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DISABLED ACCESS & FACILITIES	IS019
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Over 22% of the South Australian population consists of people with disabilities. Furthermore, South Australia has the highest proportion of elderly people in Australia.

Yorke Peninsula caters to a range of age groups including people with some form of disability.

There is a growing awareness within business operators that tapping the disability market makes good business sense because providing access to people with disabilities may expand the scope of a market. Furthermore, according to the SA Health Commission (1997) 27% of disabled persons in South Australia have an annual income of \$30,000 or more.

Disabled Access

The Development Act, Development Regulations and the Building Code of Australia have specific requirements for the design of buildings to ensure reasonable access is provided.

Determining proper access to building can influence the design, operation and appearance of a building.

Further to the requirements of the Building Code and the State's development legislation, buildings must also comply with the Commonwealth Government's Disability Discrimination Act which may require additional facilities. For example, the Disability Discrimination Act requires equality of access, therefore a back door wheelchair access may not be acceptable.

Disabled Facilities

In addition to allowing access into a building for disabled, facilities such as toilets, washbasins and in some instances shower facilities must also be provided for use by the disabled at all times.

Access Action Plan

Council have an 'Access Action Plan', which aims to provide facilities as well as implementing services and programs which provide equitable access for people with disabilities.

Council recognises the need for equitable access to services, premises, facilities and employment, as it is a right for people with disabilities and that improved access will advantage the community as a whole. Furthermore, Council recognises the need for inclusive policy, practices and procedures that are non-discriminatory.

The Access Action Plan facilitates changes to the physical environment as well as the culture of the Yorke Peninsula Council area through education and information, encouraging the community to consider the needs of the elderly and people with disabilities.

Further Information

For any queries regarding the 'Access Action Plan', disabled access to and within a building, disabled facilities required within a building or information about converting a building to be accessible for the disabled, please contact Council's Manager of Environmental Services on:

Yorke town Office (08) 8832 0000.

Further information may be obtained from:

Australian Council for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled (ACROD)

GPO Box 468, Woodville SA 5011 - (08) 82037588