

Beach wheelchair



Date: December 2018

Guidelines for Use

Background

The Aussie Beach Wheelchair is designed for use in various environments which are not normally accessible for people in wheelchairs, including sand, bush tracks and snow. The Aussie Beach Wheelchair can be taken into salt or fresh water.

The wheelchair is designed to enable usage by a range of people with disability from small children to large adults. The chair does not need to be adjusted and as it is only used for a short period of time, is generally comfortable for most people. Some people choose to use their own cushion while in the chair.

Transportation of the beach wheel chair

The total weight of the wheel chair is 30kg. The dimensions are as follows:

- Width: 840mm
- Height: 860mm
- Length: 1050mm

Hiring the beach wheel chair

The beach wheelchair is located in the Rivermouth Lifeguards shed between mid-December to the end of April each year.

Please see the lifeguards for assistance with accessing the wheelchair.

Please note: the lifeguards may be undertaking lifesaving or related duties and may not be able to assist with accessing the wheelchair immediately.

The maximum safe weight for this product is 100kgs.

BEACH WHEELCHAIR

Use of the beach wheel chair

Lifting/Transfers

Transferring a person onto the Aussie Beach wheelchair is not difficult if a lift is well planned and executed.

If you are not experienced at lifting, it may be useful to approach a local rehabilitation centre, hospital or physiotherapist regarding training for transferring and lifting.

When transferring a person into the beach wheelchair it is important to plan the lift carefully to avoid injury to both yourself and the user.

Many people who generally transfer independently can transfer onto the beach wheelchair with little or no assistance. They may need to transfer in two stages by propping on the large wheel, it may be useful to cover the wheel with a towel.

Remove arm rests before transferring.

General principles of lifting/transferring people with disability

People who require assistance are able to tell you the best way of assisting them. So ask the expert.

- Issues to consider when lifting or transferring
- Talk to the person about their needs and ability to assist with lift
- Assess the environment i.e. room to move safely, obstacles which can be moved out of the way
- Arrange area so that lift is for the shortest possible distance and does not involve twisting
- If in doubt, ask a second person to assist
- If two people are involved, appoint a leader to call the lift

Important points when lifting

- Get close to the person and hold them close to you
- Take a firm hold, not too tight
- Position feet well apart
- Bend your knees and keep your back straight
- Leader counts '1,2,3 lift'
- While lifting use your legs, not your back
- To change direction, move your feet, don't twist

It may be advisable to do a two stage lift onto the beach wheelchair. This will involve using the wheel of the beach wheelchair to rest the person while the people involved in the lift adjust their feet. Make sure the person is supported throughout the whole lift. Use a towel on the wheel when doing this type of lift.

It may be useful to ask a physiotherapist or an occupational therapist to train you and others in the correct principles of lifting.

Straps & support

The Aussie Beach Wheelchair only comes supplied with a leg support strap, however it is easy to attach other straps on the seat or on the leg support bars to meet individual needs.

- Straps should not be used when a person is going into the water.
- Some people may need to use cushions or towels for support and comfort.

Pushing the Aussie Beach Wheelchair

The Aussie Beach Wheelchair has been designed to push and turn as easily as possible over difficult terrain. It is important to remember that it is a manual wheelchair and that the ease of pushing depends on the size of the person in the wheelchair and the slope of the environment.

The wheel chair is significantly easier to push over uneven terrain than a standard manual wheelchair.

Use at water based environments

The wheelchair has been designed to go into water. The frame is made from stainless steel and the wheels are non-corrosive. It can be fully submerged in fresh or salt water.

HOWEVER the manufacturers recommend that the wheelchair only goes into water 15cm as the wheels are buoyant and chair will float and may be unstable.

Extreme caution is recommended when using the chair in water. Due to wind and tidal variations, beach suitability may vary from one day to the next.

In or near the water

- If used in water do not strap the person into the wheelchair.
- When in water it is advisable to wear a life jacket and be accompanied by a support person at all times.
- Follow all surf lifesaving instructions on the beach.
- Never leave the user unattended.
- The chair is stable when water level is less than 15cm
- The maximum safe weight for this product is 100kgs.