

RURAL ACCESS PROJECT

Rural Access and Transition to ILC



PURPOSE

- Re-invigorate a network now termed the Wimmera Accessibility Network to be an advocacy platform for those in our community with a disability.
- Utilise an established digital community directory platform to include the National Health Service directory information so that our community members that have a disability and their families have access to information regarding available mainstream services and how to access them.

WHY?

This is a community, place-based capacity building project that contributes to the active participation and inclusion of people with disability, including improved access to mainstream and community services. The Horsham Rural City Council previously had ownership of the Wimmera Disability Access Forum which was deemed as not functioning as effectively as it could. The Forum dissolved and the need for a more dynamic network which could operate and advocate at a more systemic level presented itself as a response to the changes in the NDIS and transition to ILC.

PARTNERS

- Aruma (Tipping)
- Centacare
- Centre for Participation
- DHHS
- Federation Uni
- Grampians Community Health
- Grampians Disability Advocacy
- Hindmarsh Council
- Horsham Rural City Council
- NDIS
- Noah's Ark
- RIAC
- Primary Health Network
- Uniting Wimmera
- West Wimmera Health Service
- West Wimmera Shire Council
- Woodbine
- Women's Health Grampians
- Rural Northwest Health
- Yarriambiack Shire Council
- WDEA Works

OUTCOMES

- The Terms of Reference have been developed to reflect the discussion in the partnership brokerage session, with purpose, goals, membership terms and structure defined for the Network moving forward.
- **The Network brings together service providers and through a reference group, gives insight into the challenges faced by people with a disability in the community. The group has the ability to advocate at a systemic level and has the voice of the community behind it.**
- The Network is also a place to share information between service providers, whether that be related resources or upcoming grants which may be of interest.
- **My Community Directory now has 1504 listings in the Wimmera region and a growing audience base as we continue promotion.**

