



DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN

INFORMATION FOR AGENTS AND CONTRACTORS

Disability Act –

s.29B. Public authorities to ensure implementation of disability access and inclusion plan

A public authority that has a disability access and inclusion plan must take all practicable measures to ensure that the plan is implemented by the public authority and its officers, employees, agents or contractors.

Disability Regulations –

r.8. Information in reports about disability access and inclusion plans (s. 29)

For the purposes of section 29(4) of the Act, a report about a disability access and inclusion plan must include information relating to –

- (a) progress made by the relevant public authority and any agents and contractors of the relevant public authority in achieving the desired outcomes specified in Schedule 3; and
- (b) the strategies implemented by the relevant public authority to inform its agents and contractors of its disability access and inclusion plan.

The Shire is interpreting these requirements to mean –

- inclusion of reference to the Shire's plan in tender and contract documentation
- advising service providers by inclusions of a statement on purchase orders
- providing information and resources on the Shire of Menzies website

Our understanding of the DSC requirements is that if there is actual or potential interaction between the agent or contractor and the public, the agent or contractor has to be informed. Any responses provided to the Shire are then aggregated annually and reported to the DSC.

As examples -

- a contractor working in a building or area closed to the public is exempt
 - an electrician, plumber etc – inside a building with closed access
 - builder on a block of land with barrier fencing
- a person working on the external of a building is covered –
 - as tools, ladders and materials are accessible to the public (signage, barriers etc)
- consultants –
 - if only contact is with the Shire – exempt
 - if there is to be public consultation – report on methods such as hearing loop in a public meetings, or availability of large print materials and so on
- roadworks, footpaths, parks and gardens etc – since these areas are accessible to the public, even when worked on

The Shire website has –

- the Shire's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan
- Information Sheet for Agents and Contractors
- Disability Services Commission information for Agents and Contractors as at 28 May 2014
- an Agents and Contractors Response Form

For advice –

Disability Services Commission www.disability.wa.gov.au
08 9426 9200 (freecall)

Shire of Menzies www.menzies.wa.gov.au and follow links
08 9024 2041