Alexandrina Council



Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2021–2024



Alexandrina Council and its communities acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of our district. The Alexandrina Council region intersects with the traditional lands of the Ngarrindjeri, Ramindjeri, Peramangk and Kaurna First Nations People.



Contents

Introduction

The purpose of the Plan: Our Vision	7
Strategic Context	8
About Alexandrina	9
Defining Disability	10
A Snapshot of Disability in Alexandrina	12
How the Plan was Developed	13

Action Plan

Goal 1: Inclusive communities for all	16
Goal 2: Leadership and collaboration	20
Goal 3: Accessible communities	22
Goal 4: Learning and employment	28

Implementation

Links to other policies and plans	31
Examples of previous achievements	33
How the Plan will be implemented	33
Acknowledgements	34
Definitions and Acronyms	35

Message from the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer

We are pleased to present the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2021-2024 which was developed out of engagement with our community, Council staff and Elected Members.

The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2021-2024 is a vision which demonstrates Alexandrina Council's commitment to provide services and facilities that are inclusive for all people who live in, work in or visit our region.

The Plan provides us with an opportunity to assist people to actively engage and contribute to the life of our community and promote cultural diversity. By providing responsive services, accessible venues and infrastructure, and opportunities for people to genuinely participate within the community, we will facilitate greater social inclusion and develop a stronger sense of shared community.

Implementation of this Plan has the potential to improve the planning and delivery of services and facilities to reduce the barriers faced by people living with a disability.

This Plan provides strategic guidance for the work undertaken by Council, in partnership with our community, and we look forward to making further progress over the next four years and beyond as proactive leaders in this space.

Alexandrina's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan is an important step along the road to reducing barriers and building more accessible, inclusive and equitable communities.

Mayor Keith Parkes



Glenn Rappensberg Chief Executive Officer

Contact Details

This Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) is available on the Alexandrina Council website at alexandrina.sa.gov.au

We invite feedback on the progress and implementation of the DAIP.



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A consultation website where you can engage with us when and where it suits you and connect with your community on matters of interest to many. By signing up and participating, you can actively inform Council's decision-making processes.

Go to mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au

Introduction



The purpose of the plan: Our Vision

The purpose of this plan is to demonstrate Alexandrina Council's commitment to creating a more accessible and inclusive community based on fairness and respect. Council seeks to ensure that all people in our community regardless of ability, have the same rights to be included, to participate and to access our services and facilities.

A2040 expresses Council's strategic vision and its plan for thriving communities. This identifies three aspirational themes that emerged from community consultation:

- Liveable Alexandrina is defined by distinctive villages, places and spaces, unique natural environments and transport networks that support active lifestyles, employment, vibrant cultures and productive enterprise.
- Green Alexandrina is climate-ready, a place where nature is valued and resources are managed sustainably and creatively for a new economy.
- Connected Alexandrina is an inclusive, friendly region with strong community spirit, where all people are empowered to achieve their potential, and inspired to get involved.

The A2040 Four-year Plan (2020-24) identifies actions to deliver the A2040 aspirations across five action areas:

- Climate Response
- Appropriate Growth
- Community Inclusion
- Transport Connections
- Environmental Innovation

The Liveable Alexandrina theme includes the following activity and measure:

1.3 Design and locate community infrastructure to ensure safe, inclusive and convenient access for communities and individuals.

Deliver our Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) in 2021 and monitor progress through annual village conversations for each township.

Strategic Context

The South Australian Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (the Act) provides a legal framework to support equal access and inclusion for people living with disability in community activities and services including recreation, education, health, and public transport.

The Act aligns with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and with the Australian National Disability Strategy 2010–2020. It required the creation of the South Australian Disability Inclusion Plan which came into effect on 30 October 2019. The Act also mandates the development of DAIPs for each State authority, defining a "State authority" to include "a local council constituted under the Local Government Act 1999". The Act sets out the requirements for a DAIP and allows, with the Minister for Human Service's approval, for Councils to share a single DAIP.



About Alexandrina

The Alexandrina Council region is a scenic and diverse Local Government Area spanning rural farmland, commercial vineyards, riverside, lakeside and coastal settlements. Alexandrina covers 1860 square kilometres of the Fleurieu Peninsula and is renowned for its environment, heritage and lifestyle.

The Alexandrina community encompasses many townships, villages and rural areas and is one of the fastest growing regional areas in South Australia – experiencing peri-urban trends while also noted for its high-quality agricultural production (the second largest industry in the region).



Defining Disability

Alexandrina Council supports the social model of disability which recognises that a person's impairment or difference is only disabling if the environments they live, work, learn and play in fail to accommodate them.

Council wants to ensure that future planning in Alexandrina Council is done with the needs of all ages and abilities in mind. When the barriers or obstacles that can limit their ability to participate fully in society are removed, people with disability can be independent and equal in society. A person with disability may experience restricted mental, sensory or mobility functions. An impairment can be caused by accident, trauma, genetics or disease. The experience of disability may be temporary or permanent, total or partial, lifelong or acquired, visible or invisible.



Over the course of their lives around 20% of Australians will experience a disability, while 36% of Australia's households include a person with disability. The rate of disabilities is higher among older people and as the population ages, the proportion of people with a disability is also increasing.

Sources: Australian Network on Disability; People with Disability Australia



A Snapshot of Disability in Alexandrina

At the 2016 Census of Population and Housing the population of the Alexandrina Council area was 25,873. The Estimated Residential Population in 2020 is 27,876, and is forecast to grow to 36,907 by 2041, a growth of 32% over this period.





36,907 population by

2041





is the median age



people live alone

2,941 carers providing unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, long term illness or old age





1,144

people 16-64 years receive Disability Support Pension in Alexandrina



7,945 or 28.5% of our residents live with some form of disability

1,740 people need help in their day-to-day lives due to disability, age or illness



Sources: ABS 4430.0 - Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia; ABS Census Data 2016; profile.id; forecast.id; DSS Payment Demographic Data.

How the Plan was developed

Between April 2020 and September 2021 we asked people to share their ideas to help make Alexandrina more accessible and inclusive for people with disabilities, their carers and families.

Community consultation to develop a draft DAIP

The consultation in 2020 included a My Say webpage that had 134 visitors, a community survey that received 51 responses and a Community Forum in Strathalbyn. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 restrictions some community engagement opportunities had to be cancelled.

Feedback from Alexandrina 2040 Community Consultation Process

From October 2019 until March 2020 Council undertook an extensive community engagement process to ask the community about their aspirations for Alexandrina in 2040. In total we received 1,858 responses. The consultation reports were scanned and feedback relevant to disability access and inclusion was included in the development of the draft DAIP.

Staff engagement

The feedback received from the community was shared with Alexandrina Council's staff across all work areas. Staff developed the draft actions to address the issues and suggestions raised in the community consultation process.

The Community Feedback Report is available on Council's website at mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au

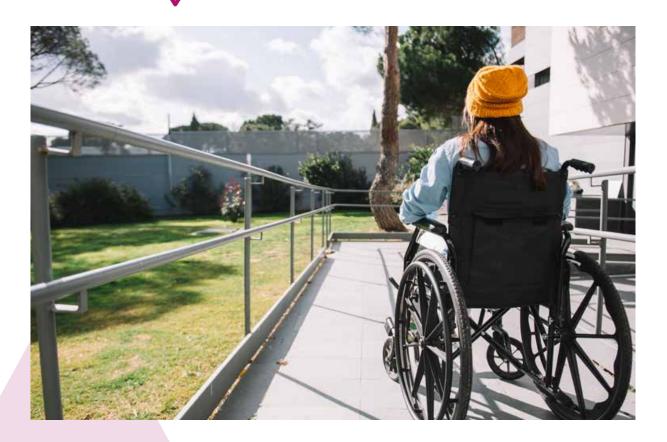
Consultation on the Draft DAIP

During a four week consultation period in August – September 2021 we asked the community for feedback on the draft plan. This consultation was promoted by posters, social media, direct email to stakeholders and service providers, and a My Say webpage. An online and paper survey was distributed and two drop-in sessions were held in Alexandrina Council Libraries.

My Say Alexandrina webpage received 146 individual visitors, and 33 people completed the survey, sent an email submission or attended the drop-in sessions. With regard to the online survey:

- 87% of respondents were ratepayers or residents, with the balance being visitors or workers in the council area.
- All respondents were over 35 years old.
- 32% identified as a person with a disability or a carer of a person with disability.
- There was a good distribution of respondents from across the council area.

The DAIP was then revised to incorporate the community feedback and presented to Council for its endorsement.



Action Plan

Alexandrina Council Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP)

The Alexandrina Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan is aligned with the four goals and twelve priority areas of the State Disability Inclusion Plan 2019–2023.

Goal 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.

State priorities

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

What we heard

Our community wants:

- Council staff and Elected Members to be trained in disability awareness.
- Community education and awareness raising initiatives.
- Social activities for young adults with disability.
- Inclusive arts and cultural programs and events.
- People with disability to be represented in Council's publicity and publications.



Action	State Priority	Responsibility	Timeframe	Measures and Targets
1.1 Implement disability awareness training for Council staff and Elected Members, including online delivery and experiential exercises that simulate the experience of those living with a disability. Ensure induction of new employees includes information about working with people living with disability.	2	General Manager Wellbeing People Department Manager Customer Experience Coordinator Customer Experience	2021-2024	 Disability awareness training to be included in Corporate Training Plan. Minimum of 50% of staff and volunteers participate in disability training sessions relevant to their role. Elected Members provided with disability awareness training. Evaluation of training.
1.2 Develop 'sensory friendly' library programs and events e.g. silent disco, calming sensory areas, fidget toys, low lighting, specific library sessions that promote and encourage socialisation opportunities for young people and families living with a disability.	1, 2, 3	Coordinator Library Services Manager Customer Experience	2021-2022	 3 events held per year. Feedback received.
1.3 Investigate opportunities and develop partnerships to provide inclusive social activities, recreation and sport programs in Council facilities and reserves.	1	Manager Community Wellbeing	2021-2023	 2 new partnerships developed. Number of inclusive programs delivered. New social activities and programs that provide opportunities for young adults with disability.

Action	State Priority	Responsibility	Timeframe	Measures and Targets
1.4 Demonstrate inclusive community events through a pilot project.	8, 9	Events Coordinator Manager Customer Experience	2021-2022	 Partnership with three (3) events to increase disability access and inclusion. Training provided. Number of event organisers trained. Council processes change to incorporate disability access as part of events guidance and requirements.
1.5 Contribute to community awareness of disability access and inclusion, e.g. celebrate International Day of People with a Disability, and support other community education initiatives.	2	Manager Community Wellbeing	Ongoing	 Number of community awareness activities and celebrations which Council has supported each year.
1.6 Provide accessible and inclusive arts programming for artists with disability. Partner with organisations that provide professional development opportunities and outcomes for artists with disability.	1	Arts and Cultural Development Officer	2022-2024	 Number of local artists shown who identify as living with disability. Evidence of partnerships.
1.7 Include people with disability in Councils promotional materials, and profile people with disability	2	Communications Team	2022-2024	 Number of Council, publications and social media post which include people with disability.

Council will also increase opportunities for social inclusion for all abilities through:

- Community development grants
- Partnerships to provide assistance with navigating service systems (eg NDIS and My Aged Care)
- Community hubs and spaces
- Seeking grants for new social inclusion initiatives
- Promotion of community driven programs.



Goal 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.

State priorities

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

What we heard

Our community wants:

- To be engaged and consulted in Council's planning processes.
- People with a disability to be involved in making decisions about services that affect their lives.
- For Council's committees and processes to be inclusive of people with disability.



Action	State Priority	Responsibility	Timeframe	Measures and Targets
2.1 Ensure people with disabilities and the disability services sector are included in the Community Wellbeing Advisory Forum and other relevant advisory groups.	4	General Manager Wellbeing	2021-2022	 Representation from the disability community has been sought for the Community Wellbeing Advisory Forum. Number of people with disability involved in Council's advisory groups
2.2 Investigate opportunities and methods for increasing the participation of people with disability in Council's community engagement processes and decision making, including the options for a reference group for people with disability	4, 6, 8	Manager Strategic Development General Manager Wellbeing Group Manager Leadership	2022-2023	 Investigation into accessible and inclusive community engagement is completed and findings implemented through Council's community engagement policy, tools and practices. Council report on the options for a disability reference group.
2.3 Explore ways to develop leadership of people with a disability in partnership with stakeholders, including supporting young people living with disability to actively participate in decision-making.	4, 5	Manager Community Wellbeing	2023-2024	 Number and description of leadership development opportunities delivered Participation by young people with disability in leadership and decision- making.

Goal 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.

State priorities

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

What we heard

Our community wants:

- Accessible footpaths, public toilets, parks, playgrounds, buildings, car parks and events.
- Improvements in the accessibility of Council's communications, e.g. website, easy to read information.
- For decisions about access improvements to incorporate lived experience of people with disability and user testing.
- For beaches and the river to be accessible for people with disability.



Action	State Priority	Responsibility	Timeframe	Measures and Targets
3.1 Deliver an accessible version of Alexandrina Council's 2040 Community Plan and the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.	8	Leadership Department Communications Team	2021-2022	• Alexandrina Council Community Plan 2040 and the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan are published in accessible formats.
3.2 Review Council's website against accreditation standards and benchmarks in the local government sector and undertake user testing when making improvements	8	Leadership Department Communications Team	2021-2023	 Review completed and improvements identified. Changes implemented after user testing.
3.3 Integration of Universal Design principles and goals into new and renewal capital works programs including footpaths, car parks, buildings, recreation and open space and other major projects.	7	Manager Assets Manager Projects	2021-2024	 Capital works meet legislative requirements around accessibility and include Universal Design approaches. Universal design evident in key projects like Goolwa Wharf Revitalisation project and Strathabyn Streetscapes. Project scope documents clearly identify the access improvements which are relevant to the project.
3.4 Improve beach access and pedestrian movements through the Goolwa Beach Master Plan and investigate other opportunities for accessible beaches and river access.	7, 9	General Manager Environment	2022-23	 Goolwa Beach project delivered and incorporates universal design and accessibility outcomes. Beach and river access improvements identified at other locations for inclusion in future upgrade projects.

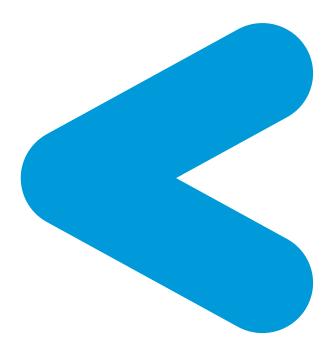
Action	State Priority	Responsibility	Timeframe	Measures and Targets
3.5 Develop Village Innovation Plans and urban design projects that incorporate disability access and universal design.	7	Manager Strategic Development Manager Projects	2021-2024	 Village Innovation Plans include accessibility initiatives. Briefs and specifications for strategic planning, urban and landscape design consultants include disability access and universal design requirements.
3.6 Prepare strategic reviews and access audits of Council assets (including footpaths, public toilets, playgrounds, community buildings, and the availability of accessible car parks).	7	Manager Assets	2021-2024	 Asset audits include disability access and have been completed in line with councils audit program. Description of access improvements achieved.
3.7 Investigate demand, identify locations and conduct community consultation for 'Changing Places' – Adult Change Facility.	7	Manager Community Wellbeing	2022-2023	 Locations have been identified and community consultation completed.
3.8 Deliver the range of events and activities designed to attract visitors to the new Goolwa Wharf Precinct to be accessible to everyone.	9	General Manager Growth	2022-2024	Number of accessible events.Feedback on access at Goolwa Wharf events.

Action	State Priority	Responsibility	Timeframe	Measures and Targets
3.9 Work with local tourism operators to develop and promote itinerary of accessible experiences and attractions.	9	Manager Economic Development	2022-2023	 By 2022 have at least one accessible itinerary documented. Run one event with tourism operators on accessible travel.
3.10 Investigate available technologies for customers including SMS, web accessibility, and workplace modifications to accommodate people with a range of disabilities.	8	Manager Customer Experience Coordinator Customer Experience Coordinator Library Services	2022-2023	• Assistive technologies are available.
3.11 Include the requirements for access issue complaints handling in the new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.	8, 9	General Manager Resources Manager Customer Experience	2022-2023	• Mechanism for recording and reporting accessibility issue complaints included in the implementation of the new ERP system.
3.12 Develop Universal Design training plans for staff	7	People Department	2022-2023	 Universal Design Training Plans prepared. Number of staff that have completed Universal Design training

Council will also increase opportunities for accessible communities through:

- Advocacy for transport options for people with disability
- Information for staff regarding local disability services
- Seeking grant funding for access improvement projects
- Allocation of funding for access improvements (eg project budgets, Annual Budgets, Long Term Financial Plan)
- Council website to have information about access improvements in capital projects
- Collaborate with partners to develop Universal Design Guidelines and policy for application in the Council area.
- Promotion of universal design through planning policy and instruments (eg Planning and Design Code)
- Statutory planning (development assessment and building compliance processes)

- Promoting housing diversity and adaptability
- Outdoor trading permits and policies
- Lease and licence agreements with third parties
- Economic Development Strategy and related projects
- Education of local businesses regarding accessibility
- Providing information about accessibility of community events
- Accessible libraries, collections, programs, marketing and outreach services
- Arts and cultural venues and events.





Goal 4: 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.

State priorities

- **Priority 1:** Better supports within educational and training settings
- **Priority 2:** Skill development through volunteering and support in navigating the pathway between learning and earning
- **Priority 3:** Improved access to employment opportunities and better support within workplaces.

What we heard

Our community wants:

- Council to provide employment opportunities for people with a disability.
- Council to provide volunteering opportunities for people with a disability.



Action	State Priority	Responsibility	Timeframe	Measures and Targets
4.1 Increase employment, volunteering and work experience opportunities for people living with disability.	12	People Department Manager Customer Experience	2021-2022	Number of people employed with a disability.Number of volunteers with a disability.
4.2 Continue to ensure that Council recruitment and employment processes are transparent and accessible for all.	12	People Department	Ongoing	 Review Council's employment processes to incorporate best practice guidelines. Continue to include diversity statement in all job advertisements.
4.3 Continue to engage with NDRC (National Disability Recruitment Coordinator) by advertising all vacancies through them.	12	People Department	Ongoing	 All advertisements, (including volunteering opportunities) are sent to NDRC. Continue to strengthen existing partnership with NRDC
4.4 Review advertisement of volunteer roles to ensure they are sent to NDRC.	12	People Department	Ongoing	• All advertisements (including for volunteer roles), include the diversity statement.

Council will also increase opportunities for social inclusion for all abilities through:

- Liaison with Disability Employment Services (DES) providers
- Providing appropriate modifications in the workplace.

Implementation



Links to other Plans and Policies

The DAIP will link with some existing, revised and new policies and plans of the Alexandrina Council, including:

Existing plans and policies

- Alexandrina 2040 Community Plan
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan
- Disability Discrimination Act Access and Inclusion Action Plan 2015–2018
- Age Friendly Communities Plan 2017-2020
- Tourism & Visitor Strategy 2017–2022
- Regional Public Health Plan: Alexandrina Council Public Health Action Plan
- Public Consultation Policy
- Communication Policy

New and revised plans and policies

- Delivery Program (2021)
- Village Innovation Plans (from 2022)



Examples of Previous Achievements

Council's previous Alexandrina Disability Discrimination Act Access and Inclusion Action Plan 2015–2018 has embedded an awareness of the principles of access and inclusion throughout many of Council's activities.

Some achievements include:

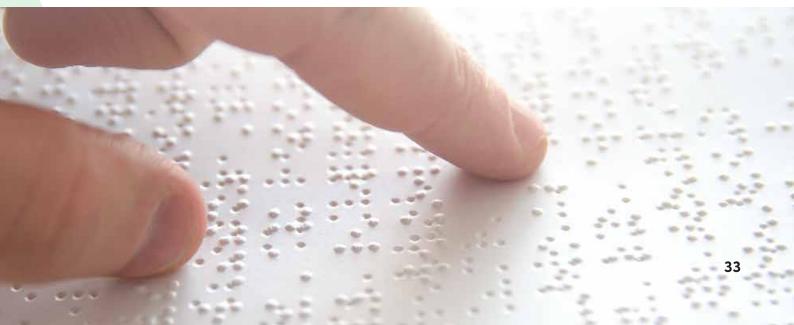
- Bristow Smith Reserve in Goolwa is an inclusive play space and includes tables for wheelchairs, wheelchair and pram friendly paths, and sensory equipment.
- Goolwa Beach Master Plan includes provision for beach access.
- The Strathalbyn Woodshed is a new facility and has been designed for accessibility.

How the Plan will be Implemented

Alexandrina Council is committed to delivering on the actions outlined in the DAIP in a number of ways including the following.

- In consultation with key staff, each action has been assigned to an officer who is responsible for delivery of outcomes.
- Actions will be integrated into annual business and long term financial planning.
- Some Actions are subject to allocation of budget by Council or grant funding opportunities.
- An annual budget will be allocated to the Priority Access Improvement Program.
- Responsibility for coordinating the implementation, monitoring and annual reporting of the DAIP will be included in a staff member's Position Description.

- An implementation, monitoring and reporting mechanism and framework will be established.
- The progress of the DAIP will be monitored and reported annually to Elected Members and the Minister for Department of Human Services.
- The Plan will be communicated widely to local external stakeholders and networks.
- The responsible staff member will work with the NDIS Local Area Coordinator and other strategic partners to engage relevant networks and implement the Plan.



Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the following who assisted in the development of Alexandrina's DAIP:

- Community members who responded to our surveys and attended drop in sessions
- Participants in the community forum at Strathalbyn Neighbourhood Centre
- Melissa Robinson, NDIS Local Area Coordinator, Mission Australia, Victor Harbor
- Council staff and Elected Members who provided input
- Key staff from the Local Government Association, City of Marion, City of Victor Harbor and District Council of Yankalilla

Definitions and Acronyms

Accessibility

Is a more inclusive term than disability and incorporates the requirements of a diverse range of people who may have access needs, including people with a disability, older people, parents and carers of young people, and travellers. Car parks, lifts and bathrooms are now described as accessible rather than disabled.

Barriers

Prevent people with a disability from fully participating in society. Barriers include physical or environmental, attitudinal, institutional and communication. Removing barriers enables people with a disability to be independent and equal in society.

Built environment

Human-made structures, features and facilities viewed collectively as an environment in which people work and live.

Changing Places

This describes public toilet facilities for people who have additional access requirements. They include an adult sized change table, ceiling hoist, peninsular toilet, privacy screen and additional circulation space to meet the needs of people with complex disabilities and their carers.

Disability

In relation to a person, includes long-term physical, psycho-social, intellectual, cognitive, neurological or sensory impairment, or a combination of these, which in interactions with various barriers may hinder the person's full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. (Disability Act 2018)

Inclusion

Ensuring that everyone, regardless of ability, has the same opportunities to participate in every aspect of life. For people with a disability, this means having the opportunity to participate in every aspect of life rather than through separate disability specific options.

NDIS

National Disability Insurance Scheme

PDI Act (SA)

Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016.

Universal Design

The design and composition of an environment, object or service so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability.



How to contact us

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