



DISABILITY INCLUSION ACT 2014 (NSW)

DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

2022-2026



LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Under the NSW Disability Inclusion Act (2014) each council in NSW must have a Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) which includes 4 areas of focus:

1. Positive community attitudes and behaviours
2. Liveable communities
3. Meaningful employment
4. Accessible systems and processes

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

This is a corporate plan which outlines strategies for Nambucca Valley Council, in its role as a service provider that will eliminate discrimination against people with a disability and actively promote inclusion.

AIM

To develop and implement strategies which assist Nambucca Valley Council to work towards becoming an accessible community to all people, regardless of their abilities or disability.

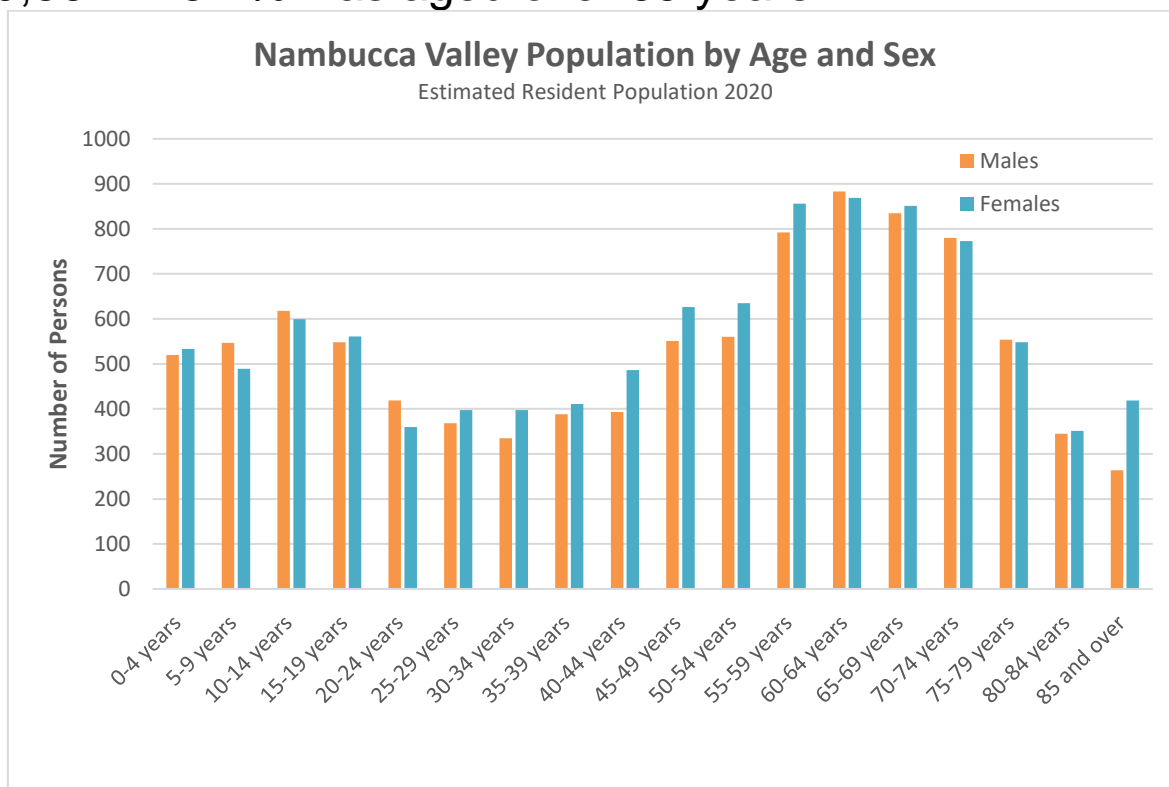
COMMUNITY INCLUSION POLICY STATEMENT

Nambucca Valley Council promotes and facilitates inclusion by:

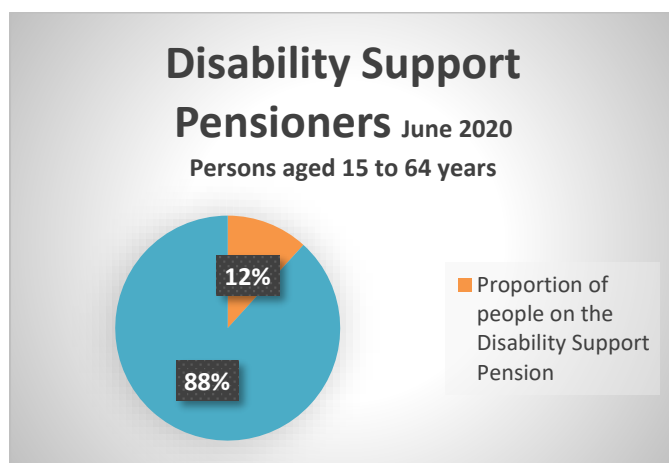
- 1 Raising awareness and understanding of disability inclusion through, information and programs involving the community, businesses, Council staff and Councillors.
- 2 Ensuring that Council creates opportunities which include people with disability.
- 3 Providing access to services and facilities for people with disability.
- 4 Facilitating communication and consultation with the local community.
- 5 Monitoring the needs of people with disability and responding to those needs.

NAMBUCCA VALLEY POPULATION

The estimated resident population at 30 June 2020 was 19,861. 28.7% was aged over 65 years.



Modelling by the ABS in 2018 estimates that 5,051 persons (25.1% of the population) had a disability, and of these 1,813 (9.3% of the population) had a profound or severe core activity limitation.



1,383 persons rely on the Disability Support Pension (ABS 2020).

CONSULTATION IN SUMMARY

Community Survey March 2022

The survey included the following questions which could be completed online, in hard copy, by using Voiceover or with other assistance. There were 36 responses.

1. My age is:
2. I identify as: (gender)
3. I live in or closest to...
4. Which of the following describes you best?
(carer/person with a disability/interested member of community)
5. What do you think needs to be done in the community to change attitudes and behaviour towards people with disabilities?
6. What is the most important for making the community liveable for people with disabilities?
7. What is the most important for improving employment opportunities for people with disabilities?
8. There are different ways you can get information or provide feedback about access issues to Council. Please tick the ones you are aware of.
9. How can we make Council information easier to read, get hold of and understand?
10. What can Nambucca Valley Council do to make the community better for people with a disability?

CONSULTATION IN SUMMARY (continued)

What you want:

- Council needs to listen
- Increased awareness – people with disability are visible, there is participation, education and inclusion
- Improvements in physical environment – ramps, remove steps, more footpaths
- Accessible businesses
- Employment opportunities

Face-to-Face Meetings

These have been limited during the development of the Plan mainly due to Covid restrictions.

The key face-to-face interaction has been via the Council's Access Committee with monthly meetings when possible. People with disabilities are represented at all meetings.

CONSULTATION IN SUMMARY (continued)

Customer Satisfaction Survey December 2021

Results from a random telephone survey of 400 adult residents in the Nambucca Valley, conducted by Taverner Research Group on behalf of Nambucca Valley Council have informed the DIAP.

Key results relating to communications and the DIAP are:

- Residents still prefer lodging applications and forms face-to-face (41%, though using the website is now a close second at 40%)
- They prefer to phone when requesting to fix something (40%, followed by face-to-face on 27%)
- Council's website is the preferred medium for providing feedback (36%, followed by face-to-face at 22%)
- Two-thirds now prefer to make payments online.

Public toilets, footpaths and cycle ways were identified as priorities for the community. These have significant outcomes for people with disabilities.

PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION

PROMOTING POSITIVE COMMUNITY ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOURS

Aim: To support the development of positive attitudes towards people with disability and to build community awareness of their rights and abilities.

Council will:

- Support the Access Committee to continue its advisory and promotional work on inclusion and access. The Access Committee will review the DIAP annually and report progress to the community and Council.
- Conduct meetings of Council within the community at accessible venues with accessible facilities.
- Promote accessible business and tourism.

CREATING LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

Aim: To increase participation of people with disability in all aspects of community life, through targeting approaches to address barriers.

PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION (continued)

Council will:

- Implement a program to improve accessible public toilets. Target – new amenities at the V-Wall Nambucca Heads and upgrade toilets to access standards in the Nambucca Heads Community and Arts Centre.
- Construct a Dressing Room and disability access for performers at the Bowraville Theatre.
- Replace the boardwalk between the Visitor Information Centre and Bellwood Park, Nambucca Heads.
- Prepare a Pedestrian Access Management Plan (PAMP) for Scotts Head and Valla Beach.
- Fence the children’s playground in Ferry Street Macksville.
- Undertake a survey design project to see if we can construct better pedestrian access to Shelly Beach Nambucca Heads.
- Construct a footpath linking Walter Munro Close with Cooper Street Macksville improving access to the children’s playground.
- Implement the following improvements to the footpath network:

Vernon Street (west), Scotts Head:

Install a **200m** long, 2.0m wide footpath, linking Scotts Head Public School to the Scotts Head west residential area and linking both to the Buz Brazil sports fields.

PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION (continued)

Vernon Street (east), Scotts Head:

Install a **170m** long, 1.2m wide footpath, linking Scotts Head public school to the Scotts Head east residential and beaches.

Matilda Street, Macksville:

Provision of blisters and ramps to reduce the distance school children have to walk across Matilda Street, adjacent to a busy Intersection

West Street, Macksville:

Provision of a **50m** long, 1.2m wide footpath linking a children's crossing to nearby residents.

Boundary Street, Macksville:

Provision of a **235m** long, 2.0m wide footpath linking a children's crossing to Macksville footpath network on Princess Street. This route is regularly used by large groups of school children to access the sporting and environmental facilities.

Whaites Street, Nambucca Heads:

Provision of a **100m** long, 1.2m wide footpath providing a missing link in the footpath network between nearby residents.

Footpath extension - St Mary's Bowraville:

Install a **55m** footpath link between school and nearby intersection.

PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION (continued)

SUPPORTING ACCESS TO MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT

Aim: To increase the number of people with disability in meaningful employment, thereby enabling people with disability to plan for their future and exercise choice and control as a result of economic security.

Council will:

- Implement and then review the Equal Employment Policy and Equal Employment Management Plan 2021-2023.
- Maintain a recruitment website meets access standards.
- Provide work spaces which meet the access needs of employees.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO MAINSTREAM SERVICES THROUGH BETTER SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

Aim: To ensure that people with disability are able to make informed choices about available services and to easily and efficiently access mainstream government services and other opportunities in the community.

PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION (continued)

Council will:

- Manage its website to continue to meet WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines).
- Work with telecommunications providers to improve mobile phone and internet availability in rural areas. Target – installation of a Macro telecommunications tower at South Arm; pole antennas at Burrapine Hall and Valla Beach; and the NBN at Girralong Rural Fire Service (RFS), Taylors Arm RFS and Burrapine Hall.

REPORTING and MEASURING PROGRESS

This plan outlines the key targets over the next 4 years. Resourcing or money for works is listed in the annual Operational Plan. Progress on the Plan will be reported annually in Council's Annual Report.

Nambucca Valley Council

PO Box 177, MACKSVILLE NSW 2447

Telephone: 02 6568 2555

Email: council@nambucca.nsw.gov.au

Website: nambucca.nsw.gov.au