



CITY OF PALMERSTON

# DISABILITY access strategy







# 1

## INTRODUCTION

The City of Palmerston is committed to creating a community where all members are given equal rights of access to not only council facilities but those provided by local businesses.

### 1.2 The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1992 states:

The objects of this Act are:

- (a) to eliminate, as far as possible, discrimination against persons on the ground of disability in the areas of:
  - (i) work, accommodation, education, access to premises, clubs and sport; and
  - (ii) the provision of goods, facilities, services and land; and
  - (iii) existing laws; and
  - (iv) the administration of Commonwealth laws and programs; and
- (b) to ensure, as far as practicable, that persons with disabilities have the same rights to equality before the law as the rest of the community; and
- (c) to promote recognition and acceptance within the community of the principle that persons with disabilities have the same fundamental rights as the rest of the community.

The act establishes minimum levels of service that must be provided to people with disabilities. As a local government service provider we are bound to deliver infrastructure which is compliant with the framework established by the act.

### 1.3 Council strives to provide community leadership in the provision of infrastructure and services to the disabled. Council seeks a positive image and to be seen promoting initiatives, which create improvements for disabled people who live, work, and visit the Palmerston Municipality. Although much has already been achieved it is important that the residents and visitors are made aware of current and future strategies.



# 2

## THE ACCESS STRATEGY RATIONALE

- 2.1 This Strategy has been created to address access issues surrounding council policies, procedures, and services as well as the physical / sensory access provided by the City of Palmerston, Government, and private organisations. It is also about accessibility in the built environment, which includes streets, public open spaces, council buildings, outdoor spaces around buildings, transport, and buildings in the control of other public bodies or private organisations. The good practice recommended by this strategy will not only enhance the lives of disabled people, but also will enrich the lives of all who live, work, or visit the City of Palmerston.

# 3

## STRUCTURE

- 3.1 The Access Strategy will address two main areas:
- (a) What the City of Palmerston Controls
  - (b) What the City of Palmerston Influences

# 4

## WHAT THE CITY OF PALMERSTON CONTROLS

The Strategy is directly relevant to all services provided by the council. The more immediate Council services which relate to open spaces, transportation, and the built environment will already have a high level of community understanding. Less obvious areas such as library services, sports, and health and fitness while not as visible are considered of equal importance. An understanding of these issues will aid in the implementation of the Equality Standards council seeks to implement.

The Strategy Aims are:

4.1 **Aim 1: To Improve Access To Council Services**

As a service provider the council has a duty under the DDA 1992 to create policy, practice and procedures that are accessible to the community. We take great pride in the quality of our services and the will to develop our services further to create the most accessible service possible. By systematically undertaking Service Reviews of all policies and procedures and including access considerations in the Service Reviews including Best Value Review.

4.2 **Aim 2: To Improve Access in the Built Environment**

The independence of disabled people is highly determined on the built environment. Therefore, it is the responsibility of those who shape the built environment to create equality in design. Although Legislation has set minimum standards it is important that Palmerston aims to achieve best practice, which goes beyond these minimums.

4.3 **Aim 3: To Improve Access To Information**

Information in the traditional sense is not always accessible to a wide variety of people. Information comes in many forms, from leaflets to signage. It is important that the council communicate information in different formats, which a wide range of people find accessible. The Council will work to provide a range of communication options within its Communication Strategies.

# 5

## WHAT THE CITY OF PALMERSTON INFLUENCES

5.1 **Aim 1: We aim to improve the Environment throughout Palmerston**

Through its roles as a referral agency and through direct advocacy council seeks to promote better access for disabled people in the built environment, open space, roadways, infrastructure, and transport.

5.2 **Aim 2: We aim to improve the Social inclusion of disabled people**

The council will promote disabled people as active citizens in all its functions of community leadership. Through education we will influence how society is informed of disability and access issues. We will oppose illegal and unfair discrimination in all its forms.

5.2.1 We will promote the employment of disabled people with all current and future employers in the City. Where appropriate we will engage in positive action initiatives to increase the number of disabled people in work or moving closer to work.

5.3 **Aim 3: We aim to work with our Partners to achieve the strategy**

Through our existing and future relationships with Government (Federal and State), other local government authorities, and non government organisations we will actively work to deliver this strategy

5.4 **Aim 4: We aim To Work With and Support Disabled People's**

**Organisations**

The council is committed to supporting organisations and groups, which try to ensure access improvements for all members of the community, whether they represent disabled people, or others who face access barriers. The Council aims to work with such organisations, and try to reflect their needs in the service it provides.





# 6

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- 6.1** There are several over-arching objectives against which all progress can be measured:
- (a) A range of accessible buildings, spaces and venues developed as a result of regeneration activity.
  - (b) The number of buildings and streets made accessible, thereby helping to increase employment and recreation opportunities for disabled people.
  - (c) Inclusion of council's disability service levels in planning decision made by the Development Consent Authority.
  - (d) Ensuring that access issues are a recognised part of best value service reviews, including services that are not directly related to upgrading the physical environment.
  - (e) Increasing employment opportunities for disabled people.
- 6.2** Council will form a disability advisory group consisting of technical and community service staff, the Mayor and an Alderman who will consider disabled standards, formulate an annual disabled access works programs, and report to Council annually.





## CONTACT US



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