



Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

2019 – 2022

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1. Legislation relating to disability access and inclusion plans

The embodying legislation is the ***Western Australian Disability Services Act 1993***. This Act (as amended in 2004), requires local authorities to develop and implement a *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan* (DAIP), that will further both the principles and the objectives of the Act.

To comply with the Act (as amended), the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku:

- Lodged its initial plan in 2006
- Developed a DAIP which:
 - Furthers the principles and objectives of the Act
 - Met the six standards in Schedule 2 of the Disability Services regulations 2004
 - Has amended its plan to meet the seventh standard in the amended Schedule 2
- Lodged its finalised plan with the Department of Communities in 2007
- Has taken all practical measures to ensure that the plan is implemented by the Shire, its officers, employees and relevant agents and contractors
- Renews the Plan at least every 5 years (note: the 2017 review was not undertaken; this plan is from 2019-22 to realign with the 5 year cycle)
- Undertakes public consultation, as specified in the Regulations, when preparing, reviewing or amending its plan
- Lodges review reports, amended plans or new plans with the Department of Communities
- Reports to the Department of Communities by 4 July each year about:
 - Progress made by the Shire in achieving the desired outcomes in Schedule 3 of the Regulations
 - Progress made by any agents and contractors of the Shire in achieving the desired outcomes in Schedule 3 of the Regulations
 - The strategies used by the Shire to inform its agents and contractors about the Plan
 - Reports in the Shire's Annual Report about the implementation of the Plan

2. The Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku and People with Disability

► The Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku

The Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku is responsible for the provision of "mainstream" local government and delivery of services to the ten communities and visitors within its boundaries.

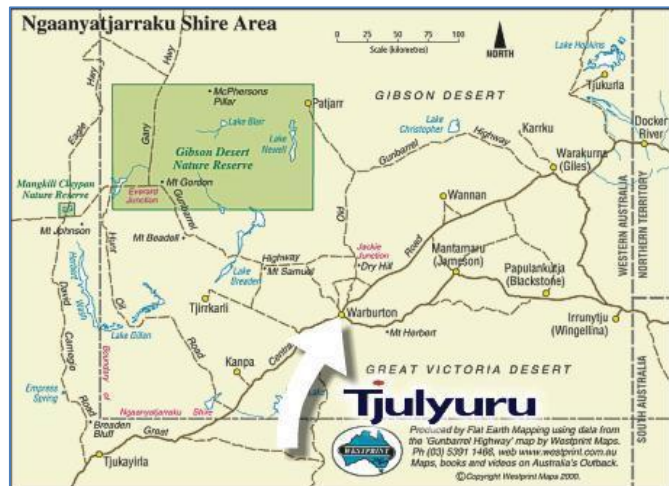
The Shire encompasses an area of 159,948 square kilometres and is located approximately 1,542km from Perth. The region itself is diverse in natural beauty from the magnificent Rawlinson ranges to the red sandy plains of the Gibson Desert.

The Shire is a unique local government in that its community of interest is contained within the traditional lands of the Ngaanyatjarra people of the Central Desert of Western Australia. The 99 year leases held by the Ngaanyatjarra Land Council on behalf of the traditional owners also form the boundaries of the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku.

The Shire's main township is Warburton, which is also the largest of the 10 Indigenous communities within the Shire. Warburton is positioned 1,542kms north-east of Perth, 560kms of gravel road north-east of Laverton, 750kms north-east of Kalgoorlie and 1,050kms south-west of Alice Springs. Neighbouring shires include the Shire of Wiluna, Laverton, and East Pilbara. The Shire offices are located in the Tjulyuru Cultural and Civic Centre in Warburton.



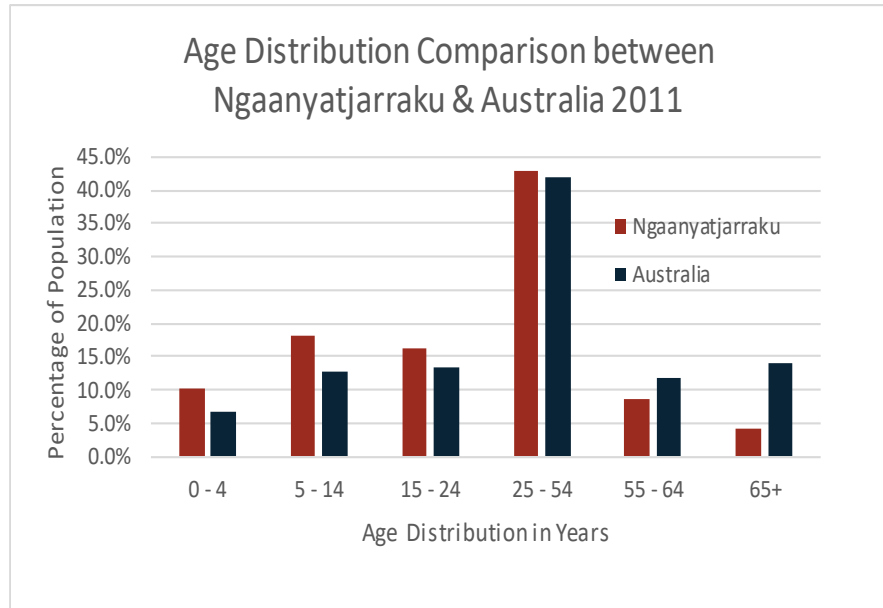
In the 2011 local Census the Shire had an estimated residential population of 1,437 people, comprised of 49% male and 51% female residents and there are approximately 609 residential dwellings within the Shire. The Shire has a higher percentage of residents aged between 0-29 years and a lower proportion of residents aged 65+ years compared with the wider Australian population. This must be a consideration for the Shire when considering the types of service provision to the community.



In 2011 Aboriginal residents comprised of 84.2% of the Shires population, residing in eleven communities such as:

- [Blackstone](#) (168)
- [Giles](#) (6)
- [Jameson](#) (97)

- [Patjarr](#) (65)
- [Tjirrkarli](#) (83)
- [Tjukurla](#) (107)
- [Wanarn](#) (70)
- [Warburton](#) (550)
- [Warakurna](#) (241)
- [Wingellina](#) (154)



Local History

The Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku is a unique local government in that its community of interest is contained within the traditional lands of the Ngaanyatjarra people of the Central Desert of Western Australia.

The Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku was formed on the 1st July 1993 by the division of the Shire of Wiluna with the eastern area becoming the new Shire. The first local government elections were held in October 1993 and eight Councilors were elected unopposed. The communities, as originally stated in their submission to the Boundaries Commission, are committed to "mainstream" local government and the delivery of services by the Shire rather than any other organisation.

At its formation, the Shire assumed responsibility for the limited services previously provided by the old Shire of Wiluna. Since then the Shire has been steadily improving and extending the range of services provided to the communities including ovals, streetlights, TV and radio retransmission and culture. Increasingly the Shire is now undertaking the more conventional Local Government services including early years child development, health, building, litter control, rubbish collection, road maintenance, sports and recreation, project management and other community-based programs.

Since the establishment of the Shire there have been extensive improvements to the communications, road infrastructure and services provided to the communities within the Shire. The Shire continues to represent and be an advocate for the community at a State and Federal level of government.

Climate

Statistics	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Mean maximum temperature (°C)	37.9	36.6	34.2	29.5	24.4	20.7	20.8	23.3	28.0	32.0	34.5	36.7	29.9
Mean minimum temperature (°C)	23.1	22.2	20.2	15.4	10.5	6.6	5.7	7.2	11.3	15.8	18.8	21.5	14.9

Statistics	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Mean rainfall (mm)	30.3	35.3	29.8	18.6	15.6	18.2	12.3	8.8	5.4	14.3	24.5	31.7	247.6
Decile 5 (median) rainfall (mm)	10.8	17.4	8.9	6.2	9.4	10.4	3.6	1.5	1.7	4.3	22.5	20.4	222.0
Mean number of days of rain ≥ 1 mm	2.9	2.9	2.6	1.9	2.3	2.1	1.7	1.4	0.9	1.7	2.7	3.5	26.6

Economy

The main industries within the Shire are Local Government Administration along with Social Assistance services. This highlights the importance of the Shire's operations to the local economy of the Shire.

► Facilities and services provided by the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku

The Shire has direct responsibility for a number of community facilities and services.

The range of facilities the Shire is involved in the provision of includes but is not necessarily limited to:

- Sports oval and passive and active recreation areas
- Roads, drainage and footpaths
- Community sporting facilities
- Early Years Learning centre
- Refuse removal services
- Tjulyuru Civic and Cultural Centre, Warburton (includes Art Gallery)

The Shire also plays a role in encouraging better access to facilities and services provided by other organisations or businesses.

Information on schools, medical facilities, community swimming pools, general stores and roadhouses provided by Ngaanyatjarra Council Aboriginal Corporation can be found at <http://www.ngaanyatjarra.org.au/> Chartair (mail plane) provides air services to other communities and flight schedules can be found at <https://chartair.com.au/schedules/>

◦ Agents and contractors

DAIP strategies will be implemented by Shire staff, agents and contractors in accordance with "DAIPs Agents and Contractors Guide".

The Shire's Director Corporate Services is responsible for the letting of contracts for services and will be instructed to issue a copy of the 'Guide' and ensure that each contract makes reference to the implementation and reporting requirement.

► People with disability in the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku

The residential population of the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku is estimated to be 1437. If the results of the ABS *Survey of Disability, Agents and Carers (2003)*, which concludes that 20.60%, or approx. 1 in 5 people have some form of disability, are applied to Ngaanyatjarraku, then it is estimated that there would be approx. 296 people with some form of disability within the Shire.

Ngaanyatjarraku has seen an increase in the number of tourists visiting its towns, or passing through it via the Great Central Highway which is known as the Outback Highway (Australia's longest shortcut). With other visitors also accessing the Canning Stock Route and the Gunbarrel Highway. Tourists now have a far greater access to the Shire as the Great Central Highway is progressively being sealed and of good standard. Consideration needs to be given that within the groups of tourists that they may be some with disability who require access to public facilities.

In Ngaanyatjarraku several people have some form of disability through age and infirmity. Because of the remoteness of Ngaanyatjarraku to the full range of support services available in larger centres it is important to consider the needs of people who fall into this category when building new facilities or updating or renovating existing facilities.

► Planning for better access

The Disability Services Act requires local government authorities to develop and implement a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) that details the ways in which the authority will ensure that people with disability have equal access to facilities and services.

The DAIP is required to aim to achieve the following desired outcomes:

1. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by, a public authority.
2. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of a public authority.
3. People with disability receive information from a public authority in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.
4. People with disability receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of a public authority as other people receive from the staff of that public authority.
5. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to a public authority.
6. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to

participate in any public consultation by a public authority.

7. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to obtain and maintain employment by a public authority.

3. Access and Inclusion Policy Statement

The Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku:

- is committed to ensuring that the community is an accessible and inclusive community for people with disability, their families and carers
- interprets an accessible and inclusive community as one in which all council functions, facilities and services (both in-house and contracted) are open, available and accessible to people with disability, providing them with the same opportunities, rights and responsibilities enjoyed by other people in the community
- recognises that people with disability are valued members of the community who make a variety of contributions to local social, economic and cultural life. The Shire believes that a community that recognises its diversity and supports the participation and inclusion of all its members makes for a richer community life
- believes that people with disability, their families and carers who live in country areas should be supported, as far as practicable, to remain in the community of their choice
- is committed to consulting with people with disability, their families and carers and where required, disability organisations to ensure that barriers to access and inclusion are addressed appropriately
- is committed to ensuring that its agents and contractors work towards the desired outcomes of the DAIP
- is committed to working in partnership with local community groups and businesses to facilitate the inclusion of people with disability through improved access to facilities and services in the community
- is committed to achieving the seven desired outcomes of its DAIP

4. Development and Maintenance of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP)

► Responsibility for the planning and implementation process

The planning and implementation processes are the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku who reports directly to the Shire Council.

► Community consultation process

The Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku completed its initial DAIP following a process of community consultation which comprised a public notice that a draft DAIP had been prepared as a guiding document for the compilation of a final plan. The notice advised:

- That the draft DAIP could be inspected at the Shire Office, Warburton
- That hard or electronic copies of the draft DAIP are available, without charge, on request to the Shire Office
- That written or verbal submissions on the draft DAIP were invited over a 30 day period after which all submissions were considered by The Council and that appropriate suggestions from submissions received be included in the final plan.
- “Public Notice” comprised a copy of the notice being placed to on community notice boards. A copy of the public notice was placed on the Shire notice board for a period of 30 days.
- Copy of DAIP be available for public comment on the Shires webste
- The draft DAIP was forwarded to the Ngaanyatjarra Health Service (NGHS) as a peak body within the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku and requested feedback from them. It is recognised that the NGHS is the most important organisation within the Shire that deals with people with disability and that their input was vital to the plan’s acceptance and effectiveness.
- The Council meeting at which the DAIP final (initial) plan was discussed was advertised locally with an invitation to the community to attend the meeting and to provide further input to the DAIP.

The 2019 revision of the plan was subject to a similar process.

Subsequent to the consultation process the Draft was amended to be available (on request) in audio cassette and disk format.

► Responsibility for implementing the DAIP

The responsibility for implementing the DAIP, at an operational level, lies with the Director Corporate Services of the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku.

► Communicating and promoting the DAIP to the community and specific stakeholders

Once a final copy of the DAIP has been endorsed by Council a notice will be placed on the Shire and community notice boards advising the community that a final copy of the DAIP is available to view on the Shires website, hard copy upon request and electronically by email.

Key stakeholders and in particular those who contributed to the development of the 2019-22 DAIP will be sent a copy of the final DAIP as well as relevant contractors and people with disability.

- Hard copy and/or electronic copy as preferred provided on request.
- Notice of the availability of the DAIP at the Shire Office
- The Environmental Health and Building Services Officer will ensure that all developers are made aware of the DAIP and ensure that the requirements of all relevant legislation is adhered to in all matters of access for people with disability.
- Meetings will be held with the NGHS and specific stakeholders to ensure that they are aware of the Shire's DAIP and to allow for further and ongoing contributions to the Plan.

► Evaluation and review of the DAIP

Progress towards achieving stated outcomes in the plan will be monitored.

The DAIP will undergo a process of annual review to coincide with the production of the Shire's Annual Report, within the terms of the Council's existing policy review processes.

Information on outcomes of the DAIP will be included in the Annual Report.

Public notice will be given that the DAIP will be reviewed and evaluated, and an invitation extended to the community to offer advice, opinion or comment on the plan, and to provide comment or details on previously unidentified access issues or ongoing access issues.

Amendments to the DAIP will be subject to the community consultation as and when appropriate.

► Annual report

In compliance with the provisions of the Western Australian Disability Service Act, the Shire will report on the implementation of its DAIP in its Annual Report and on the prescribed proforma, to the Department of Communities by 4 July each year.

The report will contain:

- Progress towards the desired DAIP outcomes.
- The progress of the Shire’s agents and contractors towards meeting the desired outcomes.
- The strategies used to inform agents and contractors of the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku DAIP.

► Five-year review

A review report of the DAIP, in compliance with the Act, will be completed within five years of its initial adoption and every five years thereafter. A copy of the review report will be lodged with the Department of Communities.

5. Strategies to improve Access and Inclusion

It is important to note here that the Shire has always tried to ensure that people with disability are considered at all levels of Government and are afforded every possibility of being able to access and to be included wherever possible and at all times. Most of the strategies listed below are to some degree already included within the Shire’s framework and will continue to be so. While these may not be written down, access to facilities and the Shire’s services will always be paramount in the planning and development stages of any building or service provided by the Shire.

Outcome 1: People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organized by, a public authority.

Strategy	Timeline
The issue of consideration of equitable access for people with disability will be highlighted to relevant service provision staff on a minimum of an annual basis, with the aim of having this staff seek to proactively report on access issues to the Director Corporate Services for investigation and assessment	Ongoing

The Communities served by the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku will be invited to make submissions identifying area of access difficulty related to any services or events provided by the Shire that they have either encountered themselves or have become aware of. The Director Corporate Services will access each of those submissions and report as appropriate to the Council	Ongoing
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Outcome 2: People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of a public authority.

Strategy	Timeline
The Council will design for equitable access for people with disability when major capital works on its building infrastructure is planned and undertaken	Ongoing
The Shire, when formally assessing the general condition of each of its building for longer term maintenance planning will undertake an access audit that is to include built facilities as well as paths of access to and into the building	Ongoing
The Communities served by the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku will be invited to make submissions identifying area of access difficulty related to any buildings or facilities within the Shire that they have either encountered themselves or have become aware of. The Director Corporate Services will access each of those submissions and report as appropriate to the Council	Ongoing

Outcome 3: People with disability receive information from a public authority in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.

Strategy	Timeline
Council will endeavour to meet all requests to make its information accessible, particularly where such processes are supported by hardware and software capabilities already held by the Council	Ongoing

Outcome 4: People with disability receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of a public authority as other people receive from the staff of that public authority.

Strategy	Timeline
The issue of consideration of equitable access for people with disability will be highlighted to relevant service provision staff on a minimum of an annual basis, with the aim of ensuring that staff are fully conversant with their responsibilities in this respect.	Ongoing

Outcome 5: People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to a public authority.

Strategy	Timeline
Council will ensure that its processes for complaint receipt and lodgement remain sufficiently flexible to adequately deal with the requirements of persons with disability, and to that extent proactively respond where the processes are identified as being deficient	Ongoing

Outcome 6: People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by a public authority.

Strategy	Timeline
Council will ensure that its processes for public consultation remain sufficiently flexible to adequately deal with the requirements of a persons with disability, and to that extent proactively respond where the processes are identified as being deficient	Ongoing

Outcome 7: People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to obtain and maintain employment with a public authority.

Strategy	Timeline
Council will ensure that its employment processes are sufficiently flexible to adequately deal with the requirements of a persons with disability, and to that extent proactively respond where the processes are identified as being deficient	Ongoing