

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. 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. To be assessed, Councils provide Welcoming Cities with relevant policy and implementation evidence.

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

“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

Level	Description	Assessment
 Committed WELCOMING CITY	<p>A Committed local council has publicly stated their intent to champion the principles of welcoming and inclusion.</p> <p>Committed local councils join a network of like-minded peers, and gain the benefit of support and experience to chart their progress and identify the next steps towards becoming a Welcoming City.</p>	<p>Welcoming Cities Commitment Form signed by either the Mayor or CEO</p>
 Established WELCOMING CITY	<p>An Established Welcoming City has taken action towards becoming a more connected and cohesive community.</p> <p>Established Welcoming Cities have cemented their status as a key member of the network and driver of cultural change. They have a clear assessment of their current position.</p>	<p>Mandatory criteria and indicators across all six categories of the Standard are met. (Mandatory criteria are 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1 and 6.1.)</p> <p>A Welcoming Cities assessor verifies the application.</p>
 Advanced WELCOMING CITY	<p>An Advanced Welcoming City is celebrating success in initiatives and policies that foster economic, social and cultural inclusion.</p> <p>Advanced Welcoming Cities are projecting their reputation as a leader of the sector and are prominent members of the network.</p>	<p>Mandatory criteria and indicators across all six categories of the Standard are met. Plus additional indicators to a total of 60% of all indicators (45/76).</p> <p>A Welcoming Cities assessor verifies the application.</p>
 Excelling WELCOMING CITY	<p>An Excelling Welcoming City is setting and achieving targets across its full range of services and partnerships.</p> <p>Excelling Welcoming cities are achieving at a high level, and serve as an example of success for other councils.</p>	<p>Mandatory criteria and indicators across all six categories of the Standard are met. Plus additional indicators, to a total of 95% of all indicators (70/76).</p> <p>A Welcoming Cities assessor verifies the application.</p>
 Mentoring WELCOMING CITY	<p>A Mentoring Welcoming City is confidently embedding the framework and its principles across the organisation.</p> <p>Mentoring Welcoming Cities lead the sector by example, lending their considerable expertise to build the capacity of their peers.</p>	<p>Achievement of Excelling level and submission of Mentoring Application</p> <p>A Welcoming Cities assessor verifies the application.</p>

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.

Contact

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welcomingcities.org.au/get-involved



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