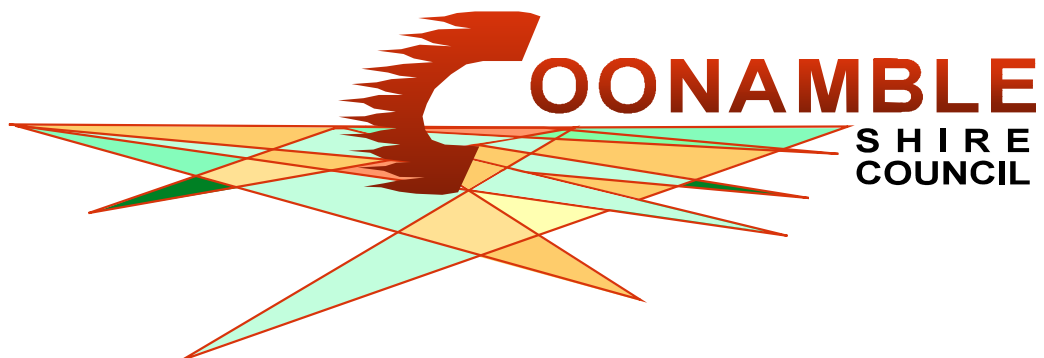


COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL



COMMUNITY & SOCIAL PLAN

A Message to our Residents

As your Council, we aim to provide you with effective and efficient services to improve your quality of life in our community.

To do this we aim to ensure that our programmes are relevant to all of our residents and to the diverse communities within our shire. We also need to ensure we remain responsive to emerging or changing needs over time.

We provide and support a wide range of community and environmental services to enhance resident lifestyles, and ultimately to meet community and social needs.

Our food, building and waste inspection services protect resident health. Environmental planning protects resident amenity and well-planned urban development enhances access and facilities available to our community. Our roads link residents to the wider community and effective transport planning promotes their safety and mobility. Even our emphasis on sound financial management ensures we maximise the resources we have available to benefit the community.

We provide community facilities, recreation services, parks and public spaces to enhance resident recreation and leisure; and our library and community events enhance the cultural fabric of our community. These and many more programmes provide for the well being of all of our residents.

JOHN GRIFFITHS
General Manager

TIM HORAN
Mayor

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1. Executive Summary

In 1998, the NSW Government introduced the Local Government (General) Amendment (Community and Social Plans) Regulation 1998. This Regulation specified not only that Councils must produce Social Plans but also stipulated some of the details to be included and the dates by which the Plans must be completed. This Social Plan has been prepared using the Regulation and the Social and Community Planning and Reporting Manual and Guidelines produced by the NSW Department of Local Government in December 2002.

The broad aims and objectives of the Coonamble Social Plan are to: -

- Identify the existing social services and community facilities within Coonamble;
- Identify the social needs of the population;
- Assess the adequacy of existing social services and community facilities in satisfying the needs of the present and future population;
- Identify any potential or emerging problems with social services and identify solutions to prevent or rectify these problems;
- Recommend a strategy for the provision by the appropriate body of new or improved social services and community facilities.

The Coonamble Social Plan has adopted the seven target groups identified in the Department of Local Government's Social/Community Planning and Reporting Guidelines, namely, Children, Young People, Women, Older People, People with Disabilities, Aboriginal People and People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds.

As part of the consultation in the preparation of the Social Plan, small focus groups, service providers and social organisations that identified with each of the seven target groups were approached and asked to contribute by discussing the various issues currently affecting Coonamble. The community consultations with the groups and organisations approached raised many concerns and issues, which have been addressed within this Social Plan.

This information was circulated to our Managers, Councillors and Directors/Executives and weighed against the range of roles we play in the delivery and support of the community. The range of roles available to Council is identified in the following section. Council priorities, as expressed in Councils other plans, such as the Management Plan, were also considered. It should be noted that the demographics in this Plan are based on the 2001 census figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Duration of plan: The duration of this plan will be five years with a new plan to be adopted in 2009. In accordance with the *Social and Community Planning and Reporting Guidelines 2002* the plan will be reviewed annually during the Annual Report process and accounted for in Councils Management Plan – Statement of Access and Equity Activities.

Adoption of Plan: At an Ordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council held at Coonamble on Wednesday 13th October 2004, resolution number 4276 was made to formally adopt the Coonamble Shire Council Social/Community Plan. Please find following the resolution (in part).

“9.4 FORMAL ADOPTION OF SOCIAL/COMMUNITY PLAN

4276 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Callaghan and Webb that Council formally adopt the Community and Social Plan already submitted in draft form and that a copy of the adopted document be forwarded to the Director General of the Department of Local Government prior to 30 November 2004”

1.1 Council's Roles in Addressing Social Needs

Based on legislated powers and recognised partnerships with other levels of government and the community, we chose from a variety of roles in addressing social and community needs:-

ROLE	WHAT IT MEANS	EXAMPLES
<i>Advocate</i>	We lobby government and other groups about local needs to attract resources	Attracting funding for local services. Lobbying for policy changes.
<i>Administrator</i>	We maintain and/or administer resources.	Administer funding. Manage information databases.
<i>Catalyst/Developer</i>	We help establish new services (often through local agencies).	Developing innovative services or programmes.
<i>Community Development</i>	We promote participation. Involve residents and service providers in decisions.	Conduct public meetings. Support Community Advisory Committees.
<i>Community Educator</i>	We provide community education on local services.	Seminars and community information distributed through Council Economic Development Officers.
<i>Coordinator</i>	We help services share and maximise resources.	Developing joint action or programmes.
<i>Facility Development</i>	We develop and optimise utilisation of Council facilities to better meet community needs.	Providing parks/sporting grounds and safe roads.
<i>Funding Provider</i>	We provide funding for specific events/services.	Grants for sporting and cultural events and programmes.
<i>Planner</i>	We assess needs. Establish policies and action plans to address them.	Social and Environment Plans, Crime Prevention Plan.
<i>Service Provider</i>	We directly deliver services and resources to the community.	Aquatic leisure centres, Library and Information Services.
<i>Service Supporter</i>	We support or develop services and programmes. We promote community management and/or involvement.	Support Community events. Build partnerships with centre community committees.

1.2 Abbreviations Used

Throughout the Social Plan some abbreviations have been used for the titles of Council staff and for Community Organisations. The following are these abbreviations and their full wording: -

ACE	- Adult College of Education
ASC	- After School Care
ATSIS	- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Service
CBLE	- Coonamble
CDEP	- Commonwealth Development Employment Programme
CHS	- Coonamble High School
CPS	- Coonamble Primary School
DADHC	- Department of Ageing, Disability and Homecare
DET	- Department of Education and Training
DOCS	- Department of Community Services
EDO	- Economic Development Officer
FACS	- Family and Community Services
GM	- General Manager
GULAR	- Gulargambone
MAHS	- Macquarie Area Health Service
MCS	- Manager of Corporate Services
RTC	- Rural Transaction Centre
TAFE	- Technical and Further Education
TUFF	- Together for Under Fives and Families
VC	- Vacation Care
WCAE	- Western College of Adult Education
YW	- Youth Worker

2. CHILDREN

- 2.12 Coonamble Children's Services
- 2.13 Long Day Care
- 2.14 Family Day Care
- 2.15 Emergency Child Care
- 2.16 In Home Care
- 2.17 Vacation Care
- 2.18 Playgroups
- 2.19 Library
- 2.20 Playground
- 2.21 Parent Support and Respite Care
- 2.22 Together for Under Fives and Families
- 2.23 Pre School

2.1 Coonamble Children's Services

Coonamble has a child population 0-4 years old of 376 (2001 Census data). There are currently 110 families utilising the Service with 120 children attending. Coonamble Children's Services provides Long Day Care, Family Day Care, Out of School Hours Care, Occasional Care and In Home Care. A waiting list is in place at the Service with a strong demand for 0-2 year olds. The Service is self-supporting with running costs met by fees, fundraising and recurrent grants from the Commonwealth and State governments. The Service is a community-based service operated by a management committee of ten people and is a non-profit organisation.

The Centre and its numbers are as follows: -

Akidina Cottage

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Places Held</i>
0-2 year olds	5 places
2-3 year olds	8 places
3-5 year olds	15 places
5-12 year olds	3 places

30 Long Day Care Places
38 Family Day Care Places
3 Out of School Hours Places

The Centre reports that they have more than adequate children to fill the places available. Indeed, Coonamble has an excess of children requiring placement and many are turned away and referred to Child Carers. The Centre reports strong demand and waiting lists for the 0 to 2 years age group.

The childcare industry is now regulated to a degree by the Commonwealth Government's national planning scheme that limits the numbers of new places available for childcare assistance each year. Places are now only available for childcare assistance if they exist in identified high need priority areas and Coonamble is not in such an area.

2.2 Long Day Care

The Coonamble Family Day Care is a branch of the Coonamble Children's Services and is licensed for 30 places. The Scheme currently operates with all places filled. The lack of carers rather than the lack of children occasioning vacancies. Advertising campaigns need to be undertaken to promote the Family Day Care Scheme as a provider of quality childcare on a regular basis in an effort to attract more carers.

2.3 Family Day Care

There are six registered Family Day Care carers in Coonamble Shire, five operating in Coonamble and one in the Gulargambone township. These are people who run a "day care" service from their home. The home service is governed under the regulation of Department of Community Services. They are auspiced by the Coonamble Children's Services Inc. The maximum number of children in care at any one time is seven. Of this, two may be school aged. The remaining five may be divided up as child to carer ratios 2:1 under two years of age and 5:1 under five years of age.

2.4 Emergency Child Care

Emergency ChildCare is offered by In Home Care, Coonamble Children's Services and Family Day Care. This is to be used in emergency situations by families registered with the Service.

2.5 In Home Care

In Home Care is a service where the carer travels to the family home. The Coonamble Child Care service has two registered carers and 4 registered families who use it.

2.6 Vacation Care

Coonamble Shire Council is the auspicing body for a community-based committee that governs one vacation care service currently operating at the Coonamble Public School. A total of 35 places are available. Eight staff are employed on a casual basis. The Service reports fluctuating attendance with problems arising, namely in not

having their own venue. Council will continue to monitor the availability of new funding for this service.

2.7 Playgroups

Coonamble has two playgroups. One is operated by a community based committee and is held weekly at the Coonamble Children's Services facility within the Coonamble Children's Services. The other is Goonimoo Children's Mobile Service delivered by the Aboriginal Medical Service and located in the nearby town of Walgett, funded through Aboriginal based funding. This service has a newly appointed coordinator and will return to Coonamble in Term 4 of 2004. The playgroup will be located at the TUFF building in the Coonamble Primary School grounds. The service will be fortnightly and dates can be advised by contacting TUFF. Transport to and from the service is available.

Hollywood Villiage has a monthly play session taking turns at children's homes, and facilitated by Connect 5 Children's Services. Information is available through the TUFF office.

Gulargambone Play Session is shared between Orana Supported Playgroups and Connect 5. The group meets Mondays 10am-12 noon at Jean Walker Memorial Park.

Quambone have a monthly play group session conducted by Bogan mobile unit and Families First in Coonamble have Paint and Play from 10am to 12noon on Mondays at McDonald Park.

Council needs to publicise the playgroups at every opportunity particularly in any literature and at any places frequented by new and existing residents to Coonamble. Both playgroups invite and encourage existing and new members to attend weekly meetings.

2.8 Library

A part of the NorthWestern Library, Coonamble Shire Library has many child-oriented materials and resources. One of the programmes run from within the Library is SHELLS – Support at Home for Early Language and Literacy. SHELLS is an interactive partnership between the facilitator and carers which introduces parents to various techniques and activities that may aid in their child's development of early language and literacy skills. Fortnightly meetings focus on sharing with others, playing with sounds, singing and dancing, early writing, helping children to have good memory and understanding the child's needs. Videos and DVDs can be loaned out plus a video/DVD player and television set up in the library specifically for children. The library also has a biweekly story time, special children's activities and events at the library and special children's section in the library. This

service is operating effectively and is well received by the parents and children. The library building underwent a layout reorganisation in 1999, which provides for a new children's area, which better caters for their smaller needs.

2.9 Playgrounds

There are many areas located around the townships designated as playgrounds. Ongoing maintenance and upgrading of playground equipment is an issue, which must be addressed. The need to maintain existing and new playgrounds in a safe and useable condition and to provide at least some accessible play equipment will be ongoing.

Recent community needs surveys also highlight the obvious need for the provision of shade associated with children's playgrounds, along with the provision of more toilet facilities. The cost of doing so is well beyond the capacity of the budget to fund these additional facilities.

It is therefore recommended that at a future time, Council should consider the provision of additional funds in the Parks and Gardens budgets for the ongoing maintenance of playgrounds and playground equipment. Also for the provision of much needed shade structures and additional toilet facilities for existing and future playgrounds and for the staged provision of accessible play equipment.

2.10 Parent Support and Respite Care

The Parent Support Service is based in Castlereagh Street and provides respite care for children and adult persons with disabilities ranging from mild to severe. A disability can be physical, intellectual, sensory or emotional and may impair the individual's development and learning. The coordinator of the centre reports that the service is well utilised and despite the lack of funding there are no other problems currently being experienced. Both the Commonwealth Government and the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care fund the service. More funding is still needed to service all children and adults who need the service.

2.11 Together for Under Fives and Families

This established project supports young children 0-8 years old and their families. The project develops strong links with the local community and facilitates interagency communication, cooperation and collaboration. Activities for families and children contribute to improved school readiness, increased use of local services and general socialisation.

TUFF is part of the statewide Schools as Community Centres Programme and is resourced and supported by the NSW Department of Education and Training. The office is located in the Coonamble Primary School grounds, but covers the Coonamble Shire. The local facilitator is employed full-time.

2.12 Pre School

Coonamble has one (1) pre school, namely, the Coonamble and District Pre School. The School is a 20-place centre – they can take only 20 children per day aged between three and five years. The Pre School reports that they have no vacancies and large waiting lists. Currently staffing consists of two full-time, permanent staff made up of one director and one assistant. Funding was received for care of a special needs child. The School reports no major difficulties other than the ongoing lack of funding to implement the quality of care and level of service they would like to provide to children and their families.

3. YOUNG PEOPLE

- 3.1 Youth and the Community
- 3.2 Youth Centre
- 3.3 Employment
- 3.4 Recreation/Activities
- 3.5 Library
- 3.6 Education
- 3.7 Health
- 3.8 Homelessness/Accommodation
- 3.9 Youth anti social behaviour and crime

3.1 Youth and the Community

Young people are an integral part of the broader community, have positive contribution to bring to, and be recognised by, their local community and therefore should be viewed in a holistic manner. Council attempts to take a positive and supportive stand on youth, and broader community issues, which reflects an acceptance of young people as part of the wider community.

Council's role is to affirm the place of young people as valued members of the community and bring understanding of the social, cultural and environmental factors impacting on young people's lives and to identify the needs facing young people in the community and develop appropriate strategies for meeting these needs.

To achieve this, the following ten (10) areas are recommended to allow for a holistic approach to this area:

- a stronger focus on area planning and local service provision;
- providing more equitable distribution of youth services and facilities within the community;
- youth consultation, participation in the design, planning and management of policies, services and public facilities;
- recreation provisions for young people;
- active recreational space;
- health and well being;
- youth and family support;
- education, training and employment;
- housing and homelessness; and
- crime prevention

3.2 Youth Centre

Coonamble has two youth centres, one based in Coonamble township and another in the nearby village of Gulargambone. The Coonamble centre runs five days a week from 2pm to 7pm staffed by one full time Coordinator and two full time youth workers and the Gulargambone centre runs Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3pm to 7pm and 3pm to 8pm on Friday and has two full time Youth Workers. The Coordinator for Coonamble Youth Centre is also responsible for the operation of the Gulargambone Youth Centre.

3.3 Employment

The ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) Census of 2001 puts the national average for unemployment at under 10%. Of further interest is that of all people aged 15-24 employed, 37% have part time work only. It could be safely assumed that a large portion of these part time workers would like full time work if available. Council needs to encourage the Coonamble Chamber of Commerce, the Coonamble Street Ahead Committee and the Coonamble Shire Council to attract industries and businesses that enhance the prospects of youth employment. Council also needs to facilitate discussion between Employment Agencies to disseminate information and strategies to assist youth in obtaining employment.

3.4 Recreation/Activities

It is generally recognised in Coonamble that beyond sport and home based activities there are very few activities or entertainments for young people in the age groups of 18 to 21 years that are not related to premises licensed to sell liquor. The high incidences of crimes by young adults that are alcohol related in Coonamble and Western NSW generally are attributed to the fact that a considerable amount of entertainment for young people is related to premises which serve alcohol. Hotels and Clubs are the major venues for youth social interaction as well. The provision therefore of additional activities and venues for young people, which are not related to alcohol, is seen as one of the means of correcting the crime level.

Coonamble Shire Council introduced Alcohol Free Zones to reduce public drinking and anti-social behaviour and is expanding them each year. Whilst Council has indicated that it is not in a position to fund the employment of a Youth Development Officer for some time into the future, the whole community must attack these issues on a wider front. For example local service clubs and community organisations such as Rotary, Lions Club etc. could become involved in the organisation of youth activities both in terms of staffing and financial matters.

The development of cultural activities for youth to counter the imbalance with sporting activities to cater for those youth who have interests outside of sport and physical recreation activities is an important component of providing a balanced mix of opportunities for youth. The Arts Council of NSW has their western region branch based in Coonamble – Outback Arts. Outback Arts has been instrumental in bringing culturally diverse activities to the Coonamble community. The coordination of facilities for youth and the way they are accessed and used should be addressed as a priority. There are limited facilities for young people but with proper utilisation plans and lateral management of venues, greater access could be given to youth and the community at large.

3.5 Library

The Coonamble Shire Library is a part of the NorthWestern Library, which incorporates the towns of Coonamble, Gilgandra, Warren and Nyngan and has specific collections, aimed at young students. These include Higher School Certificate study resources and collections on topics such as drugs, health, legal rights, career opportunities, and details of tertiary courses and institutions. Computers provide Internet access for study and research. There are also recreational resources such as music CDs and cassettes, novels, videos, DVD's and magazines.

3.6 Education

The Coonamble campus of TAFE runs many programmes aimed at those who want to work in an office environment and those who want to work “on the land”. As a rural community there is a high percentage of young people who will return to work on family stations and the TAFE recognises this with a number of courses specifically designed to cater to the needs of this group.

One of the major concerns surrounding education is non-attendance of school by students. Habitual non attendance often leads to poor school results, low self esteem, drop out from the education system at an early age, failure to gain employment and social problems associated with boredom and low income levels. The location of home school liaison officer at Coonamble High School and the utilisation of the Street Beat Programme with local Police at various times are two initiatives which the Department of Education are employing with success.

3.7 Health

Some health problems for youth are as a result of preventable high-risk behaviour, eg. Alcohol, drugs, suicide and self-harming behaviour. Similarly, lifestyle choices made as a young person can

impact significantly on long-term health eg. Smoking, sun exposure, diets. According to the New South Wales Department of Health, youth also experience the highest levels of sexually transmittable diseases indicating that safe sex is not being practised.

Other health problems include road transport related injuries and sports injuries, which are more common in males. Coonamble Shire Council continues to support the Macquarie Area Health Services in its many programs aimed at improving the health of children and youth within Coonamble.

3.8 Homelessness/Accommodation

Coonamble utilises the 'Doorways' programme in Dubbo. It was established by Uniting Care Burnside to act as an information and referral centre for young people, service providers and parents in providing accommodation options, including access to public housing, private rental, caravans, motels, hotels, boarding houses, share households and community placement. It also provides a mentor service that provides accommodation, community and personal support, advice, skill development and friendship for young people. Council needs to continue in ongoing discussions and participation in future planning forums with the Department of Community Services and Service Providers as required.

3.9 Youth Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime

Juvenile crime is a key area of concern for everyone in Coonamble. Levels in Juvenile crime have been increasing over the past few years and many business owners feel they cannot afford to continue in the face of a sever drought and the cost of damage incurred through regular break ins.

Juvenile crime stems from complex social situations where there are multiple layers of disadvantage some of which are:

- Minimal or limited parental supervision
- Family/domestic violence
- Poor school attendance due to truancy or suspension
- Limited supervision at home
- Parental/family members spend their income on alcohol/gambling leaving little money for core needs such as food and shelter

and can include anti-social (and/or criminal) behaviour such as:

- threatening behaviour
- loud arguments
- offensive language and/or behaviour
- malicious damage to property
- theft offences

According to the NSW Police Service Castlereagh Local Area Command, which services the Coonamble shire, the vast majority of young people in Coonamble do not engage in anti-social behaviour. A small number of young people (approx. 15-20) contribute to the majority of anti-social acts. These young people are aged between 10-18 years.

Programmes aimed at supporting young people 12-24 include the establishment of a Police and Community Youth Centre in Coonamble that will provide increased supervised recreation and education activities. A series of ongoing arts and cultural activities to attract and involve young people, including access to Aboriginal artists and performers are being proposed for out of school hours.

The Youth Centre is currently looking into establishing personal development programmes for young people. Short-term or one-off courses covering communication, relationships, conflict resolution, violence prevention and esteem building are currently being conducted.

4 WOMEN

- 4.1 Services for Women
- 4.2 Violence Against Women

4.1 Services for Women

Coonamble has only a limited range of services for women. The Coonamble Shire relies heavily on services based in our nearest city, Dubbo. These include: -

- Dubbo Emergency Accommodation provides twenty-four hours crisis service to women and children escaping domestic violence, and/or homeless.
- Dubbo Women's Housing provides medium term housing options for homeless women and children.
- Dubbo & Wellington Court Assistance Scheme provides court support for women escaping domestic violence.
- The Coonamble Domestic Violence Worker provides counselling and support to women escaping domestic violence and sexual assault
- Interrelate offers counselling to couples, and to singles.
- The Outreach Women's Solicitor works out of the Community Legal Service for Western NSW, and provides legal support for women and children escaping violence.
- Family Support service provides counselling and support to families, including single mothers with children.

4.2 Violence Against Women

Violence against women has been identified as a significant social problem in both urban and rural New South Wales. Violence against women is any form of abuse directed specifically at women. Statistically, most violence against women is committed by men to control a woman. A woman can be subjected to many different types of violence at the same time. Forms of violence include domestic violence; sexual assault; psychological and emotional abuse; physical violence; and intimidation, threats and stalking. In 1996 the Australian Bureau of Statistics conducted the Women's Safety Survey, the first nationally representative sample survey that specifically focused on violence against women.

The survey found 2.6 million Australian women, aged 15 or over, had experienced some form of physical violence or sexual violence. Over half of these women had experienced more than one incidence of violence. Most violence experienced by women is at the hands of someone they know. The survey also estimated that 8 per cent of women with a current male partner had suffered emotional abuse from their partner during their relationship.

During the twelve months prior to the survey it was estimated that: Approximately 490,000 Australian women aged 18 or over experienced an incident of violence:-

- over 400,000 women experienced an incident of physical violence, with approximately 347,000 women experiencing an actual physical assault and 284,000 women experiencing an attempted or threatened physical assault; and
- over 133,000 women experienced sexual violence, with 100,000 women experiencing a sexual assault and approximately 45,000 women experiencing a threatened sexual assault.

The figures are quite startling, but it is not just numbers we are talking about, these are real people, our sisters, mothers, cousins or best friends. The reported rates of offences are higher in rural areas (Crime, Locality, and Citizenship).

There are a number of government, non-government and community organisations in Coonamble working together on prevention and intervention projects, all within a context of high community education and awareness, and the impact of violence against women on family and children.

The Coonamble Shire Council recognises that the safety of women and children is an important priority in this community and supports the Macquarie Regional Action Plan of the Violence Against Women.

Council supports community based initiatives, and initiatives by women's services around changing and challenging community attitudes towards violence and crime.

5. OLDER PEOPLE

- 5.1 Aged Accommodation
- 5.2 Senior Citizens Centre
- 5.3 Coonamble Hostel Association
- 5.4 Coonamble Home Care Service
- 5.5 Meals on Wheels
- 5.6 Coonamble Community Transport Service
- 5.7 Community Aged Care Packages
- 5.8 Home Modification and Maintenance Scheme

5.1 Aged Accommodation

There has been some increase in the quantum of aged accommodation facilities in Coonamble over recent years in line with an increasing aged population. Most providers' still report waiting lists with acute need still in the area of nursing home and hostel places.

The various types of aged accommodation can be summarised as follows: -

- Self care aged units
- Nursing home accommodation
- Nursing home accommodation requiring 24 hour nursing care
- Hostel accommodation
- Respite care accommodation

The available accommodation in Coonamble by type and location is as follows: -

Self Care Units

Towri Retirement Units 14 units

Aged Care Facilities

Coonamble Aged Hostel (Koonambil) 28 places

Respite Care

Coonamble Aged Hostel (Koonambil) 2 places

Coonamble Hospital 1 place

Health Care Accommodation

Long Stay Coonamble Hospital 12 places

TOTAL

57

- Coonamble Aged Hostel (Koonambil) - Modern and spacious, in beautifully landscaped grounds beside the Castlereagh River and adjacent to Coonamble Hospital. The Hostel is community owned and operated and has a total of 30 rooms. Koonambil currently employs 16 permanent staff and 8 casuals.
- Coonamble Hospital - The Hospital is staffed by 14 registered nurses and 8 enrolled nurses plus two on a casual list. All registered nurses in Coonamble undertake advanced First Line Emergency Care training, and are reassessed and accredited every twelve months. Services currently offered by Coonamble District Hospital include Long term care unit also offering respite care and Palliative care.
- Towri Retirement Units - Located at the end of Coonamble's main shopping street, the Towri Retirement Units are owned and managed by a community committee. All units are single bedrooms with separate living, dining and kitchen areas. Eleven units are available for private purchase and two for rent. One unit is kept vacant for use by families of residents. The units provide self-contained accommodation for elderly people not requiring hostel or nursing care

The waiting list held by the various services for aged accommodation fluctuates and it is not unusual for applicants to be placed on the waiting lists of all organisations making an assessment of the need fairly inaccurate.

5.2 Senior Citizens Centre

Coonamble Shire Council owns the Senior Citizens Centre located in Namoi Street, Coonamble. A committee independent of Council manages the Centre. The Centre itself is small with limited access for the elderly. Car parking is extremely limited in this area.

5.3 Coonamble Hostel Association (Koonambil)

Koonambil is a community project that has been built for the frail aged in the local area to allow out residents to remain in close proximity to their families while receiving high quality of care consistent with their needs. Government Grants and generous donations from concerned citizens of the Coonamble District funded the project.

Koonambil is set in three acres of landscaped garden on the bank of the Castlereagh River adjacent to the Coonamble Hospital. There are 28 single units with ensuites for permanent residents and two additional units allocated to Respite Care, intimate sitting rooms, library, shop, lounge room and dining.

Residents are encouraged to maintain social links with the wider community and to participate in the many and varied activities arranged at Koonambil on a regular basis.

A Hostel Manager under the direction of a Board of Management manages Koonambil. The Board is elected by the Coonamble Hostel Association Inc. from members of the Association. All residents and their families are invited to join this Association.

5.4 Coonamble Home Care Service

Home Care Service exists to help people live independently. Service is provided on the basis of individual needs and most of our customers are aged people or younger people with disabilities and their carers. In Coonamble Shire Home Care has 108 clients cared for by 13 field staff.

Service may be available during the day, at night and on weekends depending on the circumstances. Home Care provides the following types of general services:

- Housework
- Personal Care (assistance with showering, dressing, eating)
- Respite Care (to give family and friends a break)
- Essential home handy person
- Live In and Overnight Care
- Essential shopping
- Live in care
- Assistance in planning services (referring customers to other service providers when considered appropriate)

5.5 Meals on Wheels

The Commonwealth and State Governments, through the Department of Ageing, Disability and HomeCare under the Home and Community Care Program fund Meals on Wheels Coonamble Inc. The program aims to enable aged people, people with dementia or other cognitive disability, people with a debilitating medical condition and the carers of these people to remain in their own homes, thereby preventing premature or inappropriate admission to long term residential care.

Many people self refer, however referrals also come from Doctors, Hospitals and family members. The coordinator from Meals on Wheels assesses all referrals for eligibility.

Council should take every opportunity to lobby the State and Federal Governments to provide more funding for the HACC Program so that demand for the service can be fully met.

5.6 Coonamble Community Transport Service

The Community Transport Scheme is funded by the Commonwealth and State Governments under the HACC (Home and Community Care) Program and administered by the Department of Transport. The Scheme is under ever increasing pressure as demand increases with the cost of providing the services increasing.

The program aims to assist the aged, people with disabilities and their carers to remain independent in their homes by providing them with personalised transport to medical and other appointments. Passengers are asked to contribute to the cost of all transport services according to their ability to pay.

5.7 Community Aged Care Packages

Community Aged Care Packages are flexible care packages planned to help people with complex needs remain living in their own home. They are designed for each person and based on their individual needs. They may include assistance with bathing, dressing, meals, laundry, transport and gardening. Service may be provided up to seven hours per week per client.

5.8 Home Modification and Maintenance Scheme

The Home Modification and Maintenance Scheme assists in providing equipment aids and work such as ramps and rails, to help people remain in their homes safely and independently. Persons may be eligible if they are frail, aged, have a disability or are a carer. Application can be made through the Home Care Office. Examples of modifications or maintenance work include:

- Hand Held Showers
- Tap Turners
- Adjustable hot water service
- Widening doorways
- Repairs to gutters, windows, doors, floors, steps and paths
- Minor plumbing and electrical.

6. PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- 6.1 Coonamble Parent Support
- 6.2 The Delivery of Disability Services

6.1 Coonamble Parent Support

Family Respite Group Inc Programme - The term “Respite Care” means relief care or “Time Off”. It is the provision of care to a child or adult person with a disability. Respite Care provides a period of relief to the primary caregiver and family while broadening the child or adult person’s social network and encouraging independence. A disability can be physical, intellectual, sensory or emotional and may impair the individual’s development and learning.

The effects of having a person with a disability in the family are great. Relationships within marriage/partnership come under enormous strain, there is often serious contention with other members of the family as carers try to stretch themselves between all members of the family, in their efforts to compensate for the extra time spent with the child/adult with a disability. Feelings of isolation are common as these families struggle with emotional and physical problems of caring for their child at home.

Any family who is caring for a child, teenager or adult who has a disability and is living in our area can use Respite Care. Temporary Care as offered by Respite Care Agencies, provide the short breaks a family needs. This does not mean that the person with a disability is excluded from family activities but sometimes it is impractical to expect a person with special needs to participate fully in these activities.

Coonamble Parent Support Host Family Respite Care Inc provides Respite care for children and adult persons with disabilities ranging from mild to severe. Host Families within the local area provide respite Care. The child or adult is cared for in the Host Family’s own home.

6.2 The Delivery of Disability Services

The delivery of physical and intellectual disability services in Coonamble is conducted by a number of separate organisations with limited coordination. The Department of Ageing, Disability and Homecare (DADHC) is now the main organisation with the responsibility for funding, delivery and monitoring of these services having taken over that role from the Department of Community Services. The primary goal of the Department (DADHC) is to create, promote and sustain opportunities and services that allow people with disabilities, older people and their carers to participate in the wider

community and to have a better quality of life. The Department consists of 2 main operational arms. The Strategic Policy and Planning Directorate which has taken over the role of the previous Ageing and Disability Department (ADD) and the Disability Services Directorate, which took over the role of the work undertaken by the Department of Community Services (DoCS) in relation to Disability Services.

Most of the Coonamble based organisations maintain that there are insufficient resources to service their client groups. The gaps in services are being addressed by the DADHC through the Population Group Planning Process and that process will inform of any new resource allocations for disabled people.

Despite there being steps taken to establish a greater understanding and more informative communication between services providing support to people who have physical and intellectual disabilities, there needs to be more coordination and liaison to determine a clear understanding of the delivery of services, client groups, service gaps, service coordination, possible overlapping of service delivery and future strategic actions.

Council should continue to work with the Department of Ageing, Disability and Homecare and the Service Providers in developing strategies for a more cohesive coordination of services, service delivery and service referral to client groups with Coonamble and surrounding districts.

7. ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

- 7.1 Aboriginal Organisations/Officers in Coonamble Shire
- 7.2 Employment

7.1 Aboriginal Organisations/Officers in Coonamble Shire

According to the ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) Census of 2001, the proportion of the Coonamble Shire population who were of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander descent was 20.75%. Unofficial estimates by the Aboriginal community and various Aboriginal organisations place the proportion closer to 40%.

The Coonamble area is part of the Murdi Paaki Region of ATSI (Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Service) reaching from Lightning Ridge in the north to the Murray River in southern NSW.

Following are some of the Aboriginal services and programmes run within the Coonamble Shire. Key Aboriginal organisations in Coonamble Shire include the Coonamble Aboriginal Lands Council, The Ellimatta and Gulargambone CDEP, the Northwest branch of the NSW Aboriginal Lands Council. There are also Working Parties in Coonamble and Gulargambone. Coonamble Shire is part of the Murdi Paaki Regional Council of ATSI, and is a member of the Barwon Darling Alliance – a joint initiative between local government and local Aboriginal Lands Councils.

- Ellimatta and Gulargambone CDEP's (the Community Development Employment Program) – provides part time and traineeships for the aboriginal community.
- Aboriginal Land Councils encompass many initiatives and programmes including housing for aboriginal families. Businesses include:
 - Coonamble Local Aboriginal Land Council
 - Gulargambone Local Aboriginal Land Council
 - Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprises
- Aboriginal Community Health – including a community nurse and educators providing information and practical help healthwise for the betterment of the Aboriginal community.
- ASSPA – (Aboriginal Student Support and Parental Association) a committee made up people within the Aboriginal community that applies for a funding mechanism which increases the opportunity for aboriginal students and allows a positive input from parents and community in development a partnership in educations.
- A joint programme with Murdi Paaki which looks at the employment of a teacher and teacher aids to support Aboriginal students in classrooms.

- Aboriginal Education Assistant – a person of Aboriginal descent is employed at each school to help and assist Aboriginal students with both personal and educational problems that may arise at school. They also promote cultural awareness within the school system.

7.2 Employment

The issue of unemployment has been anecdotally linked to poor health, lower standards of education, lower standards of living, drug and alcohol problems and crime such as assault, theft and vandalism. Employment is seen as one avenue for reducing many of the problems currently experienced by Aboriginal people.

Coonamble Shire Council, Coonamble High School, TAFE, Outback Arts, CDEP, Murdi Paaki and many other businesses within Coonamble has taken initiatives in this area to assist in promoting employment opportunities for Aboriginal people. The development of Aboriginal tourism products and attractions which employ Aboriginal people is one means of providing employment and at the same time encouraging Aboriginal people to be independent and entrepreneurial. Training programmes run by tertiary education institutions specifically catering for Aboriginal people are also of benefit in not only providing education but also in building confidence and self esteem. Government funded employment/training programmes are beneficial initiatives and have assisted many unemployed to gain the necessary skills to gain full employment.

Council has over the years taken the initiative to be involved in Aboriginal Employment Programs. Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce totals eight (8) employees which is 6.15% of the Coonamble Shire Council's total workforce (indoor and outdoor).

8 PEOPLE FROM CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS

8.1 Demographic Details

8.1 Demographic Details

The 2001 Australian Bureau of Census Statistics shows that 4241 people (92.7%) in Coonamble stated that they were Australian born. The number of people born overseas in Coonamble was 122 (2.7%). Of those born overseas, the three main countries of birth in the 2001 Census were:

32 – 0.7% from the UK
18 – 0.4 from Germany and;
12 – 0.3% from Italy.

This makes a total of 2.7%, which leaves 4.6% of the population from a vast array of different countries. It is considered that given the different numbers of countries of overseas origin covered by the population of Coonamble and the small numbers of people that any effort to implement programmes to assist these people would be far too costly and the benefit for the whole population marginal. Council has received no particular requests over the years for multi cultural services in Coonamble.

The Census figures show that only 51 people of the Coonamble population over 5 years of age speaks a language other than English which would suggest that the significant proportion of people living in the Coonamble Shire that were born overseas speak English.

9. COONAMBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA DEMOGRAPHICS

- 9.1 Population Centres within Coonamble Shire
- 9.2 Location Map of Coonamble
- 9.3 Description of Region
 - (i) Geography and Climate
 - (ii) Economy
 - (iii) Population and Services
- 9.4 Local Capacity for Community Building
- 9.5 Demographic Profile (Census 2001)
 - (i) Total Population Age Distribution
 - (ii) Total Overseas Born Population
 - (iii) Employment Rate
 - (iv) Occupation (employed persons aged 15 years and over)
- 9.6 Socio Economic Profile
- 9.7 Indigenous
- 9.8 Other Background

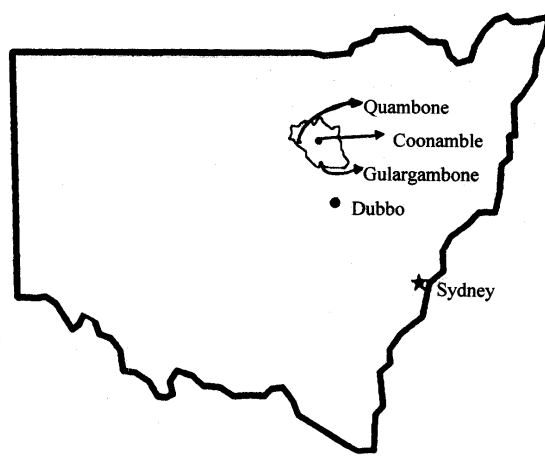
9.1 Population centres within Coonamble Shire:

Total population of Coonamble Shire: 4606 (as per 2001 census)

- Coonamble – approx. pop. 3801 (including surrounding rural as well as township). Located 600km north west of Sydney and 160km due north of Dubbo.
- Gulargambone – approx. pop. 500. Located 45km south of Coonamble.
- Quambone – approx. pop. 100. Located 70km west of Coonamble.

Geographic size of Coonamble Shire:	9926 sq km
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9.2 Location Map of Coonamble



9.3 Description of Region

(i) Geography and Climate

The Coonamble district is characterised by flat alluvial plains, bounded on the east by the Warrumbungle Mountain range and in the west by the Macquarie Marshes. The Castlereagh River runs through Coonamble - mostly a dry, sandy watercourse, water can be found by digging a few centimetres into the sand. Water for stock and domestic use is obtained from ground tanks, artesian and sub-artesian bores as Coonamble is located on the Great Artesian Basin. The district experiences extremes of temperature associated with a temperate to semi arid climate. Summer temperatures can reach around 45 degrees Celsius, and frosts are common in winter. Average rainfall is approx. 475mm (or 19 inches) per annum.

(ii) Economy

The economy of the Shire is based on a dryland rural industry including sheep, beef cattle, cropping and associated secondary industries. Other industry includes the Magometon Quarry (owned by Coonamble Shire Council), an Orchard owned by Ellimatta CDEP and a timber mill in Gulargambone. Feral animal hunting and processing, the horse racing industry and a small rural tourism sector provide other income and employment opportunities. The privately owned Castlereagh Regional Abattoir closed in July 2000.

(iii) Population and Services

Coonamble lost 7.2% of its population between the 1991 and 1996 census. Coonamble township has two banks with two other banks closing and converting to agencies within local businesses. Gulargambone lost its only bank in 1994, followed by the newsagency. Gulargambone has no resident doctor or pharmacy and Coonamble struggles to retain its doctors.

In late May 2004 Coonamble was given the funding to establish a Rural Transaction Centre in Coonamble. A large building was selected in the main street to promote and retain businesses in the CBD. Businesses/Agencies that will amalgamate and join the RTC are the Westpac Banking Agency, a second Centrelink Agency, Tourist Information, the Neighbourhood Centre, Medicare, Castlereagh Advisory Service, Cottage Industries and the Internet Centre. Training Rooms and Interview Rooms will also be made available to visiting specialists for hire.

9.4 Local Capacity for Community Building

Coonamble district residents have a history of acting together towards meeting local needs. A vast array of services within the Shire have been instigated and managed by community-based organisations over the long term. Some are quite unique for a remote rural area including

a 55-place multi-function Child Care Centre, Host Family Support & Respite Care for families with disabled children, and Castlereagh Industries which provides gainful employment for 26 disabled people and 9 able-bodied people. In the past three years, local volunteers in both communities were responsible for setting up a number of new services including Coonamble Community Radio, a 30 place Aged Hostel, and Coonamble Internet Centre with a local point of presence. The Gulargambone community bought the local Post Office and opened a Rural Transaction Centre in 2000 including an arrangement with Reliance Credit Union to provide banking facilities. In 2001/02 initiatives included Gulargambone Multi Purpose Health Service, a Domestic Violence information and referral service, and currently the community is seeking to establish an Aboriginal Medical Service in Coonamble.

9.5 Demographic Profile (as per Australian Bureau of Statistics
Census of 2001)

(i) Total population age distribution:

	0-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+
Male	605	246	611	556	299
Female	587	213	631	490	338

(ii) Total overseas born population: 116

(iii) Employment rate:

During the week prior to Census Night 2001 for the area of Coonamble 1872 people (1094 males and 778 females) were employed, representing 91.5% of the labour force. Of these, 1177 (62.9%) people (805 males and 372 females) were working full-time and 602 (32.2%) people (228 males and 374 females) were working part-time.

In the 2001 Census for Coonamble 175 People (107 males and 68 females) were unemployed, representing 8.5% of the labour force. Of these 142 (81.1%) people (90 males and 52 females) were looking for full-time work and 33 (18.9%) people (17 males and 16 females) were looking for part-time work.

(v) Occupation (employed persons aged 15 years and over)

In the 2001 Census, 449 (23.9%) people (321 male and 128 female) were employed as Managers and Administrators in Coonamble. There were 201 (10.7%) people (59 males and 142 females) employed as Professionals. 160 (8.5%) people (92 males 68 females) employed as Associate Professionals and 197 (10.5%) people (178 males 19 females) employed as Tradespersons and Related Workers. 195 (10.4%) people (47 males 148 females) employed as Intermediate

Clerical, Sales and Service Workers and 295 (15.7%) people (219 males and 76 females) employed as Labourers and Related Workers.

9.6 Socio Economic Profile

Using the SEIFA Index of Socio-economic disadvantage, Coonamble is ranked no.1 in the region and 14 in the state out of 188 Statistical Local Areas.

The average weekly income for a person over the age of 15 is \$300 - \$399 (2001 Census).

According to 2001 census data 20.8% of the population of Coonamble Shire are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent. This is compared with 1.7% of the entire NSW population. In contrast to overall population that declined by 7.2% between the 1991 and 1996 census, the Shire's Aboriginal population increased by 20.1%. The proportion of Aboriginal children at both Coonamble Public School and Gulargambone Central School is approximately 50%. People of ATSI descent constitute 34.69% of the Gulargambone township population [ABS 1996].

The unemployment rate for the December 1998 quarter for Coonamble was 6.7%, the second highest in the Macquarie/Orana region. In June 2000 the unemployment rate was 7%.

Single parent families have been increasing over the past ten years. 27.1% of all families in the Coonamble Shire are single parent as compared to the NSW average of 13% [ABS 1996]. Of the 123 families in Gulargambone in 1996, 25% were single parent families. [ABS 1996].

Household size is usually larger than the state average. In 1991, 15% of NSW households comprised more than 5 people, with Coonamble 23%. In 1996, there were 616 couple families, 190 one-parent families and 20 households comprised of two families. Of these, 96 households were counted as having 6 or more people usually resident. [ABS 1996] In 1996, there were 19.3% of all families with children who had no car. The TUFF Parent Survey of 1995 indicated that 14.7% of families with young children had no telephone in the home. Rural families made up 20.5% of those surveyed, with over half living more than 30 kilometres from Coonamble township.

At June 2000, 34% of the population aged over 15 years were Centrelink customers.

9.7 Indigenous

Traditionally, the Coonamble area belonged to Kamillaroi and Weilwan people. However there is little documented history of the Aboriginal people in the Coonamble area prior to or at the time of white

settlement, or significant documentation of family histories or documentation of the lives of senior Aboriginal people in the community. There is a collection of photographs of a traditional ceremony from the Quambone area around 1900. While there are a couple of local families with connections to the traditional owners, the present Aboriginal population in Coonamble has a more widespread ancestry as a result of relocations and mission settlements up until 1950's and 60's. Missions in the area included Gulargambone, Pilliga, Angledool and Brewarrina. Many Aboriginal families in the Coonamble Shire have a connection with one or other of these places these places. Other people grew up in "Tin Town" which was a collection of makeshift dwellings on the River to the north of Coonamble. In the 1960's Tin Town was demolished and people were moved into new housing within the township. According to the 2001 ABS, 20.8% of Coonamble's population is Indigenous, but the actual figure is estimated to be higher. Key Aboriginal organisations in Coonamble Shire include the Coonamble Aboriginal Lands Council, The Ellimatta CDEP, the Northwest branch of the NSW Aboriginal Lands Council, the Gulargambone CDEP, the Gulargambone Lands Council. There are also Working Parties in Coonamble and Gulargambone. Coonamble Shire is part of the Murdi Paaki Regional Council of ATSI, and is a member of the Barwon Darling Alliance – a joint initiative between local government and local Aboriginal Lands Councils.

Coonamble's Aboriginal population is increasing and it is important that there is support for local initiatives driven by the Aboriginal community which strengthens their participation in preventative programs promoting self-help and community connectedness.

The second most frequent cause of death for indigenous people 1994-1996 were injuries, including motor vehicle crashes, homicide and suicide.

Almost 58% of Indigenous people aged 13 years or older reported alcohol use as one of the main health problems in their local area. The next most frequently perceived health problems were drugs (30%), followed by diabetes (22%), diet/nutrition (19%) and heart problems (14%).

100% of young people who have participated in Youth Justice Conferencing in Coonamble since its inception in 1998 are of Aboriginal descent. (JJ, Dubbo, 2001)

9.8 Other Background

The high proportion of children in the area and the high proportion of disadvantaged families indicate the need for education and early interventions with children, young people and families.

26% of the total population are children aged 0-12 years. Aboriginal children make up at least 28.3% of all children aged 0-12 years in the Coonamble Shire. The 0-4 year age group is the largest proportion of the local population. (ABS 1996).

Coonamble has four times the NSW rate of births to teenage mothers (ABS 1996). A positive focus on young people is integral to any community-development initiative.

If rural Australia has followed similar trends to those evidenced elsewhere, it would appear that as small towns have continued to decline, young people with post school qualifications or with reasonable work skills often leave the towns and migrate to regional centres or urban areas. Amongst the young people left behind, is a group who have minimal levels of education and who are perceived to have poor work skills. Many of these young people live a marginal existence and are thought to have high levels of mental disturbance, often in association with drug and alcohol dependence.

10. STRATEGY, PERFORMANCE TARGET AND ACTIONS

• *Children 0-12yrs*

Strategy	Performance Target	Actions(Statement of Means)	By When
Children residing in and visiting Coonamble have access to a range of quality care, educational, health and social facilities and services.	Demand figure for child care places is kept at or below the State average, which is 87%	Continue to lobby the State and Federal Governments for incentives to attract suitably qualified professionals particularly speech and occupation therapists for ALL children.	Ongoing
	The percentage of parents who rate quality and range of children's services and facilities as satisfactory is at least 90%.	Publicise the Toy section at the Coonamble Shire Library at every opportunity in Council initiated information and Council website.	Ongoing
		Publicise the playgroups in Coonamble at every opportunity in Council initiated information, and on Council website.	Ongoing
		Write to the Department of Community Services to determine funding sources/services available through Families First and other appropriate program funds.	Ongoing
		Undertake a survey of parents each year to gauge the satisfaction level of children's services and facilities in Coonamble.	Ongoing
		Continue to monitor the availability of funding for places in outside school hour's services for children with disabilities.	Ongoing

Out of School Care Services to provide supervised care for 0-12 yr olds during holiday periods through various programme in Coonamble and Gular		Continue to lobby both the State and Federal Governments for increased recurrent funding for the Vacation Care and After School Care facilities including salaries, materials for children's activities and a venue.	Existing Service
Provide access to services for children aged 0-12 yrs such as counselling, speech and physical therapies		Continue to lobby both the State and Federal Governments for funding for the specialist professionals needed including salaries, travel and promotional costs.	Ongoing

• **Young People 12-25yrs**

Strategy	Performance Target	Actions(Statement of Means)	By When
Recreational activities for young people	Additional youth workers to work Thursday to Saturday 6pm – 12midnight	Investigate funding of two extra paid youth workers	Ongoing
	More evening events targeting young people eg. movies	Dependant on additional youth workers	Ongoing
	Establishment of a Police and Community Youth Centre in Coonamble	Working Committee for the PCYC made up of community members, members of the Police force and members of the Coonamble Shire Council.	Proposal forthcoming
	Youth Workers to liase with existing groups and services to establish a full programme of activities	Staff hours to liase and map existing services, identify gaps and plan activities. Consult with sporting clubs, Outback Arts, Schools and Vacation Care.	Ongoing

Activities to develop creativity, confidence and skills in young people.	Series of ongoing arts and cultural activities out of school hours to attract and involve young people, including access to Aboriginal artists and performers so that young people have an outlet for positive self expression and esteem building.	Youth Services and Outback Arts to investigate funding for administration and coordination costs, artist salaries and materials. Travel and accommodation for visiting artists.	Commence November 2003 – continue until completion
Transport for young people	Aboriginal Community Patrol for Coonamble managed by volunteer Aboriginal parents. To provide regular evening patrols to take young people home to safe houses. To be available for out of town excursions and bush experiences.	Youth Centre, Ellimatta CDEP, parents and police to lend support for volunteer drivers and committee. Money to rent and run bus. Insurance registration and secure yard/shed to house bus.	Awaiting funding through CDEP
Personal Development Programmes for young people	Short term or one off courses covering communication, relationships, conflict resolution, violence prevention, esteem building.	Funding sought for presenter salaries, venue, catering and materials	To be discussed
Programmes that keep young people out of court and discourage re-offending	More youth justice conferencing.	Juvenile Justice, Police, Attorney Generals Dept and Dept of Community Services will investigate funding and access for training for more local convenors and the promotion of the value of youth justice conferencing.	Extending existing service

Crises services for young people in times of need	Support for young people to access emergency accommodation	Youth centre, local approved carers and Doorways help to cover costs of motel, volunteer care and transport to Dubbo	
	Meal programme at night for young people	Churches and youth Centre to investigate volunteer services within their organisations	To be discussed
	Review of counselling and support services for young people and planning to ensure adequate supports.	Macquarie Area Health Service, Dept of Community Services, youth services and schools to investigate with the outcome being counselling and other support services able to respond to the needs of clients	To be discussed
Improve young peoples self care skills	Workshops on personal health, hygiene and grooming	Health services the Youth centre and local businesses will be approached to donate goods and volunteer adults so that young people will gain skills and confidence	To be discussed
Improve employment outcomes for young people in the Coonamble Shire	Research and trial new ways to support the transition from school to work in the local employment environment..	The Shire, Chamber of Commerce, TAFE, schools and individual business people will be approached to help instigate programmes that will ensure young local people are more likely to gain work.	School based apprenticeships to be implemented in 2005 and ongoing
		Continue to investigate solutions to the incidents of young people causing damage and behaving anti socially in the CBD including the provision of a drop in centre and safe house.	Ongoing

• **Women**

Strategy	Performance Target	Actions(Statement of Means)	By When	Resp.
Women residing in Coonamble suffer no gender disadvantage and have equal access to the Council's services and facilities.	No examples of Council services and facilities being identified as discriminating against women.	Review Council's EEO Plan annually.	Annual	HR
		Implement a training programme for Council staff on EEO issues.	Ongoing	HR
		Support community awareness campaigns and initiatives on women's issues	Ongoing	GM
		Support the Action Plan of the Domestic Violence Prevention Specialist	Ongoing	GM/ MCS
		Facilitate a forum for women by making available Council's library as a base for Domestic Violence Prevention Specialist..	Ongoing	MCS

• **Older People**

Strategy	Performance Target	Actions(Statement of Means)	By When	Resp.
Older people residing in and visiting Coonamble have access to a range of quality care, educational, health and social facilities and services.	Nursing home accommodation, hostel accommodation places and Community Aged Care Packages per 1,000 seniors aged over 70 years is at least equivalent to NSW average. (State Average 108.7 at March 2001).	Continue to monitor the supply and demand for aged care accommodation in Coonamble. Continue to liaise with Seniors groups on the provision of programmes and activities for the over 55s.	Ongoing	EDO/ MCS
	The percentage of seniors who rate quality and range of senior's services and facilities as satisfactory is at least 90%.	Promote the use of the Visitors Scheme. This scheme provides contact for residents of nursing homes and hostels who have little or no regular contact with the greater community, and aims to improve the quality of life for those residents.	Ongoing	GMS
		Continue to provide "age friendly" products at the Library eg: books on tape, large print books.	Ongoing	LIB
		Monitor aged accommodation developments by Coonamble Hostel Association and Towri Units.	Ongoing	DOCS

• ***People with Disabilities***

Strategy	Performance Target	Actions(Statement of Means)	By When	Resp.
People with physical and mental disabilities have equal access to services and facilities and can have good access to and in public places and buildings.	No examples of access issues being considered and resolved by Council without reference to the various committees and bodies within Coonamble representing people with disabilities.	Provide administrative and financial support to the various committees and bodies within Coonamble representing people with disabilities.	Ongoing	DOCS
	No examples of Council or major private or public developments being approved without reference to the various committees and bodies within Coonamble representing people with disabilities.	Issue open invitation to Council meetings to the various committees and bodies within Coonamble representing people with disabilities.	Ongoing	GM
		Monitor the provision of respite care, day care programs and for accommodation for people with disabilities and lobby governments for additional funding for this care. Utilise the services of Council's Grants Officer.	Ongoing	EDO
		Implement a training programme for Council staff on EEO issues.	Ongoing	HR
		Review Council's EEO Plan annually.	Annual	HR
		Lobby Federal and State Governments to attract suitably qualified staff to Coonamble.	Ongoing	EDO

• **Aboriginal People**

Strategy	Performance Target	Actions(Statement of Means)	By When	Resp.
Aboriginal people residing in Coonamble have access to a range of quality care, educational, health and social facilities and services.	No examples of Council decisions or actions being discriminatory to Aboriginal people.	Continue liaison with the Coonamble CDEP, Murdi Paaki on matters affecting Aboriginal people.	Ongoing	DOCS
	Support funding applications by Aboriginal organisations	Support objectives of Aboriginal community through financial assistance, letters of support for funding and labour	Ongoing	EDO
	Council's workforce to have a percentage of Aboriginal people of at least 7%. (Currently at 6.15%)	Provide support for Aboriginal Employment Strategy. Employ CDEP at Coonamble and Gulargambone and pursue and employ Aboriginal people on grant/employment schemes.	Ongoing	MCS/ HR
		Continue to involve the local Aboriginal Community in decision-making processes by including membership on various Committees and Working Parties.	Ongoing	GM/ EDO
		Continue to support Aboriginal liaison officers in schools, arts council etc	Ongoing	MCS

• **People From Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds**

<p>People from Non English Speaking Background residing in Coonamble suffer no racial disadvantage or discrimination.</p>	<p>No examples of racial discrimination by Council or by the community.</p>	<p>Facilitate half-yearly forums with groups and service providers to discuss issues that Council may be able to assist with.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>EDO</p>
		<p>Promote the positive impact that individual cultural groups have in the community by way of insert in the Council column of local newspaper.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>EDO/ GMS</p>
		<p>Develop language appropriate assistance forms and information.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>EDO</p>