



# Lardner Park



## Lardner Park

*A truly versatile destination*

Australia's premier Regional exhibition venue for indoor & outdoor events.

# DISABILITY INCLUSION ACCESS PLAN (2023 - 2027)

Strategic Partners



# OUR MISSION, VISION & VALUES

## *Mission Statement:*

Lardner Park is Gippsland's premier regional conference and exhibition venue.

As a not-for-profit organisation, Lardner Park continues to be pivotal in community activations, events, and charitable fundraising.

With commitment and a passion to attract, develop and maintain a diverse array of events and visitors to Lardner Park, the organisation is ultimately generating and distributing business and tourism opportunities within the greater Gippsland region.

Five decades of evolution deeply tied to agriculture, underpin Lardner Park's continued purpose through the signature premier event, Farm World - Victoria's largest regional agricultural event, livestock agistment, development in steer and seed trials, and agroforestry plantation.

## *Vision Statement:*

To provide a unique experience for all patrons, clients, exhibitors, suppliers, allies, and partners of Lardner Park whilst leaving a healthy legacy for the future of the Agricultural Industry through sustainability, a responsible carbon footprint and continually nurturing and improving the land we inhabit.

## *Values:*

- ✓ Respect: for people, nature and the economy
- ✓ Innovation - linked to transition, adaptations and the future.
- ✓ Connection - community, belonging, inclusion and identity.
- ✓ Collaboration - professional relationships and partnerships.
- ✓ Legacy - sustainable economic development, celebrate heritage & tackle today's challenges through regeneration practices.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the CEO	3
Who is Lardner Park?	4
What is Disability?	5
What is a Disability Inclusion Action Plan?	6
About People with Disability	7
Lardner Park - Current Inclusion Practices	8
Lardner Park - Our Promise	9
General Site Map showing Access & Inclusion points	10
Assistance Dogs	11

# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

A warm welcome to all who read, download, and review our DIAP plan 2023-2027 for Lardner Park. We are committed to improving access and inclusion across our site in a meaningful way that provides access to buildings, pavilions and our main event spaces that enable inclusion for all.

Our Disability, Access and Inclusion Plan (2023-2027) is the next step in our commitment to providing support for members of the community with disability or accessibility concerns. Here you'll find ways to access our site and get around this naturally beautiful but undulating property.

This Plan is our first public commitment about advancing, communicating, and sharing our accessibility and inclusion to facilities and events. However, the visionary leaders that established the property as an event space for Farm World back in the 1960's, have always sort to include people with disability and inclusion into our facilities and events since our humble beginnings on the site almost six decades ago.

Today, one in five Australians, identify as having a disability and we want to help by supporting them through their experiences with us. Our focus is to provide equal access, inclusion and dignity for our customers, employees, and community.

This Access and Inclusion Plan (2023 – 2027) brings our purpose to life in a practical and meaningful way. It outlines our renewed initiatives to helping those living with impairments or chronic health conditions to utilise the facilities and overcome some of the challenges an undulating site presents.

This is supported by our ongoing and proactive focus on the accessible design of facilities and experiences across our own events and those that are hosted at the venue.

These initiatives build on the solid foundation we've laid over the past almost six decades, while also seeking to address gaps through continued innovation and investment in accessibility.

Delivering on these initiatives will be managed and tracked through the Lardner Park Management Team and the Lardner Park Board, reiterating top-down support for accessibility at Lardner Park. At Lardner Park, we believe in continuous improvement of our facilities and access for all, whilst taking a commonsense approach to meeting the challenges of the site.

I'm looking forward to seeing the impact our renewed access and inclusion commitments will have on our customers, employees and communities living with disability and access concerns.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Debnam'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

**Warm Regards,**  
**Craig Debnam | CEO Lardner Park**

# WHO IS LARDNER PARK?

Lardner Park is a local NOT-FOR-PROFIT organisation, who aims to stimulate the local business economy, by conducting events and engaging promoters to hire the property. Any and ALL profit from the business are used to maintain and improve infrastructure on the property to attract more events. No individual or volunteer on our Board or Committee, receives any benefit from the revenues generated at the property.

From humble beginnings in 1963, Lardner Park is now one the most diverse destinations in Victoria showcasing unique and professional events and functions.

Situated on a magnificent parcel of private land, in the rolling green hills of West Gippsland. Being conveniently located just minutes from the townships of Warragul and Drouin, and just over an hour from Melbourne CBD, Lardner Park is the epitome of an event, conference and function venue.

With an abundance of indoor and outdoor spaces including an agroforestry plantation, cattle yards, multiple pavilions, power and water, caravanning, camping and glamping for up to 10,000+, onsite 4WD facilities, a conference centre (for up to 1,000 delegates) and a seed plantation for research and development - Lardner Park offers both space and versatility.

Boasting an incredible range of spaces including more than 5,000sqm of flexible undercover settings, our 300-acre property caters for small gatherings through to music festivals, 4wd shows, school functions, sport and physical challenge events, markets, conferences and much more.

Lardner Park is the home of Farm World, country Victoria's leading agricultural and lifestyle event and now home to the Lardner Park Garden & Home Expo. We bring creative minds together to make any event a standout success.



# WHAT IS DISABILITY?

***Disability, sexuality, cultural diversity, it's not 'special', or 'unusual' or 'not our problem'. It is the lived reality of a human being and therefore everybody's responsibility to ensure all are given an equal chance to experience their educational and social potential in a non-judgemental, inclusive, transparent, accountable and empowering way.***

The old way of thinking about disability focused on an individual's impairment as a medical condition to be treated, fixed, or cured. Fortunately, in recent times there has been a shift in the way disability is viewed and understood. The focus is now on the interaction with their environment.

Disability arises from the way people with disability interact with the world. Individuals encounter physical barriers, digital barriers and barriers of attitudes and communication. These barriers impact on an individual's ability to equitably participate in society.

This shift in perspective takes into consideration that disability can be exacerbated by an environment that creates barriers. The focus is on removing barriers and implementing adjustments that provide an equitable experience for people with disability.

The definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 is broad. It includes physical, intellectual, psychiatric, sensory, neurological and learning disabilities. Disability can be permanent or temporary, visible or invisible. Some conditions and impairments are present from birth. Other people acquire or develop disability during their lifetime from an accident, condition, illness or injury. For some people, support requirements can increase over time. Others can experience fluctuating or episodic disability. Some people may have multiple disabilities, giving rise to different support requirements.

## **Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) definition**

The DDA legislation that protects Australians against discrimination based on disability provides a broad definition of disability including these eight types:

***Physical disability:*** Impacts mobility or dexterity.

***Intellectual disability:*** Impacts ability to learn or process information.

***Mental illness:*** Impacts thinking processes.

***Sensory disability:*** Impacts the ability to hear or see.

***Neurological disability:*** Impacts the brain and central nervous system.

***Learning disability:*** Impacts acquisition, organisation, retention & understanding of information

***Physical disfigurement:*** Impacts physical appearance.

***Immunological disability:*** Impact due to the presence of organisms causing disease in the body.



# WHAT IS A DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN?

The Lardner Park Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) is a strategic document that enables us to implement actions to address access and inclusion issues for people with disabilities. The Victorian Government, under Section 38 of the Disability Act (2006), states that a Disability Action Plan (DAP) should be developed to:

- Reduce barriers to persons with a disability accessing goods, services and facilities.
- Reduce barriers to persons with a disability obtaining and maintaining employment.
- Promote inclusion and participation in the community of persons with a disability.
- Achieve tangible changes in attitudes and practices which discriminate against persons with a disability.

Our plan is to tackle the negative attitudes and barriers that more than one million Victorians with a disability deal with on a daily basis. It sets out priorities and actions for achieving inclusion.



# ABOUT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

- ✓ 17% of Victorians are people with disability.
- ✓ Only just over 10% of the 1.1 million Victorians with disability are eligible for an NDIS plan.
- ✓ 77% of people with disability have a physical disability.
- ✓ 32% of people with disability sometimes or always need support with daily self-care, mobility or communication activities.
- ✓ 24% of Aboriginal people have disability, which is twice the rate of the general population.
- ✓ 39% of LGBTIQ+ people aged 14 to 21 identify as having disability or long-term health condition.
- ✓ 7.7% of children under 15 have disability.
- ✓ Victorian people with disability are diverse in their culture, language, sexuality, gender identity, age, ability, socioeconomic status and life experiences.
- ✓ They are parents, children and young people and live in all parts of the state. Some people's disability is hidden, while other people's disability is visible.

Their experiences and the way they perceive the concept of disability differ.

- ✓ The contributions that people with disability make to the community are significant and valuable.
- ✓ People with disability have the right to expect the same opportunities as people without disability and live lives of their own choosing.

People with disability are often excluded. They experience segregation and ableism in all areas of community life.

They face multiple barriers to inclusion and full and equal participation.

These barriers affect all parts of a person's daily life.



# LARDNER PARK:

## A diverse destination:

### *Current Inclusion Practices*



Designated, signed and accessible parking for all events. Parking placed in areas deemed closest and safest to entry/ticketing gates of events. Parking attendants are advised to guide people with the appropriate accessible sticker to the designated parking area.



At larger events like Farm World, we have golf carts and scooters available to hire to enable people to move across the large and undulating site easier.



The inclusion of two tractor and trailer people mover free of charge at larger events. The service can move people across the site stopping at numerous designated stops to help people get across the large site. We also have shuttle buses within the carpark of Farm World which takes people to the ticket boxes.



Four disabled toilets across the site, with also the inclusion of portable disabled toilets added depending on permit requirements around number of people attending event.



We work with our venue hirers around the provision of accessible parking, viewing areas and sensory zones for their event.



Safety officers are engaged at all major events who are responsible for understanding the requirements for accessible access around the site.



We have designated seating and viewing areas for the accessible at activations within Farm World, ie: the Rodeo.



Drop off point at our Events Centre entry which enables any disabled patron to easily access the building.



At Farm World we have a health and well-being area, where we work with organisations that have stands that can assist with patrons on help/advice/support around their needs.



Assistance Dogs Policy at Lardner Park ensures those with vision impairment or those needing emotional assistance can attend our event.

# GENERAL SITE MAP WITH ACCESS & INCLUSION FARM WORLD LAYOUT AS EXAMPLE



- TRACTOR/TRAILER PEOPLE MOVER ROUTE
- ACCESSIBLE PERMIT PARKING
- SCOOTER AND GOLF CART HIRE
- ACCESSIBLE TOILETS

SITE MAP NOT TO SCALE



# ASSISTANCE DOG POLICY

Whilst we love dogs at Lardner Park; we have a no dogs policy due to the nature of our rural property and potential interaction with large livestock - no pets/dogs are permitted onsite at Lardner Park except for Assistance Dogs.

## Assistance Dogs

If you have an assistance dog, you may be asked to produce certification of your dog's license before entry is granted. We completely understand, assistance dogs are an extension of their handler, and we look forward to supporting their entry to the property under the correct circumstances.

Please have the below information available, to confirm entry - our staff are here to help:



**ASSISTANCE DOGS AUSTRALIA**  
ABN 50 074 746 160  
PUBLIC ACCESS LICENCE - Ph. 1800 688 364



LICENCE NO:  
FFDE-1234



Assistance Dogs  
Australia  
Giving Freedom & Independence

LICENCE  
EXPIRES:  
25/07/2023

**HANDLER:**

John Smith  
1780 Princes Highway  
Waterfall, NSW 2233

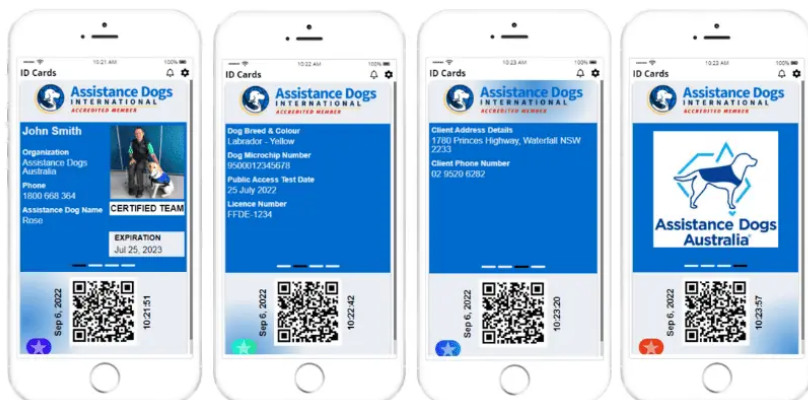


**QUALIFIED ASSISTANCE DOG:** Rose

**VALIDATED BY:** Paul Reid (CEO)



**Assistance Dogs  
Australia®**





**MORE QUESTIONS?**  
Get in touch with the team today!



**Lardner Park**

**PH: 03 5626 1373**

**E: [office@lardnerpark.com.au](mailto:office@lardnerpark.com.au)**

**W: [www.lardnerpark.com.au](http://www.lardnerpark.com.au)**

**155 Burnt Store Road, Lardner, VIC, 3821**