



Inclusive Play Spaces

The Commonwealth Accessible Australia Initiative: Increasing inclusion in Australian communities

The Australian Government is investing \$17.1 million from 2024-25 to 2027-28 to increase inclusion in community spaces for people with disability across Australia through the Commonwealth Accessible Australia initiative (Accessible Australia).

The Australian Government will provide funding for up to **50 per cent** of the total build cost for fixed **inclusive play spaces** to state and territory governments via Federation Funding Agreements (FFAs). For information regarding funding, please refer to the *Funding and Federation Funding Agreements fact sheet*.

What are inclusive play spaces?

Fixed inclusive play spaces are community spaces designed for people of all ages and abilities. An inclusive play space should provide a range of play types and challenges, while incorporating principles of inclusive design and accessibility.

Fixed inclusive play spaces may include:

- Inclusive play equipment (e.g. liberty swings, sensory play platforms and all-access spinners)
- Inclusive equipment for people with physical and psychosocial disability (e.g. visual communication toys for non-speaking children or those with communication delays)

What funding is available for inclusive play spaces?

The Australian Government will provide up to 50 per cent contribution towards the build cost of the amenities for inclusive play spaces. Applications for funding must be supported by an itemised quote.

Is there a maximum amount that can be applied for?

While there is no maximum funding amount that can be applied for, all proposals will be considered based on their merits. This includes location, community impact and value for money.

Are there any costs associated with inclusive play spaces that are not eligible for Commonwealth funding?

Not all costs* are eligible for Commonwealth funding, for example:

- Demolition costs
- Costs not directly related to the construction of the inclusive play spaces (e.g. decorative elements, costs associated with a larger construction project)
- Ongoing maintenance costs.

All ongoing operational or maintenance costs are the responsibility of the funding recipient.

*The above list is not exhaustive. The Commonwealth reserves the right not to fund items it deems ineligible.

How long after receiving funding is building expected to commence?

Construction of inclusive play spaces must commence within 12 months of receiving funding. Proof of commencement must be provided to the Commonwealth. Construction must be completed within 18 months of construction commencement.

Can educational institutions apply for inclusive play spaces funding?

Accessible Australia is intended to increase access in spaces available to all members of the general community. While educational institutions may wish to include an inclusive play space, the Commonwealth will not fund amenities that are limited to the use of a specific group (e.g. the students enrolled in the school where it is placed).

All locations will be considered by the Commonwealth on their merits, including whether the play space will be open for public use.

What needs to be included in a project plan for an inclusive play space?

Information regarding project plan requirements can be found in the *Applications, Project Plans and Progress Reporting* fact sheet.

Who can I contact for more information?

Further information and Frequently Asked Questions on Accessible Australia can be found on the [Department of Social Services website](#).

The department can be contacted directly via email at AccessibleAustralia@dss.gov.au.