



BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL PLAN

November 2009



people • place • prosperity

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1 Executive Summary

The Ballina Shire Council Social Plan has been prepared to address the requirements of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, clause 200 (2).

The Social Plan has been prepared in accordance to the Social and Community Planning and Reporting Guidelines prepared by the NSW Department of Local Government (DLG).

The guidelines prepared by the DLG requires that councils must prepare Social Plans that identify the needs of seven mandatory target groups. These groups are:

- Children aged 0 - 11 years
- Women
- Young people i.e. those aged between 12 and 24 years
- Older people i.e. Aboriginal people aged 45 years and over and non-Aboriginal people aged 55 years and over
- People with disabilities – this term covers all types of disabilities, including those with HIV/AIDS
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

The issues and responses contained in this plan have been identified through a process of community consultation. Local residents, the community sector and government agencies were provided with opportunities to identify issues that exist for our community.

Many of the issues identified can be best described as systemic that require a national response.

What has become apparent throughout the preparation of this plan is the need for a collective response to the matters identified. It will be necessary to develop strong partnerships to ensure that the needs of our community are met.

Ballina Shire Council will endeavour to bring stakeholders together to assist in developing whole of community responses to many of the issues identified.

This plan sets out what Council will do to address issues. It also sets out what it would like others to do.

The issue of housing was raised across all the target groups. The cost, suitability and access to housing were identified as significant issues.

Ballina Shire Council is in the process of considering an affordable housing strategy that, if adopted, will assist in addressing some of the housing issues identified in this plan.

It should be acknowledged that housing affordability is not an issue that is solely found in Ballina Shire; it is a particular concern across the North Coast region as well as other areas within the State.

Transport was also raised as an issue across all target groups. Many families and individuals who don't have access to private transport find accessing medical, financial, commercial and recreational services very difficult.

The limited public transport options and the associated costs of using the system were identified as being a significant impediment for some in fully engaging in the community of Ballina Shire.

It might be noted that there are minor discrepancies between figures in a number of tables throughout this document. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) randomly adjusts figures to avoid releasing information about individuals, families or households. The effect of these adjustments is statistically insignificant.

Implementing the Social Plan should not be interpreted as being the sole responsibility of Council, but rather a joint community endeavour. The Social Plan can be seen as an action plan for future service delivery in our shire.

The preparation of this plan would not have been possible without the participation of representatives from community groups and government departments as well as residents, local service employees and Council staff who have all contributed their time and thoughts to the process.

2 Introduction

The Ballina Shire Council Social Plan (the Plan) has been developed in co-operation with key stakeholder groups and resident representatives within the Ballina Shire.

The Plan can be used by Ballina Shire Council, local community service organisations and residents to respond to issues that have been identified as part of the formulation of this plan.

The Plan acknowledges those who make up our community, identifies our collective needs and provides strategies and advocates for services to meet those needs.

It should be noted that the issues identified in this plan are not the sole responsibility of Ballina Shire Council.

Council has identified a number of actions that it currently undertakes and has also identified additional actions that it can take to assist in addressing the identified needs. The plan also promotes what others can do to provide services and support.

The plan can be a useful tool to assist in building partnerships to ensure the needs of the target groups are met.

2.1 Background-why do we have a Social Plan?

Councils in NSW are required under the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 clause 200 (2) to develop Social/Community Plans. The plans must be prepared in accordance with the guidelines prepared by the NSW Department of Local Government.

The Department specifies that councils must prepare Social/Community Plans that identify the needs of seven mandatory target groups. These groups are:

- Children 0 - 11 years
- Young people i.e. those aged between 12 and 24 years
- Women
- Older people i.e. Aboriginal people aged 45 years and over and non-Aboriginal people aged 55 years and over
- People with disabilities – this term cover all types of disabilities, including those with HIV/AIDS
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

2.2 Objectives

The primary objectives of this plan are:

- To identify the specific needs of each of the seven mandatory target groups
- To assist Council and local service providers gain a better understanding of the diverse needs of our community
- To provide advocacy for increased resources within the government and non-government sectors

2.3 How was the plan developed?

The information, identification of issues and proposed actions outlined in the document are outcomes of the following processes:

1. The compilation of a community profile. This involved the collection and analysis of statistics and information regarding the demographic characteristics of the shire.

It is noted that the ABS now provides census data at no charge and access is available to all. Detailed census information regarding Ballina LGA can be sourced at www.abs.gov.au

The demographic information used throughout this document has been derived from the ABS 2006 Census 'Basic Community Profile' and Census CDATA.

2. A literature review was undertaken of various reports prepared by government and non-government organisations that have undertaken needs analyses for both the Ballina Local Government Area and the NSW North Coast region.

Much of the information used in preparing the plan was compiled using existing information from Council, State, Commonwealth and community documents.

3. Community and agency consultation meetings for the preparation of this plan took place during September 2009. It is also noted that Council has been documenting issues as they arose during its regular meetings with the Ballina Youth Interagency, the Ballina Interagency and the Bullinah Goori Services Action Group.

2.4 Acknowledgment

A list of groups and organisations consulted in the preparation of the plan can be found in Attachment 1. The support and assistance provided has been greatly appreciated by Council.

3 Evaluation of previous plan

The 2004-2009 Social and Community Plan for Ballina Shire identified a number of strategies to be undertaken. The following is a summary of the implemented or completed actions across the mandatory target groups. Due to resource and funding constraints a number of the strategies identified in the 2004-2009 Plan have not been completed or commenced. These have been carried forward and incorporated into this plan.

- Ballina Community Services Centre constructed
- Ongoing funding for the Wardell Community Centre
- Subsidised rents for child care and pre school services operated from Council-owned facilities
- Funding received through the Area Assistance Scheme targeting the needs of children
- Provision of library services specifically for children
- Provision and embellishment of parks and playgrounds
- Maintenance and expansion of shared pathways across the shire
- Planning for healthy communities by ensuring that public infrastructure is provided
- Participation in NSW Bike Week
- Provided free internet in Wardell Community Centre
- Promoted Cool Commuters program to children in local primary schools
- Provision of baby welcome packs
- Public lighting
- Provided and maintained infrastructure that promotes healthy living i.e. swimming pools
- Support the annual International Woman's Day lunch each year
- Support the participation of young women to the IWD luncheon
- Expansion of the skate park at Missingham Park, Ballina
- Provide public infrastructure in the form of ovals, parks and cycle ways
- Youth Activity Centre operation, Swift Street Ballina
- Assist with the planning and running of annual Youth Week activities
- Participate in the local Youth Interagency
- Summer Bus services, Christmas /New Year period
- Provided facilities that are used by older residents (e.g. Ballina Bridge Club)
- Seniors Week activities funded through Council
- Establishment of Northern Rivers Community Gallery
- Provide rate relief for organisations working with seniors
- Host the Access Reference Group meetings which are held bi- monthly
- Implementing Ballina Shire Pedestrian and Mobility Plan
- Upgrade bus shelters
- Employment of Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer
- Participation in Bullinah Goori Services Action Group Interagency
- Conducted Aboriginal cultural awareness training
- Coordinate NAIDOC Week Celebratory Walk
- Participation and assistance with NAIDOC Week activities
- Employment of Aboriginal Bush Regeneration Team
- Commenced Shire Wide Aboriginal Heritage study
- Coordinate Heritage Week events
- Coordinate Rivafest
- Employment of Regional Work Crew

4 Ballina LGA Census Facts

The following section provides a general overview of the demographic characteristics of the Ballina Shire population, such as population growth, age structure, household types, income and housing stress. The census data in this document originates from various publications from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The data in the following fast facts comes from the Basic Community Profile for Ballina Catalogue No. 2001.0

4.1 Ballina Shire Fast Facts

- In the 2006 Census (held on 8th August 2006), there were 38,461 persons usually resident in Ballina Local Government Area
- 48.0% were males and 52.0% were females
- There were 1049 Indigenous persons (comprises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) which is 2.7% of the total shire population, compared with 2.3% for Australia as a whole
- Population growth of 2,100 people between 2001 and 2006
- Household growth greater in lone person households and couple families without children relative to couple families with children (the traditional nuclear family)
- Single Parent families make up 17% of total households
- The majority of population growth during the 2001 to 2006 period occurred in The over 50 years age groups
- A decline occurred in the under 15 year age group and the 30-49 year age group between 2001 and 2006
- Overall the population continues to age with the median age increasing from 41years in 2001 to 43 years in 2006
- In 2006 the LGA's median weekly household income was \$779, compared with \$1,027 for Australia as a whole
- Between 2001 and 2006 the number of households that fully owned their dwellings fell from 6,535 to 6,166 (a 5.6% decline)
- Between 2001 and 2006 the number of households in the process of purchasing their dwelling increased from 2,941 to 3,907 (a 32.8% increase).

4.2 Population Growth

The rate of population growth in Ballina Shire slowed between 2001 and 2006, relative to earlier periods. Between 2001 and 2006 the population of the shire grew by an additional 2,100 people, or an average of 420 people per year, representing an annual growth rate of 1.1% per annum.

This rate of growth is relatively low when compared with the 1996 to 2001 intercensal period, during which population grew by 3,509 additional people or an average of 702 additional people per year, representing an average annual growth rate of 1.9% per annum.

The rates of population growth in other local government areas in our region have also eased in the latest intercensal period (2001-2006). All LGAs have experienced growth apart from Kyogle.

Table 4.1. Population of Local Government Areas Far North Coast

Local Government Area	1996	2001	2006
Ballina Shire	34,650	38,159	40,266
Tweed Shire	65,052	74,577	82,955
Richmond Valley	20,861	21,183	22,172
Lismore City	43,551	43,064	44,225
Byron Shire	26,620	29,689	30,635
Kyogle Shire	9,919	9,817	9,686

(Source: ABS 2007; 3218.0 Regional Population Growth)

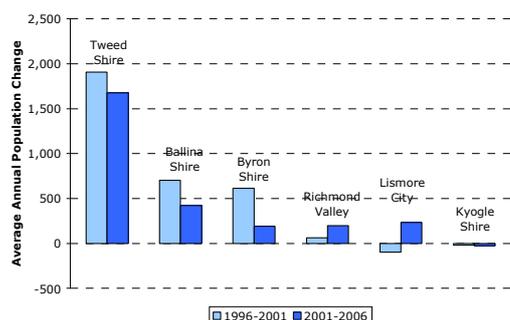


Figure 4.1. Rate of Population Change, Average Annual increase (persons)

(Source: ABS 2007; 3218.0 Regional Population Growth)

4.3 Key Facts from the census

- **The population of Ballina Shire grew by 2,100 people between 2001 and 2006.**
- **Household growth in Ballina Shire is greater in lone person households and couple families without children relative to couple families with children.**
- **55% of households have children**
- **The population continues to age with the median age increasing from 41 years in 2001 to 43 years in 2006.**
- **The income of Ballina Shire residents is higher in 2006 than in 2001.**
- **Housing costs have risen substantially between 2001 and 2006, with high rates of 'housing stress' being apparent throughout Ballina Shire.**

The majority of population growth in Ballina Shire during the 2001 to 2006 period occurred in the over 50 years age groups. Declines occurred in the under 15 years age group and the 30-49 years age groups.

Counter to this general ageing trend, the number of people aged 15-29 years increased between 2001 and 2006. The reasons for this appear to include the relative size of that age cohort combined with increasing employment opportunities in the region in the last few years.

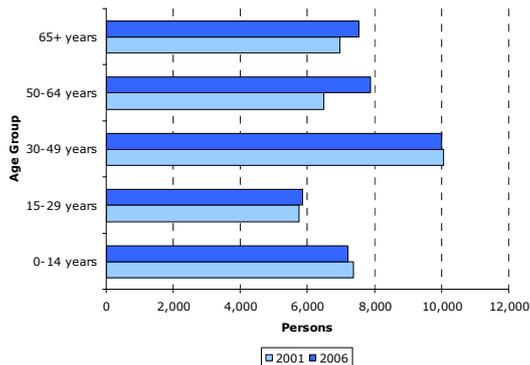


Figure 4.2 Age Structure Ballina Shire 2001 & 2006

(Source: ABS 2007)

The general ageing of the population is a function of the ageing of existing residents and strong migration of persons within these age groups, relative to younger age groups.

4.5 Household Types

The number of 'lone person households' has, for the first time, outnumbered the number of 'couple families with children' in Ballina Shire, during the 2001-2006 intercensal period.

The number of couple families without children has continued to grow strongly and is greater than the number of couple families with children by approximately 600 households, compared with only approximately 380 more households in 2001.

The composition of household types in 2001 and 2006 is shown on the following graph.

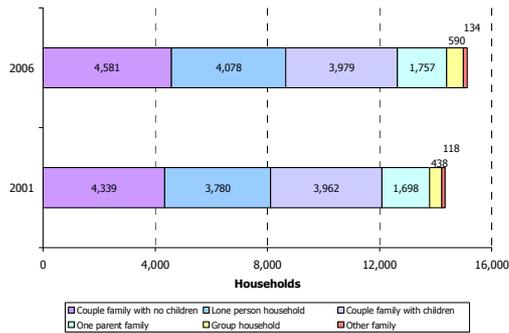


Figure 4.3 Household Composition , Ballina Shire 2001 & 2006

(Source: ABS 2007)

There has been an increase in the number of single parent households in Ballina Shire over the last ten years. The change in single parent families is shown in the following table.

Table 4.2 Number of Single Parent Families Ballina Shire

Census year	Number of single parent families
1996	1406
2001	1723
2006	1810

Source: ABS Time Series Profile 2003.0

The following graphic shows the contributions of the various types of households to the total growth in households during the 2001-2006 period.

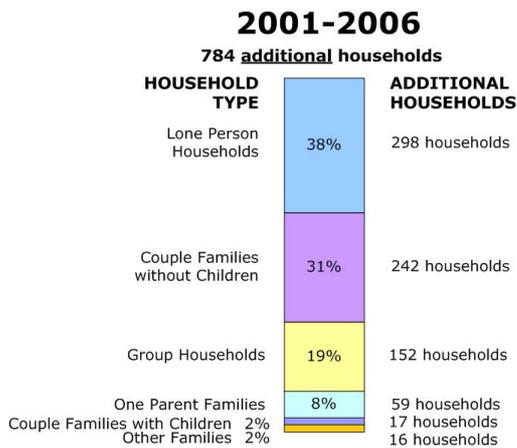


Figure 4.4 Composition of Household Changes, Ballina Shire 2001 & 2006

(Source: ABS 2007)

Of the 784 additional households in Ballina Shire between 2001 and 2006,

- 298 (38%) were lone person households
- 242 (31%) were couple families without children
- 152 (19%) were group households
- 59 (8%) were single parent families
- 17 (2%) were couple families with children, the 'traditional nuclear family'.

This trend reinforces the (anticipated) growth in the number of older persons living in Ballina Shire.

4.6 Living Arrangements

The Census data suggests a number of interesting trends in Ballina Shire residents' living arrangements, namely:

- More people are living in de facto marriage relationships and fewer people are living in registered marriage relationships, particularly those over 35 years of age.
- Approximately 68% of those aged 15-24 years live at home, either as a dependent student or non-dependent child. The share of this age group living as dependent students has declined since 2001 (from 45% to 41% of that age group) and the share that are living at home but financially independent has increased (from 24% to 27% of that age group).
- More people are living alone, mostly in the 45-55 years old age group. The share of people aged 15-34 years old living alone declined from 2001 to 2006.
- The proportion of the population living in group households has increased from 2001 to 2006, in all age groups but particularly those aged 15-34 years.

4.7 Income

In Ballina Shire the median weekly individual income for persons aged 15 years and over who were usual residents was \$397 in 2006, compared with the Australian average of \$466 per week. The median weekly household income was \$779, compared with \$1,027 for Australia as a whole. The median weekly family income was \$1,017 compared with \$1,171 in Australia.

The following graph shows that incomes in Ballina Shire have increased from 2001 to 2006.

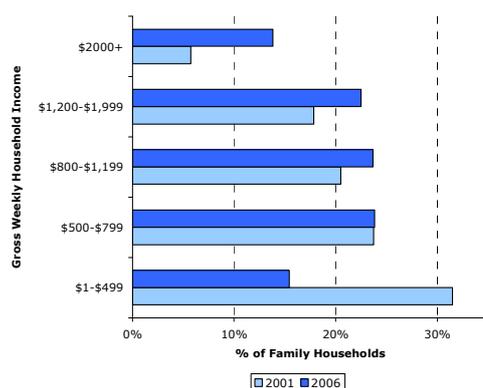


Figure 4.5 Gross Weekly Household Income, Ballina Shire 2001 & 2006

(Source: ABS 2007)

The above does not necessarily mean, however, that the growth in income has occurred for the same residents that were present in Ballina Shire in 2001. Given that wages growth in Australia was generally low between 2001 and 2006, a number

of lower-income households may have been 'forced-out' of Ballina Shire by rising property prices and rent.

Although some growth of income for existing residents is likely to have occurred, some of this growth may be due to the immigration of households with higher earning capacity, and therefore higher incomes.

4.8 Tenure

The change in tenure in Ballina Shire between 2001 and 2006 is shown in the graph below.

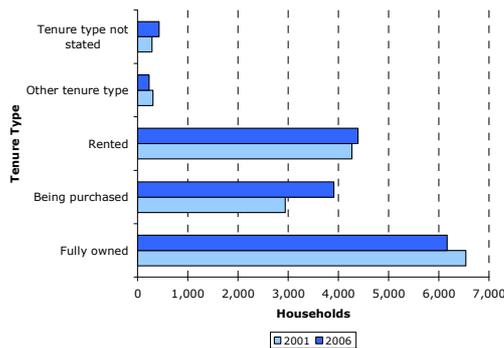


Figure 4.6 Housing Tenure, Ballina Shire 2001 & 2006

(Source: ABS 2007)

Between 2001 and 2006:

- The number of households that fully owned their dwellings fell from 6,535 to 6,166 (a 5.6% decline)
- The number of households in the process of purchasing their dwelling increased from 2,941 to 3,907 an increase of 32.8%
- The number of households renting increased from 4,270 to 4,391 (a 2.8% increase).

4.9 Housing cost

Households in Ballina Shire were paying higher housing costs, in terms of both mortgage repayments and rent in 2006 compared with 2001. This is shown on the following two graphs.

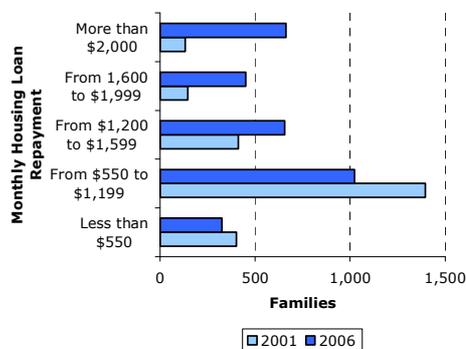


Figure 4.7 Monthly Housing Loan Repayment, Ballina Shire 2001 & 2006

(Source: ABS 2007)

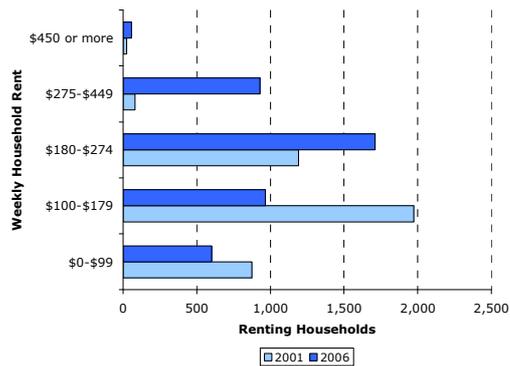
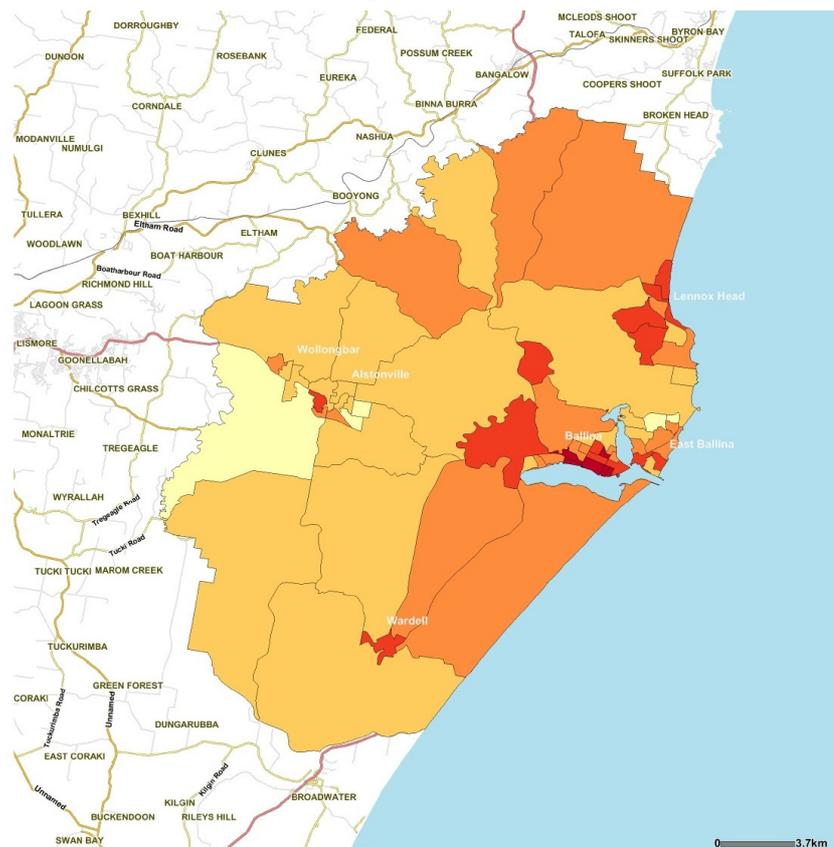


Figure 4.8 Weekly Household Rent, Ballina Shire 2001 & 2006

(Source: ABS 2007)

4.10 Proportion of Households in Housing Stress

The following map shows a high level of 'housing stress' throughout Ballina Shire in 2006, with no Census Collector District in the shire having less than 10-16% of households spending less than 30% of their incomes on rent or mortgage costs. Housing stress is more acute in coastal areas, in developing areas of Lennox Head and Cumbalum ("Ballina Heights") and in Wardell and central Ballina.



Households with rent and mortgage costs over 30% of their gross income
 As a percentage of all occupied private dwellings
 Based on Place of Usual Residence, 2006
 Ballina (A) (Local Government Area) by Census Collection District

Per cent
 35 - 43
 28 - 35
 23 - 28
 16 - 23
 10 - 16

5 Children

5.1 Introduction

For the purpose of this plan children are defined as being under the age of 11. According to the 2006 Census, approximately 5,520 children resided in Ballina Shire. This equated to 15% of the shire population.

Table 5.1 Age and Number of Children Ballina Shire 1996 -2006

Age (years):	1996 Census	2001 Census	2006 Census
0	388	375	393
1	387	410	367
2	442	447	411
3	455	423	404
4	464	446	439
0-4 years	2136	2101	2014
5	446	476	462
6	512	476	515
7	477	470	472
8	478	535	484
9	559	541	501
5-9 years	2472	2498	2434
10	467	541	537
11	579	591	535
10-11 years	1046	1132	1072
Total Children	5654	5731	5520

Source: ABS Time Series Profile 2003.0

There are a number of services that cater for children in the shire and these include long day care centres, pre schools and family day care.

Playgroups also provide an important role in the lives of many children and their families.

There are 15 licensed childcare centres in Ballina LGA. The total number of child care places within these facilities is approximately 674. There are 17 primary schools within the shire, comprising State and non-government schools.

The following points were identified during community consultation as being issues for the Children target group.

5.2 Issues

- Child protection
- Increase in single parent families can result in increasing financial hardship on families
- Mini baby boom increasing demand for services

- Waiting lists are common for places in child care centres/vacation care services
- Pre-schools have waiting lists
- Access to transport options limited
- The importance of providing child-appropriate and affordable leisure facilities;
- Cost of organised sport can be prohibitive for low income families
- Parks and public spaces need to incorporate fencing and have provision for shade
- Parks and reserves are often vandalised and unclean
- Affordable housing options for families limited
- Increasing level of childhood obesity
- Organisations /services targeting children being able to afford to meet the requirements of the National framework for child care
- Lack of information on services and resources available to the community
- Waiting lists are common when trying to access family support services
- Services/activities for primary school age children are limited
- Poor integration between ages/generations

5.3 What is Ballina Shire Council doing to address the issues?

Ballina Shire Council currently undertakes a range of activities that address a number of the issues identified above and includes the following:

- Provides subsidised rents for child care and pre school services operating from council-owned facilities
- Provides substantial monetary contribution towards the Library services
- Undertakes continual maintenance program of parks and playgrounds
- Continued implementation of Council's approved children's playground equipment installation and replacement programs
- Maintenance and expansion of shared pathways across the shire
- Sponsors and actively supports Bike Week initiatives, which seeks to raise the profile of cycling as a healthy, easy, low cost and environmentally friendly activity. This includes the coordination of cycle safety classes
- Made submission to the NSW Parliamentary enquiry into the needs of children and young people
- Provides free internet access in Wardell Community Centre
- Provided baby welcome packs
- Continuing the enhancement and upgrading of the Ballina and Alstonville community swimming pools
- Upgraded and enlarged the Ballina skate park
- Implemented the 'Cool Commuters' student education program within shire primary schools
- Promoted National Tree Day, working proactively with local schools with the supply of large volumes of trees for planting in public spaces;
- Promote World Environment Day by working with local communities to promote a sustainable future
- Support Fair Go skate board competition via funding and in kind support
- Supporting Child Protection Week via assistance with Teddy Bears Picnic
- Provides access to community sporting fields at no cost to sporting associations
- Operates the Alstonville Leisure and Entertainment Centre
- Financial and in-kind support provided to "All Girls" and "Gromfest" annual surfing competitions.

5.4 What can Ballina Shire Council do in the future?

- Liaise with government and non-government organisations to ensure a basic level of service
- Ensure that land use planning provides for children in new developments, including addressing safety, infrastructure and mobility issues
- Continue to improve the quality of playgrounds within the shire
- Ensure that, where appropriate, Council events will be child-friendly
- Support projects and events that target children
- Lobby for more services targeting the needs of children
- Planning for healthy communities by ensuring that public infrastructure is provided.

5.5 What Ballina Shire Council would like others to do.

- Increase the level of funding to services that currently work with children
- Provide additional funding for the creation of new children services to work with families who are in crisis
- Increase level of family support services
- Increase the diversity of housing stock
- Additional community housing stock to be allocated to families
- Provide additional activities for children after school and during school holidays
- Limit the cost of participating in organised sport
- Develop programs that aim to encourage family participation in activities
- Improve communication between service providers.

6 Women

6.1 Introduction

For the purpose of this plan, women are defined as being 25 years of age and older. In 2006 women made up 52% of the population of Ballina Shire.

Table 6.1 Age Group of Women 1996-2006

	1996	2001	2006
Age group:			
25-34 years	1969	1956	1817
35-44 years	2768	2762	2720
45-54 years	2186	2860	3173
55-64 years	1734	1981	2550
65-74 years	2094	1926	1928
75-84 years	1184	1551	1759
85 years and over	312	512	672
Total number of women	17710	19153	20239

Source: ABS CDATA Cat no: 2069. (2007)

The following points were identified during community consultation as being issues for the Women target group.

6.2 Issues

- Victims of domestic violence are often forced to leave their home
- Limited ongoing support for the victims
- Shortage of emergency accommodation for victims of domestic violence
- Age restrictions in women's and children's refuge
- Limited affordable housing choice in Ballina Shire
- Sole parent households are likely to be headed by a female
- An ageing population of women is likely to increase demand for an array of community services
- Demand for health services is likely to increase in the future
- Mobile breast screening bus that provided for local women no longer services Ballina
- Limited transport options and the associated costs can be a significant disadvantage for women
- Difficulty in meeting family and work commitments
- Employment opportunities limited
- Often difficult to access appropriate childcare, out of school hours care and vacation care
- Feeling unsafe in public places and in the home
- Access to a range of services limited
- Government departments don't have offices in Ballina
- Lack of family support and social isolation
- Lack of awareness of programs/services targeting women
- Limited number of General Practitioners services that bulk bill for women's health
- Waiting list common when needing to access services

- Cost associated with organised sport can be prohibitive for some families to participate
- Vandalism at children's playgrounds.

6.3 What is Ballina Shire Council doing to address the issues?

Ballina Shire Council currently undertakes a range of activities that address a number of the issues identified above as effecting women and these include the following:

- Promoting the idea that alternative forms of housing are needed in Ballina Shire
- Ensure that new developments are designed and built to standards that reduce the opportunity for crime
- Provide and maintain infrastructure that promotes healthy living
- Supports the International Women's Day lunch each year
- Supports the participation of young women to the International Women's Day
- Maintain and install public lighting that meets Australian Standards
- Provide bus shelters.

6.4 What can Ballina Shire Council do in the future?

- Promote the idea of alternative types of housing
- Support and promote efforts to increase the levels of services available to women in Ballina Shire
- Prepare crime prevention plan
- Development of an Ageing Strategy that will include the needs of older women
- Development of a community services directory
- Consider leasing its residential properties (at the prevailing market rate) to appropriate community organisations to be utilised as a women's refuge
- Provide for the needs of families/children when organising community events.

6.5 What Ballina Shire Council would like others to do

- Increase the level of funding to existing services targeting women
- Increase the provision of services to women who are victims of domestic violence
- Additional women's refuge to operate in Ballina
- Development of alternative forms of housing
- Reinstate the mobile breast screening services to Ballina Shire
- Public transport that is safe, affordable and meets the needs of women
- Provided family friendly workplaces
- Reduce waiting lists for childcare services
- Reduce the cost to families so as to encourage their participation in organised sport.

7 Young People

7.1 Introduction

Young people, for the purpose of this plan, are aged between 12-24 years. According to the 2006 Census there were 5,873 young people residing in Ballina Shire, comprising 15% of the total population.

Table 7.1 Young People in Ballina Shire 1996-2006

	1996 Census	2001 Census	2006 Census
	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Age (years):			
12	529	552	558
13	593	541	595
14	506	596	559
12-14 years	1,628	1,689	1,712
15	509	562	524
16	525	601	530
17	508	538	509
18	382	485	456
19	349	353	389
15-19 years	2,273	2,539	2,408
20	353	324	367
21	352	368	350
22	330	319	366
23	337	276	372
24	357	302	298
20-24 years	1,729	1,589	1,753
Total Young people 12-24	5,630	5,817	5,873

Source: ABS Time Series Profile 2003.0

There are currently five high schools located in the shire. A number of young people also travel outside the shire to attend school and conversely many of the enrolments in the local schools are from outside the shire. The table below indicates the enrolments of students in years 7-12.

Table 7.2 Enrolments in Local High Schools Ballina Shire 2008

School	Enrolments 2008
Alstonville High	950
Emmanuel Anglican College	150
Ballina High School	640
Southern High School	527
Xavier Catholic College	843

Source: school annual reports

The localities of Lennox Head, East Ballina and Ballina Island have the largest concentrations of young people within the shire.

The table below identifies the percentage of young people in each location.

Table 7.3 Percentage of Young People by Age and Locality

	12-14 Years % of area Population	15-19 Years % of area Population	20-24 Years % of area Population
Alstonville	4.6%	6.2%	4.0%
Ballina island	2.8%	5.2%	4.8%
Cumalum	7.1%	5.1%	4.4%
East Ballina	4.4%	7.0%	6.7%
Lennox Head	5.1%	7.3%	5.6%
Rural Areas	5.1%	7.1%	3.3%
Skennars Head	5.1%	7.3%	2.2%
Wardell	4.8%	7.7%	4.7%
West Ballina	4.3%	5.8%	4.8%
Wollongbar	8.6%	7.3%	5.2%

Source: ABS CDATA Cat no: 2069. (2007)

The following points were identified during community consultation as being issues for the Young People target group.

7.2 Issues

- Limited employment opportunities
- Need services targeting young people to operate in Alstonville, Cabbage Tree Island and Lennox Head
- Need purpose-built “one stop shop” youth centre
- Lack of age appropriate events
- Existing youth workers unable to meet increasing demands for services
- Youth services under resourced
- No crisis accommodation service for young people operating in Ballina LGA
- Limited supported youth housing options for 14-17 year olds
- Increasing reports of youth homelessness
- Need additional case managers to work with young people at risk
- Need more families willing to foster adolescents
- Growing number of incidents of youth violence/vandalism
- Services targeting 12-14 year olds limited
- Lack of youth services targeting the needs of indigenous young people
- Increasing incidents of family conflict
- Need early intervention services
- Limited services targeting young mothers
- Need to improve access to sex education and awareness programs
- Awareness of existing services is limited

- Lack of affordable public transport options limit the opportunity for young people to engage in community
- Cost of participating in organised sport is limiting involvement of low income families
- Lack of affordable social and recreational activities
- Requirements for obtaining driving licences are unaffordable to low income families
- Young people are often portrayed negatively
- Affordable office accommodation for youth service is limited.

7.3 What is Ballina Shire Council doing to address the issues?

Ballina Shire Council currently undertakes a range of activities that aim to address a number of the issues effecting young people and include the following:

- Recently expanded the skate park at Missingham Park
- Provides public infrastructure in the form of ovals, parks and cycleway
- Leases Ballina Youth Activity Centre
- Assists with the planning and running of Youth Week each year
- Participates in the local youth interagency
- Made submission to the NSW Parliamentary Enquiry into the needs of children and young people
- In partnership, produced the youth information card
- Libraries have dedicated sections for youth
- Provides free internet access at the Wardell Community Centre.

7.4 What can Ballina Shire Council do in the future?

- Continue to work closely with local youth services providers
- Update the youth information card
- Development of a community service directory
- Explore opportunities to develop an “e” Youth Council
- Ensure that the needs of young people are catered for in our community events
- Support local youth organisations in their efforts to seek increases in funding
- Seek out funding opportunities that aim to reduce the cost of participation in organised sport
- Prepare crime prevention plan
- Consider leasing its residential properties (at the prevailing market rate) to appropriate community organisations to be utilised as a youth refuge
- Planning dedicated youth space in the Lennox Head Community Centre
- Developing skate park adjacent to the Lennox Head Community Centre.

7.5 What Ballina Shire Council would like others to do

- Increase the level of funding to existing youth services
- Provide additional funding for new youth services to the shire
- Develop specific programs for young people aged 12-14 years
- Increase the level of youth services in Alstonville, Cabbage Tree Island and Lennox Head
- Develop driver training mentoring program that aims to reduce the cost of obtaining a driving licence

- Develop partnerships that aim to increase the level of service delivery to young people
- Seek out funding for the development of additional youth services and activities
- Increase the number of dwellings available to youth accommodation providers.

8 Older People

8.1 Introduction

Older people, for the purpose of this plan, include those aged 55 years and over. According to the 2006 Census there were 10432 older people residing in Ballina Shire, or 32.3 % of the total population.

The table below identifies the location and number of older people in each locality.

Table 8.1 Location of Older People by Locality

Location	55 years +	% of locality population
Alstonville	2000	39.7%
Ballina Island	2752	45.5%
Cumbalum	34	12.5%
East Ballina	1718	31.3%
Lennox Head	1128	20.6%
Rural North	1526	29.0%
Rural South	945	27.8%
Skennars Head	256	24.6%
Wardell	127	22.0%
West Ballina	1454	38.0%
Wollongbar	492	26.1%
Total Ballina Shire	10432	32.3%

Source: ABS CDATA Cat no: 2069. (2007)

As people age they often experience deteriorating health and reduced mobility. This will increase the need for services and programs targeting older people.

The following points were identified during community consultation as being issues for the Older People target group.

8.2 Issues

- The number of older residents is increasing across the shire
- Many new retirees moving into Ballina Shire
- Increasing demand for range of services
- Increasing cost of providing aged care services
- Ageing workforce employed in aged care sector
- Housing stock not reflective of changing population
- Increasing number of lone person households
- Current levels of service provision stretched
- Ageing in place increases the demand for services to the home
- Existing home services limited
- Increasing dependence on transport providers
- Financial security
- Aged care accommodation spaces limited
- Support for ageing carers limited
- Isolation and loneliness

- Declining mobility limits access
- Maintaining social connectedness
- Ensuring that opportunities that build interaction are maintained
- Limited community awareness on how to access services
- Transport options not always appropriate
- Accessibility to services i.e. medical, social and essential can be limited
- Increasing cost of living
- Increasing housing costs
- Maintaining family homes increasingly difficult
- Demand for home maintenance services is increasing
- Need access to affordable and appropriate housing types
- Respite service for carers of aged
- Lack of awareness of service/groups available
- Aged persons sometimes consider themselves unworthy of assistance
- Promoting opportunities for volunteer involvement

8.3 What is Ballina Shire Council doing to address the issues?

Ballina Shire Council currently undertakes a range of activities that address the issues identified above as effecting older people and include the following:

- Provided facilities that are used by older residents
- Encouraging the provision of a range of housing types
- Seniors Week activities funded through Council
- Providing rate relief for organisations working with seniors
- Maintaining and improving public facilities
- Implement Pedestrian and Mobility Plan (PAMP)

8.4 What can Ballina Shire Council do in the future?

- Prepare an ageing strategy
- Encourage the development of alternative forms of housing
- Incorporating the needs of older people into long term planning
- Ensure that accessible and safe environments are created
- Encourage design that is age friendly
- Ensure that the needs of older people are catered for in our community events
- Assist in the development of program and activities targeting older residents
- Prepare community service directory
- Lobby for an increase in services
- Provide infrastructure that assists in bringing people together
- Continue to provide shared pathways
- facilitate appropriately located aged care developments.

8.5 What Ballina Shire Council would like others to do

- Improve transport options for older residents
- Maintain existing services to older people
- Increase the levels of funding to organisations to meet the emerging demands
- Provide programs and services that reduce social isolation in older residents
- Increase the level of respite services available in the shire
- Provide greater options for people wanting to stay in their homes
- Promote opportunities for older residents to become volunteers

9 People with Disabilities

9.1 Introduction

The major determinant of disability is age. Ballina Shire's ageing population will see an increase in the number of people who identify as having a disability. The 2006 Census was the first census to ask questions specifically regarding a person's ability to manage core activities without assistance. Existing service providers have indicated that there is an ever increasing demand for services that cater to the needs of people with a range of disabilities.

The table below identifies the number of people across Ballina Shire that require assistance in meeting their day to day needs.

Table 9.1 Number and Age of People That Require Assistance in Meeting Day to Day Needs

Age in years	Total number of people
0-4 years	32
5-14 years	129
15-19 years	44
20-24 years	35
25-34 years	71
35-44 years	120
45-54 years	157
55-64 years	225
65-74 years	186
75-84 years	557
85 years and over	480
Total	2,036

Source ABS 2006 Basic Community Profile cat 2001.1 Ballina LGA 10250

The following points were identified during community consultation as being issues for the People with Disability target group.

9.2 Issues

- Appropriate and affordable housing options for purchase /rental are limited
- Physical access to many parts of Ballina is limited
- Physical access to many older shops is impossible
- Transport services are limited
- Demand for services is increasing
- Existing service providers are not able to meet all needs
- Current service providers are underfunded
- Need to improve communication and coordination between existing services
- Need to improve the awareness of existing services operating in the shire
- Need to improve the community's awareness of issues effecting people with disabilities
- Respite services for carers of people with disabilities are limited

- Accessing equipment can be difficult
- Need to improve opportunities for social interaction
- Limited employment opportunities
- Automated answering services and call centre responses not the best form of contact
- Limited assistance available to people with disabilities when completing Housing NSW application forms
- Limited awareness of services and facilities available
- Need group homes in Ballina Shire
- New scooters don't fit into facilities
- National standards need to be adopted by scooter manufactures
- Policing on disabled access parking
- Ensuring that new facilities/amenities are catering for people with disabilities.

9.3 What is Ballina Shire Council doing to address the issues?

Ballina Shire Council currently undertakes a range of activities that address a number of the issues identified for people with disabilities and include the following:

- Host Access Reference Group meetings which are held bi monthly
- Upgrading bus shelters to be wheelchair accessible
- Constructed the Ballina Community Services Centre
- Continued 'roll-out' of the shire's planned shared pathway network including provision for increasing numbers of motorised scooters
- Continued implementation of Council's endorsed Pedestrian and Mobility Plan (PAMP)
- Secured funding to update the PAMP
- Continuing to enhance access to Seven Mile Beach in Lennox Head servicing the needs of people with limited or reduced mobility
- Provision of casual hiring of beach wheelchairs for mobility impaired persons
- Provide employment opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities to work with the 'Regional Work Crew' and also at Council's plant nursery.

9.4 What can Ballina Shire Council do in the future?

- Prepare a new Pedestrian and Mobility Plan
- Planning to upgrade the coastal pathway
- Ensure new developments comply with relevant Australian Standards
- Assist in the development of a campaign to increase the broader community's awareness of the issues facing people with disabilities
- Ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are catered for in our community events
- Develop a community services directory which will include information on services targeting people with disabilities
- Encourage the development of alternative forms of housing
- Police misuse of disabled parking spots
- Advocate for the regulation of the scooter manufacturing industry to build scooters that comply with existing Australian standards

9.5 What Ballina Shire Council would like others to do

- Improve communication between service providers
- Provide funding for the development of group homes
- Improve point of contact procedures to cater for people with disabilities

- Provide assistance to people who are required to complete the Department of Housing tenancy application process
- Undertake consultations with people with disabilities when planning new/additional facilities and or services
- Improve communication between manufactures of equipment and service providers
- Increase community awareness of services available
- Simplify forms /steps so people can access services/information more easily
- Increase funding to existing services
- Creation of additional respite services;
- Increase numbers of volunteers working in the sector.

10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

10.1 Introduction

According to the 2006 Census, 1,063 persons within Ballina Shire identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, comprising 2.7 % of total population.

This represents a higher rate than Australia as a whole (2.35% of the total population) and is also higher than the NSW rate (2.1% of the total population).

Table 10.1 Percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population by Locality

Location	% of locality population
Alstonville	1.7%
Ballina Island	3.3%
Cumbalum	1.7%
East Ballina	0.9%
Lennox Head	1.1%
Rural North	2.2%
Rural South	6.1%
Skennars Head	1.0%
Wardell	8.9%
West Ballina	5.5%
Wollongbar	3.7%
Total Ballina Shire	2.7%

Source: ABS CDATA Cat no: 2069. (2007)

The following points were identified during community consultation as being issues for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people target group.

10.2 Issues

- Need to increase community awareness of services targeting Aboriginal communities
- Improve educational outcomes at school /post-school
- Young people need to be engaged in meaningful/positive activities
- Need to provide after-school activities
- Transport options outside of school hours are limited
- Young people are unable to meet requirements to obtain drivers licences
- Costs associated with playing sport are prohibitive, i.e. equipment, fees and uniforms
- Consultation with young Aboriginal people needs to be improved
- No purpose built youth facility in the shire
- Limited youth services that are targeting Aboriginal young people
- Need to develop a supportive network of agencies to work with young Aboriginal people
- Need to identify funding opportunities for additional services and programs
- Development of grant writing skills for Aboriginal people
- Older residents require transport to access a range of services

- Limited housing choice
- Lack of affordable housing
- No youth refuge in the shire
- Limited spaces available in aged care centres for Aboriginal people
- Increasing demand for health services
- Lack of cultural awareness amongst service providers
- Need to develop Aboriginal Cultural Centre /Keeping Place
- Lack of cultural recognition
- Limited understanding amongst the broader community about the protocols that need to be followed when consulting with the Aboriginal community
- Employment opportunities limited
- Need to develop partnerships between Aboriginal community and business/community groups
- Need to provide additional support for families particularly targeting early childhood and parenting skills
- Improve access to programs that promote healthy eating
- Affordable dentistry

10.3 What is Ballina Shire Council doing to address the issues?

Ballina Shire Council currently undertakes a range of activities that aim to address a number of the issues identified as effecting the local ATSI population and include the following:

- Employment of Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer
- Participation in Bullinah Goori Services Action Group Interagency
- Conducted cultural awareness training
- Co-ordinate NAIDOC week celebratory walk
- Joint co-ordination of and participation in annual NAIDOC Week celebrations
- Acknowledgement of Country before the commencement of each Council Meeting
- Commencement of a shire-wide Aboriginal Heritage Study
- Initiation of processes associated with the preparation of protocol between Council and local Aboriginal groups and individuals for engaging and recognising Aboriginal people and culture in the shire.

10.4 What can Ballina Shire Council do in the future?

- Facilitate partnerships between relevant stakeholders and Council that aim to improve the wellbeing of Aboriginal people in Ballina Shire
- Council support, where feasible, of Aboriginal projects with in-kind and or financial support
- Ensure that consultation with Aboriginal people is undertaken in accordance with protocols being developed
- Ensure information relating to Aboriginal people and services is kept up to date on Council's web page
- Develop community services directory which will include information on services targeting Aboriginal people
- Ensure young Aboriginal people are consulted appropriately
- Adopt affordable housing strategy that aims to increase the diversity and number of housing stock
- Erection of signage that recognises the shire's Aboriginal people
- Develop Aboriginal naming policy

- In partnership with the Aboriginal community, develop Aboriginal cultural heritage trails/signage in appropriate locations

10.5 What Ballina Shire Council would like others to do

- Ensure information regarding services and activities is regularly updated and advertised
- Develop partnerships between local business and local Aboriginal organisations
- Develop links between Aboriginal community and local business to improve employment opportunities
- Promote traineeships to young Aboriginal people
- Promoting awareness of Aboriginal issues/ positive examples of Aboriginal initiatives and achievements
- Pursue Aboriginal cultural business opportunities
- Develop mentoring programs for young Aboriginal people
- Develop partnerships that promote place based solutions
- Ensure young Aboriginal people are consulted appropriately
- Develop work experience program for young Aboriginal people
- Provide youth events that are drug and alcohol free
- Provide training to people who would like to volunteer to work with young people
- Provide housing that meets the various needs of the community
- Provide financial support and training to young people so they can obtain drivers licences
- Improve awareness of existing youth transport options
- Increase flexible transport options
- Develop educational programs targeting health issues
- Develop drug and alcohol educational programs
- Disability contact person for frail and aged people
- Improve access to affordable dentistry
- Develop and promote training opportunities for Aboriginal people to be trained in the health, aged and child care sectors
- Assist in the development of Aboriginal cultural enterprises
- Promote days of significance to Aboriginal people

11 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds

11.1 Introduction

Analysis of the 2006 Federal Census of Population shows that Ballina Shire had approximately 38,460 residents. Of these, 32,683 identified as being born in Australia, comprising 82% of the total population. This represents a significantly higher rate than in NSW (70.9% total population).

The number of people who identified as being born overseas was 5,578 or 15% of the shire population. The proportion of people who were born in non-english speaking countries was 8%. The vast majority of people who were born overseas arrived before the year 2000 (85% of the total overseas born population).

Consultations in preparation for the Ballina Shire 2009 Social Plan were held during September 2009. At the community consultations no one participated in identifying issues for the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) target group.

Table 11.1 Country of Birth and Number of People from CALD Backgrounds by Ballina LGA

County of Birth	Persons
Australia	32683
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0
Canada	69
China (excl. SARs and Taiwan Province)	36
Croatia	14
Egypt	4
Fiji	28
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	0
Germany	140
Greece	9
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	24
India	42
Indonesia	22
Iraq	3
Ireland	50
Italy	92
Japan	33
Korea, Republic of (South)	4
Lebanon	6
Malaysia	24
Malta	23
Netherlands	140
New Zealand	560
Papua New Guinea	50
Philippines	72
Poland	25
Singapore	10
South Africa	123

South Eastern Europe	16
Sri Lanka	14
Thailand	28
Turkey	0
United Kingdom	1596
United States of America	133
Viet Nam	14
Born elsewhere	328
Country of birth not stated	2046
Total	38461

Source ABS 2006 Basic Community Profile cat 2001.1 Ballina LGA 10250

11.2 Issues

The needs of the CALD community are often exacerbated due to language and cultural differences.

Ballina Shire Council and community service providers need to ensure that their services are accessible to people from CALD backgrounds.

11.3 What is Ballina Shire Council doing to address the issues?

Ballina Shire Council currently undertakes a range of activities that address a number of the issues identified above and include the following:

- Council support, where appropriate, community service providers when conducting activities and programs targeting CALD community
- Ensure relevant Council customer service officers are trained in the use of interpreter services and are aware of how to access such services when required
- Promote Citizenship.

11.4 What can Ballina Shire Council do in the future?

- Monitor the demographic make up of the shire and, where appropriate, ensure that Council services will be in a position to respond appropriately
- Where appropriate, seek out available sources of funding to target the emerging needs of the CALD community
- Develop community services directory which will provide information on services targeting members of the CALD community.

11.5 What Ballina Shire Council would like others to do

- Ensure that services can be accessed by members of the CALD community
- Participate in events that promote cultural awareness
- Ensure relevant staff are trained in the use of interpreter services and are aware of how to access such services when required.

12 Strategies for Ballina Shire Council to Action

The following tables set out the strategies that Ballina Shire Council will employ within the ambit of its responsibilities to address the issues identified.

Table 12.1- Children

Issue	Strategy	Measure	Time frame
Affordable housing	Implement affordable housing strategy	Strategy adopted	March 2010
	Promote alternative types of housing	Increase the diversity of housing stock	Ongoing
Provision of appropriate infrastructure	Continued expansion and maintenance of shared pathways across the shire	Expansion of shared pathway	Ongoing
	Continue to improve the quality of playgrounds within the shire	Playgrounds improved	Ongoing
	Operate the Alstonville Leisure and Entertainment Centre	Facility accessible to residents and community groups	Ongoing
	Provide and plan for infrastructure that caters to the needs of children	Provision of space that can be utilised by and for children	September 2010
Increasing demand for services	Continue to provide Subsidized rents for child care and pre-school services operating from council owned facilities	Continued provision of subsidized rents	Ongoing
Support existing children services / activities	Provide financial and in-kind support to "All Girls" and "Gromfest" annual surfing competitions	Support allocated , financial contribution made	Annually
	Provide monetary contribution towards the Richmond Tweed Regional Library services	Allocation of financial contribution	Annually
	Support Fair Go skate board competition via funding and in kind support;	Support allocated , financial contribution made	Annually
	Support Child Protection Week via assistance with Teddy Bears Picnic	Provision of in kind support	Annually
	Participate in National Tree Day, working proactively with local schools with the supply of trees for planting in public spaces	Schools involved	Annually

Issue	Strategy	Measure	Time frame
Cost associated with organised sports	Provide access to community sporting fields at no cost to sporting associations;	Continue with the policy of providing access to sporting fields at no charge	Annually
Advocacy	Lobby for more services targeting the needs of children	Representations made	As required
Planning	<p>Ensure that land use planning provides for children in new developments, including addressing safety, infrastructure and mobility issues</p> <p>Planning for healthy communities by ensuring that public infrastructure is provided</p>	<p>Creation of places that are child appropriate</p> <p>Infrastructure built that promotes physical activity</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Lack of age appropriate events	Ensure that ,where appropriate, Council events will be child- friendly	Council run events cater for the needs /interest of children	Ongoing

Table 12.2 Women

Issue	Strategy	Measure	Time frame
Affordable housing	Implement affordable housing strategy	Strategy adopted	March 2010
	Promote alternative types of housing	Increase the diversity of housing stock	Ongoing
Fear of crime	Prepare crime prevention plan	Development of crime prevention plan	July 2011
	Ensure that new developments are built to meet Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles	New developments comply with CPTED principles	Ongoing
	Maintain and install public lighting that meets Australian Standards	Public lighting installed to Australian standards	As required
Provision of appropriate infrastructure	Provide and maintain infrastructure that promotes healthy living i.e. shared pathway, community facilities	Expansion of shared pathway, maintenance of existing community facilities and future development of new community facilities	Ongoing
Increase awareness of services targeting women	Development of community services directory	Community directory developed	July 2010
Promote the role of women in the community	Support the International Women's Day lunch each year	Provide financial and in kind support for the annual International Women's Day lunch	Annually
	Support the participation of young women to the International Women's Day lunch	Allocation of spaces for young women to attend the lunch	Annually
Increasing number of older women	Develop an ageing strategy that incorporates the needs of older women	Completion of Ageing Strategy	June 2011
Increasing demand for services targeting women	Support and promote efforts to increase the level of services available to women in Ballina Shire	Representations made to funding bodies	As required
Social isolation	Provide for the needs of families/children when organising community events	Community events are family friendly	Ongoing
Domestic violence	Council consider leasing its residential properties (at the prevailing market rate) to appropriate community organizations to be utilized as a women's refuge	Consideration given to offering properties for lease to be utilized as a women's refuge	As properties become available

Table 12.3 Young People

Issue	Strategy	Measure	Time frame
Affordable Housing	Implement affordable housing strategy	Strategy adopted	March 2010
	Promote the idea of alternative types of housing	Increase the diversity of housing stock	Ongoing
	Council consider leasing its residential properties (at the prevailing market rate) to appropriate community organisations to be utilized as youth accommodation	Consideration given to offering properties for lease to be utilized as youth accommodation	As appropriate properties become available
Increasing Incidents of crime	Prepare crime prevention plan	Development of crime prevention plan	July 2011
	Ensure that new developments are built to meet Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles	New developments comply with CPTED principles	Ongoing
	Maintain and install public lighting that meets Australian Standards	Public lighting installed to Australian Standards	As required
Provision of appropriate infrastructure	Provide ,maintain and plan for infrastructure that caters to the needs of young people	Ongoing care and maintenance of ovals, parks and cycleway	Ongoing
		Provision of youth specific space at the Lennox Head Community Centre	Completed by September 2010
		Construction of skate park at Lennox Head	Completed by September by 2010
Limited awareness of services targeting young people	Development of community services directory	Community directory developed	July 2010
	Update of youth information card	Youth information card updated	July 2010
Provision of youth services / activities	Provide financial and in-kind support to "All Girls" and "Gromfest" annual surfing competitions	Support allocated , financial contribution made	Annually
	Provide monetary contribution towards the Richmond Tweed Regional Library services	Allocation of financial contribution	Annually
	Support Fair Go skate board competition via funding and in kind support;	Support allocated , financial contribution made	Annually
	Supporting Youth Week activities	Provision of in kind and financial support	Annually

Issue	Strategy	Measure	Time frame
Increasing demand for services targeting young people	Support and promote efforts to increase the levels of services available to young people in Ballina Shire	Representations made to funding bodies	As required
Social and recreational opportunities	Provide for the needs of young people when organising community events	Community events cater to the needs of young people	Ongoing
Increase the level of youth participation in community life	Increase the opportunity for young people to participate in the decision making process of Council via the development of "e" youth council	"e" youth council developed	Dec 2010

Table 12.4 Older People

Issue	Strategy	Measure	Time frame
Housing stock in Ballina Shire not reflective of changing population	Promote alternative types of housing	Increase the diversity of housing stock	Ongoing
Provision of appropriate infrastructure	<p>To continue maintenance of Council owned facilities that service the needs of older people</p> <p>Continue roll out of shared pathway</p> <p>Provide ,maintain and plan for infrastructure that caters to the needs of older people</p>	<p>Facilities accessible to older residents</p> <p>Shared pathway expanded</p> <p>Provision of space at the Lennox Head Community Centre that can be utilised by and for older people</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>September 2010</p>
Increasing demand for services	Continue to assist existing services targeting older residents by providing rate relief and subsidized rents for services operating from Council owned facilities	Continued provision of subsidized rents and rate relief to organisations	Ongoing
Ageing of the population	<p>Ensure that aged care facilities are appropriately located</p> <p>Prepare ageing strategy</p>		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>June 2011</p>
Planning	Ensure that land use planning provides for older people in new developments, including addressing safety, infrastructure and mobility issues	<p>Creation of places that are appropriate for older people</p> <p>Infrastructure built that promotes physical activity and that is accessible to older people</p> <p>Suitably located aged care facilities</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Social Isolation	<p>Provide for the needs of older people when organising community events</p> <p>Provide financial and in kind support for Seniors Week activities</p>	<p>Community events are accessible to older people</p> <p>Support provided</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Annually</p>
Increase awareness of services targeting older people	Development of community services directory	Community directory developed	July 2010
Increasing demand for services targeting older people	Support and promote efforts to increase the levels of services available to older people in Ballina Shire	Representations made to funding bodies	As required

Table 12.5 People with Disabilities

Issue	Strategy	Measure	Time frame
Housing stock in Ballina Shire not reflective of changing population	Promote alternative types of housing	Increase the diversity of housing stock	Ongoing
Provision of appropriate infrastructure	<p>Continue maintenance of Council owned facilities that service the needs of people with disabilities</p> <p>Ensure that new developments meet Australian Standards in terms of accessibility</p>	<p>Facilities accessible to residents with disabilities</p> <p>New developments are accessible to people with disabilities</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Increasing accessibility	<p>Host Access Reference Group</p> <p>Development of a new PAMP</p> <p>Continue roll out of shared coastal pathway</p> <p>Development of awareness campaign</p>	<p>Meetings held</p> <p>PAMP prepared</p> <p>Extension of pathway</p> <p>Through the Access Reference Group, undertake accessibility awards</p>	<p>Bi Monthly</p> <p>December 2010</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Annually</p>
Increasing demand for services	Support and promote efforts to increase the level of services available to people with disabilities in Ballina Shire	Representations made to funding bodies	As required
Social and recreational opportunities	Provide for the needs of people with disabilities when organising community events	Community events are accessible to people with disabilities	Ongoing
Planning	Ensure that land use planning provides for people with disabilities in new developments, including addressing safety, infrastructure and mobility issues	<p>Creation of places that are appropriate for people with disabilities</p> <p>Infrastructure built that increases opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in community life</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Increase awareness of services targeting people with a disability	Development of community services directory	Community directory developed	July 2010

Table 12.6- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

Issue	Strategy	Measure	Time frame
Affordable Housing	Implement affordable housing strategy Promote alternative types of housing Council consider leasing its residential properties (at the prevailing market rate) to appropriate community organisations to be utilized as youth accommodation	Strategy adopted Increase the diversity of housing stock Consideration given to offering properties for lease to be utilized as youth accommodation	March 2010 Ongoing As properties become available
Limited services targeting the specific needs of Aboriginal young people	Support and promote efforts to increase the levels of services available to Aboriginal young people in Ballina Shire	Representations made to funding bodies	As required
Limited awareness of services targeting ATSI people	Development of community services directory Update of youth information card	Community directory developed youth information card updated	July 2010 July 2010
Provision of appropriate infrastructure	Continue maintenance of Council owned facilities that service the needs of ATSI people Undertake partnerships that facilitate the development of new infrastructure projects targeting ATSI people in Ballina Shire	Facilities accessible to ATSI residents Partnerships developed	Ongoing As required
Increasing demand for services	Support and promote efforts to increase the levels of services available to ATSI people with in Ballina Shire	Representations made to funding bodies	As required
Need to improve consultation between Council and ATSI people	Development of consultation protocols between Council and Aboriginal groups and individuals	Protocol established	June 2011

Issue	Strategy	Measure	Time frame
Lack of cultural awareness	Continue to support NAIDOC Week activities	Continued financial and in-kind support for NAIDOC Week activities Display of banners in River Street during NAIDOC Week	Annually
	To undertake the Shire Wide Aboriginal heritage study	Completion of Aboriginal heritage study	June 2010
	Acknowledgment of Country at the commencement of Council Meetings	Acknowledgment undertaken	Monthly
	Erection of signage that recognizes the shire's Aboriginal people	Signage erected	Ongoing

Table 12.7- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities

Issue	Strategy	Measure	Time frame
Access to services	Appropriate Council staff trained in the use of interpreter services	Staff trained	As required
Access to information	Development of community services directory	Directory developed	July 2010
Changing demographics	Monitor demographic make up of the shire	Improved awareness of the make up of the community	Ongoing
Limited services targeting CALD community	Support and promote efforts to increase the level of services available to CALD community within Ballina Shire	Representations made to funding bodies	As required

13 Appendix

To enable Council to obtain an improved understanding of the respective needs of members of the mandatory target groups identified in this plan, a series of workshops were convened.

Whilst members of the broader community were encouraged to attend and actively participate in the workshops, formal invitations were conveyed to government and non-government organisations whose staff provide services directly and indirectly to those within the target groups.

These general and targeted consultations occurred at convenient venues and times within the Shire on 16, 28 and 29 September 2009. Representatives from the following organisations attended the workshops and council has greatly appreciated their valuable contributions.

- Ability Incorporated Advocacy Service
- Ballina Shire Access reference group
- Ballina High School
- Ballina Byron Family Centre
- Ballina District Community Services Association
- Bunjum Aboriginal Co-op
- Burabi Aboriginal Housing Company
- Cabbage Tree Island Public School
- Centrelink
- Department of Disability and Aged Care
- Dept Ageing Disability & Home Care
- FNC ATSI HACC Access Service
- Housing NSW
- North Coast Refugee Settlement Service
- Northern Rivers Social Development Council
- Reconnect Ballina
- Spinal Cord Injuries Australia
- TAFE Outreach