**Accessibility Starter Kit**

Accessible Arts’ Starter kit is a tool to be used for an initial venue and organisation access appraisal. It is a simple audit for disability access to venue and events and may provide the basis for public information that can go onto the website, marketing material or an access information sheet. This will also inform your organisation’s Disability Action Planning.

Some practices are legislated, yet many of the guiding principles for increased accessibiliy make good sense as well as being good business practice.

Aspects of disability access to consider include:

* Consultation – committees, forums, surveys, social media, formal and informal feeback
* Parking, public transport and accessible paths of travel
* Physical access: ramps, handrails, door handles and doorways, lifts, amenities
* Services – accessibility of event program, customer service and flexibility
* Attitude – disability awareness, equitability, respect, inclusion, diversity
* Affordability – companion card affiliate, comparable costs and opportunities
* Information – how to get there, disability facilities and services, signage
* Access to information – accessible website, alternate formats, options for communication
* Capacity building and partnership – mainstream and disability sector promotion

Thinking about access at the very earliest planning stages of your event means thinking about the access requirements of staff, public and artists or performers who may have a disability.

Inclusive practices remove the disadvantages and enable everyone to have a choice to participate equally.

**Access Appraisal**

The initial appraisal checklist is based on Disability – Access to Premises - Standards 2010, Australian Standards, National Construction Code, Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act and on a broad understanding of the needs of people with different disabilities.

## **Venue Name:**

**Street address:**

**Contact details:**

**Web address:**

| **Venue** | YES | PART | NO | ACTION |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Wheelchair access is available at the main entrance; booking office; performance venue |  |  |  |  |
| Public spaces in the venue are accessible to people using a wheelchair or mobility aid |  |  |  |  |
| There are clear and considerate paths of travel in the venue for people using a wheelchair |  |  |  |  |
| Hearing augmentation is present and maintained in public address spaces |  |  |  |  |
| Noise levels in venue are moderated to aid hearing at conversational level |  |  |  |  |
| Pathways and general public areas are well lit for people with low vision or who lip read |  |  |  |  |
| Tactile Ground Surface Indicators are used to mark possible hazards ie. stairs, ramps |  |  |  |  |
| There are well maintained, accessible amenities |  |  |  |  |
| Public transport to the venue is accessible for people in wheelchairs and limited mobility |  |  |  |  |
| Transport drop-off / pick-up points are close to main entrance |  |  |  |  |
| There are clear, accessible pathways from drop off points or carpark to venue entrance |  |  |  |  |
| The drop off zone has kerb cuts in the footpath for wheelchair access |  |  |  |  |
| There is accessible parking at or near to the venue |  |  |  |  |
| Doors and doorways support people in wheelchairs to open/ close, manoeuvre, enter/ exit |  |  |  |  |
| Door handles and bathroom fittings are designed to aid people with limited dexterity |  |  |  |  |
| Service counter heights comply with standards that allow access for a people in a wheelchair |  |  |  |  |
| Reserved seating with considerate sightlines exists for disability access initiatives |  |  |  |  |
| Seating for people in wheelchairs is flexible enough to allow for companions to sit together |  |  |  |  |
| Directional signage in the venue includes disability access with access symbols |  |  |  |  |
| Program, goods & service information is in alternate formats ie. web, audio, print, braille |  |  |  |  |
| Making enquires or booking tickets is through a range of communication channels |  |  |  |  |
| People with disability are represented in media in an inclusive and respectful way |  |  |  |  |
| Language in marketing, media and customer service is inclusive and person-centred  |  |  |  |  |
| Accessible performances have been promoted in main stream and in disability media |  |  |  |  |
| Contact numbers and email are available for queries about the disability services provided |  |  |  |  |
| Employees have undertaken disability awareness training |  |  |  |  |
| Employees are available to provide assistance to people with disability |  |  |  |  |
| Emergency exits are clearly marked and are wheelchair accessible |  |  |  |  |
| There are both audio and visual warning signals in the event of an emergency |  |  |  |  |
| Evacuation procedures support people with disability who may require assistance  |  |  |  |  |

| **Organisational** | YES | PART | NO | ACTION |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Policies on accessibility are clearly stated and implemented |  |  |  |  |
| There is an active disability action plan  |  |  |  |  |
| Consultation on accessibility is on-going with people with disability |  |  |  |  |
| Targeted disability community have been consulted when programming access initiatives |  |  |  |  |
| There is a budget line for accessibility initiatives in each department or area or work |  |  |  |  |
| There are people with disability on staff |  |  |  |  |
| There is regular training in disability awareness and equity for employees |  |  |  |  |
| Website complies with W3C’s Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0) |  |  |  |  |

**Assessment of Results:**

**Priority Action and Goals:**

**References and Links**

Summary of the main Australian Standards referenced in the Access Code

[http://www.ag.gov.au/Access Code.pdf](http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/rwpattach.nsf/VAP/%283A6790B96C927794AF1031D9395C5C20%29~Summary%2Bof%2Bmain%2BAustralian%2BStandards%2Breferenced%2Bin%2Bthe%2BAccess%2BCode.pdf/%24file/Summary%2Bof%2Bmain%2BAustralian%2BStandards%2Breferenced%2Bin%2Bthe%2BAccess%2BCode.pdf)

Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards, 2010

<http://www.ag.gov.au/premisesstandards>

Public transport re: accessible transport

<http://www.131500.com.au/plan-your-trip/accessible-transport>

National Arts and Disability Strategy

<http://www.cmc.gov.au/publications>

Disability Discrimination Act (1992), Regulations and Amendments

[http://www.austlii.edu.au](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/dda1992264/)

Australian Human Rights Commission

<http://www.humanrights.gov.au/disability_rights/index.html>

Accessible Arts

<http://www.aarts.net.au/resources/>