

Report for Cooloola Human Services Network Annual General Meeting

May 2015

Access Advisory Committee – Gympie Region

The Access Advisory Committee – Gympie Region’s vision is:

‘A community that is universally accessible and accepting of all its members.’

The Committee continued to progress this vision throughout 2014 by:

- promoting the importance of access issues within the Gympie Region.
- providing an independent forum for discussing and investigating issues related to access and inclusion for all members of the Gympie Region.
- encouraging strong community involvement in identifying and resolving access related issues.
- making recommendations to Gympie Regional Council, business and community agencies on how best to improve access within the Shire for all members of the community, in order to enable better planning of new facilities, and develop appropriate modifications to existing facilities.

Highlights for 2014 included:

- Membership of Council’s CBD Community Reference Group providing advice to Council on the CBD revitalisation strategy and town centre urban design projects Tracks and Trails plan, Rainbow Beach Foreshore Masterplan, Nelson Reserve/Memorial Park Masterplan, Art and Cultural Plan, Gympie Library Masterplan and Kandanga Memorial.
- Membership of Gympie Transport Working Group.
- Providing advice to Gympie Regional Council on:
 - purchase of portable wheelchair lift for use at community halls and venues
 - purchase, installation, use and publicity for Gympie Memorial Pool wheelchair hoist
 - location and prioritisation of new footpaths across the region
 - accessibility features of the proposed new aquatic centre
 - town beautification works at Amamoor, Kandanga, Gunalda and Kilkivan
 - recommendations for minor works to improve accessibility around the region including at Tin Can Bay, Rainbow Beach, Goomeri and Kilkivan, Kandanga and Imbil.
- Providing submissions to Gympie Regional Council on Development Applications referred by Council as a Third Party Advice Agency, advising of relevant conditions for development approval in the area of access for people with a disability
- Well received presentation on how to improve accessibility of building design for people with a disability for the Wide Bay Burnett Building Certifiers group, in conjunction with About Freedom.
- Liaising with a range of local businesses to incorporate accessible design features.
- The Committee also conducted a number of site visits, access audit and provided free audit reports to a range of businesses, community and Council facilities
- A small community assistance grant was received from Council to continue the work of the Committee, provided through our auspicing organisation, Cooloola Human Services Network.

I wish to thank all our volunteer members who made great personal contributions to the work of the Committee throughout the year. Without their tireless contributions, none of our important work would be possible.

In addition, I would like to acknowledge the support of Cooloola Human Services Network, Councillors Rae Gâté and Julie Walker and Gympie Regional Council staff.

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