths, and so on. These are things which are dangerous in general but in particular for people with various disabilities. Be persistent and insist on feedback.

Sometimes this feels like complaining, but if you think about it, it is really attempting to resolve smaller problems before they become larger ones.

FEEDBACK

I much appreciate the feedback I have had from some of you following the last newsletter. Please continue.

It seems we are approaching the time when some more formal organisation should occur and I invite your feelings on that.

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

Ph: 8362 5526
or marcia@adam.com.au