



Community Building Program

South Division: Bayside Peninsula & Southern Melbourne

What is the Community Building Program?

The Community Building Program supports communities to develop ways of including people with a disability in local life.

The Community Building Program is funded by the Department of Human Services and is a core feature of the *Victorian State Disability Plan 2013-2016* which has as its vision a more inclusive Victoria where disability is not a barrier to participation.

The Community Building Program is implemented in partnership with local communities. **MetroAccess** workers are based in each of the 31 metropolitan councils across Melbourne.

Program objectives

To mobilise and support people with a disability to participate in the life of their local community.

To strengthen the community's capacity to support people with a disability and their families.

To facilitate integrated local community planning and coordination which involves people with a disability and their families, disability service providers and community organisations.

To work with existing disability support providers to enhance their capacity to provide relevant and appropriate supports in the community.

To improve access to information about relevant services and community activities available to people with a disability in their communities.

How does the Community Building Program work?

MetroAccess uses the principles of community development to bring together the strengths, resources and creativity of individuals, communities and government to increase community membership and participation opportunities.

Key strategies associated with the Disability Services Community Building Program include:

- Ensuring that the needs of people with a disability are the focus of community planning.
- Supporting service providers to assist people with a disability to live the sort of life they choose.
- Improving community understanding about the needs and aspirations of people with a disability.
- Developing easy ways for people to access the information they need about services, community activities and issues.

Focus areas can include:

- Access to the built environment
- Accommodation and housing
- Advocacy
- Arts, culture and festivals
- Children and youth
- Civic participation and leadership
- Cultural and linguistic diversity
- Education and employment
- Health and wellbeing
- Information and communication
- Sport and recreation
- Tourism
- Transport

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