Inclusive Towns has been warmly welcomed back into town with 11 new businesses joining up this year - that’s 16 businesses in total! Participating businesses are proudly displaying the Inclusive Towns orange stickers in their shop windows and with over 90% of its local businesses now involved Inglewood really is working towards become a truly Inclusive town, where the needs of individuals with a disability are respected and considered as part of day-to-day business. Inglewood should be very proud of itself as a town filled with businesses that promote high quality customer service and as a destination that ensures that persons with a disability are welcomed, included in community life and able to spend their dollars!

Inglewood is an absolute mecca for vintage store and heritage artefacts, and in keeping with the vintage vibe has some beautiful old heritage buildings that have doorways that difficult for persons in wheelchairs, on walkers or with limited strength to navigate, so external doorbells to alert stores that someone needs assistance, with clear signage have been popular suggestions from the Inclusive Towns team as a low cost easy work around. Large print signage with contact numbers and email addresses have also been well received suggestions so individuals can contact businesses using their communication method of choice. The team have been a part of some really positive discussions around disability awareness, and there is a real willingness in town to be a part of the conversation around inclusion and to make the suggested changes.

The Inclusive Towns team would like to thank Champions IGA, The Inglewood Pharmacy, Fusspots, The Inglewood Emporium, Sharps Bazaar, The Royal Hotel, The Empire Hotel, Inglewood Community Bank, the Ambulance Op Shop, F.P Nevins & co. Real Estate, Cousin Jacks Bakehouse, The Blue Eucy Museum, Inglewood Motel & Caravan park, Meats on Brooke, Inglewood health and the Inglewood Neighbourhood house for participating in the project – there are still opportunities to sign up as Inclusive Towns will be working with businesses in Inglewood and Bridgewater in the coming weeks, so please do get in touch with the team at inclusivetowns@bendigo.vic.gov.au or on 0354346314 If you would like to be involved.

Thank you Inglewood!!