

City of Greater Geelong

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2024–2028



Easy Read version

How to use this plan



The City of Greater Geelong wrote this plan.

When you read the word 'we', it means the City of Greater Geelong.



We wrote this plan in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



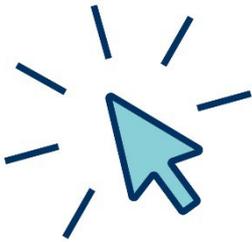
We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 25.



This is an Easy Read summary of another plan.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other plan on our website.

[www.geelongaustralia.com.au/accessibility/article/
item/8d64bab74674f4c.aspx](http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/accessibility/article/item/8d64bab74674f4c.aspx)



You can ask for help to read this plan.

A friend, family member or support person
might be able to help you.

Acknowledgement of Country



We recognise the Wadawurrung People as the First People of Greater Geelong.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the First Peoples of Australia.



They have always looked after Country.
Country means the land, water, sky and everything within them.



We respect the important connection that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have with Country.



And we respect their Elders from the past and now.

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What we want for the City of Greater Geelong

We want to make the City of Greater Geelong more **accessible**.



When the community is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use things
- travel around.



We also want to make the City of Greater Geelong more **inclusive**.



When the community is inclusive, everyone can:

- take part
- feel like they belong.



We made a plan to make the City of Greater Geelong more:

- accessible
- inclusive.



This plan is called our Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

It will last from 2024 to 2028.



We have a law in Victoria called the Victorian Disability Act 2006.



It makes sure people with disability in Victoria are treated fairly.



It says we must have a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

About the City of Greater Geelong

People with disability



There are **54,985** people with disability in the City of Greater Geelong.

This is about **22%** of people.

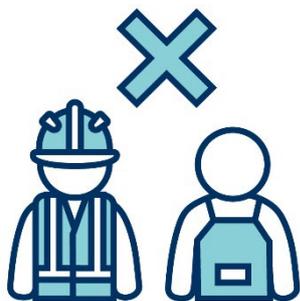


The same number of men and women have disability.



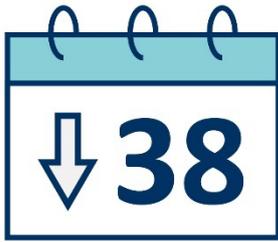
About **54%** of people over **64** years old have a disability.

Work



Almost **3 in 4** people with disability in the City of Greater Geelong do not work.

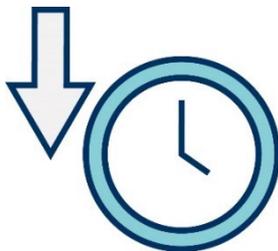
Out of the people with disability who do work:



- about **13%** work **less than 38 hours** a week



- about **11%** work **at least 38 hours** a week.



This is much lower than people without disability.

Daily living



17,726 people with disability in the City of Greater Geelong need help in their daily lives.

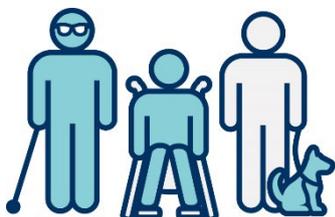


More than **1 in 4** people with disability have trouble finding and using:

- buildings
- services.

Carers

30,115 people older than 14 years old give unpaid support to:



- people with disability



- people with a long-term illness



- older people.



About **62%** of carers are female.



Almost half of all carers have a disability.

How we made our plan



We asked the community how we can be more accessible and inclusive.

We also asked how we can support more people with disability to:



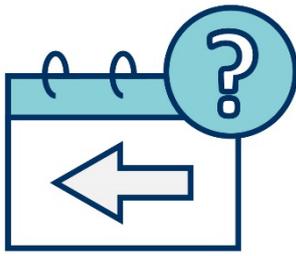
- find a job



- be treated fairly and equally.



We asked the community how accessible they think City of Greater Geelong is now.



We also asked how accessible they think it was
5 years ago.



We heard from **266** people.

This included:



- people with disability



- families and carers.

We also talked to:



- disability organisations



- City of Greater Geelong staff.



We heard from our Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee.



They are a group of people who give us advice about how the City of Greater Geelong can be more:

- accessible
- inclusive.



We included everyone's ideas in our new plan.

What we learned



36% of people felt the City of Greater Geelong was more accessible than **5 years ago**.



38% of people felt it was less accessible than **5 years ago**.



The City of Greater Geelong scored **2.7 out of 5** for being accessible.

We heard that people wanted more accessible:



- public places



- toilets and changing rooms.

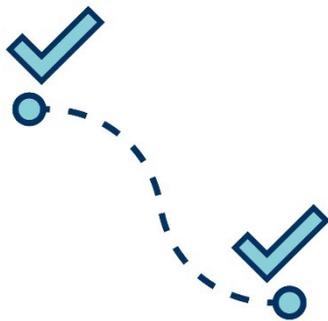
We also heard that people wanted more accessible:



- parking



- public transport.



People also wanted every part of a journey to be accessible.



For example, if they go to the beach, they want to get to the:

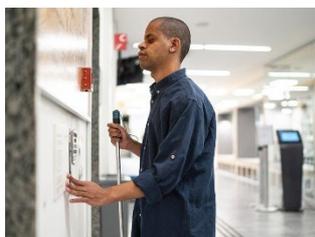
- sand
- water.

What we will do

Be more accessible



We will keep working to make the City of Greater Geelong more accessible.



We will make sure new buildings are accessible.



We will create an accessible playground called the Rippleside Inclusive Playspace.



We will make the beach more accessible.



We will build more accessible toilets and changing rooms.



We will build more accessible parking in:

- the centre of Geelong
- other busy areas in the City of Greater Geelong.



We will share more information about the accessible parts of the City of Greater Geelong.



We will make this information more accessible.
For example, in Easy Read.



We will make an online map of the accessible parts of the City of Greater Geelong.



We will make our website more accessible.



We will make it easier for people to report things in the community that aren't accessible.

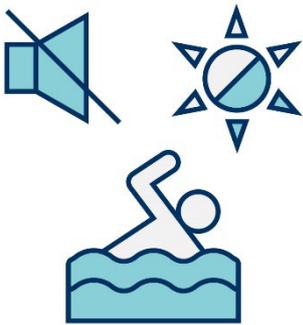
Be more inclusive



We will work to make the City of Greater Geelong more inclusive.



We will support more inclusive public events.



We will make our swimming centres more inclusive by having certain times of the day when they aren't too noisy or bright.

This will be through the Sensory Quiet Time program.



We will support more people with disability to take part in sport.

This will be through the Sport4All Program.



We will keep working with people with disability while we deliver our plan.

Support more people with disability to work



We will support more people with disability to work.



We will also make it more accessible for people to:

- work with us
- apply to work with us.



We will provide training for our staff to teach them about disability.

We will provide this training with support from people with disability.



We will ask people who understand disability to teach small businesses about:

- hiring people with disability
- supporting people with disability at work.

Improve community attitudes



Your **attitude** is what you:

- think
- feel
- believe.



We will work to improve the community's attitudes towards people with disability.



We will use social media to teach the community about people with disability.



This includes sharing stories about the strengths of people with disability.



We will support people with disability to create public art projects.



We will run a yearly awards night for people with disability from the City of Greater Geelong.

People with disability will decide:

- what happens at the awards night
- what awards people can win.



We will hold a yearly event for International Day of People with Disability.

We will work with people with disability to make this event.

How we will make sure our plan works well



Our plan will last for **4 years**.



We will keep working with our Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

And we will share how we use their advice.



We will share how our plan is going in our yearly report about the City of Greater Geelong.

This report is called the City of Greater Geelong Annual Report.



We will do more surveys of:

- our staff
- the community.



After we do something in our plan, we will look at how well it worked to make the City of Greater Geelong more:

- accessible
- inclusive.



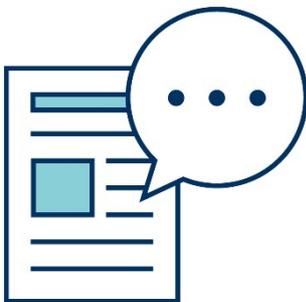
We will share information from other surveys that include people with disability.

For example, the Geelong Preventative Health Survey.



We will create a group to:

- check how well the plan is going
- give us advice.



We will also share stories about making the community more accessible and inclusive.

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Accessible

When the community is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use things
- travel around.



Attitude

Your attitude is what you:

- think
- feel
- believe.



Inclusive

When the community is inclusive, everyone can:

- take part
- feel like they belong.

Contact us



You can call us.

(03) 5272 5272



You can send us an email.

contactus@geelongcity.vic.gov.au



You can write to us.

137-149 Mercer Street

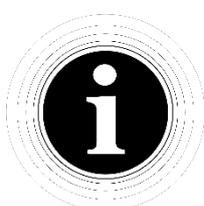
Geelong

Victoria 3220



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www.geelongaustralia.com.au



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