

Disability Inclusion Action Plan Implementation Plan – report on actions 2019/20

1. POSITIVE COMMUNITY ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOURS

STRATEGY	TARGET ACTION	2019-2020 ACTIONS	COMMENT
1.5 Increase the number of awareness raising campaigns to tackle a range of issues	Assist or provide community education in relation to dogs near entrances to shops and businesses potentially being a trip hazard for people with low vision or mobility difficulties	The availability of tether points in the Bellingen Shire has been assessed for the suitability of their locations. In addition, many food businesses have been spoken to ensure dogs are tethered appropriately and to reduce the risk of them being a trip hazard. In addition, a fact sheet for the community on assistance animals has been prepared.	The relocation of tether points will occur so that they are more suitable for pedestrians and for dining locations.
	Support promotion of RU OK day both within Council and any community events	Councils Customer and Business Services team organised and promoted RU OK Day within Council	
	Continue to deliver activities, expos and events to decrease stigma and increase knowledge and pathways of access to mental health services	Bellingen Shire received funding for the Suicide Prevention Project through the Primary Health Network to deliver actions to reduce suicide, including events, resources and training opportunities.	Some of these activities were impacted by COVID
1.6 Increase opportunities for people of all abilities to perform at Council-led community events	Promote opportunities more widely to Disability service providers and the general community	Opportunities have been promoted to disability service providers for people of all abilities to perform at Council led events at interagency meetings and through specific networks	

1.7 Increase knowledge of sporting and recreational clubs and groups of people with additional needs and promote inclusion	Source a resource with strategies for groups to consider to be more inclusive of all abilities	Bellingen Shire Council became members of Sport NSW to support more inclusive sports opportunities. A proposed all ability sports day was postponed but resources on how to make activity more inclusive were distributed to local sporting clubs.	
	Support facilitation of programs such as Mental Health First Aid to interested groups	Bellingen Shire Council became members of the Dorrigo Urunga Bellingen Suicide Prevention Action Network steering committee and have supported the development of a program of mental health training in this role.	Some of these activities were impacted by COVID
	Investigate provision of swimming lessons for children with Sensory Processing challenges	At this stage swimming lessons for children with sensory processing challenges are not offered at our local pools	Waiting for feedback from pool operators about all abilities swimming lessons

2. CREATING LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

STRATEGY	TARGETED ACTION	ACTIONS 2019-20	COMMENT
2.1 To improve the accessible public toilets in the Bellingen Shire	Engage people with additional needs to report on issues experienced with accessing and sometimes failing to access the public toilets in the Bellingen Shire	Regular engagement has occurred with the community to gain insight on issues relating to the public toilets in the Bellingen Shire	Hoping to establish a feedback mechanism through Councils CREATE community engagement tool in the next 12 months for this purpose
	Promote availability of MLAK toilets in Bellingen Shire and arrangements for obtaining a key	The provision of MLAK toilets have been promoted on Councils website. Information on the National Public Toilet map has been updated	
2.2 To improve footpaths in the Bellingen Shire	Action on Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan, Bellingen Main street project in relation to improving access	Footpath renewals have occurred in the Dorrigo and Urunga areas of the Bellingen Shire in the last 12 months	
	Investigate installation of grates/metal covers over pedestrian crossings/drains in areas affected by build-up of leaf matter and debris so water, gravel and dirt go underneath the crossings for people in wheelchairs especially in Dorrigo	The pedestrian crossing in Dorrigo are being modified as part of the Dorrigo Roundabout project and as a result will be more user friendly for wheelchair users	
	Ensure installation of Tactile Ground Surface Indicators are integrated into footpath and pedestrian crossing access points planning	The installation of Tactile Ground Surface Indicators are integrated into new pedestrian crossings and access points including the new crossing points as part of the Dorrigo Roundabout project	
	Investigate a marker for pedestrian crossings and other areas where people with visual impairment need to differentiate between surfaces	Deferred	This will be investigated with Councils operations team in the next 12 months

	Review and progressively document accessibility of footpaths with available technology e.g. Reflect system	Footpaths around the Shire have been assessed using Councils Reflect system. This assessment continues to be used to prioritise the importance of repairs and maintenance works	
2.3 To improve access to Council buildings and facilities	Investigate funding availability for playgrounds that cater for all abilities or playground features including a wheelchair swing (Urunga Foreshores and Coronation Park specified)	Funding was received to upgrade Coronation Park in Dorrigo and the project is in progress. This will include new inclusive playground equipment.	
	Investigate and cost the installation of widened footpaths at Coronation Park in Dorrigo	Funding was received to upgrade Coronation Park in Dorrigo which in addition to new footpaths will include an additional disability parking space, inclusive playground equipment, a toilet block with 2 accessible stalls and a BBQ shelter with 3 accessible tables and 2 accessible BBQs	
2.5 Improve crossings for all users including those using assisted mobility aids and the visually impaired	Install any new pedestrian crossings with surface differentiation tools	No new pedestrian crossings have been installed in the Bellingen Shire this year	
2.6 To increase knowledge of availability of access and inclusion features and services	Promote availability of Bellingen Shire Mobility Map, Beach wheelchair, MLAK toilets, accessible buildings and features and inclusive groups	The availability of resources has been promoted including at meetings and interagencies, through email networks and on the Council website	
2.8 Increase knowledge of and expand on available transport options	Promotion of Community Transport accessible services to Shire residents	Community Transport have continued to promote the services they deliver to the community. This was especially beneficial at the	

		beginning of the COVID pandemic	
	Investigate the delivery of Scooter Safe and Life After Licenses or similar safe transport workshops or actions	content on scooter safety and life after licenses was produced for the Dorrigo Support Centre newsletter and the Aged Care Network	Some of these activities were impacted by COVID
	Advocate holding a transport forum in Dorrigo to map transport availability and consider other options including public transport, community transport, lift sharing schemes and taxis	Discussion occurred about holding a transport forum in Dorrigo. This was planned to be incorporated into an expo on Living Well scheduled to take place in April but postponed due to COVID 19	
2.9 Promote disability tourism	Promote accessible tourism features and accessible accommodation in line with Coffs Coast Tourism Plan	Council has continued to have a strong focus on inclusive tourism and has conducted professional development workshops for accommodation operators in the Shire. A greater investment into accessible accommodation has been made by tourism operators in the Shire. Council is in the process of developing an Inclusive Tourism Strategy as part of its new Economic Development and Tourism Plan	
2.10 Improve street and other features	Encourage cleaning and removal of vegetation that can block sight of directional signage to accessible amenities	Cleaning and removal of vegetation has occurred throughout the year as part of the Council works program	
	Investigate modifications to Mylestom ocean viewing platform to benefit wheelchair and scooter users	Modifications have been made to the Mylestom ocean viewing Platform making it more accessible to people with reduced mobility and wheelchair users	

	Investigate provision of recycled plastic decking for North Beach to improve accessibility onto beach for wheelchair users	Recycled plastic decking has been installed at the beach at Urunga to improve access to the water for wheelchair users	This has not been investigated for Mylestom as the beach wheelchair was moved to Reflections Holiday park Urunga
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3. SUPPORTING ACCESS TO MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT

STRATEGY	TARGET ACTION	2019-20 ACTIONS	COMMENT
3.1 To raise awareness of the strengths of people with a disability to potential employers to decrease barriers	Investigate strategies to assist people with disability to demonstrate capability to potential employers and break down misconceptions	Bellingin Shire Council is an inclusive employer	
3.4 Include equity and access as key criteria for decisions about physical workplace infrastructure	Ensure workplaces are accessible or able to be modified so that reasonable accommodation can be made for potential employees who may need a physical adjustment to the workplace to access	A new layout for the office spaces at Bellingin Shire Council Chambers, has been completed which includes an additional meeting room accessible via an existing ramp; the circulation paths are of 120cm wide to allow a wheelchair and appropriately sized door width. An additional 2 offices are also accessible via an existing ramp with appropriate path and door width to the offices are SAB. The new layout of the entire administration building now allows circulation paths for a wheelchair. The new layout at the Raleigh depot allows for wheelchair circulation. We have put the masonry walls down to create an	Waiting for Caro to have input here

		open space, hence enhancing the circulation possibilities. An existing outside ramp, under a generous cover allows a wheelchair to access to the facilities and to the new meeting room. Access to the training remains on ground level, easily accessible.	
3.5 Collect and record summarised de-identified abilities data	Refer to pre-employment medical data for information	This information is not collected by Bellingen Shire Council	

4. IMPROVING ACCESS TO SERVICES THROUGH BETTER SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

STRATEGY	TARGET ACTION	2019-20 ACTIONS	COMMENT
4.1 To increase representation of people with lived experience with access and inclusion challenges on council committees	To promote opportunities for people with disabilities to participate on all council committees	This continues to be a goal for Council even though there is no official advisory committee model. Council have other committees that include people with lived experience of access and inclusion challenges	
4.2 To improve accessibility of Council information and services	Produce public consultation documents in a range of formats including large print as required (by request) where feasible	There have been no requests for public consultation documents in large print, but Customer and Business Services are available to produce a larger print document if required.	
	Check functionality of the Bellingen Shire Council website against Web Content Accessibility Guidelines for compliance	Council are purchasing a new website platform which will be checked against web content	In the next 12 months

		accessibility guidelines and tested by people with lived experience of disabilities	
	Ensure that Council events and workshops have microphone and large visible name tags for presenters to assist people with visual and hearing impairments	Council events have microphones and large name tags can be made available on request	
	Ensure feedback mechanisms are fully accessible for community and staff	Councils Community Engagement Platform, Create, has been developed in line with meeting or exceeding WCAG 2.0, the current global web accessibility standard. In addition, there are resources on the site for specific set up requirements.	
4.3 Improve accessibility of information and service directories	Review the formats of current directories and consider large print and/or graphics for better communication	Requests for community directories in large print have not been received but Customer and Business Services may be available to produce a larger print sections if required on a case by case basis	
4.6 Improve availability of costing information for grant application purposes	Integrate access/accessibility defect requests into general service requests		

