

Hiring Accessible Equipment for Events

2012 Access Fact Sheet 3

This practical fact sheet will assist you in making your event more accessible to everyone including people with disabilities, older adults, children and people using a range of mobility aids such as strollers, prams and wheelchairs.

Stage access

- When hiring stage equipment for events, ensure they can be accessed by anyone who may be on the stage. This can include staging staff moving equipment, the public (including people using wheelchairs or mobility aids) as well as performers. Dignified access to both the front and the rear of the stage should be considered.
- Any ramps should have a gentle gradient and incorporate handrails for support and kerbs on both sides to ensure that users with mobility aids do not fall off the sides.
- Stairs should incorporate handrails on both sides.
- A ramp or lift should always be provided as an alternative to stairs. Portable platform lifts can be hired but advice should be sought in relation to the correct lift for the height and size of the stage and the expected usage.

Seating

- Ensure you hire a mixture of seating to suit a variety of needs for people of all abilities including adults and children. Seating with back and armrests make it easier for all users to sit down and stand. Also consider areas where shade is provided and that seating is provided in areas that are accessible.

Hearing systems

- Hearing systems - (otherwise known as hearing augmentation systems) - can be accessed by people with or without hearing aids and therefore are important to provide at an event. Depending on the nature of the event, you will need to discuss your requirements with the equipment hirer to ensure the system can meet your needs. You may need to consider fixed/ semi permanent and portable equipment depending on your situation/ event and participants' requests.

Hiring Accessible Equipment for Events

Transport within the site

- Having access to 'golf buggies' during an event can be a great way of getting equipment and people to different locations of a site. They can also assist older people and people with limited mobility to access the site when continuous paths of travel are not provided or when there are long distances to walk.

Portable ramps

- When hiring portable ramps, ensure they will provide a gentle grade, landings where required and incorporate handrails and kerbs on both sides. Australian Standard AS1428 details the requirements for ramps. To overcome small lips and steps, portable threshold ramps can be hired as well as access covers for leads or electrical wires that need to cross ground surfaces.

Portable signage

- When hiring portable signage, ensure the wording is clear, concise and visually accessible to a person with low vision. Signage should be unobstructed by low hanging objects and securely fixed into place. The text should incorporate 'sentence case' not upper case only, as well as symbols that can be interpreted by everyone.

- Ensure that the international symbol of access - white wheelchair figure on a blue background - is used to identify accessible entry and exit points as well as accessible facilities such as toilets and car parking areas.

Accessible toilets

- When hiring accessible toilets keep in mind that anyone can use these. It is usually beneficial to hire several to support use by people with disabilities as well as families with strollers and young children.
- Check that the hirer can provide toilets that meet the minimum requirements of AS1428.1 2009. Key elements include access to the toilet door with adequate side clearance for a person using a wheelchair to easily open the door, as well as accessible door controls, adequate circulation space inside the toilet and appropriate grabrails to support users.
- Also ensure that the toilet is located on a level surface and is connected to an accessible path of travel. To ensure there are no barriers once the toilet is on site, check that no obstacles are placed inside.

Hiring Accessible Equipment for Events

Matting for pathways

- A range of accessible, temporary ground surface materials can be hired. These include thick plastic matting and rubber suitable for pathways, timber boards used for dance floors, as well as other accessible materials.
- Ensure matting is wide enough to allow people to pass each other with or without a mobility aid and that it provides good colour contrast to the surrounding surfaces. It should also connect securely to any adjoining pathways. It is critical that no temporary pathway surfaces create tripping hazards.

Water stations

- When hiring portable water stations, ensure that they can be reached by all people. Water outlets should be provided at various heights to enable a person who may be using a wheelchair or a child to reach any water bubbler. There should also be adequate leg clearance underneath. Also consider provision of water for assistance animals.

Wheelchair/ strollers/ prams/ scooters for hire

- When hiring mobility aids for an event, it is important to consider a range of types and sizes to cater for individual needs. These will need to be located in an accessible area close to the site entry for easy pick up and drop off.

Further Resources

Megadeck Staging Systems
Melbourne 1300 356 830
www.megadeck.com

Sublime Audio Visual (staging equipment)
East Bentleigh Ph: 9570 6901
www.sublimeav.com.au

The Staging Company
Melbourne Ph: 9687 8111
www.thestagingcompany.com.au

Dunnys R Us Hire
Bayswater Ph 1300 132 731
www.rushire.com.au

Sani Hire
Melbourne Ph: 9794 0332
www.sanihire.com.au

Royal Flush toilet hire
Ph: 9309 7000
www.royalflushtoilets.com.au

*Also supply portable drinking stations

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Further Resources

Melbourne Table & Chair Hire

Ph: 9428 0066

www.melbournetableandchairhire.com.au

Harts Party Hire

Ph: 1300 669 m201

www.hartspremierhire.com.au

Having a Party

Ph: 9894 1311

www.havingaparty.com.au

*Chairs and flooring

Celebrate Party Hire

Ph: 9532 5144

www.celebratepartyhire.com.au

*Matting

Rehab Hire

Ph: 9646 7200

www.rehabhire.com.au

*Ramps

Word of Mouth Technology

Ph: 9761 2211

www.wom.com.au

*Hearing augmentation

ADR Turf Equipment

Ph: 9584 6444

www.adeturf.com.au

*Golf Buggy Hire

Australian Signs

Ph: 1800 815 166

www.australiansigns.com.au

EXPONET

Ph: 9676 7777

www.exponet.com.au

*Signs

Melbourne Mobility Centre

Ph: 9650 6499

www.melbournemobilitycentre.com.au

*wheelchairs, scooters and strollers

Arts Access Victoria

Ph: 03 9699 8299

www.artsaccess.com.au/access-program/resources/access-checklists

Darebin City Council

Ph: 03 8470 8888

http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/Files/AccessEnabledV3_2011.pdf

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