

Shire of Broome
PO Box 44, Broome WA 6725
Phone: 08 9191 3456
Fax: 08 9191 3455

MEDIA RELEASE



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For immediate release

Access for All - Broome Businesses Recognised

Broome businesses have collaborated with the Shire of Broome to provide clear access information for people of all ages and abilities living in and visiting the town.

From holiday accommodation, through to restaurants, clinics and retail outlets, local business people have volunteered their time to show a Shire staff member through their premises to document facilities and provide access information.

The Shire's own public spaces also underwent an access audit, bringing the number up to 80 businesses and facilities participating in the "Your Welcome WA Access Initiative" project in Broome.

The access checklist included all aspects from food counter heights and wheelchair access to whether menus are in easy-to-read font.

The information will form part of an online database providing practical information so that people with disabilities and carers can easily research business and community attractions, services and facilities in Broome.

The database will be accessible from the Shire's website <http://www.broome.wa.gov.au/comm/ywea.htm> from Wednesday 21 May and will then become part of a statewide online access database later this year.

Chairperson of the Shire of Broome Access and Inclusion Committee, Councillor Chris Maher said the project was positive on a number of levels.

"Not only does this project increase awareness of accessibility across a wide range of Broome businesses, it enables them to expand their customer base by removing physical barriers to be inclusive of our whole community," said Cr Maher.

Andy Guidera owner of Broome's Bali Hai Resort and Spa, has been a member of the Shire of Broome Access and Inclusion Committee in its various guises for more than a decade.

"The Your Welcome project is about businesses extending common courtesy to the wider community," said Mr Guidera.

"We are one society and being inclusive means that business is accessible to everyone including the frail, parents with prams, the sight and hearing impaired as well as those with physical disabilities. Removing barriers makes it safer for everyone and of course business benefit from the additional customers," he said.

The Shire of Broome is one of 24 Local Governments throughout Western Australia collecting access information as part of the You're Welcome WA Access Initiative.

The Your Welcome WA Access Initiative was developed by the Disability Services Commission in partnership with the Western Australian Local Government Association, Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability Services, People with Disabilities (WA) Inc, Tourism Western Australia, National Disability Services WA, NICAN WA and the City of Perth.

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Media Contacts:

Chris Maher on 0418 905 244

Andy Guidera on 9191 3100