

Proposed activity

Field	Content
Name of Division/Office	Classification, Human Rights and Copyright Division
Title	Proposed Disability Standard for Access to Premises
Description of issue	<p>Section 31 of the <i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992</i> (the DDA) provides that the Attorney-General may formulate disability standards, in relation to a number of areas covered by the DDA. Disability standards only come into effect after they are tabled in, and approved by, Parliament.</p> <p>Compliance with a disability standard provides a defence to a complaint of unlawful discrimination. Breach of a disability standard provides the basis for a complaint to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC).</p> <p>In April 2001 the previous Government asked the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) via its Building Access Policy Committee (BAPC) to recommend changes to the Building Code of Australia (BCA) which would form the basis for a national Disability Standard on Access to Premises.</p> <p>A package of information is available on the <u>ABCB's website</u> http://www.abcb.gov.au/index.cfm?fuseaction=DocumentView&DocumentID=98.</p> <p>The ABCB has provided advice to Government, including a Regulation Impact Statement estimating the costs and benefits likely to accrue from its proposed Standard on Access to Premises.</p>
Date of effect	Decisions on the content of any Standards, including commencement, have not been made.
Consultation Opportunities	<p>The proposed Standard has been the subject of extensive, ongoing public consultations including public forums in 2002 and 2004.</p> <p>Recommendations for the proposed Standard were developed by the BAPC which comprised members from Government (AGD, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, HREOC), members from Industry (Property Council, Australian Construction Industry Forum and the Australian Institute of Building Surveyors) and members from the disability sector (DDA Standards Project).</p>
Expected timetable	The results of the BAPC's consideration of public submissions on the 2004 draft Standard were provided to the ABCB on 26 May

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	<p>2005.</p> <p>The ABCB provided a preliminary report to the Attorney-General and the Minister for Industry Tourism and Resources on its proposal for a Premises Standard in 2005, and additional material regarding its proposal in June 2006.</p> <p>Ministers have established a small Reference Group which will includes representatives from the disability sector and industry sector, as well as HREOC, to further consider a small number of remaining issues to report to them.</p> <p>Ministers and their Departments are considering the latest proposals, including the economic and social costs and benefits likely to accrue from the proposals and the views of the Reference Group. Although there only remain a few outstanding issues to be resolved, they are complex and must seek to address the needs of many different sectors.</p>
Contact details	<p>Stephen Fox Principal Legal Officer Disability Discrimination Section</p> <p>Telephone: (02) 6250 6202 Facsimile: (02) 6250 5924 Email: stephen.fox@ag.gov.au</p>
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