



Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Annual Report 2021-2022 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.

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
2	80	9



Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Annual Report 2021-2022 Financial Year

2020 –
2025

Highlights 2021-2022

This report provides a summary of what we did in the 2021-2022 financial year.

Create Liveable Communities

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

- Installed a new unisex accessible toilet and two new ambulant toilets at Corrimal Beach Tourist Park.
- Installed a new 'Changing Place' accessible adult change facility at Port Kembla Beach which can be used 24 hours.
- Installed 16 new footpaths and associated kerb ramps.
- Upgraded eight existing footpaths and associated kerb ramps.
- Installed five new cycle/pedestrian shared paths and renewed two cycle/pedestrian shared paths.
- Renewed six Council car parks including the accessible car parking spaces.
- Installed a new carpark with accessible parking at Cringila Hills.
- Installed a new bus stop at Dapto Mall.
- Renewed Bulli Beach Reserve playground which included the addition of a range of accessible and inclusive elements such as accessible parking, continuous accessible paths of travel, a wheelchair accessible carousel, variety of accessible swings and signage.
- Purchased five personal transfer hoists for use at our aquatic facilities to transfer wheelchair users to pool wheelchairs where required.
- Installed an accessible barbecue with continuous accessible path of travel to camp kitchen at Windang Tourist Park.



Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Annual Report 2021-2022 Financial Year

2020 –
2025

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

- Commenced design work for an accessible adult change facility for Western Suburbs Pool, Unanderra.
- Designed new access ramp for Port Kembla Beach.
- Commenced work on planning improvements to accessible parking in Wollongong CBD.

Improve Access to Services Through Better Systems and Processes

Council revised policy and planning documents to strengthen and support access and inclusion outcomes

- Adopted revised version of Wollongong DCP 2009- Chapter E1 Access for People with Disability.
- Drafted an evaluation framework to monitor and measure the outcomes of our Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

Council undertook projects to increase access to information, including:

- Completed training on developing accessible print and PDF documents and writing in plain English to assist us to produce accessible publications that are accessible from a design and text/copy viewpoint.
- Provided a range of communications including more than 30 media releases about access including promotion of new accessible playgrounds at Cringila and Bulli, the new 'Changing Place' accessible adult change facility at Port Kembla Beach and to recognise International Day of Persons with Disability.
- Developed Easy English versions of our Community Strategic Plan, Our Future Our Wollongong 2032 and a Tree Removal or Pruning on Private Property Guide.
- Upgraded three websites to meet access standards and include information about access Tourist Parks, Leisure Centres and The Vale Golf Course.



Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Annual Report 2021-2022 Financial Year

2020 –
2025

- Created new web content to promote beach accessibility and the location of hearing loops in our community facilities.
- Provided social stories for Comic Gong 2022 and Paint the Gong REaD.
- Promoted Council services for people with disability at the Illawarra Disability Options Expo.

Council has continued to engage people with disability, including:

- Engaged people with disability to inform Council projects and updated community engagement tools and resources to meet access standards.
- 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:

- Delivered two online 'Conversations About Inclusion' to recognise and celebrate International Day of Person's with Disability. 34 Council managers participated in the conversations with people with disability. The aim of the conversations was to provide an opportunity to raise awareness, build understanding and continue the discussion about inclusion.
- Drafted an Inclusive and Accessible Event Guide which is expected to be available on Council's website in 2022.
- Delivered Inclusive and Accessible Events Training for 21 Council officers.
- Worked with Flagstaff as part of the Bike City Program to draft a training module for tourism venue accessibility.
- Created a Quiet Space in the Youth Centre including dimmable lights, fidgets, and sensory items.



Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Annual Report 2021-2022 Financial Year

2020 –
2025

- Designed and facilitated workshops in collaboration with Relationships Australia for Neurodiverse LGBTIQ+ Young People about healthy relationships.
- Continued to deliver a range of programs via our Youth Services including TeenZ Connect program, tours of Wollongong Youth Centre and Belong workshops to increase participation of young people with disability.
- Created a partnership between Beaton Park Leisure Centre and Rainbow Club to deliver a learn to swim program aligned to NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) funding. 18 participants are enrolled.
- Continued to deliver exercise programs for young people with disability at Lakeside Leisure Centre. Ten-week programs are delivered in line with school terms. 20 students were enrolled in each program.
- Provided the Quiet Space as part of the annual Comic Gong festival. The space was popular, and many participants made it their home base for the day, dropping in and out to decompress from the excitement of the day. Almost 200 people visited the space.
- Delivered an inclusive session of Create Features for people who are blind or have low vision and the Deaf community to come along and find out more about native animals. Touching and holding the animals was a highlight.
- Continued the 'Visually Impaired Knitters' group in Wollongong City Library.
- Hosted 'Gingerbread House' making workshops at Wollongong City Library. One with an Auslan Interpreter and two in partnership with Guide Dogs NSW for people who were blind or had low vision.
- Worked with Disability Trust to provide artwork for UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale) event decoration. Works will go into the Ethel Hayton Walkway and the Arts Precinct and include 2D and 3D pieces.
- Provided Access2Express Art Tours for 50 students with disability from Kiama and Dapto high schools.
- Continued to facilitate '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:

- Employed two people with disability via the cadet apprentice and trainee program.
- Worked with the Disability Trust to continue to deliver a one-year work experience program to provide a work experience program in our library for a person with disability.
- Provided work experience for four people who indicated they had disability.
- Delivered a social procurement workshop for Council officers at which a disability provider presented information about the services they provide.

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 35 Council officers.
- Delivered Autism Awareness Training for six Council officers.
- Delivered Dementia Awareness Training for ten Council officers.
- Drafted a Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging training strategy.
- Attended a tour of Flagstaff Group employment services for people with disability. 18 Council officers attended.