

## BEFORE USE

- Check the weather for incoming tides as well as the strength of the waves, wind strength, storms and heat prior to hiring the wheelchair to see if you are comfortable with the conditions. Swim between the flags.
- Ensure walkway / routes to be taken are clear of hazards
- Visually inspect the wheelchair before hiring, including seating, tyres and moving parts for possible damage
- Ensure the foot rest is lowered and the parking break is activated prior to a person being seated
- If possible, have another person hold the handles of the wheelchair so that it will not move when a person is being seated. If this is not possible then stand behind the chair and hold the handles yourself
- Be careful when lifting or transferring the person and use personal aids if needed.
- The wheelchair has been designed to go into low water **ONLY**.

## DURING USE

- The wheelchair has been designed to be used on dry sand and wet sand at the water's edge
- The wheelchair is stable in low water levels up to the centre of the tyres, in still water conditions
- The wheelchair is **NOT** to be used in deep water
- The wheelchairs maximum recommended load is 120kg
- Do not leave a person unattended when in the wheelchair. Make sure a carer is with you at all stages
- When parking find a level surface and ensure the parking brake is securely locked down
- Gradient steeper than a standard ramp rise are not recommended unless two people are assisting with pushing the chair
- In dry soft sand it is often easier to pull the chair backwards rather than to push it forwards. Two people are recommended to pull the chair backwards through the sand or up a slope
- Heavy items must not be placed on back of wheelchair or the handles
- Always keep the person in wheelchair informed about what you are intending to do (turning, entering water, crossing road)

## **DURING USE** *continued*

- The wheelchair must not be propelled by towing behind a motor vehicle, kite or other means, other than being pushed by a carer
- The wheelchair is not designed for self-propelling and must be supervised and pushed by a responsible assistant
- When in low water, the use of the safety belt is recommended, depending on the persons understanding of their capacity to move around freely. If a person experiences unsteadiness such as with epilepsy, the seat belt should be used
- Always use the safety belt when using the chair on dry land, including soft and hard sand. If a person experiences unsteadiness (such as epilepsy), the seat belt should be used at all times
- The wheelchair is not to be removed from the designated site area

## **AFTER USE**

- Ensure seat and foot rests are in the correct position and wheel brakes applied prior to a person exiting the wheelchair
- Any safety, mechanical or accessibility concerns with the use of the Beach wheelchair should be reported immediately to **site staff/volunteers at the pick-up & return site**

The wheelchair has been made available to the community through a collaboration between **FundAbility, Shoalhaven City Council, Surf Lifesaving South Coast Branch, Holiday Haven Tourist Parks and Oscars Corner Store**

We welcome your feedback on your experience with the beach wheelchair, on the use of the chair, suitable beach access points and any hazards or barriers identified whilst using the chair.

To provide feedback please email [council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au)