



**HASSELL**

# **WOLLONGONG HOSPITAL**

**ACCESS REVIEW**

**Morris-Goding Accessibility Consulting**

**Final**

7<sup>th</sup> September 2011

## Access Review

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Access Review Report is a key element in the design re-development of the Wollongong Hospital (which includes the Illawarra Elective Surgery (IES), Ambulatory Care Unit and Expansion to the Emergency Department projects) and an appropriate response to the AS1428 series, Building Code of Australia (BCA), and ultimately the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

Morris-Goding Accessibility Consulting has prepared the Access Report to provide advice and strategies to maximise reasonable provisions of access for people with disabilities.

The development has been reviewed to ensure that ingress and egress, paths of travel; circulation areas, toilets, lifts and car parking compliant with relevant statutory guidelines.

In general, the development has accessible paths of travel that are continuous throughout. In line with the report's recommendations, the proposed development has demonstrated a reasonable degree of accessibility. The drawings indicate that compliance with statutory requirements, pertaining to site access, common area access, accessible parking and accessible sanitary facilities, can be readily achieved.

The main recommendations that have arisen from the access review include:

- Ensure all common use doors have a minimum 850mm open clear width (920mm door leaf) compliant with AS1428.1 and (AHFG).
- Currently, all public unisex accessible toilets need to be enlarged in accordance with AS1428.2. To comply, the internal dimension shall be at least 2700mm x 1900mm. This internal dimension will ensure a minimum unobstructed circulation space (2300mm x 1900mm) is achieved around the toilet pan.
- Provide an accessible WC near all banks of male and female toilets (i.e. 3rd floor). Similarly the internal dimension shall be at least 2700mm x 1900mm. This internal dimension will ensure a minimum unobstructed circulation space (2300mm x 1900mm) is achieved around the toilet pan to comply with AS1428.1 and the DDA Premises Standards.
- Allowance must be made for all staff (doctors, administrative staff) in wheelchairs in male and female change rooms/WCs

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1. General**

Hassell Architects has engaged Morris-Goding Accessibility Consulting, to provide an accessibility review of the redevelopment of the Wollongong Hospital.

The requirements of the investigation are to:

- Review supplied drawings of the proposed development,
- Provide a report that will analyse the design of the development, and
- Recommend actions that will ensure the design complies with the Federal Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and Australian Standards 1428 series.

### **2.2. Objectives**

The Report considers user groups that include patients', staff members and members of the public. The Report attempts to deliver equality, independence and functionality to people with disabilities inclusive of:

- (i) People with sensory impairment
- (ii) People with mobility impairment
- (iii) People with dexterity impairment

The Report attempts to eliminate, as far as possible, discrimination against persons on the ground of disability.

### **2.3. Statutory Requirements**

The statutory & regulatory guidelines to be encompassed in the Access Review include:

- Australian Standards 1428 series
- Building Code Of Australia Part D3
- AS 1735 part 12 - Lift facilities for people with disabilities
- Federal Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)
- Australian Health Facilities Guidelines (AHFG)

### **3. INGRESS & EGRESS**

#### **3.1. Main Entrance**

The main entrance is found as part of the development located towards the North/West end of the redevelopment towards Loftus Street. The redevelopment has shown paths of travel from the north end site boundary to the main entry that will be appropriate for wheelchair users, compliant with AS1428.1.

The entrance consists of a pair of dual sliding airlock entry doors. Each doorway achieves a 1520mm open clear width and a distance of 3030mm clearance between both pair of doors. In general, this main entrance has suitable door clearances and circulation spaces that would allow wheelchair user(s) the ability to pass one another when traveling in the opposite direction or be able to turn 180° in a dignified manner compliant with AS1428.2.

There is a continuous path of travel from the main entry foyer area to the reception area and passenger lifts for wheelchair users, compliant AS1428.1. The wide paths of travel and lift lobbies will also allow wheelchair users the ability to pass one another when traveling in the opposite direction or be able to turn 180° in a dignified manner compliant with AS1428.1

#### **3.2. Emergency Entrance**

The main entrance into the emergency department unit (EDU) is also found as part of the redevelopment. The entrance consists of a pair of hinged doors. Each door provides a 960mm open clear width (1030mm door leaf). In general, this main entrance has suitable door clearances and circulation spaces that would allow wheelchair user(s) the ability to pass one another when traveling in the opposite direction or be able to turn 180° in a dignified manner compliant with AS1428.2.

There is a continuous path of travel from the main entry foyer area to the waiting, triage and clerical area for wheelchair users, compliant AS1428.1. The 1.8m minimum path of travel will allow wheelchair users the ability to pass one another when traveling in the opposite direction or be able to turn 180° in a dignified manner compliant with AS1428.2.

#### **3.3. Emergency Egress**

In general the main entrances into the re-development would be the most appropriate means of emergency egress for wheelchair users.

All new proposed fire egress doors where measured have minimum 850mm clear width (920mm door leaf) compliant with DDA Premises Standards and the AHFG.

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Emergency systems be installed within the building, the systems should include audible and visual warnings indicators in assisting people with sensory disabilities.

## 4. PATHS OF TRAVEL

### 4.1. General

In general, the main arterial public corridors have minimum 1800mm clear widths, which allow 2 wheelchair users the ability to pass each other when travelling in the opposite direction. The clear width of corridors will allow sufficient areas of wheelchair manoeuvrability, compliant with the DDA Premises Standards and AHFG.

In general, all secondary corridors (i.e. within all staff, administrative, internal departmental) areas have minimum 1200mm clear widths. The clear width of corridors will allow sufficient areas of wheelchair manoeuvrability, compliant with AS1428.2 and the DDA Premises Standards and the AHFG.

In general, all corridor ends have 2070mm length x 1540mm width to allow wheelchair users to perform 180 degree turn, compliant with the DDA Premises Standards.

All primary and secondary paths of travel (corridors) provide appropriate passage for wheelchair users to all entrances, departments, administration areas, passenger lifts, and sanitary facilities compliant with AS1428.2 and the DDA Access Code.

Currently, access between all floors is made possible via the use of passenger lifts. Access to these lifts is possible from all areas within all floors with the building. The lift lobbies found on all floor have sufficient circulation spaces as to ensure wheelchair users can pass one another or be able to turn 180°, compliant with AS DDA Premises Standards and the AHFG.

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Ensure the type of flooring systems used has a slip resistance in accordance with HB197 and AS4586. Testing will be required on site and results forward to MGAC once completed.

### 4.2. Doors

In general, single or dual hinged doors measured (except plant, maintenance, storage rooms, male and female toilets) have varying open clear width of 700mm or greater. Although doors with a minimum 850mm open clear width are compliant with AS1428.1. Those common use door less than 850mm open clear width (920mm door leaf) are non-compliant and inappropriate for wheelchair users.

In general all doors within the building have appropriate door latch side clearances, compliant AS1428.1 figure 31.

*Recommendations:*

- Ensure all common use door have a minimum 850mm open clear width (920mm door leaf) compliant with AS1428.1 and (AHFG).
- Ensure door components comply with AS14428.1.

### 4.3. Stairs

There is a public stair near the ground floor reception area as part of development. Access to this stair is possible from the proposed main entry. Currently, the stair leads from the 1st floor (ground floor) to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor near the public court yard area.

*Recommendations:*

- (i) Provide handrails on both sides of stairs in accordance with AS1428.1
- (ii) Ensure tactile ground surface indicators (TGSIs) are installed near the top and bottom ends of the stairs, compliant with AS1428.4. The exposed underside of stair may have overhead barriers that will be hazards for a person with a visual impairment. These areas with less than 2000mm height clearance shall have TGSIs (barrier protection) according to AS1428.4 figure A6 (a).

Testing will be required on site and results forward to MGAC once completed.

- (iii) Ensure stair nosing's have an indicative 30% colour strip in accordance with AS1428.1. Testing will be required on site and results forward to MGAC once completed.

### 4.4. Lifts

There are 3 public use lifts (15, 16 and 17) within the proposed IES development. These lifts have an internal dimension (2550mm x 1750mm) that would satisfy compliance with AS1428.2, DDA Premises Standards and AS1735.12.

The lifts provide continuous accessible paths of travel from ground to all upper floors with all sites. As previously mentioned access to all lifts is made possible from all areas on all floor for wheelchair users, compliant with AS1428.1.

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Ensure the lift car components and lift lobby arrival signals/call buttons comply with AS1735.12.

### 4.5. Common Facilities

In general, common use facilities (i.e. the receptions, waiting rooms and retail) have circulation spaces allowing easy manoeuvrability for a wheelchair users or person with a walking frame. These areas will also allow 2 wheelchair users the ability to pass each other in an equitable and dignified manner, compliant with BCA and DDA Premises Standards.

## **5. ACCESSIBLE TOILETS**

### **5.1. Public Accessible WC**

There are 2 unisex accessible WCs + 1 Accessible Change room found on the proposed new 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor found within the (Peri Operative Department). In addition there is also a unisex accessible WC on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor nearest the lift lobby area. In general there are suitable accessible paths of travel leading to all accessible WCs from all corners on all floors.

In general, the afore mentioned passenger lifts will provide a connecting link to all remaining levels (2 and 3) with no unisex accessible WC.

In general, all proposed accessible WC have internal dimension that are (i.e. 2300mm x 1900mm) non-compliant with AS1428.1.

#### *Recommendations:*

- (i) The accessible toilets throughout should have suitable pan locations that allow a mixture of left and right hand transfer.
- (ii) Currently, all public unisex accessible toilets need to be enlarged in accordance with AS1428.2. To comply, the internal dimension shall be at least 2700mm x 1900mm. This internal dimension will ensure a minimum unobstructed circulation space (2300mm x 1900mm) is achieved around the toilet pan.
- (iii) Provide an accessible WC near all banks of male and female toilets. Similarly the internal dimension shall be at least 2700mm x 1900mm. This internal dimension will ensure a minimum unobstructed circulation space (2300mm x 1900mm) is achieved around the toilet pan to comply with AS1428.1 and the DDA Premises Standards.
- (iv) Ensure bathroom fixtures comply with AS1428.1.

### **5.2. Patient Accessible WC**

From the drawing provided, there appears to be a number (x4) patient assisted accessible WC found part of the IES Development. In general there are suitable accessible paths of travel leading to all accessible WC.

#### *Recommendations:*

- (i) The accessible toilets throughout should have suitable pan locations that allow a mixture of left and right hand transfer
- (ii) To comply, the internal dimension for all patient assisted accessible WC shall be at least 2700mm x 1900mm. This internal dimension will ensure a minimum unobstructed circulation space (2300mm x 1900mm) is achieved around the toilet pan.

### **5.3. Staff Accessible WC**



Currently, there does not appear to be any accessible WC labelled for staff. If applicable, if any staff accessible WC s provided the following recommendation will be applicable.

*Recommendations:*

- (i) Ensure the staff accessible room has a minimum 2700mm x 1900mm internal dimension, compliant with AS1428.1. This internal dimension will ensure a minimum unobstructed circulation space (2300mm x 1900mm) is achieved around the toilet pan.
- (ii) Allowance must be made for doctors in wheelchairs in male and female change rooms

## **6. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **6.1. Car Parking**

From the drawing provide 17 public car parking spaces near the main entry (site A level 1). A parking bay has been shown with a minimum 4300mm clear width is suitable in accordance with the AS2890.6.

The numbers of accessible car bays represents 5.8%, which is most appropriate under AS2890.1. The accessible car bays is located an adjacent to the main entry which is acceptable under BCA and DDA Premises Standards.

### **6.2. Signage**

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Signage to comply with BCA part D3.6

### **6.3. Lighting**

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Levels of illumination are required to comply with AS1680.