



MOBI-CHAIR FLOATING BEACH WHEELCHAIR

User Guide and Conditions of Use

This User Guide contains information Council has been able to source about safety, handling and beach access information for this floating beach wheelchair, available free for hire and use at One Mile, Birubi and Fingal Bay Beaches.

Port Stephens Council as manager of the beaches is committed to ensuring the Mobi-Chair is kept in good working order. Persons who use the wheelchair have a responsibility to ensure they take all reasonable steps to avoid an accident by operating it in a safe and careful manner.

People who use this rolling wheelchair do so at their own risk and Council cannot be held liable for any incident which occurs while it is in the charge of a third party.

It is the responsibility of the carer/user to ensure they have read and understood the following Conditions of use.

This information can also be downloaded from Council's website at

<https://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/play/recreation-in-port-stephens/beaches-and-foreshores>.

Safety and Handling

1. The carer (since these chairs are not self-propelled) needs to gauge for themselves the ease with which they can push their charge (the chairee) on hard surfaced areas before tackling the sand.
2. It will always be advisable for there to be two people to help with the Mobi-Chair if the person in the chair exceeds 60-70kgs, unless the pusher is at least equal to the chairee's weight and has good strength. Staff/SLSC personnel cannot be expected to provide this help on demand.
3. The weight limit of the chair is 120kg.
4. A lifejacket is required for non-swimmers (to be provided by the user).
5. Caution is recommended when taking the Mobi-Chair into the water as the entire chair floats.
6. The carer must first check in with the lifeguard to see if it is safe to go near the water. In this situation, the Mobi-Chair can be used in the water within the flagged area of the patrol.
7. If the dry sand seems particularly soft to negotiate, instead of pushing, pull using the pull strap at the front of the chair or turn the chair around and pull the chair - you'll find it a lot easier in this situation.
8. The horizontal bar at the back of the Mobi-Chair is used when you have 2 pushers and you are in very soft sand.
9. Use the seat belt when on the move but release when in the water.
10. The carer is required to hold the front pull strap provided to pull the Mobi-Chair through the water.

Care

- The Mobi-Chair is specifically designed for use on sand and in the water. To prevent damage its use on paved footpaths, roads and other hard surfaces should be minimal.
- After use the Mobi-Chair must be returned to the area where it was first obtained, at least in the same condition as when it was loaned out. If any item (eg pin, buckle or protective cover) is missing or defective, this should be indicated on the sign-on sheet when signing the Mobi-Chair out.
- Please ensure the Mobi-Chair is washed thoroughly after each use to prevent damage from sand and salt, and as a courtesy to the next user. Please note that a beach shower is located at the entrance to the beach.

Remember

- Be aware. Due to wind and tidal variations, beach suitability may vary from one day to the next.
- Please ensure you have returned the Mobi-Chair to the life guard.
- You are required to wear your life jacket if unable to swim.



IMPORTANT SAFETY WARNINGS

**It is important that all users read and understand this information prior to using the Mobi-Chair.
If any of this information is unclear contact Port Stephens Council on 49880255.**

This safety warning summary sheet has been provided to ensure all users are aware of the primary safety issues for using the Mobi-Chair.

1. People with severe balance or sitting problems should consult their doctor or appropriate health professional prior to usage and may have specific considerations
2. This product must be used under supervision of an appropriate adult/carer.
3. Users should not try to use this product on their own. It is designed to be pushed by someone other than the person sitting in it.
4. This product is suitable for use on sand and in the water. **It is not an all-terrain product.**
5. This product can be difficult to push in some sandy conditions and can be difficult to push with a large person sitting in it.
6. The weight limit is 120kg.
7. A life jacket (to be supplied by user) is required for those unable to swim.
8. This product has oversized wheels. Special care is needed in transferring persons into or out of the Mobi-Chair due to the long distance over the wheels to chair seat. Users should not attempt to transfer to and from the chair without assistance.
9. This product does not have brakes, therefore transfers should be completed on a flat surface with a person holding the chair if required.
10. The Mobi-Chair should not be used as a floatation device but is designed to float the user.
11. If the user is prone to pressure sores, back pain or other pain related conditions then medical advice should be sought prior to using this product.
12. As a safety measure the seat belt should be used when transporting the user to the water however needs to be released once the user has entered the water.

Prospective users/carers must take into consideration any specific issues related to the disability, which may affect the safe use of this product.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Lifting and transfers

Important points when Transferring

- Transferring a person onto the Mobi-Chair is not difficult if a lift is well planned and executed.
- When transferring a person into the Mobi-Chair it is important to plan the lift carefully to avoid injury to both yourself and the person with the disability
- Many people who generally transfer independently can transfer onto the Mobi-Chair with little or no assistance however assistance by a carer is required when pushing or in the water.
- There are two (2) handles on the front of the chair that can be used to assist with transfers.

General lifting or transferring principals

- People who require assistance are able to tell you the best way of assisting them.

Issues to consider when lifting or transferring

- Talk to the person about their needs and abilities to assist with lift
- Assess the environment ie room to move safely, obstacles which can be moved out of the way
- Arrange area so that lift is for the shortest possible distance and does not involve twisting
- If in doubt ask a second person to assist
- If two people are involved in lift appoint a leader to call the lift

Important points when lifting

- Get close to the person and hold them close to you
- Take firm hold, not too tight
- Position your feet well
- Bend your knees and keep your back straight
- Leader counts "1,2,3, lift"
- While lifting use your legs not your back
- To change direction move your feet don't twist.

It may be advisable to do a two stage lift onto the Mobi-Chair and that the person is supported throughout the whole lift.

It may be useful to ask a physiotherapist or occupational therapist to train you and others in correct principals of lifting.

PLEASE NOTE: It is the responsibility of the person/s using the Mobi-Chair to ensure that safe lifting techniques are employed.

1. Straps and support

- Seat belt and leg strap is to be fitted to secure the user in the Mobi-Chair whilst being pushed
- The seat belt and straps around the person should be released once the person has entered the water
- Some people may need to use cushions or towels for support and comfort

2. Pushing the Mobi-Chair

- The Mobi-Chair has been designed to push and turn easily over sand. It is important to remember that it is a manual wheelchair and that the ease of pushing depends on the size of the person and the slope of the environment.



- The Mobi-Chair has two handles either side of the seat to assist with traveling on sand. These are to be used for particularly large people or for going up steep inclines. Two people are able to assist by using these handles. These side handles can be used to lift the Mobi-Chair if necessary.
- The two front handles are designed to assist with transfers.

3. Use at water based environments

- The Mobi-Chair has been designed to go into the water. The frame is made from aluminium and stainless steel and the wheels are non-corrosive.

CAUTION needs to be taken around environments where there is a chance of wave action as unexpected movement of the Mobi-Chair is a risk for users. When in the water the person should not be strapped into the Mobi-Chair.

Hiring Requirements

- Hire of the Mobi-Chair is free however the user/carer must read the User Guidelines and sign a Loan and indemnity Agreement form before use of the Mobi-Chair.
- The user/carer has the responsibility to look after the chair at all times whilst in their care.
- The Mobi-Chair must be washed down after use ready for the next user.
- The user/carer must return the Mobi-Chair to the lifeguard on duty after use.
- Any damage or maintenance must be report to lifeguard on duty immediately.