Disability Access

Do Schools need to comply?

Yes, if you construct a new building or modify an existing building in such a way that you require Local Government approval for the modifications.

Conditions of compliance:

New buildings are required by law, under the Building Code of Australia, to provide access to people with disabilities in accordance with the Australian Standard AS1428 Part 1 – 1993.

If you have to comply, what do you have to do?

Normally your architect will ensure that any building work that you undertake complies with standards relating to access including ramps, lifts, door width, suitable floor finishes, disabled toilets etc.

However while the Building Code of Australia and AS1428 Part 1 are the legislative requirements, it should be the aim wherever possible in the design of all new buildings to provide access in a manner to minimise the likelihood of a complaint under the Disability Discrimination Act (Cth).

What are the consequences if you don’t comply?

You may be in breach of legislation and liable for prosecution or be required to modify a building should a student requiring disability access apply for enrolment at your school.

Useful links:

Australian Human Rights Commission - Access guidelines and information

DECS Facilities Design Standards and Guidelines

DECS Facilities Design Standards and Guidelines - Disability Access

Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) Sect 4

The Disability Information and Resource Centre