



Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

2013 - 2017

Introduction

The Art Gallery of Western Australia has adopted the following Disability Access and Inclusion Plan to ensure that all visitors, including people with disabilities, can access Gallery services and facilities. The plan is subject to review and will be amended as priorities and needs change.

The Disability Service Plan includes -

- Information on the Gallery's facilities and services.
- A policy statement about the Gallery's commitment to addressing the issue of access for people with disabilities, their families and carers.
- The process used to consult with people with disabilities, their families and carers, disability organisations and relevant community groups to identify and overcome barriers to access.
- Objectives and strategies to overcome barriers that people with disabilities have identified through the consultation process
- Expected timelines and teams responsible for the proposed strategies
- A method of review and evaluation for the plan
- Information about how the plan is being communicated to staff and people with disabilities.

Responsibility for the Planning Process

The Gallery Disability Services Plan has been formulated in accordance with the Disability Services Act 1993. Under the Gallery's Teams structure the Community Relations Team is responsible for managing the process through the Gallery's Disability Services Planning Committee.

Membership of the committee:

Operations Team representative - (chair)

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(also holds position as the AGWA representative on the Department of Culture and the Arts (DCA) Disability Services Committee)

Collection & Programs Team representative x 1

Community Relations Team representative x 1

The Committee meets quarterly and is responsible for the development, review and evaluation of the Gallery's overall Disability Services Plan.

Customer consultation, acknowledged as being essential to the process, will de facto via the Department of Culture and the Arts Disability Services Planning Committee. Customer representation on this committee is comprehensive and relates to vision, hearing impairment and mobility. In addition the Disability Services Commission and DADAA are also represented. The Gallery will utilise these individuals, in the first instance, to assist in the review and development of Gallery access strategies. The synergy between the two committees is thought to be the most effective and efficient approach to accessing specialist input and achieving sustainable access outcomes.

Services

The Art Gallery of Western Australia provides the following services -

- Display of works of art from the State Art Collection, or through exhibitions generated by other institutions.
- Display of information panels and labels adjacent to relevant works of art.
- Delivery of a public education program to students, teachers and the general public supporting Gallery's exhibitions
- Videos and audio guides to support selected exhibitions.
- Guided tours by Voluntary Gallery Guides, curators and art specialists.
- Publications as catalogues supporting exhibitions, exhibition and program information and promotional material.
- Information via service desk, including direct and telephone enquiries, recorded telephone information and website.
- Limited advice to public and private sector, including information about works of art and submissions.

Facilities

The Art Gallery of Western Australia provides the following facilities -

- Public display spaces, lifts, foyer, service desk (information and security storage for patrons) public conveniences, garden terrace and casual seating
- Shop and café
- Theatrette and Function Spaces
- Studio for school art activities.

- Resource Centre
- Function spaces

Access Policy for People with Disabilities, their Families and Carers

The Art Gallery of Western Australia is committed to ensuring that people with disabilities, their families and carers are able to fully access the range of Gallery services and facilities. We are also committed to ensuring that people with disabilities are given the opportunity to contribute to the decision-making processes through a consultative process.

The Gallery recognises that disabled can include physical, sensory, cognitive and psychiatric disabilities and will endeavour to accommodate these disabilities where practicable.

The Art Gallery of Western Australia is committed to achieving the following outcomes:

1. Visitors to the Art Gallery with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access our services and events.
2. Visitors to the Art Gallery with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access our buildings and facilities.
3. People with disabilities receive information at or from the Art Gallery in a format that enables them to access information, as readily as other people can.
4. Visitors with disabilities receive the same level and quality service from Art Gallery staff as other people who do not have a disability.
5. Visitors with disabilities have the same opportunities as other visitors to make complaints to the Art Gallery.
6. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by the Art Gallery.
7. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to seek employment with the culture and the arts portfolio.

Consultation Process

1. Public Consultation meetings:
In partnership with the Department of Culture and the Arts, the Art Gallery has been involved in consultation process with the public. Notification of these meetings which were held on 30 July, 1 and 8 August 2012 were publicized on the DCA website, State newspaper as well as local newspapers. Key findings

and information gained from these meetings informed the development of the current DAP plan.

2. Informal feedback:

Obtained from AGWA visitors with disabilities. These included independent visitors, guided groups, participants in Sensational Art as well as school groups that interacted with Education Officers. This feedback was considered when developing the DAIP plan.

3. Staff consultation:

This occurred through the quarterly AGWA Disability Access and Inclusion Meetings. Representatives from each of the Art Gallery Teams (Collections & Programs, Community Relations and Operations) had an opportunity to contribute and comment. In addition, staff had the opportunity to comment on the plan via the Team Process.

Strategies in the current plan reflect issues raised by staff and Gallery Visitors. Access audits have been scheduled into the plan. These will be conducted in consultation with people with disabilities, their families and carers and disability service organisations where necessary.

Key Findings from the Public Consultation held across the Department of Culture and the Arts

The findings from the public consultation process indicated that progress has been made toward achieving the outcomes of the DAIP 2007 - 2012. Despite this, the feedback highlighted barriers that continue to prevent people with disability accessing arts and cultural services, events, information and facilities.

The areas of most significant concern were as follows.

Access to services and events

Arts organisations are not catering for all categories of disability.

- Events, exhibitions and programs need to be inclusive of a wider range of people with disability.
- Publically funded events, exhibitions and programs should be held in accessible venues.
- Exhibitions need to consider the practical needs of people with disability.
- Event organisers should be more flexible in meeting the needs of people with disability.
- People with disability should not be treated differently unless the different treatment is in order to treat them equally.

Physical access

With the advent of the new Disability (Access to Premises-Building) Standards in May 2011 it is imperative that all new buildings and refurbishments funded by the Department adhere to Disability (Access to Premises-Building) Standards.

- Catering to the most complex or challenging disability means the needs of many

will be covered.

- Look beyond mere compliance to access standards.
- Use accredited access consultants.
- Architects, planners and designers should work with people with disability to ensure universal way finding.
- Universal access should be integrated with other access where possible.
- Toilet facilities should be built to facilitate larger wheelchairs and to accommodate carers as well as the person with disability.
- Parking facilities for people with disability and their carers should accommodate wider and higher vehicles.

Access to information

Not enough is being done to make publications available in alternate formats and, or at an appropriate content level for people with learning or intellectual disability.

- Plain English versions of key relevant documents should be made available upon request.
- A broader range of alternative formats should be made available upon request, for example Auslan and audio versions.

Level of service

There needs to be regular and ongoing disability awareness training. Training should focus on:

- The diversity of disability groups and the needs and inclusion of people with multiple and severe disability.
- Protocols for relating to people with disability.
- People with disability, their family and carers should lead or assist in delivering training.

Consultation

The consultation process should be simplified and broadened to reach a more diverse range of people with disability.

- Extend time frames for consultation periods.
- Be flexible consulting. Tailor the format and venue of the consultation to the target audience. Go to the people; don't expect them to come to you.
- Explore how social media can be used to simplify the consultation process.
- Use established networks to get information about consultations out to people with disability.

Employment of people with disability

There needs to be greater effort to increase the employment of people with disability.

- Use legislative provisions to facilitate greater employment of people with disability. Positively discriminate in favour of people with disability.
- Distinguish vacancies that may be suitable for people with disability.
- Liaise with Disability Employment Services for prospective applicants.
- Be flexible in working arrangements to accommodate a person with disability's

needs.

Achievements from the Previous DAIP recognized in the public consultation

The Art Gallery had initiated new programs to cater for people with a disability. These included touch tours for visually impaired at the Gallery and a joint initiative with DADAA to tour Sculpture by the Sea at Cottesloe Beach. In addition a program to cater for public with Dementia and Alzheimer's was established.

Promotion of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

The DAIP plan will be posted on the AGWA website. The public will be informed of the DAIP plan through an advertisement in the West Australian newspaper. The community will also be notified through DCA channels, information posted on the intranet and via newsletters. In addition, the plan will be circulated to all new staff and relevant stakeholders. A person with a disability may request an alternative copy of this plan (hardcopy, standard or large print, electronic format, audio format, on cassette or CD or by email).

Review and Evaluation Mechanisms

The Art Gallery's Disability Services Planning Committee will meet every quarter to review progress on the implementation of strategies identified in the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

Once a year the Gallery will seek feedback from the community regarding the strategies that have been implemented. In seeking feedback, the committee will also seek to identify any additional barriers not previously identified and table them for inclusion in the Disability Service Plan.

The Gallery will review progress against the strategies throughout the life of the DAIP:

- The Disability Services Planning Committee will develop an Annual Implementation Plan that will include outstanding initiatives from the previous Implementation Plan and new initiatives identified;
- The Disability Services Planning Committee will review progress against the Annual Implementation Plan quarterly and make a report available to the Gallery's Executive Leadership Team; and
- The DAIP will be reviewed every five years in accordance with the Act.

As prescribed under the Act, the Gallery will report annually on the implementation of its DAIP to the Disability Services Commission. This report will provide information on:

- Progress towards implementing initiatives;
- Progress of agents and contractors towards meeting DAIP outcomes; and
- The strategies used to inform agents and contractors of the DAIP.

The Department will also detail progress towards implementing initiatives in its Annual Report.

Communicate the Plan to Staff and People with Disabilities

As the plan is amended staff, industry and the community will be advised.

The DAIP expires June 30, 2017.