

MEDIA RELEASE

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Local group launches Australia's first disability access app

A GROUNDBREAKING new smartphone app is helping people with disabilities navigate their way around Brisbane in an Australia-first.

Brisbane based disability support service Carers Link, in partnership with Disability Support Queensland, has launched Access 4000, the nation's only smartphone app to provide information on some Brisbane venues and infrastructure with disability access features like wheelchair/pram ramps, disabled toilets and disabled parking.

Carers Link Director Debby Brennan said Access 4000 was an exciting step forward for people with disabilities who were struggling to access the city.

"For people with a physical disability and other mobility issues, accessing transport, community venues and businesses in Brisbane presents many challenges and finding information about these access features is a difficult task – sometimes difficult enough that it forces people to stay at home rather than take the chance," Ms Brennan said.

"The purpose of Access 4000 is to reduce social isolation by helping people with disabilities access Brisbane. My hope is that Access 4000 can be a driver for inclusion and social justice for people experiencing access barriers within our communities."

She encouraged members of the community to help improve the app by sharing venues and services that were disability-access friendly.

"We want to encourage everyone in the community to use Access 4000 to share venues and services that cater for good access and inclusion, and maybe this will encourage businesses to make sure they are more accessible," she said.

"With the implementation of the NDIS, businesses will have the opportunity to tap into a wider market and grow their customer base if they utilise their space to be more inclusive."

Boondall resident Danny Daichi, who uses a wheelchair and was involved in focus group research for the app, said the app would make life much easier for people with access needs.

"I think the app is an important step forward," he said.



“It’s great to know ahead of time what access features a business has, such as wheelchair ramps. It gives you the confidence and the motivation to go out.

“Before the app was available, you had to call ahead to find information about access. It’s not an easy question to ask, especially if the venue doesn’t have the accessibility features you need.”

Mr Daichi said while Brisbane City was not wheelchair friendly, governments and businesses were moving in the right direction by planning and designing more inclusive buildings and infrastructure.

Mr Brennan said more funding was required to continue developing the app to include more categories, additional sensory features and other functions, as well as to expand the app to all of Queensland.

Access 4000 uses map-based technology to allow people to find businesses and venues across Brisbane that offer the accessibility features they require. Users can filter their searches by venue or the type of accessibility feature.

Venue categories include train stations, ferries, libraries and public pools, as well as tourist attractions and shopping centres. Accessibility features include disabled parking and toilets, wheelchair/pram access, and support for low vision or blindness.

Access 4000 is currently available for free on the App Store and Google Play.

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About Carers Link

Carers Link provides quality, personalised care for people with disability of all ages, the elderly, and carers. Carers Link delivers innovative, person centred services and focus on each client’s needs and goals to assist them to live independently, and empower them to live the life they choose.

About Disability Services Queensland

Disability Support Queensland is a non-profit related entity of Carers Link, established to support people with a disability and their families and carers to access resources that enhance their quality of life.