



An introduction for management on providing access to recreation centres

Some key considerations when planning access to recreation facilities are:

- Provide clearly signed accessible parking as close to the main entrance as possible.
- Provide a universal drop-off bay as close as possible to the front entrance of the building, with a kerb ramp at any changes in level.
- Provide seating at the drop-off point which is at a good height, has armrests and is protected from the weather and sun.
- Provide a firm, continuous path free of obstructions and without steep slopes from parking to the main entrance and throughout the facility.
- When communicating with all customers speak to the person directly, not their carer or accompanying person.
- Provide good lighting where conversations are held, such as the reception or café / kiosk.
- Provide a lowered counter at the reception, gym and kiosk / café to assist wheelchair users.
- Where changerooms are provided, provide a clearly signed unisex accessible change room to allow people to privately change.
- Where toilets are provided, provide a clearly signed unisex accessible toilet.
- Remove clutter and obstructions from corridors, walkways and recreation areas.
- Provide spaces in spectator seating areas that provides equitable, accessible sightlines for wheelchair users.
- Provide visual and audible alarms, particularly to changerooms.
- Have available a portable hearing augmentation system for conference or meeting facilities that are hired out; or know where to hire appropriate technology from. Advertise that this is available and where it is located, using the internationally recognised deafness symbol.
- Providing good directional, informative, accessible signage will assist all people find their way throughout the centre.
- Have written information in a large, easy-to-read print.
- Provide training to staff on disability awareness.

More information

- The Independent Living Centre of WA (ILC) provides information on equipment that will assist people with disabilities participate in recreational activities. Contact them on 9381 0600 or by their website www.ilc.com.au. Additionally, they have available a publication, *GuestAbility* which provides additional access information.
- Sport and Recreation Victoria, *Sport and Recreation, Access for All*. Villamanta publishing Service Inc (Melbourne).