



Expression of Interest - Access and Inclusion Reference Group

If you require assistance to complete this application form, please contact Council's Disability Inclusion Officer:

Jodie Frost-Foster

P 02 4306 7900

E Jodie.Frost-Foster@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

The Central Coast Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) sets out actions that Council will continue to deliver to enable people with disabilities to access mainstream services, facilities, information and support so that they can be fully included and able to participate in the community.

The DIAP, which meets legislative requirements under the NSW Disability Inclusion Act (2014), is developed in close consultation with people who live with a disability, their family and carers, disability services and advocacy organisations and groups.

The implementation of the DIAP is supported by the Access and Inclusion Reference Group, a group of local residents with lived experience of disability who volunteer their time and share their lived experience, knowledge and insights.

The term of the current group is concluding, and Council is seeking Expressions of Interest from representatives of local organisations and community members to sit on the Access and Inclusion Reference Group. This group will be involved in the development of our next 4-year Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2025 – 2029.

The Expression of Interest is open to community members who live with a disability, family members or carers of someone living with a disability, organisations providing support and/or services to people living with a disability.

The formation of this Reference Group enables ongoing genuine dialogue with community and stakeholders to ensure the DIAP actions are current, contemporary and achieve positive outcomes for people with disabilities.

Further details on the role and function of the Access and Inclusion Reference Group are contained within Terms of Reference. See Terms of Reference document attached.

Please answer ALL the following questions.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Age: _____

Gender (Please tick): Female • Male • Other • Prefer not to say •

Are you nominating as a community member or group/organisational representative? Please tick the applicable box.

- Community Member who lives with a disability
- Family Member or Carer of someone with a disability
- Organisation providing support to someone with a disability
- Services to people living with a disability
- Community Group/Organisation. Which group/organisation do you represent?

Why would you like to be a member of the Access and Inclusion Reference Group?

What are your strengths and how would these strengths contribute and add value to the group's discussions and understanding of issues facing local people with a disability?

Outline your links to relevant networks, groups and organisations across the Central Coast and your ability to represent the views of others.

Referee

Name: _____

Role of Referee: _____

Email: _____

Phone/Mobile/Other: _____

Signature: _____

Nominee: _____

Date: _____

Meeting Accessibility Information

The Access and Inclusion Reference Group meets quarterly on a Wednesday at The Erina Centre, Erina Fair. This venue is centrally located and has good accessibility for people with a disability which includes:

- Accessible parking and drop off zones
- Accessible toilets
- Accessible Adult Changing Facility
- Hearing Loop
- Meetings are Auslan interpreted if required

- Close to bus stop
- Accessible entrance which is on the ground level
- Good room clearance for mobility equipment
- Assistance animal friendly
- All meeting documentation and PowerPoint presentations are in an accessible format and forwarded in advance for pre-reading before meeting
- Successful applicants will be invited to discuss any further adjustments they require to be able to fully and meaningfully participate in each meeting

Submission

Due Date: 5pm, Friday 19 July

Please email completed application form to:

Jodie Frost-Foster

Disability Inclusion Officer, Community & Cultural Programs

Central Coast Council

E: Jodie.Frost-Foster@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I represent an organisation?

Yes, you can represent an organisation as an employee of that organisation.

2. Do I have to attend every meeting?

The Access and Inclusion Reference Group meets quarterly so it is expected that members attend each meeting and commit the time. Members who miss two or more consecutive meetings will be replaced by another applicant.

3. Is the meeting venue accessible?

Council ensures the meeting venue is fully accessible and also close to public transport. Information on the accessible features of the meeting venue is listed above. If required, all meetings are Auslan interpreted.

4. Can I bring my carer or support person to the meetings?

Yes, you can bring them along, however, as they are not an approved member of the Reference Group, they can attend only in the capacity to support you but cannot take an active part in the meetings.

5. Do members get paid to attend meetings?

Members attend in a voluntary capacity.

6. How long do the meetings go for and when are they?

The meetings are held from 9:30am – 12:30pm on a Wednesday around the middle of the months of March, June, September and December. Lunch and refreshments are provided at each meeting.

7. Who runs the meetings?

The meetings are facilitated by Council staff including the Disability Inclusion Officer and the Section Manager for Community and Cultural Programs.

8. What is discussed at the meetings?

The meeting agenda includes projects that are part of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan that Council is seeking guidance on, as well as key focus areas identified by the group from the Disability Inclusion Action Plan. All meetings are minuted which are later distributed.

9. How many members are on the group and how long does the group go for?

Council is looking to recruit 12 people to be on the Access and Inclusion Reference Group for the next 18 months.

10. Can I attend online?

As the group meets every 3 months, unless an adjustment is requested, it is expected that members attend the meetings in person. It is also a great opportunity to network with other people who are also focused on increasing access and inclusion for people with disabilities.