

**CITY OF JOONDALUP**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE SENIORS INTERESTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD  
IN CONFERENCE ROOM 2, JOONDALUP CIVIC CENTRE, BOAS AVENUE,  
JOONDALUP ON WEDNESDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2006**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Committee Members:**

SHARLEEN MANN (Chair)	Industry Representative - Silver Chain	
ALLYN BRYANT	Industry Representative - Association of Independent Retirees	
DIANE DAVIES WHITE	Industry Representative – Seniors Recreation Council of WA (Inc)	
VALERIE COREY	Community Representative	
JOY COLEMAN	Community Representative	<i>from 0946 hrs</i>
PATRICIA GEARY	Community Representative	

**Officers:**

Community Development Officer:	L PIANTA	
Administrative Services Coordinator:	J HARRISON	<i>to 0949 hrs</i>
Minute Clerk	L TAYLOR	

**In Attendance:**

Jeanette McDonald	Community Vision Inc
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**DECLARATION OF OPENING**

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 0940 hrs.

**APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Apologies

Margaret March	Community Representative
Peter Boam	Industry Representative – WA Retirement Complexes Residents Association

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****MINUTES OF THE SENIORS INTERESTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 18 MAY 2005 AND 2 NOVEMBER 2005**

The minutes of the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee meeting held on 18 May 2005 were submitted to the meeting held on 3 August 2005 for confirmation, however not confirmed by the Committee at that time as transition was occurring between the previous and current Committees.

The minutes were held over until the next meeting. Confirmation was subsequently overlooked at the meeting held on 2 November 2005. As a result, the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2005 still require confirmation.

**MOVED Allyn Bryant, SECONDED Diane Davies-White that the minutes of the meetings of the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee held on 18 May 2005 and 2 November 2005 be confirmed as a true and correct record.**

**The Motion was Put and**

**CARRIED (5/0)**

**In favour of the Motion: Sharleen Mann, Allyn Bryant, Diane Davies-White, Valerie Corey and Patricia Geary**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION****Resignation of Representative from National Seniors**

It was advised that an email had been received from National Seniors, advising that Ms Valerie O'Toole is no longer employed by that organisation and therefore resigned from the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee.

To a query raised in relation to a replacement from the organisation of National Seniors, it was advised reference would be made to the Council decision with regard to membership, with current members being advised by email of the outcome.

**Feedback from Commissioners**

It was advised that at the Council meeting of 13/12/2005, Cmr Smith requested that comments be conveyed to the Committee to the effect that it is pleasing to see the Committee has commenced well, taking a very strategic approach to the work being undertaken.

Cmr Paterson thanked Mr Allyn Bryant for attending Council meetings, representing seniors interests.

**DECLARATIONS OF FINANCIAL INTEREST**

Nil.

**IDENTIFICATION OF MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY SIT BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**

Not Applicable.

## PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

Nil.

## REPORTS

### ITEM 1      **STANDING ORDERS LOCAL LAW 2005 - [01369]**

**WARD:**              All

**RESPONSIBLE**    Mr Garry Hunt  
**DIRECTOR:**      Office of CEO

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## PURPOSE

To note the introduction of the Standing Orders Local Law 2005 and the matters contained therein, and note the order of business for meetings of the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Standing Orders Local Law 2005 was adopted by Council on 22 November 2005 and came into operation on 3 January 2006.

It is recommended that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee notes the introduction of the Standing Orders Local Laws 2005 and the matters contained therein, and the order of business for its meetings in line with this local law.

## BACKGROUND

With the split of the former City of Wanneroo on 1 July 1998, all the local laws of the former City of Wanneroo became the local laws of the City of Joondalup.

Since that time there has been a concerted effort to review those former local laws and revise them to better reflect the operations of the City of Joondalup. This also allowed the City to have a complete and updated set of enforceable local laws. The comprehensive review of the Standing Orders Local Law was the final local law reviewed from the former City of Wanneroo. This review initially commenced in late 1999 and at its meeting held on 22 November 2005 the Council adopted the Standing Orders Local Law 2005. This local law was gazetted on 20 December 2005 and came into operation on 3 January 2006.

## DETAILS

The Standing Orders Local Law 2005, which came into effect on 3 January 2006, provides a set of procedures to *“assist in the good conduct of meetings of the Council, of committees and of the electors.”*

This local law has been based on the best practice principles of well-structured agendas that are short and sharp, which allows sufficient time to debate, and set policy and strategy to achieve the best results for the community.

A copy of the Standing Orders Local Law 2005 has been provided to Committee members for their information.

**Issues and options considered:**

Order of Business

The following clauses of the Standing Orders Local Law relate to the order of business at committee meetings:

**Clause 14 (2) states:**

*The items of business to be dealt with at an ordinary meeting of the committee are set out in paragraphs (a) to (m) inclusive of this sub clause. The order in which those items are to be dealt with, is as resolved by the committee, from time to time. In the absence of a resolution of the committee, the order is as follows:*

- (a) Declaration of opening
- (b) Public question time
- (c) Public statement time
- (d) Apologies/leave of absence
- (e) Confirmation of minutes
- (f) Announcements by the presiding person without discussion
- (g) Declarations of interests
- (h) Identification of matters for which the meeting may sit behind closed doors
- (i) Petitions and deputations
- (j) Reports
- (k) Motions of which previous notice has been given
- (l) Requests for reports for future consideration; and
- (m) Closure

**Clause 15(7) states:**

*“Notwithstanding clause 14(2) there is to be no public question time in meetings of committees other than a committee to which the local government has delegated a power or duty.”*

**Clause 16(2) states:**

*“Notwithstanding clause 14(2) there is to be no public statement time in meetings of committees other than a committee to which the local government has delegated a power or duty.”*

The Seniors Interests Advisory Committee has not been delegated a power or duty, therefore its order of business will not contain items relating to Public Question Time or Public Statement Time.

Voting

For the purpose of recording of minutes of committee meetings, the attention of the Committee is drawn to the requirement of Clause 13(3) of the local law, which states:

*“For each motion and amendment, the minutes of the meeting are to record the names of members voting in the affirmative and the names of members voting in the negative.”*

**Link to Strategic Plan:**

*Outcomes:*

*The City of Joondalup is an interactive community.*

*Objectives:*

- 4.3 *To ensure the City responds to and communicates with the community.*

*Strategies*

- 4.3.3 *Provide fair and transparent decision-making processes.*

**Legislation – Statutory Provisions:**

*Local Government Act 1995*

- 5.21 (1) *Each council member and each member of a committee who is present at a meeting of the council or committee is entitled to one vote.*
- (2) *Subject to section 5.67, each council member and each member of a committee to which a local government power or duty has been delegated who is present at a meeting of the council or committee is to vote.*
- (3) *If the votes of members present at a council or a committee meeting are equally divided, the person presiding is to cast a second vote.*
- (4) *If a member of a council or a committee specifically requests that there be recorded-*
- (a) *his or her vote; or*
- (b) *the vote of all members present,*
- on a matter voted on at a meeting of the council or the committee, the person presiding is to cause the vote or votes, as the case may be, to be recorded in the minutes.*

*Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996.*

9. *Voting at a council or committee meeting is to be conducted so that no voter's vote is secret.*

**Risk Management considerations:**

All Council and committee meetings must comply with the requirements of the Standing Orders Local Law 2005.

**Financial/Budget Implications:**

Not applicable

**Policy implications:**

Not applicable

**Regional Significance:**

Not applicable

**Sustainability implications:**

Nil

**Consultation:**

Nil

**COMMENT**

The Standing Orders Local Law 2005 governs the conduct of Council and committee meetings and requires to be drawn to the attention of Committee members.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

**VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority

*Joy Coleman entered the Room at 0946 hrs.*

**MOVED** Allyn Bryant, **SECONDED** Diane Davies-White that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee **NOTES:**

**1** the following order of business for its meetings:

- (a) Declaration of opening
- (b) Apologies/leave of absence
- (c) Confirmation of minutes
- (d) Announcements by the presiding person without discussion
- (e) Declarations of interests
- (f) Identification of matters for which the meeting may sit behind closed doors
- (g) Petitions and deputations
- (h) Reports
- (i) Motions of which previous notice has been given
- (j) Requests for reports for future consideration
- (k) Closure

- 2 that for each motion and amendment, the minutes of committee meetings are to record the names of members voting in the affirmative and the names of members voting in the negative.**

Administrative Services Coordinator spoke to the motion and provided an explanation to committee members with regard to the Standing Orders Local Law 2005 and what this would mean with respect to the operation of the committee. Queries were raised in relation to the heading "Identification of matters for which the meeting may sit behind closed doors" and the appropriateness of invited guests being part of the meeting should such items be dealt with at any given time.

It was advised that the committee does not have the ability to alter the Order of Business, only to vary the sequence the order of Items of business may appear in.

Committee members were provided with a copy of the current Standing Orders Local Law 2005.

**The Motion was Put and**

**CARRIED (6/0)**

**In favour of the Motion:** Sharleen Mann, Allyn Bryant, Diane Davies-White, Valerie Corey, Patricia Geary and Joy Coleman

*Administrative Services Coordinator left the Room at 0949 hrs.*

## **ITEM 2 FUTURE PLANNING AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF THE SENIORS INTERESTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - [55511]**

**WARD:** All

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:** Mr Clayton Higham  
Director Planning and Community Development

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### **PURPOSE**

To enable members of the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee to contribute to future planning processes and the strategic direction of the Committee by actively participation in identifying and prioritising key strategic focus areas for 2006.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Committee has commenced the process of identifying and prioritising its key strategic focus areas for 2006 and beyond. Through participation in workshops, the Committee identified: current important issues and priorities for seniors and their local impact; the practical application of the Committee's role; and the strengths and gaps of the Seniors Plan.

To facilitate progression of the process, it is recommended that the Committee engage in further discussion of the workshop information, and that the Committee: identify and prioritise key focus areas and action ways to progress these in 2006 and beyond.

## BACKGROUND

The formal concept for the Committee began as a Council resolution to elect an Occasional Seniors Advisory Committee on 25 September 2001, which evolved into the Strategic Advisory Committee – Seniors Interests at the Council meeting of 9 October 2001. Initial membership was established at the Council meeting of 18 December 2001. At its meeting of 3 September 2002, Council resolved to remove “Strategic Advisory” from all Council Committees and the Committee became the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee.

The Committee was established because Council identified: the benefit of receiving advice from seniors who reside in the City of Joondalup; an ageing population; and the need for community input into the Seniors Plan.

As stated in the Terms of Reference, the objective of the Committee is to:

- 3.1 Provide advice to council to ensure that the concerns of seniors are adequately represented in the City’s planning processes and the strategic directions being developed for older people across the City.

## DETAILS

To assist in the process of future planning and the strategic direction of the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee, members workshopped a range of questions and statements at Committee meetings of 3 August 2005 and 2 November 2005. Officers from the City facilitated the workshops.

Committee members were asked to focus on six questions / statements, these were:

- What are current relevant and important issues for seniors?
  - How do these issues impact upon seniors locally?
  - What is your perception of the role of the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee? See Terms of Reference Objective 3.1.
  - How can Objective 3.1 be practically and effectively applied?
  - What are the current priorities for the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee?
  - Please browse through the Seniors Plan.
- (a) What strengths can you identify?
- (b) What gaps do you see?

Committee members identified the following issues (local and generally) as being important for seniors:

- Health;
- Personal safety;
- Transport – accessible and affordable;
- Access to information – what services are available, appropriateness of print (size etc), internet, life issues;
- Entertainment;
- Family support;
- Social isolation – loneliness, language barriers, health;



- Financial difficulties – lack of finances;
- Positive image of age;
- Staying active - exercise;
- Future accommodation needs – contract advise/legal advice issues, retirement, access to aged care facilities, (appears to be enough locally).

The Committee identified the role of the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee to:

- Advise Council;
- Identify and represent important issues for seniors;
- Advocate;
- Make recommendations;
- Ensure seniors get the most value out of rates;
- Make budget recommendations;
- Ensure that Council's minutes reflect the Committee's meetings;
- Ensure that actions are followed up and implemented;
- Make certain that seniors have a better quality of life and participate in their community;
- Plan more positive ageing seminars in other suburbs;
- Interface with other Council Committees;
- Ensure that "a seniors voice" be fed into Council publications i.e. Council News, Desk of the CEO.

The following information relates to a question about the practical application of the Committee's Terms of Reference objective, which is to:

- 3.1 Provide advice to Council to ensure that the concerns of seniors are adequately represented in the City's planning processes and the strategic directions being developed for older people across the City.

The question asked how can the objective be practically and effectively applied? Committee members stated that:

- A letter could be sent to all seniors asking what they think;
- Committee members have a responsibility to feedback to the Committee from their various community networks i.e. agendas and reports;
- Members to be actively involved in the Committee: to say what they think;
- Committee members stay in touch with the Community Development Officer regarding any issues.

The outcome of Committee members discussing the Seniors Plan 2004 – 2008: specifically the plan's strengths and gaps are as follows.

Strengths:

- Financial Counselling workshops for seniors;
- City Watch Program;
- Provision of information;
- Shop front information idea;
- Advocacy role taken by Council;
- Ongoing review of policies that affect seniors;
- Volunteer Centre.

**Gaps:**

- Consideration of inactive seniors;
- Enhancement of issues including elder abuse and neighbourly help for seniors (community);
- Health – advocacy for more bulk billing or seniors clinics;
- Safety in the home – ongoing issue;
- Seniors Plan review time too long – suggest 2 years;
- More promotion of seniors events in news media to encourage positive image;
- Monthly Seniors Circle at libraries – evaluate attendance;
- More time allotted to computer training;
- Information dissemination is an issue;
- Financial counseling workshops could be offered through Library programs;
- More strategies needed for community safety - security is important.

This comprehensive information, gathered from a workshop and discussions on 3 August 2005 and 2 November 2005 respectively, will be further discussed when the Committee meets on 1 February 2006. The aim of further discussion being, to enable the Committee to identify and prioritise its key strategic focus areas for 2006.

**Link to Strategic Plan:**

The Seniors Interests Advisory Committee and the Seniors Plan 2004 – 2008 are linked to the Strategic Plan through the plan's objectives, which include:

- 1.1 To develop, provide and promote a diverse range of lifelong learning opportunities.
- 1.3 To continue to provide services that meets the changing needs of a diverse and growing community.
- 1.4 To work with the community to enhance safety and security in a healthy environment.
- 3.3 To continue to meet changing demographic needs.
- 4.3 To ensure the City responds to and communicates with the community.

**Legislation – Statutory Provisions:**

The Seniors Interests Advisory Committee is an official Council Committee whose Terms of Reference are endorsed by Council.

**Risk Management considerations:**

Not Applicable.

**Financial/Budget Implications:**

Not Applicable.

**Policy Implications:**

Not Applicable.

**Regional Significance:**

The Seniors Interests Advisory Committee is fundamentally a locally focused working group, established by Council to advocate for the needs of seniors within the City of Joondalup. The Committee's participation in future planning processes and subsequent strategic direction for the needs of seniors within the City is crucial. It provides a mechanism or process whereby the interests of seniors can be represented, where concerns, needs and issues can be identified by appropriate people, and where recommendations can be made to Council through legitimate formal processes.

Although there may be some issues unique to seniors within the City of Joondalup, it is probable that they are likely to have similar concerns as many seniors throughout the state and Australia. Therefore, whilst focusing and operating at a local level, the Committee has and does consider issues that impact upon seniors from regional, state and national perspectives.

**Sustainability Implications:**

The active participation of members of the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee in future planning for their community is crucial in order to develop and grow a healthy, equitable, active and involved community that will sustain provision of services for seniors that: considers their needs, are relevant and appropriate.

**Consultation:**

Not Applicable.

**COMMENT**

The recommendation that the Committee note the information from the recent workshop, is followed by the recommendation that members action information gathered, by a process of engaging in further discussion at this meeting, to identify and prioritise key focus areas to enable the development of a proposal outlining the strategic direction of the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee for 2006 and beyond.

This process is consistent with and complements Committee participation in the review of the Seniors Plan 2004 – 2008. Furthermore, both recommendations reflect sustainability, community development best practices and the intent of Seniors Interests Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, Seniors Plan 2004–2008 and the Access and Inclusion Plan 2004 –2008.

The effectiveness of the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee is dependant on Committee members actively participating in, and contributing to processes, which inform the future planning and strategic direction of the Committee.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1            Combined workshop notes for 3 August and 2 November 2005  
Attachment 2            Seniors Plan 2004 - 2008

**VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:** That it be recommended that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee:

- 1        NOTES the combined information from workshop discussions on 3 August and 2 November 2005;
- 2        DISCUSSES the information from the workshop and discussions on 3 August and 2 November 2005, identify and prioritise the Committee's key strategic focus areas for 2006 and how the Committee could progress them.

**MOVED Allyn Bryant, SECONDED Diane Davies-White that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee REQUESTS Council to look into health matters at the Joondalup Health Campus.**

**The Motion was Put and**

**CARRIED (6/0)**

**In favour of the Motion:**    Sharleen Mann, Allyn Bryant, Diane Davies-White, Valerie Corey, Patricia Geary and Joy Coleman

**MOVED Allyn Bryant, SECONDED Diane Davies-White that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee:**

- 1        **NOTES the combined information from workshop discussions on 3 August and 2 November 2005;**
- 2        **SEEKS Council direction on the best options for progressing the following:**
  - **Health issues related to seniors;**
  - **Access to Information;**
  - **Transport Accessibility and Affordability;**
  - **Entertainment/GOLD Program**

Discussion ensued, with further investigation required to be undertaken in relation to:

➤    **Access to Information**

To a query raised as to whether an information day / seminar, similar to the Living Now event held last year would be held again this year: options included that it may be more appropriate to hold a range of workshops and / or information seminars throughout the City of Joondalup, at different venues, over a week or few days rather than a single event, concentrated at one centre.

➤ Directory of Information

It was advised that as previously proposed to the committee, it is envisaged that the updated directory will differ in style, format and presentation from the previous directory, so as to make the directory more contemporary, relevant and "user-friendly" for the target group. Once finalised, it was suggested that the launch of the directory be incorporated into the proposed information/workshop seminars. Committee members were of the opinion that the information contained within the directory should be reviewed/updated on an annual basis, with the directory being available on the City of Joondalup website.

A copy of the directory "in progress" will be presented to the next meeting for comment.

➤ Joondalup CAT Bus

Inquiries to be undertaken as to whether the front step of the bus has the capability of being lowered. Concerns raised in relation to the condition of the bus stop area at the Joondalup Health Campus. For those seniors who may experience difficulty walking any great distance, it was felt it may be more appropriate for the bus to be stopping at the entrance to the hospital itself. Community Development Officer and Mrs Valerie Corey to arrange a suitable time to ride the route taken by the bus to evaluate concerns raised.

➤ Chairman's Column in Community newspaper and Council News

To a query raised by Mr Allyn Bryant as to the current status of including information in both publications, it was requested that this matter be followed up, with a view to articles being included on seniors related issues.

➤ Seniors Circle held at the Library – what has the attendance been like?

➤ Senior Events/GOLD Program

Inquiries to be undertaken about the possibility of inclusion and participation of seniors in the up-coming 2006 Joondalup Festival and in the 2007 Festival. Specifically, consideration be given to the feasibility of entering a float 'manned' by seniors, or seniors representation in the parade in the upcoming 2006 Joondalup Festival.

Consideration be given to the possibility of including or linking this with the GOLD Program as an activity offered to seniors.

Discussions to be undertaken with Culture & Arts and Craigie Leisure Centre GOLD program coordinator, in this regard.

➤ Minutes of the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee

It was agreed that minutes of meetings be provided to committee members as soon as is practicable after the holding of a meeting, as opposed to being distributed with forthcoming agendas. Committee members felt that such action would allow them time to reflect upon issues raised and discussions held, enabling appropriate time to formulate ideas, thoughts and actions.

**The Motion was Put and**

**CARRIED (6/0)**

**In favour of the Motion: Sharleen Mann, Allyn Bryant, Diane Davies-White, Valerie Corey, Patricia Geary and Joy Coleman**

**ITEM 3 ACCESS AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES - [55511]****WARD:** All**RESPONSIBLE  
DIRECTOR:** Mr Clayton Higham  
Director Planning and Community Development

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**PURPOSE**

To provide the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee members with information on two access and inclusion initiatives with potential positive benefits for some seniors.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

City of Joondalup officers have been involved in two access and inclusion funding proposals through the Independent Living Centre of WA (Inc): Equipment for Living Grants. A City officer initiated the "Beach Wheelchair" project whilst City officers worked with the Cerebral Palsy Association of WA (Inc) on the "Libraries for All" project. The "Beach Wheelchair" proposal received funding; the "Libraries for All" proposal did not receive funding.

Both funding proposals are strongly aligned with objectives and strategies of the City's Access and Inclusion Plan 2004 –2008 and the Strategic Plan 2003 –2008.

**BACKGROUND**

Access and Inclusion is about all members of the community having the choice and opportunity to fully participate in their community.

The City's Access and Inclusion Plan aims to ensure that the City's facilities, functions and services are accessible for all people. Whilst it is essential that the Plan incorporates the needs of people with disabilities, it is important to recognize and accommodate the myriad of access and inclusion issues that affect a wide cross -section of the community. This may include issues that impact upon seniors, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, parents and young people.

The Access and Inclusion Plan 2004 – 2008, was developed to direct and guide the efforts of the City in its access and inclusion work for residents and visitors. The initial Disability Service Plan was completed in 1996, becoming part of the City's working structure for the next five years. In 2002, the City engaged consultants Sanderson-Green to review the effectiveness of the plan, consult with people with disabilities and to develop a new plan. At the time of consultation, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2001 Census information showed that about 20% of the general population, had a disability.

In 2003 the plan was further updated and modified, with a the draft plan being further developed and updated to incorporate the City's Strategic Plan 2003-2008, resulting in the current operational Access and Inclusion Plan 2004 – 2008.

The two very different access and inclusion funding proposals complement the City's Strategic Plan Community Wellbeing strategies:

1.3.1 Provide leisure and recreational activities aligned to community expectations, incorporating innovative opportunities for today's environment.

1.3.3 Provide support, information and resources.

## **DETAILS**

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2001 figures indicate that within Western Australia, 381,500 people have some level of disability whilst a further 200,000 people provide care and support for significant others (family, friends, partners) with disabilities. It is generally accepted that approximately 20% of the population has a disability. The ABS 2001 Census then equates to about 30,000 people: 20% of the City's residential population.

This figure does not include those who are indirectly affected by disability i.e. friends, family and partners whose lives are impacted upon daily through the provision of care and support for someone with a disability, or other residents with access and inclusion issues, or people from groups who do not reside in the City but who may need to know about and access the City's services, facilities or activities. The number of people for whom access and inclusion issues are important both directly and indirectly, represents a significant proportion of the City's residents; far greater than the 30,000 people with a disability identified through the ABS Census 2001 figures.

In November 2005 the City was involved in the submission of two Independent Living Centre of WA (Inc) Equipment for Living Local Government / Disability Provider Grants.

The grant applications were quite different: the first, prepared and submitted by the City's Recreation Services, was for funds to purchase a Beach Wheelchair to be used at Mullaloo Beach. The second application, which was to fund a project called "Libraries for All" was submitted by the Cerebral Palsy Association of Western Australia (CPAWA), in partnership with Joondalup Library. Officers from Joondalup Library and Community Services contributed to the funding submission by way of providing specific library and access and inclusion information.

### **The Beach Wheelchair Project**

In late December 2005, the City was advised that its application for a beach wheelchair was successful. The beach wheelchair that will be purchased is a Free Wheeler Beach Wheelchair costing \$3,800.00. This beach wheelchair was recommended to the City by the Disabled Surfers Association, which has tested several wheelchairs and has found this one to be of an excellent standard. Additionally this wheelchair has the advantage of being able to be folded away for storage.

The purchase of a beach wheelchair will increase access to Mullaloo Beach for people with a range of disabilities, enabling those people to participate in recreation and leisure activities at the beach whilst enjoying the whole beach environment. A carer will be required to assist with the operation of the wheelchair. The wheelchair is likely to be beneficial and provide enjoyment for individuals as well as those indirectly impacted upon by disability including carers, family and friends.

The wheelchair would be available to members of the community at no cost. Mullaloo Beach is seen as an ideal site for the wheelchair as it has existing infrastructure to support the availability and use of a beach wheelchair. It has wheelchair access parking bays, wheelchair accessible toilets and a ramp to the sand. Additionally and importantly, the Mullaloo Surf Life Saving Club supports this initiative and will be involved in access to and use of the wheelchair.

Availability of the beach wheelchair will be widely publicised and will include: Council News; a media release; the Directory; flyers at leisure centres, libraries, seniors centres and customer service centres; the community newspaper; City of Joondalup website and the Community Directory.

### **Libraries for All Project**

In late December 2005, the Cerebral Palsy Association of WA (CPAWA) was advised that its application was funding to purchase visual tools and to implement the project, was not approved. Although the project was highly praised, it did not meet the assessment criteria in terms of "equipment."

Cerebral Palsy is a permanent physical condition that affects movement. Sometimes the movements of people with cerebral palsy can be unpredictable, muscles can be stiff or tight, and in some cases people may have shaky movements or tremors. Some people may have seizures and other impairments affecting their speech, vision, hearing and/or intellect.

The "Libraries for All" project is scheme that operates in Victoria. Fundamentally, it is based on providing equipment: materials and software for the development of communication supports. The equipment includes: photo boards; communication boards; and alphabet boards with vocabulary specific to the local area. The equipment would increase participation as libraries are key community facilities, providing a range of social, cultural, leisure, recreation activity information to community members of all ages. Communication equipment and supports would ensure that libraries and library services are accessible to people with communication difficulties, allowing all people the opportunity to utilize the library fully with maximum independence.

The CPAWA chose this project as it has identified a significant number of people, with cerebral palsy living in the City of Joondalup, who would be greatly assisted by having the scheme operating in City libraries. Initially seen as a trial project at Joondalup Library, the scheme could potentially be implemented in all City libraries.

Evaluation of the scheme in Victoria has shown that although "Libraries for All" was originally intended to benefit people with disabilities, it has been shown that seniors and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds also benefit from the communication equipment.

### **Link to Strategic Plan:**

The Key focus Area of Community Wellbeing, its objectives and strategies link the Access and Inclusion Plan with the City's Strategic Plan.

- 1.3 To continue to provide services that meet changing needs of a diverse and Growing community.



1.3.1 Provide leisure and recreational activities aligned to community expectations, incorporating innovative opportunities for today's environment.

1.3.2 Provide quality of life opportunities for all community members.

1.3.4 Provide support, information and resources.

### **Legislation – Statutory Provisions:**

The Western Australian Disability Services Act (1993) Part 5, Section 28 requires state government agencies and local government authorities to develop and implement a disability service (Access and Inclusion) plan. It is required that actions taken by the city are reported publicly on an annual basis.

Other relevant Acts are:

- Western Australian Equal Opportunity Act (1984);
- Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act (1992).

### **Risk Management considerations:**

Not Applicable.

### **Financial/Budget Implications:**

Not Applicable.

### **Policy Implications:**

Not Applicable.

### **Regional Significance:**

The Access and Inclusion Plan was specifically developed and implemented for City residents impacted upon by disability. Although the plan is a local initiative responding to contemporary universal disability and access and inclusion trends, it does not exist in isolation: it is underpinned by state and commonwealth legislation which requires similar plans from other state and commonwealth agencies. Whilst the plan focuses on the needs of City residents with a disability and/or access and inclusion issues, indirectly it is significant for and impacts upon others beyond the City i.e. tourists, people visiting with someone with a disability who lives in the City, students attending TAFE or ECU, agencies located elsewhere providing information and/or services, people who work in the City but live elsewhere.

### **Sustainability Implications:**

The Access and Inclusion Plan has a range of objectives, strategies, actions, performance indicators and a review process, which ensures its sustainability. Additionally, sustainability will be ensured by legislative and associated reporting requirements along with the City's commitment to amending and changing the plan to reflect its diverse, changing and growing community. Activities such as grants received by the City, are subject to best practice standards including sustainability.

**Consultation:**

Not Applicable.

**COMMENT**

Initiatives such as the two project proposals complement the intent of the Access and Inclusion Plan. Providing opportunities for people to have choices to fully access facilities and to participate in the City's programs, activities and events, assists to address issues of disadvantage, inequity, access and inclusion for a significant proportion of the City's residents.

The CPAWA and City officers intend to explore other grant options to obtain appropriate funding, which will enable the "Libraries for All" project to be implemented. This will include the Disability Services Commission: Services Improvement Grant scheme.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1          Access and Inclusion Plan 2004 -2008

**VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority

**MOVED** Joy Coleman, **SECONDED** Pat Geary that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee **NOTES** the information on access and inclusion initiatives forming Appendix 5 to Item 3.

**The Motion was Put and**

**CARRIED (6/0)**

**In favour of the Motion:** Sharleen Mann, Allyn Bryant, Diane Davies-White, Valerie Corey, Patricia Geary and Joy Coleman

**MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

Nil.

**REQUESTS FOR REPORTS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

Nil.

**CLOSURE**

The Chairperson advised the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 5 April 2006 and closed the meeting at 1122 hrs.