

Access for Persons with a Disability



Overview

It is estimated that 18% of the community has some form of disability. People with a disability have a strong desire to lead a lifestyle, which provides easy access to community and commercial buildings. There is a requirement that most facilities such as shops, offices, schools and theatres, etc. will be accessible.

Disability can take a number of forms, such as:

- Mobility impairment – lack of use of arms/and or legs to physically move to a new location
- Sight impairment – difficulty seeing clearly, particularly directional signs
- Hearing impairment – difficulty hearing audible sounds which might be providing advice or warnings

Access for people with a disability

The S.A Development Act and Regulations (1993) and the national Building Code of Australia have specific requirements for the design of buildings to ensure reasonable access is provided for everyone.

Determining proposed access to buildings can also influence their design, operation and appearance. Even if a building complies with the state development legislation, the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act can require additional facilities.

The disability Discrimination Act (1996) (DDA) requires equality of access.

For example – back door only access may not be acceptable.

Facilities for people with a disability

In addition to allowing access into a building for people with a disability, facilities such as toilets, washbasins and, in some instances, shower facilities also must be provided for use by people with a disability in certain circumstances, particularly buildings for use by the public and office areas etc.

The Building Division will also inspect new and existing buildings with regard to both facilities and access for people with a disability for compliance with the S.A Development Act and Regulations (1993) and the Building Code of Australia.

Access and facilities to be considered

- Car parking
- Access from carpark(s) to the building(s)
- Access to the principal public entrance and within the building
- Facilities such as: Toilets, Washbasin and Showers

For further information on access to and within a building and facilities required for people with a disability or information about converting a building to become accessible, please contact a Building Officer on the number listed below:

City of Mitcham, Development Services Phone 8372 8888 development@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au

Or contact:

The Disability Information and Resources Centre Inc.
195 Gilles Street ADELAIDE SA 5000

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131 Belair Road
Torrens Park SA 5062

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