



Inclusive Play Spaces

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 building of inclusive play spaces.

What are inclusive play spaces?

Inclusive play spaces are public areas designed for people of all ages and abilities to play together. These spaces are fixed in place, meaning they are not temporary or movable. They are built to be safe, fun, and accessible for everyone, offering a variety of play types and challenges.

Inclusive play spaces may include:

- **inclusive play equipment** like liberty swings, sensory play platforms and spinners that everyone can use.
- **specialised equipment for people with disability.** This can include visual communication toys for non-speaking children or those with communication delays.

What funding is available for inclusive play spaces?

The Australian Government provides funding **up to** 50 per cent of the cost to build these play spaces.

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 play spaces eligible for Accessible Australia funding?

- Funding is only available for play spaces that are open to the general public.

- Your state or territory government contact will review how the inclusive play space 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?

Not all costs can be covered by Accessible Australia funding.

For example, funding does **not** include:

- demolition costs
- costs that are not directly related to building the inclusive play spaces, like decorative elements or parts associated with a bigger project.

Accessible Australia funding helps with the building costs only. Funding recipients must pay for all ongoing maintenance and running costs.

The above list is not exhaustive. Accessible Australia reserves the right not to fund items it considers ineligible.

How long after receiving funding is building expected to commence?

- Funding recipients must start building or buying the inclusive play space within 12 months of receiving funding. Proof of this will need to be provided.
- The play space must be finished within 18 months of starting.
- Inclusive play spaces must comply with relevant Australian Standards for play equipment and impact-attenuating surfacing.
- A certified playground safety inspector must check the space before it opens. Proof of this inspection must be sent to Accessible Australia.
- An inclusive play space is considered complete when it is certified and open for public use.