

## Election Candidates challenged statewide on social and economic performance

The Spinal Injuries Association is partnering local community groups statewide to challenge Local government candidates to support a Community Accord for amalgamated Shires to install an Inclusive Community Action Plan post election.

Why is there a need to do this?

Creating an inclusive community is a requirement of a contemporary society. It seeks a region to adopt the principles of inclusion so that all people can contribute to the fabric of their community.

“That sounds so simple, doesn’t it, but we as a local community have made little progress in this area because our Local governments have not made it a fundamental part of their operations”, says John Mayo of the Spinal Injuries Association.

That is why during this Local government election the regional Member Networks of the Spinal Injuries Association has sought community organisations to join forces to support an Inclusive Communities Accord which seeks Council to require the establishment of an Action Plan to prioritise goals in each Council’s next Budget.

Supporters of the Accord are asking election candidates to recognise the imperative to stop Queensland’s previous history of denying thousands of ratepayers and visitor’s access to services, places and opportunities – and to implement an Action Plan driven by the CEO and department managers focused on delivering equitable services and outcomes, buildings, infrastructure and precincts.

“We are asking candidates to confirm their support for the Accord to improve social and economic performance by creating an accessible, user-friendly region”.

Mr. Mayo said the Inclusive Community Accord highlighted five main areas for Local government Council’s:

1. Accept the principle of valuing all people in the community in order to develop an integrated, equitable community.

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Acknowledge that Creating Inclusive Communities is essential in order to maximise the social and economic performance of our region.

3.

Commit to supporting the development of an Inclusive Community Action Plan that incorporates participation by every department of Council. This is essential because the actual work to achieve progress at Council will occur at the operations level across every department. The plan will require each department to identify how they will improve their performance by delivering equitable services, opportunities and building outcomes in the future and will incorporate that in their Business Plans and Budgets.

4.

Take an active role in controlling the destiny of private development in the region by ensuring at Development Approval stage that proposed development or refurbishment offers equitable access and user friendly outcomes.

5.

Take a leadership role within the region and work in partnership with business, industry and the community to ensure equitable access to goods, services, information, buildings, infrastructure and precincts.

“We hope candidates will see the Inclusive Community Accord as an opportunity to showcase their vision for the future to help their region prosper financially and gain social acceptance as a safe, user friendly, accessible region,” Mr. Mayo said.

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