

Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Summary document



2022-2025



CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Statement of Commitment	4
Policy and Legislative Context	5
Community Profile	6
Progress to Date	8
Strategies and Actions.....	9
Promote Positive Attitudes And Behaviours	9
Create Liveable Communities	10
Support Access To Meaningful Employment	11
Improve Access To Services Through Improved Systems And Processes.....	12
Delivering The Plan.....	13

INTRODUCTION

About this plan

We want our community to be a place where all people can participate equally. This plan explains the actions we will take to improve the opportunity for people with disability to live fulfilling and meaningful lives in Lockhart Shire across the following four key focus areas:

- Promote positive attitudes and behaviours
- Create liveable communities
- Support access to meaningful employment
- Improve access to services through improved systems and processes

These actions have been incorporated into the Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032 (CSP). The CSP outlines the ten-year aspirations and priorities of our community, and the strategies to achieve the community's desires.

Developing our plan

Local Government is required by the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (DIA) to undertake disability inclusion action planning by 1 July 2017. We have integrated our DIAP into our Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework to ensure disability inclusion is considered by all levels of community and our organisation. Lockhart Shire Council commenced integrated Disability Inclusion Action Planning in September 2016.

In October 2016, we conducted a review of Council's policies and strategies, and delivered three workshops with Council staff to identify and map potential barriers and improvements across Council's portfolio. In late October 2016, we held two consultation forums for people with a disability, their families and carers, and disability service providers. We also sought community input through an online survey.

The findings were collated and analysed and we presented these to Council in November 2016. From here, strategies and actions were prepared and integrated into the CSP 2017-2027 and Delivery Program which was adopted in February 2017.

Following the Local Government elections held in December 2021 the newly elected Council reviewed the CSP. Building on the progress that had been made to date a revised CSP 2022-2032 was adopted by Council in April 2022.

This document is a summary of the disability inclusion action plan items from the updated CSP.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Our community believes it is important that our community is inclusive and accessible to everyone. Our Community Vision as reflected in the CSP 2022-2032 is:

In 2032, we are:

- Deeply connected to the land and proud of our independence
- Dynamic, resilient and have a strong sense of community
- Passionate for innovation and diverse opportunities and
- Welcoming, vibrant, inclusive, accessible and value the rights of people equally.

Lockhart Shire Council acknowledges the Community Vision 2032 and is committed to making our community more inclusive, accessible and a place where we value the rights of people equally. We will do this by:

- Developing positive community attitudes and behaviours
- Creating liveable communities
- Supporting access to meaningful employment and
- Improving access to services through better systems and process.

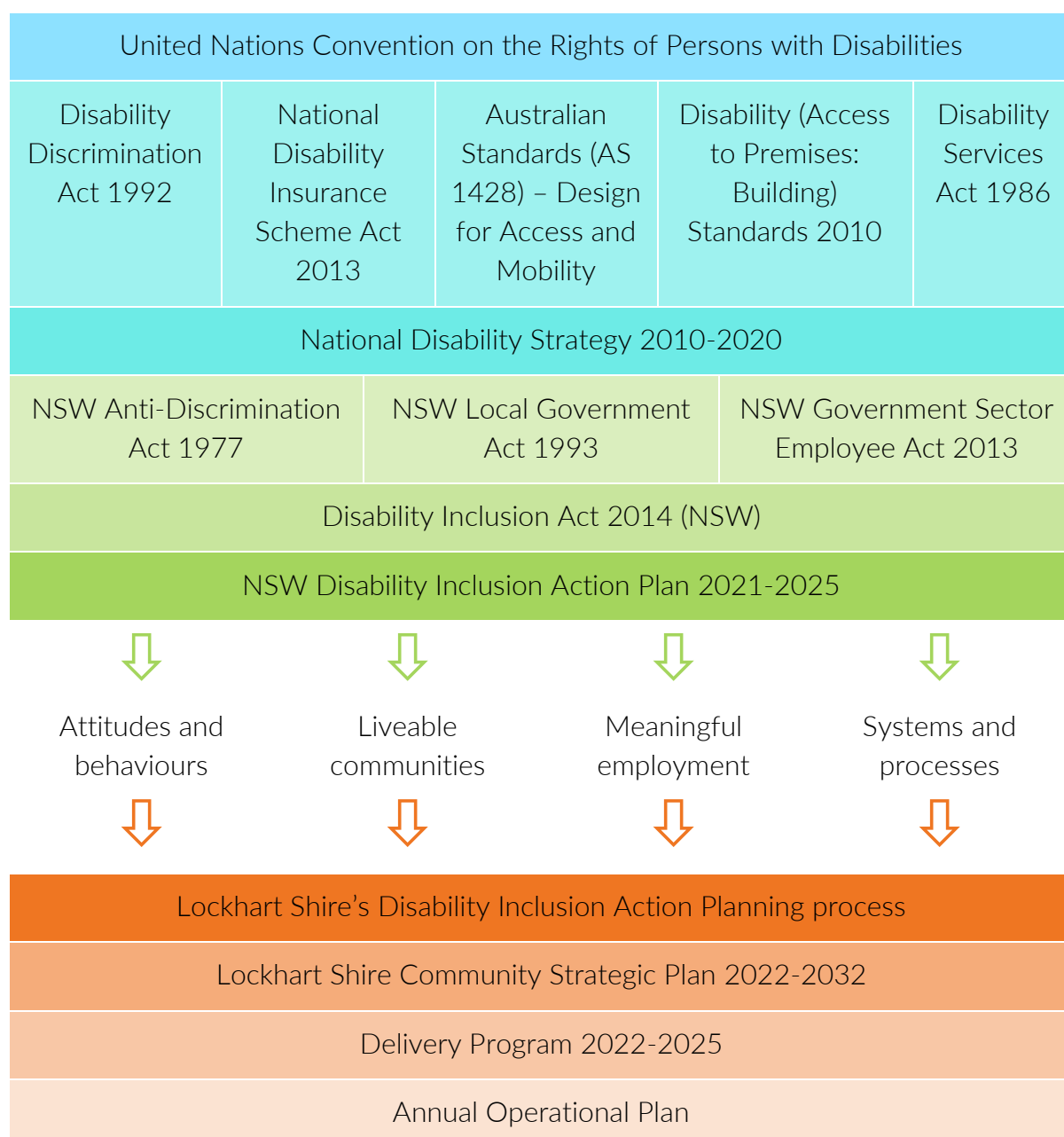


The Rock Avenue of Honour

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

People with disability, their families and carers have the same rights as all people to access services and facilities in their community. The rights are part of State and Commonwealth policy and legislation which make it unlawful to discriminate against a person with disability.

The plan sets out to achieve the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to ensure the equal rights and opportunities for all persons with disability are protected and promoted. This plan is aligned with the NSW Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021-2025.



COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Lockhart Shire covers an area of 2,942 km² and is located in the Southern Riverina area of New South Wales. With a population of 3,259 the Shire includes the townships of Lockhart and The Rock and the villages of Milbrulong, Osborne, Urangeline, Yerong Creek and Pleasant Hills.

The Shire has a vibrant and varied history and is renowned for the majestic landform of Galore Hill and The Rock Hill. The Lockhart Shire area was known for bushranger activity in the 1860s.

Lockhart Shire is the centre of farming excellence. Fertile soils led to agriculture flourishing, firstly as a grazing district and, with the advent of cropping, became a prosperous mixed farming area. Today, its proud history is reflected in the agricultural initiatives and distinction for which the Shire has become renowned. The Shire's agriculture continues to produce quality grain, prime lamb and beef, with the wool industry still an integral part of its agricultural diversity.

The Shire, which offers the full range of lifestyle options, has grown in popularity, both as a place to live and as a place of business. With close proximity to the major regional centres of Wagga Wagga and Albury, the Shire still relies on a strong primary industry supported by a number of secondary and service industries. Tourism, especially heritage and eco-tourism, have seen good positive growth over recent years

Community facilities and sporting activities are an important part of the community, with numerous facilities, parks and reserves catering for the community. These places create a strong sense of community connection and strengthen the relationships held within the community



Pleasant Hills – Matt Beaver Photography 2022

POPULATION



MEDIAN AGE



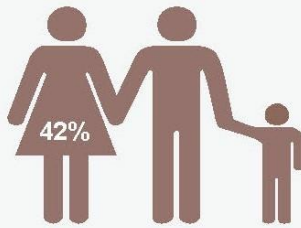
AGE GROUPS

14% aged 45-54 years
14% aged 5-14 years
16% aged 55-64 years

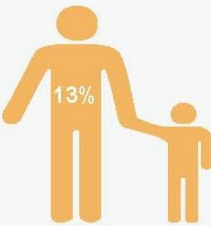
FAMILY TYPES



Couple families without children



Couple with children



One parent families

LABOUR FORCE

Part time 30%
Full time 60%
Unemployed 4%
Away from work 6%

INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT

Agricultural, forestry and fishing 41%
Transport, postal and warehousing 10%
Construction 10%

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDEX FOR AREAS (SEIFA)



DISABILITY

193 people need care and assistance with core activities

312 people provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability

PROGRESS TO DATE

This plan explains the actions we will take to improve the opportunity for people with disability to live fulfilling and meaningful lives in Lockhart Shire.

These actions have been incorporated into the Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032.

Following the Local Government elections held in December 2021 the newly elected Council reviewed the CSP building on the progress that had been made to date and a revised CSP 2022-2032 was adopted by Council in April 2022. This progress includes:



- Providing financial support to community/ volunteer-based organisations, including section 355 management committees, to support access to programs and events.
- Incorporating all abilities access into new community infrastructure projects such as the upgrades of the Lockhart recreation ground amenities building, the Lockhart and The Rock swimming pools and the Lockhart Caravan Park.
- Incorporating access and inclusion principles in event management plans approved by Council.
- Incorporating access and inclusion principles in Council's development application assessment processes.

New footpaths and pram ramps at The Rock

- Undertaking footpath and disabled access upgrades in Lockhart and The Rock with funds secured under the Drought Communities Programme Extension.
- Including all abilities access to local businesses in the Masterplan for the Lockhart main street upgrade.
- Converting one of its properties in Lockhart into housing for the physically and intellectually disabled.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Promote positive attitudes and behaviours

IP&R REF	STRATEGY	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMING
A1	Build capacity, capability and partnerships to encourage sustainable community groups and clubs.	Facilitate and support programs and projects within the community to make them accessible to people with all abilities.	Council Community groups Community	Ongoing
A2	Provide and advocate for services that respond to the needs of our community	Lobby government, business and service providers to provide accessible services to meet the needs of the community.	Council State Government Federal Government Community organisations Service providers Community Business community Education providers	Ongoing
A3	Provide support for people with a disability and their families and carers.	Participate in a collective approach within Lockhart Shire's disability sector to improve the understanding, access and operation of the sector.	Council Service providers	Ongoing
B1	Exercise leadership by championing the value of access and inclusion across Lockhart's business and tourism community.	Promote the benefits of being fully accessible and inclusive for businesses.	Council	Ongoing
E3	Represent and acknowledge the needs and challenges and characteristics of our community.	Continue to lead and advocate on key social and community issues.	Council	Ongoing

Create liveable communities

IP&R REF	STRATEGY	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMING
A2	Work with stakeholders to ensure our community is safe and well prepared to respond to adversity.	Strengthen mechanisms that support access and inclusion for our community.	Council, Service providers	Ongoing
	Support, or partner to provide, welcoming and well maintained community spaces and facilities.	Plan, develop and maintain facilities, parks and gardens that respond to the needs of the community.	Council State Government	Ongoing
	Provide and advocate for services that respond to the needs of our community.	Lobby government, business and service providers to provide accessible services to meet the needs of the community.	Council State Government Federal Government Community organisations Service providers Community Business community Education providers	Ongoing
A3	Provide support for people with a disability and their families and carers.	Work with community partners to lobby government and to seek funding to support people with disabilities to reach their full potential and to lead fulfilling lives.	Council Service providers	Ongoing
		Provide support for people with disability, their families and carers.	Council Service providers	Ongoing
B1	Improve the convenience and amenity of our towns	Ensure that there is sufficient and accessible parking for cars and trailers in the centre of each town.	Council	Ongoing
B2	Create a thriving tourism economy in Lockhart Shire.	Support and develop infrastructure for our tourism sector.	Council	Ongoing
D1	Plan sustainable transport strategies.	Continue to implement the Lockhart Shire Active Transport Plan that plans	Council	By 2020

IP&R REF	STRATEGY	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMING
		for the future maintenance and development of pathways throughout the Shire.		
		Advocate for community and transport options.	Council	Ongoing
	Advocate for diverse and affordable housing options within the Lockhart Shire.	Work with developers, investors and service providers to realise the development of diverse housing options to address affordable housing across the Shire.	Council State Government Developers	Ongoing
D2	Develop infrastructure that supports growth within our community.	Ensure maintenance, accessibility and safety of the Lockhart air strip.	Council	Ongoing

Support access to meaningful employment

IP&R REF	STRATEGY	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMING
A3	Provide support for people with a disability and their families and carers.	Work in partnership with community organisations to improve opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in education, training and employment.	Council Service providers	Ongoing
B3	Develop the skills and employment opportunities of our residents.	Support and communicate pathways to employment for all residents.	Council Service providers	Ongoing

Improve access to services through improved systems and processes

IP&R REF	STRATEGY	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMING
A3	Provide support for people with a disability and their families and carers.	Work with partners to identify opportunities to support the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.	Service providers Council	2017/18
E2	Ensure the community is informed by improving access to information.	Apply access and inclusion principles to improve access to Council services, programs, events and communications.	Council	Ongoing
E3	Represent and acknowledge the needs and challenges and characteristics of our community.	Remain updated and informed on current demographic and social data pertaining to Lockhart Shire communities and population groups.	Council	Annually



New Lockhart Swimming Pool with all abilities access under construction

DELIVERING THE PLAN

Governance

Council executive will have overall accountability for the DIAP decision making, and will have responsibility and ownership of the development and implementation of DIAP, and will play a key role in championing the importance of inclusion and planning for people with disability throughout Council.

Further input and carriage will be sought from staff across Council as required.

Implementation

The strategies and actions for the disability inclusion action plan will be highlighted in Council's Community Strategic Plan. Strategies and actions will be integrated into Council's IP&R documents, including the Delivery Program (4 years) and Operational Plan (1 year).

Monitoring and reporting

Each year, Council will report on its progress against the Disability Inclusion Action Plan as part of its Annual Report. A progress report on the implementation of the Delivery Plan will also be presented to Council every six months.

A summary of the key achievements will also be prepared and provided to the NSW Disability Council.

Review

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan must be reviewed every four years.