



City of Belmont **Access and Inclusion Plan 2018 - 2021**





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Alternative Formats

This document is available on the City of Belmont website and can be requested in alternative formats including electronic format by email, in hardcopy both in large and standard print and in audio format.

For further information please contact the Community Development team on **(08) 9477 7219**.

For language assistance please contact TIS (Translating and Interpreting Service) on **131 450**.



Our Commitment to being an Accessible and Inclusive Community

The City of Belmont (the City) as a local government plays a pivotal role in creating a community that is welcoming to all, recognising that access and inclusion are key aspects to ensuring this is possible.

Under the Western Australian Disability Services Act 1993, local governments are required to develop and implement a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan to ensure people with disability have equal access to services and facilities. This Access and Inclusion Plan fulfils the requirements of the Act.

We recognise that the whole community benefits from better designed buildings and public spaces and ensuring all members of our community can participate in and contribute to the social fabric of the community.

We understand that people with disability wish to live an 'ordinary life'; a life with the same opportunities as people without disability and be openly accepted in all streams of life. We believe an accessible and inclusive community is one in which all Council functions, facilities and services are open, welcoming and accessible to people with a disability, providing them with the same opportunities, rights and responsibilities as others. The Access and Inclusion Plan (AIP) outlines the strategies and actions that will guide the City in continuing to respond to the needs of people with disability, their families and carers in addition to the broader community.

The development and implementation of the City's Access and Inclusion Plan aligns with the City's Strategic Community Plan 2016-2036 - Social Belmont - Objective 1, which states

"The City will take a key leadership role to ensure access to services and facilities and developing collaborative partnerships that enable greater accessibility for a changing community."

As part of the City's commitment to access and inclusion, a Disability Access and Inclusion Focus Group consisting of community members, Council representatives, staff, service providers and other key stakeholders, meets regularly to provide input and feedback on the AIP.

In this new version of the plan, the title of the document has been changed from the previously named Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) to the City's Access and Inclusion Plan. The name change recognises the need to involve the whole community in addressing issues of access and inclusion and the broader benefits that this brings.

The City recognises its obligations to meet the legislative requirements of the Act through the development and implementation of this plan.

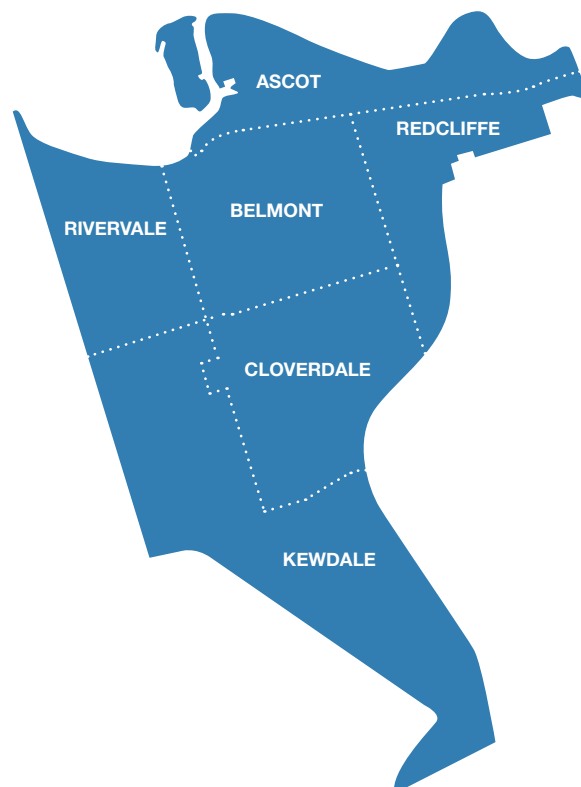
Cr Phil Marks, Mayor

Welcome to Our City

The City of Belmont is a highly diverse metropolitan Local Government located six kilometres east of the Perth CBD.

It comprises of six suburbs including Ascot, Belmont, Cloverdale, Kewdale, Redcliffe and Rivervale covering a total land area of 40km². The Traditional Owners of the land on which Belmont is located are the Noongar Whadjuk people.

Today the City of Belmont is home to Perth Airport, Kewdale Freight Terminal, horse racing industry, significant commercial and industrial activities, extensive residential areas and many parks and recreation reserves. As a result, the City is a significant centre of employment and offers lifestyle opportunities not readily available in other inner-metropolitan localities. Unique natural features located within the City include over nine kilometres of Swan River foreshore and natural areas such as Signal Hill bushland, Tomato Lake and Garvey Park.



Demographics

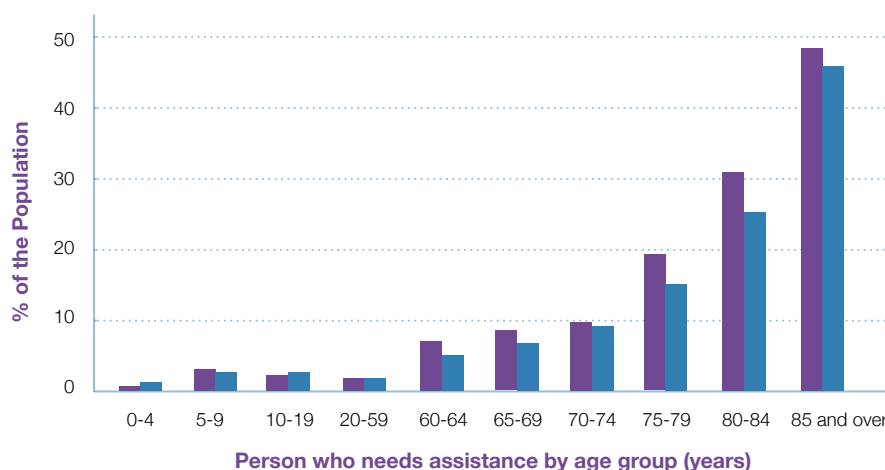
The recent ABS Census (2016) shows an increased population number in the City of Belmont from 37,358 in 2011 to 41,270 in 2016 indicating a steady growth of over 12%.

Of the City's total population, 1,739 people or 4.4% reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability. This indicates an increase of 275 people reporting a need for assistance since 2011, with all age groups over 60 years of age being higher in comparison to the Greater Perth area.

Need for assistance with core activities, 2016

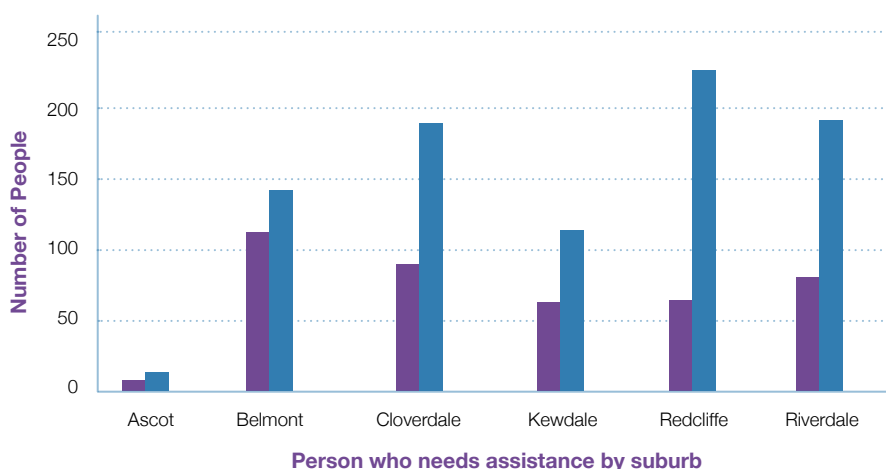
- City of Belmont
- Greater Perth

Comparison of City of Belmont and Greater Perth indicating a larger percentage of persons needing assistance in all age groups over 60 years of age.



- Age 0 to 64
- Age 65 and over

The suburb of Belmont is reported as having the greater number of people with disability under 64 years of age, whereas Redcliffe reports as having the highest number of people with disability over 65 years of age.



Demographics (cont.)

As of 2016, a total of 2,938 carers provide unpaid assistance to persons with a disability, long term illness or old age, an addition of 314 people in comparison to 2011 data.

There also continues to be growth in the older population with 3,788 people over 70 years of age living in the City of Belmont. While many older residents are active and highly mobile, it is acknowledged that this age group may also depend on a higher level of accessibility to continue to participate actively in the community.



Achievements So Far

The City is pleased to have already completed a number of actions from the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2012-2017 which have positively contributed to the identified outcomes.

Please see the below for examples of the work the City has undertaken over the past five years:

Upgrades to **eight** community facilities to install **accessible toilets**

Hearing loop installed in the **Council Chambers**

Upgrades to the **Council Chamber** completed which resulted in providing an **improved accessibility** for wheelchair users

All works to built environment have been undertaken **ensuring compliance to access standards**

Continued to develop and **maintain relationships with service providers** meeting the needs of people with disability living in the City of Belmont

A range of **accessible services** offered through the **City's Ruth Faulkner Public Library** including audio loop, talking books, larger print books and good computer access

An **adult change facility** installed at the City's Belmont **Oasis Leisure Centre**

Plans for a new '**changing place**' included in the construction of a **new Community Centre** (2019/20)

An **upgrade of the website** has been financially committed to, with the purpose of ensuring a minimum **compliance with AA compatibility standards** of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0

A **review** taken of all **parking for people with disability** and necessary upgrades implemented

The City has continued to promote a range of community activities as **inclusive and encourages participation of all community members** (National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) workshop delivered 2017)

Continues to provide **annual Disability Awareness training** promoted to all staff

Publications are available **in alternative formats** upon request

Continued to host the **Disability Access and Inclusion Focus Group**

Development of the Access and Inclusion Plan 2018-2021

Review and Engagement Process

With the City's previous DAIP due to end in 2017, a review and engagement process was undertaken to provide feedback on the City's performance and seek the community's views on the accessibility and inclusiveness of the City. The process included the following steps:

- ✓ A review of the DAIP 2012–2017 outcomes to determine what had been achieved and provide recommendations for the City's future Access and Inclusion Plan.
- ✓ Consultation with key City employees through an internal working group involving representation from across the City.
- ✓ Consultation with the City's Disability Access and Inclusion Focus Group.
- ✓ Engagement with the community, in particular people with disability, their families, carers and disability service providers, through an online survey, community forums and focus group. A total of 72 community members contributed feedback during this process.

The review and engagement process was advertised through the following:



Newspaper
(Southern Gazette)



Belmont
Bulletin



City's Website



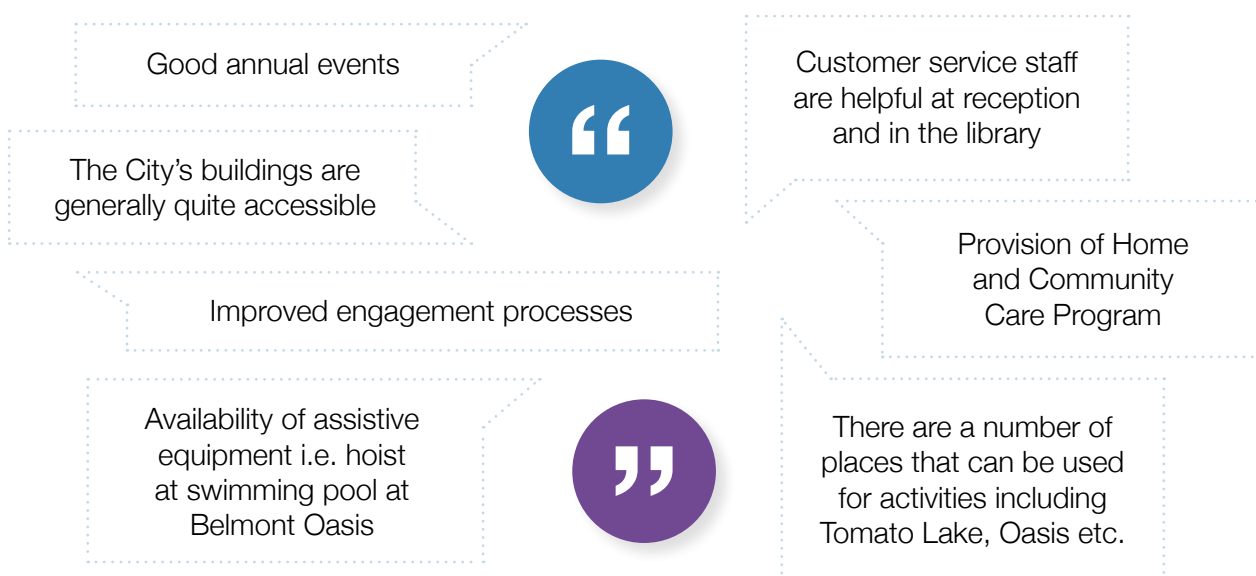
Social Media



Email Networks










What the community told us

Feedback from the community engagement process reflected a general view that the City performs well in the area of accessibility and inclusion with the following comments:



What is most important in creating an accessible and inclusive community?

Community members were asked to rate aspects of being an accessible and inclusive community and the things most important to them which are listed below:

Accessibility		Inclusion	
	Pathways, footpaths and kerbs		Take part in community events, meetings and activities
	Access to public toilets		Connect socially with other community members
	Access to parks, open spaces and playgrounds		Information relating to activities and events that promote inclusion
	Physical access to cafes, shopping centres and other buildings in the community		Receiving information directly on events through email and Facebook
	Access to information on relevant issues such as NDIS and available support services		

Outcomes and Strategies

The Access and Inclusion Plan is legislated to address seven key outcome areas as defined by the Disability Services Act 1993 (amended 2004) and Disability Services Regulations.

As a result of the review and consultation process a range of strategies have been identified and are outlined below. An additional eighth outcome outlines strategies that will further complement the City's work to improve accessibility and inclusion for people with disability in the City of Belmont.

Outcome 1	Outcome 2
People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by the City of Belmont.	People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access buildings and other facilities of the City of Belmont.
Strategy	Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Deliver and promote accessible and inclusive events and programs to the community.✓ Review processes to support the development and delivery of accessible and inclusive City events and services to the community.✓ Ensure consideration of access and inclusion is given to services and events delivered by agents/contractors on behalf of the City.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Incorporate access improvements and standards in the design and upgrade of City buildings and facilities.✓ Maintain up to date information of all access features of the City's buildings and facilities.✓ As part of the Local Planning Scheme, Local Planning Policy and Local Housing Strategy reviews ensure standards and incentives reflect current good practice in providing for an accessible and inclusive built environment.



Outcomes and Strategies

Outcome 3

People with disability receive information from the City of Belmont in a format that enables them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.

Strategy

- ✓ Ensure City of Belmont information is accessible to all through a range of formats.
- ✓ Promote information through a range of communication methods.

Outcome 4

People with disability receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of the City of Belmont as other people receive from the City.

Strategy

- ✓ City of Belmont staff have the appropriate level of awareness and skills to provide a high level of service for people with disability.

Outcome 5

People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the City of Belmont.

Strategy

- ✓ The City's complaints/request for service process is available in flexible and accessible formats.
- ✓ Increase awareness of the City's complaints/request for service/feedback process for people with disability.



Outcomes and Strategies

Outcome 6

People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to participate in public consultation by the City of Belmont.

Strategy

- ✓ The City's public consultations will be accessible to people with disability through choice of location and format of information.

Outcome 7

People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to obtain and maintain employment with the City of Belmont.

Strategy

- ✓ Ensure that the City's employment practices are in accordance with the City's Workplace Equality and Diversity Plan.
- ✓ Ensure City workplaces are accessible and supportive for people with disability.

Outcome 8

Raise awareness in the broader community on Access and Inclusion.

Strategy

- ✓ Develop partnerships and initiatives with service providers, businesses and community members to promote the inclusion of people living with disability in the City of Belmont.
- ✓ Promote inclusion and participation of people with disability in the community.
- ✓ Provide information to people with disability, their carers/families and service providers to support informed decision making.
- ✓ Support the employment of people with disability through the promotion of WA Disability Enterprise Services across the City.



Reviewing and Reporting of the Access and Inclusion Plan

The City's Access and Inclusion Plan is required to be reviewed and updated every five years as a minimum. The plan will be subject to review including community engagement in 2021.

An implementation plan has been developed to support the delivery of the defined outcomes and strategies which will be reviewed and updated after the first two years of the plan.

The achievements of the Access and Inclusion Plan will be monitored and reported annually to the Department of Communities and will be included in the City's Annual Report.

To ensure ongoing communication with local community representatives, the City of Belmont's Disability Access and Inclusion Focus Group will continue to meet to provide feedback and advice on the implementation of the plan.

This process will ensure the plan is responsive to prevailing issues and remains current in terms of providing relevant direction for addressing access and inclusion matters within the City.

The City of Belmont values community feedback and encourages residents to make suggestions at any time on ways in which the City can improve access and inclusion for people of all ages, abilities and diverse backgrounds.

Agents and contractors delivering services on behalf of the City are required to submit annual reports on their contribution to the Access and Inclusion Plan outcomes.



Communicating the Access and Inclusion Plan

Availability of the City of Belmont's Access and Inclusion Plan 2018-2021 will be advertised through the local newspaper (Southern Gazette) and will be promoted on the City of Belmont's website www.belmont.wa.gov.au



The plan will be available in hardcopy at the Civic Centre and the Ruth Faulkner Public Library.

City Acknowledgements

The City would like to give special thanks to all the contributors involved in the coordination, consultation and the development of the City of Belmont's Access and Inclusion Plan 2018-2021. We would particularly like to acknowledge the City of Belmont's Disability Access and Inclusion Focus Group.



City of Belmont

215 Wright Street, Cloverdale,
Western Australia 6105

Locked Bag 379, Cloverdale,
Western Australia 6985

Phone (08) 9477 7222

After Hours (08) 9477 7224

Fax (08) 9478 1473

Email belmont@belmont.wa.gov.au



BelmontCouncilWA



BelmontCouncilWA



@BelmontCouncil



www.belmont.wa.gov.au



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