

Report for Cooloola Human Services Network Annual General Meeting

April 2013

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 2012 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 2012 included:

- Celebrating the burial of a time capsule at the Gympie All Abilities Playspace for International Day of People with a Disability
- Liaising with Gympie Hospital and Gympie regional Council to ensure improvements to accessibility at the hospital bus stop, pedestrian crossing and footpaths
- 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:
 - portable lift trials at the Gympie Civic Centre
 - proposed Gympie pool hoist
 - Imbil Village Park amenities block
 - recommendations for minor works to improve accessibility around the region
 - relevant conditions of approval for development applications in the area of access for people with a disability
- Liaising with a range of local businesses to incorporate accessible design features including contrast marking on glass display windows and doors and safely railings.
- Letters of support for beach wheelchairs, sensory garden, portable lifts and Gympie hydrotherapy pool.

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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