# Disability Advisory Committee Annual Report 2026

The Terms of Reference for the Knox Disability Advisory Committee requires an annual report to be developed that is aligned with the Community and Council Plans and in line with the Committee's objectives, which are:

- To report to Council on its work and advise Council of strategic issues regarding Knox residents with disabilities, their families and carers;
- To assist Council in the development of policy and action planning about issues of access and inclusion;
- To work with Council officers to ensure that all of Council's policies, programs and protocols reflect the needs and rights of residents with disabilities, their families and carers;
- To provide a central point for Council and the Knox community for the identification of issues relevant to people with disabilities, their families and carers; and
- To promote disability awareness within Council and the wider Knox community.

## Key Issues considered by the Disability Advisory Committee in 2026

| Topic | Action | Outcome |
|---|---|---|
| Knox Mobility and Access Action Plan<br><br>October 2025 | Traffic and Transport presented the draft MAAP and thanked KDAC for previous involvement in the development of the plan. | KDAC provided feedback on the draft plan and undertook an activity to priortising the actions listed in the draft MAAP plan. |
| Interchange Outer East agency overview and update<br><br>October 2025 | Interchange Outer East provided an overview of the services and supports they provide for people with a disability and families in Knox. | KDAC were provided with information to share with networks on a service supporting people with a disability, families and carers in Knox. |
| Volunteering at Knox events<br><br>October 2025 | Disability Inclusion Team presented Knox Council opportunities for volunteering and sort feedback on inclusive volunteering. | KDAC provided feedback on how Knox Council can ensure volunteering opportunities are accessible and inclusive for people with a disability including training, preparation and support. |
| Knox Open Space Strategy<br><br>Dec 2025 | Strategic Infrastructure Team provided an overview of the development of Knox Open Space Strategy and sort feedback on priority features to be considered. | KDAC provided feedback and input on the draft strategy including how parks and open spaces can be designed to be more inclusive and accessible. The committee participated in an activity looking at parks of the future. |

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| EACH overview and update<br><br>Dec 2025 | EACH provided an overview of the services provided by EACH to residents in Knox. | KDAC were provided with information on the services and supports EACH provide to community including disability, health, mental health, counselling supports and housing. Committee able to share information with networks regarding services available for people with a disability, families and carers in Knox. |
| Amenity Local Law review<br>Feb 2026 | Local Laws presented the Local Law review and gathered feedback from the group. | KDAC provided feedback on gaps and opportunities to be considered via the review to address access and equity. |
| Employment opportunities for people with a disability<br>31 March 2026 | Presentation from Belonging Matters Community Employment Program regarding developing individualized employment options. | KDAC informed about an employment program that is based in Knox, not reliant on NDIA funding and available for people with a disability. Information shared with networks. |
| Knox Council Festivals and Events<br>2 June 2026 | Arts & Cultural Services presented an overview of the program of events and sort feedback on access and inclusion. | KDAC provided feedback on accessibility of Knox Fest and other events including what Knox does well and what we could do better. |
| Knox Inclusion Logo<br><br>2 June 2026 | Customer and Communications presented a draft proposal for the development of an inclusion logo for Council communications. | KDAC provided feedback on the draft proposal. |
| Multi-advisory committee meeting<br><br>22 July 2026 | Council arranged a multi-advisory committee meeting covering a number of engagement topics. | KDAC attended and provided feedback on -<br>○ Annual Plan and budget 2027 – 2028<br>○ Community Safety<br>○ Integrated Transport Strategy<br>○ Green Streets Policy Review<br>○ Heart of Knox (Knox Central)<br><br>Valued opportunity to hear views and feedback from other advisory committees and work collaboratively. |

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|---|---|---|
| Supporting Siblings of children and adults with disability<br><br>4 August 2026 | Siblings Australia presentation regarding supports and programs they run to support siblings. | Presentation provided information for Council and KDAC to share with networks and disability community to better support families and siblings. |
| Inclusion messaging<br><br>4 August 2026 | Disability Inclusion team ran an activity regarding important inclusion messages for staff and community. | Committee members contributed valuable insights and priority messages to support disability inclusion. |
| Thriving Kids – disability services<br><br>6 October 2026 | Noahs Arc provided an overview of the changes planned for services for children with a disability. | KDAC were provided with an overview of changes to current funding and services for children under the age of eight with a disability or developmental delay. This is a significant change for the community. Committee discussed impact on local community and services. |
| Public Toilet Management Plan & Policy<br><br>6 October 2026 | Major Projects Team presented the draft public toilet management plan and policy. | KDAC provided feedback and discussed barriers to access and potential solutions. Discussion focus on how to make public toilets safer and accessible to the broader community. |

## October 2025 – October 2026 Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items

- Tuesday 7 October 2025
    - Knox Mobility and Access Action Plan
    - Interchange Outer East overview and update
    - Volunteering at Knox events

- Tuesday 2 December 2025
    - Knox Open Space Strategy
    - EACH overview and update

- Tuesday 3 February 2026
    - Knox Local Law Review
    - KDAC 2026 workplan

- Tuesday 31 March 2026
    - Belonging Matters Community Employment Program
    - KDAC 2026 workplan

- Tuesday 2 June 2026
    - Council festivals and events
    - Knox Inclusion Logo

- Wednesday 22 July – Multi Advisory Committee Meeting
    - Annual Plan and budget 2027 – 2028
    - Community Safety
    - Integrated Transport Strategy
    - Green Streets Policy Review
    - Heart of Knox (Knox Central)

- Tuesday 4 August 2026
    - Support for Siblings
    - KDAC Terms of reference
    - Capturing key inclusion messages

- Tuesday 6 October 2026
    - Thriving Kids
    - Public Toilet Management Plan

## Committee membership

The 2026 Committee consisted of ten community members, four industry representatives and two Councillors - Cr Meagan Baker – Chair, Cr Susan Pearce (October 2025) and Cr Glen Atwell (December 2025 – October 2026).