



Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Annual Report 2022-2023 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
6	82	3



Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Annual Report 2022-2023 Financial Year

2020 –
2025

Highlights 2022-2023

This report provides a summary of what we did in the 2022-2023 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 at Gilmore Park.
- Installed eight new footpaths and associated kerb ramps.
- Upgraded 22 existing footpaths and associated kerb ramps.
- Installed two new cycle/pedestrian shared paths and renewed six cycle/pedestrian shared paths.
- Installed four new Council car parks including the accessible car parking spaces and renewed three others.
- Renewed Figtree Oval and Guest Park play spaces which included the addition of a range of accessible and inclusive elements such as accessible parking, continuous accessible paths of travel and variety of accessible swings and signage.
- Received grant funding from NSW Office of Sport to build accessible amenities at Figtree Oval and Lindsay Mayne Park.

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

- Designed an accessible viewing area connected to continuous accessible paths of travel and accessible parking at Hill 60, Port Kembla.
- Developed a schedule of works to upgrade our bus shelters, connecting footpaths, hard stand areas, tactile ground surface indicators (TGSIs) and signage to bring them up to current access standards.



Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Annual Report 2022-2023 Financial Year

2020 –
2025

Improve Access to Services Through Better Systems and Processes

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

- Council engaged an evaluation specialist to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework to measure the impact of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan. A range of evaluation tools including surveys were developed.

Council undertook projects to increase access to information, including:

- Updated the Easy English Tree Permit Guide.
- Promoted Council services 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:

- Finalised and promoted Inclusive and Accessible Event Guidelines and checklist, available on Council's website.
- Facilitated a workshop, lunch and tour for people with disability as part of the 'Front Up Studio Artists In Focus' exhibition.
- Engaged Flourish Band to perform at the Luminous and Spinfest festivals.



Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Annual Report 2022-2023 Financial Year

2020 –
2025

- Commissioned young artist Jonathon Paino to provide Spinfest festival artworks with his recycled bicycle sculptures 'the pedal garden'. These were exhibited as part of the community arts day and in the creative container installation.
- Incorporated access provisions into the Spinfest program of events including access maps, accessible parking and drop off zones, accessible viewing areas and Auslan interpreters for performance at the Beach Party.
- Delivered a series of Auslan interpreted paper art workshops for the Deaf community to produce a collage which featured in the 'Thinking through Pink' exhibition at Wollongong Art Gallery.
- Continued the 'Visually Impaired Knitters' group in Wollongong City Library. 12 sessions were held with an average of eight participants.
- Delivered young gamer sessions for people with disability, facilitated by young people. 21 sessions were delivered for 87 participants.
- Delivered Aboriginal weaving workshop with an Auslan interpreter for the Deaf community.
- Delivered 'Kick Start' education sessions for young people with disability. Nine sessions were delivered for 86 participants.
- Provided 'Access2Express Art' tours for students with disability from Peterborough and Aspect.
- Continued to deliver exercise programs through Council's two Leisure Centres including maintaining a partnership with Disability trust at the Lakeside facility. The program is run by Council's group exercise team and promotes movement and exercise within the gym, cardio equipment and in the group exercise room. 20 students are enrolled over 40 weeks.
- Provided the 'Water Rats' learn to swim program weekly at Council's Aquatic facility. Eight students were enrolled per term.
- Continued to deliver a weekly learn to swim program via partnership with 'Rainbow Club' aligned to NDIS funding. 18 participants are enrolled.



Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Annual Report 2022-2023 Financial Year

2020 –
2025

- Continued to deliver 'Art and Dementia/Care for the Carer Tours'. 11 tours were provided.
- Continued to provide 'TeenZ Connect' at Warrawong Library. This program is for young people and aims to increase social connection.

Support Access to Meaningful Employment

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

- Employed one person with disability via the cadet apprentice and trainee program.
- Provided work experience for five students with disability.
- Awarded 'Brewing Up A Storm', employment for people with disability, tender for café in Council's Administration Building.
- Delivered a social procurement workshop for the business community to promote employment opportunities for people with disability.

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

- Delivered nine Diversity Awareness Training and Autism Awareness Training sessions for Council officers.
- Developed and promoted a Diversity Hub Page on Council's intranet which includes a range of educational resources about the lived experience of people with disability.
- Successful in an Expression of Interest for the Council for Intellectual Disability's 'Inclusion Works' project. This program will offer tailored coaching, training and advice about accessible recruitment and employment for people with intellectual disability.



Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Annual Report 2022-2023 Financial Year

2020 –
2025

- Provided a tour of Council workplaces for a School Leavers Employment Support program.
- Established a People with Disability and Carers Peer Collective. The Peer collective has developed an Action Plan which will inform the development of strategies and programs that directly affect people with disability.