

Aldgate Community Forum

27 November 2025, Aldgate Village Well

Community Forum Overview and Outcomes Report



Acknowledgement of Country

Council acknowledges that we undertake our business on the traditional Country of the Peramangk and Kaurna people. We pay our respects to Ancestors and Elders past and present as the Custodians of this ancient and beautiful land for they hold the memories, traditions, spiritual relationships, culture and hopes of the First Nations of Australia. We are committed to working together to ensure that Peramangk and Kaurna culture and traditions are sustained, valued and continuing.

Purpose

Community Forums are held throughout the year in community facilities around the Hills. They provide an opportunity for council and local residents to communicate directly with each other about emerging issues, services and Council initiatives.

Our most recent Community Forum was held in Aldgate and had a focus on accessibility and inclusion and the development of our Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2026-2030.

- Location: Aldgate Village Well – 54 Strathalbyn Road, Aldgate
- Date: Thursday 27 November 2025
- Time: 6pm to 8pm



Supporting an accessible and inclusive Adelaide Hills

The forum included a range of presentations and discussions from council representatives and community leaders. We began the evening with an opportunity to connect with each other, council staff and Elected Members, the chance to have a drink and a bite to eat.

Presentations kicked off at 6.30pm and we heard from the following presenters:

- Acting Mayor Nathan Daniell spoke about the upcoming supplementary Council election to fill the position of Mayor and the different ways you can vote in the supplementary elections, the review and finalisation of our By-laws, next steps around the development of our Community Engagement Framework, the upcoming 2026 Tour Down Under and shared some of the achievements from our inaugural Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2020-2024.
- Melinda Rankin, Director of Fabrik Arts + Heritage Hub, spoke about the process undertaken to develop Fabrik Arts + Heritage Hub. She shared information and images about facilities available at this unique community facility and the team's aspiration to be accessible and inclusive.
- Sue Lewis and Kim Yap from the Hills Emergency and Resilience Disability Network provided an overview of the role of the network and their fantastic achievements. The group is dedicated to improving emergency outcomes through education and advocacy. They shared a video that will be released on International Day of People with Disability about how people can get prepared for emergency events.
- Our last presenter was Yve Cole, Inclusion and Wellbeing Officer at Adelaide Hills Council. Yve explained how we'd like our community's involvement to inform the development of our Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2026-2030, explained the background to DAIPs, key roles council plays in access and inclusion and expanded on the achievements from the inaugural DAIP 2020-2024.
- Following presentations, there was a 40-minute break out session where participants could speak to presenters, staff and Elected Members about the presentation topics, share their ideas and feedback around the development of our Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2026-2030 and discuss local ideas and issues. You can view a summary of what we heard and what was discussed below.

Summary of what we heard

Community members had the opportunity to participate in a range of engagement activities with council staff and Elected Members at the forum as well as provide their feedback about the forum. Feedback has been categorised into questions and themes and summarised below.

Let's keep making things better – what are the most important things Council could do to improve the lives of people with disability?

Infrastructure and Facilities

- Design for disability from the planning phase, not as an afterthought.
- Heritage buildings should be adapted for access (e.g. Fabrik and Government House as good examples).
- Provide mini ramps for small steps and ensure footpaths are safe and level.
- Create a dedicated fund for adapting buildings.
- Plan for future needs (e.g. Changing Places toilets).
- Improve signage: high contrast, readable, universal symbols.
- Indicate accessibility on businesses/buildings to avoid embarrassment.
- Ensure parks and trails are accessible and well-signposted.

Transport and Connectivity

- Address inaccessible crossings (e.g. Aldgate railway crossing).
- Improve pathways under heritage bridges for wheelchair access.
- Ensure safe footpaths and better transport options.

Community Attitudes and Inclusion

- Shift language from “inclusion” to “belonging.”
- Promote education to change outdated attitudes.
- Recognise invisible disabilities (sensory, neurodivergent).

- Provide quiet spaces at events with clear signage.

Representation and Participation

- People with lived experience should lead and be on committees.
- Treat individuals as unique, not as one group.
- Focus on contributions and value in community life.

Information and Technology

- Offer information in multiple formats.
- Promote apps like Pavely for accessibility info.
- Improve phone / internet reception in some areas.
- Provide technology in libraries for visual impairment (e.g. text-to-audio).

Employment and Opportunities

- Increase public sector jobs for people with disability.
- Support networking and collaboration among local services.

Let's build understanding – what makes you feel included in the community?

Accessibility and Sensory Considerations

- Provide for sensory needs in open spaces.
- Ensure quiet spaces for neurodivergent individuals.
- Equal access to information with adaptable resources for vision-impaired people.

Education and Awareness

- Start disability awareness education early in schools.
- Train community members and businesses on inclusive language and support.
- “Train the trainer” approach for broader impact.
- Promote understanding to reduce prejudice.

Personal Interaction and Connection

- Real human interaction (avoid automated systems like “press 1 for...”).
- Opportunities to meet neighbors and build social networks.
- Volunteering and community involvement as pathways to belonging.
- Shift language from “included” to “belonging.”
- Activated communities (e.g. welcome packs).
- Two-way engagement: giving and receiving support.

Inclusive Event and Business Practices

- Accessibility checklists for event planning.
- Awards for businesses and events that are inclusive.
- Disability and access concierge at events.
- Co-design improvements with occupational therapists.
- Strategic upgrades (e.g. do multiple ramps at once rather than one-off fixes)
- Special parking allocations at events (e.g. Uraidla Show).

Community Infrastructure and Support

- Community hubs and council-run programs.
- Safe crossings and accessible pathways.
- Housing and employment opportunities that enable independence.

Representation and Voice

- People with disability educating others about their needs.
- Opportunities to contribute to community decisions.
- Connection with council staff and elected members.

Let's do more of what works – Do you have a story about a place or activity in the Adelaide Hills Council that is good for people with disability?

Libraries

- Libraries (especially Stirling Coventry Library) are highly valued for being welcoming, versatile, and inclusive.
- Mobile library services (e.g. Uraidla) help reach smaller communities.
- Libraries provide spaces for community connection (e.g. citizenship ceremonies, outdoor lawn areas).

Fabrik

- Highlighted as an excellent example of accessibility and inclusion.
- Shows how heritage buildings can be adapted successfully.

Community Events and Spaces

- Uraidla Show: allocated special parking on the oval for people with disability.
- The Hutt: inclusive activities like repair café, art classes, walking groups.
- Upper Sturt Hall: used grants to install ramps for better access.
- Upper Sturt Primary School: inclusive approach for children with high needs.
- Mount Lofty Lookout and Botanic Gardens: appreciated for accessibility and natural beauty.
- Bridgewater Nature Play (netted swing) and Stirling community garden: inclusive outdoor spaces.
- Aldgate Village Well
- Importance of providing clear information about accessible facilities.

Community Services and Volunteering

- Gumeracha Community Centre: opportunities to volunteer, connect, and contribute.
- Volunteering programs help build confidence, routine, and work readiness for people with disability.
- CFS stations / concept of fire service

Local Businesses

- Stirling businesses noted for supporting employment and work experience opportunities.

Other feedback / ideas:

- CFS – understanding who are the vulnerable people in our community – what is the one point of truth, is there a register?
- CBS have authority form for clients – could include a question about exchanging details with a third party to be contacted in an emergency.
- The Hutt Centre checks in on people in emergency situations.
- Live outside township zone so can't access green bin – should be exceptions for people close to townships to use green bins (we live 100m from zone) even if there was an additional fee.
- Understanding of Woolworths and what is happening there.

Feedback on the forum

Please provide any feedback you have about the format or content of this community forum:

- Well organised
- Clear commitment to inclusion
- Good format and content
- Very informative and interesting presentations

What did you enjoy the most about the community forum?:

- Robust and thoughtful discussion
- Equally enjoyed presentations and discussions
- Staff excellent and engaging
- Good venue and food

What do you think we can improve on for future forums?:

- Youth engagement
- All good / good enough for me

Next Steps

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Feedback and ideas discussed during the forum will be shared with Elected Members and staff across council to be consider for integration into upcoming works and future planning, including:

- The development of our Disability Access and Inclusion plan 2026-2030
- Planning for future community forums and activities
- Support the development of our 2026/27 Annual Business Plan
- Ongoing works and maintenance around Aldgate and our wider council area



Thank you

We would like to say a big thank you to our presenters from Hills Emergency and Resilience Disability Network and to the Bridgwater and Aldgate Community Support Hub for attending and having a stand. Thank you to the Aldgate Village Well for hosting us and to Tea for Two ladies for providing our delicious catering.

Thank you very much to all participants for getting involved in this community forum. We had a great time meeting with community members and hearing about your ideas, experiences and interests. We appreciate your feedback, and we look forward to seeing you at the next one.

If you would like to view our event article and photo gallery from the event, please visit our [AHC website](https://www.ahc.sa.gov.au).



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Adelaide Hills
COUNCIL