

Disability Access and Inclusion

Council Policy - Strategic	
Corporate Plan Link:	Our Vibrant Communities
Policy Owner:	City Operations
Responsible Manager:	Manager, Community Services, Sport and Recreation
Date Approved by Council:	28 March 2017
Next Review Date:	1 July 2025
Version:	3.1

Objective

This policy provides a framework through which Council will work towards improving the accessibility of its infrastructure, services and information for people with a disability, and ensure its compliance with relevant legislation and standards.

Statement

The City of Moreton Bay (Council), through its Corporate Plan, is committed to providing services that delivery our community's shared vision: *Our Moreton Bay. Amazing places. Natural spaces.* This policy supports 'Our Vibrant Communities Goal and the outcomes in the Community Wellbeing Strategy 2042, particularly "We have respectful, inclusive and engaged communities that value diversity and sustain connections to people and places".

Council's vision is for all residents and visitors to have full and equal access to the infrastructure, services and opportunities of the City of Moreton Bay region. However, Council acknowledges that in comparison to other members of the community, people with a disability may face additional challenges and barriers to participating in community life.

As a key provider of community infrastructure, services and information, Council acknowledges its important role in supporting the liveability of the City of Moreton Bay for people with a disability. Further, Council recognises and embraces its responsibilities under State and Commonwealth legislation, including the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cwth) and the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* (Qld).

This policy aims to affirm Council's commitment to incorporating the principles of accessibility and anti-discrimination into all aspects of Council's functions, in addition to ensuring compliance with its legislative obligations.

Council will endeavour to:

- ensure that new infrastructure is built to the applicable accessibility standards and incorporates universal design principles;
- where practical, progressively optimise the accessibility of existing infrastructure;
- where appropriate, advocate to other levels of government to improve the accessibility of public infrastructure and services beyond Council's control;
- ensure that all services are delivered free of discrimination on the basis of an individual's level of ability;
- ensure that services and information are designed and delivered to enable accessibility to people with a disability;
- foster an organisational culture that values the participation of people with a disability in services and programs;
- raise team member awareness of accessibility issues through the provision of appropriate training;
- promote a positive image of people with a disability throughout the City of Moreton Bay;

- engage with the disability community to better understand key accessibility issues related to infrastructure, services and information; and
- develop and implement a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan to guide Council's prioritisation of, and investment in, accessibility initiatives throughout the Council area.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

Council is committed to adopting a strategic approach towards the identification and progressive resolution of barriers that people with a disability may face when accessing infrastructure, services and information. This will be achieved through the development and implementation of a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan will focus solely on the infrastructure and service delivery responsibilities of local government, distinct to those of the Federal Government, State Government, private enterprise and the community services sector. It will take a practical and fiscally responsible approach to the development and implementation of strategic and operational priorities that improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of infrastructure, services and information over time.

Application

This policy applies to Council infrastructure and services and is to be read in conjunction with the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

Related Documents

Relevant legislation

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cwth)*
- *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (Qld)*

Council documents

- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2018-2022

Definitions

Term	Definition
Accessibility	Enabling the reasonable use of council infrastructure, open space, services, resources and information by people with a disability.
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of Moreton Bay City Council.
Council	Moreton Bay City Council or City of Moreton Bay.
Councillor	The Mayor and all Councillors of Moreton Bay City Council.
Disability	Any condition that restricts a person's mental, sensory or mobility functions. It may be caused by accident, trauma, genetics or disease. A disability may be temporary or permanent, total or partial, lifelong or acquired, visible or invisible (Australian Network on Disability).
Disability community	People with a disability, their families, carers, advocates and service providers.
Infrastructure	Structures and facilities owned or controlled by Council, including buildings, public amenities, pathways, car parks and outdoor recreation facilities and equipment.
Services	Includes functions and activities delivered by Council such as its call centres, libraries, events and website.
Team member	All employees of Council, whether employed on a permanent, temporary, or part-time basis and includes volunteers and employees of businesses and entities contracted to provide services to, or on behalf of Council.

Document Control

Official Version: ECM71718739				
Version	Approval	Date	Description	Word Version
1.0	Council	28.3.2017	New policy. Approved by the Coordination Committee (17/419).	A14958546
2.0	Delegate	5.3.2019	Administrative amendments only. Approved by Director Community and Environmental Services.	A18105115
3.0	Delegate	29.9.2020	Administrative amendments only. Approved by Director Community and Environmental Services.	A20867640
3.1	Delegate	11.10.2024	Minor administrative amendments only. Approved by the General Manager, Governance and Executive Services in accordance with Council's Policy Framework (71718673).	ECM68421197