

## MobiChair Beach Wheelchair – Safety Procedures

### Overview

The **MobiChair Beach Wheelchair** is designed for use on the beach (on hard or soft sand), on grass or surfaced footpaths, in low water, and to float in shallow water levels.

The MobiChair Beach Wheelchair is to **ONLY be used on the beach from which it was hired** (either Williamstown or Altona Beach).

It is **designed to access low levels of water**, with support people to aid floating. Water level should not exceed waist height of the support people. The MobiChair Beach Wheelchair is **NOT to be used in deep water and ONLY between the flags** patrolled by the Life Saving Club.



**IMPORTANT: When entering the water to float, it is required that TWO support people are present.**

The MobiChair is not intended for areas with currents or strong waves. Additionally, it is not designed for independent use, so please ensure you have the right level of support to transfer and push the MobiChair Beach Wheelchair.

**It is important to be prepared before you use the MobiChair Beach Wheelchair. Please read this document in full, including signing the safety procedures checklist at the end of this document prior to use.**

If you have any questions about using the MobiChair Beach Wheelchair, please contact Council from Monday to Friday on 1300 179 994 or email [accessiblebeaches@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:accessiblebeaches@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

*NOTE: An accessible change facility (with an adult-sized change table and hoist) is available at Weaver Reserve, across the road from Altona Beach. A Master Locksmiths Access Key (MLAK) is required to access the accessible change facility. There is a hoist available for transfer, but please ensure you bring your own sling. Accessible toilets are available at Williamstown Beach, but there is no hoist.*

## **Before use**

- Check the weather for incoming tides, as well as the waves, wind, storms, and heat. The staff at the Life Saving Club will be able to provide you with helpful information about weather conditions and suitability for the MobiChair Beach Wheelchair.
- Ensure walkway / routes to be taken are clear of hazards.
- Visually inspect seating, tyres and moving parts for any damage or maintenance issues.
- Ensure the support person(s) stabilise the MobiChair Beach Wheelchair so that it will not move when the user is transferring.

*NOTE: It may be useful to approach a local rehabilitation centre, hospital, or physiotherapist regarding training for transferring and lifting.*

## **During use**

- The MobiChair Beach Wheelchair has been designed to be used on dry sand, wet sand, at the water's edge, and to float in shallow water up to waist height of the support person, in still water conditions.
- The MobiChair will begin to float as the water level reaches half-way up the balloon tyres. At this point, the user will notice a small tilt backwards as the chair transitions into the floating position.
- When entering waist height water, it is required that two assistants are present. It is important that the tide and waves are monitored at all times while using the MobiChair.
- The MobiChair is NOT to be used in deep water beyond waist height of the support persons.
- Do not exceed maximum recommended loading of 150 kilograms.
- It is recommended that the user securely fastens all harnesses to ensure safe and stable positioning, which can easily be adjusted in length to create a suitable fit.

- The backrest angle can be adjusted into three positions by pulling the looped chain located at the back of the chair behind the backrest.
- Do not leave any person unattended when using the MobiChair.
- When parking, find a level surface.
- Travelling on gradients steeper than a standard ramp rise are not recommended unless two people are assisting with pushing/pulling the chair. It is recommended one assistant pull using the tow rope at the front, whilst the second assistant pushes from behind.
- Please ensure that heavy items are not placed on the back of MobiChair Beach Wheelchair.
- If pushing the MobiChair Beach Wheelchair, always keep the passenger informed about what you are intending to do, e.g., turning, entering water, crossing road, etc.
- The MobiChair Beach Wheelchair is not designed for self-propelling (independent use) and must be supervised and pushed by a support person(s).
- The MobiChair Beach Wheelchair must only be propelled by another person. Do not propel by towing behind a motor vehicle, kite, or other means.
- When in water, it is recommended to use the safety belt, depending on the user's understanding of their capacity to move around freely. Please use the seat belt if the user experiences unsteadiness (such as with epilepsy).
- Always use the safety belt when using the chair on dry land, including soft and hard sand. The seat belt should be always used if a passenger experiences unsteadiness (such as epilepsy).
- The MobiChair Beach Wheelchair is not to be removed from the designated beach area.

## **After use**

- Where possible, the hirer should use a shower or hose to clean down the chair before returning to Life Saving Club.
- Any safety, mechanical or accessibility concerns with the use of the MobiChair Beach Wheelchair should be reported immediately to Life Saving Club.

## Feedback and more information

We welcome your feedback on your experience and use.

Please provide feedback directly to the staff at the Life Saving Club or contact Council on 1300 179 944 or email [accessiblebeaches@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:accessiblebeaches@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

Please also visit [Accessible Beaches - Hobsons Bay](#) for more information about the Accessible Beaches Program.

To find out more about the MobiChair Beach Wheelchair, visit [www.pushmobility.com.au](http://www.pushmobility.com.au)

## Safety Procedure checklist

Hirer/user to complete *prior* to use of the MobiChair Beach Wheelchair.

Please confirm that you have:

- read and understood the MobiChair Beach Wheelchair Safety Procedures, including noting that water should not exceed waist height of support people
- been provided with a demonstration on how to use the equipment
- the right level of support to transfer into and use the equipment, including **TWO** support people if entering the water to float
- checked back rest adjustment and seat belt harness
- checked weather conditions such as wind, tides, heat, and potential storms
- checked the lifesaving flags are in operation
- provided an approximate time to return the equipment

Name of hirer/user .....

Signature ..... Date .... / .... / .....

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### ***Emergency contact***

Name: .....

Mobile No. ....