

Inclusive Communities Action Plan 2026-30

Plain English summary

This plan was written by the City of Onkaparinga. When you see the word 'we' it means City of Onkaparinga.

Kaurna acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Kaurna people as the Traditional Owners of the land in the area now known as City of Onkaparinga. They are the first people of this place with a culture that is tens of thousands of years old. We think about First Nations connection to Country when we make decisions about our region as this affects their wellbeing. We also recognise that Kaurna and other Aboriginal people are involved in community life and bring their rich culture to the strong future we are aiming for.

Introduction

The City of Onkaparinga is a local government organisation in South Australia that works within the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999*. We have the largest number of residents of all councils in South Australia with more than 182,820 people across urban and rural communities. As part of supporting our city we aim to create a society where nobody is left out and which celebrates diversity.



The City of Onkaparinga provides lots of important services to the community, which are guided by our Community Vision 2034. The Community Vision is at the top of our planning framework and ideas from a wide range of people in our community helped create this vision. There are 4 main themes of the Community Vision, which are: Community, Environment, Liveability, and Leadership.

Our Inclusive Communities Action Plan will help us work towards the goals of the Community Vision. It will also work towards aims of South Australia's Disability Inclusion Plan as well as national disability reforms and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. By supporting these plans we will enable people with disability to be treated fairly and enjoy the same human rights and freedoms as other people in society.

About this plan

Discussions with our community including people with disability helped us to make our Inclusive Communities Action Plan, and we thank those people for their contribution. This plan supports our commitment to building a fair, respectful and inclusive community. It aims to make our city a place where everyone can take part in all aspects of community life with fewer barriers and more opportunities.

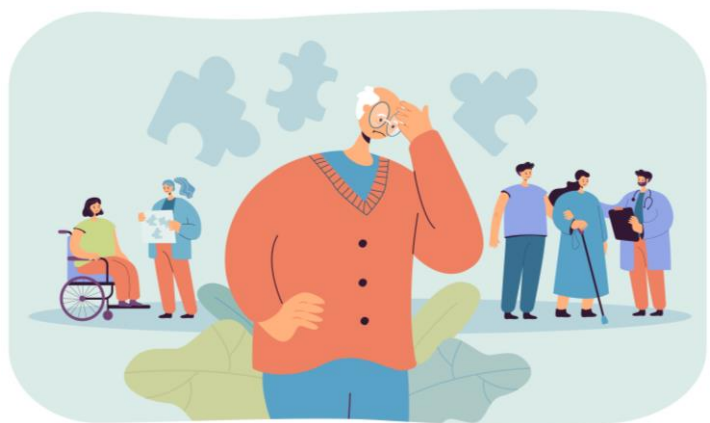
Our Plan also recognises overlapping experiences of disability, meaning that some people with a disability may face additional barriers from being part of other groups in the population. These groups include First Nations people, culturally diverse communities, women, children, LGBTQIA+ people, and those in regional or disadvantaged areas. For example, a First Nations person with disability may experience discrimination relating to their race, age, gender and disability.



Data about communities in our city and across the state

Some facts about inclusion in our city and South Australia are provided below:

- 6.9 per cent of our residents (12,095) said they need help with their daily lives due to disability.
- It is estimated that the group of people in our city who are 80 years and older will have the highest growth rate of 37.2 per cent between 2025 and 2031.
- In our city it is likely that by 2046 households where only one person is living will be the most common household type, resulting in increased vulnerability.
- Our city has the highest number of people with dementia of all South Australian council areas with 3,142 recorded and many more not yet diagnosed.
- In 2025 there were about 35,000 South Australians living with dementia, including 2,100 people under the age of 65 living with younger-onset dementia.
- Autism is the biggest disability group in South Australia with participation in the NDIS averaging 40 percent of participants, which is above the national average.
- Our city has nearly 4,000 participants in the NDIS living with autism and this amount is increasing.



Four local priorities

When we were making this plan our community helped us identify 4 main priorities to make our city more inclusive, as follows:

1. Better access to buildings and public spaces

We will improve council buildings, parks and public places so that they are easy for everyone to use. This includes using good design and getting ideas from people with disability to help make design decisions.

2. Clear and accessible information

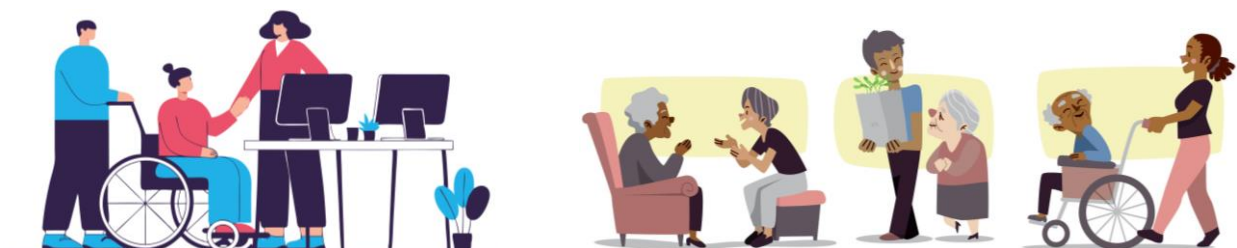
We will improve the way we share information so it is easy to find, understand and use. This includes better signage, clearer communication about our services and letting people know what is and isn't accessible.

3. Stronger community understanding and leadership

We will help people get a better understanding of disability and inclusion across our community. We will create ways for people with disability to do leadership roles and input into decision-making.

4. Inclusive workplaces and employment

We will make it easier to find a job, do volunteering and develop skills, and help to make jobs within the council and the broader community more inclusive.



How we will work towards the state's plan

The State Disability Inclusion Plan has priorities called **domains** for making South Australia more inclusive. Our Plan will guide work to address the following domains.

Inclusive Environments and Communities

People with disability have a fundamental right to take part in all aspects of social, cultural and economic life and enjoy the benefits of an accessible and inclusive community.

This will mean people with disability:

- are active participants in accessible and inclusive communities
- are respected and included in their communities, where inclusive attitudes and behaviours are widely demonstrated
- can access and enjoy inclusive and accessible natural and built environments
- can access public toilet facilities that meet their needs when out in the community
- can find the information they need in the format(s) they need it in
- are actively involved in government decisions that affect their lives
- have access to appropriate housing.



Education and Employment

People with disability have a fundamental right to achieve their full potential through education and lifelong learning, and the economic security that comes from equal opportunities within the workforce.

This will mean:

- children with disability feel valued, welcomed and have access to inclusive education starting in the early years
- people with disability have supportive environments to learn, grow, and transition throughout their life
- people with disability have opportunities to achieve, develop and succeed in their chosen fields
- people with disability have access to supportive places to earn.

Personal and Community Support

People with disability have a fundamental right to access a range of in-home, residential and other community support services. This includes personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community.

This will mean:

- people with disability can easily access community supports and services
- people with disability receive more effective support when services work together and share information
- government-funded programs and services include disability-specific provisions to enable full and equal participation.

Safety, Rights and Justice

People with disability have a fundamental right to recognition before the law and to live free from all forms of exploitation, violence, abuse and neglect. This includes the right to safety and to legislative, administrative, social and educational support, and other measures that protect and uphold their dignity and wellbeing.

This will mean that people with disability:

- are kept safe during emergencies, with their needs planned for and prioritised.

Monitoring and reporting

Our Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee will check progress of work on our Plan and will give us reports of outcomes every year. This way we can see what is working well and if there are any things that need more attention. We will provide updates of this work to our community every year throughout the life of our Plan.

This Plain English plan is a summary of another plan. It only includes the most important ideas. The full Inclusive Communities Action Plan can be found at: www.onkaparingacity.com.

To speak with someone about our Inclusive Communities Action Plan you can call: 8384 0666.

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