



**Disability Access  
and Inclusion Plan**

**2017 – 2021**

Easy Read

## This Plan



This Plan is an easy to read version of  
**Shellharbour City Council's**  
**Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2017 – 2021.**

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## **Message from the Mayor**

### **Welcome to Shellharbour City Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.**

This plan shows how we will include people with a disability in our community.

Everyone is important to our community.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this plan including people with a disability, their families and supporters.

This plan will help us all work together to make Shellharbour a great place to live, work and play.

**Marianne Saliba**

Mayor

## About this Plan



Council wants to make it easier for people with a disability to do things and use services in the community.

Council wants to make sure people with a disability are included.

This plan shows how Council will do this over the next 4 years from 2017-2021.



The Disability Access Committee helps Council make sure that people with a disability are included in making changes.

## Why we need a plan



Lots of people with a disability live and work in Shellharbour.

People with a disability often have less education than other people.

More people with a disability are unemployed than people without a disability.

Australia has laws that say we need to do better at including people with a disability in schools, work and all parts of the community.

Council wants to improve opportunities for everyone in the community.

## How we made this plan



### We talked to

- People with disabilities
- Their families and friends
- Staff at Council



We asked people to tell us what stops them from being included in their community.



### We talked to people in different ways

- We asked people to fill in surveys
- We held meetings
- We talked to people over the phone
- We used social media e.g. Facebook

## What we need to do

You told us what we need to do.



Talk to people with a disability about what matters to them.

Make sure all areas and events are easy to use for everyone.

Make access to beaches, parks, toilets and buildings better for everyone.



Have more jobs for people with a disability.

Make sure everyone can understand things by making information easy to read, using AUSLAN and in other ways.

“Access and inclusion are important to me. It is a basic human right that every person in our community should have.” – Resident

## **This plan has 4 areas**



- 1. Attitudes**
- 2. Making your community accessible**
- 3. Employment**
- 4. Making systems better**

This plan talks about what Council will do to make access and inclusion better for people with a disability.

# Attitudes



People in our community are all different.



We want people with a disability to feel welcome and be part of the community.



People with a disability must be able to go to events and use all services.



People with a disability must feel safe in their community.

## How we will do this



### We will

Give people information about events that include everyone.



Use respectful words and photos of people with a disability.



Work with local companies to make sure they are accessible and include people with a disability.

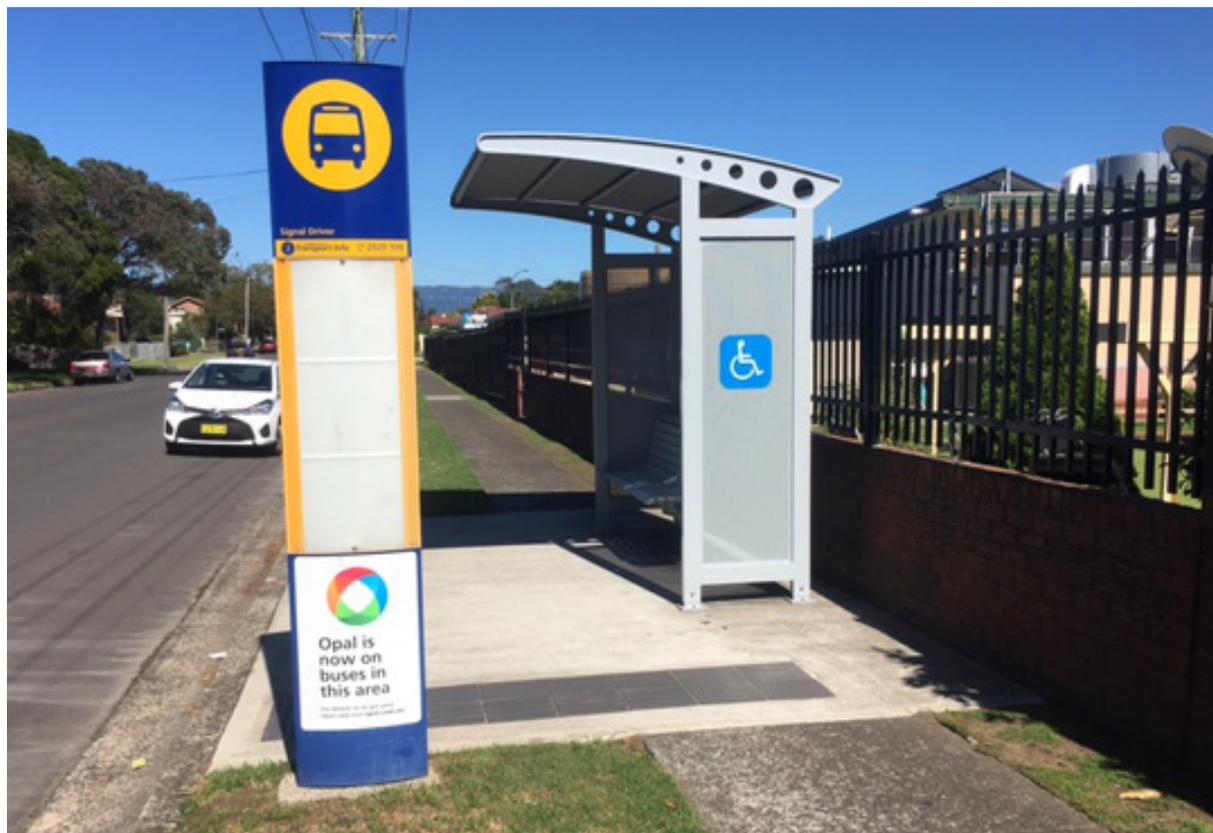


Train staff in disability awareness.



Ask people with a disability what they need and want.

## Making your community accessible



We want everyone to be able to live, work and play in Shellharbour.

We want places in the community that are easier to use.

### **We need**

- More accessible public toilets
- Better paths and carparks
- More accessible pools, parks, playgrounds and beaches
- Better access to bus stops and train stations

## How we will do this



### We will

Make access to beaches, lakes and pools easier by building ramps and lifts.



Make sure new parks have accessible paths and equipment including toilets and change areas.



Make sure bus stops are easier to access.



Ask for better access to public transport and more affordable housing in our area.

“It is important to talk to people with disabilities on matters that impact on them”  
– Resident

# Employment



People with a disability can work at Council and in local businesses.

## **We need**

Flexible work hours to make it easier to have a job.

Changes to the work place to make it accessible for everyone.

To let people volunteer or do work experience to learn more about jobs they like.

## How we will do this



### **We will**

Make sure applying for jobs is easy for everyone.



Make sure staff are trained in respecting people with disability.



Let other businesses know that employing people with disability is good for everyone.

## Making systems better



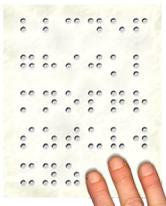
Council systems and practices need to be easy to use.



Council must be easy to contact by phone, email, letter or in person.



Information must be easy to read and understand.



Some signs need to be in Braille for examples bus stops, toilets and Council buildings.



Everyone must be welcome to Council meetings.



People must have free internet access at Council sites e.g. the library

# How we will do this



## We will

Make sure all information is easy to read and understand.



Make the Council website easy to use for everyone.



Make sure people can use the National Relay Service or interpreter services if they need to.



Have easy ways for people to give feedback and make complaints.

## What you can do



You can help make Shellharbour a better place for everyone.

### You can

- Use public places and go to community events.
- Tell Council what is good and what could be better.
- Join our Disability Access Committee or talk to them about your issues and ideas.
- Apply for jobs if you are suitable and let Council know there is anything stopping you from applying.
- Treat all people with respect and make sure everyone is included in the community.

## Where to from here



Council will work with other businesses to make access and inclusion better for everyone.

Council will look at funding to build new things like fishing platforms and change rooms.

Council will talk to people with a disability about how well the changes are working.

Council will send a report to the community every year.

Council will send a report to the NSW Minister for Disability Services every year.

Council will do a full review in 2021.

For more information about this plan  
go to website



[www.shellharbour.nsw.gov.au](http://www.shellharbour.nsw.gov.au)

To give feedback you can contact Council



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This plan has been made easy to read by  
**Council for Intellectual Disability**