

ACCESS 101 – INTRO

1. INTRO

Hello and welcome Access101, the show that explains and covers all the disability access requirements. I'm your host, Dale Sheppard, and today we're going to talk about the need for the Access101 podcast show and how it is hoped to increase accessibility.

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3. WHY A PODCAST ABOUT DISABILITY ACCESS (1MIN)

I've been in this industry for almost 20years now and the industry has come a long way – but we still have a long way to go. That's where Access101 comes in.

Basically – the Access101 podcast show has two core objectives:

1. *Better accessibility for people with disability*
2. *Accurate & Current advice for those responsible for accessibility e.g. certifiers, builders, organisations and government authorities.*

It is hoped that this podcast would be a resource for the industry and continue the advancement of disability access. There's a lot of technical and specific requirements for disability access. It's our aim to simplify and explore these requirements, so that our listeners are better equipped within their roles and that their knowledge about disability access requirements increases.

So, let's unpack "**Better Accessibility**"

4. TOPIC 1 – BETTER ACCESSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

When it is broken down to the most basic level the aim and intent of the disability access provisions within Australian Legislation is better accessibility for people with disability.

The Interaction Design Foundation puts it this way, “Accessibility is the concept of whether a product or service can be used by everyone—however they encounter it.”

At the highest level in Australia, we have the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). We’ll cover the legislative framework for disability access in an upcoming episode – but the intent of both the DDA and access provisions within the National construction codes and referenced Australian standards is to create accessible opportunities for people with disability.

For example – The DDA states that you cannot discriminate based upon disability and the NCC has requirements or better thought of as provisions to ensure that the building doesn’t discriminate by providing a degree of accessibility. “To what degree I hear you ask – this will be covered in an upcoming episode”

When the built environment is in an accessible form people use it – and when it comes down to it that’s at the core of why we build things – generally speaking we want people to use and interact.

Donald Norman, he’s a professor researcher and author – he put it like this “Also note that invariably when we design something that can be used by those with disabilities, we often make it better for everyone”.

So, whilst the focus of this podcast is better accessibility for people with disabilities – the impact is not solely for that demographic – it benefits everyone.

And that brings us to the second core objective – the How to or the advice & recommendations that ensure the better accessibility is actually better.

5. TOPIC 2 - ACCURATE & CURRENT ADVICE FOR THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCESSIBILITY E.G. CERTIFIERS, BUILDERS, ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

Better accessibility implies that there is a baseline or some form of a minimum. In Australia we have specific building codes – or more accurately – we have sections within the building codes, that address the provisions that are required within buildings to provide access for people with disability.

For almost 20yrs I’ve been providing advice and consultative services to individuals through to some of Australia’s largest businesses. At Access Solutions National (ASN) we pride ourselves on a professional and practical approach to disability with an unwavering commitment to ensuring compliance is achieved.

It’s one thing to understand the requirements from a built perspective and something completely different to understand how the requirements affect people with disability. This is our point of difference – we’re across both sides.

So, we want to be able to share our professional advice and recommendations so that the impact really benefits people with disability. We’ll cover the simpler requirements and explore the really technical ones too. We’ll breakdown the complexities and provide our listeners with the advice that will increase knowledge and confidence within the disability access provisions. There’s a lot of elements that aren’t covered within the current codes and requirements that will

be covered in the Access101 shows. So make sure you click follow / join on your podcast listening service to be kept up to date with our latest episodes.

The Access101 podcast show is here to be a resource for people, mainly those who are responsible for providing or ensuring disability access. The information within our shows will also be very useful for anyone who has a disability or considering getting into the disability access industry.

Well that brings us to the end of the first episode and I hope you have a clearer picture of what the Access101 podcast show is about. Please join us on this adventure and if you have any comments or questions please feel free to send an email to us at: info@asnpl.com.au

Until next week keep safe & be kind to yourself.