

## MEDIA RELEASE 27 April 2023

## Connecting people with services at the Disability Expo

Whether you've been living with a disability for many years, or just learning what a diagnosis might mean for you and your family, it can be difficult to know where to get help and services.

The City of Victor Harbor, in collaboration with Plan Partners, is planning its second Disability Expo, bringing together a wide range of disability service providers from across the Fleurieu Peninsula.

This year, a number of guest speakers will be joining the event and sharing their insights as well as answering questions.

Councillor Angela Schiller, South Australia's first blind Council Member, and the Honourable Emily Bourke, Assistant Minister for Autism, are two of the guest speakers who will be sharing their experiences and knowledge.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to hear from Kudos on early childhood development, plus there will be presentations from SA Care, Mission Australia (LAC) and Plan Partners.

City of Victor Harbor Mayor, Dr Moira Jenkins, said the expo is about bridging the gap between families and local disability service providers.

"What we've found is that many families and individuals living with a disability aren't aware of what local services and programs are available to them," said Mayor Jenkins.

"If you want to learn more about disability services and explore what options are available for you or a loved one, I really encourage you to drop by, pick up some information and chat directly to organisations."

"This is the second Disability Expo that Council has held. The first was extremely well attended by our community and this one is going to be even bigger and better."

Stephen Wise, from Plan Partners, said guests are bound to learn something new by attending.

"For many families, it can feel like you're having to navigate services alone, without any support. This can be confusing and overwhelming," said Stephen.

"The Disability Expo will be a great opportunity to meet with providers in person."

"Plan Partners is proud to be partnering with the City of Victor Harbor for this event, and we look forward to meeting attendees on the day."

City of Victor Harbor Chief Executive Officer, Victoria MacKirdy, said one of the responsibilities of local government is to ensure that all members of our community have the right to be included.

"Removing barriers for people living with a disability and sharing information on local service providers are both actions within Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan," said Ms MacKirdy.

"The Disability Expo is one way we can ensure that people living with disability are supported and connected."

The City of Victor Harbor's Disability Expo will take place on Tuesday, 23 May 2023 from 12 – 6pm at the McCracken Conference Centre, McCracken. Entry is free and all are welcome.

For more information, including a full program, please visit **www.victor.sa.gov.au/disabilityexpo** or contact the City of Victor Harbor directly on (08) 8551 0500.