



Inclusive Play Spaces

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 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.

To be eligible for Accessible Australia funding, play spaces must be open to the public.

What funding is available for inclusive play spaces?

The Australian Government provides funding **up to** 50 per cent of the cost to build inclusive play spaces, including immediate connecting paths or ramps exclusively for the inclusive play space amenity where there is no existing access point. The maximum amount of Commonwealth funding available per inclusive play space is \$150,000.

Examples of eligible equipment:

- **Inclusive play equipment** like liberty swings, wheelchair-accessible playhouses and spinners that everyone can use.
- **Specialised equipment for people with disability** like sensory play platforms, interactive installations, braille and tactile panels, and visual communication toys for non-speaking children or those with communication delays.
- **Inclusive zones** like inclusive sports courts or quiet zones.
- **Supporting infrastructure** like rubber/soft fall surfacing (to support the inclusive play space only) and Tactile Ground Surface Indicators.

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

What costs are not covered?

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

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.

The above list is not exhaustive. 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 building be completed?

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.

How do I apply?

To apply for Accessible Australia funding for inclusive play spaces, 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 play space will benefit the community
- how many people use the area
- how close it is to other accessible facilities.