



Sydney NYE Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan

Prepared for the City of Sydney

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Prepared by the Physical Disability Council of NSW

Jordana Goodman
Policy Officer
Physical Disability Council of NSW
St Helens Community Centre
3/184 Glebe Point Road
Glebe NSW 2037

Freecall: 1800 688 831
Phone: 02 9552 1606
Fax: 02 9552 1606
Fax: 02 9552 4644

Web: <http://www.pdcn.nsw.org.au/>

Email: admin@pdcnsw.org.au

Who is the Physical Disability Council of NSW?

1. The Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN) is the peak body representing people with physical disabilities across New South Wales. This includes people with a range of physical disability issues, from young children and their representatives to aged people, who are from a wide range of socio-economic circumstances and live in metropolitan, rural and regional areas of NSW.
2. The objectives of PDCN are:
 - To educate, inform and assist people with physical disabilities in NSW about the range of services, structure and programs available that enable their full participation, equality of opportunity and equality of citizenship
 - To develop the capacity of people with physical disability in NSW to identify their own goals, and the confidence to develop a pathway to achieving their goals (ie self advocate).
 - To educate and inform stakeholders (ie about the needs of people with a physical disability) so they are able to achieve and maintain full participation, equality of opportunity and equality of citizenship.
3. The Physical Disability Council appreciates the opportunity to consider, and make comment in relation to the 2014- 2017 Sydney NYE Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan.

Discussion

The 2014- 2017 Sydney NYE Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan successfully incorporates non-discriminatory measures that encourage access and inclusion for people with disability within the Sydney New Year's Eve celebrations. This Action Plan identifies the following key objectives:

1. To increase participation of people with disability who experience Sydney New Year's Eve, and
2. To lead the industry in best practice of event accessibility

Objective 1 identifies the goal to increase participation and include strategies aimed at enhancing the following:

- Annual consultation with the disability sector
- Information provision
- Develop a Marcomms plan which includes strategies to selectively target the disability sector and raise awareness of accessibility services
- Enhance accessibility services city wide for this event

The 2014- 2017 Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan includes objective 2, and this identifies the following strategies:

- Implementation of an established SNYE Access & Inclusion Plan
- Collaborate with disability sector partners and organisations to identify opportunities for future research and initiatives.
- Showcase SNYE accessibility initiatives to promote awareness and best practice.
- Develop a global network for collaboration strategy.
- Collaborate with relevant event stakeholders to coordinate consistency across accessibility services.
- Collaborate with relevant stakeholders that develop accessible tourism
- Promote and increase awareness of the rights and needs of people with disability
- Consider inclusion of artists with a disability in creative content
- Consider opportunities for promotion of disability awareness across the event programming.
- Advocate for accessibility services on major events.

It would be advantageous if the information provided about each vantage point was consistent for the following serviced areas, and that information available to the general public, such as eating amenities was also downloaded on to the websites for the following three serviced locations:

- Bicentennial Park – Glebe
- Embarkation Park – Kings Cross
- Pirrama Park – Pyrmont

For the purposes of service improvements and promotion, PDCN would encourage the City of Sydney to estimate current service delivery for each of the strategies identified in objectives 1 and 2 to establish benchmarks in preparation to the review in 2015.

Whilst PDCN is aware of the numerous constraints making access to many vantage points more difficult, PDCN would encourage the City of Sydney to evaluate the success of the recent trial at Pirrama Park with the view to serving Giba Park, Observatory Hill and other suitable locations. It is noted and commendable that appropriate staff are receiving access audit training to assist with customer service and the selection of new vantage points.

PDCN would encourage the City of Sydney to establish a forum of local councils located alongside the Parramatta River that could share ideas and adopt strategies that facilitate inclusion and accessibility when organising NYE events similarly to the City of Sydney.