



Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Annual Progress Report 2018 - 2019

2016-2020

The Wollongong City Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2016-2020 (the Plan) guides Council to meet its requirements under the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014. This is the third annual progress report; it highlights Council's achievements from the 2018/19 financial year.

The Plan has four focus areas:

- Create Liveable Communities;
- Improve Access to our Systems and Processes;
- Promoting Positive Community Attitudes and Behaviours;
- Support Access to Meaningful Employment.

The development of the Plan involved extensive community engagement and Council continues to check in with the community to ensure the priorities remain current. An internal steering group with representatives from across Council oversees the implementation of the Plan. We measure, track and document our progress using a detailed Implementation Plan and Evaluation Framework.

Highlights for 2018 - 2019

Annual Progress

Completed	Ongoing	In Progress (Projects)	Pending	Not Started
11	80	7	0	10



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Create Liveable Communities

Council has developed and endorsed strategies which provide a planned approach for improving access, including:

- Public Toilet Strategy 2019-2029, endorsed 6 May 2019. This strategy provides a strategic framework to guide public toilet provision across the City over the next 10 years.
- Beach and Foreshore Access Strategy 2019-2028, endorsed 18 February 2019. This strategy provides a planned and considered approach to the way Council will support people with a disability to access our beaches and foreshores.

Council has undertaken a range of infrastructure projects to improve access to the built environment for people with disability, including:

- Delivery of eight 'Quick Link' accessible path projects at Holborn Park, Berkeley; Figtree Oval, Figtree; King George V Park, Port Kembla; Port Kembla Pool, Port Kembla; Lang Park, North Wollongong; Lakeside Park, Kanahooka; and Thirroul Beach Reserve, Thirroul. This has improved access in these locations by providing continuous accessible paths of travel linking car parks, playgrounds, picnic shelters and toilet blocks.
- Construction of a unisex accessible change room facility, including an adult lift and change table at Western Suburbs Pool, Unanderra.
- Improved access to several Council buildings including accessible amenities at Illawarra Performing Arts Centre, Coniston Community Centre, Mt Keira Summit Kiosk, Bulli Surf Life Saving Club and Stanwell Park Beach Kiosk, and, upgraded kitchen facilities, including an adjustable bench at Dapto Ribbonwood Centre.



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- Improved access at six bus stops by creating paths of travel from the bus stop/shelter to the kerbside. All of these upgrades incorporated seating and one incorporated tactile markers.
- Installation of new kerb ramps in 37 locations and the upgrade/renewal of existing kerb ramps in 28 locations.
- Installation of new cycle ways, shared pathways and pathways in 33 locations and the upgrade/renewal of existing cycle ways, shared pathways and pathways in 28 locations.
- Installation of new accessible parking in three locations and the upgrade/renewal of existing accessible parking in 11 locations.

Improve Access to our Systems and Processes

Council has worked to increase access to information by developing:

- Social Stories for our events, including Comic Gong, Australia Day, New Year's Eve, Viva la Gong, Paint the Gong REaD Reading Day and Lord Mayors Transition to School Picnic; and services/facilities including Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong Youth Services and two of our libraries.
- An '*Easy Read Frequently Asked Questions Guide*', made available on Council's website and distributed at Illawarra Disability Options Expo.

Council has demonstrated its commitment to enabling people with disability to be involved in community engagement opportunities by:

- Involving two residents with low vision, who use screen readers, in user testing sessions as part of the Wollongong City Council website re-development. Their participation and feedback assisted the project team to ensure the new website is accessible.



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- Establishing a new community engagement platform, '*Register of Interest*'. This platform enables people to receive information via email on a number of interest areas. During 2018/19, 228 people registered to receive information regarding disability access related matters.
- Establishing the '*Walking, Cycling and Mobility Reference Group*'. This Group provides advice to Council on the preparation and implementation of bicycle, pedestrian and disability access policies and strategic plans.

Promote Positive Community Attitudes and Behaviours

Council has worked towards promoting positive community attitudes and behaviours towards people with disability through the delivery of:

- '*The Quiet Space*' at Council's Australia Day and Comic Gong events in 2019.
- The '*Same, Same but Different*' project delivered in partnership with The Disability Trust. This project invited people with disability, parents, community service providers, and members of Wollongong's LGBTQI community to share their lived experiences. The panel discussion at this event was recorded and is available as a podcast.
- An accessible viewing area as part of Wollongong's Annual Australia Day celebration. 129 people, including people with disability and their carers used this area during the day. CRAM Foundation sponsored this space.
- A number of initiatives which resulted in Corrimal Library receiving their '*Autism Friendly*' badge on World Autism Day, 2 April 2019.
- '*AUSLAN Story Time*' at Wollongong City Library.



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Support Access to Meaningful Employment

Council has worked to support people with disability seeking employment. Initiatives included:

- A workshop for social enterprises which introduced Council's Social Procurement Policy, provided guidance on how to become a Council supplier and advice on how to align social enterprise business operations with Council requirements.
- Continuing to provide '*Diversity Awareness Training*' to Council Officers.
- Developing and delivering '*Autism Awareness Training*', with over 150 Council Officers from various teams attending the training.
- Supporting the '*Workers of Wollongong*' program by providing work experience opportunities for people with disability at Wollongong Botanic Garden.
- Participating in mock interviews with people with disability to assist them with preparing for job interviews.