



Shire of
Katanning
Heart of the Great Southern

DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN 2017– 2021

**Prepared by the Shire of Katanning in consultation with the
Katanning community**

Reviewed and updated June 2017

This plan is available in alternative formats such electronic, hard copy in both standard and large print, by email and on the Shire of Katanning's website.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	page
1.. INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 Definitions	3
2. BACKGROUND	4
2.1 Shire of Katanning	4
2.2 Functions, Facilities and Services	4
2.3 People with Disability in the Shire of Katanning	5
2.4 Progress on Access and Inclusion	6
3. ACCESS STATEMENT	7
3.1 Outcomes	7
4. CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR DAIP DEVELOPMENT	8
4.1 Katanning Community Consultation Process	8
4.2 Subsequent Consultation	8
4.3 Responsibility for Implementing the DAIP	9
4.4 Reporting on the DAIP	9
4.5 Strategies for Improved Access and Inclusion	9
5. REVIEW MECHANISMS	12
5.1 Review and Monitoring	12
5.2 Communicating the DAIP	12
6. REFERENCES	13

INTRODUCTION

The Shire of Katanning has prepared the following Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) to ensure that people with disability can access Council facilities, functions and services. The development and implementation of the DAIP is a requirement for each Local Government Authority under the Disability Services Act (1993).

Personal and professional knowledge of disability issues are sought from the community and the Disability Services Commission, to assist the continued development of this DAIP. The DAIP is subject to annual review and may be amended and extended as priorities and needs change. Actions taken under the DAIP are reported annually to the Disability Services Commission.

It is important to the Shire of Katanning that people with disability can access the same opportunities as other people so that they may enjoy the full benefits of community life. Local Government Authorities are multi-functional with extensive responsibilities and activities across property, community and human service areas and, in addition, have the capacity to make policy changes at the local level. Given the broad mandate that Local Government Authorities provide, they are fundamental to the inclusion of people with disability into their community.

Definitions

What is a disability?

A disability is any continuing condition that restricts everyday activities. Disabilities can affect a person's capacity to communicate, interact with others, learn or move about independently. It is usually permanent but may be episodic. A person with disability has a need for continued support services.

Disabilities can be:

- Sensory:** affecting, for example, vision and/or hearing.
- Neurological:** affecting a person's ability to control their movements, for example, epilepsy.
- Physical:** affecting mobility and/or a person's ability to use their upper or lower body.
- Intellectual:** affecting a person's judgment, ability to learn, solve problems and communicate.
- Cognitive:** affecting a person's thought processes, personality and memory resulting, for example, from an injury to the brain.
- Psychiatric:** affecting a person's emotions, thought processes and behaviour, for example, schizophrenia, and depression.

Some disabilities, such as epilepsy, are hidden, while others, such as cerebral palsy, may be visible. Physical disability is the most common (73 percent), followed by intellectual/psychiatric (17 percent) and sensory (10 per cent). Many people with disability have multiple disabilities.

There is also a strong link between the likelihood of having a disability and a person's age. Someone under five years of age, for example, has less than five percent chance of having a disability while this percentage rises to 50 percent for people over 60 years of age.

BACKGROUND

Shire of Katanning

The Shire of Katanning is situated within the Central Great Southern region of Western Australia, 285 kilometres drive south-east of Perth and 173 kilometres from Albany. The Shire's population is 4,183 (Australian Bureau of statistics, census 2016). Katanning's importance as a regional centre has been formally recognised under the State Government's Royalties for Regions funded SuperTowns initiative. The SuperTowns program is assisting Katanning to capitalise on Western Australia's rapid growth by providing an attractive regional location as an alternative to Perth for new residents to the State.

The community is serviced by modern facilities that include:

- Three Primary Schools
- A Senior High School
- The Great Southern Institute of Technology (tertiary education)
- A Leisure Centre, an Aquatic Centre, Katanning Country Club and various other sporting and recreational centres
- A District Hospital, Bethshan Home for the Aged, a Child Health Centre and other health facilities
- Disability service providers including Silver Chain WA, Anglicare WA, Disability Service Commission, Home and Community Care
- Amherst Village and Aberdeen Retirement village (homes for seniors)
- Library and Art Gallery
- Commercial and retail district

The largest employer within the town is WAMMCO who currently employ over 300 people.

The Shire of Katanning neighbours the Shires of Broomehill-Tambellup, Woodanilling, Dumbleyung, Kojonup, Gnowangerup and Kent and acts as a regional service provider to these communities.

Functions, Facilities and Services

The Shire of Katanning is responsible for a range of functions, facilities and services, both in-house and contracted, as follows:

Services to property:

Construction and maintenance of roads, footpaths and cycle facilities; land drainage and development; waste collection and disposal; litter control and street cleaning; planting and caring for trees; numbering of buildings and lots, street lighting; and bush fire control.

Services to the community:

Provision and maintenance of park and leisure areas and reserves; management of the Leisure Centre and Aquatic Centre; management of Katanning Library and Art gallery; provision of environmental health services; provision of Amherst Retirement Villages.

Regulatory services:

Planning, building and ranger services.

General administration:

Provision of general information to the public; receipt of complaints relating to Shire services and facilities; collection of shire rate payments; and centre for police licensing.

Processes of government:

Holding Ordinary and Special Council and committee meetings; organising elector's meetings and coordinating the election of Council members.

People with Disability in the Shire of Katanning

People with disability, together with their families and carers, represent a significant proportion of the community. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006), one in five people in Western Australia has a disability. It can therefore be estimated that around 900 people living within the Shire of Katanning have a disability.

Katanning is also a regional service provider for the Shires of Broomehill-Tambellup, Woodanilling, Dumbleyung, Kojonup, Gnowangerup and Kent which have a combined regional population of 12,500 people. It can therefore be estimated that the Shire of Katanning provides services and facilities for more than 2000 people with disability.

There is a strong likelihood that the number of people in Katanning with disability will increase in the future. Due to the ageing population trend in Western Australia, the Disability Services Commission anticipates that the number of people with disability will rise to one in four over the next 15 years. In addition, the attraction of Katanning as a 'SuperTown' for people chasing business opportunities and lifestyle changes, is likely to further increase the number of people with disability living in or serviced by Katanning.

Progress on Access and Inclusion

Since the adoption of an initial Disability Services Plan in 1996, through to the implementation of the current DAIP, the Shire of Katanning has made significant progress towards improving access to, and inclusion of, its services and facilities. Examples are listed in the table below.

Initiative	Correlated Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of fitness programs for seniors and disability groups at the Katanning Leisure Centre e.g. Seniors gym (over 50), Seniors exercise group and carpet bowls. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of sport and recreation equipment to increase participation such as pool hoist and wet wheelchair for people with a mobility disability. Supa golf equipment was purchased to run Sports Ability programs at the Katanning Leisure Centre (2013). 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire of Katanning is affiliated with Companion Card WA. The Katanning Leisure Centre, Aquatic Centre and Katanning Youth Events have been officially registered under this program. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability Awareness training workshops facilitated by Inclusion WA were held in March 2013 for business owners, service providers, Shire staff, and sporting and recreation club members. 	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressively replacing existing footpaths with new bituminised footpaths throughout the town site while also installing kerb ramps where none previously existed. 	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clive Street Revitalisation Project (2014), replacing uneven footpaths and building the new main road level with the footpath in the Central Business District. Access into shops has been improved by raising the footpath to the level of shop entry ways where possible. 	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An ACROD parking bay installed on Daping Street to provide closer access to Katanning Pharmacy on Clive Street (2011) (Done) 	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An ACROD parking bay installed at both Braeside Primary School and Katanning Primary School (2013) 	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customer service assistance at Administration Offices and the Katanning Library. 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing Returning Officer assistance at Local Government elections to complete voting forms 	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Shire of Katanning supports the Katanning Senior High School Workplace Learning Program by creating volunteer work positions suited to student's abilities. 	7

ACCESS STATEMENT

The Shire of Katanning is committed to ensuring that the community is accessible to people with disability, their families and carers.

The Shire of Katanning believes that people with disability, their families and carers, who live in country areas, should be supported to remain in the community of their choice.

The Shire of Katanning is committed to consulting with people with disability, their families and carers, and where required, disability organisations, to ensure that barriers to access and inclusion are addressed appropriately.

The Shire of Katanning is committed to achieving the seven Outcomes of its DAIP. These Outcomes are based on the access and inclusion outcomes identified by the Disability Services Commission of Australia and are set out below.

Outcomes

1 People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and events organised by the Shire of Katanning.

Council will make certain there are processes to ensure that all new services include access and inclusion strategies to meet the needs of people with disability.

Council will ensure that all policies and practices that govern the operation of Council facilities, functions and services are consistent with Council's policy on access.

2 People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of the Shire of Katanning.

Council will incorporate the priorities regarding access for people with disability, identified during the consultations, into its submission for its capital works improvement program. Modification will commence as funds are made available.

Council will liaise with town site developers to increase their awareness of the access requirements of people with disability.

3 People with disability receive information from the Shire of Katanning in a format that enables them to access information as readily as other people.

Council will produce all of its information on Council facilities, functions and services using clear and concise language. This includes information to be written clearly and in plain English.

Staff will organise for information to be provided in alternative formats such as large print, electronic format (disk or email), audio on request.

4 People with disability receive the same level and quality of service from staff of the Shire of Katanning as other people receive.

Council will ensure that staff are aware of the access needs of residents and visitors with disability, in relation to the provision of all services.

Where required, Council will seek expert advice from disability service providers on how to meet the access needs of people with disability.

5 People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the Shire of Katanning.

Council will ensure that current grievance mechanisms are accessible for people with disability.

6 People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to participate in public consultation by the Shire of Katanning.

Council will ensure that information is available in clear and concise language on how residents can participate in decision making processes, public consultations and grievance mechanisms.

Council will support people with disability to attend meetings of Council.

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

The Shire of Katanning continues to work in partnership with the local Disability Services Commission to identify and support employment and volunteer options for people with disability.

CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR DAIP DEVELOPMENT

Subsequent consultation-2017

In 2017, the community was informed through the local newspaper, Shire website, Shire Matter e-newsletter, notice on local notice boards and social media regarding the review of the Shire of Katanning's DAIP plan. Community members were encouraged to comment or provide feedback on the plan by writing a letter to the CEO, fill in a survey or call the Shire with their feedbacks. The Community & Youth Development Officer also meet with individuals and service providers to see what were the issues and how could Shire services be improved to suit the needs of people with disability living in Katanning and the region.

The main issues from this consultation were:

- Disability friendly play equipment at playgrounds
- Zebra crossing on the main street
- More disabled/change areas bathrooms
- Lack of access for local businesses
- Taking part in public/community consultations
- White/yellow strips on edge of steps/stairs for visually impaired people

Responsibility for implementing the DAIP

It is a requirement of the Disability Services Act (1993) that a Local Government Authority must take all practical measures to ensure that the DAIP is implemented by its officers, employees, agents and contractors.

Provision for planning and implementation of the DAIP will be made during Council’s annual budget process and responsibilities will be reflected in Council’s Corporate Business Plan and Community Plan. Reviewing and updating the DAIP will be the responsibility of the Executive Managers within each business area of the Shire.

Reporting on the DAIP

The Disability Services Act (1993) requires the Shire of Katanning to report on the implementation of its DAIP in its annual report. The report should outline:

- Progress towards the outcomes of its DAIP;
- The strategies used to inform agents and contractors of its DAIP. Which are; Providing a link to the DAIP on the website, a hard copy available, and reference in a contract.

The Shire of Katanning is also required to report on its progress to the Disability Services Commission by 30 June each year.

Strategies to Improve Access and Inclusion

The following overarching strategies will guide tasks the Shire of Katanning will undertake to improve access to its services, buildings and information. The seven outcomes provide a framework for improving access and inclusion.

Outcome 1. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and events organised by the Shire of Katanning.		
Strategy	Person Responsible	Timeframe
Maintain a Disability Access and Inclusion group to guide the implementation of the DAIP activities	CPDC	Ongoing-Carry over to new DAIP
Incorporate the objectives of the DAIP into Council’s corporate plan and budget processes	CPDC, EMPCB	Annually- carry over to new DAIP
Ensure that training for Shire staff is ongoing, particularly for staff that organise events, so that events are accessible to people with disability.	All Executive Managers	On-going- Carry over to new DAIP

Outcome 2. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of the Shire of Katanning.		
Strategy	Person Responsible	Timeframe
Improve ACROD parking and pedestrian road crossings in the Central Business District	DES, DPD	Finished
Advocate to local businesses the requirements for and benefits flowing from the provision of accessible venues	DPD	On-going- carry over to new DAIP

Continue to review and improve access to public open spaces and public areas, including: facilities, parks and reserves	DPD, EMPCB	On-going- carry over to new DAIP
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Outcome 3. People with disability receive information from the Shire of Katanning in a format that enables them to access information as readily as other people.		
Strategy	Person Responsible	Timeframe
Improve community awareness that Council information can be made available in alternative formats.	CPDC	On-going- carry over to new DAIP
Improve staff awareness of accessible information needs and how to obtain information in other formats	CPDC	Annually- carry over to new DAIP
Ensure the Shire website meets contemporary good practice	CRO, CPDC	Annually- carry over to new DAIP
Provide documentation regarding services, facilities and customer feedback in an appropriate format using clear and concise language	Executive Managers	On-going- carry over to new DAIP

Outcome 4. People with disability receive the same level and quality of service from staff of the Shire of Katanning as other people receive.		
Strategy	Person Responsible	Timeframe
Improve staff awareness of disability and access issues and improve skills to provide a good service to people with disability	Executive Managers	On-going- carry over to new DAIP
Seek feedback on service provision for people with a disability	CEO	On-going- carry over to new DAIP

Outcome 5. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the Shire of Katanning.		
Strategy	Person Responsible	Timeframe
Ensure that current grievance mechanisms are accessible for people with disability	EMPCB	On-going- carry over to new DAIP
Improve staff awareness and understanding so they can appropriately receive complaints from people with disability	EMPCB, CPDC	On-going- carry over to new DAIP

Outcome 6. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to participate in public consultation by the Shire of Katanning.		
Strategy	Person Responsible	Timeframe
Improve community awareness of the consultation processes in place	CPDC, CEO	On-going- carry over to new DAIP

Support and encourage people with disability to attend community consultations, and to contribute to the DAIP	CPDC, CEO	On-going- carry over to new DAIP
Commit to ongoing monitoring of the DAIP to ensure implementation of strategies and satisfactory outcomes.	CEO, CPDC	On-going- carry over to new DAIP
Continue to seek a broad range of views on disability access issues from the local community	CEO, CPDC	On-going- carry over to new DAIP

Outcome 7. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to obtain and maintain employment within a public authority		
Strategy	Person Responsible	Timeframe
Ensure that recruitment practices provide equal opportunity of employment	CEO, HR	On-going- carry over to new DAIP
Provide support for employees with disability	All Executive Managers	On-going- carry over to new DAIP
Implement flexible employment practices	All Executive Managers	On-going- carry over to new DAIP

REVIEW MECHANISMS

Review and Monitoring

In 2012, a Disability Inclusion Steering Committee was established for the purpose of guiding a two-year 'Count Me In' project, funded by the Disability Services Commission. This committee includes representatives from the Disability Services Commission, Home and Community Care, the Seniors Advisory Council, Anglicare, the Community Services Department of the Shire of Katanning and family members of people with disability. The committee will continue to meet quarterly from June 2014 to discuss access and inclusion issues and strategies that relate to the DAIP. Due to staff turn over both within the Shire and service providers, the group haven't been active since 2015, however contact is still made with the individuals and service providers regarding DAIP and other projects that the Shire is involved with..

The Community Development/Projects Coordinator will monitor and review progress towards achieving stated outcomes in the DAIP. A status report will be submitted to the Disability Services Commission by 1 September of each year. Information on the implementation of the DAIP will be included in Council's Annual Report.

Communicating the DAIP

The Shire will advise via the local media and its own publications that copies of the DAIP are available.

Key Shire staff, relevant government departments, disability service providers, peak disability organisations and the Katanning Library staff are provided with a copy of the DAIP.

The DAIP is also available to the public via the Shire of Katanning's website:
www.katanning.wa.gov.au

References

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