DISABILITY ACTION PLAN
2013 – 2017
SUMMARY DOCUMENT

Planning for healthy, safe and connected communities
Acknowledgements

In the spirit of respect, the Mornington Peninsula Shire acknowledges the Boonwurrung/Bunurong members of the Kulin Nation, who have traditional connections for the land on which Council meets.

The development of Mornington Peninsula Shire’s (the Shire) 2013-2017 Disability Action Plan was initially facilitated by Access Audits Australia (AAA) with contributions received via forums, surveys, personal interviews, and workshops.

In addition, the Shire would also like to thank members of the former Disability Consultative Committee (DCC), Peninsula Advisory Committee for Elders (PACE), MetroAccess, Mornington Peninsula Shire Councillors, Shire Officers and everyone who has agreed to have their photo published in this document.

Disclaimer
Due care has been taken by Mornington Peninsula Shire in preparing the 2013–2017 Disability Action Plan. The Shire believes the contents to be fair and accurate at the time of publication.
Published August 2013
Message from the Mayor

As the Mayor for Mornington Peninsula Shire, I have great pleasure in presenting the Shire’s 2013–2017 Disability Action Plan (the Plan).

The Plan builds on the work of Council to improve the overall quality of life of people with disabilities on the peninsula, since the development of the 2005 Access (disability) Plan.

In developing the four year Plan, Council is excited to continue the work of supporting people with disabilities, including their families and carers to reach their fullest potential.

The Plan is a reflection of the needs of our communities and responds to one of our key organisational objectives to create healthy, safe and connected communities and outlines how Council will work with community.

Improving the health and wellbeing of communities across the peninsula extends beyond service delivery to providing infrastructure and environments that maximise participation and encourage inclusive and resilient communities.

The Plan sets forth a framework to assist Council in planning for accessible Council services and facilities, and responds to federal and state legislative requirements.

In addition, the Plan recognises the rights of people under the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities to improve the overall quality of life for people impacted by a disability to ensure that services and facilities provided by Council are accessible, equitable and inclusive.
Executive Summary


It is estimated that one in four individuals living on the peninsula has a disability, hence planning for the needs of residents and visitors with a disability remains important work for the Shire. In planning for the needs of people with disabilities, the Shire will:

- undertake a whole of Council approach
- improve access to council buildings and infrastructure
- provide accessible information and communication
- provide accessible services and programs
- provide an accessible place of employment
- influence community attitudes and perceptions
- foster partnerships and collaboration
- review and evaluate progress.

Council is committed to the on-going planning and development of access, equity and inclusion for people with disabilities, their families and carers on the peninsula.
What is disability

The term disability is an evolving concept resulting from the interaction between a person with impairments and the attitudinal and environmental barriers that can hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others\(^1\).

The Victorian Disability Act (2006) defines disability as:
- Physical
- Intellectual
- Psychiatric
- Sensory
- Neurological
- Learning disabilities
- Physical disfigurement; and
- The presence in the body of disease-causing organisms

\(^1\) Definition sourced from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
Six Key Actions to Address Disability Access & Equity

In our goal to create safe, healthy and engaged communities Council will focus on the following actions to address barriers to access and inclusion for people with disabilities.

The key areas identified are:

• **Physical and Built Environment**
  To plan, develop and maintain accessible physical and built environments across the Mornington Peninsula Shire. This includes footpaths, pedestrian pathways, parking, public toilets and amenities, shopping centres, community facilities and infrastructure supporting beaches and foreshores.

• **Transport and Logistics**
  To support residents and visitors to the Mornington Peninsula Shire with access to an integrated, accessible public transport system.

• **Information and Communication**
  To provide Shire information in accessible formats that are clear to people with a disability.

• **Support, Services and Programs**
  To develop, facilitate and manage a diverse range of accessible social, recreational and community programs and facilities that stimulate participation, opportunities and provide a well-supported network of services which increase access for all.

• **Education Awareness and Training**
  To provide leadership within the organisation and community which values and understands the benefits of access and inclusion.

• **Housing**
  To improve the accessibility, availability and affordability of housing, to meet the needs of people with disabilities and their carer/s.
Disability action planning is interwoven into all areas of Council work and reflected in polices and strategies of the Mornington Peninsula Shire.

These documents can be accessed at www.mornpen.vic.gov.au
Mornington Peninsula Shire Core Services & Community Profile

The Mornington Peninsula Shire is a diverse employer with approximately 1,000 Officers to deliver services and programs in the following areas.

**Mornington Peninsula Key Service Areas**

- Aged and Disability Services
- Child, Youth and Family Services
- Economic Development
- Environment Protection
- Governance and Corporate Support
- Information Services
- Infrastructure Maintenance
- Infrastructure Project Management
- Infrastructure Strategy
- Libraries, Arts and Culture
- Property and Valuations
- Recreation and Leisure
- Renewable Resources
- Social Planning and Community Development
- Statutory Planning
- Strategic Planning
- Team Support and Development
- Corporate Planning and Development

**Community Profile**

The Mornington Peninsula is well-known for its reputation as Melbourne’s major holiday and retirement destination, as such; the average ageing population is comparatively higher when compared to metropolitan areas. With population ageing and longevity directly linked to the rate of people with disabilities, the present number of residents estimated to be living with a disability is 37,289 and expected to increase to 41,100 persons by 2021 as the population ages.

**Indigenous and Culturally Diverse Communities**

The peninsula has approximately 26,240 residents born overseas, 8,540 are estimated to be from non-English speaking backgrounds, and approximately 1000 are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are twice as likely to have a disability or long term health condition compared to non-indigenous people. Whereas people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD) make up nearly a quarter of all Victorians who are currently living with a severe or profound disability.

---

3 Sourced from http://www.greaterdandenong.com/Documents.asp?ID=18601&Title=Statistical+data+for+Victorian+Communities&Type=d
5 Sourced from http://www.greaterdandenong.com/Documents.asp?ID=18601&Title=Statistical+data+for+Victorian+Communities&Type=d
Legislation

The 2013-2017 Disability Action Plan takes into consideration the following legislations:

- **Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act (1992)** makes it unlawful to discriminate in the provision of goods, services or facilities against people on the basis that they have a disability.

- **Victorian Disability Act (2006)** provides the framework to enable people with a disability to actively participate in the community and is guided by principles of human rights and citizenship.

- **Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities (2006)** provides an agreed set of human rights, freedoms and responsibilities protected by law. Local Government must observe these rights when they create laws, set policies and provide services.

- **Victorian Equal Opportunity Act (2010)** makes it unlawful to treat people unfairly on the basis of their personal characteristics in the areas of employment, accommodation, education, provision of goods, and services, disposal of land, sports, Local Government and clubs.
Communication

The Plan will be communicated through the following processes:

• Uploaded on Council’s website in MS Word format.
• Distributed to each Department/Manager.
• Provision of copies at each Council Office.
• Distributed to all Shire Councillors.
• Registration with the Australian Human Rights Commission and posting on the AHRC website in MS Word format.

Implementation and Monitoring

The Plan is integrated into the broader Shire planning frameworks and relevant work unit plans. Monitoring occurs at the Executive/Management and Community level to ensure actions from the Plan are implemented. A report on the progress of this Plan will be presented to Council annually and a summary of key achievements will be made available in the Annual Report to Council.

Resourcing & Evaluation

Resourcing

Funds for the implementation of actions proposed in the Plan will come from a variety of sources:

• Capital Works Program allocated annually within the Shire Budget.
• Priority Project bids
• External grants
• Contribution from community partnerships

Evaluation

A working party in consultation with key community representatives on disability access and inclusion issues will be established to oversee the review and update the Plan in 2015.

The working party will ensure actions to improve access and inclusion issues are implemented appropriately. This will include:

a. Receiving reports from Managers in relation to the status of actions in their areas of responsibility.

b. Reporting on the following on an annual basis:
   • The progress on implementing actions identified in the Plan
   • Achievements to date
   • Areas still requiring action
   • Any disability discrimination complaints
   • New areas requiring action

Disability action planning requires ongoing and progressive work from all levels of Stakeholders including Government, Community and Service Providers. The Plan is not a static document, but will change according to practices, ongoing review and evaluation.
MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE
DISABILITY ACTION PLAN
2013 – 2017 SUMMARY DOCUMENT
This is a summary of the Mornington Peninsula Shire 2013 – 2017 Disability Action Plan.

Hard copies of this document are available at each of the Shire offices listed below:

- **Rosebud** 90 Besgrove Street
- **Mornington** 2 Queen Street
- **Hastings** 21 Marine Parade
- **Somerville** 14 Edward Street

Large print and electronic format (email or CD) can be obtained upon request by phoning Council’s customer service number 1300 850 600 or email custerv@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Copies can also be downloaded from Council’s website at http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au in MS Word format.

To discuss alternative access needs please contact Mornington Peninsula Shire Community Access Planner:

- **Mail:** Mornington Peninsula Shire Community Access Planner
  Private Bag 1000, Rosebud 3939
- **Fax:** 03 5950 1702
- **TTY users:** phone 133 677 then ask for 1300 850 600
- **Speak & Listen (speech-to-speech) users:** phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 1300 850 600
- **Internet relay users:** connect to NRS on www.relayservice.com.au then ask for 1300 850 600

Authorised by Jenny Macaffer, Coordinator Social Planning & Community Development, Mornington Peninsula Shire, 21 Marine Pde Hastings.