

Access and Inclusion Plan

2014 – 2024

YEAR FOUR OF TEN YEAR PLAN.

Progress report period: July 2017- June 2018

Report date: July 2018



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State and Federal context

The development of the [National Disability Strategy 2010 - 20](#) highlights that all governments have committed to a unified, national approach to improving the lives of people with disability, their families and carers, and to providing leadership for a community-wide shift in attitudes.

[The State Disability Plan 2017-20](#). Absolutely everyone sets out priorities and actions for achieving inclusion under four key pillars:

- Inclusive communities
- Health, housing and wellbeing
- Fairness and safety
- Contributing lives

The plan focuses on key areas to drive change such as adopting a universal design approach, changing attitudes, increasing access to affordable housing, public transport, schools and jobs.

Surf Coast Shire Access and Inclusion Strategy 2014-24

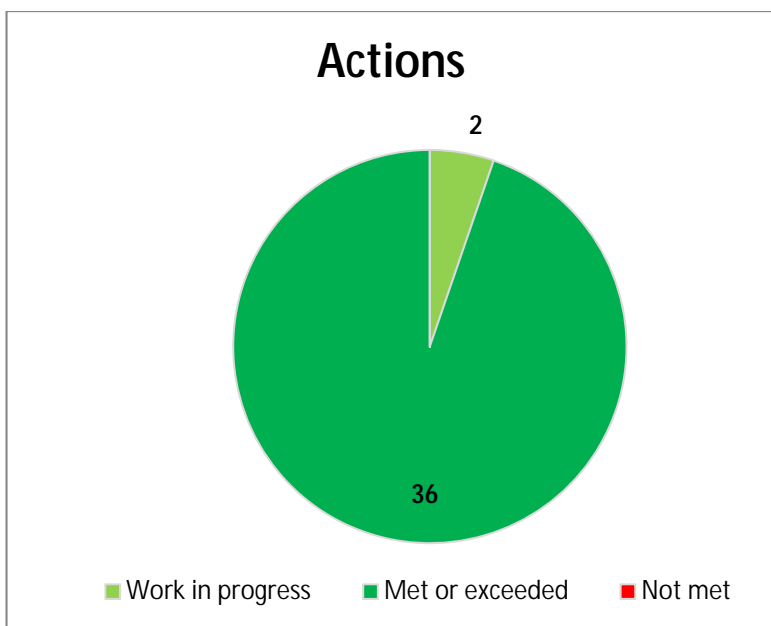
Surf Coast Council work toward best practice in Universal Design across all Council planning design and development projects and receives feedback from Councils All Abilities Advisory Committee to make way for best practice access and inclusion for all people.



Snapshot of actions completed and ongoing for July 2017 – June 2018

The Access and Inclusion Plan is made up of 38 actions that are reviewed and updated every 3 years. The last review / update took place in 2017. 36 out of 38 actions are now embedded into Council’s existing and future operations.

End of 2017/18 progress report



Status Indicator	Actions
Work in progress	2
Met or exceeded	36
Not met	0
Total	38



Year-to-date progress

Outcomes and Goals	No. of Actions		
	Work in progress	Met or exceeded	Not met
1. Built and natural environments are well designed and accessible for people of all abilities, and planned to adapt to our community's future accessibility needs			
1.1 Ensure all new Council buildings are compliant with the Building Codes Australian Standard and Access standards		1	
1.2 Continue to improve the accessibility of existing council buildings and infrastructure where feasible		1	
1.3 Improve the safety and accessibility of the outdoor environment including walking and cycling paths, playgrounds, open spaces and sporting facilities		3	
1.4 Increase the ability of staff to understand and apply current access standards and universal design principles to Council's infrastructure planning		1	
1.5 Increase the capacity of planning applicants to incorporate universal design and improved accessibility in their design	1	1	
2. Accessible, flexible, people-centric services and information, responsive to the needs of people with a disability, their families and carers			
2.1 Improve the ability of staff to respond to current and emerging needs of people with a disability, their families and carers as well as people with other access and inclusion needs		4	
2.2 Apply best practice communication and information approaches to enable easy access to information by people with a disability	1	2	
2.3 Plan and deliver council events and activities that are inclusive and celebrate community diversity		3	
2.4 Support service providers to develop and deliver services to meet local accessibility needs		2	
3. People of all abilities actively participate, socialise and have fun in the community and contribute to local decision making			
3.1 Involve people of all abilities in Council's decision-making		1	
3.2 Support community organisations to attract and cater for people with a disability as participants and volunteers		2	
3.3 Support community arts, festivals and events to be inclusive of all abilities and		1	

reflective of community diversity			
4. Council actively promotes the importance of inclusion for all, addressing discriminatory attitudes, and supporting inclusive practices			
4.1 Build and recognise community and business knowledge, skills and initiative around local access and inclusion needs		3	
4.2 Work in partnership with government, business and the community to improve access and Inclusion for people with a disability		5	
4.3 Advocate to create systemic change and choice for people with a disability		1	
4.4 Convene and support a community committee to advise council on the provision of accessible and inclusive services, programs and infrastructure		1	
5. A workforce that embraces diversity and is responsive to the needs and aspirations of people with a disability			
5.1 Provide staff with the knowledge, support and systems to enable Council to provide equitable and accessible services, programs and activities		2	
5.2 Continue to build workforce diversity regarding employment of people with a disability		1	
5.3 Evaluate Council's Access and Inclusion Plan annually (CP 3.2.3)		1	
July 2018 (Year 4 of ten year plan) EOFY progress report	2	36	0
July 2017 Year to date progress report	4	44	0
July 2016 Year to date progress report	24	20	3
March 2016 Year-to-date progress report	34	10	1
December 2015 Year-to-date progress report	36	9	1

Comments where goals and actions identified as “work in progress 2017 - 2018”

No.	Goals	Action	Comment
1.	1.5 Increase the capacity of planning applicants to incorporate universal design and improved accessibility in their design	1.5.2 Showcase two or more businesses in the SCS to promote Universal Design in their planning and development	This action has been reviewed and revised to simplify the process of meeting this goal. Planning is underway to invite 2-3 private companies to showcase Universal Design in the built environment
2.	2.2 Apply best practice communication and information approaches to enable easy access to information by people with a disability	2.2.1 Redevelop Surf Coast website and make sure it meets the web content accessibility guidelines – WCAG 2.0.	Council’s website was redeveloped in 2017/18. All web page templates on the new platform are WCAG 2.0 AA compliant. Work continues on downloadable documents on the web to meet compliance.

Access and Inclusion Plan outcomes summary 2017-18 (year four of ten year plan)

OUTCOMES 2017-18

ACCESS FOR ALL IN BUILDINGS, FACILITIES AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Upgraded toilet facilities across Community Houses, Mens Sheds and Senior Citizens Centres to meet current access standards
- Applied Universal Design principles in planning new developments such as the Kurrambee Myaring Community Centre, Bellbrae Community Hall and Tennis Courts and the Lions Playground in Anglesea
- Applied for and attracted \$200,000 from the Victorian Government to construct two Adult Change Place facilities in Anglesea and Winchelsea
- Designed and upgraded Moriac Pre-school outdoor playspace to meet the needs of children who use a wheelchair



INCLUSIVE, FLEXIBLE SERVICES AND INFORMATION

- Worked with Great Ocean Road Coastal Committee (GORCC) to investigate the most suitable location to install beach matting in the Anglesea district to compliment the new Changing Place facility planned for 2019
- Planned for the review and updating of the five Access Township maps so that visitors and tourists with a disability receive information about access features in townships
- Updated and improved Surf Coast Shire Council website to enable easier access to council information for all users
- The Communications team conducted Plain English training for staff to promote easy access to information across all of Council public relations



ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND LOCAL DECISION MAKING OPPORTUNITIES

- All Council events are assessed against access criteria to ensure people with a disability can actively participate and enjoy public spaces
- Reliable, local and current feedback is sought from Council's All Abilities Advisory Committee on township master planning and design for new and renewal projects
- Recruitment of four new members to Council's All Abilities Advisory Committee (AAAC)



COMMUNITY AWARENESS. SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE PRACTICES

- Conducted inclusive schools awareness program across five schools, where 1300 students attended as part of International Day of People with a Disability. Schools provided positive feedback relating to attitude change
- Partnered with Women with Disabilities Victoria to host an advocacy forum for women with a disability in Torquay
- Delivered Universal Design principles and practice training for 30 council staff



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

- Council's Diversity Commitment and Equal Employment Opportunities policies are introduced to all staff through staff induction
- Supported a new Community Employment Service to run a forum in Torquay to increase opportunities for people with a disability
- Supported and promoted a new community service for people with All Abilities. All Aboard disAbility services have established a new and innovative community service to enable participants to build life skills, including interpersonal and communication, employment experience, community participation and art production



Participant of All Aboard disAbility Services, enjoying work in Anglesea.