



CLARE & GILBERT
VALLEYS COUNCIL

DISABILITY ACCESS & INCLUSION PLAN

2020 -
2025



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1. INTRODUCTION

This is the Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council's first Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP).

Access for people with a disability is a legislative requirement under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*¹. The Act makes it unlawful to discriminate against a person with a disability.

This DAIP demonstrates the Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council's commitment to improving the participation of people with disability and their carers across a range of areas, so they can enjoy the rights and opportunities provided to all citizens and reach their full potential.

Council initially sought information from the community on what was important to them and what Council should focus on to improve disability access and inclusion. This information formed the foundation of the Draft DAIP's priorities and actions.

The Draft DAIP was released for further public consultation in September 2020 which has informed the development of this final DAIP.



¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2018C00125>

2. The Role of Local Government in Disability Access and Inclusion

Local Government plays an important role in creating an environment which is inclusive of all people, through planning, provision of a range of services, its significant role in public infrastructure provision and guiding the development of the built environment.

Local Government's role has been significantly guided by State and Federal Government legislation and policy as detailed below:

Inclusive SA: State Disability Inclusion Plan 2019-2023²

Inclusive SA was launched on 1 November 2019 and is the South Australian Government's first State Disability Inclusion Plan. The Plan is the State's commitment to create an accessible and inclusive South Australia based on fairness and respect.

The plan brings State Government agencies and local councils together to reduce the barriers faced by people living with disability.

Inclusive SA sets out the priorities and actions for the next four years under the following themes:

- inclusive communities for all
- leadership and collaboration
- accessible communities
- learning and employment

Under the *Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA)*³, state authorities in South Australia are required to develop their own Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs).

This DAIP is a requirement of this State Government legislation.

² https://dhs.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/84500/State-Disability-Inclusion-Plan-Easy-Read.pdf

³ <https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/A/DISABILITY%20INCLUSION%20ACT%202018.aspx>



National Disability Strategy (NDS) ⁴

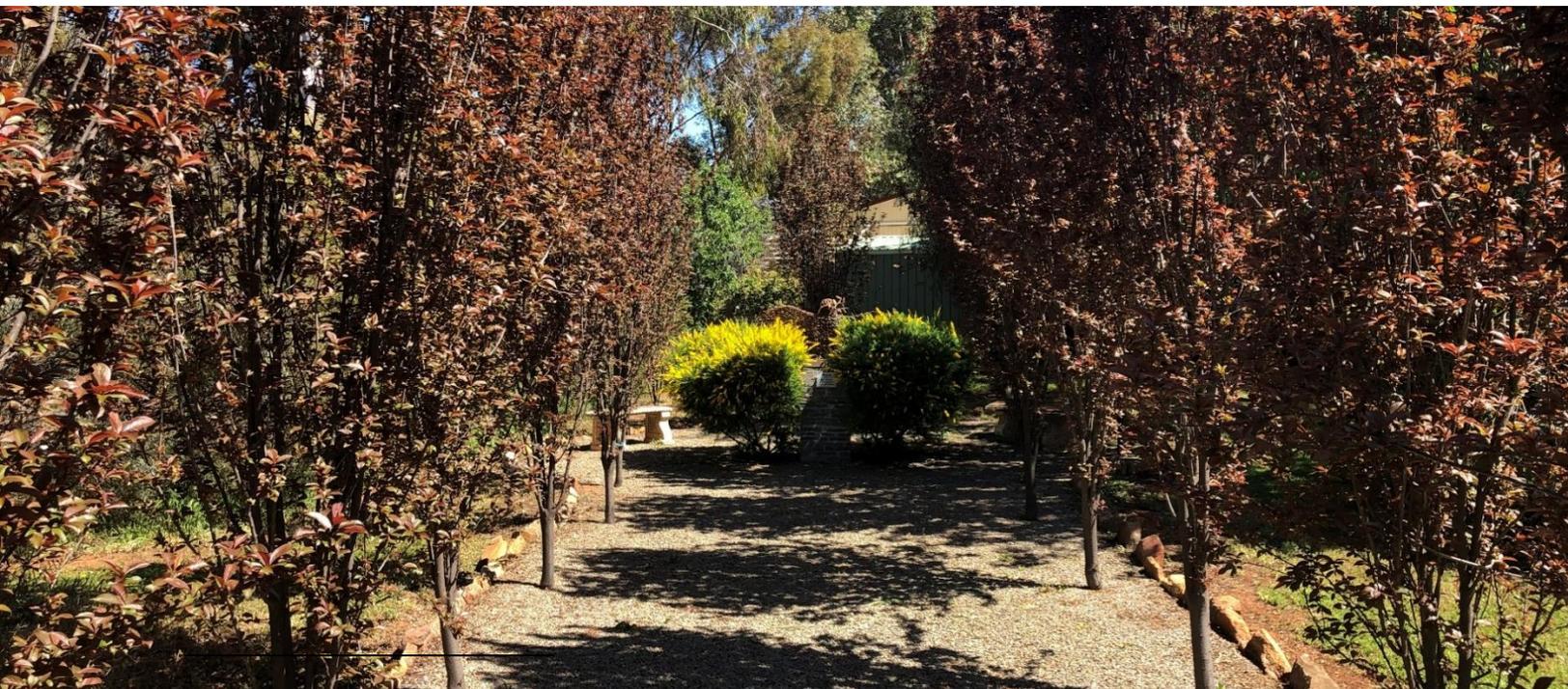
The National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 brings together all levels of government in a national approach to improving the lives of people with disability. Communities are required to fully include people with disability in all aspects of life. Councils are often at the forefront of change and communities look to local government to provide innovative solutions to respond to local issues and needs.

The NDS encourages councils to put a disability lens over all planning, services and activities provided, and to be mindful that small changes can have a big impact on people with disability in the community.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) ⁵

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is one of the largest and most influential shifts to occur in the delivery of social services in Australia. The NDIS is one of the key funding support systems for people with disability in the nation. The NDIS provides support to eligible people with intellectual, physical, sensory, cognitive, and psychosocial disability.

The NDIS moves away from a service-focused model to a person-centred model whereby people with a disability are provided with individualised support to manage the support and services they receive to meet their own goals and needs. This is a significant change in approach and is relatively new in Australia.



https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/05_2012/national_disability_strategy_2010_2020.pdf

⁵ <https://www.ndis.gov.au/>



3. Regional Snapshot

3.1 Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council area

The Clare & Gilbert Valleys comprises some of the most productive lands and scenic landscapes in Australia. Located adjacent to the outer metropolitan area of Adelaide, the Clare & Gilbert Valleys' district enjoys the advantages of proximity and accessibility with an enviable rural lifestyle.

The Clare & Gilbert Valleys district forms part of the traditional lands of the Kaurna and Ngadjuri peoples, and their rich connection and association with this place is recognised.

The productive and fertile lands of the Clare & Gilbert Valleys, combined with favourable climatic conditions, result in excellent broad acre cropping opportunities and livestock production. This strength provides a strong foundation for the cuisine of the Clare Valley and an increasing trend towards on-farm value adding.

The Clare Valley wine region is famous for its world class Rieslings and has achieved recognition as Australia's 'Capital of Riesling'. Combined with Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and emerging wine varieties, the Clare Valley continues to have a strong future in viticulture and winemaking.

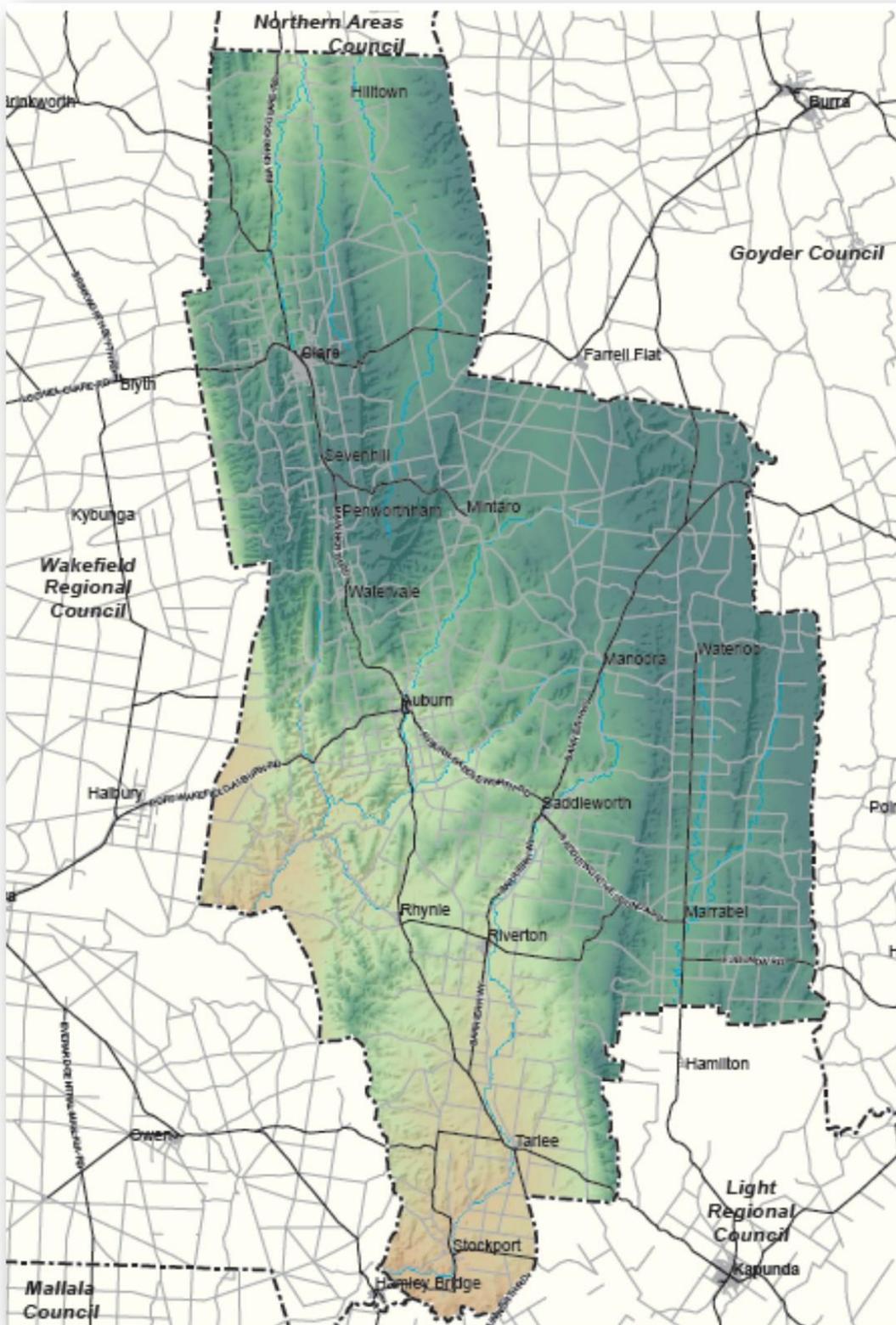
The Clare & Gilbert Valleys district is traversed by a number of South Australia's major trails. It is home to the renowned Riesling Trail which hosts cycling and walking from Barinia in the north, through Clare, to Auburn in the south, it covers more than 35kms along the old railway corridor.

A southern extension of the Rattler Trail from Auburn through to Riverton makes a total distance of 60kms. The Heysen, Mawson, Lavender and Kidman Trails also traverse the district's landscape offering a diversity of experiences and catering to a wide range of interests.

The Valleys Lifestyle Centre in Clare and the numerous sporting facilities across the region offer a wide range of physical and recreational pursuits for residents, and visitors have ample opportunity to undertake active and healthy activities.

The local area includes 15 towns and settlements, including the regional centre of Clare, the service towns of Riverton, Saddleworth and Auburn, and the villages of Stockport, Tarlee, Rhynie, Manoora, Marrabel, Waterloo, Mintaro, Penwortham, Leasingham, Watervale, Sevenhill, Armagh and Hilltown- each having a unique identity and a proud history.





3.2 Demographic Profile

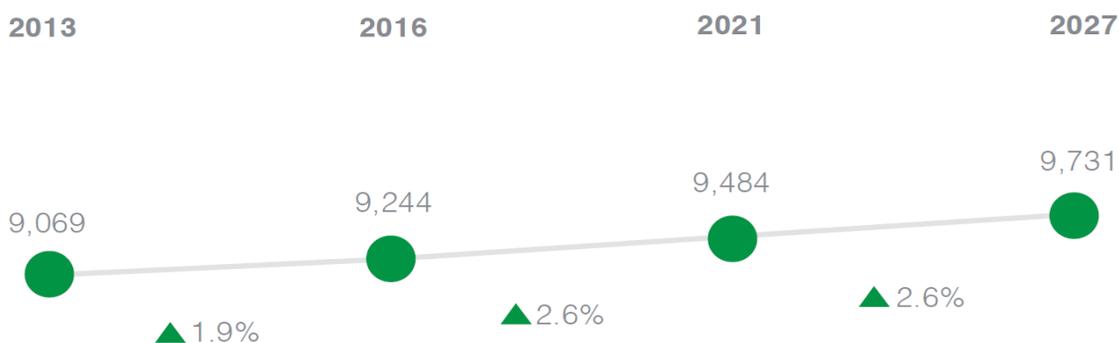
The Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council area is a relatively large and sparsely populated Council area with 9,244 people and an area of 189,303 hectares. The following data is from the 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics census.

Age	Clare and Gilbert Valleys (DC)		South Australia		Australia	
		%		%		%
Median age	47	--	40	--	38	--
0-4 years	479	5.3	97,072	5.8	1,464,779	6.3
5-9 years	572	6.3	100,466	6.0	1,502,646	6.4
10-14 years	582	6.5	95,461	5.7	1,397,183	6.0
15-19 years	452	5.0	100,686	6.0	1,421,595	6.1
20-24 years	334	3.7	107,986	6.4	1,566,793	6.7
25-29 years	470	5.2	107,361	6.4	1,664,602	7.1
30-34 years	456	5.1	110,751	6.6	1,703,847	7.3
35-39 years	428	4.7	102,818	6.1	1,561,679	6.7
40-44 years	475	5.3	106,650	6.4	1,583,257	6.8
45-49 years	613	6.8	113,619	6.8	1,581,455	6.8
50-54 years	665	7.4	113,272	6.8	1,523,551	6.5
55-59 years	711	7.9	111,896	6.7	1,454,332	6.2
60-64 years	777	8.6	102,028	6.1	1,299,397	5.6
65-69 years	643	7.1	96,286	5.7	1,188,999	5.1
70-74 years	538	6.0	72,563	4.3	887,716	3.8
75-79 years	338	3.7	53,885	3.2	652,657	2.8
80-84 years	214	2.4	39,374	2.3	460,549	2.0
85 years and over	276	3.1	44,479	2.7	486,842	2.1

The median age for the district is 47. It is important to note the older age profile of the district compared to South Australia and Australia, particularly in the 60+ age brackets. The aged often carry the largest number of disabilities; for example, mobility issues, poor sight and hearing loss being some of the more common aged disabilities.

The district continues to age like much of Australia and therefore improving disability access and inclusion is vital to the health and wellbeing of a growing number of

POPULATION PROJECTIONS



residents. The region continues to grow, as it remains an attractive place to live with a large tree change population.

The district is not very ethnically diverse, with 83.3% of people born in Australia compared to the State average of 71.1%. The most common countries of birth were England 4.8%, New Zealand 0.5%, Scotland 0.5%, Netherlands 0.4% and India 0.3%.

In the December 2019 quarter, the unemployment rate in the Clare & Gilbert Valleys was 4.5%. This is a 1% increase from the 2016 census where it was 3.5%. The recent experience of COVID may have also increased the number of unemployed persons within the district.

The most common occupations in the district included Managers 20.8%, Labourers 14.9%, Professionals 14.7%, Technicians and Trades Workers 13.4%, and Clerical and Administrative Workers 11.2%.

The region has a lower household income than the State average, which is not uncommon for regional areas, but the difference is not as significant as other regions. Surprisingly, it has a higher slightly personal income than the State median.

Median weekly incomes <i>People aged 15 years and over</i>	Clare and Gilbert Valleys (DC)	%	South Australia	%	Australia	%
Personal	605	--	600	--	662	--
Family	1,395	--	1,510	--	1,734	--
Household	1,129	--	1,206	--	1,438	--

3.3 Disability demographics

National Data

The national data pertaining to people with a disability is as interesting as it is sobering. It is important to highlight again the impact of being aged and having a disability. Our region is likely to have a higher level of persons with a disability than the national data, as the District’s median age is higher than the Australian median age.

The following data has been sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and their “Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings 2018”.⁶

Disability

In 2018, 17.7% of all Australians had disability, down from 18.3% in 2015 and 18.5% in 2012. Prevalence was similar for males and females:

- 17.6% of males, down from 18.0% in 2015 and 18.0% in 2012

⁶

<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/products/DAFD731067E636D3CA256F0F0079D6E3?OpenDocument>



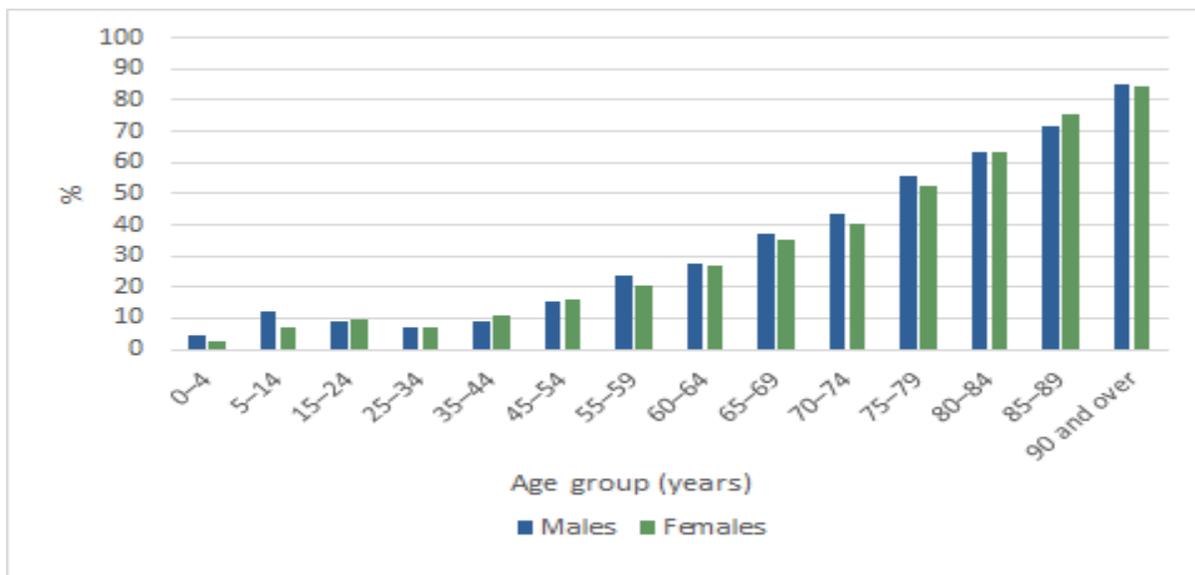
- 17.8% of females, down from 18.6% in 2015 and 19.0% in 2012.

Number of people with disability

Despite the falling percentage above, the total number of people with disability has increased. In 2018, there were 4.4 million people with disability (up from 4.3 million in 2015). Of all people with disability, 1.9 million were aged 65 years and over (up from 1.8 million in 2015):

- representing almost half (44.5%) of all people with disability (up from 41.9% in 2015 and 40.7% in 2012); and
- reflecting both an ageing population and increasing life expectancy of Australians.

Table below shows the age and sex of people with disability as a percentage of the total Australian population.



Disability status

Disability status is a measure of the severity of limitations experienced by people with disability. In 2018, of the 4.4 million Australians who had disability, almost 3.9 million people had a limitation with the core activities of communication, mobility or self-care and/or a schooling or employment restriction. As a proportion of the Australian population:

- 3.2% had a profound limitation
- 2.6% had a severe limitation
- 2.4% had a moderate limitation



- 6.1% had a mild limitation
- 1.4% had a schooling or employment restriction only.

Main long-term health conditions of people with disability

Of the 4.4 million Australians with disability in 2018, over three-quarters (76.8%) reported a physical disorder as their main condition (the condition causing them the most problems).

Of all people with disability, almost one-quarter (23.2%) reported a mental or behavioural disorder as their main condition, up from 21.5% in 2015. The most common mental and behavioural disorders were:

- psychoses and mood disorders - 7.5%.
- intellectual and developmental disorders - 6.5%.
- neurotic, stress related and somatoform disorders - 6.1%.

Labour force participation

Labour force participation for people with disability has remained stable since 2015, in contrast to an increase in the participation rate for people without disability. In 2018, 2.1 million people with disability living in households were of working age (15-64 years). Of these:

- over half (53.4%) were in the labour force, compared with 84.1% of those without disability
- almost half (47.8%) were employed, compared with 80.3% of people without disability
- 46.6% were not in the labour force, compared with 15.9% of those without disability.

Unemployment

In 2018, the unemployment rate was:

- 10.3% for people with any type of disability (more than twice the rate for people without disability, 4.6%)
- 12.7% for people with a profound or severe limitation
- 11.8% for people with a moderate limitation
- 9.6% for people with a mild limitation.

Personal income

In 2018, the median gross personal income of people with disability was \$505 per week, less than half (49.7%) that of people without disability (\$1016 per week). In 2015, the median gross personal income of people with disability was \$465 per week, less than half (48.9%) that of people without disability (\$950 per week).



Main source of income

In 2018, the most common main sources of income for people with disability were:

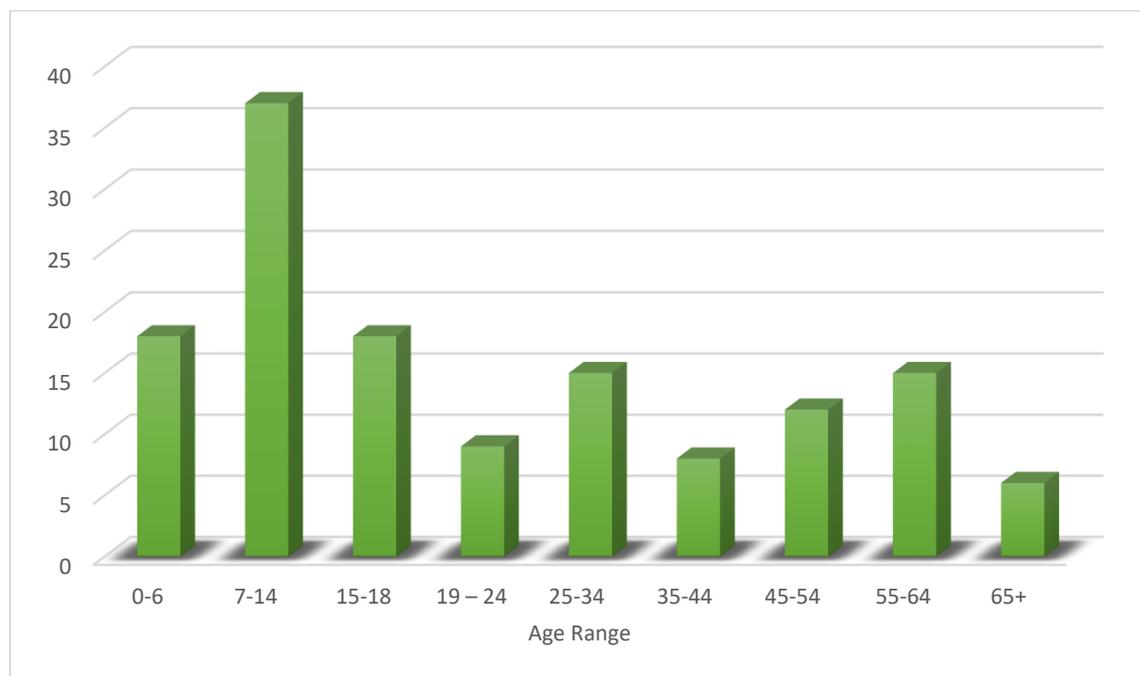
- government pension or allowance (37.9%, down from 41.9% in 2015)
- wages or salary (37.6%), no significant change from 2015 (36.5%).

In 2018, a government pension or allowance was the main source of income for:

- over half (58.6%) of people with a profound or severe limitation, down from 68.5% in 2015
- over one-third (37.2%) of people with a moderate or mild limitation, similar to 2015 (40.7%).

National Disability Insurance Scheme Data for Council Area

The following chart reflects the age ranges of those who access the NDIS in the Clare & Gilbert Valleys. While these figures do not capture all of those with disability, it does provide a snapshot of the diverse ages and, therefore, needs.



Of the above:

- 10 identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- 1 identifies as Culturally and linguistically diverse.
- 4 are young people living in Aged Care Facilities.
- 53 are female and 88 are male.



It is important to note that the elderly are largely not eligible for NDIS, yet often have a disability as shown earlier. Therefore, in terms of total persons with a disability, these figures would be significantly higher.



4 Why Plan for Disability Access and Inclusion?

4.1 Disability Discrimination

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*⁷ provides protection for everyone in Australia against discrimination based on disability.

It encourages everyone to be involved in implementing the Act and to share in the overall benefits to the community and the economy that flow from participation by the widest range of people.

Disability discrimination happens when people with a disability are treated less fairly than people without a disability.

Disability discrimination also occurs when people are treated less fairly because they are relatives, friends, carers, co-workers or associates of a person with a disability.

Discrimination can be direct or indirect.

Direct discrimination occurs when a person with a disability receives less favourable treatment than a person without a disability would receive in the same or similar circumstances.

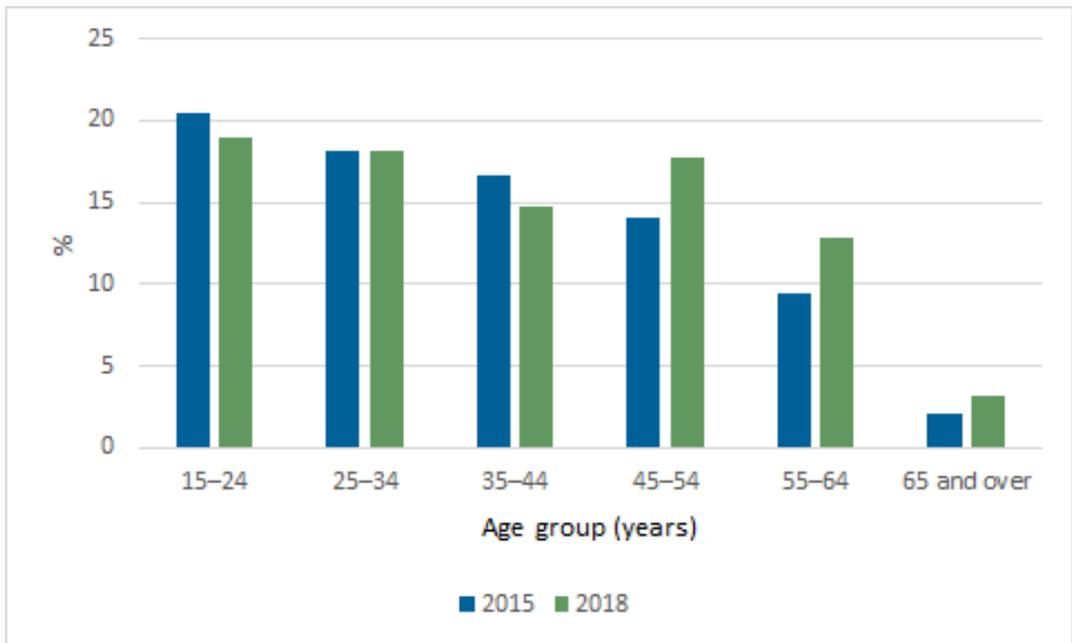
Indirect discrimination occurs when there is a requirement, condition or practice in force that applies to everyone but unfairly excludes or disadvantages people with a disability because they are unable, or find it difficult, to comply with the requirement, condition or practice due to the disability.

Unfortunately, as shown in the previous national data, particularly in terms of the unemployment rate for people with disability and their lower incomes compared to the national average, there is an element of discrimination when it comes to the labour force.

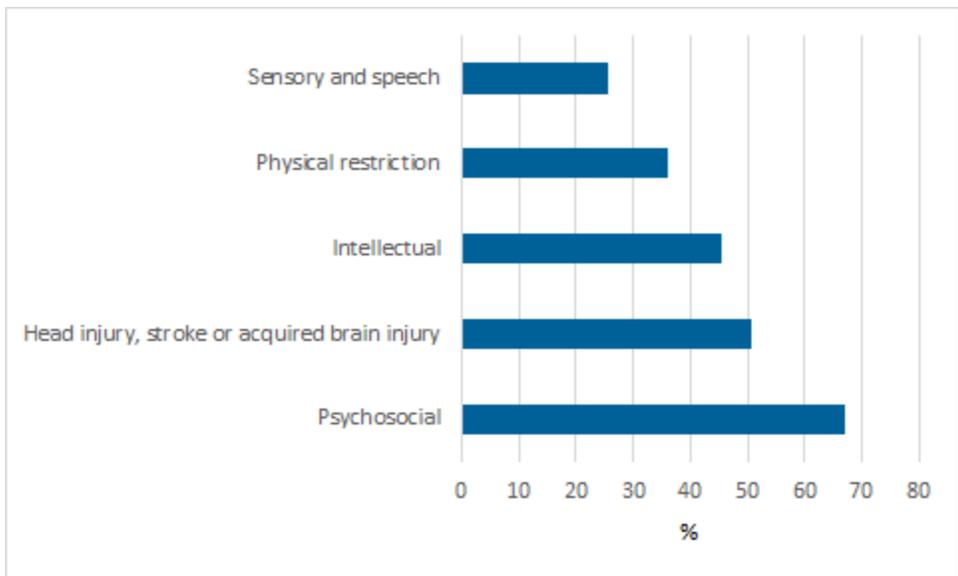
The national ABS data detailed the following:

⁷ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2018C00125>





Persons with disability, proportion who experienced discrimination by age group, 2018

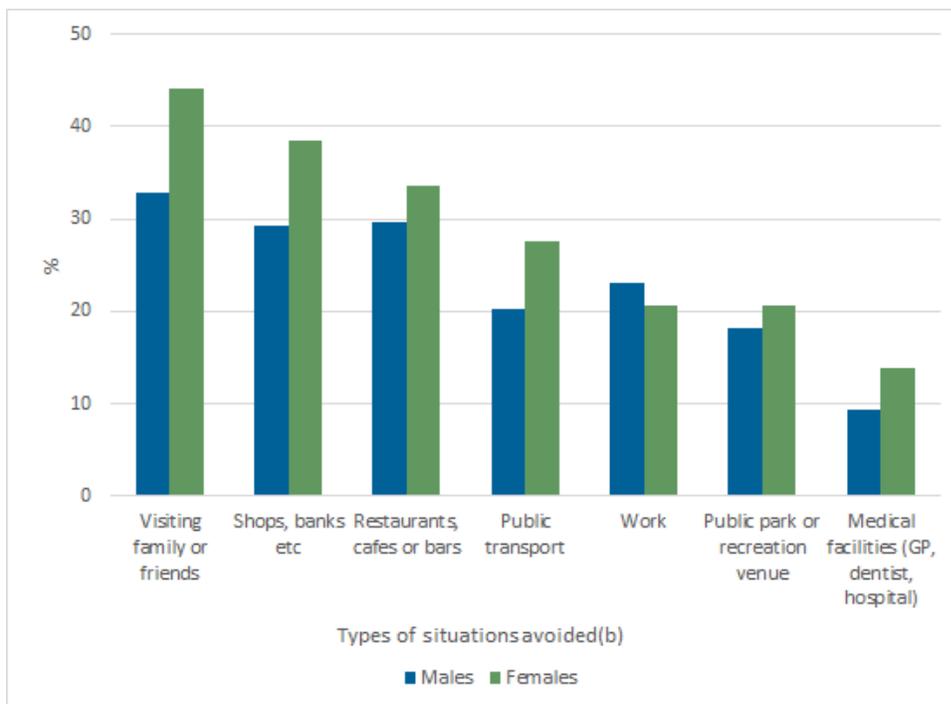


Persons with disability, proportion who avoided situations, by disability group, 2018

Of those with disability who avoided situations because of their disability, the most common situations avoided were:

- visiting family and friends (39.2%)
- going to shops, banks etc. (34.3%)
- visiting restaurants, cafes or bars (31.8%).





Persons who avoided situations because of disability, types of situations avoided, by sex, 2018

This data highlights that people are actively avoiding activities because of their disability.

Council has a role to play in breaking down barriers that may exist. This is particularly important, as Council largely controls physical infrastructure and many people with disability have mobility issues. Reducing these barriers can reduce the propensity for people with disability to avoid situations and reduce isolation.

4.2 State and Federal Legislation

Federal and State legislation require the planning, development and implementation of processes which fulfil Council’s legal and moral obligations to provide access to all citizens and visitors of the Council area. Some relevant legislation that is important to acknowledge is listed below. This list is not exhaustive and there is various legislation in place to ensure the rights and to enhance the conditions of those living with a disability.



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	STATE GOVERNMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1992. - Disability Services Act 1986. - Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010 - (DAPS). - Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2010 - (DSAPT). - National Construction Code - Building Code of Australia. - Liveable Housing Design Guidelines – Revision 2 May 2012. - Multiple Australia Standards within the building sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Government Act 1999. - Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (SA). Disability Services (Rights, Protection and Inclusion) Amendment Act 2013. - Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016. - Mental Health Act 2009. - Planning and Design Code.

4.3 Key Local Strategies and Documents

The Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council has a number of key guiding documents that can impact the lives of people with disability as well as the wider community. These include:

- Clare & Gilbert Valleys Strategic Plan 2019-29.
- Clare & Gilbert Valleys Open Space and Recreation Strategy - May 2020.
- Mid North Regional Public Health Plan
- Various streetscape and master plans.

4.4 The economic value of people with disability

Although Council and the community in general must be considerate of people with a disability in their decision-making processes, providing improved access, particularly to existing buildings and infrastructure, can come at a considerable cost.

Thinking of improving access as a negative cost implication, and not as an opportunity, needs to change.

Although improving access to buildings and infrastructure can be difficult and costly, improving access allows a significant percentage of the population access which they were previously denied.

These people provide a significant economic contribution to our community and this should be recognised. Exclusionary building design and infrastructure can impact a person’s decision to undertake certain activities and therefore there is a significant opportunity cost associated with that.



It is important to note that the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will increase funding for disability services, from \$8 billion dollars set in 2015–16 to \$22.5 billion at full Scheme implementation⁸.

According to the NDIS more than 460,000 Australians with a disability are eligible for the Scheme. Therefore, exclusionary services, buildings and infrastructure, from both Council and privately, e.g. shops and offices, limit disabled persons' ability to work and spend within these locations. It is important to ensure that not only Council staff and Elected Members, but also the wider community, understand that improving access is a formula for business success and improved profitability rather than an undesirable cost.



⁸ *Growing the NDIS Market and Workforce 2019*, Department of Social Services, Commonwealth of Australia

5 Community Engagement

5.1 Consultation Process

A consultation process was undertaken from 1-24 July 2020 to gather feedback about experiences in accessing council services or facilities, or communicating with council, to help develop an informed and useful plan.

The consultation comprised of a survey, information on the Council website, items in the Council newsletters, print media advertisements, direct emails and Council's social media with one of the posts reaching 1,763 people with 214 engagements and was shared 5 times.

Baptcare, the NDIS Partner for the region, was instrumental in emailing the information directly to all service providers in the Council district and directly to 71 families, seeking their contribution. It was also on the Baptcare and NDIS websites and on the local 'Parenting kids with Disabilities' Facebook site.

There were also 5 telephone and 4 face to face interviews undertaken.

Two workshops were held, one each in Clare and Riverton. These were attended by service providers and importantly by two parents of a disabled child in Clare and one in Riverton. Input from these community members was particularly valuable.

The input from these various sources has been summarized in Section 5.3 and 5.4.

Based on this input, a Draft DAIP was developed and released for public consultation during September 2020. This further feedback informed the development of the final DAIP.

5.2 Key Findings

There were many useful findings from both parts of the consultation, some of which can be immediately implemented and others which can be added to future planning as well as shared with local and State groups, organisations and bodies.

Overall, the community was grateful for the opportunity to express their views and suggest improvements for residents and visitors with a disability and their carers.

A recurring theme was that of road safety concerns, with the need for safe and accessible crossings and safe and easily traversed footpaths.

Social and recreational/sporting needs were raised many times due to the lack of opportunity for young people with disabilities to enjoy sports and dance in a non-competitive environment.



The region is fortunate in having Clare Valley Enterprises as a major employer for local people with disability and there are opportunities for a wider scope for supported employment and work experience through local businesses.

It is noteworthy that the disability tourism sector spends \$8 billion annually with accessible businesses in Australia, with 90 per cent of people with a disability holidaying at least once a year, which results in economic opportunities for our region. Grevillea House in Clare offers a full support accommodation service for families caring for people with disability enabling access to the region in a way which was previously not possible.

Key findings from the survey showed Council ranked well in the areas of building infrastructure/accessibility with regard to council’s offices, libraries, public toilets and playgrounds while areas which needed improvement included recreation facilities, accessibility to cemeteries, footpaths and pathways, accessible public parking and pedestrian crossings. Footpaths, in particular, were highlighted by all respondents as an area that needed improvement.

5.3 Initial Consultation Responses

The survey and the consultations in Clare and Riverton included participants with a lived experience of disability as well as carers and agencies. The mobility needs of those surveyed ranged from use of mobility aids to wheelchairs as well as communication and vision impairment. Respondents resided in or near Watervale, Tarlee, Sevenhill, Saddleworth, Riverton, Mintaro, Clare, and Auburn.

COUNCIL FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
	<i>Responses</i>
Disabled toilets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey respondents rated mostly good facilities with some needing improvement. Need identified for unisex disabled toilets, not integrated with male or female toilets. This would allow parents/carers to better assist their child/client of the opposite sex without embarrassment. 2. Need identified for a ‘lifter’ to be installed in a disabled toilet in a central location, e.g. Mill Place toilets in Clare. 3. Some disabled toilets have a gravel pathway to access – difficult to access.
Council offices & libraries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mostly good access reported. Comments on difficulty in opening heavy doors. 2. Need for more automatic doors. 3. Loop hearing for PA – hearing impaired



	4. Quiet Rooms/Quiet Spaces – library, Valleys - Noise cancelling headphones, Valleys Lifestyle Centre or upstairs. These are particularly important for people with autism.
Trained Employee	Staff/consultant with disability area training for advocacy and advice.
Public Seating	1. Bench seating to allow carer to sit close. 2. Higher seating to assist people in sitting down and rising more easily.
Footpaths & Pathways	1. Uneven pavers in some towns. 2. Many travel on the road as the surface is smoother and footpaths are not traversable for wheelchairs or unsteady walkers. 3. Lack of footpaths/safe walking areas in small towns.
Road crossings & traffic lights	1. Speeding through all townships is a concern. 2. Safe crossing place needed for the southern end of Clare Main Street. Particularly more important now with Clare Valley Enterprises located in the southern end. 3. Safe crossings in Riverton – northern area near the post office as well as to the south on the Barrier Highway. 4. Riverton – intersection by aged care units – difficult for drivers to exit onto the main road as visibility is limited. 5. Riverton – issues with rubble/small rocks at edge of footpaths causing problems when crossing from one side of the road to the other due to slippery surface. 6. Riverton – improved and increased signage – give way, slow down. 7. Larger print on signs. 8. Riverton – change of 50km/h zone north of the township could be moved further north to the other side of residential homes opposite the Golf Course. 9. Speeding through Riverton is a problem – suggested the Police be asked to place the mobile speed checking trailer on the Barrier Highway at the entrance to the town. 10. Multiple safe crossing places needed, i.e. between playgrounds. 11. More Pedestrian refuges needed. 12. Stripes (zebra) between pram ramps at side road intersections to indicate the safe crossing path. 13. Pedestrian refuge on Old North Road, Clare could be a Zebra crossing 14. More time to cross at pedestrian lights, Clare. 15. Clare pedestrian crossing ramps to be checked for compliance. 16. Suggested Bubble strips on pathways and road crossings/ramps and touchpads on crossovers for sight impaired.
General Mobility	1. Gophers – audit needed of town street footpaths and road crossings/pram ramps. 2. Safe route maps needed.



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. More accessible information about the Community Passenger Network (CPN). 4. Public transport needs / community bus
Disabled Parking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More needed – some on the Clare main street not just Old North Road. 2. Not enough room on passenger side of vehicles to get someone with a disability out of the car. 3. Some disabled parking is on a slope or at an angle – difficult to manage (one near council chamber) 4. Designated disabled parking needed outside Grevillea House, Victoria Road/Strickland Street.
Playgrounds, Parks, Walks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Playgrounds not suitable for children with disabilities. 2. No safe access way to get to the Riesling or Rattler Trails in Auburn, other than pushing a wheelchair on the road.
Streetscape	Colours can confuse people with some disabilities – e.g. someone with dementia confuses the red rubbish bin outside the post office with the red letterbox.
COMMUNITY AND SERVICES	
	<i>Responses</i>
Community Awareness	More community awareness needed about services and facilities etc.
Disability Advisory Board	Establish a local disability advisory board.
Activities & Inclusion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need for a range of sporting and recreational activities, such as dance, soccer, etc. Council could encourage clubs/organisations to offer these options – perhaps by offering no cost use of facilities such as BJ Long Room (dance). 2. Swimming support.
Social	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of opportunity to interact in a sports context. 2. Networking between families of children with disabilities and carers and adults with a disability.
Employment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clare Valley Enterprises and several local businesses employ people with disabilities. 2. SLES *School Leaver Employment Supports*. 3. Importance of alternative and higher level of supported employment opportunities to be available. 4. Encouragement to businesses to consider employing someone with disability. 5. Work needs to be done to help shift mentality about the stigma associated with disability employment needs. 6. NDIS is looking at employment scope.



	7. Council needs to lead the way to encourage training and work opportunities.
Communication	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Most important– Where do people go to find out where and what they can access... Need for central repository for information on disability and mental health. 2. Need to consider simpler language in public documentation. 3. Royal society for the blind fonts in public documents for visually impaired. 4. Signage symbols are best 5. Council generally to be familiar with the Service Provider structure - e.g. front counter knowledge.
Essential Services	Reliable phone network, especially critical for emergencies.
Retail Precincts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Footpath slope and gradient inhibits entry into shops. Heavy doors and steps. 2. Rails needed where there are steps. 3. Difficulty accessing bank ATMs because of angle of screens
Training	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council staff and library staff on how to communicate/interact with people with disabilities. 2. And visitor information staff and volunteers 3. Training could be offered to businesses to help interact with people with disabilities.
Tourism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. \$8 billion spent in accessible businesses in Australia. 90% of people with a disability holiday at least once a year. Inclusive tourism information available on web search. 2. Economic opportunities from supporting people with disabilities and their families.

AWARENESS AND RESOURCES

	<i>Responses</i>
Community Awareness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council website with links and information on disability services/toilets/etc. 2. Council brochure 3. Disability services app 4. Tourism – disability friendly information
Communications	<p>Disseminate information via various forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print media • Email database • Accessible for people with vision impairment. • Accessible for those who use Auslan • Disability Register and contact people direct • Website • Social Media • Newsletter



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular discussions with service providers • Advisory group of those with a lived experience • Amass local knowledge base.
Resources	National Disability Services – online resources.
Respite/holiday venue	Your Supports Partner offers a fully equipped respite/holiday home, Grevillea House, in Victoria Road, Clare, which can be hired/booked by people with disabilities with and without the carers (carers can be provided for the hire time) allowing respite for carers. Also a house set up in Riverton.

5.4 Draft DAIP Responses

The Draft DAIP was released during the month of September 2020 for further community feedback. The response was muted with only one response provided. This is to be expected as people tend not to respond twice to community consultation if they think their voices have been heard.

The feedback was incorporated into this DAIP.



6. Aim and Priorities

6.1 Aim of the Plan

THE AIM OF THE DAIP IS TO CREATE AN ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE CLARE & GILBERT VALLEYS BASED ON FAIRNESS AND RESPECT.

The Plan will assist Council to meet its statutory requirements under the *Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA)*.

The Plan also seeks to:

- Promote and improve access for all.
- Build an inclusive Council area that respects people's dignity and diverse values.
- Strengthens our various communities.
- Ensure the protection of equal rights, the right to participate in all aspects of community life and to ensure the right of equal access to services, resources and facilities provided by Council.
- Foster a region where people with a disability are afforded the same opportunities as the broader community.
- Improve access for people with a disability to Council's services and facilities.
- Strengthen the relationship between Council and people with disability in the region.
- Promote and increase awareness in Council staff and the broader community of the rights and needs of people with disability.
- Focus on practical, achievable and deliverable initiatives to enhance access to services, physical infrastructure and public places

6.2 Priority Areas and Actions

Through the consultation process there were some key areas where Council could do better, and this has formed the priorities for the Clare & Gilbert Valleys Disability Access and Inclusion Plan. The actions and priorities reflect the themes and priorities of the Inclusive SA – State Disability Inclusion Plan 2019-2023:

1. Inclusive communities for all
2. Leadership and collaboration
3. Learning and employment
4. Accessible Communities

The priority areas and key actions of the DAIP are listed below.



State Plan Theme	Action	Timeframe
Inclusive communities for all	1. Improve Council staff awareness of disability access and inclusion.	30 June 2021
	2. Communicate the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan to the broader public.	30 December 2020
	3. Make information easy to read and in plain English.	Ongoing
Leadership and collaboration	1. Improve consideration of people with disability needs in Council decision-making, particularly budgetary processes.	Ongoing
	2. Consider a permanent online option for viewing Council meetings.	Ongoing
	3. Update Council's Public Consultation Policy to ensure the Disability Service Provider Network is engaged when undertaking community consultation.	30 June 2021
	4. A data base of service providers to be available on Council's website.	Ongoing
	5. Where appropriate, ensure policies and procedures reference the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.	Ongoing
Learning and employment	1. Ensure Council workplaces are accessible.	Ongoing
Accessible communities	1. Focus on improving mobility issues for people with disability particularly improving and constructing new footpaths across the district.	Ongoing
	2. Implement additional pedestrian crossings in Clare and Riverton and ensure compliance of existing pedestrian crossings across the district.	30 December 2022

State Plan Theme	Action	Timeframe
	3. Ensure Council's key buildings and facilities are accessible and if not, review their ongoing public use.	30 December 2022
	4. Proposed budget items for new or improved infrastructure to highlight how they will or will not benefit people with disability to Elected Members.	Annually
	5. Advise builders and developers of their obligations under the <i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992</i> .	Ongoing
	6. Help developers and businesses understand the value of inclusive building design rather than considering it a cost.	Ongoing
	7. Review disabled car parking arrangements in the Clare CBD and look at alternative options for new disabled car parks.	30 June 2021



6.3 Implementation

The executive team of the Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council will oversee the implementation of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan and the actions as identified in 6.2.

The continued engagement of key stakeholders is fundamental to the successful implementation of this Plan. Ongoing and regular meetings with local disability services providers will act as a key touch point for Council staff.

6.4 Plan review and reporting

The executive team will meet annually to monitor progress regarding the priority areas and actions. Progress against the actions will be reported regularly to Council.

The Plan may be reviewed in line with changing legislation.

The timeframe for evaluation and review of the Plan is five years unless otherwise legislated.

