

TENTERFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY STATEMENT

HEADING:

**Citizen and Customer Service
(Compliments Citizen and Customer Contact
Charter)**

MEETING ADOPTED AND RESOLUTION NO.:

**23 August 2017
168/17**

HISTORY OF DOCUMENT PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:

**26 September 2012 385/12
24 June 2015 191/15**

1. STATEMENT OF INTENT

- 1.1 Tenterfield Shire Council will provide the highest possible level of service to its customers.
- 1.2 Our service to our customers will reflect our Vision and Corporate Values. All activities undertaken at Tenterfield Shire Council are focussed on the delivery of service to our customers. Therefore, our service goes beyond the personal contact staff have with the public and encompasses internal procedures and practises that result in efficient service.
- 1.3 Council's staff will be professional at all times and provide:
 - Courtesy in all circumstances;
 - Accuracy in what they do;
 - Accountability for the quality of service they deliver;
 - Integrity in all their dealings;
 - Consideration for the needs of the customer;
 - Promptness in all their actions, keeping people informed of progress.

2. ELEGIBILITY


- 2.1 The Citizen and Customer Service Policy applies to all permanent, temporary and casual employees, volunteers and nominated contractors of Tenterfield Shire Council.

3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 Customers include all customers, whether internal or external.
- 3.2 Nominated contractors are those whose contracts necessitate their working at Council worksites, using Council's facilities and operating in a similar manner to staff.

4. PROVISIONS

Council's primary purpose is the provision of service to both residents and non-residents of the Tenterfield Shire local government area.

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- 4.1 External Customers
All those seeking assistance from the Council will be accorded a high level of service regardless of the manner in which that assistance is sought.
- 4.2 Internal Customers
Staff will give each other the same level of service as that provided to our external customers, as it is important that internal service standards support the external service delivery.
- 4.3 Courtesy
Courtesy will be shown in all circumstances, even in difficult situations where the customer does not show similar courtesy in return. Staff will be courteous in their spoken words, body language and demeanour.
- 4.4 Accuracy
Where there is any doubt about the accuracy of any information, the details will be checked and validated prior to release.
- 4.5 Accountability
Staff will look for ways to enhance the quality of service they deliver. Concerns about the quality of service will be referred to the next level of management.
- 4.6 Integrity
Staff will act with integrity in all their dealings and comply with all provisions of Councils Code of Conduct.
- 4.7 Confidentiality
Staff will ensure personal information is kept confidential.
- 4.8 Consideration
Consideration will be given to the needs of the customer. Staff will be empathetic and respond to the needs of the customer within the constraints of Local Government Regulations and Council's role and responsibilities.
- 4.9 Promptness
Staff will deal with matters promptly.
- 4.10 Continuous Improvement
Impediments to good customer service, when identified, will be addressed. Examples might include reviewing systems, procedures, documentation, improving online service provision via Council's websites and the internet and wherever possible to enable customers to complete business over the phone. Council recognises that our customers may wish to contact Council in a variety of ways and we are committed to providing choice about how customers can access Council Services.

4.11 Performance Measurement and Customer Feedback

Council recognises the need for a Strategic Approach to Customer Services and has established Key Performances Indicators (KPI's) for each specific program area of our Operational Plan.

Staff will be assessed on the quality of their delivery of customer service through Council's Annual Performance and Assessment Process.

Council's Citizen and Customer Contact Charter provides a commitment from Council and its staff to deliver high quality services to its Community.

It specifies the quality of services delivery that the Council aims to deliver and the course of action customers can take if service standards and corporate values are not met.

4.12 Training

Training and coaching will be provided on customer service and general communication skills on a needs basis. In order to meet our commitment to Customer Services, Council will ensure that all staff has access to a range of training and materials to support service delivery.

4.13 Customer Responsibilities

Council requests that customers assist Council in our service delivery by:

- Treating staff with courtesy and respect;
- Respecting the rights of other customers;
- Being honest and accurate with information provided to Council;
- Work with Council to resolve problems;
- Provide Council with feedback.

5. RESPONSIBILITY/ACCOUNTABILITY

5.1 Each member of staff and/or nominated contractor is:

- Accountable for the quality of the service they deliver;
- Responsible for identifying and reporting any impediments to delivery of good customer service;
- Management is responsible for acting upon any identified impediments to the delivery of good customer service.

5.2 Managers and supervisors are responsible for:

- Monitoring the level of service provided by their staff and nominated contractors and for modelling and coaching good customer service;
- Assessing staff against any established customer service criteria.

5.3 **Directors** are accountable for ensuring consistently high levels of customer service in their departments.

- 5.4 The **Organisational Development Manager** is responsible for arranging any training and/or coaching on customer service and communication skills.

6. RELATED POLICES/LEGISLATION

The Policy should be read in conjunction with:
Citizen and Customer Contact Charter
Complaints and Unreasonable Conduct Policy
Exclusion Policy for Disruptive or Abusive Citizens and Customers
Code of Conduct for Councillors and Staff