



Easy English information from Central Coast Council

Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021–2025

July, 2021



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How to read this book



We have written this book in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

You can ask someone to help you read it.

In this book, '**we**' means Central Coast Council.

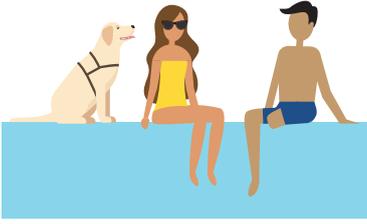


This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word:

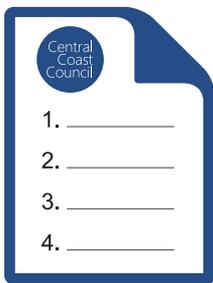
- the hard word is in **blue**
- we write what the hard word means.

Central Coast Council's plan



We want the Central Coast to be a place where all people can join in and be included.

There are laws that say Council must make sure people with disability can get all the same help and services as other people.



So we have made a **Disability Inclusion Action Plan**. We call it a **Plan**.

The **Plan** means what Council will do to make sure that people with disability can:

- join in all the things that Council offers
- get the same help and information that other people can get.



This book tells you about the Disability Inclusion Action Plan. The whole plan is at www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/project-stage/disability-inclusion-action-plan

The Plan has actions that Council will do over the next 4 years.



We want to know if you think this is a good plan or not.

There is information on the last page of this book about how you can tell us what you think.

Before we made the Plan, we talked with people on the Central Coast who:



- have a disability
- are carers or family members
- work in disability jobs.

We asked people how we could make the Coast more **accessible**.



Accessible means that something is easy to use. It also means a place is easy to get to and easy to get around.

We also asked people how we could make the Coast more **inclusive**.



Inclusive means that everyone can join in.

We took what people said and used that information to help make the Plan.

The Plan is about these 4 things:



- **Attitudes and behaviours:**

This means helping people to understand disability. It also means helping people to treat people with disability better.



- **Liveable communities:**

This means making it easier to go to places and join in activities and events.



- **Employment:**

This means making it easier to get a good job.



- **Systems and processes:**

This means making it easier to get information and do things with Council.

Council will work on these 4 things in the ways listed below.



Attitudes and behaviours

This is about helping people to understand disability and treat people with disability better.



People with disability told us these things:

- sometimes they are treated badly because they have a disability
- people often don't know about disability that you can't see, like autism or mental illness
- they would like to see more pictures and stories about people with disability in Council books and on the website
- people who work for Council or in local businesses need to know how to work with people with disability
- we need services especially for people with disability who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or born outside Australia.



So Council will do these things:



- help people to understand disability better and how some disabilities can't be seen



- teach Council workers and local business people how to make things easier for people with disability and how to include them



- remind people that accessible toilets and parking are for people with disability



- include more good pictures and stories about people with disability from lots of different backgrounds.



Liveable communities

This means making it easier to go to places and join in activities and events.

People with disability told us these things:



- it should be easier to go to the beach, or the lake or the bush
- footpaths need to be safe and go to the right places



- we need more toilets that are easy for people who use a wheelchair
- that Council should have events and activities that are easy for people with disability to join in.



So Council will do these things:



- make it easier for people with disability to enjoy beaches, parks and bushland
- fix footpaths, accessible toilets and parking
- plan events and activities that are easier for people with disability to join in
- make sure Council workers think about making places and things easy for everyone to use.





Employment

This is about making it easier to get a good job.

People with disability told us these things:

- **employers** need to give us a chance to do a job and see what we can do well

Employers are the people who give jobs to other people



- employers need to be happy to make changes and give us the help we need



- there should be all sorts of jobs for people with disability, including people who are starting work for the first time and higher level jobs for people who already have skills and experience



- people with disability should also get a chance to build their skills and learn to be leaders



- Council could help people with disability who want to start their own business.



So Council will do these things:

- make it easier for people with disability to know about jobs and apply for them
- give more support to Council workers with disability and make sure they get the chance to get better at their job
- look for ways to help people with disability who want to start a business.





Systems and processes

This is about making it easier to get information and do things with Council.



People with disability told us that Council should do these things:

- have workers who know about disability
- tell people what places and activities are accessible, so people with disability can plan what to do
- have information that is easy to read and in **Auslan**, including about what is on and how to get help



Auslan is the sign language used by people in Australia who are deaf



- make sure that information about local **emergencies** is available to all people with disability

Emergencies are things like bushfires, floods and storms



- make sure that people with disability can say what they think about what Council does.

So Council will do these things:



- keep meeting with the **Access and Inclusion Reference Group** so Council knows what is important for people with disability

The **Access and Inclusion Reference Group** is a group of people with disability and disability workers. They help Council understand how to make things better for people with disability. They helped to make this plan.



- have better information on how things are accessible



- have more information that is easy to read and in Auslan



- make it easier to talk with or do a job with Council.



At the end of each year Council tells everyone what it did in the last year in a book called an **annual report**.

An **annual report** is a report about what council did over the year.



The annual report is put on Council's website. It will include what actions have been done from this plan.



More information

If you want to tell us what you think of this Plan or if you want more information, you can:



- go to our website www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/project-stage/disability-inclusion-action-plan



- or call Celia Pennycook on 0438 624 774



- or email Celia Pennycook at celia.pennycook@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au



- or ask someone else to help you.

You can also talk with Jodie, the Council Disability Inclusion Officer:



- call Jodie on 0418 430 987



- or email Jodie at jodie.frost-foster@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Or you can call Central Coast Council using:



- National Relay Service/TTY: 133677
- Speak and Listen: 1300 555 727