



Shire of Coorow

DISABILITY

ACCESS

&

INCLUSION

PLAN

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1. LEGISLATION RELATING TO DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLANS

The embodying legislation is the *Western Australian Disability Services Act 1993*.

This Act (as amended in 2004), requires local authorities to develop and implement a *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan* (DAIP), that will further both the principles and the objectives of the Act.

The Federal Discrimination Act also has application in that it indicates that it is unlawful to discriminate on many grounds including disability

HISTORY OF DISABILITY PROCESS TO DATE:

Council adopted its first disability plan July 2006 to comply with the legislation that applied at that time. Many of the issues identified at that time have to a large degree been dealt with.

PROCESSES REQUIRED UNDER THE DISABILITY SERVICES ACT

- **CONSULTATION:-** invite public submission on the formulation, alteration and five yearly review of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

As adopted by council at the 19 September, 2007 meeting

This plan was the subject of consultation with the community in June 2007 in draft form, and will be the subject of further consultation once formally adopted by Council

Apart from the above Council will advertise the existence of its plan in its annual report and other times as appropriate. With this advertising it will seek submission from the public to help it identify areas of access difficulty, with a view of undertaking an appropriate level of assessment to determine an appropriate level of response in accordance with this plan.

- **LODGEMENT WITH THE DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION:-** this plan will be lodged with the Disability Services Commission.

In addition to the above the Disability Services Commission will receive copies of the plan when it has been modified or when it has been subjected to complete review (at least every 5 years).

- **RELATIONSHIP OF THE PLAN TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SHIRE:-** The Shire is to take all practicable measures to ensure the plan is implemented by the Shire, its officers, employees and relevant agents and contractors.
- **REPORTING TO THE DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION:-** The Shire is required to report to the Disability Services Commission on the progress and actions achieved in the implementation of this plan on at least an annual basis.

2. THE SHIRE OF COOROW AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Shire of Coorow is located some 300km North of Perth and has resident population of approximately 1300

It has three main centres of population Coorow, Green Head and Leeman.

Coorow is a Rural town servicing a mixed wheat/sheep farming area and located around 130km from the coast.

Green Head and Leeman are Coastal Towns servicing fishing and tourism. Being holiday destinations the coastal towns of the Shire is subject to significant seasonal fluctuations in population

SHIRE OF COOROW DISABILITY PROFILE

As adopted by council at the 19 September, 2007 meeting

This appears at the end of this document

FACILITIES AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE SHIRE OF COOROW

The Council has direct responsibility for a number of Community Facilities and Services.

The range of facilities the Shire is involved in the provision of includes, but is not necessarily limited to:

- Sports oval and Passive and Active Recreation Areas
- Roads, Drainage, Paths
- Coastal Walk Trails
- Libraries
- Community Sporting Facilities
- Community Centres
- Public toilets
- Refuse Removal Services
- Administration Centres, and a range of other community facilities
- The Council can also play a role in encouraging better access to facilities provided by others

PLANNING FOR BETTER ACCESS

The Disability Services Act requires the Shire to develop and implement a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) that details the ways in which the authority will ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to facilities and services.

The DAIP is required to aim to achieve the following desired outcomes:

1. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by a public authority.
2. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of a public authority.
3. People with disabilities receive information from a public authority in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.
4. People with disabilities receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of a public authority as other people receive from the staff of that public authority.
5. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to a public authority.
6. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by a public authority.

3. ACCESS AND INCLUSION POLICY STATEMENT

The Shire of Coorow

- is committed to ensuring that the community is an accessible and inclusive community for people with disabilities, their families and carers.
- interprets an accessible and inclusive community as one in which all council functions, facilities and services (both in-house and contracted) are open, available and accessible to people with disabilities, providing them with the same opportunities, rights and responsibilities enjoyed by other people in the community.
- recognises that people with disabilities are valued members of the community who make a variety of contributions to local social, economic and cultural life. The Shire believes that a community that recognises its diversity and supports the participation and inclusion of all its members makes for a richer community life.
- believes that people with disabilities, their families and carers who live in country areas should be supported, as far as practicable, to remain in the community of their choice.
- is committed to consulting with people with disabilities, their families and carers and where required, disability organisations to ensure that barriers to access and inclusion are addressed appropriately.
- is committed to ensuring that its agents and contractors work towards the desired outcomes of the DAIP.
- is committed to working in partnership with local community groups and businesses to facilitate the inclusion of people with disabilities through improved access to facilities and services in the community.
- is committed to achieving the six desired outcomes of its DAIP, namely:
 1. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by a public authority.
 2. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of a public authority.
 3. People with disabilities receive information from a public authority in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.
 4. People with disabilities receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of a public authority as other people receive from the staff of that public authority.
 5. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to a public authority.
 6. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by a public authority.

4. DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN (DAIP)

The Manager, Community Development who reports directly to the Coorow Shire Council, is responsible for the ongoing development and implementation of this Plan

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESSES

The community was consulted in the early stages of the development of this plan.

Advertised opportunity for community submissions on access issues will be provided on at least an annual basis, however submissions will be accepted at anytime.

The Shire, whilst concerned with matters that require large capital commitment (eg the provision of disabled toilets where none are currently provided), it is also concerned with getting information on issues or locations that present access problems, such as street verges or building thresholds, or specific path routes. Such information, on appropriate assessment, can help Council target its efforts to make real access improvement for groups and individuals within current recurrent expenditure patterns.

DEALING WITH SUBMISSIONS

In assessment of any submissions it is possible that matters that require significant capital investment will only be able to be addressed when significant capital works are planned for refurbishing or recycling a building. However all due care will be taken to ensure that opportunities for access improvement, that can be carried out within current recurrent expenditure, are not lost or deferred in the consideration of a larger project.

EVALUATION AND REVIEW OF THE DAIP

Progress towards achieving stated outcomes in the plan will be monitored

The DAIP will undergo a process of annual review to coincide with the production of the Shire's Annual Report, probably within the terms of the Council's existing policy review processes

Information on outcomes of the DAIP will be included in the Annual Report.

Public notice will be given that the DAIP will be reviewed and evaluated and an invitation extended to the community to offer advice, opinion or comment on the plan, and to provide comment or details on previously unidentified access issues or ongoing access issues.

Amendments to the DAIP will be subject to the community consultation as and when appropriate

ANNUAL REPORT

As adopted by council at the 19 September, 2007 meeting

In compliance with the provisions of the Western Australian Disability Service Act, the Shire will report on the implementation of its DAIP in its Annual Report and on the prescribed proforma, to the Disability Services Commission by 31st July each year.

The report will contain:

- Progress towards the desired DAIP outcomes.
- The progress of the Shires agents and contractors towards meeting the desired outcomes.
- The strategies used to inform agents and contractors of the Shire of Coorow DAIP.

FIVE YEAR REVIEW

A review report of the DAIP, in compliance with the Act, will be completed within five years of its initial adoption and every five years thereafter. A copy of the review report will be lodged with the Disability Services Commission.

6. STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE ACCESS AND INCLUSION

Outcome 1: People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organized by, a public authority.

Strategy	Timeline
The issue of consideration of equitable access for people with disabilities will be highlighted to relevant service provision staff on a minimum of an annual basis, with the aim of having this staff seek to proactively report on access issues to the Manager, Community Development for his investigation and assessment	Ongoing
The Communities served by the Shire of Coorow will be invited to make submissions identifying area of access difficulty that they have either encountered themselves or have become aware of. The Manager, Community Development will access each of those submissions and report as appropriate to the Council	Ongoing

Outcome 2: People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of a public authority.

Strategy	Timeline
The Council will design for equitable access for people with disabilities when major capital works on its building infrastructure is planned and undertaken	Ongoing
The Shire, when formally assessing the general condition of each of its building for longer term maintenance planning will	Ongoing

undertake an access audit that is to include built facilities as well as paths of access to and into the building	
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Outcome 3: People with disabilities receive information from a public authority in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.

Strategy	Timeline
Council will endeavour to meet all requests to make its information accessible, particularly where such processes are supported by hardware and software capabilities already held by the Council	Ongoing

Outcome 4: People with disabilities receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of a public authority as other people receive from the staff of that public authority.

Strategy	Timeline
The issue of consideration of equitable access for people with disabilities will be highlighted to relevant service provision staff on a minimum of an annual basis, with the aim of ensuring that staff are fully conversant with their responsibilities in this respect.	Ongoing

Outcome 5: People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to a public authority.

Strategy	Timeline
Council will ensure that its processes for complaint receipt and lodgement remain sufficiently flexible to adequately deal with the requirements of a person with disabilities, and to that extent proactively respond where the processes are identified as being deficient	Ongoing

Outcome 6: People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by a public authority.

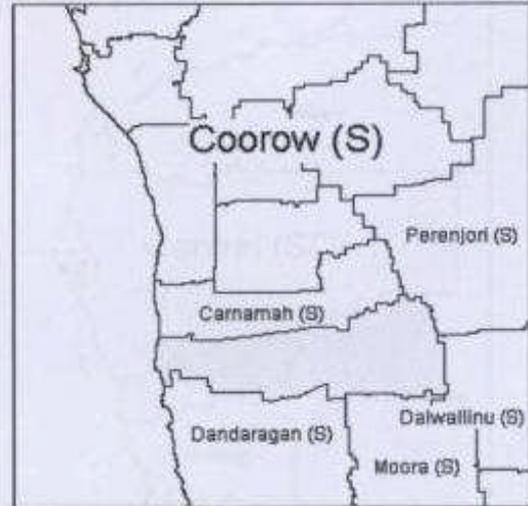
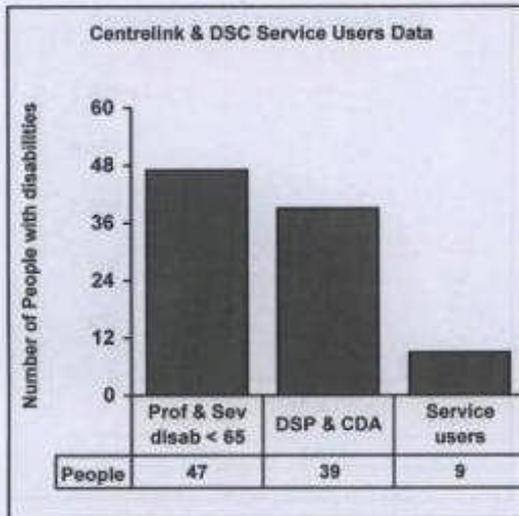
Strategy	Timeline
Council will ensure that its processes for public consultation remain sufficiently flexible to adequately deal with the requirements of a person with disabilities, and to that extent proactively respond where the processes are identified as being deficient	Ongoing



Profile of Disability



Shire of Coorow (Central)



Please refer to technical notes for definitions of terms.

Activity Restriction by Sex		Male	Female	Total
Total household pop		734	639	1,373
All with a disability		134	103	237
Profound/Severe		30	27	57
Moderate/Mild		67	50	117
Schooling/Employment		15	11	26
Other restriction		22	15	37

	Age in Years						Total 0-64	65 +
	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64			
Profound/Severe	5	11	1	17	13	47	10	
Moderate/Mild	2	4	6	35	43	90	27	
Schooling/Employment	0	4	3	12	7	26	0	
Other restriction	2	3	2	12	13	32	5	
Total	9	22	12	76	76	195	42	
Total household	135	243	123	480	297	1,278	95	

	Age in Years						Total 0-64	65 +	Total
	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64				
Physical	7	12	8	56	59	142	31	173	
Sensory	0	2	0	5	8	15	7	22	
Acquired Brain Injury	0	1	1	2	2	6	1	7	
Intellectual	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	3	
Psychological	0	3	1	9	6	19	1	20	

Need for Help	
Accommodation Support	66
Personal/Health care	76
Transport Assistance	37

Compiled by the Disability Services Commission based on ABS synthetic estimates.

