

Access and Inclusion Strategy 2004 - 2009

Purpose

The purpose of this strategy is to coordinate actions to be taken by the City of Yarra to enhance access and inclusiveness for people with disabilities (and their carers) into all aspects of community life.

The principal aim of this five year strategy is to achieve the policy outcomes adopted within Council's Access and Inclusion Policy (Doc. No. to be inserted).

Scope

This strategy applies to Yarra City Council:

- Councillors
- Council officers
- service providers (contractors and sub contractors etc.)

Strategy

The achievement of this five year strategy has been divided into five key objectives.

These objectives, together with corresponding actions, are shown below. (Refer tables 1 to 5 inclusive.)

Access and Inclusion Policy Framework

The relationship of the five key elements of the strategy is outlined in table six below.

Related documents

Proposed Access and Inclusion Policy (Document No. TBD)

Footpath Trading Policy (comhth.pol.00163)

Road Infrastructure Construction Materials Policy (infras.pol.00103)

Pedestrian access to streets and reserves policy (Doc No to be inserted.)

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Description	Aim	Action
<p>Objective 1</p> <p>To increase the influence of people with disabilities and their carers in all areas of Council’s activities by establishing and supporting comprehensive citizen engagement structures and processes.</p>	<p>1 a). Establish and maintain appropriate mechanisms to encourage people with disabilities and their carers to participate in Council consultation and decision making processes.</p> <p>1 b). Develop a communication strategy to provide opportunities to promote awareness, raise the profile and celebrate the contribution of people with disabilities.</p>	<p>HIGH PRIORITY</p> <p>1.1 Resource the Yarra Disability Advisory Committee.</p> <p>1.2 Organise an annual community forum for people with disabilities and their carers to update access and inclusion plan and inform Council’s annual planning process.</p> <p>1.3 Resource and support the Yarra Mental Health Issues Group to add capacity and improve integration between community mental health agencies.</p> <p>1.4 Develop an appropriate Council website which includes large print and audio).</p> <p>1.5 Install TTY and train staff.</p> <p>1.6 Complete the map of all disabled parking bays in the city and lodge on Council’s website. Include additional information as relevant (consistent with the City of Melbourne’s mobility map.)</p> <p>1.7 Establish an Access and Inclusion “hotline” for physical access works to inform capital works program.</p> <hr/> <p>LOWER PRIORITY</p> <p>1.8 Modify Council’s internal Style Manual and Written Communication Guide to include guidelines for “disability friendly” communication (large print, pictograms).</p> <p>1.9 Design street signage in key activity areas for people with visual impairment using international standards</p>

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Description	Aim	Action
<p>Objective 2</p> <p>To ensure that service systems and structural mechanisms are guided by access and inclusion principles, by improved integrated policy and planning within the organisation, the community and with other levels of Government.</p>	<p>2 a). Establish Access and inclusion principles and strategies into Council's legislative plans and other strategic planning documents.</p> <p>2 b). Influence State and Federal Government public policy development.</p> <p>2 c). Assist local community based agencies incorporate access and inclusion principles into their planning, policy and operations.</p>	<p>HIGH PRIORITY</p> <p>2.1 Include access and inclusion principles and strategies into the Municipal Public Health Plan, Municipal Strategic Statement, Asset Plan and Council Plan.</p> <p>2.2 To link local access and inclusion issues into the Northern Region Disability Network.</p> <p>2.3 To actively participate in the MAV local Govt disability network.</p> <p>2.4 Participate in local planning networks to raise awareness of disability issues.</p> <hr/> <p>LOWER PRIORITY</p> <p>2.5 Undertake a service mapping and gap analysis of disability service providers.</p> <p>2.6 Improved data analysis and evidence.</p> <p>2.7 Consider the adoption of diversity workplace policies.</p>

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Description	Aim	Action
<p>Objective 3</p> <p>To develop Council's service provision to better respond to the needs of people with disabilities (and their carers).</p>	<p>3 a). Ensure that all of Council's operational plans are informed by access and inclusion principles and strategies.</p> <p>3 b). Implement improved services planning</p>	<p>HIGH PRIORITY</p> <p>3.1 Include access and inclusion principles and strategies in Council's service plans</p> <p>3.2 AAA officer to investigate recreation needs of people with a disability and support Council and community recreation providers to plan and implement a range of options across all ages</p> <p>3.3 Review the current public toilet strategy for disability inclusiveness.</p> <hr/> <p>LOWER PRIORITY</p> <p>3.4 Adopt a Companion Card Policy.</p> <p>3.5 Community mapping for people with disabilities living in public housing.</p>

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Description	Aim	Action
<p>Objective 4</p> <p>To advocate on behalf of people with disabilities (and their carers).</p>	<p>4 a). Take a lead role where appropriate in representing the views of people with disabilities and their carers where direct or indirect systemic discrimination occurs or where public and private actions diminish their quality of life.</p> <p>4 b). Support and resource the campaigns and actions of the disability sector and disability advocacy groups where these actions directly impact on people with disabilities and their carers.</p>	<p>HIGH PRIORITY</p> <p>4.1 Work in conjunction with the State Government, Metlink, Connex, Yarra Trams, VicRoads and bus operators , to increase the accessibility of trains and stations, trams and tram stops and buses and bus stops. Foster increased disability awareness of the need to improve disability access to and on public transport and to inform Council and VicRoads' planning.</p> <p>4.2 Support the campaign for the retention and extension of the M40 taxi card.</p> <hr/> <p>LOWER PRIORITY</p> <p>4.3 Take a leadership role in supporting a local campaign to defend access to universal health care.</p> <p>4.4 Contribute and support the campaign for appropriate residential care for younger people.</p>

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Description	Aim	Action
<p>Objective 5</p> <p>To improve the physical mobility and access in the design construction and maintenance of the city's infrastructure, venues and facilities.</p>	<p>5 a). Incorporate physical mobility and access needs in the design, construction and maintenance of the City's infrastructure.</p> <p>5 b). Incorporate disability access requirements in the maintenance and upgrading of all council facilities</p> <p>5 c). Improve planning and provision of disabled parking.</p>	<p>HIGH PRIORITY</p> <p>5.1 Develop a disability access checklist for all building permit applications, for new and existing retail and residential developments.</p> <p>5.1 a Develop strategies to encourage and promote accessibility to existing buildings (particularly retail buildings) in the City.</p> <hr/> <p>LOWER PRIORITY</p> <p>5.2 Develop an asset management strategy to priority upgrades.</p> <p>5.3 Undertake regular access audits of Council assets.</p> <p>5.4 Identify, prioritise and install public seating in key pedestrian and activity areas.</p> <p>5.5 Oversee the preparation, research development and implementation of a disability parking strategy.</p>

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Access and Inclusion Policy Framework and Strategy

The Access and Inclusion Policy and Action Plan 2004-2009 is underpinned by five key elements and a range of strategies.

