



Liverpool
Plains
Shire Council



Liverpool Plains Shire Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan

2022 -2025



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Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land; the people of the Kamilaroi nation and their Elders, past and present. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of the Liverpool Plains Shire. We particularly acknowledge all First Nations people with disability and their carers.



The Liverpool Plains Shire Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan provides the framework through which the Council will work **towards achieving an inclusive society.** It presents the overall statement of intent from the Council and identifies the key focus areas for Liverpool Plains Shire to **remove systemic and attitudinal barriers** so that people with disability have a better opportunity to **live a meaningful life** and enjoy the **full benefits of membership in the community.**

LPSC Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022 - 2025

Council wants everyone to feel included in our community and this Plan outlines how we will make Liverpool Plains more inclusive for everyone.

The NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 requires all Councils to develop a Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) as disability should not define a person and should not limit them to become an integral part of our community. The DIAP is to be reviewed every four years and progress is reported in Council's Annual Report.

Types of Disabilities



Visual Impairment covers persons who are completely or partially blind, have poor eyesight or suffer from colour blindness.



Physical Impairment covers persons who are missing limbs, have reduced control of their limbs or suffer from dexterity problems or epilepsy.



Hearing Impairment covers people who are completely or partially deaf.



Cognitive Impairment covers people who have difficulties in learning, speech and intellectual constraints, mental issues such as depression, anxiety, autism, ADHD as well as psychological or psychiatric conditions.

What's already been done?

Much has been achieved from DIAP 2017 – 2021:

2018

- New disability toilet and access ramp at Werris Creek pool.
- Wheelchair access ramp at the Railway Institute in Werris Creek.

2019

- Disability toilets George Street, Quirindi.
- King George V Park, Willow Tree, new disabled toilet.
- Premier public amenities completely upgraded.
- Currabubula Hall new disabled access ramp was installed.
- Quirindi Showgrounds new toilet with disabled access.
- Remarkered disabled parking patches and updated parking signage in the Quirindi CBD.
- 300 metres paved 2m wide footpath in Werris Creek, with ramps linking shopping precinct to sports facilities.

2021

- New canteen and amenities building at David Taylor Oval with accessibility toilets and ramps.
- Royal Theatre accessibility redesign of entry zone, improved paving and installation of new wheelchair lift.
- New canteen and amenities building at David Taylor Oval with accessibility toilets and ramps.
- Disability toilets at Bell Park with disabled access directly from the street.
- Installation of disabled toilet and ramp at Warrah Creek Hall.



Developing Disability Inclusion Action Plan

We set out to inform our community through:

Posters, newspaper, email lists and social media posts.

Then we consulted our community through online and face to face surveys.

We asked if people with disabilities felt included in the community, and we also asked which of twenty-one Council services and facilities they had used and their satisfaction with the level of access to those services and facilities.

We wanted to know if there were other services, facilities and locations that can be improved and where people usually find information about services for people with a disability.

We also conducted a targeted business and service providers survey. We asked about attitudes to people with a disability, if improvements have been made to allow better physical access and if they employ or involve people with disabilities. Other questions were similar to the general survey.

We also delivered face to face workshops in Quirindi and Werris Creek.





Community Feedback

In total, **54 responses** were received, either online or face to face and from workshops.

The General DIAP survey attracted 43 responses; nine were from a person with a disability, seven were completed on behalf of a person with a disability, seventeen were from a carer, family member or friend of a person with a disability, and twelve were from other people, for example with access issues for young children.

While 30 people who provided feedback felt included in the community at least sometimes, four rarely felt included, and lack of **inclusion** received many comments.

All of the 21 upgraded Council facilities were used by respondents. The most highly used facilities in order were footpaths, Council events/festivals and designated parking for people with a disability.

Most people were satisfied with the facilities and services they have used. People were particularly happy with the new Quirindi Library:

“new library is fantastic”

and

“Quirindi library is lovely”.

Community Feedback

Footpaths are the major street landscape and access issue, with 24% of general survey respondents dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with footpaths and ten individual comments raising paths and footpaths as an issue.

"Public footpaths are uneven in places. The gutters in the Main Street (Post Office block) are too high and dangerous to access".

Most people found information about services for people with a disability from a variety of sources including on the internet (74%), in the local newspaper (57%) and from the Liverpool Plains Shire Council website and directory (40%).

Three people who responded to the survey were from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background and one person was born overseas. Respondents were from a range of age groups, with 33% being over 60 years.

The DIAP service providers and business survey attracted eleven (11) responses. Key findings were that 90% of businesses and service provider respondents reported a positive attitude to people with disabilities and 55% said they had made improvements to allow for better physical access for people with disabilities.



Community Feedback

All facilities of the 21 listed Council services and facilities were used by at least some people. Footpaths were the most used, followed by Council parks, children's playgrounds and cycleways / shared paths and bus shelters. Some 36% of business and service provider respondents were dissatisfied with footpaths. Comments on improved access included improvements to the *"footpath from the courthouse to IGA"*.

There was a detailed comment about disabled parking and the issues involved: "location for disability parks are not always usable due to being too close to other car park".



Our four 'pillars' DIAP Action Plan

Liverpool Plains Shire Council's DIAP Action Plan identifies what Council will do in response to the community feedback. It is organised into four "Pillars":
They are:

Pillar 1: Create liveable communities

Pillar 2: Improve access to systems and processes

Pillar 3: Promote positive attitudes and behaviours

Pillar 4: Support access to meaningful employment



Pillar 1: Create liveable communities

AIM: To increase participation of people with disability in all aspects of community life, through targeted approaches to address barriers in housing, learning, transport, health, social and cultural engagement and wellbeing.

- We will work to make footpaths even and accessible in the main streets of Quirindi and Werris Creek.
- We will clean footpaths streets on the main streets of Quirindi and Werris Creek of leaves to prevent paths and roads being slippery.
- We will make gutters more accessible in the main streets of Quirindi and Werris Creek.
- We will provide additional seating in the main streets of our villages.
- We will make it easier for people with a disability to park their cars in our villages
- We will create more disability parking spaces located near medical facilities.
- We will create some larger disabled parking spaces to enable easier transfer from cars to wheelchairs and back.
- We will make accessible paths to accessible toilet facilities.
- We will provide more accessible playground facilities.
- We will make parks more accessible, for example for people in wheelchairs to disembark on a flat area, accessible paths to facilities and some picnic tables that can be used by people in wheelchairs.
- We will investigate disabled access to the swimming pools.
- We will investigate providing disabled toilets at the Railway Institute.



Pillar 2: Improve access to systems and processes

AIM: To ensure that people with disability can make informed choices about available services and to easily and efficiently access mainstream services and other opportunities in the community.

- We will update the Council website to make it easier to use and read.
- We will provide better access to Council processes by giving people with disabilities the opportunity to participate in an Access Advisory Committee.
- We will provide better opportunities for those without computer access to use computers and internet access through our libraries.



Pillar 3: Promote positive attitudes and behaviours

AIM: To build community awareness of the rights and capabilities of people with disability, and support the development of positive attitudes and behaviour towards people with disability

- We will hold events in place that have facilities with easy access, such as toilet facilities and easy parking for people with disabilities.
- We will support more social get togethers for people with disabilities.

Pillar 4: Support access to meaningful employment

AIM: To increase the number of people with disability in meaningful employment, thereby enabling people with disability to plan for their future, exercise choice and control, and increase their economic security.

- We will make sure there are more people with disabilities working at Council.
- We will create volunteering opportunities for people with disabilities for example, in our libraries.
- We will lobby to make it easier for people to become volunteers by having one 'volunteer' card to avoid multiple screenings.



Want to know more?

Can we find out what's been done from DIAP Action Plan?

Yes, progress is reported every year in Council's Annual Report.



Contact us at
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Council would like to thank everyone who contributed to the development of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022 – 2025

