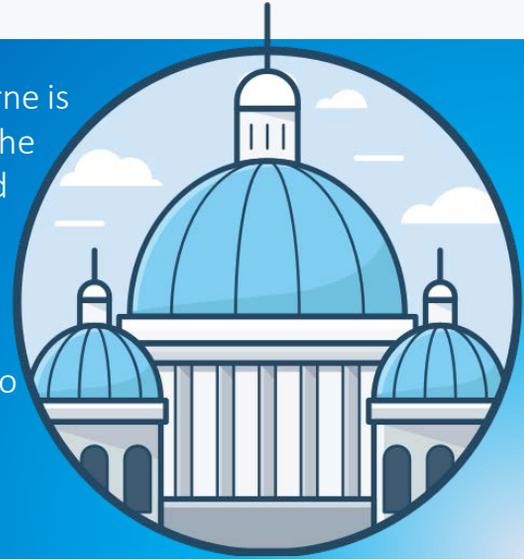


Making the City of Melbourne more inclusive for people with disability.

Around 18.3% of Australians live with disability. Melbourne is experiencing a period of rapid growth and change, and the City of Melbourne plays a major role as an economic and tourist hub for the State of Victoria and for Australia as a whole.

This study will inform the development of the City of Melbourne's Disability Action Plan and other strategies to help deliver a barrier free city for people of all ages and abilities.



Consulting People with Disability

The need for consultation was emphasised, with many participants highlighting principles such as “nothing about us without us”, meaning that decisions impacting people with disability must involve direct input from people with lived experience of disability who live, work or spend leisure time in the City of Melbourne.



Public Policy & Legislation

Legislation was a key theme. This included ideas about consulting people with disability in the design of legislation, building codes, the Disability Discrimination Act, compliance with legislation, education about legislation, and updating legislation in line with new technology and universal design principles.



Public Transport

Transport was raised across all disability types, but often for different reasons. Physical accessibility of trams and trains, and stop design were raised by people with physical and mobility disability and sensory disability; while communication accessibility – including announcements that were easy to understand and accurate with key information repeated, and a friendly approach by staff – was raised by people with sensory disability, intellectual disability, and psychosocial disability.



Footpaths

Footpath clutter, tripping hazards, cleanliness and conflict of use was a concern. Also raised were contrast for different surfaces, blind spots around corners, kerb design, rest spots, footpath width, accessibility around construction, and the layout and accessibility of street furniture.

Core Focus Areas

Contact Us.

You can access the full report along with an Easy English summary on our website.

disability.unimelb.edu.au | md-i@unimelb.edu.au



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Executive Summary

This study brought together people with disability, City of Melbourne staff, disability advocates, and academics, with the aim of generating ideas on how to make the City of Melbourne more inclusive for people with disability. It further aimed to see which of these ideas were the most important and feasible to implement. The City of Melbourne Disability Advisory Committee and the Inclusive Melbourne Steering Committee with representatives of Melbourne University, the Melbourne Disability Institute, City of Melbourne and people with disability worked in partnership assisting the project team throughout the project. Findings from this study will inform the development of the City of Melbourne's Disability Action Plan and other relevant strategies.

This study used a method called group concept mapping, a mixed-method approach that collects data from participants who are affected by, or are able to influence an issue under consideration. In early 2019, five workshops were held with the aim of generating ideas on how to make City of Melbourne more inclusive for people with disability. Each workshop focused on a different type of disability: physical and mobility, sensory, intellectual, and psychological disability, and one workshop brought together people with different disability types. Workshops were attended by people with disability, disability advocates, academics, and City of Melbourne staff. Overall, 79 people participated across the five workshops, and together they devised

240 unique ideas to make the City of Melbourne more inclusive for people with disability. A total of 93 participants then sorted these ideas into themes, and rated each idea based on its importance and feasibility of implementation.

Ideas that were common across all disability types included those relating to consulting people with disability, legislation, public transport, and footpaths. A key focus of the study was to identify ideas that were rated as important by people with disability, disability advocates, and academics, and ideas rated as feasible to implement by City of Melbourne staff. Ideas that were considered to be both important and feasible were those relating to: consulting people with disability during planning; educating employers about inclusion and equal opportunity; increasing access to a diversity of employment opportunities; providing accessible government forms; advocating to the state government on the needs of people with disability; ensuring that the City of Melbourne is a visibly inclusive organisation; providing Easy English information about people's entitlements; and training policy officers and local compliance officers about diversity of disability.

This study was a collaboration between the Melbourne Disability Institute at the University of Melbourne, and the City of Melbourne, with funding from the Melbourne Disability Institute and Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute at the University of Melbourne, City of Melbourne, and Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

University of Melbourne Research Team

Dr Jerome Rachele, Dr Ilan Wiesel, Dr Ellen van Holstein, Ms Tessa de Vries, Ms Celia Green & Ms Ellen Bicknell

City of Melbourne Partners

Ms Vickie Feretopoulos, Ms Georgie Myer, Mr Peter Whelan & Mr John Yeowart

