

Sandcruiser® beach wheelchair user guide



This user guide contains information about safety, handling and beach access information for the Sandcruiser® beach wheelchair.

The wheelchair operator has a responsibility to ensure that they take all reasonable steps to avoid an accident by operating the wheelchair in a safe and careful manner.

People who use the wheelchair do so at their own risk and Randwick City Council will not be held liable for any incident which occurs while it is in the charge of a third party.

It is the responsibility of the user and/or support persons to ensure they have read and understood the following Safety Guide information before use.

About the Sandcruiser® beach wheelchair

The Sandcruiser® beach wheelchair is specifically designed for use on sand and soft soil. To prevent damage, the use on paved footpaths, roads and other hard surfaces should be minimal.



Wheelchair specifications

Maximum safe weight loading	120kg
Seat width	18 inches (46cm)
Seat height approx	21 inches (53cm)
Length overall (including footrest)	48 inches (120cm)
Maximum width	38.5 inches (98cm)
Height from ground to top handles	40 inches (102cm)
Front to rear wheel centres	22 inches (56cm)
Weight assembled	25kg (approximately)

Components

Seat frame	316 marine grade stainless steel tubing
Upholstery	Docile UV stabilised acrylic canvas)
Features	Leg rest, back rest, seat belt and footrest
Front tyres	2 x Wheeleez tyres - 11.8 x 7 inches (39 x 18cm)
Rear tyres	2 x Wheeleez tyres - 19.8 x 9 inches (49 x 23cm)

For further information, visit sandcruiser.com.au/products/sandcruiser

1. Prior to using the wheelchair

Check the weather conditions and make yourself aware of incoming tides, wave patterns, wind strength, storms and heat. Due to wind and tidal variations, beach suitability may vary from one day to the next.

- Care should be taken in hot weather as the metal frame and armrests can heat up and lead to burns.
- Ensure that you have adequate support persons to assist with the wheelchair on the day. The Disabled Surfers Association of Australia recommends **a minimum of two (2) support persons/carers to assist with the wheelchair.**
- Water safety is the primary responsibility of Lifeguards and volunteer Surf Life Savers. They cannot assist with transfers or helping people to use the beach wheelchair.
- If the wheelchair user has severe balance or sitting problems or is prone to pressure sores, back pain or other pain related conditions, medical advice should be sought prior to using the wheelchair.
- The beach wheelchair can be used at the water's edge and is stable in water levels up to the centre of the tyres. The wheelchair has balloon tyres which have a tendency to float and can tip over depending on the weight being carried. Due to strong tide conditions at the beach, the use of the wheelchair at the water's edge is strongly discouraged.
- Read the Safety Procedures and familiarise yourself with the operation of the wheelchair.

2. After use

For the safety and comfort of the next user, after use, please ensure the following;

- Brush off any sand from the wheelchair and wipe it down if necessary.
- Rinse the Sandcruiser® thoroughly with fresh water to prevent damage from sand and salt.
- After use, the Sandcruiser® must be returned to the area where it was first obtained, and in the same condition as it was loaned out.
- Any damages or mechanical problems to the wheelchair should be reported immediately to the Lifeguard on duty. It is also important to notify the on-duty Lifeguard when returning the wheelchair so they can remove it from use to prevent injury to the next user.

3. Operating the Sandcruiser® wheelchair

- The Sandcruiser® beach wheelchair has a maximum safe weight loading of **120kg** which should not be exceeded.
- The Sandcruiser® is not a self-propelling wheelchair. It is designed to be used with the **assistance of two support persons.**
- There is no hoist available at the beach to aid with transfers. Users will require the assistance of their two support persons for transfers.
- Transfers should be completed on a flat surface with a person holding the chair if required.
- Both arm rests are retractable and the footrest is removable, however care should be taken when transferring a person onto the chair due to the wheels being higher than the seat. (Refer to step 6 for lifting techniques)
- The Sandcruiser® wheelchair has over sized wheels. Special care is needed in transferring persons into or out of the chair due to the longer distance over the wheels to the wheelchair seat.
- Care must be taken when using the wheelchair over uneven or unsteady ground.
- If the dry sand seems particularly soft to negotiate, instead of pushing (rear wheel drive), turn the Sandcruiser® around and pull (front wheel drive) the chair - you'll find it a lot easier in this situation.
- The horizontal bar at the back of the Sandcruiser® is used when you have two pushers and you are in very soft sand.
- The Sandcruiser® beach wheelchair should never be used as a flotation device.
- Use the seat belt when on the move. It is strongly encouraged to use the anti-tipping bar, which doubles as the brake, when stationary (Refer to step 4 for brake application).
- Prospective users/carers must take into consideration any specific issues related to the disability, which may affect the safe use of this wheelchair.
- **All participants and carers/support persons are responsible for their own safety and must follow the safety guidelines.**



Never leave any person unattended in the beach wheelchair especially near water or sloping ground.

4. Applying the anti-tipping/parking brake



Figure 1 - The anti-tip mechanism/ parking brake is found at the rear of the chair below the hand rail. When the anti-tip mechanism is not in use it is attached with Velcro to the top crossbar between the push handles.



Figure 2 - To apply the park brake/ anti-tip bar, unhook the Velcro strap from the cross bar.



Figure 3 - Swing the bar down and place foot on middle of the bar and push against tyres until locking bar is engaged.

The engagement of the locking bar prevents accidental release of the park brake and anti-tip bar.

5. Releasing the anti-tipping/parking brake

To release the park brake, ensure chair is steady, lift the locking bar upwards, as seen in figure 4 & 5, to release the park brake. Lift the bar upwards until you are able to secure the bar with the strap on the top crossbar. As seen in figure 6.



Figure 4 - Releasing the brake



Figure 5 - Lift locking bar up



Figure 6 - Securing the brake/anti-tip bar

6. Lifting and transferring to the Sandcruiser® wheelchair

1. Transferring

Transferring a person onto the Sandcruiser® beach wheelchair is not difficult if a lift is well planned and executed.

- When transferring a person into the beach wheelchair it is important to plan the lift carefully to avoid injury to both yourself and the person with a disability.
- Many people who generally transfer independently can transfer onto the beach wheelchair with little assistance. They may need to transfer in two stages by propping on the large wheel; it may be useful to cover the wheel with a towel.
- There are two (2) handles on the front of the chair that can be used to assist with transfers.

2. General lifting or transferring principals

People who require assistance are able to tell you the best way of assisting them. If you are not familiar with correct lifting techniques, it may be useful to ask a physiotherapist or occupational therapist to train you in the correct principals of lifting.

PLEASE NOTE: It is the responsibility of the person/s operating the beach wheelchair to ensure that safe lifting techniques are employed.

3. Issues to consider when lifting or transferring

- Talk to the person about their needs and ability to assist with lift
- Assess the environment ie. room to move safely, obstacles which can be moved out of the way
- Arrange area so that lift is for the shortest possible distance and does not involve twisting
- If in doubt ask a second person to assist
- If two people are involved appoint a leader to call the lift

4. Important points when lifting

- Get close to the person and hold them close to you
- Take a firm hold, not too tight
 - Position feet well apart
 - Bend your knees and keep your back straight
 - Leader counts "1,2,3, lift"
 - While lifting use your legs not your back
 - To change direction move your feet don't twist
- It may be advisable to do a two-stage lift onto the beach wheelchair. This will involve using the wheel to rest the person while the people involved in the lift adjust their feet.
- Make sure the person is supported throughout the whole lift. Use a towel on the wheel when doing this type of lift.

