



Inclusive National Parks

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 national parks more inclusive.

What are inclusive national parks?

Inclusive national parks are parks 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 national parks.

This includes:

- national parks owned or operated by a state or territory, which are areas of land that has been reserved for the protection and conservation of biodiversity, Australian native plants and animals, ecosystems, places of cultural significance and natural or geological features
- state parks
- nature reserves owned by state, territory and local governments (including bushland areas but not picnic, BBQ or playground areas)
- regional parks
- conservation parks and protected areas run by non-profit conservation organisations.

To be eligible for Accessible Australia funding, national parks must be open to the public.

What funding is available for inclusive national parks?

The Australian Government provides funding **up to** 100 per cent of the total cost of portable equipment to help make national parks more inclusive. Each inclusive national park project can receive a maximum of \$20,000, regardless of how many eligible amenities are included in the project.

Examples of portable equipment:

- **Adapted cycles** are wheelchair-accessible bikes that let wheelchair users ride along as passengers, or adaptive trikes/bikes that can be used independently or with help.
- **All-terrain wheelchairs** are wheelchairs that can go on rough walking tracks. They often have adjustable seats and supports so they work for both adults and children with different needs.
- **Portable accessible paths** are temporary paths that can be placed on rough ground like gravel to make it easier for people using wheelchairs to move around outdoors.

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 portable 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 national parks, 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 national park will benefit the community
- how many people use the area
- how close it is to other accessible facilities.