

BEACH WHEELCHAIRS SAFETY PROCEDURES AND USER GUIDE

It is the responsibility of the assistant/user to ensure they have read and understood these guidelines:

BEFORE USE

IMPORTANT: Holiday Park provides a collection and return service only. Staff are not able to assist users with equipment demonstrations or assistance with equipment use at/on the beach. Please ensure you have your own assistant/support person/s and take the time to familiarise yourself with the equipment prior to use.

- Check the weather conditions for daily temperature, wind speed and the possibility of storms. It is always important to take into consideration tides and swell to ensure it is safe to enter the water. As the user you must be comfortable with the conditions and swim between the flags.
- Visually inspect the wheelchair before use, be sure to check the seat, tyres, brakes and moving parts for damage
- Ensure the rear wheels are correctly secured and firmly attached to the frame. To do this, pull each wheel outwards.
- Ensure the foot-rest net is secured, and the parking brake is activated prior to a user being seated. Do not stand on the wheelchair on the footrest.
- If possible, have a second person assist and hold the handle of the wheelchair so that it will not move when the user is being seated. If this is not possible then the single carer/assistant should hold the chairs handle to ensure the chair is steady.
- Be careful when lifting or transferring the user and use personal aids if needed.
- The chair has been designed to seat a single person with a maximum weight of 130kg.

DURING USE

- It is essential that an accompanying person with the ability to guide, push and hold the wheelchair is present when using the wheelchair.
- Do not leave a person unattended in the wheelchair. Make sure a capable adult is with the user at all times.
- For safety reasons, the user must be seated towards the back of the seat with their back resting against the backrest.
- Check that all the buckles of the harness and waist belt are secured correctly. The straps should be tightly secured, and the buckles closed.
- The safety belt should be used at all times when on dry land, including soft and hard sand.
- Always keep the person in wheelchair informed about what you are intending to do (turning, entering water, crossing road).
- Do not press too hard on the push bar when you want to lift the front wheel to turn.
- Do not pass over obstacles higher than 10cm with the wheelchair.
- In dry, soft sand it may be easier to pull the chair backwards rather than to push it forwards. Two people are recommended to pull the chair backwards through the sand or up a slope.



- The wheelchair has a pull rope/handle allowing someone at the front to assist with pulling of the chair while someone is pushing. The Push/Pull technique may be helpful in soft sand or when the user is a larger person.
- The wheelchair enables the user to enter water up to the level of the seat and to stay in the water. It is not designed to float with the water in it. The wheelchair is NOT to be considered a watercraft or floatation device.
- The user must always be accompanied by a capable, water confident adult at all times when entering and leaving the water and whilst in the water.
- If the user requires to keep the harness on when entering the water and while bathing, extra supervision is necessary.
- The buoyancy of the front wheel may unbalance and push you backwards when entering the water. It is advised in this case for the user to lean slightly forwards if they have the capacity.
- The wheelchair should always be used between the flags and where it can be observed by lifeguards when possible.
- When using the wheelchair in water, life jackets should be worn at all times.
- The wheelchair user must always be accompanied when in the water. Watch out for rising tides and for waves along the shoreline.
- When parking, find a level surface and ensure the parking brake is securely locked down. Gradients steeper than a standard ramp rise are not recommended unless two people are assisting with pushing the chair.
- Ensure wheel brakes are applied prior to the user exiting the wheelchair.

AFTER USE

- Ensure the wheelchair is washed thoroughly with fresh water after each use to prevent damage from salt and sand.
- The wheelchair must be returned to the hire site by 5.00 pm on the day of hire.
- It must be returned in the same condition as when it was loaned out.
- Any safety or maintenance issues or concerns with the use of the beach wheelchair should be reported immediately to holiday park staff.

