



Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport

February 2021

All Australians have the right to use public transport. Access to public transport makes it possible for people with disability, their families and their carers to participate in the social and economic life of our nation.

Background

In 2002, under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA)*, the Australian Government developed a set of standards to make public transport accessible.

These are called the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 (Transport Standards) and they serve to remove discrimination for accessing public transport on the basis of disability.

The Transport Standards establish the minimum accessibility requirements to be met by providers and operators of public transport and provide guidance about rights and obligations under the DDA.

Access

Access to public transport makes it possible for people with disability and their carers to travel to work or study; stay connected with the community, friends and family; and to access important services such as healthcare.

Trains, trams (including light rail), buses, coaches, ferries, taxis, planes and dial-a-ride services are all covered by the Transport

Standards as well as public transport infrastructure and premises. This includes requirements for items such as access paths, manoeuvring areas, ramps and boarding devices, allocated spaces, handrails, doorways, controls, symbols and signs, the payment of fares and the provision of information.

The Transport Standards timeline requires public transport networks that were in use prior to 23 October 2002 to be fully accessible by the end of 2022 – except for trains and trams which have until the end of 2032. This is because trains and tram carriages have a longer life cycle.

All new public transport conveyances, infrastructure and premises must be 100 per cent compliant with the Transport Standards.

Further information

For further information:

- visit the [Transport Standards webpage](#)
- email DisabilityTransport@infrastructure.gov.au or
- ring our Disability Standards hotline on **02 6274 6188**.