Disability Access and Inclusion

Head of Power

Local Government Act 2009

Related Legislation

Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)
Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (Qld)

Objective

To provide a framework through which Council will work towards improving the accessibility of its infrastructure, services and information for people with a disability, and ensure its compliance with relevant legislation and standards.

Definitions

Accessibility means enabling the reasonable use of council infrastructure, open space, services, resources and information by people with a disability.

Disability means any condition that restricts a person’s mental, sensory or mobility functions. It may be caused by accident, trauma, genetics or disease. A disability may be temporary or permanent, total or partial, lifelong or acquired, visible or invisible (Australian Network on Disability).

Disability community means people with a disability, their families, carers, advocates and service providers.

Infrastructure means structures and facilities owned or controlled by Council, including buildings, public amenities, pathways, car parks and outdoor recreation facilities and equipment.

Services includes functions and activities delivered by Council such as its call centres, libraries, events and website.

Application

This policy applies to infrastructure and services, and is to be read in conjunction with the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

Policy Statement

Council’s vision is for all residents and visitors to have full and equal access to the infrastructure, services and opportunities of the Moreton Bay region. However, Council acknowledges that in comparison to other members of the community, people with a disability may face additional challenges and barriers to participating in community life.

As a key provider of community infrastructure, services and information, Council acknowledges its important role in supporting the liveability of the Moreton Bay region for people with a disability. Further, Council recognises and embraces its responsibilities under State and Commonwealth legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Commonwealth) and the Anti-discrimination Act 1991 (QLD).
This policy aims to affirm Council’s commitment to incorporating the principles of accessibility and anti-discrimination into all aspects of Council’s functions, in addition to ensuring compliance with its legislative obligations.

Council will endeavour to:

(1) ensure that new infrastructure is built to the applicable accessibility standards and incorporates universal design principles;
(2) where practical, progressively optimise the accessibility of existing infrastructure;
(3) where appropriate, advocate to other levels of government to improve the accessibility of public infrastructure and services beyond Council’s control;
(4) ensure that all services are delivered free of discrimination on the basis of an individual’s level of ability;
(5) ensure that services and information are designed and delivered to enable accessibility to people with a disability;
(6) foster an organisational culture that values the participation of people with a disability in services and programs;
(7) raise staff awareness of accessibility issues through the provision of appropriate training;
(8) promote a positive image of people with a disability throughout the Moreton Bay region;
(9) engage with the disability community to better understand key accessibility issues related to infrastructure, services and information;
(10) develop and implement a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan to guide Council’s prioritisation of, and investment in, accessibility initiatives throughout the region.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

Council is committed to adopting a strategic approach towards the identification and progressive resolution of barriers that people with a disability may face when accessing infrastructure, services and information. This will be achieved through the development and implementation of a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

Council’s Disability Access and Inclusion Plan will focus solely on the infrastructure and service delivery responsibilities of local government, distinct to those of the Federal Government, State Government, private enterprise and the community services sector. It will take a practical and fiscally responsible approach to the development and implementation of strategic and operational priorities that improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of infrastructure, services and information over time.

Related Documents

This policy complements and is to be implemented in conjunction with other Council policies and directive but not limited to:

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (when developed and implemented)

Review Triggers

This Policy is reviewed internally for applicability, continuing effect and consistency with related documents and other legislative provisions when any of the following occurs:

(1) The related documents are amended.
(2) The related documents are replaced by new documents.
(3) Amendments are made to the head of power which affect the scope and effect of this Policy.
(4) Other circumstances as determined from time to time by a resolution of Council.
Notwithstanding the above, this Policy is to be reviewed at least once every two years for relevance and to ensure that its effectiveness is maintained.

**Responsibility**

This Policy is to be:

1. implemented by Councillors and Officers; and
2. reviewed and amended in accordance with the "Review Triggers" by Manager Community and Customer Services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy: 2150-094</th>
<th>Official Version: A15032226</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Version</strong></td>
<td><strong>Adoption (Council meeting / Minute Page)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V1</td>
<td>Coordination Committee (17/419)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>