



**Woollahra
Municipal Council**

Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017

Adopted 26 June 2017

Easy Read version



**Woollahra
Municipal
Council**



HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT



This 'Easy Read' Plan is a summary of a larger document.

It has all the same information, but it is written in an easy to read way with pictures to help people understand.



The larger document is called the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017 (Draft) and it can be found on our website:
www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/disability

You can ask a friend, family member or support person to help you read this document.

We'd like to know what you think of this Plan. Please contact us by 31 May 2017.



Phone 9391 7000



Email community@woollahra.nsw.gov.au



Post

Attn: Jacky Hony
Woollahra Municipal Council
PO Box 61
Double Bay NSW 1360



Visit www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



We can all help people with disability access the same opportunities as everyone else.

This Plan shows our commitment to doing more and what we intend to do next for people with disability who visit or live in Woollahra.

Thank you to our local community who have shared their feedback about living with disability, or supporting someone with disability.

We look forward to working with the community to provide more improvements for all.

Councillor Toni Zeltzer

Mayor of Woollahra

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



This Plan highlights our leadership and commitment to delivering practical changes for people with disability.

Our commitment is demonstrated in the actions in this Plan and in our other planning documents.

We will report our progress to the NSW Minister for Disability.

This Plan and our ongoing community engagement will help us continue to provide inclusive places, services, programs and activities for everyone in Woollahra.

Gary James

General Manager

HOW WE PLAN



We plan for improving the lives of people living in and visiting our area, including people with disability.

As part of our long term planning we already provide many services, activities and programs that are accessible and inclusive. These are explained in our *Woollahra 2025 community strategic plan* and our *Delivery Program & Operational Plan*.

A lot of the work that we already do is guided by the *NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014* and the *Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

These laws and policies say people with disability have the same rights as other people in the community.

WHY WE MADE THIS PLAN



All government departments in Australia have to make a plan like this as part of the National Disability Strategy.

Our Plan shows how we help people with disability in our local area now and in the future.

We want to make Woollahra accessible and inclusive for everyone. This includes making it easy for people with disability to get to where they'd like to go and find the information, help and support they need.

HOW WE MADE THIS PLAN



In 2016 we completed an Aged and Disability Needs Study.

The first step was to look at what services, support and activities were already available in our local area. We then looked at what people with disability might need in the future.



We looked at what changes and improvements were happening in neighbouring areas and throughout Australia.

We also spoke to people in Woollahra who understood what people with disability needed. This included carers, service providers, people with disability and people aged 65+.

All of this gave us some information on where we could improve.



In February 2017 we spoke with a number of people from different parts of Council to understand what each area was doing to help people with disability.

We are now asking for feedback on our Plan from people in our community.

We will also be contacting local services: Holdsworth, Jewish Care and Miroma to talk about this Plan.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY IN WOOLLAHRA



59,860 people live in Woollahra. This is expected to grow by 19% in 2031.

18% of people in Woollahra have some form of disability. This is similar to the national average.



The most common forms of disability are physical (10%, including hearing and sight), and mental health (7%).



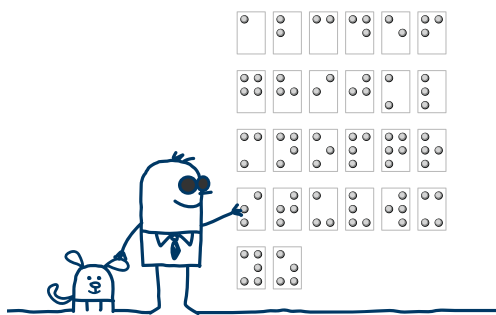
2.4% (1,243) of people in Woollahra need help every day because of their disability. This is less than the NSW average of 4.9%.

We think fewer people who need help every day live in Woollahra than in other areas because the cost of housing here is higher.



People with disability want better public transport, access to shops/parks/venues and more social activities.

OUR PLAN



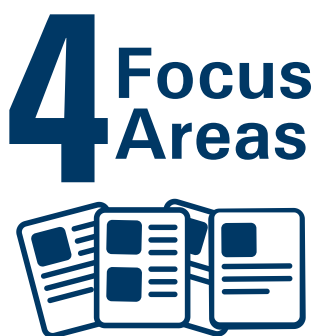
We want to make Woollahra a nice place for everyone to live and visit. This includes:

- making it easy to get around;
- having nice public places that everyone can use;
- having the right services and activities for people; and
- providing easy to find, useful information.



Council does some things, but we also help other groups provide meals, transport, support and activities for people with disability.

This plan shows what we want to achieve in the next 4 years for people with disability.



We have 4 main focus areas:

1. improve attitudes and behaviours;
2. creating liveable communities;
3. creating better job opportunities; and
4. improving how we do things.

Our plan for each of these focus areas is explained below.

1. Improve attitudes and behaviours

What we already do

- We work with Job Access to encourage people with disability apply for jobs at Council.
- We have programs like Disability Awareness Training, Mental Health First Aid and Access Forums, which all aim to raise awareness of living with disability.
- We provide specific training to our Preschool staff.
- Our Customer Service Team is trained to use the National RELAY Service telephone.



What we plan to do next

- Continue our current training of Preschool and Customer Service staff.
- Provide more training to all Council staff on Disability Awareness Training, Job Access and Mental Health. We will then be better able to understand specific needs and help people in the right way.
- Continue to provide similar Mental Health programs and Access Forums.
- Hold a community activity for International Day of People with a Disability in December each year.
- Write guidelines to help staff plan events and activities that can be accessed by everyone.
- Update our guidelines to make sure our online and printed information is accessible.
- Include more images of people with disability in our communications.





2. Creating liveable communities

What we already do

- Make ongoing improvements so people of all abilities can move about easily and have access to the same services and facilities as everyone else.
- Our Customer Service Centre has ramps, lift, disabled parking and low desks.
- All our libraries are fully accessible. Our new library in Double Bay has disabled parking, a continuous path of travel, accessible toilets, a hearing loop and lift.
- Our Home Library Service visits people who can't leave their home.
- We have a qualified Inclusion Support teacher at Woollahra Preschool to support children with additional needs.
- Recent upgrades to Council buildings:
 - the former Woollahra Seniors' Centre now has a lift, ramp and accessible toilets;
 - Woollahra Preschool now has a lift; and
 - the Holdsworth Community Centre has an all-abilities playground.
- Provide ongoing social and recreational activities including a Men's Chat Group, Seniors' Festival and technology training programs for seniors.
- Mow road verges and bring out bins for those who can't do it themselves.





- Install wayfinding signage at parks, such as Gap Park, Sir David Martin Reserve and Cooper Park.
- Provide 3,015 Mobility Parking Spaces.
- Provide disabled parking bays and Health Carers Parking Permits so registered health care staff can provide services for people in their own homes.



- Our planning controls support and encourage accessible developments.

What we plan to do next

- Make it easier for people to find out which of our community spaces (buildings, parks and public spaces) are easy to get to and use.

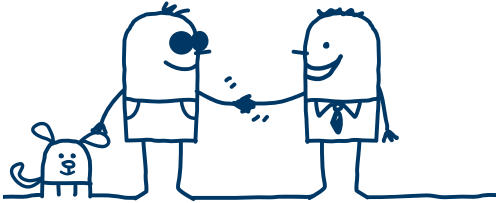


- Make sure any new community spaces are easy to get to and use.
- Make sure it is easy to find out about community transport, parking and other support programs and services available in our area.
- Continue to provide a range of activities for all.

3. Creating better job opportunities

What we already do

- Make work at the Council fair and equal for everybody.
- Make improvements to be able to hire more people with disability to work at Council.
- Use services that employ people with disability.



What we plan to do next

- Find out what else we can do to hire more people and find more work for people with disability.
- Continue to ensure all people have equal rights and equal treatment with getting a job and working at Council.
- Continue to support services that employ people with disability.





4. Improving how we do things

What we already do

- Make it easier to find useful information by creating an annual local Disability Services Directory.
- Support children with additional needs at Woollahra Preschool.



- Make it easier for people to find and book in for events.

What we plan to do next

- Hold more of our activities in places everyone can get to easily.



- Talk to people with disability about how we can improve some of our documents and information.
- Make it easier to find information on our website, over the phone, or on printed documents.



MAKING SURE OUR PLAN IS WORKING



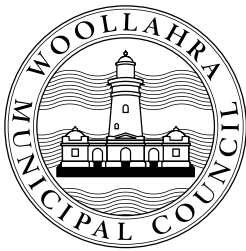
We want to make sure this plan is working well.

We will check our progress and report back as part of our normal reporting. This happens every 3 months and at the end of every financial year.

What we will check

- We finish the tasks listed, when we say we were going to finish them.
- We will monitor the number of people we are helping with disability.
- We will monitor the number of people with disability who are being helped with jobs, accommodation, facilities and services in our local area.
- We will ask for community feedback on how well we are doing.





Woollahra Municipal Council

HAVE YOUR SAY

Tell us what you think of this draft plan.
Just call, email or write to us.

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Council would like to thank everyone who has
contributed to the development of this Plan.