

Transporting Mobility Equipment

Many people use a mobility aid such as a wheelchair, scooter or walker to access the local community. Sometimes it can be difficult transporting such equipment to the places you want to go. There are many options and a range of equipment that can make transporting a mobility aid easier.



WHEELCHAIR CARRIERS

A wheelchair carrier is a tubular metal frame that is mounted to the tow bar of a vehicle to carry a folded manual wheelchair. With more economical styles, the wheelchair must be lifted and hung off two hooks located above ground level. More expensive styles allow the wheelchair to be rolled onto the carrier with minimal lifting required.



The Transport Department requires that the registration plate is repositioned and illuminated when using the carrier and that the carrier is removed when not in use. Contact a Queensland Transport Customer Service Centre for more information.

ELECTRICALLY OPERATED WHEELCHAIR HOISTS

An electrically operated wheelchair hoist uses a winch to raise and store a manual wheelchair onto the back or into the boot of a vehicle without the need for excessive handling or lifting of the wheelchair.



An electric roof-mounted wheelchair hoist raises and lowers the wheelchair bedside the car door and can therefore enable some wheelchair users to independently load and unload their wheelchair. Some wheelchair hoists also have the option of a weather-proof cover to protect the wheelchair.

WHEELCHAIR RAMPS

Wheelchair ramps can enable a wheelchair or scooter to be loaded into a van or station wagon without the need for excessive bending or lifting. Ramps can be either freestanding or mounted to the tow bar of the vehicle. Ramps are available as single width or two connected components, to suit either 3 wheel or 4 wheel mobility devices.



ELECTRICALLY OPERATED WHEELCHAIR LIFTERS

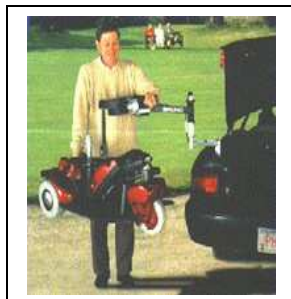
Electrically operated wheelchair lifters consist of a platform that is electrically raised and lowered to load a wheelchair in a vehicle. Although many lifters are designed for large coaches and buses, some can be fitted in minivans, high roof station wagons and utilities, making them more suitable for domestic use.

SCOOTER TRAILERS

Scooter and wheelchair trailers allow transport of scooters and electric wheelchairs without the need to disassemble them. Scooter trailers have tilting deck to enable a scooter or power wheelchair to be driven on and off the trailer.



Scooter trailers are required to be registered with the Department of Transport.



ELECTRICALLY OPERATED SCOOTER LOADERS

A scooter loader is a hoist-like device that is fixed to the floor of a vehicle luggage compartment. Loaders use an electric drive to lift and lower the scooter and a rotating arm to swing the scooter into the luggage compartment or boot.

There is a range of loaders available to suit various vehicles, including minivans, station wagons, hatchbacks and sedans. These devices are sometimes made for only one brand of scooter. However, some loaders can also be used with a range of scooters and power wheelchairs, depending on the weight of the chair.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPTIONS

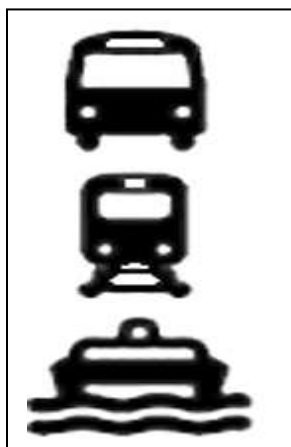
The space designated for mobility equipment on public transport is 800mm x 1300mm. When travelling on public transport it is important to remember to position the wheelchair or scooter in the designated area and apply the brakes.

BUS – Brisbane Transport has low floor accessible buses that can be organised to run on a specific bus route with 24 hours notice. Bus Drivers can provide assistance as required. Wheelchair users can either remain in their wheelchair or transfer to a seat. It is recommended that the wheelchair users travel facing the rear of the bus.

TRAIN – Wheelchair users can wait at the wheelchair symbol painted on the platform or ask at the counter for assistance with boarding. Queensland rail staff can provide assistance to wheelchair and scooter users with boarding and exiting train using ramps provided at the stations.

FERRY AND CITY CAT – Ferry staff provide assistance to board and exit the City Cat as necessary. Eight ferry terminals in Brisbane are easily wheelchair accessible.

TAXI TRAVEL – Wheelchair accessible taxis (often called Maxi Taxis) are able to transport manual and power wheelchairs, and scooters. Wheelchair users can travel in their chair if it is suitable for use with a wheelchair restraint system. Scooter users are required to transfer into the taxi seat. Cab drivers can provide assistance with boarding and can ensure that the wheelchair or scooter is properly secured. You will **need** to inform the operator that an accessible taxi is required.



TRANSPORT OPTIONS

The Transport Options and Access Guide summarises information about transport options available within Brisbane and surrounding areas. It includes information on transport for people with disability and those using mobility equipment. The guide is available in Greek, Chinese and Vietnamese. For further information contact Transport Access on (07) 3253 0532.

Contact your local council for specific public transport options and schemes.



NEED TO KNOW MORE?

Telephone, fax or e-mail your enquiry to obtain further information from one of the therapists about products. Alternatively, you can make an appointment to trial the equipment at our display centres or through our outreach service. Please phone LifeTec for further details.

Last Updated: March 2009

LifeTec Queensland

Email: mail@lifetec.org.au
www.lifetec.org.au

Independent Living Centre
Association of Queensland
Incorporated trading as LifeTec
Queensland ABN 25 773 960 273

TOWNSVILLE

Shop G-3A, Domain Central
103 Duckworth Street
(PO Box 8280), Garbutt, Townsville Qld 4814
Phone: 07 4759 5600
Facsimile: 07 4759 5688

BRISBANE
Level One, Reading Newmarket
Cnr Newmarket & Enoggera Roads
(PO Box 3241), Newmarket Qld 4051
Phone: 07 3552 9000 or 1300 885 886
Facsimile: 07 3552 9088

