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Considerations for physical access



INCLUSION IS
EVERYONE'S
BUSINESS

TIP SHEET

It is important that the indoor and outdoor areas are easy to access and usable for all people.

How can physical environments be inclusive?

Most venues use universal design and are suitable for all people, regardless of age or ability. However, when environments are not universally designed a review of some areas may be needed.

Here are some things to consider...

- Is the main entrance accessible by people using wheelchairs? If installing ramps check that they comply with safety and accessibility guidelines.
- Are doorways and hallways wide enough for people using a wheelchair or mobility device?
- Is there accessible parking for people with mobility, medical or other issues?
- Can the venue be accessed by public transport?
- Are there pathways that lead to the car park and between buildings?
- Are pathways level and unobstructed for people using a wheelchair or other mobility devices?
- Are accessible handrails provided on both sides of stairs?
- Is there adequate lighting along stairways, corridors and pathways?
- Are evacuation points clearly visible? Make sure there is a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan for children or adults with specific needs?
- Is signage easy to see, read and understood? Does it provide braille and symbols such as International Symbol of Access?
- Is there an accessible toilet, or where needed, change room, that is designed for people using wheelchairs or other assistive devices?
- Are toilet and change room amenities at a convenient height with adequate handrails and grab bars to assist children to and from a wheelchair and to assist those with reduced strength?
- Can the environment and activities be modified to be more inclusive for children with a range of abilities? The [TREE](#) model can be applied to make activities and the environment more inclusive.

Additional Resources

Accessibility Design Guide: Universal design principles for Australia's aid program

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/accessibility-design-guide-universal-design-principles-for-australia-s-aid-program>

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/accessibility-design-guide.pdf>

Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2020C00976>