



ANABRANCH
BURONGA
COOMEALLA
CURLWAA
DARETON
ELLERSLIE
GOL GOL
MONAK
PALINYEWAH
POMONA
POONCARIE
RUFUS RIVER
TRENTHAM CLIFFS
WENTWORTH

Disability Inclusion Action Plan

2026-2030

INTERPRETER SERVICES



MAHALAGA | FILIPINO

Kung kailangan mo ng tulong sa pagbabasa at pag-unawa sa dokumentong ito, ang mga kawani ng customer service ng Wentworth Shire Council ay masaya na tumulong sa pag-aayos ng isang libreng serbisyo ng interpretasyon. Upang ayusin ang isang interpreter, mangyaring makipag-ugnayan sa Council sa 03 5027 5027, o bisitahin ang isang Council Office na nakalista sa ibaba.



重要 | 普通话 (简体中文)

如果您在阅读和理解本文件时需要帮助, 温特沃思郡议会的客户服务人员很乐意协助安排免费口译服务。如需安排口译员, 请致电 03 5027 5027 联系议会, 或前往下列议会办公室。



મહત્વપૂર્ણ | અંગ્રેજી

જેવર તુહાનું દિસ દસઝાવેજી તું પઝગન અઝે સમઝતે વૈષિ સઘાઈઝા દી લેઝ રૈ, ઝાં વૈનટવરથ સઘાઈર કાઉસિલ દે ગાઠક મેટા સટાઢ દિંક મુઢઝ વૈષિખિઆ મેટા દે પુરંચપ વૈષિ સઘાઈઝા કરન લઈ ખુસ ઠન। દુઝામીદે દા દિંઝામ કરન લઈ, કઠિપા કરવે 03 5027 5027 'ઝે કાઉસિલ નાલ મંપરક કરે, જાં ઠેઠાં સુચીચંપ કમિ કાઉસિલ દઢઝર 'ઝે જાઈ।



สำคัญ | แบบไทย

หากคุณต้องการความช่วยเหลือในการอ่านและทำความเข้าใจเอกสารนี้ เจ้าหน้าที่บริการลูกค้าของ Wentworth Shire Council ยินดีให้ความช่วยเหลือในการจัดการบริการสามฟรี หากต้องการจัดเตรียมสาม โปรดติดต่อสภาที่ 03 5027 5027 หรือไปที่สำนักงานสภาตามรายการด้านล่าง



ÖNEMLİ | TÜRKÇE

Bu belgeyi okuma ve anlama konusunda yardıma ihtiyacınız varsa, Wentworth Shire Belediyesi'nin müşteri hizmetleri personeli, ücretsiz tercümanlık hizmetinin ayarlanmasında yardımcı olmaktan mutluluk duyacaktır. Bir tercüman ayarlamak için lütfen 03 5027 5027 numaralı telefondan Belediye ile iletişime geçin veya aşağıda listelenen bir Belediye Ofisini ziyaret edin.



QUAN TRỌNG | TIẾNG VIỆT

Nếu bạn cần trợ giúp để đọc và hiểu tài liệu này, nhân viên dịch vụ khách hàng của Hội đồng Wentworth Shire sẵn lòng hỗ trợ sắp xếp dịch vụ thông dịch miễn phí. Để sắp xếp một thông dịch viên, vui lòng liên hệ với Hội đồng theo số 03 5027 5027 hoặc đến Văn phòng Hội đồng được liệt kê bên dưới.



IMPORTANT | FRANÇAIS

Si vous avez besoin d'aide pour lire et comprendre ce document, le personnel du service client du Wentworth Shire Council se fera un plaisir de vous aider à organiser un service d'interprétation gratuit. Pour organiser un interprète, veuillez contacter le Conseil au 03 5027 5027 ou visitez un bureau du Conseil indiqué ci-dessous.



ΣΗΜΑΝΤΙΚΟ | ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ

Εάν χρειάζεστε βοήθεια για την ανάγνωση και την κατανόηση αυτού του εγγράφου, το προσωπικό εξυπηρέτησης πελατών του Wentworth Shire Council είναι πρόθυμο να σας βοηθήσει στη διευθέτηση μιας δωρεάν υπηρεσίας διερμηνείας. Για να κανονίσετε έναν διερμηνέα, επικοινωνήστε με το Δήμο στο 03 5027 5027 ή επισκεφθείτε ένα Γραφείο του Συμβουλίου που αναφέρεται παρακάτω.



IMPORTANTE | ITALIANO

Se hai bisogno di assistenza per leggere e comprendere questo documento, il personale del servizio clienti del Wentworth Shire Council sarà lieto di assisterti nell'organizzazione di un servizio interpretativo gratuito. Per organizzare un interprete, contattare il Comune allo 03 5027 5027 o visitare uno degli uffici del Comune elencati di seguito.



PENTING | MELAYU

Jika anda memerlukan bantuan membaca dan memahami dokumen ini, kakitangan perkhidmatan pelanggan Wentworth Shire Council berbesar hati untuk membantu dalam pengatur perkhidmatan tafsiran percuma. Untuk mengatur jurubahasa, sila hubungi Majlis di 03 5027 5027, atau lawati Pejabat Majlis yang disenaraikan di bawah.

IMPORTANT | ENGLISH

If you require assistance reading and understanding this document, customer service staff of Wentworth Shire Council are happy to assist in the arrangement of a free interpretive service.

To arrange an interpreter, please contact Council on 03 5027 5027, or visit a Council Office listed below.

COUNCIL
OFFICES



Midway Community Centre
3 Midway Drive, Buronga NSW 2739



Wentworth Visitor Centre (Main Administration Office)
61 Darling Street, Wentworth NSW 2648



*We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we live and work,
and pay our respects to their elders past, present, and emerging.*

Our Objectives



Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving region

ECONOMIC



Wentworth Shire is a great place to live

SOCIAL



Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

ENVIRONMENTAL



Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

CIVIC LEADERSHIP



Wentworth LGA

Our Values: Honest & Integrity | Accountability & Transparency | Respect | Quality & Commitment

CONTENTS

Wentworth at a glance	06
Background	07
Introduction	08
About this plan	08
Overview of Plan	08
Why inclusion is important	08
Definitions	10
Disability	10
Disability Discrimination	10
Inclusion	10
Focus Areas	11
Strategic & Policy Context	12
Legislative Framework & Strategic Links	13
Our Community Profile	16
Disability in Australia	16
Disability Reform Impacting Inclusion in NSW	17
Engagement Activities	17
The Plan	18
Key Outcome Areas & Actions	19
Attitudes & Behaviours	19
Liveable Communities	20
Improving Access to Mainstream Services	21
Supporting Access to Meaningful Employment	22
Monitoring & Evaluating	23

Images in this document were sourced from Council's Image Library unless otherwise stated. Cover image: Adobe Stock image of a person with disability rolling dough.

This document was compiled by Wentworth Shire Council.
Copies of this document can be viewed online at wentworth.nsw.gov.au

© Copyright Wentworth Shire Council. Document modified: May 29, 2025

Wentworth

at a glance



8.40% of our population identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (State average is 3.44%)

Proclaimed a Shire on 23 January
1879

Area (sq. km)
26,256



7,688
Estimated Residential Population (Remplan)

Largest industry of Employment is Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing with **23.46%** of the population



28.81%
Mining is the largest industry sector with (\$445,500,000) gross revenue

3 Libraries

1 Hospital

8 Schools

1 TAFE Campus

2 Aerodromes

29.51%
of homes are owned outright



33.32%

Working age Residents (25-64 yrs old)
(state average is 35.70%)

3,124

Employed Residents

4.20% Unemployment Rate (Sept 2024)



Year 12 education as the highest form of education

Wentworth Shire residents

31.40%

vs.

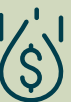
Other areas of NSW

21.40%

\$95,330
per capita Gross Regional Product



The Median Wage for Households:
Wentworth
\$1,987/wk



State (excl. Greater Sydney)
\$1,434/wk



Greater Sydney
\$2,077/wk

The individual median wage is **\$696** per week with **16.25%** of people earning over **\$1,500** per week.

43 years old

is the Median Resident age (State median is 39)

29.62% of Residents are aged under 25 (State average is 30.03%)

20.77% of Residents are aged over 65 (State average is 17.65%)



25.07% of families earn over \$130,000 vs. state average of 37.59%



422km
ADELAIDE

583km
MELBOURNE

1,044km
SYDNEY

662km of sealed road

1,360km of unsealed road

Background

I am pleased to present Wentworth Shire Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan review for 2025.

Council remains committed to providing outstanding services to all members of our community, and I am confident that our Disability Inclusion Action Plan allows us to continue to deliver on this commitment. We understand that the basis of a strong community stems from diversity and when a range of viewpoints and individual perspectives are considered and valued.

Council has an important role to play in supporting and promoting access and inclusion and is committed to ensuring that inclusion is considered in all Council business. This includes how Council develops the built environment, provides information and services, supports employment and recruitment opportunities with Council and businesses in our community, and promotes positive attitudes and behaviour toward people with disability across the Shire.

Our initial Disability Inclusion Action Plan review builds on the work we undertook at the implementation of our 2022-2026 Plan, with initiatives continuing to provide greater access to Council services, facilities and events.

We completed several infrastructure projects to deliver positive social, environmental and recreational outcomes promoting community participation, inclusion and cohesion. This has included the opening of the re-built Junction Island Bridge and footpath with a replaced widened foot bridge, improving accessibility to the island, upgrading of walking tracks and bituminised footpath around the bridge precinct.

We have constructed new shared pathways across the Shire with ongoing upgrades of others creating safe, convenient and accessible pedestrian networks, together with consultation to improve the safety of playgrounds with new surfaces following the floods.

We continue to introduce accessible and inclusive initiatives and events in our libraries, build on accessibility on our website, and support local groups to promote and engage with people with disability.

I am proud of what we have achieved so far but there is more work to be done.

We will continue to build on the initiatives and success we have achieved since implementing our plan in 2022, improving the lives of people with disability across Wentworth Shire.

Cr Daniel Linklater
Mayor



INTRODUCTION

About this Plan

We want to make sure that people with disability, their families and carers are included in Wentworth Shire and that our community is more accessible. In writing our Disability Inclusion Action Plan we have asked the community about the barriers that people with disability face in the Shire and their ideas for improvement. The Plan explains the actions we will take to improve the lives of people with disability in our community.

Overview of Plan

The *Disability Inclusion Act 2014* (NSW) (DIA) (the Act) is the legislative foundation for Local Government disability inclusion and access planning. The Act supports the Government's commitment to improving lives of people with disability and reaffirms NSW's direction on building an inclusive community. In 2014, the Act required all NSW Local Government Areas to develop a Disability Inclusion Action Plan in consultation with people with disability.

This Plan outlines Wentworth Shire Council's commitment to people with a disability to improve access to services, facilities and employment. It is also designed to change perceptions about people with disability and to create a more inclusive community for everyone.

Why inclusion is important

Personal choice and control are only possible when communities are inclusive for all people with disability, including those with physical, intellectual, cognitive, sensory disabilities and those with mental health conditions. Real diversity cannot be realised unless people with disability are provided with the opportunities inherent in truly inclusive communities.

In addition to the human rights imperative, the case for an inclusive community is strong:

- inclusion improves opportunities for participation in the local economy, with the potential to increase economic activity within the Shire;
- providing physical access to businesses benefit not only people with disability, but older people, parents with prams and business owners by expanding their business reach;
- exclusion leads to disadvantage and discrimination, which have far reaching negative impacts across all aspects of life, including health, welfare, education and employment.

These impact are felt beyond the individual, with families and the broader community being negatively impacted by a non-inclusive community.

Wentworth Shire Council strives to make the Wentworth region an accessible and inclusive community providing a place for everyone to be able to live, work and visit.

Council has a key role in promoting and supporting access and inclusion in all areas of Council business. This includes how

Council develops the built environment, the provision of information and services, supporting employment opportunities and promoting positive community attitudes and behaviour towards people with disability.

The removal of barriers for people with disability supports the inclusion of members of the local community who may otherwise fall outside of identified definitions of disadvantage.

Wentworth Shire Council is working towards creating a region that is accessible and inclusive of everyone and provides equal opportunity for people with disability to enjoy what our region has to offer. Almost 90% of disabilities are 'invisible' disabilities, the invisibility of disability highlights the critical need to ensure that not only access but inclusion was considered when developing this plan.

Negative attitudes, physical barriers and difficulties accessing necessary supports still limit the opportunities of people with disability to find work, study, socialise and be included in community life.

To create liveable communities, we need to focus our attention and resources on the elements of community life that most people desire. To create liveable communities for people with disability, we must do more than modify the physical environment; we must advocate for such aspects such as accessible housing, access to transport, community recreation, social engagement and universal design.

It is imperative that we respect people with disability in relation to their lived experience, empower them to influence their life direction, and encourage them to fully participate so we can identify barriers and propose solutions.

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan has been developed in recognition of Council's responsibility to remove barriers and ensure that people with disability are able to participate equally in their community.

The Plan sets out the strategies and actions that Council will deliver to enable people with disability to have greater access to Council information, services and facilities.

Council is committed to the attraction, recruitment and retention of people with disability.

The Plan has been based on the following principles enshrined in the Act:

- People with disability have the same inherent rights to respect for their worth and dignity as individuals.
- People with disability have the right to participate in and contribute to social and economic life and should be supported to do so.
- People with disability have the right to realise their capacities and potential and to contribute these to the community.
- People with disability have the same rights as other members of the community to be consulted about decisions that affect their lives.
- People with disability have the right to access information in a way that is appropriate for their disability and enables them to make informed choices.
- The needs of children with disability as they mature, and their rights as equal members of the community are to be respected.

The role that Council will play will vary for each of the focus areas. Although being facilitated by Council, the vision for inclusion is intended for the community and key stakeholders, and is not just focused on all activities internal to Council. Whilst Council has a custodial role in initiating, preparing and implementing the Plan, other partners, such as State Agencies, community groups and businesses may also be engaged in delivery the long-term objectives of the Plan.

DEFINITIONS

DISABILITY

The definition of disability applied in this document includes both definitions provided by the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014* (NSW) and the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth).

The *Disability Inclusion Act 2014* (NSW) defines disability as including a:

- long-term physical, psychiatric, intellectual or sensory impairment that, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder the person's full and effective participation in the community on an equal basis with others.

The *Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1992* (Cth) defines disability as:

- The total or partial loss of the person's body or mental functions;
- The total or partial loss of a part of the body;
- The presence in the body of organisms causing disease or illness;
- The malfunction, malformation or disfigurement of a part of the person's body; and
- A disorder or malfunction that results in the person learning differently from a person without the disorder or malfunction.

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION

Disability discrimination occurs when people with disability are treated less favourably than people without disability. Disability discrimination can be direct or indirect.

The DDA provides legal protection against discrimination based on disability.

INCLUSION

Inclusion is the process whereby every person (irrespective of age, disability, gender, religion, sexual preference or ethnicity) who wishes to can access and participate fully in all aspects of an activity or service in the same way as any other member of the community. Inclusion requires time, space, effort and resources, but it creates a society which is fairer, more cohesive and richer.

FOCUS AREAS

The Plan has been divided into four Focus Areas where significant barriers to access and inclusion will be addressed.

These are:

Attitudes and Behaviours

“Build community awareness of the rights and abilities of people with a disability, and to support the development of positive attitudes and behaviour towards people with disability.

Liveable Communities

“Increase participation of people with disability in all aspects of community life, through targeted approaches to address barriers in housing, learning, transport, health and wellbeing.”

Improving access to mainstream services

“Ensure that people with disability are able to easily and efficiently access mainstream government services and other opportunities in the community.”

Supporting access to meaningful employment

“Increase the number of people with disability in meaningful employment, thereby enabling people with disability to plan for their future and exercise choice and control as a result of economic security.”



Image sourced from Adobe Stock, showing a person with disability amongst family.

STRATEGIC & POLICY CONTEXT

The Plan links to Council's Community Strategic Plan as follows:

Strategy 1

Our Economy

Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving region



The Plan will support the Wentworth Region to stimulate the local economy by assisting to develop more inclusive businesses, tourism, accommodation, events and activities.

Strategy 2

Our Community

Wentworth Shire is a great place to live



Council will continue to foster inclusive opportunities ensuring everyone feels welcomed, valued and able to participate fully in community life

Strategy 3

Our Environment

Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment



Council will work to ensure that our buildings, facilities and services are accessible and inclusive for all people.

Strategy 4

Our Leadership

Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner



Council will champion the development of positive attitudes and behaviours; the engagement of people with disability in decision making; and support and promote increased inclusion in events, buildings and activities in the Wentworth region.

The policy context for the DIAP is one in which all levels of government in Australia are working in concert to ensure the rights of people with disability are actively promoted and upheld. Legislation in place ensures people with disability are consulted about how, together, we can make practical changes to how services are delivered so that they can be accessed equally by all Australians.

The Plan also builds on existing social equity requirements within the IP&R framework to strengthen Council's commitment to inclusion, consultation and rights for people with disability.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK & STRATEGIC LINKS

INTERNATIONAL

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

In 2008, the Australian Government signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (Convention). In doing so, Australia has committed to ensuring the articles of the Convention are reflected in policy so that the human rights of persons with disabilities can be effectively exercised, and not exist only on paper.

Some key areas of the Convention that is relevant to this DIAP include:

- Access to community life, including cultural events and other sites of cultural importance.
- Raising awareness for, and actively upholding, the rights of people with disability.
- Making sure people with disability have access to the physical environment as well as access to information and communication.
- Ensuring work environments are inclusive and accessible.
- Providing opportunities for people with disability to vote and to be representatives in all levels of government.

NATIONAL

National Disability Strategy 2021-2031

Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031 is Australia's national disability policy framework. It sets out a plan for continuing to improve the lives of people with disability in Australia over the next ten years. The Strategy builds on the significant work of the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 to establish a national approach to improving the lives of people with disability. At its heart is a commitment to create an inclusive Australian society that ensures people with disability can fulfil their potential, as equal members of the community. The new Strategy is an aspirational road map pointing the way ahead. It represents our national commitment to enabling every Australian to meet their potential, to achieve, to have a fair go, and to have real choices.

The purpose of the Strategy is to:

- Provide national leadership towards greater inclusion of people with disability;
- Guide activity across all areas of public policy to be inclusive and responsive to people with disability;
- Drive mainstream services and systems to improve outcomes for people with disability; and
- Engage, inform and involve the whole community in achieving a more inclusive society.

This Strategy places a strong policy focus on housing, safety, employment and community attitudes because extensive consultations and engagement with people with disability and the disability sector shows that they want a National Disability Strategy that is focused on interrelated outcomes with tangible, achievable policy priorities.

NATIONAL

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a national insurance scheme that supports people with disability to enhance the social and economic independence of people with disability and their carers.

The NDIS seeks to achieve this by three broad strategies:

- Providing individualised funding to people with permanent and significant disability so that they can arrange flexible services geared towards achieving the life goals set by the person;
- Funding Local Area Coordinators whose role it is to link individuals with disability (whether or not they have an NDIS package of funding) to community supports; and
- Providing project-based grant funding to agencies in order to progressively make “mainstream” community life more accessible and inclusive.

Wentworth Shire Council can support the objectives of the NDIS by:

- Ensuring built environments become progressively more inclusive and accessible;
- Providing access to Council information in a range of formats;
- Ensuring access to Council services are barrier free; and
- Promoting positive community attitudes and behaviour towards people with a disability.

Commonwealth Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010

The purpose of the Premises Standards (and corresponding changes to the Building Code of Australia and state and territory building law) is:

- To ensure that dignified, equitable, cost-effective and reasonably achievable access to buildings, facilities and services within buildings, is provided for people with disability; and
- To give certainty to building certifiers, developers and managers that if the Standards are complied with they cannot be subject to a successful complaint under the DDA in relation to those matters covered by the Premises Standards.

Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and Amendments 2009 (Cwth)

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Commonwealth) exists to provide legal protection against discrimination for people with disability (and carers, co-workers or associates of a person with disability). The Act also requires Australian governments to actively guard against discrimination by developing Disability Action Plans.

Council's DIAP has incorporated the requirements of Section 61 of the Act which includes the requirement to:

- Review practices with a view to identifying discriminatory practices;
- Set goals and targets to measure the success of the Plan;
- Communicate these to persons within the Council; and
- Appoint persons within the Council to implement the Plan.

STATE

NSW Disability Inclusion Plan 2021-2025

The NSW Disability Inclusion Plan provides the framework through which the NSW Government will work towards achieving an inclusive society. It presents the overall statement of intent from the NSW Government and identifies the key focus areas for NSW to remove systemic and attitudinal barriers so that people with disability have a better opportunity to live a meaningful life and enjoy the full benefits of membership in the community.

This Plan provides a whole of Government strategy aligned with the objects and principles of the *NSW Disability Act 2014*.

This Plan sets goals that:

- Promote the inclusion in the community of people with disability;
- Identify how NSW agencies and local councils will improve access to mainstream services and community facilities for people with disability; and
- Encourage collaboration and coordination across public authorities in the provision of supports and services.

NSW Anti-Discrimination Act (NSW) 1977

The *Anti-Discrimination Act 1997* is an Act of the NSW Parliament, relating to discrimination in employment, the public education system, delivery of goods and services, and other services such as banking, health care, night clubs and property.

The Act prohibits unlawful racial, sexual and other types of discrimination in certain circumstances, and promotes equality of opportunity for all people.

NSW Disability Inclusion Act (2014)

- Makes it clear people with disability have the same rights as other people.
- Promotes inclusion of people with disability by requiring NSW, state government agencies and local councils to undertake disability inclusion action planning in consultation with people with disability.
- Supports people with disability to exercise choice and control through individualised funding.
- Provides safeguards for people accessing NSW funded disability supports and services.

OUR COMMUNITY PROFILE

There are between **171 and 180** registered NDIS Participants in Wentworth Shire.

20% receive Early Childhood Supports

11% receive High Needs Personal Care

75% under NDIS Plan Management

52% receive Support Coordination

Source: [Care Sector Demand Map – 2023/2024 Wentworth LGA – Australian Government](#)

DISABILITY IN AUSTRALIA

5.5
million people in Australia have a disability¹

3
million Australians provide care for a person with a disability¹

65+ The rate of disability increases with age with 1 in 6 Australians over 65 years old¹

60.5% In Australia, the labour force participation rate for people with disability aged 15-64 years is 60.5% compared to 84.9% of people the same age without disability²

61% of Australians have one or more chronic conditions³

1 in 5 people with disability were positively influenced by an organisation's reputation as being supportive of people with disability.

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, Summary of Findings 2022](#).

² [People with Disability Australia - ABS Statistics 2022](#)

³ [AIHW Chronic Conditions June 2024](#)

DISABILITY REFORM IMPACTING INCLUSION IN NSW



Image Data Source: NSW Disability Inclusion Action Plan Guidelines, 2022

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Wentworth Shire Council recognises the importance of inclusive and meaningful engagement with our community and disability sector, shaping a community that supports and empowers people with disability.

As part of the review of our Disability Inclusion Action Plan, Council has commenced engagement with local disability service providers to ensure their insights and expertise inform our directions within the plan. We have also engaged with Mildura Rural City Council, to discuss and gain an understanding of the barriers, challenges and needs facing our cross-border communities.

Council also acknowledges the importance of the voices of people with lived experience of disability. We are committed to working closely with individuals across the Shire, to ensure their experiences and aspirations are reflected in the plan.

Collaboration with Providers and engagement with people with disability and those who support them, helps to shape inclusivity and our actions are practical and meaningful.

While the draft plan was on exhibition, Council continued to engage with disability providers and people with disability. Their input will guide our finalised plan to ensure we reflect the needs and priorities of our community.

THE PLAN

Council's commitment is to create greater opportunities for people of all ages, all cultures, and of differing abilities, to access the full range of services and activities available in the local community.

Attitudes and Behaviours

People with disability experience positive attitudes and respectful behaviour from Council staff and express the view that Council encourages these positive attitudes and behaviours within the broader community.

- Support positive attitudes towards inclusion amongst Council staff
- Contribute positive media stories about what Council is doing to build inclusion with people with disability.

Liveable Communities

People with disability, their families and supporters have greater access to community places, buildings and events.

- Assess existing infrastructure compliance with Australian standards for access and mobility.
- Plan to progressively improve the accessibility of public toilets.
- Increase accessibility and inclusion of events held in the Wentworth Region.
- Encourage, support and promote accessible businesses and tourism in the Wentworth Region.

Improving access to mainstream services

People with disability can more easily and efficiently access Council services and are engaged in the decision making of Council.

- People with disability have greater access to information via Council website.
- Improve communication and information processes.
- Update Customer Service Charter to provide guidance to staff in how to make information more accessible.
- Council services can be accessed more independently by people with disability.

Supporting access to meaningful employment

People with disability have greater access to employment opportunities with Council.

- Council has recruitment and employment policies that reflect best practice with regards to encouraging and supporting the employment of people with disability.

KEY OUTCOME AREAS & ACTIONS

Attitudes and Behaviours

People with a disability often experience barriers to access and inclusion. Positive attitudes and respectful behaviour from Council demonstrates and encourages greater community inclusion of people with a disability in our community.



Image sourced from Adobe Stock, showing a person with disability holding a plant.

Our Aim

To continue to improve community awareness of the rights and capabilities of people with disability and support the development of positive attitudes and behaviours towards those with disability.

Outcome	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support positive attitudes towards inclusion among Council staff.• Contribute positive media stories about what Council is doing to build inclusion with people with a disability• Create community engagement opportunities for people with disabilities• Promote inclusivity and access to local events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our Annual Training Plan includes disability awareness training to all staff.• Staff induction processes incorporate the topic of people with disability.• Provide regular media stories of Council, community and businesses in the Shire promoting positive behaviours• Develop a suite of photographs and media of Shire locals living with a disability to be used across Council publications• Support disability awareness campaigns by displaying promotional posters in Council facilities and in Council media and publications.

Liveable Communities

Inclusiveness and accessibility for people with disability forms a crucial component of the assessment of the liveability of any community. Council will work to eliminate the barriers in the built environment and advocate for improved transport, housing and local supports that prevent people with disability from fully engaging with the opportunities that exist within their communities.



Image sourced from Adobe Stock, showing a person with disability in the community.

Our Aim

Improve the access to community spaces, events and buildings for people with a disability, removing barriers to engaging in the community, events and improving wellbeing.

Outcome	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assess existing infrastructure compliance with Australian standards for access and mobility.Plan to progressively improve the accessibility of public toilets.Increase accessibility and inclusion of events held in the Wentworth Region.Encourage, support and promote accessible businesses and tourism in the Wentworth Region.Improved public transport options across the ShireBusiness and tourist attractions in the Wentworth Region have a greater awareness of the economic benefits of developing accessible and ageing friendly places and activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conduct audits to assess compliance for access and mobility for footpaths.Continue to review and upgrade footpaths to ensure complianceMonitor the Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan priorities and assessments including continued review and update of the priority list for maintenance or upgrade of PAMP related infrastructure, in consultation with people with mobility and vision related disabilities.Advocate with NSW and Victorian representatives to improve public transport across the Shire with importance of meeting the needs of people with a disabilityCurrent and accurate information on the location of Council accessible toilets is made available to residents and visitors.People with disability are directly consulted about the priorities for enhancement of Council infrastructure.Pilot low sensory hours at the Library and Visitor Information CentreCouncil staff responsible for events are supported to ensure all community recreation, cultural and social programs and events are as inclusive and accessible as possible.Access by people with disability attending meetings held at Council is specifically addressed and catered for.Council Events Manual includes guidance material on how event organisers can make events more accessible.

Improving access to mainstream services

A common issue for people with disability is the difficulty in navigating the systems and processes required to access the services and supports they need in the community. These difficulties are the product of a number of barriers including a lack of accessible information, inflexible processes, and limited opportunities for feedback and input.



Image sourced from Adobe Stock, showing a person with disability engaging with health services.

Our Aim

Ensure that people with a disability are engaged in decision making and can make informed choices about available services and opportunities in our community. Council will continue to advocate for community and business organisations to review and change the way they do business to ensure people with disability can access their services.

Outcome	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People with disability have greater access to information via Council website.• Improve communication and information processes.• Update Customer Service Charter to provide guidance to staff in how to make information more accessible.• Council services can be accessed more independently by people with disability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure Council's website complies with the most current content accessibility guidelines (WCAG) where issues and barriers to accessibility are identified• Provide refresher training to staff who author web accessible documents.• Ensure all service information is available in a range of formats to support different needs and capabilities.• Continued Customer Service professional development incorporates disability awareness and person-centred communication as the first point of contact with Council.• Ensure Council led community consultation events are held in accessible venues and a range of formats are used that considers the needs of people with disability.

Supporting access to meaningful employment

Employment rates for people with disability are significantly lower than those without disability across all sectors. Participation in meaningful employment is vital if people with disability are to attain economic security, retain a sense of purpose and engage effectively with others in our community.



Image sourced from Adobe Stock, showing a person with disability rolling dough.

Our Aim

Council will continue to advocate for an increase in the number of people with disability in meaningful employment, thereby enabling people with disability to plan for their future, exercise choice and control, and increase their economic security.

People with disability have greater access to employment opportunities with Council.

Outcome	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Council has recruitment and employment policies that reflect best practice with regards to encouraging and supporting the employment of people with a disability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review Council's recruitment and employment processes to confirm and they provide fair and barrier free opportunities to candidates who have a disability.Keep inclusion front of mind when designing workforce management processes and practices.Actively develop a respectful and welcoming work culture that is inclusive and disability conscious.Disability awareness training for community facing staffInduction programs include disability inclusion to all new startersReaffirm recruitment messaging to be more inclusive and to encourage applications from people with a disability

MONITORING & EVALUATING

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan will be forwarded to the Disability Council NSW.

Council is also required to report to the Department of Communities and Justice annually on DIAP achievements and outcomes.

Council will monitor our actions and outcomes over the year, and report on the DIAP action items as part of our Annual Report. The report will be available in a range of formats through Council's website and Administration Office.

Wentworth Shire Council maintains our commitment to implementing and monitoring the actions within the Plan.

We look forward to working with the community to ensure that the Actions within the Plan are implemented to a high standard and to the benefit of all.

OUR VALUES

At Wentworth Shire Council we value:

Honesty & Integrity

- ▶ We deliver on commitments.
- ▶ We act ethically.

Quality & Commitment

- ▶ We do our best to provide the highest standard of goods and services to our community.
- ▶ We are responsive to the needs of our community and always look for ways to better serve our community.
- ▶ We are dedicated to fulfilling the Shire's vision and goals.

Respect

- ▶ We act professionally towards our community and our colleagues.

Accountability & Transparency

- ▶ We take responsibility for our actions.
- ▶ We communicate openly and respectfully with our community.



Wentworth Shire Council

61 Darling Street, Wentworth NSW 2648

P: 03 5027 5027 | E: council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au

wentworth.nsw.gov.au