



## Research – Play and Climbing Equipment including Trampolines (Residential and Community): Types, Safety, Restrictions, Lifespan, Price Range, Maintenance, Purchase Accessibility, Ownership Statistics and Community Playgrounds

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### Research Brief

The Agency is seeing more and more requests for play/climbing equipment (including trampolines and swings) that are common items that Australian households often purchase when they have children at home.

To bolster this argument that it is related to a day to day living cost, the TAB is needing information, including but not limited to the following:

- How many types of play and climbing equipment are available? (Fixed, free standing etc.)
- How many types of trampolines are available?
- Do all of them have a safety rating?
- Are there any restrictions recommended (i.e. only for certain weight/height etc.)
- What is the general lifespan of the equipment?
- What is the general price range of the equipment?
- What is the general care/maintenance required of the equipment?
- What is the accessibility for families to access the equipment (in store, online, special order etc.)
- Are there any statistics informing how many Australian households have/own play equipment?

Are there any statistics informing how many playgrounds there are? (state by state)

- How many are fenced?
- How many feature disability specific equipment?
- How many are shaded?
- How often playgrounds are used by the community?

#### Please note:

*The research and literature reviews collated by our TAB Research Team are not to be shared external to the Branch. These are for internal TAB use only and are intended to assist our advisors with their reasonable and necessary decision-making.*

*Delegates have access to a wide variety of comprehensive guidance material. If Delegates require further information on access or planning matters they are to call the TAPS line for advice.*

*The Research Team are unable to ensure that the information listed below provides an accurate & up-to-date snapshot of these matters.*

# 1 Contents

2	Introduction .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
3	Related TAB Research .....	3
4	Summary .....	3
5	Play & Climbing Equipment.....	4
5.1	Types .....	4
5.2	Australian Standards & Safety Ratings.....	5
5.2.1	Relevant Australian Standards .....	5
5.2.2	Trampolines .....	6
5.2.3	Other Play Equipment .....	6
5.3	Restrictions .....	6
5.3.1	Trampolines .....	6
5.3.2	Other Play Equipment .....	7
5.4	Price Range.....	8
5.4.1	Trampolines .....	9
5.4.2	Other Play Equipment .....	9
5.5	Lifespan .....	9
5.5.1	Trampolines .....	9
5.5.2	Other Play Equipment .....	9
5.6	Maintenance .....	10
5.6.1	Trampolines .....	10
5.6.2	Other Play Equipment .....	10
5.7	Purchase Accessibility .....	11
5.8	Ownership by Australian Households .....	11
6	Community Playgrounds .....	14
6.1	Australian Standards .....	14
6.2	Statistical Information.....	15
6.3	Maintenance and Safety .....	15
6.4	Development of Inclusive Playgrounds in Australia .....	15
6.4.1	Visitation .....	15
6.4.2	Fencing .....	16
6.5	Tools to locate local community play grounds .....	16
6.5.1	Searching the internet for local community playgrounds .....	16
6.5.2	Specific inclusive playground websites .....	17

7	Commercial Playgrounds and Services .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
8	References .....	18

## 2 Related TAB Research

- NED20/381652: RES AAT THER **Climbing Therapy for Cerebral Palsy** 2020/0122
- NED 21/93315: RES THER **Play and Climbing Equipment: evidence of efficacy as an intervention** 2021/178

## 3 Summary

### Trampolines

- Domestic **trampolines** in Australia do not have safety ratings. Australian trampoline standard AS 4989:2015 is the standard pertaining to domestic trampolines. However it is voluntary, and manufacturers are not required by law to meet the standard. (Note that the TAB Research Team did not have access to any full text standards referenced in this paper)
- No specific information could be sourced on the **lifespan of trampolines**
- **Trampolines** don't have height restrictions but do have **weight restrictions**, which should be indicated on the product. Rectangular trampolines can take on more weight than other types. **Other restrictions on trampoline use is spatial**, in terms of where the product is placed for safety reasons
- There is a need for trampolines to be well **maintained** for safety and lifespan reasons, which may include regular servicing and replacements costs of various materials and fittings. Various businesses offer regular maintenance check/makeover at cost.
- **Trampoline purchase accessibility** by families is excellent
- **Trampoline pricing** varies greatly depending on type and size, manufacturing materials, where the overall price range is \$159-\$2,999

### Other Play Equipment

- Other domestic play equipment in Australia do not have safety ratings.
- No specific information could be sourced on the **lifespan of other play equipment**
- No quality information or research could be sourced with regard to restrictions of other play equipment. Like the trampoline, one could assume that weight and special restrictions

would apply.

- There is an abundance of information on the internet offering advice to consumers with regard to the importance of care and maintenance of residential play equipment, in terms of maintaining lifespan and safety. Unlike trampoline maintenance services, no services could be sourced which offer at cost maintenance checks for other residential play equipment.
- **Other play equipment pricing** varies greatly depending on type, size, style, and manufacturing materials

### Community Playgrounds

- Community/public playground equipment in Australia do not have safety ratings. Australian Standard AS 4685.0:2017, Playground equipment and surfacing – Part 0: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation, is the standard pertaining to commercial play grounds and equipment. The standard is not law, and not compulsory.
- There is an abundance of information on the internet offering advice to councils and community playground operators with regard to the importance of care and maintenance of grounds and play equipment. There are also businesses offering at cost services for maintenance and standards checks.
- There is no consolidated statistical information available on community play grounds with regard to number of playgrounds, fenced play areas, disability specific equipment, shaded areas, and frequency of use.
- There are limited website directories providing listings of general and inclusive community parks and playgrounds, and search engines appear to be the best means of locating this information

## 4 Play & Climbing Equipment

### 4.1 Types

Residential outdoor play equipment/products can be broadly categorised into the following:

- **Slides** (With/Without ladder)
- **Monkey Bars**
- **Flying Fox**
- **Cubby Houses**
- **Swings**
  - Swing seats with ropes/chains
  - Nest swings

- Swing Set Frames
- **Climbing**
  - Ropes
  - Trestle Frames
  - Scramble Nets
  - Trapeze Bars
  - Fireman's Pole
  - Climbing Stones
  - Rope Ladders
  - Tumble spin bars
- **Trampolines**
  - Round
  - Square
  - Octagonal
  - Mini (Exercise)
  - Water
  - Spring-less
  - Caged
  - Bungee
  - Inflatable & Water

## 4.2 Australian Standards & Safety Ratings

### 4.2.1 Relevant Australian Standards

The following table gives the relevant play equipment standards listed by community playground or domestic/home play use, together with a link to the standard [1].

**Note that where the standards are referenced in this document the research team did not have access to any of the full text standards.**

Community or Domestic	Aim/Objective
Community	<a href="#">Australian Standard AS 4685 Playground equipment and surfacing</a>
Community	<a href="#">Australian Standard AS 4422: Playground surfacing - Specifications, requirements and test method</a>
Community	<a href="#">Australian Standard AS 1428: Design for access and mobility</a>
Domestic	<a href="#">Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 8124 Part 6 (ISO 8124-4:2014, MOD) Safety of toys - Swings, slides and similar activity toys for indoor and outdoor family domestic use</a>
Community	<a href="#">Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS ISO 31000: Risk management - Principles and guidelines</a>
Domestic	<a href="#">Australian Standard AS 4989: Trampolines for domestic use - Safety aspects</a>
Community	<a href="#">Australian Standard AS 3533.4.2: Amusement rides and devices. Part 4.2: Specific requirements- Contained play facilities.</a>

## 4.2.2 Trampolines

Domestic trampolines in Australia do not have safety ratings. Australian trampoline standard AS 4989:2015 [2] is the standard pertaining to domestic trampolines. This standard is voluntary. Manufacturers do not have to meet this standard, and they are not required by law to do so [3].

CHOICE consumer advocacy group carried out a recent test on 10 domestic trampolines looking at safety and “how children can use the product in real life as well as how the trampoline performs if you follow all safety instructions” [4]. They suggest that safety is based on safety padding, enclosures, and ladders [3]. Only 1 trampoline passed their test which was the [Springfree R79 Medium Round](#) [5]. CHOICE also lists the trampoline models with serious safety issues as follows [4]:

- [Kahuna Classic 10ft](#)
- [Kmart 12ft Springless](#)
- [Lifespan HyperJump3](#)
- [Little Nation 10ft Trampoline](#)
- [OzTrampolines Summit](#)
- [Plum Space Zone V3 30212](#)
- [Premier Trampolines 10ft Premier with Net & Ladder](#)
- [Vuly Thunder Medium](#)

## 4.2.3 Other Play Equipment

Part 6 (ISO 8124-4:2014, MOD) of the Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 8124 applies to the safety of toys - swings, slides and similar activity toys for indoor and outdoor family domestic use [6]. This standard is not mandatory for the play equipment discussed in this paper, however, parts of the standard is mandatory for toys mainly for children up to the age of 36 months [7].

## 4.3 Restrictions

### 4.3.1 Trampolines

No quality information or research could be sourced with regard to restrictions in using trampolines. However, there is an abundance of information on the internet for the consumer to consider these restrictions for equipment use in the home, and much of this information is from either play advocacy type sites, state government, or equipment sales sites. Examples of weight and special restrictions are below.

#### 4.3.1.1 Weight Restrictions

While trampolines generally have no height restrictions placed on their use, but they do have weight restrictions.

- The weight limits for a trampoline are based on the load capacity rating of the springs or the support rods that are used in the product's design. Exceeding those weight limits makes it possible for the trampoline to break [8]
- The weight limit is referred to as the maximum weight capacity that a trampoline can hold. If a trampoline features 350lbs weight limit, it means it will be safe for the jumpers who weigh lower than 350lbs [9]
- There are two different weight limits for trampolines that are structural weight limit and user weight limit. Weight capacity tells about trampolines strength and the users' weight capacity says how much maximum weight the trampoline can hold without any defects [9]
- How much weight a trampoline can handle depends on its size and shape, for example [10] :
  - A round, eight-foot or 10-foot trampoline can typically handle 200 to 250 pounds.
  - A round, 12-foot trampoline can typically handle 250 to 300 pounds.
  - A round, 14-foot or 16-foot trampoline can typically handle 250 to 400 pounds.
  - Regardless of size, most rectangular trampolines can handle between 300 and 450 pounds. Rectangular trampolines can take on more weight because of how the springs work.

#### 4.3.1.2 Spatial Restrictions

Trampolines range in sizes, from as small as 2.5m x 2.5m and as large as 4m x 4m. The jumping surface (mat) can range from 54 square ft to 155 square ft. [11]. Springfree Trampoline (Australia) makes the following suggestions as to how a trampoline should be placed [11]:

- Flat and even (if the space isn't level, we recommend the rise/gradient be no more than 3 degrees across the whole space. We don't advise installing where the slope is greater than that)
- Safe lateral clearance space of 1.5m on all sides of the trampoline is highly recommended
- Minimum height clearance of 6m from the ground is highly recommended
- Clean and free of obstacles or debris

#### 4.3.2 Other Play Equipment

No quality information or research could be sourced with regard to restrictions of other play equipment. Like the trampoline, one could assume that weight and special restrictions would apply. There is an abundance of information on the internet for the consumer to consider these restrictions for equipment use in the home, and much of this information is from either play advocacy type sites, state government, or equipment sales sites. For example the NSW child safety hub offers safety suggestions for backyard playgrounds which include [12]:

- Any raised platform should be made secure by a guard or handrail.
- Cover all hooks, nails or bolts.
- Rubber surfaces provide better grip than metal or wood.
- Check the equipment regularly for signs of wear and tear.
- Use mulch, river sand or other soft materials (such as rubberised surfacing) underneath the play equipment to a depth of 300 mm to offer a softer landing in case of falls.
- Consider less risky play equipment, such as a sandpit.

#### 4.4 Price Range

The table below gives an overview of pricing of play equipment. Prices base line prices where no added extras or accessories are attached to the equipment.

Play Category	Play Sub-category	Price Range (\$AU)	What varies price?
Trampoline	Round	159-2,999 [13] Commonly falls into 400–700 [3]	Size, manufacturing materials
Trampoline	Oval	649-2,199 [13]	Size, manufacturing materials
Trampoline	Rectangle	320-2,199 [13]	Size, manufacturing materials
Swings	Nest	98-227 [14]	Manufacturing materials
Swings	Swing Sets	119-1,798 [14, 15]	Size, no. of swings, manufacturing materials
Slides	With/out ladder	99-428 [14]	Size, with or without ladder, manufacturing materials
Monkey Bar		349-630 [14]	Bars only or with standing in ground poles
Flying Fox		188-390 [14, 16]	Manufacturing materials
Climbing	Ropes	17-79 [14]	Style (discs/knots in rope), manufacturing materials
Climbing	Trestle Frames (free standing)	258-998 [14]	Size, Height etc.
Climbing	Scramble Nets	38-500 [14]	Size, Shape, manufacturing materials
Climbing	Rope Ladders	35-169 [14]	Size, Shape, manufacturing materials



Play Category	Play Sub-category	Price Range (\$AU)	What varies price?
Climbing	Tumble Spin Bars	26-34 [14]	Size, Length

#### 4.4.1 Trampolines

Trampoline pricing varies greatly depending on type, size and manufacturing materials. Below are the price ranges for the three main trampoline types taken from the [Product Review](#) website which gives the RRP in Australia [13]. See Table above for more specific details.

- Round: \$159-\$2,999
- Oval: \$649-\$2,199
- Rectangle: \$320-\$2,199
- Overall: \$159-\$2,999

#### 4.4.2 Other Play Equipment

Pricing of other play equipment varies greatly with equipment type, and there are other variables impacting the varying price including size, style, manufacturing materials. See Table above for more specific details.

### 4.5 Lifespan

#### 4.5.1 Trampolines

No specific information could be sourced on the lifespan of trampolines. However, much can be determined naturally by the extent of use of the trampoline, and quality of materials and fittings used by the manufacturers, keeping in mind that manufacturers are not compelled to comply with the Australian safety standards. Some of the types of materials and fittings referenced in the CHOICE testing of trampolines, might give an indication of wear and tear and durability in contemplating lifespan, although CHOICE do not refer to this specifically. Such would be metal frame and springs, fibreglass rods or steel leaf springs beneath the level of the jumping mat, and use of rubber bands instead of metal springs [3].

#### 4.5.2 Other Play Equipment

Nothing could be sourced with regard to the lifespan of other play equipment. As with trampolines, the lifespan of other play equipment cannot be determined as so much relies on the extent of use, and quality of materials and fittings used by the manufacturers, environmental conditions, and frequency of maintenance.

Note that the Australian Standards applicable to toys and play equipment suggest the safety standard is “*taking into account normal use and reasonably foreseeable abuse*” [17].

## 4.6 Maintenance

### 4.6.1 Trampolines

Maintenance information for trampolines was gleaned from a variety of websites. Where reference is made to replacement materials or fittings, it should be kept in mind that some of these websites are sales oriented.

Various businesses offer regular maintenance check/makeover at cost, such as the Australian Mr Trampoline [18] and Springfree Trampolines [19].

- Cleaning: To use a trampoline for extended times, you need to clean the trampoline regularly or weekly or monthly depending upon your using frequency. If dust and debris make crowds over the mat eventually it can damage the mat or springs [20]
- Regular inspection of frame: can come loose and you just need to tighten a few screws [21]
- Missing or broken springs: need to replace them before the trampoline is used [21]
- Squeakiness or noises coming from frame: lubricant required on the joints and springs [21]
- Safety nets and safety padding: can tear [21]
- Replacements: Safety nets should be replaced every two years, Safety foam should be replaced every two years, Safety pads should be replaced every three to four years, Trampoline frames should be replaced every 10 years [22]
- Mat Care/Maintenance General: Exposure to environmental conditions - To ensure the mat lasts as long as possible, it is important to keep the mat clear of residue – remove leaf litter and twigs from the mat before jumping, wash the mat down with a mild dishwashing detergent [23]
- Mat Care/Maintenance String: To prolong the life of a 2-string mat, it should be repainted about every 12 months (depending on weather conditions) [23]
- Mat Care/Maintenance Poly mesh: Over time, normal wear and tear, prolonged use and exposure to environmental conditions may cause mat stitching thread to break and unravel and fraying around the mat wires [23]

### 4.6.2 Other Play Equipment

There is an abundance of information on the internet offering advice to consumers with regard to care and maintenance of residential play equipment, in terms of maintaining lifespan and safety, where generally the advice is that equipment should be checked regularly and parts should be replaced if necessary. Much of the advice is offered by play equipment sales sites, and generally applies to most equipment types. As an example, below is a brief overview for some check points for swings and swing sets.

#### **Swings & Swing Sets** [24]

- "s" hooks are used widely and they should be checked for wear and tear
- The swing chain is in good condition and not excessively worn, especially at connection points
- The connectors and chain should have free movement at all times
- Ensure safe landing surfaces and space for swings
- Attention should be given to the swings joints and connecting points
- The swing's welds on connecting points should be checked regularly
- Wooden swings: Checking is required for sealing/sealant to stop rust and rotting, finding and fixing splinters, staining, weathering (expanding/contracting wood), mould and rot causing wood and structure to become unsafe [25]

## 4.7 Purchase Accessibility

Internet searching indicates that there is very good accessibility for families to source, acquire knowledge and purchase play equipment, including trampolines. There are many Australian websites to purchase from which give detailed information about the product, and make themselves available for contact over the phone if someone should want to purchase online. There are also abundant showroom opportunities to view and purchase trampolines.

Below is a list of the biggest and most popular trampoline brands available in Australia as suggested by the Australian consumer review and comparison website Canstar Blue [26]. There are an abundance of distributor businesses across Australia, which include Bunnings and Kmart, who may sell these major brands as well as other brands.

- [Vuly Trampolines](#)
- [Springfree Trampolines](#)
- [Plum Trampolines](#)
- [Oz Trampolines](#)

## 4.8 Ownership by Australian Households

There is little statistical information available on the ownership of play equipment in Australian households. Two ABS surveys were sourced which are very dated and this should be kept in mind when reading the data.

In 2001 a survey [27] was conducted on selected households in Queensland in order to provide data to assist the Queensland Government to run targeted awareness campaigns and enable the

development of other intervention/prevention strategies and projects. Information was collected on selected household safety features and potential hazards in the home.

- There were 271,300 households (19.2%) with **playground equipment**
- The most popular type of playground equipment amongst these households were **swings** (188,400 or 69.5%) followed by **trampolines** (132,400 or 48.8%)

In 1999 a similar survey was conducted in Victorian households [28]. Surveyed was 234,100 households with young children resident and 1,500,000 households with no young children resident. The following table [28] indicates the results for all households with playground equipment, where the most popular type was swings, trampolines, slides and climbing equipment in that order.

	Young children resident	Young children not resident	Total households	Young children resident	Young children not resident	Total households
	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
.....						
<b>MELBOURNE MAJOR STATISTICAL REGION</b>						
<b>Playground equipment(a)</b>	81.0	120.9	202.0	48.1	11.3	16.3
Swing	65.0	75.3	140.3	38.6	7.0	11.3
Trampoline	23.9	62.7	86.6	14.2	5.9	7.0
Slide	23.4	11.8	35.2	13.9	1.1	2.8
Climbing equipment	12.5	6.9	19.4	7.4	0.6	1.6
Other	*3.2	*3.1	6.2	*1.9	*0.3	0.5
<b>Surface beneath or around playground equipment(b)</b>						
Grass	63.6	102.6	166.2	37.8	9.6	13.4
Earth/sand	*3.5	7.1	10.6	*2.1	0.7	0.9
Tan bark/mulch	8.5	7.8	16.4	5.1	0.7	1.3
Other	7.7	8.8	16.5	4.6	0.8	1.3
<b>Total households(c)</b>	168.3	1 071.6	1 239.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
.....						
<b>BALANCE OF VICTORIA MAJOR STATISTICAL REGION</b>						
<b>Playground equipment(a)</b>	39.5	90.5	130.0	60.0	21.1	26.3
Swing	36.0	63.2	99.2	54.7	14.8	20.1
Trampoline	17.4	44.4	61.8	26.5	10.4	12.5
Slide	11.5	10.6	22.1	17.5	2.5	4.5
Climbing equipment	*3.9	5.5	9.4	*5.9	1.3	1.9
Other	*3.3	*3.7	7.1	*5.1	*0.9	1.4
<b>Surface beneath or around playground equipment(b)</b>						
Grass	33.4	80.7	114.1	50.7	18.8	23.1
Earth/sand	*3.2	5.5	8.7	*4.8	1.3	1.8
Tan bark/mulch	*2.3	*3.4	5.7	*3.4	*0.8	1.1
Other	*1.3	*3.0	*4.4	*2.0	*0.7	*0.9
<b>Total households(c)</b>	65.8	428.5	494.3	100.0	100.0	100.0
.....						
<b>TOTAL</b>						
<b>Playground equipment(a)</b>	120.5	211.5	332.0	51.5	14.1	19.1
Swing	101.0	138.5	239.5	43.1	9.2	13.8
Trampoline	41.3	107.1	148.5	17.6	7.1	8.6
Slide	34.9	22.4	57.3	14.9	1.5	3.3
Climbing equipment	16.4	12.4	28.8	7.0	0.8	1.7
Other	6.5	6.8	13.3	2.8	0.5	0.8
<b>Surface beneath or around playground equipment(b)</b>						
Grass	97.0	183.3	280.3	41.4	12.2	16.2
Earth/sand	6.7	12.7	19.3	2.9	0.8	1.1
Tan bark/mulch	10.8	11.2	22.0	4.6	0.7	1.3
Other	9.0	11.8	20.8	3.8	0.8	1.2
<b>Total households(c)</b>	234.1	1 500.0	1 734.2	100.0	100.0	100.0
.....						

a) Multiple equipment items could be stated, therefore sum of individual equipment items may exceed total households that possessed this equipment.

(b) Multiple surfaces below playground equipment could be stated, therefore sum of individual surface types may exceed total households that possessed playground equipment.

(c) Includes households that did not have any playground equipment.

## 5 Community Playgrounds

### 5.1 Australian Standards

The Australian Standard applicable to access and mobility to community parks for people with a disability is ***the Australian Standard AS 1428: Design for access and mobility***, which has five components [29]:

- Part 1 - General requirements for access - New building work
- Part 2 - Enhanced and additional requirements - Building and facilities
- Part 3 - Requirements for children and adolescents with physical disabilities
- Part 4 - Means to assist the orientation of people with vision impairment – Tactile ground surface indicators
- Part 5 - Communication for people who are deaf or hearing impaired

This standard is not law, or mandatory [30].

The objective of ***the Australian Standard AS 4685.0:2017, Playground equipment and surfacing – Part 0: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation***, is to minimise the risk of injury to playground users by [31]:

- Providing designers, owners and operators of playgrounds with guidance on the development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation of playgrounds.
- Creating the foundation for all Australian playground equipment and surfacing standards
- Introducing a risk benefit analysis technique that allows operators and owners of playgrounds to quantify their exposure to hazards using techniques that are simple to apply. Then they can make evidence-based decisions with regard to the maintenance, repairs and the timely replacement of their assets

These standards are not law, or mandatory [32]. The other parts of the AS 4685 series specify equipment requirements and test methods as follows [1]:

- Part 1 – General safety requirements & test methods
- Part 2 – Additional specific safety requirements & test methods for swings
- Part 3 - Additional specific safety requirements & test methods for slides
- Part 4 - Additional specific safety requirements & test methods for runways
- Part 5 - Additional specific requirements & test methods for carousels
- Part 6 - Additional specific requirements & test methods for rocking equipment
- Part 11 - Additional specific safety requirements & test methods for spatial networks

There is an abundance of information on the internet offering advice to councils and community playground operators with regard to the importance of care and maintenance of grounds and play equipment. There are also businesses offering at cost services for maintenance and standards checks [33, 34].

## 5.2 Statistical Information

There is no consolidated statistical information available on community play grounds with regard to fenced play areas, disability specific equipment, shaded areas, and frequency of use.

## 5.3 Maintenance and Safety

Unlike residential play equipment, community play equipment and park design have standards which are to be met by the local authority. There are private businesses which consult in this area as well as checking and auditing of general maintenance for safety.

## 5.4 Development of Inclusive Playgrounds in Australia

Recent years has seen state and local government paying more attention to the design of community parks and accessibility, and this had come about mainly as a result of lobby groups [35]. For example, one main NSW lobby group [Play for All Australia](#), is helping to educate councils across the states. Their aim is for all councils to start from a point of inclusion when it comes to any playground upgrade [35, 36]. [Play Australia](#) is the peak national advocacy organisation for "play" [37].

### 5.4.1 Visitation

While some statistical information is available for consumer visits to state and national parks, nothing could be sourced for local community parks and play grounds.

A very recent 2021 Australian study [38] aimed to examine the perceived importance of a selection of park features for encouraging park visitation, park-based physical activity and social interaction among children.

Participants (n = 272, 9.6 ± 1.1 years, 51 % female) attending primary schools in Melbourne, Australia completed a survey during school time. They rated (from 1 to 10) digital images of 42 park features according to how much each feature would make them want to "visit the park", "be active in the park" and "be with other people in the park". Mean rating scores were calculated for the whole sample, and separately for males and females. For each condition (visit, active, social), each feature was then assigned a ranking from 1 to 42.

- A large adventure playground was the highest rated image for all three outcomes.
- The next highest rated images were: a giant slide and interactive areas for park visitation; an obstacle course and giant slide for park-based physical activity; and interactive areas and an obstacle course for social interaction.

- Many differences in ratings were observed by gender, highlighting the importance of considering all demographic groups.

In the participant rating for park feature reasons for visiting a park, **climbing** featured in the top of 42 [38]:

1. Large adventure playground
2. Giant slide
3. Interactive areas (e.g. statues that light up with colours or make sounds when touched)
4. Obstacle course/parkour area
5. Flying fox
6. **Things to climb**
7. Water play area
8. Long slide
9. Large swings
10. **Trees for climbing**

## 5.4.2 Fencing

The advocacy organisation Play Australia suggests that "there is no Standard on playground fencing, and there is no likelihood of there being one in Australia" [39]. The group in conjunction with the Department of Sport & Recreation Victoria has produced The Good Playspace Guide which examines the reasons why play spaces can limit access to some children and identify how improvements can be made to increase participation by all children in play [40].

## 5.5 Tools to locate local community play grounds

### 5.5.1 Searching the internet for local community playgrounds

As there is no one internet source which provides Australia wide playground listings, a simple google search by state can give a good result of links to council/shire parks. For example by using the search string "[victoria playground directory](#)".

The following method can also be used to locate playgrounds in a specific local community:

1. Use one of the links in the table below, and search by the post code or suburb, to locate the local government area and the link to the local government website.
2. Search the local government website for community parks. Most local government websites should list their parks, give details about each park, and may also indicate if the park is inclusive. If there are no parks listed, a phone call can be made.



STATE	Link to local community search
NSW	<a href="https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/find-my-council/">https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/find-my-council/</a>
VIC	<a href="https://knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au/councils">https://knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au/councils</a>
QLD	<a href="https://www.getready.qld.gov.au/find-your-local-council">https://www.getready.qld.gov.au/find-your-local-council</a>
SA	<a href="https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/sa-councils/councils-listing">https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/sa-councils/councils-listing</a>
WA	<a href="https://walga.asn.au/search.aspx?type=Councils">https://walga.asn.au/search.aspx?type=Councils</a>
TAS	Could not be sourced
ACT	Could not be sourced
NATIONAL	<a href="https://knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au/councils">https://knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au/councils</a>

### 5.5.2 Specific inclusive playground websites

The following table gives a small list of some websites sourced which provide inclusive playground locations. Note that essentially the only way to locate these playgrounds is to do a specific internet search, as there are limited sites which offer consolidated information.

STATE	Link to local community search tool	Notes
National	<a href="https://www.playgroundfinder.com/">https://www.playgroundfinder.com/</a>	This site indexes children's playgrounds across Australia, and will indicate inclusive playgrounds. It is limited in that it relies on local communities to add their own listings
National	<a href="http://touchedbyolivia.com.au/open-for-play/">http://touchedbyolivia.com.au/open-for-play/</a>	Not comprehensive but specific to inclusive playgrounds and continually updated by the charity group
QLD	<a href="https://www.qld.gov.au/disability/children-young-people/early-childhood/playgrounds">https://www.qld.gov.au/disability/children-young-people/early-childhood/playgrounds</a>	This Queensland Government site gives a comprehensive list of parks which provide Wheelchair swings (Liberty Swings)
VIC: Goldfields Shire	<a href="http://yourvillage.yacs.org.au/directory/parks-and-playgrounds/">http://yourvillage.yacs.org.au/directory/parks-and-playgrounds/</a>	Limited to Goldfields Shire, Victoria and relies on community postings
VIC: Melbourne	<a href="https://www.melbourneplaygrounds.com.au/">https://www.melbourneplaygrounds.com.au/</a>	Limited to Melbourne and region, ability to search by location or post code. Listing gives park description and may indicate if inclusive.

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