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MEDIA RELEASE

MID MURRAY COUNCIL ADOPTS *DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN 2026-2030*

Mid Murray Council has formally adopted its *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2026-2030*, reaffirming its commitment to building a more inclusive, accessible and connected community for all.

The Plan outlines Council's strategic approach to improving access and inclusion across its services, facilities and operations, ensuring that people with disability can fully participate in community life.

Mid Murray Council Mayor Simone Bailey said the adoption of the DAIP reflects Council's strong commitment to listening to the community and embedding inclusion into everything it does.

"This Plan is more than a document, it is a commitment to creating a community where everyone feels welcome, respected and able to participate fully".

"We have heard directly from people with lived experience of disability, their families and carers, and their voices have shaped the actions we are taking forward."

The DAIP has been developed through extensive consultation, including workshops, surveys, interviews and community engagement across the region.

Feedback highlighted a range of barriers impacting daily life, including:

- Physical access to buildings and public spaces
- Limited transport options
- Challenges accessing information in suitable formats
- Gaps in services and community participation opportunities

The Plan responds to these issues through a coordinated and practical approach, recognising that improving inclusion requires action across multiple areas.

The DAIP is structured around five priority areas aligned with the *State Disability Inclusion Plan*:

- Inclusive environments and communities
- Education and employment
- Personal and community support
- Health and wellbeing
- Safety, rights and justice

Together, these areas guide Council's actions to remove barriers, improve access and strengthen inclusion across the Mid Murray region.

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Council will now move into implementation, with an initial focus on establishing strong foundations to support long-term delivery. Key early actions include:

- Establishing a Disability Advisory Group to ensure ongoing input from people with lived experience
- Undertaking accessibility audits of Council buildings, facilities and public spaces
- Improving access to information through accessible formats
- Delivering disability awareness training for staff and volunteers
- Embedding inclusion into Council policies, planning and service delivery

Council will also continue to advocate for improved access to services such as transport and health, recognising these are critical issues for regional communities.

In recognising the financial challenges faced by regional councils, Council will work in partnership with external agencies and other levels of government to help deliver the Plan's priorities and achieve sustainable outcomes.

A key focus of the Plan is to move beyond standalone initiatives and ensure access and inclusion are embedded into everyday Council operations. This includes:

- Applying universal design principles in infrastructure and upgrades
- Ensuring inclusive community programs and events
- Strengthening accessible communication and engagement practices
- Integrating inclusion into decision-making processes

Chief Executive Officer, Ben Scales, said the Plan provides a strong foundation for meaningful and lasting change.

“This Plan is about embedding inclusion into how we work every day, not just what we deliver. By doing this, we can create sustainable improvements that benefit the whole community.”

The Mid Murray Council *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2026-2030* is now available on Council's website in accessible formats - <https://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/>

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