

How to Become an Accredited Welcoming City

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Welcoming Cities supports local councils, and their communities, to work towards greater social, cultural, civic and economic success.

Assessment and Accreditation as a Welcoming City allows councils to benchmark progress and identify gaps in their welcoming and inclusion practice.

Getting started

Once a council has become a Committed member of the Welcoming Cities Network they can undertake accreditation. The first step is to decide which level of accreditation suits your council. The table below indicates the categories (1-6) to be addressed in each level of accreditation. Evidence needs to be supplied for each indicator of the relevant categories.

Evidence Categories

The six categories and associated indicators have been extensively developed and reviewed to ensure they are the leading practice indicators for social cohesion in diverse communities. Evidence that a council is meeting these indicators is uploaded via the Accreditation Portal and is sorted into three key areas: Policy, Internal Implementation and External Implementation.



Committed	Established	Advanced	Excelling	Mentoring
Council signed on to be a member of the Welcoming Cities Network	1. Leadership	1. Leadership	1. Leadership	Excelling, plus approval by Advisory Committee
		2. Social & Cultural Inclusion	2. Social & Cultural Inclusion	
		3. Economic Development	3. Economic Development	
			4. Learning & Skills Development	
			5. Civic Development	
			6. Places & Spaces	

Accreditation Cost

Level	Cost
Established	\$2,000 for 3 years accreditation
Advanced	\$5,000 for 3 years accreditation
Excelling	\$10,000 for 3 years accreditation
Mentoring	No further cost to Excelling accreditation

All prices ex GST

In order to ensure the evidence submitted by councils is relevant and up-to-date, accreditation expires every three years. Councils wishing to maintain their level or progress to the next stage must re-apply.

Accreditation has provided the clarity of our strengths and areas for improvement, but it's also been very powerful in helping to demonstrate our commitment and leverage new partnerships and resources.

Steven Abbott
Manager, Community Partnerships
City of Greater Bendigo

Contact

info@welcomingcities.org.au
welcomingcities.org.au/get-involved



Welcoming Cities is an initiative of Welcoming Australia, supported by the Scanlon Foundation.

Assessment

Each level of accreditation is assessed to ensure the evidence submitted meets the criteria outlined in the Welcoming Cities Standard. There are different processes for each assessment.



Established Accreditation

The Established level of accreditation assesses a council's compliance with the Leadership category of the Welcoming Cities Standard. The self-assessment is completed by relevant council staff and signed off by the council's Mayor or CEO. It is then approved by Welcoming Cities staff.



Advanced Accreditation

The Advanced level of accreditation assesses a council's compliance with the first three categories of the Welcoming Cities Standard. The assessment is completed by relevant council staff and is reviewed by an expert external reviewer. Where possible councils will be supported by a similar accredited council. The intention of the peer-support is to encourage knowledge sharing and cooperation between councils.



Excelling Accreditation

The excelling level of accreditation assesses a council's compliance with all six categories of the Welcoming Cities Standard. Assessment is conducted by an expert external reviewer contracted by Welcoming Cities. Councils will receive an extensive report which outlines their rating and a set of recommendations for further improvement.



Mentoring Level Accreditation

All councils that achieve the Excelling Accreditation can apply to be recognised as a Mentoring Welcoming City. To be considered, a Council will submit a letter to the Welcoming Cities Advisory Committee outlining their intention to:

- provide leadership to the local government sector;
- build the capacity of the sector; and
- demonstrate innovation in welcoming initiatives.

For detailed information on the process of accreditation see [The Welcoming Cities Guide to Successful Accreditation](#).