



DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LOXTON WAIKERIE

---

# **Disability Access & Inclusion Plan**

## **2020-2024**

---









# Contents

---

<b>Welcome</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>About Us</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Purpose of the Plan</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Defining Disability</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Development</b> How the plan was developed .....	<b>6</b>
<b>What we heard</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Disability at a Glance</b> The Facts.....	<b>8</b>
<b>Trends and Data</b> Community Surveys.....	<b>10</b>
<b>Themes and Vision</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Theme 1</b> - Inclusive Communities for All .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Theme 2</b> - Leadership and Collaboration .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Theme 3</b> - Accessible Communities .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Theme 4</b> - Leadership and Employment.....	<b>15</b>
<b>Delivering the Plan</b> Review and Implementation.....	<b>16</b>

*Influencing Today... Shaping Tomorrow*

# Welcome

*The District Council of Loxton Waikerie acknowledges that people living with disability provide an important contribution to the community and understands the importance of appropriate access to various services and facilities in the community to develop a sense of inclusion. The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) is a plan representing Council's commitment to enhance the accessibility and inclusiveness of our community.*

As a Council we acknowledge that personal experience and impact of a disability is unique to an individual and can result from accidents, illness or genetic disorders. Disabilities and mental health conditions are present in all cultural groups, across all ages, genders and socioeconomic status.

Council's role, as the custodian of community assets and as a service provider, plays an important role in ensuring local infrastructure, services and programs are accessible and inclusive. Council is in a unique position where it can both advocate and drive change, directly and indirectly, to promote the rights of people living with a disability to engage in all aspects of community life.

While the COVID-19 epidemic delayed the start of our Disability Access and Inclusion Plan process and has limited our community engagement opportunities, we recognise this is an evolving plan and as you will see, we have made an ongoing commitment to engage with key stakeholders to ensure we can keep up to date with the needs and desires of people in our community who are living with disability.

The actions in this plan are structured around the four themes of Inclusive SA: State Disability Inclusion Plan 2019–2023:

- Inclusive communities for all
- Leadership and collaboration
- Accessible communities
- Learning and employment

## **Leon Stasinowsky**

Mayor



## **David Beaton**

Chief Executive Officer



# About Us



The District Council of Loxton Waikerie is located on the Murray River in the Riverland of South Australia, covering an area of approximately 8,000 square kilometres spanning from the Blanchetown Bridge to the west and the Victorian border to the east, from the Mallee to the Murray.

We are the custodians of an array of community assets and infrastructure including:



92 buildings which deliver core services such as Council administration, library services, sport and recreation, culture and the arts, children's services, visitor information, aged and disability services and public amenities.



417 KMS  
of sealed roads



1889 KMS  
of unsealed roads



11,743  
POPULATION



106 KMS  
of footpaths  
and kerbs

The provision of services Council deliver directly and indirectly impacts on the quality of life of people with disability, who live, work and participate in the Loxton Waikerie community. The DAIP applies to all of the functions, facilities and services provided by the Council. Examples of these include but are not limited to:

## Services to the Community

- > Public library and information services
- > Recreation and swimming facilities
- > Facilities for sporting groups
- > Provision and maintenance of parks and open spaces
- > Community, art and cultural events
- > Community grants
- > Citizenship ceremonies

## Services to Property

- > Construction and maintenance of Council owned buildings
- > Waste collection
- > Litter control and street cleaning
- > Construction and maintenance of roads and footpaths

## Regulatory Services

- > Sub divisions and town planning schemes
- > Environmental health control
- > Compliance services
- > Planning and building approval

## Customer Services

- > Provision of general information
- > Lodging complaints
- > Payment of rates notices and parking infringements
- > Dog and cat registrations

## Process of Government

- > Council committee meetings
- > Ordinary and special Council meetings
- > Elections of Council members



# Purpose of the Plan



This plan provides a guide to how we will act to support and promote access and inclusion that ensures all members of the community have the best opportunities to participate in community life.

The District Council of Loxton Waikerie (The Council) plays an important role in ensuring that all members of our community, regardless of ability, can participate in all aspects of community life and to fulfill their own aspirations. The Council also has responsibility for both local government service delivery and as an employer.

Disability Action and Inclusion Plans are a requirement under the South Australian Disability Inclusion Act 2018. The Act states that Council's DAIP needs "to ensure that people with disability can access the mainstream supports and services provided by or on behalf of the State Authority" and "must explain how the State Authority proposes to give effect to the State Disability Inclusion Plan". Under the legislation Council is considered a State Authority.

The DAIP supports Council's vision to be the best place to live work and enjoy life. It is a proactive way for Council to improve access to programs, services and facilities that provide people with a disability the opportunity to fully participate in all aspects of society.

“People with disabilities are capable and powerful.”



When we think about disabilities we often refer to a Physical Disability that we can see, however there are lots of disabilities we can't see.



South Australia The Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA) defines disability, in relation to a person, includes long-term: physical, psycho social, intellectual, cognitive, neurological or sensory impairment, or a combination of any of these impairments, which in interaction with various barriers may hinder the person's full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

## Defining Disability

Types of Disabilities may include, but is not limited to the following:

- > **Intellectual Disabilities**  
Difficulty communicating, learning or retaining information
- > **Mental Illness**  
Affects a person's thinking, emotional state and behaviours
- > **Sensory Disabilities**  
Affecting one or more of a person's senses; sight, hearing, smell, touch, taste or spatial awareness
- > **Physical Disabilities**  
May affect a person's physical capacity and/or mobility





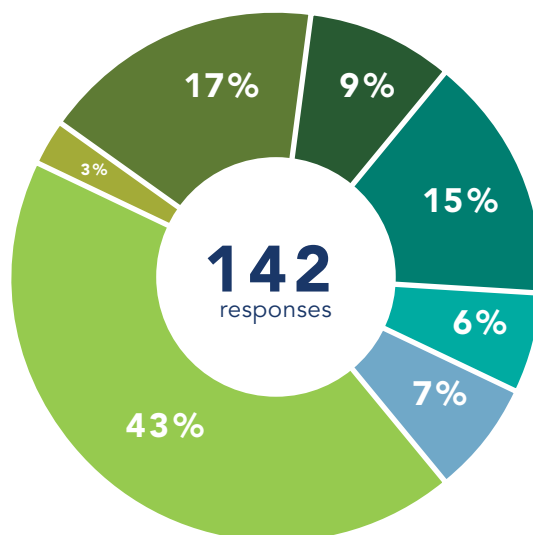
# Development

## How the plan was developed

The DAIP has been developed in consultation with Community members, Disability Service Providers, Council staff and Elected Members. It addresses areas of concern as well as providing awareness of disability in our community. It promotes access and inclusion within the community, as well as the core functions of Council.

Community members, Disability Service Providers, Council staff and Elected Members participated in a short survey to help Council gain an understanding of what the main areas of concern were to the community, their perception of Council's role in addressing various issues and how we could improve in the future.

It was also extremely important to gain an understanding of how Council staff and Elected Members see Council's role to providing access and inclusion to the Community and their experiences.



- A member of the community
- A DCLW elected member
- A DCLW employee
- A person living with a disability
- A family member of a person living with a disability
- A support person for a person living with a disability
- A disability service provider

A survey was also undertaken in January 2019 to assist in developing the Waikerie Ageing Strategy; this survey collected 106 results, which has been considered in the development of our DAIP.







## What we heard



### Footpaths

The community would like to see existing footpaths fixed or replaced to ensure ease of access around the townships. It has also been suggested to create a footpath strategy linking the Hospital to the townships and down to the riverfront.



### Transport

Some suggestions included a volunteer run transport service to help locals move around town and between Riverland townships.



### Playgrounds

Review current playground equipment and investigate physical and interactive equipment to accommodate for people with different types of disabilities.



### Disability Carparks

Create additional disability carparks within the business area of towns to ensure easier access for people with a disability.

# Disability at a Glance

## The Facts



## Australia<sup>1</sup>



**4.4 MILLION AUSTRALIANS**

live with a disability

**17.7%**  
OF THE POPULATION



**5.7%** OF ALL AUSTRALIANS

profound or severe disability

**23.2%**

all people with a disability reported a **mental** or **behavioural** disorder as their main condition



**1.3 MILLION OLDER AUSTRALIANS**

living at home needed some assistance with everyday activities

**2.65 MILLION ARE CARERS**

representing

**10.8%** OF ALL AUSTRALIANS







“ However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at. ”  
 - Stephen Hawking

## South Australia<sup>1</sup>

**332,500**  
**SOUTH AUSTRALIANS**  
 have a disability


• **102,200**  
 have profound or severe core activity limitation

**177,200** •  
 have moderate or mild core activity limitation

 **128,700**  
 have schooling or employment restrictions

## Our Community<sup>2</sup>

**783** PEOPLE reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to a disability

 **27% OF OUR COMMUNITY** are over the age of **55**

**12% OF OUR COMMUNITY** provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability

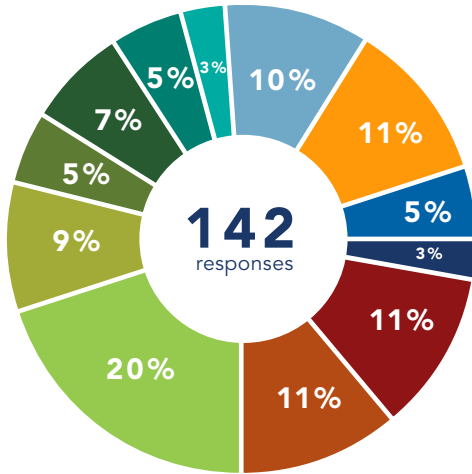
The Council also attracts many workers and visitors frequently and a proportion of these people will have experience with disability, either personally or as a carer.

<sup>1</sup> Data from the ABS Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: South Australia, 2018  
<sup>2</sup> Data from the ABS 2016 Census

# Trends and Data

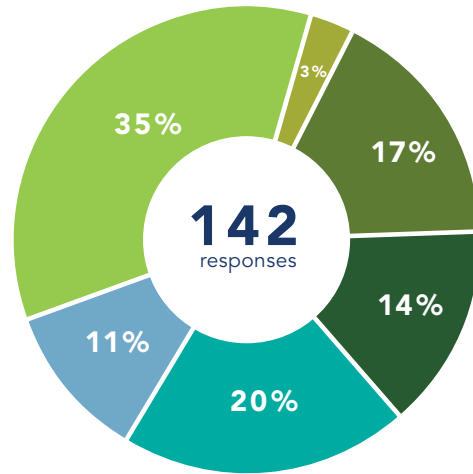
## Community Surveys

**Types of disability identified within our community**



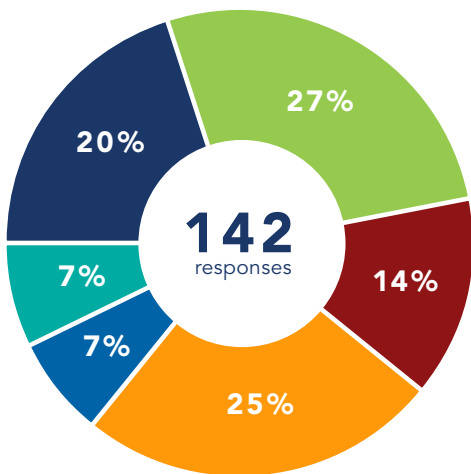
- Physical
- Neurological
- Speech
- Cerebral Palsy
- Degenerative
- Dementia
- Intellectual Disability
- Autism Spectrum
- Psychosocial Disability
- Acquired Brain Injury
- Hearing Impairment
- Vision Impairment

**Age demographic of people who completed the survey**



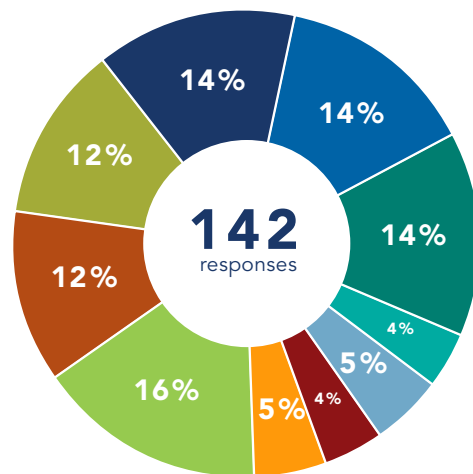
- Aged 65+
- Aged 55-64
- Aged 45-54
- Aged 35-44
- Aged 25-34
- Aged 18-24

**Services used by the community**



- Library
- Customer Services
- Mobile Garbage Bin Collection
- Planning/Building
- Animal Management
- Council Website

**Facilities accessed by the community**



- Public Toilets
- Playgrounds
- Community Parks
- Walking/Cycling Trails (including footpaths)
- Loxton Library
- Loxton Council Office
- Waikerie Library
- Waikerie Council Office
- Caravan Parks
- Transfer Stations (dump)



# Themes and Vision



Our Disability Access and Inclusion Plan provides an integrated whole of Council approach and commitment to strengthen inclusion and access for all.

The following four Themes are structured around the priorities of Inclusive SA: Disability Inclusion Plan 2019-2023.



## Theme 1

Inclusive Communities for All

---



## Theme 2

Leadership and Collaboration

---



## Theme 3

Accessible Communities

---



## Theme 4

Learning and Employment

---



## Theme 1 Inclusive Communities for All

Social inclusion is a priority for people living with disability as it affects all aspects of their lives. It is our aim that the contributions and rights of people living with disability are valued and understood by all South Australians and that their rights are promoted, upheld and protected. We also want to ensure that people living with disability are supported to advocate for their own rights.

- > **Priority 1** - Involvement in the community
- > **Priority 2** - Improving community understanding and awareness
- > **Priority 3** - Promoting the rights of people living with disability

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIME FRAME	MEASURABLE TARGET
Provide training to Staff and Elected Members to help them better understand disability and incorporate access and inclusion into their actions and decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Human Resources Officer</li> <li>&gt; WHS Risk Coordinator</li> </ul>	December 2021	Setup and maintain a training program to educated employees and Elected Members about disability, diversity and inclusion.
Investigate best practice resources relating to communication, website and events to ensure accessibility and inclusion for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Community Development Officer</li> <li>&gt; Personal Assistant Director Corporate and Community Services</li> </ul>	December 2022	Investigate options and present report to Senior Management Team for consideration.
Research and find options for people experiencing a physical or sensory disability at Council run events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Community Development Officer</li> <li>&gt; Personal Assistant Director Corporate and Community Services</li> </ul>	December 2022	Research options and revamp Event Checklist for both Council and Community run events to include various options where possible including; access to suitable toilet facilities, quiet spaces, wheelchair ramps and clear signage.
Research and deliver various library programs to provide options for people with low sensory disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Library Manager</li> <li>&gt; Library Coordinators Loxton &amp; Waikerie</li> </ul>	December 2022	Schedule and promote times at libraries with low lighting and quiet spaces/times for people with sensory needs.
Investigate options with other Riverland Councils regarding various ways to improve transport options throughout the Riverland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Director Infrastructure Services</li> <li>&gt; Director Corporate and Community</li> <li>&gt; Chief Executive Officer</li> </ul>	December 2022	*Discuss with Riverland Councils at quarterly G3 meetings and implement a plan of actions.

\* The G3 Alliance consists of the Chief Executive Officers of the three Riverland Councils: District Council of Loxton Waikerie, Berri Barmera Council & Renmark Paringa Council





## Theme 2 Leadership and Collaboration

People living with disability want to have a greater role in leading and contributing to government and community decision-making. It is our aim that the perspectives of people living with disability are actively sought and that they are supported to participate meaningfully in government and community consultation and engagement activities.

- > **Priority 4** - Participation in decision-making
- > **Priority 5** - Leadership and raising profile
- > **Priority 6** - Engagement and consultation

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIME FRAME	MEASURABLE TARGET
Establishment of consultation and engagement practices that ensure people living with a disability are engaged and consulted on various Council projects and initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Community Development Officer</li> <li>&gt; Personal Assistant Director Corporate and Community Services</li> </ul>	December 2021	Research options of ways people living with a Disability or Services Providers can be consulted with and report findings to Council with recommendation.
Establish a disability register to assist in identifying people with lived experiences to ensure they are engaged and consulted with on various Council projects such as upgrading playgrounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Community Development Officer</li> <li>&gt; Personal Assistant Director Corporate and Community Services</li> <li>&gt; Director Infrastructure Services</li> </ul>	December 2022	Review register on an annual basis and reference that consideration has been given on Council Reports.
Research training options for Infrastructure and Building and Development staff to ensure that they have a good understanding of Disability and Inclusion when planning projects in built environments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Director Infrastructure Services</li> <li>&gt; WHS &amp; Risk Coordinator</li> <li>&gt; Project Manager</li> <li>&gt; Coordinators Infrastructure Service Loxton &amp; Waikerie</li> <li>&gt; Coordinator Capital Projects &amp; Roads</li> </ul>	December 2022	Research training options and once defined include in relevant staff Training Needs Analysis (TNA) and ensure new capital works programs actively promote accessibility.



## Theme 3 Accessible Communities

The accessibility of the built environment, quality services and information is key to ensuring people living with disability are included and have the opportunity to equally participate in all aspects of community life. It is our aim to increase accessibility to public and community infrastructure, transport, services, information, sport and recreation and the greater community.

- > **Priority 7** - Universal Design across South Australia
- > **Priority 8** - Accessible and available information
- > **Priority 9** - Access to services

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIME FRAME	MEASURABLE TARGET
Investigate various communication and information systems and consider using accessible technologies and alternative formats, including website accessibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Personal Assistant Director Corporate and Community Services</li> <li>&gt; Works Project Officer</li> </ul>	December 2021	Report to Senior Management Team on findings with recommendations. Considering options such as: Easy Read, Auslan, Pictorial forms, large fonts, audible options, subtitles and voiceover.
Measures undertaken to ensure universal design principles are included in planning decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Project Manager</li> <li>&gt; Manager Environmental Services</li> <li>&gt; Director Infrastructure Services</li> </ul>	June 2021	Consideration given within Council reports and Development Assessments.
Council's Asset Management Plan to align with Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Director Infrastructure Services</li> </ul>	June 2021	Report findings to Asset Committee.
Review the availability of accessible car parks including function, design and location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Director Infrastructure Services</li> <li>&gt; Coordinators Infrastructure Service Loxton &amp; Waikerie</li> <li>&gt; Coordinator Capital Projects &amp; Roads</li> </ul>	December 2022	Report findings to Asset Committee and schedule upgrades where possible.
Review of Council's main street footpaths and pram ramps and research various improvement options where possible: Taking into consideration linking of medical services, Riverfront and main street precincts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Director Infrastructure Services</li> <li>&gt; Coordinators Infrastructure Service Loxton &amp; Waikerie</li> <li>&gt; Coordinator Capital Projects &amp; Roads</li> </ul>	December 2022	Report findings to Asset Committee and schedule upgrades where possible.
Research various assistive technologies to have available during public meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Executive Assistant to CEO</li> </ul>	December 2021	Report findings to Senior Management Team with recommendations.
Audit access to Council premises and establish a schedule of modifications where possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Director Infrastructure Services</li> <li>&gt; Works Project Officer</li> <li>&gt; Coordinator Capital Projects &amp; Roads</li> </ul>	December 2022	Report findings to Asset Committee and schedule upgrades where possible.
Audit Council's Playgrounds and establish a schedule of modifications where possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Director Infrastructure Services</li> <li>&gt; Works Project Officer</li> <li>&gt; Coordinators Infrastructure Service Loxton &amp; Waikerie</li> <li>&gt; WHS &amp; Risk Coordinator</li> </ul>	June 2021	Report findings to Asset Committee and schedule upgrades where possible.





## Theme 4 Leadership and Employment

Learning and employment Workforce participation is fundamental to social inclusion. It provides economic independence and choice, social connections and friendships, value, identity and belonging. It is our aim that people living with disability have access to inclusive places of study and that education and training provides pathways to meaningful and inclusive employment and volunteering opportunities.

- > **Priority 10** - Better supports within educational and training settings
- > **Priority 11** - Skill development through volunteering and support in navigating the pathway between learning and earning
- > **Priority 12** - Improved access to employment opportunities and better support within workplaces

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIME FRAME	MEASURABLE TARGET
Review recruitment processes to ensure Council promotes diversity and encourages people with a disability to apply.	> Human Resources Officer	December 2021	Review of documents submitted to Senior Management Team for review and endorsement.
Increase opportunities for volunteering work experience for people living with a disability.	> Community Development Officer	December 2021	Provide statistics of numbers of volunteers with disability on an annual basis.
Identify ways to embed inclusive culture throughout our Organisation.	> Human Resources Officer	December 2021	Report findings to Senior Management Team with recommendations.



# Delivering the Plan

## Review and Implementation



*The progress of the DAIP will be monitored by an internal control group made up of Council staff who have actions assigned to their departments. The group will meet on a quarterly basis to update the staff and the Elected Members on the progress of the plan.*

We will also ensure that we meet the State Government reporting requirements under the Disability Inclusion Act 2018.

The aims and goals reflected in the action plan will be actively considered in the planning and development of our future strategies and Council plans. They will help to inform our decision making and ensure that issues of access and inclusion are considered.

### Key Council and Regional Plans

- > Strategic Management Plan
- > Long Term Financial Management Plan
- > Annual Business Plan
- > Asset Management Plan
- > Waikerie Ageing Strategy

Our Disability Access and Inclusion Plan is a working document which will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that Council is incorporating access and inclusion as an integral part of our everyday business.

### Council Contact Details

For more information regarding this plan please contact:

**Danika Lewan** - WHS & Risk Coordinator

**Claire Victor** - Personal Assistant – Director Corporate & Community Services

*Photos courtesy of Orana Incorporated, LAAS Loxton & Paul White Photography*









## DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LOXTON WAIKERIE

Postal PO Box 409, Loxton SA 5333

Principal Office (08) 8584 8000  
29 East Terrace, Loxton SA 5333

Branch Office (08) 8541 0700  
Strangman Road, Waikerie SA 5330

Email [council@lwdc.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@lwdc.sa.gov.au)

Website [www.loxtonwaikerie.sa.gov.au](http://www.loxtonwaikerie.sa.gov.au)

***Influencing Today... Shaping Tomorrow***

---