

Profile of

THE LOCAL IMPAIRED COMMUNITY

The number of people with a disability living in the Gisborne District is hard to quantify. In 2001 the New Zealand Disability Survey¹ identified that the Central² region (of which Gisborne is a part) had the second lowest number of people with a disability.

An estimated 153,300 people – 21 percent of the total population – who live in households in the Central region have a disability.

Twenty³ percent of the Tairāwhiti DHB population, or 8,917 people, are expected to have some type of functional disability. 11 percent of the Tairāwhiti DHB population, or 5,151 people, are expected to have a disability that requires assistance. 53 percent of the population over 65 is expected to have some functional disability, three quarters of whom require assistance.

THE PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

The purpose of the Gisborne District Council Disability Strategy is to:

- ✦ Articulate from an impaired person's perspective local disability issues.
- ✦ Align these issues with the NZ Disabilities Strategy and the Community Plan's Outcomes of Positive Leadership and a Fair and Active Democracy

¹ Living with Disability in New Zealand - A descriptive analysis of results from the 2001 Household Disability Survey and the 2001 Disability Survey of Residential Facilities. Ministry of Health, 2004
² Living with Disability in New Zealand - A descriptive analysis of results from the 2001 Household Disability Survey and the 2001 Disability Survey of Residential Facilities. Ministry of Health, 2004
³ Personal communication



HOW THE STRATEGY STARTED

As a result of submissions received for the 2006-2016 Community Plan, the Gisborne District Council decided in June 2006 to create an interim Working Party comprising of Councillors and impaired community representatives to recommend to Council a disability policy (later termed as a Strategy).

In June 2007, the Working Party recommend and Council adopted this Disabilities Strategy. The Strategy is also designed to link primarily with the following NZ Disabilities Strategy.

- 5.1 Encourage impaired people to take part in decision-making as service users, as staff in the delivery of services, and in the governance, management, planning and evaluation within all services that impaired people access.
- 6.6 Ensure the locations and buildings of all government agencies and public services are accessible.
- 6.7 Work with territorial authorities to develop ways they can support the NZ Disability Strategy.
- 8.5 Require all new scheduled public transport to be accessible in order to phase out inaccessible public transport
- 8.7 Develop nationally consistent access to passenger services where there is no accessible public transport.
- 9.4 Support the development of arts, recreational and sports projects, including those run by and for impaired people.



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**GISBORNE DISTRICT COUNCIL
DISABILITY STRATEGY**

Disability Strategy

Gisborne District Council

Vision

A district society in which people with impairments are no longer impaired.

Mission

To implement the vision of the Gisborne District Council Disability Strategy by demonstrating the commitment to equitable and inclusive access and participation for all people who work, live and visit the District.



OBJECTIVES AND INITIATIVES

OBJECTIVE 1

Where feasible Council will ensure that all public and council buildings are accessible, and comply with relevant legislation.

INITIATIVES

- 1.1 Council encourages attendance of building professionals at disability awareness training courses.
- 1.2 Council buildings comply with necessary building codes, and where required maintain current Building Warrant of Fitness Certificates.
- 1.3 Public toilet facilities and services are based on NZS 4121.
- 1.4 An accessible toilet is provided in all Council public conveniences.
- 1.5 Impaired access signage displayed where appropriate in public toilets.
- 1.6 Where appropriate public toilet facilities have instruction information in braille.
- 1.7 All Council's buildings and facilities to have Independent accessibility audit.
- 1.8 Encourage the development of accessible routes to connect buildings, public spaces and transport systems.
- 1.9 All Council reception and service counters conform to NZS 4121.
- 1.10 Develop a standard of accessibility of Council housing.

OBJECTIVE 2

Council will develop access for wheeled mobility devices within infrastructure programmes.

INITIATIVES

- 2.1 Identify and take up opportunities to advocate for equity and access for people who use mobility devices.
- 2.2 Walkway and Cycleway Strategy provides routes to an engineering standard suitable for persons with disabilities.
- 2.3 Footpaths and crossings are maintained to at least current standards as part of a regular maintenance programme.
- 2.4 Conduct an audit of all footpaths, accessible routes and crossings with wheeled mobility device users in mind.
- 2.5 Crossings at traffic signals are provided with tactile ground surface indicators and audible tactile signals.
- 2.6 New pedestrian facilities are built to meet the needs of wheeled mobility users.
- 2.7 Refuge islands to be installed at all new subdivision intersections that have a daily vehicle count greater than (approximately) 120.
- 2.8 If a pedestrian crash study identifies a dangerous pedestrian site, Council will prioritise that site for future work.
- 2.9 Council will support its subsidiaries to encourage full accessibility to the public.
- 2.10 Vegetation overhanging footpaths and corridors is monitored and maintained to provide unobstructed movement.

OBJECTIVE 3

Council will develop user-friendly designated mobility parking in areas that Council controls.

INITIATIVES

- 3.1 Impaired access car parking and signage is provided at Council facilities.
- 3.2 Designated mobility parking spaces are provided for public use in public parking facilities, based on demand for designated parking spaces.
- 3.3 Parking enforcement officers to police designated mobility parking facilities and ticket offending vehicles.
- 3.4 Double concession time of no more than 1 hour is provided for mobility cardholders when using regular parking spaces.
- 3.5 Address misuse of designated mobility parking spaces in Council controlled parking areas.
- 3.6 Designated mobility parking spaces are required to be built to national

standards and sited for maximum safety of users.

- 3.7 Council will enforce provisions of the warrant of fitness in the Building Act 2000 in relation to designated mobility parking.

OBJECTIVE 4

Council will, within its roading design and programmes, provide for ease of use for people with impairments.

INITIATIVES

- 4.1 Carry out an audit of accessible routes to connect buildings, public spaces and transport systems.
- 4.2 Encourage the development of accessible routes to connect buildings, public spaces and transport systems.
- 4.3 Progressively provide seating and shelter at bus stops.
- 4.4 Develop an accessibility guide map for the District beginning with the Gisborne city.
- 4.5 All new road work will continue to consider accessibility issues.

OBJECTIVE 5

Council will ensure that its facilities and services have equitable access and participation uptake for people with impairments in both rural and urban areas.

INITIATIVES

- 5.1 Ensure staff involved with providing facilities, programmes and services are educated about removing barriers for people with impairments.
- 5.2 Libraries provide a range of resources to assist the community's education around disability issues.
- 5.3 An accessibility audit of arts and culture facilities is undertaken.
- 5.4 Wheelchairs are available for use by patrons at the HB Williams Memorial Library and Tairāwhiti Museum.
- 5.5 The Rockfort Finance Olympic Pool Complex has an aquatic wheelchair for use on the pool access ramp.
- 5.6 Continue to audit physical access and signage to libraries, recreation facilities and swimming pools, making immediate improvements where possible.
- 5.7 Provide equipment that meets the specific needs of people with visual, hearing and physical impairments.
- 5.8 Support impaired people living in rural areas by researching rural disability issues and improving their access to Council services.
- 5.9 HB Williams Memorial Library staff refer customers to the Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind
- 5.10 Continue to promote and support community events for and/or by the physically disabled sector.
- 5.11 Any applicants to Council for event sponsorship are required to produce information on an accessibility plan for the event.
- 5.12 Swimming facilities have designated unisex changing rooms for use by impaired patrons and caregivers.

- 5.13 At Council facilities caregivers of people with impairments are permitted entry to the facility free of charge.
- 5.14 Automatic opening doors are provided at public entrances.
- 5.15 All Council theatres have designated spaces for members of the audience in wheeled mobility devices, and provide guidelines for their use.
- 5.16 The District Civil Defence Plan will continue to meet the needs of people with impairments.

OBJECTIVE 6

Council will ensure that its facilities for children and youth are equitable for those with impairments.

INITIATIVES

- 6.1 Ensure playgrounds in the district are developed to meet NZS 5828 2004.
- 6.2 Audit Council facilities for the needs of disabled children and youth.

OBJECTIVE 7

Council will provide systems for people with visual, hearing and learning disabilities to enable such people to use public facilities.

INITIATIVES

- 7.1 Increase the accessibility of both the design and content of Council websites.
- 7.2 Information is available in alternative formats/media that is easier for the wider disabled community to access.
- 7.3 Ensure staff are aware of the need to provide information for the disabled in a variety of ways.
- 7.4 Publicise information about Council events and services through disability networks.
- 7.5 Council maintain a database of individuals who require information in a particular format.
- 7.6 Where practical public notices be placed on the main Council website.
- 7.7 Libraries continue to provide a free talking book and home service.

OBJECTIVE 8

Council will progress awareness and leadership of the NZ Disability Strategy by encouraging people with disabilities to take part in decision-making process. This will include the delivery, governance, management, planning and evaluation of all the services they access.

INITIATIVES

- 8.1 Council to work with Tairāwhiti District Health Board in providing locally based driver licence retesting.
- 8.2 Actively encourage people with impairments to identify any special needs or arrangements when participating in democratic processes.
- 8.3 Where appropriate, publish articles on disability issues in local government publications.
- 8.4 Use Council communications and other forums to promote awareness of and positive attitudes towards people with impairments across all cultures.
- 8.5 Provide information about the rights of people with disabilities.
- 8.6 Ensure selected staff are educated about removing barriers for people with impairments.
- 8.7 Assist staff with literacy issues by providing appropriate training.
- 8.8 Up-skill staff responsible for the management of staff with impairments.
- 8.9 Investigate long-term incentives to increase training, employment and development opportunities for people with impairments.
- 8.10 Council maintains equal employment opportunities that provides for staff with disabilities.
- 8.11 Initiate a group that can help to monitor the progress of this Strategy by providing relevant information in an accessible format.
- 8.12 Ensure Council consultation elicits the views of people with impairments.

