

Access and Inclusion Action Plan 2020 to 2022

Background

In 2019 Council adopted an Access and Inclusion Strategy 2020-2026. The focus of the strategy is to demonstrate Council's commitment to equal participation for all people across Campaspe and develop a road map to support the shire to become more accessible and supportive.

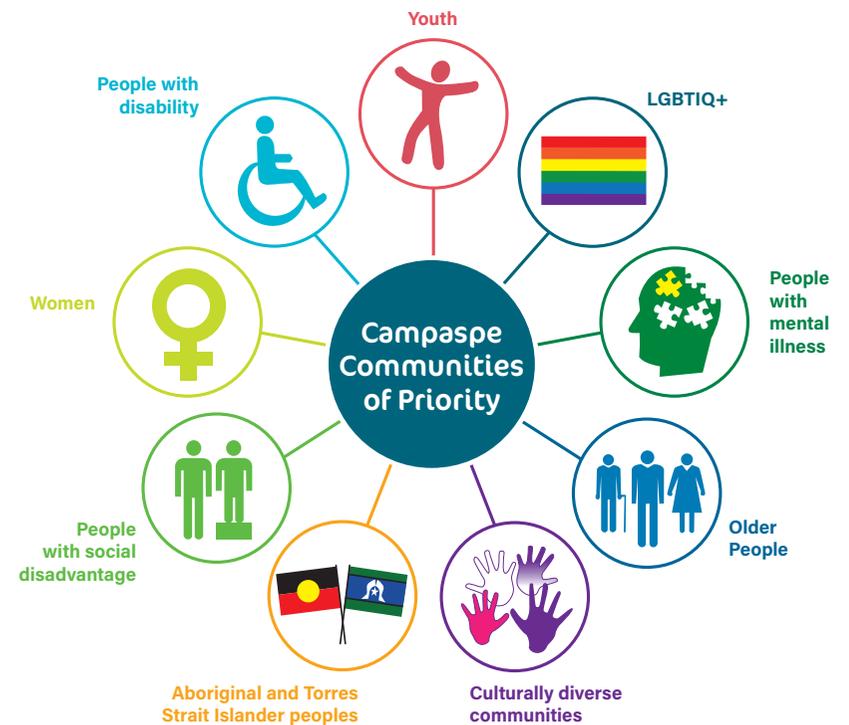
The most significant change was the adoption of nine Communities of Priority being:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- People with disability
- Youth
- LGBTIQ+
- People with mental illness
- Older people
- Women
- Culturally diverse groups
- People with social disadvantage

The document identifies four strategies to achieve the desired outcomes:

1. **Plan and deliver Council services that enable access and inclusion**
2. **Ensure Council's decision-making process includes participation by and with consideration for Campaspe's Communities of Priority**
3. **Advocate for the needs of Council's identified Communities of Priority**
4. **Develop and maintain partnerships with groups that support the needs of Council's identified Communities of Priority**

This action plan identifies what services, activities and projects Council will progress over the next two years. It is intended to be dynamic, and will be updated over the life of the strategy to ensure Council's response remains current.



Strategy 1: Plan and deliver council services that enable access and inclusion

Service, Project or Planned improvement

Community grants and donations - Provide funds to community projects, through annual grant programs, with a focus on supporting the nine Communities of Priority

Annual contributions - Contribute funds annually, through the budget process, to support community organisations that address community needs, eg community halls, neighbourhood houses, historical societies

Citizenship ceremonies - Coordinate citizenship conferral ceremonies to support new Australians celebrate their commitment to Australia and the community

Community events - Engage and support a variety of community events that promote positive messaging, eg gender equity initiative known as 16 days of activism

Event planning support - Provide information to event organisers on support services available that improve access for people with mobility issues, eg portable disabled toilet for events

Emergency management – test exercise - Ensure Council provides best practise response to support emergency situations in key locations, such as aged care facilities

Community transport program - Support older persons and people with a disability to access out of local area medical appointments with a volunteer based transport program

Facilities to support senior groups - Provide community groups with facilities that enable older members of the community access to activities and friendship

Annual Seniors Week Festival - Provide annual support to the Victorian Seniors Festival (October)

Library service outreach programs - Support delivery of volunteer based library programs to community members unable to access physical library spaces

Targeted library programs - Continue to support targeted programs that provide a range of community needs and age appropriate activities

Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Program - Supply a more intense level of support to families with children aged 0-6 experiencing increased need and those who benefit from targeted actions and interventions

eServices - Maintain a customer portal for lodging service requests via Council's website

Kyabram Allan Street road safety works - Improve the safety of the intersection for road users, particularly pedestrians

Shire Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) works - Continue a program of works to upgrade footpaths across the shire to ensure compliance with DDA requirements

Missing links footpath works - Improve safety and accessibility to identified areas by constructing footpath links

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Key

 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

 Older people

 Culturally diverse communities

 LGBTIQ+

 People with disability

 People with mental illness

 People with social disadvantage

 Women

 Youth

Strategy 2: Ensure council's decision making processes include participation by, and consideration for, Campaspe's Communities of Priority

Service, Project or Planned improvement

Youth Advisory Group (YAG) - Support and provide young people in Campaspe with the opportunity to contribute to Council and provide advice on issues of concern to young people

Emergency preparedness information for targeted groups - Distribute educational material for at risk groups regarding preparedness for emergencies such as flood, bushfire and grassfire

Website accessibility - Review Council website for accessibility, quality and content to ensure the community has access to updated information

Video captioning and Readspeakr - Supply information to the community through a variety of forms including captioning on videos and Readspeakr to ensure more people within the community have access to Council information

Online forms - Progress the transfer of pdf forms to online forms available on Council's website to enable wider community access

Installation of new kerb ramps and replacement of non-compliant kerb ramps - Schedule works over the next two years to ensure usable continuous path of travel is available to all users, working with the community to identify locations of concern and communicate when action is taken

Footpath improvements - Coordinate a process that improves footpaths that are considered unstable and unsafe via the Road Management Plan

Disabled parking bays - Ensure that all new disabled parking bays are compliant and meet relevant standards

Financial hardship for rates - Support ratepayers who are experiencing financial hardship with the option to request a payment plan for their rates

Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre (EWMAC) accessibility - Allocate at least one general public swimming lane at all times and allow walk in entry for people who are unable to use the stairs

Adult learn to swim classes - Support the need for all members of the community to have swimming skills

Indigenous traineeship - Learn to swim / Lifeguard - Employ an Indigenous Learn to swim/ Lifeguard Trainee as funded through the Healthy Heart of Victoria program

Healthy Heart of Victoria program - Initiate projects that focus on getting more people more active more often, with projects aimed at supporting vulnerable community members to have access to areas for active living

Port of Echuca Gardening program - Develop small and large gardening projects and tasks, in conjunction with Echuca Specialist School, to support social and employability skills of students

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Key

-  Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
-  Older people
-  Culturally diverse communities
-  LGBTIQ+
-  People with disability
-  People with mental illness
-  People with social disadvantage
-  Women
-  Youth

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Strategy 2: Ensure council's decision making processes include participation by, and consideration for, Campaspe's Communities of Priority

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Service, Project or Planned improvement

Rushworth Senior Citizens/ Kindergarten Carpark Upgrade - Investigate improved accessibility to the senior citizens facility and kindergarten, driven by the need to address DDA standards, community feedback and change of use of the adjacent service centre										
Echuca Eyre Street footpath (Healthy Heart Victoria project) - Complete the footpath link to improve active transport options for students and residents of the area	✓		✓			✓			✓	
Customer service kiosks - Install customer service kiosks in the five service centres to improve accessibility to Council information	✓									
Supported playgroups - Continue to support and develop services for the wellbeing of parents/caregivers and children, who are experiencing vulnerability	✓									

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Strategy 3: Advocate for the needs of council's identified Communities of Priority

Service, Project or Planned improvement

Early start kindergarten enrolments - Provide free three year old kindergarten for up to 15 hours per week for Aboriginal children in the two years before school

Campaspe Community Volunteer awards - Administer the annual volunteer award program to recognise members of the community who donate their time to support the nine Communities of Priority

Loddon Campaspe Local Government Regional Settlement Network - Participate as a member, focusing on regional and rural retention of migrants. Work with local support groups such as Regional Australians for Refugees and St Mary's Parish to seek funding and activities to support migrants and refugees

Click Campaspe - Youth Facebook page - Enact the funded Engage! Program by helping the Youth Advisory Group manage a youth social media page that disseminates and shares key information to the young people of Campaspe

Youth Advisory Group - Support the Youth Advisory Group in an annual presentation to Council around youth issues relating to Campaspe's young people

Local Aboriginal Networks (Department of Premier and Cabinet) - Participate in meetings with Local Aboriginal Networks from Echuca and Kyabram to build strong working relationships and support initiatives within our communities

Traditional landowner recognition - Increase recognition and respect to the traditional landowners of the Dja Dja Wurrug, Taungurung and Yorta Yorta Peoples. The region has a strong and rich Aboriginal culture and protocols for recognition that includes Welcome to Country, Acknowledgement of Country, smoking ceremonies and other protocols when delivering programs and services

Public Transport - Work with the Department of Transport for improved community access for sustainable and reliable public transport services that will enhance a number of social and financial barriers faced by all Campaspe communities

Recreation facility improvements - Identify works at the Echuca East Recreation Reserve and Victoria Park Echuca as key projects

16 Days of Activism Event - Raise awareness in the community that we say no to family and gendered violence

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Strategy 4: Develop and maintain partnerships with groups that support the needs of council's identified Communities of Priority

Service, Project or Planned improvement

Seniors Program Grants - Provide annual funding opportunity for groups to hold events and activities for seniors, focusing on improving social and health outcomes for older members in the community

Premiers Active April - Build a culture of activity through this State Government program in conjunction with all local major health agencies

Dry Seasonal Conditions Network - Engage with the network to support a coordinated response for environmental issues impacting the communities within Campaspe

Food Security Network - Facilitate in partnership with the Campaspe PCP, membership to help locally based food agencies communicate their services to the community

Campaspe Murray Mental Health Network - Support mental health service providers through participation in this network and contribute in the primary prevention space

Campaspe Family Violence Action Group - Participate to drive greater integration and coordination of local services for all those experiencing family violence and to prevent family violence before it occurs through evidence-based action on gender inequality

Campaspe Aboriginal Health Partnership Group - Partner to share a goal of self-determination and respect for the local Aboriginal community, informed by the themes of social inclusion, freedom from discrimination, while respecting family and community connections, and connection to culture and country.

Campaspe LGBTIQ+ & Allies Group - Support and contribute to the newly formed Campaspe LGBTIQ+ Allies group

Work experience - Offer work experience and/or work placement to students to provide pathways for future careers

Gender Equity Initiatives in the Early Years - Lead the Early Years Violence Prevention Plan (gender equity focus) through the Children's Services team utilising a mix of interventions and capacity building strategies by initially piloting the program in council's centre based care services

Social enterprise employment with VIVID - Engage with VIVID for employment opportunities including collection of litter in the Echuca Port Precinct, roadsides and transfer stations; as well as stripping of mattresses and bailing of foam

Access assessments at recreation reserves - Undertake reviews with VIVID of all Council managed recreation reserves to identify accessibility challenges

Voice of our Youth Project - Develop an in-depth youth report with Regional Development Victoria by meeting, providing statistical information and reviewing draft documents whilst working with the Campaspe Cohuna Learn Local Employment Network and project worker to develop a rich Campaspe report

KiT Youth Mental Health Project - Sustain a partnership with Loddon Mallee by actively participating in the youth centred outreach van and app, disseminating mental health information to young people

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Strategy 4: Develop and maintain partnerships with groups that support the needs of council's identified Communities of Priority

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Service, Project or Planned improvement

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Youth Week - Support Youth Week program and activities through providing funds to community groups										✓
Historical societies - Issue annual contributions to Historical Societies within Campaspe who are registered with the Historical Societies of Australia to support the preservation of Campaspe's rich history	✓									
L2P Program - Actively support the TAC funded Learner to Probationary Program that mentors and educates disadvantaged and disengaged youth to gain their driver's licence.										✓
One and All Inclusion Project - Empower the One and All Campaspe Inclusion Project in bridging a wide social gap to provide people with a disability greater opportunity to integrate in community life through organised sports and activity days.					✓					
Campaspe Youth Services Network - Facilitate the Campaspe Youth Services Network to which provides health and wellbeing outcomes and services the young people of Campaspe.										✓
Community houses - Provide an annual contribution to community and neighbourhood houses to support the delivery of services and activities to our nine Communities of Priority	✓									
National Reconciliation Week - Collaborate with Njernda Aboriginal Corporation to host an annual community celebration		✓								
Aboriginal Community Development Broker - Undertake and adhere to the Memorandum of Understanding with Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation		✓								
NAIDOC Week school activities - Provide an annual grant to support NAIDOC Week activities in local schools		✓								
Meeting of the Waters Project - Partner with Njernda Aboriginal Corporation on an Indigenous Exhibition for tourists and locals, co-curated with local Aboriginal artists.		✓								
Port of Echuca School's Education Program - Coordinate a visiting Port of Echuca education program with local schools focusing on the history of the area	✓									
Community public halls - Contribute annual funding to committees of management to enable them to deliver a service in their community	✓									
Community events - Support community organisations and not-for-profit groups to develop grant applications aligned to Council's grant programs	✓									
Community projects - Support a range of community groups to establish ideas that approve access and equity across our communities	✓									
Active transport - Collaborate with TAC and community groups and similar groups to support funding applications and promotion of activities	✓									

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