

1.2 MONASH CITY COUNCIL DISABILITY AWARDS (COM31:EG)

Responsible Director: Carolyn McClean

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses in principle the proposal for the introduction of the Monash City Council Disability Awards and requests the Disability Consultative Committee to finalise the award categories, award criteria and procedures for endorsement by Council.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to introduce the proposal for the introduction of the Monash Disability Awards (refer to Attachment 1).

BACKGROUND

The Australian Bureau of Statistics 2003 survey of disability, ageing and carers indicated that close to 20% of the Victorian population has some form of disability.

In 2007 Monash City Council developed Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Framework and Action Plan 2007-2008. The document acknowledges Council's commitment to having a positive impact on the quality of life for people with disabilities in our community and it identifies a detailed and comprehensive whole of Council approach to fulfilling Council's commitments.

ANALYSIS

The purpose of the Monash Disability Awards will be to recognise achievement and will enhance Council's role in promoting access and equity within the municipality as it relates to disability.

The Awards would also aim to build community awareness of the need to improve access to services and facilities for people with disabilities.

The Awards will:

- Publicly recognise organisations, businesses and individuals in Monash that promote access to people with disabilities.
- Increase community awareness of the need for improved access for people with disabilities.
- Provide an opportunity to publicise relevant services and facilities.
- Encourage inclusion.

The Disability Awards will be offered in the following categories:

1. Access (physical access)
2. Service Delivery
3. Initiative
4. Business Award

Nominations received will be judged by the Assessment Panel, which will comprise of:

- one Councillor;
- two representatives of the Disability Consultative Committee;
- a community representative;
- a professional working in the disability sector; and
- a representative from the business community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This initiative will be implemented within existing Council resources.

CONSULTATION

In developing this report consultation has been undertaken with relevant stakeholders including the Disability Consultative Committee.

CONCLUSION

The introduction of the Disability Awards in Monash will demonstrate Council's commitment to achieving access and equity for people with disabilities. The annual Disability Awards aim to raise community awareness of disability issues and showcase good practice and examples of innovation by Monash individuals, community organisations and agencies and businesses. The Awards will be presented on the International Day of People with a Disability on 3 December each year or at another agreed time.