



# Draft Inclusion Action Plan for People with Disability: Overview of Community Engagement Findings

## Overview

The *Draft Inclusion Action Plan for People with Disability 2024-2028* provides detailed actions for council to implement to contribute to our objective of a more inclusive Sunshine Coast for people with disability.

Council sought feedback on the draft action plan from the community between 26 June and 31 July 2023. The draft action plan was also available in an Easy English version.

This document provides an overview of the feedback that was received from the community survey, which was one of the main ways residents could provide feedback. The feedback will be used to adjust the draft action plan and produce a final version for adoption by council.

## Engagement Activities

There were multiple ways for the community to provide feedback on the draft action plan:

- Over 1000 people visited the 'Have Your Say' website
- 65 people provided feedback through the survey
- 5 people attended face-to-face engagement sessions at libraries
- Over 110 people from groups and organisations attended presentations about the project.

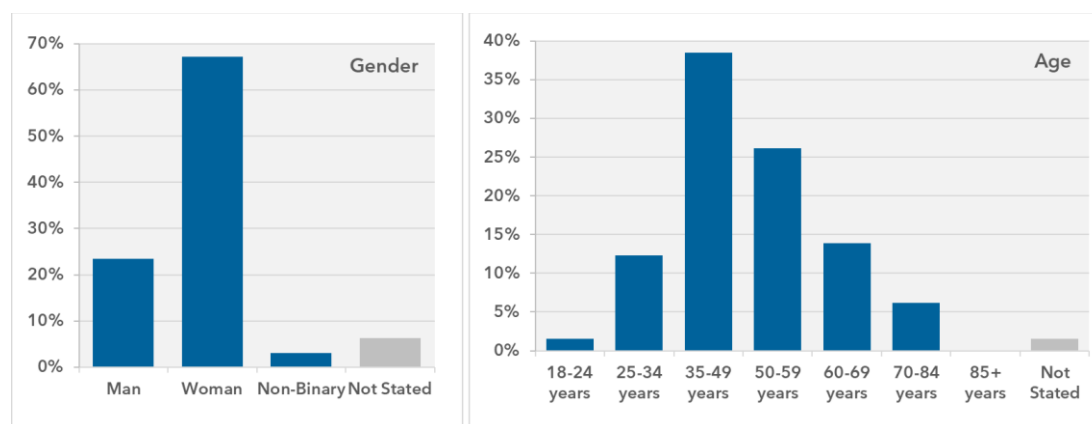
## Summary of Survey Findings

### Who provided feedback?

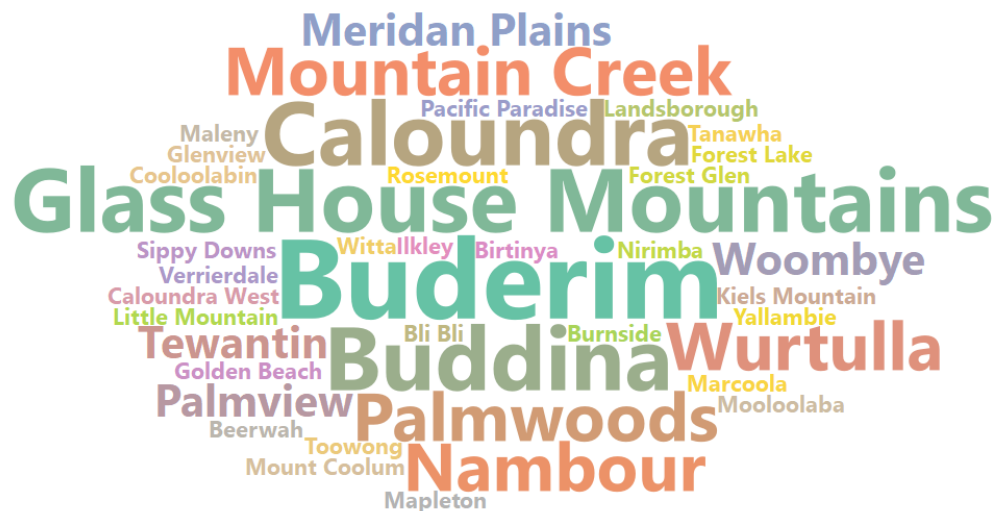
- 65 community members provided feedback via the survey.
- 67% of community members were women and 23% were men.
- 20 community members were people with disability (31%) and 27 were carers (42%).
- 65% of community members were people aged 35-59 years. There was low representation from young adults.
- 1 person identified as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.
- All community members who provided feedback via the survey spoke English at home.
- 6 people identified as having a diverse sexual orientation or gender (9%).

A summary of the gender and age of people who provided feedback via the survey is provided in Figure 1 below. Community members lived across the Sunshine Coast region, as shown in Figure 2.

**Figure 1. Demographics of survey respondents**



**Figure 2. Locations of community members**



### **Feedback – Positive Comments**

A high proportion of feedback on the draft action plan was positive. Community members were asked to provide feedback to improve each section of the action plan, however, almost 50% of the time, survey respondents either provided a positive comment or had no feedback to give on improvements. In total, 11% of all comments were people congratulating council for its work in this area.

Around 52% of community members thought that the Priority Areas in the draft action plan were appropriate.

Higher proportions of community members suggested feedback on the Awareness and Education and Built Environment and Public Spaces priority areas.



## Feedback – Broad Feedback

Community members provided broad feedback on changes to the draft action plan, including:

- Strengthen accountability and measurability of implementation
- Consider rewording disability ‘awareness’ to ‘education’, ‘understanding’ or ‘advocacy’ – as awareness alone was not considered enough to make meaningful change
- Rewrite some actions to be more ambitious and require action
- Ensure the draft action plan adequately addresses the needs of people with invisible disability, people using assistance animals and people with anaphylaxis
- Reorder or add new Principles / Commitments and Priorities to emphasise other ideas.


## Feedback – New and Updated Actions

Community members suggested around 60 new or updated actions.

Many of the actions related to wording changes to ensure the actions are meaningful and inclusive, and value lived experience.

Some of the suggested new actions:

- Related to work that council does as part of business as usual:
  - Free pet registration for assistance dogs
  - Fining motorists who park on footpaths blocking access
  - Engagement with employment agencies to reach people with disability
  - Provide all-abilities playgrounds and exercise equipment in public spaces
  - Meet accessibility requirements in streetscape improvement projects.

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- Related to areas outside the control of council, and council is currently advocating for improvement:
    - Improvements to public transport for people with disability
    - Adaptable and universal housing and building design.
  - Related to actions already included in the draft action plan:
    - Improve disability awareness of council staff
    - Increase disability parking
    - Investigate new locations for Changing Places facilities.
  - Related to areas that council would not be involved in:
    - Incentives for business to employ people with disabilities
    - Encourage schools to run education programs
    - Run programs to help young people with disability start small businesses.

Some of the new actions that we are investigating adding to the action plan include:

- Raising awareness of safe food handling training to reduce the risk of allergic reactions
- Working towards becoming a Dementia Friendly council and region
- Providing facilities for assistance animals in council customer service centres and libraries and displaying signage that assistance animals are welcome.

## Next Steps

Council is considering changes to the draft action plan based on the feedback received. The final action plan will then be presented to council for endorsement. Council will then focus on delivery of the initiatives in the action plan over the next five years.