



# **SHIRE OF DALWALLINU**

## **DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN**

**2024-2029**

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# CONTENTS

## **Background**

- The Shire of Dalwallinu
- Functions, Facilities and Services available within the Shire
- Disabilities & the Present in the Shire of Dalwallinu
- Planning for improvement

## **Access & Inclusion Policy Statement**

## **Development of the DAIP**

- Responsibilities for Planning Process
- Planning for implementation of the policy
- Consultation with community
- Implementation & Responsibilities
- Monitoring effectiveness of policies
- Audit of procedures
- Final Reporting

*The Shire of Dalwallinu would like to thank all who gave input to this document.*



## **BACKGROUND**

The Shire of Dalwallinu is located in the central Wheatbelt region of Western Australia.

Agriculture is the main industry in the Shire and forms the economic base for the entire area. Secondary industries and businesses associated with agriculture are a dominant feature of town economies as is a number of service and manufacturing industries supporting the Mining Industry.

The 2021 census recorded the population at 1,375. All indications are that the community is growing with increasing demand on the rental market with a number of new dwellings being built.

There are excellent community facilities including community centre, community resource centre, Aquatic Centre, library, clinic and hospital. These facilities are available to people with disabilities and able bodied alike.

Inclusion is crucial for social and mental wellbeing. Access to activities allows participation and inclusion in our community. This access and inclusion document has been compiled with this goal in mind.



## **FUNCTIONS, FACILITIES & SERVICES**

### **Functions**

The Shire of Dalwallinu is responsible for a range of services including:

### **Services to Property**

The Shire is responsible for Local Government owned buildings, construction and maintenance of roads, footpaths, land drainage and development, waste collection and disposal, litter control and street cleaning, planting and caring for trees and shrubs, numbering of buildings and lots, administration of road signage, car licensing and driving licences.

### **Facilities**

Provision and maintenance of parks, play areas, gardens, reserves, sporting facilities, management of recreation centres and pool, public library, public information, health education, community events. The Shire has exemplary health care and good schools.

A recent focus of redevelopment has been safety of our residents. The main road in Dalwallinu bypasses the centre of Dalwallinu town resulting in very little traffic pollution or noise in busy pedestrian areas. Children and elderly can now safely cross the main road within the business centre. The Shire also has an excellent community spirit where neighbours help each other

### **Regulatory Services**

Town and Road Planning, Building Services including building extension permits and sub divisions, health of the community, safety of the community, protection of the environment, inspections of public buildings, enforcement of local laws, ranger services, inspection of food premises and parking control.

### **Agents and Contractors**

DAIP strategies will be implemented by Shire Staff, Agents and Contractors in accordance with *“A Guide to Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs) for Local Government contractors”*.



## **DISABILITIES & THE PRESENT IN DALWALLINU**

### **People with disabilities in the Shire of Dalwallinu**

The population of people with disabilities in the Shire represents a small percentage of total population.

#### **Needs of people with disabilities living with our community:**

Ramps have been provided at road crossings and any new public buildings;

Wide doors for wheelchair access are available at Shire offices and Shire toilet facilities;

Phone with volume controls for those with hearing problems will be installed on request;

Parking spaces for people with disabilities are available near the pharmacy and supermarket, the medical centre and the swimming pool, with more being planned over the next few years.

Handrails on stairs and ramps will be provided where necessary for safe access.

#### **Planning for People with disabilities**

A Disability Access Audit Report, prepared by E-Qual, of all Shire buildings was undertaken in June 2007. A number of the recommendations from this audit report have been implemented.

The policy has been progressively implemented by construction of new toilets for people with disabilities, new footpaths with ramps at both road crossing, ramps to buildings and wider doorways on new buildings. Improvements will be ongoing with further recommendations to be implemented during the next implementation phase.

#### **Monitoring**

Monitoring of implementation measures and any future need will take place to ensure compliance and success of Disability Access and Inclusion within our Shire.

#### **Audit**

Audit of Procedures will take place at yearly intervals to ensure measures are being adopted and staff become familiar with and act on the requirements of Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.



## **ACCESS & INCLUSION POLICY STATEMENT**

The Shire of Dalwallinu is committed to the health, safety, wellbeing and equality of Services to all, regardless of disability.

The Shire of Dalwallinu has a friendly community spirit with values and morals to care for ones neighbour, this spirit is encompassed at Shire offices where all staff will happily help wherever they can regardless of disability.

The Shire of Dalwallinu recognises the value and contribution people with disabilities bring to the community and the contribution they make to local, economic and cultural life and will actively promote inclusion to information and training.

The Shire of Dalwallinu will support people with disabilities, their carers and their families to make their lives easier and more rewarding.

The Shire of Dalwallinu considers disability issues within Town Planning and everyday procedures to ensure no barriers are erected to prevent equality of access and enjoyment of facilities for all.

The Shire of Dalwallinu is committed to working with people with disabilities, carers and support groups where possible to agree on services and facilities and to understand barriers faced and therefore supply workable solutions.

The Shire of Dalwallinu is committed to achieving the seven desired outcomes of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

1. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by, the relevant public authority.
2. People with disability have the same opportunities as others to access buildings and other facilities operated by the relevant public body.
3. Those people with disability receive information from the relevant public authority in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.
4. People with disability receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of the relevant public authority.
5. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the relevant public authority.
6. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by the relevant public authority.
7. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the Shire's employment (recruitment and retention practices).



## **DEVELOPMENT OF THE DAIP**

### **Responsibilities for Planning Process**

The Manager of Planning & Development Services has responsibility to oversee the development, implementation, review and evaluation of the plan. The final plan is endorsed by the Shire of Dalwallinu and it is the responsibility of all officers to implement the relevant actions.

### **Planning for implementation of the policy**

Notices will be placed from time to time in the local news bulletins requesting those with disabilities to advise the Shire of any issues encountered, that relate to the Shire facilities or services.

### **Consultation with community**

During the month of February and April 2013 the community were requested to provide feedback on the Shire's facilities at the community meetings and a survey was published in both local news bulletins. Further to this, during October 2012, the community were also consulted by means of a survey focusing on the services the shire provides. Survey forms were posted out to each household. Very little response was received in the area of Disability Access.

### **Promotion to Staff and Community**

The DAIP will be promoted to staff through staff induction and training and by inclusion, by reference, in the Staff Induction Manual. The Community will be informed of the reviewed DAIP through a notice in the local newspaper and made available on the Shire's website. In addition, the community will be informed of availability of the DAIP by half yearly notice in local newsletters and through meetings with interested parties.

The DAIP implementation progress report is included within the Shire's Annual Report and is a point of discussion at the Annual Electors Meeting and community meetings conducted by Council.

### **Monitoring effectiveness of policies**

- Monitoring of planned work to improve access and inclusion, and report on these annually.
- Monitoring compliance of "parking for the disabled" facilities and procedures.
- Yearly survey to ascertain effectiveness of policies and procedures.

### **Audit of procedures**

12 monthly audits with change implemented when necessary to comply with DAIP 5 yearly reportable reviews.

### **Final Reporting**

Dalwallinu Shire will report on the implementation of its DAIP through its annual report and the prescribed report progress template will be forwarded to the Disability Services Commission by 31 July each year outlining -

Progress, towards desired outcomes of its DAIP

- Progress of its agents and contractors towards meeting the six desired outcomes; and,
- The strategies used to inform its agents and contractors of the DAIP.



## Strategies to Improve Access and Inclusion

Strategy	Outcome	Time Frame
<b>Outcome 1</b> People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of and any events organised by a public authority	Disability planning is used in the planned new multi-purpose building	Completed
	Parking spaces for people with disability to be allocated as key access positions at the DDC, the Park toilets and the Recreation Centre	Completed
<b>Outcome 2</b> People with disability will have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of the public authority	Monitor Shires Access Plan to ensure it incorporates all planned DAIP activities and functions throughout the Shire	Ongoing
	The Shire has a new paths and replacement path programme. As new paths are fitted and/or replaced, they will be fitted with tactile and access ramps	Ongoing
	All Shire Buildings external doors and toilet facilities will be fitted with lever type door handles and lever type/capstan tap fittings as they require replacement	Ongoing
	All stiff automatic return levers on doors will be eased where practicable and where required	Ongoing
<b>Outcome 3</b> 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	A USB containing council information on request	As required
	Large print shire info on request	As required
	Inform staff of DAIP requirements upon induction and as required	Ongoing





## Strategies to Improve Access and Inclusion

Strategy	Outcome	Timeframe
<p><b>Outcome 4</b> People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to participate in consultation with a public authority</p>	<p>All people with disability receive the same quality and level of service from the staff. Any issues raised regarding lack in service or quality will be directed to the Community Services Manager to follow up</p>	Ongoing
<p><b>Outcome 5</b> People with disability have the same opportunity as other people to make complaints to a public authority</p>	<p>Ensure complaints procedure and outcome satisfaction form is made available in large print and cd</p> <p>Ensure staff who manage complaints procedures are aware of responsibilities with regards to DAIP</p>	<p>As required</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Outcome 6</b> People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by the relevant public authority.</p>	<p>Access to Community Consultation with the public authority is assured. This occurs through public meetings process, surveys and notices in the local news bulletin as well as over the counter information</p> <p>Information and notices to be placed in library and telecentres as required from time to time</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Outcome 7</b> People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to obtain and maintain employment within the public authority.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Job advertisements will include information relating to the Shire being an Equal Employment Opportunity employer and all candidates who have the necessary skills regardless of disability would be eligible to apply.</li> <li>2. The Shire will not exclude people with disabilities through job recruitment practices.</li> <li>3. Ensure that all advertising and job application information will be made available in alternative formats as required</li> <li>4. The Shire will make available to each employee who has a disability any specialist equipment required for undertaking their job.</li> </ol>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>As required</p> <p>As required</p>

