

## **Motorised wheelchairs: definition and permissible travel**

**This information sheet is not legal advice and the information it presents should be treated as a guide only.**

### **DEFINITION**

Motorised wheelchairs and other mobility devices (including electric wheelchairs, gophers & motorised scooters) used by people with a physical disability or injury fall within the single definition of motorised wheelchair under the *Western Australian Road Traffic Code 2000*.

The device must be designed so as not to be capable of a speed exceeding 10 km/h.

People with a physical disability or injury who operate motorised wheelchairs at or below the limit of 10 km/h are classified as pedestrians.

If a motorised wheelchair is capable of exceeding 10 km/h it must be registered and licensed as a vehicle with the Dept of Transport Licensing Division before it can be used on public roads. It can be ridden on paths provided it does not exceed 10 km/h.

### **WHERE**

If the motorised wheelchair is not capable of travelling at more than 10 km/h and the operator has a physical disability or injury, then they are permitted to travel:

- on footpaths, shared paths and on the pedestrian section of separated footpaths;
- in shopping centres;
- in public places; and
- in order to cross roads (always using the shortest route to do so).

Travel on roads is permissible if:

- there is no footpath or nature strip beside the road (and in a condition fit to use);
- the operator keeps as far as practical to the right hand side of the road (facing the oncoming traffic);
- the operator immediately moves off the road when a vehicle approaches (and remains off the road until the vehicle has passed); and
- operators do not travel abreast of more than one other pedestrian (unless overtaking a pedestrian or in an organised procession or parade).

Travel inside shops or shopping centres is permissible if:

- the business operator / manager permits entry; and
- the motorised wheelchair is operated in such a way as to ensure their own safety and the safety of other people and property.

source of information:

**Motorised wheelchairs – a guide for users, 2nd edition, July 2010, Main Roads WA**

[www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/UsingRoads/PedestriansCyclists/Pages/MotorisedWheelchairGuides.aspx](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/UsingRoads/PedestriansCyclists/Pages/MotorisedWheelchairGuides.aspx)