

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan Shire of Wagin

2025 - 2030

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Acknowledgements

The Shire of Wagin acknowledges the input received from many individuals and groups within the community, which has been invaluable in the preparation of this Disability Access Inclusion Plan.

In particular, thanks are given to Wagin Homecare, the Wagin Care and Share, Shire Councillors and staff and individual community members.



Background



The Shire of Wagin is a rural local authority servicing a population of approximately 1,825 people, covering an area of 1950 square kilometres. There are two town sites within the Shire of Wagin, namely Wagin and Piesseville.

Major industries are agriculture, including wheat, canola, barley, sheep and some beef cattle. Other industries include Grainfeeds a pet food manufacturer, Essantis a grain merchant, Gilmac Hay and also steel fabrication firm, machinery and vehicle dealerships.

The major town, Wagin, home of the giant ram, is located on the Great Southern Highway 220 kilometres south east from Perth, with a population of approximately 1,825. This increases considerably during March each year with the Woolorama festival bringing crowds of around 24,000 people for a weekend.

Wagin is experiencing growth due to the movement of retirees and other mature-aged people to the area. The town was established in the late 19th century and has retained some heritage-listed public buildings from this period.

Functions, facilities, and services (both in-house and contracted) provided by the Shire of Wagin

The Shire of Wagin is responsible for a range of functions, facilities and services including:

- Services to Property: construction and maintenance of Shire-owned buildings, roads, footpaths, and cycle facilities; land drainage and development; waste collection and disposal; litter control and street cleaning; planting and caring for street trees; numbering of buildings and lots; street lighting; and bush fire control.
- Community and Economic Development: provision and maintenance of playing areas, parks, gardens, reserves and facilities for sporting and community groups; management of recreation centre and pool; public library and information services; community centre and medical centre; youth services and community events. It also supports the sustainability of economic development throughout the Shire.





- **General Administration:** the provision of general information to the public, the lodging of complaints and the payment of fees including rates, vehicle licensing and dog licences.
- **Processes of Government:** ordinary and special Council and committee meetings; electors' meetings and election of Council Members; and community consultations.

- **Regulatory Services:** planning of road systems, sub-divisions and town planning schemes; building approvals for construction, additions or alterations to buildings; environmental health services and ranger services, including dog control and the development, maintenance and control of parking.



People with disabilities in the Shire of Wagin

It is estimated that there are 381 people with disability living within the Shire, just over 20% of the permanent population of 1,825 according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Health and disability statistics 2018.

Planning for better access

The Western Australia Disability Services Act requires all Local Governments to develop and implement a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) to ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to its facilities and services.

Other legislation underpinning access and inclusion includes the Western Australia Equal Opportunity Act (1984) and the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA), both of which make discrimination on the basis of a person's disability unlawful.



Progress since 1995

The Shire of Wagin is committed to facilitating the inclusion of people with disability through the improvement of access to its information facilities and services. Towards this goal the Shire adopted its first Disability Service Plan (DSP) in 1995 to address the access barriers within the community.

Since the adoption of the initial DSP, the Shire has implemented many initiatives and made significant progress towards better access. Some of these are highlighted in Appendix 1 under the relevant key outcome headings of the 1995 DSP.

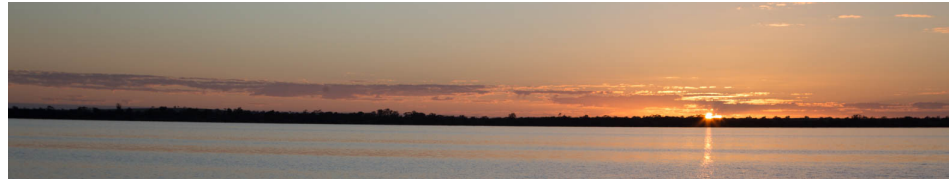
Access and Inclusion Policy Statement



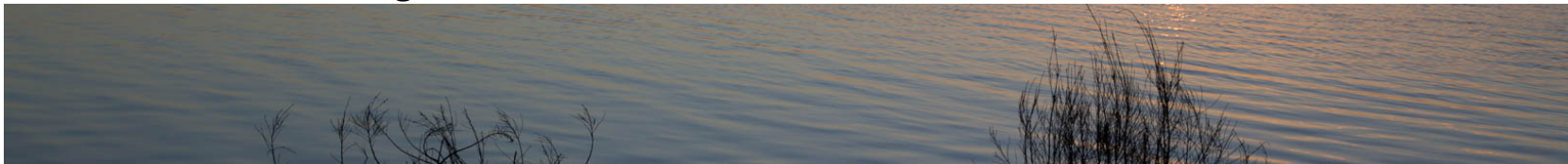
The Shire of Wagin is committed to ensuring that the community is accessible for and inclusive of people with disability, their families and carers.

The Shire of Wagin interprets an accessible and inclusive community as one in which all Council functions, facilities and services (both in-house and contracted) are open, available and accessible to people with disability, providing them with the same opportunities, rights and responsibilities as other people in the community.

The Shire of Wagin:



- recognises that people with disability are valued members of the community who make a variety of contributions to local social, economic and cultural life;
- believes that a community that recognises its diversity and supports the participation and inclusion of all of its members makes for a richer community life;
- believes that people with disability, their families and carers should be supported to remain in the community;
- is committed to consulting with people with disability, their families and carers and disability organisations in addressing barriers to access and inclusion;
- will ensure its agents and contractors work towards the desired outcomes in the DAIP;
- is committed to supporting local community groups and businesses to provide access and inclusion of people with disability; and
- is committed to achieving the seven desired outcomes of its DAIP.



The Seven desired outcomes are:

1. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by, the relevant public authority.
2. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of the relevant public authority.
3. People with disability receive information from the relevant public authority in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.
4. People with disability receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of the relevant public authority.
5. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the relevant public authority.
6. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by the relevant public authority.
7. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to obtain and maintain employment within the relevant authority.



Development of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan



Responsibility for the planning process

The Chief Executive Officer has responsibility to oversee the development, implementation, review and evaluation of the plan. The final plan is endorsed by Council and it is the responsibility of all officers to implement the relevant tasks.

Past Community consultation process

In 2022, the Shire undertook to review its disability Service Plan (DSP), Appendix 1, consult with key stakeholders and draft a new DAIP to guide further improvements to access and inclusion.

The process included:

- examination of the initial DSP and subsequent progress reports to see what has been achieved and what still needs work;
- consultation with key Shire staff, and Wagin Home Care staff;
- consultation with the community

The Disability Services Act Regulations (2004) set out the minimum consultation requirements for public authorities in relation to Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIP's). Local Government must call for submissions (either general or specific) by notice in a newspaper circulating in the Local Government area or on any website maintained by or on behalf of the Local Government. Other mechanisms may also be used.

The following consultation methods were used:

- In 2025 the community was informed through the local newsletter and Shire's website that the Shire was reviewing its DAIP to address barriers to access for people with disability and their families. They were invited to provide input either in writing, by telephone or in person. No input was received.
- A meeting was held with Shire employees to gain feedback on barriers and strategies to address them. Council endorsed the draft DAIP.
- Shire staff attended community group events and discussed the DAIP with members.
- A public meeting was held in June 2016 with a group of senior residents all of whom were receiving HACC services, to discuss barriers to access and potential solutions to overcoming barriers and enhancing inclusion in the community.

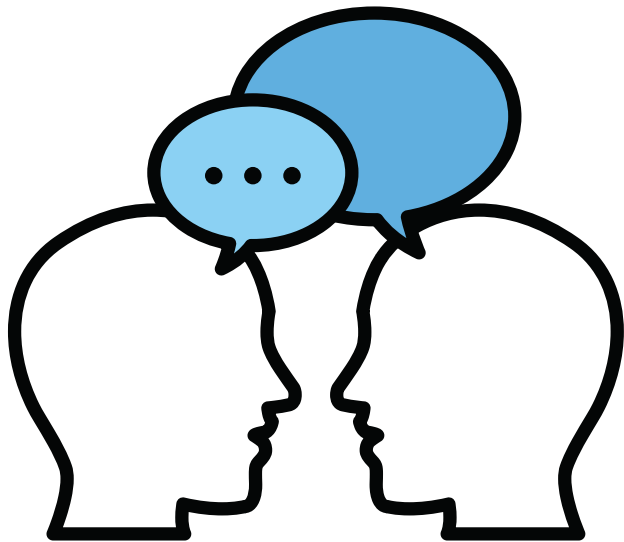
Review of the Shire of Wagin DAIP 2025 - 2030

The recommendations of this review are now embraced in this 2025 - 2030 DAIP for the Shire of Wagin and also acknowledge previous and subsequent feedback from residents, carers, people with disability and Shire Staff.



Responsibility for implementing the DAIP

Implementation of the DAIP is the responsibility of all areas of the Shire. The Disability Services Act (1993) requires all public authorities to take all practical measures to ensure that the DAIP is implemented by its officers, employees, agents and contractors.



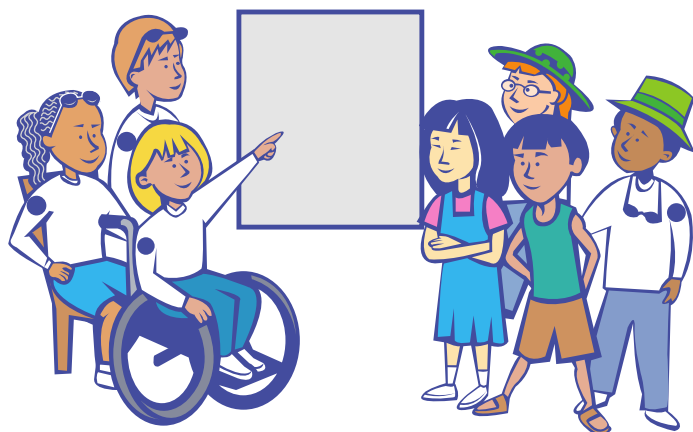
Communicating the final plan to staff and people with disability

- The community will be informed through the local media (newspaper and radio) that copies of the plan are available upon request and in alternative formats if required, including hard copy in standard and large print, electronic format, audio format on cassette or CD, by email and on the Shire's website. A fee for alternative formats may be incurred to recoup any shire costs.
- As plans are amended Shire staff and the community will be advised of the availability of updated plans, using the above methods.



Review and Evaluation mechanisms

The Disability Services Act requires that DAIP's be reviewed at least every five years. Whenever the DAIP is amended, a copy of the amended plan must be lodged with the Disability Services Commission. The Implementation Plan can be updated more frequently if desired.



Evaluation

- An evaluation will occur as part of the five-yearly review of the DAIP.
- The community, staff and Elected Members will be consulted as per the endorsed consultation strategies, as part of any evaluation.

Monitoring and Reviewing

The employee with responsibility for the DAIP will analyse progress in implementing the DAIP and provide a report to management and Council on progress and recommended changes to the implementation plan annually.

- The Shire's DAIP will be reviewed and submitted to the Disability Services Commission in 2025. The report will outline what has been achieved under the Shire's DAIP 2020 - 2024.

Reporting on the DAIP



The Disability Services Act requires the Shire to report on the implementation of its DAIP in its annual report outlining:

- progress towards the desired outcomes of its DAIP;
- progress of its agents and contractors towards meeting the seven desired outcomes; and
- the strategies used to inform agents and contractors of its DAIP.
 - Available on our website
 - Discussion during planning sessions with agents and contractors
 - Available in paper format on request, this may incur a fee

The Shire is also required to report on progress in the prescribed format to the Disability Services Commission by June 30 each year.



Strategies
to improve
access and
inclusion

The following overarching strategies have been developed to address each of the seven desired outcome areas of the Disability Services Act from feedback gained in the consultation process.

These will form the basis of the Implementation Plan.



DAIP activities completed:

Footpath access improved for gopher access

Update to ACROD parking at Wagin Library & Gallery

Training new staff as they begin in provision of a good standard of service

Using social media to respond to concerns

Installation of large electronic sign, capable of sharing information quickly

Rolling out of online meeting access for members of the community

Staff learning process of enhancing phone service responses

Town square Project with consideration to more parking, better access and user friendly, including wheelchair friendly seating

Incorporation of additional disabled parking at community events

Improved gopher ramp access to various locations in town

Financial support of a regional CAT's bus

Support for the Wagin Homecare program

Financial support of Wagin Care and Share - reduction of fees

Support of Juniper Waratah Aged Care facility - provision of a free house for nursing staff accommodation

Support in running a community NDIS event at the Wagin Town Hall

Outcome 1: People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by, the Shire of Wagin.

Strategy

Ensure people with disability are consulted on their needs for services and the accessibility of current services.



Timeline

Ongoing

Develop links between the DAIP and other Shire plans and strategies

Ongoing

Ensure that events, whether provided or funded, are accessible to people with disability, by incorporating the objectives and strategies of the DAIP into the Shire's existing planning processes, particularly the Community Strategic Plan, Operational Plan, Workforce Plan and Long Term Financial Plan.

Ongoing



Ensure that people with disability are provided with adequate opportunity to comment on access to services.

Ongoing



Monitor the Shire's access and inclusion policy to ensure it supports equitable access to services by people with disability throughout the various functions of the Shire.

Annually



Outcome 2: People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of the Shire of Wagin.

Strategy

Ensure that all buildings and facilities meet the appropriate standards for access and any demonstrated additional need



Timeline

Ongoing

Ensure that all new or redevelopment works provide access to people with disability, wherever practicable



Ongoing

Consider the need for additional ACROD bays at relevant locations, to meet the needs of the community.



Ongoing

Advocate to local businesses and tourist venues the requirements for, and benefits flowing from, the provision of accessible venues



Ongoing

Ensure that all recreational areas are accessible



Ongoing

Outcome 3: People with disability receive information from the Shire of Wagin in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.

Strategy

Ensure that the community is aware that the Shire information is available in alternative formats upon request.

Timeline

Ongoing



Improve staff awareness of accessible information needs and how to provide information in other formats

Ongoing



Budget for and provide interpreters to significant events on request

Ongoing



Ensure that the shires website meets contemporary good practice

Ongoing



Outcome 4: People with disability receive information from the relevant public authority in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.

Strategy

Ensure that all organisational members including elected members are aware of disability and access issues; and that employees, existing and new, have the skills to provide appropriate services.

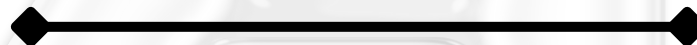
Timeline

Ongoing



Improve community awareness about disability and access issues

Ongoing



Outcome 5: People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the relevant public authority

Strategy

Ensure that current grievance mechanisms are accessible for people with disability and are acted upon

Timeline

Ongoing



Improve staff knowledge so they can receive complaints for people with disability

Ongoing



Outcome 6: People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by the relevant public authority.

Strategy

Ensure that people with disability are activity consulted about the DAIP and any other significant planning processes



Timeline

Ongoing

Ensure that people with disability are aware of and can access other established consultative processes



Ongoing

Improve community awareness about consultation processes in place



Ongoing

Commit to ongoing monitoring of the DAIP to ensure implementation and satisfactory outcomes



Ongoing

Improve access for people with disability to the established consultative process of the shire



Ongoing

Seek a broad range of views on disability and access issues from the local community



Ongoing

Outcome 7: People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to obtain and maintain employment within the relevant authority.

Strategy

Commit to using inclusive recruitment practices when advertising new positions

Timeline

Ongoing

Engage with key disability employment support providers such as Forrest Personnel in Narrogin

Ongoing

Provide support and training for management and staff

Ongoing

Ensure policies and procedures and regularly reviewed

Ongoing

Thank you for your time

Please contact the Shire of Wagin if you have any questions or suggestions about this disability access inclusion plan, or if you would like a copy.

