



Media Release

31 August 2017

Cockburn CEO a leading light in providing employment for people with disability

Taking action to ensure people with disability are included in all walks of life in the City of Cockburn has earned the local government's Chief Executive Officer Stephen Cain a leadership award.

Mr Cain received the Lighthouse Project's metropolitan local government leadership award at a ceremony on 25 August.

The Lighthouse Project is a partnership between the Disability Services Commission and Local Government Professionals WA to increase employment levels of people with disability in local government.

The City first adopted a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan in 2007. In the 2012 update version of this plan, 'employment' objectives were included to enhance work opportunities for people with disability. Of the City's employees, 7.5 per cent identify as having a disability.

Apart from supporting the formation of the City's Disability Reference Group, Mr Cain personally advocates for inclusion of people with disability and since his arrival as CEO in 2004, employment levels of people with disability at the City have risen by 20 per cent.

The City in partnership with Rocky Bay Employment Service employs 18 people with disability in its supported wage crews; as well as employing many others as part of the general workforce.

Other initiatives include:

Social Procurement – The City partners with West Australian Disability Enterprises for social procurement initiatives to provide more employment options for people with disability.

Website – The City's new website facilitates digital accessibility for people with a disability. It was developed and audited to meet the internationally recognised Website Content Accessibility Guidelines Version 2 to Level AA (WCAG 2.0 Level AA) and is the first Local Government website in Australia to meet this standard.



Media Release

Disability Access and Inclusion Officer – A full time officer position, funded entirely by Municipal funds, has been part of the organisation structure for over 10 years.

Mr Cain said it was important for employers to recognise that we all have ‘different’ abilities.

“While some of my staff have a physical impairment, their enthusiasm and work ethic make them some of the best people in our workforce,” Mr Cain said.

Picture Caption: (l-r) City of Cockburn CEO Stephen Cain with Liz Carson and Damion Watson from the City’s Civic Support Crew which are employed at the City through Rocky Bay Employment Services.

ENDS

For more information contact:
Media and Communications Officer
City of Cockburn
T: 08 9411 3551
E: media@cockburn.wa.gov.au