



Friday 19 March 2010

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DISABILITY ACCESS STANDARDS FOR BUILDINGS FINALISED

The Federal Government this week [released](#) the long-awaited [Disability \(Access to Premises – Buildings\) Standards 2010](#) (the 'Premises Standards'), made under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*. The standards - which will apply to new buildings and modifications to, or extensions of, existing buildings - establish minimum access requirements to publicly accessible buildings for people with a disability. These include, under the Building Code of Australia, Class 6 buildings (which include shopping centres and shops), Class 7a buildings (which include car parks) and Class 9b buildings (which include cinemas). From 1 May 2011 any application to construct a new building or refurbish an existing one will trigger access requirements for almost all areas, such as access, lifts, stairs, ramps, toilets, signage, corridors, and car parking. Anyone involved in the approval, development or management of buildings will need to comply.

In situations where a tenant is undertaking work, there will be no requirement for an owner/operator to provide access to it. However, where an owner is undertaking modifications or extensions of existing buildings, they will need to provide an accessible path of travel from the property boundary, through the principal pedestrian entrance, to the location of that work. Existing features such as lifts and accessible toilets that meet current standards will not need to be upgraded. While buildings not being refurbished are not covered by the Premises Standards, these buildings are still subject to the existing provisions (section 23) of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and complaints can still be raised with the Human rights Commission.

The Premises Standards are the result of many years of consultation and negotiation between the Federal Government, the property industry and the disability community. Their finalisation follows a parliamentary committee review of the changes last July ([Shop Talk 17/7/09](#)). In line with one of the recommendations of the parliamentary committee, the Federal Government will undertake a review of the standards within five years of their commencement.

KARRINYUP SHOPPING CENTRE WINS RETAIL PROPERTY AWARD

Congratulations to Karrinyup Shopping Centre, and the team from AMP Capital Shopping Centres, which last week was named the 2010 Retail Property of the Year Award, as part of the Property Council, Western Australia's *WA Innovation and Excellence Awards*. Karrinyup also won the category award for Retail Management. Congratulations also to Rockingham Shopping Centre (Colonial First State Global Asset Management) which won the award for Retail Development and to The Mezz, Mt Hawthorn (Hawaiian), which won the award for Retail Marketing. The Shopping Centre Council of Australia was a sponsor of the *Innovation and Excellence Awards*.

LATEST EDITION OF URBIS RETAIL PERSPECTIVES PUBLISHED

The February edition of Urbis's *Retail Perspectives* is available [here](#) with a detailed look at current trends in retail sales growth and the course of the Australian economy.

QUEENSLAND EDUCATION COURSE ON RETAIL SHOP LEASES ACT

The Property Council of Australia, Queensland, is running a one-day [Queensland Retail Shop Leases Act Course](#) in Brisbane on 20 April 2010. This is an important course, particularly for those involved in shopping centre management and leasing. For further information, contact [Louisa Debono](#) (email) or on (07) 3225 3000.