

Accessible Home Design

- **Livable Housing Australia provides guidelines for making homes accessible**
- **There are many possible solutions to make your home more accessible**
- **There is a Home Modifications Service Directory to find assistance**

Many polio survivors experience varying levels of disability. They may find it difficult to get around their own homes.

According to the [Australian Network for Universal Housing Design \(ANUHD\)](#):

- More accessible mainstream housing is critical to the success of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the Aged Care Reforms
- With a few exceptions, the housing industry has not responded to the [2010-2020 National Disability Strategy](#) commitment; an agreed level of accessibility in all new housing by 2020
- ANUHD anticipates that less than 5% of the 2020 target will be met unless National Construction Code for access features in all new and extensively modified housing is regulated by the Australian Government

What Is Accessible Design?

Livable Housing Australia (LHA) is a partnership between community and consumer groups, government and industry. LHA encourages the use of livable housing design principles in all new homes built in Australia. LHA has produced [Guidelines](#) for including access features into new and modified housing.

Through adopting the Livable Housing Design Guidelines, dwellings will be:

- designed to better anticipate and respond to the changing needs and abilities of the people who live in the home
- easier to enter
- safer to move in and around
- more capable of easy and cost-effective adaptation

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Making Your Existing Home Accessible

Making your home more accessible might be as simple as installing a rail in the shower, or as complex as a full bathroom renovation. Assistive Technology Partners (USA) has produced an extensive list of [Low Cost Solutions for Making Your Home Accessible](#).

The list refers to common problems and possible solutions for a number of access concerns such as:

- diameter circle maneuverable space for wheelchairs
- width of doorways
- bathroom and kitchen safety
- furniture size and placement
- trip hazards
- height of benches and equipment
- inside floor coverings and outside ground surface
- the use of ramps and handrails

More Information

- Visit the [Home Modifications Service Directory](#) on Home Modification Information Clearinghouse website
- See an [Occupational Therapist \(OT\)](#).
- View Home Modification Concessions options on Polio Australia's [Housing webpage](#)

The background of the page is an abstract composition of various geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in shades of yellow, gold, and brown. The shapes are layered and overlapping, creating a sense of depth and movement. A dark brown horizontal band runs across the upper portion of the page, containing the word "Lifestyle" in white text.

Lifestyle