

ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Information for Designers, Developers & Builders

The City of Mandurah actively promotes equal access for people with disabilities in particular to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia.

It is a requirement under the Building Code of Australia (BCA) that building owners and developers plan buildings and facilities in accordance with the mandatory access requirements referenced in the Code. These include Australian Standard AS1428.1-1998 (General Requirements for Access – New Building Works) and AS1428.4-1992 (Tactile Ground Surface Indicators for the Orientation of People with Vision Impairments).

Please note, however that compliance with the current mandatory access requirements of the Building Code of Australia does not necessarily mean compliance with the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) (1992), which makes it unlawful to discriminate against a person with a disability in a wide variety of situations including access to public buildings and facilities.

Currently the Australian Building Codes Board, the Attorney General's Department and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) are working to upgrade access requirements of the BCA to achieve greater consistency with the DDA.

In the meantime HREOC has published Advisory Notes on Access to Premises (copy attached) in June 1997 to assist designers, developers and builders understand their access responsibilities under the DDA.

The City of Mandurah recommends that designers, developers and builders take all necessary additional actions to ensure compliance with the DDA. This may include seeking the services of a disability access expert to assess the appropriateness of the level of access provided.