

Access for Everyone Plan 2026–2031

Simple English Version

What is this plan?

- The Rural City of Wangaratta wants everyone to feel welcome and included.
- This plan explains how Council will:
 - make services easier to use,
 - make places more accessible,
 - listen to community members,
 - support people from different backgrounds, and
 - remove barriers to participation.

Why is this plan important?

- Council wants all people to
 - join community activities,
 - use services,
 - have their voices heard, and
 - feel respected and valued.
- Council works as
 - an employer,
 - service provider,
 - community partner, and
 - community leader.

Who is this plan for?

- People with disability.
- Older people.
- People with long-term health conditions.
- People who need support with daily activities.
- People from different cultures, languages, or faiths.
- People experiencing financial hardship.
- Different family and household types.

The Three Main Goals

- The plan has three main areas, or goals that look at how Council can support the community.

1. Access and Participation

- Provide clear accessibility information and plain language.
- Improve accessible places and toilets.
- Train staff about accessibility and inclusion.
- Support better public transport.
- Make events, sport, recreation, and employment more inclusive.

2. Understanding and Celebrating Diversity

- Make funding fair and accessible.
- Work with community organisations.
- Support cultural celebrations and important events.
- Train staff and improve inclusion practices.

3. Engaging Community

- Ask people for ideas and feedback.
- Support community groups.
- Provide different ways to participate, including in person, online, and in writing.
- Explain Council decisions in clear language.

Important Words

- Access: Making information, services, and places easy for everyone to use.
- Diversity: The many differences between people.
- Equality: Giving everyone the same opportunities.
- Equity: Giving people the support they need.
- Inclusion: Making sure everyone feels welcome and can take part.
- Barriers: Things that make participation harder, such as inaccessible buildings, difficult information, discrimination, or costs.

How will the plan be reviewed?

- The plan will run from 2026 to 2031.
- Council will review progress each year, report to Council, listen to the community, and improve the plan when needed.