

Accessible Events



RuralAccess
Building
Inclusive
Communities

Council resources for making
your event accessible to
people with disabilities

For further information

If you have any questions or would like to know more about information in this booklet, please contact Surf Coast Shire Customer Service or Rural Access Officer.

Phone: (03) 5261 0600

Fax: (03) 5261 4527

Email: info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au

Visit: 25 Grossmans Road Torquay 3228

Post: PO Box 350 Torquay 3228

Information is available in alternate formats, such as large print, on request.

Prepared by Surf Coast Shire - 2009

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Introduction

These guidelines have been developed to assist you to make your event or function accessible to all.

There are many people who live in, or visit the Surf Coast who benefit from good access. These include people with mobility issues, people with communication difficulties, older people, parents with prams, walking frame users, people with temporary injuries such as a broken leg, etc. Basically, everyone benefits from good access!

Surf Coast Shire Council has a range of resources and equipment that could help make your event accessible to these people – free of charge!

Benefits of Providing Good Access

A survey by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has estimated that about 20% of Australians have a disability (ABS, Disability, Ageing and Carers Survey, 2003). Therefore by providing access for these people, you increase the number of people who can attend and enjoy your event or activity.

Equipment

a) Parking Signage

These signs can be used to create extra parking for people with disabilities. A good place to position the signs is somewhere with a clear pathway to the entrance and/or toilets.

b) Gutter Ramps

These ramps can be placed over gutters to create access from the road to the footpath.

c) Hearing “Loop”

This equipment is designed to improve communication in meetings for people with hearing difficulties. The system can be set up for different kinds of meetings such as formal presentations as well as round table discussions.

To hire contact the Rural Access Officer on 5261 0600 or email info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au All equipment is available free of charge. You may be asked to fill out a simple form and provide a small deposit.

You will need to collect and return equipment from/to the Surf Coast Shire Offices in Torquay (See page 2 for address).





Resources

a) “Communicating with People with Disabilities” Guide

These booklets are a useful training tool for marshals, organisers, volunteers and others involved in your event or activity. The booklets outline how to comfortably communicate with people with disabilities.

For copies contact Rural Access Officer on 5261 0600 or email info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au. The Guide is also available online at www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/ruralaccess.htm

b) Community Grants

Surf Coast Shire offers community grants twice a year in March and September. If you are a community group or community organisation, you could apply for equipment or resources to make your activity/event more accessible to people of all abilities.



For information contact the Community Planning & Development Co-ordinator on 5261 0600 or email community_grants@surfcoast.vic.gov.au. Information is also available online at www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/grant.html

c) Access Guidelines for Events “365 Model”



This comprehensive step-by-step Guide has been designed to help you make an event or activity accessible to people of all abilities. The comprehensive booklet was developed by the Inclusive Events Planning Group, City of Greater Geelong and Assert 4 All.

To request a copy, contact the Rural Access Officer on 5261 0600 or email info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au

You will need to collect resources from the Surf Coast Shire Offices in Torquay (See inside cover for address).

Useful Checklist

Have you considered...

Main entrance

- Accessible parking close to main entrance
- Accessible main entrance (wide, step free, door easily opened)

Signage

- Clear directional signs to amenities at the event, including symbols (See Section 4)
- Use of correct signage to indicate accessible toilets

Toilets and other facilities

- Accessible unisex toilet available in venues where public toilets are provided.
- At least one accessible path of travel to all public facilities at the event

Companion Card

- Affiliated member of Companion Card scheme for events that include an attendance fee (See page 10)

Customer service and payment areas

- Staff aware of access needs for people with a range of abilities
- At least one low height service counter at main customer service/payment area

Inclusive Event Planning

- Organisers have considered ways to increase participation by people with disabilities in their event



Other Useful Resources

International Access Symbols are available to download from www.nsnet.org/symbols.html

Companion Card information is available at www.companioncard.org.au

Interpreter and Translator information is available from National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI). See www.naati.com.au

References

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2003), Disability, Ageing and Carers Survey, Catalogue Number 4430.0, Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Thanks to Warrnambool City Council for kindly contributing some information used in this booklet.

A large, stylized graphic of a wave, composed of several overlapping, curved bands in shades of light blue and teal, positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the page.

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