

Shire of Peppermint Grove



DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN (DAIP) 2012 - 2016



This plan is available in alternative formats such as large print, electronic format (disk or emailed) on request.

Adopted 22 May 2012

1.0 Contents

2.0 Background	Page 4
• The Shire of Peppermint Grove	4
• Functions, Facilities and Services Provided	4
• Leadership	5
• Services to the Community	5
• Regulatory Services	5
• General Administration	6
• Processes of Government	6
• People with Disabilities in the Shire of Peppermint Grove	6
• Planning for Better Access and Inclusion	6
• Improved Access and Inclusion for People with Disabilities	7
3.0 Access and Inclusion Policy Statement	7
• Disability Rights	7
• Principles Applicable to People with Disabilities	7
• Social Inclusion	8
• Consultation	9
• Working in Partnership	9
• Disability Access and Inclusion (DAIP)	9
4.0 Development of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan	10
• Responsibility for the Planning Process	10
• DAIP Review Process	10
• Findings of the Consultation	12
• Access Barriers	13
• Responsibility for Implementing the DAIP	14
• Review and Evaluation Mechanisms	14
• Communicating the Plan to the Community	14
• Monitoring and Reviewing	14
• Evaluation	14
• Reporting on the DAIP	15
5.0 Strategies to Improve Access and Inclusion	16
• Outcomes 1 – 6	16-20

Acknowledgements

In pursuit of its ongoing commitment to developing an even more friendly and welcoming community and in response to its legal obligation under the State Disability Service Act 1993 (DSA) (and amendments 2004), the Shire of Peppermint Grove has reviewed its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2007- 2011.

The Shire of Peppermint Grove acknowledges the input received from many individuals and groups within the community, which has been invaluable in the preparation of this Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2012-2016.

In particular, the Shire wishes to thank everyone who provided feedback and comment, including:

- individual community members
- local community groups
- Shire and library employees
- Disability Services Commission

2.0 Background

The Shire of Peppermint Grove

The Shire of Peppermint Grove is the local government authority for the beautiful, leafy, riverside suburb of Peppermint Grove and is situated twelve kilometres from the city of Perth, capital of Western Australia.

Peppermint Grove is an historic colonial municipality bordered by the local government areas of Cottesloe, Claremont and Mosman Park and the Swan River on its eastern boundary.

Peppermint Grove is predominantly a residential area and includes some of the most exclusive residential property developments in Western Australia. Although there are commercial and educational land uses in the area these have relatively minor influence on the suburb.

Functions, Facilities and Services Provided

The Royal Fresh Water Bay Yacht Club and the Peppermint Grove Tennis Club are also located within the municipality and have a significant role in the social activities of many residents in the locality.

The area is well served by a number of beautiful parks. The riverside parklands are developed to encourage the passive enjoyment of one of the most attractive parts of the metropolitan area.

Extensive, accessible library facilities are provided jointly by the local governments of Peppermint Grove, Mosman Park and Cottesloe at The Grove Precinct.

Incorporated into the Grove Precinct are The Grove library and the Community Learning Centre which provides meeting space and houses Westcoast Community Centre and the area's Child and Adolescent Health Centre.

The main retail and trade services in Peppermint grove are located in the Cottesloe Central Shopping Centre which is the largest shopping complex in the local area with other services also located along Stirling Highway to Johnston Street.

Major transport routes to Peppermint Grove are Stirling Highway and the Fremantle to Perth Passenger Railway Service. The nearest train station is Cottesloe, situated 250m west of the Shire office.

Significant community facilities and attractions include:

- The Grove Precinct including the Shire Administration Offices, The Grove library, Community Learning Centre, Child Health Centre and landscaped grounds
- Manners Hill Park, including an accessible toilet and Pavilion
- Keane's Point parkland including children's play equipment, an all-abilities playground, accessible seating, accessible toilets, boat launching ramp, grassed open space and barbeque facilities
- Freshwater Bay Recreational Jetty, boating jetty and the foreshore beach reserve
- Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club
- Peppermint Grove Tennis Club
- Cottesloe Primary School
- Presbyterian Ladies College
- Cottesloe Central Shopping Centre

Leadership

Local Government carries a responsibility both legally and morally to lead by example with regard to providing Access and Inclusion to all its buildings, services and events.

Services to the Community:

Provision and maintenance of footpaths, playing areas, parks, gardens and reserves

- Public library and Community Learning Centre
- Senior citizen information and referral services
- Child Health - Education and Open Clinics
- Home support services via TAPSS Community Care
- Citizenship ceremonies
- Community events and celebrations

Regulatory Services:

- Planning of road systems, sub-divisions, developmental control and town planning scheme amendments
- Building approvals for construction, additions or alterations to buildings
- Environmental health services and ranger services, including dog control
- Development, maintenance and control of parking

General Administration:

- Provision of general information to the public.
- Lodging of applications, bookings, complaints and payment of fees including rates and dog licences.

Processes of Government:

- Ordinary and special Local Government Council and committee meetings
- Council meetings and election of Council Members
- Community consultations

The Shire of Peppermint Grove seeks to ensure that the services of the municipality are accessible to people with disabilities, and where possible will influence other service providers within the community to ensure those services are also accessible to people with disabilities.

People with Disabilities in the Shire of Peppermint Grove:

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Survey of Disability Ageing and carers (2003), 20.6% of Australians or more than one in five people, identify themselves as having some form of disability. The 2006 ABS Census of Population and Housing reports that in Peppermint Grove, with approximately 13% being over the age of 65 years, we can estimate that 200 people are either ageing and/or have a disability and living within the Shire's boundaries. The *Count Me In: Disability Future Directions* Strategy launched in 2009 forecasts that within the next 15 years, the overall incidence of disability is expected to increase substantially as the number of older West Australians increases to about 38% by 2023.

Planning for Better Access and Inclusion

The Shire is committed to the pursuit of excellence in the provision of access and inclusion for people with disabilities and will actively work to identify and implement current best practices by ensuring that it:

- complies with all relevant disability legislation
- considers relevant access and inclusion standards, codes and guidelines
- maintains ongoing network contact with relevant groups and individuals including the major disability advocacy organisations, and
- maintains ongoing contact with relevant local community groups and individuals

It is a requirement of the Disability Services Act (1993) that all Local Governments develop and implement a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) that outlines the ways in which they will 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). Under the DDA, organisations can voluntarily implement a disability Action Plan. While these Action Plans are not compulsory, they can assist organisations to become more accessible and inclusive, and can provide some clarity during disability discrimination proceedings. A DAIP can also satisfy the DDA's requirements for Action Plans.

Improved Access and Inclusion for People with Disabilities

The Shire of Peppermint Grove is committed to facilitating the inclusion of people with disabilities through the improvement of access to its facilities and services. Towards this goal the Shire adopted its first Disability Service Plan (DSP) in 1995 and second DSP in 2001 to address the barriers within the community for people with disabilities. The DSP addressed its statutory requirements under the WA Disability Services Act (1993).

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.

3.0 Access and Inclusion Policy Statement

Disability Rights

The concept of disability rights simply implies ensuring that people with disabilities get a 'fair go' at accessing and participating in all aspects of community life. The Shire acknowledges that people with disabilities have the same fundamental rights as all other members of the community and takes action to make the world more accessible and inclusive because it is 'the right and proper thing to do'.

Principles Applicable to People with Disabilities

A set of internationally recognised principles applicable to people with disabilities have been developed to inform and guide the implementation of disability laws, practices and policies.

The 10 principles are:

1. People with disabilities have the inherent right to respect for their human worth and dignity.
2. People with disabilities, whatever the origin, nature, type or degree of disability, have the same basic human rights as other members of society and should be enabled to exercise those basic human rights.
3. People with disabilities have the same rights as other members of society to realise their individual capacities for physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development.
4. People with disabilities have the same right as other members of society to services which will support their attaining a reasonable quality of life in a way that also recognises the role and needs of their families and carers.
5. People with disabilities have the same right as other members of society to participate in, direct and implement the decisions which affect their lives.
6. People with disabilities have the same right as other members of society to receive services in a manner that results in the least restriction of their rights and opportunities.
7. People with disabilities have the same right as other members of society to pursue any grievance concerning services.
8. People with disabilities have the right to access the type of services and supports that they believe are most appropriate to meet their needs.
9. People with disabilities who reside in rural and regional areas have a right, as far as is reasonable to expect, to have access to similar services provided to people with disabilities who reside in the metropolitan area.
10. People with disabilities have a right to an environment free from neglect, abuse, intimidation and exploitation.

The Shire is committed to operating in a manner that is consistent with these principles.

Social Inclusion

The Shire is committed to ensuring that the community is an accessible and inclusive community for people with disabilities, their families and carers. The Shire interprets an accessible and inclusive community as one in which people with a disability can access and are welcomed to participate in all Local Government functions, facilities and services (both in-house and contracted) in the same manner and with the same rights and responsibilities as other members of the community.

The Shire of Peppermint Grove recognises that people with disabilities are valued and contributing members of the community who make a variety of contributions to local social, economic and cultural life. The Shire 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.

The Shire of Peppermint Grove believes that people with disabilities, their families and carers should be supported to remain in the community of their choice.

Consultation

The Shire 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 identified and addressed appropriately.

Working in Partnership

The Shire is committed to working in partnership with relevant Government Departments, local community groups and businesses to facilitate the inclusion of people with disabilities through improved access to information, services and facilities in the community.

Presently, Disabilities Service Commission is working to link the *Count Me In* Strategy to DAIP outcomes; this information will be released later in 2012.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP)

The Shire is committed to achieving the six desired outcomes of its DAIP.

These are:

1. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by, the Shire of Peppermint Grove.
2. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the Shire of Peppermint Grove buildings, facilities and infrastructure.
3. People with disabilities receive information from the Shire of Peppermint Grove in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.
4. People with disabilities receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of the Shire of Peppermint Grove as other people receive from the staff of the Shire of Peppermint Grove.

5. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the Shire of Peppermint Grove.
6. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by the Shire of Peppermint Grove.

4.0 Development of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

Responsibility for the Planning Process

Overall responsibility for the DAIP process lies with the Shire's Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The Shire's Community Development Officer reports directly to the Manager of Library and Community Development and is delegated to oversee the DAIP.

DAIP Review Process

In October 2011, the DAIP review was conducted in accordance with the requirements as set out in the Disability Services Act.

The project extended over a three month period and included:

- Background research and information gathering
- Consideration of effectiveness and achievements of existing DAIP 2008-2011
- Review of all relevant disability related legislation
- Review of current access and inclusion practices and other relevant policies
- Community and stakeholder consultations

The review process included input from a range of both internal and external stakeholders including:

- Shire of Peppermint Grove and The Grove Library Staff
- People with disabilities, their family members and carers
- Residents, ratepayers and visitors to the Shire
- The Disability Services Commission's local area coordinator for the Shire of Peppermint Grove
- The local community and general public

The consultation was aimed at identifying:

- The Shire's achievements in improving access in recent years
- Difficulties and barriers community members still experience with the Shire's services and events, buildings and infrastructure, customer service, information, complaints mechanisms, and consultation processes

- Possible outcomes, objectives and strategies for inclusion in the revised DAIP
- Priorities for the revised DAIP

Organisational functions that were reviewed include:

- Services and events
- Buildings and facilities
- Customer service
- Complaints mechanisms
- Consultation processes

Consultation with the community involved information being collected through a range of methods including:

- A DAIP Review Survey was developed and letter-box dropped to every household in the Shire
- DAIP Review Surveys were available to the general public at the Shire offices and at The Grove library
- DAIP Review Surveys were included in the Seniors' Week Morning Tea show bags and available to all seniors and their carers at this event
- DAIP Review Surveys were available on the Shire website
- DAIP Review Surveys were given to all elected Members of Council
- Staff DAIP Review Surveys were available to all Shire and library staff
- One on one interviews with the CEO and all senior managers
- Face to face interviews
- Consultation with major disability groups
- Age-friendly Community consultation took place in 2010.

Promotion of the DAIP review process included:

- Widespread email circulation of the DAIP Review Survey
- Advertisement in The Post
- Link on the Shire's website
- Viewed on The Grove library's e-notice board
- Local contacts and community groups emailed

Widespread email circulation of the DAIP Review Survey included

- Cottesloe Primary School
- Presbyterian Ladies' College
- Goddard and Goddard
- Cottesloe Central Shopping Centre
- OIC Cottesloe Police Station
- Peppermint Grove Tennis Club
- Residents from the Shire of Peppermint Grove
- Child Health Clinic
- Westcoast Community Centre Inc.
- TAPSS

- Town of Cottesloe
- Town of Mosman Park
- Town of Claremont

A draft DAIP 2012-2016 was compiled and submitted to Council for its endorsement in May 2012.

Findings of the Consultation

The Shire is responding positively to its obligations under Federal and State disability laws.

There are good levels of awareness among staff about the overarching legal obligation not to discriminate on the basis of a person's disability and to ensure equitable access and inclusion for everyone. Staff is committed to working in a more accessible and inclusive way but some may feel they don't always have the necessary skills, information and/or knowledge to do so.

Staff and community members are keen for the Shire to go beyond the minimum legal requirements and pursue excellence by identifying and implementing contemporary best practices in access and inclusion.

Since implementing a formal disability planning process in 2007, the Shire has developed and implemented a range of initiatives to improve access and inclusion. Some of the more notable of these include:

- A complete disability access audit was conducted on all Shire owned and operated buildings in 2009. The audit identified what needed to be done to meet minimum standards and priorities were set. The new Grove library incorporated all priorities when it was constructed in 2010 and all recommendations were achieved.
- The Shire is currently working to complete other priority items and will continue to implement all improvements over time.
- An audit of footpaths has been completed and a program of upgrades is underway.
- Playground facilities have been upgraded to improve access for people with disabilities.
- The new Grove Library precinct provides fully accessible facilities as well as upgraded materials and a range of alternative format resources such as talking books and captioned videos and DVDs.

- Shire Staff work in partnership with Presbyterian Ladies' College and the Town of Mosman Park staff to make sport and recreation activities more accessible to people with disabilities by implementing the Sportslink program.
- Shire information will be made available in a range of formats including Braille, large print, audible and digital format upon request.
- The Shire has an ongoing disability awareness training program for Staff.
- Shire elections are held via the Electoral Commission's postal voting service. On poll day the Shire's accessible administration building is open to assist voters who may wish to vote in person.

The review also identified a variety of remaining barriers to access and inclusion to be addressed in the revised DAIP.

The Shire reviewed its priorities in 2009 when an audit of its facilities was investigated with the purpose of assessing their suitability for access by people with a disability. Recommendations were made and many of these priorities have been addressed, in particular those made in regards to Keane's Point Reserve and Parkland and Children's Play Equipment, Grassed Open Space and BBQ Facilities. All priorities and standards in regards to the new library have been met; however, some unanticipated additional issues have been identified (for example, difficulty in accessing the northern garden entrance), and will be incorporated into the Implementation Plan for investigation and rectification.

Access Barriers

While the review and consultation recognised a great deal of achievements in improving access, it also identified a range of barriers that require redress. These access barriers include:

- The Shire's website is currently under review to make improvements to best meet the needs of people with disabilities.
- People with disabilities may not be aware of consultation opportunities with the Shire.
- Community members reported that there were some areas where the accessibility of the pedestrian environment could be improved.
- Some processes engaged by the Shire may not be as accessible and inclusive as possible.
- Suitable parking for people with disabilities may not be meeting the needs of this growing demographic.
- Some staff may be uninformed or lacking in confidence to adequately provide the same level of service to people with disabilities.

The identification of these barriers will form the basis of the DAIP Implementation Plan which will be developed to identify specific tasks and time frames for each strategy.

Responsibility for Implementing the DAIP

It is a requirement of the Disability Services Act that a public authority must take all practical measures to ensure that the DAIP is implemented by its officers, employees, agents and contractors.

Implementing the DAIP has implications across all functions of the organisation. Responsibility for implementing the DAIP lies with all staff. Some actions in the Implementation Plan will apply to all areas of the Shire while others will apply to a specific area. The Implementation Plan sets out who is responsible for each task and a timeframe for completing that task.

Review and Evaluation Mechanisms

The Disability Services Act sets out the minimum review requirements for public authorities in relation to DAIPs. The Shire's DAIP will be reviewed at least every five years, in accordance with the Act. The DAIP Implementation Plan may be amended on a more regular basis to reflect progress and any access and inclusion issues which may arise. Whenever the DAIP is amended, a copy of the amended plan will be lodged with the Disability Services Commission.

Communicating the Plan to the Community

The Shire will inform the Community through the local resident newspaper and the Shire's website that it has developed a reviewed DAIP. In addition, the Shire will circulate this information via the same networks engaged for the community consultation.

Monitoring and Reviewing

The DAIP will be monitored and reviewed by the Senior Management Team (SMT) to review progress as required. The Shire's DAIP 2012-2016 will be reviewed in early 2016

Evaluation

Reports on the DAIP implementation process will be presented to Council for endorsement.

Once a year, in the Annual Report, the Shire will provide advice to the community regarding the progress of the DAIP. The community will be encouraged to provide feedback to the Shire regarding their access and inclusion needs on an ongoing basis.

The Shire's Administration Staff will execute the DAIP Implementation Plan. Wherever possible, any needs brought to the Shire's attention that are not already scheduled within the implementation plan will be prioritised for action.

If the Shire's DAIP Implementation Plan nears completion before the end of the five year time-frame formal, advertised, accessible community consultation will commence.

A notice about the consultation process will be placed in the local community newspaper and in the Shire's resident newsletter, posted on the Shire's website and circulated to disability service providers.

In seeking feedback the Shire will also endeavour to identify additional barriers that were not identified in the initial consultation.

The Shire will use some of the consultation processes used during the initial consultations including: questionnaires and meetings with people with disabilities.

Elected Members of Council and Shire employees will also be requested to provide feedback on how well they believe the strategies are working and to make suggestions for improvement.

Implementation Plans will be amended based on the feedback received.

Reporting on the DAIP

The Disability Services Act sets out the minimum reporting requirements for public authorities in relation to DAIPs.

The Shire will report on the implementation of its DAIP through its Annual Report and the prescribed progress report template to the Disability Services Commission by 31 July each year, outlining:

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

5.0 STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE ACCESS AND INCLUSION

As a result of the review process the following overarching strategies will guide tasks, reflected in the Implementation Plan, that the Shire of Peppermint Grove will undertake from 2012-2016 to improve access to its services, buildings and information. The six desired outcomes provide a framework for improving access and inclusion for people with disabilities in the Shire of Peppermint Grove.

Outcome 1:

People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by the Shire of Peppermint Grove.

Strategy	Timeline
Use the Neighbourhood Watch & Community Safety Committee as a community reference group to guide the implementation of DAIP activities	Ongoing
Ensure that people with disabilities have an opportunity to comment on access to services.	Ongoing
Develop links between the DAIP and other Shire plans and strategies.	Ongoing
Continue to ensure that all Shire events are organised in a way that makes them as accessible and inclusive as possible.	Ongoing

Outcome 2:

People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the Shire of Peppermint Grove buildings, facilities and infrastructure.

Strategy	Timeline
Continue to improve physical access to the Shire's buildings, facilities and infrastructure.	Ongoing
Ensure that relevant Shire staff is aware of and comply with the latest version of the Building Code of Australia released 1 May 2011.	July 2012/ongoing
Ensure that the Shire's pedestrian facilities are built and maintained so that they are accessible to people with disabilities.	Ongoing
Ensure that ACROD parking meets the needs of people with disabilities in terms of number, design and location.	Ongoing
Ensure that the Shire's parks, playgrounds and reserves are as accessible to people with disabilities as possible.	Ongoing
Proposed public toilets at Keane's Point and Manners Hill Park are designed to ensure proper and dignified access for people with disabilities.	Ongoing
Advocate to local businesses the requirements for and benefits flowing from improved access for people with disabilities.	Ongoing
Ensure that accessible toilet facilities are adequate in terms of location, design and maintenance.	Ongoing
Encourage Shire staff, agents and contractors to consider access and inclusion issues during all stages of a project.	Ongoing
Work in partnership with other organisations to ensure that relevant pedestrian infrastructure complies with the Accessible Public Transport Standard.	Ongoing

Outcome 3:

People with disabilities receive information from the Shire of Peppermint Grove in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.

Strategy	Timeline
Improve community awareness that Shire information is available in alternative formats upon request.	Ongoing
Improve staff awareness of accessible information needs and how to obtain information in other formats.	2012 and Ongoing
Provide documentation regarding services, facilities, events and customer feedback in an appropriate format using clear and concise language.	Ongoing
Ensure that the Shire's website meets contemporary good practice.	2012 and Ongoing
Continue to promote the National Relay Service (NRS) and consider the appropriateness of introducing a TTY facility for use in disaster/emergency management situations.	Ongoing
Consider the use of social media to improve access to the Shire's information for people with disabilities.	2012

Outcome 4:

People with disabilities receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of the Shire of Peppermint Grove as other people receive from the staff of the Shire of Peppermint Grove.

Strategy	Timeline
Improve employee awareness, knowledge and skills to provide an accessible and inclusive service to people with disabilities.	Ongoing
Improve the awareness of new employees and new Councillors about disability and access issues.	Ongoing
Consider creative ways of generating and sustaining staff awareness, knowledge and skills of disability access and inclusion issues.	Ongoing
Increase staff awareness that ensuring access and inclusion for people with disabilities has implications across all functions within the organisation and that all staff members have responsibility for implementing the DAIP.	Ongoing

Outcome 5:

People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the Shire of Peppermint Grove.

Strategy	Timeline
Ensure that current grievance mechanisms are accessible for people with disabilities.	Ongoing
Ensure that people with disabilities have an opportunity to comment on the Shire's services, events, infrastructure, customer service, communication and	Ongoing

information provision.	
Increase staff awareness that comments and complaints from people with disabilities provide invaluable assistance in ensuring equitable access and inclusion for all.	Ongoing

Outcome 6:

People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in public consultation by the Shire of Peppermint Grove.

Strategy	Timeline
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 disabilities to the established consultative processes of the Shire.	Ongoing
Seek a broad range of views on disability and access issues from the local community.	Ongoing
Develop and implement a strategy to maintain regular communication with interested residents/ratepayers/ visitors and relevant State Government Departments.	Ongoing
Develop and implement an Access and Inclusion feedback form.	March 2012