



Benchmarks for the Property Accessibility Assessment Tool - Guidance

The [Property Accessibility Assessment Tool](#)¹ (PAAT) was developed in line with current research evidence and disability rights frameworks and legislation.

It is important to note that the PAAT does not cover minimum standards for compliance as outlined in the Australian Standards and National Construction Code, as it presumes these minimum standards will be met through other compliance processes.

The PAAT focuses on providing additional considerations of the physical, cognitive and sensory aspects of the workplace with an aim to foster genuine inclusion for all employees.

Universal Design Principles

Universal design refers to the concept of designing products and environments that are usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation. The seven principles of universal design are:

1. Equitable Use
2. Flexibility in Use
3. Simple and Intuitive Use
4. Perceptible Information
5. Tolerance for Error
6. Low Physical Effort
7. Size and Space for Approach and Use

Read [Universal Design in the Workplace](#)² for more information and examples.

Design for the mind. Neurodiversity and the built environment (PAS6463:2022)

PAS6463: 2022 is a British Standard that outlines key considerations for those with cognitive and sensory differences.

¹ <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/property-and-construction/creating-accessible-and-inclusive-spaces/property-accessibility-assessment-tool>

² <https://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-08/universal-design-in-the-workplace-fact-sheet.pdf>



The guide provides valuable recommendations for more inclusive built environments highlighting the experiences and common barriers neurodivergent people face.

Read more on the [BSI Group website](#).

Wayfinding design guidelines by the Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation

In the built environment, the principle of simple and intuitive use refers to spaces that are predictable, consistent and easy to understand. A wide variety of users can easily navigate the space, understand its purpose and effectively use the space consistent with its function.

Office examples:

- Clear and consistent wayfinding and signage throughout the premises.
- Intuitive layouts that support flow between spaces (for example, reception and work areas) and understanding of use.

Read more on the [CRC Construction Innovation website](#).

The Autism Design Index by ASPECTSS

The Autism Design Index is a set of evidence-based design guidelines for creating built environments that better support neurodivergent people, focusing on seven key criteria: acoustics, spatial sequencing, escape space, compartmentalisation, transition spaces, sensory zoning, and safety.

Read more on the [ASPECTSS website](#).