

DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION

1. Background

Council values disability access and inclusion for people with disabilities and has worked to ensure its buildings and events as inclusion friendly as possible in the past. This policy addresses the Disability Services Commission's requirements for every local government to have an up-to-date Access and Inclusion Policy in addition to a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) and will formalise existing practices of the Town with respect to disability access and inclusion.

2. Objectives

- a. To validate the Town's affiliation with the Companionship Card (Acrod Australia) and its conditions of allowing free access to an event or activity run or supported by the Town for the carer of a person with a disability.
- b. To foster a sense of community inclusion for all people who live and visit Cottesloe, no matter their disability.

3. Outcomes

The Town of Cottesloe is committed to achieving six desired outcomes of its DAIP. These are:

- a. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by, the Town of Cottesloe.
- b. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the Cottesloe buildings, facilities and infrastructure.
- c. People with disabilities receive information from the Town of Cottesloe in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.
- d. People with disabilities receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of the Town of Cottesloe.
- e. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the Cottesloe.
- f. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by the Town of Cottesloe.

4. Policy

The Town of Cottesloe will achieve the six outcomes of the DAIP by requiring the following conditions to be met by all contractors, consultants, staff and activities run by, sponsored or supported by the Town:

- a. That all existing contractors/consultants engaged by the Town in the last six months be informed of the current DAIP and its relevance to their services to Cottesloe.
- b. That all contractors/consultants who are engaged by the Town from here forward are inducted into the conditions of the DAIP and made aware of the Access and Inclusion Policy and Companionship Card conditions. The Contractor's Induction Checklist must be filled out and filed.

- c. That all Event Coordinators who run activities or events in Cottesloe owned buildings or areas are inducted to the DAIP and made aware of the Access and Inclusion Policy and Companionship Card conditions.
- d. That the Town continues to fund maintenance on its buildings and areas to ensure safe, disability access and participation.
- e. That all building and planning applications be awarded only if the access and inclusion and universal standards are met in Council owned buildings and all business extensions, upgrades and licenses.
- f. That these conditions are considered and included in all updates to event/booking application forms, policies procedures, staff manuals and codes of conduct.
- g. That all staff and Elected Members update their disability access and inclusion training every two years, funded by the Town.
- h. That all material, including, but not limited to, promotional material forms, websites and newsletters be according to the Town's DAIP for inclusion to the sight-impaired.
- i. That the Town provides a member of staff with sign language abilities at all times.
- j. That the Town promotes the Disabilities Services Advisory Committee to the local residents and visitors for as a forum for feedback and comment on its facilities.
- k. The Town recognises that people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and those with disabilities are valued and contributing members of the community who make a variety of contributions to local social, economic and cultural life.
- l. That the Town promotes awareness of the importance of community inclusion in all aspects of the Town's management.

Adopted	23 August 2010
Expected date of review	