

# AGFEST



RURAL YOUTH ORGANISATION  
OF TASMANIA INC.



## AGFEST DISABILITY ACCESS POLICY AND PLAN 2012 – 2015



COACHING ACCESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

[www.coachingaccess.com.au](http://www.coachingaccess.com.au)

## **Disclaimer**

Any representation, statement, opinion or advice, expressed in this publication is made in good faith but on the basis that Coaching Access Management Systems Pty Ltd, and its employees are not liable (whether by reason of negligence, lack of care or otherwise) to any person for any damage or loss whatsoever which has occurred or may occur in relation to that person taking or not taking (as the case may be) action in respect of any representation, statement or advice referred to above.

## Foreword

AGFEST is a renowned annual agricultural field day held in the State of Tasmania. It was first held in 1983 and is run by the Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania. AGFEST is a unique event held annually and brings significant promotional and economic benefits to the Northern Region of Tasmania. It attracts on average 70,000 visitors during the three days in May each year at the 200-acre (80ha) site in rural Carrick.

AGFEST and the Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania seeks to meet the diverse needs of its exhibitors and patrons, inclusive of people with disabilities. As a proactive initiative to the Disability Discrimination Act (1992) and the Disability (Access to Premises— Buildings) Standards (2010), it has developed a disability access policy and action plan. The policy and plan is in line with AGFEST and the Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania's objectives of continual enhancement of facilities and services for all patrons, inclusive of people with disabilities. The commissioning and development of the Disability Access Policy and Action Plan is an expression of this commitment.

AGFEST also acknowledges that the key underpinning principles of the Disability Action Plan are the concept of social inclusion and universal accessibility. Good access to facilities and services benefits everyone within the community. This includes people with disabilities, their families, friends and carers, people pushing prams, and older Australians.

The AGFEST Disability Access Policy and Plan is intended to guide the future strategic direction to improve access for all to this renowned event. I commend it to you.

Ms Kylie Burns

Chairman - AGFEST 2012

# Access Policy Statement

AGFEST hopes to promote a welcoming, friendly, and professional agricultural field event and service to all patrons, inclusive of people with disabilities. The event aims to encourage participation by all, with the additional opportunity of people gaining an enriched and positive experience of a rural way of life.

AGFEST is committed to:

- All people having equitable access to facilities and services.
- The ongoing and continual improvement of facilities and service.
- The removal of barriers to improving the existing facilities and services.
- The promotion of universal access for all.
- The promotion of a greater awareness and acceptance of exhibitors and patron's perceptions of people with a disabilities.
- The recognition and support of the valuable contributions of people with a disabilities to making it a quality field event within Tasmania.

# Access Action Plan 2012 - 2015

## Goal 1. Access to AGFEST Buildings Facilities and Services

**Objective: To progressively modify existing AGFEST facilities to comply with access standards.**

Actions	Responsibility	Completion Date
To conduct an access audit of all AGFEST owned buildings and facilities.		
To establish a priority list of all AGFEST owned buildings and facilities with a view to progressively upgrading the accessibility to these assets, according to available resources. eg rural youth function centre and toilet blocks.		
To evaluate the existing, gutters and crossings and prioritise the schedule of maintenance improvements according to high and low accessibility and risk eg Craft Shed area.		
To establish footpaths, guttering, and crossings in all streets and high use areas eg equestrian, where necessary and affordable.		
To develop accessible public toilets in areas of high use.		
To assess general parking and accessible parking bays at the front of the AGFEST site and for exhibitors with a disability.		
To assess and improve existing street furniture on streetscapes that meet the requirements of the AS1428.		
To provide non-discriminatory ticketing opportunities, pricing and policies for people with disabilities, with the ticketing linked to building and infrastructure capabilities.		

## Goal 2. Communications and Publications

**Objective: To ensure that exhibitors and patrons are able to consult and access the AGFEST website and publications.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
To develop a set of communication standards to ensure consistent and quality reproduction of information in alternate formats.		
To develop and adhere to the principles of website and publication development eg website accessible maps with marked accessible toilets and seating, that meet the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) accessibility standards from 1 June 2000.		
To evaluate all external directional signage to existing toilet facilities.		
To assess the provision of external/internal signage relating to Australian Standards or other standards relevant to accessibility for people with disabilities.		
To develop signage to improve communication of information regarding exhibitor sites.		

### Goal 3. Service Delivery

**Objective: AGFEST will encourage widespread understanding of the needs of people with disabilities and ensure that AGFEST provides a quality services to all customers.**

Actions	Responsibility	Completion Date
To develop and maintain accessible improvements for people with a disabilities eg courtesy bus, and scooters for free use.		
To develop mechanisms by AGFEST committees when developing new buildings that meet the requirements of the AS 1428 and Premises Standards.		
To address in a proactive manner all service issues, taking into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical Site Constraints;</li> <li>• Interested 3<sup>rd</sup> parties (e.g. exhibitors);</li> <li>• Financial Considerations.</li> </ul>		
To provide AGFEST volunteers with training specific to people with disabilities.		
To ensure processes are in place to deal with complaints specific to people with disabilities.		
To monitor and bi-annually evaluate the Action Plan to ensure its effectiveness in removing participation barriers for people with disabilities to ensure participation at both the AGFEST events.		

## Topics collated from data by frequency of results (Highest to Lowest):

- Mud
- mud at craft shed
- more gravel needed at craft area
- drainage and soft edges was a problem for access to exhibitors
- Road edges
- unsealed muddy surfaces
- uneven gutters for mobility issues
- disabled parking for stall holders
- Boggy getting into to trade tent from CWA hard for wheelchairs to enter
- Big Print needed on signage
- Accessible map is needed
- More Street signage - directional larger print
- web page with a site map
- More accessible toilets
- seating for seniors and indicated on a site map
- Drop off and pick up in Agfest site for people with wheelchairs
- better road/highway signage
- easier car parking for exhibitors
- sealed roads
- more woodchips on verges of roads
- more toilets
- portable toilets are as clean as can be
- stones were hard with wheelchairs
- poor signage on outside of pavilion tents
- daily exhibitor email updates or an iphone and android app
- better advertising of free scooter service
- slippery surfaces dangerous for old and handicap
- start and finish times need to be better advertised