

# Community Events and Equitable Access

ARE YOU OR YOUR ORGANISATION PLANNING A COMMUNITY EVENT?

MARCH 2011

[www.mackay.qld.gov.au](http://www.mackay.qld.gov.au)

Mackay Regional Council has committed, both through its Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) Action Plan and its Equitable Access Policy, to (1) provide equitable access to all Council provided services, facilities, information, buildings and places for all residents and visitors and (2) promote a more inclusive community.

## THINGS YOU CAN DO

### If you have chosen an indoor location for your event,

Is it on ground level and, if not, does it have a ramp?

Does it have an accessible toilet facility?

Is there disability accessible parking space/s?

### If it is an outdoor location,

Does it have disability parking and good pathway connections, an accessible toilet, and sufficient seating and shade?

These few items can make a big difference in opening up your event to people who may have liked to attend but who may not have had the opportunity because of access difficulties associated with the locations chosen. The items mentioned are by no means a guarantee that everyone with a disability or using a mobility aid could access your event if they chose to do so. They are, however, a very good start in facilitating good access.

## COMPANION CARD

Overleaf is a checklist that has been developed for Council sponsored festivals and events. It is a planning tool for staff responsible for organisation and coordination of such events. Please feel free to use it for further guidance and information if you or your organisation are interested in doing so. The Companion Card is applicable only to events, recreational locations, shows, etc for which an admission charge applies. Council has committed to participate in the Companion Card Scheme. Please Note: Council's commitment extends to any organisation that obtains a grant or other form of financial sponsorship from Council to hold a community event for which an admission charge applies.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Approximately 23% of people have a permanent disability of some kind, 13.2% have a temporary disability and our ageing population continues to increase with 10.4% of people in the Mackay region being over the age of 65 years. (ABS 2006)



### For further information

Phone **1300 MACKAY**  
(1300 622 529)

Email [info@mackay.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@mackay.qld.gov.au)

# EQUITABLE ACCESS CHECKLIST

## for Mackay Regional Council Event Locations

MARCH 2011

[www.mackay.qld.gov.au](http://www.mackay.qld.gov.au)

**The items in this checklist are for consideration in event management planning to ensure equal access for people with a disability to Council sponsored community events.**

Disability parking bays  
(as near as possible to front entrance)  Yes  No

Drop off & pick up areas  
(clear signage)  Yes  No

Allocated accessible viewing areas  
for people with a disability \*  
(clearly signed and close to support,  
stage, arena, etc)  Yes  No

Entry gates  Yes  No

Accessible toilet facilities  
(close to viewing platforms)  Yes  No

Carers' access \*  
(Companion Card will be accepted)  Yes  No

Map (to be available denoting the  
locations of the above)  Yes  No

Promotion  Yes  No  
(to include information on the above  
items & to be available on the Council  
website and in hard copy)

\* People with a disability requiring specific seating, including carer's seats, are encouraged to book early to ensure requirements can be met as seating is subject to availability and can sell out.

### For further information

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