

Disability Access and Participation

PURPOSE

To work towards full community participation for people with a disability by seeking to positively influence the social, economic, physical and technological environment.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all works and services provided by Moira Shire Council.

DEFINITIONS

The World Health Organisation defines disability in the following terms:

In the context of health experience, a disability is any restriction or lack of ability (resulting from impairment) to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being.

Disability

The loss or reduction of functional ability which results from impairment.

Impairment

An anatomical or functional abnormality or loss which may or may not result in a disability.

POLICY

1. The Victorian Government's State Disability Plan

Council supports the following guiding principles, which are the values that underpin the vision and all other elements of the State Disability Plan.

The Principle of Equality recognises that people with a disability are citizens who have the right to be respected and the right to have equal opportunities to participate in the social, economic, cultural, political and spiritual life of society.

As citizens, people with a disability also have equal responsibilities towards Victorian society and should be supported to exercise these.

The Principle of Dignity and Self-Determination (Choice) is about respecting and valuing the knowledge, abilities and experiences that people with a disability possess, supporting them to make choices about their lives, and enabling each person to live the life they want to live.

The Principle of Diversity is about recognising and valuing individual difference. Inclusive societies are strengthened by the diversity of their populations and by the contribution that each person makes to the social, economic, cultural, political and spiritual life of society.

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The Principle of Non-Discrimination implies that all people have the right to live their lives free from discrimination. This means that society must set right all forms of discrimination - including both active and passive forms of discrimination, and unfair and outdated standards, laws, policies and practices.

It also means recognising and valuing people's differences. Failing to embrace these differences is itself discriminatory.

2. Municipal Public Health Plan

Council's Municipal Public Health Plan will include actions to promote all abilities access and inclusion, replacing the former All Abilities Action Plan.

The Municipal Public Health Plan is structured in three sections: Early Years; Youth; and Family / Aged. Actions are formulated for each section using the five pillars identified in the Council Plan:

- Liveable Shire
- Health Living
- Growing Shire
- Our Environment
- Working Together

Specific actions to assist Council work towards eliminating barriers to full community participation of people with disabilities will be identified for inclusion during development of the Municipal Public Health Plan.

Implementation of actions within the plan will take place in accordance with Council's budget priorities.

RELATED POLICIES

Council Policy Protocol

RELATED LEGISLATION

Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006
Disability Services Act 1991
Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)
Equal Opportunity Act 1995
Local Government Act 1989

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Date Adopted 18 February 2008
To be Reviewed 18 February 2011



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REFERENCES

Moira Shire Council's Municipal Public Health Plan
Department of Human Services (2001), *Victorian State DisAbility Plan*
2002-2012

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed three years from the date of adoption, with operational amendments as required in accordance with Council's approval.

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