

## **Who is involved in preparing a social/community plan?**

Everyone with an interest is to be given the chance to contribute their views to help the council prepare the plan, such as:

- residents
- people who study or work in the area
- community members who are in one or more of the target groups described in the previous section
- council staff and Councillors
- community groups
- local businesses
- government agencies
- non-government agencies

## **How can you participate in your council's planning activities?**

All members of the community are encouraged to be involved in social/community planning activities.

Ways that you can be involved include:

- writing to or phoning council with your views about its current social/community plan
- attending community meetings
- joining a committee
- joining a residents' group
- filling out any council surveys
- coming along to a community event

For more information about ways you can be involved contact your council. If you do not know your local council, visit the Department of Local Government website located at [www.dlg.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au) where you can search for your council by typing in your suburb, or phone (02) 4428 4100.

## **What assistance is available to councils for social planning?**

The Department of Local Government has produced guidelines to assist councils prepare their social/community plan. For further information visit our website at [www.dlg.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au).

# **Social and Community Planning**

Working together to benefit our whole community

By law, councils have to prepare a social or community plan at least once every five years and report on activities in their plan each year.

### **Why is social/community planning important?**

The NSW Government is committed to making sure that everyone is given a fair go, fair share and fair say.

### **What is a social/community plan?**

Social/community plans cover:

- who makes up your community
- what is important to your community
- how well previous plans have worked
- ways for council and other organisations to better meet your community's needs

### **How can I benefit from social/community planning?**

Social/community planning offers you and your community a range of benefits such as:

- having a say and getting involved in community activities
- meeting others within your community
- gaining new knowledge, skills and confidence
- helping your council to understand and meet the needs of your community
- improving services and facilities
- the planned and efficient use of council and other government funds
- information about activities planned for your community

### **What can the social/community plan cover?**

A social/community plan can cover a range of areas which contribute to a community's well-being. These include transport, health, housing, employment, community safety, recreation, education, culture, community facilities and the environment. The plan may also include what other government and non-government organisations can contribute.

### **Who is the social/community plan for?**

The plan is for the community as a whole, but must also address the needs of the following groups:

- children
- young people
- women
- older people
- people with disabilities
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- people from different cultural and language backgrounds

Your council may also include any other groups in the community that have particular needs.