

DRAFT SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICY

QUALITY CONTROL			
EDRMS REFERENCES	12/14 – D25/25988		
RESPONSIBLE POSITION	Director Corporate and Community		
APPROVED BY	Executive Leader Team		
REVIEW DATE	June 2029	REVISION NUMBER	1
EFFECTIVE DATE	ACTION	MINUTE NUMBER	
24 September 2025	Public Exhibition	47979	

1. INTRODUCTION

Broken Hill is committed to being a city that celebrates the contributions of all its residents, fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and supportive environment for living, working, learning, and visiting. The city strives to be a community where individuals and families are valued and supported, regardless of differences in age, gender, race, religion, culture, ability, sexuality, income level, or place of residence. Focus placed on core groups such as the aged, youth, individuals with disabilities, those experiencing homelessness, and those impacted by alcohol or drug challenges, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVE

To enhance the quality of life, independence, and well-being of the residents of Broken Hill by facilitating opportunities for community members to actively participate in planning, development, and coordination of their physical, social, economic, environmental, and cultural needs aligning with Council's Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program.

3. POLICY SCOPE

The Broken Hill City Council recognises and values the significant contributions of its residents to the community. Council is committed to planning, delivering, and advocating for a wide range of services and facilities that support residents in leading healthy and fulfilling lives. This policy defines Council's roles and responsibilities in achieving this commitment.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

The engagement of Council with community members to build an equitable and vibrant community, characterised by, celebration of place, ease of access to services and facilities, community harmony and participation in community life.

Council recognises the role of Local Government in maintaining the liveability and quality of life for Broken Hill residents through an effective social planning process and the research and documentation of the social needs of the community, including a range of strategies covering the life cycle.

Council has a critical function in a regional context and the role it plays in supporting, assisting and providing cooperation between all tiers of Government. This is critical as the demand for community, aged care services and youth programs increase and exceeds the capacity of services hindered by human and economic resources.

The remote location of Broken Hill is a physical barrier to access services and opportunities. Council is able to encourage, support, advocate and develop innovative ideas to attract funding and support in the provision of services for Broken Hill.

Council will develop a co-operative relationship with all levels of government, acting as an advocate on identified high needs.

Council will, where appropriate, seek and encourage partnerships amongst local community service providers, residents, and Local/State/Federal Government organisations.

Council will advocate for equitable service delivery and funding.

Broken Hill has a large Indigenous population and has a role to encourage an awareness and recognition of Indigenous culture and heritage within the Broken Hill community.

Council acknowledging it's role in strengthening Broken Hill as a welcoming inclusive culturally diverse community.

Establish a collaborative and proactive planning approach with local providers, Federal and State Governments and other organisations to identify and address the current and emerging needs.

Collaborate with interagency services to support young people and seek grant funding to enhance Youth Week and school holiday programs. Actively encourage the inclusion of young people in the community and where possible, involve young people in the decision-making process on issues affecting young people.

Broken Hill will be a community where peoples basic needs are met by working collaboratively with homeless services to connect community members experiencing homelessness or financial hardship.

Support and encourage advocacy with Federal and State Governments for increased funding for relevant programs and services.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

- Council is responsible to engage and collaborate with services and interagency groups to identify where there is an established need and advocate to fill service gaps on behalf of the local community to other levels of Government.

- provide residents with information on community services and resources through the Council's Community Directory.
- promote and organise community engagement via surveys, forums, and research initiatives to assist in the identification of community needs and services.
- Council will consult widely in the community when making significant decisions, seek and promote community feedback and engagement via surveys, forums, and research initiatives to assist in the identification of community needs and services.
- Participate in local, regional, and state consultative processes which relate to the provision of services and facilities for the Broken Hill community.

6 Communication

This Policy will be communicated to the community and staff in accordance with Council's Policy, Procedure and Process Framework and Council's Business Paper process. Following adoption by Council the Policy will be made available on Council's website.

7 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

The following documentation is to be read in conjunction with this policy.

- **Community Strategic Plan 2040**
- **Community Engagement Plan 2025**
- **Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026**
- **Liveability Strategy 2043**
- **NSW Protocol for Homeless People in Public Places**

8. REVIEW

Review of this policy will incorporate relevant legislation, documentation released from relevant state agencies and best practice guidelines.

The standard review period will be within each term of Council following the Local Government Elections, or as required to ensure that it meets legislation requirements and the needs of the community and Council. The responsible Council officer will be notified of the review requirements three (3) months prior to the expiry of this policy.

The Community Development Coordinator is responsible for the review of this policy.

9. LEGISLATIVE AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following:

- **Local Government Act 1993**

- **Liveability Strategy 2043**
- **Disability Action Inclusion Plan**
- **NSW Protocol for Homeless People in Public Places**

Council employees shall refrain from personal activities that would conflict with proper execution and management of Council's Code of Conduct. Council's Code of Conduct provides guidance for recognising and disclosing any conflicts of interest.

10. DEFINITIONS

Council Broken Hill City Council

Community Common, public, shared by all or many