

Access News

AAA

Access Audits Australia

disability access  advice  training

IATA

Institute of Access Training Australia

professional  development  training

Access to Premises - Buildings Standards 2010

The Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010 are a step closer to introduction after being tabled in Parliament on March 15, 2010. It is anticipated that they will come into force on 1st May 2011 to align with an updated Australian Building Code. The new Standards will clarify how designers, developers, managers and building certifiers can meet their responsibilities under discrimination law to ensure buildings are accessible to people with a disability. Compliance *with those elements covered by the Access to Premises Standards* will ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). Other elements in buildings, not covered by the Standards, will still be subject to DDA provisions. These include fit out, many fixtures and fittings, general lighting, emergency exits, general signage and others. Whilst the new Standards will not cover all access issues relating to new and upgraded buildings, they are a significant start and will be reviewed over the next five years.

Some of the major elements relate to:

- accessible entrances and doorways
- circulation spaces in lifts, accessible toilets and at doorways
- improvements in signage relating to accessible facilities
- access to common areas in new apartment blocks
- passing and turning spaces
- hearing augmentation
- access requirements for lifts
- wheelchair seating spaces in assembly buildings
- access to holiday facilities, hotels and motels
- access to swimming pools
- accessible toilets

IATA will be presenting 2 hour Seminars on the new Standards. See the back page for dates and times. We can also come to you.

Contact us for details at accessinstitute@bigpond.com

Certificate in Access Appraisal Buildings

2 day course plus assignment

Some dates for 2010

May 3rd and 4th Tweed Heads

May 24th & 25th Melbourne

June 28th and 29th Cairns

July 26th & 27th Sydney

Book now places limited

Book at www.accessinstituteaustralia.com.au

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Access Audits Australia & IATA

We provide a wide range of services including training, access projects, access audits and appraisals, community consultations, evaluations and advice in relation to access for all.

Addressing Access in Parks and Outdoor Spaces 1 Day course

Dates for 2010

Tweed Heads May 5

Melbourne May 27

Cairns July 1

Sydney July 29

Brisbane August 26

Register at www.accessinstituteaustralia.com.au

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Google / You Tube To Provide Captioning

Google recently announced it would provide auto-captions for all of its uploaded videos on You Tube using Google's Speech Technology. Google's initiative, piloted in November 2009, has now expanded to all uploaded English-speaking videos, with more languages to be added later this year.

This move will open You Tube's online video storage banks to millions of new viewers by supplying captioning and subtitles for the benefit of deaf and hearing impaired users and people who simply speak a different language from the one used in a particular video. The Google-owned online video storage and presentation provider, announced that as of March 4, 2010, it has made available automatic captioning and subtitles in about 50 languages, with more to come over time, YouTube spokesman Chris Dale said. Most, if not all, YouTube videos will have the application "soon."

"A core part of YouTube's DNA is simply better access to content," YouTube product team leader Hunter Walk said.

Videos are viewed 1 billion times per day, and an average of 20 hours of new videos are uploaded to YouTube every minute, Dale said. That's a ton of content to caption, but YouTube and Google say the service is up to the task.

The company is deploying Google's voice-recognition software on all the YouTube site channels, with the application being run on Google's servers. No software will need to be downloaded by users.

For an unusual YouTube video about disability access, go to the following link:

www.youtube.com/Guide_horse_for_the_blind

National Companion Card Launch

The National Card Companion Scheme launched at the end of December, 2009 will build on the various State schemes. The Companion Card Scheme enables people who require a carer, to attend events without having to pay the additional cost. There are over 32,000 Companion Cardholders in Australia and 2700 participating organisations including the AFL, Basketball

Australia, Tennis Australia, Reading Cinemas, Victorian Public Transport services and many others.

The card is issued to people who can demonstrate that they would not be able to participate at most venues and activities without a companion, and that this need is life-long. Companion Cards cannot be issued if the applicant may become independent in the future as a result of treatment/management, training, recovery or developmental improvements.

ACAA 2010 Conference and IATA Access to the Built Environment Training

The Association of Consultants in Access Australia will hold its 2010 Conference "**Challenges, Achievements and Opportunities**" at Twin Towns Resorts in Tweed Heads, NSW, from 28-30 April, 2010.

IATA will be presenting a 2 hour Disability **Access to Premises Standards 2010 Seminar** the day before the conference and the 2 day **Certificate in Access Appraisal Buildings** course and the 1 day **Addressing Access in Parks and Outdoor Spaces** course in the week following the conference, at the same venue.

The ACAA conference brings together academics, advisers, practitioners and all levels of government into a conversation about the issues and opportunities in providing equitable access to the built environment, information, communication and other services.

Speakers will share their experiences in working on a variety of projects that have established 'best practice', challenged the boundaries in access provision and/or created opportunities to learn. Speakers include:

- Bill Shorten, Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services
- Kevin Newhouse Chairman Australian Building Codes Board
- Michael Small, Human Rights Commission
- Joe Manton, Institute of Access Training Australia

For more information and details of the Program, go to www.access.asn.au

Cinema Access Protests

A call for public input into a government report, *Access to Electronic Media for the Hearing and Vision Impaired: Approaches for Consideration*, sparked protests across Australia in January. The government called for input into ways to improve access to television, cinema, and other electronic media. Protests ensued when it was revealed that Hoyts, Village Roadshow Greater Union and Readings Cinema chains have applied for an exemption to the Disability Discrimination Act for two and a half years.

At present, less than 0.3 per cent of all cinema sessions are accessible to people who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or who have vision impairment. Protestors claimed that most of these sessions were scheduled for midweek or early morning, when many people could not attend.

IATA - DVD Launch - Addressing Access in the Built Environment

IATA is proud to have produced a DVD '**Addressing Access to the Built Environment**' for use in its training programs. The DVD 'stars' Anthony Nichols and Michael Wheeler as they wheel and walk through a local Council office and shopping precinct. The DVD highlights a range of access challenges as well as good access considerations. It is narrated and also includes captions. The DVD will be available for viewing at the ACAA Conference.

Certificate IV in Access Consulting One Step Closer

The delivery of the Certificate IV in Access Consulting competencies is one step closer, with the Institute of Access Training Australia being audited in February 2010. IATA is awaiting the response to the audit and its application for recognition as Registered Training Organisation (RTO), in order to deliver competencies for the nationally recognised qualification.

Institute Director, Joe Manton, said "We understand the process can take some time, but we're hoping it's not too long before we hear the result of our application, particularly with the tabling of the Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010. Stay tuned."

Good Access is Good Business

The Vancouver Organising Committee for the Winter Olympics (VANOC) was committed to providing accessible venues and services for the Paralympic Winter Games.



Venues were reviewed for accessibility and included consideration for people with vision impairment, deafness and hearing impairment as well as mobility disabilities. Consideration was given to:

- **Accessible seating** options (with adjacent companion seating)
- **Accessible bathroom** facilities and amenities
- **Assistive hearing devices** available for loan at the information booth
- **Awareness of assistance/guide dogs** being welcome in venues and provision of a dog relief area
- **Availability of wheelchairs** for loan at information booths
- **Accessible shuttle service** within outdoor venues where travel over longer distances was required
- **Sign Language** interpretation at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- **Live audio description services** in English and French for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for spectators with vision impairment.



To cope with the Games visitors, airport facilities at Vancouver included: ticket and service counters with amplified hand-sets; low-mounted flight information monitors with high-contrast typeface; visual paging monitors and public address systems displayed in written form; information kiosks equipped with closed-captioned decoders; tactile guidance maps; accessible public telephones and services for the deaf; and of course, accessible bathrooms.

IATA Training Calendar 2010

Certificate in Access Appraisal – Buildings - 2 days

March	May	May	June	July	August	September	October
Fremantle 15 th and 16 th Complete	Tweed Heads 3 rd & 4 th	Melbourne 24 th & 25 th	Cairns 28 th & 29 th	Sydney 26 th & 27 th	Brisbane 23 rd & 24 th	Melbourne 13 th & 14 th	Adelaide 25 th & 26 th

Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards Seminar - 2 hours

March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Fremantle 17 th Complete	Tweed Heads 27 th	Melbourne 26 th	Cairns 30 th	Sydney 28 th	Brisbane 25 th	Melbourne 15 th	Adelaide 27 th

Addressing Access in Parks and Outdoor Spaces – 1 day

March	May	May	July	July	August	September	October
Fremantle 18 th Complete	Tweed Heads 5 th	Melbourne 27 th	Cairns 1 st	Sydney 29 th	Brisbane 26 th	Melbourne 16 th	Adelaide 28 th

We Can Come To You: If these dates or locations do not suit your organisation, please contact us. If you can organise 10 participants or more we can deliver the one and two day courses at a time and place to suit you.

Did You Know?

- A taxi driver was fined \$3,000 for refusing to take the DDA Commissioner Graeme Innes and his guide dog in a cab. The Commissioner was able to identify the cab by the Braille and tactile cab numbers on the side of the vehicle.
- One in three people with a Guide dog were unlawfully refused entry to a taxi in NSW in 2009.
- Some people use a guide horse instead of a guide dog as an assistance animal.

Contributions

Contributions to Access News are welcome and can be emailed to us at any time. AAAaxs@bigpond.net.au

Web site

Details of services provided by AAA and IATA can be found on our website at www.accessauditsaustralia.com.au

Our site is designed to be accessible for all users. It has AAA W3C level compliance and is AAA Bobby approved. Earlier Access News editions can be downloaded and there are also links to other relevant access related web sites.

Information contained in **Access News** is intended to highlight the importance of improving access for every person

Disclaimer: Whilst every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, Access Audits Australia does not accept any responsibility for inaccuracies, omissions, incorrect information or action taken as a result of any advice given or information conveyed in this publication.