



ACCESS STRATEGY

2025 - 2030

Easy Read version





Image: Participants
at Carnival of Fun

About this Access Strategy



This Access **Strategy** is written by City of Darwin.



A strategy is a plan that describes what we want to do and how we will do it.

When you see **we** it means City of Darwin.



We wrote this Access Strategy in June 2025.



We wrote this Access Strategy in an easy-to-read way.

Bold
Not bold

Some hard words are in **bold**.

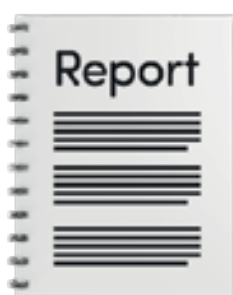
They are thicker and darker.

We explain what these words mean.

This Easy Read Access Strategy is a summary.



This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the full Access Strategy on our website at:

darwin.nt.gov.au/community/programs/disability-access



You can get someone to help you:

- read this Access Strategy.
- know what this Access Strategy is about.



You can ask someone for more information.

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Acknowledgement of Country



We say thank you to the Larrakia people.



They are the Traditional Owners of the land and water in the City of Darwin.

We thank them for caring for the land and waters for many years.

Acknowledgement of People with Disability

We respect people with disability.



Everyone has different needs and experiences.

We thank everyone who shared their stories to help us write this strategy.

What Is Disability?



Disability is part of life.

Anyone can have a disability at some time.



You can be born with a disability, or it can be caused by an injury or illness.



Disability can be for a short time or a long time.

Disability can be seen or not seen.



For example, you might be able to see that someone lives with a physical disability because of their wheelchair.



You might not be able to see that someone is Deaf.

Barriers



People with disability experience many barriers.

These can be:



- Attitude barriers
 - Like thinking people with disability cannot do things.



- Physical barriers
 - Like buildings or paths that are hard to use.



- Social barriers
 - Like information that is not easy to understand.

What This Access Strategy is For



We worked with people with disability to make this Access Strategy.



This Access Strategy is about how we will:



- Make it easier to move around the city.
- Help people join in and feel included.
- Share information in ways everyone can understand.
- Make sure people with disability have a say.

Our Vision



We want to build a city where:

- Everyone can join in.
- Everyone feels welcome.
- Everyone has the same opportunities.



Our Promise



We will:

- Listen to people with disability.
- Work with the community.
- Check our progress.
- Keep improving.



What People Told Us



We asked people what works and what doesn't work.

People said what does work is:



- The new swimming pool.



- Quiet spaces in libraries.



- Events and programs that are accessible.



People said what doesn't work is:



- Broken or unsafe footpaths.



- Not enough shade and lighting.



- It is not easy to go to the beach.



- There are not enough Auslan interpreters and captions at events.



- Our website and information can be hard to use.



- There are not enough jobs for people with disability.



Our 4 Goals



Our strategy has 4 big goals:



1) Join In



2) Move Around



3) Share Information



4) Celebrate People with Disability

The next part of this Access Strategy describes what we will do about each of these goals.

1) Join In

We want people with disability to:



- Enjoy events.



- Take part in sports.



- Use libraries and parks.



- Help make decisions.



- Get jobs at the Council.

To support people to join in we will:



- Make events more accessible.



- Include quiet and sensory spaces.



- Support sport programs like Sport4All.



- Train our staff.



- Welcome people with **hidden disability**.

Hidden disability means a disability that you cannot see.

For example, someone who is Deaf.

2) Move Around

We want it to be easier and safer for people with disability to get around.

To do this we will:



- Fix broken footpaths and crossings.



- Add signs, lights, and shade.



- Check and improve toilets and parking.



- Build new things using **universal design**.

This is a way of designing things that helps everyone to be able to use them.



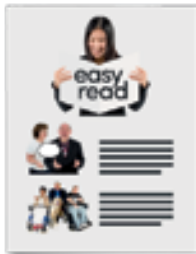
- Make sure people with disability help with planning.

3) Share Information

We want everyone to understand our information.

To do this we will:

- Use clear words and images.
- Make Easy Read documents.



Communicate



- Share maps, guides and walk-through videos.



- Improve our website and online services.

4) Celebrate People with Disability

We want to share the great things people with disability do.

To do this we will:



- Run events like DiversAbility Fun Day.



- Show art by artists with disability.



- Give awards.



- Share stories and invite guest speakers.

How We Will Check Our Progress

We will:



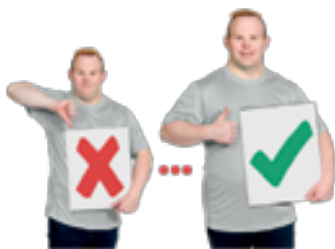
- Write a report every 6 months.



- Ask people with disability what they think.



- Share reports online.



- Change action if needed.



City of Darwin will keep working to make the city better for people with disability.

The **Access and Inclusion Committee** will help us keep the strategy on track.



This is a group of people with an interest in making things easier for people with disability.

This document was created in June 2025. It has been made in an easy-to-read way with support from Inclusion Northern Territory, using images from Photosymbols and written permission from Sport4All for use of their logo. Images in this document cannot be reused without permission. This document was tested by people with intellectual disability.



CONTACT US



**If you want this document in another format,
please ask Council staff.**



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facebook.com/cityofdarwin

Image: Participants from Helping People Achieve (HPA) at the Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre



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