

CCSP 17 Access and Inclusion Policy



14 February 2018

This policy was adopted by Council to set governing principles in place that align the strategic direction of the organisation with Goal 2: Welcoming, inclusive and healthy communities.

Objectives

The purpose of this policy is to set the strategic direction of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River in ensuring Shire services, buildings and facilities are welcoming and inclusive for all members of our community.

The policy also serves to outline the commitment of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River to comply with the *WA Disability Services Act 1993 (amended 2004)* and to ensure that people with disability have the same access to events, services, buildings, facilities, information, quality services, opportunities to participate, make complaints and gain employment as other people in the shire.

The Shire acknowledges that some people experience barriers to access and inclusion due to discriminations such as those in relation to age, race, gender, class and sexual orientation. These discriminations can be embedded in the community through policy, infrastructure, resource allocation and programs. The Shire acknowledges its important role to play in addressing these structural barriers through its policy, planning and functions. This policy is one of a suite of policies that guide the Shire to work for a fairer, just and equal community.

Policy

The Shire is committed to providing services and working within a diverse community, including people with disability, their families and carers, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, refugees, Aboriginal Australians, the elderly, women, LGBTIQ+ people, and people experiencing financial hardships. The Shire strives to continually improve access and inclusion for all its community members.

The Shire interprets an accessible and inclusive community as one in which all community members can access and are welcomed to participate in all Local Government functions,

facilities and services (both in-house and contracted) in the same manner and with the same rights and responsibilities as other members of the community.

A community that recognises its diversity and supports the participation and inclusion of all its members makes for a richer community life.

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River commits to achieving the following eight objectives:

1. Improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of services and events for all our community;
2. Improve access to the Shire's buildings and facilities for all our community;
3. Improve access to information that is inclusive to all our community;
4. Improve the quality of service delivered by the Shire of Augusta Margaret River;
5. Ensure the Shire's feedback and complaints procedure is inclusive for all our community;
6. Improve opportunities for all our community to participate in public consultation undertaken by the Shire;
7. Improve opportunities for all people with diverse abilities and backgrounds to obtain and maintain employment with the Shire; and
8. Ensure the strategic management of the monitoring and review of the Access and Inclusion Plan

The implementation of the Policy is applied through the Shire's current Access and Inclusion Plan (AIP). The Policy is measured according to progress against the implementation plan that sits alongside the AIP.

The Shire is committed to achieving the desired outcomes of its AIP by taking all practical measures to ensure the implementation of the AIP by its Councillors, staff, agents and contractors.

Definitions

Access (sometimes referred to as universal access):

Refers to physical access to the natural and built environment – buildings, recreational facilities, parks, bushland, beaches and footpaths – as well as access to the Shire's services, events and information.

Inclusion:

Refers to social inclusion, in that all people of diverse abilities and backgrounds have the opportunity to participate in a welcoming community.

Application

This policy relates to Council, the CEO, staff and contractors providing services on behalf of the Shire.

Responsibility for the implementation of this policy rests with the Chief Executive Officer and Directors and is to inform all strategies and plans of the Shire. The Policy is to be reviewed at least every five years in line with the AIP.

Document and version control table		
Strategic outcome	Goal 2: Welcoming, inclusive and healthy communities	
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