

ATTACHMENT B

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**INCLUSION (DISABILITY) ADVISORY PANEL
MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES (DECEMBER 2017) –
NEW PANEL MEMBERS FROM 2018**

Inclusion (Disability) Advisory Panel Member Biographies (December 2017) – New Panel Members from 2018

Max Burt

Max is passionate about inclusive and accessible recreation and leisure opportunities for people with disability. Max's focus on recreation and leisure encouraged him to establish 'WheelEasy', an online application aimed at creating better access to leisure activities for wheelchair users, their friends and family, enabling all to enjoy leisure activities together. Max brings to the panel his professional experience from many years in marketing and advertising as well as his lived experience as a person with disability, after being in an accident that left him paralysed. Max currently works as a consultant, providing advice to organisations on how to market products in a more inclusive way.

Nidhi Shekaran

Nidhi lives with mild cerebral palsy and a vision impairment. Nidhi was born in India, and moved to New Zealand with her family as a child, and then to Australia in her teenage years. Nidhi's experience of growing up as a person with disability from a diverse cultural background has driven her to become an advocate for people with disability, in particular people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Nidhi currently works for the Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association.

Nidhi believes that social inclusion gives a person with disability a stronger sense of community and helps to build support networks that reduce feelings of isolation. Nidhi explores issues around supporting people with disability in the workplace, accessing public transport and making social connections through blogs she has written.

Riana Head-Toussaint

Riana is a proud person with disability and a passionate advocate for the rights of people with disability. This brings together her legal background and work at the Australian Human Rights Commission, and her personal experience growing up as a person with disability after being involved in a car accident in which she sustained a spinal cord injury.

Riana's lived experience of disability means she has a deep understanding of the complex, intersectional nature of disability, and the numerous challenges that people with disability often face, be they physical, attitudinal, related to the built environment and participation in the community, etc. She is familiar with engrained societal misconceptions about disability, and is passionate about reframing them. Riana has extensive experience working with disability discrimination legislation and policy, and has assisted in the development of the Australian Human Rights Commission's disability discrimination training materials. Riana is an actor and a member of the

Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Panel for the Sydney Festival, advocating for better access in the arts.

Sabrina Houssami-Richardson

Sabrina has extensive experience providing advice around inclusion and access for people with disability. Sabrina is a current member of the Australian Museum's Advisory Panel, the state government's Disability Employment Action Centre (DEAC) Advisory Sub-Group and the NSW Department of Industry's Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) Steering Committee. Sabrina is also an advocate for diversity recruitment, currently working as a Senior Executive Recruitment Specialist within the public sector.

Sabrina describes herself as a person with disability, a woman, and a non-practicing Muslim of Lebanese and Indian background. Sabrina was selected as a representative for I Work for NSW's 2017 video stories, sharing her experiences and triumphs as a person working for the NSW Government with a hearing impairment.

Sabrina is also a published author, having contributed to the Allen & Unwin anthology, 'Coming of Age: Growing Up Muslim in Australia'. Sabrina held the title of Miss World Australia in 2006 and placed third at Miss World, and has also placed fifth on the first Australian season of 'The Apprentice', using these opportunities to contribute to public discussions around diversity and inclusion in Australia.

Tara Elliffe

Tara is the current President for the NSW Down Syndrome Panel and also works for the NSW Ombudsman. Tara is a confident, outgoing individual who 'likes to be with everyone else'. As a person with Down syndrome, Tara is an advocate for the inclusion of people with disability, particularly those with intellectual disabilities, which are often invisible to the community. Being a member on the City's Inclusion (Disability) Advisory Panel gives Tara the opportunity to be heard and express her opinion on how we can achieve a truly inclusive City.