

Community Circle Kit

Disability Inclusion



Wollongong City Council is writing a new Disability Inclusion Action Plan. This Plan will help Council:

- Remove barriers for people with disability.
- Make public places and services easier to use.
- Help everyone feel welcome and included.

The Plan will go from 2026 to 2030.

We want to hear from people with disability, their families, carers, and support workers.

Your ideas will help us write the Plan.

What is a Community Circle?

A Community Circle is a group talk. You get together with people you know to talk about these questions.

You can use this kit to help you run your group talk.

Your group could be:

- A support group
- A class at school
- A local service
- A group of friends or family
- An online group

Any size group is okay.

How to run a Community Circle

There are 4 steps to follow.

Step 1: Get a group together



Choose a group you already meet with or create a new group for this talk.

You can meet in person or online.

Anyone can be part of your group: people with disability, carers, support workers, family members, and others who know what it is like to live with disability.

Step 2: Start the talk



You can read this aloud to your group:

"Wollongong City Council is writing a new Disability Inclusion Action Plan. This Plan will help make our city more inclusive and accessible. We are going to talk about what helps, what is hard, and what should change for people with disability."

"The ideas we share will be sent to Council. They will use this to help write the new Plan."

Step 3: Ask the questions



Choose someone in your group to ask the questions.

Choose someone in the group to write the answers. You can write down answers, draw pictures, or record voices.

People can also share photos if they like.

Everyone in the group can answer the questions.

Talk about these questions:

1. What helps you feel welcome and safe in the community?
2. What would make it easier for you to get around your local area and the places you visit?
3. Tell us about anything that makes public places hard to use or get to. Public places are areas such as parks, playgrounds, pools, and buildings.

4. How would you like to get information from Council, and share information with us?
5. What would make it easier to join in on community activities and events?
6. We want to make Council a better place to work for people with disability. If you have any ideas, please share them.
7. What would make the Wollongong Local Government Area a better place for people with disability?

Step 4: Send your ideas to Council



Please send in your group's answers by
Monday 15 September 2025.

- **Send by email:**
engagement@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
- **Send by post:**
Engagement Team
Wollongong City Council
Locked Bag 8821
Wollongong NSW 2500

What to send back:

- Your group's answers (written, drawings, photos, recordings)
- The list of who was in your group. There is a form on the next page you can fill in.

Need help?

- Call us on (02) 4227 7111.
- Email us at engagement@wollongong.nsw.gov.au.



**Thank you for helping make our
city better for everyone!**

Community Circle - Who came to the meeting

Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2026-2030

Write the name of your group:

Write the place where you had the talk:

Write the date and time of the talk:

Next, please write down:

- The name of each person in the group. You can just write first names if you want.
- The postcode where they live
- Their age

Name	Postcode	Age

Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2026-2030



Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we creating a new Disability Inclusion Action Plan?

About 1 in 5 people in Australia have some form of disability. It's important that our community is a safe, inclusive and accessible space for everyone. Council is always looking at ways we can make our public spaces, services, programs and activities better for our community.

The Disability Inclusion Act requires Council to have a Disability Inclusion Action Plan. This Plan will help guide the work that Council does for the community.

Is this Council's first Disability Inclusion Action Plan?

No. This will be our third Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

We created our first plan in 2016 and our second plan in 2020. These Plans have guided Council in making our community a more inclusive and accessible place for everyone.

Visit our website to see some of the things we've delivered as part of our last Plans - www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/community/people/people-with-disability/people-with-disability-accordions/disability-inclusion-action-plan

What will the Plan do?

It will build on the great work we've delivered as part of our last two plans. The plan will include the things that Council can do to make these things better:

- Helping people feel included and safe in our community.
- Making it easier for people to get around their local area.
- Improving access to our public spaces, like, parks, playgrounds, pools or buildings etc.
- Making our services programs and events more accessible and inclusive.
- Making it easier to get and share information with Council.
- Making our Council a better place for people with disability to work.

Who does Council want to talk to about creating the next Disability Inclusion Action Plan?

It's important we hear directly from people with disability and their families, carers and support workers about what is good and what is hard for them. As we create the plan,

More overleaf...

we will also talk to disability service providers, community organisations, and advocacy groups.

What will Council do with the information from the community?

The information collected from the community will help us understand the challenges that people with disability experience. It will also tell us what people think are the most important things for Council to work on first. This information will be used to help us write the actions in the Plan. When we write the Plan, we will also look at current research and the other great things different organisations are doing.

Who is responsible for creating the Plan?

Staff from all areas across Council will help create the Plan.

When will Council have a draft Plan ready to share with the community?

We are aiming to have a draft plan ready by early 2026. We will be asking the community to read it and tell us what they think before it is finalised. We will let everyone who gives us feedback know when the draft is ready. The draft plan will also be on our website and at Council libraries.

How can I give feedback?

You can give feedback in different ways:

- Come to a workshop. To join a workshop, complete the form at **our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au** or call 4227 7111. These are the workshop details:
 - **Family members, carers and support workers**
Tuesday 22 July, 12pm–2pm, Dapto Ribbonwood Centre
People they care for are also welcome.
 - **People with autism and/or neurodivergence**
Thursday 31 July, 11am–1pm, Corrimal Community Centre
Quiet room available.
 - **People with non-visible disability, or cognitive or intellectual disability**
Thursday 7 August, 12pm–2pm, Wollongong Library
 - **Blind or low vision community**
Tuesday 12 August, 12pm–2pm, Wollongong Library
 - **d/Deaf or hard of hearing community**
Wednesday 20 August, 12pm–2pm, Wollongong Library
 - **People with physical disability**
Wednesday 27 August, 3:30pm–5:30pm, Dapto Ribbonwood Centre
 - **Online workshop**
Wednesday 30 July, 5:00pm–6:30pm, via Microsoft Teams
Includes transcription and optional live captions.

- Visit one of our pop-ups to have a chat:
 - **Let's Talk Bellambi** – Bellambi Neighbourhood Centre, Friday 4 July 10am-2pm
 - **NAIDOC Family Fun Day** – Darcy Wentworth Park Warrawong, Tuesday 8 July 10am-1pm
 - **Let's Talk Wollongong** – Near North Beach Kiosk, Cliff Rd, Wollongong, Friday 11 July 8am-10am
- Share your ideas online at our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au or scan the QR code.
- Get a paper survey and reply-paid envelope at your local library.
- Email us at engagement@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
- Call us on 4227 7111.



**Scan the
QR code**

What happens next?

After we finish talking to the community, our Engagement Team will write an update. This update will say:

- How many people shared ideas.
- What we heard.
- What will happen next.

Everyone who gave feedback will get this update. It will also be on our website: our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au.

Accessibility and language support

If you're d/Deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can contact us through the National Relay Service. If you need an interpreter, you can contact us through the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131450. You'll need to provide our phone number 02 4227 7111 for either service.



We want to make sure everybody has the opportunity to provide their ideas and feedback on this project.

Last day to share your feedback: Monday 15 September 2025

For more information: our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/diap



Wollongong City Council

Visit 41 Burelli Street, Wollongong

Phone 4227 7111

Email engagement@wollongong.nsw.gov.au

Web our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au

