

# DISABILITY ACTION PLAN

Hume City Council is proud to be advancing the commitment to participation and wellbeing of people with disabilities.

In accordance with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*, the *Victorian Disability Act 2006*, and the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*, Hume City Council has prepared the *Council Plan 2017–2021* to incorporate the requirements of the Disability Action Plan.

Under Section 38(1) of the *Victorian Disability Act 2006*, a public sector body must ensure that a Disability Action Plan is prepared for the purpose of:

- (a) reducing barriers to persons with a disability accessing goods, services and facilities;
- (b) reducing barriers to persons with a disability obtaining and maintaining employment;
- (c) promoting inclusion and participation in the community of persons with a disability;
- (d) achieving tangible changes in attitudes and practices which discriminate against persons with a disability.

In accordance with Section 38(5) of the *Victorian Disability Act 2006*, the development of the Council Plan ensures “that the matters referred to in subsection (1) [outlined above] are addressed in the Council Plan prepared under the *Local Government Act 1989*”.

Since the adoption of the *Hume Social Justice Charter in 2001*, Hume City Council has been a leader in promoting access and inclusion for all. Incorporating Disability Action Planning into the *Council Plan 2017–2021* is a commitment to ensure the practical implementation of actions and achievements that can be monitored by Council and the community.

## DISABILITY IN HUME CITY

According to the 2016 Census, there were 7,238 Hume City residents aged 0-64 years and 5,201 residents aged 65 years or older, who identified as requiring a need for assistance with core activities.

This equates to 6.3 per cent of Hume residents that have a need for assistance with day-to-day activities including self-care, mobility and communication because of a disability, long-term health condition (lasting six months or more) or old age.

In comparison to other Melbourne Metropolitan Councils, Hume City Council has the highest proportion of residents aged 0-64 years and fifth highest proportion of residents aged 65 years or older who identified as requiring a need for assistance with core activities.

The proportion of Greater Melbourne residents who identified as requiring a need for assistance with core activities is 4.9 per cent (ABS, 2016 Census).

Suburbs within Hume City with the highest proportions of population requiring a need for assistance with core activities are Coolaroo

(12.1 per cent), Campbellfield (10.6 per cent), Meadow Heights (9.3 per cent), Dallas (8.5 per cent) and Broadmeadows (8.5 per cent).

While these areas typically have ageing communities, the area of Sunbury has the highest proportion of young people (aged 5-19 years) with a need for assistance with core activities at 5.0 per cent, compared to 3.4 per cent for Hume City and 2.8 per cent for Greater Melbourne.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics statistical areas (SA2s) of Broadmeadows (also includes Jacana), Campbellfield – Coolaroo (also includes Dallas and Fawkner) and Meadow Heights have the three highest proportions of residents aged 0-64 years identified as requiring a need for assistance with core activities of all SA2s in Metropolitan Melbourne.

In the three years to 30 June 2018, Council had issued over 13,500 Disability Parking Permits. During 2017/18, through Council’s Community Care program, more than 30,000 hours of care (personal care, domestic assistance and respite care) was provided to approximately 400 community members with a temporary or permanent disability under the age of 65.

In addition, Council’s Commonwealth Home Support Program was funded to provide 73,000 hours of care (personal care, domestic assistance and respite care) to people over the age of 65 during 2017/18.

Council has facilitated the transition of eligible community members (with a temporary or permanent disability under the age of 65) to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Future advocacy for non NDIS participants will continue through the funding of the State Government. Throughout this process, Council will continue to advocate for clients not eligible for the NDIS.

## COUNCIL PLAN ACTIONS

It is recognised that all Council activities and services actively consider and comply with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and *Victorian Disability Act 2006*. However, the Council Plan provides a number of specific actions that directly target outcomes for people with disabilities, therefore forming the Disability Action Plan.

### 2019/20 Disability Actions:

- 1.1.2 Increase participation in playgroups and preschool through enhancing central enrolment and support to community playgroups.
- 1.1.3 Subject to Council adoption, commence implementation of '0 to 24 year Framework', including:
- Developing a 4-year Action Plan outlining how Council will support the Framework.
  - Provide support, guidance and advice to partner organisations who may want to develop their own action plans.
  - Establish a governance model with other service providers and stakeholders to guide the ongoing implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the framework.

- 1.1.5 Implement activities developed from the *Employment Pathways Action Plan*, including:
- Subject to Federal funding, host a local Jobs Fair in late 2019.
  - Undertake initiatives to support students transitioning from the Multiversity program to employment.
- 1.1.5 Celebrate Hume Volunteer Gateway 10-year milestone including:
- Hosting the 2020 Volunteer Expo.
  - Explore and identify volunteering champions to help promote the Expo and volunteering in Hume.
- 1.1.5 Continue to deliver and enhance Council's range of student employment pathway programs (i.e. work experience, school-based apprenticeships and traineeships), including support for those with disabilities and from diverse backgrounds.
- 1.2.1 Support local businesses and service providers to employ Hume residents through the Local Jobs for Local People program.
- 2.1.1 Deliver the HumeXplorer initiative, encouraging more children and their families to get out and active in Hume City parks and open space.
- 2.1.1 Scope, design and construct facility upgrades as part of the *Sports Pavilion Plan*, including:
- Boardman Reserve Pavilion 3 and Social Room

- Gladstone Park Reserve Pavilion
  - Progress Reserve Pavilion
  - Bulla Tennis Club Pavilion
  - Seth Raistrick Reserve Pavilion
  - Greenvale Equestrian Pavilion
  - Langama Park Pavilion
  - Craigieburn Softball Pavilion.
- 2.1.2 Review Council's walking and cycling network to develop a priority list of improvements to existing infrastructure and development of new links.
- 3.1.1 Implement updated Community Grants program including new grant categories that provide community groups with:
- Quick response grants.
  - Support for individuals to represent their local community at state, national and international forums.
- 3.1.2 Implement actions that respond to the findings of the Community Facilities Review, including:
- Investigating options to increase service utilisation.
  - Implement a new facilities management system to centralise bookings via an online customer portal to access and book to facilities.
  - Commence development of a program of capital works to ensure facilities remain fit-for-purpose and can respond to community need.
  - Improve Wi-Fi access for Council facilities.

- Conduct an audit of Seniors Centres detailing usage and availability of assets and maintenance standards and opportunities for improvement.
- 3.1.4 Continue undertaking accessibility works at Council facilities.
- 3.2.1 Continue to provide a range of major festivals and events across Hume City, and undertake an annual evaluation to support enhancements to future programs.
- 3.2.1 Deliver a professional development program for arts and cultural groups and individuals, including:
  - A series of four workshops to support gallery exhibitions.
  - A mentoring support program for artists involved in preparing works for the community opening event of the Town Hall Broadmeadows.
- 4.1.1 Commence development of an *Affordable Housing Policy* to guide and facilitate the provision of affordable housing through public and private development.
- 4.2.1 Commence design of streetscape and service infrastructure works in Hume Central, beginning with Civic Way.
- 5.2.3 Implement the outcomes of the *Communications and Advocacy Service Plan*.
- 5.2.3 Implement Stage 1 of the plan to redevelop Council's website to improve accessibility, mobility, online transactions and communications.

Disability Action Plan priority areas have been highlighted throughout the main body of the Council Plan.

These actions will be monitored and reviewed, and consistent with the requirements of the *Victorian Disability Act 2006*, progress and outcomes will be recorded through the *Hume City Council Annual Report* (and through Council Plan Quarterly Reporting).

- 5.3.2 Continue to work with, and advocate to both the State and Federal Government for the timely provision of services and infrastructure, including:
  - Participating in State Government planning for school provision.
  - Health services and facilities in growth areas.
- 5.3.3 Explore innovative partnership opportunities with health and community wellbeing organisations, and advocate to State Government for funding to support the preparation of a feasibility study to assess the viability of establishing a Health and Community Services Hub in the Northern Growth Corridor.

