

Strong and Inclusive Communities Position Statement

Policy Principles

This Position Statement relates to the following Policy Principles of LGNSW:

- (2) Local government demands fair funding for its infrastructure and service responsibilities.*
- (7) Local government services embody the principles of Social Justice:*
 - a. Equity – fair distribution of resources*
 - b. Rights – equality for all people*
 - c. Access – to services essential to quality of life*
 - d. Participation – of all people in their community*
 - e. Recognition – of the unique place of Aboriginal people in NSW and the right of Aboriginal people to be involved in all decisions affecting Aboriginal communities.*

Background

Local government is a significant provider and supporter of essential community services to local residents including vulnerable groups such as older people, people with disability, families, children, young people, Aboriginal people and people from all cultures and backgrounds. Councils:

- Fill the gaps in the provision of essential human services when there are no other providers, particularly in rural and remote areas.
- Support other community organisations by providing accommodation in council buildings at reduced or in kind rates and by providing local facilities and venues for community service and support activities.
- Provide residents with an independent and valued source of community information and referral.

As a regulator, local government makes a positive and significant impact on the inclusiveness of the community through development controls, public domain management policies and strategic planning. As such local government is well positioned to continue its lead role in building the social and economic inclusiveness of the local community.

Our Position

LGNSW advocates for:

- Mandatory upfront engagement and consultation by State and Commonwealth Governments with local government about specific local priorities and community service needs.
- Continued State and Commonwealth funding to supplement the contribution of NSW councils of approximately 60% towards the cost of community development, ageing and disability staff positions.
- Funding for local government to implement projects identified in council Disability Inclusion Action Plans.
- Adequate funding to local government for community support, information and referral and capacity building initiatives through such programs as the Information, Linkages & Capacity Building Framework (ILC) administered by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

Date endorsed: October 2017

Date reviewed: