

**WORKING
TOWARDS
UNIVERSAL ACCESS**



The Shire has developed a comprehensive Community Access Plan. This involves a detailed description of how Council is working towards making all facets of our community more accessible for all. It identifies the various activities and strategies that are needed to make sure all people, regardless of age or ability, are treated equally, fairly and with dignity.

According to the 2003 Australian Bureau of Statistics survey 'Disability, Ageing and Carers' about 20 per cent of Australians have a disability

For further information or copies of the Community Access Plan please contact our Home and Community Care team:



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Northern
Grampians
Shire Council

Access for all



Working toward
universal
access

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The Northern Grampians Shire Council is committed to encouraging and developing an accessible community for all throughout all areas of the Shire.



Our services cover a range of people— from those with mild disabilities to those reliant on others in their day-to-day lives, we aim to make our community a better place to live for all.

Our Community Access Plan brings all of this information together and provides a framework for Councillors and Council staff, both now and in the future, to constantly strive to improve accessibility for all people who live in and enjoy visiting our shire, no matter what their level of ability.

What we're aiming for

The Community Access Plan identifies areas which Council feels can be worked upon in order to improve accessibility within our communities. Some of the key focus areas include:

- The development of maps and trail guides showing wheelchair access
- Encouraging people with disabilities, through our Community Access Advisory Group, to provide advice and comment on Council's services
- Improved access in and around our towns
- Encouraging and promoting groups for older people such as Senior Citizens clubs



on improving accessibility. These include:

- Our Information Technology department who ensure our website is ac-

cessible for all

- Our building and planning departments who ensure our footpaths and kerbs are safe and who ensure our parking, lighting and signage are adequate
- Our events team who work hard to make events within our Shire available to everyone

The Shire's Community Access Plan isn't just about supporting the needs of people in wheelchairs, or those with an obvious physical disability. We are also mindful of the needs of people with a range of impairments and disabilities— from mild intellectual disabilities through to age related changes.

Currently, 6.4% of the Northern Grampians community requires assistance with core activities (self-care, movement or communication), compared to 4.8% of the population of Regional Victoria. This statistic makes it more important than ever for us to ensure accessibility for all of the Shire's community.

- Improving lifestyle to ensure that our residents get the most out of life from start to finish

We also have a number of staff within our Council team that work