

Penrith Council Access Committee

Terms of Reference & Operational Guidelines

VISION

A resilient and inclusive community that helps make sure everyone who lives, works and plays in the Penrith Local Government Area feels connected to and included in the City.

AIM

To aspire to the provision of the highest possible standard of access and social inclusion in the Penrith Local Government Area for people with disabilities.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

1. To advise on Council policies and procedures to ensure that legislative requirements on access are considered in Council decisions and its operations.
2. To promote the Universal Design approach as a means to contribute to social inclusion.
3. To provide a link between Council and people in the community with disabilities.
4. To advise Council on strategic planning matters which can contribute to improved access and social inclusion for people with a disability.
5. To support Council in providing leadership for the broader community to achieve social inclusion of people with disability.

SELECTION OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- Members are appointed for four years, and may be reappointed.
- Nominations will be called via public notices placed in a range of media, including local press, Council media and sector networks.
- Six community members will be selected and endorsed by Council to serve on the Access Committee. If more than six nominations are

received from suitably qualified individuals, Council may request that they be placed on an eligibility list to fill any casual vacancy on the Committee.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- An understanding of access issues for people with disabilities.
- An understanding of the implications for Local Government of the Disability Inclusion Act (2014), Disability Discrimination Act (1992) and the Building Code of Australia, development controls and other legislative requirements.
- Experience in providing advice on access issues for people with disabilities.
- A willingness to participate in an orientation session and actively contribute to the business of the Committee.

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

- The Committee will be chaired by an elected member of Council. In the event that a Councillor is not present, the Community and Cultural Development Manager or their nominee shall chair the meeting.
- The Committee will be serviced and administered by the Community and Cultural Development Department of Council.
- The Committee will report directly to Council at the nearest possible ordinary meeting.
- The Committee will meet at least six (6) times per year.
- The Community and Cultural Development Department will organise orientation, training and planning sessions for members.
- On request, out of pocket expenses incurred by volunteer Committee members may be reimbursed by Council, and transport provided to and from meetings, and orientation sessions, and other relevant events.
- Requests for support with childcare / respite care for the duration of meetings for parents and / or carers will be considered to ensure that the participation of those who represent the needs of children and / or adults with a disability is encouraged.
- If during their term a Committee member is unable to continue to serve on the Committee, then the casual vacancy will be filled from the eligibility list.
- If a Committee member is absent without an apology for three consecutive meetings, Council may declare a casual vacancy and that position filled from the eligibility list.