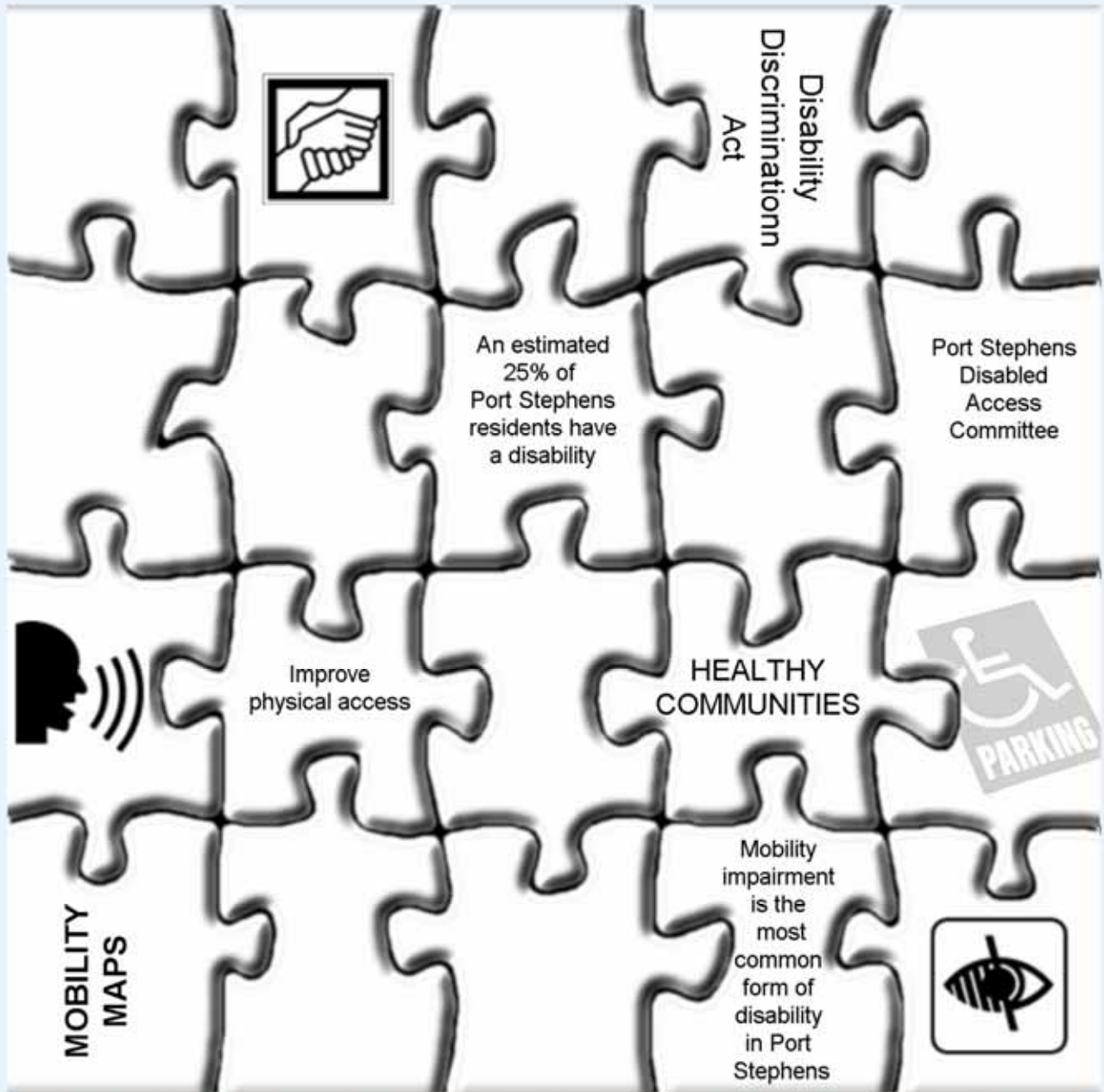


# Port Stephens

C·O·U·N·C·I·L

## Disability Action Plan 2006 - 2010



## **Acknowledgements**

This document was prepared by Port Stephens Council's Community Planning Section in consultation with community organisations, residents, government agencies, service providers Council staff and Councillors.

## **Disclaimer**

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and currency of information contained herein, Council accepts no responsibility for any omissions or errors.

Further information is available by contacting;

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## ***Copies of the Port Stephens Council Disability Action Plan are available:***

- for viewing in all Port Stephens libraries and at the Port Stephens Council administration building, 116 Adelaide Street, Raymond Terrace, NSW 2324
- in hard copy (a charge may apply) from Port Stephens Council, PO Box 42, Raymond Terrace, NSW 2324
- for free download on the internet at [www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au](http://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au)
- in alternative formats by contacting the Port Stephens Council Disability Access Officer.

## ***Direct enquiries about the plan to:***

Disability Access Officer  
Port Stephens Council  
P.O Box 42  
Raymond Terrace  
NSW 2324  
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## Introduction

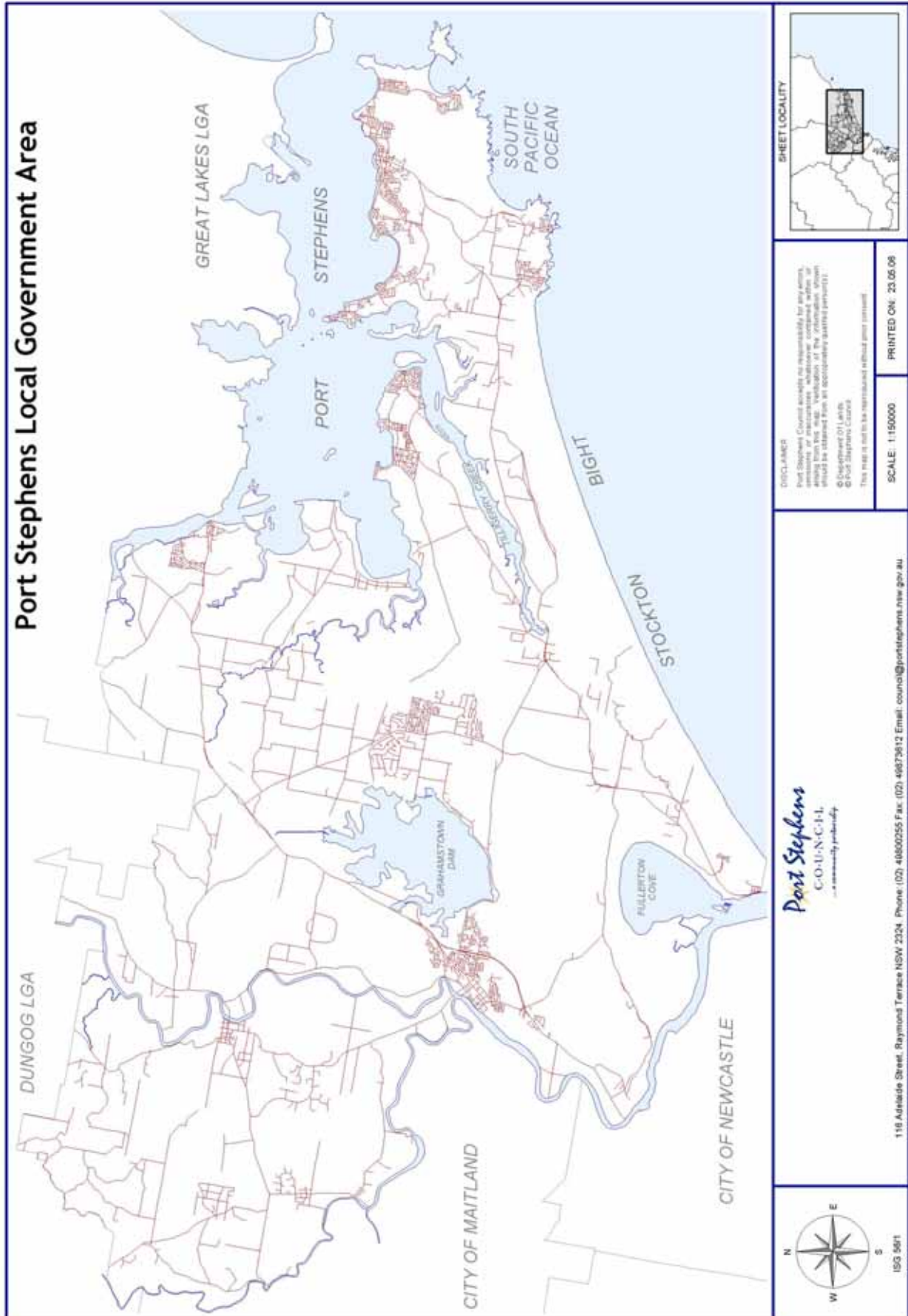
The Port Stephens Local Government Area is situated on the East Coast of New South Wales, Australia, 200km North of Sydney. It covers an area of 979 sq. km and is approximately fifty-five kilometres from East to West and thirty kilometres from North to South. The location is a major recreational, tourist and retirement destination.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics the estimated resident population of Port Stephens is 63,579 (Australian Bureau of Statistics Estimated Resident Population, June 2005). By the end of 2032 it is predicted that the population will grow to 114, 000 people.

Source: Port Stephens Council 2001 Settlement Strategy.



**Map of Port Stephens Local Government Area**



**Port Stephens Local Government Area**

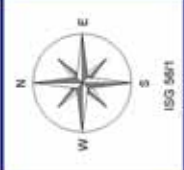


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**Port Stephens**  
 COUNCIL  
*...a community partnership*

116 Adelaide Street, Raymond Terrace NSW 2324 Phone: (02) 49870255 Fax: (02) 49870813 Email: council@portstephens.nsw.gov.au



## What is a Disability Action Plan and Why Does Port Stephens Council Need One?

A Disability Action Plan is a document that;

- Describes what a service provider, in this case Port Stephens Council, intends doing to make the services and facilities it already provides as accessible to, and appropriate for people with disabilities as can reasonably be achieved.
- Guides Council in eliminating discriminatory practices.
- Describes what actions Council will take to further improve the physical and social environment for people with disabilities.

Although it is not mandatory for Port Stephens Council to prepare and implement a Disability Action Plan, the Department of Local Government encourages councils to develop one in the N.S.W Government Disability Policy Framework (Circular 00/72).

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission also encourage service providers to develop action plans and formally register it with their organisation, this is widely accepted as best practice amongst service providers.

Port Stephens Council recognise the importance of access to and within the community for everyone. This includes the ability to participate in the social, cultural and political life of that community. Council realises that this is a fundamental basis for creating healthy communities. To assist in facilitating such community access, Council also recognise the importance of eliminating, as far as possible, disability discrimination from the provision of its services and facilities.

Council has identified five key groups within the community that benefit strongly from Council's actions within the broad disability framework. These groups are;

1. People with a permanent disability
2. People with a temporary disability
3. Aged persons
4. Parents with young children who use prams
5. Family and friends of the above four groups

Port Stephens Council recognise the importance of having a current Disability Action Plan. The Council's first plan was developed and implemented in 2001. This 2006 - 2010 plan continues to build on the strong principles and strategies established in that initial plan.



## What is a Disability?

The Disability Discrimination Act (1992) defines disability as;

- total or partial loss of the person's bodily or mental functions
- total or partial loss of a part of the body
- the presence in the body of organisms causing disease or illness
- the presence in the body of organisms capable of causing disease or illness
- the malfunction, malformation or disfigurement of a part of the person's body
- a disorder or malfunction that results in the person learning differently from a person without the disorder or malfunction
- a disorder, illness or disease that affects a person's thought processes, perception of reality, emotions or judgment or that results in disturbed behaviour.



The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) makes it unlawful to discriminate against a person because of a disability;

- which he or she has
- which he or she used to have
- which he or she may have in the future
- which is imputed to him or her
- of an associate, such as a friend, partner, carer or family member of the person.

Both permanent and temporary disabilities are covered under the DDA.



## How This Action Plan was Developed

This plan has been developed following an extensive needs analysis that incorporated four phases, these are;

1. A review of the 2001 - 2005 Disability Action Plan
2. A review of legislative requirements
3. Research
4. Consultation process

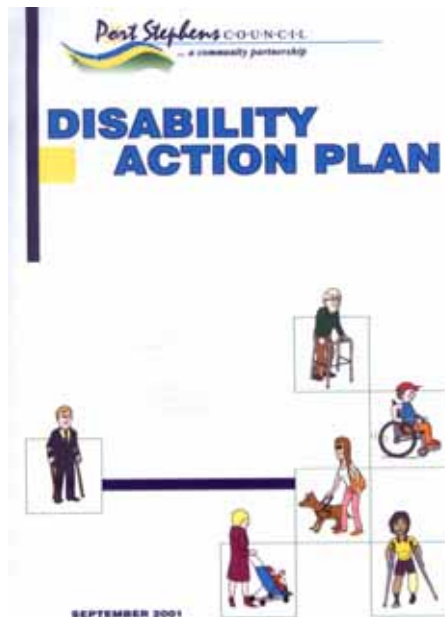


The plan was developed by Port Stephens Councils Disability Access Officer in conjunction with Council Staff, the Access Committee of Port Stephens, Local Service Providers and in consultation with the wider Port Stephens Community.



## PHASE I: Review of the 2001 - 2005 Disability Action Plan

The 2001 - 2005 Disability Action Plan was the first Disability Action Plan to be implemented by Port Stephens Council. The plan contained four objectives;



### **1) Access**

Provide suitable physical access for all people in Port Stephens.

### **2) Communications**

Provide information in formats that allow ready access and easy response for people with disabilities.

### **3) Community Services**

Promote all services for people with disabilities and ensure those offered by Council are accessible.

### **4) Management**

Ensure Council conducts its operations consistently with the principles of the Disability Discrimination Act to create an environment in which services and facilities are accessible to all people.

There were a range of strategies and actions formulated to work towards these objectives with a range of concise evaluation criteria.

After review it was found that the plan had resulted in many significant achievements for Council and the Port Stephens Community. Some of these achievements include;

- A major cultural shift within the Port Stephens Council. The organisation now displays a strong commitment to anti discrimination principles and staff are educated and aware of disability issues and how to confidently address them
- Presentation of several Access Awareness Training Days for staff by the Disability Access Officer in conjunction with local service providers
- Installation of a hearing loop inside the Council Chambers
- Compliance with and improved awareness of the Disability Discrimination Act of 1992
- Support of the Port Stephens Access Committee, an important link between Council and sectors of the community representing persons with a disability
- Establishment of protocols around managing building and development to ensure relevant enforceable disability standards are met
- Development and implementation of the Port Stephens Council Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan (PAMP). This process involved conducting an extensive physical access review of several Port Stephens Communities (Raymond Terrace, Nelson Bay, Medowie and Salamander Bay) public infrastructure specifically relating to pedestrians. It then details and prioritises works to be done to improve the standard of access in these areas which will be carried out as funding becomes available. This was an important step ensuring a holistic approach in addressing physical access issues in these communities.

One successful PAMP project recently completed is the installation of 8 new footpath dishramps at the intersection of Adelaide St. and Glenelg St Raymond Terrace

- A change in planning standards used by Council to comply with the access provisions of the Building Code of Australia and the Australian Standards



Dishramps at Adelaide St. and Glenelg St. Raymond Terrace

- Many physical access improvements being made to public facilities and amenities, for example the installation of an access ramp into the amenities building at the Walker Field Sporting Complex Raymond Terrace, the continued maintenance and improvement of pedestrian footpaths, significant extension of many cycleways, continued improvements and additions to the public transport infrastructure (bus stops and shelters, taxi zones etc) and the integration of access provisions into upgrading of council owned amenities as they occur



Before After  
Soldiers Point Road near Muller St. Salamander Bay



Footpath to Bi-Lo Supermarket Medowie



Footpath to Bus Shelter Gan Gan Road near Blanch St. Boat Harbour



Before

During Construction

After

Salamander Town Circuit

- The initial completion of the Little Beach Disabled Access Wharf, at Nelson Bay, a unique facility on Australia's East Coast. The wharf allows disabled persons to enter the water safely by providing ramps compliant with Australian Standards all the way into the water. This was a massive project managed by Port Stephens Council and jointly funded by Council, The Australian Fishing Tackle Association and The Nelson Bay R.S.L Club. The wharf was officially opened in 1994, unfortunately over time some structural timbers were attacked by marine worms. The wharf was closed for a period of time whilst a refurbishment program was developed and funding secured for its repair. Reconstruction works have now commenced and are on schedule for an official re-opening of the wharf in September of 2006



Reconstruction work has commenced on the Little Beach Disabled Access Wharf with an official opening expected in September 2006



Disabled Parking at Salamander Bay

- In 2002 an audit of all disabled parking within the Port Stephens LGA was conducted by Council's Disability Access Officer in partnership with Council's Traffic Engineers. Details of the spaces were recorded and rates of disabled parking were calculated. Percentages of disabled spaces provided were found to exceed the recommended minimum figures contained within the Australian Standards. Recommendations and work orders were produced to upgrade some disabled spaces that did not conform to the Australian Standards design guidelines and these spaces will be upgraded as funding becomes available.

- The inclusion of a 'Disability Services' section within Council's Community Directory. Over 30 disability services are listed in the directory that service the Port Stephens area. The directory can be located on Council's website at [www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au](http://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au)

- The International Day of People with Disabilities Picnic is a very successful annual event. The picnic day is held at Little Beach Nelson Bay and includes stalls, entertainment, activities such as motorcycle rides and sailing, as well as a BBQ lunch. Many students with disabilities from local schools attend as volunteers to help out on the day. The picnic is run by a subcommittee of the Access Committee of Port Stephens and is sponsored and partly funded by Port Stephens Council. The picnic is a worthwhile recreational event dedicated to catering for people of the Port Stephens Community who have a disability. The picnic won the coveted award for *“Port Stephens Community Event Of The Year”* in 2004.



The review concluded that the 2001 - 2005 Disability Action Plan has created a solid foundation for Council's Disability Program to build upon. The challenge for the new Disability Action Plan is to continue the momentum of these achievements whilst also exploring other innovative options. Some of the strategies of the 2001 - 2005 plan have been continued in the 2006 - 2010 plan.

## PHASE II: Review of Legislative Requirements

A review of legislative requirements relating to a Disability Action Plan for Local Government identified several pieces of legislation that were relevant including; The Disability Discrimination Act, (1992), NSW Anti-Discrimination Act (1977), Local Government Act (1993), Building Code of Australia (2006) and the Australian Standards.

### **Disability Discrimination Act 1992**

The primary objectives of the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) are identified as being: -

- “(a) to eliminate, as far as possible, discrimination against persons on the ground of disability in the areas of: -
  - (i) work, accommodation, education, access to premises, clubs and sport; and
  - (ii) the provision of goods, facilities, services and land; and
  - (iii) existing laws; and
  - (iv) the administration of Commonwealth laws and programs; and
- (b) to ensure, as far as practicable, that persons with disabilities have the same rights to equality before the law as the rest of the community; and
- (c) to promote recognition and acceptance within the community of the principle that persons with disabilities have the same fundamental rights as the rest of the community.

The DDA also sets out provisions to be included within the Disability Action Plan as set out in the following extract;

#### 61 Provisions of action plans

The action plan of a service provider must include provisions relating to:

- (a) the devising of policies and programs to achieve the objects of this Act; and
- (b) the communication of these policies and programs to persons within the service provider; and
- (c) the review of practices within the service provider with a view to the identification of any discriminatory practices; and
- (d) the setting of goals and targets, where these may reasonably be determined against which the success of the plan in achieving the objects of the Act may be assessed; and
- (e) the means, other than those referred to in paragraph (d), of evaluating the policies and programs referred to in paragraph (a); and
- (f) the appointment of persons within the service provider to implement the provisions referred to in paragraphs (a) to (e) (inclusive).

Source: Disability Discrimination Act 1992

### **The NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (Amended 1994)**

The NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 makes it unlawful to discriminate against people, either directly or indirectly, on the basis of their own or their friends', relatives' or associates sex, pregnancy, race, marital status, *disability*, homosexuality, age and transgender.

### **Local Government Act 1993**

Section 8 of the Local Government Act sets out a charter which commits councils to consultation and to providing adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities to the community and to report annually as to its achievements.

### **The Local Government (General) Amendment (Community and Social Plans) Regulation 1998**

This Regulation requires Councils to develop a social or community plan identifying the needs of people with disabilities. Council is also required to include in their reporting mechanisms a statement regarding access and equity activities planned or undertaken by the Council.

### **Building Code of Australia 2006**

The Building Code of Australia (BCA) is a uniform code adopted by the NSW Government in 1993. The Code provides comprehensive details regarding the performance and technical requirements relevant to the design and construction of buildings and other related structures.

### **Australian Standards**

Australian Standard 1428.1 is the main accessibility Standard referenced in the BCA. There are four parts to the standard covering basic access, ramps, grab rails, tactile ground surfaces, sanitary facilities, etc.

The Port Stephens Council 2006 - 2010 Disability Action Plan complies with all of the above listed legislative requirements.

## PHASE III: Research

In order to produce a valid action plan, it was first necessary to conduct research in a number of areas. The research conducted falls into 5 categories;

1. Profile of Port Stephens Residents with Disabilities
2. Current Best Practice in the Disability Field
3. Other Disability Action Plans
4. Overview of the Access Committee of Port Stephens
5. Overview of Port Stephens Council Disability Access Officer Position

### 1. Profile of Port Stephens Residents with Disabilities

Port Stephens Council conducts a community survey every four years targeting the entire local government area (LGA). This survey captures a limited amount of data in relation to disability. A further Disability Survey was conducted in May of 2006 specific to disability for the purpose of gathering data to assist in production of this Disability Action Plan. This survey targeted people with a disability, their families and carers as well as service providers in the Port Stephens LGA (see ANNEXURE A). A second survey targeted staff within Port Stephens Council (see ANNEXURE B).

With the next Australian Bureau of Statistics Census figures not due to be published until July 2007, current and relevant data on disability in Port Stephens is not abundant. In fact, the Council's May 2006 Disability Survey respondents were asked;

*“Do you have any current data relating to people with disabilities in the Port Stephens Area?”*

All of the respondents replied with “No” (other than client lists which are protected by privacy legislation). A canvass of aged and disability service providers in the area reveals they too have a shortage of detailed statistics and still rely heavily on the 1998 Australian Bureau of Statistics data. When the 2004 figures are released, they will be reviewed and any necessary adjustments made to this plan.

The following are some of the available facts relating to disability in the Port Stephens Local Government area;

- *According to a survey carried out by ABS in 1998 to determine the number of people in NSW with a disability, it is estimated that 25% of the Port Stephens population has some form of disability which is significantly higher than the State and National averages of 18% - 20%*

- *Mobility impairment ranked as the most common form of disability amongst Port Stephens residents (Source: Disability, New South Wales ABS 1998)”*

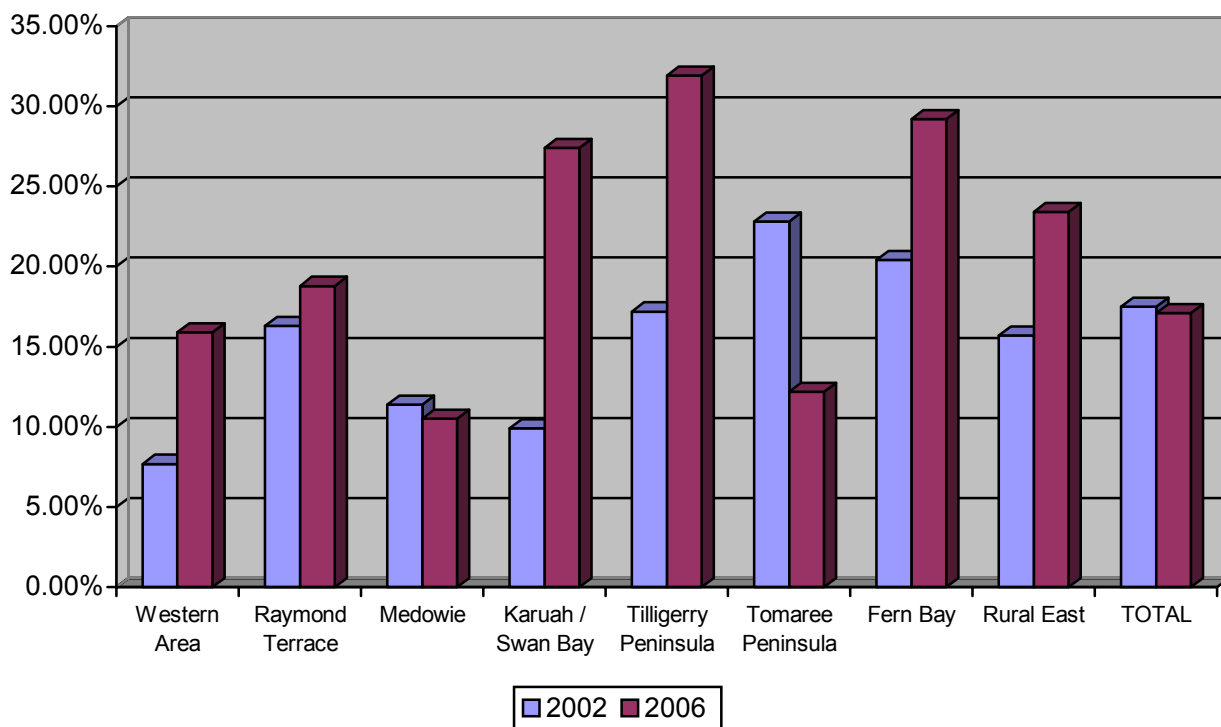


- 17.5% of respondents in the 2002 Community Survey indicated that they or a member of their household have a physical condition that reduces their level of mobility or their access to facilities and services. The 2006 survey saw a slight reduction in this figure (0.4%) to 17.1%. (Source: Port Stephens Council Community Surveys 2002 & 2006). Some interesting trends were identified when the data was broken down into localities

Planning District	% of respondents that personally have, or have a household member with a physical condition that reduces their level of mobility or their access to facilities and services.		
	2002	2006	% change
Western Area	7.7%	15.9%	↑ 8.2%
Raymond Terrace	16.3%	18.8%	↑ 2.5%
Medowie	11.4%	10.5%	↓ 0.9%
Karuah / Swan Bay	9.9%	27.4%	↑ 17.5%
Tilligerry Peninsula	17.2%	31.9%	↑ 14.7%
Tomaree Peninsula	22.8%	12.2%	↓ 10.6%
Fern Bay	20.4%	29.2%	↑ 8.8%
Rural East	15.7%	23.4%	↑ 7.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17.5%</b>	<b>17.1%</b>	<b>↓ 0.4%</b>

And when graphed some trends are easily identified.

**% of respondents that personally have, or have a household member with a physical condition that reduces their level of mobility or their access to facilities and services.**



Over the 4 years from 2002 to 2006 the numbers of people with mobility problems;

- in Medowie and Raymond Terrace did not display much change
  - appear to have shifted out of the Tomaree Peninsula in significant numbers (10.6%).
  - have grown in the Western Area (8.2%), the Rural East (7.7%) and Fern Bay (8.8%) and have also grown more significantly in both Tilligerry Peninsula (14.7%) and Karuah / Swan Bay (17.5%).
  - Significantly higher levels of disability, especially mobility impairment and dementia, occur in older age groups. 32.3% of the Port Stephens population is aged over 50 years and 20.1% aged over 60 years. Both these figures are significantly higher than the NSW state and national average figures
- Source: Port Stephens Council 2004 Community Profile



- By 2021 people aged over 60 years will make up 24% of the population in NSW (1993 ABS aging & Disability Survey)

- It is forecast that there will be a major increase in the aged population within Port Stephens over the next 30 years. This is due to the proportional growth in the aged population resulting from ageing of the 'baby boomer generation', as well as consistent high rate of migration of retirees to the Port Stephens Area

- In March 2005, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) launched a national enquiry into employment for people with disabilities in Australia. The Commission asserts that while around 20% of Australians have some sort of disability, only 53% of those of working age are in the workforce compared to 80% for other Australians. They also have a higher unemployment rate, 8.6% as opposed to 5% for other Australians and lower incomes.

May 2006 Disability Survey Results

A) Disability Survey of External Stakeholders

The following is an analysis of the results of the Port Stephens Council May 2006 survey relating specifically to disability issues. The survey targeted people with a disability, their families and carers as well as service providers in the Port Stephens LGA.

Questions and results;

1) What do you think are the main issues facing people with a disability in the Port Stephens Local Government area?

Ranked results	
Highest priority	1. Physical Access
	2. Disabled Parking
	3. Public Transport
	4. Health
	5. Employment
	6. Housing
	7. Education
	8. Under Representation
	9. Lack of Services
	10. Discrimination
	11. Crime
Lowest Priority	12. Other (poverty, carer respite)

2) What do you think should be the priorities for future allocation of funding and resources of the Port Stephens Council to best serve people with a disability in the Port Stephens Local Government area?

Ranked results	
Highest priority	1. Improve physical access
	2. Education about disabilities
	3. Disabled Access Committee
	4. Mobility Maps
Lowest Priority	5. International Day of People with a Disabilities Picnic

Within the category of improving physical access respondents gave their top ten priorities where they felt improving access was most important. The following is a list of those priorities;

Top Ten Priorities for Improving Physical Access
1. Public transport
2. Disabled parking
3. Disabled toilets
4. Footpaths, cycleways and pedestrian areas
5. Shops
6. Any proposed new public building or amenity
7. Schools & other educational institutions
8. Sporting and recreational amenities
9. Tourist destinations
10. Other (fenced playground, hospital)

Port Stephens Council recognise the importance of these ten key priority areas and allocate substantial funding and resources to addressing access issues in these areas.

Service providers were also asked;

“What are the long term priorities of your service in relation to people with a disability?”

The answers given to this question were quite varied and included;

- Centralisation of treatment
- Improve access to the built environment
- Improve housing options
- Improve service delivery
- Cultural initiatives
- Addressing financial disadvantage.

#### B) Disability Survey of Port Stephens Council Staff

Some interesting and innovative suggestions were received from staff during this stage of the consultation process. Some examples include;

- Improved liaison between staff
- Lobbying internally for improved funding of access projects
- An assessment of the needs of the aged community
- Continued education and training such as Access Awareness Days.



Many of the suggestions and ideas obtained from this survey were incorporated into the Disability Action Plan.

## **2. Current Best Practice in the Disability Field**

In researching local, national and international trends with regard to disability service provision (parallel to the scope of services offered by Local Government), the following broad categories were identified as being important priorities;

- Improving physical access to the built environment
- Removal of existing discriminatory practices
- Facilitating inclusion and participation of disabled people in all aspects of community life

Within these categories several more specific initiatives were found to be common, such as:

- Employment and training
- Transport
- Carer training, support and respite
- Motorised scooter management
- Accessible web design
- Improving access to health services.

These factors were taken into consideration in the context of the needs of the Port Stephens community and where necessary, similar initiatives were incorporated into the Disability Action Plan.

## **3. Other Disability Action Plans**

As a benchmarking exercise a review was conducted of twenty other N.S.W Local Government Councils' Disability Action Plans. These plans have been finalised and registered with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission. This process was useful in identifying trends and priorities within other Council areas as well as how resources were being allocated. The Council plans that were examined are referenced at the end of this document. Some common themes portrayed within the plans were;

- Improving and maintaining physical access in the community
- Monitoring, review and enhancement of internal business practices
- Support of their Access Committee
- Support positive community attitudes
- Support of localised initiatives.

Besides these categories, each plan contained further strategies that were consistent with the individual needs of their community (eg employment or cultural initiatives).

All of the plans reviewed were similar in content, this is because of the legislative requirements around content to be included and required outcomes, as well as the fact that the services provided by local government are all relatively consistent.

The Port Stephens Council 2006 - 2010 Disability Action Plan is consistent with the twenty plans reviewed, containing material that satisfies those same legislative requirements while incorporating specific localised initiatives (such as support of the International Day of People with Disabilities Picnic). The five common themes mentioned above were also covered within the scope of Councils service delivery.

#### 4. Overview of the Access Committee of Port Stephens

In an effort to move forward with confidence, it was seen as appropriate to conduct a review of the Access Committee of Port Stephens.

The Access Committee of Port Stephens was founded in the mid 1990's following a needs analysis conducted for Council by local disability advocate Mr Robert Farley. The Committee was later adopted as a formal 355b Committee of Council. At this time there was a push for Local Government authorities to establish such a committee to assist in progressing the principles of the Disability Discrimination Act. Many Australian Local Councils formed Access Committees and most of them currently still function.

A look at a random sample of 70 NSW Councils reveals that 44 have current Access Committees while 26 do not (refer to "Annexure C"). Most of the metropolitan and larger Councils did have an Access Committee while many of the smaller areas did not. It is likely that smaller Councils did not have an Access Committee due to factors such as;

- The smaller scale of the built environment
- Geographical dispersion and isolation of the communities
- Less financial resources to draw on within Councils' Social and Community Planning Portfolios.

At this point it is useful to take a look at two other Councils as case studies.

##### Case Study 1: Sydney City Council

In 2001, Sydney City Council ceased the operation of its Access Committee. The Committee had been functioning since 1990. This has been the source of much debate since with consistent efforts to re-establish the committee so far being unsuccessful. This has also been a source of much criticism of the Sydney City Council from many disability groups, organisations and individuals.

*"At best this decision reveals an impoverished intellectual and practical appreciation of a modern council's role in providing a forum in which access issues can be raised and dealt with in a professional manner."*

Source: "Sydney Mayor Winds Up Access Committee" - M.Laffan, accessibility.com.au Disability Information Resource, 2003

Although Sydney City Council has no Access Committee, they hold quarterly open forums on access issues, giving the public an opportunity to have input. The Council have recently created a new position "Inclusion Officer Disability" and are currently conducting a needs analysis as part of their new Disability Action Plan. This needs analysis will again examine the issue of a formal Access Committee.

Source: Joanna Nichol, Sydney City Council "Inclusion Officer Disability"

##### Case Study 2: Coffs Harbour City Council

Coffs Harbour City Council has a current and functioning Access Committee with a membership of approximately 10 persons including a Councillor, Council representative (Community Development Officer) a Council Planner, community members and service providers. The average number of people attending monthly meetings is approximately 6.

Other members of the public occasionally attend meetings to discuss specific issues that may arise, this is encouraged although these informal attendees have no voting rights at the

committee meetings.

The committee is an advisory committee and holds monthly meetings as well as a joint meeting with adjoining access committees (Bellingen and Nambucca) quarterly. The committee has formed a subcommittee (4 members) for the specific purpose of conducting site inspections and giving formal advice to Council on physical access issues.

The committee has a budget allocation of \$5000.00 per annum which has been used in the past for such initiatives as advertising, access maps, brochures, workshops and training.

The Community Development Officer advises that the Access Committee was an asset to Council resulting in many positive outcomes for Council and the community

Source: Louse Morris, Coffs Harbour City Council "Community Development Officer"

These case studies highlight several factors relevant to the Port Stephens Council such as;

- The importance of an Access Committee to the community
- The strong membership and participation of the Access Committee of Port Stephens
- That an Access Committee can be flexible based on the needs of the community they represent to produce positive outcomes for both Council and the community.

## **Review of the Access Committee of Port Stephens**

### **Membership**

Membership numbers have been strong since the inception of the Committee. Average attendance at monthly meetings is approximately 15 persons. All membership is on a voluntary basis.

Current membership of the Access Committee is a total of 58 members (15 service providers, 2 councillors, 1 Council representative and the remainder is made up of people with a disability, their family members, carers, and advocates plus other interested community members.)

The Committee executive is made up of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and a Council Representative who acts in the role of Treasurer and Secretary. The committee has in the past set up successful sub-committees (such as the Disabilities Picnic Subcommittee).

### **Representation**

The Access Committee currently has good geographic representation from the Local Government Area. Besides service providers that service the area, current members represent the following locations;

Soliders Point, Lemon Tree Passage, Nelson Bay, Medowie, Salamander Bay, Raymond Terrace, Anna Bay, Williamstown, Fullerton Cove, One Mile Beach, Shoal Bay, Corlette, Brandy Hill, Tanilba Bay, Eagleton and Fingal Bay.

Areas within the LGA that are currently under-represented include Karuah / Swan Bay and the Western Area.

### **Function And Achievements**

The Access Committee functions as a 355b Committee of Council and as such are bound by a constitution. The Committee is an advisory committee and holds monthly meetings which alternate between two fully accessible venues (Raymond Terrace Community Care Centre and Nelson Bay R.S.L Club), the Committee also holds an annual general meeting as well as a joint meeting with Port Stephens Councillors midyear.



Nelson Bay RSL Club

The role of the Access Committee is to:

- Raise awareness of access and/or disability issues in general
- Provide Council with information about current issues applicable to access and/or disabilities
- Provide a forum for identifying the physical, attitudinal and communication barriers to accessing services
- Provide comment on access issues in relation to development applications referred to the Committee
- Provide input into the development and review of policies, controls and plans impacting on people with disabilities.

Achievements of the Access Committee of Port Stephens to date are;

- Providing formal representation of interested parties to be involved in open communication with Council about relevant access issues
- Discussion and input into many relevant issues of physical access throughout the Local Government Area (such as improved access provisions at sporting facilities like the Lakeside Aquatic Centre, the Raymond Terrace Leisure Centre and the reinstatement of the Little Beach Access Ramp)
- Formulation and management of the very successful International Day of People with Disabilities Picnic Subcommittee



Portable accessible toilet provided at the Beresfield Driver Reviver site.

- Providing an important information sharing, support base and social outlet for people with a disability, their carers and families
- Successfully lobbying for the provision of accessible toilet facilities at the Beresfield Driver Reviver stop, the largest Driver Reviver stop in the Southern Hemisphere
- Many of the achievements of the 2001 - 2006 Disability Action Plan resulted from support and input from the Access Committee. Committee members assisted with tasks such as event organising, access audits and inspections as well as advising Council on access issues. For further information about the achievements of the 2001-2006 Disability Action Plan refer to "Review of the 2001 - 2006 Disability Action Plan" chapter within this document.

## Cost

The Access Committee has an annual budget allocation of \$500.00. This is used to cover a range of expenses such as venue hire for meetings, training, travel, advertising, administration and miscellaneous expenses. This budget allocation is less than some other 355b Committees of Council and is appropriate to cover the costs of the current functions of the committee.

The committee can continue to function effectively on it's existing budget however any extra budget allocations will enhance the committees impact and effectiveness on access issues within the Port Stephens Local Government Area.

Council's Disability Access Officer position can be seen as a resource of the Access Committee. This position is funded by Council for two days per week at cost of \$27,457.00 (including salary, leave entitlements and superannuation contributions). This does not take into account the cost of training and conference expenses, inkind support or administrative costs such as telephone, stationary and I.T equipment usage.

## Future Directions

There is nothing to indicate that the Access Committee will not continue to function as effectively as it has to date. The committee intends to continue with its current initiatives as well as attempt to increase representation within those areas currently under-represented. The Picnic Subcommittee will continue to co-ordinate the very successful International Day of People with Disabilities Picnic.

The committee will investigate establishing improved reporting procedures with Council by formalising recommendations via their meeting minutes as is currently done by Council's Traffic Committee.

## Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, the Access Committee of Port Stephens is a successful committee of Council. The cost of the committee is negligible considering the excellent benefit provided to Council that is then passed on to the entire community.



Annual International Day of People with Disabilities Picnic Little Beach



## 5. Overview of Port Stephens Council Disability Access Officer Position

The Disability Access Officer forms part of the Social Planning Team within Council's Community Planning Section, Community Planning falls within the Sustainable Planning Department of Council.



The position is a grade 13 public service part time position of 14 hours per week. The position summary states;

*"Through positive attitude and adherence to organisational values develop a range of strategies to improve accessibility to services for people with a disability".*

Source: Position Description: Port Stephens Council Disability Access Officer

Duties and responsibilities of the position are;

- Policy development and program delivery is undertaken in areas relevant to people with disabilities
- To convene and support Council's Disability Access Committee
- To implement Council's Access Policy via the Disability Action Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act (1992)
- To work as part of the Social Planning Team toward common goals of the Port Stephens community
- To develop communication and liaison networks with all areas of Council where decisions or actions affecting people with disabilities are made
- To liaise where time permits with external organisations involved with people with disabilities.

Currently the Disability Access Officer is carrying out these duties effectively within the 14 hours per week with some notable achievements of the position being;

- The development and implementation of the 2001 - 2005 Disability Action Plan
- Strong support of the Access Committee of Port Stephens
- Instigation and co-ordination of the Pedestrian Access Mobility Plans
- Review of disabled parking within the LGA and development of Council's PS2 Development Control Plan - "Parking and Traffic Guidelines"
- Comments and input provided regarding access on hundreds of relevant Development Applications
- Streamlining of processes surrounding comments and input regarding access on relevant Development Applications
- Co-ordination of the Little Beach Disabled Access Wharf project
- Ongoing positive public relations with other organisations, service providers, community groups and individuals within the LGA.

One question that often arises is "Is there a need for Port Stephens Council to assign a specific portfolio on ageing?" Some feel that there is an unmet need in the community for service provision and support of other service providers in relation to aged client groups. It follows that this portfolio would integrate well with the Disability Access portfolio as has been implemented in many other Australian Council's eg; Nannup Shire Council (Western Australia), Hepburn Shire Council (Victoria), Warnambool City Council (Victoria), Maroondah City Council (Victoria) and Fairfield City Council (NSW). This is because the needs of both the aged and the disabled overlap in many areas.



A strategy has been included in the Disability Action Plan to conduct a needs analysis on an aged portfolio and report the findings to Council.

As with the Access Committee of Port Stephens, any extra budget allocations would enhance the impact and effectiveness of the Disability Access Officer position on access issues within the Port Stephens Local Government Area.

**PHASE IV: Consultation Process**

“Community consultation is an important part of Council’s planning and review processes through which many members of the community have been able to have their say in the development of our plans”

Source: Port Stephens Council Plan 2005 - 2008

A consultation process was undertaken to draw input from a wide range of sources including people with disabilities, carers, community organisations and service providers. A variety of methods were employed to obtain the input including a written survey questionnaire (refer to Annexures A and B), formal and informal discussions, and an invitation of any written submissions.

The public consultation attracted a wide variety of participants including, people with disabilities, their families and service providers representing people with disabilities. Feedback received from this consultation process was analysed as part of the needs assessment for the Disability Action Plan. Input was prioritised and structured into the plan as specific strategies and actions.



## Integration With Existing Council Plans

The Disability Action Plan is aligned with relevant existing Council plans and policies. This ensures efficiency as the strategies and objectives of the plan are consistent with existing organisational goals.



These existing Port Stephens Council plans and policies include;

- 2005 - 2008 Council Plan
- Community and Social Plans and Policies
  - Including
    - 2006 - 2010 Social and Community Plan
    - Social Policy 2003
    - Disability Access Policy 2003
    - Pedestrian Access Mobility Plans
    - Cultural Plan
    - Crime Prevention Plan
- Urban Settlement Strategy 2002
- Infrastructure and Asset Management Strategy
- Development Control Plans
  - Including;
    - PS2 - Parking and Traffic Guidelines
    - PS10 - Building Standards and Notification Procedures for Development Applications
    - LD1 to LD17 (with the exception of LD13 which relates to water quality) are development guidelines for specific locations within the Port Stephens Local Government Area.
    - Draft Comprehensive Integrated DCP
- Open Space and Recreation Plans
- Employee Workplace Charter

The Disability Access Policy endorses all of the relevant principles of these plans within its strategies and actions.

## **Monitoring and Review**

The Disability Action Plan will be evaluated against the evaluation measures indicated within the plan as well as using alternate evaluation methods as required by the Disability Discrimination Act, including;

- 1) An annual survey will be conducted on each of the 3 strategies within the plan to establish their status.
- 2) Assessments will be conducted on any of the systems established as part of the plan to identify their status.

The plan a review component built in for midway (February 2008).

## Port Stephens Council 2006 - 2010 Disability Action Plan

<b>1) Supporting Disability Initiatives in Our Community;-</b>					
<i>"The voice of local residents with disabilities is valued and equitably captured by Council in its policy, plan making. Decision making and budget allocation processes."</i>					
<b>Identified Need</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Responsible Officer &amp;/or Potential Stakeholder</b>	<b>Evaluation Measures</b>
1.1 Provide a forum for local residents with disabilities to articulate their needs and aspirations	Co-ordinate and support Council's Access Committee	Meetings of the Access Committee of Port Stephens are convened monthly	ongoing	Disability Access Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•10 meetings are held annually including 1 joint meeting</li> <li>•Minutes &amp; Agendas from meetings are disseminated</li> </ul>
		A promotional strategy is developed for the Access Committee of Port Stephens	2007	Disability Access Officer	Access Committee Promotional Strategy in place
		Review the role, composition & effectiveness of the Access Committee to ensure it continues to represent the needs of the people	2007	Disability Access Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Access Committee review completed</li> <li>•Representation on the committee is from all geographical areas in the LGA</li> </ul>

**1) Supporting Disability Initiatives in Our Community;- (Continued)**

*"The voice of local residents with disabilities is valued and equitably captured by Council in its policy, plan making. Decision making and budget allocation processes."*

Identified Need	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	Responsible Officer &/or Potential Stakeholder	Evaluation Measures
1.2 Recognition of people with disabilities as valued & respected members of our community	Celebrate the International Day of People with Disabilities Picnic	Co-ordinate the planning and resourcing of the Annual International Day of People with Disabilities Picnic	annual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Disability Access Officer</li> <li>•International Day of People with Disabilities Picnic Sub-Committee</li> </ul>	Disability Access Officer co-ordinates the planning and resourcing of the Annual International Day of People with Disabilities Picnic
	Volunteer recognition	Formally recognise the efforts of volunteers that make positive contributions in relation to disability issues	ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Disability Access Officer</li> <li>•Access Committee of Port Stephens</li> </ul>	Volunteers are formally recognised
1.3 Low level of community awareness of available support services for people with disabilities	Improve communication and referral processes between local service providers and the local community	Facilitate a range of guest speakers at Access Committee Meetings	ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Disability Access Officer</li> <li>•Access Committee of Port Stephens</li> </ul>	At least 6 guest speakers at Access Committee meetings per annum

**1) Supporting Disability Initiatives in Our Community;- (Continued)**

*"The voice of local residents with disabilities is valued and equitably captured by Council in its policy, plan making. Decision making and budget allocation processes."*

Identified Need	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	Responsible Officer &/or Potential Stakeholder	Evaluation Measures
1.4 Low level of awareness by residents and visitors / tourists of accessible community support infrastructure (eg disabled toilets)	Map existing disability infrastructure in the Port Stephens LGA which people can readily access in user friendly formats	Explore options for integrating map data with existing services such as tourism publications and Councils website	June 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Disability Access Officer</li> <li>•Port Stephens Tourism</li> <li>•Access Committee of Port Stephens</li> </ul>	Disability infrastructure is mapped and available in readily accessible formats
1.5 Promote Council as an ambassador in relation to disability issues in the community	Increase awareness of Council's activities in the disability field	Facilitate the release of a range of targeted media articles highlighting Council's activities in the disability field	ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Disability Access Officer</li> </ul>	At least two key areas or events to be promoted to the public via the media annually
1.6 Ensure equity exists in Government disability funding to Port Stephens in comparison to other Hunter Councils	Undertake a comparative review of allocation of government disability funding to the Port Stephens LGA in comparison to other Hunter Council areas	Any areas of inequity in the allocation of funding are identified and an appropriate and co-ordinated advocacy strategy developed and initiated	Dec 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Disability Access Officer</li> <li>•Social Planning Co-ordinator</li> </ul>	Funding review completed and if necessary advocacy strategy developed and initiated

**1) Supporting Disability Initiatives in Our Community;- (Continued)**

*"The voice of local residents with disabilities is valued and equitably captured by Council in its policy, plan making. Decision making and budget allocation processes."*

Identified Need	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	Responsible Officer &/or Potential Stakeholder	Evaluation Measures
1.7 Co-ordination, planning, resourcing and delivery of services for the aged and people with disabilities (as identified in Council's 2006 - 2010 Social & Community Plan)	Improve co-ordination, planning, resourcing & delivery of services for the aged and people with disabilities	Conduct an audit of co-ordination, planning, resourcing & delivery of services for the aged and people with disabilities then develop and implement strategies for improving these	Dec 2007	Disability Access Officer	Audit completed and improvement strategies developed and implemented where appropriate
		Conduct a needs assessment of the aged population of the LGA and how Council can service those needs	Dec 2007	Disability Access Officer	Report prepared for Council on aged needs in Port Stephens LGA

## 2) Councils Business Practices;-

*"Council will take responsibility for removing discriminatory practices from it's plans, policies and programs. Council will also endeavour to provide the highest level of service delivery to all of our community."*

Identified Need	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	Responsible Officer &/or Potential Stakeholder	Evaluation Measures
2.1 Maintaining awareness of disability issues and changes in disability policy and legislation relating to local government activities	Keep Council staff informed and aware of relevant issues around people with a disability	Communicate relevant disability information through existing internal channels such as the intranet and internal newsletter	Ongoing	•Disability Access Officer •Business & Support (I.T)	Relevant information being communicated to staff
		Conduct access awareness days	Annually	Disability Access Officer	Access awareness days conducted annually
	Ensure Council staff are aware of their rights and obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act as well as Councils internal policies and plans with respect to disability	Develop an induction brochure to be included in orientation package for new staff	March 2007	•Disability Access Officer •Organisational Development	Induction brochure developed and being distributed to new staff
		Inform staff of any relevant disability legislation developments	Ongoing	Disability Access Officer	Relevant information being communicated to staff
		Brief Development Advisory Panel (DAP) Annually	Annually	•Disability Access Officer •Building and Development	Annual briefing session with DAP conducted
2.2 Ensure Council's Disability Program continues to respond to the needs and aspirations of people with disabilities	Ensure Council has a Disability Action Plan and Disability Access Policy that are kept up to date	Review Council's Disability Action Plan Progress Feb 2008	Feb 2008	Disability Access Officer	Disability Action plan review completed
		Review Council's Disability Access Policy	Feb 2008	Disability Access Officer	Disability Access Policy review completed
	Ensure Council's Disability Access Officer is working effectively to meet the needs of people with disabilities	Supervisor to conduct regular performance appraisals of the Disability Access Officer	ongoing	Social Planning Co-ordinator	Performance appraisals conducted



**2) Councils Business Practices;- (Continued)**

*"Council will take responsibility for removing discriminatory practices from it's plans, policies and programs. Council will also endeavour to provide the highest level of service delivery to all of our community."*

Identified Need	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	Responsible Officer &/or Potential Stakeholder	Evaluation Measures
2.3 Equitable consideration is given to disabled access provisions in the built environment	Ensure relevant development applications continue to be assessed by the Disability Access Officer	Continue to make comment on relevant development applications with respect to access	ongoing	•Disability Access Officer •Development & Building	Relevant development applications are being assessed by the Disability Access Officer
	Ensure an appropriate framework is in place to administer appropriate recognition and consideration is given to disabled access provisions in Council's development and assessment process	Review Council's development and assessment process and make any necessary changes	Dec 2009	Disability Access Officer	Development and assessment process review completed and necessary changes implemented

**3) Physical Access;-** *“Residents with disabilities can move around neighbourhoods either independently or with support”*

Identified Need	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	Responsible Officer &/or Potential Stakeholder	Evaluation Measures
3.1 Minimise physical barriers in the community for people with a disability	Increase patronage of available accessible public transport	Raise community awareness of available accessible public transport	Dec 2006	Disability Access Officer	Increased use of accessible public transport as indicated by transport providers
	Encourage the facilitation of community events and activities at venues that are fully accessible for people with disabilities	Liaise with the Cultural Development Officer about calendar of future events and venues	Ongoing	Disability Access Officer	75% of sampled community events are held at accessible venues for the period June 2007 to Dec 2007
	Continue to support the Councils Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan	Stay abreast of the plans progress and have input when relevant issues arise	Ongoing	Disability Access Officer	Disability Access Officer is familiar with status of PAMP and is actively involved
	Identify new physical access improvement opportunities and action them by integrating them into existing works programs	Create a system for capturing such information and a protocol for integration into existing works programs	July 2007	Disability Access Officer Engineering Services	System in place for capturing information System in place for integration into existing works programs
	Identify and support completion of work on major community facilities that enhance disabled access	Identify and keep record of relevant major works. Monitor progress of these works have input when relevant issues arise	Ongoing	Disability Access Officer	Disability Access Officer is familiar with status of current major community facilities that enhance disabled access
	Improve information sharing processes around physical access issues	Develop a system for capturing and addressing physical access issues raised by the community and integrate it with existing Council practices	June 2010	Disability Access Officer	System developed and integrated with existing practices

## References

- “A Busy Decade - 10th Anniversary review of the Disability Discrimination Act” Sev Ozdowski, The Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission’s Disability Discrimination Commissioner, 2003
- “Accessible Communities - Local government best practices examples of access and equity for people with disabilities.” Ohlin, O’Donoghue and Closhessy - The Australian Local Government Association, 1996
- Current Registered Disability Action Plans for the following N.S.W Councils; Ashfield, Blue Mountains, Botany Bay, Burwood, Canterbury, Gosford, Holroyd, Kogarah, Lake Macquarie, Leichardt, Maitland, Marrickville, Newcastle, Parramatta, Penrith, Queanbeyan, Ryde, Strathfield, Wagga Wagga, Waverley.
- Disability Discrimination Act (1992)
- “Disability Discrimination Act - A Guide to Best Practice in Local Government” The Australian Local Government Association 1995
- “Global Disability”, Hawkins et al. Statewide press. 2002
- “Disability Research Brief: Supporting Ageing Caregivers and Adults with Developmental Disabilities in Future Planning”. Institute on Disability & Human Development. University of Illinois, Chicago. 2005
- Port Stephens Council publications;
  - 2004 Community Profile
  - 30 Year Plan for Port Stephens 1998
  - 2005 - 2008 Council Plan
  - 2006 - 2010 Social and Community Plan
  - Social Policy 2003
  - Disability Action Plan 2001 - 2006
  - Disability Access Policy 2003
  - Pedestrian Access Mobility Plans
  - Cultural Plan
  - Crime Prevention Plan 2006 - 2010
  - Urban Settlement Strategy 2002
  - Open Space and Recreation Plans
  - Employee Workplace Charter
  - Position Description: Disability Access Officer
  - Development Control Plans;
    - PS2 - Parking and Traffic Guidelines
    - PS10 - Building Standards and Notification Procedures for Development Applications
    - LD1 to LD17 (with the exception of LD13) development guidelines
- “Sydney Mayor Winds Up Access Committee” - M.Laffan,,accessibility.com.au Disability Information Resource, 2003

## Websites:

- [www.agewell.org.nz](http://www.agewell.org.nz), “Health Promotion for Older People in New Zealand”
- [www.pdcnsw.org.au](http://www.pdcnsw.org.au) “Physical Disability Council of NSW”
- [www.paraquad-nsw.asn.au](http://www.paraquad-nsw.asn.au) – “Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Association of NSW”
- [www.visionaustralia.org.au](http://www.visionaustralia.org.au) - “Vision Australia: Blindness and Low Vision Services”
- [www.guidedogs.com.au](http://www.guidedogs.com.au) - Guide Dogs NSW and ACT

**“ANNEXURE A”**

Port Stephens Council May 2006 Disability Survey  
Questions for external stakeholders

1) What do you think are the main issues facing people with a disability in the Port Stephens Local Government Area?

- Disabled parking
- Physical access in the community
- Under representation
- Employment
- Education
- Health
- Housing
- Crime
- Discrimination
- Public Transport
- Lack of services
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

2) What do you think should be the priorities for future allocation of funding and resources of the Port Stephens Council to best serve people with a disability in the Port Stephens Local Government area?

- Improving physical access to;
    - disabled parking
    - shops
    - medical services
    - disabled toilets
    - footpaths, cycleways and pedestrian areas
    - public transport
    - other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
  - sporting and recreational amenities
  - schools and other educational institutions
  - tourist destinations
  - any proposed new public building or amenity
- 
- Annual International Day of People with Disabilities Little Beach Picnic
  - The Port Stephens Access Committee
  - Mobility maps of the Port Stephens area
  - Education about disability;
    - for Council staff
    - for businesses
    - in the general community
    - in schools
    - other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

3) If you are a service provider, what are the long term priorities of your service in relation to people with a disability?

4) Do you have any current data relating to people with disabilities in the Port Stephens area?

5) Any other relevant comments

**"ANNEXURE B"**

Port Stephens Council May 2006 Disability Survey  
Questions for Port Stephens Council staff

- 1) With reference to the above objectives from Council's previous Disability Action Plan, what do you consider should be the objectives of our new Disability Action Plan for the next five years?
  
- 2) What do you consider to be the key challenges ahead for Council in terms of people with disabilities in the next five years and beyond?
  
- 3) What do you see Council's role being in the area of people with disabilities both now and in the future?
  
- 4) Do you have any ideas of how we could better support and resource our disability program?
  
- 5) Do you have any suggestions on how we can better integrate our disability program across Council?
  
- 6) How could our new Disability Action Plan better align with your Section Business Plan and Council's Council Plan?
  
- 7) What would you like to see included in Councils' new Disability Action Plan?
  
- 8) What do you see as being the future role of Council's Access Committee?
  
- 9) Would any of the following be of benefit to employees within your section?
  - Education on current disability issues relevant to their workstream
  - Improved communication about current disability issues relevant to their workstream
  - Streamlining or updating of certain procedures with respect to disability issues
  - Other (please specify)
  
- 10) Any other relevant comments?

**“ANNEXURE C”**

A random sample of 70 NSW Councils indicating  
which ones have a current Access Committee.

Council	Access Committee		Council	Access Committee	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Albury City Council	X		Coolamon Shire Council		X
Armidale Dumaresq Council		X	Cooma-Monaro Shire Council	X	
Ashfield Municipal Council	X		Coonamble Shire Council		X
Auburn Council	X		Cootamundra Shire Council	X	
Ballina Shire Council		X	Corowa Shire Council		X
Balranald Shire Council	X		Cowra Shire Council	X	
Bankstown City Council		X	Deniliquin Council		X
Bathurst City Council		X	Dubbo City Council		X
Baulkham Hills Shire Council	X		Dungog Shire Council		X
Bega Valley Shire Council	X		Eurobodalla Shire Council		X
Bellingen Shire Council		X	Fairfield City Council	X	
Berrigan Shire Council		X	Gosford City Council	X	
Blacktown City Council	X		Hornsby Shire Council	X	
Bland Shire Council	X		Hunter's Hill Council	X	
Blayney Shire Council			Kempsey Shire Council	X	
Blue Mountains City Council	X		Ku-ring-gai Council	X	
Bogan Shire Council		X	Kyogle Council	X	
Bombala Council		X	Lane Cove Municipal Council	X	
Boorowa Council		X	Lismore City Council	X	
Botany Bay City Council	X		Liverpool City Council	X	
Bourke Shire Council		X	North Sydney Council	X	
Brewarrina Shire Council		X	Randwick City Council	X	
Broken Hill City Council	X		Richmond Valley Council	X	
Burwood Council	X		Ryde City Council	X	
Byron Shire Council	X		Shellharbour City Council	X	
Cabonne Shire Council	X		Strathfield Municipal Council	X	
Camden Council		X	Sutherland Shire Council		X
Campbelltown City Council	X		Tamworth City Council		X
Canada Bay Council	X		Tumut Shire Council		X
Canterbury City Council	X		Tweed Shire Council	X	
Carrathool Shire Council		X	Warringah Council	X	
Central Darling Shire Council		X	Waverley Council	X	
Cessnock City Council	X		Willoughby City Council	X	
Clarence Valley Council	X		Woollahra Municipal Council	X	
Cobar Shire Council		X	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>26</b>
Coffs Harbour City Council	X				
Conargo Shire Council		X			