

3. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

3.8 **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

3.8.1 **Access and Inclusion Policy**

POLICY MEASURES

The Access & Inclusion Plan 2018–2023 ('the Plan'), adopted by Council 26 July 2018, has been designed to meet the requirements of the *Disability Services Act 1993 (WA)*. This Plan will assist the Shire's governing Council to determine the strategies needed to enhance and promote accessibility and inclusivity requirements. The Plan provides the direction and framework for future planning needs beyond the short term.

The implementation of this Access & Inclusion Plan is a legislative requirement of the Department of Communities, however by planning for a community that is accessible and inclusive to people with disabilities the Shire intends to create a community that is accessible and inclusive for all. The Shire aims to ensure that the services it provides meet varied individual needs and expectations, and that everyone has equal access to these services regardless of their race, heritage, gender, belief, nationality, family background, age, disability or sexuality. The Plan provides comprehensive detail of the broad scope of community members who may, from time to time, experience barriers to access and inclusion.

The Shire of Manjimup recognises that the task of addressing the many important issues that affect our diverse community is not an easy one. The Shire will endeavour, however, through ongoing consultation and involvement with the community, to identify and eliminate as many barriers and challenges to access and inclusion as possible and work towards achieving a community that is livable for all.

Legislative Requirements, Standards and Responsibilities

The Access and Inclusion Policy and Plan comply with the *Disability Services Act 1993 (WA)* which requires local government authorities to develop and implement Access & Inclusion Plans. To comply with the Act, the Shire of Manjimup is required to:

- Develop a Plan that meets the seven Standards (or Outcomes) in Schedule 2 of the Disability Services Regulations 2004.
- Lodge its current Plan with the Department of Communities.
- Take all practicable measures to ensure that the Plan is implemented by the Shire of Manjimup, its officers, employees, and relevant agents and contractors, including Councillors and volunteers.
- Review the Plan at least every five years.
- Undertake public consultations, as specified in the regulations, when preparing, reviewing or amending the Plan.

- Report to the Department of Communities annually on progress made and strategies used by the Shire of Manjimup and any agents or contractors.
- Report in the Shire of Manjimup Annual Report about the implementation of the Plan.
- Regulate that Access & Inclusion Plans are implemented by agents and contractors engaged by the Shire of Manjimup as well as the staff of the Shire. Where agents and contractors provide services to the public on behalf of the Shire, these services are to be conducted consistent with this Plan. The Plan will be referenced in the contract and provided in hard copy to all agents and contractors.
- Regulate the legislative compliance of developers, agents and contractors.

ADMINISTRATION & RESPONSIBILITY

This document will be applied across the whole of Shire in conjunction with relevant strategies, legislation and standards including, but not exclusive to, the following;

- *Disability Services Act 1993 (WA),*
- *National Standards for Disability Services,*
- *Commonwealth Community Standards, and*
- *Shire of Manjimup Access and Inclusion Plan Celebrating Diversity 2018 – 2023.*

This policy represents a whole of shire document administered by the Senior Management Team. The responsibility for administrating and monitoring the Access and Inclusion Plan sits with Community Services Directorate.

PROPOSED ADOPTION 6 September 2021
NEXT DUE FOR REVIEW September 2023

The Administration of this Policy is by Community Services Directorate.