

ADOPTED Council Meeting January 25, 2000

MINUTE NO. 6

5. C02957. Blue Mountains City Council Access and Equity Policy

The Meeting was addressed by Thelma Murphy.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the MOTION of Councillors Hamilton and Egan:

- 1. That Council adopt the Blue Mountains City Council Access and Equity Policy for implementation.**
- 2. That Council endorse the Access and Equity Statement Actions proposed for 2000.**

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Blue Mountains City Council

Access & Equity
Policy

January 2000

Overview

Access and Equity is an issue that affects all of Council and the entire Blue Mountains community. This policy provides a framework to support an ongoing “whole of council” approach to achieving access and equity in service provision.

Access and equity activities or strategies are those which benefit both the broad community and/or particular target groups and help council to:

- Promote fairness in the distribution of resources, particularly for those most in need;
- Recognise and promote people's rights and improve the accountability of decision makers;
- Ensure people have fairer access to the resources and services essential to meeting their needs and improving their quality of life;
- Give people better opportunities for genuine participation and consultation about decisions affecting their lives (adapted from the NSW Government 1996 Social Justice Direction Statement).

This policy comprises of three key Statements relating to the commitment of Blue Mountains City Council to achieving access and equity in service provision. These Statements have been adopted by Council to guide and coordinate organisational access and equity work.

Actions to meet these policy statements are identified on an annual basis. These actions will vary over time in line with access and equity issues identified by the community, and by Council staff, and in line with the resource capability of the organisation to address them.

Achieving Access and Equity requires an ongoing process responsive to community needs. This Policy provides the framework for achieving this.

Blue Mountains City Council

Access & Equity

Policy

STATEMENT 1

Blue Mountains City Council will work to eliminate barriers of access to services, facilities and resources within the Local Government Area which meet community needs and improve quality of life for residents of the Blue Mountains.

STATEMENT 2

Blue Mountains City Council is committed to supporting events, programs and services that encourage and enhance local community diversity, participation and harmony.

STATEMENT 3

Blue Mountains City Council is committed to the principle of equity of service provision and will work to ensure that program development and service delivery incorporates this principle.

STATEMENT 1

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	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>MILESTONE</u>	<u>WHO</u>	<u>WHEN</u>
1.1	Literature search and consultation to establish identified barriers and actions implemented by other Councils and organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature search and consultations with other councils and organisations completed. Information collated. Actions for possible inclusion in relevant service unit Business Plans considered. 	Social and Cultural Planning (S&CP)	January-February 2000
1.2	Consult with key external service providers and community members to identify barriers to access and equity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members/relevant external service providers identified. Methodology established. Consultations held. Barriers and/or possible actions to address them identified Results of consultation forwarded to relevant Council staff for possible inclusion in service unit Business Plans for 2001/2002. 	S&CP to facilitate consultation process Service units of Council to consider relevant results of consultations	March – May 2000
1.3	Consult with BMCC service units to identify barriers to access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation held. Barriers identified. Actions to be considered for possible inclusion in service unit Business Plans for 2001/2002 documented and disseminated. 	S&CP with input from service units – 2 half-day sessions and planning work	July – Sept. 2000
1.4	Consider relevant results of Falls Project including recommendations endorsed by Council for implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Falls Project results taken into account. Disability Action Plan to be prepared as part of this project using results of consultations and working with different service units to develop / implement plan. 	S&CP	July – Decemb. 2000

STATEMENT 2

Blue Mountains City Council is committed to supporting events, programs and services that encourage and enhance local community diversity, participation and harmony.

	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>MILESTONE</u>	<u>WHO</u>	<u>WHEN</u>
3.1	Council staff working with organising committees of events and programs that support community diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NAIDOC Week organised and held.• Children's Week organised and held.• Youth Week organised and held.• Senior Citizens Week organised and held.• Other appropriate events and programs identified for inclusion in Business Plans of relevant service units for 2000/2001.	S&CP	July 2000 October 2000 April 2000 March 2000 Ongoing

STATEMENT 3

Blue Mountains City Council is committed to the principle of equity of service provision and will work to ensure that program development and service delivery incorporates this principle.

<u>ACTION</u>		<u>MILESTONE</u>	<u>WHO</u>	<u>WHEN</u>
4.1	Policies and procedures are in place to ensure equity in the provision of services and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Service units of Council have identified how equity considerations have or have not been considered in service and facility provision.• Actions to facilitate improved equity identified by service units.• Identified actions integrated into service unit Business Plans and the management planning process, within resource constraints.• Major actions to improve equity identified and incorporated into 2001/2002 Management Plan Review.	S&CP Consultation with service units using the two half-day workshops noted in 1.3 to address equity considerations	July – Sept. 2000