

7.3 OUTCOME OF ADVERTISING AND ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO DIVERSITY, ACCESS AND EQUITY POLICY

- Attachments:**
1. **Summary of Submissions - Diversity, Access and Equity Policy**
 2. **Diversity, Access and Equity Policy**
 3. **Diversity, Access and Equity Policy - Marked Up**

RECOMMENDATION:**That Council:**

1. **NOTES** the submissions received in relation to the Diversity, Access and Equity Policy at Attachment 1; and
2. **ADOPTS** the Diversity, Access and Equity Policy at Attachment 2.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To present the outcome of public consultation and seek approval of the proposed Diversity, Access and Equity Policy at **Attachment 2**.

BACKGROUND:

At its 14 September 2021 Meeting, Council approved providing public notice of its intention to amend the Diversity, Access and Equity Policy.

In accordance with the City's [Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy](#), public notice was given for the period 21 September 2021 to 16 October 2021, which is in excess of the 21 days required.

The policy was advertised on the City of Vincent website, social media and through the following public notices:

- Stirling-Vincent Reporter – 23 September 2021;
- City's Website and Imagine Vincent – 21 September 2021;
- Voice News – 25 September.

Administration received two (2) submissions, as summarised at **Attachment 1**.

DETAILS:

The review of this policy highlighted the need to update the structure, language, and style for consistency with current terminology. The intent of the document remains largely unchanged, although the scope has been more clearly defined with the inclusion of diversity in its terminology and references to the LGBTIQ+ community.

The proposed changes to the policy, as marked up at **Attachment 3**, are:

- Inclusion of an Acknowledgement of Country.
- The inclusion of the word Diversity in the policy name.
- The inclusion of Seniors and Young People in the Purpose.
- The addition and removal of certain words to improve the language.
- The addition/amendments to the definitions for culture, diversity, and equity.
- The amendment to disability to align with the definition for that term used in the City's DAIP 2017-2022; and
- The update of terms used in the definitions.

The City's current Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) expires in June 2022. Administration has commenced planning for the next DAIP, including undertaking a community engagement project from November 2021- January 2022 and the ideas and feedback from this project will form the basis of the new DAIP.

If upcoming community engagement on the DAIP highlights additional points to be considered, a secondary review of the policy will follow the DAIP engagement early next year to ensure that both documents are consistent and aligned to the needs of our community.

As a result, only minor changes to the policy are being recommended at this time.

CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

No further consultation is required.

LEGAL/POLICY:

Section 2.7(2)(b) of the Act provides Council with the power to determine policies.

The City's [Policy Development and Review Policy](#) sets out the process for repealing and adopting policies.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Low: Council adopting the Diversity, Access and Inclusion policy is low risk.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the City's *Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028*:

Connected Community

We are an inclusive, accessible and equitable City for all.

We recognise, engage and partner with the Whadjuk Noongar people and culture.

Our many cultures are celebrated.

Innovative and Accountable

We are open and accountable to an engaged community.

Our community is aware of what we are doing and how we are meeting our goals.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

This does not contribute to any environmental sustainability outcomes. This action/activity is environmentally neutral.

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the following priority health outcomes of the City's *Public Health Plan 2020-2025*:

Reduced injuries and a safer community

Increased mental health and wellbeing

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications because of the proposed changes to this policy.

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS ON POLICIES	
Diversity, Access and Equity Policy	
Summary of Public Comment	Administration’s Response
<p>This survey is meaningless. Question 2 has more responses than yes, no, unsure! I agree to most policy amendments but not all and the question doesn't provide an option to say which I agree to and which not. Community Engagement? I don't think so. How is the City gauging which amendments the respondents want and which they don't?</p>	<p>Noted. It is intended that this is an interim update to modernise the language of the policy prior to a more extensive update next year. Administration has just commenced community engagement for writing the next Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) which includes detailed surveys, workshops and conversation opportunities to contribute to the new DAIP. This engagement process will also guide us in undertaking a comprehensive review and update of the Diversity, Access and Equity Policy. Administration will contact the submission author to invite contribution to the DAIP community engagement.</p>
<p>It is a sign of absolute failure of any Diversity, Access and Equity Policy if it has to identify which groups it includes, or refers to. For every group it lists there will be group/s it doesn't list, and so is the implication they are to be excluded? The policy should be clear and strong enough to convey that ALL people are represented in it - just as the name implies 'Equity'.</p>	<p>Noted. The identification of specific groups is to assist staff and members of the public reading the policy to recognise some of the groups that have historically faced discrimination, been limited or denied access and equity. The policy scope is not limited to these groups.</p>
<p>Provision for additional signage/communication boards for non-verbal residents with disability</p>	<p>Communication boards and signage at City facilities will be reviewed as part of the DAIP community engagement and development process.</p>

Diversity, Access and Equity



Responsible directorate	<i>Community and Business Services</i>
Responsible team	<i>Community Development</i>
Responsible officer	<i>Kate Allen</i>
Affected teams	<i>All teams and directorates</i>
Legislation / local law requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial Discrimination Act (1975) • Racial Hatred Act (1995) • Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act (1986) • Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act (1992) • Western Australian Disability Services Act (1993) • Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (amended 1988) • Age Discrimination Act (2004) • Sex Discrimination Act (1984) • Sex Discrimination Amendment Bill (2000) • Sex Discrimination Amendment Act (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status) (2013) • Disability Discrimination Act (1992) • Disability Services Act (1993) • Fair Work Act (2009) • Occupational Safety and Health Act (1984) • Workplace Gender Equality Act (2012) • The Local Government Act (1995) WA
Relevant delegations	
Related policy procedures and supporting documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Vincent Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2017-2022 • City of Vincent Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2021 • City of Vincent Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028 • Public Health Plan 2020-2025

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The City of Vincent would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We recognise the contribution the Whadjuk people have made and continue to make to our culture and in our community. We will continue to seek the input of the Traditional Owners.

The land on which we live, meet and thrive as a community always was and always will be Noongar land.

PURPOSE

This Policy aims to raise awareness and promote inclusion of the diversity of people that make up our community. It demonstrates the City’s commitment to ensuring services and activities are inclusive of all members of the community, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) people, People with Disability (PwD), Seniors, Young People and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex (LGBTIQ+) people.

Diversity, Access and Equity



OBJECTIVE

This policy formalises and supports the City's approach to diversity, access, equity and inclusion by ensuring these considerations are incorporated into all areas of City decision making, service delivery and general operational culture.

POLICY

The City of Vincent strives to improve the quality of life of all of its residents and is committed to identifying and addressing physical, social and economic barriers to participation. This Policy sets standards to ensure equity in service provision and to drive opportunity for full participation and inclusion. The following policy statements demonstrate the practices and processes the City will adopt to achieve the objectives of this Policy.

SCOPE

1. Community Inclusion and Participation

The City supports participation in community life for all people and is committed to meaningful, inclusive capacity building to enhance the strengths of individuals, redress disadvantage and foster a unified community. The City strives to secure access to services, activities and facilities that enable all people to live constructive fulfilling lives, feeling empowered to fully participate and engage in all opportunities.

The City will:

- Encourage and enable all members of the community to participate in activities which will in turn lead to improvements in the wellbeing of people within the City.
- Encourage all people to participate in life in the general community, by minimising the physical, cultural, attitudinal, social, gender, economic and institutional barriers that prevent participation.
- Promote self-development of community members by creating and enhancing opportunities for independence, choice and self-determination aimed at maintaining and improving quality of life.
- Support and promote harmonious community relations and work towards eliminating all forms of discrimination within the community which prevent harmony.
- Recognise and respect different cultural and religious commemorations and significant events.
- Recognise and respect ATSI peoples' being the traditional owners and custodians of the land.
- Offer services that are designed and delivered in ways which meet a range of needs and therefore enable all members of the community to participate, as appropriate.

2. Physical Inclusion

The City recognises that certain groups in the community have specific needs and where viable will allocate resources according to need to reduce inequalities and enable improved access and participation.

The City will:

- Encourage and support local area needs-based planning reflecting local community priorities.
- Advocate for the inclusion of diversity, access and inclusion principles in its strategic planning and development processes.
- Advocate and plan for the development and management of built environments, open spaces and streetscape that are accessible and maximise their potential use by diverse groups, and implement

Diversity, Access and Equity



strategies to ensure access to buildings, services and facilities is available to all members of the community wherever possible.

- Ensure that planning for social, physical and economic infrastructure supports a design approach which reflects inclusion and community diversity.
- Ensure that services and events are conducted in venues that are physically accessible to people with disability and that Administration, its agents and contractors are aware of the relevant requirements.
- Ensure Administration its agents and contractors are aware of their respective responsibilities under the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act (1992), Western Australian Disability Services Act (1993), Building Code Australia 1996, as amended, and the relevant Australian Standards (Access and Mobility (AS 1428) suite).
- Approve plans and projects only when compliant with requirements outlined in the above Codes and Standards.
- Ensure all contracts and tender documents contain a clause advising contractors of their obligation to implement the City's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan wherever practicable and report annually on their compliance with the plan.

3. Information Dissemination, Communication and Engagement

The City is committed to ensuring it provides the same opportunity for consultation and engagement, and that information is accessible to all members of the community regardless of culture, language, gender, sexuality, age or ability.

3.1. Information Dissemination and Communication

The City will:

- Ensure that information can be provided in alternative formats and languages other than English according to the following requirements:
 - ✓ Translations and interpreters are to be National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) accredited level 3, at a minimum.
 - ✓ Deaf Interpreters are to be NAATI accredited level 2 (level 3 for legal matters).
 - ✓ Braille translations are to be sought from the Association for the Blind.
- Integrate equitable access and inclusion principles into the City's communication practices and provide access to clear, accessible information in a variety of formats and media, including but not limited to:
 - ✓ Ensuring an audio loop is used at Council meetings (and formal meetings at external venues) to ensure that people with a hearing impairment are able to participate.
 - ✓ Publicising, on written material in languages other than English, the availability of information in different formats.
 - ✓ Including a standard phrase indicating documents are available in alternative formats on brochures, promotional material and letters where appropriate.
 - ✓ Ensuring the City's website is W3C Web Accessibility Guidelines compliant.
 - ✓ Providing closed captioning and audio description facilities in video presentations and televisions.

3.2. Engagement and Consultation

The City will:

- Provide information in clear and concise language on how residents can participate in decision making processes, public consultations, and grievance mechanisms.
- Ensure varied and user-friendly engagement and consultation processes that encourage feedback from all members of the community with regards to the level of access and equitable provision of services.
- Ensure all grievance procedures are accessible and allow for a range of options for making complaints including: in person, by phone, letter, fax, email, SMS, National Relay Service, AUSLAN (Australian Sign Language) and via the City's website and social media.

Diversity, Access and Equity



4. Organisational Culture and Employment Practices

The City promotes equal opportunity in recruitment, promotion, retention and training and will continue to operate and set examples as an organisation which promotes diversity and inclusion and rejects discrimination, unconscious bias and exclusion.

4.1. Employment and Retention

The City will:

- Ensure recruitment and selection policies and practices reflect the desire for a diverse workforce as one strategy to achieve and promote diversity, access and inclusion principles and provide equitable service delivery.
- Make appropriate workplace flexibility, modifications and adaptive technologies available to ensure diversity, access and inclusion principles are successfully embedded in the City's workforce to enable staff to do their jobs effectively.

4.2. Training and Development

The City will:

- Encourage and enable all Council representatives to be aware of community diversity and the subsequent implications for policy formation, program design and service delivery.
- Continue to integrate the City's Diversity, Access and Equity Policy, Reconciliation Action Plan and Disability Access and Inclusion Plan into policy development and review processes, strategic planning processes and employee inductions.
- Provide relevant diversity awareness training, support and resources to staff to strengthen their knowledge and build understanding.
- Provide advice to Administration and contractors relating to the appropriate communication methods when liaising with ATSI, CaLD, PwD and LGBTQI+ communities.

DEFINITIONS

Access – implies fair and equitable access to services in areas essential to achieving and maintaining social, cultural and economic well-being. This includes access to services, programs, facilities, decision-making processes and entitlements.

Community Relations – refers to how people interact and relate to each other as individuals and as a groups within the wider community.

Culture – refers to the ideas, beliefs, values, knowledge, customs and experiences which influence the behaviours of people from different groups and backgrounds.

Disability - A condition that:

- Is attributable to an intellectual, cognitive, neurological, sensory or physical impairment or combination of those impairments;
- Is permanent or likely to be permanent;
- May or may not be episodic in nature;
- And results in:
 - A substantially reduced capacity of the person for communication, social interaction, learning or mobility; and
 - A need for continuing services.

Diversity, Access and Equity



Diversity – Diversity refers to the differences in individuals based on sex, gender, age, language, ethnicity, cultural background, disability, sexual orientation, intersex status, religious beliefs, educational level, professional skills, work experience, socio-economic background, carer obligations and/or other factors, that are represented in a community, organisation, team or other group.

Equity –is the distribution of economic, social and political resources in ways that are not restricted by sex, gender, age, language, ethnicity, cultural background, disability, sexual orientation, intersex status, religious beliefs, educational level, professional skills, work experience, socio-economic background, carer obligations and/or other factors. It ensures fair and equal distribution of resources (according to need), opportunities, and access to decision-making processes.

Inclusion – refers to a culture where everyone feels valued and respected and is able to fully contribute. It includes removing barriers to make sure everyone can fully participate and has equal access to opportunities.

Participation – is active involvement in aspects of society including community and social activities, employment, education and decision-making.

OFFICE USE ONLY	
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Next Review Date	DATE: 01/09/2024

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Related policy procedures and supporting documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Vincent Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2017-2022 City of Vincent Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2021 City of Vincent Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028 Public Health Plan 2020-2025
Legislation / local law requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Racial Discrimination Act (1975) Racial Hatred Act (1995) Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act (1986) Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act (1992) Western Australian Disability Services Act (1993) Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (amended 1988) Age Discrimination Act (2004) Sex Discrimination Act (1984) Sex Discrimination Amendment Bill (2000) Sex Discrimination Amendment Act (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status) (2013) Disability Discrimination Act (1992) Disability Services Act (1993) Fair Work Act (2009) Occupational Safety and Health Act (1984) Workplace Gender Equality Act (2012) The Local Government Act (1995) WA

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- Ensure that services and events are conducted in venues that are physically accessible to people with disability ~~with all staff~~, and that Administration, its agents and contractors are aware of the relevant requirements.
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- Provide advice to Administration and contractors relating to the appropriate communication methods when liaising with ATSI, CaLD, PwD and LGBTQI+ communities.

DEFINITIONS

~~The following definitions are based on definitions provided by State and Federal Government Departments and the Western Australian Municipal Association.~~

Access – implies fair and equitable access to services in areas essential to achieving and maintaining social, cultural and economic well-being. This includes access to services, programs, facilities, decision-making processes and entitlements.

Community Relations – refers to how people interact and relate to each other as individuals and as a groups within the wider community.

Culture – refers to the ideas, beliefs, values, knowledge, customs and experiences which influence the way in which people behave and relate behaviours of people from different groups and backgrounds.

Disability - ~~refers to any condition that restricts a person's mental, sensory or mobility functions. It may be caused by accident, trauma, genetics or disease. A disability may be temporary or permanent, total or partial, lifelong or acquired, visible or invisible.~~

A condition that:

- Is attributable to an intellectual, cognitive, neurological, sensory or physical impairment or combination of those impairments;
- Is permanent or likely to be permanent;
- May or may not be episodic in nature;
- And results in:

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- A substantially reduced capacity of the person for communication, social interaction, learning or mobility; and
- A need for continuing services.

Diversity – Diversity refers to the differences in individuals based on sex, gender, age, language, ethnicity, cultural background, disability, sexual orientation, intersex status, religious beliefs, educational level, professional skills, work experience, socio-economic background, carer obligations and/or other factors, that are represented in a community, organisation, team or other group.

Equity – ~~affirms~~ is the distribution of economic, social and political resources in ways that are not restricted by sex, gender, age, language, ethnicity, cultural background, disability, sexual orientation, intersex status, religious beliefs, educational level, professional skills, work experience, socio-economic background, carer obligations and/or other factors. It ensures fair and equal distribution of resources (according to need), opportunities, and access to decision-making processes.

Inclusion – refers to a culture where everyone feels valued and respected and is able to fully contribute. It ~~is about~~ includes removing barriers to make sure everyone can fully participate and has equal access to opportunities.

LGBTQI+ – ~~refers to the acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex and any other diverse sexual orientations or gender identities.~~

Participation – is active involvement in aspects of society including community and social activities, employment, education and decision-making.

Rights – ~~relates to the entitlement to justice for all individuals and includes freedom of assembly, speech, beliefs, and information.~~

Social Justice – ~~refers to the right of all people to equality of treatment and opportunity and the removal of barriers preventing access equity. The four main principles underpin the concept of social justice are: Access, Equity, Participation and Rights.~~

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