

Media Release

15 February 2024

Join the conversation to improve access and inclusion in the Gladstone Region

Gladstone Regional Council is inviting the community to join the conversation on access and inclusion by sharing their experiences interacting with Council facilities and services.

Council has launched a community survey to assist in the development of an Access and Inclusion Action Plan as part of our 2023/24 Operational Plan.

The Action Plan will provide a roadmap to plan for and engage in improvement work across the organisation including community events, recruitment, facilities, services, and communication.

Gladstone Regional Council CEO Leisa Dowling said that understanding the community's experiences was an essential part of improving accessibility and inclusion across Council's services and facilities.

"We recognise that people interact with Council services in different ways, and we want to better understand how Council can meet the diverse needs of our community," Ms Dowling said.

"The Action Plan will provide a pathway to enhance and facilitate equitable access, encourage participation, and promote greater understanding for all community members."

Ms Dowling added that the survey was a great opportunity for the community to share what is important to them in relation to access and inclusion.

"The survey is available online through Council's Conversations platform," she said.

"Hardcopy versions of the survey are also available from Council offices and Rural Transaction Centres, with large print copies also available."

The community survey will close Monday 4 March 2024, and feedback will be analysed and combined with additional findings from internal audits, stakeholder consultation, and reviews of existing policy to produce a draft Action Plan.

The draft Action Plan will be available for public feedback in April 2024 before being finalised and presented for Council endorsement.

Engaging with our diverse community is important to us and we encourage you to contact Council's Community Partnership team on 4970 0700 or email info@gladstone.qld.gov.au should you have any accessibility barriers when completing our survey.

Visit <https://conversations.gladstone.qld.gov.au/access-and-inclusion-action-plan> for further information and updates.

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