

# Wheelchair Booking Conditions - Use and Safety

*\* A carer/support person must be operating the chair at all times!*

## Mobi-Chair (Floating)

This beach wheelchair is designed for use on the beach (on hard or soft sand), in low water, and on grass or surfaced footpaths.

The chair is not designed to be totally submerged in water, however is able to go in low water.

### Before use

- Check the weather for incoming tides as well as the strength of the waves, wind strength, storms and heat prior to hiring the wheelchair.
- Ensure walkway / routes to be taken are clear of hazards.
- Visually inspect seating, tyres and moving parts for possible damage.
- Ensure the foot rest is lowered and the parking break is activated prior to a person being seated.
- If possible, get another person to hold the handles of the wheelchair so that it will not move when a person is being seated. If this is not possible then stand behind the chair and hold the handles yourself.
- NOTE there is currently no hoist available for transfer, please ensure you have the right level of support to transfer and push the beach wheelchair during use.
- The wheelchair has been designed to be used on dry sand and wet sand at the water's edge.
- The wheelchair is stable in low water levels up to the centre of the rear wheels, in still water conditions.
- **The wheelchair is NOT to be used in deep water.**
- Do not exceed maximum recommended loading of 120kg.
- **Do not leave a person unattended when in the wheelchair.**
- When parking, find a level surface and ensure the parking brake is securely locked down.
- **Gradients steeper than a standard ramp rise is not recommended unless two people are assisting with pushing the chair.**
- In dry soft sand it is often easier to pull the chair backwards rather than to push it forwards. Two people are recommended to pull the chair backwards through the sand or up a slope.
- Ensure heavy items are not placed on back of wheelchair or the handles.
- Always keep the passenger informed about what you are intending to do (turning, entering water, crossing road).
- The wheelchair must not be propelled by towing behind a motor vehicle, kite or other means, other than being pushed by an assistant.
- The wheelchair is not designed for self-propelling (independent use) and must be supervised and pushed by a responsible assistant.
- **The chair has balloon tyres which do have a tendency to float, depending on weight being carried and will become unstable once the chair and the passenger**

**become buoyant. At all times in the water an assistant must be present to push the wheelchair and to ensure its stability in the water.**

- When in low water, the use of the safety belt is recommended, depending on the passengers understanding of their capacity to move around freely.
- If a passenger experiences unsteadiness (such as with epilepsy), the seat belt should be used.
- Always use the safety belt when using the chair on dry land, including soft and hard sand.
- Ensure seat and foot rests are in the correct position and wheel brakes applied prior to a person exiting the wheelchair.
- Any safety, mechanical or accessibility concerns with the use of the Beach wheelchair should be reported immediately to the City of Charles Sturt.