

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Waratah-Wynyard Council has adopted the following Action Plan under the provisions of the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 Section 59 to ensure that people with disabilities can access Council facilities, functions and services. The Action Plan is subject to review and may be amended and extended as priorities and needs of the community change.

1.2 The Action Plan includes:

- (a) A statement of Council's Strategic Plan, Vision, Mission and Values;
- (b) Information on Council functions, facilities and services;
- (c) A statement of Council's commitment to addressing the issue of access for people with disabilities, their families and carers;
- (d) A description of the processes used to consult with people with disabilities, their families, carers, disability organisations and relevant community groups;
- (e) The identification of objectives and strategies to overcome barriers that people with disabilities identified during the consultative process;
- (f) A method of review and evaluation of the plan; and
- (g) Information about how the plan is being communicated to staff and people with disabilities

1.3 FUNCTIONS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- (a) Waratah-Wynyard Council provides:
 - (i) Services to property including construction and maintenance of roads, footpaths and walkways; land drainage and development; waste collection and disposal; litter control and street cleaning; planting and caring for street trees; numbering of buildings and lots; street lighting; water supply and supply of sewerage services.
 - (ii) Services to the community including provision and maintenance of playing areas and reserves; parks and gardens and facilities for sporting groups, recreation centres, learn to swim facility, public halls and other Council public buildings, cemeteries; citizenship ceremonies, environmental health services, child care facilities and other community services such as school holiday programmes, community bus, and school holiday programmes.
 - (iii) Regulatory services including administration of the town-planning scheme; building and plumbing control, environmental health services, animal control and weed control.

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION POLICY

- (iv) General administration including the provision of general information to the public; the facilitation of rates and other account payments and customer requests, records management, assistance with grant funding applications and general administrative duties.
- (v) Processes of governance including the facilitation of ordinary Council meetings and Council group discussions; public meetings, the dissemination of information from Council's governance role and budgetary control.

1.4 ACCESS STATEMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, THEIR FAMILIES AND CARERS

- (a) Waratah-Wynyard Council is committed to ensuring that the community is accessible for people with disabilities, their families and carers.
- (b) The Council interprets an accessible community as one in which all Council functions, facilities, and services are open and available to people with disabilities providing them with the same opportunities, rights and responsibilities enjoyed by all other people in the community.
- (c) Council's understanding of disability is that provided by the World Health Organisation:
- (d) "Disability is a loss or reduction of functional ability which results from an impairment. Impairment is defined as an anatomical or functional abnormality or loss, which may or may not result in a disability. Disability can derive from impairments which can be physical, sensory, intellectual or psychiatric."
- (e) Council recognises that people with disabilities are valued members of the community who make a variety of contributions to local social, economic and cultural life. Council believes that a community that recognises its diversity and supports the participation of all its members makes for a richer community life.
- (f) Council is committed to consulting with people with disabilities, their families and carers and where required disability organisations to ensure that barriers to access are addressed appropriately.
- (g) Council is also committed to working in partnership with local businesses to improve access to community facilities and services.

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION POLICY

- (h) Waratah-Wynyard Council is committed to achieving the following outcomes:
- Outcome 1: To adapt existing services to ensure that they meet the needs of people with disabilities;
 - Outcome 2: To improve access to buildings and facilities;
 - Outcome 3: To provide information about services and programs in formats which meet the communication needs of people with disabilities;
 - Outcome 4: To ensure that all staff are aware of and understand the needs of people with disabilities;
 - Outcome 5: To provide opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in public consultations, grievance mechanisms and decision-making processes; and
 - Outcome 6: To ensure employment programs and practices recognise and include for people with disabilities.

1.5 CONSULTATION

The 2005 review of the Policy included public consultation and consultation with stakeholders such as North West Disability Services.

1.6 OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME BARRIERS

Council's commitment to the outcomes outlined in the introduction of this Action Plan will require an ongoing audit of Council assets to identify and schedule actions to ensure equal access for people with disabilities. This action should be undertaken as part of the review of the Action Plan scheduled in accordance with Section 7 of the Plan and will complement Councils requirements under the Building legislation enacted on 1 July 2004 that requires annual maintenance statements to be completed for buildings, which include Health and Safety features.

The objectives strategies and timelines are to be set out as follows:

Asset Type	Functions, Facilities and Services	Barriers	Strategies	Strategy completion date
Public Buildings	Public Toilets	Some toilet facilities do not cater for people with disabilities	All newly constructed toilet facilities to meet BCA requirements	Ongoing as old existing toilet facilities are replaced
	Wynyard learn to swim pool	Limited access into pool	Limited access learn to swim pool	No improvement works proposed
	Council Chambers	Lack of Hearing augmentation	Investigate installation of hearing augmentation service to public gallery	Ongoing



DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION POLICY

		Public counter	Investigate redesign of counter to provide equitable access to services	Completed 2008
Parks & Reserves	Picnic tables	Unsuitable design of existing park furniture	Replacement units to be compliant for people with disabilities	Ongoing as units are replaced or new units installed
	Shelters	Poor circulation space design to existing shelters	Assess shelter design with regard to circulation space requirements	Implement as new structures are built of existing structures are renovated
	Play equipment	Edging around play equipment inhibits access	Soft fall edgings to be reduced as low as practicable and to incorporate access points	Ongoing as normal maintenance
	Walking tracks	Irregular surfaces	Maintain paths in uniform conditions and maintain regular inspection program	Ongoing
			Track signage to advise of tracks not suitable for persons with a disability	End 2010 for River walking tracks
	Walking tracks cont.	Direction signage to alternate routes	Erect directional signage in high use areas to inform potential users of suitable access locations	Ongoing
	Steps/stairs	Inappropriate access points	Construct ramps to improve access to high use areas	Works carried out as required subject to budget provision
	Drinking Fountains	Height of drinking points	Provision of appropriate fountains	Ongoing as fountains are renewed
Roads	Footpaths	Lack of footpaths in high pedestrian demand areas	Provide suitable footpath facilities	ongoing
		Branches overhanging footpaths	Notify owner to effect removal or organise Council default work	30 day notice or 1 week for Council works
		Trip hazards/ uneven paths	Annual inspection to identify issues. Repair /replace sections as required	Ongoing prioritise program subject to budget constraints
		No definition at interface of road/footpath for people with visual disability	Install tactile markers at interface points in CBD areas	completed 2008
		Inappropriate crossover design in high usage areas	Install compliant crossovers in high pedestrian usage areas	ongoing
	Parking	Lack of suitable parking bays for people with disabilities	Review parking availability for people with disabilities	Completed 2008

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Waste Mgmt	Street litter bins	Height restrictions	Replacement units to be at appropriate height	Ongoing as replacements are required
		Locations of bins on footpaths	Assessment of bin locations as required	Relocate bins to appropriate position
	Kerbside garbage/recycling collection	Difficulties for people with mobility disabilities	Same service level provided to all residents – no special collection to be implemented	N/A

1.7 REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF ACTION PLAN

- (a) The Plan is to be reviewed and evaluated on an annual basis with reference to both the identified actions and in consultation with people with disabilities, organisations representing people with disabilities and the wider community.
- (b) The Plan is to be either re-endorsed or amended by Council following the annual review and evaluation process.

1.8 COMMUNICATION

- (a) The Action Plan is to be communicated to Council staff, users of Council facilities, people with disabilities and organisations representing people with disabilities.
- (b) The Plan may be communicated in hard copy or through electronic means such as Councils web site.

5.0 Legislation

Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992, Section 59

6.0 Responsibility

6.1 The General Manager is responsible for the overall management of this policy.

7.0 Minute Reference

12.2

8.0 Council Meeting Date

15 November 2010