



Mildura Rural City Council

Social Inclusion Policy

Policy – CP019

Prepared	Reviewed	Approved	Date	Council Minute No.
GMC	Every 5 Years	Council	December 2014	2014/0248
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Document Owner: Manager Community Futures		Review Frequency: Every five years		

1. The purpose of this policy is

To provide a framework and set of guiding principles for Mildura Rural City Council to address issues that impact on a well functioning community in order to achieve Council's vision of becoming the most liveable, people-friendly city in Australia.

2. Policy Statement

Mildura Rural City Council recognises its responsibility and role in promoting community wellbeing and assisting the development of a community that is supportive, inclusive, tolerant and welcoming.

3. Principles

- Council will identify the social inclusion implications in the decisions we take and the projects and partnerships in which we participate
- Council will be community focused
- Council will engage and consult with the community in the development and delivery of services
- Council will utilise a community development approach to empower and strengthen communities, encourage cooperative practices within communities, and promote tolerance of differences
- Council will ensure that policies and initiatives reflect community aspirations
- Council will adopt a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency approach as the preferred way of working toward achieving community wellbeing in the municipality
- Decision making is characterised by the use of objective data and deliberate efforts are made to engage and consult across community groups, including youth, migrants, indigenous and women

4. Who is responsible for implementing this policy?

Councillors, General Managers, Managers, Team Leaders and staff will be responsible for this policy

5. Definitions

Community Wellbeing

Living and working conditions in which people thrive

Well Functioning community

General social research and community studies have identified key community attributes.

These underpin effective community functioning helping to satisfy the needs of community members.

Key attributes are:

- **Resource generation, allocation: “a well functioning community reviews and marshals formal resources to align with and support the goals that have been determined”.**

Council will work with community groups to achieve their identified goals where possible. This approach focuses on creating bonds within the community.

- **Integration of people, groups and community organisations and: “a well functioning community fosters a sense of belonging among its members”. This is expressed by an “attachment to the local area, participation in social interaction and community affairs and engagement in cooperative practices”.**

Council will work toward engaging identified communities to encourage participation in community life.

- **Maintaining direction, energy and motivation: “without denying people’s entitlement to self-expression, differences of opinion and the right to protest, encourages the preservation of that degree of civic order needed to achieve progress and respect the rights of other citizens”.**

Council will respect the differing opinions and respect the rights of community members.

- **Substance and style of decision making: “orderly but open arrangements exist for generating an action agenda that creates a purposeful mix of goals of different durations (with community strengthening as a priority)...The agenda, available information and decisions are publicised to community members”.**

Decision making will be transparent, where possible and decisions will be public knowledge.

(Tony Vinson, 2007 paper prepared for Mildura Rural City Council, Developing a Well-functioning Community).

Is defined as “A society in which people

Socially Inclusive

- feel valued
- their differences respected
- their basic needs are met so they can live with dignity...

It is a society in which everyone has access to economic, social, political and cultural systems.” (Vic Health, Research Summary 2, 2005 Social Inclusion a determinant of Mental Health and Wellbeing).

Social Exclusion

“Exists where people are not able to participate adequately.” “Social exclusion may imply an absence of social connectedness at all, connection with relatively powerless groups, or exclusion as part of a group which may have strong internal connections, but no bridges or links to the rest of the community.” (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Measuring Social Capital, An Australian Framework and Indicators, 2004).

6. Legislation and other references

6.1 Legislation

For further information related to this policy see:

- Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities, 2008
- Equal Opportunity Act 2010
- A Stronger, Fairer Australia 2010

6.2 Documents

This Policy is implemented in conjunction with the following documents:

Council Plans and Strategies:

- Community Access and Inclusion Plan 2014 to 2018
- Healthy Ageing Strategy 2010-2014

- Recreation Services Strategy 2008-2018
- Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2012-2017
- Community Engagement Strategy 2014- 2018
- Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017
- Community Care Services Access and Equity Report 2010

Council Policies

- Human Rights Policy CP006
- Community Engagement Policy CP020
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Recognition Policy CP058

6.3 Risk Assessment Reference

Please tick the corporate risk(s) that this policy is addressing.

Risk Category	✓	Risk Category	✓
Asset Management		Financial Sustainability	
Committees		Human Resource Management	✓
Compliance – Legal & Regulatory	✓	Leadership & Organisational Culture	✓
Contract Management		Occupational Health & Safety	
Contract Tendering & Procurement		Organisational Risk Management	✓
Corporate Governance	✓	Project Management	✓
Environmental Sustainability		Public Image and Reputation	✓

7. File number & TRIM reference number

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