



**Alister Henskens**

Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services

**Shelley Hancock**

Minister for Local Government

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **MORE INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES**

People with disability are enjoying more opportunities for social and economic participation as councils continue to deliver projects and initiatives to create more inclusive and accessible communities.

Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services Alister Henskens said the *2019-20 Local Councils Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) Progress Report* highlights how NSW Government legislation is driving positive change across the state.

“Living with a disability should not be a barrier to living a full and active life. The projects highlighted in this report are great examples of the work being done across NSW to enhance inclusion and accessibility,” Mr Henskens said.

“All levels of government have a responsibility to improve access in all aspects of society. This report is about providing a snapshot of how our councils are tracking in line with their Disability Inclusion Action Plan.”

Under the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014*, all councils in NSW are required to have a [Disability Inclusion Action Plan](#) in place and report progress.

Projects highlighted in this year’s annual report include:

- Accessibility improvements to public infrastructure and facilities;
- Increased signage in public places;
- Awareness training programs for council staff; and
- Promoting job opportunities for people with disability in local businesses.

Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock said Disability Inclusion Action Plans are helping councils break down barriers, change attitudes and improve livability.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has presented countless challenges which have spurred councils to innovate and make their communities more inclusive,” Mrs Hancock said.

“Councils have worked hard to provide even better access to online channels including social media and live-streaming to interact with locals, which will go a long way in preventing social isolation and keeping communities connected.”

To view the report and read more about each council’s progress, visit the [website](#).

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