Over 4 million people in Australia have some form of disability. That’s almost 1 in 5 people. There are many types of disability including intellectual, physical, visual, hearing and learning. Disability is experienced by people of all ages.

A larger proportion of young people in Wodonga experience disability when compared to their Victorian peers. Their most important issues were:

- **Feeling included** and being a part of the community; and,
- Their ability to access age appropriate services and activities.

People with a disability are more likely to be unemployed. In 2015, 53.4% of people with a disability were in the labour force compared to 83.2% of people with no disability.

Whilst more than half of businesses recognise employing skilled people with a disability as positive, only 3 in 10 businesses currently employ people with a disability.

Nearly 1 in 4 women and girls with disability are reported victims of family violence.

Increasing numbers of carers in the community may indicate inadequate service provision, or the need for in-home support, or support for the carers themselves.
Reducing barriers to access and inclusion for people with a disability

WHAT COUNCIL IS DOING

Wodonga Council is committed to playing its role in an effort to reduce barriers to access and inclusion for people in our community who have a disability. To do this, the council works closely with the community to understand and respond to barriers that may prohibit people with a disability from participating in community life.

The council has identified key objectives to work toward over the next five years:

1. Work with community stakeholders to strengthen the service system to better support those in our community with a disability;
2. Promote inclusion and participation in the community for people with a disability; and,
3. Use council planning, regulatory and policy mechanisms to reduce discriminatory practices for people with a disability.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Negative perceptions are a contributing factor to the social exclusion of people with a disability. Challenging these perceptions is key to building a fully inclusive community.

Although Wodonga Council plays a pivotal role, social inclusion is a whole-of-community responsibility. The council has identified key settings and partners where this change can occur:

- **Workplaces** (Is your organisation accessible, inclusive and respectful of the rights of people with disabilities?)
- **Schools and early learning services** (Are your buildings easy to access? Do you promote being inclusive of everyone?)
- **Community and sporting organisations** (Is your community organisation or sporting club accessible for all abilities and socially inclusive of all people?)
- **Communities** (What happens in your home and neighbourhood? How do you include everyone in community life?)

To find out more phone Wodonga Council on (02) 6022 9300