

Access & Inclusion Working Group

FAQs

What is the Access and Inclusion Working Group?

The Access & Inclusion Working Group is one of the City's advisory and reference groups. This Working Group comprises membership representative of:

- City of Albany (Community Development Officer);
- Individuals living with disability;
- Local disability service providers;
- A locally based Education Support Centre;
- Parents/carers, support workers of persons with disability;
- Representative with mental health expertise; and
- Additional representatives on a temporary, as-required basis.

What does the group do?

The group meets once a quarter to:

- Assist with identifying opportunities for improvements to access within the City of Albany.
- Assist with the implementation and review of the City's Access and Inclusion Plan 2023-2027.
- Act as a consultation forum for the City of Albany on any access and inclusion projects.
- Act as a liaison group between the City of Albany and individuals within our community with disabilities and the agencies that provide disability services.

When and where does the group meet?

The group meets once a quarter on Fridays agreed by the group from 1pm till approx. 4pm in the Civic Rooms at 102 North Road.

Does the group have a budget?

No, there is no budget for the group. The Access and Inclusion Working Group does not have the authority or power to commit the Council or any association, organisation, group or individual to spend money without the City's endorsement.

Can the Advisory Group instruct the council to do things?

No, the role of the group is an advisory and reference-based approach, whilst the group as a whole, or individual members of the group, can, as any member of the public can, report issues that need fixing to the City of Albany. They do not instruct the City to implement works or decide how to spend its budget – this is done by elected members, Councillors and the Mayor.

What type of things does the group advise the City on?

From time to time the group will be asked to review plans the city has, such as foreshore development plans for eg., and asked 'what can be improved to increase accessibility?' The group then will work with the City to improve the accessibility features of the plans.

What else does the group do?

Member of the group report any accessibility issues around Albany that need improvements, such as a drop-curb / pram ramp installed at a footpath, road crossings that need improvements, footpaths that are damaged, etc. if the City is responsible for these, we report them to the relevant City officer, if it is not the responsibility of the City – sometimes the Community Development officer will approach the business / organisation / group to see if they can / the City can help them improve accessibility.

What reference work does the group do?

The group are often asked if they would like to invite a City officer, local member of parliament, business, or organisation to attend the group as a speaker to either give them feedback on a project or report an issue. They are often approached to ask their opinion on issues that the City has control over.

What is the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2023 – 2027?

The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) is a practical roadmap for an organisation. It helps remove barriers so people with disabilities can easily use services, visit buildings, and get information. These plans create a fair and welcoming environment for everyone. These four-year plans are a legislative requirement for all levels of government and government bodies. The group helps the City to implement its plan and helps with the consultation process when it needs to be renewed.

How long are members expected to attend the group?

Members of the group are appointed for a two-year term, during this time they can attend the quarterly meetings. However, they do not have to attend all the meetings as we know some appointments may clash with your personal life. You can step down from the group at any point by informing the Community Development Officer in writing (email is fine).

What are the terms of reference?

The Terms of Reference are updated every two years. These outline the scope of the groups and briefly outlines their aims and objectives.

More information can be found in the terms of reference