



SHIRE OF VICTORIA PLAINS

DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN

2007

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The Shire of Victoria Plains would like to thank all who gave input to this document

Background

The Shire of Victoria Plains 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.

There are excellent community facilities including a recreation centre, public halls, libraries. 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 Victoria Plains 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 centre, public libraries, public information, community events. The Shire has good schools.

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 premises, enforcement of local laws, 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".

The Shire when letting contracts for services will ensure that all contractors will be issued with a copy of the 'Guide' and make sure each contract makes reference to the implementation and reporting requirement.

Disabilities & the Present in Victoria Plains

Needs of people with disabilities living in our community :

Further consultation with people with disabilities within the community is ongoing and taking place through advertisements and bulletins inviting programme participation and seeking information related to every day access and inclusion in our community.

People with disabilities in the Shire of Victoria Plains

The population of people with disabilities in the shire represents a small percentage of total population. A publication will be issued seeking feedback from people with disabilities.

Needs of people with disabilities living with our community:

Ramps have been provided at road crossings and any new public building;
Wide doors for wheelchair access are available at Shire offices;
Phone with volume controls for those with hearing problems will be installed on request;
Handrails on stairs and ramps will be provided where necessary for safe access

Community Consultation was conducted via the local newsletter, and the Shire's website.

Planning for People with disabilities

A Disability Access Audit Report, prepared by E-Qual, of all Shire buildings was undertaken in May 2007. The Shire will, having received the Disability Access Audit report, begin a program of implementation to satisfy the audit requirements as far as budget constraints allow during the finance period 2007-2008. Future year's budgets will include funding for improved disability access compliance.

Access & Inclusion Policy Statement

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

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

The Shire of Victoria Plains 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 Victoria Plains 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 Victoria Plains is committed to achieving the six desired outcomes of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

1. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by, the relevant public authority.
2. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as others to access buildings and other facilities operated by the relevant public body.
3. Those people with disabilities 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 disabilities receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of the relevant public authority.
5. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the relevant public authority.
6. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by the relevant public authority.

Development of the DAIP

Responsibilities for Planning Process

The Building Maintenance Officer has responsibility to oversee the development, implementation, review and evaluation of the plan. The final plan is endorsed by the Shire of Victoria Plains and it is the responsibility of all officers to implement the relevant actions.

Planning for implementation of the policy

Publication to be sent to all Shire residents: highlighting availability of large print Shire correspondence, improved disability access at public facilities and availability. The adverts will also express the need for any people with disabilities to let the Shire know about problems encountered within Victoria Plains Shire facilities or services.

Promotion to Staff and Community

The DAIP will be promoted to staff through specific training programs to be held at least on an annual basis and by inclusion, by reference, in the Staff Induction Manual. The Community will be informed of the availability of the DAIP by notification in our local Newsletters.

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

Monitoring effectiveness of DAIP

Regular monitoring will be carried out to ensure that the Shire progresses through the DAIP as per the program of implementation. Changes will be made to the program as the need arises.

The community will be consulted to ensure community requirements are understood and implemented as far as possible

The implementation will be regularly assessed against audit requirements to ensure that all requirements of the audit report are met.

Final Reporting

Victoria Plains 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 1

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

Develop link with other strategies, agencies and frameworks

Additional Public Toilet facilities for people with disabilities to be made available

Parking spaces for people with disabilities to be allocated at key access positions at Shire office

Update Refuse Service to include specialised rubbish collection services if required

Procedures for monitoring effectiveness, including Staff training to ensure aware of DAIP requirements

Procedural change to include disability planning in new buildings

Strategy

Outcome 2

Outcome 2

People with disabilities 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 activities and functions throughout the Shire

Develop link with other strategies and frameworks

Update Refuse Service to include specialised rubbish collection services

Procedures for monitoring effectiveness

Disability Access Audit Report on Shire buildings (attached)

Strategy

Outcome 3

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.

Large print shire info on request

Inform staff of DAIP requirements

Strategy

Outcome 4

Outcome 4

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

Deliver DAIP awareness training including disability communication training

Develop training matrix to include refresher training for DAIP

Strategy

Outcome 5

Outcome 5

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

Ensure complaints procedure and outcome satisfaction form is made available in large print

Ensure staff who manage complaints procedure are aware of responsibilities and new procedures

Develop training matrix to include refresher training for DAIP

Strategy

Outcome 6

Outcome 6

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

All people within the Shire have equal say in planning and other Shire activities and responsibilities.

People with disabilities to be given opportunities to ensure the Shire is made aware of their special needs.