

# Report for Cooloola Human Services Network Annual General Meeting

April 2012

## 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 2011 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 2011 included:

- Celebrating the opening of the new Gympie All Abilities Playspace
- Supporting the formation of the Sunshine Coast Access Advisory Network
- Continuing the development of our website: [www.aacgympie.org.au](http://www.aacgympie.org.au)
- Providing submissions to Gympie Regional Council on Development Applications referred by Council across the Shire as a Third Party Advice Agency.
- Providing advice to Gympie Regional Council on:
  - the proposed Gympie pool hoist
  - recommendations for minor works to improve accessibility around the region
  - the importance of inclusion for people with disabilities in Council's Community Plan
  - improving Council's procedures in maintaining access to footpaths during construction projects
  - relevant conditions of approval for development applications in the area of access for people with a disability
- Liaising with Gympie Cooloola Tourism on incorporating access information in tourist publications and their website
- 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 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 invaluable ongoing support of Cooloola Human Services Network Management Committee, our Secretary Dianne Hughes, Councillor Rae Gâté and Gympie Regional Council staff.

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