



An introduction for management on providing access to swimming pools

Some key considerations when planning access to swimming pool 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 pool facility.
- Provide an accessible pathway to spectator areas, plus shaded seating areas and an accessible drinking fountain.
- Provide a lowered counter at the reception and kiosk / café to assist wheelchair users.
- Provide a unisex accessible changeroom to allow people to privately change and transfer into a pool wheelchair if required.
- Ramp access into the pool improves access for people who have mobility difficulties or who need the use of a pool chair to enter the water.
- Everyday wheelchairs cannot enter the water – provide a submersible pool chair that can be borrowed by patrons.
- In preference to a ladder, provide step and handrail entry into the pool, which is easier to manage for those with mobility disabilities.
- Pool hoists can be retrofitted to the pool edge and can be a means to provide access for those people who have higher dependency needs. A change table and hoist in an accessible change room would further enhance accessibility.
- Provide visual and audible alarms, particularly to changerooms.
- Provide easy-to-read directional signage to all pool facilities.
- 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).