



Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Annual Report 2020-2021 Financial Year

2020 –
2025

Council is striving to make Wollongong an inclusive city that provides equal opportunity for people with disability to participate in all aspects of community life. Our aim is to be a leader in promoting and supporting the social and economic participation of people with disability. Our Disability Inclusion Action Plan (Plan) sets out what we will do to support inclusion of people with disability in our city. It was developed after extensive community engagement to make sure the priorities reflect what is important to our community. In August 2020 we adopted a new Plan. The Plan will assist us to meet requirements for local government in the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014.

Our Plan has 91 Actions across four focus areas

1. Create liveable communities.
2. Improve access to services through better systems and processes.
3. Promote positive community attitudes and behaviours.
4. Support access to meaningful employment.

Annual Progress

Completed	In Progress	Not Started
0	64	27



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Highlights 2020-2021

A key achievement this year was the adoption of our new Plan. The new Plan builds on the culture of inclusion across Council and the good outcomes delivered through the previous Disability Inclusion Action Plan. It is pleasing that despite the COVID 19 pandemic we have been able to deliver the majority of scheduled actions from our Plan.

This report provides a summary of what we did in the 2020-2021 financial year.

Create Liveable Communities

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

- Upgraded seven unisex accessible toilets.
These being: Council Administration Building, Corrimal Tennis Court, Bellambi Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC), Towradgi SLSC, Webb Park, Wisemans Park and Bulli Community Centre. Ambulant toilets were also included at Towradgi SLSC, Webb Park and Bellambi SLSC.
- Delivered a new accessible toilet amenity with adult change table and hoist at Austinmer Bathers Pavilion.
- Installed 27 new footpaths and associated kerb ramps.
- Upgraded eight existing footpaths and associated kerb ramps.
- Installed five new cycle/pedestrian shared paths.
- Upgraded footpaths and kerb ramps at Cringila, Corrimal and Helensburgh town and village centres.
- Installed two new accessible parking spaces in Council car parks.



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- Upgraded four accessible parking spaces across the LGA.
- Improved access at seven bus stops including the addition of tactile ground surface indicators and continuous accessible paths of travel from the bus stop to bus boarding point.
- Built a new fenced playground at Cringila with accessible parking, continuous accessible paths of travel and a braille map and signage.

Council delivered a range of planning and design projects, including:

- Designs for new accessible adult change facilities at Port Kembla Beach Pavilion and the Wollongong Botanic Garden.
- Worked in partnership with the Disability Trust and local research group to design an All Ages and Abilities play space for Stuart Park, North Wollongong. The play space has received funding through the Australian Government. Detailed design, environmental approvals and applications for further external funding are currently being progressed to enable the future construction of the playground.

Improve Access to Services Through Better Systems and Processes

Council undertook projects to increase access to information, including:

- Developed Easy English versions of our Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2020- 2025 and FOGO information.
- Developed accessible web content guidelines for Council staff when updating our websites.
- Updated the Library's Social Stories to include COVID safe information.
- Added subtitles to all videos posted onto the library's online platforms. Embedded subtitles into the video production process to make the content more accessible for the community.



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- Promoted Council services for people with disability at the Illawarra Disability Options Expo.

Council has continued to engage people with disability, including:

- Engaged 25 young people with disability from school leavers support services to gather their ideas for an All Ages All Abilities play space in Stuart Park Wollongong.
- Convened the Walking, Cycling and Mobility Reference Group. This group includes representation of people with disability and their carers and provides advice to Council to inform our projects, policies, and plans.

Promote Positive Community Attitudes and Behaviours

Council delivered a range of projects to promote positive community attitudes and behaviours towards people with disability, including:

- ‘We are us’ community mural project at Pioneer Hall in MacCabe Park Wollongong. A group of 19 young people from the Disability Trust School Leavers Support Service aged 18-23 were engaged in a series of printmaking workshops facilitated by artist Jill Talbot to inform the mural design. Through the artistic process, the young people brainstormed expressive concepts as a group and created individual artworks about themselves and their place within the Wollongong community. The themes of these artworks were also about how these young people see themselves; how they imagine their futures; and the things that spark their lives. Signage was installed at the mural with a QR code linking back to Wollongong City Council’s Illawarra Stories platform so that people could view the mural and listen to the young people talk about their experience.




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- Collaborated with Shellharbour City Council to deliver the '*Not All Disabilities are Visible. A Local Stories Project*'. A series of short films and story boards to celebrate International Day of People with Disability were produced. The stories focused on the 2020 theme, 'Not All Disabilities are Visible.' The project featured residents across the two local government areas telling their stories about the impact their less visible disabilities have on their lives. The stories captured in the short films showed the diversity of 'invisible' disabilities. The project aimed to raise awareness of the damaging myths and stereotypes that surround people with disability. The short films were launched on Thursday 3 December for International Day of People with Disability.
- Delivered an outdoor fitness program in Lang Park Wollongong for young people with disability. Fitness instructors from Council Leisure Centres provided instruction at each of the sessions about how to safely use the outdoor fitness equipment. Each session included a healthy morning tea.
- Delivered exercise programs for young people with disability at Lakeside Leisure Centre. Students are enrolled in 10-week programs that align with the school terms.
- Introduced a '*Library After Hours*' program to provide opportunity for people with autism to attend our libraries for activities and quiet borrowing. The program alternates between Corrimal Library and Wollongong Library each month. Staff and volunteers completed Autism Awareness training in preparation for the introduction of the program. Staff have completed Dementia Awareness training.
- Continued the '*Visually Impaired Knitters*' group facilitated by an occupational therapist from Guide Dogs NSW at Wollongong Library. The group met monthly with their carer and/or dog.
- Partnered with the Deaf Society to provide an English course in Auslan at Wollongong Library. The nine-week course covered subjects taken

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- from Certificate I in Access to Vocational Pathways, such as Use Digital Technology for Basic Workplace Tasks; Write Basic Workplace Information and Read and Respond to Basic Workplace Information.
- Partnered with Kiama Community College and Personnel Group to deliver an Administration course for people with disability. The course targeted people with disability or mental health condition, offering pathways into employment in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven.
 - Hosted a 'Gingerbread House' making workshop at Wollongong City Library with Auslan Interpreter.
 - Facilitated 'Art and Dementia Tours' at Wollongong Art Gallery.

Support Access to Meaningful Employment

Council has provided opportunities for people with disability to participate in work experience, including:

- Provided one school-based traineeship for a student with disability and one targeted cadetship.
- Work experience was suspended in 2020/21 due to COVID.

Council has delivered a range of learning and development opportunities for Council officers to promote and support their understanding of disability, including:

- Delivered Diversity Awareness Training for 27 Council Officers.
- Delivered Dementia Awareness Training for Council Officers.