



Terms of Reference

April 2022

Purpose

- a. Represent the interests of all persons with a disability in the Buloke Shire Council,
- b. Provide advice to Buloke staff on how Buloke Shire Council projects (including major), facilities and services can be inclusive of people with a disability, while in the planning phase adopt the Universal Design Principles,
- c. Work with Buloke Shire Council staff on the development and implementation of strategies, plans, policies and projects concerned with increasing social inclusion of people with a disability, particularly the progress of the Inclusiveness Plan, Council Plan and in Community Engagement Sessions,
- d. Assist in the development and implementation of programs, activities, events, and initiatives in line with identified community needs and aspirations,
- e. Share information on support services that are operating within Buloke which might be of benefit to the broader community,
- f. To make connections with and for people with disability;
- g. To provide peer support to members,
- h. To work towards the promotion of community access and inclusion for people with disability,
- i. To provide a collaborative advocacy response to relevant issues, and
- j. Share information around changes in disability legislation, available services and funding.

Objectives

- a. Buloke Shire Council plans, strategies, events are more inclusive and accessible for people with a disability.
- b. Prevention of overt and systemic discrimination for people with a disability based on their disability.
- c. The Inclusiveness Plan's actions are reflected on, and assessed, in their efficacy to achieve the most effective outcomes for people with a disability.
- d. Staff, Community Leaders and decision makers better understand the needs of people with a disability.
- e. Increased understanding of local government processes for the community and increased opportunities for people with a disability to experience participation on committees and government bodies.
- f. Increased agency and empowerment of people with a disability to self-advocate and influence systemic change in their community.
- g. Greater social equality and improved wellbeing for people with disability.
- h. To partner with Council in promoting disability awareness and other initiatives that assist access and inclusion and recognise the contributions of people with a disability.



Values of the Network

Network members hold to the following values:

- The lived experience of people with disabilities are at the centre of the Networks' activities, and the Network will be shaped and led by this experience.
- The rights of people living with disability;
- Social inclusion, justice and equality;
- Mutual respect; and
- Bringing value to the table.

Each member of the Network will be:

- Treated with respect and integrity;
- Able to speak openly and honestly in a safe environment;
- Have their opinions valued, and feel comfortable to voice diverse opinions; and
- Be able to raise any issues concerns or achievements that relate to the aims of the Network.

Role of Buloke Shire Council

Buloke Shire Council staff will:

- Be the first point of contact for people applying to join the Network and supply Network information to eligible people;
- Organise the facilitation of the Network meetings; and
- Work with members to develop the agenda content for meetings.
- Buloke Shire Council staff will chair the Network meetings and provide administrative support.

Timing and Frequency of Meetings

Meetings will be held monthly, on every third Tuesday of the month, at 10am. They'll be held in a hybrid format, with opportunities to attend in person or online. Meetings will go for 40 minutes to an hour.

Agenda and Minutes

Membership to the Disability Support Network will be renewed annually, or as needed.

Membership Requirements:

Membership will be sought on the basis of achieving a representation of diverse experiences.

Members will have expertise and/or experience in one or more of the following areas:

- first-hand experience of disability
- governance and advocacy experience
- human rights, social inclusion, empowering people and building on people's strengths and knowledge
- an understanding of the Buloke Community, and Neighbourhood relationships