



CITY OF FREMANTLE

DISABILITY ACCESS
CONSULTING COMMITTEE

INFORMATION KIT

2003

This document is available in alternative formats on request for people with disabilities

Background

In 1993, 18.2 % of the West Australian population, or 1 in 6 people, had a disability. In the City of Fremantle the number is higher, with 23% of residents having a disability. ¹

Medical and technical advances have resulted in an increased life expectancy for people with disabilities, which means that the ratio of people with disabilities is actually increasing. In WA this means an increase from 305 000 people with disabilities in 1993 to an expected 559 990 people in 2021- almost twice the number. ²

People may have a disability at any age, but the likelihood of disability increases as people get older. According to ABS data, 50% of people over the age of 60 years have a disability.

The main type of disability is physical disability, which affects 69% of people with disabilities. The other types of disabilities are sensory-9%; psychiatric-9%; neurological-5%; intellectual-3%; and cognitive-2%. ³ This does not reflect the number of people with multiple disabilities.

There are 4954 people with disabilities living in the City of Fremantle (ABS 1993 figures). The main disabling conditions are: Physical- 3082 people; Sensory- 492 people; Psychiatric- 344 people; Intellectual- 119 people; and Acquired brain injury- 93 people. ⁴

Legislative Context

As members of the community, people with disabilities, their families and carers have the same rights as other people to access local government services and facilities.

These rights are enshrined in both state and commonwealth legislation, which make it unlawful to discriminate against a person with a disability.

These laws include: Western Australian Disability Services Act (1993), the Equal Opportunity Amendment Act Western Australia 1988 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1992

City of Fremantle's Disability Service Plan

The City of Fremantle Disability Service Plan was developed and adopted in 1995, and underwent a review in 2000. The 2003-2008 plan was adopted in February 2003. The plan states that:

The City of Fremantle is committed to ensuring that an accessible community is provided to people with disabilities, their families and their carers. This is achievable by consistently ensuring that all planned council facilities, services, information, consultation and decision making processes are accessible to people with disabilities. Where practical, existing council facilities will be adapted to ensure access. This will provide all residents with equal opportunities, rights and responsibilities.

¹ Disability Services Commission estimates for 1993 based on Australian Bureau of Statistics generated synthetic estimates.

² Disability Service Commission, 'Disability Service Plans - Creating Accessible Communities', Nov 1998, p3.

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Department for Human Services and Health, Synthetic Estimates 1994.

⁴ Disability Services Commission estimates for 1993 based on Australian Bureau of Statistics generated synthetic estimates.

The Disability Service Plan Objectives are:

1. To adapt existing functions, facilities and services, where practical, to meet the needs of people with disabilities, taking into consideration the heritage nature of many of the City of Fremantle's buildings.
2. To improve access to buildings and facilities.
3. To provide information about functions, facilities, and services in formats which meet the communication requirements of people with disabilities.
4. To improve staff awareness of the needs of people with disabilities and to provide skills in delivering advice and services to people with disabilities.
5. To provide opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in public consultations, grievance mechanisms and decision-making processes.
6. To provide equal employment opportunities for people with disabilities within the City of Fremantle.

Disability service planning enables the City of Fremantle to build on past achievements and to change current functions, facilities and services to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities. The process includes community consultation, policy development, strategic implementation, monitoring by review and evaluation and ongoing communication between councillors, council staff and people with disabilities.

The Disability Access Consulting Committee will focus on the outcomes of the Disability Service Plan and will act as a vehicle to increase community consultation, community awareness and to meet community needs.

For further information or advice please contact

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Disability Access Consulting Committee

Aim

To provide strategic advice to the City of Fremantle to ensure that all facilities, services, programs, information and processes within the Fremantle area are accessible for people with disabilities.

Objectives

- 1. To monitor the implementation of and assist in an annual review of the Disability Service Plan which addresses access and equity issues for all services and facilities provided by the City of Fremantle.**
- 2. To recommend appropriate upgrades to any council facility, program or service that does not meet the needs of people with disabilities.**
- 3. To assess plans for new council facilities and recommend appropriate standards for universal access.**
- 4. To work with council to ensure that applications for developments, and refurbishment incorporate universal access requirements.**
- 5. To provide advice on the impact of policies, procedures and plans and other issues for people with disabilities and to make suggestions on how these issues can be addressed.**
- 6. To provide an opportunity for staff to discuss access issues with people with disabilities.**
- 7. To raise awareness within council of access issues.**
- 8. To lobby for adequate resources to ensure access needs are addressed.**

Meetings

The Disability Access Consulting Committee meets every month.

A quorum will be by simple majority.

Decision-making is by consensus; however voting can be used if required by the committee.

Facilitation of each meeting is rotated amongst members. A volunteer facilitator is chosen at each meeting.

Taking minutes at each meeting is rotated amongst members. A volunteer minute taker is chosen at each meeting.

The Disability Access Project Officer takes responsibility for typing the minutes and distributing them to members along with a meeting agenda.

Membership

The committee shall comprise of

- The City of Fremantle Disability Access Project Officer
- Representatives from the Fremantle community who have a demonstrated interest in making Fremantle accessible.
- Nominated staff from within council, where applicable.

People with disabilities, their families and carers, and local service providers are encouraged to participate.

**CITY OF FREMANTLE
DISABILITY ACCESS CONSULTING COMMITTEE**



NOMINATION FORM

NAME:

ADDRESS:

.....

TEL/TTY:

FAX:

MOBILE:

E-MAIL:

Preferred method of contact (eg phone, mail, email).....

Preferred method of receiving minutes (eg mail, email, both)

I wish to nominate as a representative from the following field/s

- As a person with a disability
- As a carer or family member of a person with a disability
- As a person from a disability service provider
- As a person with an interest in access issues

My interest in the committee is:

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The skills I bring to the committee are:

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Please return the form to:
Megan Griffiths, Disability Access Project Officer
PO Box 807, Fremantle WA 6959