



**Association for
Children with a
Disability**

Local Government Action Plan

Inclusive communities for children with disability

This Action Plan has been developed by the Association for Children with Disability. We are the leading organisation advocating for children with disability and their families in Victoria.

Local government plays a significant role in creating an inclusive community. Inclusive communities for children with disability begin with playgrounds and playgroups and continue into youth programs and employment opportunities.

This Action Plan is informed by the experiences of more than 5,000 families across Victoria.

This is what families have said are the highest priorities for their children and family:

Babies and toddlers

1. Develop disability confident Maternal and Child Health nurses

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) nurses are the front line of identifying when children have developmental delay and helping families access early intervention and support. With the roll-out of the NDIS there has been significant change. MCH nurses need ongoing training to ensure they have the latest information about the NDIS as well as knowledge of local peer support for families, and advocacy for children with disability.

2. Create inclusive and welcoming playgroups and peer support for parents

In the early years of having a child with a disability, families and children often experience isolation as so much of their time is taken up with medical and therapy appointments. Ensure all early childhood programs are inclusive and welcoming. Ensure all child and family workers undertake disability confidence training. Ensure all council information for families is accessible and includes information about the inclusion of children with disability.

Pre-schoolers and school-aged children

3. Provide excellence in inclusive early childhood services and education

During their early years, children develop faster than any other time in their life. Child care and kindergarten provide the foundation of education. Ensure all Early Childhood Educators are implementing the Disability Standards for Education and are able to support the inclusion and learning of children with disability. Create accountable targets for the education attainment of children with disability. Early Childhood Educators are also an important source of information for families. They need ongoing training to ensure they have the latest information about the NDIS as well as knowledge of local peer support for families and advocacy for children with disability.

4. Involve children with disability in after-school and school holiday activities

Children's programs at libraries and community centres offer affordable and fun activities for children. Provide all child and family workers with disability confidence training. Ensure libraries and kindergartens have the latest books and resources that include representation of children with disability.

5. Promote inclusive sport

Sports clubs are such an important part of our local community and provide children with wonderful physical and social opportunities. Require sports clubs that utilise council facilities to be disability confident and inclusive of children with disability.

6. Create accessible playgrounds and public spaces

Playgrounds and parks are where children and families gather to play. There are wonderful examples of accessible playgrounds in Victoria, [these are some of our favourites](#). Create accessible playgrounds and public spaces. Ensure family events such as carols in the park and local festivals are fully accessible.

Young people

Young people with disability have the same hopes and dreams as other young people – enjoying time with their friends, getting a job and moving out of home.

7. Involve young people with disability in youth activities

Young people with disability report social isolation and loneliness as two of their major concerns. Youth activities at libraries and community centres offer young people with disability the opportunity to socialise with other young people in their local community. Provide all Youth Workers with disability confidence training. Ensure young people with disability are represented on youth advisory groups. Ensure all council information for young people is accessible.

8. Open more Changing Places

[Changing Places](#) offers a life changing increase in accessibility. By providing a fully accessible toilet, many more young people and adults with disability can leave their homes and enjoy facilities in their local community. Ensure all regional centres, major shopping facilities and recreation venues have a Changing Places.

9. Match the Victorian Government target for employees with a disability

Young people with disability have a significantly higher unemployment rate than their peers. Young people need work experience, employment opportunities, role models and to see people with disability in employment. Match the Victorian Government employment target for people with disability of 6% by 2020 and 12% by 2025.

10. Mandate accessibility for all building approvals

Australia has a significant shortage in accessible housing which severely limits young people with disability being able to live independently. To increase the availability of accessible housing, ensure all building approvals meet universal housing standards.

For more information, please contact:

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