ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS

TOUR

REPORT

A Capricornia Access & Equity Group event



Capricornia Access 2 Equity Group

The Capricornia Access & Equity Group (CAEG) consists of community members, carers and professionals who have an interest in creating accessible communities in the local government area of Livingstone Shire. CAEG meet bi-monthly to discuss issues identified and respond accordingly, either by reporting to Council or taking action through the group.

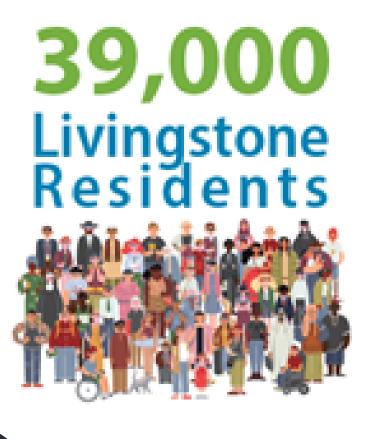
THE TOUR

The Capricornia Access and Equity Group (CAEG) held an 'Accessibility Awareness Tour' during Disability Action Week in December 2022.

The tour provided a deeper awareness of navigating accessibility challenges to key decision makers in Livingstone Shire Council and demonstrated that compliance doesn't always meet functionality.

Participants of the tour were allocated various accessibility challenges and together the group toured the Yeppoon CBD visiting venues, amenities and streets to highlight the importance of considering inclusion in all future planning.





 11.9% are aged under 9 years





15% care for someone with a disability





There are many social and economic benefits through highlighting the importance of accessible communities to key stakeholders and developing and implementing strategies to address concerns, in particular identifying and addressing concerns early during projects. Residents will in return feel more included and supported and are further likely to visit, engage and enjoy the spaces within their hometown.

ACTION PLAN

Throughout the Accessibility Awareness Tour, and upon completion, information was collected from participants about their experience.

This information was used to develop three recommendations for action in 2023.

ONE

Continue awareness through planning another Accessibility Awareness Tour' in 2023 at Emu Park

TWO

Publish and Promote the Good Access is Good Business booklet to local businesses

THREE

Investigate the inclusion of an all abilities toilet between the Yeppoon Car Park and the rear of Normanby St businesses





CAEG selected key decision makers to invite to participate in the '2022 Accessibility Awareness Tour'

Participants navigated throughout the tour personally experiencing the below

challenges:

- <u>Vision impairment</u> Eye mask and a white cane was used to mimic the challenges of someone with vision impairment
- Hearing impairment Noise cancelling ear muffs were used to mimic challenges of someone with a hearing impairment
- <u>Parenting</u> A stroller was used to mimic the challenges a parent with an infant may experience



- Wheelchair bound A manual and electric wheelchair was used to mimic the challenges of someone who relies on a wheelchair to be mobile
- Mobility restrictions An electric scooter and wheelie walker was used to mimic the challenges of someone who relies on mobility aides to be mobile



 <u>Temporary injury</u> - Moon boot and crutches were used to mimic the challenges someone may experience while recovering from an injury



Able bodied participants will be allocated an accessibility challenge prior to the tour. This will assist with developing a greater understanding of the struggles some residents experience whilst navigating local businesses and streets. The tour is designed to be fun but more importantly informative and an opportunity to generate discussions around inclusiveness . Snacks and light refreshments provided at each venue.



THE SURVEY

18 attendees with 13 surveys completed

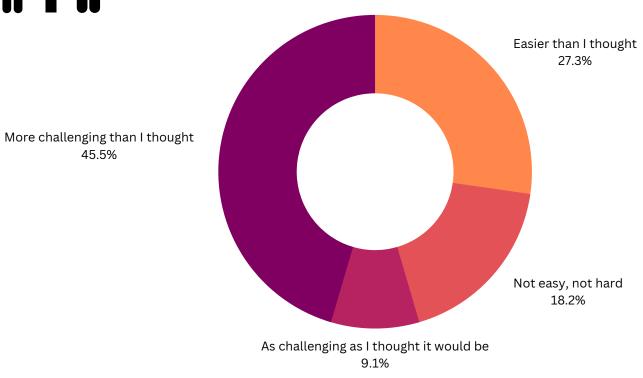
RESULTS



What toilet facility did you access?
The Strand & The RSL



How did you find your experience accessing toilet facilities?



Q5

What was your biggest challenge throughout the tour?

RSL slope/Gutter/ Driveway)

Navigating through the venues
Not knowing the difference between
road and footpath

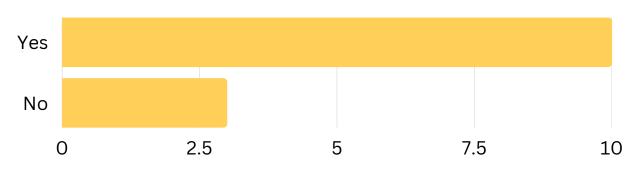
Thinking ahead to keep person safe Change in grades Getting into the toilet

Pavement and sewer lids made surface bumpy
Steep grades

Moving between tables and chairs Roads



Did you feel comfortable accessing the venues throughout the tour? Were staff responsive to your needs?



Q6

Do you believe this tour assisted you in better understanding accessibility challenges?



More than I thought it would

Would like to see more places readily accessible for wheelchairs

Tour was well organised

Would like to try more accessibility challenges

Q3

What made the tour easier for you?

Crossings & Footpaths Good gutter access

Ramps

Extra room between tables and chairs

Venues that were accomodating Carer's

TGSI's

(Tactile ground surface indicators)

Electric scooter

Visual flat and consistent footpath

Knowing the best route

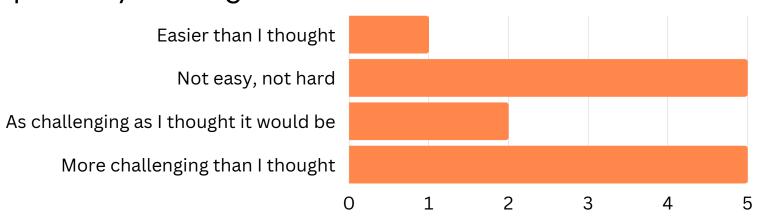
Knowing what facilities are accessible

Staff at venues were very helpful, even if they weren't aware of the barriers they were happy to help!





How did you find navigating the streets & pathways throughout the tour?



Wheelchairs are more sensitive to crossfalls than I thought

