



Inclusive Beaches

The Commonwealth Accessible Australia Initiative

The Commonwealth Accessible Australia initiative (Accessible Australia) provides funding to make it easier for people with disability to access and use public 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 easier for people with disability and their carers to access. This means everyone, no matter their age or ability, can enjoy Australia's beaches.

To be eligible for Accessible Australia funding, beaches must be open to the public. This includes ocean and river beaches.

What funding is available for inclusive beaches?

The Australian Government provides funding **up to** 100 per cent of the total cost of portable equipment to help make beaches more inclusive. Each inclusive beach project can receive a maximum of \$30,000, regardless of how many eligible amenities are included in the project.

Examples of portable equipment:

- **Beach wheelchairs** are wheelchairs that can move over sand, mud, gravel or uneven ground.
- **Floating wheelchairs** are wheelchairs that let people safely float in the water while sitting in the chair.
- **Beach walkers** are a specialised mobility aid designed to help people walk easily and safely across soft sand.
- **Accessible beach matting** is 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.

Funding is available across 4 annual rounds, from 2024-25 to 2027-28.

What costs are not covered?

Funding recipients must pay for all ongoing maintenance and running costs. This includes storage for the accessible amenity.

Accessible Australia reserves the right to not fund items it considers ineligible. Funding recipients must cover any outstanding ineligible costs for an amenity.

When must the equipment be purchased and ready to use?

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.

How do I apply?

To apply for Accessible Australia funding for inclusive beaches, contact your relevant **state or territory government**. Contact information can be found on the Accessible Australia webpage [here](#). They will explain the available funding options and guide you through the application process.

You will need to include a detailed quote with your application.

State and territory governments will review:

- how the inclusive beach equipment will benefit the community
- how many people use the area
- how close it is to other accessible facilities.