

Included.

Inclusion Access Newsletter

Issue 8, September 2023



Team Update

Welcome to the September 2023 newsletter. We would like to welcome Sam Wright to the inclusion access team. Sam has come on board as our treasurer. Please see Sam's bio:



My name is Sam Wright, and I live in Toowoomba with my family - my wife Ash and our three children, Will (8), Ella (6), and Patrick (3). My professional role is as a partner at Ambrosiussen The Business Accountants, a CPA accounting firm in Toowoomba that provides taxation and management accounting advisory services focused on small & medium family businesses and not-for-profit organisations.

I have completed the CPA program, a CPA Public Practice Certificate, is a registered Tax Agent, a Masters of Business Administration through UniSQ, and have graduated the Company Director's Course through the AICD.

One of the main governance experiences I have is with the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce, serving on the Board to fill the role of Treasurer from 2016 until October 2019 when I was then elected as a Vice President and has been serving in that position since.

The reason why I have accepted the invitation to serve on the Inclusion Access Ltd board is because I see education and collaboration as the best way to improve accessibility outcomes. The concept of the app was one that I can see great potential for, as well as being drawn towards the passion and enthusiasm of the Inclusion Access Ltd board members.

I look forward to making a positive contribution to the success of Inclusion Access Ltd.

Inclusion Access interest piece

Those with disability or that have lived experience in their family with disability (as all at Inclusion Access have) have first-hand witnessed the inaccessibility of tourism venues in our country. The majority of issues stem from the lack of understanding and knowledge by providers and we are set on a journey to change this situation.

Although our app that we are developing will catalogue accessible venues which will be reviewed by access consultants whilst offering education to those that run the venues, we have found that the first step is getting a buy-in from governmental tourism agencies and Regional Tourism Organisations (RTO).

We have since worked with many governmental and non-governmental agencies to run workshops and provide education and build trust in the field. We are enjoying changing the knowledge base and expectations of those that offer tourism venues and events. At this stage just in Queensland, but our horizons are positive, and we hope to roll this out to the whole of Australia.

The only hurdle currently is finding the funding to assess all venues and develop an accessible app and website. We are playing the game of Grant writing at the moment. If you or anyone you know specialises in this area and is willing to help out, please get in touch.

Access update

I would like to talk about Braille and its uses and how it may improve in accessibility. People are requiring Braille, often, use it to locate rooms, toilets, information about public transport, labels, and many other things on menus or explanatory material. Braille is often overlooked when designing a building or retrofitting/renovating. One area the braille is specifically not utilised is on stairwells. Many other features on the stairwell such as nosing strips or tactile ground surface indicators (TGSI) are commonly used, but some people choose

not to use these assistive components, and instead, refer to read with their fingertips, hence Braille.

Stairs are often used for egress or in other words, leaving a building in an emergency. Guide dogs are often used in this situation, but if one isn't available, a person who is vision, impaired or blind, needs to rely on their hands to read what level they are writing, or where an exit point may be.

Along with the handrail considerations, such as a 180° turn down at the end of the hand rail, I feel it is relevant to install braille strips on the handrail. This is an access barrier that I think needs further consideration.



Photo credit: Association of Consultants in Access Australia Ltd.

Contact Us

We are looking for Inclusion Access members. If you would be interested in being a member which will give you access to many opportunities, please join our members portal.

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