



# Inclusive Beaches

## The Commonwealth Accessible Australia Initiative: Increasing Inclusion in Australian Communities

The Australian Government is investing \$17.1 million from 2024–25 to 2027–28 to make community spaces more inclusive for people with disability.

This is known as the Commonwealth Accessible Australia (Accessible Australia) initiative.

Accessible Australia provides funding to enhance the accessibility of built environments and natural spaces. This includes buildings, playgrounds, beaches, and parks.

As part of this, it supports the purchase and use of portable equipment to make beaches more inclusive.

### What are inclusive beaches?

Inclusive beaches are beaches that are made easier to access for people with disability and their carers. This means everyone, no matter their age or ability, can enjoy Australia's beaches.

Portable equipment to help make beaches more inclusive may include:

- **beach wheelchairs:** wheelchairs that can move over sand, mud, gravel or uneven ground.
- **floating wheelchairs:** wheelchairs that let people safely float in the water while sitting in the chair.
- **accessible beach matting:** a roll-out mat that creates a firm path over the sand, making it easier for people who use wheelchairs or with limited mobility to get to the beach.

### What funding is available for inclusive beaches?

The Australian Government provides funding **up to** 100 per cent of the total cost of portable equipment for inclusive beaches.

To apply, you need to include a detailed quote.

### How to apply

Organisations can apply for funding through their relevant **state or territory government**.

Your state or territory contact will explain the deadlines and guide you through the steps.

There are 4 stages of annual funding available, which commenced from the 2024–25 financial year. The final stage of funding will be offered in 2027–28.

## **Are all beaches eligible for Accessible Australia funding?**

- Funding is only available for beaches that are open to the general public. Privately operated beaches are not eligible.
- Your state or territory government contact will review how the inclusive beach equipment will benefit your community, how many people use the area, and how close it is to other accessible facilities as part of your application.

## **What costs are not covered?**

- Funding recipients must pay for all ongoing maintenance and running costs.
- Accessible Australia reserves the right not to fund items it considers ineligible.

## **How long after receiving funding must inclusive beach equipment be purchased and installed?**

- Funding recipients must buy the inclusive beach equipment within 12 months of receiving funding. Proof of purchase must also be provided.
- Equipment must be installed and available for public use within 18 months of purchase.