

# Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2021 - 2025

October 2021



# CITY OF WEST TORRENS

## © City of West Torrens

### **Copyright**

This document is based on research by staff of the City of West Torrens and other authors as cited. Apart from any permitted uses under the *Copyright Act 1968*, the work may be reproduced for study or training purposes, provided the source is acknowledged. Reproduction for commercial use requires prior written permission from the City of West Torrens and the various sources cited.

### **Access to document**

This document has been prepared by the City of West Torrens. You may access copies of this document from Council's website, [westtorrens.sa.gov.au](http://westtorrens.sa.gov.au). You may download and print this document in unaltered form, only for your personal use or use by your organisation.

### **Disclaimer**

While reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the contents of this document are factually correct, the City of West Torrens does not accept responsibility for its accuracy or currency. As information is subject to change, the City of West Torrens shall not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occur through the use of, or reliance on, the contents of this document.

### **Kaurna Acknowledgement**

The City of West Torrens acknowledges that the Kaurna people and their descendants are still and will always be the first peoples of the land. The City of West Torrens commits to valuing and supporting the Kaurna people's inherent relationship to the land

# Contents

## Contents

Our vision .....	4
Background .....	5
What is access and inclusion? .....	7
Why have a plan? .....	7
What will the plan do? .....	7
Where our plan sits.....	8
Global context .....	9
Plan framework .....	11
Development of our plan .....	13
Actions from our plan.....	14
Implementation .....	15
Monitoring and reporting .....	15

## Document history

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Details</i>
1.0	January 2018	Draft for internal review
	May 2018	Draft for consultation
2.0	December 2018	Final draft for Council consideration
	January 2019	Final plan approved by Council.
3.0	August 2021	Draft for internal review
4.0	October 2021	Draft for Council consideration
4.0	October 2021	Final plan approved by Council.

## Our Vision

Committed to being the best place to live, work and enjoy life

The five focus areas for the delivery of our vision are:



Community life

We support diversity, health and well-being, community cohesion and connections, and create opportunities to learn and enjoy the local area.

We ensure housing, urban development and infrastructure contribute to attractive and safe neighbourhoods, and how we travel in and beyond our area.



Built environment



Organisational strength

Council ensures its services lead to quality outcomes and exceptional experiences for our community.

We protect and conserve the natural environment, reuse and recycle resources, support biodiversity and respond to climate change.



Environment and sustainability



Prosperity

We support jobs, businesses and industries to generate local economic growth and activity.

# Background

As we head towards 2030, our community has expressed its desire to live and work in a city that embraces diversity, is safe, engaged and active with functional and sustainable natural assets and a thriving business environment.

Council's Community Plan 2030 reflects our community's vision for the City of West Torrens. It presents five focus areas for a vibrant and connected community within a liveable and sustainable city and proposes a range of strategies to guide the operations, investment and decisions of Council.

The community has a strong voice on preserving and enhancing the way we live, including working towards a community that embraces diversity, universal design and offers people living with disability the same care, access and opportunities as anyone else in the community.

Our Community Needs Analysis report, March 2020, suggests that in the community, those most at risk of social exclusion include people living with disability, aged and vulnerable, migrants with limited networks, people living with addictions and at risk youth. Prejudice is often the driver of social exclusion; equality is the key to social inclusion and an even greater need to encourage participation.

The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) outlines our commitment to the community's vision by providing a strategic response to the focus areas of the community plan:

- Community life
- Built environment
- Prosperity
- Environment and sustainability
- Organisational strength.

This DAIP supports Council's vision to be the best place to live, work and enjoy life. It is a proactive way for us to improve access to programs, services and facilities that provide the community with opportunities to fully participate in all aspects of society. An aim is to introduce more co-design opportunities to facilitate meaningful access and inclusion.

National and State Government policy and legislation are moving from a focus on compliance and service provision to a rights-based approach supporting

individual choice, control and independence. The National Disability Strategy (NDS) and the Inclusion SA: State Disability Inclusion Plan 2019-2023 provide the framework for this reform.

The term 'people living with disability' is defined in the NDS as:

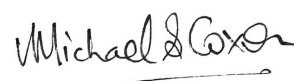
*'People with all kinds of impairment from birth or acquired through illness, accident or the ageing process. It includes cognitive impairment as well as physical, sensory and psycho-social disability'.*

This DAIP aligns with the themes of the Inclusive SA: State Disability Inclusion Plan 2019-2023. These themes will guide our efforts in responding to the State priorities of:

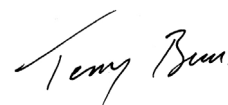
1. Inclusive communities for all.
2. Leadership and collaboration.
3. Accessible communities.
4. Learning and employment.

The implementation of the DAIP requires a whole of Council approach towards achieving these four themes. It is a dynamic and fluid plan that will respond to available information and will be regularly reviewed and updated.

Over the years we have improved access to community facilities and open space, created inclusive community programs and accessible communication strategies. The aim is to build on these initiatives, and the knowledge gained, and to continue to be proactive in working towards creating an accessible and inclusive city in partnership with local community and stakeholders



Michael S. Coxon, Mayor



Terry Buss PSM, Chief Executive Officer



## What is access and inclusion?

Access and inclusion makes communities liveable for everyone; this means the ability to move around the community and access facilities, programs and services in an equal and dignified manner. This includes involvement in business, work, education, volunteering, social and leisure activities.

Access (sometimes referred to as universal access) means that regardless of ability, a person can approach, enter, pass to or from and make use of an area and its facilities, programs and services without assistance.

Planning for access and inclusion involves considering design, place and people and how they inter-relate.

## Why have a plan?

All levels of government, including councils, have obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act, 1992 (DDA). The DDA makes it illegal to discriminate against a person because of disability when providing goods, services or facilities, or access to public premises.

In addition to the DDA, the National Disability Strategy 2010- 2020 (NDS) brings together all levels of government in a unified, national approach to improve the lives of people living with disability for the first time in Australia's history. The Inclusion SA: State Disability

Inclusion Plan 2019-2023 provides the framework for local government plans.

Planning for disability access and inclusion benefits not only people living with disability, but also the wider community and councils as organisations and employers. Small changes can have a big impact on people living with disability. Improving access creates a more inclusive and engaging community and has benefits for everyone.

## What will the plan do?

Council recognises that people living with disability are part of the social fabric of our community and should have the opportunity to fully participate in all aspects of society. As such, it is important to plan for opportunities that facilitate the choice for people to access both mainstream and/or tailored initiatives, activities and services, moving beyond minimum compliance.

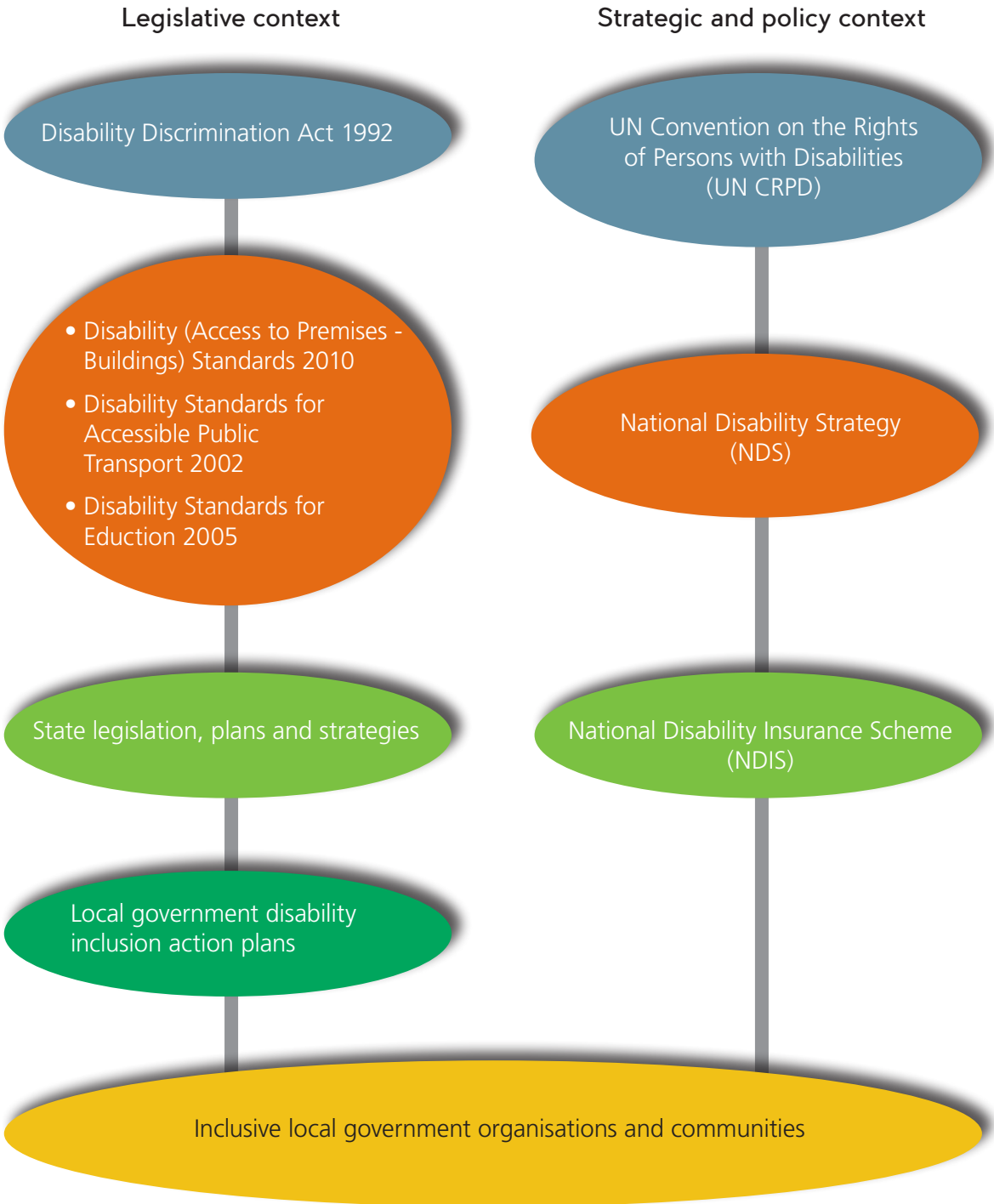
This plan aims to:

- Align the City of West Torrens' obligations under the DDA and the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with our internal planning framework.
- Continue to improve access to facilities, services and assets that contribute to quality of life for residents, visitors and employees in West Torrens, using a fair and reasonable approach.

- Facilitate active citizenship whereby people living with disability can vote and are engaged members of the local community, in partnership with key agencies and service providers within West Torrens.
- Promote attitudinal change in the community through role modelling and advocacy.
- Recognise areas in which we are successful in supporting access and inclusion.
- Investigate and commit to beyond minimum compliance actions.

# Where our plan sits

State, national and international authorities have produced highly relevant policy documents that direct and influence action at a community level and consequently on the development of the DAIP.





# Global context

## International

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) - ratified by Australia 2008. The UNCRPD promotes, protects and ensures the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities and promotes respect for their inherent dignity.



## National

*Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA).*

The DDA protects individuals across Australia from unfair treatment in many parts of public life. The DDA makes discrimination unlawful and promotes equal rights, opportunities and access for people with disability. The DDA is supplemented by Disability Standards and Guidelines which are legally binding regulations and assist with compliance.



*The National Disability Strategy 2010 - 2020 (NDS).*

This is a comprehensive national implementation strategy for the UNCRPD and provides a shared agenda to help achieve the vision of an inclusive Australian society, and recommends the development of access and inclusion plans.

*National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) 2013.*

Introduced as an equitable and consistent system to support people who are identified as living with disability early to improve their outcomes later in life. The NDIS builds on the shared vision of the NDS.

## State

*Disability Inclusion Act 2018*

The Act began on 1 July 2018 and provides a legal framework to support equal access and participation for people living with disability in the community, including in recreation, education, health, employment and public transport. The Act is designed to ensure South Australians living with disability have the opportunity to participate in the community as equal citizens. The Act aligns with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the National Disability Strategy, the 10-year national plan for creating an inclusive Australian society.



*Inclusive SA: State Disability Inclusion Plan 2019-2023*

This Plan sets out across-government policies and priorities and aims to bring State Government agencies, including local councils, together to reduce barriers faced by people living with disability. Sitting below this overarching State plan are individual councils' Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs). Local councils are required to produce a DAIP and report on it annually, with a review every four years.

*Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*

This Act focuses on increasing South Australia's liveability and promotes universal design for the benefit of people with differing needs and abilities.

## Local

*City of West Torrens Disability Access and Inclusion Corporate Plan 2021-2025*

The DAIP aligns Council's obligations under international, national and state legislation and sets a framework for achieving improved access and inclusion to local services and assets.



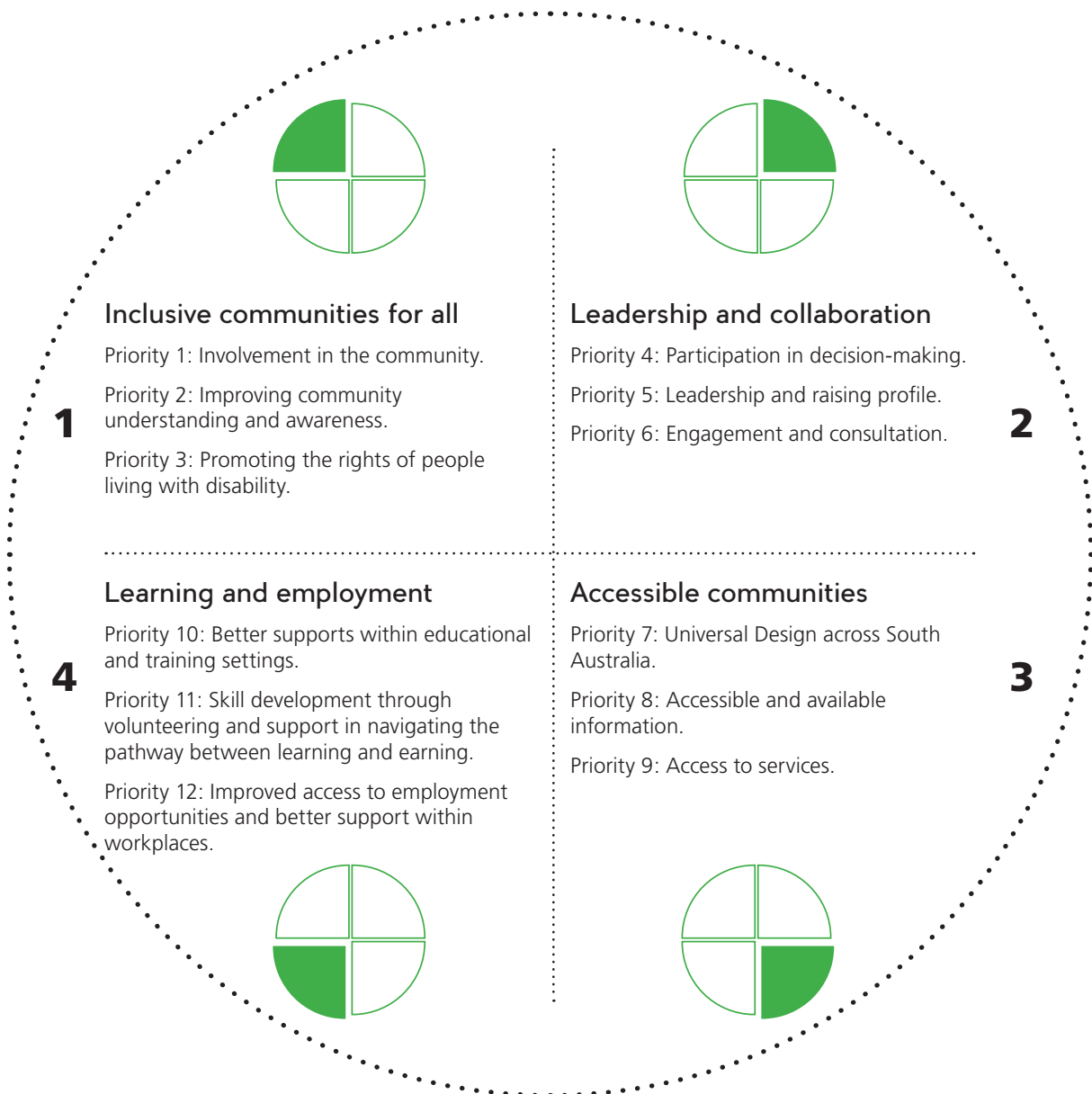


## Plan framework

The DAIP demonstrates a commitment to improving the participation across a range of areas so that people living with disability can enjoy the rights and opportunities offered to all citizens to achieve their full potential.

Key focus and priority areas listed within the DAIP align with those of the Inclusion SA: State Disability Inclusion Plan 2019-2023, which were developed following extensive consultation with people living with disability, their families and carers. This plan provides a common framework that reflects the direction of current disability reforms moving from a focus on service provision to a rights based approach supporting individual choice, control and independence.

The Inclusion SA: State Disability Inclusion Plan 2019 - 2023 focuses on four themes and 12 priority areas:





## Development of our plan

Our DAIP builds on the considerable experience of our staff in developing and implementing DDA Action Plans, and was developed through consultation with the community and extensive research. The purpose of the consultation was so our community could inform us of access and inclusion issues in West Torrens, which in turn helped inform our new DAIP 2021-25.

### Community consultation

During 2021, the community, staff and service organisations across West Torrens participated in community consultation on the DAIP via surveys, phone, workshops or in-person. The consultation focused on our DAIP structure, useability and impacts of actions. The key issues identified were:

- Accessibility of assets and liveable private realm.
- Accessibility and awareness of services.
- Community attitude.
- Strategic partnerships.
- Active citizenship.

The issues outlined by our community have been incorporated in the actions in our plan to ensure they will be addressed.

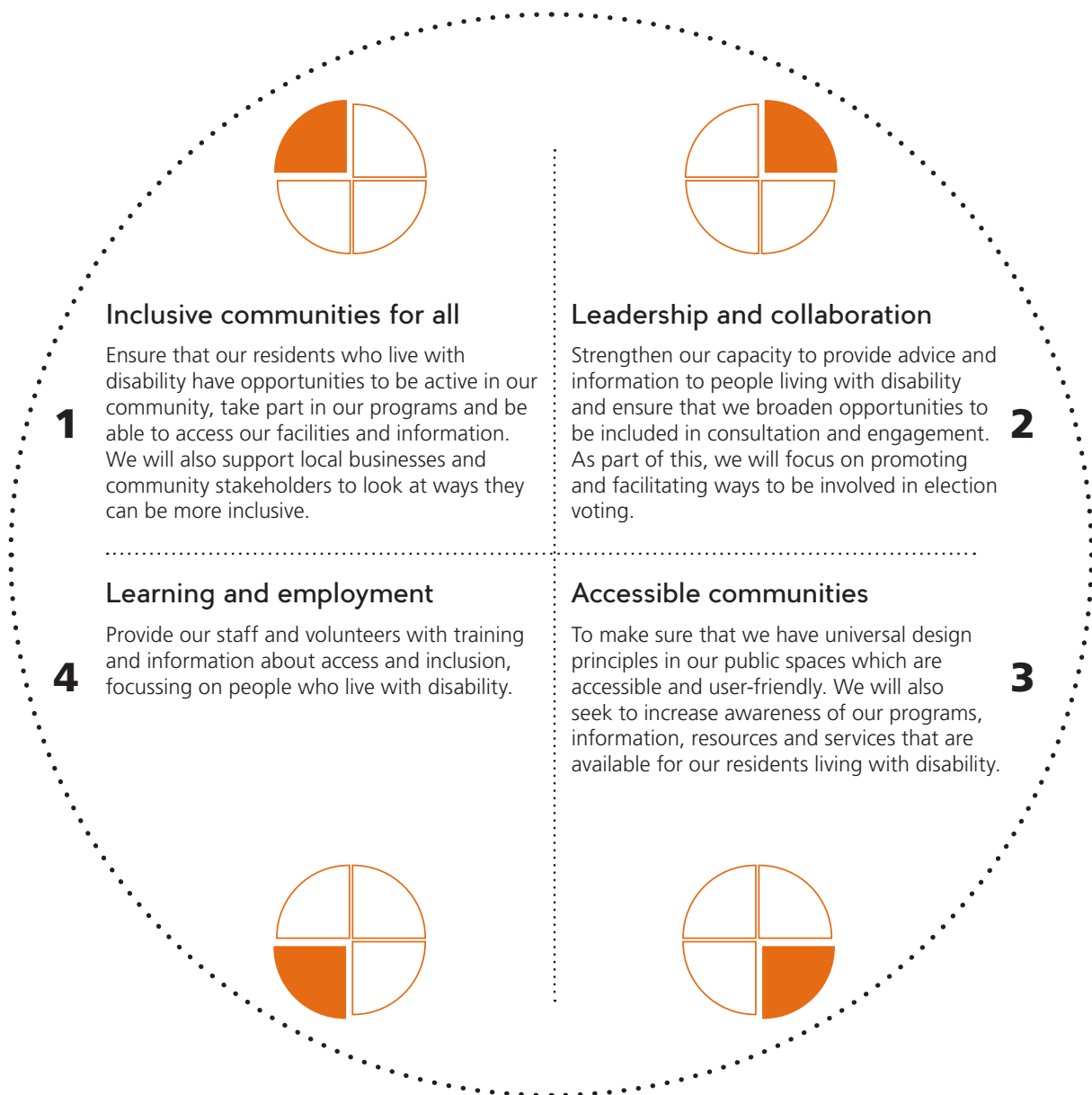
### Access and Inclusion Network

Since 2013, Council has maintained an active access and inclusion network, liaising with local disability organisations and residents living with disability. Through the active engagement of organisations such as Orana and SCOSA as part of the network, we have seen increased participation of people living with disability at community venues, activities and events. Residents living with disability are encouraged and supported to engage with Council's Community Development staff to develop pathways into Council services and connect with support networks in the local community relevant to their needs and goals.

## Actions from our Plan

The City of West Torrens Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2021 - 2025 is structured around the themes and priority areas of the Inclusive SA: State Disability Inclusion Plan 2019 - 2023.

We have a series of outcomes to achieve in our Action Plan, these can be accessed via our website, [westtorrens.sa.gov.au](http://westtorrens.sa.gov.au) or a copy can be sent to you upon request, email [csu@wtcc.sa.gov.au](mailto:csu@wtcc.sa.gov.au), text 0429 205 943 or phone 8416 6333 during office hours. A brief overview of our actions as they align with the State Government is provided here.



# Implementation

The DAIP recognises that not all people living with disability are alike. People have specific needs, priorities and perspectives based on their personal circumstances and some people living with disability experience multiple disadvantages.

The City of West Torrens DAIP sets out goals, priority actions and anticipated measurable outcomes for our community based on the four key themes of the Inclusive SA: State Disability Inclusion Plan 2019 - 2023.

To achieve outcomes across the priority areas, we will assume one or more roles:

- Facilitator: help groups of people or organisations understand their common objectives and assist them to plan to achieve them.

- Leader: guide the community by example in direction, course or action.
- Advocate: appeal on behalf of the community to service providers and other levels of government.
- Partner: work in cooperation and share responsibility with other people or groups to achieve a common goal.
- Service provider: be directly responsible for funding and providing service.

# Monitoring and reporting

It is the responsibility of each of our departments to implement the organisational Annual Service Plan inclusive of DAIP initiatives and to ensure staff that are responsible for particular actions have the training and expertise to implement them.

Reports on the achievements of the DAIP will be provided to the Council's Executive Management Team and Elected Members. The DAIP will be communicated to all staff to ensure that they understand the goals and targets and how they can contribute to its success.

Monitoring and evaluation of the DAIP will focus on tracking and analysing progress toward the measurable outcomes outlined in the DAIP. Council will monitor the plan's implementation and report to the State Government annually.

