

THE KINGBOROUGH COUNCIL ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This guide has been produced by the Kingborough Council's Access Advisory Committee to help non-building professionals identify elements that affect access and use of buildings and facilities. It draws from work carried out by the Human Rights Commission and members of the Kingborough Council Access Advisory Committee.

The Committee is made up of a group of Kingborough residents with expertise in evaluating disability access. The Committee provides advice and assistance to Council in relation to disability access issues in public locations within Kingborough.



FURTHER INFORMATION

If you are considering building or adapting your home for life-long accessibility, seek professional advice from a building designer.

Livable Housing Australia (LHA) has advice for home owners and builders on their website. LHA champion safer, more comfortable and easier access homes for everybody, everyday, at all stages of life.

www.liveablehousingaustralia.org.au



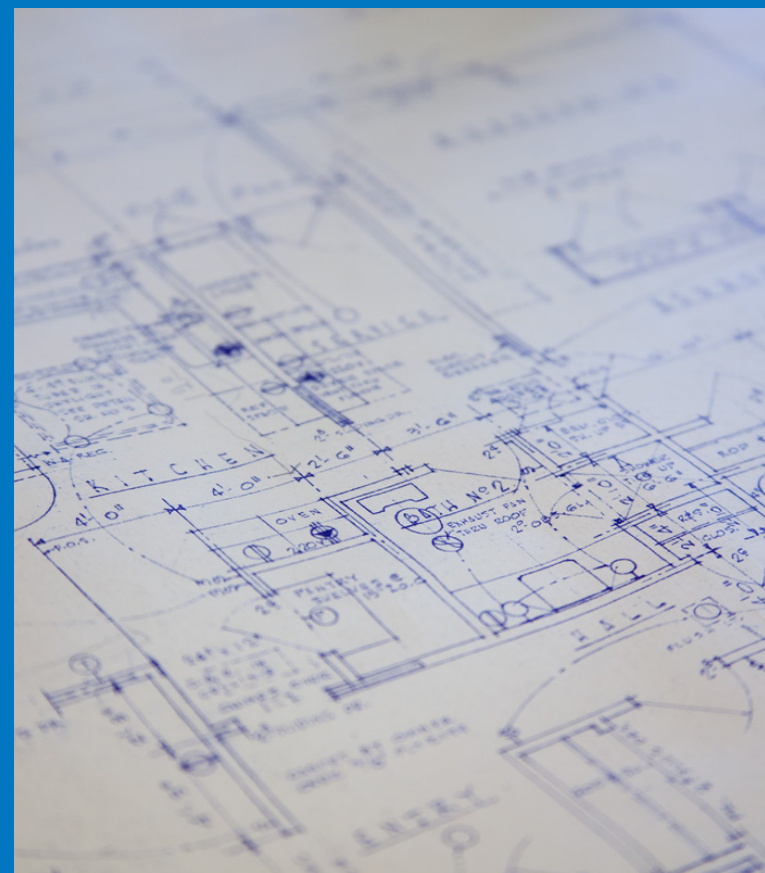
Kingborough

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2018

BUILDING AN ACCESSIBLE HOME

A guide to building your home to benefit everyone.



Kingborough

Future proofing isn't just about climate change...

There are some excellent reasons to be disability friendly.

- It is more cost efficient to build to disability standards to avoid carrying out modifications in the future.
- Unsatisfactory compromises may occur if alterations are carried out at a later date.
- Hallways and doorways which easily accommodate wheelchairs/mobility aids are user-friendly for everybody.
- A house that is already built to disability standards will make it easy for visitors with a disability to visit.

This brochure is a handy guide which includes a collection of ideas and suggestions, which may open the re-saleability of your property to a much wider and rapidly growing market.

It will also make your home accessible to friends and relatives who may now, or in the future, be using mobility aids.

This is not a technical list that can be used to ensure disability compliance with discrimination law or building and planning requirements.

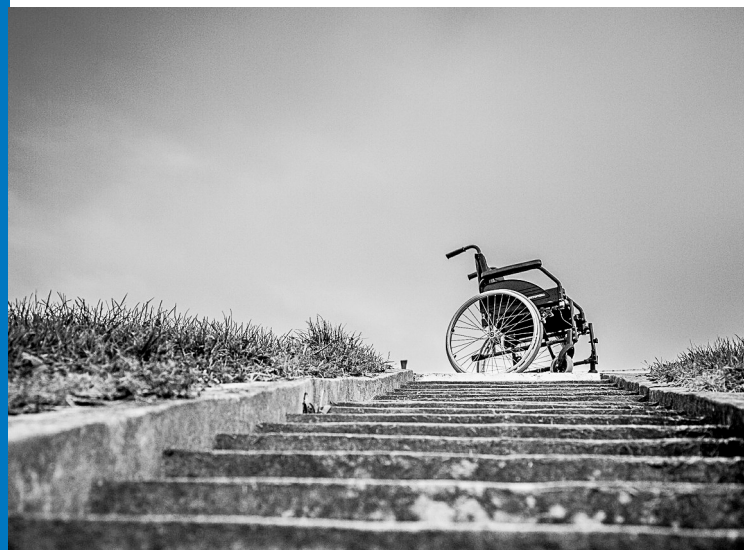
GETTING INTO THE HOUSE

PARKING & ACCESSING

- Is there enough space for people to get into and out of cars?
- Is the kerb ramp / letdown located adjacent to parking?

PATHWAYS

- Is there a clear and sealed continuous accessible path of travel into the house? Consider inclines and surfaces when planning access paths.
- Is there good overhead clearance? Look for tree branches or signs that might be a hazard for people who are blind or have vision impairment.



GETTING AROUND THE HOUSE

PASSAGEWAYS, DOORS & HANDLES

- Are passageways and doorways wide enough for someone who uses a wheelchair or walking frame?
- Are floors slip resistant, firm and smooth?
- If any room has fixed seating can someone using a wheelchair still get through?
- Are the doors too heavy or difficult to open?
- Are the door handles easy to use?
- If the doorway and surround are glass, is there a clearly distinguishable colour-contrasting strip across the full width to help vision impaired people identify the doorway?

"D-Shaped" door handles are the most user-friendly, round door knobs tend to be difficult to manipulate.



BATHROOMS & TOILETS

- Are all fittings at heights and positions that can be reached by someone in a wheelchair?
- Is the bathroom user-friendly for those with mobility aids? It is easier if everything can be in reach of each other.
- Does the layout allow for a wheelchair user to transfer from their chair to the toilet?
- How accessible is the shower recess?
- Can the tap handles be easily operated?