

# SAFETY INFORMATION: SANDCRUISER BEACH WHEELCHAIR

## City of Moreton Bay Accessible Beaches

All participants and carers are responsible for their own safety and must be aware of the following:

- All universal beach rules must be followed at all times. These include:
  - Swim within the patrolled area when the beach is patrolled.
  - Be sun safe: 'slip, slop, slap, seek, slide.'
  - The beach is a public place and therefore all other patron's rights must be respected.
- Check the weather for incoming tides as well as the strength of the waves, wind strength, storms, and heat prior to using the wheelchair.
- Care should be taken in hot weather as the metal frame and armrests can heat up and lead to burns.
- Wave patterns, wind strength, type of beach and underwater formations can all affect the use of the chair. Unexpected movement of the chair is a risk factor for users.
- Surf lifesavers and lifeguards must not be requested to assist users to transfer to and from the beach wheelchair.
- It is recommended to transfer on flat ground, with the help of a support person.
- Care must be taken when using the wheelchair over uneven or unsteady ground.
- The chair is not designed to move up and down stairs whilst loaded.
- If the user cannot swim, it is advisable to wear a life jacket in the water and the user must be accompanied at all times.
- Follow all surf lifesaving instructions such as swimming in a patrolled swimming area.
- The wheelchair may become unstable if the user creates excessive movement or rocking motions.
- As a duty of care responsibility, the user and wheelchair **MUST NOT** be left unattended in the water.
- Consider the number of people needed to push the wheelchair with a person in it over soft sand and up the slope of the beach.



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## Out of the water:

- Visually inspect seating, tyres and moving parts for any damage or maintenance issues before and after use. Do not use if there are issues and notify the equipment provider immediately.
- Max safe weight loading for this product is **120kg**.
- Do not place heavy items on the back of the wheelchair.
- Users **MUST NOT** attempt to use this equipment on their own. It is designed to be pushed by someone other than the person sitting in it.
- The Sandcruiser should only be used at walking speed and not subjected to sharp turning manoeuvres.
- You must not be pulled by an animal or an object (e.g. kite, bicycle or motorbike).
- The front castors rotate 360 degrees and make turning easy to manoeuvre.
- Ensure the wheel brakes are activated prior to the user transferring in/out of the wheelchair.
- To apply the parking brake - steady the chair, release the parking brake/ anti-tip bar assembly manually from the nylon clip/strap and swing down towards the rear wheels, pressing firmly on the parking brake with your foot to engage the locking bar.
- To release the parking brake, push it again with your foot to release the locking bar and lift upwards, securing it with the nylon clip/strap.
- The front footrest is adjustable for angle and height using the locking handles that are fitted on either side of the front pivot frame. This is done by turning the locking handles on either side in an anti-clockwise motion and then lock in position by moving handles in clockwise direction. The front footrest can be taken off by removing the two-spring loaded drop latch pins.
- Arm rests can be raised to a position of 90 degrees from the horizontal and this allows for easier transfers.
- Ensure the safety belt is properly adjusted for the user.

## Additional information when in the water:

- The Sandcruiser is stable in low water levels up to the centre of the rear wheels, in still water conditions.
- The Sandcruiser has balloon tyres which may become buoyant depending on the weight being carried.
- The Sandcruiser is not to be taken into water deeper than 15cm.
- When in low water, it is recommended to use the safety belt, depending on the user's understanding of their capacity to move around freely. Please use the safety belt if the user experiences unsteadiness (such as with epilepsy).

**Be safe and enjoy the beach!**