

Beach Wheelchair – Guidelines for Use

Who can use the beach wheelchair?

Consultation with a health professional should occur prior to use of the beach wheelchair if a person has balance or sitting difficulties or is prone to pressure sores or pain conditions. Persons or carers must take into consideration any specific issues relating to the persons disability, which may affect the use of the beach wheelchair.

Conditions of Hire

Person hiring the beach wheelchair must provide photo identification (which is recorded with booking details).

Length of Hire

Bookings are for half-day use only (am or pm).

Note: a person may book for pm on one day and am on the next day

Transportation

The beach wheelchair can be transported for use within the City of Busselton only.

Booking Procedure

1. Bookings are to be made through the Busselton or Dunsborough Visitor Centre
Phone: +61 8 9780 5911 Email: welcome@margaretriver.com
2. Please provide driver's license or other photo identification card when making the booking.
3. Read and complete the Hire Agreement form.
4. Receive and read a copy of Guideline for Use.
5. Check that the beach wheelchair is in good working order prior to use.

Returning

When returning the wheelchair:

1. Check the beach wheelchair is in good working order and ensure it has been washed down with fresh water after use.
2. Return the wheelchair/key to the Busselton or Dunsborough Visitor Centre and retrieve the photo identification provided with the booking.
3. If any defect or maintenance is required please advise staff upon return of the wheelchair.
4. Feedback is appreciated please complete the survey at the end of your booking.

BUSSELTON BEACH WHEELCHAIR - HIPPOCAMPE

The Hippocampe wheelchair, created and manufactured by Vipamat Technologies, allows you to go to the beach and seaside, go into the water and go swimming, follow forest trails and coastal paths, go around gardens and move about on the snow/sand or on paths of packed snow/sand.

It has been designed for people of restricted mobility of all ages regardless of their size or degree of mobility. The Hippocampe can be used alone or with an attendant and several accessories can be added: a Neoprene harness, headrest, adjustable armrests, adjustable backrest, parking brake, backrest bag, ski kit and transport bag. A wider axle can be fitted to the wheelchair in order to increase the space between the seat and the wheels.

The beach wheelchair may float in the water and the manufacturers recommend a maximum depth of 15cm. The beach wheelchair has been used in deeper water by steadying the wheelchair with enough people however the beach wheelchair must never be used as a floatation device. When entering water, the buoyancy of the front wheel means you will need to lean forward in order to remain stable on the Hippocampe. Do not immerse the Hippocampe wheelchair - depth must not go above the height of the rear axle.

The Hippocampe is approved for a maximum user weight of 130kg

Instructions for use and assembly are available from the visitor centres

DUNSBOROUGH BEACH WHEELCHAIR - SANDCRUISER

The 'Sandcruiser[®]' has been designed to be used on dry sand and wet sand at the water's edge. It is stable in water levels up to the centre of the tyres, in still water conditions. Beyond this point two (2) carers are required, as per the Disabled Surfers Association of Australia recommendations.

The 'chair' has balloon tyres which do tend to float, depending on weight being carried & will become unstable once the chair and its passenger becomes buoyant. In particularly dry soft sand it is often easier to pull the chair backwards rather than push it forwards – if there are 2 carers, in that case, take hold of either end of the horizontal braking bar.

Always use the safety belt when using the chair on dry land. When in shallow water, the use of the safety belt is optional, depending on the passenger's known predisposition for having seizures – in which case, leave the belt on.

Ensure the parking brake is securely locked down when the Sandcruiser[®] is parked, and park on as level a surface as you can find.

The maximum weight of the intended user is 120kg

Instructions for use and assembly are available from the visitor centres