

# Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017 – 2021

## Annual Progress Report 2018/19

### Background

The provision of accessible and inclusive communities is a vital part of enabling people with a disability to participate in community life. The NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 required all NSW Government Departments and Councils to adopt a Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) by July 2017. The purpose of the DIAP is to help ensure people with disability have equal access to information, services and facilities provided by Council, and can participate in the public spaces and public life of the community.

Supporting the development of an accessible and inclusive area benefits all people living in and visiting the Coffs Harbour Local Government Area. In particular, those with disability, older people, people with a chronic illness, people experiencing temporary illness or injury and parents of young children and their friends and families.

### Purpose

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017 – 2021 sets out what Council will do over four years to enable people with a disability to have greater access to Council information, services and facilities.

The plan has four focus areas:

- ❖ Creating liveable communities
- ❖ Improving access to services through better systems and processes
- ❖ Promote positive community attitudes and behaviours
- ❖ Supporting access to meaningful employment

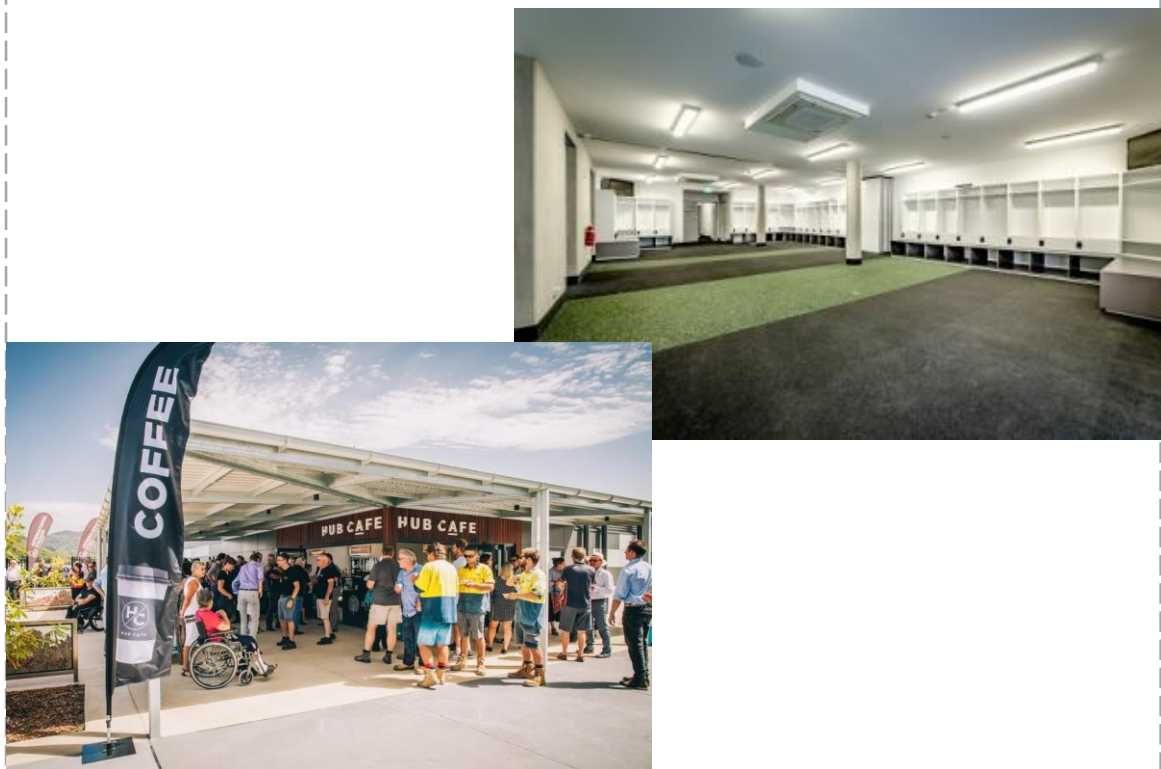
## Creating Liveable Communities

Council has undertaken the following projects to increase access to the built environment for people with a disability:

- Accessibility upgrades to public toilets at Woolgoolga Lakeside; Hills Beach, Korora, Saltwater Park, Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour and Urara Park, Elizabeth Street, Coffs Harbour.
- Adult Change Place planned for Woolgoolga Beach Reserve upgrade.
- The Stadium upgrade has incorporated many accessible and inclusive features with input from the Disability Inclusion and Access Committee.
- Significant footpath upgrades at the Curacoa Street, Coffs Harbour, Market Street, Woolgoolga and Werambie and Wirrabilla Streets, Toormina.
- New accessible bus shelters introduced.
- New all abilities playgrounds at Pearce Drive and the West Coffs Regional Playground, designed on the NSW Government Everyone Can Play Guidelines.
- The application of accessible design principles and consultation with the Disability Inclusion and Access Committee for the City Centre upgrade.

### Highlight Project

Council has worked closely in partnership with the Disability Inclusion and Access Committee on the upgrade of the C.ex Coffs International Stadium. This has resulted in the addition of state-of-the-art technology and design to ensure inclusive access for sportspeople, support staff, media and community members.



**Council is working toward greater access across the LGA and has allocated funding in the 2019/20 budget for:**

- A \$1.2 million footpath construction program.
- Even more new accessible bus shelters.
- Development of an Integrated Transport Strategy which will consider accessible parking across the Coffs Harbour City and connection to accessible pathways.

## **Improving access to services through better systems and processes**

**Council has worked to increase access to information including:**

- Improvements to Council's website to increase accessibility with the inclusion of 'Readspeak' technology.
- Social media and web pages promoting access to beach wheelchairs.
- Completion of the project to upgrade the Coffs Coast Tourism website to allow people to filter accommodation for disability access.
- Inclusion of junior fiction titles in a print format for young people with dyslexia.

### **Highlight Project**

Council celebrated International Day of People with a Disability on 3 December 2018, with a community event that showcased an inclusive Zumba display, a theatre production by people with a disability and a question and answer session with Scott Doolan, who was the first paraplegic to climb to Base Camp of Mount Everest. The event held in the City Centre was attended by over 300 people and included representation by a range of disability support organisations.



**Council is investing in training to build skills and knowledge to support access including:**

- Mental health first aid and awareness

**Council continues to be committed to consulting with people with a disability:**

- Council's Disability Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee continues to meet monthly and regularly engages with Council staff.
- The Disability Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee also provided extensive input into the International Stadium accessibility upgrades and the City Centre redevelopment.

**Promote positive community attitudes and behaviours**

**Council has worked towards promoting positive community attitudes and behaviours toward people with disability through:**

- Celebration of International Day of People with a Disability.
- Showcasing an all abilities theatre production.
- Producing social media celebrating the achievements of people with a disability including Scott Doolan who was the first paraplegic to climb to Base Camp of Mount Everest.
- Promotion of library services to community members with a disability as a key audience.
- The inclusion of community members with a disability and the sharing of information about disability services on the MyCoffs Connect Facebook page.

**Council has worked to increase opportunities for people with disability to participate in community activities. This included:**

- Promoting the accessibility of venues for Seniors Week.
- The provision of a 'chill-out' space for people with autism at the Harmony Festival.
- Partnering with Sport NSW to provide opportunities for inclusive sport including an annual Inclusion Sports Day held at Sportz Central.
- Development of an Inclusive Beach Access Issues and Options Paper, which endorses Jetty Beach as a priority location for the development of inclusive beach facilities such as a Mobi-matt and the provision of two additional Hippocampe beach wheelchairs.



# Supporting Access to Meaningful Employment

Council has worked to increase employment opportunities for people with a disability including:

- The implementation of new flexible work arrangements that support employment of people with a disability and carers of people with a disability.
- Improvements to the level of accessibility of Council’s recruitment pages on the website.

