

Shire of Shark Bay Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2014 -2019

Reviewed August 2014

This plan is available in alternative formats such as large print on request.

The Shire of Shark Bay

The Shire of Shark Bay is located in the Gascoyne Region of the Midwest.

Major industries are tourism within a World Heritage area, fishing and salt production.

Functions, facilities and services (both in-house and contracted) provided by the Shire of Shark Bay

The Shire of Shark Bay is responsible for a range of functions, facilities and services including:

Services to property: construction and maintenance of Shire-owned buildings roads, footpaths and cycle facilities, land drainage and development, waste collection and disposal, litter control and street cleaning, planting and caring for street trees, numbering of buildings and lots, street lighting, and bush fire control.

Services to the community: provision and maintenance of playing areas, parks, gardens, reserves and facilities for sporting and community groups, public library and information services, senior citizen centre, youth services and community events, Discovery and Visitor Centre.

Regulatory services: planning of road systems, sub-divisions and town planning schemes; building approvals for construction, additions or alterations to buildings, environmental health and ranger services, including dog and cat control and the development, maintenance and control of parking and camping areas.

General administration: the provision of general information to the public and the lodging of complaints and payment of fees including rates, fines and dog and cat registrations.

Processes of government: ordinary and special Council and committee meetings, electors' meetings and election of Council members, ward meetings and community consultations.

People with disabilities in the Shire of Shark Bay

It is estimated that there is a significant number of people with disabilities living within the Shire. The seasonal influx of tourists, including tourists with a disability, must also be considered.

Planning for better access

The Western Australia Disability Services Act requires all Local Governments to develop and implement a DAIP to ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to its facilities and services.

Other legislation underpinning access and inclusion includes the Western Australia Equal Opportunity Act (1984) and the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA), both of which make discrimination on the basis of a person's disability unlawful.

Progress since 1995

The Shire of Shark Bay is committed to facilitating the inclusion of people with disabilities through the improvement of access to its information, facilities and services. Towards this goal the Shire adopted its first DSP in 1995 to address the access barriers within the community.

Since the adoption of the initial DSP, the Shire has implemented many initiatives and made significant progress towards better access. This includes but is not limited to the following:

New public buildings and facilities that incorporate DSP include the World Heritage Discovery Centre, public school, Silver Chain medical facility, Department of Parks and Wildlife / Department of Fisheries / Volunteer Marine Rescue joint building, recreation centre, playground, amphitheatre, public toilets and footpaths.

The Shire of Shark Bay has revised its town planning scheme and disability issues are included in planning decisions.

The Shire of Shark Bay is currently managing the Foreshore Redevelopment Plan which takes into account the needs of people with disabilities and accessibility to natural features such as the beach. Included in the plan is a process to develop accessibility to a new fishing and boat jetty, public toilets and foreshore recreation areas. Footpaths will be realigned to facilitate freedom of movement.

The new Shark Bay Recreation Precinct has been developed with disability access as a major consideration. In 2012 the Shark Bay Recreation Centre was officially opened to the community of Shark Bay. The new centre has full disability access with toilet and shower facilities in both the main centre and the adjacent gymnasium. The centre offers sporting and recreation programs which all people in the community are encouraged to attend.

As part of the precinct development an amphitheatre has been constructed to facilitate performances. Footpaths have been installed to ensure full disability access to the area including the tiered seating.

A new children and adults playground has been constructed in the recreation precinct, which features a disability accessible gazebo and barbeque area with direct access to the playground.

Water fountains have been installed on the Denham Foreshore and in the Shark Bay Recreation Centre, both of which are disability accessible.

The entrance to the Shire's administration building has recently been modified to improve access for people with disabilities.

The Shire has an ongoing plan to install footpaths in all streets within the township. These paths are all designed for ease of use for people with disabilities.

Community consultation process

The Shire undertook to draft a new DAIP to guide further improvements to access and inclusion.

The process included:

- Examination of the initial DSP and subsequent progress reports to see what has been achieved and what still needs work,

- Consultation with key staff; and
- Consultation with the community.

The Disability Services Act (DSA) Regulations (2004) set out the minimum consultation requirements for public authorities in relation to DAIPs.

The community was informed through the Shire’s website that the Shire was developing a DAIP to address barriers to access for people with disabilities and their families. They were invited to provide input either in writing, by telephone or in person.

Responsibility for implementing the DAIP

Implementation of the DAIP is the responsibility of all areas of the Shire. The DSA (1993) requires all public authorities to take all practical measures to ensure that the DAIP is implemented by its officers, employees, agents and contractors.

Communicating the plan to staff and people with disabilities

The community was informed through the local media (newsletter) that copies of the plan were available upon request and in alternative formats if required and on the Shire’s website.

Review and evaluation mechanisms

The DSA requires that DAIPs be reviewed at least every five years. Whenever the DAIP is amended, a copy of the amended plan must be lodged with the DSC. The implementation plan can be updated more frequently if desired.

Evaluation

An evaluation will occur as part of the five-yearly review of the DAIP.

The community and staff will be consulted as per the endorsed consultation strategies, as part of any evaluation.

Reporting on the DAIP

The DSA requires the Shire to report on the implementation of its DAIP in its annual report.

The Shire is also required to report on progress in the prescribed format to the DSC by July 31 each year.

STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE ACCESS AND INCLUSION

Outcome 1:

People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by, a public authority.

Strategy	Timeline
Ensure that people with disabilities are consulted on their needs for services and the accessibility of current services.	Ongoing
Monitor Shire services to ensure equitable access and inclusion.	Ongoing
Develop the links between the DAIP and other Shire plans and strategies.	Ongoing
Ensure that events, whether organised or funded, are accessible to people with disabilities.	Ongoing

Outcome 2:

People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of a public authority.

Strategy	Timeline
Ensure that all buildings and facilities meet the standards for access and any demonstrated additional need.	Ongoing
Ensure that all new or redevelopment works provide access to people with disabilities, where practicable.	Ongoing
Ensure that ACROD parking meets the needs of people with disabilities in terms of quantity and location.	Ongoing

Outcome 3:

People with disabilities receive information from a public authority in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.

Strategy	Timeline
Ensure that the community is aware that Shire information is available in alternative formats upon request.	Ongoing
Improve staff awareness of accessible information needs and how to provide information in other formats.	Ongoing

Outcome 4:

People with disabilities receive the same level and quality of service from the employees of a public authority as other people receive from the employees of that public authority.

Strategy	Timeline
Ensure that all employees, existing and new, and elected members are aware of disability and access issues and have the skills to provide appropriate services.	Ongoing

Outcome 5:

People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to a public authority.

Strategy	Timeline
Ensure that grievance mechanisms are accessible for people with disabilities and are acted upon.	Ongoing

Outcome 6:

People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by a public authority.

Strategy	Timeline
Ensure that people with disabilities are actively consulted about the DAIP and any other significant planning processes.	Ongoing
Ensure that people with disabilities are aware of and can	Ongoing

access other established consultative processes.	
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Outcome 7:

People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to obtain and maintain employment within a public authority.

Strategy	Timeline
Use inclusive recruitment practices	Ongoing
Improve methods of attracting, recruiting and retaining people with a disability.	Ongoing
Work with key disability employment support providers to employ a person with a disability.	Ongoing