

Polio Australia

Representing polio survivors throughout Australia

Statement of support for accessible housing

Polio Australia, as an organisation representing a large group of Australians with physical disability, supports the concept of accessible housing for all. In establishing national minimum standards for housing accessibility, it is important to define "accessibility" in such a way that all Australians are included.

As has been mentioned, retrofitting residential buildings is significantly more expensive than building residences to a minimum accessible standard. As polio survivors age, they often experience increasing physical disability and therefore require significant modifications to their dwellings. Housing that already incorporates minimum accessibility standards would not require these expensive modifications. This would allow savings not only to individuals but also, importantly, to government funding bodies such as the NDIS, My Aged Care and state funding organisations.

Polio Australia supports the introduction of LHDG Gold Level standards for the National Construction Code amendment. The reason for this is that it would be considered a more cost-effective measure than providing expensive, disruptive and often inadequate retrofitted modifications.

Importantly, polio survivors are not the only disability group in Australia. Millions of Australians live with some level of disability, and as our population ages we need to consider the accessibility needs of everyone.



Gillian Thomas
President

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