



Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2020 - 2024

Yorke Regional Alliance



Contact Us

This Regional Disability Access and Inclusion Plan was developed with valuable input from our communities. If you would like to provide feedback on how we can improve the Plan or if you require a copy in an alternative format, please contact us. A local action plan is available by contacting your Council.

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Access and Inclusion Statement

The Yorke Regional Alliance (the Alliance) acknowledges that everyone plays a part in making sure we all have opportunities and choices to lead full and healthy lives, based on principles of dignity, equality and respect, shared across cultures and communities.

The Alliance acknowledges the Narungga people who are the traditional owners of the land and offer respect to their Elders past and present.

The Alliance recognises that access and inclusion is the cornerstone of its communities - where everyone who lives, works and visits the region can contribute and feel included.



Inclusive Play Facilities, Kadina

Contents

Introduction	1
Our Community	4
Community Ideas.	8
Focus Areas.	11
Joining in with tourism, events and sports	12
Having a say in Council decisions	18
Moving around the region	22
Finding information easily	28
Working with Council	32
Implementation	36
Acknowledgements	38
Acronyms and Definitions	39



Barunga
West
Council

Copper
Coast
Council

Yorke
Peninsula
Council

The Three Councils Areas of the Regional Alliance

Introduction

This Regional Disability Access and Inclusion Plan relates to an area that extends from the foot of the Yorke Peninsula north to the Upper Yorke Peninsula.

The region comprises an area over 8,300 square kilometres and supports a population of about 28,750 people. It offers a mix of rural and seaside lifestyles with small towns, larger urban centres and holiday settlements.

The region is known for some of South Australia's best holiday beaches and is a major tourism destination for both local and international visitors.

The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan for the Yorke Peninsula Alliance (the Regional Plan) has been prepared by the local government areas of Barunga West, Copper Coast and Yorke Peninsula (Alliance Councils).

Introduction

The purpose of the Plan is to identify regional priorities for disability access and inclusion that the Alliance Councils can work on together as well as to provide guidance for each of the Councils' own four-year action plan.

It is consistent with international, national and state priorities for disability access and inclusion including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the National Disability Strategy and the State Disability Inclusion Plan and responds to the Councils' obligations under the Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA)

The focus areas in the Plan align with the themes in the State Disability Inclusion Plan.



Dedicated Gopher Road, Barunga West

Introduction

INTERNATIONAL

**The United Nations
Convention on the
Rights of Persons with
Disability**

NATIONAL

**National Disability
Strategy 2010 - 2020**

**National Disability
Insurance Scheme**

**National Disability
Agreement**

STATE

**Disability Inclusion Act
2018**

**State Disability
Inclusion Plan 2019**

**State Government
Disability Access and
Inclusion Plans 2020**

LOCAL

Yorke Regional Alliance Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2020

Our Community

The Yorke Peninsula Alliance understands that disability is not a special condition of a few. It is ordinary and affects most of us for some part of our lives. People's experience of disability is diverse and may happen alongside other barriers to participation such as age, gender, language, culture, and income.

Priority population groups that may be more vulnerable due to disability include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people living in rural and remote areas, people experiencing social disadvantage, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, older people, youth, children and visitors to our region.

Our Community

People Living with Disability

About 1 in 5 people in the region have a profound or severe disability (7.3%) or are caring for a person with a disability, long term illness or old age (13.5%).

There is a greater proportion of people under 65 years of age living with disability in Copper Coast than for Regional SA.

There is a greater proportion of people over 65 years of age living with disability in Barunga West than for Regional SA.

Over 2,200 people in the region reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability.

Over 11% of the region's population received a disability support pension in 2016 compared to 8.6% for Regional SA.

The region had more people assisting others in the community when compared with Regional SA, suggesting a high number of carers in the local population.

Our Community

Older People

The region has an older population that is getting older. People aged over 60 is the fastest growing part of the population with 1,600 more people of this age group added to the population between 2011 and 2016.

Just over 39% of the region's population is over 60 years of age. Barunga West has 41% of population over 60 years of age and Yorke Peninsula has 42%.

Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islanders

The region's Aboriginal / Torres Strait Islander population is smaller than other regional areas but much more than the metropolitan average.

Nearly 50% of the region's Aboriginal/Torres Strait Island population is under 20 years of age.

Our Community

Social Disadvantage

The region has a comparatively high amount of concession card holders and unemployment beneficiaries.

Copper Coast has 9% of the population receiving youth unemployment benefits compared to 6% for Regional SA.

Over 37% of the region's population has a pension card compared with 30% for Regional SA.

About 1 in 3 children are living in low income families and over a quarter of children are reported as developmentally vulnerable.

Community Ideas

Over 300 people across the region gave us ideas and feedback to help us prepare this draft Regional Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2020-2024. We learned from people experiencing disability, their friends and relatives, carers, community organisations, health and education providers, advocacy groups, individuals, local businesses, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, as well as people providing services to, or working for, Council.

Many of you shared personal experiences of disability which has improved our understanding of the actions we need to take as a Council and community. Information was shared in conversation, at meetings and via online and hard copy surveys.

Where our responses came from:

22%

people with disability

34%

family members, friends and carers of people with disability

17%

business owner or operator

14%

disability, health, social support and education organisations

11%

aged 18 to 39 years

51%

people aged 60 and over

14%

people that live outside of a township

Community Ideas

We heard that in some areas we are doing well, such as providing public signage and access to buildings, parks and public toilets. Better footpaths, community transport options and access ramps, pathways and equipment for people with disability in Council buildings are key areas to focus on. A review of disabled parking in towns and better access to the beach and foreshore areas is important to our community.

How we are doing:

82%

of people think they live in an accessible area

55%

of people do not think there are good footpaths near them

85%

of people think everyone has the same opportunity to participate in consultation and decision making

25%

of people think it is hard to access the foreshore

≈ 50%

of the community think the Council is inclusive for all people.



Accessible Barbecue, Port Broughton

Focus Areas

This Regional Plan identifies five focus areas to improve disability access and inclusion for residents, workers and visitors to our region.

The Alliance Councils acknowledge the input received from individuals and communities across the region to help shape the five focus areas and supporting regional priorities.

- 1 Joining in with Tourism, Events and Sports**
- 2 Having a Say in Council Decisions**
- 3 Moving Around the Region**
- 4 Finding Information Easily**
- 5 Working with Council**

Joining in with Tourism, Events and Sports

Tourism is important to the region and many people visit the area or live here for only part of the year. Visitors come from within South Australia, from other States and from overseas.

About 1 in 5 people across the world and in Australia are living with a disability. It is important that the region plan for **Accessible and Inclusive Tourism Experiences and Events** for its communities and visitors.

Sports are an important part of regional life and provide opportunities for social connection and team-based participation in township communities. Councils provide and lease significant infrastructure that supports volunteer committees deliver **Opportunities for Participation in Sport** by a broad cross section of the community.

State theme: 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.

Accessible and Inclusive Tourism, Events and Sports

Disability friendly tourism destinations could increase the number of visitors to the region. These destinations could give equal access to attractions like the beach and jetties and activities like fishing, have disability friendly public toilets, have disability friendly accommodation and trained and welcoming operators.

Councils in the Region own holiday accommodation. Council owned accommodation could lead the delivery of disability friendly destinations.

There is a lot of available information promoting events, activities and locations. Easy to recognise symbols identifying disability friendly destinations, welcoming operators, appropriate facilities, all access environments or special accessibility features will help all visitors and residents participate in tourism experiences or events.

Events are a major part of Yorke Peninsula Tourism and Council community building activities. Councils often provide event planning tools to assist organisations running events on community land.

Information on planning inclusive events could improve event accessibility and inclusive volunteering and event management outcomes.

Priorities

- 1 Support Yorke Peninsula Tourism and Legatus to create a disability friendly accreditation program for tourism operators.
- 2 Review Council owned tourism accommodation and recreation facilities, features and assets for access improvement opportunities.
- 3 Review Council event planning tools and procedures to promote inclusive event management.

Outcomes

- Tourism products for people of all abilities.
- Increased awareness of inclusive tourism opportunities.
- Increased participation in tourism experiences and opportunities by visitors with disability.

Opportunities for Participation in Sport

The Alliance Councils develop and maintain many sports facilities and they have regular contact with community sports and recreation clubs. The Alliance Councils also offer community grants each year to support organisations and individuals to participate in and contribute to the community including through recreation.

There are opportunities to work with state sports bodies, sports clubs and with local NDIS service providers to match people with a disability to meaningful volunteer vacancies or identify opportunities to field sports teams in disability sports competitions utilising existing club facilities.

Priorities

- 4 Through the StarClub program, partner with state sports bodies and NDIS service providers to identify volunteering and participation opportunities for people of all abilities.
- 5 Use existing community grants programs to support people with a disability take part in supported sporting competitions or major events.

Outcomes

- Increased participation in community life through volunteering.
- Equal participation in competitive sport and events.



Accessible Park Facilities, Kadina

The main role of Council is to provide for the government of a local community. To do this, people are elected to Council to **represent the needs of all people in the community** when making decisions.

About half of the region's population voted in the 2018 local government elections. The election had 60 candidates stand for 31 places across the Alliance Councils. Of the 31 successful candidates, one Elected Member of the Councils has a disability.

Sometimes, Council will talk to its communities about decisions it plans to make. This is called **Consultation and Engagement** and can help Council to understand community needs and ideas.

Representation and consultation are two very important roles of Council.

State theme: 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.

Represent the Needs of All the People in the Community

The region's community is ageing and there is a high proportion of people living with disability. The Councils manage a large number of assets that require repair and replacement each year and deliver a wide range of programs to support community health and wellbeing.

In addition, the Councils prepare plans for new construction projects or receive applications for big developments.

This requires very important decisions to be made by Council during monthly Council meetings.

The Yorke Peninsula Council has an Access Advisory Working Party and the Copper Coast Council has a Disability Discrimination Act Advisory Committee as a part of each Council's planning and decision making.

There is potential to strengthen the role of access advisory committees in Council decision making structures in the region. There may also be an opportunity for the Alliance Councils to make meetings more accessible to more people in the community.

Priorities

- 6 Support people of all abilities and representing all communities to participate on Working Groups and/or Committees of Council to support all communities to participate in decision making.
- 7 Identify opportunities to improve information exchange with stakeholders in the region.
- 8 Work with the Local Government Association on methods to improve community participation in Council meetings (such as virtual meetings, sub-titles, provision of aids and equipment, etc).

Outcomes

- Increased representation by people with disability.

Consultation and Engagement

Each Alliance Council has a community consultation and engagement policy that explains the importance of community participation in decision making to Council staff, Elected Members and the public.

The policies for Barunga West and Copper Coast include principles for effective and easy to understand communication.

Priorities

- 9 Review Council consultation and engagement policies to strengthen accessibility (such as nominating specific consultations that will be undertaken in accessible formats).
- 10 Prepare accessible formats of Council consultation and signage such as EasyRead, braille, audio and video.
- 11 Establish a Disability and Priority Populations Register to improve targeted engagement and consultation with interested individuals, community groups and service providers in the region.

Outcomes

- Increased participation in community consultation by people with disability.

The Alliance Councils play an important role in planning and improving physical access to local environments for all members of the community. If a design works well for people with disability, it works better for everyone.

The community values the role the Councils play in providing **Infrastructure** such as footpaths, libraries, sport and community facilities and programs, waste collection, community events, public places and open space.

The community also places high importance on services such as **Passenger Travel** as a part of accessing these locations and opportunities.

State theme: 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.

Infrastructure

There is evidence of significant investment in accessibility and inclusion projects of different sizes across the region.

This includes all access paths along the coast and between townships, all access town centre developments, installation of accessible toilets and play equipment, mobility scooter charge points in park furniture, accessible holiday park accommodation and beach access equipment, and inclusive indoor sports and recreation facilities.

And there are plans for more investment into the future.

Priorities

- 12 Improve access to local environments through a program of planned public infrastructure works.
- 13 Audit existing Council premises and public buildings to establish a priority schedule for access modifications.
- 14 Continue to progress improved foreshore and beach access and township walking trails.
- 15 Seek funding to deliver further recreation and play areas designed for families of all abilities.

Outcomes

- Increased use of Council premises and public buildings.

Passenger Travel

Transport is an issue. Although community transport providers do exist in the region, transport for wheelchair passengers was identified as a gap.

With greater funding certainty, community transport providers could invest in flexible passenger transport fleets to cater for a greater diversity of access needs.

However, the NDIS sets rigid fee structures for different community services delivered to participants. Community transport fees under this fee structure are expensive when compared to the annual travel allowance provided to NDIS participants.

While the fee structure for community transport may be intended to provide security and certainty to service users, they may not reflect the needs of NDIS participants in regional communities and can contribute to isolation from services, community activity or special needs appointments.

Priorities

- 16 Support existing and new community transport options in the region through partnerships and advocacy.

Outcomes

- Number of people using community transport.



Helipad, Port Broughton

Making it easy for people to find out what's happening in the region is a good way to improve participation in community life.

Council **Communication and Engagement** including face-to-face, hard copy documents, via social media and online formats, and through signage and wayfinding can improve accessibility and inclusion in the region.

State theme: 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.

Communication and Engagement

Consultation identified that most people in the community are getting information from local newspapers.

There is a need to support hard copy, signage and online communication.

A small number of people would like to see information in alternative formats such as EasyRead, large font, audio and captioning.

How our Community Finds Information:

34%

local news

15%

word of mouth

13%

social media

8%posters and
flyers**7%**

noticeboard

6%community
groups

The most popular ways to communicate with Council on a day to day basis is face-to-face and by telephone. Our community would most like Council to consult and engage with them via surveys or in person.

Day to Day Communication with Council:

37%

phone

35%

face-to-face

17%

email

6%

social media

3%

mail

Consultation with Council:

28%

survey mail-out

24%

online survey

18%face-to-face
interviews**15%**community
forum**6%**phone
interview**5%**online
submissions

Priorities

- 17 Update information outlets such as Visitor Information Centre and notice boards to include options for Easy Read, braille, voice recordings and other formats.
- 18 Seek partnerships with Progress Associations and other community groups to disseminate community and Council information.
- 19 Advocate for NBN delivery and technology that improves connectivity and digital access for the community.

Outcomes

- Community satisfaction with access to information.

Councils employ **Staff, Contractors and Volunteers** and can contribute to increased employment pathways for people with disability and improve acceptance of employee and workplace diversity.

The Alliance Councils employ about 268 people. There are more males (60%) than females (40%) and the workforce shows signs of ageing. Five employees across the region are from non-English speaking countries and 4 employees identify as Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander.

Council **Procurement and Purchasing Policies** could also play a role in promoting diverse local employment outcomes for people with disability. Barunga West Council has a landscape maintenance contract with a local agency that employs 3 staff with disability.

State theme: 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.

Staff, Contractors and Volunteers

Council policy and practices guide the way that Council works with its community and external groups as well as internal work practices.

Elected Members and Council employees have a Code of Conduct to act in a fair and equal way when working for the community.

The Councils of Barunga West and Copper Coast have also adopted policy in relation to creating safe working environments for children and vulnerable persons. This includes training for staff, Elected Members, volunteers, contractors and consultants working with vulnerable persons on behalf of the Councils.

Behavior in the workplace is guided by Work Health and Safety systems and Human Resource policies that seek to create safe working environments free from discrimination.

A Volunteer Policy is in place at the Councils. Yorke Peninsula Council has also adopted a Fair Treatment Policy that promotes the recognition, acceptance and right of all people to be treated with fairness, equity and justice.

Induction and ongoing training opportunities are available to Elected Members, Council employees and volunteers to support development in areas of need.

Procurement and Purchasing Policies

Every year the Councils pay a lot of money to buy goods and services. There is potential, through Council procurement policy, to provide equal opportunities for disability employment providers to tender for Council contracts.

Priorities

- 20 Support Council employees to value the benefits of workplace diversity and flexible job design.
- 21 Provide Council job advertising in an accessible format and encourage people with disability and priority populations to apply.
- 22 Establish or maintain Council policy and practices for creating safe working environments.
- 23 Review or develop contractor management practices to encourage consideration of access, universal design and inclusion opportunities through external contracts.
- 24 Review volunteer management practices to encourage participation by people of all abilities.
- 25 Review procurement and purchasing policies and practices to promote equal access to select and competitive tenders.

Outcomes

- Workplace diversity
- Number and diversity of Council volunteers
- Contracts that support disability access and inclusion.

Implementation

Advocacy

Advocacy is important to people with disability. Council can play a role by inviting advocates to events that celebrate ability. Council can also invite service providers to its meetings. The Alliance Councils will seek to improve access to advocacy for the region.

Community Participation

Ongoing community participation in the Plan is encouraged and may occur through membership on Council Committees, Advisory and Working Groups, community partnerships, individual contributions, volunteering, participation in consultation and engagement activities and feedback to the Councils.



Leisure Options Participants, Yorke Peninsula

Implementation

Regional Cooperation

The Plan builds upon the cooperative arrangements and resource sharing that already occurs between the Councils of the region. A nominated employee from each Council will participate in a Regional Staff Advisory Group responsible for monitoring, reporting and reviewing the Plan.

Council Strategic Plans

The Alliance Councils has each prepared a four-year Action Plan that aligns with that Council's Strategic Plan and delivers on this Plan. Each Council is responsible for implementing actions in respect of their local government area and will nominate an employee responsible for oversight of the Plan.

Reporting

The Regional Staff Advisory Group will communicate regularly to facilitate delivery of the Plan and will meet annually for the purpose of monitoring regional priorities. Reporting of regional priorities will be completed annually through each Council's Annual Report.

Review

The Plan can be reviewed at any time in accord with legislative requirements. The time frame for evaluation and review of the Plan is otherwise every four years. The next four-year review is scheduled for 2024.

Acknowledgements

The Alliance Councils thank everyone who shared their ideas, stories and experiences about disability access and inclusion. Over 300 people across the region participated in consultation providing us with feedback that has helped to shape this plan.

Acronyms and Definitions

Access

Access (sometimes referred to as universal access) means that regardless of ability a person can approach, enter, pass to or from, and make use of an area and its facilities without assistance.

Access design ensures products and buildings can be used by everyone, regardless of their level of ability or disability. It means designing and planning products, buildings, and exterior spaces to be usable by all people to the greatest extent possible.

Alliance Council

The Yorke Peninsula Alliance includes the Barunga West Council, Copper Coast Council and Yorke Peninsula Council.

Carer (Australian Bureau of Statistics)

A person who provides any informal assistance, in terms of help or supervision, to older people (aged 65 years and over) and those with disability.

A primary carer is the person who provides the most informal assistance to a person with disability with one or more of the core activities of mobility, self care and communication.

Acronyms and Definitions

Disability (Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) Act)

The DDA Act covers the following broad groups of disability:

- Physical
- Intellectual
- Psychiatric
- Sensory
- Neurological
- Learning disabilities
- Physical disfigurement
- The presence in the body of disease-causing organisms

Disability (Australian Bureau of Statistics)

A person has disability if they report they have a limitation, restriction or impairment, which has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months and restricts everyday activities. Disability may affect a person's mobility, communication or learning. It can also affect their income and participation in education. Social activities and the labour force.

Acronyms and Definitions

Social Inclusion

Social inclusion refers to a sense of being included in the social life of the community and being treated with equality and dignity.

Where all people live in a dignified and simplified society where they have the confidence and self esteem to speak their mind and have the opportunities that everyone has.

NDIS

National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Regional SA

Provides an average situation for regional areas of South Australia.

The Region

This Regional Disability Access and Inclusion Plan relates to the local government areas of Barunga West Council, Copper Coast Council and Yorke Peninsula Council.

Universal Design

Universal design is a way of thinking about environments that meet the needs of all members of the community. Universal design also considers changing needs over the life course.



Boat Ramp, Barunga West