



Shire of
Katanning

DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN 2022– 2027

**Prepared by the Shire of Katanning in consultation with the
Katanning community.**

Reviewed and updated July 2023

This plan is available in electronic format on request.

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INTRODUCTION

The Shire of Katanning has prepared the following Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) to ensure that people with disability can access Council facilities, functions and services. The development and implementation of the DAIP is a requirement for each Local Government Authority under the Disability Services Act (1993).

Personal and professional knowledge of disability issues are sought from the community and the Disability Services Commission, to assist the continued development of this DAIP. The DAIP is subject to annual review and may be amended and extended as priorities and needs change. Actions taken under the DAIP are reported annually to the Disability Services Commission.

It is important to the Shire of Katanning that people with disability can access the same opportunities as other people so that they may enjoy the full benefits of community life. Local Government Authorities are multi-functional with extensive responsibilities and activities across property, community and human service areas and, in addition, have the capacity to make policy changes at the local level. Given the broad mandate that Local Government Authorities provide, they are fundamental to the inclusion of people with disability into their community.

Definitions

What is a disability?

A disability is any continuing condition that restricts everyday activities. Disabilities can affect a person's capacity to communicate, interact with others, learn or move about independently. It is usually permanent but may be episodic. A person with disability has a need for continued support services.

Disabilities can be:

- Sensory:** affecting, for example, vision and/or hearing.
- Neurological:** affecting a person's ability to control their movements, for example, epilepsy.
- Physical:** affecting mobility and/or a person's ability to use their upper or lower body.
- Intellectual:** affecting a person's judgment, ability to learn, solve problems and communicate.
- Cognitive:** affecting a person's thought processes, personality and memory resulting, for example, from an injury to the brain.
- Psychiatric:** affecting a person's emotions, thought processes and behaviour, for example, schizophrenia, and depression.

Some disabilities, such as epilepsy, are hidden, while others, such as cerebral palsy, may be visible. Physical disability is the most common (73 percent), followed by intellectual/psychiatric (17 percent) and sensory (10 per cent). Many people with disability have multiple disabilities.

There is also a strong link between the likelihood of having a disability and a person's age. Someone under five years of age, for example, has less than five percent chance of having a disability while this percentage rises to 50 percent for people over 60 years of age.

BACKGROUND

Shire of Katanning

The Shire of Katanning is situated within the Central Great Southern region of Western Australia, 287 kilometres drive south-east of Perth. The Shire's population is 4,200, with a town population of 3,700. Katanning is the most ethnically diverse regional centre in WA.

The community is serviced by modern facilities that include:

- Three Primary Schools
- A Senior High School
- South Regional TAFE
- A Leisure Centre, an Aquatic Centre, Katanning Country Club and various other sporting and recreational centres
- A District Hospital, Bethshan Home for the Aged, a Child Health Centre and other health facilities
- Disability service providers including Silver Chain WA, Anglicare WA, Disability Service Commission, Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP)
- Amherst Village, Aberdeen Retirement village and Shire of Katanning Independent Living Units (homes for seniors)
- Library and Art Gallery
- Commercial and retail district

The largest employer within the town is WAMMCO who currently employ over 400 people.

The Shire of Katanning neighbours the Shires of Broomehill-Tambellup, Woodanilling, Dumbleyung, Kojonup, Gnowangerup and Kent and acts as a regional service provider to these communities.

Functions, Facilities and Services

The Shire of Katanning is responsible for a range of functions, facilities and services, both in-house and contracted, as follows:

Services to property:

Construction and maintenance of roads, footpaths and cycle facilities; land drainage and development; waste collection and disposal; litter control and street cleaning; planting and caring for trees; numbering of buildings and lots, street lighting; and bush fire control.

Services to the community:

Provision and maintenance of park and leisure areas and reserves; management of the Leisure Centre and Aquatic Centre; management of Katanning Library and Art gallery; provision of environmental health services; provision of Amherst Retirement Villages.

Regulatory services:

Planning, building and ranger services.

General administration:

Provision of general information to the public; recieval point for complaints relating to shire services and facilities; collection of shire rate payments; and centre for police licensing.

Processes of government:

Holding Ordinary and Special Council and committee meetings; organising electors' meetings and coordinating the election of Council members.

People with Disability in the Shire of Katanning

People with disability, together with their families and carers, represent a significant proportion of the community. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021), one in five people in Western Australia has a disability. It can therefore be estimated that around 800 people living within the Shire of Katanning have a disability.

Katanning is also a regional service provider for the Shires of Broomehill-Tambellup, Woodanilling, Dumbleyung, Kojonup, Gnowangerup and Kent which have a combined regional population of 12,500 people. It can therefore be estimated that the Shire of Katanning provides services and facilities for more than 2,500 people with disability.

There is a strong likelihood that the number of people in Katanning with disability will increase in the future. Due to the ageing population trend in Western Australia, the Disability Services Commission anticipates that the number of people with disability will rise to one in four over the next 15 years.

Progress on Access and Inclusion

Since the adoption of an initial Disability Services Plan in 1996, through to the implementation of the current DAIP, the Shire of Katanning has made significant progress towards improving access to, and inclusion of, its services and facilities. Examples are listed in the table below.

Initiative	Correlated Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of fitness programs for seniors and disability groups at the Katanning Leisure Centre e.g., Senior’s gym and exercise classes. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Abilities Program – This program uses modified sporting activities to enable people with disability to participate. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clive St and Synnott Ave have been upgraded and added new ramps and pathways. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bokarup Street has been upgraded adding new bridge to ensure safety and ramps installed for accessibility in front of our local childcare facility to assist anyone that needs access. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An all-access basketball court created at Prosser Park. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressively replacing existing footpaths with new bituminised footpaths throughout the town site while also installing kerb ramps where none previously existed. 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art gallery installed new automated doors for easy access. 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The old Shire building, now a community facility, has been made fully accessible with electronic automatic doors and ramps. 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrades to Austral Tce by adding safer pathways and ramps. New lighting was also added for safety precautions. 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrades of Amherst Village, accessibility, and usability for aged residents. 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piesse Park Housing Development, four new accessible houses built. 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire evacuation maps are created to accommodate colour blindness with ‘You are here’ symbols. 	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Shire of Katanning engages with agencies within the community to ensure people with disabilities are catered for within Katanning. 	6

ACCESS STATEMENT

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

The Shire of Katanning believes that people with disability, their families, and carers, who live in country areas, should be supported to remain in the community of their choice.

The Shire of Katanning is committed to consulting with people with disabilities, their families, and carers, and where required, disability organisations, to ensure that barriers to access and inclusion are addressed appropriately.

The Shire of Katanning is committed to achieving the seven Outcomes of its DAIP. These Outcomes are based on the access and inclusion outcomes identified by the Disability Services Commission of Australia and are set out below.

Outcomes

- 1 People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and events organised by the Shire of Katanning.**

Council will make certain there are processes to ensure that all new services include access and inclusion strategies to meet the needs of people with disability.
Council will ensure that all policies and practices that govern the operation of Council facilities, functions and services are consistent with Council's policy on access.
- 2 People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of the Shire of Katanning.**

Council will incorporate the priorities regarding access for people with disability, identified during the consultations, into its submission for its capital works improvement program. Modification will commence as funds are made available.
Council will liaise with town site developers to increase their awareness of the access requirements of people with disability.
- 3 People with disability receive information from the Shire of Katanning in a format that enables them to access information as readily as other people.**

Council will produce all of its information on Council facilities, functions and services using clear and concise language. This includes information to be written clearly and in plain English.
Staff will organise for information to be provided in alternative formats such as large print or electronic format on request.
- 4 People with disability receive the same level and quality of service from staff of the Shire of Katanning as other people receive.**

Council will ensure that staff are aware of the access needs of residents and visitors with disability, in relation to the provision of all services.
Where required, Council will seek expert advice from disability service providers on how to meet the access needs of people with disability.

5 People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the Shire of Katanning.

Council will ensure that current grievance mechanisms are accessible for people with disability.

6 People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to participate in public consultation by the Shire of Katanning.

Council will ensure that information is available in clear and concise language on how residents can participate in decision making processes, public consultations, and grievance mechanisms.

Council will support people with disability to attend meetings of Council.

7 People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to obtain and maintain employment within a public authority

The Shire of Katanning continues to work in partnership with the local Disability Services Commission to identify and support employment and volunteer options for people with disability.

CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR DAIP DEVELOPMENT

The Disability Services Act Regulations (2004) specify the minimum consultation requirements for public authorities in relation to DAIPs. Local Governments must call for submissions (either general or specific) by notice in a newspaper circulating in the local district of the Local Government, under the Local Government Act (1995), or on any website maintained by or on behalf of the Local Government. Other mechanisms may also be used.

Katanning Community Consultation Process

1. In March 2023 the community was informed through the Shire of Katanning's Facebook page and website that the Shire was developing a DAIP to address barriers that people with disability and their families experience in accessing information, services, and facilities. The community was advised that they could have input into the DAIP through completing a survey through a link via the Shire Facebook page or a paper copy distributed through several organisations and community groups.
2. Community consultation was undertaken at a number of events including:
 - All-Abilities Program March 2023
 - Katanning Harmony Festival – APM Quiet Space Tent March 2023
 - Seniors Quiz April 2023
3. Nine organisations working with people with disabilities were contacted directly to complete the 2023 DAIP survey including government and private sector.

4. Three public schools and one private school were contacted directly to complete the 2023 DAIP survey. Individuals asked to take part in the survey included education assistants, teachers, student services staff and students.

Findings of the Consultation

The community consultation, together with the review of the Shire's Disability Services Plan, found that similar issues to those identified in 2017 were still current in 2023. The following barriers to access and inclusion were raised during the community consultation survey to be addressed in the DAIP.

- The maintenance of footpaths in the Central Business District and wider Katanning area continue to affect access to many services and facilities.
- Lack of zebra crossings in CBD
- Lack of public toilet facilities (at KLC)
- Lack of all-inclusive accessible playground equipment
- Lack of transportation
- Difficulties in access to other public businesses.

The identification of these barriers, the community consultation, and the Disability Services Plan in use prior to 2007, helped to identify strategies within this DAIP.

Subsequent consultation

In June 2023, community members and organisations who expressed an interest in DAIP consultation were invited to a working luncheon to provide feedback on the draft DAIP and feedback from the survey.

The main issues raised from this consultation were:

- Create/reinvigorate a steering committee/action group and utilise this group for consultation on events and event planning
- Council to budget funds for more events and events such as All Abilities, afterschool and holiday programs especially in the 5-10 year age group
- Shire to work alongside schools to help input into programs
- Pedestrian crossings in main streets
- Support business' to be accessible to all
- Need for an all abilities swing at All Ages playground
- Need for a chair lift for the Aquatic Centre
- Documents need to be in Easy English
- Lack of transportation
- Suggestion box
- Take consultation to the target group

Responsibility for implementing the DAIP

It is a requirement of the Disability Services Act (1993) that a Local Government Authority must take all practical measures to ensure that the DAIP is implemented by its officers, employees, agents, and contractors.

Provision for planning and implementation of the DAIP will be made during Council’s annual budget process and responsibilities will be reflected in Council’s Corporate Business Plan and Community Plan. Reviewing and updating the DAIP will be the responsibility of the Executive Managers within each business area of the Shire.

Reporting on the DAIP

The Disability Services Act (1993) requires the Shire of Katanning to report on the implementation of its DAIP in its annual report. The report should outline:

- Progress towards the outcomes of its DAIP
- The strategies used to inform agents and contractors of its DAIP.

The Shire of Katanning is also required to report on its progress to the Disability Services Commission in July each year.

Strategies to Improve Access and Inclusion

The following overarching strategies will guide tasks the Shire of Katanning will undertake to improve access to its services, buildings, and information. The seven outcomes provide a framework for improving access and inclusion.

Outcome 1. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and events organised by the Shire of Katanning.		
Strategy	Person Responsible	Timeframe
Maintain a Disability Access and Inclusion group to guide the implementation of the DAIP activities.	MCD	On-going
Incorporate the objectives of the DAIP into Council’s corporate plan and budget processes.	EMCC, EMIA	Annually
Ensure that training for Shire staff is ongoing, particularly for staff that organise events, so that events are accessible to people with disability.	All Executive Managers, HRC	On-going
Continue to implement and improve activities and events for people with a disability.	MCD	On-going

Outcome 2. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of the Shire of Katanning.		
Strategy	Person Responsible	Timeframe
Continue to implement and improve ACROD parking and pedestrian road crossings in the Central Business District.	DIPA	On-going
Advocate to local businesses the requirements for and benefits flowing from the provision of accessible venues.	DIPA	On-going

Continue to review and improve access to public open spaces and public areas, including facilities, parks and reserves.	DIPA	On-going
Improve inclusivity of Shire parks, playgrounds, and public spaces.	DIPA	On-going

Outcome 3. People with disability receive information from the Shire of Katanning in a format that enables them to access information as readily as other people are able to access it.		
Strategy	Person Responsible	Timeframe
Improve community awareness that Council information can be made available in alternative formats.	CRO	On-going
Improve staff awareness of accessible information needs and how to obtain information in other formats.	CRO	Annually
Ensure the Shire website meets contemporary good practice.	CRO	Annually
Provide documentation regarding services, facilities and customer feedback in an appropriate format using clear and concise language.	CRO	On-going

Outcome 4. People with disability receive the same level and quality of service from staff of the Shire of Katanning as other people receive from the Shire of Katanning.		
Strategy	Person Responsible	Timeframe
Improve staff awareness of disability and access issues and improve skills to provide a good service to people with disability.	Executive Managers	On-going
Seek feedback on service provision for people with a disability.	CEO	On-going

Outcome 5. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the Shire of Katanning.		
Strategy	Person Responsible	Timeframe
Ensure that current grievance mechanisms are accessible for people with disability.	EMCC	On-going
Improve staff awareness and understanding so they can appropriately receive complaints from people with disability.	EMCC, HRC	On-going

Outcome 6. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to participate in public consultation by the Shire of Katanning.		
Strategy	Person Responsible	Timeframe
Improve community awareness of the consultation processes in place.	MCD, CEO	On-going
Support and encourage people with disability to attend community consultations, and to contribute to the DAIP.	MCD, CEO	On-going
Commit to ongoing monitoring of the DAIP to ensure implementation of strategies and satisfactory outcomes.	CEO, MCD	On-going
Continue to seek a broad range of views on disability access issues from the local community.	CEO, MCD	On-going

Outcome 7. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to obtain and maintain employment within a public authority		
Strategy	Person Responsible	Timeframe
Ensure that recruitment practices provide equal opportunity of employment.	CEO, HRC	On-going
Provide support for employees with disability.	All Executive Managers	On-going
Implement flexible employment practices.	All Executive Managers	On-going

REVIEW MECHANISMS

Review and Monitoring

In 2012, a Disability Inclusion Steering Committee was established for the purpose of guiding a two-year 'Count Me In' project, funded by the Disability Services Commission. This committee included representatives from the Disability Services Commission, Home and Community Care, the Seniors Advisory Council, Anglicare, the Community Services Department of the Shire of Katanning and family members of people with disability. The committee will continue to meet quarterly starting in 2023 to discuss access and inclusion issues and strategies that relate to the DAIP.

The Manager of Community Development will ensure an officer has the responsibility of monitoring and reviewing progress towards achieving stated outcomes in the DAIP. A progress report will be submitted to the Disability Services Commission by the first week of July each year. Information on the implementation of the DAIP will be included in Council's Annual Report.

Communicating the DAIP

The Shire will advise via the local media and its own publications that copies of the DAIP are available.

Key Shire staff, relevant government departments, disability service providers, peak disability organisations and the Katanning Library staff are provided with a copy of the DAIP.

The DAIP is also available to the public via the Shire of Katanning's website:
www.katanning.wa.gov.au

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