

## **6.1. MM01: Vale Paul Oglesby**

Many in our community will be sad to learn of the passing of former councillor Paul Oglesby on 20 August 2021. Paul was born on 27 August 1954 in Birmingham, England, moving to with his family as a child. In 1982, Paul moved to Sydney to take up a position with ABC TV. He remained with them until 1990, when he started work with the Crows Nest Centre.

In 1988, Paul was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, which sparked not only challenges with his own health but a commitment to access and disability services within the community. In 1993, he lobbied for disabled access to Waverton Station and a year later joined the first North Sydney Council Access Committee.

He won an Australia Day Award in 1995 for Community Service and was elected to Council later that year, remaining on Council until 2008.

Paul's advocacy for disability issues lead to leadership roles within a number of community organisations including:

- Chair of the Board of Directors, Crows Nest Centre
- Chair and founding member, North Sydney Access Committee
- Director, North Sydney Community Centre
- Resident representative, Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils
- Director of DARTS (Disabled Alternative Road Travel Service – a division of Northside Community Forum Inc.)
- State Secretary of the NSW Council for Persons With Multiple Sclerosis

Of his involvement with Council and these groups, Paul once said: "I guess I became active as opposed to political. I wasn't concerned whether it was Labor or Liberal doing the job. They just had to do it."

In 1996, Paul became wheelchair bound, but remained active and could often be seen around the area and at community events. He is credited with changing Council's understanding of disability issues and was respected for the gentle but tenacious way he ensured access and disability was considered in decision making.

Paul was kind, thoughtful and very well-liked by fellow councillors, Council staff and the wider community who would stop to talk to him when they saw him on the street. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

The final word should go to Paul himself: "The fact is MS is part of my life and I had to think my way around things. I think a person with a disability can do what they want".

### **I therefore recommend:**

**1.THAT** Council write to Paul's wife, Diana Moore, to convey our sincere our condolences on her loss.

**2.THAT** Council acknowledge the significant contribution Paul Oglesby made to the North Sydney community, especially in the area of community wellbeing, access and disability.

**COUNCILLOR JILLY GIBSON  
MAYOR**