

Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017 – 2021

Annual Progress Report 2017/18

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 Brelsford Park, Diggers Beach, Fitzroy Oval, Sandy Beach and Graff Avenue Toormina
- Adult Change Place installed in the CBD
- Adult Change Place installed at the Jetty Foreshore
- The International Stadium upgrade has incorporated many accessible and inclusive features - with input from the Disability Inclusion and Access Committee and Paul Ninari from the Department of Premier and Cabinet being provided during the design stage
- Significant footpath upgrades at the Jetty Foreshore, Fiddaman Road and Ocean Parade
- New accessible bus shelters introduced
- New playgrounds with accessible play equipment at Sandy Beach and Graff Avenue
- Online mobility maps developed for the Jetty, Promenade and CBD

Highlight Project

Council has created an accessible beach precinct as part of the Jetty Foreshore redevelopment which includes an adult change place, accessible footpaths and ramp to the beach, an accessible viewing platform, and accessible parking.



Council is working toward greater access across the LGA and has allocated funding in the 2018/19 budget for:

- A \$1 million footpath upgrade program
- New accessible bus shelters
- Development of an Integrated Transport Strategy which will consider accessible parking across the Coffs Harbour city
- Building the first accessible canoe launcher in a tidal environment in NSW

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
- New social media and web pages promoting access to beach wheelchairs
- An upgrade to the Coffs Coast Tourism website that allows people to filter accommodation for disability access
- The installation of a large LED touchscreen in the library
- Improvements to disability access on Council's webpage



Council officers have participated in training to build their skills and knowledge to support access including:

- Accessible and inclusive events

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 engage with Council staff
- The Disability Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee also provided extensive input into the International Stadium accessibility upgrades

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
- Presenting awards for businesses who have worked to make their businesses accessible and inclusive
- Producing social media celebrating the achievements of people with a disability including Barney Miller winning gold at the International Adaptive Surf Championship

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
- The inclusion of musicians with a disability as performers at the Harmony Festival

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

