

The government leading change

Disability Act 2006

Introduction

The *Disability Act 2006* (the Act) commenced on 1 July 2007.

The Act provides the framework for the way support and services are to be provided to people with a disability in Victoria. This includes advancing the inclusion and participation of people with a disability in the community. To achieve this, government and community must work together to support the needs and aspirations of people with a disability.

What is the Victorian Disability Advisory Council?

The Victorian Disability Advisory Council was established to help government and the community work together.

The council's purpose is to provide a direct means of raising issues that matter to people with a disability with the Minister for Community Services.

Who can be a member of the Victorian Disability Advisory Council?

The Act states the membership of the council must reflect the diversity of people with a disability. This means members on the council must have appropriate knowledge and experience in matters relevant to people with a disability, including children with a disability.

How many people can be a member of the Victorian Disability Advisory Council?

There can be up to 14 members on the council. The Minister must ensure the majority of council members are people with a disability.

What is the Victorian State Disability Plan?

The *Victorian State Disability Plan 2002-2012* outlines a vision for the future that includes being a stronger and more inclusive community – a place where diversity is embraced and where people with a disability as citizens of Victoria, should enjoy the same rights, opportunities and responsibilities as all other citizens, fully and equally participating in community life.

What will happen when the current State Disability Plan expires in 2012?

The new legislation requires that the Minister for Community Services ensures a new state disability plan is developed from 1 January 2013, and every four years thereafter.

What are disability action plans?

Disability action plans are plans that focus on reducing barriers for people with a disability to take part in the community and promote inclusion and participation of people with a disability. The Act states that Victorian government departments and some statutory corporations and authorities must develop disability action plans and report every year on their plan.

Does developing disability action plans apply to local government?

The Act recognises that there are existing planning requirements for local governments and the importance of access to local services for people with a disability. The Act states that if a local council does not develop a disability action plan, the requirements of a disability action plan must be included in their council plan under the Local Government Act 1989.

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) will provide support, advice and information to local governments in relation to the development of disability action plans under Section 38 of the Act.

For more information about the Act, contact:

Disability Services Division, Department of Human Services
Telephone: 1300 366 731 (9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday)

TTY: (03) 9096 0133 (for people who are deaf or have a hearing, speech or communication impairment)

Email: disability.legislation@dhs.vic.gov.au