

ORD10

SUBJECT: PUBLIC EXHIBITION - DRAFT DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN (DIAP) 2023 - 2027

FROM: Acting Director Sport, Community and Activation

EDMS #: 23/126062

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to place the draft 2023-2027 Disability Inclusion Action Plan (draft DIAP) on public exhibition for a period of 28 days commencing from March 2023.

BACKGROUND

Council's existing 2017-2021 DIAP was developed in accordance with the NSW Disability Inclusion Action Planning Guidelines for Local Government.

The NSW Disability Inclusion Planning Guidelines identify four key areas, nominated by people with disability (PwD), as being of primary importance in creating an inclusive community.

The draft DIAP builds on the success of Council's DIAP 2017-2021 and meets Council's legislative requirements, under the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014*, to undertake disability inclusion action planning.

The draft DIAP sets out Council's commitment to the continuous improvement of inclusion and access to information, services and facilities provided for PwD, their families and carers.

Councillors were briefed on the 2023-2027 draft DIAP on 21 February 2023.

MAIN REPORT

Strategic Context

As a local government organisation, Council is required under the NSW *Disability Inclusion Act 2014* (DIA) to undertake disability inclusion action planning within 2022 to carry forward the commitments and actions of Council's existing DIAP.

The draft DIAP's structure and content is aligned to the NSW Disability Action Planning Guidelines for Local Government and includes the following four key focus areas:

- Attitudes and behaviours;
- Liveable communities;
- Employment; and
- Systems and processes.

The draft DIAP has been developed through extensive background research in accordance with global, national and state policy directions. These directions have provided the contextual background for review and ensures congruence across the draft DIAP. The draft DIAP is aligned with Council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP) in

building Connected Communities through upholding the principles of diversity and inclusion.

A number of key outcomes have been achieved from the 2017-2021 DIAP, with a summary of these achievements included in the draft DIAP.

Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) New Guidelines

In July 2022, DCJ released additional guidelines and inclusions which must be incorporated within the DIAP.

What has changed?

- DIAPs must now be remade (not just reviewed) every four years.
- New DIAPs are due 12 months after the review.
- DIAPs must be made available in one or more formats accessible to people with disability such as:
 - Digital accessibility conforming with current NSW Government Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) levels;
 - Audio;
 - Auslan;
 - Easy English;
 - Braille; and
 - Large print.
- The *Act* now requires that supports and services provided to LGBTIQ+ people with disability are to be provided in a way that addresses their needs and are informed by consultation with LGBTIQ+ people with disability.
- This is in addition to the other groups which already require their disability needs to be specifically addressed:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
 - Women;
 - Children;
 - People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Council's 2023-2027 draft DIAP meets all the above requirements.

Community Consultation and Engagement

As part of the development of the draft DIAP, an extensive consultation program was undertaken to ensure PwD, their families and carers, organisations, community groups and businesses had the opportunity to be heard and provide input into its development.

To ensure DCJ's additional guidelines were met, targeted community consultation was undertaken with vulnerable people in the LGBTIQ+ community. The consultation program included a combination of community surveys and focus groups.

a. Community Surveys

Online and hard copy surveys were developed and distributed to:

- Disability and Ageing organisations;
- PwD, their families, carers and community; and
- Council staff –who either have a disability or care for someone with a disability.

The surveys were conducted to develop an understanding of the issues impacting the disability sector, PwD and community to develop an understanding of what matters to them.

b. Focus groups

In addition, a series of four focus group sessions were held across the community, disability sector and businesses. The sessions were held during the day and after hours to ensure access, inclusion and increase opportunity for participation.

Approximately 300 people participated in the consultation process and helped inform the draft DIAP.

Key Priorities of the 2023 /2017 draft DIAP

As legislatively required, the draft DIAP outlines four Key Focus Areas, which include:

- Attitudes and behaviours;
- Liveable communities;
- Employment; and
- Systems and processes.

As a result of the consultation, each Focus Area has been developed to demonstrate:

- **Clear Objectives:** Outlines the ‘action’ of the objective, detailing the program, events, projects and/or events to ensure Council will demonstrate its commitment to meeting legislated requirements;
- **Identified Strategic Actions:** Outlines the links back to relevant internal and external Strategic documents;
- **Performance Indicators:** Identifies how Council will measure performance; and.
- **Links back to consultation:** Identifies how Council is meeting sector gaps and/or needs that were identified from consultation.

Implementation of Council’s draft DIAP will be delivered in partnership with our local community, services, organisations and businesses to achieve the planned outcomes.

Next Steps

It is proposed to place the draft DIAP on public exhibition during March 2023 for a period of 28 days.

During the exhibition period, hard copies of the draft DIAP will be available for viewing at our Libraries, Oran Park Administration Centre and the Julia Reserve Youth and Community Centre.

Copies of the draft DIAP will also be available in braille and large print to meet the requirements of the DCJ guidelines for DIAP consultation.

Online and in-person engagement sessions will also be held with Disability Service Providers, PwD and carers, to give them an opportunity to provide feedback.

The document will also be available for comment through Council's online engagement platform *Your Voice Camden*.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications for Council as a result of this report.

CONCLUSION

Council has prepared a 2023-2027 draft DIAP. The draft DIAP seeks to improve the outcomes for PwD, through the implementation of objectives and outcomes associated with key focus areas, as outlined in the draft DIAP.

It is recommended that Council endorse the draft DIAP to be placed on public exhibition.

RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- i. endorse the 2023 - 2027 draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days commencing in March 2023;**
- ii. if no unresolved submissions are received during the public exhibition period, adopt the 2023 - 2027 draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan effective from the day after the close of the exhibition period; and**
- iii. if any unresolved submissions are received during the public exhibition, receive a further report to consider the submissions.**

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Camden Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) 2023-2027

Ordinary Council Resolution

Motion: Moved Councillor McLean, Seconded Councillor Zammit that Council:

- i. endorse the 2023-2027 draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days commencing in March 2023;**
- ii. if no unresolved submissions are received during the public exhibition period, adopt the 2023 - 2027 draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan effective from the day after the close of the exhibition period; and**
- iii. if any unresolved submissions are received during the public exhibition, receive a further report to consider the submissions.**

ORD35/23 THE MOTION ON BEING PUT WAS **CARRIED**